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Monitor Newsletter December 22, 2003

Bowling Green State University

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Board grants president contract extension, raise

The University trustees on Dec. 16 approved a 3 percent raise for President Ribeau and a two-year extension of his contract.

The new contract extends through July 1, 2008, and includes an incentive of \$25,000 per year to be set aside until then. If the president remains with the University for the duration, he will receive the total sum of \$125,000 at the end of the contract. If he should leave before 2008, however, he will receive none of the incentive money.

The president thanked the board for its "vote of confidence and support" and pledged to "work even harder over the next five years," adding, "All that we've done for the University we've done as a team." He said there are a number of dedicated faculty and staff who have worked tirelessly over the past eight and a half years to help move BGSU toward its goals.

After the meeting, Ribeau said he will donate his raise to the BG Experience Program and to the Bernard Ribeau athletic scholarship, which he created in his late father's name.

Trustee Leon Bibb said that Ribeau has done an outstanding job at the University's helm and has "charted its course in a much higher direction." Ribeau has the ability, he said, to instill the belief that BGSU can be even better, and has promoted a strong feeling of community on campus.

In other action, the board agreed to sell three acres of BGSU property on Dunbridge Road east of I-75 in the University Research Park to the Wood County Educational Service Center. The selling price will be \$37,000 per acre. The center, which provides special education services to county school districts, plans to build a central office facility on the site.

The board also accepted an anonymous gift to construct a terrace adjacent to the Peace and Tranquility Garden beside Parker Lake in BGSU Firelands' James H. McBride Arboretum. The arboretum is leased by BGSU to the Erie MetroParks with oversight of its operation by the James H. McBride Arboretum Advisory Board.

In his report to the board, the president noted the passing last week of Sam Cooper, former coach and longtime chair of the health and physical education department. "His imprint is on this University now and forever more," Ribeau said. "He influenced generations of students."

Ribeau also encouraged the campus community to attend the upcoming Motor City Bowl on Dec. 26. "If you can't go yourself," he said, "think about purchasing tickets for students to go."

Earlier, the Academic and Student Affairs Committee heard that, as a result of program review of the English department, the master of arts program in Teaching English as a Second Language will be discontinued. The review process showed that the department's resources and faculty were stretched too thinly, Provost John Folkins told the committee, and, with its small enrollment (approximately 15 students), MA-TESL was the most appropriate program to eliminate.

The program will be phased out so that students currently enrolled may complete their degrees. The faculty will be redeployed to linguistics and English as a Second Language courses, said Donald Nieman, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences.

The discontinuation of MA-TESL will not impact the ESL program, Nieman assured. "We

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are absolutely committed to having a strong ESL program," he said. "We need that for our graduate and our undergraduate students. We also want to increase our diversity by adding more international students. Discontinuing MA-TESL will not weaken ESL but will allow us to devote more resources to it."

Why doesn't Johnny eat right? BGSU study looks at student food choices

Concerned about what your kids are eating for lunch at school? You might want to take a closer look at what food's available there—and at home.

Shannon Brown did just that earlier this year via a survey of Wood County high school students, who were asked about their cafeteria choices for her master's degree thesis at BGSU.

Perhaps not surprisingly, Brown found that while nearly two-thirds of the 144 surveyed students felt they had "a lot of" knowledge to make healthy food choices, only 9 percent said they did so all the time.

The reasons for the disparity become more complex, however, than peer influences and loss of parental control at school, say Brown and her thesis adviser, Laura Landry-Meyer of the Human Development and Family Studies Program within the School of Family and Consumer Sciences.

One major factor has been the introduction into schools of "competitive foods"—any foods sold to students in foodservice areas during meal periods in competition with federal government meal programs.

The United States Department of Agriculture sets nutritional rules for its school lunch program, which has been increasingly embroiled in a struggle for students' stomachs with encroaching fast food and soft drinks. Companies have gotten their feet in the doors of cash-strapped schools with offers to help purchase athletic equipment, for instance, creating both a conflict with nutrition and a resulting public policy issue, Brown and Landry-Meyer say.

It also becomes an obesity issue, adds Landry-Meyer, pointing out that if the tide of childhood obesity isn't stemmed, "the social implication is huge."

Nationwide, 15 percent of children are overweight and another 14 percent are at risk for being overweight, based on calculations of body mass index, Brown notes. Thus, as a result of unhealthy nutritional habits now, roughly 30 percent of American youngsters face possibly increased risk of heart disease, diabetes and other serious future health problems, she says.

Those who seek change need to know what to target, according to Landry-Meyer. And since 95 percent of all adolescents are in public schools, the schools are the first place to look, adds Brown, who received her master's degree in May and next month begins a job with the Children's Hunger Alliance in Columbus.

If the results of her survey are indicative of the broader high school population, adolescents have acquired information about nutrition, so emphasis should lean toward limiting their accessibility to unhealthy food, Landry-Meyer says. If schools would reduce students' options by keeping junk food off-limits, or by replacing pop machines with water or 100-percent fruit or vegetable juice, "you're forcing their hand," she maintains.

Competitive foods have a place in schools, but they need to include healthy choices, says Brown, advocating salads and other low-fat foods, as well as beverage machines stocked with juice and water.

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Schools can also be more creative in their presentation, such as including vegetables with quesadillas, the Bowling Green resident says. But creativity with nutrition is usually a low priority with schools, she continues, noting that school food service directors generally don't need nutrition training to be hired. That may come later, but initial training for prospective directors is geared more to budgeting and food safety, according to Brown, whose bachelor's degree in child and family community service is also from BGSU.

While school lunch program meals are the most nutritious for students, lunches packed at home can be the next best thing—if done right, she says. "Obviously, parents have a huge role, especially with younger children," to set the stage for healthier eating when they're older, she adds. "Parents could be proactive."

Eating meals together as a family is important, as is modeling of healthy eating that can take place during those meals. Once babies graduate to table food and start eating out with their parents, unhealthy cultural influences come into play, Brown points out, citing typical toddler restaurant fare of corn dogs and French fries as an example.

Her study of those outside influences—cultural, school and family—made Brown's research stand out, Landry-Meyer notes. She was both surprised and encouraged, for instance, to learn that almost half of Brown's survey sample ate with their families four or more times a week, and more than half (53.5 percent) rated eating together as fairly or very important.

"Kids don't develop and go to school in a vacuum," Landry-Meyer says. "Family has a big input."

IN BRIEF

Monitor to take holiday break

This will be the last issue of Monitor until Jan. 12, 2004. New job postings will still be available on the Office of Human Resources Web site at www.bgsu.edu/offices/ohr.

The Monitor staff wishes the campus community a restful and happy holiday break.

There's still time to get Motor City Bowl tickets

Tickets are still on sale to see Bowling Green meet Northwestern in the Motor City Bowl Friday (Dec. 26). The game will be held indoors at Detroit's Ford Field.

Tickets are \$45 and may be purchased at the athletic ticket office in Memorial Hall. Office hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays, or call 2-0000. Tickets are bursarable or may be purchased with cash, check or credit card. Purchases through the BGSU athletic office benefit Bowling Green athletics.

In addition, the alumni association is sponsoring a pre-game event at Ford Field, with hot hors d'oeuvres, from 2-5 p.m. The cost is \$25. Call 2-2701 if planning to attend.

Betty Ward chosen Spirit of BG winner

For 35 years, Betty Ward, manager of budgets and operations in the College of Arts & Sciences, has carefully monitored budgets and expenses for a college whose budget exceeds \$30 million. Recently, the culmination of months of persistent follow-up with a major corporation netted an unexpected return of more than \$13,000.

Ward is the winner of the classified staff Spirit of BG award for all she does for the college and the University. She received \$75, a certificate and congratulations from colleagues.

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National Conference on Asian Americans in the U.S. calls for papers

All interested scholars and researchers and community organizations are invited to submit paper proposals to the National Conference on Asian Americans in the United States, which will be held May 28-29, 2004, in Oakland, Calif.

Proposals are due by Jan. 31, 2004, according to K.V. Rao, sociology. The conference will have traditional paper sessions, poster presentations, roundtables and panel discussions. All proposals will receive serious review and acceptances of papers will be communicated to the authors before Feb. 15, 2004.

Visit the Web site <http://census.kvrao.org> for details. Abstract submission form can be found at <http://census.kvrao.org/abstract.html>. Questions or more information requests may be sent to census@kvrao.org.

CALENDAR

Dec. 25-25
University closed.

Jan. 1-2
University closed.

JOB POSTINGS**FACULTY**

There were no jobs posted this week.

Contact the Office of Human Resources at 419-372-8421 for information regarding classified and administrative positions. Position vacancy announcements may be viewed by visiting the HR Web site at www.bgsu.edu/offices/ohr.

Employees wishing to apply for these positions must sign a "Request for Transfer" form and attach an updated resume or data sheet. This information must be turned in to Human Resources by the job deadline.

CLASSIFIED

There are no new listings this week.

ADMINISTRATIVE

Registrar (V-078)—Registration and Records. Administrative grade 19. Deadline: Jan. 23.

Staff Internal Auditor (R-077)—Internal Auditing and Advisory Services. Administrative grade 15. Review of applications will continue until position is filled.

Director of Gift Planning (V-046)—Office of Development, University Advancement. Administrative grade 18. Review of applicants began Aug. 15. All applicants will receive full and fair consideration until the position is filled.

Major Gift Officer (V-068)—Office of Development, University Advancement. Administrative grade 15. Review of applications Review of applicants began Oct. 20 and will continue until the position is filled.

WBGU Major Gift Officer (R-071)—Tucker Center for Telecommunications. Administrative grade 15. Review of applications began Nov. 7 and will continue until the position is filled.

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OBITUARY

Samuel M. Cooper, 89, Trustee Professor Emeritus of Health and Physical Education, died Dec. 12 in Bowling Green. He taught at the University from 1946-75 and chaired the health and physical education department for 24 years. The University swimming pool is named in his honor.