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**New, unified state university system ordered by governor**

Ohio higher education institutions woke up to a new reality Aug. 3 with the announcement of an order by Gov. Ted Strickland creating a "University System of Ohio" that will unite the state's 13 four-year universities, 23 two-year colleges, Northeastern Ohio Universities College of Medicine and regional adult Career Centers.

The new system, planned to go into effect in January, will not replace the institutions' governance structures but will increase cooperation and collaboration among the schools while keeping tuition down and raising quality, the governor said.

Calling for a "new Ohio birthright" of access to higher education, Strickland charged Eric Fingerhut, state chancellor of higher education, with the creation of a 10-year plan setting benchmarks for improving quality and affordability and a timeline to achieve the unification.

President Sidney Ribeau, who had met with the governor along with the other state university and college presidents and the superintendents of the state's Career Centers at the Inter-University Council Aug. 2, said representatives from the various institutions will join with the chancellor and Bruce Johnson, IUC chair, to develop the plan, which is due March 31, 2008.

**No immediate changes**

Ribeau described the move to the unified system as "part of an effort to give greater support to higher education." How the plan will ultimately be worked out is as yet unclear, he said, but there will be no immediate changes. "There will still be the board of regents, and universities will keep their individual boards of trustees. There will be a higher degree of coordination between the Career Centers and between the regional campuses, however," Ribeau said. The centers deliver adult education and basic literacy programs.

About 80 percent, or 470,000, of Ohio's 600,000 college students attend state universities. Since taking office in January, Strickland has initiated several changes in the state's higher education program. He elevated the state Board of Regents chancellorship to a Cabinet-level position, and pushed through a budget that gave more money to the colleges while freezing undergraduate tuition for two years.

**Centers of excellence to reduce duplication**

While the colleges will retain their autonomy under the unified system, Strickland said, the plan will identify "centers of excellence" in institutions. In his discussion of the unified system, Fingerhut said, "Our university presidents, deans and provosts understand that the proliferation of knowledge has made it impossible for their schools to be world leaders in every field. Differentiating the missions of our universities and building centers of excellence that are recognized across the globe is both an opportunity for our system to excel and a necessity in today's world."

The centers, which will be named in cooperation with the schools, will be based on each institution's individual mission and strongest programs.

"Each institution will be asked to come up with a clearly defined mission statement that states its unique characteristics," Ribeau explained. "The governor's goal is to create top-level programs," he added, while recognizing the need for each institution to have the necessary array of disciplines in both the arts and the sciences.

Ribeau added that the governor believes a key factor for success will be better dissemination and better distribution systems so that students in every region will have access to the classes they need. The president predicts that a greater focus will be placed on distance and online education.

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According to Chancellor Fingerhut, there is also a need for greater articulation between the state's two- and four-year institutions—"which can be done without any extra legislation. Coordination is not more costly and doesn't require any additional personnel," Ribeau commented.

One organizational change that has been announced is that, beginning in 2009, the directors of the Career Centers will report to the chancellor instead of the superintendent of the state Department of Education, Ribeau said. Fingerhut pledged that the state will take "full advantage of the opportunities to reach adult students presented by the transfer" of the centers' programs to the Board of Regents.

**Developing the plan**

The new philosophy will impact decision-making on all aspects of Ohio higher education, Fingerhut said in his remarks to public higher-education leaders.

Ribeau said the planning process will comprise five study teams: Systemwide Goals, Economic Growth, Affordability, Funding, and Marketing and Outreach.

Based on the content under discussion, the appropriate person or people—whether the president, CFO or others—at the respective institutions will meet with the chancellor and IUC President Johnson and his staff to provide input on shaping the plan, Ribeau said, adding there is no timeline for meetings as yet.

On the whole, "The overall idea calls for more alignment and regional coordination," he said.

**Family Campaign reaches new heights**

Faculty, staff and retirees joined together to make BGSU's Family Campaign the most successful to date. More than \$1 million in gifts and pledges was raised for scholarships and a host of campus programs and services.

The 2007 goal was \$700,000 in cash and 56 percent participation. The campaign far exceeded its cash goal and ended with \$801,325 in cash and 53.58 percent participation.

A massive volunteer effort across campus helps spread the word about Family Campaign each year. A 21-member cabinet and nearly 90 department representatives promote the campaign and the ability to designate gifts to any area on campus.

"The momentum the campus has created with Family Campaign is tremendous. It sends a very positive message to our alumni and friends that the people closest to BGSU truly believe in our mission and support it generously," said Michelle Banks, director of annual giving and Family Campaign coordinator.

That internal support can equate to external support as well. Many corporations and foundations consider an institution's faculty and staff giving levels when awarding grants and contributions. In addition, all gifts for Family Campaign count toward BGSU's \$120 million Building Dreams Campaign.

Since its inception in 1999, Family Campaign has raised \$8.29 million. "That is a true testament to the generosity of our faculty, staff and retirees," Banks said. "When you consider the impact \$8 million can have on our campus and for our students, it's remarkable."

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**Stargazing students at BGSU seek answer to decades-old question**

Some of Dr. Andrew Layden's students have spent their summers staring at the stars.

But it's not just any stars they've been watching since 1999. The stargazers have trained their BGSU telescope on a particular class of the celestial bodies in an effort to resolve a 50-year dispute.

Layden, physics and astronomy, has enlisted nearly 20 undergraduate and graduate students—many for more than one year—to study pulsating RR Lyrae stars. "We're looking at these things as part of a project to figure out what their true wattage is," he explains. "Our goal is to end, once and for all, the arguments about what their luminosity is."

That figure is currently estimated at 30-50 times the luminosity of the sun, according to Layden, and to narrow it down, he adds, researchers must also determine how far away the stars are.

Known to exist for roughly 100 years, RR Lyrae stars pulsate "very strongly and very regularly," causing their size to vary by 15-20 percent twice a day, he says. As they get larger and smaller, they get brighter and fainter as well. At the same time, gas on the stars' surface changes temperature, causing changes in color—they're blue, or hotter, at their brightest and red, or cooler, when dimmest, he notes.

The BGSU students take pictures of the stars with a telescope-mounted camera, then measure their luminosity on the pictures and chart the changes over time on a graph. This summer, those students have been nighttime observers Steve Dembkowski, a sophomore from Strongsville with a minor in physics, and Ryan Lorek, a physics major from Fostoria who graduated in May, along with Andy Broderick, who has done daytime computer work as well as observation. A senior physics major from Newark, Broderick will be working with Layden again this fall on an independent study research project.

Finding the stars' distance from Earth is the other part of the equation. They're scattered around the galaxy, from 3,000-7,000 light years away, Layden points out, saying that estimates have varied by about 10 percent over the last 50 years or so. He is part of a 20-year project with NASA to build a Space Interferometry Mission (SIM) satellite that would be able to accurately measure distances to celestial objects. Original plans called for a 2009 launch, but the project—involving more than 100 scientists working on roughly a dozen distance-measuring studies—is now on hold indefinitely, he says, mentioning 2015 as a possible alternative date.

Layden's hopeful, however, that an eventual combination of the SIM satellite and measurements of the stars' brightness by telescope will enable an accurate determination of the disputed wattage.

Two of his former students, Jeff Gregorsok and Goldwater Scholar Katie Guldenschuh, presented a paper about the Variable Star Project at the American Astronomical Society's national conference in 2004. And Broderick says his work with Layden has taught him a lot not only about variable stars and scientific observation but also about "how to read and what to look for in a scientific paper. Probably most importantly," he adds, "I've learned how science is really done, by real scientists, in the real world."

In 2006, Layden's efforts with students were rewarded with BGSU's Elliott L. Blinn Award for Faculty-Undergraduate Basic Research/Creative Work, which included \$4,000 for continued support of undergraduate research. That money "kept summer students going," as well as some independent study projects, says Layden, who may apply this fall for a National Science Foundation grant for a different vein of the same study.

"For the foreseeable future," he predicts, "I still see us using the telescope to look at variable stars."

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**Life, legacy of C.S. Lewis focus of new reference set**

Rarely has a writer appealed to both a scholarly and popular audience to the degree that C.S. Lewis has. The author of the beloved “Narnia” fantasy books, Lewis is also respected as a literary historian and cultural critic, as well as for his religious writings.

Capturing the range of such a prolific artist requires a range of books, says Dr. Bruce Edwards, an English faculty member and associate director for distance and international programs. Edwards, a well-known scholar of the Anglo-Irish writer and author of four previous books on him and his work, has recently edited a series of four volumes on Lewis, published by Greenwood Press.

*C.S. Lewis: Life, Works and Legacy* is the first comprehensive look at all aspects of Lewis, filling in some of the gaps in previous scholarship while presenting a balanced approach to the man and his work, Edwards said. It is available online at Barnes and Noble, Borders and Amazon.com.

At the same time, Edwards also “has the serendipity of being a published author in Japan and the United States,” he said. His 1988 book, *A Rhetoric of Reading: C.S. Lewis’s Defense of Western Literacy* (“translated by Google somewhat hilariously as *Rhetoric logos of C.S. Lewis’s leading jauntily Emma’s integration*,” he said humorously) has recently been published in Japanese.

**Multiple volumes**

Edwards has immersed himself in studies of Lewis since his doctoral student days and maintains a popular Web site on the author. As a C.S. Lewis Fellow, he spent the summer of 2004 living and working in Lewis’s former home in Oxford, England. So he was perhaps a natural to edit the new books.

“I was approached by Greenwood to do two scholarly resource volumes on Lewis, but I knew that wasn’t enough to cover all his work, so I said, ‘How about four?’” he recalled. The time was spring 2005, just before the release of the first of the Chronicles of Narnia movies, and interest in Lewis was high. Greenwood agreed.

Working from Tanzania that summer, where he was posted on a Fulbright-Hays grant, Edwards set about laying out the topics to be covered, selecting top-caliber writers from North America and Europe to compose the essays and deciding which he would write himself.

The resulting set comprises: Volume 1, *An Examined Life*, a specifically biographical work that sets the events of Lewis’s life in historical context and discusses his friendship with such luminaries as J.R.R. Tolkien; Volume 2, *Fantast, Mythmaker, and Poet*, focuses on Lewis’s imaginative writings; Volume 3, *Apologist, Philosopher, and Theologian*, deals with Lewis as a defender of the Christian faith and examines his writings and radio broadcasts in the light of postwar Britain, and Volume 4, *Scholar, Teacher, and Public Intellectual*, which reveals some of Lewis’s lesser-known vocations and publications and evaluates his ongoing legacy of scholarship.

Edwards contributed essays on Lewis’s work as a literary researcher and historian and as a teacher. He has always been fascinated, he said, by Lewis’s public role as a lecturer and intellectual.

**Worldwide appeal**

Though Lewis has remained popular since his death 44 years ago, he is much more widely read in North and South America than in his native Northern Ireland or England, Edwards said. “He’s always been loved and tolerated in America, but England doesn’t tend to like its heroes elevated above ‘common folk,’” he observed.

“He’s also always had a big following in Brazil, where he has been translated into Portuguese. In fact, the late Argentine writer Jorge Luis Borges was also a big fan of Lewis’s,” Edwards noted.

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Now, because of the Narnian movie, Lewis has gained new popularity in China, India and Japan, where he is admired for the “pageantry, ritual and tradition” in his stories, Edwards said. “Readers there aren’t so much taken with the allegorical aspect of his work but with the fantasy.”

His scholarly work has also come to be appreciated in Japan, which accounts for the translation and reissuing of Edwards’ *A Rhetoric of Reading*.

**More movies in production**

Lewis’s popularity shows no sign of waning, Edwards said. The second film in the Narnia series, “Prince Caspian,” is due to be released next May, and movies are being made of *The Screwtape Letters* and *The Great Divorce*. The latter, a heaven/hell fantasy, was also once adapted as “What Dreams May Come.”

“I’m sure these will renew everybody’s fascination with Lewis,” said Edwards, who is at work on a new, more traditional biography of the writer that contains previously unexplored information on his personal life.

**Co-op students graduate into full-time jobs**

Last Saturday, 22-year-old Tony Doble of Fremont graduated from BGSU and into a full-time photography job.

But for Doble, a visual communication technology major in the College of Technology, the job waiting for him on Hilton Head Island, S.C., isn’t exactly new. His employer, Legacy Design Photographers, already gave him a “test run” back in 2005 when he was a co-op student with the business.

The College of Technology requires its students to complete three full-time, semester-long co-op positions to graduate—the equivalent of a full year of work. The experience is a key to success in the job market as more companies want to “road test” workers before hiring them for full-time positions, says Barry Piersol, director of cooperative education in the college.

Doble has racked up plenty of experience through two co-ops in the Office of Marketing and Communications as well as the one in South Carolina. He also has operated his own photography business, called Unique Photographics, and done freelance photography for the Fremont News-Messenger while an undergraduate student.

According to Piersol, 92 percent of the college’s graduates are employed in jobs related to their major, 79.1 percent said they felt the co-op experience assisted them in getting jobs, and 49.5 percent of the graduates are employed by companies in which they previously worked as co-op students.

In 2006, BGSU had 700 co-op placements with 464 employers throughout the nation. The students earned a combined income of \$3.8 million.

The employers look to Bowling Green as a supplier, according to Piersol, who says, “They want to hire the best of the best.”

“Students learn to be self-reliant, they learn that they are in the right place, or they learn what they don’t want to do. By the third co-op experience, they are close to being where they’ll be in a full-time job,” Piersol explained.

BGSU’s co-op program has been around since 1968 and is considered one of the top 10 of its kind in the nation. One strength of the program is that University faculty visit BGSU students on the job to observe and evaluate their experience. At the same time, the faculty learn about employers’ needs, get feedback on the University’s course offerings, meet people who could be guest speakers on campus, identify research opportunities and are better able to

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stay current with what's happening in the field, according to Piersol.

"We're always eager to establish new relationships. We'd like to get more companies involved," he adds.

**IN BRIEF****Traffic, activity to pick up at Saddlemire**

Demolition work at the Saddlemire Student Services building will intensify this week following the removal of additional asbestos found recently in the building.

About a week of scheduled demolition time was lost when more asbestos was discovered in ceilings within Saddlemire. But a second round of abatement wrapped up Aug. 2, clearing the way for demolition to resume.

The 40-day demolition period that was to continue through August has been extended by a week, but Marc Brunner, project manager in the Office of Design and Construction, said no work will be done Aug. 16-19—move-in weekend for students.

In an effort to reduce truck traffic once classes resume, stockpiling of fill dirt at Saddlemire will begin this week, Brunner said. Trucks will be hauling dirt from University-owned property east of Interstate 75 to the Ridge Street site. The building's concrete will be ground for use as additional fill, and steel, copper and other building materials are being sorted on site for recycling.

Also, the gate in the fence surrounding Saddlemire is being moved west, nearer the east exit of parking Lot N and Willard Drive, to alleviate heavy truck traffic over a large city sewer line, Brunner added. The exit route will still be east down Ridge Street, which will be closed to traffic except construction and emergency vehicles between Willard and Mercer Road.

**Mark your calendars for Opening Day address**

The campus community is invited to attend President Sidney Ribeau's Opening Day address at 10 a.m. Aug. 17 in the Lenhart Grand Ballroom, Bowen-Thompson Student Union. Coffee and refreshments will be served beginning at 9:30.

**Health by the numbers—be sure to know yours**

Telephone numbers, access codes, addresses—we all know lots of numbers these days. But how many of us "know our numbers" when it comes to our health?

In fact, these may be the most important numbers to know because they can impact our wellness now and in the future.

The BGSU WellAware program will focus this year on helping employees learn their numbers and how to improve them when needed.

What health numbers should you know?

- Blood pressure
- Total cholesterol
- HDL cholesterol (the "good guys")
- LDL cholesterol (the "bad guys")
- Glucose (blood sugar)
- Height

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- Weight
- Body Mass Index

Many factors can influence your health numbers for better or worse, from nutrition to stress and illness, to exercise. Even being a caregiver can have an impact. Unfortunately, dangerous conditions such as high blood pressure or high cholesterol often have no symptoms until it's too late.

Therefore, it is important that we become well aware of our numbers now so we can begin to get those numbers into the healthy range.

Below is the new classification chart from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services showing some of the numbers that you should be "WellAware" of to be in good health.

**Recommended values:**

Variable	Value Ranges	
Blood Pressure	<120/80 120-139/80-89 >140/90 >160/115	Normal Pre-hypertension Stage 1 hypertension Stage 2 hypertension
Cholesterol	<200 200-239 >240	Normal Borderline High High
HDL Cholesterol	>60 <40	High Low
Glucose (non-fasting)	<150 >150	Normal High

Sources: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services-The seventh report of the National Committee on Prevention, Detection, Evaluation and Treatment of Blood Pressure, *Guide to Clinical Preventive Services*, second edition, 1996. National Cholesterol Education Program, *ATP III Guidelines at a Glance*, May 2001.

As the new BGSU academic year approaches, stay tuned for more information about important WellAware opportunities and how you can get "in the know" about your numbers.

## CALENDAR

**Thursday, Aug. 9**

**Estate Planning Seminar for Women,**  
11:30 a.m.-2 p.m., Schedel Arboretum and Gardens, Elmore. Free and open to the public, the seminar includes lunch, a program

on estate-planning options and a tour of the gardens. A shuttle bus will leave Mileti Alumni Center at 10:30 a.m. for anyone needing transportation. Space is limited. To register, call 2-2424 or email [develop@bgsu.edu](mailto:develop@bgsu.edu).

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### FACULTY

**Communication Studies** (two positions).

- Assistant Professor, public relations. Call Victoria Ekstrand, 2-8725. Deadline: Oct. 1.
- Instructor, interpersonal communication basic course. Call Julie Burke, 2-8725. Deadline: Nov. 30.

**Sociology.** Assistant Professor. Call Frank Goza, 2-7256. Deadline: Oct. 1.

**Psychology.** Assistant Professor. Call Annette Mahoney, 2-0282. 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 Web site at [www.bgsu.edu/offices/ohr/](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 in to Human Resources by the job deadline.

### CLASSIFIED

#### On-campus classified:

[www.bgsu.edu/offices/ohr/employment/BGSU\\_only/page11151.html](http://www.bgsu.edu/offices/ohr/employment/BGSU_only/page11151.html)

#### Off-campus classified:

[www.bgsu.edu/offices/ohr/employment/cl\\_staff/page11145.html](http://www.bgsu.edu/offices/ohr/employment/cl_staff/page11145.html)

### ADMINISTRATIVE

[www.bgsu.edu/offices/ohr/employment/adm\\_staff/page11137.html](http://www.bgsu.edu/offices/ohr/employment/adm_staff/page11137.html)

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## OBITUARY

**Karl Schurr**, 76, a professor emeritus of biological sciences, died July 26 in Clarion, Pa. He taught at BGSU from 1962-92.