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Monitor Newsletter January 13, 2003

Bowling Green State University

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MONITOR

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New Year's Eve on the Riviera



The Collegiate Chorale rang in the New Year on the red-carpeted steps of the home of the Cannes Film Festival. Directed by Mark Munson, the group spent Dec. 26-Jan. 3 performing in Italy, France and Monaco. On Sunday, Dec. 29, they sang for High Mass at the cathedral in Monaco. Other performances took place in Cremona, Italy, in composer Guiseppe Verdi's home cathedral, and in a small church in Saint-Laurent-du-Var, where they sang to a capacity audience. All told, 52 people, including 15 alumni, made the trip.

60 square miles of area's farmland 'urbanized' over 15 years, study estimates

Farmland being lost to urban sprawl in northwest Ohio may not be as significant as some thought—at least in Lucas County and eight surrounding counties.

A BGSU study led by Robert Vincent, geology, used satellite data to estimate how much of each county's cropland became urbanized between 1984 and 1999. The figure was less than 3 percent (about 11,000 acres) in Lucas County, and even lower in the other eight counties—Defiance, Fulton, Henry, Ottawa, Paulding, Putnam, Williams and Wood.

The farm acreage that became urbanized in Lucas County during the 15-year period represents roughly 17 square miles—5 percent of the county's 343

square miles and an area about one-fifth the size of Toledo.

For the nine counties combined, an estimated 38,590 acres were urbanized over the 15 years. That's roughly 60 square miles, or about 1.6 percent of the nearly 3,800 total square miles in the nine counties.

The study compared satellite images of the region in July 1984 and September 1999 to reach its estimates, which, when compared with Lucas County records for the same years, proved to be about 94 percent accurate.

Vincent said the figures were lower than he had expected and indicated that northwest Ohio isn't losing farm acreage at an "alarming" rate.

"We still have to be careful about our farmland, but at least we don't have to be panicked that it's (urbanization) happening at an extremely high rate," he said.

If the figures are lower than many people might think, it's in part a function of statistics, Vincent acknowledged. Taking the same farm acreage that was lost during the 15-year period and looking at it in terms of urban acreage would give the appearance of large urban growth, especially since urban acreage is relatively small in the combined nine-county area, he explained.

"People don't realize how big northwest Ohio is," he said, and everything considered, urbanized farmland is "not a big percentage" of the whole.

Vincent summarized the study Friday for about 65 people, many of them public officials and representatives of the agricultural industry, at a meeting sponsored by BGSU's Center for Policy Analysis and Public Service. The center provides information and educational resources to local governments as well as private and nonprofit organizations in northwest Ohio.

Also speaking at the Friday morning event was Xiaowen Wu, a BGSU graduate student. She discussed the use of satellite data for the separate mapping of bare soil and corn stubble for public health and soil erosion studies and for estimating no-till acreage.

Kubow receives USAID Outstanding Citizen Achievement Award for democratic education



Patricia Kubow

Patricia Kubow, educational foundations and inquiry, has once again been recognized in Washington, D.C., for using education to promote democracy in Eastern Europe.

On Jan. 10, Kubow was to receive the Outstanding Citizen Achievement Award from the Bureau for Europe and Eurasia of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). The award was to be presented by Kent Hill, assistant administrator for Europe and Eurasia, who oversees USAID programs in 29 countries spanning the Balkans to Central Asia, including all the former Soviet Union countries.

The Outstanding Citizen Achievement Award is sponsored by USAID to recognize U.S. citizens who are making an exceptional contribution to international development through their work and volunteerism. USAID is a government agency that administers economic and humanitarian assistance worldwide.

Several BGSU alumni from the Washington, D.C., area were also invited to the event, and prior to the ceremony, Larry Weiss, associate vice president for University relations and governmental affairs, addressed a gathering at USAID. He also had arranged to accompany Kubow on visits to key legislators on Capitol Hill.

The honor was Kubow's second from Washington in the past four months. She was chosen by President Bush for recognition at the White House in October for her advocacy of democratic education in countries in which democracy is a new concept.

Kubow was selected for the USAID award based on her participation, in 1999, in a major project in countries formerly part of the Soviet bloc to examine the role of citizens in their societies, and how the classroom can teach students the skills they will need to help shape the future. Her collaborators were faculty from the University of Toledo and Lourdes College; local educators and students in grades 5-8, and teachers and students in Hungary and Ukraine. Through the Internet, children and teachers in Ohio elementary classrooms communicated with their international counterparts to discuss and act on issues of global importance.

Kubow and UT's Mark Kinney also led an Institute for Democratic Education and Democratic Exchange in Szeged, Hungary, for 26 participating Hungarian and Ukrainian teachers. Participants learned how to create more democratic-oriented classrooms while remaining cognizant of each country's cultural and historical backgrounds.

In 2001, in recognition of her work in Eastern Europe, she received the Distinguished Research in Teacher Education Award from the Association of Teacher Educators.

campus calendar.....

Wednesday, Jan. 15

Dissertation Defense, "Tower Am I Cleared to Land?: Miscommunication in Aviation," by John W. Howard III, communication studies, 1:30-3:30 p.m., 310 West Hall.

Faculty Artist Series, Christopher Scholl, tenor, and Virginia Marks, piano, 8 p.m., Bryan Recital Hall, Moore Musical Arts Center.

Classified Staff Council, 9 a.m.-noon, Pallister Conference Room, Jerome Library.

Thursday, Jan. 16

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

Poetry reading, John Wylam, Creative Writing Program, 7:30 p.m., Prout Chapel.

Friday, Jan. 17

Introduction to Blackboard, 9:30-10:30 a.m., location TBA. Registration required; call 2-8181.

Saturday, Jan. 18

Reddin Symposium, "Family, Work and Health Policy in Canada," with Gregory Marchildon, Commission on the Future of Health Care, and Céline Le Bourdais, Université de Montréal, 11:30 a.m.-4 p.m., 101 Olscamp Hall. Sponsored by the Canadian Studies Center.

Continuing Events

Jan. 16-18

Open Auditions, for a musical version of "Pinocchio" to be performed March 6-9 at the Caryl Crane Children's Theatre in Huron, 4:40-7 p.m. Jan. 16-17 and 9-11 a.m. Jan. 18 in McBride Auditorium, BGSU Firelands. Directed by Ronald Ruble, artistic director of the CCCT. Roles are available for ages 10-adult. Call +19-433-5560 or 800-322-4787, ext. 20642.

Jan. 16-Feb. 9

Art Exhibit, "The Contemporary Landscape: Jacob Cooley, Nancy Friese, Keith Jacobshagen, Joan Nelson, Susan Shatter, Altoon Sultan," Dorothy Uber Bryan Gallery, Fine Arts Center. Gallery hours are 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday, 1-4 p.m. Sundays.

Jan. 17-18

New Band Music Reading Clinic Concerts, Symphonic Band, 8 p.m., Jan. 17; Concert Band, 10:30 a.m., and High School Honor Wind Ensemble and Concert Band, 1 p.m., Jan. 18. All concerts are in Kobacker Hall, Moore Musical Arts Center.

Through Jan. 31

Art Exhibits, "Wake Up Little Susie: Pregnancy and Power before Roe vs. Wade," and "Warnings," a poster exhibit by Lisa Link, both in the Willard Wankelman Gallery, Fine Arts Center. Gallery hours are 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday, 1-4 p.m. Sundays. Closed through Jan. 15.

job postings.....

FACULTY

There were no postings this week.

Please contact the Office of Human Resources at +19-372-8421 for information regarding classified and administrative positions. Position vacancy announcements may be viewed by visiting the HR Web site at www.bgsu.edu/offices/ohr.

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.

www.bgsu.edu/faculty_staff/

Monitor
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online

CLASSIFIED

The deadline for employees to apply is 1 p.m. Friday, Jan. 17. Student Loan Specialist 2 (C-1-Vd)—Office of the Bursar. Pay grade 7.

ADMINISTRATIVE

Director, Corporate and Foundation Relations (02-117)—Office of Development. Administrative grade 16. Review of applications will begin Feb. 3 and continue until the position is filled.

Assistant Director of Residence Life for Educational Initiatives (S-080)—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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BGSU is an AVEEO educator and employer.

To all administrative staff members from Administrative Staff Council:

Let the spirit move you! Catch someone in the act of caring about BGSU students and colleagues. Nominate a member of the administrative staff for the Spirit of BG Award in recognition of his or her act of compassion, kindness, expert help or extra effort.

The winner of the award will receive a keepsake and a continental breakfast to celebrate with the immediate office staff and the nominator. Nomination is quick and easy, and any member of the BGSU community can do it. Simply print out and complete the Spirit of BG Award Nomination Form located on the University Web at www.bgsu.edu/organizations/asc/awards/spiritofbg/spirit_app.pdf and submit it to Deborah Fleitz, 1037 MMAC, no later than Jan. 30.

in brief

New form needed for school taxes

All BGSU employees who live in a school district with an income tax that went into effect in January, 2003 need to complete a new IT-4 form. Contact the Payroll Office at 2-2201.

Syllabi can guide students when severe weather forces faculty to cancel class

Recently, the severe weather policy has been updated. Under the revised policy, the decision for a day closing of the University will be made by 6:30 a.m. and a decision for an evening closing will be made by 4 p.m. A decision to close the University will affect all classes and offices except those staffed by designated essential employees. The decision to close will be made separately at the BGSU Firelands campus.

It is understood that faculty will make every effort to meet their classes when the University is open. However, individual circumstances may make it impossible for an individual to travel safely to campus. Through Undergraduate Student Government, students have advised the provost's office of the frustration that results after a student has made a special effort to travel to campus in difficult circumstances, only to find that a class has been canceled.

In an effort to avoid such situations, faculty are asked to include on their syllabi mechanisms they will use to communicate with students in the event they must cancel class. Communication channels could include an electronic announcement on Blackboard, a message using MyBGSU, a message on the faculty member's office telephone, messages distributed via listproc, a message left with the department secretary, or other suitable means. Whatever means of communication are to be used, students would appreciate as much lead time as possible.

Mary Holley earns 'Spirit of BG' Award

The latest classified staff Spirit of BG Award winner is Mary Holley, human resources. Holley designed and implemented a process in which external applicants will be notified of their status via the Internet instead of by letter. As a result, the department will save an estimated \$3,000 in postage and an additional \$3,000 in staff hours annually.

Holley received \$75 in appreciation of her creativity on behalf of the University.