Monitor Newsletter July 01, 2002

Bowling Green State University

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A BGSU faculty member in the School of Family and Consumer Sciences is directing a new Ohio initiative that will make scholarly research on children and families more readily accessible to policymakers whose actions impact families. Randall Leite, human development and family studies, is director of the Family Impact Seminar Series project.

The project, currently active in 12 other states and the District of Columbia, is an initiative of the Policy Institute for Family Impact Seminars, a University of Wisconsin-based organization that aims to reinforce connections between research and state policy-making. Leite said one purpose of the seminars is to strengthen the partnership between policy-makers and the academic community.

"The goal is for the policymakers to identify topics of primary interest to them, and then for our academicians to provide quality, nonpartisan data that will assist the lawmakers in formulating the most effective policies," Leite said. He noted that among topics he expects to be targeted are welfare reform, education (especially standardized testing), divorce custody and child support issues, children’s health and nutrition, and the impact of poverty on children’s well-being.

According to Leite, initial plans are to sponsor, beginning this fall, two seminars annually in the Columbus area for legislators and their staff, state agency directors and staff in the governor’s office. A Web site and brief written reports will also be offered as part of the project. Eventually, depending on available funding, some local seminars may also be available.

Leite said the seminars will be designed to encourage policymakers to consider the impact of policies on families, just as they routinely consider economic or environmental impact. The seminars will offer state lawmakers easy access to some of the best research in Ohio and the nation on timely policy issues, he said, adding that scholars are increasingly aware of the important link that families provide between society and individual citizens.

"Families have been called the most powerful, the most humane, and the most economically system for building competence and character," he said, "yet there has been no sustained effort to analyze policy from a family perspective."

The involvement of faculty from BGSU’s School of Family and Consumer Sciences in this new statewide initiative is particularly appropriate. The graduate program in human development and family studies was recently redesigned to offer a specialization with a focus on the creation of collaborative partnerships with stakeholders in the lives of children and families. The specialization includes coursework in areas ranging from family studies and child/family policy to a course appropriately labeled “Collaborative Partnerships” and classes in research and assessment.

Leite, who coauthored the proposal to include Ohio in the Family Impact Seminars project, joined the BGSU faculty in 2001. He received both master’s and doctoral degrees from Ohio State University and has concentrated his research on the roles of fathers in the family, divorced family systems and family demography.

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**Huron hears 'The Sound of Music'**

"There’s no way to stop it!" thinks the Baroness (played by Doyle Pivacza) and Max Detwiler (played by Kevin Bechler), as they plot her marriage to Captain von Trapp. France, the butler (played by George Muchauser), is noncommittal. The scene is from this week's Huron Playhouse production of "The Sound of Music." The first production of the season, the classic Rodgers and Hammerstein musical is directed by Firelands faculty member and Huron Playhouse Managing Director Vann Graham Glann. See calendar on back page for ticket information.

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NOTICE: Due to the current hiring freeze, interviews may be conducted but no job offers may be extended at this time.

Contact Human Resources at 372-4221 for information regarding the following:

CLASSIFIED
- Employees wishing to apply for this position may request a "Request for Transfer" form.
- The deadline to apply is 1 p.m. Monday, July 8.
- Cashier Supervisor (C-54-SC) - Bursar's Office. Pay grade 7.
- The following position is being listed on and off campus.
- The deadline to apply is 1 p.m. Friday, July 12.
- Secretary 1 (C-54-SC) - Residence Life. Pay grade 6.
- Nine-month, part-time.

FACULTY
- There are no postings this week.

ADMINISTRATIVE
- Major Gifts Officer (02-066) - Office of Development.
- Administrative grade 16. Review of applications will continue until the position is filled.
- Manager (54609) - University Dining Services (two positions).
- Administrative grade 12. Review of applications will begin July 5 and continue until the position is filled.


Manager, Web Applications (V-005) - Information Technology Services 3. Administrative grade 17. Deadline: July 22.

Psychologist (02-063) - Counseling Center. Administrative grade 14 for non-licensed and 17 for licensed psychologists. Deadline: July 22.

BSU job postings

Monitor schedule for July announced

This month, Monitor will publish July 6 and 29. There will be no Monitor the weeks of July 13 and 22.

Call Bonnie Blankenship, 2-3688, for more information.

Summer yoga class offered

Recreational Sports will offer the second session of the summer yoga class at 5:30 p.m. on Mondays and Wednesdays from July 8 - August 8.

The cost is $25 for students/members, and $35 for non-members.

Call 2-2711 for more information. Sign up in the Student Recreation Center main office.

Campus calendar

Tuesday, July 2

Thursday, July 4

Continuing Events

- July 2-7
- Huron Playhouse Production, "The Sound of Music," 8 p.m., McCormick Auditorium, 325 Ohio Street, Huron. Tickets are $11 for adults, $10 for students and seniors, and $7 for children under 12.

- Calls 433-4714 between 9 a.m. and 9 p.m. Monday-Saturday for advance ticket reservations.

In memory

John T. Rickey, 82, professor emeritus of speech communication, died June 11 in Madison, Wis. He taught at BSU from 1967-82.

Jan Schnupp-Lee, 56, assistant professor emeritus of educational curriculum and instruction, died June 22 in Bowling Green. She was a faculty member at the University from 1970-98.

Memorial contributions may be made to a scholarship in her name through the BSU Foundation Inc.

BSU to host OLN learning communities in January

BGUS has created several successful "learning communities" in recent years to bolster academic and social support for its students.

In January, newly created learning communities from around the state will visit the University to share information aimed at helping faculty teach all students.

BSU is among six Ohio institutions recently awarded contracts by the Ohio Learning Network (OLN) to host January institutes, bringing together "communities" possibly including two from Bowling Green focused on learning and technology's role in it.

The two campus groups, like 29 others around the state, each received a $3,000 Readiness Grant from OLN—an Ohio Board of Regents initiative and consortium of Ohio colleges and universities. The new grants support the proposed learning communities and establish their eligibility for $23,000 Implementation Grants, which will be announced in September.

Both of the BSU proposals deal with online learning. One would offer Web-based instruction in technical topics—Microsoft Word, Excel and Web page development, for instance—to graduate teaching assistants wishing to become more proficient in instructional technology. The other would create an online graduate course in Educational Foundations and Inquiry (EDFI) for Ohio classroom teachers seeking advanced degrees.

The instructional technology program would be presented as a series of online teaching modules, which would also include information literacy, presentation technologies and "new" (primitively digital) media.

As proposed by the other Readiness Grant recipients from BSU, the online graduate course in EDFI would meet the needs of teachers now required by the state to have master's degrees. "However, we also want to ensure that those courses adhere to EDFI standards, promote the mission of the college and provide teachers with tools to engage in reflective practice," said Julia Matoga, assistant professor of EDFI. She is also the leader of the EFFECT (Educational Foundations For Every Classroom Teacher) Consortium.

A group she termed "a small collaborative community" of education faculty and continuing education representatives.

"Sharing knowledge, information and resources within and beyond a single institution is a fundamental and critical value of the Learning Communities Initiative," said Sheryl Hansen, director of professional development programs at OLN.

It's also what the January Learning Institute will be all about, said Daniel Madigan, director of BSU's Center for Teaching, Learning and Technology, calling the gathering a "great place for sharing ideas."

BSU will receive up to $75,000 to plan, present and assess the institute, which will bring five or six of the OLN learning communities to campus for two and a half days in early January to discuss how students learn using new technology.

Cooperative learning and critical thinking strategies will be focal points; there will be at least three keynote speakers, who will teach workshops as well, and select vendors will conduct a series of repeated interactive demonstrations.

"That's a great opportunity to learn from others in cohesive groups," Madigan said. "That wouldn't happen any other way."

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