

6-17-2002

Monitor Newsletter June 17, 2002

Bowling Green State University

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Recommended Citation

Bowling Green State University, "Monitor Newsletter June 17, 2002" (2002). *Monitor*. 1410.
<https://scholarworks.bgsu.edu/monitor/1410>

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MONITOR

VOL. 26 NO. 43 ♦ JUNE 17, 2002

Learning communities meet student needs, study finds

During the last several years, the University has placed added emphasis on creating learning communities for its students in order to provide additional academic and social support, cohesion and focus in their college experience.

Some of these communities are residential, while others are not, but all share the philosophy of "getting beyond the stand-alone classroom to reach the student," according to Tom Klein, director of the Chapman Living/Learning Community, one of the University's longest-running learning communities.

The two key elements of the learning community are an integrative, interdisciplinary approach to education and an emphasis on bringing a "new kind of knowledge that makes wide connections and crosses the boundaries of academic and student life," he said.

BGSU's efforts are in keeping with a national trend, and are supported by research into their impact on student success, as documented in a recent report by William Knight, director of the Office of Institutional Research.

In the fall of 2001, President Ribeau requested that an assessment be made of the effectiveness of the various communities. The purpose was not to determine whether the communities should be continued or how resources should be allocated, but to offer feedback to the various programs on what was working and what wasn't.

The "Feedback Report on Learning Communities and First Year Programs at BGSU," released in March, shows that, at least initially, most of these communities are indeed having a positive impact on retention, graduation, grade point averages and credit hours earned.

As noted in the report, several assumptions were made in conducting the study and other results might have been reached had different approaches been followed. With this in mind, the study concluded that some communities in particular are contributing the most toward these outcomes at this time. These include Chapman Learning Community, the Honors Program, Literacy Serve and Learn (LSL), Springboard, UNIV

100 classes and the University Program for Academic Success (UPAS).

An income versus expense analysis also showed good return on investment in several programs through increased retention and recruitment.

Additionally, the report showed which programs seem to work best for which students. For example, women seem to benefit most from participation in Chapman, Honors, LSL, the Center for Multicultural and Academic Initiatives (MAI), Springboard, UPAS and UNIV 100. Students of color may be more likely to benefit from Chapman, Honors, MAI, Springboard and UPAS. And students with high grade point averages may find their best fit in LSL, the President's Leadership Academy and UNIV 100.

"I think the report is a salute to the Ribeau ideology of integrative education," Klein said. "It affirms the benefits of the learning community model of education and is a warning that the 'cafeteria model' doesn't fulfill all the needs of today's students. It puts us all on notice that students have personal and social needs that can be met by the integrative model."

For many of the program directors, the results confirm their own assessments of the success of the learning commu-

nities.

"We were not at all surprised by the results" of the study, according to Heidi Masters-Siebenaler, a graduate assistant with the Springboard Program who was a three-time coach before becoming an administrative program leader.

"Our mentors come from all over the University, and we build on everyone's experience to make the class and the students better."

Springboard, a one-credit program in which students are paired with a mentor, who can come from the community or any area of the University, focuses on individual attention to each student and bringing all the resources of the University to bear on their learning experience, she said.

Like some other successful learning communities, Springboard uses self-assessment to refine its program. This fall, for



Students in the Chapman Learning Community talk with Tom Klein, director. Contact with faculty both in and out of the classroom is a key ingredient in successful learning communities.

example, extensive curriculum changes will be implemented to strengthen its academic focus, according to Sandy Mencer, interim director. "We're 'closing the loop' in assessment to make the experience more meaningful for both mentees and volunteers," she said.

The study revealed other shared strategies for nurturing student success. A strong component of both Springboard and Chapman, for example, is overcoming students' reticence about dealing with faculty by bringing them into closer contact outside the classroom. Research has shown that when students feel faculty are approachable and come to them for help, their grades tend to rise.

A recommendation resulting from the study is that some of the best practices of the more successful programs be adopted by other programs, though it still remains unclear "which specific activities are most critical to student success," according to the Conclusions and Recommendations portion of the report. Accordingly, the researchers also recommended that an assessment group be formed to continue assessment of learning and first-year communities to provide meaningful feedback to the University about the effectiveness of the programs.

To view the entire report, including a summation of all the communities studied, visit www.bgsu.edu/offices/ir/studies/LearningComm/contents.html.

Politics: The fine art of persuasion



Federalist Party candidate for governor, Alanzo Davis, answers questions during the Buckeye Boys State mock-election debates on June 10. He eventually won the election for governor of Boys State. Davis, from Miamisburg, attended Stivers Academy for the Performing Arts. This is the 25th year BGSU has hosted Boys State, which is sponsored by the American Legion.

in brief

Provider chosen for vehicle maintenance

Effective July 1, Great Lakes Ford Nissan will be the new contractor for providing automotive maintenance and repair services for University-owned vehicles, Mark Anderson, director of materials handling, has announced.

This contract has been established to maintain a safe vehicle fleet and have a convenient, cost-effective motor vehicle maintenance program. The contract will run through June 30, 2004, and can be used for repairs and/or preventive maintenance checks and services.

As a reminder: University-owned vehicles are to be serviced every 3,000 miles or six months, whichever occurs first. This service typically includes a lube, oil and filter change and a comprehensive inspection to identify other needed or potential future repairs.

It is the departments' responsibility to monitor vehicle mileage and service dates and to obtain an appointment with Great Lakes Ford Nissan for services and repairs by contacting the service manager, David Shields, at 353-5271.

Diana Tussing personifies 'Spirit of BG'

An employee who provided crucial support to a young family in a time of crisis is this month's classified staff winner of the Spirit of BG Award.

Diana Tussing, physics and astronomy, stepped in to help the family of a graduate student who was hospitalized with a serious illness right after his wife gave birth. Tussing cooked meals, mowed their lawn and provided emotional support during this very difficult time.

She received a \$75 cash prize with the award.

Copier for sale

The Center for Environmental Programs has a Lanier 6735 copier for sale for \$800. The copier is six years old. For more information, call Jane Trumbull at 2-8207.

job postings.....

FACULTY

There are no new postings this week.

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

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

Deadline to apply is 1 p.m. Friday, June 21.

Maintenance Repair Worker 3 (C-51-Sc)—Recreational Sports/Perry Field House. Pay grade 9. Full time.

The following positions are being listed on and off campus.

Photographer 2 (C-52-Vc)—Marketing & Communications. Pay grade 8. Deadline: 1 p.m. Friday, June 21.

The deadline to apply for the following is 1 p.m. Friday, June 28:

Cashier 1 (C-48-Sc)—Dining Services. Pay grade 3. Nine-month, part time.

Data Entry Operator 2 (C-49-Vc)—Undergraduate Admissions. Pay grade 4. Full time.

Data Entry Operator 2 (C-50-Vc)—Undergraduate Admissions. Pay grade 4. Nine-month, part time.

www.bgsu.edu/faculty_staff/

Monitor
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online

ADMINISTRATIVE

Audio-Visual Manager (V-037)—Bowen-Thompson Student Union. Administrative grade 13. Review of applications will continue until the position is filled.

Coordinator, Geriatric Education Center (02-060)—College of Health and Human Services. Administrative grade 14. Deadline: June 21.

Major Gifts Officer (02-066)—Office of Development. Administrative grade 16. Review of applications will begin June 26 and continue until the position is filled.

Advertising Manager for Student Publications (S-064)—Student Publications. Administrative grade 14. Deadline: June 28.

Grants Coordinator (02-058)—Center for Policy Analysis and Public Service. Administrative grade 14. Deadline: June 28.

Manager of Digital Video and Audio Initiatives (02-061)—Center for Teaching, Learning and Technology. Administrative grade 15. Deadline: June 28.

Manager (S-049)—University Dining Services (two positions). Administrative grade 12. Review of applications will begin July 5 and continue until the position is filled.

Psychologist (02-063)—Counseling Center. Administrative grade 14 for non-licensed and 17 for licensed.

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campus calendar.....

Monday, June 17

Summer Music Institute (SMI): String Camp Faculty Recital, 8 p.m., Bryan Recital Hall, Moore Musical Arts Center.

Tuesday, June 18

Dissertation Defense, "Contributions to the Attainment of Learning Outcomes through Co-curricular Activities: Perceptions of Students at Bowling Green State University," by Rena Murphy, higher education administration, 1 p.m., Paulsen Room, Saddleire Student Services Building.

SMI: Clarinet Camp Faculty Recital, 8 p.m., Bryan Recital Hall, Moore Musical Arts Center.

Wednesday, June 19

Dissertation Defense, "Mutation and Repair of DNA Damaged with Cisplatin, an Anti-cancer Agent," by Resham Bhattacharya, biological sciences, 10 a.m., 204 Life Sciences Building.

Board of Trustees, 11 a.m. McMaster Room, Bowen-Thompson Student Union.

SMI: Jazz Camp Faculty Recital, 8 p.m., Bryan Recital Hall, Moore Musical Arts Center.

Thursday, June 20

Dissertation Defense, "An Analysis of the Knowledge Levels of Ohio's Post-Secondary Educators in Public/State, Private and Two-Year Institutions of Higher Education Regarding Copyright Ownership of Web-Based/Online Course Materials,"

by Jasmine Renner, School of Leadership and Policy Studies, 9 a.m.-noon, 526 Education Building.

SMI: Orchestra Chamber Finale Concert, 8 p.m., Bryan Recital Hall, Moore Musical Arts Center.

Friday, June 21

Dissertation Defense, "Engineering a Simplified Functional Nitrogenase by Gene Fusion and DNA Shuffling," by Man Hee Suh, biological sciences, 1 p.m., 204 Life Sciences Building.

Saturday, June 22

SMI: String Camp Finale Concert, 1:30 p.m., Bryan Recital Hall, Moore Musical Arts Center.

Sunday, June 23

SMI: Piano Camp Counselors' Recital, 8 p.m., Bryan Recital Hall, Moore Musical Arts Center.

Monday, June 24

Orientation and Registration begins.

Dissertation Defense, "Job Satisfaction of Ohio City, Local and Exempted Village School Superintendents and Their Perceptions of a Career Crisis in the School Superintendency," by Steve Castle, School of Leadership and Policy Studies, 10 a.m., 113 Education Building.

SMI: Piano Camp Faculty Recital, 8 p.m., Bryan Recital Hall, Moore Musical Arts Center.

The 2002-03 Festival Series promises to be an 'extraordinary season'

The College of Musical Arts has announced the 2002-03 Festival Series. Subscriptions are available at no increase from last year's prices. The performers are as follows:

Three Mo' Tenors—Thursday, Oct. 3, 2002. *The Lois M. Nitschke Memorial Concert*

The Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center—Thursday, Nov. 14, 2002. *The Louise F. Rees Memorial Concert*

Eighth Blackbird—Friday, Dec. 6, 2002. *The Kobacker Concert*

Les Violons du Roy—Thursday, Feb. 6, 2003.

Jane Monheit—Saturday, April 5, 2003. *The Dorothy Bryan Memorial Concert*

All Festival Series performances are at 8 p.m. in Kobacker Hall of the Moore Musical Arts Center. Adult season subscriptions range from \$60-\$120 and student season subscriptions range from \$40-\$90. Subscriptions may be ordered by calling the box office at 2-8171. The box office is open Monday-Friday, noon-6 p.m.