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## Monitor Newsletter August 22, 2005

Bowling Green State University

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## Growing engagement will give BGSU a new look, president says

Scholarship and service that demonstrate community engagement will help create "a new front door for the University," President Sidney Ribeau told his opening-day audience Aug. 19 in the Lenhart Grand Ballroom.

The new look will showcase "not only what we do, but how it makes a difference for society," the president said. Engaged service and research, along with teaching and learning, are all "part of a composite that says we are a valuable resource."

And that's an important statement at a time of change for higher education in Ohio, Ribeau added, predicting that it will be funded differently by the state 10 years from now.

New funding methods will be tied to outcomes the state wants colleges and universities to achieve, said the president, estimating that he currently spends 10 hours per week in Columbus with groups that are discussing the issue. One way that BGSU can validate what it's doing is by telling the public how the University is engaged and improving the quality of life in Ohio—which, he noted, the Governor's Commission on Higher Education and the Economy called upon colleges and universities to do.

The commission's call in April 2004 spawned the president's Engagement Initiative, an effort—announced in his opening-day address last August—to connect the University's resources with social, economic and cultural needs of the broader community and region.

Reviewing the past year's progress, Ribeau pointed out the work of a 16-member Task Force on the Scholarship of Engagement, which was charged with recommending how the University might best integrate the initiative into the faculty recognition and reward structure. That was viewed as a "major roadblock to implementation," he said, but the task force provided its recommendations in January, and earlier this month, a Standards Committee suggested guidelines to the president for evaluation and documentation of scholarship of engagement.

An email message concerning the committee's report and his response will be forthcoming to faculty and staff, who will also receive a copy of a June 24 Board of Trustees resolution in support of the initiative.

"It's amazing how many faculty members are (already) involved with the scholarship of engagement," Ribeau said, naming December 2006 as the target date for its full integration into the tenure and promotion policies of all BGSU colleges and academic departments.

In the meantime, professional development and workshops will be offered to deans, directors and department chairs as they work toward implementation of the scholarship of engagement. The president also plans to meet with those administrators, as well as Provost John Folkins and the Faculty Senate Executive Committee, to discuss their suggestions on how to move forward and meet the target date.

External consultants will also be involved in the process, as will a yet-to-be-hired interim director for faculty development in the scholarship of engagement. Filling that position will be either a retired faculty member or a faculty member who will be given release time this academic year.

In addition, BGSU representatives will help plan the 2006 national conference on outreach and engagement, to be held at Ohio State University.

Ribeau acknowledged that the scholarship of engagement doesn't fit the research agendas of all faculty. But "that's perfectly all right," he said, explaining that the initiative is intended to complement, not supplant, other research on campus.

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(More information about the Engagement Initiative is available on the president's Web site, at [www.bgsu.edu/offices/president/index.html](http://www.bgsu.edu/offices/president/index.html).)

The president also cited areas where staff are participating in the initiative. The University Bookstore's creation of a student scholarship fund provides scholarships for students—graduate and undergraduate—who are working with faculty on engagement projects in their academic programs. And Administrative Staff Council is leading a campuswide food drive this fall as BGSU participates for the first time in the statewide and national "Make A Difference Day." Donated items will be collected Oct. 22 and delivered to food pantries in the region.

"These are examples of how our University is getting involved," Ribeau said, noting its service learning programs as well.

On other fronts, the president:

- Pointed out BGSU's citation in U.S. News & World Report's "America's Best Colleges" issue for its learning communities and programs for first-year students. "There are very few schools on this list from Ohio," he said, praising "the quality of the experience" that the lauded programs provide for students.

- Specifically congratulated one of the first-year programs, BGeXperience, for its growth over four years from a pilot program with about 125 participants to a program now involving all 3,500-plus first-year students. "The logistics of this are unbelievable," Ribeau said, adding that if someone had told him four years ago that BGeXperience would grow as it has, "I would have said, 'Maybe, but never in four years.'"

Designed to introduce critical thinking about values to first-year students, the program presents "an opportunity to create the preconditions for learning," he said, extolling the value of connecting with students before they arrive on campus.

- Mentioned that the number of freshmen of color and those with ACT scores of 30 or higher are both the highest such numbers in BGSU history. This year, 17 percent of freshmen are students of color; five years ago, that figure was 8.9 percent.

- Called for the campus community to break down barriers that prevent increased collaboration. "What worked 50 years ago (in the organizational structure) might not work 50 years from now," he said, adding that policies are still in place "from the Stone Age" while the University has moved into cyberspace.

### 'America's Best Colleges' cites BGSU student success programs

The 2006 edition of U.S. News & World Report's "America's Best Colleges" names BGSU twice in "Programs to Look For," a section of the guide that notes "outstanding examples of academic programs believed to lead to student success."

For the first time, Bowling Green is noted for its first-year programs, and for the third consecutive year, is listed for its residential living/learning communities.

BGSU's first-year programs, developed to assist students in adapting to college life and building a firm foundation for academic success, were among fewer than 50 institutions around the nation cited.

The programs include BGeXperience, the values-exploration program aimed at enhancing students' critical thinking skills. For the first time this year, all 3,508 entering freshmen are participating, compared to the 125-member cohort when the program began four years ago.

Among the other first-year programs are orientation and registration, welcome programs

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and the various UNIV 100 success courses and Springboard, along with special publications geared to getting students off to the right start. The University also involves first-year students in a common reading experience (this year it is *The Kite Runner*), and provides a first-year librarian dedicated to helping students learn how to use the library, conduct research and make use of resource materials.

The learning communities, which include Chapman, Partners in Context and Community, IMPACT, Arts Village and others, feature small-group settings where students with a common interest live and study together.

Other institutions in U.S. News & World Report's list of 25 learning communities included the University of Michigan, Indiana University and Miami University of Ohio.

The magazine compiled the lists of outstanding first-year programs and learning 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 stellar programs for consideration.

**Textbooks go digital in pilot program**

Instead of lugging heavy textbooks around in their backpacks, some BGSU students may simply log on to their computers to do their reading assignments this fall. The University Bookstore been chosen as one of 10 bookstores nationally to provide downloadable digital textbooks to college students.

The cost-saving alternative was created by MBS Textbook Exchange in partnership with a group of major textbook publishers and was first launched by Princeton University and several other universities earlier this month.

The Universal Digital Textbook program offers students the opportunity to save up to one-third of the new book price and the convenience of downloading textbooks in an electronic format. For instance, a new book would sell for \$100; that same book used would sell for \$75; and the digital textbook version would sell for approximately \$66.

The 73 individual sections of 20 BGSU courses that have a digital textbook option fall semester range from philosophy to business to math. University Bookstore staff have been preparing informational and promotional materials for the return of students, said Jeff Nelson, bookstore director.

The new program adds another option for students purchasing textbooks, according to Nelson. "While students had only two choices before—new and used print—they now have three with the digital version. BGSU is very interested in investigating any option that could reduce the high cost of course materials for students beyond the traditional printed book and the option of used books and book buyback. Depending upon the student, their comfort level with or access to technology, this option could be appealing."

The textbooks are available to students as cards, similar to electronic gift cards and phone service cards, according to MBS Textbook Exchange, the program's organizer. Students who choose to purchase a Universal Digital Textbook will present the card to the cashier, who activates it by swiping it at the register. The student can then download the textbook on his or her home or laptop computer.

The Adobe Reader software used to access the individual books includes many built-in interactive features, including document searching and printing, highlighting, underlining, note-taking and read-aloud capability, and is available as a free download.

The books are formatted and copy-protected using Adobe technology. To prevent piracy, the downloads have an expiration date so that the books may not be sold or transferred to

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other students.

Universal Digital Textbooks is offering approximately 30 titles this semester, with hopes of adding more in the future. In addition to BGSU and Princeton, the digital textbooks are available this fall at the universities of Oregon and Utah, Morehead State University, California State University at Fullerton, Portland Community College and Georgetown College, and at privately owned stores serving West Virginia State and Louisiana State universities.

Since the digital textbooks are completely new to the collegiate marketplace, Nelson said, the next steps involve listening to the students' feedback and, based upon what is heard during the pilot program, making improvements for future semesters.

"I am pleased that BGSU can be one of the voices during this pilot, to help give direction to the future of the electronic textbook," Nelson said.

But, he added, "the digital textbook is a supplement to, not a replacement for, a traditional print textbook. New and used print versions of textbooks are in no danger of being removed from bookstore shelves. Digital textbooks exist as an alternative for students looking for an electronic, interactive learning experience that can also be portable when used with a laptop computer."

### BGSU student trustee is finalist for Diamante Award

Raquel Colon, a Bowling Green State University junior majoring in political science, is one of three finalists for the Latino Youth Leadership award that will be presented at the Diamante Awards banquet and ceremony next month.

The first Latina to serve as a student trustee on the University's board of trustees, Colon is past president of the BGSU Latino Student Union and served as the LSU board secretary in 2003-04. She also is a member of the Diversity Leadership Team and participated in the University's Leadershape Institute. She is the daughter of Diana Segura of Curtice and Roberto Colon of Oregon.

In addition to the Latino Youth Leadership Award, awards will be presented in the categories of Latino Adult Leadership and Corporation/Community Agency.

Winners are chosen based on recognition of exemplary leadership/achievements within the Latino community or community at large, or demonstrated excellence in their fields; dedication and commitment in an ethical and inclusive fashion, and modeling qualities and behaviors of a mentor for youth and community.

Now sponsored by BGSU, Owens Community College, the University of Toledo, Lourdes College and the Medical University of Ohio, the annual Diamante Awards were founded by the northwest Ohio Latino advocacy organization IMAGE in 1989 to recognize individuals and organizations in the local Hispanic community for their outstanding contributions and achievements. The initiative includes providing scholarships to make it possible for Latino students to attend college.

This year's banquet and ceremony will be held Sept. 9 in the Franciscan Theatre and Conference Center at Lourdes College, 6832 Convent Blvd., Sylvania. The doors open at 6 p.m. with the ceremony to begin at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$60 in advance and \$75 at the door. For more information, contact Robbin Wilcox at 419-824-3813.

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## IN BRIEF

## Edwards to serve as CEE acting dean

Dr. Bruce Edwards, associate dean for distance learning and international programs, will serve as the acting dean of Continuing and Extended Education from Sept. 1-Dec. 31 while Dean William Balzer is on administrative leave. Edwards may be reached at 2-8183.

## CALENDAR

## Monday, Aug. 22

**First Day of Classes.**  
**Movie, "Hitch,"** 9 p.m., Union Theater. Sponsored by University Activities Organization.

## Wednesday, Aug. 24

**Second Showing of President Ribeau's Opening Day Address,** 10:15 p.m., Bowen-Thompson Student Union Theater. Refreshments served at 10.

Continuing Events  
Through Sept. 4

**Art Exhibition, "Songs of Remembrance,"** various hours Monday-Sunday, 130 Union.

## Aug. 22-Sept. 21

**Art Exhibition,** photographs by Nicole Jean Hill, Little Gallery, BGSU Firelands. Gallery hours are 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Friday.

## Aug. 23-Sept. 18

**Art Exhibition, "Jacob Lawrence: Three Series of Prints—Genesis, Hiroshima and Toussaint L'Ouverture,"** Willard Wankelman Gallery, Fine Arts Center. Gallery hours are 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday, 1-4 p.m. Sundays.

## JOB POSTINGS

## FACULTY

There were no 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](http://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/](http://www.bgsu.edu/offices/ohr/employment/BGSU_only/)

The deadline to apply for the following positions, which are open to BGSU employees only, is 1 p.m. Friday, Aug. 26.

**Account Clerk 1 (R-000043)**—Business Office/Risk Management. Pay grade 4. Twelve-month, full-time position.

**Administrative Assistant 1 (J-000034)**—College of Arts and Sciences. Pay grade 8. Twelve-month, full-time position.

**Custodial Worker (J-000035)**—Perry Field House. Pay grade 2. Twelve-month, full-time position.

## ADMINISTRATIVE

View job descriptions at:  
[www.bgsu.edu/offices/ohr/employment/adm\\_staff/](http://www.bgsu.edu/offices/ohr/employment/adm_staff/)

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**Assistant Director of Student-Athlete Services (V-000003)**—Intercollegiate Athletics. Administrative grade 12. Review of applications began July 15 and will continue until the position is filled.

**Financial Analyst (R-000006)**—Student Affairs. Administrative grade 13. Review of applications began Aug. 1 and will continue until the position is filled.

**Assistant Director of Athletic Communications (R-000013)**—Intercollegiate Athletics. Salary is commensurate with experience. Review of applications began Aug. 12 and will continue until the position is filled.

**Video Coordinator/Football Operations (R-000012)**—Intercollegiate Athletics. Salary is commensurate with experience. Review of applications began Aug. 12 and will continue until the position is filled.

**Associate Director of University Dining Services for Business Affairs (R-000015)**—University Dining Services. Administrative grade 16. Review of applications began Aug. 19 and will continue until the position is filled.

**Residence Hall Director (V-013)**—Residence Life. Administrative grade 13. Review of applications will continue until the position is filled.

**Assistant Director, Honors Program (R-000023)**—Honors Program. Administrative grade 15. Deadline: Aug. 26.

**Manager (V-055)**—University Dining Services. Administrative grade 12. Review of applications begins Aug. 26 and will continue until the position is filled.

**OBITUARY**

There were no obituaries this week.