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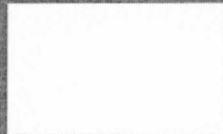
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## Time to appreciate our trees

Kate Wiegand

If you're like most people, you've at least noticed a few of the more than 1,700 trees on campus. They flourish in the spring, provide shade in summer, transform their colors in autumn and often add a sense of beauty to the dullness of winter.

But what most people don't know is these trees a part of an arboretum, where trees and shrubs are grown for scientific and educational purposes.

"The arboretum is about getting back to basics," said Lisa Krieger, a committee member of the arboretum and the capital projects assistant to the vice president for finance and management. "It's about appreciating our trees."

The Maud Gordon Holmes arboretum began its planting in 1960 and was officially dedicated in honor of Holmes, the founder of the Garden Institute of Buffalo, in 1962. Holmes dedicated more than 27 years of her time to the Garden Institute, bringing in hundreds of trees and shrubs to Buffalo.

"She brought trees back into the city after the Dutch elm disease killed a good portion of the city's elm trees in the late '50s," Krieger said.

With the arboretum, Buffalo State College is home to more than 150 varieties of trees, many of which are needle-and-leaf-bearing varieties, as well as ornamentals, such as crabapple or lilac trees.

The arboretum is maintained by campus services and headed by certified arborist Joe Territo. Territo, an alumnus of BSC, has more than 20 years of experience in horticulture, arboriculture and landscaping.

"We work very hard to keep this campus looking the way it does," Territo said. "And we've noticed that if we keep the campus looking nice, then the students



Dawn Redwoods at BSC.  
Photo by Kate Wiegand

will do their part to keep it nice."

With the recent construction around campus, Territo has worked very hard to keep certain trees from becoming part of the limber used in the process.

"I was determined to keep up the red horse chestnut, behind Moot Hall (on Rockwell Road)," Territo said. "The tree was one of the original trees here. When the construction was going on, I'd always go over and check on it, they came so close to the roots a few times."

In addition to the arboretum, Territo also supervises a project known as BSCenery. The program was developed in 1996 by campus services and enables students from McKinley High School to help take part in and study the arboretum.

"Students who are interested in horticulture are encouraged to help become part of the program during the summer. They help out with maintaining the flowerbeds and trees," Krieger said. Students also get the opportunity to learn about plant biology, soil and disease and insect control, Territo said. "They learn the theory in class and then get the practical experience here."

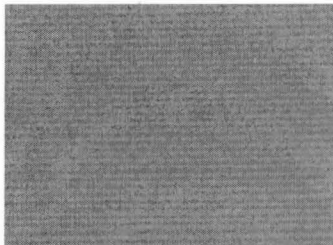
The funding for the arboretum comes from the Memorial Tree program, the Maud Gordon Holmes fund and BSCenery. Funds come from BSC as well, when the school's budget allows.

Unfortunately, only about one-third of the original plantings are left on the campus due to the expansion of parking lots, other construction or death from natural causes.

However, the oldest tree on campus, a pin oak more than 70 years old, resides in the elbow of Chase Hall and continues to remain a constant on campus. From fashion changes to lovers' quarrels, this tree has also witnessed BSC student enrollment raise from just 1,000 in 1930 to more than 12,000 today.

Although the arboretum is designed to stimulate scientific and educational purposes, it's also about creating an enjoyable environment.

"It's our campus, it's your campus, it's everybody's campus, Territo said. Let's enjoy it and learn from it."



For more information, a detailed brochure, or to tour the arboretum, contact Joe Territo at 878-6652 or Lisa Krieger at 878-6651.

*Published Oct. 7, 2002*