2-3-1997

Monitor Newsletter February 03, 1997

Bowling Green State University

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University electric car race project results in grant to build a prototype bus

The College of Technology has joined a consortium of Ohio businesses and government agencies to build a prototype bus that uses both an electric motor and a turbine engine driven generator. The goal of the Ohio Hybrid Bus Project is to build a state-of-the-art vehicle that can operate under a variety of environmental conditions, while emitting fewer pollutants and costing less to operate than a traditional diesel-powered bus.

The college's role in the project will be to design, build and install the electric power train, which includes the traction motor, the power controller and transmission. Bowling Green will also be designing and installing the motor controllers for the accessory drive subsystems, such as the air brakes, power steering, lighting and air conditioning.

The project is being funded by the Ohio Department of Development and managed by NASA's Lewis Research Center in Cleveland. The University has received a $150,000 grant from the DOD through the Edison Industrial Systems Center to complete its part of the project. Barry Pierson, assistant to the dean of the college and the bus project coordinator, said Bowling Green's part in the project should be completed by the beginning of May and the bus should begin its test runs by fall.

Other members of the all-Ohio consortium include the Flexible (sic) Corporation of Delaware, the largest manufacturer of buses in America; the Motor Division of the Lincoln Electric Company of Cleveland, which is supplying the electric motor; Teledyne Ryan Aeronautical of Toledo, which will supply the turbine engine; the Great Cleveland Transit Authority, which will be supplying and testing the 30-foot prototype bus on the streets of Cleveland.

Bowling Green was asked to participate in the bus project as a direct result of its involvement in a collegiate electric vehicle racing series, Pierson said. For the past three years, more than 15 universities have participated in the series. Bowling Green's entry, the Electric Falcon, has been one of the most innovative cars in the competition.

"Since day one, we have been committed to innovation and experimentation when it came to developing the Electric Falcon's drive system. We have been designing, developing, testing, racing and then re-designing, re-developing, re-testing and re-racing that system. "Some elements, such as the motor and controllers, are third- and fourth-generation designs. When NASA drew up its specifications for the hybrid bus, they matched almost perfectly with what we were currently doing," Pierson said.

Anthony Palumbo, an associate professor of technology and technical director of the college's Electric Vehicle Institute, will be directing a team of faculty members and students in designing and building the bus systems. If successful, Pierson predicts that the hybrid bus could have a major economic impact on the bus manufacturing and bus retrofitting business within Ohio.

At first blush, it may seem silly to build an electric bus that also has a gas or diesel powered engine onboard to keep the batteries charged, Pierson said. However, the realities of electric vehicle technology, especially battery technology, make the concept of a hybrid power system logical and cost effective, he maintained.

All-electric buses are being tested in a number of areas throughout the country. Pierson said, adding that they all have the same deficiencies: the batteries are depleted very quickly when the bus is operated in hot or cold temperatures or when the terrain is hilly. Even under optimum conditions, the bus—after four to six hours of operation—must be taken out of service to recharge the batteries.

On the other hand, a traditional diesel-powered bus is very inefficient in its use of energy, averaging only two miles to a gallon of fuel. This is partly because while the engine must be large and powerful enough to accelerate and drive the bus, the bus, at a city bus, spends much of its time stopped, allowing passengers to enter and leave the vehicle.

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Spring graduation set-up is changed

Wet and cold weather will not interfere with the University's commencement ceremonies in May.

Rather than risk another uncomfortable graduation setting at Doyt L. Perry Stadium, the University will stage four separate ceremonies in Anderson Arena. John Moore, interim vice president for University advancement, announced Tuesday, Jan. 28.

"Bad weather has really interfered with our graduation programs the past several years. It's not the best of conditions for parents and students so we thought we'd try something different this year and eliminate the possibility of yet another graduation in the rain and cold." Undergraduates will receive their degrees at one of three ceremonies on Saturday, May 10. Commencement for the colleges of Business Administration, Health and Human Services and Technology will begin at 9 a.m., Education and Allied Professions and Musical Arts at 1 p.m., and Arts and Sciences at 5 p.m. The Graduate College will stage its exercises at 7:00 p.m., Friday, May 9.

Each ceremony will have its own speaker, but otherwise the programs will be nearly identical, Moore said. A logistics committee has been named to work out the details, including assigning each of the six undergraduate colleges to a graduation time. The committee is composed of the three past commencement marshals, Michael Maggiori, political science, Melissa Spirek, telecommunications, and Joseph Spinelli, geography, and representatives of each of the colleges.

"The College of Arts and Sciences, which will have the most graduates, will conduct its ceremonies at 5 p.m. on May 10. The other five colleges will be placed into the two remaining time slots, which will be announced later," Moore said.

Approximately 2,000 students receive their degrees during spring commencement and nearly 12,000 parents and friends attend the ceremonies.

This arrangement will allow everyone to sit inside and it will create a more intimate atmosphere students can share with the classmates with whom they have spent the most time.

The University's commencement committee has been studying the question of how to handle graduation for the past six months and has met with undergraduates, graduate students, faculty, staff, and administrators. It was generally agreed that while many enjoy the larger ceremony, the new plan deserved consideration.

Moore emphasized that no decisions have been made to make the indoor, multi-graduation ceremonies permanent. "This year is a trial and we will evaluate the event completely before any determinations are made."

Theatre students assess work with pros

Theatre students recently took part in an assessment activity designed to give them a "real life" experience in presenting their work to professionals in the field.

Two Bowling Green alumni, Bill Goldsmith, artistic director of the Columbus Junior Theater and director of a Columbus talent agency, and Dana White, a professor of technical theatre at Otterbein College and lighting designer of the Purple Rose Theater in Michigan, spent a day critiquing theatre students' audition pieces and oral presentations of their work in make-up, lighting and costumes.

The two provided verbal evaluations and soon will be sending written critiques to each student and comments to the faculty on the program in general.

The activity was mandatory for juniors and seniors and voluntary for freshmen and sophomores, said Scott Regan, theatre. "This gave students an authentic experience of dealing with the type of people they actually might be asking for a job one day."

The event was a "pilot test" in the first round of assessment activities the department will undertake. Regan said, in keeping with the University's renewed...
CSC learns about achieving goals

Classified Staff Council was visited at its meeting by Don Gehring, higher education programs, who advised council on how to more effectively and efficiently advance proposals through administrative levels at institutions of higher education.

Gehring described universities as bureaucracies, that is, large organizations with fixed positions and a division of labor that operate on written rules. Their structure is both hierarchical and pyramidal. In order to accomplish objectives, it is necessary to first know the rules, he said.

CSC was created by charter, which gives it legitimate authority, Gehring said. Its function, according to the University charter, is to advise the president on matters of welfare at the University. Therefore, council members have a responsibility to be part of the decision-making process at Bowling Green.

He also discussed the difference between power and authority, and the various ways in which power is wielded. He advised council to use its power by developing coalitions with other groups to advance its goals, to develop relationships and meet informally with others in positions of elected or appointed authority, and think in terms of "win-win" when seeking something desired.

It is in times of change, whether planned or unplanned, times of scarce resources and times of a "turbulent external environment" that people begin to desire to use their power in order to gain some control over the situation. He advised that true authority be used very sparingly, as "it gets used up" but instead individuals or groups should seek collaboration with others to achieve goals.

Also at the meeting, CSC Chair Pat Kitchen encouraged members to forward suggestions to her about possible activities for the Presidents' Day event. She also gave an update on the progress on designing one handbook that would cover all constituent groups on matters such as Family and Medical Leave, catastrophic leave and the Friday half-day summer schedule. University counsel Nancy Footer is involved with the project, Kitchen said. Vice chair Faith Olson also noted that it is lawful that employees taking family leave may be required to take at least part of it concurrent with accumulated sick leave, so that they do not take four weeks' sick leave, for example, and then go on to take another 12 weeks' family leave.

Council members encouraged Olson, who is on the committee examining the summer schedule, to convey to the administration that the Friday half-days are "a great morale booster," and while council agrees student service must be the number-one priority, an attempt should be made to work out a flexible plan that allows for both.

Nancy Lee reported she met with Marshall Rose, director of affirmative action and disability resources, about an employee who felt she had been unfairly passed over for a job by human resources. Marshall said he is considering a series of "climate surveys" on campus, aided by the Office of Institutional Research, that would provide a picture of how employees feel they are treated by other employees in various areas, including human resources.

Rose will be adding an assistant to his staff who could help conduct these surveys. He asked for CSC's opinion of the survey idea.

It was also discovered while researching the University charter that the true liaison person for CSC to the administration is the director of human resources, even though for the past 10 years the vice president for operations has been filling this function. Council discussed the pros and cons of either amending the charter to reflect the reality of replacing the relationship with the human resources director.

Theatre

emphasis on assessment of students and programs in all areas. The theatre department received "seed money" for the event from the Student Achievement Assessment Committee, which is headed by Milton Hakel, eminent scholar of psychology.

According to Hakel, the mission of the committee is to "promote teaching and learning at BGSU by fostering a variety of effective learning environments. The theatre department's activity was "hands-on," about finding a way to do it. This reflects the general theme of assessment: to go beyond knowing to actually doing." The seed money is not meant to fund an entire assessment project, but simply to help get started, Hakel said. Nor does the committee determine what assessments need to take place. "Faculty and staff in the various departments and programs need to figure out the best assessments for their areas. Unlike the Ninth Grade Proficiency Test, a one-size-fits-all type of thing, they should be customized to different areas."

Regan said the theatre activity also helped students learn to assess their own work and gave the whole department an opportunity to view one another's work. "It functioned as a community-building activity. At a party afterwards, all we got together with the people and the students were told to talk informally."

"It was a good trial run for January because in February auditions are held for summer stock productions. From that time forward, so students can now look back and see how they might improve their work before they go into these auditions."

commentary

This is the first in a series of commentaries on the quality of teaching and learning at BGSU. It briefly sketches out the current state of learning. The second describes the battles between two models of education and advocates a middle ground.

President Ribeau's nearly unbounded optimism, expressed at his State of the University address, challenges us all to demonstrate that ours is a realizable dream: that we will become the premier learning institution in Ohio and one of the best in the nation. That this aim is more than lip service is demonstrated by the administration's movement of substantive resources into undergraduate education. Now, we must face some painful realities, the kind that Professor Midden acknowledged in his Monitor Commentary (Jan. 13, 1997) when he compared our programs to those of Ohio U. Here, I wish to describe what I see in our classrooms, in the hope that we can chart our forward movement.

Most critically, our campus-wide intellectual culture needs enrichment. We see too little sustained intellectual interaction among students or between students and teachers. Students enter too many classes fearful of being called on and convinced that they are incapable of being successful learners. While there are numerous valiant efforts to overcome this, we have not worked hard enough together to create the synergy it takes to move an entire campus. Our curriculum is too fragmented and our faculty too nourished on outside grants and publication pressures. Venture to smaller colleges like our Firelands campus, Earlham, Wooster, and Amherst, and one is almost always struck by the spirit of faculty-student interaction and camaraderie in the interest of learning. In contrast, our faculty collaborate around teaching far too little. As a result, we seek intellectual community off-campus and miss the exciting research and pedagogical opportunities under our noses. Synergy in the form of the battle over ideas happens at conferences and on reserve, how said that it doesn't happen more often in our own classrooms, science and computer labs, and residence halls.

Further, not enough of our students seek out campus service opportunities, nor are enough connections to local communities built into our courses. Not enough faculty or students overcome schizophrenic divisions between school and society, content and use of the classroom, between notes and passionate involvement in an issue. Students write too little in the form of sustained inquiry about things that matter to them and to the society. The writing that students do is too often for testing ("I just want to see if you've read the assignment"); too intrinsically for discovery of ideas. Yet I'm convinced that faculty are hungry for opportunities to work together. We have a proud tradition of educational innovation: Little College, Honors, Great Ideas, Science and Humanities, Pedagogical Enthusiasm, and Environmental Studies.

Surely assessment efforts are a part of the answer, but assessment cannot supply all the goals, visions and forms we need to move off our present center. Let's step back and look at educational goals more broadly.

Thomas Klein, Professor, English
Director, Living Learning Experience

Electric bus

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In the hybrid design the high-efficiency turbine engine will run continuously to charge the batteries during low-use periods.

Initial studies indicate that the hybrid system could double or even triple a bus's fuel mileage. In addition, it is estimated that the amount of pollutants released into the atmosphere could be reduced by a factor of 10. As an added bonus, the electric motor operates almost silently and the smooth turbine engine eliminates the vibration associated with piston engine designs.

Since all of the companies and organizations asked to participate in the project are based in Ohio, all of the economic gain received from the project should remain in Ohio, Pierson added.

For Thomas Erikson, dean of the College of Technology, it was this type of project that got the college involved in electric vehicle technology in the first place. "As a race car, the Electric Falcon is fun and it's great to take part in races, but when we started this project three years ago, we clearly stated that we had additional goals.

"It's projects like this that make me believe our efforts have been worthwhile, while that we have captured the checked flag," Erikson said, adding that he hopes it is not just that checked flag—which symbolizes victory—but also the green flag, which signifies that it is just the beginning.

MONTOR

Monitor is published weekly by the Office of Public Relations for faculty and staff of Bowling Green State University. The deadline to submit material is 5 p.m. Tuesday, the week before publication.

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University Vision Statement: Bowling Green State University aspires to be the premier learning community in Ohio and one of the best in the nation. Through the interdependence of teaching, learning, scholarship and service we will create an academic environment grounded in intellectual discovery and guided by rational discourse and civility.
CSC scholarship applications available

Applications for Classified Staff Council scholarships are now available. Scholarships are awarded to classified staff whose dependents are full-time students and who work a minimum of 20 hours per week. Students from all departments are eligible to apply.

Deadline set for faculty improvement grants

Faculty members are reminded that the deadline for Instructional Improvement Grant requests is 5 p.m. Friday, Feb. 14. The program is open to all faculty members who wish to improve their teaching effectiveness and student learning and who have at least two years of teaching experience at BGSU.

CSC seeks nominees for Outstanding Service Award

The Classified Staff Council has announced its Outstanding Service Award, which recognizes outstanding contributions to the university. Nominees are evaluated based on their performance, work ethic, and contribution to the university. The award will be presented at the Classified Staff Awards ceremony on May 1.

Holiday schedule set for 1997

The following is the 1997 Holiday schedule as announced by Human Resources. Please note that if a holiday falls on a Sunday, it will be observed the following Monday; if it falls on a Saturday, it will be observed the previous Friday.

May 26 (Monday) Memorial Day
July 4 (Friday) Independence Day
Sept. 1 (Monday) Labor Day
Nov. 11 (Tuesday) Veteran's Day
Nov. 27 (Thursday) Thanksgiving Day
Nov. 28 (Friday) Reassignment of Presidents' Day (floating holiday)
Dec. 25 (Thursday) Christmas Day
Dec. 26 (Friday) Reassignment of Columbus Day (floating holiday)

Something to celebrate

The Office of Alumni and Development threw a party recently to celebrate its success in reaching almost 60 percent of its goal in half the allotted time. President Sidney Ribeau colors in a "Dollar Thermometer-001" indicating that the University has raised almost $2.9 million in its annual fund drive, which this year has a goal of $5 million, 25 percent higher than last year's goal. Watching closely is Richard Newlove, (center) president of the University Foundation, and John C. Moons, (right) interim vice president for University advancement.

BGSU boasts low loan default rates

Bowing Green is in the enviable position of having had the third-lowest default rate in the state on federal student loans last year, according to figures released by the U.S. Department of Education. At 3.7 percent, Bowling Green students compiled the lowest number of defaulted loans among state universities. The lowest default rate in the state was the Medical Colleges of Ohio at 2.5 percent.

Career Fair provides window on world of work for students

The University will host a Career Fair Tuesday, Feb. 4 in 101 Olscamp Hall to provide high school students and BGSU students who are undecided on a major with an opportunity to talk with people from many fields of work. Nearly 40 alumni have agreed to spend the day on campus, conversing with students in an informal setting about their professions. In the morning students from five area school districts will attend. The afternoon is reserved for BGSU students. Participating in the fair is one way for public schools to fulfill the state legislature's mandate that all students receive some career development training.

Faculty are asked to encourage their students to attend, said Heidi McCormick, program coordinator and a graduate student in the Office of Career Services. "Students can come on a drop-in basis and spend 10 minutes to two hours talking. It's a way for students to become more informed about the world of work and what people actually do in their work units. For those students who are undecided on a career, it helps them focus on what their skills are and what they are interested in." McCormick and the other organizers collaborated with the individual colleges to identify key alumni from each to invite. The alumni who accepted represent a wide range of professions.
Monday, Feb. 3
International Film Series, Notturno (1986), directed by Fritz Lehner (in Italian with English subtitles), 8:15 p.m., Gish Film Theater. Free.

Tuesday, Feb. 4
Presentation, "Gender Perspectives and Counseling Tools," by Sheralyn Brown, EDFF, 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., Room 2-260, University Union. Free. A Black History Month event.
Faculty Senate Meeting, 2:30 p.m., Assembly Room, McFall Center.
Film Presentation on Colossus Series, Last Supper (1976), directed by Tomas Gutierrez Alea (in Spanish with English subtitles), 6:30 p.m., Gish Film Theater. Free. Mardi Cinéma; Black Rose (in English), 7:30 p.m., La Maison Française. Free.

Wednesday, Feb. 5
Café Conversation, Conversation in French, free coffee and cookies, 3-5 p.m., La Maison Française.
Artist Lecture Series, Tom Maddox of Bowling Green Fee, Canaba jewelry/metalsmithing, 7 p.m., 1101 Fine Arts Center. Free.
Women's Basketball hosts Ball State, 7 p.m., Anderson Arena.
Faculty Relations Tea, wine and cheese reception for honored faculty members and Greek community. Nick Hennessee, student housing and residence programs, will speak on the positive aspects of Greek life. Sponsored by Panhellic Council and IFC, 7-10 p.m., Community Suite, University Union.

Thursday, Feb. 6
Computer Workshop, "Create Web Pages II: Using Authoring," an overview of how to create and insert special effects and graphics, free to all faculty and staff. Sponsored by the Center for Teaching, Learning and Technology, 9-11 a.m., 126 Hayes Hall. To register, call 2-6897-926, Gish Film Theater. Free.
Arts and Sciences Forum, "Technology, Information, and Access," Linda Dobb, dean of libraries and learning resources, will speak on what's new and what's coming in information flow and access for scholars. Faculty are encouraged to bring students. Lunch at noon is $5; call 2-2340 for a reservation. Talk begins at 12:30, Alumni Room, McDonald West. Free.
Administrative Staff Council Meeting, 1:30 p.m., University Union Alumni Room.
Artist Lecture Series, Judi Warren of Maumee talks about contemporary quilting, 7 p.m., 204 Fine Arts Center. Free.
Television Program, "President Ribeau & Company," 7 p.m., WBGU-TV.
Classic Film Series, Hallelujah (1929), directed by King Vidor, 9 p.m., Gish Film Theater. Free.

Friday, Feb. 7
Creative Thinking Workshop, Professional Training and Development Spring 1997 Series. Hands-on, interactive workshop for new approaches to problem solving, creating new ideas and improving work processes. Dave Hydrop, instructor, 8:30-10:30 a.m. Room 2, College Park. Call 2-8181.
Economics Colloquium Series, William Humes, visiting professor of philosophy, talks about "How to Build a Campbell Selection Hierarchy," 12:30 p.m., room 4000 BA Annex.
Women's Tennis hosts Indiana, 6 p.m., Laurel Hill (Toledo).
Artist Lecture Series, 7 p.m., 204 Fine Arts Center.
ARTS Film Series, Zatchet (1995), directed by Hirokazu Kozaka, special screening, 7:30 p.m., Gish Film Theater. Free. Talking ET, 8:30 p.m., Gish Film Theater. Free.

Saturday, Feb. 8
Panel discussion, Life After School, five BGSU alumni who are art professors at other universities, 1:30 a.m.-noon, 1100 Fine Arts Center.
Men's Basketball hosts Akron, 1:30 p.m., Anderson Arena.
Hockey hosts Alaska Fairbanks, 7 p.m., ice arena.
Disney and Other Family Movies Series, A Little Princess (1995), directed by Affonso Arau, 7:30 p.m., Gish Film Theater. Free.
Movie, The Associate, 8 p.m. and 11 p.m., 111 Oscook. Admission $2.

Sunday, Feb. 9
Men's Tennis hosts Northern Illinois, 10 a.m., Laurel Hill (Toledo).
Jazz Night with the "Just Us" band, refreshments will be served, 7:30 p.m., Amann Room. Free. A Black History Month event.
Festival Series, Hubbard Street Dance Chicago in a performance of pieces from The Tharp Project, 6 p.m., Kocacker Hall, Moore Musical Arts Center. Tickets can be ordered by calling the Moore Musical Arts Center box office at 2-8171.

Monday, Feb. 10
International Film Series, Il Mostro (The Monster) (1996), directed by Roberto Benigni (in Italian with English subtitles), 8:15 p.m., Gish Film Theater. Free.

Continuing Events
Art Exhibition, MFA/MA in Art Alumni Exhibition, through Saturday, Feb. 8, Dorothy Uber Bryan Gallery, Fine Arts Center. Sponsored by the School of Art and Design, College of Arts and Sciences, the Graduate College, the Medici Circle and the Presidents Club. Gallery hours are Tuesday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Sunday 2-5 p.m. The gallery will close at 3 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 8.
American Red Cross Blood Drive, Feb. 3-7, 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Amann Room, Northwest Commons, sponsored by the American Red Cross.

At Firelands
Diversity symposium, "Diversity in the Classroom and Beyond," presented by Lorna Gonsalves-Pinto, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. in the Pi Louge. Free. For more information call 419-433-5560 or 800-322-4767.

FACULTY
Senior vice provost for academic affairs - office of the provost/vice president for academic affairs. Call 2-2915. Deadline: Feb. 10
Vice provost for undergraduate affairs and dean of undergraduate education - office of the provost/vice president for academic affairs. Call 2-2915. Deadline: Feb. 10
Senior assistant/associate professor - leadership studies (2 positions). Call 2-7377. Deadline extended: March 3.
ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF
Aquatics assistant (V-094) - recreational sports. Deadline: Feb. 3.
Supervisor of mass spectrometer facility (V-092) - chemistry. Deadline: Feb. 15.
Affirmative action officer (M-001) - affirmative action and disability resources. Deadline: March 1.
Director of student housing and residence programs (V-006) - division of student affairs. Deadline: March 1.
Executive director of computer services - office of provost/vice president for academic affairs. Call 2-2915. Deadline: March 5.
CLASSIFIED STAFF
Please contact Human Resources (2-8421) for information regarding the following position. Posting expiration date for employees to apply: noon, Friday, Feb. 7.

Communication technician - University computer services. Pay grade 7.