

8-12-2002

Monitor Newsletter August 12, 2002

Bowling Green State University

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarworks.bgsu.edu/monitor>

Recommended Citation

Bowling Green State University, "Monitor Newsletter August 12, 2002" (2002). *Monitor*. 1416.
<https://scholarworks.bgsu.edu/monitor/1416>

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the University Publications at ScholarWorks@BGSU. It has been accepted for inclusion in Monitor by an authorized administrator of ScholarWorks@BGSU.

MONITOR

VOL. 27 NO. 2 ◆ AUGUST 12, 2002

Huffine helps fellow alum deliver education system

In an age of proficiency testing and proposed national standards, a local educator has gone against the grain and developed a system of learning based on the individual child. And, thanks to the technological proficiency of Susan Huffine, Continuing Education, International and Summer Programs, that system has been streamlined.

BGSU alumna Renée Alda Marazon, who believes that starting with the individual child is the most effective way to create well-educated, intellectually and socially mature people, has developed a system that is being used all over the world.

First picked up by the Air Force for its base schools worldwide, the system is being used in public and private schools in the United States, England and Japan, and in home-based and family childcare programs. New Zealand is considering implementing the Marazon System in its public schools. Marazon is also introducing the system to teachers at the Aurora Charter School in Toledo to help children with learning challenges.

The Marazon approach is a systematic method for assessing and planning for the emerging needs and interests of children both individually and as members of groups.

Tracking and managing this information has become much simpler with the help of Huffine, who has developed an interactive database for use with Marazon's guidebook.

The book is *Four Easy Steps to Developmental Assessment Birth to Age 12—The Marazon System*, first published in 1994. The database, which Marazon practitioners will soon be able to purchase, will significantly reduce the amount of time users must spend on paperwork and will help create lesson plans for the child's individual needs.

"Susan is a brilliant woman," Marazon said of her colleague, adding that Huffine was able to do what others had tried and failed to accomplish.

Huffine, who graduated from BGSU in 2000 with a bachelor's degree in management information systems, is the project team leader of Special Care, which offers

individualized or office-wide help with everything from installing software to staff training to development of customized systems.

The Marazon database was by far the most complex customized system she has ever created, Huffine said. It entailed becoming familiar with the educational philosophy of Marazon and integrating it into the technology. She also had to significantly expand her knowledge of the Microsoft Access database.

"It was a big learning experience for both of us," Huffine said. But once they began, they found increasingly more interesting and helpful ways to interconnect planning and assessment components, and both became excited about the possibilities.

"The most wonderful thing she did for us is to allow us to customize curriculum goals for each classroom, school or program," Marazon said. The database will produce a weekly or biweekly plan for each child or groups of children based on the information and observations entered by the teacher.

Marazon obtained her master of education degree from BGSU through the former Career and



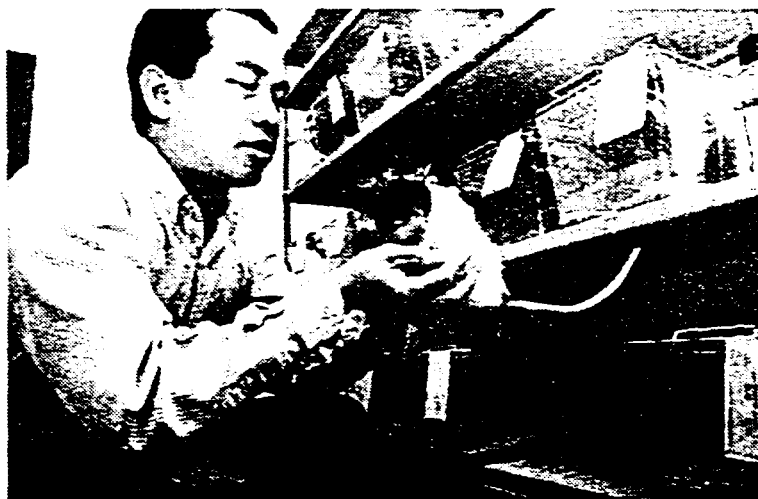
Educator Renée Marazon (left) and Susan Huffine, Continuing Education, International & Summer Programs, have collaborated to streamline use of Marazon's system of educational assessment and curriculum planning with an interactive database.

Technology Program, which briefly brought together Family and Consumer Sciences with the technology department in the 1980s.

Now she and Huffine have embarked on another project: developing a database that will allow teachers or schools to track children's development and skills over time, comparing a

child's progress, the group's progress, and the entire school's progress in achieving developmental and curriculum outcomes. School systems will eventually be able to use it to compare schools as well. These analytical reports should provide a valuable assessment tool, Marazon said.

\$800,000 grant aids Pang's Alzheimer's research



Kevin Pang, psychology, uses rats in his research into brain function. He has received an NIH grant for his study of the basal forebrain, one of the first regions of the brain affected by Alzheimer's disease.

For anyone who has seen a life ravaged by Alzheimer's disease, or felt its impact on the victim's caretaker and family, breakthroughs into cause and treatment can't come soon enough.

Kevin Pang, psychology, is among the researchers seeking insight into the degenerative neurological disorder, and he thinks, "optimistically," the

hoped-for breakthroughs may happen in the next 10 years.

Pang recently received his third National Institutes of Health (NIH) grant for study of brain function with Alzheimer's implications. Clinical studies of potential treatments are in progress now, including some aimed at eliminating the protein that forms the distinctive

plaques in the brains of the disease's victims, he noted.

High incidence of plaques and tangles tells a pathologist conducting an autopsy that the deceased had Alzheimer's. But whether those indicators are a cause or a result of the disease isn't known, said Pang, a BGSU faculty member since 1995.

While work continues on treatments for symptoms of Alzheimer's, increased research attention to stopping or slowing its progression reflects how much more is known about the disorder than 10, or even five, years ago, he said.

He's looking to further expand understanding at the most basic level, in brain cells, with the help of the NIH grant, which is worth more than \$800,000 over four years. The project name, "Role of medial septum in memory and theta rhythm," refers to an area of the brain that is part of the basal forebrain—one of the earliest regions of the brain to degenerate in Alzheimer's, Pang said.

(Continued on back)

Alzheimer's research boosted

(Continued from front)

More specifically, one type of cell in the basal forebrain uses a chemical called acetylcholine, and pathologists have noticed that cells containing acetylcholine degenerate rapidly in the disease's victims, he continued.

All four drugs currently approved for treatment of Alzheimer's have the same basic mechanism to decrease the degradation of acetylcholine, he explained. They seem to work in some patients, producing a mild increase in acetylcholine, but they're "not the magic bullet some people had expected," he said.

At the same time, when acetylcholine-containing cells have been damaged in the basal forebrain of laboratory animals, tests have indicated mild or no impairment, Pang said, pointing out "the paradox" of the animal and human results.

With his latest grant—his two previous NIH awards totaled about \$550,000—Pang will be targeting neurons containing GABA, another chemical that cells use to communicate with each other.

What happens to GABA-containing neurons in Alzheimer's patients is unclear because much of the research focus has been on acetylcholine, he said. Current thinking is that both GABA and acetylcholine must be damaged to see impairment, but he will be trying to learn differences between the two chemicals and how they may be contributing to memory.

Because cells communicate via electrical, as well as chemical,

means, target regions of the medial septum will also be monitored for electrical activity, particularly after GABA or acetylcholine damage, Pang said. The damage will be correlated with the behavior of the laboratory animal trying to solve a maze, he added.

Where the current Alzheimer's drugs haven't been as effective as some had anticipated, gene therapy may provide hope, said Pang, who has a Ph.D. in pharmacology from the University of Colorado Medical Center.

To survive, acetylcholine-containing cells in the basal forebrain require "growth factors," which are made and released by cells for the survival of their brethren, he said. With one hypothesis holding that the decay of acetylcholine-containing cells in Alzheimer's patients can be traced to halted production of growth factors, a potentially helpful treatment is the incorporation of growth factors through gene therapy. Gene therapy removes the "bad gene" of a virus and inserts a good one, in this case the gene for growth factors, he explained.

But the effectiveness of that treatment is only one of the many unanswered questions about Alzheimer's. The cause remains unknown, and one of the major risk factors is aging—we're living longer, so Alzheimer's is more prevalent, Pang said. Some people believe brain cells, and other parts of our body, weren't designed to live so long, he said, and others think environmental toxins are to blame. Pang said he feels, however, that a number of factors, rather than a "simple reason," are probably contributing to the increased prevalence of the disease whose mysteries he is attempting to solve.

Nonprofit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Bowling Green, Ohio
Permit No. 1

BGSU is an AAETEO educator and employer.

Falcon Club supports scholarship

University faculty and staff are invited to show their support for BGSU's scholar-athletes by becoming members of the Falcon Club.

The theme of the 2002-03 membership drive is "Each One, Reach One." The drive begins with a Fall Kick-off Luncheon in 101 Olscamp Hall on Aug. 22, featuring the head coaches of all fall Falcon sports. All members and prospective members are welcome to attend. The cost is \$10; reservations may be made at 2-7100.

Current Falcon Club members will receive a \$2 discount for lunch. If they bring a prospective member as a guest, they will receive a gift from the Falcon Club.

The Falcon Club is the scholarship-supporting arm of Intercollegiate Athletics and plays an important role in helping University athletes meet the rising cost of education. Educational costs for the more than 400 student-athletes exceed \$4 million annually, so support from the University community is now more crucial than ever, according to Falcon Club Director Jane Myers, athletics.

Naomi Lee, technology, and Kay Gudehus, admissions, are faculty-staff co-chairs of the membership campaign. "I encourage people to join. It's very important to support the academic side of athletics. The Falcon teams belong to all of us, and becoming a member of the Falcon Club is a way to support the University as a whole, not just athletics," Lee said.

"Belonging to a group that is so beneficial to our athletic program, and being able to have a good time doing it, is a real plus for me. It's always great to see such a wide range of people supporting our cause," Gudehus added.

Last year, the club's approximately 1,350 members raised nearly \$550,000. This year's goal is to increase membership to 1,500 and raise \$600,000 for scholarships. Membership contributions begin at \$100 and may be a payroll deduction. One hundred percent of supporters' gifts will go toward athletic scholarships.

Bowling Green's student-athletes have excelled in recent years both on the playing fields and in the classroom. They have earned the highest GPA in the Mid-American Conference three times, and media pundits have picked the Falcon football team to win the West Division of the MAC this season.

Urban Meyer, head football coach, encourages everyone to get involved in Falcon athletics. "Last year was a history-making season for Falcon football. That season could not have been accomplished without the support of our students, staff and community coming together to watch their team in action.

"I urge each and every one of you to become part of this group by joining the Falcon Club to support scholarships, and/or purchase season tickets. What better way to spend an afternoon or evening with your family and friends than watching the Falcons in action?"

campus calendar.....

Tuesday, Aug. 13

Special Board of Trustees Meeting, to discuss proposed agreement with the International Union of Police Associations, 1:30 p.m., 201A Bowen-Thompson Student Union.

Monday, Aug. 19

New Tenure-Track Faculty Luncheon, noon, Multi-purpose Room (228), Bowen-Thompson Student Union. Sponsored by the Provost's Office.

Continuing Events
Aug. 15-16

New Faculty Conference, 8 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Aug. 15 and 8 a.m.-noon Aug. 16, Sky Bank Room (201), Bowen-Thompson Student Union. Sponsored by the Division of Teaching and Learning.

www.bgsu.edu/faculty_staff/

Monitor
.....
online

job postings.....

FACULTY

There were no faculty postings this week.

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

CLASSIFIED

There were no new postings this week.

ADMINISTRATIVE

Assistant Director of Residence Life for Educational Initiatives (S-080)—Office of

Residence Life. Administrative grade 14. Review of applications will begin Aug. 30 and continue until the position is filled.

Director of Principal Gifts (02-083)—Office of Development. Administrative grade 20. Review of applications will begin Sept. 1 and continue until the position is filled.

Major Gifts Officer (02-066)—Office of Development. Administrative grade 16. Review of applications will continue until the position is filled.

in memory

Clifford A. Long, 71, professor emeritus of mathematics and statistics, died Aug. 6 in Bowling Green. He taught at the University from 1959-93.

Memorial services for Carlla Smith, psychology, will be held at 11 a.m. Aug. 20 in Prout Chapel. A reception will follow in 201A Bowen-Thompson Student Union. Smith died July 11.