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Bowling Green State University

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Some controversial issues concerning U.S. immigration policy have been in the news recently, such as Cuban refugees being automatically admitted while Haitians are sent back. But Americans are perhaps less familiar with those policies as they pertain to sexuality, such as the fact that as late as 1990, gay men and lesbian women were barred from entering the country as immigrants.

Entry Denied: Controlling Sexuality at the Border, a new book by Ethne Luibheid, ethnic studies, examines 150 years of sexuality-based immigration policy as it has been applied to women.

Published in November by the University of Minnesota Press, this innovative book breaks new scholarly ground in demonstrating a consistent pattern of discrimination tightly woven from threads of sexuality, morality, class, race and gender.

Beginning with restrictions on Chinese women coming to the United States in the 1850s and continuing through recent movements in California to prevent Latinas of woman-bearing age from becoming citizens, the author shows how this pattern reveals an ingrained belief system that permeates the dominant, white, heterosexual patriarchal foundation of American society.

Luibheid’s study draws on Congressional hearings, immigration Service records and National Archives. The documents reveal in startlingly frank ways such information as policy-makers’ efforts to reduce the Japanese-American birth rate in order to preserve the dominance of the white population.

The author also interviewed people who had firsthand involvement in cases dealing with immigration and sexuality. These include individuals involved in the 1961 case of a Mexican woman deported on charges of lesbianism and the case of another Mexican woman who, raped by a U.S. Border Patrol agent, took the unusual step of pursuing justice through the Mexican Consulate and the U.S. courts.

Luibheid’s work reflects new directions in ethnic studies scholarship which link sexuality to the study of race, globalization and immigration.

Last year she organized a national conference at BGSU titled “Sexuality: Migration and the Contested Borders of U.S. Citizenship,” which has resulted in an edited collection of essays currently under review at a prestigious university press.

Her most recent project, in conjunction with the Program in Ethnic and Racial Studies at Trinity College, Dublin, is co-organizing a national conference in Ireland called “Women’s Movement: Migrant Women Transforming Ireland.” To be held in March 2003, the conference will examine the relatively new phenomenon of asylum seekers and program refugees coming to the United States historically associated with emigration of its own citizens, which is forcing Ireland to rethink its beliefs about immigration and citizenship in the current global context.

In addition, Luibheid has received a grant from the Wenner Gren Foundation for Anthropological Research, in New York City, to assist with her research into African asylum seekers and childbearing in Ireland.

Later this year, she will concentrate on this research and work on a book-length study titled “Babes of Convenience? African Asylum Seekers and Childbearing in Ireland,” as a fellow at Bowling Green’s Institute for the Study of Culture and Society.

The topic of distance learning has brought nearly 50 educators from across the state to the University this week.

BGSU is among six colleges and universities—and the only one in northwest Ohio—hosting a “learning institute” sponsored by the Ohio Learning Network. OLN, an Ohio Board of Regents initiative, is a consortium of colleges and universities.

On campus for the institute today (Jan. 6) and tomorrow are small, OLN-funded groups, called learning communities. One group is from Kent State University and another, from Belmont Technical College (St. Clairsville). Three other participating learning communities have representatives from, respectively: Kent State, Cleveland State, Youngstown State and the University of Akron; Ohio University; Columbus State and Sinclair (Dayton) community colleges, and from Sinclair and Owens community colleges and Hocking College (Nelsonville).

Staying on its home campus for the event is a nine-member BGSU learning community led by Julia Manges, educational foundations and inquiry, and called the EFFECT (Educational Foundations For Every Classroom Teacher) Consortium. Funded by $28,000 to OLN grants, the group plans to create four online graduate courses in EDFI for Ohio classroom teachers seeking advanced degrees.

A second BGSU learning community, backed by similar grants, is traveling to Kent State to attend a learning institute. Led by Connie Molnar, Center for Teaching, Learning and Technology, that group intends to offer Web-based instruction in technical topics—Excel and Web page development, for instance—to graduate teaching assistants wishing to become more proficient in instructional technology.

Like the other host institutions, BGSU received $79,000 to plan, present and assess the learning institute, which will address how students learn using new technology.

“The institute will be a great place for sharing ideas,” said Dan Madigan, director of CTLT and a member of OLN’s Professional Development Committee.

“ ‘That wouldn’t happen any other way.’ ”

The two-day program includes keynote addresses by Donald Hanna, professor of educational communications for the University of Wisconsin—Extension; Chavis Kimamoru, Distinguished Professor of Women’s Studies, Linguistics, and Speech Communications at the University of Illinois, and Van Weigel, professor of ethics and economic development at Eastern University in St. Davids, Pa.

All three keynote speakers will also help present two-hour workshops, along with local experts. BGSU presenters are: Savilla Banister, Division of Teaching and Learning and a co-director of Project PICT (Preserve Infusion of Computer Technology); Kris Blair, English and a director of that department’s Digital Language and Literacy program; Gwen Evans, University Libraries; Terry Herman, director of online learning for Continuing Education, International and Summer Programs, and graduate student Tara Clark.
Student Support Services provides essential help

On the cusp of its 30th year at Bowling Green, Student Support Services (SSS) has seen some changes.

The federal grant-funded program, which is targeted to low-income, first-generation and disabled college students, has become an independent department and is no longer a program of Multicultural and Academic Initiatives or Academic Enhancements, said director Sidney Childs. The office falls under the domain of the vice president for student affairs.

Funded through the U.S. Department of Education, Student Support Services offers a broad array of services to help its population be successful in higher education. It has met its retention goals each year, and serves about 350 students annually.

“We offer intensive, comprehensive services to first-year students and to continuing students as well,” Childs said. “I often describe the program as ‘backbone,’ “ said Kristin Coombs, who has been with SSS since she was a freshman. “They keep you standing and keep you going. It feels so good to know they are there for you and can help you.”

Our relationships with the advisers are wonderful. They realize we’re the first generation in our families to go to college, and they give us all the support we need to go on and graduate,” added the fourth-year interpersonal communication major who also works in the SSS math resource lab.

Also for the first time this year, SSS has received an additional $60,000 from the U.S. Department of Education to supplement first- and second-year students’ BGSU financial aid packages. Research has shown that one of the primary factors preventing low-income, first-generation students from continuing in college is the financial burden of student loans.

“The additional money is designed to ease the loan burden and help students stay in school,” Childs said. BGSU matches the federal funds by about a third, he added.

The department asks recipients of the additional aid to reciprocate by performing some community service. This has turned out to be more popular than expected, Childs said, and developments who are not obligated to volunteer have participated in such activities as helping make green senior citizen center or in the local soup kitchen.

Last spring, the group did maintenance and repair work at a camp and cleanup in Bowling Green city parks. These activities complement the basic services offered by SSS.

Working closely with Disability Services, which identifies and provides accommodations for students with disabilities, SSS provides any additional academic support needed.

For all its students, SSS provides prescriptive academic advising that supplements the University’s academic advising. “The students really take advantage of our advising services,” the director noted.

The office provides free, one-on-one tutoring in almost any subject area, plus sessions of development courses and reading, including math and reading specialists in the office and a writing specialist in the Writer’s Lab. It also sponsors a UNIV 100 University Success course and holds a series of workshops each year.

To promote bonding among the students and with the University, SSS sponsors cultural excursions and group activities such as ice skating and camping.

“We want to create a community of learners,” Childs said. “Our goal is to empower students to become lifelong learners. We want to teach them to take responsibility for their own learning, to become proactive. They can even then become mentors to younger students.”

in memory

Eva Parnell, 68, died Dec. 10 in Bowling Green. She was an instructor in the German department from 1961-76.

Mel Brodt, 76, died Dec. 17 in Florida. Recently inducted into the U.S. Track Coaches Hall of Fame, Brodt served for 23 years as BGSU’s cross country coach and 20 seasons as head men’s track coach. He retired in 1984, and was inducted into the BGSU Athletics Hall of Fame.

William Reichert, 83, professor emeritus of political science, died Dec. 26 in New Hampshire. He was with the University from 1968-84, retiring as chairman of the department.

Extended hours are set for MyBGSU

MyBGSU will have extended hours of availability the three days prior to the start of spring semester. Faculty and students are strongly encouraged to log on during these additional times to obtain student class schedules and faculty class rosters, which are no longer being printed.

To avoid the delays logging on that the University experienced during peak usage times last semester, users may visit the portal during these extended hours: Saturday, Jan. 11, from noon-6 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 12, from noon-midnight Monday, Jan. 13, from 12:01-6 a.m.

Note: The “Parking,” “Change of Home Address” and “Hire a Student Employee” applications will not be available during these extended hours.

For more information, call the Technology Support Center (TSC), 129 Hayes Hall, at 2-0099, or email use@bgsu.bgsu.edu. TSC will be open from noon-6 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 11 and Sunday, Jan. 12.

Campus calendar

Thursday, Jan. 9
Administrative Staff Council, 1:30-3:30 p.m., Pallister Conference Room, Jerome Library.

Friday, Jan. 10
Domestic Violence Conference, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., 101B O'Connell Hall. Sponsored by The Women's Center. To register, call 2-7227.

Job postings

FACULTY


Contact the Office of Human Resources at 419-372-4821 for information regarding classified and administrative positions. Position vacancy announcements may be viewed by visiting the HR Web site at www.bgsu.edu/offices/hr.

Employees wishing to apply for these positions must sign a "Request for Transfer" form and attach an updated resume or data sheet. This information must be turned in to Human Resources by the job deadline.

Classified
There were no new postings for the week of Jan. 6.

Administrative Assistant Football Coach (02-115)—Intercollegiate Athletics. Deadline: Jan. 10.

Assistant Director of Residence Life for Educational Initiatives (S-008)—Office of Residence Life. Administrative grade 14. Review of applications will continue until the position is filled.

Assistant Director of Alumni Affairs and Special Events (02-102)—University Advancement. Administrative grade 14. Review of applications will continue until the position is filled.

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