Powerful new partnership will provide child and family research to public policy-makers

A BGSU faculty member in the School of Family and Consumer Sciences is co-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 new Family Impact Seminars 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.

Grant boosts neuroscience center’s research and outreach

Bowling Green’s Center for Neuroscience, Mind and Behavior, dedicated to learning about the most basic mechanisms of the brain, has received a grant from the Ohio Board of Regents to both enhance its research and translate its findings to the public, OBOR announced earlier this month.

The center, which combines faculty members from the departments of biology, philosophy, communication disorders and psychology, was awarded $175,000 through OBOR's Incentive Fund.

The Incentive Fund was designed to encourage state-assisted universities to address critical needs of the state in improving its economic development, strengthening elementary and secondary education and improving public health and safety.

Bowling Green's proposal was one of 12 selected for funding out of a field of 60. The Incentive Fund Review Committee used a competitive peer-review process and made its choices on the basis of academic quality and ability to meet the targeted state needs.

Paul Moore, biology, is principal investigator for the BGSU grant.

"The University has invested in the center, and this grant is a nice sign from the state that we're on the right track," Moore said. "Not only will the money allow us to gear up our research, but it will also increase our outreach efforts to the public."

It is the area of public health that the BGSU center addresses. Its 14 faculty members are studying the centers of the brain and how specific diseases may affect those centers.

Their work is wide ranging. They are asking such questions as how the brain looks at time and space and the basic mechanisms of learning and remembering. Other areas of study are the development of human emotions and the role of circadian rhythms in our lives.

Moore's research centers on the chemistry of aggression, using crayfish and lobsters to study the biological basis of the emotion. He hopes that eventually his findings will help identify possible drug therapies for those in whom aggression is a problem or who have sustained head injuries resulting in loss of aggression control.

Two of the center's faculty members, Pat Sharp and Verner Bingman, both of psychology, are studying navigational ability—which areas of the brain are involved, how it develops and how it relates to other aspects of higher thought. A practical application of this research may come in the treatment of Alzheimer's disease, whose sufferers often lose their ability to find their way in familiar surroundings.

Moore said that by boosting the infrastructure of the center, the additional funding will help advance the work of everyone involved.

"The center can do things that individuals working alone cannot. We can share equipment, studies and our time," he said.

"There's no way to stop it!" thinks the Baroness (played by Doyle Pritchett) and Max Drivelar (played by Kevin Beyer), as they plot her marriage to Captain von Trapp. Franz, the butler (played by George Muchhaiser), 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 Jann Graham Glann. See calendar on back page for ticket information.
There are no postings this week.

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

Contact Human Resources at 372-4211 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.


### JOB POSTINGS

**FACULTY**

**Administrative** Major Gifts Officer (02-006)—Office of Development. Administrative grade 16. Review of applications will continue until the position is filled.

Manager (S-499)—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. 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.

Contact Human Resources at 372-8421.

### CAMPUS TO HOST OLN LEARNING COMMUNITIES IN JANUARY

BGSU 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.

BGSU 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 $52,000 Implementation Grants, which will be announced in September.

Both of the BG SU's 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 four online graduate courses 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" (primarily digital) media.

As proposed by the other Readiness Grant recipients from BG SU, the online graduate courses 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 Managa, 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 BG SU's Center for Teaching, Learning and Technol- ogy; calling the gathering a "great place for sharing ideas.

BG SU 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 to 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," said from others in cohesive groups. Madigan said. "That wouldn't happen any other way."