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Monitor Newsletter August 23, 2004

Bowling Green State University

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> Top Stories

In Brief

Calendar

Job Postings

Obituaries

'Scholarship of engagement' to be campus priority: Ribeau

President Ribeau announced an initiative at his opening day address Aug. 20 that he said will be vital to the continued success and survival of Bowling Green as an institution.

Governor Taft's Commission on Higher Education and the Economy has called for universities to contribute tangibly to raising the quality of life for Ohio citizens and to the state's economic growth. In response, Ribeau is creating "Organizing for Engagement," an initiative to proactively make external partnerships a key priority for BGSU across campus.

There are many reasons for doing this, the president said, but two are uppermost.

First, the state universities' continued funding from Ohio will hinge in larger part than before on the level of their involvement in applied and basic research and in partnerships, alliances and collaborations with government, industry, nonprofit organizations and K-12 education in ways that advance the transformation of Ohio's economy from manufacturing-based to knowledge-based.

Second, it is the right thing to do. Ribeau noted that the "scholarship of engagement is not a new idea." He recalled the work of the late Ernest Boyer, former longtime president of the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching and Learning, whose goal was to elevate the scholarship of engagement to its rightful place alongside the other faculty roles in teaching and research.

"Boyer was way ahead of his time when he said that universities must look outward or they will miss opportunities to engage with the public," Ribeau told the approximately 750 people at the address. "To be effective at this, we must take a look at how we do the business of the University."

Quoting Martin Luther King Jr., the president said, "We live in troubled times. . . We live in a time of war. We live in a time when there is a greater disparity between the rich and the poor than perhaps ever before in America." Jobs are leaving and being replaced by jobs at minimum wage, with no health benefits, and there are now more children with no health benefits than before.

"Higher education is in a situation today where we are being required to respond," he said. "If we continue to do things as we have in the past, we will not be able to meet the call and to do what we are required to do."

"How do we as a nation and as an institution respond to these troubled times?" he asked. "It's not enough to teach someone to be an accountant or a musician—we must also teach them the skills to build a community."

Until now, many faculty members have been engaged in such work, "but you kind of did it at your own peril," Ribeau said, because there was no compensation involved. To make the scholarship of engagement a reality at Bowling Green, it must be institutionalized, he said.

Most importantly, he said, whatever model for doing so the University chooses, it must align the reward and recognition structure in support of this important faculty role.

"If we ask people to do something, it should be recognized and rewarded. Otherwise, they won't do it," he said.

To that end, the president is also creating a Task Force on the Scholarship of Engagement, which he will charge by Oct. 1 with the development of recommendations on how

- > **Top Stories**
- In Brief
- Calendar
- Job Postings
- Obituaries

BGSU should move forward with recognition and reward of the scholarship of engagement. Members of the task force will complete their work by Jan. 15, 2005, so that the campus community can discuss it during spring semester. Ribeau said he would like to take recommendations to the board of trustees in April, and then implement a centralized policy in fall 2005.

"This task force is on a fast track because this issue will not wait," he emphasized.

The president said Bowling Green should double its external grants and contracts in the next two to three years. While the work that's going on is good, it's not enough, he said. In fact, BGSU ranks in the bottom third of Ohio universities in research funding generated, and in the bottom five of those receiving Ohio Board of Regents Research Challenge Funds.

Now that state resources are directed to those high-producing institutions, BGSU must increase the level of its research activity dramatically in order to compete for funds. While through heavy lobbying he and other presidents defeated a proposal by the state commission to reallocate doctoral program funding to those higher-revenue producing universities, "it was only temporarily—a battle and not the war."

Therefore, Bowling Green must also emulate those institutions that provide an adequate support structure for faculty research. As a former provost, he said, he realizes that BGSU "does not have the resources for people to do grants and research."

"That is why there will definitely be action at the end of this discussion," he said.

This semester he will also appoint an Engaged University Council to involve faculty, staff and students from across campus in the implementation of the engaged university initiative. He will appoint constituent group leaders as well as student leaders, he said.

Further, he announced plans to send a biweekly, online newsletter beginning next week to update faculty and staff directly on campus issues, starting with the scholarship of engagement initiative.

"As I come closer to the end of my tenure at Bowling Green State University, there are some things that I want to see done," he said. "One of them is the reward structure for all faculty and staff for what they do."

In closing, Ribeau harked back to the 1995 Building Community project during his first year on campus. Because of its collaborative nature and wide scope, it continues to serve as the foundation for many efforts undertaken on campus today.

It was as a result of those discussions that the BGsupernet was built, giving BGSU a technology infrastructure unparalleled in Ohio, as well as the Bowen-Thompson Student Union, because students called for such a facility. Those were huge projects that many people said could not be accomplished, and yet they were, he said.

"It's amazing what dedicated people with a clear vision can achieve if they are motivated," Ribeau said.

BG Perspective brings new focus to student learning

Students at BGSU are empowered through the mastery of intellectual and practical skills, informed by knowledge about the natural, social and cultural worlds and forms of inquiry basic to these studies, and responsible for their actions and for civic values— "Strategic Directions for General Education"

A subtle but profound change is taking place in the University. The general education program, the backbone of every major, has been revamped to tie into the Academic Plan and to carry BGSU's learning outcomes across the disciplines.

BOWLING GREEN STATE UNIVERSITY

- > **Top Stories**
- In Brief
- Calendar
- Job Postings
- Obituaries

Stephen Langendorfer, kinesiology, has been appointed the new director, and even the name has changed to better reflect the program's shift in focus. BG Perspective: 21st Century Liberal Studies is the new name for general education.

The new focus shifts away from the historic distribution model, in which students selected a prescribed number of classes from each of several categories. The old approach was primarily content- and knowledge-based, Langendorfer said.

In contrast, the new approach follows an intellectual skills model, which doesn't ignore content but is more integrative across disciplines. "The BG Perspective is designed to give students a foundational set of intellectual skills that will carry over into their majors and then into their vocations," he explained.

"Knowledge becomes outdated so quickly in our modern era, making the distribution model archaic. We want to provide students a 'how to learn' foundation that will enable them to continually revitalize their knowledge over time," he said. "So we want to teach them how scholars in various disciplines go about building that knowledge. We also want to help them think critically."

It is both most important and most difficult to challenge students to do the critical thinking, Langendorfer said. He added jokingly that critical thinking is the part "students hate to do" because, as developmental psychologist John Flavell used to say, you can tell you're doing it when your head hurts.

"We want to gently, developmentally push students off center and slightly out of their comfort zone," Langendorfer said. "Our goal is to stretch everybody, to encourage faculty to push the students a little farther into examining important questions, because these are critical life skills to have."

Values exploration is another key piece of the process. It has been central to BGeXperience classes for the past few years and has been increasingly incorporated into many classes across campus. Part of the end goal is to prepare engaged citizens. "The reflectivity component is really crucial," Langendorfer said.

"Dr. Ribeau has set the stage very well the last few years by compelling the University to emphasize critical thinking and values," he said.

University commitment to BG Perspective

Because this represents such a sea change in a mainstay of higher education, the University has committed a number of resources to BG Perspective. In addition to Langendorfer, who is the first full-time director of the program, the staff includes Lorrie Sawaie, a part-time secretary, and Carla Ellis, a higher education administration graduate assistant. The first floor of Moseley Hall will be renovated to accommodate the new office, which will be shared with the offices for Student Academic Achievement, undergraduate research and the President's Leadership Academy.

The BG Perspective staff will carry on the foundational work begun by Vickie Rutledge Shields and Cathi Cardwell, who served as interim co-directors of general education the past two years, and the eight-member, campuswide Faculty Advisory Committee. The committee meets biweekly, and Shields and Cardwell continue to participate and lend their expertise as the process goes along. "They will be an important resource," Langendorfer said.

As interim directors, Shields and Cardwell developed a "white paper" called "Strategic Directions for General Education" that serves as the blueprint for the program's renovation. It can be viewed at the BG Perspective Web site at <http://www.bgsu.edu/offices/provost/academicprograms/genedprogram/generalEd.htm>.

"The provost's office and the College of Arts and Sciences are very committed to reducing class size," a key component of the plan, Langendorfer said. BGeXperience classes, with their small size, specially trained faculty and emphasis on values are a spearhead for others, he added.



> Top Stories

In Brief

Calendar

Job Postings

Obituaries

Resources available

For BG Perspective faculty, "I'm challenging them to do one thing different in their classes in the upcoming semesters, *e.g.*, asking students to produce a sample of their learning to place in their electronic portfolio," Langendorfer said. While many have already begun to incorporate more active learning exercises and other activities that integrate the learning outcomes in the curriculum, faculty members are encouraged to call the BG Perspective staff with questions, suggestions and exemplars. The staff can offer resources and concrete examples of activities for immediate use, such as templates of active learning experiences with follow-up questions that encourage critical thinking. The Faculty Advisory Committee is identifying exemplary practices across campus to serve as models.

"We can help faculty develop the pedagogy they need to incorporate the goals of the BG Perspective into their teaching," Langendorfer said. The BG Perspective Web site is also being expanded and will provide helpful information and links to other resources for faculty.

Evolutionary process

The focus of the BG Perspective program follows a national trend toward reform of general education and, at BGSU, synthesizes the findings of a number of campus committees and individuals devoted to strengthening and sharpening the goals of a Bowling Green education. Following program review of general education in 2001, the process of revamping gained momentum.

Another impetus came during the re-accreditation process in 2003 when the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools called for a report in 2006 on progress in assessment across the University. Developing assessments for the BG Perspective program is an important part of that mandate, said Mark Gromko, vice provost for academic affairs.

Mitt Hakel, Ohio Eminent Scholar in psychology, has been instrumental in developing assessment at the University. In addition to traditional means of measuring student learning, BG Perspective classes will use an innovative assessment tool, the E-portfolio, in which "artifacts" can be stored over a number of years. "We hope that each BG Perspective class will produce at least one artifact that can go into the student's portfolio that includes evidence of how the student is achieving the University learning outcomes," Langendorfer said. "As part of this process, students will be encouraged to do a reflective self-evaluation of each of their artifacts."

Challenges recognized, benefits seen

"It's a slow process to turn a large ship," Langendorfer said. "The biggest challenge is overcoming the perception of BG Perspective as something to get through before we get to the 'real stuff.' It appeals to my sense of idealism associated with higher education because to the degree that we get this to work, it will really revolutionize the academic culture of the University.

"It will have a subtle but snowball effect, a sort of 'trickle up' that will affect all the majors and produce a profound sense of change. As we're successful, faculty should start saying, 'There's something different about these students.'"

New faculty welcomed to BGSU

Eighteen new tenure-track faculty members were introduced at the annual welcome luncheon Aug. 16.

Provost John Folkins' address to the new faculty focused on the role of civic and academic values in higher education.

The new faculty members include, by college:

Arts & Sciences—Sheryl Coombs, biological sciences, who enters as a full professor; Patrick Hill, ethnic studies; David Shoemaker, philosophy; Shannon Orr, political science, and Anthony Home, theatre and film.

BOWLING GREEN STATE UNIVERSITY

> Top Stories

In Brief

Calendar

Job Postings

Obituaries

Business Administration—Thomas DeWitt, marketing.

Education and Human Development—Deborah Wooldridge, director of the School of Family and Consumer Sciences; Brian Campbell, Bob Lee and David Tobar, all in the School of Human Movement, Sport and Leisure Studies, and Julie Edmister, School of Leadership and Policy Studies, who enters as a full professor.

BGSU Firelands—Haoyu Wang and Philip Weinsier, both in applied sciences.

Health and Human Services—Jenessa Steele, Department of Human Services.

Musical Arts—Nancy Sugden, music education, and Nina Assimakopoulos and Katherine Oliver, both in music performance studies.

Technology—Terry Herman, visual communication and technology education.

Biographical information on the newest faculty members will be available on the provost's Web site sometime in September.

Special team formed to handle student needs

Sometimes a student's needs are simply too complex for one person or one office alone to handle. To help resolve these challenging situations quickly and get students back on track, Academic Affairs and Student Affairs are coordinating a special effort to meet student needs—whether financial, academic or personal—this fall semester.

The Fall Transition Group Program consists of a team of staff on call to assist students who may encounter stumbling blocks during the first three weeks of classes.

"A program goal is to maximize student success by helping students make a smooth transition into the academic year," said Wanda Overland, associate vice president for student affairs and dean of students. "We appreciate the significant effort that has already occurred by members of the BGSU community to help students make the fall transition."

The response team can be reached through the Office of Student Academic Achievement, 2-0495. Faculty and staff members who are unable to help a student with a problem should call or refer them to the office, located in 404A Moseley Hall. The Fall Transition Group Program is led by Overland and Al Gonzalez, vice provost for academic services.

In addition, today and tomorrow (Aug. 23 and 24), a team of staff and students will be stationed around campus, some in golf carts, to direct and assist students in finding their way around campus.

'America's Best Colleges' cites BGSU learning communities

The 2005 edition of U.S. News & World Report's "America's Best Colleges" has named BGSU in "Programs to Look For," a section of the guide which notes outstanding offerings that lead to student success.

For the second consecutive year, Bowling Green is noted for its learning community programs. Other institutions cited for their stellar learning communities include Yale, the University of Maryland-College Park, the University of Michigan and Miami University of Ohio.

U.S. News & World Report compiled the list of 26 institutions with outstanding learning



> Top Stories**> In Brief**

Calendar

Job Postings

Obituaries

communities with the help of education experts, including staff of the Association of American Colleges and Universities, college presidents, academic officers and deans of students who nominated outstanding programs for consideration.

For more about BGSU's learning communities, see www.bgsu.edu and click on Residential Learning Communities.

IN BRIEF**Process helps employees report suspected waste, financial misconduct**

University employees who suspect that fraud, waste or abuse of University resources is occurring have a procedure to follow to report their suspicions.

The board of trustees in May approved a course of action for disclosure of these forms of wrongdoing. Created by the board's Audit Committee in collaboration with Internal Auditor Bahram Hatefi, the process also covers allegations of theft, embezzlement and other forms of financial misconduct.

Employees may report suspicions either anonymously or by name.

Hatefi and the staff in Internal Auditing and Advisory Services will "treat all allegations as sensitive and will reveal the information only on a 'need to know' basis," as stated in the policy. All allegations will be taken seriously, Hatefi said, and, where indicated, he will launch a preliminary investigation to determine whether the claim has merit and can be substantiated.

The move reflects renewed nationwide efforts toward enhanced financial reporting and accountability and improved governance.

Employees are encouraged to report any suspicious activities in person, by telephone, fax or email to the Office of Internal Auditing and Advisory Services, 911 Administration Building. Call 2-9970, fax 2-0235, or email bhatefi@bgnet.bgsu.edu.

To view a description of the complete procedure, visit <http://www.bgsu.edu/offices/audit/reportfraud.htm>.

BG@100 Project establishes email address

BG@100—the project to transferring administrative systems to PeopleSoft—is working on the first phase of Human Capital Management (HCM) implementation. HCM represents Human Resources, Benefits, and Payroll.

Information about the project and its progress is provided at the Web site: <http://www.bgsu.edu/BGat100>. The site offers information about the project's organization and history, the Executive Steering Committee, information item documents, frequently asked questions, project-related documents, and communications.

An email address has also been established for project-related questions or comments. It is BGat100@bgsu.edu.

FSG Lab to be renamed

In order to accurately reflect the current use of the Faculty/Staff/Graduate (FSG) Lab in 127 Hayes Hall, the lab will be renamed 127 Hayes Lab effective today (Aug. 23).

AUG. 23, 2004

BOWLING GREEN STATE UNIVERSITY

Top Stories

In Brief

- > **Calendar**
- > **Job Postings**
- > **Obituaries**

CALENDAR

Monday, Aug. 23

Auditions for the BGSU University Choral Society, directed by William Skoog, musical arts, 7-9:30 p.m., Choral Rehearsal Hall, Moore Musical Arts Center. For more information or to schedule an audition, call 2-2181.

Friday, Aug. 27

Lecture, "Utilitarianism without Consequentialism: The Case of John Stuart Mill," by Daniel Jacobson, philosophy, 3-5 p.m., 301 Shatzel Hall. Sponsored by the Social Philosophy and Policy Center. Fall reception following, 5-8 p.m. at the center, 225 Troup St.

Continuing Events

Through Sept. 3

Photography Exhibit, "Fowl Faces," by BGSU alumnus Kurt Reichert, Bowen-Thompson Student Union Galleries. Gallery hours are 8 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday-Saturday.

Through Sept. 17

Art Exhibit, "Metaphor and Irony 2: Frantisek Trnester and Contemporary Czech Theatre Design," featuring scene designs, renderings, models, costumes and installations, Willard Wankeiman Gallery, Fine Arts Center. Gallery hours are 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday and 1-4 p.m. on Sundays.

Aug. 27-Sept. 28

Art Exhibits, "Process=Pattern: The Hand-dyed and Digitally Printed Textiles of Ana Lisa Hedstrom," and "Intersecting Traditions: Recent Textiles by Cynthia Schira," both exploring the relationship between handwork and electronic technology in textile design, Dorothy Uber Bryan Gallery, Fine Arts Center. Gallery hours are 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday and 1-4 p.m. on Sundays.

JOB POSTINGS

FACULTY

There are no faculty postings 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

View job descriptions at: www.bgsu.edu/offices/ohr/employment/BGSU_only/

The deadline for employees to apply is 5 p.m. Friday, Aug. 27.

Administrative Assistant 2 (C-69-Ve)—Student Financial Aid. Pay grade 10.

Twelve-month, full-time position
Administrative Secretary 1 (C-73-Re)—Cooperative Education and Internship Program. Pay grade 8. Twelve-month, full-time position.
Cook 2 (C-70-Ve)—University Dining Services. Pay grade 5. Twelve-month, full-time position
Secretary 1 (C-71-Ve)—School of Communication Studies. Pay grade 6. Twelve-month, full-time position.

The following position is advertised on and off campus. The deadline for employees and external candidates to apply is 1 p.m. Friday, Sept. 3.

Audio Visual Services Supervisor 1 (C-65-Me)—Instructional Media Services. Pay grade 7. Twelve-month, full-time position.

ADMINISTRATIVE

View job descriptions at: http://www.bgsu.edu/offices/ohr/employment/adm_staff/

Applications Developer (V-053)—



BOWLING GREEN STATE UNIVERSITY

- Top Stories
- In Brief
- Calendar
- > Job Postings
- > Obituaries

BG@100 Project. Administrative grade 16. Review of applications began July 2 and will continue until the position is filled.

Assistant Director, Student Union (V-088)—University Dining Services. Administrative grade 16. Review of applications began Aug. 6 and will continue until the position is filled.

Associate Director (V-096)—Academic Enhancement. Administrative grade 17. Deadline: Sept. 10.

Manager, University Dining Services (V-035)—Division of Student Affairs (Re-advertised). Two positions, administrative grade 12. Review of applications began Aug. 6 and will continue until the positions are filled.

Assistant Director for Information Services (V-088)—Bowen-Thompson Student Union. Administrative grade 15.

Deadline: Sept. 3.

Coordinator of Orientation (V-088)—Student Life. Administrative grade 14. Deadline: Sept. 3.

Coordinator of Greek Affairs (V-091)—Office of Residence Life. Administrative grade 13. Review of applications will begin Aug. 27 and continue until the position is filled.

Coordinator of Student Organizations (V-086)—Office of Campus Involvement. Administrative grade 14. Deadline: Sept. 3.

Internal Auditor (M-080)—Internal Auditing and Advisory Services. Administrative grade 15. Review of applications will begin Sept. 10 and continue until the position is filled.

OBITUARIES

Genevieve (Jenny) Roberts-Moore-York, 75, died Aug. 13 in Toledo. She served as an administrative assistant to the dean of the College of Business Administration from 1966-79.

Jane Marie Stinehart, 63, died Aug. 15 in Bowling Green. She worked as a cook at the Chi Omega sorority house for more than 30 years. Memorials may be given to the Chi Omega House Corporation at BGSU.

Donald Young, 73, died Aug. 15 in Toledo. He retired from the University in 1993 after 25 years as a maintenance supervisor for the BGSU police department.