



Acting on a dream

At the age of 3, senior Blake Winn Bard joined his mother's church choir and almost immediately knew the significance of performing in front of an audience. He remembers telling his seven-year-old brother that he needed to take his choir responsibilities more seriously.

From that point on Blake's talent grew. He learned to play musical instruments several years before most of his classmates. In junior high he discovered the theatre. He has performed in a myriad of theatrical shows, operas and musical theatre productions. He has earned awards for his rich-sounding tenor voice, as well as for his musical talents at playing the flute.

"It was something I always wanted to do," he says about singing and acting. "It almost never crossed my mind that I could do something else."

He came to BGSU after his father, Gene Bard, a 1972 BGSU graduate, suggested his son consider attending his alma mater. Blake arrived on campus determined to succeed.

"BGSU has provided a lot of opportunities. I've done a whole lot of different things," he says. He has added costuming, sound, lighting, doing makeup and stage-managing to his repertoire in

the hopes of making himself more marketable after graduating. The theatre department has been wonderful," he adds, from outstanding faculty to the close-knit family of fellow theatre students. "We work and work, and work some more, to put on a season of shows," he explains.

Once completed, the Wolfe Center for the Arts will add a new dimension to the performing arts at BGSU. "It will make a lot of difference to the students and faculty," he says, as well as to the community. The state-of-the-art facility will become the centerpiece of the collaborative arts at the University.

Designed by Snøhetta, an acclaimed architectural firm based in Oslo, Norway, the center will further enhance the arts at BGSU and create one of the most innovative programs in the nation. The facility will be a training school for actors, artists, dancers, musicians and filmmakers. The passion, vision, craft and imagination of a new generation of artists will be inspired, allowing young performers to fulfill their creative potential.

SCHOLARSHIPS

- > Goal—\$35 million
- > Raised to date: \$40.7 million

Opening doors with scholarships



Marcus Harris hopes his legacy at BGSU Firelands is that he helped open doors for kids where opportunities do not naturally exist. He wants to help others much the same as he's been helped.

The nontraditional student from Sandusky, Ohio, receives several scholarships, including the Robert E. Harned Art Scholarship, to ease the financial burden of funding a college education.

He arrived at Firelands in January 2006 when he was 26 years old after a previous failed start at a university and a few years in a sales job.

His current quest for a bachelor's degree finds him focused and totally committed to an art education degree. Eventually he hopes to earn a Ph.D. and teach art at the college level.

Firelands, with its reasonable costs, great educational opportunities and unique, caring environment was the perfect place for him to restart his college experience.

The Harned Art Scholarship is meaningful to him because it helps him purchase art supplies each semester. "It's a feeling of comfort to have that financial backing, especially for the art materials," he explains. "It allows my creativity to soar and to stretch my boundaries when I have the resources to do it."

He does maintain a 30-hour per week job, but instead of working more hours to finance his education, he can serve on the student government, maintain his grade point average and lead a First Book chapter on campus.

He is very proud of the First Book program, which provides books to low-income elementary students who may not have access to reading books in their homes. His involvements at Firelands and in Erie County are his way of giving back to the community that has opened the doors of opportunity for him.

Campaign Update

Scholarships

- > Goal—\$35 million
- > Raised to date: \$40.7 million
- > A total of 472 new scholarships added
- > Includes \$4.8 million for Alumni Laureate Scholars, \$7.1 million for President's Leadership Academy and \$28.6 million for all other scholarships

Strengthening Faculty and Staff Support

- > Goal—\$10 million
- > Raised to date: \$6.9 million
- > 10 new endowed professorships and 2 funds for teaching/coaching excellence have been added

Programs/Facilities

- > Goal—\$35 million
- > Raised to date: \$31.8 million
- > Includes \$5.3 million (\$6 million goal) for Entrepreneurial Programs; \$2.6 million (\$6 million goal) for BG Experience-Vision and Values Initiative; \$871,000 (\$2.5 million goal) for WBGU-PBS; \$7.3 million (\$7 million goal) for Sebo Athletic Center; \$2.6 million (\$3 million private fund-raising goal) for Wolfe Center for the Arts, and \$12.8 million (\$5.5 million goal) for all other programs and facilities

Sustaining the University

- > Goal—\$40 million
- > Raised to date: \$49.4 million
- > Includes \$4.4 million for The Fund for BGSU and \$45 million for all other funds outside the campaign priorities

\$129 MILLION

As of February 29, 2008

\$120 MILLION GOAL



**Building
Dreams**

THE CENTENNIAL CAMPAIGN FOR
BOWLING GREEN STATE UNIVERSITY

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Making no bones about it

When Leigha King was a third grader, she found her first fossils in an empty field next to a hotel where her family was staying. Immediately she was enamored with her discovery—a handful of brachiopods, one of the most common varieties of fossils.

From that point forward, she has immersed herself in information relating to fossils. She has read books and articles that have captured her imagination and has logged countless hours watching Discovery Channel shows that provide images and information about these fascinating finds.

The topic so captivated her that she decided many years ago that paleontology would be her future career. In high school she used every opportunity to research and write about fossils and paleontology. Today, a sophomore at BGSU, King holds on to her childhood dream to work with fossils. She is here because Bowling Green State University was one of the few institutions in the country that offered a degree in geology with a specialization in paleobiology. Additionally, the University's commitment to fostering women in the sciences played a part in her college choice.

The Charlotte Schmidlapp Women in Science Scholarship is important to the strategy of attracting women in the sciences to BGSU, according to BGSU President Sidney A. Ribeau. The scholarship fund, provided through Fifth Third Bank, the trustee, will reward women like King whose goal is to pursue a career in the sciences.

King's goal is first to work in the oil industry as a geologist, where she will focus on conodonts, a microfossil that is often used for petroleum exploration. Eventually, she hopes to transfer her passion for fossils from the oil fields to a museum where she can be a curator for paleontology exhibits and share her fascination with fossils with the next generation of young scientists.

