

How to reach us...

Here for you to clip and save is a telephone directory of several Ball State offices. Many of these offices can be reached using the university's toll-free number, 800-382-8540. Campus information is always available at www.bsu.edu.

Parent Advisory is produced by University Marketing and Communications for the Division of Student Affairs. We welcome your questions and comments. Please send information to kslabaugh@bsu.edu, or write to the Assistant to the Vice President of Student Affairs/Ombudsperson, Administration Building, room 238, Ball State University, Muncie, IN 47306.

Contributors: Katie Slabaugh
Amy Vasinko

(CLIP AND SAVE)

BALL STATE UNIVERSITY

Telephone Directory

Office	Telephone
Assistant to Vice President of Student Affairs/Ombudsperson	765-285-1545
Bursar	765-285-1643
Career Center	765-285-5634
Counseling Center	765-285-1736
Dean of Students	765-285-3734
Disabled Student Development	765-285-5293
Health Center	765-285-8431
Housing and Residence Life	765-285-8000
Learning Center	765-285-1006
Multicultural Center	765-285-1344
Parking Services	765-285-1208
Police	765-285-1111
Registration and Academic Progress	765-285-1722
Scholarships and Financial Aid	765-285-5600
	800-227-4017
Student Legal Services	765-285-1888
Student Life	765-285-2621
Student Rights and Community Standards	765-285-5036

4/785-08 umc

The information presented here, correct at the time of publication, is subject to change. Ball State University practices equal opportunity in education and employment and is strongly and actively committed to diversity within its community.

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Muncie, Indiana 47306

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FACILITIES: \$15 million student center renovations under way

By Amy Vasinko

The L.A. Pittenger Student Center is undergoing a facelift. The \$15 million renovation will create a functional and attractive place where students can meet, work, and enjoy the college experience.

Since its dedication in 1952, the student center has received two additions and has undergone other renovations and interior updates. The current renovation is due to be completed by 2010.

More than 20 student organizations and university services call the building home. The renovation will allow for a more centralized, user-friendly floor plan. The computer lab will be moved up to the first floor alongside student organization offices. A new circular main hall will replace the long corridors and create a more open feel. The Student Government Association, Late Nite, the University Program Board, and the Office of Disabled Student Development will all be on the first floor.

Bruce Morgan, director of student

center and programs, says the new first floor will ultimately “be a hub for student organizations and a place where they can foster a greater sense of community.”

Student center offices, which once occupied part of the first floor, will move to the second floor, where staff can more effectively manage meeting rooms and conference space. The third floor will consist of meeting rooms and the Pittenger Hotel, which also will receive upgrades.

Another major aspect of the renovation is the remodeling of the Tally and the Cardinal Crossing food court. The roof will be raised in this area, and a wall of windows will be installed, resembling The Atrium food court in the Art and Journalism Building. Chain restaurants, including Starbucks and Taco Bell, will be moving in, among other dining options.

New alarm systems will be installed and will include strobe lights for the hearing impaired. These alarms will be equipped with speakers for announcements in the

event of severe weather or other emergencies. The student center will also feature a new wheelchair-accessible entrance ramp on the north side of the building.

Along with the alarms, a new sprinkler system will be installed, and mechanical systems will receive an upgrade. New electrical, heating, and air-conditioning systems will be installed, along with more energy efficient windows. These structural and mechanical updates will provide a safer and more comfortable environment to relax, work, spend the night, or meet with friends.

The ultimate goal for the student center is to serve students. While there may be some inconvenience during this construction period with the relocation of several offices, the outcome will be well worth it.

Amy Vasinko is a graduate student in student affairs administration in higher education. She has an assistantship in the Office of the Assistant to the Vice President of Student Affairs/Ombudsperson.

INSIDE: NEW LOCATION OF STUDENT CENTER OFFICES MOVED BECAUSE OF CONSTRUCTION, PAGE 3

CAMPUS LIFE: Ombudsperson provides valuable service to students

At Ball State, the ombudsperson helps students resolve concerns, problems, or conflicts they may have with university policies, procedures, and decisions. The office provides a safe, confidential, and neutral place for students to talk about their concerns.

“Ball State founded its ombuds office in 1992,” says Kay Bales, vice president for student affairs, “and just two people have served in this role, which means students have benefitted from the continuous service of an experienced ombudsperson who brings a lot of institutional knowledge to the position.”

“There are several aspects of my role that are of great benefit to students,” says Katie Slabaugh, the current ombudsperson. “The office provides a safe and informal place for students to visit. Students can talk with me about a problem or a personal or sensitive issue and be assured the conversation will be kept confidential.”

“Besides getting to help resolve the concern at hand, students benefit by learning how to connect with resource people such as myself, how to locate and interpret institutional policy and procedure information, and how to work through an issue when a policy or procedure may not apply. These life skills are very important.”



Katie Slabaugh

Students typically should call the office to set up an appointment, but they also can drop by. In the first meeting, time will be given to review the role of the ombudsperson and to allow your student to talk about his or her issue or concern.

Together, your student and Slabaugh will define the issues at hand. The discussion will help to clarify what has happened, who is involved, how your student feels about the situation, and what actions have been taken to resolve the matter.

Next, your student and Slabaugh will discuss and evaluate the options for resolving the issue. It is important to note that the ombudsperson will remain neutral, impartial, objective, and fair-minded. Slabaugh does not become an advocate for one side or another in a dispute.

Finally, your student will clarify the next steps he or she plans to take. Slabaugh will not discuss a student's situation with any other people without the permission of the student. Your student and the ombudsperson may have one or more follow-up discussions to check the progress of the student's situation.

Slabaugh's office can be reached by calling 765-285-1545. The office is in the Administration Building, room 238. For additional information, see www.bsu.edu/sa/ombuds.

Dates to Remember

December 15–19, Monday–Friday
Final exam period

December 20, Saturday
December Commencement

December 20, Saturday
Residence halls close at 6 p.m.

December 22–January 11, Monday–Sunday
Semester break
Residence halls open at 9 a.m. Sunday.

January 12, Monday
Spring semester classes begin.

January 19, Monday
Martin Luther King Jr. Day—no classes

March 7–15, Saturday–Sunday
Spring break—Residence halls close at 8 a.m. Saturday and open at 9 a.m. Sunday.

Honors and Awards

Among the most innovative

U.S. News & World Report ranked Ball State University 14th on the 2008 list of “Schools to Watch” for innovation. Ball State’s innovations include immersive learning experiences, where students turn classroom knowledge into real solutions for real-world problems, and its use of state-of-the-art technology and emerging media. In addition, Ball State’s set of programs for freshmen was listed among “programs to look for” for the fifth year in a row by *U.S. News*.



CONNECTIONS: Instructor’s creativity, concern for students goes beyond classroom

Robin Rufatto, a mathematical sciences instructor in her 28th year of teaching, recently received the Lawhead Award for Teaching in the University Core Curriculum. Rufatto, who teaches freshman-level math courses, crosses paths with hundreds of students at a time and place where they face new challenges and may feel stressed. We asked her about her teaching experiences.



Robin Rufatto

Q: What types of math courses do you teach?

A: I teach anything that starts with a 1. That’s what I do. In a class like MATHS 125 (Mathematics and Its Applications), I try to sell that course as math you will use the rest of your life. For instance, I might try using a newspaper poll about the McCain-Obama race. I want students to be able to analyze the statistics that are reported, to think about it, and ask questions about how many people were polled and who was polled. I try to cover things that will make them aware of math in the world around them. We talk about finance, credit reports, credit reporting agencies, credit cards, how to calculate interest, how to read the fine print.

Q: How do you try to help students in an introductory course?

A: I’m aware of students who are being affected by stress. So, I talk with the whole class about it. I talk to them about how the brain works and what may be happening in the brain that makes people freeze up on a test. We spend time going through exercises like running in place before a test, because if you exercise and get the endorphins going, that counteracts stress. This makes students laugh, and even that produces endorphins.

When I sense that students are nervous about talking in class, I try to reach out to them and get them in my office one-on-one, especially students who seem to have a high level of math or test anxiety. For some, I refer them to Disabled Student Development.

Q: What do you see as the positives of today’s students, and what are their needs?

A: I find today’s students are really good

at being comfortable about coming to me with questions or concerns if they are not doing well, and I think that is wonderful.

I really feel for students who come in and say are majoring in such-and-such because that is what their parents said they wanted them to do. The bottom line is, one day they have to be able to support themselves, and so they need to find a major that fits them.

We have to teach our kids to listen to themselves and find what is right for them. If they don’t like their classes or their major, they need to think about what they’re doing.

Students might be surprised to know they can have this conversation with their math professor. I invite students to come to my office hours. I will talk with them. I may not have all the answers, but I will get them in touch with somebody who does.

Q: What tips would you give parents to help them be effective in helping their students become successful?

A: I would do whatever I could to make my child responsible with things like finances and time management. I think that’s one of the issues that our students struggle with: accepting responsibility for their own success or failure. Students sometimes come up to me at the end of the semester and ask, “What can I do for extra credit?” but I have to tell them that the responsibility for their grade all along has been on their shoulders. I’d say that the mentality of accepting your own success or failure starts at home.

Q: What do you tell people about the value of the University Core Curriculum?

A: I think there’s a misconception among first-generation college students and their parents that if you go to college and major in French, you’ll take courses only in French. So, they might see the core curriculum as a waste of time or as fluff. “Why am I taking history if I’m a chemistry major?”

I see the core as an eye-opening experience. This is your chance to take some subjects you’ve never taken before. By not expanding our course choices like that, we limit what we perceive as career opportunities. If all we know about is what we’ve seen growing up, we’re pretty limited.

STUDENT CENTER OFFICE RELOCATIONS

During renovation (see page 1), several offices in the L.A. Pittenger Student Center will move to new locations, detailed below. Most are temporary relocations.

Phase 1 (under way)

Parking Services

305 North College Avenue
White building on the corner of College and
Gilbert avenues (formerly the University
Police building)
765-285-1208

Student Legal Services

Arts and Communications Building, room 412
765-285-1888

**Student Center Programs, Late Nite, and
University Program Board**

305 North College Avenue
Second floor of Parking Services building
765-285-1031

Rinker Center for International Programs

Study Abroad Office:
Teachers College Building, room 109
International Programs:
Arts and Communications Building,
room 402
765-285-5422

University Banquet and Catering

Carmichael Hall, room 140
765-285-3500

Cardinal Crossing Food Court

Closed during renovation

Phase 2 (tentative start date April 1, 2009)

Orientation

Student Center, room L-20 (permanent location)

Student Rights and Community Standards

Student Center, room L-4

Student Center Administrative Office

305 North College Avenue

Student Center Reservations

Student Center, room L-19

Student Center Operations

Student Center, room L-18

Student Life

Arts and Communications Building,
fourth floor, and 305 North College
Avenue

Post Office

Student Center, room L-15

Conference and Special Events Office

To be announced

Student Center Programs, the University Program Board, and Late Nite will remain at 305 North College Avenue during Phase 2.

PARENTS ADVISORY COUNCIL 2008–09

Members of the Parents Advisory Council serve as liaisons between all parents and the university. Their names and contact information are reported for readers who may wish to contact them with questions or comments.

Greg and Kim Arnott

McCordsville, Indiana
parent01@bsu.edu

Andrew and Kip Corn

Daleville, Indiana
parent20@bsu.edu

William and Nancy Critell

Fort Wayne, Indiana
parent12@bsu.edu

Brian and Crysti Everhart

Anaheim, California
parent02@bsu.edu

Michael and Mary Fletcher

Mequon, Wisconsin
parent13@bsu.edu

Hector and Carla Flores

Martinsville, Indiana
parent16@bsu.edu

Ralph and Peggy Gilbertsen

Barrington, Illinois
parent07@bsu.edu

Greg and Sheryl Glancy

Huntington, Indiana
parent08@bsu.edu

Carman Jackson

Lafayette, Indiana
parent03@bsu.edu

Steve and Helen James

Indianapolis, Indiana
parent18@bsu.edu

Tom and Sue Jamriska

Plymouth, Indiana
parent22@bsu.edu

Doug and Cindy Johnson

Williamsburg, Indiana
parent06@bsu.edu

Lelia Kelley

Anderson, Indiana
parent17@bsu.edu

Nancy Konopasek

Munster, Indiana
parent14@bsu.edu

Dan and Karen McIver

Muncie, Indiana
parent15@bsu.edu

Wambui Jane Murage

Indianapolis, Indiana
parent04@bsu.edu

David Sowers

Delaware, Ohio
parent05@bsu.edu

Brian and Jenny Stopher

Charlestown, Indiana
parent09@bsu.edu

Ernie and Debbie Troski

Noblesville, Indiana
parent19@bsu.edu

Barbara Turney

Elkhart, Indiana
parent21@bsu.edu

Tom and Cindy Whitehead

Bloomington, Indiana
parent10@bsu.edu

■ Shuttle service now taking reservations for rides to and from Indy airport

Ball State now offers students, faculty, and staff transportation to and from the Indianapolis International Airport during breaks in the academic year. The shuttle will be available for Thanksgiving break (November), semester break (December/January) and spring break (March). Reservations must be made 72 hours before the desired departure time. A \$55 nonrefundable one-way shuttle fee must be paid online in advance by credit card. A Ball State ID is required to board the shuttle. Additional dates and times may be added for this service based on demand. See www.bsu.edu/map/airportshuttle to make a reservation.

■ Construction updates

North Residence Hall—North Residence Hall is being built on the corner of New York and Neely avenues. Scheduled to open in fall 2010, it will house 600 students and feature a multipurpose room, laundry and fitness facilities, a convenience store, and an audio lab/mixing room.

Student Recreation and Wellness

Facility—Also scheduled to open in 2010 is the Student Recreation and Wellness Facility adjoining Irving Gym. The addition and renovation will expand the facility to 200,000 square feet, including two new gymnasiums; a 20,000-square-foot indoor turf field for rugby, soccer, and baseball; a one-eighth-mile indoor track; a climbing wall; and 5,400 square feet devoted to yoga and martial arts studios.

DeHority Complex and Honors College

Due to reopen in June 2009, the renovated DeHority residence halls will become the home for Ball State Honors College students. The four separate lounges will be combined to form one main lounge, providing a greater sense of community. The new home of the Honors College—the former Edmund F. and Virginia B. Ball home on Riverside Avenue—is getting its own renovations, which include remodeling bedrooms into office and classroom space, improving accessibility, updating heating and cooling systems, and removing the driveway to allow for pedestrian-only access. This project is scheduled to be completed in spring 2009.