Monitor Newsletter July 02, 2007

Bowling Green State University

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Saddlemire demolition to begin soon

The Saddlemire Student Services Building has been vacated, paving the way for demolition of what's commonly been called "the round building" on campus.

The 40-year-old landmark is being leveled to make room for the future Wolfe Center for the Arts. The start date of the demolition is still uncertain, but a required notice to proceed will be issued to the contractors on Tuesday (July 3).

Moving their equipment on site after the notice is issued will be Baumann Enterprises of Garfield Heights, the demolition contractor; Romanoff Electric of Toledo, and Helm & Associates, mechanical and plumbing contractors from Maumee.

Hazardous material abatement can also begin at that point, although there's relatively little to abate considering the building's age and size, said Marc Brunner, project manager in the BGSU Office of Design and Construction.

Brunner said the project will close the section of Ridge Street between Mercer Road and Willard Drive except for construction and emergency traffic. To reach lots N and 14 on the west side of Saddlemire, Lot O west of the Student Health Center, and buildings farther west along Ridge Street, including Olscamp Hall, the Eppler Complex and Hayes Hall, travelers will have to take East Merry Avenue to Willard Drive, then turn right onto Ridge.

No parking lots will be closed during the 60-day period in which the work must be done from the issuance of the notice to proceed. "Work," in this case, refers not only to removal of the building but also, among other things, to leveling and restoration of the site with grass seed, removal of equipment and fencing around the site, and any necessary restoration of the street, curbs and catch basins.

Brunner said the number of days of actual tear-down won't be known until the contractors distribute their schedule. "Hopefully, it will have minimal impact" on students, he added.

The concrete will be ground on site and used as fill there. Where the other debris goes is up to the contractors, who can recycle anything they want. They can also, before leveling the building, salvage any remaining fixtures that may have monetary value.

Fencing will be erected inside both the north-south sidewalk that separates lots N and 14 from Saddlemire, and the east-west sidewalk on the north side of the Fine Arts Center. Also outside the fence will be a group of trees that will be maintained just southwest of Saddlemire; the Spirit Rock east of the building; a diagonal sidewalk that angles northwest-to-southeast and trees along the sidewalk, also on the east side, and a fire hydrant north of the building.

The east-west sidewalk that extends between Saddlemire and Kreischer Quadrangle will be removed, but the locust trees along Ridge Street will stay, as will a memorial ash tree near the Fine Arts Center. Another memorial tree, planted near Saddlemire's north-side patio in honor of former Counseling Center Director Barbara Kalman, will be relocated to the health center grounds.

A plaque honoring the late Dr. Gerald Saddlemire, for whom the building was named in 1995, has already been moved to the south entrance of Conklin North. That's where most of the building's student services offices were moved during June, in a relocation that wrapped up ahead of schedule.

"The move into Conklin was finished a week ahead of time," said Robert Waddle, assistant vice president for capital planning. He credited the smooth move to everyone involved,
BGSU offering more for transfer students

More than 600 students transfer to BGSU each year, but BGSU is piloting several strategies aimed at attracting even more and helping them finish their bachelor's degrees at the University.

"We know we have the ability to be attractive to transfer students," said Dr. Alberto Gonzalez, vice provost for academic services.

Transfer student enrollment at the University has been steadily in the 600s for the last 10 years, ranging from 606 in 1999 to a high of 701 in 2002. Now the University is trying several initiatives to get the number of transfer students over the 700 mark more consistently.

Discussions involving academic advisors, faculty, and admissions and registrar's office representatives produced ideas that include two financial incentives for transfer students, as well as the hiring of a transfer student advisor to work at Owens and other nearby community colleges.

The financial incentives available to transfer students entering BGSU this fall are the Transfer Excellence Incentive, a $2,500 award, and the Regional Community College Transfer Incentive, worth $1,500.

The Transfer Excellence Incentive is for students who have earned associate degrees from regionally accredited institutions or are members of Phi Theta Kappa, the honor society for community college students. Students eligible for the Regional Community College Transfer Incentive are transfer applicants from Owens (Toledo or Findlay), Northwest State and Terra community colleges.

The one-year awards require prospective recipients to have their admissions applications and credentials on file with the admissions office by Aug. 1, and to register for six or more credit hours each semester on the main campus. Students admitted to online degree programs are eligible for the awards, but no students will receive both — those who are eligible for both will receive only the higher Transfer Excellence Incentive.

About 60 percent of Bowling Green's transfer students come from two-year colleges, and roughly half of those students transfer from Owens, Gonzalez said. Christine Celestino-Boes, the new transfer student advisor, has regular office hours at Owens' Toledo campus. She will also travel to its Findlay campus and to Terra and Northwest State.

"My role is to serve students who are looking at transferring from Owens to Bowling Green," said Celestino-Boes. Explaining that her job entails "developing a plan for them to make an easier transition," she said she helps prospective transfers select classes "so they know the courses they're taking at Owens will transfer to Bowling Green, and they can continue moving forward to a four-year program."

In addition to assisting students interested in transferring to BGSU, Celestino-Boes will relay the needs of prospective transfers, who, as Gonzalez points out, are "a different kind of student" than freshmen because they can be in higher-level courses as well as general education classes.
“Transfer students are hard to categorize,” agreed Jodi Webb, associate dean of students and director of Orientation and First Year Programs. “You have a lot of different students with a lot of different needs.”

As a result, ensuring that they can get into the appropriate classes requires flexibility, said Gonzalez. An example is the expansion through the summer of transfer registration, which comes on the heels of last year’s addition of the Transfer Connection orientation site on the MyBGSU Web portal.

The Transfer Connection provides a virtual BGSU tour, important dates and information about advising, academic policies and other topics, Webb said. Transfer students are encouraged to visit the site before coming to Bowling Green for their one day of on-campus orientation.

Several BGSU colleges also are piloting new strategies for registering transfer students. In addition, a fourth staff member is being hired in Transfer Evaluation Services to help expedite review of transcripts so advisors and students know which credits will transfer with them, and a new transfer student advisory board is being formed.

“We’re continually exploring how we can better serve transfer students,” Webb said.

A savory history, from foraging to fast food

Although the shopping cart wasn’t invented until 1937, food has been traveling from one place to another for centuries. A Moveable Feast: Ten Millennia of Food Globalization, recently published by Cambridge University Press, traces its paths.

Written by Dr. Kenneth Kiple, editor along with Kriemhild C. Ornelas of the highly regarded The Cambridge World History of Food, the book chronicles edible plants and animals from the days of foraging to modern fast food. Catering to today’s time-constrained reader, Kiple, Distinguished University Professor emeritus of history, has condensed his previous massive, two-volume history of food in this latest endeavor.

“It’s enormously fascinating to see how globalization has evolved. If you have the money, any food in the world is available to you today,” he said.

A major impetus for globalization was that now-famous 1492 voyage of Christopher Columbus. Exchanges began immediately. From Europe came rice, sugar, horses, pigs, cattle and wheat; from the New World came corn, potatoes, squash, beans and chocolate.

The historian writes about the innovation of farming, the domestication of animals and the impact of industrialization on food production, processing and distribution. His investigation of food’s global impact provides, as one reviewer has noted, “a cornucopia of information about food, both profound and fun.”

Interesting tidbits can be found throughout the 366-page book, among them:

- Cheese making began over 6,000 years ago in what is now Iran.
- Sugar and soybeans are the world’s best-selling foods.
- By 1880, virtually every major American city had a Chinese restaurant.
- Honey has been used for its medicinal as well as nutritional properties.
- The can opener was patented in 1870.
- India produces and consumes more butter than any other nation.
- The Portuguese were the first Europeans to drink tea.

Kiple, who has previously studied and written about the history of disease, also discusses the correlation between nutrition and disease in this book and the perils of both shortages and bounties of food, such as the current obesity epidemic in the United States.

From his perspective, it is inexcusable in the 21st century for humans to starve to death.
in any part of the world. "We have the ability to produce and distribute the food the world needs. Nobody should starve. Everyone is entitled to food as a basic human right," Kiple contends.

Kiple, who appeared at the Ann Arbor Book Fair last spring, also spoke June 10 at the Printer's Row Book Fair in Chicago. A Moveable Feast is available at the BGSU Bookstore, at other retailers around the nation and online.

MacNevin to take on governmental affairs role

Sandra MacNevin has been appointed associate vice president for governmental affairs, President Sidney Ribeau has announced. The new position is in addition to her current role as associate vice president for executive communications and director of the University's engagement initiative.

With the retirement this summer of Larry Weiss, the current associate vice president for University relations and governmental affairs, the president said, "I have made the decision to continue the process of restructuring in my office and to combine the two functions of executive communications and governmental affairs. This organizational change will result in significant cost savings to the University at a time when fiscal restraint is one of our highest priorities."

MacNevin has considerable experience as a governmental relations professional in the California State University system, where she directed governmental relations from 1998-2004. Since returning to BGSU in 2004, she has worked on a number of Ohio legislative initiatives while serving on the Higher Education Funding Commission of the Ohio Board of Regents. In addition, she has been involved in developing policy and a budget strategy for a Higher Education Compact with the governor and state legislature on behalf of the Inter-University Council of Presidents.

IN BRIEF

There were no news briefs this week.

CALENDAR

Monday, July 2
BGSU Firelands Second Five-Week Term Begins.

Sundaes on Mondays, free ice cream, noon-1 p.m., Falcon's Nest, Bowen-Thompson Student Union.

Wednesday, July 4
Independence Day, no classes, offices closed.

Thursday, July 5
Administrative Staff Council, 3:30 p.m., 207 Union.

Monday, July 9
Bingo, noon-1 p.m., Falcon's Nest, Union.

Continuing Events
July 3-7
Huron Playhouse, "I Remember Mama," 8 p.m. nightly, McCormick School, 325 Ohio
Top Stories

In Brief

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St., Huron. For ticket information and reservations, call the box office at 419-433-4744.

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Through July 11
Student Printmaking Exhibition, Little Gallery, BGSU Firelands. Gallery hours are 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Friday.

Through July 20
Art Exhibition, "Cream of the Crop," Union Galleries. Gallery hours follow building hours; check schedule.

JOB POSTINGS

FACULTY

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

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:
www.bgsu.edu/offices/ohr/employment/BGSU_only/page11151.html

Off-campus classified:
www.bgsu.edu/offices/ohr/employment/cl_staff/page11145.html

ADMINISTRATIVE
www.bgsu.edu/offices/ohr/employment/adm_staff/page11137.html

OBITUARY

There were no obituaries this week.