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Monitor Newsletter January 29, 2001

Bowling Green State University

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Faculty discuss general education

There is great, uncharted potential in BGSU's general education program, but mining it will only happen if faculty get involved. That was the consensus of panelists and participants in a forum on general education sponsored by Faculty Senate last week.

In order to make real changes, much faculty professionalism development will need to be offered, they also agreed.

"It will be crucial that we come to a consensus-driven understanding of what we want to accomplish," Neil Browne, distinguished teaching professor of economics, said.

Once the goals are decided upon, they should be made explicit to students, all agreed.

Fiona Mackinnon-Slater, College Student Personnel Program and intern program chair of educational foundations and inquiry, said faculty need to understand who their students are in developmental terms. At the students' age, what is most important to them is finding a job and finding a mate, she said, and they don't see the connection between these goals and general education courses.

"They don't know what general education is. We need to tell them and make them partners in it," she said.

Provost John Foltkins introduced some typical principles of general education. These include creating an educated person by giving them "a little dab of this and a little dab of that." Another common goal is to attract majors to the various disciplines.

All these tend to give breadth rather than depth, which is not always a bad thing in general education, the panelists said. However, Foltkins cautioned, as ends in themselves they do a disservice to the greater, overarching goals of "winning the hearts of students, creating a love of scholarship and things academic" and developing basic skills such as writing, problem-solving and "ways of knowing," he said.

All these skills are substrata of the courses, the panelists said, but must be made more explicit and explicit, both to faculty and students.

Gary Evans, geology and chair-elect of Faculty Senate, posed a challenge: how to teach critical thinking to a survey course of 400 students.

Don Nieman, dean of the College of Arts & Sciences, responded that faculty training can be of great use. The Center for Teaching, Learning and Technology offers classes in increasing active learning in the large lecture, which can include various teaching applications that enable more direct contact between faculty and students.

Bob Midden, chemistry and a member of the Chapman Learning Community, said general education prepares students for the "other two-thirds of their lives, the part that is not vocational." It can help one become a better citizen and learn to use the vast resources and knowledge at our command, he said.

"General education could change our society in a profound way," Midden said.

Peter Shields, chair of the telecommunication department, stressed that the "consumer metaphor" for the university perhaps truncates that more.

Controversy over the control of clear channel AM radio during the first half of the 20th century and its importance to the development of radio broadcasting is examined in a new book by James Foust, journalist.

In Big Voices of the Air: The Battle Over Clear Channel Radio, Foust explores the debate over clear channel radio stations and attempts by their owners to maintain and enhance their dominant position in the broadcast band.

Published by Iowa State University Press, the book centers on the formation and role of commercial communications interest groups and examines their goals and strategies in relation to today's larger, more structured entities from the perspective of the policymakers.
Contact Human Resources at 372-8421 for information regarding the following:

CLASSIFIED

(Employee wishing to apply for these positions may request a "Request for Transfer" form.)

Deadline for employees to apply is 1 p.m., Friday, Feb. 2.

Broadcasting Technician I (C-11-Vb)—WBUJ-TV Pay grade 7.

Data Systems Coordinator 3 (C-8-Vb)—Libraries and Learning Resources, Pay grade 12. (Listed on and off campus.)

Food Service Worker (C-9'-10-Sb)—University Dining Services. Nine-month, part-time. (Listed on and off campus.)

ADMINISTRATIVE

Director (M-128)—Alumni Affairs and Associate Vice President for University Advancement (re-advertised). Deadline: Jan. 30.


Associate Director of Recreational Sports, Intramurals, Sport Clubs and Perry Field House Programs (S-151)—Recreational Sports, Administrative grade 6. Deadline: Feb. 16.


Coordinator of Fine Arts Admission (M-125)—College of Arts and Sciences. Administrative grade 14. Deadline: March 5.

Sign up for Presidents’ Day

The Office of Admissions is seeking volunteers to help in the coordination of a Presidents’ Day Open House. Volunteers can work a minimum of two hours or for the entire event, if possible. Volunteer forms are available on the Web at www.bgsu.edu/admissions/office/volunteer and are due by Jan. 31. Additional information about the event is also available on this Web site. For information, call Kay nickel Gudehus at 2-7857.


Assistant Volleyball Coach (S-003)—Intercollegiate Athletics. Deadline: Feb. 6.


General education

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nobel goal and that a “citizen-ship metaphor” would better serve. He also felt that helping students understand the place of the university in society is an important component of education, but one which is rarely discussed.

Another forum will be held toward the end of February to address instructional issues of general education.

For more on the discussion, see Monitor online.

in brief

Schoolhouse open for classes, tours

The Little Red Schoolhouse, an original, one-room schoolhouse built in 1853 in Norwalk, and moved to BGSU in 1975, is open 1-5 p.m. every Saturday and Sunday during the academic year. Fully restored with many original items, the schoolhouse provides an ideal classroom experience, and faculty are encouraged to consider the site for class meetings. Tour guides are also available to provide a 30-minute orientation.

To schedule the building for a class, or to arrange for a tour at a time other than the scheduled weekend hours, call 2-7364 and leave a voicemail message.

Foust book

(Continued)

nels in many ways foreshadowed media political battles we have today,” said Foust. “When you see cable companies battling satellite providers or satellite providers battling broadcast stations, you’re seeing many of the same types of political maneuvering and public interest arguments that were used in the clear channel debate.”

The power of clear channel AM radio stations and the debate they raised in the past is not of the same importance today, said Foust. Radio stations are increasingly controlled by conglomerates, and the emergence of television, cable and satellite has made other media available to rural consumers. “Today, there are no truly clear channels in the 1930s sense,” Foust said. “There aren’t any stations with the kind of exclusive right to a frequency that the original clear channel stations had.”

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General education

Wednesday, Jan. 31


Black History Month Kick Off Celebration: “If We’re Far We’ve Come,” sponsored by Black Student Union, 11 a.m.-1 p.m., 101 Olscamp Hall.


Faculty Artist Series, featuring William Mathis, trombone, 8 p.m., Bryan Recital Hall, Moore Musical Arts Center.

Thursday, Feb. 1

Black History Month Luncheon, sponsored by Panhellenic Council, 11 a.m.-2 p.m., 101 Olscamp Hall.

Administrative Staff Council, 1:30-3 p.m., Faculty Conference Room, Jerome Library. International Film Series, “Sharranj Ke Khalid (Chess Players),” 7:30 p.m., Gibbs Film Theater.

Friday, Feb. 2

Presentation, “A Perfectionist Basis for Non-Perfectionist Politics: Why Individual Rights?” with Douglas B. Rasmussen, philosophy, St. John’s University; presented by the Social Philosophy and Policy Center, 3-5 p.m., 301 Shatell Hall.

Black History Month Performance, “An Evening With Martin and Langston,” featuring actors Danny Glover and Felix Justice, sponsored by Black Student Union. Tickets available at 111 University Hall and 452 Saddlemire Student Services Building. Tickets are $10 with BGSU I.D., $20 general public. Contact Rickee Vaught at 2-2692 or rwvaught@bgsu.edu.

Sunday, Feb. 4

Faculty Artist Series, featuring Jay Miglia, jazz saxophone, 3 p.m., Bryan Recital Hall, Moore Musical Arts Center.

Monday, Feb. 5

Black History Month Panel Discussion, “Celebrate the Differences,” 7-8:30 p.m., 115 West Building, BGSU Firelands. Sponsored by Phi Delta Kappa Chapter.

Continuing events

Through Feb. 1

Art Exhibition, “The Lopsided Grim,” a collection of visual fables and satires on contemporary art. Willard Wankelman Gallery, Fine Arts Center. Gallery hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Tuesday-Saturday.