Homecoming Bash at BGSU Firelands

During Homecoming week, BGSU mascot Freddie Falcon made a trip to the Firelands campus with members of the spirit team to celebrate Homecoming and promote the BGSU football game vs. the University of Massachusetts. Students were treated to a BBQ picnic, pictures with Freddie, and free homecoming t-shirts, courtesy of the BGSU Firelands Alumni Association. Student Government led Spirit Week activities by holding a cornhole tournament with students, faculty, and staff participating. Student Government selected daily winners during Spirit Week in which they chose winners whose clothing demonstrated the most school spirit. Over 175 Homecoming tickets were distributed to BGSU Firelands students, faculty, staff, and alumni.

In addition, BGSU Firelands students and alumni celebrated with other fans outside Doyt Perry Stadium before kickoff at the Homecoming game. Heavy rain, mud, and flooding was no match for the BGSU revelers as they enjoyed the largest tailgate party of the year.

Consider a Year-End Gift to BGSU Firelands

Gifts to BGSU Firelands directly support the nearly 2,500 students on the Huron campus. Last year, the College was able to award more than 120 partial scholarships that recognized the abilities and needs of our students and demonstrated to them that there is a group of alumni and friends who support their academic success. Making your gift online lets you “make a difference” quickly and easily. Charitable contributions can be made at www.firelands.bgsu.edu/guests/

“...The renovations and expansion will fulfill campus and student needs now and in the immediate future. This capital investment underscores the College’s commitment to meeting the educational objectives of our students and the need of employers in our region, particularly in the health-related professions,” said BGSU Firelands Dean Bill Balzer.
Students Increase Awareness of Human Trafficking

It may come as a surprise to the average citizen in northern Ohio that Toledo ranks fourth nationwide in human sex trafficking arrests. According to the FBI’s Law Enforcement Bulletin on Human Sex Trafficking, this form of modern-day slavery has become the fastest-growing form of organized crime and the third-largest form of criminal activity worldwide.

BGSU Firelands Criminal Justice Lecturer Tracy McGinley is a strong advocate against this social injustice and she has been working with student groups to help spread the word. “The average victim is recruited into human trafficking at 12-13 years of age. The traffickers sweep into the lives of these victims acting like a knight-in-shining armor at first. The victims become trapped, and it is very difficult for them to escape,” said McGinley.

This past year, McGinley and students from her criminal justice class began working with Teresa Flores of FREE International to coordinate a local SOAP project (Save Our Adolescents from Prostitution) aimed at combating human trafficking. Students traveled to area hotels leaving bars of soap in rooms with the National Human Trafficking Hotline number and key identifying questions to alert visitors of the signs that human trafficking could be occurring in the hotel.

The BGSU Firelands SOAP effort led to two positive identifications of female victims who were reportedly seen coming and going frequently in a local hotel.

BGSU Firelands HOPE and Criminal Justice clubs have also teamed with the Ohio Turnpike Commission to raise awareness of the prevalence of human trafficking. Students have spent multiple days at the Amherst travel plaza which was selected because it is the most frequented plaza on the Ohio Turnpike. Students displayed statistics on human trafficking and passed out literature to individuals as they entered and exited the plaza. The event received extended coverage from the local media.

BGSU Firelands seniors majoring in criminal justice spoke with seniors at Edison High School this past year to increase awareness. The college students described ways for teens to identify where human trafficking may be occurring, how to avoid becoming a victim of trafficking, and where to go for help if they become a victim or suspect someone they know has become a victim. McGinley’s goal this year is to expand their speaking engagements to other area high schools.

“Being able to reach out to local high schools is a win-win for both high school and BGSU Firelands students. High school seniors become aware of the prevalence of human trafficking in northern Ohio while criminal justice students get real-world practice in public speaking,” said McGinley. “If our efforts save even one victim of human trafficking or deter one person from engaging in the criminal activity, we have succeeded.”
BGSU Firelands honored some of their best and brightest during the 14th Annual Scholarship Breakfast.

Held in the Cedar Point Center on the Firelands campus, the event brings together the recipients of scholarships offered through the College and the donor organization and individuals who support those scholarships.

“It’s really a special event,” said BGSU Firelands Director of Enrollment Management & Student Retention Services Debralee Divers. “The donors are delighted to see the tangible results of their generous contributions and for the opportunity to meet our students. Equally important, the scholarship recipients appreciate the opportunity to thank those who have helped them achieve their dreams,” added Divers, who organizes the event each year.

A capacity crowd of more than 250 people included donors, students and their families, and several representatives from the Bowling Green Campus including President Mary Ellen Mazey and Vice President for University Advancement Shea McGrew.

Throughout the morning, 133 students were recognized and they collectively were awarded more than $150,000 in scholarships. The event featured several new scholarships which were established for the 2013-2014 academic year (see the story to the right).

“The scholarship I received will be of great assistance in paying for my educational expenses and it will allow me to focus my time and energy into studying, learning, and growing,” said Talon Smith, a criminal justice student at BGSU Firelands.

Students can receive scholarships based on their achievements inside or outside of the classroom or for financial need. For some students, financial need is the only thing that stands between them and their dreams of earning a college education.

“I wanted my donors to know that my scholarship and the degree it is helping me to earn will set an example for my children to live up to, so their efforts in support of me are not narrowly focused,” added Smith, a Huron resident.

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**New Scholarships in 2013-2014**

- BALZER-LOCKHART FAMILY FIRELANDS SCHOLARSHIP - Established by BGSU Firelands Dean William K. Balzer and his wife Margaret J. Lockhart
- BGSU FIRELANDS ALUMNI SCHOLARSHIP - Established by the BGSU Firelands Alumni Advisory Board
- JOHN CLARK MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP - Established by Cynthia Clark in memory of her late husband and former coordinator of career services at BGSU Firelands
- ESPERANZA SCHOLARSHIP - Established by Voces Unidas of Sandusky County
- LAURA A. KAUTZ MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP - Established by James Harris
- JAMES H. AND MARGARET B. MCBRIDE SCHOLARSHIP - Established by Margaret McBride
- PHI DELTA KAPPA SCHOLARSHIP - Established by the Firelands College Chapter #1382 Phi Delta Kappa Fraternity
- RUDINGER FOUNDATION CREATIVE ARTS SCHOLARSHIP - Established by retired faculty member Joel Rudinger and The Rudinger Foundation
- TRAVEL & TOURISM SCHOLARSHIP - Established by the Lake Erie Firelands Tourist Council
- DR. JEFFREY WAGNER MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP IN NATURAL SCIENCES - Established by Barbara Wagner in memory of her late husband and former BGSU Firelands professor
- KEN & RHONDA WATT SCHOLARSHIP - Established by Ken & Rhonda Watt
Homecoming
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“The Homecoming tailgate party was a blast! Besides the fact our feet were soaked, the students were able to mingle with alumni and enjoy the AMAZING food! It really got you pumped for the game and was truly an experience that I will never forget,” said BGSU Firelands Student Government President Rachael Cummings who made the trip to the BG campus to cheer on the football team.

The Falcons thumped UMass 28-7.

Building
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Nationally and locally, healthcare is among the fastest growing and most popular occupational sectors. Ten of the 20 fastest growing occupations nationwide are healthcare vocations. By 2018, the healthcare industry is expected to generate 3.2 million new jobs - more than any other industry.

With the Allied Health & Sciences Project, BGSU Firelands will continue to be a regional leader in nursing and allied health science education, preparing students to realize careers in these high-demand fields.

Total cost for the Allied Health & Sciences Project is expected to be approximately $16 million. Funding will be derived from a variety of sources including College reserves, state capital appropriations, and private fund raising.

To learn more about the project and campaign, see the website at www.firelands.bgsu.edu/expansion

Mazey Supports BGSU Firelands Alumni Association

BGSU President Mary Ellen Mazey recently visited with the BGSU Firelands Alumni Advisory Board members and discussed ways in which the newly formed Alumni Association can offer support to current students and alumni of BGSU Firelands. She reiterated the importance of BGSU partnering with the business community by offering internships, co-ops, and other outreach programs for students and alumni. This was President Mazey’s 13th visit to the BGSU Firelands campus since inaugurated as BGSU’s President in 2011.

President Mazey emphasized her commitment in keeping BGSU Firelands an affordable option for both traditional and non-traditional students seeking to obtain a quality, university education in north-central Ohio. “Employers are continuously looking for qualified, educated employees to enter their workforce, and BGSU Firelands is a critical component in giving students the opportunity to obtain an excellent and affordable education so they may pursue their professional interests and goals.”

BGSU Firelands Alumni Advisory Board member Justin Harris believes President Mazey’s emphasis on continued partnering between BGSU Firelands and the BG campus is critical to the development of all BGSU Falcons. “Her vision regarding the role higher education has to play in the economic development of the state of Ohio will inevitably make Ohio a better place to establish a career.”

BGSU Firelands Alumni Advisory Board member Tom Gerrity shared his views of President Mazey’s visit to BGSU Firelands. “President Mazey understands and appreciates the value regional campuses like Firelands provide to the local community. We are privileged she has visited our campus so many times in her short tenure as BGSU President. Under her leadership, BGSU Firelands will continue to grow and excel.”

Getting married? Have a professional accomplishment? Having a baby?

Let us recognize your accomplishments or those of a fellow BGSU Firelands alum! Email the BGSU Firelands Alumni Affairs Office at llesnie@bgsu.edu to include updates in an upcoming newsletter.

BGSU Firelands First Organic Chemistry Laboratory (concept drawing)