Monitor Newsletter July 10, 2000

Bowling Green State University

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Spotlight on leadership: Graduate College

Floyd Beachum, a doctoral student in the leadership studies program in the School of Leadership and Policy Studies, recently interviewed Steven Ballard, dean of the Graduate College, on the topic of leadership. Following is an excerpt of their conversation.

Q: What role does the Graduate College play in the development of future leaders?
A: We play a supportive and catalytic role. We do not engage in the direct teaching or training of future leaders, but rather we try to make graduate education at Bowling Green responsive, futuristic, strategic and as high-quality as possible. Thus, by catalytic, I mean what we try to do is anticipate future trends in education and make sure graduate education here is responsive. In terms of training future leaders, the units have a direct influence; our role is to make sure that the programs do this in the most effective manner possible.

Q: How would you describe your personal leadership style?
A: My leadership style is probably best described as transformational. I believe in the concept of “moving leadership.” By this I mean that in any organization or institution, when it is working well, we all take turns being leaders and followers. My leadership approach is best stated as: “What can I do to make all of those people I work with understand when and how they can be effective leaders?” I am looking to build an organization that really respects the leadership capabilities of all of those who work within it.

Q: Describe your “personal best” leadership experience at Bowling Green State University.
A: One instance that comes to mind is the governance structure for the Graduate Council. We changed the Graduate Council so that the members could take an increasing leadership role in deciding the problems and issues in graduate education. Today, the Graduate Council, almost 50 people, is exerting very effective leadership in terms of improving the quality of graduate education. In essence, we decentralized the power structure and empowered the Graduate Council to play a significant role in determining the destiny of BGSU.

Q: In your opinion, what are the goals of the Graduate College in the year 2000?
A: I see two major goals: One, continue to improve the quality of our graduate programs. Quality is goal number one. If we develop high-quality programs and continue to make them better, we will attract very good students and faculty and we will provide experiences in which those students are really benefiting from their graduate training. Two, we need to be more aggressive in our recruitment of graduate students. We need to get accustomed to being very competitive. Furthermore, we need to be more concerned about how we can help graduate students become successful when they get here. In addition, we must concentrate on the quality and the diversity of our students. The whole issue of recruiting and ensuring the success of graduate students is a critical goal of the Graduate College.

Architecture students make their mark on design studios

Bowling Green’s architecture students recently participated in a project that provided both a distinguishing mark for the University’s architecture studios and the opportunity to engage in a “real-life” architecture working experience.

The problem posed to the students was this: the architecture studios, located in a former airplane hangar in the BGSU technology annex at Wood County Airport, were “lost” in the vast space, according to Andreas Luescher, architecture and VCTE.

“We needed something to associate the students more closely with their work environment. They didn’t have the sense they were entering an architecture studio when they came into...” (Continued on back)
Architecture

(Continued from front)

the building, that this was their home," he said. "We wanted something that would create a distinguishing element in the architectural relief, something that would identify the space and signal the energy and excitement going on within the rest of the University community."

Luescher had 30 sophomores in two architecture studio classes take part in a "design charrette," a typical activity for architects in which the group spends a finite amount of time, in this case two hours, brainstorming ideas. Of the proposals created, the group chose two to combine. The result was a simple but striking design representing the building blocks of all architecture—the circle, the triangle and the square—and the three primary colors—red, yellow and blue. The students chose metal, plexiglass and wood for the materials.

The second challenge facing the class was a lack of funds to complete the project. Again, the students' ingenuity was called upon. They successfully solicited donations from local companies. Bee Gee Lumber, Scott Air Conditioning and Home Depot all donated materials.

Luescher said he is very pleased with the results. "One important learning outcome was the resourcefulness that springs forth when time and money are limited," he said. "I wanted to turn the students upside down and help them break out of dull experimentation and help them break out of dull experimentation and success when time and money are limited," he said. "I wanted to turn the students upside down and help them break out of dull experimentation and learn from this process."

Ezell chosen

(Continued from front)

from 1992-97, he was editor of In Touch, the organization's publication, from 1992-96, which won the Outstanding Communication Award from IATE and was cited as one of the best state publications in the nation.

Ezell holds bachelor's and master's degrees in industrial education and technology from Western Kentucky and earned his doctorate at Ohio State University.

The biology department is offering a free Apple Toner cartridge for a LaserWriter II printer. Call Chris Hess at 2-2233 if interested.

FACULTY


Contact Human Resources at 372-8421 for information regarding the following:

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ADMINISTRATIVE

Assistant Women's Soccer Coach (S-089)—Athletics. Deadline: July 14.


Director of College Communications (M-084)—College of Education and Human Development, Administrative grade level 13. Deadline: July 14.

Manager of Budgets (M-087)—Operations. Administrative grade level 17. Deadline: July 14.

Manager (V-069)—University Dining Services (Search extended). Administrative grade level 12. Deadline: July 14.

Marketing Coordinator (S-080)—University Dining Services. Administrative grade level 12. Deadline: July 14.


Information Security Analyst (V-053)—Information Technology Services (one position) and Technology Infrastructure Project (one position). Administrative grade level 15. Deadline: July 20.


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