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Monitor Newsletter July 25, 1983

Bowling Green State University

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Monitor

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Bowling Green State University

July 25, 1983

NEH funds English curriculum review

For the past three years faculty in the English department have been carefully reviewing what they are teaching and how they are teaching it. Now, for the next three years they will extend their evaluation and begin to implement some major curricular reform — a task that has been made much easier thanks to a \$106,897 grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Dr. Lester Barber, chair of the English department, said the grant will be used to revise undergraduate course offerings and re-evaluate teaching approaches in an overall attempt to meet the changing needs of students. It will enable the faculty, working with outside consultants, to revamp existing courses, design new ones and determine the basic skills and knowledge to be expected of students.

Noting that the English department grew rapidly with the rest of the University during the sixties and early seventies, Barber pointed out that now "the boom is over. It's time to take a look at what we have and see how we can serve students better."

One of the primary aspects of the curricular revision, he said, will be a de-emphasis of specialization. During the growth years, he noted, the department introduced a number of specialized courses to meet student demand for more individualized instruction.

At that time the majority of students majoring in English became secondary school teachers or went to graduate school and later to teaching assignments in higher education.

But by the mid-seventies, jobs for English teachers had become scarce and now the number of college students electing to major in English nationally has taken a drastic downturn. At Bowling Green fewer than 200 undergraduates are majoring in English now, compared to about 700 students in the early seventies.

In addition, Barber said, students who are coming to Bowling Green today are not as well prepared as their predecessors, necessitating further reform in the curriculum and in teaching methods.

Drs. Thomas Klein and Thomas Wymer, English, are co-directing the curricular reform with Barber, who will oversee the entire grant project. The proposed curriculum is built on a framework of six levels of undergraduate instruction (each level building on the skills and understanding achieved in previous courses).

Those levels are defined as introductory; analytical skills and language; survey-historical; major authors; theme or genre/period/author; and senior project tutorial.

The curriculum will utilize a more broadly based humanities approach to instruction, and a primary goal will be to help students develop analytic skills, an understanding of language and knowledge of literary and cultural history.

Plans also call for the re-evaluation and strengthening of general studies courses in English for non-English majors and for the introduction of more research projects in other English courses. A senior project-tutorial program for all English majors, something rarely found outside honors programs on American college campuses, also will be developed.

Academic advising, career counseling and placement assistance will be an

integral part of the revamped curriculum, which will include a new introductory course in English studies for sophomores that will outline the sequential nature of the department's courses, explain how the courses can complement personal, academic and career goals, and present career opportunities.

"The general supposition is that you can't do anything with an English major," Wymer said. "That's wrong, and we need to convince students and employers of that."

Work on the grant-funded project will begin this fall with faculty orientation to curricular reform. Dr. Jack Noonan, director of the Center for Improving Teaching Effectiveness at Virginia Commonwealth University, who has a national reputation for his work in faculty development, will serve as both an orientation leader and general consultant over the three years of the grant.

The purpose of the orientation will be two-fold: to get faculty thinking about their present teaching styles and course designs, and to help them develop plans for changing their teaching in light of both what they find to be desirable and the goals of the new curriculum.

Also during the first year the faculty will focus on improving general writing and literature courses and revising freshman

and sophomore courses for English majors.

While those courses are being implemented during the second year, courses will be developed for juniors and seniors. The third year of the project will be devoted to introducing the remaining curriculum and evaluating the program.

Dr. Kendall Baker, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, called the grant a milestone for both the department of English and the college.

"At a time when liberal arts colleges throughout the nation are seriously examining how they can best serve today's students, Bowling Green's department of English is taking the lead in modifying its curriculum and constructing a program to emphasize the inherent value of a liberal education and aid students in their quest for meaningful careers. The fact that the National Endowment for the Humanities has chosen to support our effort here speaks well of the direction we are taking in the college. We are hopeful that the curriculum the English department will develop will be a model for other universities in the country."

The project directors anticipate sharing the results of the grant-funded project with faculty from other schools either in a symposium or through a monograph of articles written by grant participants.

Education college announces appointments

Two appointments have been announced within the College of Education.

Dr. Edward D. Fiscus, coordinator of graduate studies for the department of special education, has been named the new chair of that department. He succeeds Dr. H. John van Duyne, who resigned after five years as chair.

Fiscus, a graduate of Mount Union College, received his master's degree from the University of Pittsburgh and his doctoral degree from Ohio State University. He joined the Bowling Green faculty in 1976.

Dr. Charlotte Scherer, who has served as acting director of the college's Clinical

Laboratory since January, has been named permanent director following a nationwide search.

An associate professor of educational curriculum and instruction, she joined the faculty in 1967. Scherer graduated from Wayne State University and earned a master's degree at the State University of New York at Cortland. She received her doctoral degree from Bowling Green in 1976 and served as the director of the University Seminar program for new students from 1977-82. She also was instrumental in the planning and implementation of the summer transition quarter initiated at the University in 1979.

Alumni office names assistant director

Wendy J. Luther of Toledo, formerly a community resources specialist for the Lucas County Board of Mental Retardation, has been named assistant director of alumni affairs.

Luther, a 1981 graduate of the University who earned a bachelor of science degree in journalism, was a public relations assistant for the department of military science during her junior and

senior years on campus. She also worked in the University bookstore and was a tour guide for the Office of Admissions.

Following graduation she worked as a project administrator for the Northwest Ohio chapter of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society before accepting a position with the mental retardation board.

Library expands summer hours

Hours for the Jerome Library have been increased for the remainder of the summer in response to student requests and as a result of enhancements to the library operating budget for the 1983-84 academic year.

Effective today (July 25) the library will be open from 7:30 a.m. to 10 p.m. Monday through Thursday; 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Fridays; 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturdays and 3-9 p.m. Sundays. The new schedule,

which makes the library accessible to students, faculty and staff for six and a-half hours more per week, will remain in effect through Aug. 19.

Service hours in some special collections may, however, be more limited than the building hours listed above. Current hours information is available 24 hours a day by calling the library "hotline" at 372-2885.

Employment Opportunities

CLASSIFIED EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

*Indicates that an internal candidate from the department is bidding and being considered for the position.

NEW VACANCIES

Posting Expiration Date: 5 p.m. Monday, Aug. 1, 1983

- 8-1-1 **Cashier 1**
Pay Range 3
University Food Operations
Nine-month part-time
- 8-1-2 **Clerk 1**
Pay Range 2
School of Technology
Nine-month part-time
- 8-1-3 **Clerk 2**
Pay Range 3
Residence Programs
Nine-month part-time
- 8-1-4 **Custodial Worker**
Pay Range 2
- 8-1-5 **Plant Operations & Maintenance**
Two positions
- 8-1-6 **Electronic Technician 1**
Pay Range 27
Computer Services
- 8-1-7 **Food Service Worker**
Pay Range 1
- 8-1-8 **University Food Operations**
Nine-month full-time
Two positions
- 8-1-9 **Library Media Technical Assistant 2**
Pay Range 26
Library/Cataloging Department
Permanent part-time
- 8-1-10 **Plumber 1**
Pay Range 7
Plant Operations & Maintenance
- 8-1-11 **Programmer Analyst 1**
Pay Range 28
Computer Services
Temporary full-time to Dec. 31, 1983
- 8-1-12 **Secretary 2**
Pay Range 27
College of Health & Community Services
- 8-1-13 **Typist 2**
Pay Range 4
School of Technology
Permanent part-time
- 8-1-14 ***Typist 2**
Pay Range 4
School of Technology
- 8-1-15 **Account Clerk 1**
Pay Range 4
Bursar/Student Loan Collection

CONTINUING VACANCIES

Posting Expiration Date: 5 p.m. Monday, July 25, 1983

- 7-25-1 ***Clerical Specialist**
Pay Range 25
Undergraduate Admissions
- 7-25-2 ***Clerk 2**
Pay Range 3
Financial Aid & Student Employment
- 7-25-3 **Typist 2**
Pay Range 4
Word Processing Center/College of Business Administration

Copier for sale

The biological sciences department has for sale to University departments and offices an IBM Copier II, priced at \$900. For further information, contact the department at 372-2332.



Thomas Attig and Donald Scherer

New text examines questions of environmental ethics

For more than 10 years ecologists, environmentalists and economists have been hotly debating the environmental issues: Next to whose home should the toxic waste disposal site be built? Should manufacturers burn Ohio's high sulfur coal, trading the high cost of fuel imports for increased air pollution in the Northeast? Should the government deregulate the nation's utility companies?

Because such questions involve conflicts among basic values, they have also attracted the attention of another group of scholars — philosophers, who in their ongoing discussions of values and ethics have probed a new area, environmental ethics.

Two University philosophers recently completed a text in that relatively new field. *Ethics and the Environment*, edited by Drs. Donald Scherer and Thomas Attig and published by Prentice-Hall, is a collection of some 20 scholarly articles on the general question, "Should what's good for the environment be decided on the basis of what's good for people?"

The book was designed primarily as a text for college-level courses in environmental ethics, similar to the one which Scherer has taught at Bowling Green since 1971. Prior to publication of the text, he had no central resource for his students, most of whom are enrolled in the University's environmental studies program.

Acknowledging that public attention to environmental questions is now at a plateau, Scherer said, however, that the issues are still very much alive and student interest remains high.

In addition to its relevance for students, the new text has some general interest, Attig said, noting that the material collected for publication was not all written by and for philosophers. Articles by both lawyers and ecologists are also included, and the topics covered range from "Conservation as a Moral Issue" to "Animal Liberation," "Land Use

Attitudes," "Human Rights and the Prevention of Cancer" and "Toxic Substances and Trade Secrecy." An essay by Scherer on "Anthropocentrism, Atomism and Environmental Ethics" also is included in the text.

Both Scherer and Attig have a long involvement with environmental issues. They became interested, they say, when they realized that many philosophical concepts underlie the environmental questions raised in the 1970s.

"Basically, as philosophers, we are involved at two levels," Scherer said. "A lot of traditional values are caught up in new conflicts when you begin discussing environmental issues, and you begin to take an entirely new look at 'ethics' when you discuss whether it should encompass more than human considerations. For philosophers, these kinds of questions are stimulating."

University to host OACRAO conference

The University will host nearly 50 admissions and registration officers from around the state at a daylong conference Tuesday on the principles and applications of time management.

The conference, one of four being held around the state, is sponsored by the Ohio Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers to promote the professional development of its members. Zola Buford, registration and records, is president of OACRAO for 1983, and Dr. Duane Whitmire, registration and records, chair of OACRO's professional development committee, is coordinating the meeting.

Presentations at the conference will include a keynote address by Dr. Richard Eakin, planning and budgeting, and sessions led by Becky McOmber and Dr. Judi Roller, registration and records.

Faculty/Staff Positions

The following faculty positions have been authorized:

Firelands: Instructor, manufacturing/machine technology (applied sciences). Contact Algalee Adams (93-229). Deadline: Aug. 5, 1983

Speech Communication: Assistant professor. Contact Herbert Greenberg (2-2515). Deadline (extended): Aug. 1, 1983

The following contract positions have been approved:

Computer Services: Junior systems programmer (internal search only). Contact John Gruber (2-2911). Deadline: Aug. 1, 1983

Developmental Learning Center: Mathematics specialist. Contact Jack Taylor (2-0357). Deadline (extended): Aug. 19, 1983

Library: Director of library systems. Contact Dwight Burlingame (2-2856). Deadline (extended): July 26, 1983

Placement Services: Acting director (internal search only). Contact Bob Arrowsmith (2-2147). Deadline: Aug. 8, 1983

Upward Bound: Program assistant. Contact Richard Frye (2-2367). Deadline: July 29, 1983