Monitor Newsletter December 03, 1990

Bowling Green State University

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Promoting literacy

Dan Madigan has a commitment to public education - a commitment so great that it takes him away from teaching English in the University setting three days a week to work with inner-city children in the area of literacy.

Madigan collaborates with Vicki Rybicki and Dr. Bill McSlary from the University of Michigan's School of Education, in Rybicki's language arts class at Francis Parkman Elementary School in Detroit. They received a collaboration grant from the National Council of Teachers of English for their project entitled, "Linking Literacy and Social Change: A Study of Fourth Grade Writers in an Urban Elementary School."

The school has few supplies and a large number of students, all from below middle income families. However, Madigan says they still try to create an atmosphere where the student can write and read because they can make a difference in the world through their writing. "Those that don't have the opportunity to go to private school still deserve special attention. I'm here to create possibilities," he said.

And Madigan and his colleagues are succeeding. Through interviews with the students, the teachers are consistently probing and asking them why they should read and write, and the students are making connections about the world through their writing.

One of the students wrote a story about guns. During an interview with Madigan, the student explained that guns are only used by certain people for specific reasons. "The only thing I think is right to have a gun is if you're a police officer or I think it's right to have a gun on New Year's (for celebrating)... I told them in my story that I am going to stop it (the killing with guns)," he said.

Madigan stressed that in order for students to make connections about the world in which they live, teachers need to allow openings and let the student do the talking. Once they make a connection, they will feel they can make a difference and that is all-important, he said. Rybicki's language arts class also includes a "Writer's Corner" and a "Writer's Cafe," where students can work independently or discuss their stories with other students. They can also go to the "Author's Chair" to read their stories to the class, which exposes them to constructive criticism and the revision process that professional authors must go through to have their work accepted.

"We don't teach the student everything," Madigan said. "It's the perfect setting to attract the very best to their campuses.

University's minority faculty increases by 14 this year

An effort to increase the diversity of the faculty is beginning to pay dividends at the University.

This fall, nine blacks, two Hispanics and three Asians have joined the faculty. President Olscamp called the totals "impressive," and Marshall Rose, director of affirmative action, said the hirings were "a substantial increase for one year."

The 1990-91 number of new minority faculty is five more than 1989-90.

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Get out of the Whiners' Club, control your life

This is an article everyone at the University should read because it has a positive message and we can all use a dose of that. The message comes from Dr. Scott Shepard, director of the Institute for Training and Human Development at Flower Memorial Hospital in Sylvania.

This is the advice: Get a new attitude, a positive one. Tomorrow when you get up in the morning, be glad you are alive.

Make the determination that it is going to be a good day, that you are going to learn something new and that you are going to be in control of your life.

There are inspirational words, but then Shepard is an inspirational speaker. In his talk, "How to Boost Morale in Your Work Environment," he reprioritized approximately 150 University employees who attended the Nov. 30 workshop sponsored by the Administrative Staff Council, Professional Development Committee. But he knows the limits of his words.

What counts good today can be forgotten by next week. That is why he stresses the importance of each person taking control of his or her own life and developing an attitude that makes life worth living.

In his job, Shepard gives talks in the community on stress. He speaks to children about self-esteem and works with bereavement groups and dying patients, helping them come to grips with their feelings. He frequently is asked if he finds this kind of work depressing.

"I tell them no, what's depressing is working with people who are in stress," he said.

Stress is a popular topic. It is easy to put the blame on stress for any problem and Shepard stresses that it is "a chronic, negative emotional state," but said in order to eliminate it, you have to have a more positive idea of what it is. If people could eliminate their negative attitudes, yes, they'd see a lot less stress in their lives.

"Do you ever listen to people talk at work? It sounds so whiny. We do it all the time and don't even think about it," he said.

"There's the story about getting on the elevator with a stranger and if he acts real optimistic and says something like 'Gosh, this is a wonderful day', we think he's strange. But if he starts whining about something, we think he's

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CSCP approved revised version of disciplinary policy

Following more than a year of mortal threats, Cooperative Student Program Council (CSCP) approved a revised disciplinary policy at its fall meeting. The new policy was the result of a seven-month hearing before the Council, which was convened by new CSCP chairperson, Kathy Eninger, council chair last year. The new policy was the result of a seven-month hearing before the Council, which was convened by new CSCP chairperson, Kathy Eninger, council chair last year. The new policy was the result of a seven-month hearing before the Council, which was convened by new CSCP chairperson, Kathy Eninger, council chair last year.

The revised policy includes several changes from the previous version, including the addition of new categories of offenses and a more formalized process for handling cases.

The new policy also includes provisions for the suspension or expulsion of a student for a range of offenses, including those involving academic dishonesty, harassment, and criminal activity.

In addition, the policy includes provisions for the review and appeal of disciplinary actions by students.

The revised policy will be presented to the University's board of trustees for approval at its December meeting.
Note of Thanks

Editor, the Monitor:
I wish to extend a very special thank you to the following classified staff members for their willing and devoted service to the campus community:

Classified staff members who will also conduct mail pick-up will be:

- Tracy Fitz
- Janice Brown
- Carol Sonnichsen
- Kathy House
- Abby Stump

Please contact these individuals for assistance.

H. Chris Esperato, Computer services, University's West Campus

Donations still needed

The establishment of a permanent fund for the Arts has been the goal of the Distinguished Service Award Fund. The following classmates have already provided a total of $9,000 for the fund,

- Dr. Marjorie A. Jenkins, who contributed $1,000
- Dr. John Franklin Kemf, who contributed $2,000
- Dr. John G. P. Carney, who contributed $1,000
- Dr. John F. Shipley, who contributed $1,000
- Dr. John W. Johnson, who contributed $1,000

In total, we have received donations of $9,000, but we still need another $10,000 to meet our goal.

If you would like to make a donation to the Distinguished Service Award Fund, please contact the Office of Alumni Affairs at (419) 372-2209 or visit the University website.

- The Office of Alumni Affairs
- The Office of Student Affairs

Deck the halls

Dennis Bauer does this and much, much more

What does a person do when he has 3,000 Christmas presents to deal with? Dennis Bauer, business professor, is a master planner who plans for being an army of Christmas decorations.

"I have a passion for making events," he said. "I find a lot of joy in the creative process of designing and executing events...

Dennis Bauer displays some of the Scrooge Classes he has made and collected with members of a small group interested in Christmas traditions. The classes were part of a display last month at the Wood County Historical Society.

"I love the annual Christmas Festival," he said. "There's some new ideas I've been working on..." Dennis Bauer always tries to keep his displays fresh and inviting, he said. "We keep the displays fresh and inviting because we offer a unique experience for our customers..."

Dennis Bauer's displays are part of a larger collection that is available for viewing at the Wood County Historical Society. The displays are open to the public and are free to the public.

Dennis Bauer's collection includes a variety of Christmas decorations, including figurines, lights, and other items. The displays are open to the public and are available for viewing at the Wood County Historical Society. The displays are open to the public and are free to the public.

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Yugoslavian scholar enjoys semester at University

During the past year, the University has provided a valuable viewpoint to the community and the students. The University's programs have included a variety of cultural events, such as concerts, lectures, and films. The University has also offered a variety of educational programs, such as language classes, art classes, and music classes. The University's programs have been well-received by the students, who have praised the University for its commitment to cultural and educational programs.

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