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Monitor Newsletter March 04, 2002

Bowling Green State University

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MONITOR

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Make dreams a reality, Ribeau tells campus



President Ribeau in his State of the University Address urged the campus to remember the primary business of higher education.

Despite the serious economic challenges of recent years, President Ribeau told the audience at his seventh State of the University Address Feb. 28, BGSU has had "amazing achievements in every area imaginable." And the University stands to experience more gains in the future so long as we continue to believe in the possibilities that can be dreamed of and do not allow ourselves to be distracted by the "business of higher education."

Our primary business is to use human intelligence and spirit to foster intellectual growth, exploration and the search for knowledge, he said. And we must persevere with or without outside funding. "The train must keep moving," he said.

In a speech titled "Building on Tradition, Believing in Opportunity," the president reminded the audience we are "collectively engaged in the discussion about what is important to make Bowling Green a better institution." We must continue our commitment to creating new curricula and new academic programs and, just as important, to "creating a place where civility, tolerance and acceptance of all people, in all their differences, is a way of life, and creating a safe environment where dialogue and debate can take place."

Helping the University's reputation to improve, he said, adds value to all our lives. Since 1998 alone, 23 new majors, minors, specializations or licensures have been introduced/ Also, 49 percent of students have

participated in one or more student success initiatives such as Springboard, the Chapman Learning Community or the President's Leadership Academy; a 13 percent increase over 1997's figures.

External grants and contracts have increased 41 percent, while total giving to BGSU is up 109 percent since 1998. Institutional learning outcomes have been established, and 57 program reviews have been conducted, honing the campus's ability to meet its goals.

There are now 820 full-time faculty on the main and Firelands campuses, he said, compared to 682 in 1997. "These are not all tenure-track faculty but they are full time," he said.

Although the University has not yet met its goals in the area of faculty and staff compensation, it has made very significant gains over the past three years, Ribeau said. Recent figures show that BGSU is first among its peer institutions in Ohio in terms of faculty raises, and on a par with them in staff salaries. Now he and the board must set the plan for the next three years. "Are we where we want to be? No. But as long as we stay pointed in the right direction, we will achieve it."

We have tangible evidence of the "power of dreams to breathe life into possibilities," he said, in the new Bowen-Thompson Student Union. "The union is the physical manifestation of the will of students to make this a different kind of place," Ribeau said.

When a student petition was first put forth in 1994 in support of a new union, "there was no money; there was no plan," but now, seven years later, it is a reality.

When he came here seven years ago, there were only about 1,000 computers on campus, and one of the three priorities was to increase desktop technology. Today, there are 7,200 computers supported and funded by the University, and another 5,000 brought by students to residence halls. He reminded the audience that the increase was achieved without any special allocations from the state, but "through innovations, fund raising and from our operating budget. We did it ourselves," he said.

The University has a vital role to play in contributing to the quality of life in Ohio by supplying important research that will help create new jobs and whole new industries to meet the state's economic and social needs. Ribeau spoke of Governor Taft's Third Frontier, which he said will have far-reaching implications for higher education. The plan is to invest more heavily in research in the areas of technology, biochemistry and information technology. Ribeau said there is opportunity therein for BGSU, but characterized it as a

"double-edged sword."

Any research funding universities receive over the next few years will come from these areas, he stressed, and the danger is that traditional research areas, many of which address pressing questions in our society, may not receive the kind of support they deserve. We must be careful that our research agenda be driven by the quality of ideas and not solely by marketability, Ribeau cautioned.

In closing, he noted that "the academy is replete with values," those of inquiry, intellectual honesty, exploration, dialogue and critical thinking. There is no need to come up with new ones. What the University's new values initiative seeks to initiate is the introduction of undergraduates to the values that are the hallmark of the academy; "what all of us as faculty experienced in our graduate programs."

He said he hopes that in the next few years there will be so many initiatives coming out of every department, program and college that we have to raise \$10 million, because that will show the vibrancy of our intellectual life.

"We need to continue with vitality, creativity and enthusiasm, with or without extra funding. We need to create the opportunity for resources to come."

Trustees set summer fees, name music listening room

In response to cuts in state support for higher education during the past year, the BGSU Board of Trustees approved a moderate increase in fees starting summer session when they met Feb. 26 on the BGSU Firelands campus.

The trustees approved a 7 percent increase in tuition over current levels for the main campus. Five percent of that increase will partially compensate for the reductions in state support while the remaining 2 percent is related to the nearly completed technology infrastructure project.

In dollar terms, 7 percent translates into \$18 per credit hour, or a \$185 increase in tuition for full-time undergraduate students. Full-time undergraduate students on the main campus will pay \$2,512 for

instructional fees and \$330 for general fees this summer.

The trustees also approved an increase of 5 percent, or \$7 per credit hour, in tuition at BGSU Firelands beginning summer term. For undergraduates enrolled full time at Firelands, the action means a \$76 increase in instructional fees and a \$4 increase in general fees over current levels. Full-time undergraduate students at BGSU Firelands this summer will pay \$1,598 for instructional fees and \$75 for general fees.

"We are doing what we can to keep fees as low as possible, but we must balance them with the reality of a 6 percent decrease in state support," President Ribeau said. Continuing erosion of state support for

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Trustees set summer fees

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higher education, he added, could mean more fee increases in the future.

The 6 percent in funding lost through state cutbacks this year amounts to more than \$5 million for BGSU, according to Christopher Dalton, vice president for finance and administration.

The board also approved the naming of the Frank and Virginia Crawford Listening Center in the Music Library and Sound Recordings Archives in Jerome Library in honor of the Crawfords' \$150,000 gift to the center. Frank Crawford was a 1930 alumnus of BGSU, and his wife was a public school librarian. Their donation has already funded the much-needed renovation of the center and the replacement of its aging equipment, with enough left over to create an endowment account for future needs.

The board heard an update from BGSU Firelands Dean Jim Smith, who reported that the news from Huron is good. Firelands' spring headcount and FTE enrollment surpassed that of the fall, which was already a record high. The Firelands community is responding with en-

thusiasm to the new degrees offered at the college, which bring the total to eight undergraduate, two master's and 14 associate degree programs offered. The college continues to partner with the community, he said, and looks forward to increasing these relationships in the future. The latest good news is that the first contractors' meeting for the Cedar Point Center was anticipated to be March 1.

In reports to the board, it was learned that the campus constituent groups are organizing a Legislative Visits Day on April 16. The plan is to transport a large group of students, faculty and staff to Columbus for scheduled appointments with 10-12 state senators, targeting the leadership and the members of the education and finance committees.

Finally, David Bryan, chair of the board, expressed appreciation to the entire campus community for its strong support of Presidents' Day, noting that, until one goes through it, it is hard to imagine what an undertaking the day is and what an excellent experience.

job postings.....

FACULTY

Applied Statistics and Operations Research. Instructor. Call B. Madhu Rao, 2-8011. Deadline: March 18.

Romance Languages. Instructor/Resident Director in France. Call R. J. Berg, 2-2667. Deadline: May 15.

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

(Employees wishing to apply for this position may request a "Request for Transfer" form.)

The deadline to apply is 1 p.m. Friday, March 8:

Custodial Worker (C-13 and 14-Vc)—Facilities Services (two positions). Pay grade 2.

Housekeeping Manager 2 (C-15-Vc)—Facilities Services. Pay grade 7.

Maintenance Repair Worker 2 (C-18-Vc)—Facilities Services. Pay grade 7.

Painter 1 (C-16-Vc)—Facilities Services. Pay grade 9.

Storekeeper 1 (C-12-Vc)—Materials Handling/Central Station. Pay grade 5.

ADMINISTRATIVE

Assistant to the Vice President for Student Affairs for Financial Administration (S-117)—Student Affairs. Administrative grade 17. Review of applications will continue until the position is filled.

Managing Editor (S-01/069)—Social Philosophy and Policy Cen-

ter. Administrative grade 12. Deadline: March 1.

Health Promotions Coordinator (S-014)—Wellness Connection, Student Health Services. Administrative grade 15. Review of applications will begin March 8 and continue until the position is filled.

Staff Physician (S-015)—Student Health Services. Review of applications will begin March 8 and continue until the position is filled.

Program Coordinator (S-01/069)—Bowen-Thompson Student Union (re-advertised). Administrative grade 14. Review of applications will continue until the position is filled.

Server Technician (V-016)—Information Technology Services. Administrative grade 12. Deadline: March 15.

Research Compliance Officer (02-018)—Office of Research Compliance/Graduate College. Administrative grade 14. Deadline: March 22.

Associate Director for Programs and Services (S-062)—Bowen-Thompson Student Union (re-advertised). Administrative grade 13. Review of applications will begin April 12 and continue until the position is filled.

Residence Hall Director (S-010)—Office of Residence Life. Administrative grade 13. Review of applications will begin April 12 and continue until the position is filled.

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Economics conference to examine role of implicit values in teaching

The Department of Economics will sponsor an interdisciplinary conference this month whose central theme is relevant to many areas of teaching. Titled "Values as a Stimulus for Thinking Critically about Economics," the one-day workshop will examine the impact that underlying and sometimes unexamined values have on teaching.

Participants will be asked to look critically at how values influence what they teach and how they teach. "The goal is to bring up to the explicit level the thinking that goes on and to challenge the definitions behind the fundamental concepts in each discipline," said Paul Haas, Distinguished Teaching Professor of economics, who organized the 10th annual workshop. "We hope to spark an idea that other faculty will take back to their classrooms."

The conference faculty in-

cludes Neil Browne, Distinguished Teaching Professor of economics, and Mary Borg, a professor of political economy and the director of the Undergraduate Academic Enrichment Program at the University of North Florida. Browne has written and consulted extensively about critical thinking and values, and Borg has written about the role of values in economics. Most of the workshop's topics will relate to economics but are applicable to many disciplines.

The conference runs from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. March 22 in the Bowen-Thompson Student Union. The cost for BGSU faculty (including part-time faculty and instructors) and graduate students is only \$10, and is subsidized by the Office of the President in support of the focus on values examination. To register, call 2-8181.

Summer undergraduate research offered

Undergraduate students in northwest Ohio can again participate in BGSU's summer research program. Participants will have an opportunity to conduct original research and work alongside distinguished BGSU scientists. Along with gaining this valuable research experience, students will also receive a \$3,000 stipend for the 10-week session plus an efficiency apartment at no cost. The session runs from May 20-July 26.

The goal of the program is to provide research opportunities for students from smaller colleges, which may not be able to offer such experiences and who are the first of their families to attend college. It is the hope that those participating will be excited about performing research and will continue their education in graduate school.

Those chosen will join a group working in photochemical or biomolecular sciences, and possibly physics, using the techniques of organic, inorganic, physical or biochemistry, as well as molecular biology and bioinformatics. Participants will conduct their own original

research project and gain lab and computer experience. They will also participate in research seminars and short courses in computer techniques for scientific research and communication. At the end of the 10-week session, each participant will make a presentation at a joint meeting of students and faculty from Michigan and Ohio.

To apply online, go to: www.bgsu.edu/departments/chem/undergradresearch.html. For more information, contact Nora Cassidy at 2-6008 or by email at ncassid@bgnet.bgsu.edu.

Look online for week's calendar

Due to coverage of the State of the University address, the weekly calendar may be found in the online Monitor.

www.bgsu.edu/faculty_staff/

Monitor
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online