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Faculty debate aspects of engagement

"Engaged" was the operative word Dec. 1 when BGSU faculty and staff met to discuss how the University can serve the needs of the state and society while preserving the identity and integrity of the academy.

President Sidney Ribeau hosted a forum with invited guest Hiram Fitzgerald, assistant provost for university outreach and engagement at Michigan State University and a national leader on issues related to the implementation of the scholarship of engagement. Fitzgerald spent the day meeting with administrators and campus faculty leaders to relate what MSU is doing and discuss BGSU's efforts. His forum presentation was titled "Advancing Knowledge to Serve Society: Scholarship-Focused Outreach and Engagement" and dealt primarily with community-based scholarship.

About 60 faculty and staff members participated in the forum to begin to respond to the call by legislators for higher education to justify its subsidization by providing tangible service to society. As Ribeau told the gathering, "The academy has come to a new juncture where we're being asked to look at things in a different way from in the past. We have an opportunity—a mandate, in fact—to use our intellectual capital in new ways and to answer the question 'How does what you do serve the greater good of society? If we're going to fund you, how do you legitimize that?' And how do we integrate that into teaching, learning and service?"

Fitzgerald emphasized that, in order to truly be of service and consequently instill respect for their work, a key question for academics conducting community-based research must be: "Have we left the community with the knowledge it needs to sustain the effective preservation of programs we've created?"

Questions raised

It was clear from the ensuing discussion that there are many questions to be resolved—about reward and incentives, academic rigor, research agendas and impact on junior faculty, to name a few of the topics addressed.

BGSU, or even Ohio, is not alone in dealing with this challenge. Fitzgerald, who is on the Public Service Task Force on Engagement of the National Association of State Universities and Land Grant Colleges, noted that "there is no difference between the Clinton administration and the Bush administration" in terms of demand for accountability from higher education. "That's why the Kellogg Commission was created," he said, referring to the commission created in 1996 by NASULGC to help define the direction public universities should go in the future and to recommend an action agenda to speed the process of change.

The commission was charged not only with defining and bringing to public attention the kinds of changes occurring at public universities today, but also with analyzing necessary reforms and suggesting ways to accomplish them and monitor the results. In its "Renewing the Covenant" report, while validating the need for more engaged scholarship, it also noted that society today tends to give far greater value to research that has the possibility of commercialization than that which expands the boundaries of knowledge, and cautions against this trend.

Deanne Snaveley, associate dean of the Graduate College and chair of BGSU's Task Force on the Scholarship of Engagement, moderated the discussion, which included a panel composed of task force members John Laird, physics and astronomy; Radhika Gajjala, communication studies, and Wendy Manning, sociology. Faculty members expressed great concern for what the changes might mean for both research agendas and recognition in terms of tenure and promotion.

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Reshaping scholarship and its reward system

"How is this reshaping traditional scholarship?" Gajjala asked, adding she hopes there will still be the same level of rigor in assessment of scholarly activities and a preservation of the traditional hierarchies.

Fitzgerald pointed out that "scholarship defines the institution of the academy." Simply doing community projects is not the answer: "We're not a social service agency," he said. "Our job is to teach and to discover. We must preserve our identity as scholars. Even community work must be scholarship based."

However, he also called for broadened respect for a number of methodologies and a recognition that no one methodology can answer all questions. "I'm not calling for devaluing anybody but valuing everybody." The academy must find ways to reward the scholar whose work is community based just as much as the bench scientist, he said, adding that community-based scholarship is not for everyone, and he would not want to take a basic researcher away from his or her work to do community work.

This prompted Manning to ask how that fit into the ways in which faculty have been trained to attempt to publish their work in the highest-tier journals, to which Fitzgerald responded that if someone is doing his or her best work, it should be valued in the academy whether published in top or secondary journals.

Provost John Folkins added that selectivity and quality are not always synonymous when speaking of scholarly journals, but others objected.

Laird said this paradigm shift brings concerns about maintaining standards for the University when moving beyond measures scholars have access to now. "I'm reluctant to give up measures I understand and know how to use," he said. "How do we assess quality after I leave the research domain?"

Manning concurred, posing a hypothetical situation: "A community might think my project was great, but others in my field might not think it was well conducted. How do we weigh and compare the two assessments?"

These are all questions that will need to be addressed. Manning also pointed out that one problem with widening the reward system to less traditional forms of scholarly activity is that the merit pool does not grow concurrently. With shrinking state and federal support for higher education, the question becomes more urgent.

Jane Rosser, assistant director of Partnerships for Community Action, said scholars need to "find a way to tell the story differently" to represent their work, and that institutions must work to remove the "risk factor" from faculty who wish to do community-based research so they will feel secure that they are not jeopardizing their futures by engaging in it.

Growing international-student enrollment at BGSU bucks national numbers

The number of international students studying at U.S. colleges and universities fell last year for the first time since 1971, the Institute of International Education reported last month.

But at the same time it dropped by 2.4 percent nationwide, foreign-student enrollment rose at BGSU—and continued to climb this fall.

With 610 students from 90 foreign countries on campus this semester, BGSU has seen a 3.5 percent increase in enrollment of such students from a year ago and a 7.4 percent jump since fall 2001.

BGSU's response to a primary factor in the national downturn has aided the University's

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international-student numbers, according to Jeff Grilliot, director of the Center for International Programs.

Foremost among the reasons for the declining number of international students nationwide, Grilliot said, was a slowdown in the process for issuing student visas after an electronic tracking system was created following Sept. 11, 2001.

Immigration documents are now issued through the Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS), which colleges and universities were required to implement by the end of July 2003. Information about current and admitted international students, including the expected length of their stay in the United States, is part of a database compared with names on intelligence or law enforcement lists.

“The new system, during its implementation phase, had some glitches that created a slowdown in visa issuance,” Grilliot explained. “It really took awhile to get this thing implemented correctly.”

BGSU, however, was in the first 5 percent of institutions to implement SEVIS successfully, he said, “and because we responded very quickly and had our system up and running very early, we didn’t experience the slowdowns that some of the other universities did.”

The University got its offers to desired foreign students more quickly, along with their required immigration papers, giving the students more time to obtain visas, Grilliot added.

“We kept ahead of the curve in visa issuances, and it helped us with our numbers,” he said, noting that while a backlog of cases still has some universities running behind, he thinks normalcy should be restored by next fall.

Grilliot also cited other, related reasons that have contributed to the situation nationally. Prospective students from certain countries have been subject to 30-day background checks, and by the time they were cleared, they missed deadlines and couldn’t attend U.S. universities. Some parents have been deterred by a perception that the country isn’t safe due to the threat of terrorism. And because of the increasing cost of higher education in America, lower-cost competition—mainly in the United Kingdom, Australia and Canada—has become more popular.

But tuition is rising in those countries as well, erasing their cost advantage, said Grilliot, who found more reasons for optimism on a recent three-week recruiting trip to Southeast Asia.

Traveling with representatives from about 30 other U.S. institutions, he heard from consular officials that the visa issuance rate for students from the countries he visited had been down to roughly 60 percent but has bounced back to 98 percent. The trip included stops in Tokyo, Seoul, Taipei, Hong Kong, Manila, Bangkok, Kuala Lumpur and Singapore.

While a perception of visa hassles persists, “a U.S. education is still recognized as the best in the world” and is luring more Southeast Asian students back, he said, pointing out that improving regional economies are helping families’ ability to send their children abroad.

He had not made a similar trip in seven years, but this one “was right on time,” noted Grilliot, who returned with nearly 1,000 completed inquiry cards about Bowling Green.

It was also in keeping with BGSU’s Academic Plan, which lists increasing recruitment of international students among the possible approaches to “Understanding Cultures and Nations”—one of the plan’s five themes, or strategies for achieving the University’s vision and mission.

“You want to attract the best and brightest people in the world to your country,” he said. “What we’re looking for are highly academically qualified, fee-paying international students.”

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The majority at BGSU, as well as nationwide, have come from India and China. Roughly 90 students from each country are on campus this fall. Next on the list is Canada, which is represented by about 40 students at BGSU now.

While the number of degree-seeking, foreign graduate students at the University has remained at just over 400, the number of like undergraduates rebounded to 153 this fall after having fallen to 97 in 2003. The remaining international students are considered guests—not seeking a degree but still fully enrolled, if only for a semester-length or yearlong cultural experience.

BG Gives Back exceeds goal

The University's annual charitable giving campaign ended on a high note when co-chair Maureen Ireland announced that 2004 giving exceeded the campaign goal. As of Nov. 16, \$95,014 had been raised on the main campus, and \$3,372 had been raised at BGSU Firelands.

The totals represent increases of 13 percent and 24 percent, respectively, on the two campuses.

More than 600 employees donated to help children and families in northwest Ohio through United Way and Northwest Ohio Community Shares.

"This year's campaign was lively and so successful," Ireland said, adding, "We were helped in no small way by all of the wonderful raffle prizes Ginny Pinkelman, our prize chair, was able to gather."

Among the businesses and individuals who contributed raffle prizes that could be won by employees pledging to the campaign were: Alyssa Lee's Cocoa Bean, Barney's on Main, Bee Gee Book Store, Dairy Queen, Eaton Aeroquip, Finders, Grinder's, Hair Unlimited, Home Depot, Myles Pizza, Panera Bread, the Toledo Mud Hens, Marie Alvarez, Nora Cassidy, chemistry; Continuing and Extended Education, Sharon Franklin, design and construction; Chris Hattendorf, Nancy Posey and Ginny Pinkelman, both in the bursar's office; the athletic department, the University greenhouse, the President's Office, the Student Recreation Center and WBGU-TV.

The grand-prize winner of a parking space donated by BGSU Parking and Traffic was Kandy Dukes of admissions.

Ireland thanked all the campaign participants, saying, "We are very grateful to everyone who volunteered on the steering committee or served as a departmental representative. And, of course, we were overwhelmed by the generosity of those who contributed money and prizes. Everyone's efforts combined to help us really give back in a big way to our community. We should be proud."

Dobb wins state library award

Linda Dobb, executive vice president, has been named the 2004 winner of the Ohio Library Outstanding Supporter of Support Staff Award. The Support Staff Interest Group of the Academic Library Association of Ohio presented her the award at ALAO's annual conference in Dayton this month.

In addition to a plaque and certificate, Dobb received prepaid registration both to the association's 2005 conference and an Ohio Regional Library Systems workshop. Her name will also be submitted to the Council on Library/Media Technicians and to Library Journal for national award consideration.

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The state award recognized her demonstrated appreciation of support staff and encouragement of staff to grow in their positions.

With more than 600 members from more than 100 libraries, organizations and businesses, ALAO is the Ohio chapter of the Association of College and Research Libraries and a section of the Ohio College Association.

Diversity, vitality of BGSU faculty artists revealed in 55th annual exhibition

Faculty and staff members of the School of Art are exhibiting the wealth of talent that has earned many of them national acclaim at the 55th annual Faculty Staff Exhibition.

The exhibition showcasing artwork done by some of the region's finest artists, region, will be on display Dec. 4 through Jan. 18 in the Dorothy Uber Bryan Gallery at the Fine Arts Center.

Eighty-eight works by 48 artists in a wide range of media will be on display.

For more information on the exhibition, call 2-8525. The gallery will be closed Dec. 15 through Jan. 11 during the University's holiday break.

Falcons going to GMAC Bowl

BGSU accepted an invitation today to play Memphis in the GMAC Bowl Dec. 22 in Mobile, Ala. Kickoff will be at 8 p.m. CST at Ladd-Peebles Stadium.

Murray Cape, chairman of the bowl's selection committee, formally extended the invitation at a press conference in Mileti Alumni Center that afternoon.

The bowl bid, the seventh in BGSU football history, "really says a lot, not only for Bowling Green, but for the Mid-American Conference," said Head Coach Gregg Brandon, adding that the Falcons are the first MAC team to receive an invitation this bowl season.

The teams will take matching 8-3 records into the game, which will be televised on ESPN. Memphis finished second in Conference USA behind Louisville.

Tickets are \$45 and may be purchased at the athletic ticket office, by phone at 2-2762 or online at www.bgsufalcons.com. BGSU students may purchase tickets for \$15 (limit of two) at the ticket office in Memorial Hall.

"It's really been a historic season," said Athletic Director Paul Krebs. This is only the second time that BGSU has gone to bowl games in consecutive years, and the first senior class to record at least eight wins in each of its four seasons, he noted.

BGSU, which defeated Northwestern, 28-24, in last year's Motor City Bowl, also won the 1991 California Raisin Bowl and the 1992 Las Vegas Bowl. With a 36-12 record over the last four seasons, the Falcons have posted the highest winning percentage of any MAC team during that time.

Sophomore quarterback Omar Jacobs, the MAC Offensive Player of the Year, will lead BGSU into the GMAC Bowl, now in its sixth year. Miami defeated Louisville in last year's game, 49-28, and three years ago, Marshall rallied from a 30-point deficit for a 64-61, double-overtime win over East Carolina in the highest scoring game in college football bowl history.

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FLOC leader to discuss civil rights during BGSU address

Baldemar Velasquez, president of the Farm Labor Organizing Committee, will discuss immigration and civil rights during an address Wednesday (Dec. 8) at the University.

His presentation, titled "Latino Immigrants: The New Civil Rights Movement in the U.S.," will take place at 7:30 p.m. in 101A Olscamp Hall.

A Texas native who grew up in a migrant farmworker family, Velasquez founded FLOC in 1967, and in 1978 gained wide attention by leading the largest agricultural worker strike in Midwest history. The union leader then received national attention for organizing a boycott of Campbell's to pressure the company into negotiations with workers. The result was a three-way pact in which growers agreed to give limited medical insurance, a paid holiday and a wage increase to more than 600 workers on 28 farms.

He also is credited with negotiating elimination of the pickle industry's sharecropping structure in 1993, and leading a campaign to keep processors from relocating to nonunion states.

Velasquez's activities have become more international in recent years. In addition to assisting in the creation of the National Coalition for Dignity and Amnesty for Immigrants and co-founding the Farm Worker Network for Economic and Environmental Justice, he has been involved in conferences advancing democratic rights and independent trade unions in Europe and Africa.

In recognition of his many accomplishments, the labor leader has received numerous awards, among them, a prestigious MacArthur Fellowship and an honorary degree from BGSU.

His presentation at Bowling Green is sponsored by the Office of the President, Partnerships for Community Action, the Center for Innovative and Transformative Education, the Diversity Leadership Team, Office of the Vice Provost for Academic Services, Department of Political Science, Department of Ethnic Studies, Department of History, the Center for Multicultural and Academic Initiatives, the Human Rights Commission and La Comunidad.

IN BRIEF**Celebrate the season with the Ribeaus**

President and Mrs. Ribeau invite the campus community to a holiday open house from 3-5 p.m. Dec. 16 in McFall Center Gallery.

Entertainment will be provided by the Blue Square Saxophone Quartet, and holiday displays from a number of cultures will be on hand.

Year-end giving to BGSU aids students, gives tax relief

Throughout 2004, the faculty and staff of the University have touched the lives of thousands of students. In addition to the important work done in the classroom and around campus, faculty and staff have supported students by funding scholarships and other important initiatives. As donors, faculty and staff have reached new levels of commitment and engagement with BGSU in the last year. Their increased support is allowing BGSU to expand opportunities for students and the entire campus community, according to Amy Edgar Davis, director of annual giving.

Davis says, "As we near the end of 2004, please consider BGSU in your year-end giving plans. A convenient way to make your gift is by using our online giving Web site at <http://foundation.bgsu.edu>, or call the Development Office at 2-2424 for other giving options, including payroll deduction. Remember, if you make your gift before Dec. 31, it can have a positive impact on your tax situation, as well as on the lives of current students."

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BG@100 reaches another conversion milestone

The conversion team members have been making significant progress. In the middle of November, the legacy data which identifies the core attributes of each employee were programmatically loaded for the first time in the PeopleSoft test system. Of 19 required extracts, this is the most complex.

Follow University decoration, safety policies

As cold weather and winter holidays are upon us, students, faculty and staff are reminded of BGSU's Fire Safety Decoration Policy. The University community is also reminded of the prohibition of portable heaters and halogen lamps. Call Environmental Health and Safety at 2-2171 for additional information.

Portable Heater and Halogen Lamp Policy

Portable heaters and portable halogen lamps are prohibited in University buildings. Fires and fire-related deaths have occurred nationally when halogen bulbs came in contact with combustible materials such as clothing, curtains, bedding and upholstered furniture. The portable heater and halogen lamp policy can be viewed at www.bgsu.edu/offices/envhs/fire/heater.htm.

Decoration Policy

For the safety of students, employees and visitors at the University, there are requirements for the use of candles, lighting, Christmas trees and holiday decorations.

- Candles, incense, lanterns and similar "open flame" receptacles are not permitted in residential housing, burned or unburned. Candles and other open flame devices can be burned only in Olscamp Hall, the Bowen-Thompson Student Union, and Prout Chapel, and only with a permit issued by Environmental Health and Safety.
- Decorations shall be fire resistant, and cannot interfere with safe passage or evacuation.
- Exit signs, fire extinguishers, smoke detectors, fire alarm pull stations, emergency lights, sprinkler heads and audible fire signals/strobe lights cannot be decorated, covered or obstructed in any way.
- Live or cut trees, straw, hay, leaves, corn shocks or dry vegetation are not permitted in any building.
- BGSU prohibits haunted houses and similar amusement or educational events in which building occupants or the general public is conveyed through a fixed or restricted course.

See the complete Fire Safety Decoration Policy at www.bgsu.edu/offices/envhs/fire/decorate.htm

CALENDAR

Monday, Dec. 6

Center for Family and Demographic Research Fall Speaker Series, "The Socialist State to Market Reform: Social Change and the Family in Vietnam," by Rukmalie Jayakody, associate professor of human development and family studies, Pennsylvania State University, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., 207 Union.

Tuesday, Dec. 7

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

Movie, "I Robot," 9:30 p.m., Bowen-Union Theater. Sponsored by University Activities Organization.

Wednesday, Dec. 8

Brown Bag Lunch, "Women in Islam: Facts and Myths," presented by Sally Kaloti, Muslim Student Association, noon-1 p.m., 107 Hanna Hall.

Men's Basketball vs. Bluffton, 7 p.m., Anderson Arena.

Lecture, "The New Civil Rights Movement in the U.S.," presented by Baldemar Velasquez, president, Farm Labor

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Organizing Committee, 7:30 p.m., 101A Olscamp Hall.

Friday, Dec. 10

Movie, "I Robot," 7 and 9:30 p.m., Union Theater. Sponsored by UAO.

Saturday, Dec. 11

Holiday Open House and Art Extravaganza, featuring student work and items for sale, 6-9 p.m., Dorothy Uber Bryan Gallery, Fine Arts Center. Sponsored by the School of Art. Call 2-2786 for more information.

Gospel Choir Fall Concert, 7 p.m., 101 Olscamp Hall. Contact Hurley Coleman at hcolema@bgsu.edu for more information.

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

Sunday, Dec. 12

Movie, "I Robot," 9:30 p.m., Union Theater. Sponsored by UAO.

Continuing Events

Through Dec. 19

Planetarium Show, "Secret of the Star." Shows are at 8 p.m. Tuesdays and Fridays, 7:30 p.m. Sundays, and 2 p.m. Saturday (Dec. 18). \$1 donation suggested/

Through Jan. 18

Art Exhibition, 55th annual Faculty and Staff Exhibition, Dorothy Uber Bryan Gallery, Fine Arts Center. Gallery hours are 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday and 1-4 p.m. Sundays. Closed Dec. 15 through Jan. 12 for winter recess.

Through Jan. 18

Art Exhibition, "Design Migrations: UniGraphics' Best" curated by Paul Obringer, UniGraphics director, designer and instructor. Willard Wankelman Gallery, Fine Arts Center. Gallery hours are 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday and 1-4 p.m. Sundays.

JOB POSTINGS

FACULTY

There were no job postings this week.

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 for the following positions is 1 p.m. Friday, Dec. 10.

Administrative Secretary 1 (C-131-Ve)—Office of the Chief Information Officer. Pay grade 8. Twelve-month, full-time position.

Auto Mechanic 2 (C-127-Re)—Other Fields and Facilities-Golf Maintenance. Pay grade 9. Twelve-month, full-time position.

Secretary 1 (C-129-Ve)—Philosophy Department. Pay grade 6. Twelve-month, full-time position.

Secretary 2 (C-130-Ve)—Graduate Studies in Business. Pay grade 7. Twelve-month, full-time position.

The following position is advertised on and off campus.

Secretary 2 (C-128-Re)—Romance Languages-AYA Program Offices. Pay grade 7. Twelve-month, part-time position. Deadline: 1 p.m. Friday, Dec. 17.

ADMINISTRATIVE

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

Assistant Director (C-130)—Center for Teaching, Learning and Technology. Administrative grade 16. Deadline: Dec. 17.

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Technology Project Specialist (V-132)—College of Arts and Sciences and Information Technology Services. Administrative grade 13. Deadline: Dec. 17.

Data Warehouse Analyst (R-139)—Office of the Chief Information Officer. Administrative grade 13. Deadline: Dec. 24.

Digital Asset Analyst (R-137 and R-139)—Instructional Media Services (two positions). Administrative grade 12. Deadline: Dec. 24.

Web Applications Developer (V-134)—Information Technology Services. Administrative grade 14. Deadline: Dec. 24.

Registrar (V-131)—Registration and Records. Administrative grade 19. Deadline: Jan. 10.

Senior Associate Director (V-119)—University Dining Services. Review of applications began Nov. 15 and will continue until the position is filled.

Manager, University Dining Services (V-035)—Division of Student Affairs (Re-advertised). Two positions, administrative grade 12. Review of applications began Aug. 6 and will continue until the positions are filled.

Director, Office of Educational Outreach (04-100NF)—BGSU Firelands. Administrative grade 16. Review of applications began Sept. 17 and will continue until the position is filled.

OBITUARY

There were no obituaries this week.