BGSU named ‘veteran-friendly campus’

Transitioning from life on a military base to life on a college campus can be a mission in itself.

BGSU’s efforts to ease the way for those who have served the country have earned it recognition as a veteran-friendly campus in New Directions in Student Services, a publication for student-affairs professionals. The University was cited in an article titled “A Statewide Approach to Creating Veteran-Friendly Campuses.”

The designation is the result of strong campus-wide support for the effort, said Duane Whitmire of Non-Traditional Student Services, who oversaw the Student-Veteran Task Force that created the plan to better meet the needs and desires of student veterans.

Most notable is the creation of the NTSS, which has helped to consolidate student veterans’ services—once scattered across campus—into “one-stop shopping.”

According to the Assistant Director of Admissions David Rice, himself a veteran, the NTSS office has made significant strides. Rice expedites the admissions process and walks veterans through the steps toward becoming enrolled. “Rather than having student veterans find [the process] out on their own, NTSS tells them what they need to do,” he said.

“Post-9/11, the GI bill means more and more veterans coming back to college,” said task force Co-Chair Dr. Brett Holden, adding that with the withdrawal in Iraq and redeployment in Afghanistan, universities could see a further increase in student-veteran applications.

For many years, Holden has been helping administrators understand the experience of veteran soldiers transitioning to civilian life, facilitating outreach to veterans and their families, and teaching courses that move undergraduates at BGSU to research and assist this population.

“Veterans attempting to enroll in college can have hidden concerns,” said Holden, theatre and film. They can find it difficult to plan their life around school, with the chance they may be called back into service. They may be unwilling to risk investing in tuition, fees and books in case they are not able to complete the semester. Service members also often experience a financial drawback. Compared to what they may have made in their regular careers, combat pay can be substantially less,” he said.

“They are a naturally quiet group,” Holden said. “They will not complain, but they will just leave.”

Such circumstances prompted Dean of Students Jill Carr to commission the task force, charging it with developing a cost-effective action plan. Of its 40 short-term and long-term recommendations, 90 percent entail no cost but reconfigure existing resources.

The many services BGSU has developed for veterans include waiving the application fee, as well as refunding the cost of textbooks if soldiers are facing deployment or are called up during the semester.

One of the visible changes is on the redesigned BGSU application. Thanks to Director of Admissions Gary Swegan, the application now includes a question about veteran status, which will help the University track them and offer services.

The Office of Transfer Evaluation assists service members with the transfer of previous college credits to BGSU. Rachel Schaeffer, director of transfer evaluations, says the University has recently become a member of the Servicemembers Opportunity Colleges consortium.
In addition, "BG is attempting to make efforts to change so student veterans can become BG graduates," Rice said. "[The University] needs to be an active player with active duty personnel by bolstering online opportunities."

BGSU plays role in Honor Flight

All over the country, the Honor Flight program is bringing veterans of World War II to Washington, D.C., to view the monument to their service and tour the capital. BGSU has been a leader in the northwest Ohio Honor Flight program, which has included about 430 veterans in 15 trips to Washington.

Many University faculty and staff have participated. Travis Chapin, construction management, has made three trips and helps recruit drivers for the program. Volunteers bring area veterans to the Toledo airport to see them off and then return for the welcome-back ceremony and drive them back home.

"It's more than just driving them, though," Chapin said. "It's about building a relationship. We try to meet them the week before the flight to talk over their experience and get to know them a bit."

Though the day runs from about 6 a.m. to 9:30 p.m., "it's completely energizing for the veterans. When they step off the plane back home they're 20 years old again," Chapin said.

He is recruiting drivers for the final flight of 2010 on Oct. 6. Those interested in participating may volunteer by emailing him at tchapin@bgsu.edu or sign up online at http://www.able506.com/hfnwo/hfnwo09.html.

"It was a real honor to be of service to one of these heroes from what Tom Brokaw has called 'the greatest generation,'" said Pete Fairbairn, Marketing and Communications, who volunteered to drive a 91-year-old veteran in July. "Their service and sacrifice are well worth the small role we can play to give them the recognition they deserve."

A flight last week included Elsie Perch, 90, who served for more than two years in North Africa as a member of the Army Nurse Corps. She was the speaker for Buckeye Boys State on campus earlier this summer.

The community has thrown its support behind the Honor Flight. Substantial donations last week came from the Bowling Green Noon Kiwanis Club, Owens-Illinois, Kingston care centers (which also provide the participants' breakfasts) and a local family.

BGSU alumnus Jim Tichy, retired NBC 24 sports director, has been an advocate for the program and a frequent speaker on its behalf.

Chapin is also helping Dr. Brett Holden, theatre and film, connect students in one of his classes with veterans for interviews about their experiences both in the military and in readjusting to civilian life.
IN BRIEF

Fine Arts Center hosts two exhibits

Take a break from routine this fall with a visit to the Fine Arts Center, where two exhibits are on display.

Works by 16 ceramics artists from BGSU and Northern Arizona University who have received the Aaron Macy scholarship are featured in the Dorothy Uber Bryan Gallery. The show will culminate on Sept. 17 with an artist panel discussion and reception at 7 p.m. in 204 Fine Arts Center.

Opening tomorrow (Aug. 31) in the Willard Wankelman Gallery is “Re-imagining the Distaff Toolkit.” Each work of art in the exhibit has at its core a tool that was important to women’s domestic labor in the past. The old tool becomes the fulcrum for a contemporary work of art.

Among the 28 artists in the show is Debra Priestley, who will give a guest lecture at 7 p.m. Sept. 24 in 204 Fine Arts Center. Priestley teaches at Queens College, City University of New York.


Gallery hours for both shows are 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday, 6-9 p.m. Thursdays and 1-4 p.m. Sundays.

Boyd-Barrett active presenter this fall

Dr. Oliver Boyd-Barrett, School of Media and Communication, has been invited to present at the Third News Agencies World Congress, to take place Oct. 19-23 in Buenos Aires and Bariloche, Argentina.

Hosted by Télam, the national news agency of Argentina, Boyd-Barrett will be presenting on the topic of News Agencies and National Development. In September, he is also presenting a paper at the conference on Global Media and the War on Terror, to take place at the University of Westminster, London. He will be presenting on the topic of Hollywood and the War on Terror. Boyd-Barrett is sponsored in part by the journal Global Media and Communication.

CALENDAR

Monday, Aug. 30

Center for Teaching and Learning Workshop, “CLA in the Classroom: Developing Critical Thinking and Analytical Writing Skill Using Performance Tasks,” 2-3 p.m., 201 University Hall. Register online at http://www.bgsu.edu/ctl/page69735.html.


Tuesday, Aug. 31

Center for Teaching and Learning Workshop, “Writing and Higher-Order Thinking in Larger Classes Using Calibrated Peer Review,” 1-2 p.m., 201 University Hall. Register online at http://www.bgsu.edu/ctl/page56598.html.

Wednesday, Sept. 1

Brown Bag Series, “My Fabulous Feminist Summer,” presented by Kate Noffsinger, intern at Ms. magazine, and Sarah Myles, participant in Feminist Majority Foundation Camp, noon-1 p.m., Women’s Center, 107 Hanna Hall.
Speaker Series, "Is Hooking Up Bad for Women?" presented by Dr. Elizabeth Armstrong, sociology, University of Michigan, noon-1 p.m., 314 Union.

Center for Teaching and Learning Workshop, "Integrating Your Courses with BGSU Learning Outcomes and Core Values," 3:30-4:30 p.m., 201 University Hall. Register online at http://www.bgsu.edu/ctl/page74987.html.

Faculty Artist Series, featuring Andrew Pelletier, horn, 8 p.m., Bryan Recital Hall, Moore Musical Arts Center.

Thursday, Sept. 2


BFA Reading, Welcome and Prairie Margins reading, 7:30 p.m., Prout Chapel.

Friday, Sept. 3

Women's Cross Country vs. Toledo, 5 p.m., Whittaker Track.

Men's Cross Country vs. Toledo, 5:45 p.m., Whittaker Track.

Monday, Sept. 6

Labor Day, Classes canceled, offices closed.

Continuing Events

Through Sept. 17

Art Exhibit, "The Aaron Macy Legacy Exhibit," Dorothy Uber Bryan Gallery, Fine Arts Center. Gallery hours are 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday, 6-9 p.m. Thursdays, and 1-4 p.m. Sundays.

Through Sept. 21

Art Exhibit, paintings by Robert McCann, Little Gallery, BGSU Firelands. Gallery hours are 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Friday.

Aug. 31-Sept. 26

Art Exhibit, "Re-imagining the Distaff Toolkit," Willard Wankelman Gallery, Fine Arts Center. Gallery hours are 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday, 6-9 p.m. Thursdays, and 1-4 p.m. Sundays.

JOB POSTINGS

FACULTY


Political Science. Assistant Professor. Call Albert Dzur, 2-2921. Deadline: Nov. 1.

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 website at 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 into Human Resources by the job deadline.

CLASSIFIED

On-campus classified:

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

Off-campus classified:

http://www.bgsu.edu/offices/ohr/employment/cl_staff/page11145.html

ADMINISTRATIVE

http://www.bgsu.edu/offices/ohr/employment/adm_staff/page11137.html
OBITUARY

Beth Casey, 75, a professor emeritus of English, died Aug. 23. She joined the University in 1978 as associate director of curriculum development; she was director of the general education program for 23 years in addition to teaching English and Canadian studies classes. She retired in 2005, but continued to teach until this year.

Memorials may be made to scholarships created by Casey in creative writing (Mae W. Casey Scholarship), literature (Thomas A. Casey), and the Canadian Lecture Fund (Beth A. Casey Scholarship), all through the BGSU Foundation.