Monitor Newsletter December 10, 2001

Bowling Green State University

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Student and faculty research appears in leading journals

Kristina Csaszar

In the community of scientists, everyone plays a part. Even undergraduates can make significant contributions to advancing humankind's knowledge on important topics, as happened recently at BGSU. Kristina Csaszar, a senior double major in chemistry and mathematics, has had a paper accepted by the prestigious Journal of Molecular Biology, which publishes some of the most important discoveries in biochemistry and molecular biology.

Csaszar is working on computer simulation and modeling of RNA 3-D structure and function with Neucoles Leonitis, chemistry, and Craig Zirbel, mathematics and statistics. Her work will have application in understanding how RNA molecules "jiggle and dance" (fold and unfold) as they carry out their roles in the cells life cycle.

Paul Moore

To the general public, lobsters are well known for their tastiness, but are perhaps under-appreciated for their superior ability to identify scents underwater, which is crucial for them to be able to locate prey or elude predators. Among scientists, however, their olfactory sense is legendary. An article on their sophisticated capacity to discriminate between odors and respond appropriately has been published in the Nov. 30 issue of Science, co-authored by Paul Moore, biology, titled "Lobster Sniffing: Antennal Design and Hyperacute Sense of Olfaction." Science is one of the world's leading scientific journals.

An understanding of lobsters' ability could have other applications. The Army and Navy, for example, are interested in using their technique to detect land or underwater mines through their remote sonars.

The article, which she co-wrote with Nadia Spackova, Richard Scharf, Jim Sponer and Leonitis, is titled "Molecular Dynamics of Frame-shifting Pseudoknots." "Kristina's role in the project was to set up calculations, process, analyze, and graph data and help with writing the paper," Leonitis said of his student. The reviewers at the journal were most impressed. "I found this to be an unusually good and thorough discussion of a molecular dynamics simulation, on a very interesting structural motif. I am not aware of any previous work on pseudoknots that comes close to this in quality, thoroughness and biological relevance," he said. It will establish a "baseline" for further computational and structural studies, the journal reviewer wrote in his recommendation.

Csaszar is the recipient of a 2000-2001 Goldwater Scholarship, which was designed to encourage outstanding students to pursue careers in the fields of mathematics, the natural sciences, and engineering. It is the premier undergraduate award of its type in these fields.

Meltkote named a Fulbright Scholar

"I'm looking forward to a very productive semester," says Srinivas Meltkote, telecommunications. Meltkote is heading off at the end of this month to Manipal University, on the southwest coast of India, to teach as a Fulbright Scholar and visiting professor for the spring semester.

At Manipal, which is one of India's leading private universities and its second-largest teaching college for medicine, Meltkote will teach classes in research methodology. He will also teach development communication methodology, using the recent second edition of his textbook, Communication for Development in the Third World: Theory and Practice for Empowerment.

One of the missions of the Fulbright program is to fill a need in the host institution, Meltkote said. The faculty at Manipal have asked for his help in modifying the communications curriculum to include new technologies such as the World Wide Web, the Internet and multi-media.

While at Manipal, one of his most important activities will be conducting a week of workshops to be offered to communications faculty from across India on the use of the Statistical Package for Social Sciences, a computer software package for data analysis.

"I feel very good about doing these workshops," Meltkote said. "Computers are widely available in classrooms in schools and universities in India, but we don't have computer-literate professors. Faculty tend to be of the 'old school.' They may use the Internet, but are not able to 'crunch their data.' I think this workshop will be very beneficial to our colleagues." Meltkote also plans to travel in India to sites where development communication projects are under way; collecting digital video and photo images for an interactive CD-ROM he envisions as a companion to his development communications book.

Fulbright scholars serve as "cultural ambassadors," he noted. The program is sponsored by the U.S. Department of State, with additional funding from host institutions in the U.S. and abroad. Two other BGSU faculty members have Fulbright grants this year: Wendell Mayo, director of the Creative Writing Program, in Lithuania, and Salim Ekwazani, architecture, in Bahrain.

Schooldays, holidays of yore

Beverly France '60, center, coordinator of the Little Red Schoolhouse, explains Christmas traditions of the past to third grade Watervliet Elementary students Kathryn Hitt, 9, left, and Kaitlyn Baker, 9, right, during "A Day at the Schoolhouse" Nov. 28. The schoolhouse was alive with activity the past two weeks as third- and fourth-graders from throughout northwest Ohio attended a special daylong program of lessons, carol-singing and crafts conducted by retired teachers from the Bowling Green area. Both the teachers and many of the children dressed in period costume to reflect the history of the schoolhouse, which was brought to the BGSU campus from Normar in 1975, 100 years after it was constructed.
Ronald Knopf wins professional award

Ronald Knopf, a reading specialist in the Office of Multicultural and Academic Initiatives, received the "Award for Outstanding Contribution to Developmental Education by a Part-time or Adjunct Professional" from the Ohio Association for Developmental Education last month.

This state-wide award is given yearly to the professional who demonstrates exceptional teaching abilities and concerns for academic progress and who also forges effective links with those faculty and staff who interact with developmentally students.

Apply for 2002 CITE grants

The Center for Innovative and Transformational Education invites full-time faculty and staff to apply for 2002 CITE grants. The grants, which typically range from $3,000-$5,000, are designed as seed money to support projects promoting CITE's mission and goals.

The mission of the center is to "foster fully reciprocal and mutually beneficial collaborations in public education and broadly conceived interdisciplinary university study.

The deadline to apply is 3 p.m. Feb. 15, 2002. Notification of approval will occur by March 12, 2002. For a complete listing of guidelines and requirements, contact Bill Armaline, CITE director, at 2-9491, or at warm@bgsu.edu, or see Monitor online.

For sale: Digital Duplicator

The sociology department has a Gestetner Cop/P'inter Digital Duplicator for sale for $1,000. Contact Tammy at 2-2394 for more information.

FACULTY

There were no positions posted this week.

Contact Human Resources at 372-8421 for information regarding the following:

CLASSIFIED

(1) Employees wishing to apply for these positions may request a "Request for Transfer" form.

Deadline for employees to apply is 1 p.m. Friday, Dec. 14.

Police Officer 2 (C-169-Vb)—Public Safety (internal promotion).

The deadline to apply is 5 p.m. Feb. 15, 2002. Notification of approval will occur by March 12, 2002. For a complete listing of guidelines and requirements, contact Bill Armaline, CITE director, at 2-9491, or at warm@bgsu.edu, or see Monitor online.

job postings

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www.bgsu.edu/faculty_staff/