Are Greeks better students?
BGSU to launch national study

Gamma Sigma Alpha, the national Greek academic honor society for fraternity and sorority members in North America, and BGSU's doctoral program in higher education administration are collaborating to study the impact of fraternity and sorority memberships on academic achievement in college students. The three-year partnership will involve a nationwide study that is expected to yield information about what does and doesn't work in the current Greek community to promote students' academic success.

"We are very excited about this partnership," said Beth Saul, executive director for Gamma Sigma Alpha. "This is the first time an honor society will work in collaboration with a higher education department to produce credible studies on what is our first and foremost priority, that of being a student."

"These studies will shed a great deal of light on policy and practice." - Ron Binder

Carolyn Palmer, higher education and college student personnel and interim chair of the doctoral program in higher education administration at BGSU, echoed Saul's excitement.

"This will be an ideal opportunity for our doctoral students to become involved in a research project that will have far-reaching effects," Palmer said.

Saul added that BGSU is an appropriate place for the study to be housed because its master's and doctoral programs in college student personnel and higher education administration are ranked among the best in the country.

The partnership calls for BGSU and Gamma Sigma Alpha to jointly supervise a BGSU doctoral graduate student for three years. The study will be two-fold. First will be a compilation of existing studies on the relationship between academic achievement and fraternity and sorority membership. Once compiled, the information will be available to practitioners on the society's Web site at www.gammaisigalpha.org.

The second emphasis will be to engage in new studies of those areas not covered by the current literature but of significant interest to higher education and the fraternity and sorority community.

Some possible areas of investigation may include the relationship between academic success and deferring recruitment of fraternity/sorority members; the connection between academics and living in a Greek residence, and the impact of chapter discipline on achievement.

"As institutions seek to work more closely with their fraternity and sorority populations, these studies will shed a great deal of light on policy and practice," according to Ron Binder, project director for Gamma Sigma Alpha and a 1966 graduate of BGSU's master's program in college student personnel.

Fraternities and sororities are located on more than 600 college campuses in North America, with more than 600,000 undergraduate students enrolled in approximately 5,500 chapters. Approximately 10 percent of the undergraduate student population at four-year institutions are members of fraternities and sororities, according to the latest data.

Gamma Sigma Alpha, founded in 1909, currently has more than 10,000 initiated members on college campuses. Membership requires a 3.00 cumulative GPA and junior or senior status.

New director of alumni affairs chosen

An alumna and former employee of BGSU has been chosen as the University’s new director of alumni affairs. Mariann Reinke will begin her new position in Bowling Green on Aug. 20. Douglas Smith, vice president for University advancement, has announced.

"I am excited about Mariann rejoining the BGSU family to provide leadership and direction to our alumni association program and services," I am confident that her energy, focus, loyalty and keen understanding of what it takes to build and market a strong alumni affairs program will be most rewarding in the years ahead for all of us who deeply care about BGSU," Smith said.

Reinke received a bachelor's degree in music education and performance from Miami University in 1983 and earned a master's degree in college student personnel from BGSU in 1985.

The new director has a strong background in alumni and development and is familiar with Bowling Green's operation. Smith added, having served as associate director of alumni affairs for BGSU from 1985-90. In that role she coordinated Ohio alumni chapter activities and developed and coordinated the annual alumni leaders conference, as well as overseeing alumni scholarships and admissions programs.

While working toward her master's degree, she was also a... (Continued)

$10.5 million in private giving to BGSU tops all University records

Private support for BGSU continues to grow and it shows—on the bottom line. During the fiscal year that ended June 30, cash contributions to the University totaled $51,570,765, compared to $57,987,234 last year. The figure is nearly double the record $3.4 million in private contributions BGSU received just two years ago.

Donations are up overall from alumni, corporations, foundations, matching gifts and from current and retired faculty and staff, according to Marcella Sloan Latta, director of development and associate vice president for University advancement.

She attributed the increase in gifts to a belief in the vision that the president and trustees have established for the future of the University and to the increased effort to let alumni and friends know of the need for their support.

Latta noted that this year's Family Campaign for faculty and staff not only was the most successful ever, raising $715,539 compared to $503,046 last year, but it also garnered national attention for BGSU.

Earlier this month, Latta accepted an international award from the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education Commission on Philanthropy recognizing the fundraising effort.

Gifts to the University are being used for a wide variety of programs and projects, including the expansion of scholarships available to students. This past academic year, more than $81 million in private scholarship funds were awarded to more than 1,400 students. Many gifts were also designated for the expansion and renovation of the Bowen-Thompson Student Union and to the Cedar Point Center building project at BGSU.

Latta said that in the coming year, the primary fund-raising focus will be increasing the number of scholarships and furthering research and development funds for faculty.
**College seeks award nominees**

The College of Education and Human Development has begun its search for the Alum of the Year and the Friend of the College award winners. Nominations for both awards are being accepted; applications can be obtained in the dean's office, 44 Education Building, or by contacting Sara Zulch-Smith at szulch@bgsu.edu or at 2-7309. Letters of nomination are also acceptable. The deadline for submission of nominations is July 20.

The Alum of the Year recognizes alumni of the college who have displayed outstanding professional performance or public service. Candidates may have earned either an undergraduate or graduate degree from BGSU with their major program from the college. The Friend of the College Award recognizes individuals or organizations, outside the college, who have made significant contributions to the well-being and development of the college's programs. For more information on the awards and guidelines for nominations, contact Zulch-Smith.

**CSC announces meeting change**

The regularly scheduled meeting of Classified Staff Council for July has been changed due to a scheduling conflict. CSC will meet at BGSU Firelands at 9:30 a.m. July 23.

**Golf with women’s basketball team**

The campus community is invited to be a part of the new era of women’s basketball at the University by attending the annual Women’s Basketball Golf Outing at the Bowling Green Country Club on Aug. 2. Guests can meet the team and the new coaching staff, including head coach Curt Miller, and enjoy a game of golf together. Those who cannot join in the game may choose to attend only the evening social at the club.

For more information, email miller@bgsu.edu or call 2-2255.

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**Notes:**

July 27-21: Music/Dances at Sea, 8 p.m., Huron Playhouse, McCormick School, Ohio Street, Huron. Tickets are $10 for adults, $5 for students and seniors and $6 for children. Call (419) 433-4744 for reservations.

**New director chosen**

Reinke held the position of director of development for the Fort Wayne Philharmonic in Indiana from 1990-94, before moving to Arkansas, where she played with the South Arkansas Symphony and Encore String Quartet.

For the past seven years, she has been an independent senior sales director for Mary Kay Cosmetics, leading and managing a sales force of 36-73 consultants throughout the U.S. Reinke and her husband, Keith, also a BGSU alumnus, have three children, aged 12, 10 and 8.