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Bowling Green State University

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**Looking ahead with an ‘uncommon vision’**

President Sidney Ribeau met with faculty and staff for his Opening Day Address Aug. 24. He talked about a theme that will be very important to the University now and in the future: shaping the character of learning at BGSU. Bowling Green has an exciting opportunity to distinguish itself from other institutions, he said. It has an “uncommon vision” of what it can be, and with that, a blueprint and the tools to achieve its goal.

The vision is to create a generation of citizens who are principled members of their communities, critical thinkers and skilled communicators. “It’s a simple but profound phrase, that going to Bowling Green made a difference in one’s life,” he said, but that is what the University must strive for: that each student may one day say that.

The blueprint for reaching that goal is the six learning outcomes already identified by the University’s academic units as common goals.

The tools are the academic and humanistic values embedded in the BGSU curriculum, values such as intellectual and personal development; scholarship; curiosity; civility; honesty; service to others; reflective judgment and individual involvement.

The six major learning outcomes may be grouped into three major areas. Under the category of “developing critical and constructive thinkers,” investigating and connecting are key factors. Under “developing skilled communicators” are writing and presenting. Under “demonstrating personal character and values” are participating and leading.

- By encouraging active learning, through investigation and making connections between areas of knowledge, faculty help nurture independent thinkers able to make valid decisions about some of the important issues facing society.
- However, without effective communication skills, students may not be able to make use of their knowledge. “Students may master a body of knowledge within their discipline, but then they need to be able to convey that,” Ribeau cautioned. That is why writing and presenting are important components of so many University courses.
- The complementary acts of participating and leading are also important, Ribeau said. Participating means being actively engaged in one’s educational experience, not a passive observer. Leading, on the other hand, can simply be providing a positive influence and modeling values such as integrity, spirit and respect. Defining one’s values is key to enacting them, and as future leaders, this will be crucial to today’s students.
- “Being led by those you have taught can be exhilarating, but it can also be very frightening, depending on what you’ve taught them,” Ribeau said. That is why values exploration is so important in college today.
- The Committee on Vision and Values has been studying how to incorporate the exploration of values into curricular, co-curricular and administrative practices. “We’ve established our core values, but now we need to help students define what their values are, what they represent and what they mean.”

**New chief information officer will oversee information technology**

Bruce M. Petryshak, a former Kent State University administrator, has been named BGSU’s chief information officer. Executive Vice President Linda Dobb has announced. The chief information officer, who reports to Dobb, supervises all information technology and telecommunications systems and services. He is also responsible for meeting the information service needs of curricular, academic and administrative units of the University.

“Bruce Petryshak with us. He has a wonderful reputation in this state as a knowledgeable and astute manager of information systems,” Dobb said, noting, “With his leadership, we will move BGSU to new heights of effective technology deployment in support of our academic and administrative programs.”

Petryshak has more than 20 years of experience in the field of information technology. In his most recent position at Kent State, he served as senior administrator, leader and advocate for innovative and effective use of computing, telecommunications and information technology. During his tenure there, he (Continued on back)
Open the season with the Falcons

President Sidney Ribeau invites all faculty, staff and their families to come cheer the Falcon football team at its first game under the lights in Doyt Perry Stadium on Sept. 8.

All faculty and staff may receive four free tickets to the home season opener by stopping by the Anderson Arena box office with their BGSU ID between now and Sept. 7. Also at the game, Classified Staff Council will sponsor a hospitality tent with food and soft drinks for all classified staff. The tent will be open from 3:30 p.m. until the 6 p.m. game time.

Vision

(Continued)

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BGSU has within its grasp the ability to do something very different, Ribeau said. By building principled citizens, we can help create individuals who are proud of, not only because of their skill and knowledge, but because of what they do when they are out in the world.

Petryshak

(Continued)

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Petryshak is a former member of the OhioLINK Systems Committee for the State of Ohio. He earned both his bachelor’s and master’s degrees at Kent State.

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Four honored for their Spirit of BG

The following people have been honored with the Spirit of BG Award in recognition of their commitment to excellence: The summer winners from administrative staff were Sandy Miesmer, busy's office, noted for her cheerful willingness to help with any type of work; Linda Gray, ITS, honored for her continuing efforts to help students with their phone services, and Jan Buehler, purchasing, who provides friendly and expert service to her clients. The three received a vase of flowers.

From the classified staff, Anna Estrada, facilities services, was the July winner of the Spirit of BG. She was commended for going well beyond the basics in her care of Jerome Library; she received a check for $75.