



Miracle Memos

BGSU DANCE MARATHON ALUMNI SOCIETY NEWS

Recognizing the Past, Present and Future!

Happy New Year and greetings from Bowling Green, Ohio!

My name is Heather Bishara, and over the past year and a half I have had the pleasure of working with the Dance Marathon Steering Committee at Bowling Green State University. Like many of you reading this newsletter, Dance Marathon and the Children's Miracle Network hold a very special place in my heart. My cousin was treated by Children's Miracle Network in Knoxville, TN and without the support of CMN, she never would have lived as long as she did.

When I first came to BGSU in July of 2002, I had never heard of Dance Marathon. Sarah Saccany, the 2003 Faculty Staff Relations Chair took it upon herself to educate me about Dance Marathon at BGSU and, after I went to the Rec Center, played with the kids, dressed in the Hugs the Hippo costume and made a fool of myself playing BGSU trivia during Faculty Staff Hour, I was extremely impressed. Dance Marathon was one of the most amazing student-run events I had ever seen! I knew that as long as I was at BGSU, I would have to continue attending this event.

In June of 2003, I was asked to

take on the roll of staff advisor for Dance Marathon and my life has been full of miracles ever since. The students, alumni, miracle families, sponsors and staff at Children's Miracle Network are a constant inspiration to me and I feel very fortunate to be a part of this great organization. Dance Marathon at BGSU has a history rich in success, tradition and community. It is consistently looked upon as a model of how a great organization works, not just at BGSU but also at other institutions throughout the nation.

Recently, I had the honor of attending two award ceremonies in which the BGSU Dance Marathon were honored. The first award Dance Marathon was selected to receive was the Bowling Green State University Community Fellowship Award. The University Community Fellowship Award is presented each year at the annual Convocation of the Division of Higher Education and Student Affairs (HESA) in recognition of extraordinary contributions by faculty, staff, or students to building collegial working relationships at Bowling Green State University. The award was accepted by Jared Wright, 2005 Dance Marathon Director, on behalf of all of the past and present

participants and supporters of Dance Marathon. This November, Dance Marathon was awarded the 2004 Outstanding Philanthropist Award from the Northwest Ohio Chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals. Dance Marathon was the first student organization to ever win either of these awards.

While I know that every person reading this newsletter understands the power of Dance Marathon and the level of impact it has on the lives of children in Ohio, the awards are further testament to the amazing impact this organization has had on BGSU and the Northwest Ohio community.

As Dance Marathon prepares for our tenth anniversary, know that without your support and those who came before you, this organization could not have done what it has done so far "For the Kids!" I am extremely proud of the accomplishments of Dance Marathon at BGSU and I hope you all are too. Thank you for your unwavering dedication and we all look forward to seeing you at Dance Marathon 2005!

Heather Bishara
Dance Marathon Advisor

Alumni: Your agenda...should you choose to accept it

Dance Marathon Alumni are being called this year to come be a major part in the tenth anniversary of our beloved organization. The steering committee and I are very excited to have you come back to Dance Marathon this year and be a dancer again.

Here is a quick outline of how your day at Dance Marathon 2005 will look:

- 1:00 p.m.**—Easy Street for Alumni Luncheon
- 2:30 p.m.**—Back to Rec Center, where we will be giving the alumni dancers will be given their t-shirts, numbers and wristbands
- 2:30-3:30 p.m.**—Alumni learn the 10-year dance, including favorite songs from each of the previous ten line dances
- 3:30 p.m.**—Alumni Theme Hour will be held on stage where the 10-year line dance will be

unveiled, as well as performing previous line dances

4:30 p.m.—Free to roam Dance Marathon as dancers or visitors

We are asking that three hours of dancing be the minimum, but you are welcome to stay as long as you like! We are also recommending that \$50 be raised in order to be a dancer, but feel free to raise more than that! Registration to be an alumni dancer, picture, and order form for our alumni t-shirts can be found on the back of this newsletter. You can also send your registration to be an alumni dancer, or if you have any questions via email to Nolan Hensel at nolanjh@bgnet.bgsu.edu. We look forward to seeing you there March 19 & 20!

Nolan Hensel, 2005 Alumni Relations Chair

INSIDE

Dance Marathon Tech	2
Dance Marathon 2005 Update	2
DM Letter Writing Campaign	3
Bike for Tikes	3

Dance Marathon Tech

Since 1995, Dance Marathon has provided the community with countless miracles. In that time, the event has progressed into an up-to-the-minute program. In ten years, mobile phones have gotten smaller and DM has grown larger and larger. As with cell phones, DM has benefited from the convenience and endless possibilities provided by modern technology. On this tenth anniversary, a new chair position has been added to the steering committee. Luc Hughart is managing the first ever Technology Committee (Abby Snyder, Chris Rodgers, Gary Mazzeo, and Ross Metcalf).

The first impact the team has made is on the World Wide Web with the development of a new website. The Technology Committee has designed a fun and functional site that will grow with DM. The site is linked to the BGSU site under student life and a link to the Children's Miracle Network site is on the DM homepage. Currently, the site provides information about Miracle Families, sponsors, and Steering committees, in addition to ways to get involved and upcoming events. In the future, the

committee will add live video feeds from the event as well as an email drop-box and other helpful tools. Check out the site at: www.bgsu.edu/studentlife/organizations/dancemarathon.

We also recently added an on-line donation link through PayPal. Now students, alumni and friends of BGSU can donate on-line. The link will be up and running by the end of March, 2005. We are very excited to add this method of donating.

Another addition is The DMTV Real World. The team has decided to show the true story of five strangers picked to live DM and have their lives taped. The series will follow the five individuals throughout their experiences from their auditions in January to the final countdown. The footage will be included in the 2005 DM video to tell the story of the amazing individuals involved in this great philanthropy.

Other contributions to come include live video feeds between BGSU and other university dance marathons, providing multi-media additions the candle walk, and extra comfort to participants at DM. The

Committee has worked diligently to work to technically create a foundation to continue to bring DM up to date in the future.

HOMEcomings 2005

October 1st

**BGSU Falcons vs.
Temple Owls**

DON'T MISS IT!

Coming soon to a computer near you!

Bowling Green State University will soon be offering BGSU alumni non-credit online programs. These programs will include healthcare, business, construction technology, internet-design and technical, IT certifications and video game design and development.

The new non-credit online courses are designed for individuals looking to switch career paths, obtain advanced training and certifications, or for employees with expanding responsibilities. The courses are all open enrollment, available 24 hours a day, self-paced, and designed to have students paired with a personal instructor.

This is one of BGSU's efforts to provide our alumni with the continuing education they need to acquire professional caliber positions for many in-demand occupations.

For more information, please visit our website at <http://pace.bgsu.edu> or contact Continuing and Extended Education at 1-877-650-8165 or 419-372-7872. If you would like to email your questions, please send them to Carl Dettmer at carl@bgnnet.bgsu.edu.

Did you know that as a graduate of BGSU, you are eligible for a lifetime of FREE Career Services advice? Contact the Office of Career Services at 419-372-2356 for more information.

Be sure to visit the Alumni Association web site at www.bgsualumni.com. On-line chat rooms, event listings, the latest campus news and bookstore merchandise can all be found there!

Dance Marathon 2005 Update

It is hard to believe that in less than a month Dance Marathon 2005 will be here! There is much excitement on the campus about our upcoming event as we prepare to celebrate our 10th anniversary. Also, there is much anticipation about our dedicated alumni returning to BGSU to celebrate the miracles that occur through Dance Marathon!

We currently have over 300 dancers registered, approximately 250 moralers, over 75 volunteers, and 70 bike riders. Dance Marathon 2005 will be one of the largest events we have ever held proving that BGSU students are dedicated to affecting the lives of those who visit Mercy Children's Hospital.

We have held alumni events in Bowling Green and Columbus and had planned to go for a third event in Cleveland, but unfortunately, it was cancelled. If you would like to help plan reunions in the future, please contact Nolan Hensel through email at nolanjh@bgnet.bgsu.edu to get involved.

We cannot wait to have many of you return for Dance Marathon 2005! As the Director, please consider this as a personal invitation to you to join us as we continue this incredible tradition. "A Decade of Miracles, A Lifetime of Hope" is our theme this year, which directly reflects on the effort and dedication you have put forth throughout your involvement with Dance Marathon! Please join us on March 19 and 20 to celebrate Dance Marathon 2005!

DM Letter Writing Campaign

This year the Dance Marathon executive committee has taken a large step into what is going to be a promising aspect of informing others of Children's Miracle Network as well as increasing the possible funds raised.

This year Dance Marathon is partaking in what we are calling the Letter Writing Campaign. In previous years, Dance Marathon has always provided a template for students who wish to send letters to family and friends to help them raise money. This year, however, the Dance Marathon steering committee is taking a larger roll by not only providing a template but by sending the actual letters for our fellow students.

The steering committee sent these letters at the beginning of the spring semester. We saw a huge interest in this Letter Writing Campaign. Not only do we look to have a better financial flow from this form of letter writing but we also look to have a large number of these individuals wish to learn more about the Dance Marathon cause.

Although it is too late to be placed onto this year's list to receive the letter from Dance Marathon and our Letter Writing Campaign it is still possible to send us your name and address for future letters from Dance Marathon.

Please contact kkanabl@bgsu.edu to be placed on a list of potential donors through the letter writing campaign.

Bike for Tikes

2005 marks the first year for the new Dance Marathon bike ride, "Bike for Tikes." Formerly known as the Sigma Chi Bike Ride, the bike ride is in its 5th year of existence. In past years the bike ride has grown tremendously. We are excited to take a record amount of riders this year, 75, on the trip. The ride is approximately 185 miles, and we will travel from Cincinnati to Bowling Green throughout the weekend of Dance Marathon, arriving in time for the closing ceremony.

These brave riders push themselves to their physical peak. Riders have ridden in conditions from snowstorms to sunshine in past years. To cap off a weekend full of biking, we have invited the riders' parents along with the miracle kids to Portage, Ohio to have a reception and a warm welcome home before heading back to DM.

We are very excited to have "Bike for Tikes" associated with Dance Marathon this year, and in years to come. There is no doubt that the bike ride will continue to be successful and continue to grow. Traveling the grueling 185 miles is well worth the satisfaction of knowing you helped changed the life of a child. FOR THE KIDS!!!!

Dan Black
Director - Bike for Tikes



Office of Alumni Affairs
Mileti Alumni Center
Bowling Green State University
Bowling Green, OH 43403

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Toledo, Ohio
Permit No. 522

Be sure to keep
PACE
with your educational
needs. Learn more about
Bowling Green
State University's
Professional and
Continuing
Education program at
<http://pace.bgsu.edu>.

Visit the Office of Alumni Affairs
on the web at
www.bgsualumni.com

Alumni Information...



Shirt Color = Burgundy
All text = White
On Back = ALUMNI (in white)

Name: _____ Year of Graduation: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Company: _____
Position: _____
Email Address: _____

- Yes, I will be attending Dance Marathon and the luncheon at EasyStreet
- No, I will not be attending Dance Marathon
- Yes, I would like to participate in Dance Marathon as an Alumni Dancer and agree to raise \$50 in order to do so.
- No, I would not like to participate as an Alumni Dancer
- Yes, I would like to order a DM Alumni t-shirt for \$5 (Size _____)
(Note: if you are an Alumni Dancer, your t-shirt is free.)

Please Send Your Information To: BGSU Dance Marathon Office
c/o Nolan Hensel
417 Bowen-Thompson Student Union
Bowling Green State University
Bowling Green, OH 43403

