

8-18-2003

## Monitor Newsletter August 18, 2003

Bowling Green State University

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## John Farver to coordinate undergraduate research activities

BGSU wants to "infect" its undergraduates, not with a virus but with the desire to learn, to find answers to serious questions. It also aims to help them develop the skills to do that. If we can accomplish this, we will create lifelong learners, according to John Farver, geology.

Farver has been named director of the newly created Office of Undergraduate Research, which will "shine a spotlight" on what is already going on at the University and help to facilitate more, Farver said. The office was created based upon recommendations of the Ad Hoc Undergraduate Research Committee of the Faculty Senate with approval by the provost and president.

The Academic Plan places strong emphasis on both inquiry and student engagement, and it poses undergraduate involvement in research and creative endeavors as a "critical component of undergraduate education," Farver noted.

"Our vision for research is very broad. We want to engage students at all levels of their academic experience," Provost John Folkins said.

Under the aegis of the Graduate College because of its research identity, the office is designed to be a focal point. "We hope to centralize University-wide efforts and make them more efficient," Farver said.

Farver will serve as the liaison between faculty and all relevant areas of the University, such as the provost's office, the Office of Sponsored Programs and Research, Undergraduate Student Council and student organizations. He will help faculty identify funding sources for their research projects and find the appropriate links both on and off campus.

"The programs are out there. We realize it's not free to do undergraduate research, but we believe adequate resources can be found to pay for supplies and to send students to meetings and conferences to present their research," he said.

This emphasis on presenting findings reflects a key tenet of undergraduate research: "Students must be guided to a project that has value to the point that the results should be shared and disseminated," Farver said.

In this way, students learn the collaborative nature of knowledge production, he said, and come to understand that "their own piece of the question" is meaningful and contributes to the greater body of knowledge. An important goal is teaching them how to formulate questions, he added.

Another goal is to promote to faculty that there is "no separation between teaching and research," Farver said. Ideally, starting early to get students involved in inquiry will help make the content-heavy, large-lecture introductory classes more relevant and help students understand why they are necessary. "If it meant that I would never have another student need to ask 'Why do I have to learn this?' It would be so worth it," Farver joked.

Engaging in research from an early age also helps students overcome their fear of the unknown and of risk taking, Farver said. He added that sometimes the most creative students do not do well in the basic classes but flourish in research situations. "There has to be a creative component, whether in the natural or social sciences, the arts or the humanities," he said.

"And while there are things undergraduates are not prepared to do, faculty can steer them toward problems they can solve and meaningful activities they can do," Farver said. "Research also serves in some part as an apprenticeship, teaching them the tools of the

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trade through hands-on experience."

BGSU is fortunate to have many faculty already heavily involved with undergraduate student research. The new office hopes to give recognition to these mentors and enlist their expertise in promoting additional activity on campus. Farver himself has extensive experience with undergraduate research, both as a student and as a faculty member himself, and comes from a department that requires its students to engage in research projects.

"We have good models in place, and now, with institutional support, we are ready to take it to the next level," he said.

Farver said he will be guided in large part by the recommendations of the Ad Hoc Undergraduate Research Committee, which he says did an excellent job both in identifying best practices and in its recommendations for a BGSU office. He also plans to put together a broad-based advisory board soon.

The office will participate in the upcoming second annual BGSU Research Conference in November and hopes to highlight undergraduate research and creative activities across campus.

Farver is passionate about his mission, saying, "We want students to graduate infected with the passion for lifelong learning and inquiry. We will help them develop the skills to do it and the appreciation for both what it takes and the rewards of having done it."

Space for the office is being arranged, but for now Farver can be reached at 2-7203 or at [jfarver@bgnet.bgsu.edu](mailto:jfarver@bgnet.bgsu.edu).

### President to address campus community at Opening Day Friday

President Ribeau invites the entire campus community to his Opening Day address Friday (Aug. 22). He will begin the new school year by speaking on "An Investment in Achievement."

His talk will begin at 10 a.m. in the Lenhart Grand Ballroom in the Bowen-Thompson Student Union. Come early for coffee and to reconnect with friends and colleagues.

### Students to immerse themselves in Arts Village

The concept of "embracing the arts" will take a tangible form on the BGSU campus this fall when the University's new Arts Village opens its doors.

Housed in the former Chapman space in the Harshman quadrangle, the living/learning community will provide a home for all students who are interested in artistic pursuits, according to Director Mary Natvig, musical arts. "They don't have to be art majors," she said.

"Embracing the arts" is a key piece of the Academic Plan and was in part the inspiration for the Arts Village, Natvig noted. The plan states: "The fine and performing arts enable people to see, feel and think deeply, and promote a better understanding of human values. . . . Our overarching goal is to create citizens of the arts—individuals who will have a lifelong love for the arts, be able to make informed aesthetic judgments, and contribute to the artistic climates of their own communities, either as professionals or as committed individuals."

"The Arts Village is a real, living symbol of the arts being an integral part of the campus," said Katerina Ray, director of the School of Art and, along with Natvig, one of the core

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faculty for the village.

"We've got a beautiful space," Natvig said of the village's home. There will be an art studio and spaces in which the group can have social events and poetry readings, do drama and hold music rehearsals. Thursday nights will be movie nights, with arts-related films that tie into what they've been learning in class.

Actor Bob McGrath, longtime member of the "Sesame Street" ensemble, will be on campus in September, Natvig said, and will have dinner in the Arts Village and talk with the students.

Arts Village students will take one course a semester from a selection of four, plus a one-credit course that focuses on experiencing the arts first hand. Students will go to art galleries, plays, music and dance performances and other arts-related events, followed by group discussion.

"It's a good balance between the arts and taking classes at the University. There are other students also living in Chapman, so our students will have plenty of interaction with others," Natvig said.

Natvig will teach a music appreciation course, and Ray will teach an art appreciation course in the Arts Village space as part of the BG Experience Values initiative. Other courses will be taught by English and theatre faculty, with an emphasis on the arts.

"These are general education courses they would be taking anyway," Natvig said, "but they will be adapted to focus on the arts. In English composition, instead of writing an opinion piece, for example, they might write a critique of a poem or a performance. We want to focus on the interdisciplinary aspect of the arts. What can a potter learn from a dancer, and what can a painter learn from a musician?"

Her own course will be titled "Masterpieces of Music" and will use a book called *First Nights* as its text. Students will study the premieres of operas, ballets, symphonies and more, learning about the works themselves, their historical context and how they were received at the time.

Ray, an architect by training, said that the Arts Village will function like a "little neighborhood. It's a more contemporary model of living. Just as in the United States we celebrate differences, I think this celebrates the difference art makes."

She likened the experience of living and teaching right next door to studio space to the way most artists arrange their living/working arrangements. "Students can not only study and work on art but discuss it with one another where they live. It's a really interesting experiment."

The two-year program can accommodate 76 freshmen this year and an equal number of sophomores next year, Natvig said. The sophomore curriculum includes courses in diversity in the arts, creativity across disciplines, and creative writing.

It is completely self-funded. Participants pay an additional \$150 per semester to live and learn in the village.

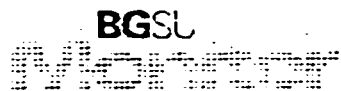
Natvig and Ray say they see "a lot of potential and have a lot of ideas" for how the Arts Village can contribute not only to its students' lives but to the life of the campus as well.

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**Campus prepares to welcome back students**

Move-in weekend, set for Saturday and Sunday (Aug. 23 and 24), will again bring changes in traffic patterns around campus, as thousands of students arrive for the start of classes next Monday (Aug. 25).

Some streets will be one-way-only during the weekend. North College Drive will be one



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way, heading south, between East Merry Avenue and Ridge Street, while Ridge Street will be one way, westbound, between North College Drive and Thurstin Avenue.

Students moving into McDonald and Offenbauer halls will use the temporary road that's the first right turn after exiting Interstate 75 onto East Wooster Street. They will follow one of the five routes the University has created and tied to the respective residence halls to help expedite the process.

A one-way traffic pattern in which routes never cross is a key factor in avoiding gridlock on campus. University police officers will regulate the flow of traffic onto campus, and BGSU public safety and facilities services staff will assist, attempting to minimize any inconveniences that may be encountered.

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**Who's on first? Campus staffing update**

Since the last academic year, several staffing changes have taken place on campus. Following is an update.

In the College of Arts and Sciences, Vicki Shields has been named associate dean, effective July 1, Dean Donald Nieman announced. Previously interim associate dean, she will continue in her second role as interim co-chair of general education with Cathi Cardwell, University libraries. As associate dean, she will focus on faculty affairs, curriculum development and the enhancement of general education, and work toward greater implementation of the Academic Plan.

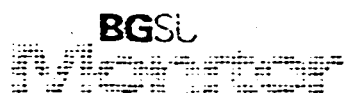
Deanne Snavely has been named associate dean of the Graduate College, according to Heinz Bulmahn, vice provost for research and graduate dean. In addition to dealing with issues related to graduate education, *i.e.*, graduate student progress, graduate faculty, and graduate program and curriculum development, Snavely, who had been chair of the chemistry department for the past four years, also will interact with faculty to promote their scholarship, funded research, and creative endeavors. She will also make connections with businesses as well as governmental agencies and legislators to promote BGSU research.

Christopher Dunn has been named the first-ever associate dean in the College of Health and Human Services, Dean Linda Petrosino announced. Dunn is familiar to the BGSU community, having served as director of research service in the Graduate College from 1984-93. In addition to serving as associate dean, he holds a joint appointment as associate professor of criminal justice at BGSU. Most recently, he has been an adjunct lecturer at Eastern Michigan University, and archivist for the Inter-University Consortium for Political and Social Research and the Institute for Social Research, at the University of Michigan. He has also been director of the University of Michigan-based National Archive of Criminal Justice Data since 1993. He received both his M.A. and Ph.D. in criminal justice from the State University of New York at Albany.

In the College of Education and Human Development, Dean Josue Cruz has appointed Fiona MacKinnon to the position of associate dean. MacKinnon, higher education and student affairs, has served as associate dean for the past year. A BGSU faculty member since 1988, she has also been chair of Faculty Senate and a provost associate.

Also in the college, Michael French has returned to full-time teaching in the Division of Teaching and Learning after 13 years as director of the Martha Gesling Weber Reading Center. Martha Sears was named interim director in May. She has served as supervisor and coordinator of outreach literacy programs for the America Reads Challenge, and reading diagnostician and supervisor of graduate student interns at the center. Sears received a B.A. in elementary education and a Master of Education in Reading degree from BGSU.

Two new appointments have been announced in the area of Academic Affairs. Marcos Rivera, formerly with Multicultural and Academic Affairs, has joined the Office of Student Academic Achievement. He is co-director along with Connie Ruhl-Smith.



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And Michelle Heckman, formerly of Student Support Services, has been named director of the Math Lab.

**IN BRIEF**

**Help is needed at two picnics**

Volunteers are needed to help out with the Convocation Picnic on Sunday afternoon (Aug. 24) and at the All-Campus Picnic Sept. 5. All volunteers will receive a free t-shirt.

Help is needed in various capacities and times on both days. If interested, sign up online at <http://dining2.bgsu.edu/> or contact Lisa Chiapetta at 2-2096 or [clisa@bgnet.bgsu.edu](mailto:clisa@bgnet.bgsu.edu).

**Cheer the Falcons on to victory at Faculty/Staff Night**

All faculty and staff are invited to help BGSU launch the 2003 football season by attending the opening game Aug. 28 against Eastern Kentucky University. Game time is 7 p.m.

Beginning today (Aug. 18), any faculty or staff member with a University ID can pick up four free tickets to the game, courtesy of Linda Dobb, executive vice president. Tickets may be obtained until noon on game day at the BGSU ticket office in Anderson Arena. The office is open Monday-Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

**Deadline for Diamante Award nominations extended**

The deadline for nominating individuals and organizations for a 2003 Diamante Award has been extended until Sept. 1.

The award, which was founded in 1989 by IMAGE of northwest Ohio, recognizes individuals and organizations for making significant contributions to Hispanics in the region through hard work and service as a role model.

This year's award banquet, where the winners will be recognized, will be held Sept. 27 at the Bowen-Thompson Student Union. Funds raised at the event, which is sponsored by BGSU, the University of Toledo and Owens Community College, will provide scholarships for Latino students.

For a nomination form or more information, contact Manny Vadillo at 2-2642.

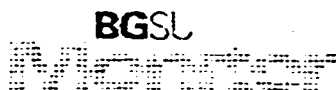
**CALENDAR**

Wednesday, Aug. 20  
Classified Staff Council, 9 a.m.-noon, 316 Union.

Thursday, Aug. 21  
Workshop, "Finding Data for Your Thesis or Dissertation," 9:45 a.m., location TBA. GradSTEP session only. For more information, call the Center for Family and Demographic Research at 2-7279, or email [cfd@bgnet.bgsu.edu](mailto:cfd@bgnet.bgsu.edu).

Friday, Aug. 22  
Opening Day.  
President's Opening Day Address, "An Investment in Achievement," 10 a.m., Lenhart Grand Ballroom, Union. Coffee and fellowship at 9:30 a.m.

Saturday, Aug. 23  
Student Move-in.



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Sunday, Aug. 24

Convocation Picnic, for all new students, 3:30-5:30 p.m., University Hall lawn (rain site: dining halls).

Monday, Aug. 25

Fall semester classes begin.

Continuing Events

Monday, Aug 18 and Sunday, Aug. 24

University Choral Society Open Auditions, 6-8 p.m. Monday (Aug. 18) and 4-6 p.m. Sunday (Aug. 24), Bryan Recital Hall, Moore Musical Arts Center. Open to anyone from high school age up. Participation can be on a non-credit basis or for University credit. Those interested may sing a prepared solo in any language. An accompanist will be provided. For more information, and to set up an audition time, call 2-2181.

Through Sept. 9

Art Exhibit, "Expressions: Surface, Fibers, Thread," works by students in the Fiber Arts Program, School of Fine Arts, Student Art Gallery, Union. Gallery hours are 8 a.m.-5 p.m. daily.

Aug. 25-Sept. 24

Art Exhibit, paintings by Steve Labadessa, Little Gallery, BGSU Firelands.

**JOBS**

**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](http://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**

There were no postings this week.

**ADMINISTRATIVE**

Director of Gift Planning (V-046)—Office of Development/University Advancement. All applicants will receive full and fair consideration until the position is filled.

Women's Diving Coach (R-028)—Intercollegiate Athletics (search extended). Salary is commensurate with education and experience. Review of applications will continue until the position is filled.

Instructor/Assistant Women's Softball Coach (03-005)— Intercollegiate Athletics. Part time, eight-month position beginning Sept. 1. Review of applications will continue until the position is filled.

Academic Adviser and Coordinator for Recruitment and Retention (R-056)—Office of Academic Affairs, College of Arts and Sciences. Administrative grade 14. Deadline: Sept. 6.

**OBITUARIES**

There were no obituaries this week.

