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State of the University address**Ribeau advocates for state support, but counsels self-reliance**

Ohio is faced with a dilemma, President Ribeau said in his State of the University address Feb. 24. It has a declining economy that needs to move from its old, manufacturing base to a new, knowledge base—and it needs educated workers to accomplish that. But it is also dealing with a Medicaid crisis that is consuming 40 percent of its overall budget and a tax structure that inhibits economic growth.

As a result, the funding needed by higher education to train the many needed, knowledge-based workers is being slashed rather than increased, and Ohio continues to stagnate.

In response to the situation, university presidents, including Ribeau, are proposing a Higher Education Compact that would provide supplemental funds to increase both enrollment and access and help see students through to graduation. The plan would establish a stable budget environment for higher education, allowing colleges and universities—as well as parents—to plan for the future with a predictable base level of funding.

The objective is to bring together higher education, the business community, legislators, alumni and friends to make the compact a reality. “We must get all the significant players around the table,” Ribeau said.

“We need more students going to two- and four-year schools,” he said. “We’re lagging behind our neighboring states. College graduates make more money, pay more taxes, and are generally healthier.”

But simply enrolling more students is not enough. “The goal is to award more baccalaureate degrees,” Ribeau said.

While enrollment in Ohio’s colleges and universities has gone up 17 percent over the last five years, it has not been accompanied by a corresponding increase in state support. “Think about this—50,000 students would be approximately the size of the student body at Ohio State University,” the president said. “That means over the last five years we have been providing academic programs and services to 50,000 students who are unfunded.

“That dilutes the budget overall. Now each dollar, instead of covering five students, must cover 10 or even 15 students. Class size grows and instructional quality goes down as faculty don’t have the time to read every paper and make comments. Lab spaces are crowded and services are eroded,” he said.

Worse, because the faculty is stretched so thin, this dilution extends the time to graduation as students cannot get the courses they need to finish their degrees, causing them to have to take on more debt as they remain enrolled for additional semesters, he added.

“The Higher Education Compact would be a significant policy change that would begin to move us in a more positive direction in our state,” he said.

Taking charge of our destiny

Noting that because the state’s formula for funding colleges and universities gives more dollars per student to those with professional programs such as pharmaceutical, law and engineering, Ribeau said that the “flat funding” called for in Gov. Bob Taft’s budget proposal actually translates into a 5 percent reduction for Bowling Green.

Since he does not realistically expect the situation to change anytime soon, Ribeau said, “we must ask ‘What can we do for ourselves?’”

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The answer is we must work toward defining our own future, he said. “We must set clear objectives and then find ways to fund those objectives.”

“We can’t do it with state funding, so we’re going out to find the funding on our own. Like it or not, this is our future. Ten years a trend does make, and I don’t think the state funding is going to come back.”

On the bright side, “We have done just a marvelous job of generating support from our own ‘family’ through the Family Campaign,” he said. “We are unparalleled in our success. Other institutions are always calling our development office to ask them how we do it.

“The root of our success is our commitment. It’s one thing to ask other people to commit their resources to BGSU, but the question is ‘Do you put your resources where your commitment is?’ and we do.”

The University is in the “quiet phase” of its comprehensive campaign, which will be formally launched in April, the president said. Already, many generous gifts have come in to enable the creation of 250 student scholarships, five endowed faculty chairs and significant academic programs such as the Dallas Hamilton Center for Entrepreneurship and the Sebo Endowed Lecture Series, plus the enhancement of our flagship programs such as BGeXperience.

The campaign will also bring about the construction of two new buildings—the Sebo Athletic Center, which will be built entirely with private dollars and will benefit all BGSU athletes, and the Wolfe Center for the Arts, which had received \$8.7 million in capital funds from the state in 2002, and now will be moved along with a \$1.5 million gift from Mary and Fritz Wolfe of Perrysburg.

But the University can and must do much better in the area of sponsored programs and research, Ribeau said. “Our faculty are doing wonderful work,” he said, “but we need more external funding.” By bringing in more grants, BGSU can buy more equipment and support more graduate assistants, he said. “We need to build upon our intellectual capital and translate that into support for the institution.”

Scholarship of Engagement

Research also ties into the Scholarship of Engagement initiative he announced last August in response to the governor’s Commission on Higher Education and the Economy, the president said. By connecting the resources of the University with the needs of the state, problems can be addressed and solutions found.

This is a “very timely, important initiative that speaks to the heart of what we’ve been doing for many years,” he said. It raises the University’s visibility nationally as well—BGSU has already been invited to participate in high-profile conferences on engagement.

Ribeau said he is pleased with the progress made by the Task Force on the Scholarship of Engagement, which has delivered a report with recommendations on how to integrate engagement across the faculty areas of research, teaching and service, and how to integrate it into the reward system.

In response to the task force’s recommendations, Ribeau will take eight “action steps,” including the appointment of a standards committee to develop means of evaluating, documenting and disseminating quality engagement scholarship. The deans have been charged with developing plans for implementing the scholarship of engagement and with documenting examples of such scholarship within their colleges. An interim coordinator will be appointed to oversee faculty professional development. External funding is being sought to establish several Faculty Fellow positions to allow faculty time to focus on their engagement scholarship. Also, a service learning committee to be chaired by Dr. Bob Midden will be appointed. Engaged scholarship will be integrated into program review, and the president will meet with the Steering Committee of the University Council of Deans, Chairs and Directors to discuss how to incorporate the scholarship of engagement into the recognition and reward system.

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However, the president cautioned, not everyone on campus must participate in the scholarship of engagement. Those who, based on their inclination, have a desire and an opportunity to will, while others may instead continue on with their basic research or other scholarly activities.

Be the change you want to see in the world

In closing, Ribeau returned to some earlier themes of his address. Faced with budgetary uncertainty and challenged by fears of war, poverty and other obstacles, “we must seize our destiny and maintain our plan,” he said. We must never abdicate our responsibility to sustain society for years to come, but must revisit our core values, those that make the Academy a unique community: its basis in knowledge and discovery and its valuing of rationality over coercion, he said.

And with everyone’s hectic schedules, “we need fewer meetings and clearer objectives.” This will also allow for more time spent in reflection, and space to get some perspective on what we’re doing, he added.

He also advised that the campus keep in mind that if we are to serve the nation, we must think about our problems collectively, not individually, and maintain an unwavering commitment to honest dialogue.

With challenges looming large, the University must focus on being what we want to be as a University, he said. Quoting Mohandas Gandhi, he said, “Be the change you want to see in the world.”

BGSU seeks to mobilize support for higher-education funding

Ohio lawmakers need to hear a strong message from parents, alumni, students, educators and others that they should provide adequate funding for higher education, according to Larry Weiss, associate vice president for University relations and governmental affairs.

The budget is currently being deliberated in the Ohio House of Representatives, Weiss said, and, although BGSU would lose more than \$5 million during the biennium in the budget presented by the governor, the House is considering even further cuts.

What is discouraging, Weiss and President Ribeau have said, is that legislators continually fail to make the connection between the state’s foundering economy and the lack of an educated workforce that would draw business and investment. The role that higher education, especially four-year institutions, has to play in creating jobs and solving economic problems in the long term is overlooked, they say.

State spending per K-12 student, per nursing home resident and per prison inmate, for example, has climbed steadily since the late ‘90s, while spending per student in higher education has taken a sharp downturn since 2001.

Ohio seems to be trapped in a cycle in which rising tuition at state colleges and universities—due to declining state support—discourages both current and prospective students from getting a degree and creates financial hardships for them and their families.

Universities also recognize there is a great need in Ohio for both tax reform and Medicaid reform. Additionally, say University presidents, investing in higher education will pay dividends in job growth and an expanded tax base over time. Not only do universities serve the young people of Ohio, but they also provide high-quality, knowledgeable workers for the new information economy.

A major part of the funding problem seems to be legislators’ perception that voters do not care about state support for higher education, Weiss says. He repeatedly hears from those in Columbus that they never hear from their constituents on the matter. In fact, during the last budget cycle discussions, Weiss said, an Ohio senator told him, “No one

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ever failed to get re-elected because he or she cut funding for higher education.”

What are we doing?

Bowling Green has responded by working to mobilize constituents—parents, alumni, faculty, staff and students—to let legislators know that the future of the state does indeed lie in a well-educated workforce, and that producing that workforce means helping students get a four-year degree, as opposed to the budget “quick fixes” of cutting programs like higher education.

The Office of Alumni Affairs has created “Advocate for BGSU,” a simple and fast means of contacting legislators directly. By visiting <http://falconalumni.bgsu.edu/alumni/>, citizens can find out who their representatives are and how to contact them by email, phone or letter. The site contains an email link that allows users to either send a pre-written message or compose their own.

Weiss added that, when communicating with legislators, University employees may not use campus phones or BGSU letterhead or postage.

Since the budget proposal is now with the House, it is best to contact representatives at this time. When the debate moves to the Senate in April, citizens should direct their comments to their senators. Again, those names and addresses are available on the “Advocate for BGSU” Web site.

Key messages

The key messages state universities want to impart to lawmakers are that:

- Tuition has risen because state support has fallen. And even the increased tuition and fees have not made up for the loss. On average, from fiscal year 2001 to fiscal year 2005, support decreased by \$1,611 per student, while tuition and fee increases only made up \$1,311 of the difference. Ohio ranks 10th in the nation in reliance on tuition for educational costs, and, at BGSU, students must pay about 64 percent of their educational costs while the state provides about 36 percent.

- Universities have responded to legislators’ charges that they are inefficient by noting their longstanding and continuing efforts at instituting a number of efficiencies, from making permanent personnel cuts to redesigning health care plans to streamlining purchasing. BGSU has aggressively pursued reductions in utility costs and has initiated energy-saving programs. It has increasingly turned to electronic communications to save on paper and postage, and has cut operating budgets campus wide. Academic areas have been consolidated in some cases, low-enrollment programs eliminated and services cut. Four sports have been discontinued in the athletic department. The University continues to look for ways to conserve resources.

- BGSU and other universities have continued to respond energetically to legislators’ calls for more collaboration between public institutions. Collaborations now span a broad range of disciplines but are especially prevalent in medical, science and education areas. BGSU participates in a number of joint degree programs with, for example, the Medical College of Ohio and the University of Toledo. It also offers many distance education programs in conjunction with the state’s community colleges. BGSU participates in the governor’s Third Frontier initiative to bring high-paying, high-tech jobs to Ohio, and is a member of the National Science Foundation-funded Northwest Ohio Partnership on Alternative Energy Systems along with UT and Owens Community College.

Reaching out to parents

Student Affairs staff will present this message to BGSU parents at receptions in Cleveland and Cincinnati in early March. Calls for parent involvement will also appear in an upcoming newsletter mailed to parents as well as in an electronic newsletter and on the parent Web site.

Many voices make a bigger impact

If Bowling Green and the other state universities are to continue to deliver quality education, provide needed student services and incorporate up-to-date technology, they must

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receive adequate funding. Legislators need to hear this message from their constituents and realize that accessible, affordable education benefits the entire state. Weiss urges all University employees to contact their legislators and to ask their friends and neighbors to make their voices heard in Columbus as well.

Wolfes donate \$1.5 million to build campus arts center

Two well-known northwest Ohio patrons of the arts will provide the lead private gift for the University's new arts center.

On Feb. 24, Perrysburg residents Frederic D. and Mary T. Wolfe and the Wolfe Family Charitable Foundation announced a \$1.5 million gift to support what will be known as the Wolfe Center for the Arts. Their gift will help provide for an emerging architect to create a landmark facility on campus for students, faculty and the community.

The board of trustees approved the naming of the building earlier this month. "We're very happy that we are able to do this for Bowling Green State University and for the arts community," said Mary Wolfe. "We believe in the arts and see this facility as a hub for the arts at BGSU."

"We have been very impressed with how well Bowling Green State University has been doing in the past 10 years. We especially like the leadership of President Ribeau and are honored to make this gift to the University," said Frederic "Fritz" Wolfe.

"This is an example of how engaged friends of the University can help to create a facility where students and faculty in the arts can connect with one another and with the community. We are excited to have Fritz and Mary's leadership in helping us realize our dream of having this kind of space for our arts community," Ribeau said.

The new facility will contain classrooms as well as production and studio spaces to link students and faculty in the School of Art, the Department of Theatre and Film and the College of Musical Arts.

The arts center capital project was initiated when the state of Ohio awarded BGSU an \$8.7 million capital grant to build a state-of-the-art performing arts complex. The University is raising the additional funds through private sources to complete the facility, which will cost an estimated \$11.7 million.

Family Campaign looks forward to best year ever

The 2005 Family Campaign kicked off Feb. 17 with high hopes for even greater success this year. The campaign provides an avenue for faculty, staff and retirees to create a stronger University by pledging their support to the areas most important to them, and especially to student scholarships.

BGSU donations have grown steadily over the past six years, noted Executive Vice President Linda Dobb, and she is optimistic this will be another record-breaking year. Fifty-three percent of University employees participated last year, contributing \$935,000.

Not only do employee donations help the University directly, they are also a strong indicator to potential outside donors that those closest to the institution believe it merits support, said Amy Edgar Davis, director of annual giving.

Donors may direct their gifts to any of more than 400 accounts in the BGSU Foundation. Undirected gifts will go to the Support a Scholar fund. All pledges and donations made between last July 1 and June 30 count toward the campaign.

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Pledges and donations may be made by filling out the form in the Family Campaign brochure or electronically by visiting <http://giving.bgsu.edu/development/fundingopps/familycampaign.jsp>.

IN BRIEF**Open forum to introduce first technology dean candidate**

The College of Technology has announced that the first of four candidates for the position of dean will be visiting campus Tuesday and Wednesday (March 1 and 2). Dr. Ernest Savage has announced he will retire after this academic year.

Dr. Bonnie Bachman, former director of the Emerging Technology Department at Motorola, Inc., Fort Lauderdale, Fla., will hold an open forum from 3:45-4:45 p.m. Tuesday in 207 Bowen-Thompson Student Union.

Introduced by Dr. James Smith, dean of BGSU Firelands and chair of the search committee, Bachman will speak on "The Future of a Vibrant College of Technology in Today's World of Higher Education" followed by a question-and-answer session. A reception will be held afterward in the same room.

BGSU Foundation Inc. offers training for fund administrators

The BGSU Foundation Inc., along with the Office of Development, invites University fund administrators to a seminar on "Understanding Foundation Accounts and Development 101 for Faculty and Staff." The two-part seminar will be held from 2:30-5 p.m. March 15 in Mileti Alumni Center.

John Cuckler, assistant vice president for advancement services and controller for the BGSU Foundation, and Judy Hagemann, budget management analyst, will present "Understanding Foundation Accounts." They will present a general overview of the Foundation and explain:

- Realized gains
- Administrative fees
- Endowed earnings
- Spendable income
- Awards
- Distribution
- Expenses, and
- How to transfer in and out of your accounts.

In addition, Marcia Sloan Latta, associate vice president for University advancement and director of development, will lead a session called "Development 101 for Faculty and Staff." She will highlight funding priorities for the University and how the development staff can be of assistance.

To attend, RSVP to the Office of Development at 2-6997 or develop@bgsu.edu by March 10. For further information on the seminar, contact the BGSU Foundation at 2-2551.

Review BG@100 committee minutes online

BG@100 Web pages have been updated with details from the Jan. 10 and Jan. 24 Executive Steering Committee meetings. Minutes of these meetings, along with six approved action items and one approved information item, are now available at www.bgsu.edu/BGat100.

All are invited to visit the Web page to keep informed of progress on the BG@100 project.

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Monday, Feb. 28

BGSU Firelands Diversity Event, "Trains: A Memoir of a Hidden Childhood during and after World War II," presented by Maria Orłowski, child of the Holocaust, 6-7:30 p.m., 1001 Cedar Point Center.

Human Rights Film Festival, "State of Denial," about the HIV/AIDS crisis in South Africa, 2003, closed caption, 6-8 p.m., Bowen-Thompson Student Union Theater.

BGSU Firelands Poetry Reading, featuring Jeff Gundy and Jeff Vande Zande, Midwest poets, 7:30 p.m., Central Lounge. Sponsored by the Firelands humanities department and Firelands Writing Center.

Tuesday, March 1

Center for Family and Demographic Research Spring Speaker Series, "Intergenerational Conflict and Youth Maladjustment: A Process Orientation," by Jean Gerard, family and consumer sciences, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., 207 Union.

Faculty Senate, 2:30 p.m., McFall Assembly Room.

Films in French Series, "Lumumba," 2000, directed by Raoul Peck, 7:30 p.m., Gish Film Theater, first floor, Hanna Hall.

Student Jazz Combos, 8 p.m., Bryan Recital Hall, Moore Musical Arts Center.

Wednesday, March 2

Arts & Sciences Forum, "Towards a Perception of Jazz: America's Creative Improvised Art Music," presented by Chris Buzzelli, Jeff Halsey and Roger Schupp, musical arts, noon-1:15 p.m., 202B Union.

Brown Bag Lunch, "Legal Issues for Lesbian Moms," presented by Michelle Clossick and Rob Salem, School of Law, University of Toledo, noon-1 p.m., 107 Hanna Hall.

Dissertation Defense, "Transforming Global Experience: Critical Cultural Strategies for Expatriate Acculturation Training," by Julie Parenteau, communication studies, 12:30 p.m., 310 West Hall.

Dissertation Defense, "Determining the Predictive Validity of the New Student Transition Questionnaire at Bowling Green State University," by Molly B. McClure, educational administration and leadership studies, 2-4 p.m., 444 Education Building.

Faculty Artist Series, featuring Alan Smith, cello, and Diana Barker Smith,

piano, 8 p.m., Bryan Recital Hall, Moore Musical Arts Center.

Thursday, March 3

Administrative Staff Council, 1:30-3:30 p.m., Pallister Conference Room, Jerome Library.

International Film Series, "Za kem zamuzhem pevitsa (The Soloist)," 1988, Russia, directed by Oleg Nikolaevskii, 7:30 p.m., Gish Film Theater, Hanna Hall.

Trumpet Ensemble, directed by Charles Saenz, 8 p.m., Bryan Recital Hall, Moore Musical Arts Center.

Friday, March 4

Stranahan Lecture Series in Philosophy, "On the Original Contract: Evolutionary Game Theory and Human Evolution," presented by Alexander Rosenberg, R. Taylor Cole Professor of Philosophy, Duke University, 4-6 p.m., 301 Shatzel Hall. Sponsored by the Social Philosophy and Policy Center.

Hockey vs. Michigan, 7:05 p.m., Anderson Arena.

Saturday, March 5

Men's Basketball vs. Central Michigan, 2 p.m., Anderson Arena.

Continuing Events Through March 2

Annual Undergraduate Art and Design Exhibition, Dorothy Uber Bryan and Willard Wankelman galleries, Fine Arts Center. Gallery hours are 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Tuesday and Wednesday.

March 3-6

Caryl Crane Children's Theatre, "Tales from Hans Christian Andersen," Thursday-Saturday at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday at 2:30 p.m., McBride Auditorium, BGSU Firelands. Tickets are \$4 for Firelands students, \$5 for children, \$6 for senior citizens, and \$8 for all other adults. Call 2-0747 for reservations and group rates.

Through March 5

Planetarium Show, "Skywatchers of Africa." Showings are at 8 p.m. Tuesday and Friday and at 2 p.m. Saturday. \$1 donation suggested.

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Through April 6

Art Exhibition, "Natura Morta," digital collage by Karen La Vallee Norton, Little Gallery, BGSU Firelands. Gallery hours are 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Friday.

JOB POSTINGS

FACULTY

Music Education. Instructor. Call Mark Munson, 2-8733. Deadline: March 11.

General Studies Writing. Instructor (17 positions). Call Donna Nelson-Beene, 2-7885. Deadline: March 14.

Physics and Astronomy. Instructor. Call John Laird, 2-7244. Deadline: April 30.

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

View job descriptions at: www.bgsu.edu/offices/ohr/employment/BGSU_only/

The deadline for employees to apply is 1 p.m. Friday, March 4.

Administrative Secretary 1 (R-010)—College of Business Administration Dean's Office. Pay grade 8. Twelve-month, full-time position.

Cook 1 (C-009-Vf)—University Dining Services. Pay grade 3. Nine-month, part-time position.

Custodial Worker 2 (R-011)—Facilities Services, Residence Halls. Pay grade 2. Twelve-month, full-time position.

ADMINISTRATIVE

View job descriptions at:

www.bgsu.edu/offices/ohr/employment/adm_staff/

Program Adviser (R-015)—Student Support Services. Administrative grade 12. Deadline: March 4.

Menu Management Systems Administrator (V-016)—University Dining Services. Administrative grade 13. Deadline: March 13.

Assistant Athletic Director for Financial Affairs (R-009)—Intercollegiate Athletics. Administrative grade 16. Review of applications began Feb. 14 and will continue until the position is filled.

Psychologist (V-147)—Counseling Center liaison to the College of Arts and Sciences. Administrative grade 14 (unlicensed) or 17 (licensed). Review of applications began Feb. 18 and will continue until the position is filled.

Psychologist (V-147)—Counseling Center liaison to the Office of Residence Life. Counseling Center Outreach Coordinator. Administrative grade 14 (unlicensed) or 17 (licensed). Review of applications began Feb. 18 and will continue until the position is filled.

Assistant Director, Student Union (R-007)—University Dining Services. Administrative grade 16. Review of applications will begin Feb. 21 and continue until the position is filled.

Technology Support Specialist (V-041)—Information Technology Services. Administrative grade 13. Deadline: March 4.

Manager, University Dining Services (V-119)—Student Affairs (re-advertised). Review of applications began Nov. 15 and will continue until the position is filled.

Coordinator for Greek Affairs (V-145)—

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Student Affairs (re-advertised). Administrative grade 12. Review of applications began Jan. 31 and will continue until the position is filled.

Residence Hall Director (V-013)—Residence Life. Administrative grade 13. Review of applications will continue until the position is filled.

OBITUARY

Fayetta M. Paulsen, 79, associate professor emeritus of residence life, died Feb. 20 in Michigan. She retired from the University in 1990 as assistant vice president of student affairs and associate professor of education. She began her 27-year career at BGSU as Dean of Women. A lecture series and a room in Saddlemire Student Services Building are named in her honor, as is the University's chapter of Mortar Board.

Cyril Houser, 68, died Feb. 19 in Bowling Green. He retired from his job as a University carpenter in 1999.