University Honors 1972-1973 BGSU Firelands Basketball Team

On February 2, the University honored the 40th anniversary of the 1972-1973 Ohio Regional Campuses State Tournament Championship of the BGSU Firelands Men’s Basketball team. The men were honored in the Stroh Center during the BGSU basketball game versus Ball State. Eleven players, two cheerleaders, and former championship Coach Ed Hyland attended the event and discussed what BGSU Firelands and the basketball program has meant to them.

“The recognition event provided another opportunity for this group of alumni from the late 60s through the mid-70s to come together again, enjoy one another’s company in the present day, and relive some of the times and accomplishments from four decades ago,” said Hyland.

Team members brought photo albums, newspaper articles, and other memorabilia, while the BGSU Firelands Alumni Association provided old school uniforms, cheerleading sweaters, and the cherished championship trophy.

Alumni Association provided old school uniforms, cheerleading sweaters, and the cherished championship trophy.

The group also reminisced about their experiences at BGSU Firelands and what they gained at the College.

Attendees included: (Back Row, left to right) Mike Schoen, Kevin Lindsley ('72), Ed Hyland ('69), Paul Evert, Steve Keller ('74), Ted Kastor, Paul Orshoski ('74), Bill Brutsche ('81), John Schlessman ('82), Pat Gioffre; (Front Row) Dave Sweet ('74), Nancy Keller, Diana Miller, and Mark Deitzel.

Rick Jeffrey ’70 Receives Distinguished Alumni Award

Seven distinguished graduates, one from each of the University’s undergraduate colleges, were recently recognized by BGSU as Distinguished Alumni. Rick Jeffrey was chosen as the 2013 BGSU Firelands Distinguished Alumni, and on March 2 at the Milette Alumni Center he was honored by Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost Dr. Rodney Rogers and the Dean of BGSU Firelands Dean Bill Balzer.

Rick is a 1970 graduate of the College of Business Administration with a bachelor’s degree in accounting. He began his studies at BGSU Firelands and was selected for this prestigious award based on his decades of business and civic leadership. He brings years of business acumen to his current role as the Erie County Auditor, and has worked countless hours for the Erie County Chamber of Commerce, City Commissioner’s Office, Rotary Club, and many local school activities.

He has volunteered with various civic groups, such as the United Way and Providence Hospital, and has held leadership positions with the YMCA International Management Council and the County Auditor’s Association of Ohio.

On behalf of the BGSU Firelands Alumni Association, we would like to congratulate Rick on his professional accomplishments and wish him many more years of personal and professional success!
Greetings from BGSU Firelands! I am delighted to share with you our launch of the new BGSU Firelands Alumni Association.

Our new Alumni Association will provide a more tailored opportunity for BGSU Firelands alumni to stay engaged with the Firelands campus and expand your networking opportunities with other BGSU Firelands alumni.

In years past, alumni affairs efforts for BGSU Firelands students were supported through the BGSU Alumni Association located in the Mileti Alumni Center on the BGSU main campus. They were extremely helpful in supporting the needs of all BGSU alumni; however, there was interest expressed by a number of BGSU Firelands alumni for a local effort that offered a stronger affinity to the BGSU Firelands campus. In response to our alumni, I am pleased to introduce Laura Lesniewski who will be serving BGSU Firelands alumni in many capacities!

Whether you were among the first to attend BGSU Firelands in 1968 or one of the 89 students who participated in our May 3, 2013, commencement ceremony, our goal is that the education and knowledge you received here at BGSU Firelands will continuously open new doors of opportunity to you. If the BGSU Firelands Alumni Association can assist you or other BGSU Firelands Falcons, please do not hesitate to contact us.

I hope you take the time to learn about this wonderful association and how everyone - from alumni, to current students, to the greater community - can benefit from its presence on the BGSU Firelands campus.

Sincerely,
William K. Balzer, Ph.D.
Dean

Welcome Our Newest Alumni

On May 3, BGSU Firelands honored 89 bachelor’s and associate degree candidates who walked during the annual commencement ceremonies in the Cedar Point Center. In addition to 47 bachelor’s degree candidates who were recognized, 243 associate degrees were awarded for the 2012-2013 academic year.

Marcy Kaptur, U.S. Representative for Ohio’s 9th Congressional District, was the keynote speaker; BGSU Firelands Student Government President Katia Castile also shared insightful words for her fellow graduates. Afterward a reception was held in “The Pit” area for graduates to celebrate their accomplishments with family and friends.

Hundreds of family and friends attended the ceremony to honor the graduates, including the family of Abby Steinmetz, a senior from Perkins High School who will be awarded her associates degree through the Post-Secondary Enrollment Option Program only months after receiving her high school diploma.

“During my time spent at BGSU Firelands, I really enjoyed meeting so many new people. The instructors were always willing to help and if they couldn’t find the time, they always recommended someone to us,” said a pleased Steinmetz.

Congratulations to all of the graduates of the class of 2013 and welcome to the family of BGSU alumni.

What is ElderCollege?

Every fall and spring, BGSU Firelands offers a stimulating learning opportunity for adults ages 50 and older through the ElderCollege program. ElderCollege enables adults to share unique classroom experiences, meet new people, and participate in a wide variety of classroom lecture topics and off-site activities.

Spring semester offered more than 35 separate classes with topics ranging from a historical perspective on Eleanor Roosevelt to a tour of the NASA Plum Brook Station and from a gourmet chocolate tasting to a course comparing Chinese and Japanese cultures.

Membership is just $70 per semester or $110 for both semesters. Members can take an unlimited number of classes throughout the enrolled period. Additional fees may apply for admission to points of interest, materials, or transportation. There is also a per course fee option for non-members.

Those interested can contact the Office of Educational Outreach at 419.372.0617 or by e-mail at oeo@bgsu.edu. A discount is also offered to those who register online which can be done at http://bgsu.augusoft.net/
GSU Firelands is fortunate to offer students and the community a variety of cultural enrichment through two theater programs - Firelands College Theatre and Caryl Crane Youth Theatre. With first year Instructor and Director Grechen Wingerter at the helm, the Firelands College Theatre offered performances of “Little Women” and “Proof.” CCYT’s Artistic and Business Manager Brian Marshall continued to thrill audiences with productions of “Annie,” “The Little Mermaid,” and “Princess K.I.M.” The coming year should be equally as exciting with the following productions:

**BGSU Firelands College Theatre**

- The Glass Menagerie
  - November 7-10, 2013
- The Tempest
  - April 10-13, 2014

**Caryl Crane Youth Theatre**

- Disney’s Aladdin
  - September 6-15, 2013
- Disney’s Camp Rock The Musical
  - September 6-15, 2013

For more information, go to [www.firelands.bgsu.edu/arts](http://www.firelands.bgsu.edu/arts) or call the Box Office (open the week of performance) at 419.372.0747.

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**Inaugural Alumni Advisory Board**

BGSU Firelands is proud to announce the formation of the BGSU Firelands Alumni Advisory Board. The Board will meet several times annually to serve as liaisons and consultants on how the association can meet its goals and objectives of supporting the personal and professional development of alumni while promoting involvement and support of the University.

The Board had its first meeting on April 23, and discussed a variety of topics, including ways in which BGSU Firelands alums can support the Firelands community, the University, students, and other alums. These individuals will take an active role in guiding the BGSU Firelands Alumni Association as it becomes an active, engaged chapter of the BGSU Alumni Association. The following alumni have agreed to serve on the BGSU Firelands Alumni Advisory Board:

- Tom Gerrity ’92, Norwalk
- Justin Harris ’00, ’01, Sandusky
- Marcus Harris ’09, Sandusky
- Ed Hyland, Ph.D. ’69, Defiance
- Amy Jo Planthaber ’97, ’08, Huron
- Craig Rathbun ’83, Huron
- Wayne Roesch ’81, ’06, Milan
- Audrey Shafer ’74, ’76, Sandusky
- Mary Wade-Jones ’07, ’08, ’09, ’10, Huron
- Alex Wheeler ’12, Milan
- Richard “Dick” Smith ’74*, Milan

* (Incoming BGSU Firelands Development Board Chair and Alumni Board liaison)

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**2013 Distinguished Teacher Awards**

Each year BGSU Firelands honors two from their ranks who consistently provide a level of instruction which exemplifies the high standard of teaching at BGSU Firelands. They are nominated by students, selected by a committee of their peers, and awarded the title of Distinguished Teacher.

The 2013 Distinguished Teacher Award went to Rachelle Kristof Hippler, computer science lecturer. “To say that she is an outstanding teacher does not even begin to sum up all of the wonderful things she has done for me and for all of the students she has taught,” one of Hippler’s nominators said. She has been at BGSU Firelands since 2002.

Brigitte Green-Churchwell, a part-time instructor and special needs assistant, earned the 2013 Distinguished Part-time Teacher Award. “She truly makes a difference in the classroom . . . Brigitte’s presence is of an effective teacher – a master of teaching,” said one nominator. She has worked at BGSU Firelands since 2005.

Hippler and Green-Churchwell received their awards at the BGSU Firelands 44th Annual Recognition Banquet which was held on April 19 in the Cedar Point Center. Many other students, staff, and faculty members were also recognized at the event.
Adding a Splash of Orange

Stop by campus to see some of the exciting visual branding efforts added this year. Based on students desire for a more collegiate and spirited environment, wall murals, pole flags, falcon decals, and large format banners were added throughout campus. Students also benefited this spring from the addition of a new student lounge and remodeled student government offices.

New BGSU Firelands Alumni Association

My name is Laura Lesniewski, and on behalf of Dean Bill Balzer and myself, I would like to welcome you to the newly established BGSU Firelands Alumni Association. As a student and alumni of the College, your contributions then and now have helped strengthen the image and reputation of BGSU Firelands as a regional leader in higher learning. Through our new Alumni Association, we look forward to staying connected with you. We are here to assist and support you, and hope you will become engaged to assist and support future generations of BGSU Firelands students.

As the new Alumni Affairs and Development Officer at BGSU Firelands, my goal is to provide alumni with an exciting, engaging association where alums can interact with one another, receive career service assistance, stay involved with campus activities and events, engage in community service opportunities, and remain informed of the latest news going on at both BGSU main campus and BGSU Firelands.

No matter where life has taken you, we hope you cherish your time spent at BGSU Firelands. With the help of a newly formed Alumni Advisory Board, I look forward to helping shape the exciting future of your BGSU Firelands Alumni Association. In the meantime, please join us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/bgsufirelandsalumni for updates from the BGSU Firelands Alumni Association. Please feel free to contact me via phone or email for more information on our new association.

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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.

The personal opportunities and post-secondary learning that were provided at BGSU Firelands during those early years were of high caliber,” said Hyland. “The former students associated with the Firelands basketball program have had productive careers and have contributed in so many different ways to the betterment of society, the development of strong families, and the advancement of their respective professional employment endeavors,” he added.

The players fully agreed with their former coach on the value of education at BGSU Firelands and the lessons they learned beyond the classroom.

“We learned a lot of lifelong values such as teamwork, being like family, bouncing back from adversity, setting goals, and the discipline of studying and playing sports,” said former team member Steve Keller.

It was an emotional reunion for some and all enjoyed the day. “It was one of the best times of my life,” said team member John Lewis in summation of the day’s activities.

The BGSU Firelands Men’s Basketball team meets for an annual reunion every August in Port Clinton. Contact Laura Lesniewski at 419.372.0706 if you were a former player, cheerleader, or coach who would like to remain in contact with members of the team!