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Monitor Newsletter September 17, 2007

Bowling Green State University

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BGSU hands off Wood County Corps to United Way, remains partner

A group of dedicated young people was sworn in Sept. 12 as members of the Wood County Corps, pledging to "get things done" in the community.

The swearing-in was part of a larger event in the life of the corps, which is being transitioned from BGSU's oversight to the United Way of Greater Toledo. On hand were BGSU President Sidney Ribeau; Bill Kitson, president and CEO of the United Way; Dr. Jane Rosser, founding program director of the Wood County Corps, and Program Manager Ed Newman, along with other campus supporters, community partners and families of the inductees.

Rosser said the transition marks a new phase "in an ongoing partnership to build student engagement in the county and to extend our collaboration." BGSU remains a partner in the corps and Rosser is still a consultant. Four BGSU student members of the Wood County Corps comprise the new BGSU Service Corps, and will work on a number of projects strengthening service-learning and engagement with the community.

Of the 30 positions available with Wood County Corps, which is a part of AmeriCorps, 22 are currently filled with BGSU students or recent graduates, who work in such areas as the new Teen Center in Bowling Green, with the Wood County Committee on Aging, the Children's Resource Center, the park district, literacy programs, providing access to higher education, and with agencies serving those with special needs. Recruitment is under way for the remaining positions.

"These are people who have committed a year of their lives to serving their community," Rosser said.

More important, she added, is that they are part of a national movement that has seen nearly 500,000 people serving their country since AmeriCorps was founded in 1994.

The corps members say they also gain from their experience serving others. Linda Rowlett, a senior from Toledo majoring in social work and with a minor in gerontology, began with the corps Aug. 26. Her work at the Children's Resource Center with youths ages 5-17 who have mental health problems has already proven extremely rewarding, she said, and a "good opportunity to be with kids from every socioeconomic background, from diverse racial and ethnic groups and a range of ages. I love working with them and I'm learning so much."

Some of the new members have long been involved in community service. Nicole Messmore of Metamora, who graduated from BGSU in August with a degree in political science, has worked with Rosser and others at BGSU for several years. Now, in her role as volunteer and activity coordinator for the Teen Center, "I'm just doing what I've always been doing, but without the pressure of grades and homework," she said happily. "I'm doing what I like to do."

For others, such as Rachel Sample, a sophomore from Canton, Mich., majoring in creative writing and international studies, a BGSU experience led to the desire to become a corps member. Sample, who went on a "cultural immersion" class trip to Arizona over spring break led by Gordon Ricketts, art, and Bill Thompson, United Christian Fellowship, will now work with those two planning more immersion trips for students. "That trip changed my life, and now I want to help provide those experiences for others," she said.

"The partnership between the University, the Wood County Corps, the United Way and AmeriCorps is dedicated to making a difference in the quality of life for the community," Ribeau said. "And the quality of life is directly related to the commitment of people who are willing to work hard. It doesn't just happen."

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"The University assures that its intellectual capital, physical plant and resources are directed for the benefit of the community," he added, "but it is also committed to preparing the next generation of community leaders, and that is what the Wood County Corps is doing."

Kitson offered some statistics to demonstrate the contribution the corps has made in its two years of existence: Corps members have logged 54,000 hours of service at 18 agencies, with an estimated dollar value of over \$1 million, he said. "The metrics show we're making a difference," he added.

Citing the long affiliation between BGSU and United Way, Kitson praised the founders of the Wood County Corps, saying "It takes a lot of courage to begin a program."

Pilot project offers textbook rentals by the hour

It may be hard to fathom, but some students don't buy textbooks for their classes. The reasons vary. Friends in the same class may share one book. Some students take a "wait and see" approach — waiting to see how much their professors refer to textbook material in class and seeing whether textbook material turns up on exams—before buying books.

The average student pays \$700 to \$1,000 a year for textbooks, and some students simply don't have the cash to cover the costs. Those students may get by with just attending class and taking notes.

Jeff Nelson, director of the University Bookstore, admits that he, too, experiences "sticker shock" when the prices of some course materials make them difficult to sell and, from the perspective of students and their parents, difficult to afford.

"Textbooks are a major problem because of their expense," agrees Thomas Atwood, the new dean of University Libraries.

According to Atwood, some students hesitate to buy books when only one chapter may be required reading. Past experience leads them to think that the textbook is actually considered "additional reading" by faculty. "They decide that because the reading is optional, they will not spend the money (to buy it)."

Last spring, representatives of BGSU were among the librarians, bookstore managers and IT personnel who met at a conference in Oberlin to discuss providing course-related materials and services to help both higher education institutions and students through better control of costs.

Those discussions have led to the University Bookstore and University Libraries teaming up this fall on a pilot Rental-Reserve Project to enable some students to rent textbooks on an hourly basis.

According to both Atwood and Nelson, the pilot program is not an alternative to the traditional sale of textbooks, nor should it be viewed as a trend for libraries to charge for services.

"This is an alternative for students who may need to use the book for only a short period of time," Nelson explained.

"We're just testing the waters," added Atwood, who said, "Textbook rental may not be the ultimate solution, but it's important for faculty and staff to look at this from the students' perspective. We need to look for ways to find solutions that enable students to have access to course textbooks."

This semester, 10 titles used in 100- and 200- level courses were chosen for testing based on the cost of the books and the receptiveness of faculty to take part in the pilot project.

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The books include *Physical Geology*, which retails for \$122.70; *Principles of Microeconomics* (\$120); *Extraordinary Chemistry of Ordinary Things* (\$106) and *Introduction to Criminal Justice* (\$101.70). Others include books for classes in music history, medical technology, sociology and journalism. None come packaged with CDs or DVDs.

Around 2,500 students are enrolled in the courses that use the chosen books.

Two copies of each title are available through the Rental-Reserve program. The library charges the student a flat rate of \$2 for three hours for each title. Students may rent the book for three hours at a time. The fee is collected through the Jerome Library Circulation Desk, and books are available during all hours the library is open. If the textbook rental time extends beyond library hours, the textbook may be taken out of the building overnight and will be due at opening the next day. Overdue charges are \$2 an hour.

Mary Beth Zachary, head of access services at Jerome Library, said she thinks the program could be particularly helpful at the start of the semester when students are faced with many bills at once.

"By renting a book, students can better cope with a cash shortfall and postpone purchasing the book until later in the semester," she suggested.

Usage, program costs and revenues for the pilot project will be closely monitored and evaluated at the end of the semester.

United Way campaign aims to increase participation

The BGSU 2007 United Way Campaign officially kicked off Sept. 12. The goal is \$125,000, or 10 percent more than last year's total of \$112,724. This year, the campaign team is emphasizing the University's connection to agencies and efforts within Wood County, such as the new Teen Center, the Cocoon women's shelter and the Wood County Humane Society.

"It's important for potential donors to realize that by giving, they are helping improve the lives of children and families in our community," said Dr. Bob DeBard, higher education and student affairs, who is chair of this year's campus campaign.

Last year, 601 full-time employees and 62 retirees donated to the campaign. "We would like to raise the level of giving so that everyone is involved," said DeBard.

Another goal is to increase the number of leadership gifts of \$1,000 or more. Fifth Third Bank and The Andersons have created a challenge grant program that matches every \$1,000 gift.

One of the most exciting new options available to donors this year is the BG Teen Center, according to Executive Vice President Linda Dobb. The center is staffed by BGSU students and is designed as a safe place for local teens to meet and study.

Again this year, the campaign will be conducted in conjunction with Northwest Ohio Community Shares. In Wood County, the major agency benefiting from this partnership is the Wood County Humane Society.

"What donors need to realize is that they have the right to put down any local charity on their pledge form. We just want to encourage giving," said DeBard. "So many people benefit when our community gives from its heart."

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New York Times reporter to discuss sports journalism

New York Times reporter Lynn Zinser will address sports journalism in the modern media environment in this year's Currier Lecture.

"Beyond the Fighting Dogs and Attack Blogs: Practicing Real Sports Journalism in the New Media World" is the title of Zinser's talk, set for 7 p.m. Sept. 25 in 115 Olscamp Hall.

Zinser has been a sports reporter at the Times since August 2003. After two seasons as the New York Giants beat writer, she became the newspaper's primary Olympics writer in January 2005. She reported on the 2006 Turin Winter Games—the fourth Olympics she has covered since 1996—and New York's bid for the 2012 Summer Games.

Before moving to the Times, Zinser was a sports feature writer for the Newark Star-Ledger and a sports columnist for the Colorado Springs Gazette. She has also worked at the Philadelphia Daily News, Charlotte Observer, Memphis Commercial Appeal and Syracuse Herald-Journal.

The Rochester, N.Y., native is a 1988 graduate of Syracuse University, where she earned a bachelor's degree in newspaper journalism.

BGSU's Currier Visiting Lecture Series is made possible in part by an endowed gift from the estate of Florence and Jesse Currier, who came to Bowling Green in 1940. Jesse Currier established the University's modern journalism program, and Florence Currier served as dean of women from 1949 until her retirement in 1963.

The Florence and Jesse Currier Fund at BGSU is used for journalism scholarships, faculty development, special projects and the annual lecture series, which brings distinguished journalists and media professionals to campus to speak and meet with students and faculty.

Festival Series opens with chamber ensemble

The 2007-08 season of the Festival Series opens at the College of Musical Arts with one of the world's finest chamber groups, the Academy of St. Martin in the Fields Chamber Ensemble, on the Lois M. Nitschke Memorial Concert.

The ensemble comprises eight musicians from London's illustrious Orchestra of St. Martin in the Fields. The group tours as a string octet, sextet and other configurations, and has elicited stellar reviews for its performances and recordings.

The performance is scheduled at 8 p.m. Sept. 28 in Kobacker Hall of the Moore Musical Arts Center. The Festival Forum, an informative lecture that enhances the concert-going experience, will precede the concert at 7:15 p.m.

The concert program will include works by Antonin Dvorak and Dmitri Shostakovich, along with one of the group's signature pieces, the "Octet for Strings" by Felix Mendelssohn.

For tickets, call the box office at 2-8171.

For a listing of upcoming performances in the series, visit www.bgsu.edu/offices/mc/monitor/05-14-07/page30105.html.

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IN BRIEF**Campus marks anniversary of Constitution with panel on Bush policies, residence hall activities**

BGSU will mark the 200th anniversary of the signing of the U.S. Constitution today (Sept. 17) with a number of programs in the residence halls and a panel discussion on "President Bush and the Constitution." Is Bush a friend of the Constitution, or have his policies undermined the constitutional balance of power?

Drs. Gary Hess, Distinguished Research Professor of history, and political science faculty members Drs. Jeff Peake and Dion Farganis will consider fundamental questions of American democracy in light of the War on Terror, the Iraq war and other Bush policies that have profound implications for the Constitution.

The panel discussion will be held at 7:30 p.m. in 201 Bowen-Thompson Student Union. Free and open to the public, the event is sponsored by the departments of political science and history along with the Office of the Dean of Students.

Constitution Day programs set for the residence halls include a Constitution "Jeopardy" program in McDonald testing students' knowledge; a collaborative art project in Offenbauer, and the handing out of red, white and blue ribbons with attached facts about the Constitution in Kreischer Ashley/Batchelder.

Harshman/Anderson/Bromfield halls are conducting a program focused on the minority population at the time the Constitution was written. Doors in the hall will be labeled with either an X or a star. Randomly, two out of every five doors will receive a large X, representing the 40 percent of the U.S. population that was enslaved at the time the Constitution was written and did not have the privileges it granted. On Monday evening, residents will take part in a discussion about the program.

Students in Kreischer Compton/Darrow and Harshman Chapman/Dunbar halls will be writing letters to soldiers stationed overseas.

In Kohl Hall, two resident advisors and a faculty member are facilitating a program called "FREEdom—I Scream for Ice Cream for our Constitution," in which residents will be served ice cream with facts about the Constitution and have a discussion in which students can talk openly about things they wish were different about or added to the Constitution.

The S.M.A.R.T. (Students of Color Mentoring, Aiding, Retaining and Teaching) Program will be utilizing information from the Constitution Day Web site at its weekly staff meeting with games, quizzes and themed attire.

Library Friends seeking nominees for author, artist recognition

Chairs and directors of academic departments, schools and programs are asked to nominate individuals for recognition at the annual Authors and Artists Reception, sponsored by the Friends of University Libraries.

For more than 20 years, BGSU faculty and staff have been recognized for their scholarly works and achievements. This year's reception will be on Nov. 7. The deadline for nominations is Thursday (Sept. 20).

For detailed criteria and submission information, visit www.bgsu.edu/colleges/library/admin/friends/activities.html

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Monday, Sept. 17

ICS Artists and Scholars in Residence Series, "True Stories' of Mexican Banditry: The Case of Chucho el Roto," presented by Dr. Amy Robinson, romance and classical studies, 12:30 p.m., 201A Union. Sponsored by the Institute for the Study of Culture and Society.

ARTalk, "Contemporary Artist Projects in Art Education," by Stef Stahl, adjunct faculty member at Ohio State University, 6 p.m., Bowen-Thompson Student Union Theater.

Constitution Day Panel Discussion, "President Bush and the Constitution," with Drs. Gary Hess, Distinguished Research Professor of history; Jeffrey Peake and Dion Farganis, both political science, in a discussion of the Constitutional implications of President Bush's policies on American democracy, 7:30-9 p.m., 201 Union. Sponsored by the departments of history and political science and the Office of the Dean of Students.

Tuesday, Sept. 18

Latino Heritage Month Kickoff Luncheon, 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., Lenhart Grand Ballroom, Union. With keynote speaker Jose Salinas of the Ohio Migrant Education Center and musical entertainment. The buffet lunch is \$8; tickets are available at the door. Hosted by the Latino Student Union in commemoration of its 35th anniversary. For more information, call 2-8325 or email raquels@bgsu.edu.

Film Director Series, "Tape" (2001), directed by Richard Linklater, 7:30 p.m., Gish Film Theater, Hanna Hall.

Movie, "Knocked Up," 9:30 p.m., Union Theater.

Wednesday, Sept. 19

Classified Staff Council, 9 a.m.-noon, 316 Union.

Brown Bag Luncheon, "Images of a Gendered Nation: Representation of Argentina through Eva Peron in Painting and Photography," presented by Dr. Valeria Grinberg, romance and classical studies, noon-1 p.m., Women's Center, 107 Hanna Hall. In recognition of Hispanic Heritage Month.

Faculty Artist Series, with jazz guitarist Chris Buzzelli and double bassist Jeff Halsey, assisted by guest jazz vocalist Kim Nazarian, founding member of the Grammy

Award-winning group New York Voices, 8 p.m., Bryan Recital Hall, Moore Musical Arts Center.

Thursday, Sept. 20

Men's Soccer vs. Ohio State, 4 p.m., Cochrane Field.

Creative Writing Program MFA Readings, by Rocco Lungariello, poetry, and Katherine Lane, fiction, 7:30 p.m., Prout Chapel.

International Film Series, "Los Rubios (The Blonds)" (2006), Argentina, directed by Albertina Carri, 7:30 p.m., Gish Film Theater, Hanna Hall.

Guest Recital, Austrian violinist Wolfgang David and American pianist David Gompper, 8 p.m., Bryan Recital Hall, Moore Musical Arts Center.

Friday, Sept. 21

Athletic Hall of Fame Banquet, 6-9:30 p.m., Lenhart Grand Ballroom, Union. Tickets are \$30 for Varsity BG members and \$35 for others. Advance registration is required; call the Falcon Club office at 2-7100 for tickets. For more information, visit <http://bg-sufalcons.cstv.com/genrel/091207aac.html>.

Movie, "Knocked Up," 6:30 and 9:30 p.m., Union Theater.

Guest Recital, Bruce Hudson, horn, 8 p.m., Bryan Recital Hall, Moore Musical Arts Center. Hudson is a member of the Los Angeles Philharmonic and the California-based brass and percussion group Burning River Brass.

Saturday, Sept. 22

Swimming, Annual Falcon Biathlon, 8 a.m.; **Alumni Meet**, 10 a.m., Cooper Pool, Student Recreation Center.

Football vs. Temple, noon, Doyt Perry Stadium.

Volleyball vs. Northern Illinois, 4 p.m., Anderson Arena.

Latinopalooza, 8 p.m.-1 a.m., Lenhart Grand Ballroom, Union. Sponsored by the Latino Student Union.

Sunday, Sept. 23

Faculty Artist Series, Penny Thompson Kruse, violin, 3 p.m., Bryan Recital Hall, Moore Musical Arts Center.

Sunday Matinees, "The Other Griffith Actresses," presentation and commentary by film historian Dr. Anthony Slide. While Lillian and Dorothy Gish were perhaps the best-

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known actresses associated with director D.W. Griffith, this presentation provides rare film clips of others, including Blanche Sweet, Margery Wilson and Jetta Goudal, 3 p.m., Gish Film Theater, Hanna Hall.
Movie, "Pirates of the Caribbean: At World's End," 9:30 p.m., Union Theater.

Monday, Sept. 24

Homecoming Kickoff, 11 a.m.-2 p.m., Union Oval. Rain location: Lenhart Grand Ballroom, Union.

Continuing Events Through Sept. 19

Art Exhibition, "2-D or Not 2-D? Danish Artists Flirt with Space," works by seven artists, curated by Mille Guldbeck, art, and painter Else Ploug Isaksen, Willard Wankelman Gallery, Fine Arts Center. Gallery hours are 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday and 1-4 p.m. Sundays.

Through Sept. 19

Art Exhibition, Ceramic sculpture by Melissa Parrott, Little Gallery, BGSU Firelands. Gallery hours are 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Friday.

Sept. 24-Oct. 24

Art Exhibition, Paintings by Diane Pribojan-Rabak, Little Gallery, BGSU Firelands. Gallery hours are 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Friday.

Through Sept. 29

Art Exhibition, Contemporary Art Western Spring Break," Union Gallery. Gallery hours are 8 a.m.-9 p.m. Monday-Saturday and 10 a.m.-9 p.m. Sunday.

Through Sept. 30

Art Exhibition, "HEROES," approaching the mystique of the hero with a lively mix of media from painting to knitting, and styles ranging from pop-culture collage to naturalistic portrait sculptures. Featuring work by Matthew Friday, Mark Newport and Scott Fife, Dorothy Uber Bryan Gallery, Fine Arts Center. Gallery hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday and 1-4 p.m. Sundays.

JOB POSTINGS

Due to the recently announced hold on all hiring for faculty and staff, no jobs will be posted until further notice.

OBITUARY

There were no obituaries this week.