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Monitor Newsletter February 02, 1981

Bowling Green State University

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Traditional sex roles may be reason why males are better in mathematics

Are boys born superior to girls in mathematical ability? The answer is probably ‘No,’ according to Barbara Moses, mathematics and statistics, who used a Faculty Research Committee award last summer to study the reasons for differences in problem solving aptitude between males and females. Although her study is not yet complete, Dr. Moses has drawn some preliminary conclusions about why males are typically better at math. It is her initial conclusion that it is attitude rather than genetics which influences how well a person performs in mathematics.

By testing students’ abilities and attitudes toward mathematics at the fifth and ninth grade levels and by surveying the math aptitude of Bowling Green's calculus freshmen, Dr. Moses has concluded that certain specific skills, namely reasoning and aptitude for visualizing, are strongly correlated to the ability to solve a problem.

"What Dr. Moses has found is that at the fifth grade level, males and females are fairly superior at both visualization and problem solving," Dr. Moses said. And once a student has entered college, the gap in skills has widened even further.

Although she can only speculate now as to reasons for the change which occurs between the fifth and ninth grades, Dr. Moses believes that during those crucial years boys are naturally directed toward what is called a spatially-oriented activity than girls.

Despite reports that boys and girls are getting away from "traditional" role play, Dr. Moses said, "Girls are still playing with dolls and cooking books. Little boys are out building things and playing with chemistry sets. They are constantly being encouraged by their parents to think of visual, spatial concepts." She added that both teachers and parents are reinforcing, either consciously or unconsciously, the attitude that boys should be good at mechanical and spatial things and girls should not.

And that reinforcement carries over into the high school and college years when students have formed definite attitudes of their own about mathematics, Dr. Moses said. "Girls appear to have ‘learned’ that they can not do math and that mathematics is a male domain. They think they can get by nicely in life with just one high school math class, and pupils and teachers tend to agree.”

She noted, however, that "females who are persistent enough to stay with mathematics through high school and college are almost always more skillful at problem solving than males.

Since identifying what she believes to be a strong correlation between mathematical aptitude and the ability to visualize spatial concepts, Dr. Moses is developing much of her time to developing instructional materials to improve the spatial visualization skills of students in the target years, grades six through nine.

In addition to developing those materials, she is offering workshops on problem-solving for in-service teachers, attempting to familiarize them with her findings and those of other researchers and to emphasize the importance of positive reinforcement of mathematical performance for both males and females of school age.

She also hopes to look more specifically at attitude as it relates to students’ ability to perform in mathematics courses at Bowling Green and the extent to which those attitudes can be used to ‘predict’ just how well a student will do in math during his college career.

class of multivariate exponential distributions used to model the lifetime of a material component; Arthur Brecher, chemistry, to research the influence of a clinically utilized antiviral agent on the biosynthesis of proteins. Dr. Brecher also received a $500 award; J. Christopher Dalton, chemistry, to study the effect of a new light reactivity of excited singlet state of carbon compounds; William Sovell, chemistry, to research the mechanism of action of an anti-tumor drug: cis-(NH3)2PtCl2 interaction with oncogenic SV40 viral DNA. Dr. Sovell also received a $500 research grant; Paul Haas, economics, for a project which will re-examine the “New Industrial State.”

Martha Gutter, education, to study the acquisition of sign language and deafness by deaf and hearing fraternal twins. Dr. Gutter received a $493 research grant.

Janice M. Alberghene, English, to research the performing artist in American children's literature; Phillip G. Tiiene, English, to study the Adirondacks, a "Pocket of Eastern Westernness;” Keith Roberts, Forestry, to research religion and prejudice, racism and sexism. Thomas Anderson, geography, to complete a cartographic analysis of Congressional district changes in Ohio, 1964-78; Alfred C. Brown, geography, to study the Penitente-Moradas as an indicator of the Hispanic homeland in the American Southwest, Dr. Carlson also received a $330 research grant; Janice Abou-Saoud, sociology, to complete a statistical comparison of the survey areas generated by a sampling of the three major types of American recirculation markets: flea, antique and specialists Dr. Gordon also received a $253 research grant; Lawrence Uganda, history, to study Themistius of Constantinople, a mandarin of late antiquity; David A. Zelinsky, history, to research the reconstruction of the Jewish identity in France after World War II; Gregory Anderson, home economics, to study communication patterns and styles in native American cultures; Patricia Cunningham, home economics, to research communication trends in rural development activities on families in Third World countries; F. Dennis Hale, journalism, to study the return of libel ‘per se’ under Ohio law.

Warren Hauck, management, to study employee performance measurement and improvement; Ken Kim, management, to complete an empirical field study of the antecedents and outcomes of the leadership style; James Albert, mathematics and statistics, for a project on estimation in contingency tables using prior information; Andrey Kocentikuly, music, to compose a suite for violoncello solo; Andrew Altman, philosophy, to research Marx, Dewey and social change; Fred Miller, philosophy, to study early Greek grave inscriptions; Richard Hoss, physics, to study the effects of surface scattering on electron transport in metals; Edward S. Weinberg, psychology, to complete a $1,000 research grant; Gary E. March, physics, for a photometric study of selected double stars;

continued on page 2

Bowling Green State University
Volume 4 - Number 7 February 2, 1981

FRC awards $93,217 for faculty research

Awards totaling $93,217 have been granted to 54 faculty by the Faculty Research Committee for use during fiscal year 1981-82. The FRC awards include seven full-time research associate professorships totaling $19,660; 35 part-time research associate professorships totaling $20,534, and 24 research expense grants totaling $52,053.

Another six proposals have been granted alternate standing and will be funded if FRC dollars are returned from auxiliary enterprises.

The research associate professorships are salary awards which allow faculty to devote concentrated efforts to research activities during the summer months. Full-time awards carry a stipend of 1/8 of the recipient's previous academic year salary (with a maximum of $3,500). Part-time awards are at a level of 1/12 the recipient's previous year salary (with a $1,750 maximum).

Research grants are intended to provide funds for supplies, minor equipment, temporary employment and travel directly related to and required by a project. In announcing the awards, Thomas B. Cobb, assistant vice provost for research, noted that all funding is contingent upon the availability of resources.

The full-time research associate professorships, which require a 100 percent summer commitment to research, have been awarded to Stan Smith, biology; Thomas Vickrey, chemistry; Robert Anderhalt, psychology; Christopher Geist, popular culture; Elizabeth Rice Allgeler, psychology; John Cavanaugh, psychology, and William Benoit, speech communication.

With his award and a $700 research grant, Dr. Smith will research ecosyone 20-monooxygenase and mouse reproduction.

Dr. Vickrey will use his award and a $567 research grant to develop a chromatographic toxicity index for organochlorine compounds.

Dr. Anderhalt will study heavy minerals and their alteration products in sediments. He also has received a research grant of $493.

Dr. Geist, who received a $219 research grant, will study racemic in antibacterial America, Indian removal, the American colonization society and white supremacy.

Dr. Allgeler will assess abortion policies with social judgment technology.

Dr. Cavanaugh will complete a psychological analysis of television program content with the assistance of a $500 research grant.

Dr. Benoit will conduct an empirical investigation of argumentative strategies employed in various logical argument fields. He also has received a $477 research grant.

Receiving part-time summer research associateships, which require a 50 percent summer research commitment, are:

Paul Running, art, to conduct a study/work program leading to the integration of painted surfaces with wood/metal/fiber projects.

Nancy J. Shaffer, applied statistics and operations research, to study a class of multivariate exponential distributions used to model the lifetime of a material component; Arthur Brecher, chemistry, to research the influence of a clinically utilized antiviral agent on the biosynthesis of proteins. Dr. Brecher also received a $500 award; J. Christopher Dalton, chemistry, to study the effect of a new light reactivity of excited singlet state of carbon compounds; William Sovell, chemistry, to research the mechanism of action of an anti-tumor drug: cis-(NH3)2PtCl2 interaction with oncogenic SV40 viral DNA. Dr. Sovell also received a $500 research grant; Paul Haas, economics, for a project which will re-examine the "New Industrial State.;”

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Behind much of the scientific research being conducted on campus are relatively invisible people, whose work is not well known. One of these people, a departmental technician, works with 42 other technicians in the physics department, and 13 others in the biology department. The technicians work 37.5 hours per week, 50 weeks per year, and are supervised by the staff member responsible for that department and for auxiliary services. They supervise technicians, technologists and laboratory supervisors in the science areas.

The technicians' work is varied, ranging from constructing apparatus to setting up experiments and ordering supplies. They are responsible for the chemical storage and stockroom area. And they must keep a supply of chemicals and supplies to maintain the animal lab and oversee the cleaning of cages. Faculty and students would have to go outside the University for research supplies. And that, according to John Nachbar, would cost a great deal more money.

Due to the work of a somewhat different nature, but still supportive of faculty and students, is William Butcher, a geologist in the geology department. Butcher, whose responsibilities vary from reviewing grant proposals for research to repairing complex scientific equipment, defines his job as primarily assisting with teaching.

In addition, he prepares slides for classroom presentations and does virtually all photography for research and publications generated by the department. He also gives some time for personal research while working on a graduate degree in geology and devotes much of his energy in building equipment needed in the department. Several technicians assist faculty and students "in the field," including microscopes, chemistry, physics and biology.

In-house technicians support research, save money

In-house technicians support research, save money

Jack of all trades—Supporting faculty and student research in a way that the university substantially amounts of money is the job of the various technicians, technologists and laboratory supervisors in the science areas.

Their work is varied, ranging from constructing apparatus to setting up experiments and ordering supplies. Alex Hamm, a technician in the physics department, supplies anything of a mechanical nature that physics faculty need for their own research or classroom use.

Faculty, staff star in new radio series

Faculty and staff are going to be receiving a great deal more exposure in northwest Ohio thanks to a newly-developed series of commentaries taped for radio broadcast by the News Service.

The series, called "SGSU Overview," features brief-about 90 seconds-commentaries by faculty and staff. Subject matter is area of expertise and they can prepare anywhere from one to a half-dozen scripts, depending upon the material involved.

About 8 faculty and staff have already prepared scripts and begun taping. David Drury, News Service, who is directing the series, said that with the wealth of expertise on campus that there should be no limit to the number of "Overviews" that can be prepared for radio stations.

However, he needs the aid of faculty and staff members. He said that sometimes he will call a campus expert with an idea for an "Overview" and other times the faculty or staff member will call him with an idea. "It works both ways," he said.

Once a subject has been developed, the faculty or staff member will write brief scripts, which Drury will edit and prepare for broadcast. When the scripts are in final order, the faculty or staff member will make an appointment with George Cripe, instructional media, to tape the "Overview" commentaries.

Drury said response from radio stations to the "Overview" series has been "quite favorable" and that the University will gain a great amount of exposure from the series.

If there is sufficient faculty and staff interest, Drury said, it is possible "(the series) could be released to stations beyond the northwest Ohio market. Television stations have also expressed an interest in a videotaped "Overview" series." He emphasized a large number of faculty and staff experts will be needed to sustain the series.

The initial group of "Overview" commentators includes James Galloway and Skip Reardon, professors on the job market; Leslie Chamberlin, education, on communication with children; Bruce Ballard, HPER, on winter automotive care; Elizabeth Stimson, education, on nutrition and dieting; William Schurk, library, on record collecting, and Robert Freeman, education, on mainstreaming.

Faculty and staff interested in taking part in "Overview" should contact Drury in the News Service at 2-2616.
Faculty

Recruitments
Zote Burford, registration and records, has been appointed to the Study Abroad by United States Information Services of the American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Offices. A member of the Association at its national conference in Mohican State Park, she will help plan the AARAA annual meetings for 1981 and 1982. She will participate in sessions of the national meetings dealing with U.S. students who study abroad.

Barbara Y. Keller, residence life, was installed as president of the Ohio Association of Women Deans. Administration and Cosmatics at the group's annual conference at Mohican State Park.

At the conference, Jill Carer, housing, modified the study. "Moving Out? How, When?".PAYYIET PAWS, a member of a panel discussing the topic.

JoAnne Martin-Reynolds, education, has been appointed to the national resolutions committee, to the Division of In-Service Education for a two-year term.

Robert McGeen, academic facilities planning, has been elected to the Ohio Conference on Community and University Planners executive board. Occidental College of individuals responsible for planning for the effective utilization of special financial resources at Ohio's institutions of higher learning. He represents state-assisted colleges and universities, private institutions, and the Ohio Board of Regents.

Edward E. Morgan Jr., health and community services, has been installed as president of the Alpha Eta Rho, the national scholarship society in allied health professions.

The installation was part of the annual meeting and registration opening week in conjunction with the annual meeting of the American Society of Allied Health Professions.

A Jan. 11 pian recital by Jerome Rose, "Mozart: Piano Sonata in G Minor," was held in Kibachner Hall for National Public Radio.

On Jan. 24, Rose performed with the Yale Philharmonia at Lincoln Center. This month he will attend the Garmen Festival in Wales and record for Radio France.

In February, he will perform with the Akron Symphony.

William Scovell, chemistry, has been appointed honorary chairman of the Arthritis Foundation of Northwestern Ohio's Western Reserve Chapter. Dr. Scovell is currently involved in research, partially funded by the Arthritis Foundation, involving the effectiveness of gold salts in treating rheumatoid arthritis.

Maurice Downe, director of gymnastics, has been appointed to the One Percent for Art Review Board for the city of Toledo.

The "Come to L.I.F.E." (leisure information-fitness evaluation program) will continue through Feb. 26, 1982, at the Rec Center at 8 a.m. and 6 p.m. in the Rec Center.

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After almost six weeks of operation, the "Communications" new computer, which is routing long distance calls made by faculty and staff, has been doing everything it was supposed to do.

The computer monitors and clicks and beeps just as the promotional brochure says it will, and those monitoring the computer are happy that the University saved $1,000 in long distance charges the first week it was in operation.

And it has been saving $1,000 a week since.

Maxine Allen, telecommunications coordinator, says the computer is performing "very well." John Dooney, assistant director of administrative and technical services, agreed, adding that the number of problems associated with the system has been less than expected and that accuracy has been high and still greater than expected.

Computer programs which will enable the Commander IV (that's the computer's official name) to tell Dooney exactly what it has been doing for the past six weeks will be installed. The program of being written and "implanted" in the computer's memory system.

In the meantime, the programs installed is because of the machines and software has been completed. The Commander IV updates the Commander II, and the first Commander IV ever installed is the one at the University. Because of this there is no pre-packaged set of programs to go with it, Doroghazi added.

While it means a delay, it also means specific computer programs will be written to meet the needs of the University's telecommunications system, Doroghazi. "The only way to do these individualized programs will make the computer and the system even more effective. And once the computer has a "voice," the full range of cost-saving functions and user services can go on into effect.

Selecting the cheapest route to call-either over the WATS, microwave, foreign exchange or regular long distance lines—is one of the computer's functions. Commander IV will also provide directory information for the University operators, will perform all billing functions, and will provide facility management reports, allowing Doroghazi and Allen to see exactly how many calls have been made and what areas of the country and what times of day.

This information will help them to determine the appropriate percentage of long distance lines that will better the service and staff while saving even more money.

When all is installed and working properly, Doroghazi and Allen estimate the system will save $70,000 a year. More optimistic prognosticators claim the system will be able to save an amount equivalent to its $125,381 per year in just one month.

The system will be closed to users feel comfortable with the system, Allen said a number of services will be added. One of these is a telephone computer call speeds dialing.

Faculty and staff will be able to receive numbers, instead of dialing numbers with the computer, and then dialing another number to get an access code and a two-digit number. The computer will then find the telephone number that corresponds with the two digit code and dial it automatically.

While everything has proceeded better than expected, there have been several problems with the system, and faculty and staff have blamed the computer for many things that aren't its fault.

As a staff people have complained about being cut off in the middle of a conversation. Unless the computer's reputation, the problem started about the time the computer was working, but Allen said the problem "has nothing to do with Commander IV.

"There have also been problems with the "command,"" he added, "but we know exactly what it is," who has a question or a problem to the computer. "There will be problems, we know exactly what to do, we know about them."

This system which is being worked on now is the rather impolite and noisy beeping and clicking the computer does when dialing a number. "We are working now to find a way to make that quiet," Allen said.

Grants

William C. Spargeon, political science, has contributed a chapter on "White House Organization and Management" in "Organizing and Staffing the Presidency," published in January by Nelson-Hall.

Raymond T. Tucker and Richard L. Weaver II, speech communication, "Researching the "Red Sox,"" is to be released this month by Prentice-Hall.

The book is also co-authored by Cynthia L. Benjamin, University of Cincinnati.


Patti Gillispie, speech communication, "The Public Voice," in the fall-winter, 1980 issue of "Cues."


Dr. Johnson also drafted a "Effects of In-Service Education in Preparation for Mainstreaming" in the fall issue of the "Journal for Special Education."

Jean L. Palleri, romance languages, "Benozzo di Vebre and the Myth of the Androgynous," in the late fall, 1980 issue of "Rhetoric:"


December issue.


The authors and CIA-designate William J. Ayres, chairman of the Center, for the Study of the Presidency, were recently invited to address the Metropolitan Club in Washington D.C.


Grants


Carmen Floraventi, biological sciences, which has been supported by the University's Health Service, to continue his study of parasitic helminths and ways of destroying them without injuring the host.

This is the third year of funding for Dr. Floraventi's research.
Mid-winter festival to feature workshops in writing, publishing

A Mid-winter Creative Writing Festival will be held Feb. 13-15 at Bowling Green State University. Designed for writers who wish to increase their writing capabilities and publishing possibilities, the festival will feature workshops in prose and poetry, writing children's literature and starting a writing business. In addition, participants may submit a manuscript for evaluation in private seminars with two sessions by one of the festival's writing instructors.

The festival's staff will include John Charles Cooper, author of more than 20 books and hundreds of articles and stories, who will teach fiction and non-fiction workshops. Since 1973 Cooper has been an editorial associate of the Writers Digest, and he collaborated on its publications, "Writer's Digest" and "Marketing Your Writing." Michael Mott, creative writing, author of the acclaimed children's novels "Wally the Badger" and "Master Enrick," will teach sessions on writing children's literature. In addition to his books for children, Mott has written about 20 novels and five collections of poetry. The third member of the festival staff will be Jane Piirto Navane, a poet and fiction writer whose work frequently appears in literary journals and little magazines. Navanne will teach sessions on writing small presses. A resident of Bowling Green, she has received grants from the Ohio Arts Council and, in her spare time, she publishes chapbooks and zines.

The Mid-Winter Creative Writing Festival will begin on Feb. 10 at 7 p.m. Friday, Feb. 13, and will continue on the 11th floor of Offenbacher Towers. Sessions will run Monday-Friday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 14, and resume from 1-4 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 15. Deadline for pre-registration is Feb. 11. The fee is $55. For further information, call the Center for the Arts at 22-7272.

The Mid-winter festival is being held in conjunction with a number of other cultural activities taking place over the same period. Writers and other artists are encouraged to bring their work to the festival and to attend the other events.

Library 'challenged' to improve services

The National Endowment for the Humanities has awarded the University Library a $150,000 challenge grant to be used to improve the operations and book collections at the Library.

Under the terms of the grant, the University must raise $27,000 in private funds for every $1 of federal matching funds. The award will be spaced over the next three years, with each year's fundraising dependent on the University's ability to raise the matching funds.

Dwight Burdangle, dean of library and information resources, said the money that is raised will be used for three specific purposes. First, $200,000 will be used to purchase books, periodicals and other materials which deal with the broad subject area of the humanities. Another $100,000 will be used to purchase special shelving and other equipment which will expand and improve the Library's book and periodical preservation program. And $200,000 will be used to establish an endowment. The interest from the endowment would then be used to offset the effects of inflation and improve services and programs at the University.

In accepting the grant, Provost Provo comercio. that the NEH program is "an extraordinary opportunity to establish a financial stimulus for the development and enhancement of the University's library collections."

In anticipation of receiving the grant, the Library said that it has raised $80,000 in private funds that will be used to purchase approximately $150,000 in new books and periodicals.

The University Library is one of five new persons appointed to the University's funding advisory committee. The others are Dr. John Cooper, author of more than 20 books and hundreds of articles and stories, who will teach fiction and non-fiction workshops. Since 1973 Cooper has been an editorial associate of the Writers Digest, and he collaborated on its publications, "Writer's Digest" and "Marketing Your Writing." Michael Mott, creative writing, author of the acclaimed children's novels "Wally the Badger" and "Master Enrick," will teach sessions on writing children's literature. In addition to his books for children, Mott has written about 20 novels and five collections of poetry. The third member of the festival staff will be Jane Piirto Navane, a poet and fiction writer whose work frequently appears in literary journals and little magazines. Navanne will teach sessions on writing small presses. A resident of Bowling Green, she has received grants from the Ohio Arts Council and, in her spare time, she publishes chapbooks and zines.

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