Communication Review

May 2015
Where is President Soltz?

Readers of my new column that debuted this spring in The Week Ahead and in my blog know that many of my days are spent not only on BU’s campus but travelling state-wide, nationally and internationally. From the annual Community Leadership Breakfast to a meeting with Governor Tom Wolf, I am spreading the message of how BU impacts our students, faculty, staff, local community and state.

At the community breakfast, I discussed BU’s positive economic impact on the local area and the commonwealth. Funding was the topic of the meeting with the governor, Chancellor Frank Brogan and presidents of the other 13 State System institutions.

Other recent highlights include Advocacy Day at the Capitol, dedication of Steph Pettit Stadium and end-of-the-semester celebrations of student achievement. I will resume these columns in the fall when The Week Ahead returns.

Your request to hear more information beyond the communication vehicles I currently provide, resulted in two additional publications introduced or expanded to provide news on university programs, initiatives and strategic priorities. The President’s Annual Report, Vision and this Communication Review Quarterly, known as the CRQ, have been well received.

Through all of these communication platforms, I have shared information on issues and stories impacting the university. Please take a moment to let me know whether these communications are effective by taking this short survey.

Have a great summer.

David L. Soltz, Ph.D.
President, Bloomsburg University
Virginia Woolf Conference

Bloomsburg University will host its first international conference, Virginia Woolf and her Female Contemporaries: The 25th Annual International Conference on Virginia Woolf, from Thursday to Sunday, June 4 to 7.

The conference will include plenary dialogues and roundtables, an art exhibit, Bloomsburg Theatre Ensemble’s re-enactment of Mrs. Dalloway’s party and the launch of the Feminist Modernist Studies journal. It will end with a banquet featuring Cecil Woolf, nephew of Leonard and Virginia Woolf, and Jean Moorcroft Wilson, Virginia Woolf’s biographer.

The conference director is Julie Vandivere, English professor.

Provost Honors Faculty Excellence

The 2015 Provost’s Award for Excellence in Research/Scholarly Activity was presented to one faculty member from each of BU’s four colleges, nominated by the academic deans. Each received a plaque and $1,000 to be used for travel or other professional development activities.

Shown from left are: Provost Ira Blake; Lam Nguyen, College of Business, Department of Management and Marketing; Denise Davidson, College of Education, Department of Teaching and Learning; Michael Borland, College of Science and Technology, Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry; and Matthew Slotkin, College of Liberal Arts, Department of Music, Dance and Theatre.

Established in 2006, the award recognizes and encourages continuing scholarly achievements of probationary faculty. In addition to each dean’s nomination letter, annual evaluation materials serve as supporting documentation for consideration by the Academic Affairs Leadership Council.

Business Plan Competition

Kyle Reighard, a senior communication studies major from Trout Run, placed third in the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education Business Plan Competition. His project, Locked and Loaded: Safes and Arms, highlighted five-year business goals for his federal firearms-licensed gun shop and detailed how to achieve sales goals, financing and legal compliance. Reighard received $2,500 from the State System to reinvest into his business. With 35 sales since January, Reighard intends to partner with a licensed gunsmith and create a website and online store.

C.A.T.C.H. Program connects Students with Teachers

Student teachers networked with education professionals, interacted with university alumni and learned about the latest trends and techniques in teaching at a professional development event known as C.A.T.C.H. (Collaborating to Assist Teacher Candidate Hiring). The C.A.T.C.H. initiative was developed in spring 2014 to prepare aspiring teachers for the job market with sessions on current trends, interview preparation and the hiring process. The March 27 event was hosted by the College of Education’s Office of Field Experiences, in collaboration with the McDowell Institute: Teacher Excellence in Positive Behavior Support, and the Office of Alumni and Professional Engagement. The McDowell Institute focuses on non-academic barriers to student success.
New CGA Positions

Three new diversity and inclusion representatives have joined the Community Government Association as voting members of the Student Senate. William Olsen, freshman from Royersford; Tre’von A. Mosby, junior from Harrisburg; and Francesca L. Elezovic, junior from Paoli, were appointed by Matthew Barcus, director of the LGBTQA Resource Center; Maddy Rodriguez, director of the Multicultural Center; and Monica Johnson, director of the Women’s Resource Center. In the future, students will be elected to the diversity and inclusion representative positions in the same manner as other Student Senate positions.

A Cold Big Event

The Community Government Association held its sixth annual Big Event on Saturday, March 28, beginning at the Town Park. Despite freezing temperatures and an early layer of snow, 2,275 students volunteered at more than 150 job sites throughout the Town of Bloomsburg.

The Big Event is an one-day community service project in which BU students perform spring cleaning tasks such as raking leaves, weeding, washing windows and picking up trash as a “thank you” to local residents for sharing their community with students.

BU to Launch Intranet

Bloomsburg University is launching an Intranet, an exclusive website viewable only by faculty and staff.

The Intranet site was developed as a result of a recent security audit of the BU website. It is designed as a central location where faculty and staff can find critical non-public information related to university business processes and procedures and internal communication. This includes institutional data; university policy and procedures; administrative forms, university-wide news, events and announcements; and building shutdown notices.

The site currently contains basic information and services. In the coming months, BU’s webteam will work with members of the campus community to update, refine and expand key websites, pages and information to meet the needs of faculty and staff. The Intranet will be a resource for internal communication and collaboration.

To obtain access to the Intranet at intranet.bloomu.edu, faculty and staff may use their Bloomu domain username and password.

Pettit Stadium Dedicated

BU dedicated the athletic field previously known as Sports Stadium in honor of Steph Pettit ’89 on Saturday, April 18. The field was named in Pettit’s honor to recognize his gift of $1 million for athletic scholarships and stadium improvements, including new turf, wind screens and a new scoreboard. The stadium is home to field hockey, women’s lacrosse and men’s and women’s soccer. Pettit, who played football for the Huskies, served as co-chair of the First and Goal campaign that endowed $2 million to benefit BU’s football program. He also provided financial support for the Redman Stadium banner project.
Summer Construction

During summer 2015 and continuing into the fall semester, the university will undertake a series of construction projects. These projects include:

- Andruss Library addition for a telephone center and the University Police
- Donor walls at the Academic Quadrangle fountain
- Renovations to Roongo's in Warren Student Services Center
- Renovations to the Italian Kitchen in Scranton Commons
- Temporary relocation of mailroom to Elwell Hall
- Renovation of Husky Lounge in Kehr Union
- Temporary relocation of the University Store to Kehr Union

Safety Web Pages

Bloomsburg University now has two webpages dedicated to campus safety.

The latest information on emergencies, warnings and notifications, including timely warnings and emergency notifications required by the Clery Act, is housed at www.bloomu.edu/safety.

The Office of Workplace Safety, which includes fire and occupational safety, accident reporting and hazard mitigation, is located at www.bloomu.edu/safety-workplace.

Summer College

BU will offer more than 450 courses during three sessions of Summer College. Sessions run from May 18 to Aug. 7, May 18 to June 26 and June 29 to Aug. 7. Credits are transferable to many universities.

Student Success Collaborative

Bloomsburg University launched the Student Success Collaborative (SSC) on March 18. The SSC combines technology, research, process improvement and predictive analysis to help improve student success.

The university is testing and validating historical student data from 2006-2010, including academic performance in major courses, timing of those courses, and patterns related to changing majors. The SSC is expected to be available at the start of the fall 2015 semester to help advisers better assist BU students.

To learn more about the capabilities of the SSC platform, visit EAB.com.
Foundation Launches Crowdfunding Site

The Bloomsburg University Foundation created TakeActionBU, www.takeactionbu.org, an online tool that allows individuals and organizations to create and share fundraising campaigns. The website provides a platform for students, faculty and staff to raise support for efforts like a specific trip, a collaborative faculty/student research project or scholarships through the BU Foundation.

TakeActionBU’s first project, the Honors Program’s service trip to Jamaica, raised $6,255 to achieve 125 percent of the goal.

To learn more about TakeActionBU and how to submit a project application, visit www.takeactionbu.org/FAQ or contact Nori Lewis, associate director of annual giving, elewis@bloomufdn.org.