

## Strengthening values exploration

Bowling Green State University's leadership in integrating discussion about values into students' entire academic and co-curricular experience has just received a generous boost from Hugh Smith, a 1953 BGSU business administration graduate, and his wife Barbara. A \$1 million commitment from the couple will enable the University to increase the number of incoming freshman who will participate in BGeXperience: Vision and Values.

"The Smiths' pledge is an investment in educating our students to become thoughtful citizens," says BGeXperience Director Dr. Donald Nieman, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. "Their support will enable us to reach all first-year students next year while involving upper level students as well. We are truly grateful for their help in expanding this program."

Prior to his retirement in 1998, Smith was the founder and CEO of Western Bank in Los Angeles and currently serves as a director for the Bowling Green State University Foundation Board. He says, "Central to the new BGeXperience is the idea that we, as educated and responsible citizens, have an obligation to improve society – to give back for the gifts we received. By supporting this initiative, I am giving life to the ideals that I champion."

Smith has been an avid supporter of Dr. Sidney Ribeau since 1995 when Ribeau joined the University. Smith states, "My wife and I often joke that we would like to clone Dr. Ribeau and send him to lead other universities throughout the country. I think there is a tremendous need to incorporate critical thinking about values into the entire college experience. We continue to see the devastating effects of people who operate from a platform of self-interest rather than from a solid foundation of guiding values. BGSU is one of the few institutions that is addressing values in a comprehensive way to transform and enrich the college experience so students graduate not just with job skills, but with skills to be productive and responsible citizens."

- Terri Carroll '88  
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