Book examines U.S. presidents' decisions to engage in war

The struggle faced by American presidents in making the decision to engage the nation in war is the subject of a new book by Gary Hess, Distinguished Research Professor of History. Presidential Decisions for War: Korean, Vietnam, the Persian Gulf, published recently by the Johns Hopkins University Press, looks at the effectiveness of presidents Harry S. Truman, Lyndon Johnson and George Bush in their respective crises.

A widely known expert on the Vietnam War, Hess is also the author of Vietnam and the United States: Origins and Legacy of War, and The United States' Emergence as a Southeast Asia Power, 1940-1950. Describing the concept of Hess's book as a "stroke of genius," David W. Levy of the University of Oklahoma wrote in a pre-publication review that "Hess gives us a fine sense of how various pressures operated to shape both a president's decision for war and the way in which the decision was carried out... Hess's evaluations are always thoughtful and measured."

In Presidential Decisions for War, Hess analyzes the threat to national security; how well the three presidents worked with the United Nations and the country's allies, and the level of popular and Congressional support in each case. He also appraises Truman, Johnson and Bush in terms of their success as Commander-in-Chief in defining the country's objectives in "limited war," their relations with military leaders and their responsiveness to opportunities for peace.

"Fifty years ago, the Americans were thinking we'd wind up fighting World War III against the Soviets. But these wars were all against relatively minor countries. America didn't think of it as an enemy, and they all had a practical objective, unlike World War II, and a limited commitment in terms of American resources," Hess said.

And yet, limited in scope as the three conflicts were, the presidents involved faced "terrible consequences" in making the decision for war, Hess said. There are lessons to be learned from the three experiences, he added. Presidential Decisions for War is Hess's seventh book, it is part of the America's Moment series of the Johns Hopkins University Press, which is edited by BGSU alumnus Stanley Butler of the University of Wisconsin, a 1936 graduate of the University.

The book is available through Amazon.com and will soon be in the BGSU bookstore.

Beliefs can influence mortality, study finds

A new study suggests older hospital patients who are wrestling with religious beliefs during an illness may have an increased risk of dying, according to researchers at Bowling Green State University and Duke University Medical Center.

While several previous studies have demonstrated a reduced risk of death with more frequent church attendance, this is the first empirical research to identify religious beliefs that increase the risk of mortality. Results of the study appear in the Aug. 13, 2001 issue of the Archives of Internal Medicine.

"The study reminds us that religion is a rich, complex process, one that represents a potent resource for people facing prob-
Beliefs can influence mortality (Continued)

lens and one that can, at times, be a source of problems itself," said Kenneth Pargament, psychology, lead author of the study.

Feelings of "being abandoned by God," "believing the devil causes their illnesses" or "feeling abandoned by one's faith community," were identified as key factors in risk of death among elderly participants, said Dr. Harold G. Koenig, an associate professor of psychiatry at Duke University Medical Center and one of the authors of the journal article. These patients experienced a 10 to 28 percent increase in the risk of dying over the two-year period, Pargament said.

A total of 295 patients age 55 or older using the medical in-patient services of the Duke University Medical Center or the Durham VA Medical Center in North Carolina were enlisted in the study during 1996 and 1997 and the following two years. The researchers speculate that religious struggle could cause changes in immunological functioning. Another possibility is that religious struggle is associated with emotional or personality differences related directly or indirectly to mortality. Religious struggle could also result in social alienation from the support of friends, family and others. Or, the problem might lie in the failure to resolve the struggle.

"Preliminary analyses among the survivors of this cohort suggest that patients who 'stay stuck' in their struggles over time may be more likely to suffer declines in their physical and mental health than those who are able to resolve their struggles more quickly," Pargament said. "A subgroup may, in fact, grow through their religious struggles," he added.

Whatever the explanation, the findings underscore the need for health care professionals to be sensitive to patients experiencing religious struggle.

The study was supported by a grant from the Retirement Research Foundation. Additional authors of the study included Nalini Tarakeshwar of Bowling Green State University and June Hahn of Procter & Gamble.

Pargament is author of The Psychology of Religion and Coping (Guilford Press) and Koenig wrote The Handbook of Religion and Health.

Library services (Continued)

said, adding that the service will be entirely user-driven and the results of the pilot testing will determine the next steps. She plans to open the service to all faculty in the spring.

Lorraine Harcombe, dean of libraries and learning resources, said. "Our goal is to significantly expand Electronic Reserves for print-based items at all reserve units in spring 2002. We welcome feedback in our continuing effort to provide innovative and user-oriented services."

For more information about Electronic Reserves, contact her at 2-7088 or by e-mail at ERes@bgus.edu.

The second new service is "Chat with a Librarian." Described as a "one-stop shop for reference," the service allows for real-time, online interaction with a live person. If questions, faculty or staff are in the middle of research and don't have time to visit the library, this service may be the solution, according to Kelly Broughton, reference coordinator.

Whether on or off campus, users may contact the library with a research question during regular Jerome Library reference desk hours and receive an immediate response. No special software is needed. Simply go to the LLR home page at www.bgus.edu/libraries and click on "Ask a Librarian." Or go directly to www.bgus.edu/libraries/consult/consult/virtual/.

Join Rec Sports at your doorstep

Need to renew your Recreational Sports membership? Interested in becoming a member for the first time? The Student Recreation Center will be offering membership sales at the following times and locations throughout campus.

Aug. 13-9 a.m.-3 p.m. Administration Building front lobby
Aug. 21-9 a.m.-4 p.m. 2 College Park Building
Aug. 22-9 a.m.-3 p.m. Memorial Hall Lobby
Aug. 20-25-9 a.m.-5 p.m. Student Recreation Center and Perry Field House entrances

Call 2-2711 for more information.

in memory

Martin Shad Hanna, 60, died July 30 in Montana. He was a member of the BGSU Board of Trustees from 1976-86, and served as chair in 1985-86.

Ronald Bandy, 66, died Aug. 6 in Westerville. An associate professor emeritus of art, he taught at the University from 1968-91.

FACULTY
Mathematics and Statistics. Associate/assistant/full professor. Call the department, 2-2606. Deadline: Nov. 1
Contact Human Resources at 372-8431 for information regarding the following: CLASSIFIED (Employees applying to hire for these positions may request a "Request for Transfer" form.) Deadline for employees to apply is 1 p.m. Friday, 1 p.m. Friday, Aug. 17.
Groundskeeper 1 (C-66-Sb)—Athletic Department. Pay grade 4. Ten-month, full time.

Secretary 1 (C-64-65-Sb)—Residence Life (two positions). Pay grade 6.

ADMINISTRATIVE
Assistant Director for Housing Administration (S-070)—Office of Residence Life. Administrative grade 14. Review of applications will begin Aug. 17 and continue until the position is filled.
Marketing Coordinator (S-01070)—Bowen-Thompson Student Union. Administrative grade 12. Review of applications will begin Aug. 31 and continue until the position is filled.
Program Coordinator (S-01069)—Bowen-Thompson Student Union. Administrative grade 14. Review of applications will begin Aug. 31 and continue until the position is filled.

NOTE: Monitor will resume its regular weekly publication schedule next week (Aug. 18).