Monitor Newsletter July 14, 2003

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Monitor moves online

After months of preparation, the day has arrived: This is the final copy of the Monitor in its printed form. Beginning next week (July 21), Monitor moves exclusively online.

The new format will allow up-to-the-minute reporting of important University news, along with the addition of color photos and graphics. Eventually, we will introduce multimedia elements into the publication as well.

Monitor online has been redesigned to be easy to read, navigate and to print, for those who wish to have a "hard" copy. Simply clicking the "print this document" button will deliver a print-ready version.

In recent years, budget limitations had reduced the size of the paper Monitor. On the Web version, we will be able to offer more news and information to our campus community. Our goal is to deliver fuller coverage of important campus policies and analysis of the impact of larger issues on the University.

Many things will stay the same, however. The online version will still include the campus calendar, job postings and obituaries. Features about research, employee and student achievements and important events will all be there.

The biggest bonus of the switch—the cost savings to the University—will be substantial.

Look for an email from Marketing & Communications alerting you to the arrival of the online Monitor. We suggest you bookmark the address in your Web browser for continued easy access: www.bgsu.edu/faculty_staff.

"Continuing & Extended Education"

New name expresses unit's new direction

Sometimes, less is more. Continuing Education, International & Summer Programs has adopted a new name—Continuing & Extended Education—to more accurately reflect its services and the breadth of its offerings.

"Our old name was both long and difficult to remember. It had become less descriptive of the range of responsibilities and services that we offer for BGSU and the community," explained William Balzer, associate vice president and dean of Continuing & Extended Education.

"The new name," Balzer continued, "better reflects our expanded mission. Our courses and programs now extend across clients, time, location and delivery systems to serve the citizens of Ohio and others throughout the country and world."

Off-campus programs and distance education are key to new directions for expansion, the dean said.

The number of Web-based courses offered by the University through Continuing & Extended Education has doubled from a year ago, reaching 63 with a total enrollment of 807 students this summer. Currently, more than 100 courses are available for Web-based delivery. By next summer, the number is expected to exceed 120 courses.

Continuing & Extended Education offers advanced degree programs, summer workshops and year-round courses that allow teachers and school administrators to grow professionally and meet licensing requirements.

Also offered are workshops and customized training for area organizations and companies, and courses for individuals interested in enhancing their computer and workplace skills.

The Small Business Development Center provides free coursework and consulting to support new business owners, Balzer noted.

Continuing & Extended Education oversees State Fire School-Ohio as well.

In keeping with the Academic Plan, the unit's Center for International Programs supports efforts to expand the global awareness of all BGSU students through contact with international students and opportunities to study abroad.

"We hope to double the number of students taking part in these programs and provide more opportunities for students to look at the world from different perspectives," Balzer said.

BGSU mercury-removal program receives national recognition

Elemental mercury—the quicksilver of legend that has fascinated people over the ages—is actually a potent neurotoxin that poses a significant health risk when inhaled.

BGSU's environmental health and safety department has recently been recognized by the National Safety Council for its efforts to remove the dangerous metal from the environment.

The Elemental Mercury Collection and Reclamation Program has been named the winner of an Award of Recognition in the Unique or Innovative Category by the Campus Safety, Health and Environmental Management Association, a division of the National Safety Council.

The award will be presented at the International Conference on Campus Safety in Nashville, Tenn., tomorrow (July 15).

Since the program began in January 1998, more than 6,000 pounds of mercury have been retrieved, and there has only been one month in which BGSU was not called upon, according to David Heinlen, BGSU safety and health coordinator.

The program has removed sources of elemental mercury from many counties around the state plus central Indiana, southern Michigan, western Pennsylvania.

The University partners with four of the five regional Environmental Protection Agency offices, Rader Environmental Services, Toledo Environmental Services and the Ohio Spill Planning, Prevention and Emergency Response Association. Together, they locate, pick up and recycle mercury found in homes, schools, hospitals and businesses.

The BGSU program was created as a community outreach effort to safely collect and recycle the dangerous substance, which is found in a surprising number of items in everyday life, Heinlen said. Mercury is all around us because it is a very useful element, he said. But when it gets loose, it vaporizes at room temperature and can cause brain damage, developmental disabilities and impaired motor skills.

"It has a greater impact on developing central nervous systems—especially in young children," Heinlen said. In cases of exposure to high amounts, it can cause death, he added.

BGSU is also part of the Ohio Mercury Reduction Group, whose goal is to regulate mercury-containing items with equivalent, non-mercury-containing materials, Heinlen said.

The Environmental Health and Safety Department instructs the owners of the mercury how to safely package it before it is collected; consolidates it when necessary in safe containers at BGSUs Hazards Waste Storage Facility, and has it delivered to Environmental Recycling Inc., an EPA-regulated private company in Bowling Green.

As part of its educational outreach, Environmental Health and Safety has produced a video in which, through use of a short-wave ultraviolet light, mercury vapors can be seen dispersing into the air. The video has been distributed throughout the United States.

To view a portion of the video, visit www.bgsu.edu/offices/envs/environmental_health/mercury/documents/Mercury.mpg.
Revised policy provides more incentive for commercialization

The University has taken a step forward with the recent approval of a revised policy on the commercialization of inventions, discoveries, patents and products of BGSU faculty, staff and students.

The new policy significantly expands campus community members' ability to participate in companies created and profits generated as a result of their inventions and discoveries. It also protects students' interests when they have been closely involved in these projects.

Historically, intellectual products have been the property of the university and continue to be so, but the new, less restrictive policy is designed to provide an incentive for the creators to pursue the commercialization of these products.

The importance of bringing intellectual property to market has been increasingly acknowledged by the state, as well as by those in academia, as a means of advancing research and attracting investors. In fact, BGSUs eligibility for certain state grants hinges upon its having such a policy.

Three years ago, Ohio House Bill 286 and Section 3345.14 of the Ohio Revised Code eliminated the restrictive limits on the percentage of ownership universities could have in companies producing and marketing products that are technically the property of the university. The state now allows universities to develop their own guidelines and procedures.

As at other institutions, the previous BGSU policy governing participation in the rewards from these types of activities was so restrictive that it discouraged faculty from pursuing them.

The University's new policy follows a model set forth by the Inter-University Council and Ohio Ethics Commission guidelines and was adapted for Bowling Green by Heinz Bulmahn, dean of the Graduate College and vice provost for research. Cynthia Price, associate vice provost for research administration; Douglas Necker, McMaster Distinguished Research Professor of Chemistry; Dawn Hestiges, family and consumer sciences, and Nancy Foeter, University General Counsel.

Commercialization and legal experts were consulted in its formulation. It was then reviewed by the Faculty Research Committee, the Patent Committee and Faculty Senate.

The policy defines the responsibilities of University authorities, sets out an approval process, and addresses faculty responsibilities and potential conflicts of interest. It gives as a general rule, for example, that individual staff or their family shall not hold more than 25 percent of the outstanding equity in the commercialization company on a long-term basis; however, if this does not interfere with their obligation to BGSU, holding more than 25 percent equity may be permitted if agreed to by the vice provost for research.

This type of flexible arrangement is a key component of the policy and is designed to make the commercialization process widely acknowledged for its difficulty—more achievable.

Nine conferred emeritus status

Nine members of the University faculty were granted emeritus status by the board of trustees at its June 27 meeting.

Designated as emeriti faculty were:

Alice Calderonello, English; Christopher Geist, popular culture;

Dawn Glanz; art; Joseph Gray, German, Russian and East Asian languages;

Julian Hayder, mathematics and statistics;

Charles Holland, Distinguished Research Professor of mathematics and statistics;

Donald Scherer, philosophy;

Larry Smith, English (Humanities at BGSU Firelands, with a joint appointment to the College of Arts and Sciences), and Jong Sik Yoon, biological sciences.

Emeritus status is conferred in recognition of distinguished service to the University. To be designated as emeritus, individuals must have been at the University for at least 10 years and been recommended by their department for the designation. The recommendation then goes to the respective dean, the vice president for academic affairs and to the Honorary Degree and Commemoratives Committee, before going to the trustees.

For a resume of each person's BGSU career and accomplishments, visit Monitor online.

in memory

Stella Egeston, 84, died June 27 in Findlay. She was retired from University Dining Services.