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10-18-2011

Monitor Newsletter October 18, 2011

Bowling Green State University

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Recommended Citation
Bowling Green State University, "Monitor Newsletter October 18, 2011" (2011). *Monitor*. 1832.
http://scholarworks.bgsu.edu/monitor/1832

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BGSU Monitor

OCTOBER 18, 2011

BOWLING GREEN STATE UNIVERSITY

Top Stories

BGSU faculty make good Toledo Zoo neighbors

From barnyard goats to exotic birds, kids can explore and learn in Nature's Neighborhood at the Toledo Zoo.

Three BGSU faculty members helped make it an engaging experience for children, and now have helped Nature's Neighborhood gain national recognition. The Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) recently presented Nature's Neighborhood Top Honors in exhibit design. The 2011 AZA Exhibit Award recognizes excellence in the area of live animal display and exhibit design by an AZA-accredited institution or related facility member.

"The AZA Exhibit Award recognizes the Toledo Zoo as a real leader in educating and inspiring children," said AZA president and CEO Jim Maddy. "Nature's Neighborhood, with its innovative approach to exhibit design, animal care and conservation education, demonstrates how the Toledo Zoo, and all AZA-accredited zoos and aquariums, are more important than ever to children, families and their communities."

Drs. Jodi Haney, who has a joint appointment to the School of Teaching and Learning and the environment and sustainability department; Rick Worch, School of Teaching and Learning, and Amy Scheuermann, formerly with the School of Intervention Services, worked with the Toledo Zoo education team on the design and development of Nature's Neighborhood beginning in 2007.

"This was an extension of what COSMOS as well as many of our earlier science education initiatives advocate: experiential learning," Haney said.

She and Worch recently conducted an extensive internal evaluation of Nature's Neighborhood play spaces. One assessment technique employed behavior mapping, a process utilizing GIS software to construct maps of the play spaces in order to examine where pertinent behavioral observations data (such as type of science learning, type of play, and level of physical activity) took place in those spaces.

On learning of the award, Mitch Magdich, Toledo Zoo education curator, said he thought that "the summative evaluation piece had a big impact. What made our application so outstanding was the science and analysis that went with the quantitative part, particularly behavior mapping."

"The Toledo Zoo is proud to accept the 2011 Exhibit Award for Nature's Neighborhood and looks forward to inspiring young minds for generations to come," said Toledo Zoo CEO and Executive Director Dr. Anne Baker.

> Top Stories

Construction management program reaccredited

The University's Construction Management Program has received reaccreditation from the American Council for Construction Education (ACCE), the council has announced.

"The program has maintained the stringent standards of ACCE and has proven to the board, through a visiting team of its peers and industry practitioners, that the program is worthy of reaccreditation," the ACCE board wrote.

Travis Chapin, chair of BGSU's Department of Construction Management, said the accreditation is critical for continual improvement. The program has been accredited since 1993.

"American Council for Construction Education sets a very specific and high standard by which we can measure our performance," Chapin said. "In addition, the entire ACCE organization provides outstanding opportunities to stay current on construction education by attending national meetings, participating in accreditation visits at other universities and participating in committees that affect the future of construction education not only at BGSU but throughout the United States."

"Program accreditation is very critical to all our technology programs in the college. It is a testament to the quality of our programs and is critical for recruitment and retention," said College of Technology Dean Faris Malhas.

BGSU's undergraduate degree in construction management and technology offers courses such as construction document reading, construction surveying, structural design, construction materials and testing and construction equipment. Students are required to complete a number of co-ops in which they get credit for on-the-job training with construction companies.

"At least 50 percent of the permanent placements are a result of co-op," Chapin said. "It is very difficult for seniors to get much of an audience with a company if they have not had a relationship with the company before their senior year."

Chapin said the undergraduate program takes about four and a half years to complete but can be finished in four years if students do their co-ops during the summer.

The ACCE was established in 1974 and functions as an accreditation agency for "four-year baccalaureate degree programs in Construction, Construction Science, Construction Management and Construction Technology, and the accrediting agency for two-year associate degree programs of a similar nature."