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Bowling Green State University

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Alumni pledge \$3 million to **Dreams**

Two BGSU alumni have pledged leadership gifts to the University's Building Dreams campaign. The contributions, totaling \$3 million, were announced Sept. 29 as graduates began to arrive on campus for Homecoming Weekend.

The gifts of Jean Pasakarnis Buchanan, a 1952 biology graduate from South Harwich, Mass., and Hiroko Nakamoto, a 1954 fine arts graduate who maintains residences in Tokyo, Japan, and Palm Beach Gardens, Fla., will enhance programs within their areas of interest.

Buchanan's gift, a \$2 million trust, will provide support for the biological sciences, including a visiting professor, upkeep and augmentations to an electronic learning center, and two scholarship funds.

Buchanan spent her career as a cytotechnologist, microscopically examining cells for signs of infection, precancerous or malignant changes. She is retired from

Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston.

She was a member of the Alumni Association Board of Directors from 1971-75 and was pivotal in establishing the BGSU Boston Alumni Chapter. For her commitment to the University and her community, she was presented the Alumni Community Service Award in 1972. She and her husband Bob, a 1950 BGSU graduate, are members of the BGSU Presidents Club and Heritage Society.

Nakamoto's donation, a cash gift of \$1 million over five years, will provide funds for the newly approved peace studies curriculum and enhance the Asian studies program.

Nakamoto came to BGSU from Japan to expand her education. After graduating with a bachelor's degree in fine arts, and following further study at the Pratt Institute in New York City and Europe, she has had an illustrious career in architectural interior design.



Jean Pasakarnis Buchanan (center) greets guests at the reception following her gift announcement.

At BGSU, she designed the Japanese Ceremonial Tea Room in the Fine Arts Center in 1992. That same year, she received an Honorary Doctorate in Fine Arts. In 1973, she was the first former international student to be named a Distinguished Alumna.

Nakamoto has been influential in generating gifts to the University from friends, business associates and other Japanese alumni. She is a member of the BGSU Foundation Board, National Campaign Steering Committee and Presidents Club.

Most recently, she has shown her commitment to society with her involvement in refurbishing the railway station at Hiroshima, making it a Gateway to Peace.

"We are honored and deeply grateful that these two distinguished alumni have chosen

to enhance their very generous support to the University," said Dr. Don Nieman, dean of the College of Arts & Sciences. "Jean's continued support of teaching and learning in biology helps assure that BGSU students will have rich opportunities to pursue the latest knowledge in the life sciences.

"Miss Nakamoto's gift will enhance the strength of our Asian studies program and allow us to create a new peace studies program, thereby offering our students a deeper understanding of critical global issues," Nieman added.

"Hiroko Nakamoto and Jean Pasakarnis Buchanan embody the
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Hiroko Nakamoto chats with George Mylander, past chair of the BGSU Foundation board, during her recent visit to campus.

Helping every student succeed

Academic Enhancement looks at the total picture

From the first-year student undecided on a major to the graduate student faced with writing a dissertation, the Office of Academic Enhancement offers support to BGSU students at all levels and in all disciplines.

Now celebrating its 20th year, Academic Enhancement is stronger than ever, says Director Lisa Cesarini. With 15 full-time and three part-time staff, plus graduate assistants, it offers a wealth of resources to students not only in academics but in negotiating the ins and outs of the University as well.

"Our bottom-line goal is to help every student succeed at the University," Cesarini said. "We try to meet the student where they are and bring them to where we

know they need to be, and give them support along the way."

The office uses a variety of means to reach those goals, from organizing study groups in the Study Skills Center to offering one-on-one writing consultations in the Writing Center to providing students the opportunity to get immediate help and feedback in the Math and Stats Tutoring Center.

Academic Enhancement staff consult with faculty members on the best way to provide assistance to students in their classes in a developmentally appropriate, pedagogically sound manner, Cesarini says. Faculty from disciplines such as German, political science, popular culture and criminal justice have worked with the staff on methods to improve

student writing, for example.

With the common goal of student success, "collaborating helps us all out in the end," she said.

This year marks some improvements to the office's services. The three labs—Math and Stats Tutoring Center, the Study Skills Center and the Writing Center—have all been located in Moseley Hall, giving students "one-stop shopping" for academic help.

With the increase in alternative forms of assessment, faculty even in mathematics and the sciences are now requiring students to express their understanding of subject matter verbally and in writing in addition to traditional exams, Cesarini said. The Writing Center staff will work with students in any subject area, and tutors are matched to the needs of the individual students, from Freshman Composition to doctoral theses. "I think a lot of people would be surprised at the scope—both the breadth and the depth—of what's done in the Writing Center," Cesarini said.

Customizing assistance is also a characteristic of the Study Skills Center. There, students who have received an A in a course with a particular faculty member lead small study groups of students in the same class, using the same textbook. About 75 groups have formed already this semester, Cesarini said, adding that this study method has proven to be very effective.

The office also provides advising to undecided students through pre-major advising, and to conditionally admitted students through the University Program for Academic Success. In addition, Academic Enhancement administers the Post Secondary

Enrollment Options Program that allows talented high school students the opportunity to take BGSU courses.

For the first time this year, all students are required to meet with their adviser before registering for classes. "We want to help students make the most progress by showing them not just how to fulfill the requirements but also the opportunities that exist, to take classes they might not have had the chance to take before, for example. We also encourage them to take classes that might count toward multiple requirements so they will have more options later," she said.

The majority of students the staff deals with are undecided on a major, Cesarini said, which in some ways is the best scenario of all. "They come in open and exploring. We can show them that there are majors and professions they have never even heard of before."

And because workers today tend to change careers on average every seven years, the staff advises students to acquire skills that are transferable and to become well educated in general, she added. Tutoring staff link their subject-area tutoring to the University's learning outcomes, which are designed to give students competence in all the necessary skills of the respective disciplines as well as those that cross disciplines, such as communicating effectively.

"When a student comes in for assistance, we try to look at the total picture in addition to answering their basic question," Cesarini said. "There are a lot of factors that play into being successful at the University. We try to work with the student as a whole person."



Academic Enhancement student-tutors Jie Li (left) and Brittany Bayless review materials in the Writing Center.

A new way to **tour campus**



Visitors to BGSU now have the opportunity to use the same portable digital information systems that major cultural attractions employ. The University is offering approximately 30 Antenna Audio hand-held audio devices at the Bowen-Thompson Student Union that visitors can access to take a thorough self-guided tour of campus.

Gary Swegan, admissions director, says, "BGSU is one of a select group of higher education institutions using Antenna Audio's portable digital information technology to enhance the traditional campus tour. Our tour guides do a fabulous job with the eleven tours that are scheduled every week throughout the academic year. However, the new mobile audio guides provide us with a very professional way to supplement our admissions efforts for families that can't join the scheduled tours."

"We're really excited about offering the new audio tours as a way to open up the campus for weekend and off-hours visitors," adds Linda Dobb, BGSU executive vice president and secretary to the board. "Because the tours use technology in a unique way, they demonstrate the University's commitment to thinking creatively. And, because the tours are in English and Spanish we can do additional outreach to populations of parents and students considering BGSU as their college of choice."

Student tour guide Rocco Sciarabba checks new audio tour.

Alumni gifts

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best of BGSU," said J. Douglas Smith, vice president for University advancement. "Through their passion for life and their commitment to excellence, they have touched a countless number of lives in their respective communities and beyond. Their gifts to the University where they got their start will help students for years to come reach their fullest potential."

Both gifts will be counted as part of Building Dreams: The Centennial Campaign for Bowling Green State University. The focus of the \$120 million fund-raising campaign, which continues through December 2008, is to increase scholarships, enhance faculty and leadership positions, strengthen programs, build for tomorrow and sustain the University. To date, more than \$82 million has been committed to the campaign.

Homecoming activities include help for hurricane victims

As alumni and other members of the BGSU community celebrated Homecoming this year, they also aided Gulf Coast residents in the wake of Hurricane Katrina.

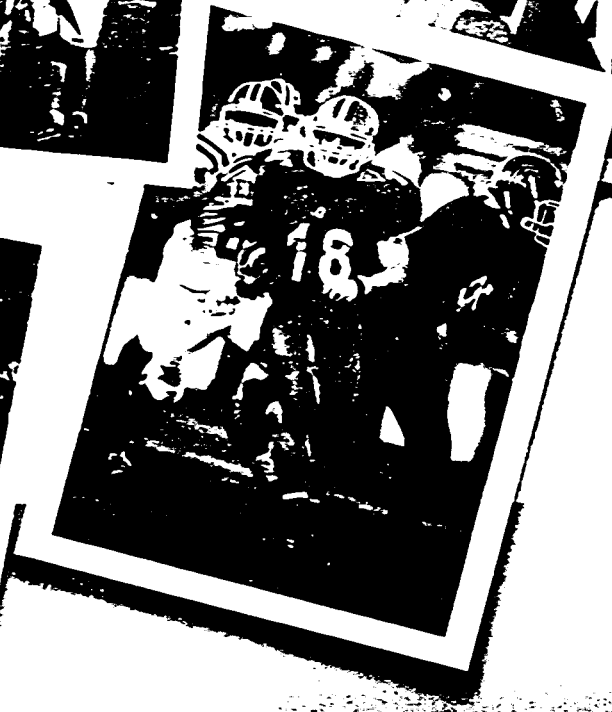
The Homecoming Student Steering Committee planned several events to raise money for hurricane relief. These included the kick-off event dunk tank, raffle,

pie-throwing contest, a Homecoming Cares pizza dinner, lip sync contest and "Songs for Hope" benefit concert.

Other Homecoming events included the Alumni Awards Dinner honoring Dr. J. Christopher Dalton; the 50th/Pioneer Reunion Brunch, and reunions for former campus tour guides, education abroad students, band members and *BG News* staff members.

More than 800 alumni enjoyed the Alumni Association tent in Meijer Tailgate Park, and 237 racers—the second largest number ever—participated in the 5th Annual Freddie and Frieda 5K Run/Walk.

The festivities were capped off by the Falcons trouncing of Temple University, 70-7.



Calling all faculty and staff

Health care open enrollment scheduled

It's that time of year—the annual health care Open Enrollment begins Oct. 24 and continues through Nov. 18 for the Plan Year starting Jan. 1, 2006.

This year, however, there is an important change. All full-time faculty and administrative and classified staff **must** complete the Health Care Enrollment Form regardless of whether they are choosing or waiving coverage. Also, beginning Jan. 1, the spousal working rule will apply to all full-time staff electing to cover their spouse who also works.

During the next year, BGSU and Medical Mutual are committed to continuing the WellAware program, which represents the University's proactive commitment to the well-being of employees and their families. As part of the program, the SuperWell Nurse Line has been established, providing around the clock access to immediate information about everyday health issues.

Information regarding spousal coverage, the new SuperWell Nurse Line and a complete summary of the health benefits offered to BGSU employees will be included in the Open Enrollment brochure that will be mailed to employees' homes later this month.

Employees also are encouraged to attend the Benefits Fair, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Nov. 2 in the Multi-Purpose Room of the Bowen-Thompson Student Union.

Faculty and staff will be able to meet and talk to representatives from BGSU's health care providers, including a Student Health Center pharmacist, plus representatives from our tax-deferred annuity (403b) companies, the Ohio Public Employees and State Teachers Retirement systems and alternative retirement plan carriers. Representatives from the Human Resources/Benefits Office will be available to answer questions and accept completed Open Enrollment forms.

BGSU

Bowling Green State University

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PLEASE RECYCLE

Lori Smith, Human Resources, checks out a newly installed kiosk.



New kiosks make MyBGSU access easy

With the June launch of the BG@100 Human Capital Management (HCM) project, all University faculty and staff have the opportunity to access information and services through the BGSU Web site. You may have already checked your email, scanned the CNN News column or used eLearning/ Blackboard. Now, two new kiosks have been placed on campus to ensure that everyone has access to MyBGSU.

An important element of the new MyBGSU is HCM where all payroll information is provided, including electronic pay stubs. And, as more information and services are delivered electronically—as self-service applications—all campus personnel will need to access MyBGSU regularly.

Human Resources and Information Technology

Services recognize that not all staff members have access to a computer on a daily basis. The kiosks—located in the lobby of College Park and in the Office of Human Resources—are designed specifically for MyBGSU access and only require a single login. A printer is provided within the kiosk so you can take a printed copy of any information. It is important to remember to logout once you are finished with your session.

Deb Wells, Information Technology Services, says, "These new kiosks are just the first step in making sure that MyBGSU information is easily accessible for all University faculty and staff. We welcome feedback as to how we can improve MyBGSU in terms of user friendliness and convenience." Contact the Office of Web Development at webdev@bgsu.edu with any questions, comments or suggestions.