BGSU achieves much by keeping focus on its vision, Ribeau says

Despite budget challenges, a faltering economy and uncertain times ahead, BGSU is not only surviving but thriving, President Sidney Ribeau told the audience at his 12th State of the University address Feb. 2.

Ribeau shared his view of the University—a view of success that is increasingly being recognized nationally, even if it is sometimes hard to see for those closest to the work.

"I'm proud of a lot of things about Bowling Green State University," he said, "and not just what we've achieved but the aspirations we seek to achieve."

Pointing to the unprecedented success of the women's basketball team, he noted the Falcons are ranked 17th in the nation, a first for the MAC, despite not always having the advantages some teams have. In addition to their athletic ability, they are excellent students and model citizens, with dedication and commitment—exactly the type of student one would wish for, he said.

That ability to put together all the components is even more important to success than having the most brilliance or money, Ribeau said, reminding the campus of the core values that were established in 1996 and have been the building blocks of what has been created at BGSU.

Respect for one another, cooperation, intellectual and spiritual growth, creative imaginings and pride in a job well done have brought the University this far and will continue to guide its achievements, he said.

"It's important that we look at the University realistically, but with a little love," he said, describing BGSU as a "work in progress."

Changes and challenges

The hard realities of Ohio's current economic situation will have a significant impact on BGSU and all of higher education, he said. Newly elected Gov. Ted Strickland has announced three priorities for the state: economic growth and job creation, expanding access to affordable and quality health care, and accessibility to and affordability of education at every level.

Two weeks ago, Ribeau and the other presidents of the state's colleges and universities spent five hours with Strickland discussing the role of higher education in attacking these problems and how it fits into the governor's priorities.

"Higher education is very important to him," Ribeau said. "He wants to see if we can bring intellectual capital to these issues."

That Ohio is undereducated has been known for some time, Ribeau said, and it can't afford to be this way. "But when we're talking about access and affordability of education, we can't forget the issue of quality. It's not just about getting them into the schools, but giving them the skills to allow them to be successful." Getting a degree is not the end in itself, he said, recalling what a visiting professor from his college days said: "Time will tell how important what you know or don't know is."

"We can never abdicate the argument that quality is important," he stressed. "When students leave Bowling Green State University, there are certain things we should be able to say they can do and know."

Strickland has also proposed some organizational changes that will have implications for higher education, Ribeau said. For example, the governor has "challenged the structure of
the Ohio Board of Regents' and suggested making the chancellor a member of his Cabinet, reporting directly to him. That would leave the fate of the regents in question, Ribeau said.

Adapting to conditions
The biennial budget is also looking fairly dire, the president said, in part because of lower-than-anticipated tax revenue and in part because of some of the tax reforms enacted by the previous legislature. "While in the previous administration we had been hearing about a 3 percent increase, early indications now are that we're looking at a one to a one-a-half-percent increase in the first year and maybe none in the second year," Ribeau said.

"We also don't know yet about the tuition caps and where they will be," he added. Indications are that they will be lower than the current 8 percent and maybe as low as 4 percent, he said.

In the meantime, the University is dealing with some significant mandated cost increases in energy and health care.

In response, Ribeau has asked all vice presidents and deans to look at their budgets, priorities and cost structures and begin to plan accordingly.

"The news (from the state) is sketchy now, and how that turns into policy remains to be seen. But the governor still wants to accomplish his three objectives, so we still have a role. We need to help him understand how we can help."

Given the constraints BGSU faces, "we must find ways to align our mission and objectives to the state's mission and objectives. It's going to be a stretch and it's going to be a challenge," Ribeau said.

Thriving in adversity
Reminding those gathered of the University's vision of being "the premier learning community in Ohio and one of the best in the nation," the president said, "At the end of the day, that's the measure of a university: it's the academic programs. It's the teaching and learning and discovery. It's the students, faculty and staff who make an environment where problems are solved and cures are found.

"Education is not a commodity," he emphasized. "It's not something that's bought, packaged or canned. It's an active process of reflecting, growing, thinking and changing that shapes your way of thinking and interacting with the world."

Education has the ability to expand the world for those with preconceptions and prejudices so they can see there is more there than they thought, he said. That is the kind of education BGSU has provided and will continue to provide—and that's not true everywhere, he added.

It's the kind of education that prepares people to operate successfully in an environment "where you have to think, solve problems and adjust," he said. "That kind of intellectual flexibility is critical for workers in a knowledge-based economy."

BGSU used to be the "best-kept secret," Ribeau said, but "the secret is out." The University has recently been recognized by a number of national organizations for its achievements in first-year success programs, learning communities, the BGeXperience program, civic and personal leadership, learning outcomes and engagement.

These awards come from such prestigious groups as the Carnegie Foundation, the American Association of Colleges and Universities, the Council for Higher Education Accreditation and U.S. News and World Report.

"These programs are all recognized for the value they bring to our students," Ribeau said. "While everything else is going on in the state, you've been busily creating an environment for active learning. Everything we do is designed to facilitate student learning."

A little help from our friends
Clearly, none of this could have been accomplished if the University had relied solely on state
support, the president said.

"We've been extremely successful with the Building Dreams comprehensive campaign. The goal is $120 million, and today, we're at $107,580,000," he announced to applause.

"They said we couldn't do it back in 2002," Ribeau said, adding that with two years to go, the campaign will exceed the goal.

To date, 380 new scholarships have been added, and the $35 million goal for scholarships has been exceeded by $2 million, he said.

Other areas receiving funding through the campaign include BGeXperience and endowed professorships, with seven new positions that will "allow us to attract the best and the brightest," he said.

"Our alumni, friends and supporters throughout the nation really believe we are 'changing the world by degrees,'" Ribeau said in reference to the University's marketing campaign theme.

That theme aptly expresses what BGSU strives to do, he said, because it connotes individuals' "ability to really impact their environment," a bit at a time, as well as the University's ability to do the same through its degree programs. It counters the "sense of paralysis people have where they don't think they can make a difference."

Keeping the dream in sight
Ribeau closed his talk with a quote from Meditations of the Heart by Howard Thurman, one of his favorite writers, who said, "As long as a person has a dream in their heart, they cannot lose the significance of living."

"Dreams shape the future," Ribeau said. He urged the University to "continue reaching beyond your limits despite the world's telling you you can't." Changes made one at a time add up, and "as long as there's a dream in your heart, there's a chance that the world can be a very different kind of place."

Fellowship funds Hershberger's look at photography's 'dark side'
Traditionally, photographic negatives are seen as the step between taking the photo and printing it, the raw material with which the photographer works to achieve the desired result.

But a number of photographers have experimented with using the negative itself—that reversed image—to create striking results. Dr. Andrew Hershberger, art history, has long been interested in the negative print and will further his study of the art form and the artists who create it with a Coleman Dowell Fellowship for Study on Experimental Works this summer at New York University.

He will use the $2,500 grant to continue his project on "The Dark Side of Photography," studying the work of negative-print artist David Wojnarowicz. A New York artist who died in 1992, Wojnarowicz embraced the negative print as a regular format in his work. Hershberger will conduct his research in the David Wojnarowicz Archive at NYU's Fales Library and Special Collections.

The new research is an expansion of the work he began with a 2004 Ansel Adams Research Fellowship at the University of Arizona's Center for Creative Photography, a collection with hundreds of negative prints by numerous artists. Hershberger now plans to delve into Wojnarowicz's papers, correspondence, negatives and negative prints with an eye toward discovering why this artist chose to work with negative imagery, what impact he thought it would have on the viewer, and how he might have seen the history of that process in relation
to his own approach. Ultimately, Hershberger will try to identify a "general" theory of the negative print for a future publication and/or exhibition.

Named after the postmodern novelist, the Coleman Dowell Fellowship enables visiting scholars to do in-depth research with the Fales collections, which are a major repository for New York experimental work.

A contemporary art history specialist, Hershberger wrote in his doctoral dissertation about mid-20th-century American photographer Minor White's use of negative images. He has been a BGSU faculty member since 2001, the same year he earned his Ph.D. in art and archaeology at Princeton University. He received a bachelor of fine arts degree from the University of Arizona and master's degrees from the University of Chicago and Princeton.

From 1998-2001, Hershberger was curatorial and research assistant and cataloger at the Photography Study Center at Princeton's University Art Museum. He has co-curated three photography exhibitions there, and his photographs and short films have been part of gallery shows and screenings elsewhere. He has been honored by the American Institute of Architects for his photographs.

'Queer regions,' politics of torture explored in Provost Lecture Series

The Provost Lecture Series begins this week with two talks, both free and open to the public.

The first, "Queer Regions: From 'Fire' to 'The Journey,'" by Dr. Gayatri Gopinath of the University of California, Davis, will be held at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday (Feb. 6) in 202B Bowen-Thompson Student Union.

Gopinath will compare the very different audience reactions to the films "Fire" (1996) and "The Journey" (2004). She will explore how shifting our focus from a "global gay" to a "queer regional" subject challenges our understanding of gender and sexuality.

An associate professor of women and gender studies, Gopinath is the author of Impossible Desires: Queer Diasporas and South Asian Public Cultures. Her articles on the politics of Bollywood, Bhangra music, sexuality and diaspora have been published in Social Text, Positions: East Asia Cultures Critique, Journal of Homosexuality and Diaspora.

On Thursday (Feb. 8), Dr. Diana Taylor of New York University will explore torture, legality and global politics in "Double Blind: The Torture Case," at 7 p.m. in the Union Theater.

Taylor will analyze how the use of torture has been defended in the United States since the Abu Ghraib scandal. Drawing on her background in Latin American studies and performance studies, she will argue that a case study of methodology has been used to explain the need for torture, exploring how proponents have used the exemplary study to bolster their arguments.

Taylor is a professor of performance studies and Spanish and founding director of the Hemispheric Institute of Performance and Politics. Her most recent book, The Archive and the Repertoire: Performing Cultural Memory in the Americas, won the Outstanding Book Award from the Association for Theatre in Higher Education and the Kathleen Singer Award from the Modern Language Association in 2004. Among her other books is the award-winning Theatre of Crisis: Drama and Politics in South America. She has staged and directed productions in Mexico and the United States.

Both talks are sponsored by the Institute for the Study of Culture and Society, with support from the offices of the provost and the vice provost for research and graduate dean, the College of Arts and Sciences and the ethnic studies department.
IN BRIEF

A & S Distinguished Faculty Lecture takes a look at the stars

Dr. John Laird, chair of the physics and astronomy department, will discuss “The Fossil Record of the Milky Way and the Search for Old Planets” as the next speaker in the College of Arts and Sciences’ Distinguished Faculty Lecture Series. His talk will be held at 4 p.m. Thursday (Feb. 8) in the Bowen-Thompson Student Union Theater.

The Milky Way Galaxy contains hundreds of billions of stars, which preserve a fossil record of the galaxy's past. Laird will explain how the motion and chemical composition of stars formed at different places and at different times provide clues that allow us to reconstruct a picture of the galaxy's formation and evolution, including the gradual production of atomic elements essential for the formation of planets and life.

Searching these fossil records of the galaxy’s stars may reveal that these stars harbor planets, even old planets orbiting the stars. These extrasolar planets open new windows to understand the formation of our own solar system, and may eventually provide the means to detect extraterrestrial life.

Laird has a bachelor's degree from Pennsylvania State University and earned his master's and Ph.D. degrees from Yale University.

The free event is open to the public. A reception will follow the lecture.

Assistance available with new Financial Management Solutions system

Financial Management Solutions (FMS) is now the University's official system for conducting financial transactions. The system is available at https://fms.bgsu.edu.

As with any new system, there will be new processes to learn. The project team reminds users that help is available.

The BG@100 training team will be available at the project office (414 E. Wooster St.) this week and next to assist users with entering their work into FMS. The campus community is invited to come to the training room Wednesday and Thursday (Feb. 7 and 8) from 8:30-11:30 a.m.; Feb. 14 from 8:30-11:30 a.m., and Feb. 15 and 16 from 1:30-4:30 p.m. for help.

All FMS-related questions should first be directed to the Technology Support Center at 2-0999, or by email at tsc@bgsu.edu. It is important that inquiries be directed to this central location so the “back offices” can direct their focus on completing processes using FMS.

The BG@100 Web site will continue to be a source for FMS information. Training manuals and interactive demonstrations will be available for reference in completing transactions. Any user who still needs to complete FMS security forms to gain access to FMS can obtain the forms and processing details on the Web at www.bgsu.edu/bgat100.

The BG@100 FMS project team thanks everyone who has supported, assisted and participated in making the conversion to FMS possible.

CALENDAR

Monday, Feb. 5


Black History Month Kick-off Luncheon, noon-3 p.m., Lenhart Grand Ballroom.
Bowen-Thompson Student Union.

Phi Beta Kappa Visiting Scholar, "China’s Economy—Past, Present, Future," by Dr. Thomas Rawski, economics and history, University of Pittsburgh, 1:30-3 p.m., Union Theater.

Music at the Forefront Series, cellist Craig Hultgren, 8 p.m., Bryan Recital Hall, Moore Musical Arts Center.

Tuesday, Feb. 6

Arts and Sciences Forum, "The International Dimensions of China’s Long Boom," by Dr. Thomas Rawski, economics and history professor at the University of Pittsburgh, 12:30 p.m., 308 Union.

Faculty Senate, 2:30 p.m., McFall Assembly Room.

Provost Lecture Series, "Queer Regions: From ‘Fire’ to ‘The Journey,’" by Dr. Gayatri Gopinath, women studies and gender studies, University of California, Davis, 6:30 p.m., 2028 Union.

BGSU Firelands Man’s Inhumanity to Man Movie Series, "Darfur Diaries," 7 p.m., Cedar Point Center.

Concert, Trombone Choir, 8 p.m., Bryan Recital Hall, Moore Musical Arts Center.

Movie, "The Departed," 9:30 p.m., Union Theater.

Wednesday, Feb. 7

Brown Bag Luncheon, "Successes, Failures, and Possibilities of Teaching the Martial Art Aikido to Children," by Kristy Gano, American culture studies, noon-1 p.m., Women’s Center, 107 Hanna Hall.

Canadian Studies Speaker, "Minority Governments in Canada: Key to Success," by Dr. David Docherty, political science, Wilfrid Laurier University, 4:30-6 p.m., 316 Union.

Women’s Basketball vs. Ball State, 7 p.m., Anderson Arena.

Movie, "The Departed," 9:30 p.m., Union Theater.

February’s theme is Black History Month.

Thursday, Feb. 8

BGSU Firelands Man’s Inhumanity to Man Movie Series, "Darfur Diaries," 1 p.m., Cedar Point Center.

College of Arts and Sciences Distinguished Faculty Lecture Series, "The Fossil Record of the Milky Way and the Search for Old Planets," by John B. Laird, physics and astronomy chair, 4 p.m., Union Theater.

Provost Lecture Series, "Double Blind: The Torture Case," by Dr. Diana Taylor, performance studies and Spanish, New York University, 7 p.m., Union Theater.

Creative Writing Program MFA Readings, poet Brad Modlin and fiction writer Tristan Palmgren, 7:30 p.m., Prout Chapel.

International Film Series, “C.R.A.Z.Y.” (2005), directed by Jean-Marc Vallée, French Canadian, 7:30 p.m., Gish Film Theater, Hanna Hall.

Friday, Feb. 9

BGSU Firelands Man’s Inhumanity to Man Movie Series, "The Empire in Africa," 12:30 p.m., Firelands Room, 115 West Building.

Women’s Professional Development Series, "Work, Prayer, Breath and Other Love Triangles," by Dr. Dalina Stewart, higher education and student affairs, 1:30-3 p.m., Women’s Center, 107 Hanna Hall.

Hockey vs. Michigan, 7:05 p.m., Ice Arena.

Movie, "The Departed," 6:30 and 9:30 p.m., Union Theater.

Saturday, Feb. 10

Men’s Basketball vs. Eastern Michigan, 2 p.m., Anderson Arena.

Sunday, Feb. 11

Art Exhibition Opening, annual Undergraduate Art and Design Exhibition, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. weekdays.

Through Feb. 21

Exhibition, third annual Architecture Studio Exhibition, Union Art Gallery. Hours are 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday–Saturday and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sundays.
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BOWLING GREEN STATE UNIVERSITY

a.m. to 9 p.m. Sundays.

Feb. 13-28

Art Exhibition, annual Undergraduate Art and Design Exhibition, Dorothy Uber Bryan and Willard Wankelman galleries, Fine Arts Center. Gallery hours are 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday and 1-4 p.m. Sundays.

Through March 2

Planetarium Show, "Nine Planets and Counting," 8 p.m. Tuesdays and Fridays and 7:30 p.m. Sundays, BGSU Planetarium, 112 Physical Sciences Lab Building. $1 donation suggested. Stargazing follows planetarium show on Fridays and Sundays if weather permits.

JOB POSTINGS

FACULTY


Labor Postings
http://international.bgsu.edu/index.php?x=1006

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

On-campus classified:
http://international.bgsu.edu/index.php?x=1006

Off-campus classified:
http://international.bgsu.edu/index.php?x=1006

OBITUARY

There were no obituaries this week.