University is focusing its strengths to move into the next era of achievement: President Ribeau

The greatest colleges and universities never rest on their achievements but are constantly evaluating and seeking ways to improve, President Sidney Ribeau told a crowd of nearly 1,000 on Aug. 23 in his eighth annual opening day address.

"Being part of the Bowling Green community should make some kind of fundamental difference in the quality of your life," he said. "It must have the potential to ignite the imagination in you and ignite. We should gain some insight and a sense of community and participation by being here that we didn't have before."

From the Building Community project in 1995 came the creation of the first-year programs, the increased focus on critical thinking and values exploration, and a host of other programs and initiatives designed to bolster student success and shape the University in a conscious way. "It provided a platform for the future, and from those discussions it emerged that first and foremost are our people. Our faculty and staff are our greatest asset," Ribeau said.

University-wide planning has been an important activity, Ribeau said, as BGSU continues its quest to become the premier learning community in Ohio and one of the best in the nation. The Campus Master Plan, in which people from across the University have participated, will be a good tool for making decisions about where anticipated new facilities, such as the admissions, theatre and biological sciences buildings, should be located and how the overall physical environment should evolve.

"We need to utilize space effectively to enhance our mission of teaching and learning," he said. Ribeau showed a number of slides illustrating the University's progress, from enrollment growth to annual giving and sponsored research to student satisfaction. "By every benchmark, we're doing well. But that does not ensure our future," he cautioned.

Instead, BGSU must integrate the combined wisdom and experience of the last few years into a focused, vision-inspired plan for the future of the institution, he said. With this in mind, the president said, he created the Academic Planning Team, convened last spring to unite all available research and identify academic strengths and weaknesses of the University. Using what they find, the team is to set goals for BGSU over the next 20-50 years and identify progress indicators. The team has identified some preliminary themes, and Ribeau urged the campus community to study them, now available in the campus email and on the Web, and give feedback to the committee.

Ribeau noted that the University's mission statement says it will be "grounded in intellectual discovery," thus setting it apart from business. "What is different from what Microsoft does," he said, and is why the University cannot operate based solely upon the "bottom line."

"We are creating the next generation of knowledge," he pointed out. This is why the "BG Experience," focusing on the critical exploration of values, is so important to our students and to the future of the nation, he said. "We're not trying to teach anyone values. We're just trying to make them see that they do in fact have values, and those values do affect their behavior. "We want to help them sort out where their values came from, how they influence their behavior, and how eventually they will influence their professional ethics."

In closing, Ribeau noted that significant change doesn't take place in a sensational way. Anything we do at BGSU will be evolutionary, not sensational. "We are poised at a moment to take the next step to make us one of the best universities not just in Ohio but in the nation. Whether we take that step is up to us not only in word, but in deed, in what we are willing to do."

Center for Archival Collections nets a trove of Catholic records

Genealogists, local historians and other researchers have a new source of information thanks to a unique collaboration among the Catholic Diocese of Toledo, BGSU and the Genealogical Society of Utah.

Now preserved on microfilm are ancidental records from 174 parishes in the Toledo Diocese, which comprises 19 counties: Allen, Crawford, Defiance, Erie, Fulton, Hancock, Henry, Huron, Lucas, Ottawa, Paulding, Putnam, Richland, Sandusky, Seneca, Van Wert, Williams, Wood and Wyandot.

Records from roughly 30 precursors of parishes, called stations and missions, have also been preserved, as have baptismal records from seven Catholic hospitals. The data dates from the 1830s—nearly 80 years before the diocese was established—and is on 414 rolls of microfilm at BGSU's Center for Archival Collections.

"Nothing like this has been done anywhere in the country," according to center director Paul Yon, referring to the three-way cooperation among a diocese, an academic institution and GSU, a society affiliated with the Mormon church that collects genealogical records worldwide. The center coordinated the project, which preserved records of baptisms, first communions, confirmations, marriages, deaths and interments, as well as membership and cemetery records. Although work didn't begin... (Continued on back)
Catholic records netted
(Continued from front)
mental job," the Rev. Thomas Quinn, the diocese's director of communications, pointing out
that the two-year project wrapped up three months early. Death and intermittent records extend
to the present, but the agreement includes a stipulation that prohibits BGSU from pro-
viding access to baptismal and marriage information from the previous 70 years unless re-
searchers are searching for themselves or immediate family. The information may be sought from
the appropriate parish or the diocese, Von said.
Genealogists have already begun using the records, and
public libraries are requesting copies for their collections. A complete inventory of the
records can be seen at the center's Web site: www.bgsu.edu/colleges/library/enc.

Monday, Aug. 26
Classes begin.
Monday, Sept. 2
Labor Day, classes canceled; offices closed.
Continuing Events
Aug. 27-Sept. 27
Art Exhibit, "Inventing Contemporary Ornament: A
National Invitational Exhibition," featuring the work of 14 jewelers and metal artists, Doro-
they Uber Bryan Gallery. Gallery hours are Tuesday-Saturday 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Sundays 1-4 p.m.
Aug. 27-Sept. 23
Art Exhibit, "This Is Not a Photograph," Willard Wankelman Gallery. See above for gallery hours.

Cook 1 (C-61-63-Sc)—University Dining Services
Food Service Worker
(C-64-Sc)—University Dining Services.
Pay grade 1. Nine month, part time.

ADMINISTRATIVE
Assistant Director of Residence Life for Educational Initiatives (S-680)—Office of Residence Life.
Administrative grade 14. Review of applications will begin Aug. 30 and continue until the position is filled.
Director (S-036)—Bowen-Thompson Student Union.
Administrative grade 19. Review of applications will continue until the position is filled.
Director of Principal Gifts (02-063)—Office of Development.
Administrative grade 20. Review of applications will begin Sept. 1 and continue until the position is filled.
Major Gift Officer (02-066)—Office of Development. Administrative grade 16. Review of appli-
cations will continue until the position is filled.
Manager (S-049)—University Dining Services (two positions).
Administrative grade 12. Review of applications will continue until the position is filled.

Pick up free football tickets for Thursday
The deadline is approaching to get your free tickets to the Thurs-
day (Aug. 29) home opening football game against Tennessee Tech. Each faculty and staff member is entitled to four tickets.
The deadline for ticket pick-up is 1 p.m. on Thursday. Be sure to bring your BGSU ID to the ticket office in Memorial Hall. Kick-off is at 7 p.m.
Faculty/Staff Appreciation Night is sponsored by the President's Office, the Department of Intercolligate Athletics and University Advancement.

BGSU vehicle rental no longer available
Beginning Sept. 1, the University will no longer offer rental vehicles to departments and offices, Jane Schimpf, assistant vice president for Auxiliary Services, has announced.
The decision was made by J. Christopher Dalton, senior vice president for finance and administration, in concurrence with a recommendation by Auxiliary Services to discontinue the Vehicle Rental Operation.
The decision was largely driven by the mandate to University departments to reduce operating costs, Dalton said, which in turn reduced departments' utilization of the rental fleet and the revenue it had generated. Safety liability issues surrounding 15-passenger vans and the retirement of Don Coppes, transportation services manager, were factors included in the decision.
Richard Peper, contract manager in the Purchasing Department, has negotiated preferred-provider arrangements with local vendors for service after Sept. 1. He can be contacted at 2-8143 or rpeper@bgsu.edu.

Peace Cloth to be on display in union
On Sept. 3, BG SU will hold opening ceremonies for its showing of the John Denver Memorial Peace Cloth. Related to the display of the cloth will be nine days of presentations and events devoted to exploring the concept of peace.
The opening ceremonies and reception will begin at 6 p.m. on Sept. 3 in 308 Bowen-Thompson Student Union, where the cloth will remain on display until Sept. 12.
The Peace Cloth was originally created to wrap around the United Nations headquarters in New York City to commemorate World Peace Day in 2000. It has evolved to recognize the late John Denver's commitment to the work of the United Nations, which he served as an "Ambassador of Peace and Goodwill." The large, color-
ful cloth consists of handmade panels, many fashioned from wed-
ding or christening dresses or embroidered with special words and designs, and contributed by people around the country, expressing the themes of peace and diversity.
The Peace Cloth project is sponsored by Graduate Student Senate with support from other University offices and organizations. For more information, contact Shelly Clegg, Graduate Student Senate president, at 2-3426 or gss08@bgsu.edu. Visit www.johndenverpeacecloth.com for more about the Peace Cloth.

in memory
Alma Payne, 83, professor emeritus of English and American studies, died July 8 in Bonita Springs, Fla. A University faculty member from 1946-79, she founded the American studies depart-
ment at BG SU.


in brief
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