

BOWLING GREEN STATE UNIVERSITY | SPRING 2018

# BGSU

M A G A Z I N E



## MEET PRESIDENT RODNEY ROGERS

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## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Friends,

Welcome to the spring 2018 edition of BGSU Magazine. It is my privilege to serve my alma mater as its 12th president. I am excited about the future of the University.

Over the last six years, Bowling Green State University has made tremendous progress under the leadership of President Emeritus Mary Ellen Mazey. She developed and nurtured a spirit of innovation at BGSU that will continue to guide us. My focus is on continuing that momentum and building upon our successes.

As a public university, we have a different obligation than our private school counterparts. We have a duty to serve the public good. Every day, BGSU is working to prepare tomorrow's workforce, drive economic development, enhance the health of our communities, address real-world problems with our research, and enrich our region through the arts.

We are preparing our students for careers and life by offering a distinctive educational experience both inside and outside of the classroom. And we're providing our graduates with the social mobility that comes with that college education.

The accomplishments of our students, faculty, staff and alumni illustrate the power of public higher education. We're pleased to share some of their stories with you.

Thank you for your support of BGSU.

Regards,



Rodney K. Rogers, Ph.D. '81  
President



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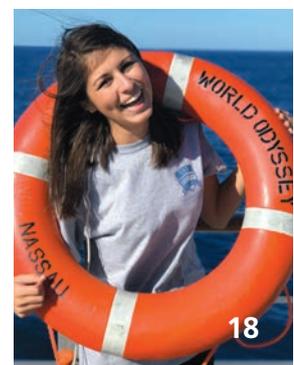
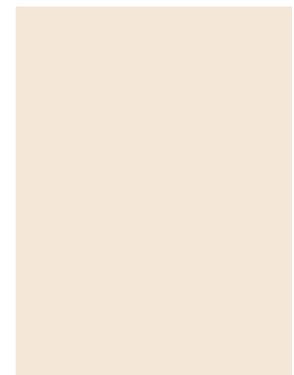
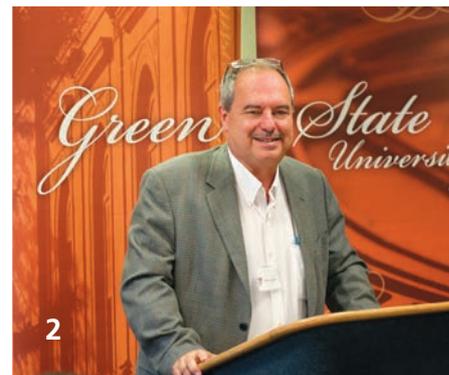
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# HOSKINS GLOBAL SCHOLARS FUND SPARKS INTERNATIONAL CURIOSITY

By Bob Cunningham

**Mike Hoskins '77** had a world-class education at Bowling Green State University, and he has learned valuable lessons out in the world, beyond the borders of the United States. He wants to ensure that current and future BGSU students will have those same opportunities.

That's why Hoskins decided to make the Hoskins Global Scholars Fund a permanent fixture by providing a significant gift to his alma mater. In recognition of his contributions to the quality of the student experience at BGSU, the University has named the Michael E. Hoskins Grand Foyer in University Hall, which also was part of his gift, in his honor.

"Mike Hoskins really understands that having a global experience and understanding of the world can make a difference in students' lives, both personally and professionally," BGSU President Rodney Rogers said. "The Global Scholars Fund provides for studying abroad and a more self-directed and deeper learning at a very formative time in students' lives. The scholarship gives BGSU students an advantage in their careers and strengthens the University's programs."

"The idea here is to give that emerging star student who has passion the freedom and that platform to take their idea and really do something with it on an international level," Hoskins said. "In my own life, I've lived and worked outside of the U.S. for 15 years, I speak three languages and I've been in over a hundred countries. I know what it's like, and I know how important it is to play in the world. That might not always be obvious when you're in college, but I think it lurks in some students' minds that it's a big part of life. We hope to light that spark in those people who have some big ideas."

Each year, the Hoskins Global Scholars Program provides financial support in the amount of \$5,000 for up to three selected students to participate in an international experience. These funds can be used to enhance the experience in their area of interest and stretch their

boundaries with a creative pursuit, independent study, internship or service project.

"I grew up in Bowling Green, so I was a townie and a student of the University," Hoskins said. "Our family moved here because my dad took a job at BGSU. He was on the faculty here and he was invited to come here by the president at the time, William Jerome, and Bill Schmeltz, the dean of the College of Business, to create one of the first dedicated international business programs in the United States."

Dr. William R. Hoskins, professor emeritus of marketing, taught at BGSU from 1965 to 1984.

"My dad was one of the four founders of the Academy of International Business, the biggest faculty organization in the world for academics who are interested in international business. This was the early '60s, and the U.S. was not at all geared up for globalization."

The younger Hoskins developed some of his viewpoints from growing up in an international household.

"My father built the international business programs, my mother's German," he said. "The international students were at our house all the time."

He then traveled overseas and lived outside of the United States for 15 years before settling in Austin, Texas.

"I ended up in computers," Hoskins said. "I'm a serial entrepreneur. I started my first software company at age 27 in the Middle East and then grew and sold a succession of software companies, the last couple in Austin. I caught that whole software boom in the software industry, and it's been a really good career for me."

Hoskins, who earned a bachelor's degree in business administration/finance from BGSU, is the chief technology officer of



The Grand Foyer in University Hall is named in honor of Mike Hoskins '77.

Action Analytics Platform, a subsidiary of the Actian Corp. Previously, he was chief technology officer and general manager of Pervasive Software's Integration Products.

For Hoskins, all roads eventually led back to Bowling Green.

"It happens in life, you drift away from what you did before," he said. "I came back to Bowling Green for the first time in the mid '90s for my high school reunion and reconnected with some friends and started coming back for the reunions more regularly. At one of the reunions, I was talking to one of my classmates from high school, Mike Marsh, and he was on the Board of Trustees at BGSU at the time. He's now still heavily involved at the University. He had been a good friend of mine in high school and actually lived across the street from me growing up."

Hoskins talked with Marsh about getting involved with BGSU, which led to a meeting with the then-new dean of the business college, Dr. Rodney Rogers.

"I met the dean for a coffee at the Starbucks on Wooster Street, and we ended up having this fascinating back-and-forth conversation for two hours," he said. "He really reignited my interest in what was going on at BGSU. By that point in time, I had sold a couple of businesses and was in a position to help a little bit."

That conversation inspired Hoskins to make some gifts to the College of Business for an education-abroad program.

"My dad had built up the international business programs in the College of Business, and they had atrophied somewhat with his departure," Hoskins said. "I thought we could reenergize the programs, so I gave some money to study-abroad scholarships in the college, and it started running again with the help of the faculty members. The study-abroad program is back running at full speed now, and the students are heading off in every direction."

In addition to the Hoskins Global Scholars Fund, his long history of generous support to the University includes establishing the Hoskins

Faculty Leadership and Innovation Award, the Hoskins Study Abroad Student Award and the Hoskins Study Abroad Faculty Award.

Since his reconnection with the University, Hoskins has collaborated with BGSU entrepreneurship programs, and was inducted into BGSU's Entrepreneurial Leadership Hall of Fame in 2009. He was selected as one of BGSU's 100 Most Prominent Alumni as part of the University's Centennial celebration and received the Alumni Association Accomplished Graduate Award from the College of Business. His support has earned him membership in The Presidents Club.

Around the time Dr. Mary Ellen Mazey was named president and Rogers was named provost at BGSU, in 2011, Hoskins started thinking about larger contributions, including support for the renovation of University Hall, where International Programs and Partnerships is located.

"Rodney and I had grown pretty close by this time, and President Mazey was really a ball of energy," he said. "We talked about a larger series of gifts, and I got involved with the Foundation and started making larger annual gifts for a program that was kind of the early version of what we are endowing now."

"You do a study abroad, and it ends up being life changing for a lot of people. The Hoskins Global Scholars idea was, 'Why don't we try to identify here at Bowling Green some of the key players, both students and faculty, and see if we can fund a little international spark and passion in our lives?' This has been an evolution from helping study abroad programs for the first five or six years to building a University-wide Hoskins Global Scholarship program."

"The Hoskins Global Scholar Fund was done on an annual basis, but there wasn't a committed giving plan. I was impressed with Bowling Green, Mary Ellen's energy and Rodney's dedication to the University, and I thought this would be a nice thing to endow permanently at BGSU."



# MARY ELLEN MAZEY

# Q & A

Bowling Green State University President Mary Ellen Mazey stepped down as president Dec. 31, 2017. In recognition of her contributions to the University, the Board of Trustees voted to grant her the title of President Emeritus at its December 2017 board meeting.

Mazey was named BGSU's 11th president in July of 2011. She came to the University from Auburn University where she was provost and vice president for Academic Affairs. Prior to that, she had served as dean of the Eberly College of Arts and Sciences at West Virginia University, and as dean of the College of Liberal Arts at Wright State University.

During her tenure at BGSU, enrollment climbed significantly along with the academic profile of the student body. As president, Mazey oversaw more than \$500 million in infrastructure improvements on the University's two campuses – the largest building and renovation program in BGSU history.

The capital improvements included significant investments made by private companies and other public entities through innovative partnerships with the University. Another critical initiative launched under Mazey's tenure is the Changing Lives for the World Campaign. This comprehensive fundraising campaign has four priorities:

scholarships to support students, endowed faculty and staff positions to recruit and retain outstanding educators and coaches, creating state-of-the-art facilities, and named academic programs and units. To date, the campaign has raised \$117 million of its \$200 million goal.

For students, Mazey may be best remembered for her commitment to their success. More students than ever are engaging in important activities such as undergraduate research, learning communities and study abroad.

## Q: What accomplishments are you most proud of during your tenure at BGSU?

**A:** BGSU has always had a strong academic reputation, so I was so pleased to see the University in the top 100 public universities in the country, according to U.S. News and World Report when I arrived in 2011. I did, however, have concerns about the declines in State Share of Instruction and the student retention rate.

Working with board members and with Cabinet members, we created a strategic agenda that focused on recruiting undergraduate students who could succeed at BGSU. For five years, we admitted the best academically prepared classes at BGSU and ensured they would be well prepared for careers. We also reinforced the concept of a “unique undergraduate experience.” Students feel they belong at BGSU, can stand out while they are here and go far into excellent careers as demonstrated by our alumni. Our internship guarantee, the first such program in Ohio, is of great benefit to students. Our strategic agenda also developed graduate programs that aligned with research strengths in order to increase external funding.

We developed partnerships with businesses and organizations that allowed the University to leverage those partnerships to benefit our students. For example, the partnership with Wood County Hospital created the Falcon Health Center and allowed us to increase our efficiency and enabled us to renovate the Recreation Center without adding additional costs to our students. The partnership with North Star Aviation built new facilities at the airport. As a result, the program has now achieved maximum enrollments. The partnership with the state’s attorney general allowed us to build forensic science academic programming at both the undergraduate and professional master’s degree levels, which has attracted new enrollments to BGSU. As a result of these partnerships, the University was able to freeze tuition for four years.

BGSU has an extensive, and very impressive, campus master plan to build or renovate buildings to enhance the learning and living environments for our students. This plan is also designed to enhance

recruitment and retention efforts. I am very proud of the significant accomplishments we made on the master plan during my tenure. It is so gratifying to walk our campuses and see the progress that has been made.

We reached out and formed strong relationships with our alumni and with the faculty association, and they assisted with increasing our enrollments, retention and graduation rates. The University working as “one” moved forward on multiple fronts. We began a comprehensive campaign for BGSU with an emphasis on fundraising for scholarships, facilities, named faculty and coaches positions, and named programs and colleges. To date, we have achieved \$117 million of a \$200 million goal. The accomplishments are many and it is truly a team effort of many, many dedicated students, faculty, staff, alumni and friends who believe in and support BGSU.

## Q: What will you miss most about the University?

**A:** I will miss the daily interaction with the students and assisting them in fulfilling their dreams of obtaining a college education. Being a part of students’ lives is one of the great joys of university life. Over the last few years, I was able to teach three courses, two of which were sections of our 1910 courses, which are designed for new students. The course “Matching Faces with Places” provided the opportunity for students to meet donors Bob Sebo, Kerm Stroh, Scott Slater and Mike Kuhlin and then tour facilities named for them. A writing assignment focused on how the students might become donors in the future.

## Q: What are the challenges ahead for the University, and higher education?

**A:** The competition for the traditional 18-year-old college student is immense in the upper Midwest. There will need to be greater emphasis on recruitment of non-traditional students, out-of-state students and international students. This will require that academic programming meet the demands of the future workforce and cross-traditional academic disciplines. Professional

master’s degrees will be important for the future as well. The use of technology and new teaching and learning methods, both inside and outside of the classroom, is needed. Ensuring diversity on campus is critical. Everyone should appreciate diversity, and dialogue on issues regarding different viewpoints is extremely important.

## Q: What are your favorite memories of BGSU?

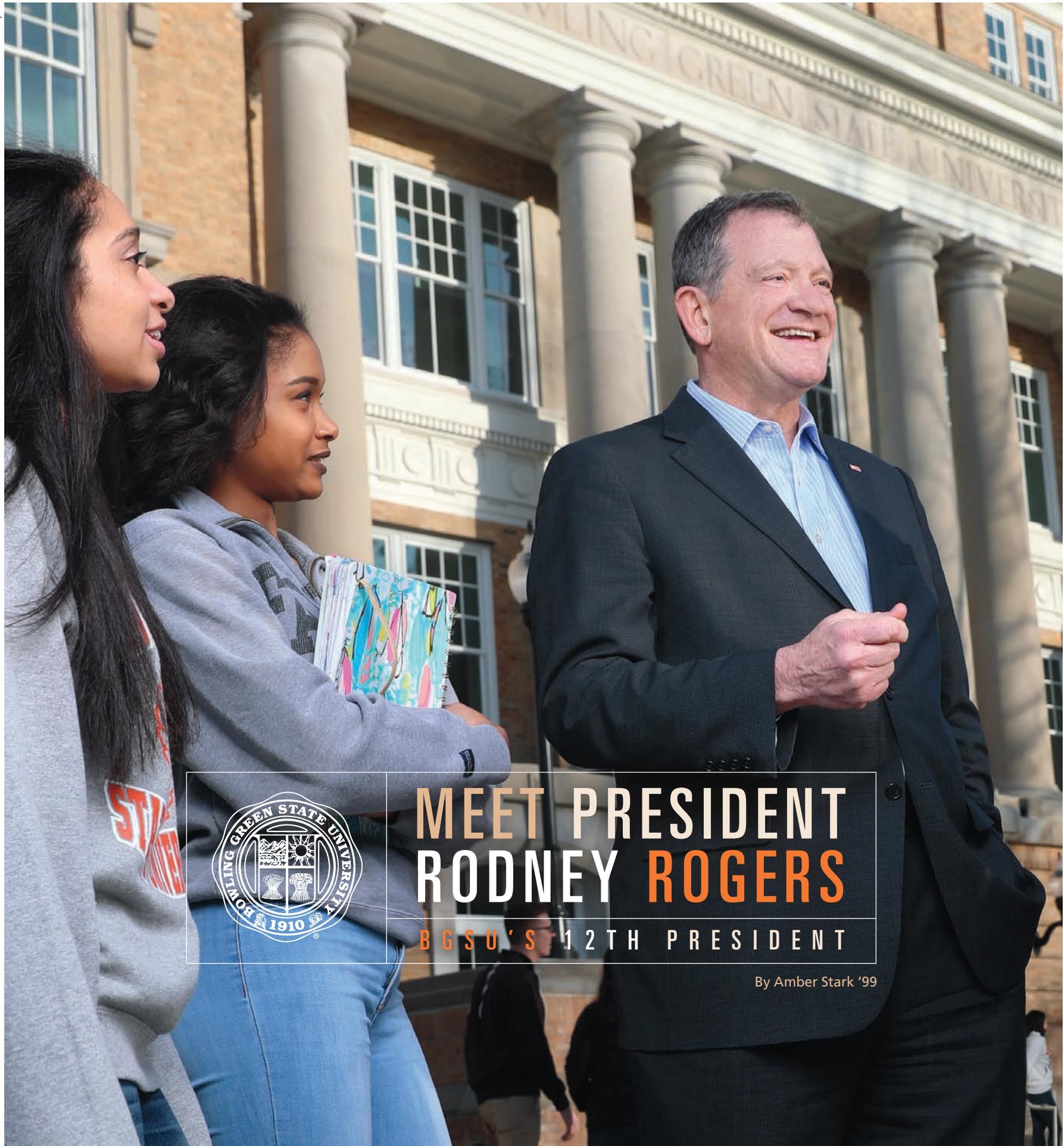
**A:** My favorite memories center around commencement ceremonies. It is always so nice to see the graduates and their families celebrating what has been achieved at BGSU. I am always impressed by the students’ dedicated service to the community. Our commencements have had speakers and honorary degrees granted to outstanding alumni who are great role models and demonstrate what one can do with a BGSU degree. There were many athletic accomplishments, including MAC championships and the outstanding academic achievements of our students, that demonstrate the student focus at BGSU. In 2017, we were designated as the most affordable university in the state with the highest academic qualities, which demonstrates the quality of BGSU.

## Q: What advice do you have for future and current Falcons?

**A:** Come to BGSU, get involved in and outside of the classroom and follow your dreams with the degree. You can live the “American Dream” with the BGSU degree as a teacher, innovator, entrepreneur, artist, musician, pilot, computer scientist or wherever your path may lead you. Network with other BGSU alumni and friends and give back with time, treasure or talent.

## Q: What are your next steps?

**A:** Being named President Emeritus was a great honor for me. I will be spending more time with my family and continuing to support President Rogers’ efforts to build BGSU’s strong future.



# MEET PRESIDENT RODNEY ROGERS

BGSU'S 12TH PRESIDENT

By Amber Stark '99



Some say university presidents are expected to walk on water. A more realistic goal is for that person to have many talents or areas of knowledge. Dr. Rodney K. Rogers, Ph.D. '81, Bowling Green State University's newest president, is a versatile, well-rounded person, and fits that description to a T.

With a foundation in music and a professional background that spans higher education and the business sector, both domestically and globally, Rogers is excited to continue BGSU's momentum in expanding the University's academic offerings, updating facilities and completing its comprehensive fundraising campaign.

"It's an absolute privilege to have the opportunity to lead my alma mater," said Rogers, who was named BGSU's 12th president in February. "I look forward to working with our faculty, staff and alumni to continue to strengthen our University, provide an outstanding education for our students and prepare them for life after BGSU."

A panel at the 2017 American Council on Education's annual meeting agreed that it takes an ever-widening skill set to serve as a university president, given the speed at which higher education is evolving and the broad range of constituencies with which the presidents work. Rogers has a long history with the University, having served most recently as provost and senior vice president since 2012, and as dean of the BGSU College of Business for the prior six years. But it wasn't just his most recent positions that made him an ideal candidate.

"Rodney Rogers brings a wide range of talents and accomplishments to the position," said Megan Newlove, chair of the BGSU Board of Trustees. "Under his leadership of academic affairs, enrollment has increased and new academic programs have been introduced. The students we recruit are the most academically prepared in our history. Student retention has improved, and graduation rates are up.

"He has also been an effective fundraiser for the University and has played an integral role in the planning and development of our new and renovated facilities."



Rodney K. Rogers, Ph.D. '81 assumed the role as the 12th president of Bowling Green State University on Feb. 23, after serving in the interim post since Jan. 1.

A native Ohioan, raised in Kenton, Rogers has an MBA from BGSU, a Ph.D. from Case Western Reserve University and a Bachelor of Arts in music from Ohio Northern University. Before completing his doctorate at Case, he practiced as a certified public accountant for 10 years.

Given his background in business, people are sometimes surprised to learn he has a bachelor's degree in music.

"I don't think you'll find many CPAs or MBAs who majored in vocal performance in college," Newlove said. "That grounding in music and his passion for the arts were important to the board and helped demonstrate a broad understanding of the entire University."

Faculty, students and alumni from BGSU's aviation program may appreciate that he also has a private pilot's license.

Before joining BGSU, Rogers served as associate dean and director of academic programs within the School of Business at Portland State University in Oregon. He has taught financial reporting at various universities, including Portland State, Case Western Reserve, Thunderbird: The American Graduate School of Management, and the École de Management at EuroMed-Marseille in France. As a faculty member, his research focused on the ways in which financial analysts use information, strategies firms employ to disclose information to the marketplace and the institutional role of the accounting profession within capital markets. He was also a visiting research fellow at the Cranfield School of Management in England.

In addition to his academic work, Rogers consulted with a variety of businesses and organizations, including Nike Inc., Wendy's International, Starwood Resorts, The Standard, Vestas-America and Veterans Affairs Medical Centers. This included the design and delivery of executive education programs integrating the development of financial acumen with leadership competencies, which have been delivered in the United States, The Netherlands, China, Thailand and Canada.

"There is value to having served as a director, a dean and a provost," he said. "Each leadership position is a little different and allowed me to learn different parts of the institution. My business experience allowed me to learn what companies are looking for in college graduates. And through my international work, I was able to interact with people from all over the world."

His career progression mirrors advice he has for students: "Life is about seizing opportunities, doing the best you can and seeing what happens. There was a risk in every move I made, but we need to prepare our students to live in a time of flux, to take those calculated risks."



Rodney Rogers with sons Spencer, left, and Isaac and wife Sandra Earle at the news conference announcing his presidency.

Only a few months into his role as president, Rogers said listening, collaborating and encouraging action are keys to success. This spring he is working with faculty and staff on updating the University's strategic plan.

"I want to empower people to make a difference," he said. "People who only spend time in higher education sometimes forget what an awesome job this is. Because in the end, higher education is responsible for the development of the future leadership of our state, country and world. What a privilege it is to serve students and give them a runway to accomplish their goals. With this comes tremendous responsibility."

Rogers is confident in the future of BGSU and he credits President Emeritus Mary Ellen Mazey with positioning the University for continued success.

"Each of us who have had the honor to serve in this role has learned from and built upon the work of their predecessors," he said. "Mary Ellen has been a tremendous mentor, role model and friend."

"When you put people together around a common goal, amazing things happen. It's exciting to hear what our students' plans are. At the end of the day, helping our students accomplish their goals is why we're here."

"We want to help them live a life of unscripted opportunity where they can adapt to and embrace the world they're going to be in."

BGSU helps students do this through resources such as the Falcon Internship Guarantee, which guarantees students the opportunity to participate in an internship or other experiential learning activity during their undergraduate career. The Career Center provides career development, planning and preparation, experiential learning and job attainment services.

Beginning in January 2019, students will also have the opportunity to participate in Winter Session, which will provide additional and flexible academic opportunities, like study abroad.

"We want to give our students opportunities to engage internationally and through Winter Session, study abroad is even more accessible," Rogers said. "The world is just so interconnected, being a global citizen is more important than ever."

Preparing students for life after graduation, here or abroad, is important to Rogers.

"The role of a public university is to provide a high-quality, affordable education, but also to graduate individuals who become good citizens," he said. "There is a question out there about the purpose of higher education. We assume people value higher education, but we have to demonstrate how we are preparing the citizens of tomorrow. It's not just about earnings, it's also about health and happiness."

"We want our students to go on to live a committed and fulfilled life. A career is certainly part of that, but we're not serving their needs if we're not thinking beyond their first job after graduation and about all of the opportunities they'll have to become knowledgeable, educated citizens. In short, we want to empower them by providing them with social mobility."

How BGSU delivers education in a changing world will have an impact on this, Rogers said.

"The impact of technology to further enhance the educational experience and deliver materials will result in a deeper understanding by our students," he said. "We serve full-time resident students well,



Rodney Rogers talks with alumni during Homecoming 2017 festivities.

but through technology there is an opportunity to better serve the needs of nontraditional students.

“The lifelong learners. Those people who are interested in things, in enhancing their career, in changing their career. How do we help serve that group of students, students who are possibly balancing family and a job?”

eCampus serves those students well, but Rogers sees opportunity for more hybrid-based delivery models, enhancements to online options and certificate programs.

“We have to be organized in a way that allows us to serve their needs,” he said. “It includes combining the right academic portfolio, via the right delivery systems, with the right support. We want to demonstrate that we are an educational organization that serves a lot of different populations.”

By listening to new ideas, encouraging collaborations across the University and in the community, and supporting action, Rogers said BGSU will be the best university it can be.

Rogers served on the board of the Wood County Hospital, is a current member of the board of directors of the Toledo Zoo and Aquarium. He is also on the executive committee of the Regional Growth Partnership and on the board of trustees for the Toledo Regional Chamber of Commerce.

He and his wife, Dr. Sandra Earle, a faculty member of the University of Findlay, have two sons, Isaac and Spencer. Isaac is a sophomore at BGSU. Spencer is a sophomore at the University of Rochester.

## READY TO SERVE SANDRA EARLE EMBRACES NEW ROLE

At least once a week, Sandra Earle and her husband, Rodney Rogers, Bowling Green State University’s newest president, can be found eating in one of campus’ many dining halls. Although Earle, who has an interest in food security, uses this opportunity to check on the quality and variety of food available, the pair is primarily focused on meeting and interacting with students.

“We want to talk to students, very informally, and try to get to know them,” Earle said. “They are the reason we’re here; knowing what’s going on with our students is paramount.”

With a strong background in higher education, Earle has taken on a volunteer University advocate role at BGSU, promoting student engagement and supporting students. As a woman in science, she is dedicated to encouraging young women to pursue STEM disciplines.

Earle’s academic expertise is in pharmacokinetics and pharmacodynamics. Her research interests include pharmacodynamic modeling, pharmacogenomics, assessment and the scholarship of teaching and learning.

She is an associate professor of pharmaceutical science and director of assessment for the College of Pharmacy at the University of Findlay, where she has taught since 2006. She completed a post-doctoral fellowship in clinical pharmacokinetics at The Ohio State University after earning her Pharm.D. from Ohio State and her Bachelor of Science in pharmacy from Ohio Northern University. She has also served on the faculty at Oregon State University and at the VA Medical Center in Portland, Oregon, as well as being the clinical coordinator at Mt. Sinai Medical Center in Cleveland.

She also has a special interest in ensuring food security for all students and in providing assistance to those in crisis.

“BGSU provides a place for students to experience tremendous growth, challenges and opportunities so that they are launched into the world prepared for what’s next,” Earle said. “But they can’t get there if they’re worried about shelter and food, which should be a given in this society. I want to help fill that gap.”

Earle and Rogers, who assumed the role of president Feb. 23, met at Ohio Northern and have been married for more than 30 years. They have two sons, Isaac and Spencer.

“At the end of the day, I’m a wife and a mom,” Earle said. “The mom thing is probably what fuels some of my love for the students. They are so interesting and smart. Their growth during college is incredible. It’s fun to watch and be a part of their experience.”

Championing campus and community initiatives in service to the public good and promoting civic engagement is just the start for Earle.

“It’s an honor and a privilege to serve in this way,” she said. “I take that responsibility very seriously. If I can make things better, I should.”

Earle is also a member of the board of directors of the Montessori School of Bowling Green.

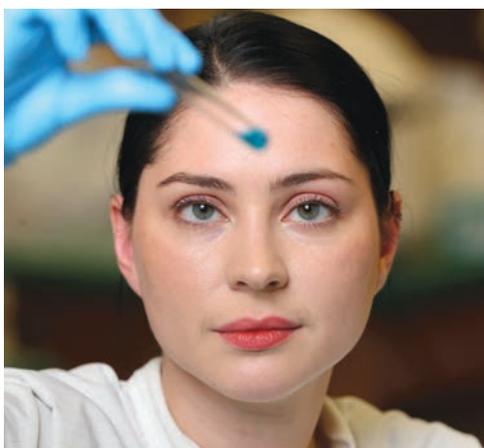
— Amber Stark '99





# BGSU CUSTOMIZES EDUCATION WITH ITS eCAMPUS

By Matt Markey '76



BGSU's eCampus offers 100 percent online, seven-week classes that are geared toward adult learners.

Both Diane Dunn and Theresa Boggs went into Bowling Green State University's eCampus program with the same trepidation — they were concerned about the unfamiliar format and how they might fare as students who had been away from the education environment for quite some time.

This May, the two women will receive their master's degrees from BGSU after having completed their work entirely online. And they will arrive at the commencement ceremony as best friends who have never met.

That is the magic of eCampus.

"We've been working together on projects and encouraging each other online for years, all through our undergrad and master's studies, but the first time I meet her in person will be at graduation," said Boggs, a Bowling Green native who completed her undergraduate degree in the Management and Technology program online and will receive her Master of Education in learning design.

"When you are involved with the eCampus program, you still get to collaborate with other students, you still get to work as a group, but you just never set foot in the same classroom. I consider Diane my best friend, and that friendship developed entirely through our experience as eCampus students."

Dunn used the eCampus option at BGSU to earn a bachelor's degree in education, and is also set to receive her Master of Education in learning design.

"I am more than two hours away from BGSU and I've never been to the campus, but the eCampus format connects you with your professors, advisers and other students," said Dunn, an Akron-area resident.

"Theresa and I started at the same time, and we were in similar situations where we wanted to advance our education but we had work, lives and families that complicate things. We became great friends, just like if we had been sitting beside each other in

class every day."

The eCampus program was launched in fall 2015, offering 100 percent online, seven-week classes that were geared toward adult learners. The platform has grown exponentially, with a current enrollment of more than 1,000 students in eCampus programs, and more than 1,400 students in online, eCampus or hybrid BGSU programs.

"We are offering more diversity in the program, and we are discussing expanding the eCampus further in the near future," said Sherri Orwick Ogden, associate director of BGSU's eCampus. She added that the program focuses on meeting the unique needs of those adult learners with busy schedules and full lives.

"We will continue to offer one-stop-shop services for these students," she said. "That is what they need, and we are here to serve them."

For Boggs and Dunn, the flexibility in the format was a requirement, without which



they would not have been able to pursue their degrees.

"In my current position, it's tough to fit anything in when you are working 50 to 60 hours a week and also have a family," said Dunn, 55, who trains respiratory therapists at Akron Children's Hospital. "I talked to Sherri, and she put my fears at ease and told me this program was right for me. It turned out that everything I did for school I could apply in some way at work. This program has been great.

"I chose this particular degree because I needed a master's degree and I am passionate about neonatal and pediatric respiratory therapy as well as education. However, I also wanted something that would broaden future prospects for me. I am not sure what the future holds, but I feel this degree will provide me with more potential opportunities."

Boggs, who started with an associate degree from BGSU's Firelands campus, works full time in the bursar's office on campus and also has a second job cleaning houses.

"I wanted to get my bachelor's and master's degrees, but I am so busy I didn't know if I could fit it all in," the 46-year-old said. "I had been out of college a long time and I wasn't very tech savvy.

I thought I wouldn't do as well — I thought I needed to go sit in a classroom and listen to a lecture. Sherri convinced me there was another way to get my degrees."

With work and family obligations, the two women said they would often be focused on classwork

at odd hours, frequently late at night, but that very flexibility was essential. Ogden said the eCampus program was designed for working adults who need to

complete their bachelor's or master's degree online in order to advance their careers.

"The program caters to nontraditional students who can't attend face-to-face classes," she said. "Many of our eCampus students are working adults with varying work schedules who also are raising families. Coming to campus to attend class just isn't an option for them."

Paul Cesarini, BGSU assistant vice provost, who directs the online program, said eCampus opens the doors to higher education to many nontraditional students.

"It works for them because we have a variety of start dates and condensed sessions, so we can meet them where they are in their work-life balance," he said. "Every step of the way, we are trying to make things more flexible for them. We are catering these programs to adults who might be working at different times, or in different time zones, whether they are adult learners or active military."

A pair of eCampus-affiliated programs are designed for students with an associate degree from the Air Force, providing an avenue to complete a Bachelor of Science in technology in 60 hours or less. About 40 percent of the students currently enrolled in the undergraduate eCampus-affiliated programs are active duty Air Force. They are stationed all across the globe, and one service member traveled from Guam to attend his May 2017 commencement.

Charles Hollingsworth III found that the eCampus provided a path to his bachelor's degree, and one that was the only viable route for him. As an information technology quality assurance technician with the Ohio Air National Guard, and the father of two teenage daughters, his responsibilities and time commitments were many, making attending classes on campus impossible.

"There was no way that I could go sit in a class and still take care of my obligations," the Air Force veteran said, "so being at home and doing the work online — when I could fit it in — was really the only way for me to move forward."

Hollingsworth had an associate degree from the Air Force, and after several efforts to pursue his bachelor's degree were halted due to work and family obligations, he was able to commit to that goal in the fall of



More than 1,000 BGSU students are enrolled in eCampus programs.

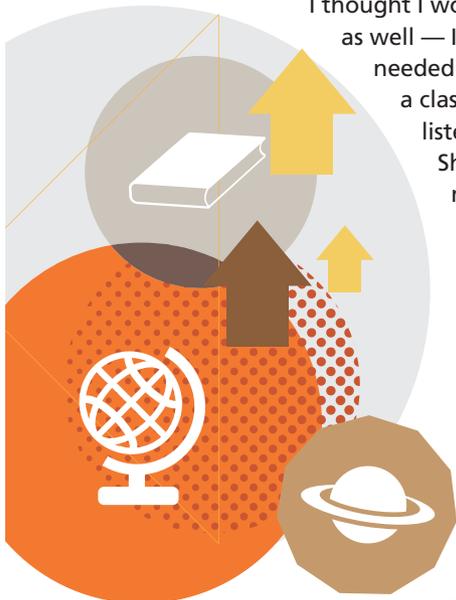
2015. By utilizing the eCampus program, he received his degree in technology in May of 2017, and is now working toward an MBA.

"I always wanted to get back on track and earn my degree, but it seemed like something always came up and I just never had the method that would fit in with my life, but the online program made it possible," he said. "To be honest, I would probably not have gone back without this type of program and the flexibility it offers."

The eCampus was also the ideal fit for Kent Darr, a native of St. Marys, Ohio, who completed the graduate learning design program in May 2017. He found that the eCampus format provided the flexibility he needed as he worked toward his master's degree.

"I had worked at an online high school after my undergrad days, and I got used to the independence. I didn't have to set aside a specific chunk of time each day to be physically present in a classroom," he said. "While I was working toward my master's, I was able to have a lot more balance in my life, due to the flexibility the eCampus program offers. I had the best of both worlds."

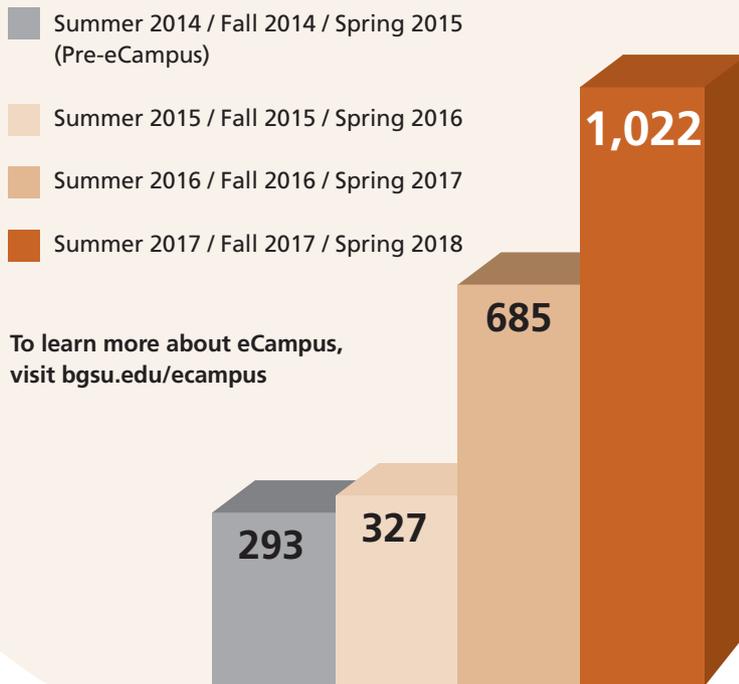
Darr is employed as an instructional designer at Arizona State University, working on the nuts and bolts aspect of online courses. He is sold on the format's long-term future in higher education.



## BGSU eCampus Programs

- B.S. Management & Technology
  - Business
  - Training & Development
  - Internet & Information Studies
- M.S. Criminal Justice
- M.Ed. Learning Design
- M.Ed. Assistive Technology
- M.Ed. Curriculum and Teaching
- M.Ed. Classroom Technology
- Certificate – Assistive Technology
- Certificate – K12 Online Teaching
- Endorsement – Computer Technology
- B.S. Business Administration
- B.S. Quality Systems
- Quality Systems Graduate Certificate
- B.S. Allied Health
- M.Ed. Autism
- Autism Certificate
- M.Ed. Secondary Transition
- Secondary Transition Certificate
- Reading Endorsement/Certificate
- M.Ed. Reading
- Master of Music Education – Teaching Artistry
- Master of Food & Nutrition
- Food & Nutrition Certificate

eCampus Growth **249%**  
 eCampus has grown since it launched in 2015



To learn more about eCampus, visit [bgsu.edu/ecampus](http://bgsu.edu/ecampus)

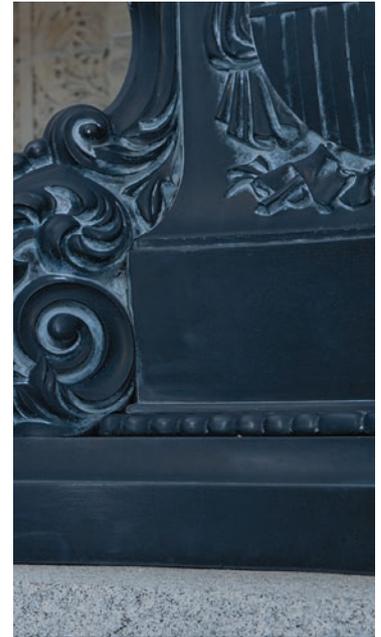
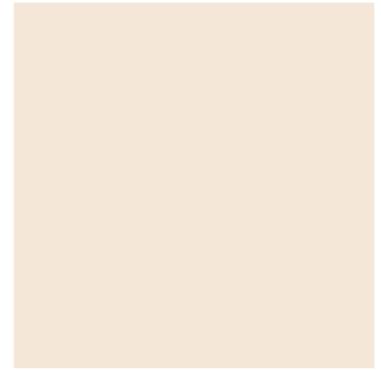
"This is a good vehicle for adult learners, due in large part to that flexibility it offers," he said. "It is ideal for those who can't go to school full time, or are just not close to campus. It is an affordable model for a lot of people to get their degree, and do it economically."

For Boggs and Dunn, the eCampus was the ideal route to their degrees, and those career opportunities on the horizon.

"If you had asked me 20 years ago if I could get these two degrees online, I would have said never in a million years," said Boggs, who added that she has not been in a physical classroom since 1990. "We're all busy and there's never going to be a 'perfect time,' but the professors were very accommodating and understanding, and the program was great."

Dunn, who said at first she was "terrified" by the notion of going back to school to get her degrees, will make her first trip to campus for commencement.

"The professors were terrific and even though you do everything online, I never felt alone. There was a lot of encouragement," she said. "I wasn't able to be there to get my bachelor's degree because I had to work, but I'll be there for the master's. I already asked for that day off."



FINDING YOUR FIT  
AT BOWLING GREEN  
STATE UNIVERSITY

BELONG. STAND OUT. GO FAR.

# CLASS OF 2018 PROFILE: MEG BURRELL

By Bob Cunningham

Meg Burrell took advantage of every opportunity afforded her at Bowling Green State University — and then some.

Before the Bluffton, Ohio, native walks across the Stroh Center stage and graduates in May with a bachelor's degree in political science and a minor in sociology and heads off to law school, Burrell shared some advice with future Falcons.

"Get involved," she said. "I really think there is something for everybody at BGSU. For me, I found my home here in so many places. If everybody could have their home on campus, I think it makes the experience so much more enjoyable.

"Take the initiative — and that's true about life — because you're going to have to take those first steps, but people at this University are so receptive to that. This is the place where everybody can succeed, and that's because faculty, alumni and friends of the University are so great and so kind — they are there to lend a hand whenever you need it. When I am an alumna, I'm going to want to come back and see what great things BGSU students are doing."

## BELONG.

Burrell stepped on campus as a Sidney A. Ribeau President's Leadership Academy (PLA) scholar in July 2014 for the summer bridge program.

The monthlong session turned out to be a crucial starting point for the BGSU freshman.

"I think the PLA's summer bridge program really was a game-changer," Burrell said. "From understanding not only where everything is and what campus is like, but it was the first time I had been on my own, so it was a good experience to then go home to Mom and Dad for a little bit before the semester started. Being here for a month, I was able to connect with my cohort members, who turned out to be amazing — I've made lifelong friends."

Each year since 1998, the PLA has enrolled a cohort of 15 to 30 new students who learn servant-leadership. The 2014 PLA cohort, which consists of 20 members, is the first group to have 100 percent retention.

To start her freshman year, Burrell got a job at Student Legal Services (SLS) right off campus and was employed for two years. SLS is a non-profit law office that has served University students since 1984, and typically advises and represents more than 2,000 students each year.

At the end of the year, she applied to be the undergraduate representative on the BGSU Board of Trustees.

"I was already a political science major and I've always had an interest in governance and shared governance, but I did not think I was qualified by any means," said Burrell, whose two-year term ended June 2017. "I just decided to try it and it happened to work out. My interviews kept going really well and they picked me. It was kind of luck in some ways.

"Obviously, it was a unique experience. I learned so much about how BGSU functions and it gave me a deeper love for the University because I've seen so much behind the scenes and how much goes into every decision and how many people really care. I also got to connect with donors, which was one of my favorite experiences."

## STAND OUT.

Burrell has had three internships during her time at BGSU: at the Wood County Prosecutor's Office, Ohio Attorney General's Office and Ohio Attorney General's Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI).

Working at the Wood County Prosecutor's office was a way for her to get a foot in the door. The internship was unpaid and the hours were flexible, so it fit her busy schedule. She supported the C.Y.C.L.E. Division, which provides programs in cooperation with youth, community and law enforcement.



"It was great to see it firsthand," Burrell said. "I did that for a year and then I got the Ohio AG internship. I moved to Columbus, which was my first time not living in Bowling Green or Bluffton. I lived there for the summer before my senior year.

"That internship was great because I made a lot of wonderful connections and got to experience a bigger city, a huge office and worked with the other interns and law clerks, which was a great networking opportunity."

Burrell has interned at BCI during her senior year, continuing the work she started in Columbus, much of which she isn't permitted to talk about.

"That was a doozy to go through the polygraphs," said Burrell, referring to the application process for BCI. "Drug tests are no big deal but polygraphs will make you sweat — and I've got nothing to hide, but going through the process makes you feel like you have something to hide. I can say that every week, I never know what to expect when I go in the office, and I like that."

Burrell has taken every opportunity that has come her way, but also has done her due diligence in seeking out those connections, even job-shadowing at the Bowling Green Municipal Court during her final semester.

"I'm still trying to make sure I'm on the right path," she said. "I'm also a firm believer in education and there aren't very many scenarios where I would be upset that I furthered my education, so I can't tell you what I'll be doing after law school because I'm not sure yet. When I'm filling out my applications and they ask those questions, I say I see myself helping people. There are so many ways to do that with your J.D. — it's just the next step."

There have been others who have helped her along the way, too, including BGSU faculty members and even the president.

"I wish every student at BGSU could take one of Dr. Melissa Miller's classes," Burrell said. "She's how you hope your professors would be. She cares so much about the material and even more about the students. She's so accomplished and she's definitely one I'll stay in touch with. There are so many here, but, for me, she's the one who stands out the most."



In May 2017, then-BGSU President Mary Ellen Mazey appointed a Task Force on Sexual Assault comprised of students, faculty, staff and a victim advocate to address concerns about sexual assault and criminal misconduct.

Burrell was one of the students selected to the task force, which she was honored to participate.

"When I look back on my time at BGSU, that's going to be my proudest moment," she said. "I'm really proud of the University for starting the task force, and the work done was amazing. The committee was great. The fact that we took those steps was such an improvement for the University. It was hard for me because we did it over the summer and I was living in Columbus, so I had to take off work every week and drive back to Bowling Green. But it was worth



it and I would do it again — it was really impactful."

She was affiliated with BGSU Votes and the student conduct committee and was active in the Alpha Phi Sorority and she also was on the 2017 Homecoming Court.

How was she able to fit all of those activities and experiential learning opportunities into her schedule?

"I always think, the more you have on your plate, the more you get done," said Burrell, who also was a Newman Civic Fellow. "If you're involved in things you're passionate about, you're going to make the time."

"Internships are really hard when they are unpaid, so I worked a part-time job and an internship every step of the way through college because in order to take the part-time internship I had to have the other part-time job that did pay. It's hard, but it's so worth it. Once you get your foot in the door, it's easier. Employers want to see what experience you have. My motto through college has been 'apply, apply, apply' to things I probably had no business applying for, and somehow it works out."

## GO FAR.

Now that Burrell's time at BGSU is winding down, she can't believe how much her education — and her life — has been transformed by her experiences the last four years.

"The people skills I have gained here are so valuable, but understandable, because everyone is so friendly and everyone wants to help you," she said. "So many people have had an impact on my education. I would also say confidence. I've had so many opportunities at BGSU that I'm leaving here knowing that I can do it and that I'm prepared inside and outside the classroom. My experiences at BGSU have prepared me for the rest of my life."

Burrell always will remember her BGSU roots, especially because she knows the University can do for others what it has done for her.



"I preach the BGSU word," she said. "I'm always recruiting people to go here — even my brother goes here now — because I think BGSU changes people's lives. Everybody has to find their own fit, but so many people will find that fit at BGSU. I would choose it again every day.

"I got to experience so many things in Bowling Green. You don't necessarily have to leave Bowling Green to get these experiences. I had a job in the legal office on campus, I had an internship at the county prosecutor's office steps from campus and now I am at the BCI on campus. That's three huge steppingstones right here that I didn't have to leave to get the experiences that I needed. You don't have to leave because Bowling Green does have it all."

# SEMESTER AT Sea

*changes how BGSU  
student lives her life*

By Bob Cunningham



**Name:** *Allie Zaber*  
**Major:** *Psychology*  
**Year:** *Junior*  
**Hometown:** *Stow, Ohio*  
**Website:** *semesteratsea.org*

Allie Laber spends semester  
taking classes on a cruise ship,  
visiting 10 countries

Usually, the only sharks or elephants that students encounter during their time at Bowling Green State University are the opposing teams' mascots at sporting events.

Not so for junior Allie Laber of Stow, Ohio, who spent the fall semester aboard a ship in one of the many education abroad programs the University offers students.

During the three-and-a-half-month Semester at Sea, students take classes on a cruise ship, which is basically a floating campus, while traveling to 10 or 11 countries. They get to spend up to six days in each country they visit.

Laber, a psychology major and a member of the Honors College, said her time spent aboard the floating campus and visiting other countries helped her form a more worldly point of view.

"I think it really helps with the understanding of people of different cultures and places," she said. "You put yourself in their shoes and, since ultimately I want to go into counseling, this will help me understand world views and perspectives in order to help people by not just using my own view I had before this experience."

About 560 students, representing 47 of the 50 states and several other countries, boarded the cruise ship in Germany. From there, they visited Spain, Ghana, South Africa, India, Myanmar, Vietnam, China and Japan. On the way to the United States mainland, the cruise ship made a day stop in Hawaii.

"My favorite experiences were in South Africa because I did a bunch of adrenaline-



rush type of things like bungee jumping, skydiving, and shark cage diving," said Laber, who also visited the Taj Mahal and the Great Wall of China, among other landmarks. "But my favorite country was Myanmar because of the people there. That's what I learned through the whole trip, was the people you meet and the relationships you form within each country really make for a great experience.

"The people of Myanmar were always willing to help, which is kind of ironic because in the news now you hear about a lot of violent things going on there, but, thankfully, we weren't in any of those areas. To me, it seemed like a very peaceful country, which I know is not always the case. But I did get to play with elephants there, so that helped."

There was plenty to do on the ship as well.

"We were in class every day we were out to sea on the ship, so there's no weekends off or anything," she said. "Every space on the ship became a classroom, even the dining rooms. I took four classes on the ship. I had two each day and it worked out really well. Each class was geared to the country that we were headed to next, so we'd talk about current issues going on in that country.

"I was in a student organization, Waves of IMPACT, which included a donation drive," she said. "They showed movies all the time on the boat because there we had no internet, so they had game nights and karaoke. Anything that you can do without the internet, we did."

Not being connected to the internet 24/7 was an unwanted reality at first, but Laber soon adjusted.

"At first I hated not being on the internet, but I learned to appreciate it because the relationships I made with people on the ship are so much deeper," she said. "I feel like I've known them my whole life because we would actually talk at meals and wouldn't always be on our phones. I really learned to like the disconnection."

Laber has only partially reverted to her old habits now that she's back on campus.

"I have my phone with me all the time only because I feel like I have to, but I don't use social media and stuff nearly as much as I used to — I'm trying not to fall back into old habits. At dinner, I leave my phone somewhere else and stay in my 'ship life ways.'"

In each country there essentially was a field trip, where the students learned something associated with that country.



*Accra, Ghana  
September 27-30*



*Honolulu, Hawaii  
December 16*

"For my adolescent psych class, for example, we learned about puberty and the struggles adolescents go through in Ghana, and we actually got to go to the school in Ghana and help teach them," she said. "For my women's studies class, we were learning about the struggles women in India went through to help create social change, so then we went to an organization in India to learn about that experience."

Laber is using her field experience as the foundation for her Honors project.

"One of the schools I got to visit in Ghana, I actually partnered with them to plan a fundraiser and then help educate their teachers," she said. "That way they can better educate their students, because that's one of their issues that came up while we were there: The students said teachers weren't educated, and so then the students weren't getting the education they needed."

Laber said she would recommend a Semester at Sea to any student looking to study abroad.

"It was the best decision of my life," she said. "The motto on the ship was 'It's not a cruise, it's a voyage.' It gave us so many different perspectives on our world, and six days ended up being the perfect amount of time at each place. My favorite part was actually being on the ship. Not having internet and living with your professors and deans, it was just such a close-knit environment that I'll never be able to get anywhere else."

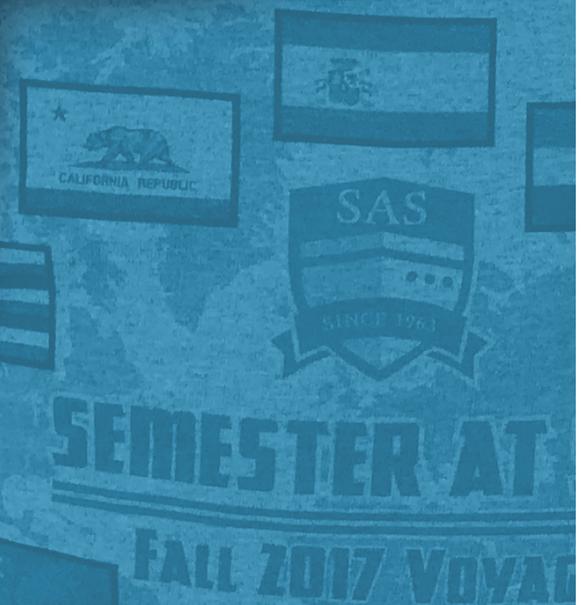
"It changed my perspective on how I live my life."



*Kyoto, Japan  
December 2-6*



*Beijing, China  
November 24-29*



Allie Laber  
Semester at Sea  
Fall 2017  
10 Countries



Yangon,  
Myanmar  
November 4-8



Ha Long Bay, Vietnam  
November 14-18



Valencia, Spain  
September 15-18



Stade, Germany  
September 6-9



Agra, India  
October 25-30



Cape Town,  
South Africa  
October 7-12

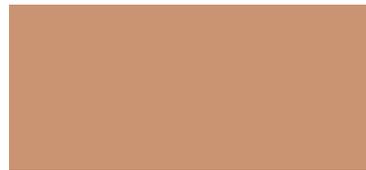


BELONG.



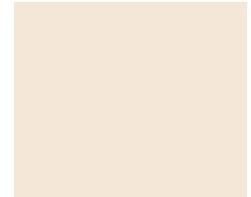
ZOOM.

THE BGSU  
EXPERIENCE  
IN PICTURES.



STAND  
OUT.







# A 'VERY NICE' CAREER

## FOR JEFF GREEN '97

By Bob Cunningham



Photo credit: Kara Fallon '12

Jeff Green '97 had the time of his life at Bowling Green State University, both on and off campus — he summed it up as 'a very nice' time. He majored in environmental science and tended bar at Junction Bar & Grill for the duration of his time at the University.

Both played significant roles in Green becoming the proprietor and brewer for the Very Nice Brewing Co. in Nederland, Colorado, about an hour's drive from Denver. While working at Junction Bar & Grill, he always thought a good name for a beer would be "Very Nice Beer." Combine that with his expertise as an environmental scientist, mostly working with water quality, and it was only a matter of time before his two passions came to a head — in this case, a foamy head.

Green, who grew up in Kettering, Ohio, outside of Dayton, started getting into craft beer once he moved to Colorado, a state at the forefront of the industry, in 1999.

"I had had craft beer prior to moving to Colorado — Red Hook and some of the bigger craft brewing companies like Fat Tire from New Belgium Brewing Co. — but not until I got to Colorado did I begin to see the diversity in craft beer," he said. "I would say the No. 1 beer that turned me on to it all was from a brewpub called Mountain Sun in Boulder."

Green started hanging out with a brewer who owned Wolf Tongue Brewery in Nederland who taught him how to brew his first batch of beer.

"Then, I learned through many years of homebrewing, and basically one of the things that made having my own brewery possible was the craft brewers in this state are so genuine and willing to answer questions and let you come in and watch them brew and even brew with them," he said. "I brewed with one guy for several months and toward the end I literally was doing as much work as an assistant brewer would."

Before Green became a brewer, he worked as a quality engineer and field engineer with pharmaceutical companies and then an instrument company that measured water quality.

"An environmental science degree is heavily based on water chemistry, so with my degree from BGSU I had to take a lot of biology and organic chemistry and chemistry in general," he said. "The study of water and its attributes all has to do with brewing beer, and, obviously, the No. 1 ingredient in beer is water, so knowing a lot about water still to this day comes in very handy."

Green opened the Very Nice Brewing Co. in 2012, and he feels fortunate to have opened at that time, rather than trying to start out now.

"It was a good time because I was never really passionate about water quality for the production of intravenous drugs, but I was passionate about beer," he said. "Plus, I wasn't getting any younger and didn't want to be 50 years old throwing around these huge kegs of beer. Because when you start out, you pretty much do everything yourself. It wasn't a situation where I was going to be able to hire a bunch of people to do those things. Even though I wasn't miserable at my previous jobs, all the factors indicated it was a good time to try this."

Plus, the craft beer climate in Colorado was a little more forgiving at the time.

"One of the things I'm thankful for in 2012 is there was still a lot of grace that beer drinkers in Colorado were willing to give you, knowing that you were just starting out and still had to refine yourself as a brewer," Green said. "The thing that's grown since then is my ability to brew. You do something a thousand-plus times and you end up getting really good at it — anyone would. I'll be the first to admit that where our beer is now certainly isn't what it was at the beginning, but I'll put my beer up against any beer now."

"I'm not sure a grace period exists anymore. There are so many craft breweries out there right now that you really have to come out with your 'A' game. What was great about back then was people were willing to grow with you and give you constructive criticism. I'm so thankful for taking the step when I did because wanting to do everything yourself now, you're going to have a tough time of it. Most breweries opening these days usually have a proven brewer in the brew house as opposed to a very passionate guy who was into homebrewing but didn't have a lot of commercial experience."

Very Nice's most popular beer is its flagship Indian Pale Ale, the Royal We IPA, which is a shout out to one of Green's favorite movies, "The Big Lebowski."

"In the movie, Lebowski refers to the 'royal we' as all of us, and that's how I feel about that IPA, that it's suitable for a wide range of IPA drinkers," he said. "That's by far our No. 1 seller and what I brew the most."

Green's favorite beer to create, however, isn't an IPA, but a style that benefits from Very Nice's location in the Rocky Mountains and in Nederland.

"My favorite beers are always weird beers," he said. "Being up in the mountains, we have an herbalist who we work with and that has accounted for some really strange beers with all sorts of herbs — everything from yarrow, lemon balm and fresh-picked rose hips to wormwood, which is the main ingredient in absinthe. Those are my favorite beers because they are so interesting and they really push the limits of people's palates and what they're used to tasting."

Nederland "is a very strange town," but Green can't imagine living anywhere else.

"We have the Frozen Dead Guy Days, which is our No. 1 festival here," he said. "Nederland is known for having the vibe of a town of free-thinkers. So in that category of free-thinkers you have all sorts of people, not only hippies, but a lot of artistic minds. At any time in our taproom, we'll have two or three artists' work displayed — everything from photographers to painters to people who work with patterns. It's also a very independent town and a great town to live in. It's filled with eclectic people and mostly a bunch of peace-loving people who congregate together here and have a really good time."

The town vibe has encouraged Green to find the artist within himself, something he believes he has done as a brewer.

"I think a lot of brewers consider the most fun part of what they do is creating the beers themselves, the recipes," he said. "I would definitely say that's where I get to be artistic. I can't really paint, I can't write poems, sing or play instruments, so brewing is where I get to access that part of my brain that gets to be creative."





# FOLLOWING FAMILIAR FOOTSTEPS

## FORMER STUDENT REPS TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES LEAD PROMINENT FINANCIAL FIRM

By Matt Markey '76

As he approached decision time on his college choice while attending Culver Academy in Indiana, Bowling Green State University was a late addition to Jarrod Hirschfeld's list. But after a great visit, which included spending more than an hour with Dr. John Hoag, chairman of the economics department, Hirschfeld was convinced that BGSU had the educational opportunities and ideal learning environment he had envisioned.

"He took the time to answer all of my questions and he really showed a sincere interest in my success," Hirschfeld said. "I immediately saw Bowling Green as an ideal, friendly place with a lot to offer. I loved the feel and the concern for each individual student."

Hirschfeld enrolled in 1999, and before long, he was part of the University Ambassador program, active in the Economics Club, serving as a residence hall adviser and seeking out other ways to get involved around campus.

"I came in like a freight train, very excited and very motivated," he said. "My Culver experience was heavily focused on leadership, work ethic and academic excellence, so BGSU and the opportunities it presented were a perfect fit."

In his sophomore year at the University, Hirschfeld met former Falcon Lacrosse All-American and then-Board of Trustees member Mike Wilcox '75, who had founded the University Ambassador program when he was a student. At the suggestion of Wilcox, Hirschfeld decided to explore the possibility of serving as the student representative to the BGSU Board of Trustees. Wilcox had filled the same role during his days as an undergraduate at the University, and also led the student committee to build the Recreation Center.

"The more I explored it, the more I was convinced it would be a tremendous experience to serve in that capacity," Hirschfeld said.

In May of 2001, Ohio Governor Bob Taft appointed Hirschfeld to the board. "I felt very honored and excited for the opportunity, but it was certainly humbling and a little intimidating, but in a good way. These were great people in that room, and they were all looking out for us students, and working to make our educational experience better. I was well aware of the responsibility I had."

Hirschfeld said the campus was a blur of activity at the time, with the remake of the student union, coaching changes with

the football team and the planning of new facilities. He said he gained much by listening to the board members such as Bob Sebo '58, John Harbal '72 and Wilcox and hearing their perspective on the future of BGSU and how excited they were to make the University better than ever for the students.

"What was really neat was observing how much these folks loved and still love Bowling Green State University, and witnessing their passion for the University and their commitment to excellence," Hirschfeld said. "The direction they were taking us was just inspiring and I wanted to add as much value as I could to the effort."

As a finance and economics major, Hirschfeld was especially in tune to the regular discussions about the budget.

"I took that role very seriously, and it was one of the defining experiences of my time on campus," he said. "I was comfortable talking with people who were older than me and extremely successful in a variety of different fields, and they valued my opinion and listened to what I had to say. I think the whole leadership experience helped get me started faster in my professional career. I'm confident that it did."

After graduation in 2003, Hirschfeld went to work for Edward Jones Investments,



Jarrold Hirschfeld '03, left, and Mike Wilcox '75 were both student representatives to the BGSU Board of Trustees.

pounding the pavement and knocking on doors in Toledo, while also staying in touch with Wilcox, who had offered to serve as a mentor. The work experience added to the solid foundation his education and time with the trustees had provided.

"It was a very effective way to get familiar with a value-based program and the importance of always doing what's best for the client, and taking care of their needs," Hirschfeld said.

In September of 2006, Hirschfeld accepted an invitation to come work for Wilcox, who owns Wilcox Financial and Wilcox Sports Management. Wilcox Financial represents more than 2,500 corporate, individual and high-net-worth clients in 39 states and 12 countries, while Wilcox Sports Management represents more than 350 college football and basketball coaches, athletic directors, university presidents, conference commissioners and industry executives.

"I saw the potential in him many years ago," Wilcox said. "He was a very sharp young man, highly ranked in leadership skills and a finance major, but we didn't have

a training program to hire him right out of college. So he worked hard, we stayed in touch, and when the timing was right, we brought him over. Now, look at what a success story Jarrod is, and I'm incredibly proud of him."

Hirschfeld said he jumped at the opportunity to work for Wilcox, who he calls "the best communicator I have ever seen."

"He believes in people before they believe in themselves, and Mike truly cares about those people he mentors," Hirschfeld said. "I was essentially starting over, but when you have an outstanding business person demonstrate that kind of belief in you, it is a very powerful thing. The bar is set very high here, but he trusted in me and trust is a big element of his success. This was the best move I ever could have made."

Hirschfeld, who was the chair of the alumni board of directors from 2010-2011, was recently promoted to executive vice president at Wilcox Financial and companion company Wilcox Sports Management. The two former student reps to the BGSU Board of Trustees now collaborate on many of the

top accounts and have hired numerous BGSU graduates.

"We've never had an executive vice president, but Jarrod is a great fit for the job," Wilcox said. "He just does all of the right things, with no shortcuts. I felt he was a winner from the beginning, and he's built his career brick by brick, and his clients have great respect for him.

"It became very apparent very quickly just how superior he was in his attention to detail, and securing the level of trust you need with your clients. In our business, it's all referrals, so if you do the right thing and take care of the client, good things happen. Jarrod is a perfect example of that."

Hirschfeld, who met his wife, Erin, at BGSU when they were both serving as resident advisers on campus, credits his parents, his family, his mentors and his BGSU education for putting him on the path to success.

"I owe a lot to all of them, and appreciate the opportunities I've had," Hirschfeld said. "I'm in a business where you get to change lives on a daily basis, and being able to do that gives you a really good feeling."

## ALUMNI

Jean (Nevins) Cook '35  
 Mary (Evans) Frazier '36  
 Roseanna (Wagner) Garrett '38  
 George Rozelle '39  
 Darwin Mayfield '41  
 Ethel Amos '43  
 Ruth (Hibbard) Hubbard '43  
 Merridelle (Depue) Sowers '43  
 Wilma (Brewer) Weber '44  
 Dorothy (Edgington) Cloepfil '45  
 Mary (Purdy) Miller '45  
 David Kroft '46  
 Marilyn (Johnston) Pollock '46  
 Mary (Cline) Sharrock '46  
 Margaret (Hamann) Fox '47  
 Margaret (Baker) Haas '47  
 Willard Staub '47  
 Freda (Lambright) Clement '48  
 Norma Lauterbach '48  
 Ruth (Lenert) Pifer '48  
 Beulah (Royal) Biegalko '49  
 Martha (Lemon) Brune '49, '51  
 Norman Detray '49  
 Sal Giudice '49  
 Glenn Helm '49, '51  
 Jane (Heinbuch) Homze '49  
 Lou Ann (Cowling) Lewis '49  
 Glenna (Dewese) Philo '49  
 Walter Schoenig '49  
 Barbara (Ward) Blanchard '50  
 Don Christofer '50  
 Lillian (Hanic) Hazlett '50  
 Mary (Gallienne) Miller '50  
 Fritz Plinke '50  
 Adolph Russo '50  
 John Stipp '50  
 Charles Townsend '50  
 Virginia Van Pelt '50  
 George Walton '50  
 Walter Wellstead '50  
 John Axelson '51  
 David Conway '51  
 Jack Easton '51  
 Charles Faulkner '51  
 Clark Folgate '51  
 Albert Goh '51  
 Charles Guth '51  
 John Loy '51  
 Jack Morimitsu '51  
 Chester Palen '51, '53  
 Louise (Burrell) Rebers '51  
 Howard Rohan '51  
 Frank Searfoss '51  
 William Smith '51  
 Kathryn (Kah) Dunnivant '52  
 Gloria Fellers '52, '53  
 Victoria (Vance) Moseley '52  
 Margaret (Chandler) Payne '52  
 Roger Sutherland '52  
 Wanda (Emch) Veh '52  
 Audrey (Ross) Elmore '53  
 Willis Ensign '53  
 Mary (Ibele) Emler '53  
 John Walli '53  
 Patricia (Sims) Weissbrod '53  
 Ray Weissbrod '53  
 Connie Zimmerman-Nissen '53  
 Paul Cothrel '54, '56  
 William Cunningham '54  
 Franklin Gould '54  
 Lester Green '54, '56  
 Kathleen Hazeldine '54, '56  
 Lillian Koehler '54  
 James Longnecker '54  
 Douglas Mooney '54, '56  
 Clark Stager '54  
 Carl Bristow '55  
 Nannette (Striggow) Hart '55  
 James Hoffmann '55  
 Alton Gladieux '55  
 Arlene (Nitschke) Mayers '55, '57  
 James Aten '56  
 Marilyn (Ray) Bigler '56  
 Donald Butler '56, '58  
 Marjorie (Miers) Doane '56

Bernardine Gejdos '56  
 Ruby (Laubaugh) Johnson '56  
 Francis Kirby '56  
 Nancy (Kaiser) Rowlett '56  
 Carmie (Amata) Stager '56  
 Evelyn (Revay) Wolf '56  
 Terry Emrick '57  
 Richard Gunther '57  
 Tim Von Der Embse '57  
 Gary Anderson '58  
 Beverley Hanley '58  
 Susan (Miller) Hoffman '58  
 Karl Kramer '58  
 James Schomaeker '58  
 Arthur Sykes '58  
 Dorothy Tucker '58  
 John Blake '59  
 Willard Carr '59  
 Tom Edie '59  
 Bryan Malloch '59  
 Laurretta (Beard) Bolmer '60  
 Dolores (Carlson) Grabel '60  
 Marilyn Harmon '60  
 Barbara Mann '60  
 James Mendell '60  
 Nancy (Boseske) Patterson '60  
 Harriet Peters '60  
 Dale Adams '61, '63  
 Joyce (Milnor) Blair '61  
 Bernard Casey '61, '66  
 Richard Huffer '61  
 Larry Looker '61  
 Raymond Mihalsky '61  
 John Piper '61  
 Lillian (Hanic) Treon '61  
 Gordon Wahlers '61  
 Harold Wert '61, '63  
 James Baucher '62  
 Karen (Kehoe) Bertke '62  
 Margene (Campbell) Butler '62, '72  
 Bert Coburn '62  
 Mary (Haas) Crandall '62  
 Richard Frey '62  
 Manuel Garcia '62  
 Jerrilyn (Falk) Hughes '62  
 David Lore '62  
 Kathleen (Myers) Maidlow '62  
 Joseph McNamara '62  
 Richard Newsome '62  
 George Oancea '62  
 Kenneth Williams '62  
 Lana (Lehman) Beucler '63  
 David Crawfis '63, '64  
 Marv Dunn '63  
 Fred Elliott '63  
 Norma Foote '63, '65  
 Maxine (Ruper) Gerwig '63  
 Sonia (Bovier) Jones '63  
 David McClung '63  
 Larry McNeill '63  
 Marjorie (Wolfe) Rowe '63  
 Marshall Wakat '63  
 John Baumann '64  
 Roger Farlee '64, '66  
 Mel Gilbert '64  
 William Ommert '64  
 Jean (Moore) Richard '64  
 Matilda Shonk '64  
 Janice (Stefano) Suppa-Friedman '64  
 George Vaia '64  
 James West '64  
 Donald Corfman '65  
 Charles Darnell '65  
 John Garand '65  
 Mary (Eurenius) George '65  
 Paul Gilson '65, '67  
 Sandra (Showers) Keller '65  
 Ronald Osborn '65  
 Leta (Yoder) Sullins '65  
 Sandra (Price) Inks '66  
 Judy Kiser '66  
 James Klesack '66  
 Donna (Conard) Kull '66  
 Dennis Reese '66  
 David Reinhart '66  
 Suzanne (Honey) Van Meter '66, '71  
 Gary Annett '67

James Case '67  
 James Joseph '67  
 Robert Morris '67  
 Robert Phillips '67, '70, '77  
 Judy (Baumann) Powell '67  
 Donald Rogier '67, '69  
 Gary Schuetz '67, '68  
 Dorothy (Dunbar) Utz '67  
 Roger Weigle '67  
 Susan (Workman) Bowman '68  
 Alan Brauer '68  
 Mervyn Burdge '68  
 William Castle '68  
 Thomas Cottrell '68  
 Susan (Halvacs) Guarino '68  
 Roger Hartman '68  
 Mary (Symonds) Immel '68  
 Robert Montooth '68  
 Clark Shimeall '68  
 Roy Wise '68  
 Richard Anderson '69  
 Philip Cronenwett '69  
 Lois (Beard) Fritz '69  
 Doug Garrett '69  
 Donna Hicks '69  
 John Marshall '69  
 Roger Maxwell '69  
 Marilyn (Stearns) Reddin '69  
 Stephen Reed '69  
 John Stahl '69  
 Marilyn (Piper) Young '69  
 William Baldrige '70, '76  
 Robert Feisel '70, '72  
 Ruth (Fought) Gray '70  
 Pamela (Jesson) Jones '70  
 Kenneth Leist '70  
 James Russell '70  
 Beverly (Bender) Smith '70  
 Maxwell Stamper '70  
 Barbara (Shrider) Taylor '70  
 John Yacos '70  
 Carolyn (Dreitler) Beam '71  
 Norma (Hall) Bergeron '71  
 Kathleen (Solet) Cole '71  
 Michael Cox '71  
 Larry Erven '71  
 Barbara (Fogt) Faught '71  
 Richard Jackson '71  
 Shirley Mitchell '71, '73  
 James Samek '71  
 Michael Schlenker '71  
 Garland Tussing '71  
 Robert Wittchel '71  
 Ann (McKee) Cress '72  
 Sharon Hupp '72, '99  
 Robert Lee '72  
 Shirley McLaughlin '72  
 Barbara (Gardner) Moyer '72  
 Laura Nelson '72  
 Ronald Nickel '72  
 Barbara (Wetzel) Schlarb '72  
 Linda (Harbaugh) Sundlof '72  
 James Ward '72  
 Barrett Blackwell '73  
 Richard Crawford '73, '77  
 Dennis Ehren '73, '75  
 Pat Hay '73  
 Ronald Hill '73  
 Catherine Jacquot '73  
 Patricia (Troxel) Lengemann '73  
 Debera Libkind '73  
 Jimmie Morrison '73  
 Linda (Schoeni) Snyder '73  
 Aggrey Thurairatnam '73, '75, '81  
 Rosemary (Downing) Toman '73  
 Bob Urschaltz '73  
 Robert Alders '74  
 Donald Baer '74  
 Douglas Bruns '74  
 Charles Campbell '74  
 Kitty (Dillon) Day '74  
 Laura (Harrell) Fruscella '74  
 Debbie (Hoseclaw) Haas '74  
 Ronald Intihar '74  
 Richard Kohn '74  
 Arle Metcalf '74  
 Gloria Miller-Byerly '74

Derrick Roberts '74  
 George Sweeney '74  
 Deb (Cooper) Wallace '74  
 Michael Young '74  
 Ann (Clark) Arnold '75, '77  
 Ken Bostdorff '75, '79  
 Aladin Ferian '75  
 Chester Jordan '75  
 Bernadette Krueger '75  
 Shirley (Sizemore) Mierzejewski '75  
 Terry Navratil '75  
 Katherine (Bonfiglio) Romaker '75  
 Jan Van Gorder '75  
 Janet (Drogomir) Schmeltz '75  
 Kathy (Eberling) Williams '75  
 Stanley Herman '76  
 Kathleen (Latham) Holden '76  
 Barbara (Howe) Howe '76  
 Kevin Miller '76  
 Robert Slauson '76, '78  
 William Swain '76  
 Robert Beitler '77  
 Jayne (Seed) Bradford '77  
 Jeri (Maines) Dinardo '77  
 Scott MacMillan '77  
 Harold Ong '77  
 Barbara Beckley '78  
 Sam Busco '78  
 Barbara (Frentsos) Butler '78  
 Grover Dowell '78  
 Karl Rinehart '78  
 Constance Schnurr '78  
 Paul Streecker '78  
 Victoria (Hill) Welling '78  
 Lewis Yeager '78  
 Elizabeth (Gerhardstein) Young '78  
 David Cowles '79  
 Cindy (Smith) Dailey '79  
 Joel Gallagher '79  
 Ida Geiger '79  
 Elaine (Ziegman) Roush '79  
 William Camp '80  
 Kevin Harrison '80  
 Delores Moyer '80  
 Julie (Snyder) Wherry '80  
 Paul Anderson '81  
 Gregory Garrett '81, '82  
 Lisa (Lalonde) Langevin '81  
 Carol (Wilson) Lytle '81  
 David Mohn '81  
 Debra (Smith) Sidell '81  
 Patricia (Goerger) Hausmann '82  
 Martha Lovett '82  
 Mary (Centa) Salisbury '82  
 Carol (Shipley) Sowers '82  
 Mary (Steggeman) Woolf '82  
 Paula Edwards '83  
 Jeffrey Little '83  
 Robert Fidler '84, '98  
 Susan Francis '85  
 James Goodyear '85  
 Kathy (Maier) Kananen '85  
 Kristin (Bergstrom) Vessey '85, '91  
 Cynthia (Fritts) Bolovan-Fritts '86  
 Debra Dehn '86  
 Geoffrey Gerrish '87  
 Michael Valan '87  
 Edwin Watts '87  
 Raymond Redd '88  
 Dorothy Wertheimer '88  
 Lori (Etzler) Brim '89  
 Amy (Spoerl) Knoedler '89, '93  
 Thomas LaPolt '89  
 David Preston '90  
 Sandra Jones '91  
 Sophonia Owens '91  
 Sandra (Walters) Schaefer '91, '93  
 Douglas Jenkins '92  
 Kathy Kapostasy '92  
 Rebekah (Keibler) Randall '92  
 Leigh Cattran '93  
 John Pertner '94  
 Wendy (Richmond) Ericsson '95  
 Shawn Spence '98  
 Antony White '98, '02  
 Jodie (Miller) Miller '01  
 William Engelke '03

Jessica (Yorks) Wirth '03  
 Alice Cook '04  
 Thomas Dailey '04  
 Joel Hauenstein '05  
 Rhonda (Ray) Swallow '05  
 Amanda Fleeman '08  
 Lovey (Coakley) Leavell '08, '10  
 Seth Bordner '09  
 Peter Schank '11  
 Shirley (Sizemore) Mierzejewski '12  
 Suzanne (Leon) Berg '13  
 Michael Simone '14  
 Patrick De Luca\*  
 Ed Epperson\*  
 Jack Frobose\*  
 Kent Hagg\*  
 Fern (Leffel) Johns\*  
 Gloria (Ballantyne) Kistler\*  
 Aurelia (Christea) Krugliak\*  
 Arthur Miller\*  
 Brian Rothblatt\*  
 John Sands\*  
 Hugh Sautter\*  
 Nelda Smith\*

## FACULTY/STAFF

Hassoon Al-Amiri, Professor Emeritus, Mathematics/Statistics  
 John Bentley, Professor Emeritus, Music  
 Lloyd Buckwell Jr., Professor Emeritus, Business Administration  
 Neal Carothers, Professor Emeritus, Mathematics/Statistics  
 Mary McKinney Edmonds, Vice President of Student Affairs  
 Shirley Freeworth, Dining Services/Cook  
 Darrel Fyffe, Professor Emeritus, Science/Math Education  
 Carol Hummel, Facilities/Custodian  
 Mark Kelly, Director of Bands Emeritus  
 Judy Kiser, Assistant Professor Emeritus, Social Work  
 Jane Jividen, Secretary  
 Marjorie Miller, Assistant Professor Emeritus, Family and Consumer Sciences  
 Gilbert Perez, Maintenance  
 John Piper, Men's Head Golf Coach/  
 Associate Professor Emeritus of Health Physical Education  
 Diane Pretzer, Professor Emeritus, Romance Languages  
 Randy Roah, Facilities/Carpenter  
 Jack Rhoden Jr., Facilities/Custodian  
 Carol Schroeder, Baker  
 John 'Jack' Schroeder, Chief Accountant/Controller  
 Carol Sima, Secretary/Firelands  
 Linda Snyder, Administrative Assistant, Student Financial Aid  
 Elmer Spreitzer, Professor Emeritus, Sociology  
 Truc Truong Nguyen, Professor Emeritus, Mathematics/Statistics  
 Kristin Vessey, Professor Emeritus, Biological Sciences/Center for Environmental Programs  
 Clyde Willis, Dean Emeritus, College of Health and Human Services

\* Denotes an alumnus/alumna who attended but did not earn a degree from BGSU.

# CREATIVE CORNER

## *One Question.*

By Kayleen Powell

Does my color intimidate you?  
The blacker the berry the sweeter the juice, they say.  
The way I talk, does it scare you?  
Does it invoke the thought that maybe I was taught in a school just like you?  
Words like; ain't, naw, dat, and ya'll  
They're words used by us all  
BUT I was labeled with, she's only able to  
Say. These. Things.

But, today I'm here to say, I'm an intellectual being with my own thoughts and feelings.  
Who says words of meaning. Words with flavor. You know, Words to savor.  
So, who I be intellectually  
Or what you see or say about me in reality is just a reflection of me.  
But, only the me I want you to see.  
See rather I speak with a twang or walk with a swing of the hips  
Just judgments simple as the curve of my lips.  
You underestimate me from a simple tone. Skin tone that is.  
They say a man who only looks skin deep takes the first steps towards his own defeat,  
So set me aside in category that makes me unworthy  
Of the same difficulties or setting the same priorities you set from day to day  
But what you fail to understand is I have the upper hand  
By showing you what you think I can do, I limit what you think you have to.  
See, You size me up as though I have no chance  
But the way I see it that's you, my man.  
Trained to think my color is a set back,  
Trained to think I should shhh, and just sit back.  
BUT  
You assume and you'll see that's not me.  
I see what's mine and I'm gonna take it.  
I love my color and I swear I'm done fakin'.  
So when I claim the things you thought were never for me  
Just know I'm right where I'm supposed to be!  
So back to my first question, I'll ask again  
Because you might have answered different then,  
I'll give you another chance my friend.  
Does my color intimidate you?



**Kayleen Powell '17**

**Hometown:** Detroit

**Major:** Social work

**Minor:** Psychology

**Career:** Community Mental Health Licensed Social Worker (LSW)

**About:** "I am interested in poetry and spoken word because it is the most personal yet inviting form of expression I know. Every piece allows me to revisit a time and/or place in my life but also experience the emotion of that time. While doing this, when I perform or share my writings with others, it allows them to either experience where I was when the piece was written or allows them to revisit an experience or emotion of their own. I've found that either way it forces them to see my emotion and yet the feeling is left to their own interpretation. When writing or performing, everyone has the opportunity to feel, hear or experience me differently, and I enjoy that unique experience — it's different every time even if it's the same piece. This to me means freedom and serves as an open invitation for others to do the same. I equally appreciate sharing the experience with my audiences as they do receiving the experience."

**Note:** Kayleen Powell performed "One Question." at the Beyond "The Dream" MLK Spoken Word, Songs and Theatre event January 31, 2018, at BGSU's University Hall.

**Creative Corner is a new feature, showcasing creative work of BGSU students, faculty, staff and alumni. To be considered for a future feature, or if you'd like to recommend alumni, email [bgmagazine@bgsu.edu](mailto:bgmagazine@bgsu.edu).**

# CLAS S NOTES

## 60s

**William Gilmore '65, '66** recently published the memoir "Dear Jason and Jodi." Gilmore was a math education major and earned a master's degree in education. The book covers Gilmore's adventures in drag racing while in high school and in U.S. Air Force pilot training as well as flying hundreds of combat missions in the Vietnam War.

**Anthony Tarasenko, M.D. '65** was honored with the Centers of Medical Excellence award two years in a row, 2016 and 2017, in the state of New Jersey at the Concentra Medical Center. Tarasenko recently was re-elected to the Board of Trustees for the New Jersey State Medical Society and as treasurer of Union County Medical Society of the state of New Jersey. He is running for office as the state treasurer for the New Jersey State Medical Society.

**Tom Rettig '67** was recently inducted into Tipp City, Ohio's inaugural Athletic Hall of Fame. Rettig coached girls basketball in Tipp City for 23 years and had two state tournament appearances. He was admitted to the Ohio High School Basketball Coaches Hall of Fame in 2009 with 416 career wins.

**Leonard Durso '69** recently published his sixth novel, "Istanbul Days, Istanbul Nights." Set in the historic city, the novel chronicles the journey of 10 dynamic characters from across the globe, each trying to navigate their way through life and love, while remaining hindered by their own unique cultural differences. Durso, a native New Yorker with a Master of Fine Arts from BGSU, has lived in Turkey since 2008.

## 70s

**Dr. Marlene M. Preston '70**, associate professor of communication in the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences at Virginia Tech, has been conferred the title of associate professor emerita by the Virginia Tech Board of Visitors.

A member of the university community since 1993, Preston has made significant contributions in the discipline of teaching communication and is recognized as an authority in instructional development and innovation in oral and written communication.

Preston taught undergraduate courses ranging from communication skills and virtual public speaking to interpersonal communication and international perspectives on communication. In addition, she served the Department of Communication in several administrative capacities, including assistant department head, director of undergraduate programs, director of communication skills, director of CommLab and director of public speaking.

**Christopher Ragsdale '72, '76.** Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference (HCAC) Commissioner, will retire from his position June 30. Ragsdale was selected as the HCAC's second commissioner in July of 2008 and is completing his 10th year with the conference.

During Commissioner Ragsdale's tenure at the HCAC, he has played a fundamental role in the conference's growth and development, sportsmanship initiative and policy implementation. The conference has increased its championship sport sponsorship with the addition of four sports under Ragsdale's leadership.

During a 41-year career in higher education, Ragsdale, who received his bachelor's degree in health, physical education and recreation and a master's degree in physical education from BGSU, worked at five different NCAA Division III institutions.

**Jefferson L. Sherman '73**, MAI, AI-GRS, of Highland Heights, Ohio, began his one-year term as vice president of the Appraisal Institute on Jan. 1. The Appraisal Institute is the nation's largest professional association of real estate appraisers with nearly 19,000 professionals in almost 60 countries.

"I'm privileged to help lead the valuation profession during this exciting time," Sherman said. "I look forward to representing my fellow appraisers from around the world."

Sherman's one-year term as vice president will be followed by one year each as president-elect in 2019, president in 2020 and as immediate past president in 2021. He also will serve on the Appraisal Institute's executive committee and on its policy-setting board of directors.

Sherman served as president of BGSU's Student Body Organization in 1972-73. His wife, Pamela (Steinberger), also is a 1973 BGSU graduate.

## 80s

**Rodney K. Rogers '81** was named the 12th president of Bowling Green State University on Feb. 23, 2018.

**Adrian D. Thompson '83** has been named co-partner-in-charge of Taft Stettinius and Hollister LLP's Cleveland office.

Thompson joined the firm in 2006 and is a member of its executive committee.

He also serves as Taft's chief diversity officer and co-leads the firm's diversity and inclusion committee. He provides counsel for private sector clients on issues including equal employment opportunity litigation, wage-hour problems, employment of the disabled and other labor matters.

"In partnership with our Cleveland attorney team, I am determined to continue Taft's mission to meet and exceed client expectations, and make a difference in the northeast Ohio communities where we work and live," Thompson said.

**Dianna O'Brien '87** published the biography "From Melon Fields to Moon Rocks," a rags-to-riches story about Charles W. Gehrke, scientist and entrepreneur. Gehrke was a University of Missouri professor who grew up poor in rural southeast Ohio but went on to become a scientist who pioneered ways to analyze everything from fertilizers to moon rocks. In 1968, he founded ABC Labs, a company which employed 400 people before its 2015 global firm buyout.

O'Brien graduated with two bachelor's degrees, one in women's studies and one in journalism. She has a blog at [ColumbiaHistoricHomes.com](http://ColumbiaHistoricHomes.com), which chronicles her research.

The Cleveland law firm of Buckley King recently announced that **Gregory S. Costabile '89** has become a shareholder of the firm. Costabile, who joined the firm in 2016, is a certified specialist in family relations law by the Ohio State Bar Association Specialty Board.

He is a seasoned litigator and trained in alternative dispute-resolution techniques including collaborative law, mediation, interdisciplinary collaborative law and as a Guardian ad Litem.

A former mayor, Costabile earned a Bachelor of Science, cum laude, from BGSU.

## 00s

**Ron Taylor '00**, Berry College professor, was honored by the Mathematical Association of America with the Deborah and Franklin Tepper Haimo Award for Distinguished College or University Teaching

of Mathematics. He was recognized for his success cultivating an inquiry-based learning approach to his mathematics classroom at Berry College in Rome, Georgia.

He used his experience to mentor mathematics faculty at other institutions and co-chaired the organizing committee for the Inquiry Based Learning-Forum & Annual Legacy of R.L. Moore Conference.

GO2 Partners has named **M. Brandon Melgaard '01** as managing partner of its Twinsburg, Ohio, office. He has led the creative agency since its inception in 1999.

Melgaard has been with GO2 for 18 years. After graduating from Bowling Green State University, he began his career as a graphic designer. Melgaard then shifted his attention to growing the interactive capabilities at GO2, and was later named creative director. His multifaceted background set him on a path toward leadership, rising through the ranks to associate partner, and now managing partner.

"I am honored to have been chosen as GO2's new managing partner," Melgaard said. "This company has supported my professional growth for more than a decade, providing me with unmatched career opportunities and an incredible base of knowledge. I am both excited and humbled to be given the chance to guide this agency into its next chapter."

**Marc O'Neill '01**, who earned a master's degree in rehabilitation counseling, recently coauthored an article in *Corrections Today*, an American Correctional Association publication. O'Neill, who is employed at the Lucas County Sheriff's Office, studied Lucas County jail inmates in a heroin-treatment program with the late Dr. Marion Boss.

Their study found that many inmates used heroin to self-medicate and also suffered mental health problems. The paper found that almost 60 percent of the inmates surveyed reported a diagnosed mental disorder, and 38 percent are unemployed. About half sought out heroin as a means to boost emotions and feelings. An additional 35 percent said the drug's low cost attracted them.

The Cleveland law firm of Gallagher Sharp LLP recently announced that **Rema A. Ina '04** has joined the firm as an associate. Ina defends employers in cases involving employment law issues. She represents insurance carriers in coverage and defense matters, and also has experience in the areas of medical malpractice and workers' compensation. Early in her career, she was an assistant attorney general representing the citizens of Ohio in workers' compensation and employment lawsuits.

Ina received her law degree from Hofstra University in 2007 and earned her undergraduate degree, cum laude, from BGSU.

**Dr. Kelly Weinersmith '04, '07**, recently co-authored the book "Soonish: Ten Emerging Technologies That'll Improve and/or Ruin Everything." Weinersmith has bachelor's and master's degree in science from BGSU.

**Kat Fish '07** was named the Eastern Dance Association 2017 Coach of the Year. Fish retired from coaching after leading the Mountain View High School dance team in Stafford, Virginia, for 10 years. Her teams were all-around grand champions at the Eastern Dance Association Nationals in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, in 2010 and 2014.

At BGSU, Fish majored in dance performance and minored in dance education and was a member of the University Performing Dancers.

*To share your news with Class Notes, send an email to [bgsu magazine@bgsu.edu](mailto:bgsu magazine@bgsu.edu)*

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# FALCON ★ PROUD

## CREATING PUBLIC GOOD ALUMNUS' VISION FOR DETROIT IS 20/20

For decades, “brain drain,” the emigration of trained or educated people from an area, has negatively impacted Detroit. But evidence suggests that the drain is over. Bowling Green State University alumnus Michael Swafford, for one, is excited about his hometown’s future and gives credit to the Detroit residents who never gave up on his city.

Originally from the west side of Detroit, Swafford said he is “very passionate about the city of Detroit and its residents. Most importantly, I love the youth. Volunteer and mentoring work is really what drives me to be the best that I can be outside of my family.”

By moving back to Detroit after graduating with a bachelor’s degree in education in 2015 and immersing himself in projects designed to improve the city he loves, Swafford is part of Detroit’s resurgence.

Once he saw that enhancing Detroit was his passion, Swafford joined a yearlong, four-day-a-week fellowship through General Motors Co. On Fridays, he would use design thinking to collaborate and solve challenges for various nonprofits, organizations and communities in Detroit. GM offered him a position after his fellowship ended.

“I used the fellowship as an engine to help immerse myself more in the city of Detroit, while giving back,” he said. “Now I am working for General Motors and continuing to give back to the community both on my own and with my company as well.”



Swafford has a hybrid role at the company, which allows him to work as a talent consultant and to institutionalize GM2020 in local GM campuses.

GM2020 is a grassroots initiative that focuses on creating an innovative workplace that challenges norms, values collaboration, embraces change and empowers employees to reach their full potential, Swafford said. While leaders at the top of the organization set the foundation for organizational change, it is up to GM2020 to empower employees to challenge traditional thinking.

“I want to show children that choosing a college education is very beneficial and cool as well,” he said. “I want them to know that they don’t have to be a product of their environment and can dream bigger than their surrounding neighborhoods.”

“When you don’t grow up seeing men that look like you who took the college route, you tend to be oblivious to the fact that options even exist. Now, they get to see me, listen to me and learn from me, which is why I consider myself a real model versus a role model, which is someone you just see on TV or read about in a book.”



### 2018 FALCON FOOTBALL!

**Alumni Falcon Four Pack**  
Includes four season tickets, parking and concession savings (total savings of up to \$198)

**General Admission** - \$35 per ticket  
**Bench Reserve** - \$40 per ticket

*\*Must purchase minimum of four tickets  
Purchase using the promo code Alumni4Pack by calling 419.372.0000 or by visiting [BGSUFALCONS.COM/tickets](http://BGSUFALCONS.COM/tickets)*



# MAKE BGSU YOUR DESTINATION FOR A FUN SUMMER STAYCATION!



## Join us for Alumni Summer College June 13-15

Alumni Summer College will provide a series of educational (and fun) classes and lively discussions.

Not just for alumni – this special programming is open to anyone who wants to stretch their mind. Expect the lectures and classes to be insightful and thought-provoking. Courses will be taught by BGSU's nationally recognized faculty and will be informative and entertaining!

Course areas include:

- Popular culture
- History
- Arts and Sciences
- Literature
- Current events

Attendees will enjoy time with fellow Falcons and friends on campus, as well as access to swimming and workout facilities at the newly renovated Student Recreation Center.

**Details and registration available at [bgsu.edu/alumnisummercollege](http://bgsu.edu/alumnisummercollege) or call 888-839-2586.**

**Registration now open!**



## BG CHAT. FLAT FREDDIE.

**A.** “#FlatFreddie and I are in Memphis for the 2018 St. Jude’s Volunteer Leadership Conference. Registration is open for the walk/run events around the country. Email [bmbensman@gmail.com](mailto:bmbensman@gmail.com) for info.”  
– Britt Sommers Bensman ’04, ’06

**B.** David Hicks ’64, ’68 and his wife, Elizabeth, stopped by Mileti Alumni Center during their campus visit from Florida.

**C.** “Hanging out with #FlatFreddie in the city of brotherly love!” – Mizell Stewart

**D.** Dave Ridenour ’70 posing with #FlatFreddie while stopping by Mileti Alumni Center to say hello!

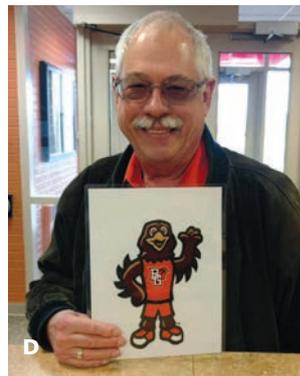
**E.** Phillip Ferguson with former Falcon basketball player Len Matela during a BGSU Men’s Basketball game in Dekalb, Illinois.

**F.** BGSU’s Young Alumni Council pictured with #FlatFreddie during a recent meeting at Mileti Alumni Center.

**G.** The BGSU Alumni Board of Directors poses with #FlatFreddie to complete their one hour of Ziggy Time!

**H.** Lee and Marge Meserve posing with #FlatFreddie at a recent BGSU Women’s Basketball game.

**I.** “We had just dined at the Hub in downtown Tucson, Arizona, before heading to a performance of Women’s Night, the musical.” – Denise Robedeau (pictured with: Cheryl (Stein) House, Kim Fitch & Lynda (Cook) Gunn)



You can download #FlatFreddie at [bgsu.edu/ziggytime](http://bgsu.edu/ziggytime).