

> Top Stories[In Brief](#)[Calendar](#)[Job Postings](#)[Obituaries](#)**Challenging day dawns for University: Ribeau**

The new day BGSU faces as it begins the academic year is significantly different from any in the past, President Sidney Ribeau told the capacity crowd at his Opening Day address Aug. 17.

"This different day is one in which we find many changes have taken place from the day before, large and small, which have consequences for us all," he said.

BGSU, and higher education in general, is in the midst of external forces that have the potential to change it considerably. It will be crucial for the campus to understand the seriousness of the situation and "take on the challenges that will allow us to define our future," Ribeau said.

Challenges exist on both the national and state levels, he said, and range from severe budgetary constraints to fundamental questions about the way higher education is conducted.

National debate

The 2006 Spellings Report, commissioned by the U.S. secretary of education, looked at higher education in America and found serious issues with its value and effectiveness, Ribeau said. "While I agree with all the data and issues identified in the report, I don't agree with all its recommendations," he commented. Nevertheless, the results "will impact higher education policy for the entire nation for years to come," he predicted.

The report "pulls no punches" in finding that U.S. higher education has become stagnant and has slipped to 12th in educational attainment among peers worldwide, Ribeau said. It also "makes much of the fact that throughout our nation, our graduates are less literate, and employers note that they lack fundamental skills for success in the workplace."

The president addressed the issue of accountability raised by the report, saying that he agrees with its contention that "higher education must change from a system based primarily on reputation to one based on performance."

Meaningful student learning outcomes must be identified and measured, Ribeau said, noting that BGSU has already made preliminary progress in that area. But if the University is to truly help students achieve their potential, it must ask "We have 3,200 new students this year. What do we expect them to gain? What should we expect our students to know and do?"

"We must create and standardize elegant new methods of evaluation" to ascertain what students can accomplish as the result of a Bowling Green State University education, he argued.

State makes changes

Mirroring the changes in Washington, the state has also taken up the issue of higher education. Democratic Gov. Ted Strickland has not only ordered the creation of a unified state system of higher education, but also has elevated the role of the chancellor to the Cabinet level. "Chancellor Eric Fingerhut reports directly to the governor. This is a very important move," Ribeau said.

Fingerhut has been directed to work with the state's higher education institutions to create a 10-year master plan that will, among other things, create "centers of excellence" among the institutions and guide allocation of resources. "Our part is to help the chancellor develop a plan that is clearly responsive to the brand of education that we value at Bowling Green State University," Ribeau said.

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'A very different budget environment'

While helping shape the direction of the plan, BGSU must also deal with further reductions in funding that threaten its very foundation, the president said. Although the state legislature in its biennial budget has provided a 5 percent overall increase in state share of instruction this year and 10 percent next year, in order to get the additional funds the University is required to forgo any increase in tuition or general fees for both years, the president said. The increase amounts to roughly \$5.1 million for BGSU, but with the rise in operating expenses, including salaries and benefits, combined with an anticipated decrease in enrollment (as part of planned management of BGSU's enrollment program, he added later), "our next budget will be minus about \$3 million," Ribeau said. "Plus, the state has mandated that we have to come up with 1 percent in efficiency savings this year and 3 percent next year.

"This promises to be a very austere budget year requiring a great deal of discipline from all areas of campus," he said. Area vice presidents will begin discussions shortly to develop a plan for each unit.

Calling this a "very different budget environment," the president noted that BGSU has been challenged before with decreased funding and increased costs, but the latest cuts "come on top of millions of dollars we've lost over the last 15 years. It's like you're chipping away at a rock and it's still a rock, but if you keep chipping away it will eventually disintegrate. We're dangerously close to the edge where the structure gives way," Ribeau warned.

Progress despite adversity

In spite of the difficulties it faces, the University continues to find success and positive developments, Ribeau said. He noted the construction of the Sebo Athletic Center, a privately sponsored project spearheaded by Trustee Bob Sebo, and the current demolition of Saddleire Student Services Building to make way for the Wolfe Center for the Arts. The University also has a new provost and new CFO. "There's a lot of good going on to assist us in accomplishing our academic and research mission," he affirmed, noting concurrent improvements in the community that help strengthen the University as well.

BGSU's distinctive mission

As BGSU's marketing campaign makes clear, the University is about "changing the world by degrees," Ribeau said. While it can't change what happens on the state or national level, it can make a difference in the lives of its students and ultimately the world by taking a holistic approach that fosters both intellectual and spiritual growth. "Spiritual growth helps them grapple with the larger issues of their lives, and it can add meaning to a life that often seems empty and vacuous," Ribeau said.

With materialism running rampant and others demonstrating values that seem to be contrary to the principles of the nation's founders, giving students the basis to understand themselves and their place in the world is as important as creating students who are proficient in their knowledge and application of facts, he said.

As the state process moves forward, "one of the fundamental questions we at BGSU must ask ourselves is 'What is the distinct mission of our institution?'" the president said. In keeping with the plan to build centers of excellence, BGSU must ask what it does that differentiates it from its sister institutions and contributes to its national identity and reputation.

Plotting the future

As the University approaches its centennial in 2010, it does have innovative programs and is producing world-class research that distinguishes it from others, Ribeau said. "We do have a distinct niche, but that is not enough." Calling all that has been done a "platform," he said the next step is to map out the future. "We must engage in an intentional and deliberative planning process this year," he said, to ensure that the University is in line with the state's mission and goals if it is to maintain its self-direction.

"We come out of a place where we make a difference," he concluded. "We know that creating competent professionals is not enough. We must also graduate students who are going to make a qualitative difference in the world they inhabit so the next 100 years will be the brightest day for Bowling Green State University."

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U.S. News & World Report: Look for BGSU programs

BGSU is among a select number of universities with “programs to look for” in the 2008 edition of “America’s Best Colleges” by U.S. News & World Report.

The rankings will be published in the magazine’s Aug. 27 issue, on newsstands today (Aug. 20).

It is the sixth straight year the magazine has published a list of schools with outstanding examples of academic programs commonly linked to student success. BGSU has been listed each of the last five years. This year, the University is cited for its first-year experience programs and learning communities.

First-year experience programs include orientation for new students and other academic programs that bring small groups of students together with faculty or staff on a regular basis. At BGSU that includes UNIV 100 success courses, Springboard, BG Experience® and the common reading experience, as well as special publications and services for freshmen—including a librarian dedicated to helping students learn how to use the library, conduct research and use other resource materials.

Learning communities feature small-group settings where students with a common interest live and study together. BGSU learning communities include the Arts Village, Honors Community, Health Sciences, La Maison Française, Chapman Community at Kohl and the Global Village, among others.

The magazine compiled the lists of outstanding programs by working with the Association of American Colleges and Universities to identify the types of programs that enhance student success. The editors then sought nominations from colleges and universities to identify which campuses offer “stellar examples” of such programs.

New people, roles, locations mark start of fall semester

As the new academic year begins, the campus will see a number of changes in personnel and programs that have occurred since spring semester. Following is some of what’s new:

Dr. Shirley Baugher is the new provost and vice president for academic affairs. See www.bgsu.edu/offices/mc/monitor/06-25-07/page31454.html.

Thomas Atwood is the new dean of University Libraries. See www.bgsu.edu/offices/mc/monitor/04-23-07/page29509.html

The Global Village residential learning community has opened its doors. Co-directors are Dr. Kristie Foell—also director of international studies—and Dr. Jeffrey Grilliot, director of global initiatives in Continuing and Extended Education. Additional faculty are Dr. Mwangi Chege, General Studies Writing, and Dr. Nancy Brendlinger, journalism.

In the Division of University Advancement, Montique Cotton Kelly was named director of alumni affairs after serving as interim director for most of this year. She will oversee programs in the Office of Alumni and Development.

Gregory Guzman has been director of Student Financial Aid since June 29. A BGSU alumnus, he returns to campus from Lourdes College, where he had served as financial aid director since 2002. Guzman is also a familiar face from when he was assistant director of compliance in the University financial aid office in 2001-02.

In the Division of Student Affairs:

The Office of Student Life has changed its name to the Office of the Dean of Students, and Campus Involvement will now be known as Campus Activities.

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Dr. Joe Oravec began his appointment as associate vice president for student affairs in early July. He had been chief student affairs officer and dean of students at the University of Bridgeport, Conn., and previously was dean of students at Syracuse University. He has oversight of the Office of the Dean of Students, Student Publications, University Dining Services and Residence Life.

Dr. Michael Griffel is the new director of residence life. Griffel came to BGSU from the University of Idaho, where he had been director of university residence since 1998. He replaces Linda Newman.

College of Arts and Sciences

In January, Dr. Julie Barnes was appointed associate dean for student services for a four-and-one-half-year term.

Effective July 1, the Department of Romance and Classical Studies is the new name for the former Department of Romance Languages. Dr. Rich Hebein is chair.

Also effective July 1, the School of Earth, Environment and Society (SEES) now encompasses the departments of geography and geology, and the Center for Environmental Programs.

Dr. Charles Onasch, formerly chair of the geology department, was appointed SEES director for a five-year term. In this capacity. He will also serve as interim director of the Center for Environmental Programs for one year, replacing Dr. Philip Terrie, who retired. Dr. Sheila Roberts has become chair of geology, while Dr. Arthur Samel continues as chair of the geography department.

Christine Drennen has been appointed interim director of the Center for Canadian Studies for a one-year term effective July 1.

Dr. Louis Katzner has been appointed acting chair of the philosophy department for a one-year term effective July 1.

Dr. Kristie Foell has been appointed co-director of the Global Village for a three-year term effective Aug. 8. She also resumes her position as director of international studies after a year directing the AYA Program in Salzburg.

Dr. Kit Chan has been appointed chair of the Department of Mathematics and Statistics for a four-year term effective July 1.

Dr. Neal Jesse has been appointed chair of the Department of Political Science for a four-year term effective July 1.

Dr. Donna Nelson-Beene resumes her position as director of General Studies Writing after a one-year faculty improvement leave.

Dr. Timothy Pogacar resumes his position as chair of German, Russian and East Asian languages after a one-year faculty improvement leave.

College of Business Administration

Dr. Madhu Rao in January was appointed associate dean for academic operations and research.

Dr. Sue Mota was appointed associate dean for executive and MBA programs beginning April 25.

Dr. Brent Nicholson was appointed associate dean for undergraduate programs effective July 15.

Julie Ash was appointed assistant director of undergraduate studies beginning May 1.

Dr. Kenneth Snead has been appointed chair of accounting and management information systems for a four-year term. He replaces Dr. Lawrence Kowalski.

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Lt. Col. Robert Huckleberry was appointed chair of the aerospace studies department beginning July 23.

Dr. Arthur Yeh has been appointed chair of applied statistics and operations research for a four-year term. He replaces Dr. Madhu Rao.

Dr. Gregory Rich is the new chair of the finance department for a four-year term, replacing Dr. Bob Wu.

College of Education and Human Development

Dr. Rosalind Hammond has been appointed interim dean of the college. She had served as interim director of the School of Teaching and Learning.

Dr. Craig Mertler, educational foundations and inquiry, is the new director of the School of Leadership and Policy Studies.

Dr. Mark Earley is director of educational foundations and inquiry.

Dr. Cindy Hendricks is the new director of the School of Teaching and Learning.

BGSU Firelands

Dr. James Matthew Smith, formerly associate dean for outreach and engagement, is interim dean of the college.

Former dean Dr. James Michael Smith was named vice president for economic development and regional growth, and now has an office in McFall Center on main campus.

Dr. Andrew Kurtz, formerly chair of the humanities department at Firelands, has been named associate dean for outreach and engagement.

Dr. Joel Rudinger is the new chair of the humanities department.

College of Musical Arts

Dr. Mikel Kuehn, composition, has taken over the directorship of the MidAmerican Center for Contemporary Music. Former director Dr. Burton Beerman has returned to the composition faculty.

College of Technology

Dr. James Maxwell has been named the new chair of visual communication and technology education. He replaces Dr. Larry Hatch.

Continuing and Extended Education

Ann Light is interim senior director.

Dr. Jeffrey Grilliot, director of global initiatives, is co-director of the new Global Village.

Saddlemire relocations

With the impending destruction of the Saddlemire Student Services Building, a number of offices have been relocated, many to Conklin North. The Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs is now on Conklin's first floor. The BG Experience program has moved from Moseley Hall to the first floor of Conklin to join other student services programs in the building. The Career Resource Library is also on the first floor, and the Career Center's Student Employment Services has a service counter there.

Occupying the second floor of Conklin is the Office of Residence Life.

The Career Center is housed on the third floor, including the Office of Student Employment Services and the Cooperative Education and Internship Program. Also on the third floor is the Office of Student Support Services.

Most Counseling Center space is on the fourth floor, but one office and the testing center and its staff are on the first floor. The Center for Multicultural and Academic Initiatives has also

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moved to the fourth floor, along with the Office of Pre College Services, which administers such programs as Upward Bound and Educational Talent Search.

The Student Technology Center has moved to computer lab space on the first floor of Hayes Hall.

The College of Technology's Architecture/Environmental Design Studies program is now in the former state Bureau of Employment Services office building at 400 E. Poe Road.

The Center for Applied Technology and its Large Format Digital Imaging Lab are now at 441 Woodland Circle in the Woodbridge Industrial Park behind Meijer. Students, staff and faculty are welcome to drop off printing at the office; an on-campus, staffed drop location is being developed. Meanwhile, the FLAAR digital imaging resource center office is still located at 163 College Park.

BGSU students win international animation contest

A trio of BGSU students has won the top prize in the world's first international FJORG! "Viking Animator" Competition.

The "iron animator" event gave 16 teams from around the world just 32 hours to create a character-driven animation of at least 15 seconds in length. The competitors also had to adhere to at least one of two themes and use at least one of 16 sound bites.

Based on storytelling, animation talent, use of resources, creativity and technical skills, the judges declared BGSU's Team Mocap the first-place winner for their animation, "Switch."

As the top-prize winners, BGSU seniors Jim Levasseur of Libertyville, Ill., and Tomas Jech of Pittsburgh, Pa., along with recent graduate W. Jacob Gardner of Western Springs, Ill., get to have lunch with top Sony executives and animators, as well as receive other prizes. One of those prizes is an all-expenses-paid trip to DreamWorks Animation headquarters for a sneak preview of the new film "Bee Movie," a tour of the facility and dinner with DreamWorks executives.

All three members of the winning team have studied digital arts in BGSU's School of Art. Gardner finished his bachelor of fine arts degree there in May. To see their FJORG! entry and those of their competitors, visit: www.siggraph.org/s2007/attendees/fjorg/ and click on Team Mocap animation.

"The response from the animation community surpassed all expectations," said Patricia Beckmann-Wells, FJORG! chair. "All the teams did a fantastic job throughout the competition, and it was clear early on that it was going to be very difficult for the judges to select one winner. The winners ended up having just a slight edge from a humor, technical and creative perspective."

Picture This, a team from Miami International University of Art and Design, placed second, and Impulse, a team from the Illinois Institute of Art-Schaumburg, won third place in the competition.

FJORG! was held in conjunction with SIGGRAPH 2007, the 34th International Conference and Exhibition on computer graphics and interactive techniques at the San Diego Convention Center.

Judges for the competition were: Simon Allen, an animator with Pixar Animation Studios; Scott Benza, animation director, "Transformers," Industrial Light & Magic; Spencer Cook, animation director, "Spider-Man 3," Sony Pictures Imageworks; Raman Hui, co-director, "Shrek the Third," DreamWorks Animation SKG; Gregorz Jonkajtys, directing artist, and

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Marcin Kobylecki, executive producer, "The Ark" (SIGGRAPH 2007 Computer Animation Festival Best of Show), and David Smith, DreamWorks Animation SKG.

Online safety-issue alert form available

When it comes to safety, the eyes and ears of the campus community are an invaluable aid in alerting the University to problems that might occur. The BGSU Safety Committee has produced an online form to make it easier for faculty, staff and students to report areas of concern such as lighting or a broken sidewalk.

The form is monitored by members of the committee, and issues will be addressed by the appropriate area, from fire safety to disability services. The form is not intended for safety concerns requiring immediate action; those should be directed to Campus Safety at 2-2346.

The new "Safety Issue Request Form" is available under the "Quick Links" tab under MyBGSU. Scroll down to "Miscellaneous Services." The categories the form comprises include accessibility issues, fire safety, landscape, lighting, personal safety, roadway and sidewalk. There is also an area in which to describe the concern. Users may indicate whether they would like a response.

Committee members encourage everyone to use the form when they see something they feel needs attention.

IN BRIEF

Railroad crossing laws to be enforced

As a result of two fatal incidents along the railroad tracks in Bowling Green, the city police and CSX railroad officials will be stringently enforcing the laws regarding railroad track crossing at the appropriate points. Criminal citations will be issued to those not obeying the law. The violations and citations include:

1. Railroad Vandalism or Criminal Trespass; Interference with the Operation of a Train
2. Criminal Trespass
3. Pedestrian on Bridge or Railroad Crossing; and/or
4. Climbing upon Railroad Cars.

The first three violations are all misdemeanors of the fourth degree carrying up to a \$250 fine plus court costs and 30 days in jail. The fourth violation is considered a minor misdemeanor carrying a \$150 fine plus court costs.

It is only permissible to cross railroad tracks at a public right of way associated with a street or sidewalk. Failing to cross at the appropriate point will result in a citation being issued. Additionally for students, as the jurisdiction of the Code of Student Conduct includes behaviors that occur off-campus, violators will be asked to meet with a member of the student discipline staff in the Office of the Dean of Students.

Railroad tracks are not public property but the private property of the railroad company.

Contact the Office of the Dean of Students at 2-2843 with questions.

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Saddlemire update

After a hiatus to accommodate student move-in last Thursday and Friday, demolition of the Saddlemire Student Services Building will resume this week.

Trucks will be using Ridge Street to enter and exit the site, but truck traffic will be dramatically reduced due to the decision to recycle 75-85 percent of the building. Steel, aluminum and copper will be sorted on site and hauled off for recycling. The decision to recycle building materials will contribute to U.S. Green Building Council LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) points for the future Wolfe Center for the Arts, to be built at the Saddlemire site.

In addition, concrete will be ground on site and used for fill there. As walls are torn out and concrete is crushed, dust will be generated. Efforts are being made to control dust by spraying debris with water, but not all of it can be eliminated. If you park adjacent to the site, you may see dust on your car. Please keep your car windows rolled up.

At certain times during demolition, the portion of Ridge Street between Mercer Road and Willard Drive will be closed except for construction and emergency traffic. To reach parking lots N, O and 14 on the west side of Saddlemire, and buildings farther west along Ridge Street, travelers will have to take East Merry Avenue to Willard Drive, then turn right onto Ridge.

No parking lots will be closed, but expect some disruption to traffic flow at the intersections of Ridge and Willard, and Ridge and Mercer, as trucks enter and exit the work site.

Fencing has been installed to keep the following pedestrian routes open: the east-west walk north of the Fine Arts Center; the diagonal walk connecting Kreischer Quadrangle and the Moore Musical Arts Center, and the walk on the east end of lots N and 14. The walk on the south side of Ridge Street will remain open but will close periodically at the lots N/14 exit to accommodate truck traffic.

Please exercise caution around the demolition zone and when using adjacent sidewalks and crossing Ridge Street. Project directors thank the campus community for its patience and apologize for any inconvenience.

Counseling Center to offer walk-in appointments for students

Beginning today (Aug. 20), the Counseling Center is offering walk-in hours when no appointment is needed. Students who would like to meet with a counselor can come to the center Mondays from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., Tuesdays from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., Wednesdays from 1-4 p.m. and Thursdays from 3-6 p.m.

They should plan to arrive at least 45 minutes before the end of walk-in hours to allow enough time to address their concerns.

CALENDAR

Monday, Aug. 20

Fall Semester Begins.

Si Won Lee, 3 p.m., Bowen-Thompson Student Union Art Gallery.

Thursday, Aug. 23

Reception for the art exhibit "Textile Expression: The Moment of the Line—Act II—Motif and Idea Expansion," by Korean artist

Friday, Aug. 24

Guest Concert, Anubis Quartet, all BGSU alumni, 8 p.m., Bryan Recital Hall, Moore Musical Arts Center.

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Saturday, Aug. 25

ARTalk, by Else Ploug Isaksen, painter and co-curator of “2-D or not 2-D? Danish Artists Flirt with Space,” on display in the Willard Wankelman Gallery, 4 p.m., 204 Fine Arts Center. A reception for the artists follows from 5-7 p.m. in the gallery.

Sunday, Aug. 26

Sunday Matinee, “Ecstasy,” 1933, Czechoslovakia, directed by Gustav Machaty, with Hedy Lamarr, 3 p.m., Gish Film Theater, first floor of Hanna Hall. With commentary by film historian Dr. Jan Wahl.

Continuing Events Through Sept. 2

Art Exhibition, “Textile Expression: The Moment of the Line—Act II—Motif and Idea Expansion,” by Korean artist Si Won Lee, Union Art Gallery. Hours are 8 a.m.-9 p.m. Monday-Saturday and 10 a.m.-9 p.m. Sundays.

Aug. 21-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. Sunday.

JOB POSTINGS

FACULTY

Canadian Studies. Associate/Full Professor. Call Connie Allison, 2-2018. Deadline: Nov. 17.

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.