Ethnic studies' role is expanding

In today’s world, one might be a black person of Caribbean descent who is born in London and then emigrates to the United States. The proliferation of “multiple identities” in a rapidly changing world, Martin says, has led universities, and particularly ethnic studies programs, to develop the tools to analyze changing societies and to teach students to function in a truly multicultural environment, according to Michael Martin, chair of ethnic studies.

Martin discussed the development of ethnic studies and its implications for the university community as a whole during a recent president’s lecture series presentation.

“Ethnic studies is an interdisciplinary field that addresses the socio-economic and historical forces that have shaped the development of diverse population groups in the United States over the past 500 years,” he explained.

Martin said President Sidney Ribeau has posed an important question for BGSU: “Is the University engaged with society to change it?” During the past six years, Bowling Green has set as institutional priorities the promotion of diversity and global awareness and increased attention to civic and social affairs.

However, Martin said, tolerance for ethnic diversity for world citizenship and social justice can be difficult to sustain in hard economic times, when self-interest competes with the common good for finite resources. In societies such as the United States, which have particular racial and ethnic hierarchies, resources have traditionally been allocated according to power. The trend toward growing conservatism also can result in rollbacks of policies committed to diversity.

But, he said, despite the difficulties, universities must hold to those priorities because, as the country’s demographic makeup changes, the balance of power is shifting as well. No longer can we think about population groups in simplistic terms, such as black/white, Martin said.

Hispanics and southeast Asians have become the new predominant minority groups. As more immigrants arrive, the ethnic composition of the country changes. The various diasporas constitute another area of study, as does what happens when different cultures overlap and intersect.

Political alignments will change, as well as assumptions about race and ethnicity. It thus becomes increasingly important to understand the changes occurring around us and adjust the ways in which we think and teach about race and identity. Already, curricula in history, political science, and sociology, to name a few, have changed in light of world events, Martin said, and new pedagogies must arise.

Martin cautioned that, even though these changes are happening across programs, he is not sure they are thought of as a “movement.” More awareness of the relevance of ethnic studies to numerous academic areas would give it a “presence,” he said, and it could become more consciously structured and integrated into other departments.

He also sees ethnic studies’ role moving in the direction of relevance to and advocacy of social policy and as a resource for the rest of the University as it works toward its goal of creating a principled society.

Music is a plus

Anna Belle Bogner, associate professor emeritus of music education, receives a bouquet of flowers from Richard Kennell, interim dean of the College of Musical Arts, in appreciation of her co-founding and directing the Music Plus Program for 13 years. Bogner was honored at a program featuring performances by Music Plus and BGSU students. Music Plus brings students from Toledo inner-city schools to BGSU weekly for music classes and exposure to the college environment.

Commencement set May 11-12

Nearly 2,000 people will be able to claim the title “college graduate” after this year’s commencement exercises on May 11 and 12. Of those, 290 will receive graduate degrees, including 35 Ph.D.’s and one specialist degree, and 420 will receive their degrees “with honors.”

At BGSU Firelands, commencement will be held at 7:30 p.m. on May 11 in the gymnasium. The speaker will be Alan Green, a 1974 alumnus of Firelands and a 1975 and 1976 alumnus of BGSU. Green is the corporate controller of Integrated Design, Inc., in Ann Arbor, Mich.

All main campus ceremonies will be held in Anderson Arena.

• The Graduate College begins the occasion at 7 p.m. on Friday, May 11. Winfred O. Stone, associate professor emeritus of ethnic studies, will speak on “Critical Challenges to Quality of Life Achievements in the 21st Century.”

• The College of Arts & Sciences will hold its commencement at 9:30 a.m. on May 12. Speaker Thomas Goutiere, dean of international studies and programs and director of the Center for African Studies at the University of Nebraska at Omaha, will receive an honorary Doctor of International Relations degree. Goutiere is a 1962 graduate of BGSU with a bachelor of arts in history.

• The colleges of musical arts and education and human development will hold their ceremonies at 1 p.m. May 12. Robert Glidden, president of Ohio University, will give the commencement speech. Glidden served as dean of the College of Musical Arts at BGSU from 1974-79, and was largely responsible for raising the $5.1 million to furnish the then-new Moore Musical Arts Center.

• Ceremonies for the colleges of business administration, health and human services and technology will be held at 4:30 p.m. May 12. The speaker for the College of Business Administration is Kevin A. Buss, of Kalida, who is receiving a bachelor of science degree in business administration with a specialization in management information systems. For the College of Health and Human Services, Elaine Gregg, of Springfield, will speak. She is a distinguished HHS degree candidate and will receive a B.S. in gerontology. For the College of Technology, the speaker is Kathy Elsas, of Fostoria, a distinguished degree candidate who is receiving a B.S. in technology with a major in manufacturing technology.

There’s still time to give

The Family Campaign needs all our support
Tuesday, May 1
Administrative Staff Meeting, discussion of aspects of compensation with human resources representatives, 8:30-10:30 a.m. 101 Oval Camp Hall.
Center for Teaching, Learning and Technology Workshop, “Converting MS Office Documents for the World Wide Web,” 9-11 a.m. To register, contact Jane Thompson at 2-6895 or jthomp@bgnet.bgsu.edu.
Faculty Senate, 2:30 p.m., McFall Assembly Room.

Wednesday, May 2

Thursday, May 3
Administrative Staff Council, 1:30-3 p.m., Pallister Conference Room, Jerome Library.

Friday, May 4
University Dance Alliance Showcase, featuring dance works by BGSU students and faculty, 8 p.m., 222 Eppler North. Admission is free, donations accepted.

Continuing Events
April 29-30
Open Auditions for child and adult roles in the BGSU Summer Musical Theater production of “The King and I,” 6-8 p.m. (children) and 8-10 p.m. (adults), Kobacker Hall. The show is scheduled for July 13-14, July 20-21 and Sept. 7-8. For more details, contact Eugene Dybdahl at 2-8623.

May 1-3
Auditions for BGSU theatre department’s production of “La Ronde,” by Arthur Schnitzler, 6 p.m. Tuesday (May 1) and Wednesday (May 2) in 405 University Hall. Call backs will be held at 6 p.m. Thursday (May 3) in 405 University Hall. Those auditioning should come with two contrasting monologues of one to two minutes in length. Show dates are Sept. 20-23. Call 2-2222 for information.

Through May 5
MFA Thesis Exhibitions/BFA Senior Thesis Exhibitions, Dorothy Uber Bryan and Willard Wankelman galleries. Gallery hours are Tuesday-Saturday, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.; and Sunday, 1-4 p.m.

Through May 11
Planetarium Show, “Hubble’s Universe,” showings at 8 p.m. Tuesdays and Fridays, 7:30 p.m. Sundays. 51 donation suggested. BGSU Planetarium.

May 5-6 and May 12-13
Little Red Schoolhouse, open 1-5 p.m. Tours and classroom meetings are available; to schedule the building for a class or to arrange a tour at a time other than the scheduled weekend hours, call 2-7364.

PICT technology showcase today
Classroom technology will be showcased at a special event from 5-7 p.m. today (April 30) 101 Oval Camp Hall. The “Classroom Technology Showcase” is sponsored by BGSU Project PICT (Pre-service Instruction of Computer Technology), a three-year, $1.5 million grant funded by the U.S. Dept. of Education. The goal of Project PICT is to help pre-service teachers at BGSU fully utilize modern technology for improved learning and achievement in their classrooms.

The event will feature the current work of Project PICT participants, including area classroom teachers, BGSU student teachers and faculty members.

Test scanning hours extended
ITS will extend the test scanning hours for finals exams to include Saturday, May 12, from 8 a.m. to noon. Participants should bring their National Computer System answer sheets to 301 Hayes Hall. The window at 301 Hayes is open during the noon hour every weekday. During finals week, the window will be open until 6 p.m. Monday-Friday.

Campus Mother’s Day buffet offered
University Dining Services will host a Mothers’ Day buffet on Sunday, May 13 at McDonald Dining Center. The buffet will be served from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Prices are $12.95 plus tax for adults; $5.95 plus tax for children 3-10 years old; free for children under 3. $11.95 plus tax for persons with Golden Buckeye cards and $11.95 plus tax for students with BGSU student ID. Meal plans will be accepted. Call 2-6951 by noon, May 11 for reservations.

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in brief

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- Ellen Williams will continue on as interim dean of the College of Education and Human Development. Williams has been serving in that role since the departure last year of Les Sternberg.
- Heinz Bulmahn will serve as interim dean of the Graduate College and vice provost for Trio awards (Continued)

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Carpenter, sociologist; Jinain Chen-4 and Louise Golden, English; Donna Nelson-Bene, general studies writing, English; Debra Cunningham, academic enhancement; John Hayden, Tom Hudson and Barbara Moses, all mathematics and statistics. Carpenter is the former director of the Center for Multicultural and Academic Initiatives.