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Monitor Newsletter January 21, 2003

Bowling Green State University

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MONITOR

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Honadle research is helpful to states

If there's one thing the 50 states have in common when it comes to dealing with local government fiscal crises, it's that they don't have much in common.

Some states, believing in local control or lacking the human or financial resources to get involved, take a hands-off approach, according to Beth Walter Honadle, political science and director of the Center for Policy Analysis and Public Service. Other states, including Ohio, have clear criteria for what constitutes a fiscal crisis—inability to pay employees or vendors, or to make debt payments, for instance—and an elaborate system for intervention when one occurs. Still others tread a middle ground.

Regardless of the role they play, however, states can learn from one another's experiences—a process that has been simplified through research conducted by Honadle last year.

Her April-August telephone survey of members of the National Association of State Auditors, Comptrollers and Treasurers earned her an invitation to speak at the New England Intergovernmental Audit Forum in September. Her findings from the states will next be presented in a forthcoming article in the *International Journal of Public Administration*, which is devoting a special issue to local government fiscal crises.



Beth Walter Honadle

Asking the state officials what they do to predict, avert, mitigate and prevent a recurrence of a crisis, Honadle found that states generally aren't proactive, but they do commonly provide technical assistance and advice to local jurisdictions.

Recent local-government fiscal crises were reported by 36 states, Honadle found. In those states that acknowledge local crises, the reasons can be economic, political or managerial. State mandates, changing demographics and even weather are also among the factors that leave local governments vulnerable to fiscal instability, Honadle said.

While states don't have the manpower to work directly with all the jurisdictions within their borders, they generally do feel obligated to help local governments—especially the small,

rural ones—and make sure the locals follow the rules, she said. So they try to provide technical assistance, training and education, sometimes through statewide or other associations of important players, she added.

They tend to get more heavily involved to protect their bond rating, if necessary, or if "cleaning up" a situation after the fact is perceived to be more costly than preventing it. "The greater the financial stake the state has in it, the more likely they are to get involved," Honadle noted.

In addition to directives, a state can respond to a crisis with legislative action, whether locality-specific special legislation or reform legislation to remedy a situation or conditions across the board.

Ohio has fiscal "watch" and "emergency" designations that are determined by a number of measures. Nine Ohio cities and villages are currently deemed by the state auditor's office to be in the "emergency" category, which also entails appointment of a seven-member oversight commission for the locality. The commission must approve a plan prepared by the jurisdiction for getting out of the emergency, and the state provides fiscal supervision all along the way.

Ohio's system is "one of the very best monitoring programs for local governments" not only in the U.S., but in the world, Honadle said.

University wishes 15 retirees well

Fifteen University employees began a new chapter in life upon their retirement in 2002.

Following is a list of those who retired and the year they began at BGSU. The list starts with classified staff members.

Shirley Jackson, biological sciences, retired in June. She came to the University in 1984.

August retirees included Margaret Houchins, University Bookstore, hired in 1979; Harold Stonerock, Information Technology Services, hired in 1977, and Janet Wilhelm, payroll office, hired in 1975.

Kay Snyder, University Dining Services, retired in September, as did Hazel Chris Hunsberger, ITS, in October. Snyder came to the University in 1980 and Hunsberger in 1973.

November's classified staff retirees included Donald Lindley, facilities services, and Kathleen Hurst, Intercollegiate Athletics, both hired in 1972.

Retiring in December were Wayne Freshcorn, facilities services, hired in 1988, and Jean Paridon, University Dining Services, hired in 1985.

Five administrative staff members retired last year. They are George Cripe, technical services coordinator, Instructional Media Services; Keith Pogan, director of planning and construction, Capital Planning; Charles Stocker, director of BGSU Firelands budget and operations; Eleanor Ann McCreery, director of Springboard, and Paul D. Yon, director of the Center for Archival Collections.

Griech-Polelle book refutes image of bishop as 'larger-than-life' resister in Nazi Germany

Beth Griech-Polelle, history, was looking for a hero when she began researching Clemens August Graf von Galen, a Catholic bishop in Nazi Germany. What she found was an ordinary man with all-too-human contradictions.

In a new book, Griech-Polelle examines von Galen's contradictions, chiefly his willingness to denounce a Nazi euthanasia program but silence on the treatment of Jews.

Bishop von Galen: German Catholicism and National Social-



Beth Griech-Polelle

ism, Griech-Polelle's first book, was published in the fall by Yale University Press.

The author studied resistance to the Nazis for her doctoral dissertation at Rutgers University, where she received a Ph.D. in modern European history in 1999. Because von Galen's name kept coming up in her

reading, she thought he was a "larger-than-life resister," but finding no elaboration on what he had done, she felt his legacy merited closer examination.

He was brave in many respects, she said, noting that he risked his life in the summer of

1941 by delivering a sermon that took the Nazis to task for a euthanasia campaign in which they killed 70,000-80,000 of their own sick, elderly, disabled and mentally retarded people.

Once his Aug. 3, 1941, sermon became public knowledge, von Galen thought the Gestapo would arrest him, Griech-Polelle says. But it didn't happen, and that, she argues, gave him an opportunity to take the "final step" of speaking out against the brutal persecution of the Jews and others. He was, however, "absolutely unwilling to do that," she says, as were Pope Pius XII and other church officials at the time.

The reasons were both internal and external, according to

(Continued on back)

Griech-Polelle book

(Continued from front)

Griech-Polelle, who notes that von Galen had the education, the aristocratic background and the access to high political figures—in short, the clout—to break ranks had he chosen to do so.

But, like the Nazis, he was also conservative and nationalistic. In 1933, he became the first Catholic bishop appointed by the Nazis, who thought they could work with him because of his nationalism.

He later said that any German soldier who died while fighting communists in the Soviet Union would go directly to heaven—an indication, Griech-Polelle says, of his feeling that “the greatest threat to Germany, Western Europe and Western civilization was the spread of Bolshevism.”

To many people in that time and place, Jews were associated with Bolshevism. Von Galen already carried some fundamental anti-Semitism, believing that their rejection of Jesus had condemned the Jews. In his mind, then, it wasn't hard to buy into a

Judeo-Bolshevik conspiracy and the prevailing Jewish stereotypes, Griech-Polelle says.

Besides, trying to protect Jews would have incurred the Nazis' wrath—too great a risk for a man who hadn't forgotten the persecution of Catholics by the Bismarck government in the 1870s, she notes.

So he fought for what he defined as “Catholic causes,” meaning churches, schools and other institutions that the Nazis tried to seize, rather than for people, says Griech-Polelle. She maintains that denomination should have been irrelevant, especially to a bishop who had the moral authority to urge listeners to open their doors to those in need.

While acknowledging the gift of hindsight, Griech-Polelle, herself a practicing Catholic, says it's “shameful” that Pius XII and his subordinates didn't seize the opportunity to put into action the Gospel of loving your neighbor as yourself.

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in brief

Blackboard presentations scheduled

Continuing Education and ITS have organized a free presentation designed for BGSU faculty and staff to learn about Blackboard. The focus will be on demonstrating how students and other members of the community are now using Blackboard.

For answers to your questions, visit <http://ctc.bgsu.edu/bb.htm> or call Continuing Education at 2-8181.

Panel to look at immigrants' civil rights

The University Libraries' Multicultural Affairs Committee will hold a panel discussion titled “Do Immigrants Have Civil Rights?” in tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. The event is part of the Issues in Cultural Diversity Series.

The program will take place from 10 a.m. to noon on Wednesday (Jan. 22) in the Pallister Conference Room in Jerome Library.

Five panelists will take part in the discussion. They include: Susan Goldstein of University Libraries, Mark B. Hansen of the Immigration and Naturalization Service office in Cleveland, Carol Jenifer of the INS Detroit office, Loretta Lopez-Mossman of the Detroit Border Patrol Sector and John Shousher of the International Institute of Toledo.

Diane Regan, Equity, Diversity and Immigration Services, will moderate the discussion.

Among the issues to be discussed are: what civil rights immigrants have, myths surrounding those rights, whether these civil rights are different from those of native or naturalized citizens, what rights are specific to racial profiling and detention, and what civil rights are specific to amnesty and labor issues.

campus calendar.....

Tuesday, Jan. 21

Faculty Senate, 2:30 p.m., McFall Assembly Room.

UAO Movie, “Jackass,” 9:30 p.m., Union Theater.

Wednesday, Jan. 22

Brown Bag Lunch, “The Bible and Africa,” Pastor Samuel Sippo of Bethel Pentecostal Church in Silver Spring, Md., noon-1 p.m., 107 Hanna Hall.

Debate, “American Beauty, African Women,” 7 p.m., 308 Union. Sponsored by the African People's Association.

Faculty Artist Series, Robert Satterlee, piano, 8 p.m., Bryan Recital Hall, Moore Musical Arts Center.

Thursday, Jan. 23

Visiting Artist, Todd Hido, photographer, will present a slide lecture, 7 p.m., 204 Fine Arts Center.

Guest Lecture, “Pregnancy and Power in the U.S.: Women's Struggle Over Time,” by author and historian Rickie Solinger, 7 p.m., 101A Olscamp Hall. Art in the Wankelman Gallery (See: Continuing Events, right) was inspired by Solinger's writing.

Friday, Jan. 24

UAO Movie, “Jackass,” 11 p.m., Union Theater.

Sunday, Jan. 26

Faculty Artist Series, Christina Jennings, flute, 3 p.m., Bryan Recital Hall, Moore Musical Arts Center.

UAO Movie, “My Big Fat Greek Wedding,” 9:30 p.m., Union Theater.

Monday, Jan. 27

Partnerships for Community Action Announcement of 2003 Grant Recipients, 12:01 p.m., PCA office, 202A University Hall. Call 2-7316.

Continuing Events

Jan. 21-Feb. 19

Art Exhibit, “Student Enameling Exhibition,” Little Gallery, BGSU Firelands. Gallery hours are 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Friday.

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.

Through 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.

www.bgsu.edu/faculty_staff/

Monitor
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job postings.....

FACULTY

There were no postings this week.

Please contact the Office of Human Resources at 419-372-8421 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.

CLASSIFIED

The deadline for employees to apply is 1 p.m. Monday, Jan. 27.

Storekeeper 1 (C-105-Vd)—University Dining Services. Pay grade 5. Twelve-month, full-time. (Re-advertised)

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.

Director (S-036)—Bowen-Thompson Student Union. Administrative grade 19. 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.