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## Monitor Newsletter December 15, 2003

Bowling Green State University

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## Honadle book offers hands-on approach to public finance

Beth Walter Honadle, director of the Center for Policy Analysis and Public Service (CPA&PS), is senior author on a new book designed as a tool for finance officers in local governments.

*Fiscal Health for Local Governments: An Introduction to Concepts, Practical Analysis and Strategies*, released Dec. 10 by Elsevier publishers, provides a practical, hands-on approach to assessing the fiscal health of local governments and solving financial problems.

"We're trying to reach the practicing person out there who's seeking better fiscal health for their local government," Honadle said. It will also serve as a textbook at the graduate level and should be of interest to academics in the disciplines of public finance and public administration, she added.

Honadle, who holds a joint appointment in political science at BGSU, collaborated on the book with James M Costa, a former student of hers who is now vice president for corporate and investment banking for SunTrust Bank, Atlanta, and Beverly A. Cigler, a Pennsylvania State University professor of public policy and administration and director of the Pennsylvania Program to Improve State and Local Government.

The book synthesizes the thinking and theories of major economists, finance scholars and political scientists and presents them in layman's terms, providing practical advice and a clear explanation of financial processes and alternatives.

*Fiscal Health for Local Governments* presents several models for assessing expenditures, revenues and debt within the constructs of changing economic, demographic and political conditions, evolving intergovernmental patterns, and specific legal constraints," writes Marilyn Rubin, a professor of economics and public administration at John Jay College, City University of New York.

The book includes information from the results of a survey Walter conducted earlier this year on the various ways in which individual states deal with financial emergencies. An article on the work, "The States' Role in U.S. Local Government Fiscal Crises: A Theoretical Model and Results of a National Survey," appeared in the International Journal of Public Administration.

Honadle was approached by the publisher to produce *Fiscal Health for Local Governments* based on a program she piloted at the University of Minnesota in the mid to late 1990s. Working with Costa, she developed the Fiscal Health Education Program, aimed at teaching public-finance self check-up skills to local officials in smaller, rural and suburban areas.

"It was a 'capacity-building' program," she said. "We provided an analysis of their finances and trained them to continue on their own."

She has adapted the program at BGSU and will present a workshop for northwest Ohio finance officers on March 20. Titled "Fiscal Analysis Capacity Training," the workshop will be conducted by Honadle, David Stott, accounting, and Robin Weirauch, assistant director of the CPA&PS.

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**BGSU commencement speakers announced**

Two distinguished educators will be the commencement speakers for fall graduation exercises this week.

The Graduate College commencement speaker will be John "Jack" Noonan, a BGSU alumnus and president emeritus of Bloomfield College in New Jersey. BGSU 2002 Master Teacher Irina Stakhanova will speak at graduation for the undergraduate colleges.

Commencement for the Graduate College will be held at 7 p.m. Friday (Dec. 19). Commencement for all undergraduate colleges will be held at 10 a.m. Dec. 20. Both events will be held at Anderson Arena in Memorial Hall. More than 1,100 students are candidates for degrees.

Noonan, a former faculty member at what is now Findlay University, retired last May after 16 years as president of Bloomfield College. His presidency was highlighted by the development of an Advanced Technology Institute and exemplary programs in animation, graphics for digital media, fine arts, multimedia and Web design, music technology and digital video.

Prior to joining Bloomfield, Noonan served as dean of the School of Arts and Sciences at Iona College and, from 1973-83, directed the Center for the Improvement of Teaching Effectiveness, one of the earliest faculty development programs in the country, at Virginia Commonwealth University. Before that, he was director of the Liberal Studies Program and an associate professor of English at Findlay College.

He serves on the boards of several professional organizations and earlier this year was elected board chair of the Association of American Colleges and Universities. A graduate of Wheeling Jesuit College, he earned both his master's degree and doctorate in English literature from BGSU.

Stakhanova, a member of Bowling Green's Department of German, Russian and East Asian Languages since 1990, was named Master Teacher by the University's Student Alumni Association in 2002. The award, considered one of the highest honors for faculty, recognizes excellence in teaching and a caring attitude toward students. Stakhanova is the first BGSU foreign language faculty member ever to have received the recognition.

Stakhanova is BGSU's Russian program adviser and Russian Club moderator. She is a member of the Ohio Foreign Language Association's Board of Directors and is the Modern Languages Association bibliographer. She is an active member of the American Association of Teachers of Slavic and Eastern European Languages, and the Association for Women in Slavic Studies. Her scholarly interests are in 20th-century Russian culture, literature and film. She has given presentations at Columbia and Cambridge Universities and at various Slavic conferences.

Director of the semester and summer education-abroad programs at St. Petersburg State University for over a decade, Stakhanova also teaches courses within the American Culture studies and film studies programs.

Because of the large number of undergraduate degree candidates, tickets are required for admission to commencement on Dec. 20. Each graduating student is allotted five tickets for family and friends.

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**Reducing children's exposure to lead is goal of BGSU project**

The BGSU Environmental Health Program is embarking on a two-year project to help solve the problem of Lucas County children being exposed to dangerous levels of lead.

The program, which is part of the College of Health & Human Services, has received a \$49,000 grant from the Ohio EPA's Environmental Education Fund to develop instructional



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materials that will teach local residents how to decrease lead levels.

Program Director Gary Silverman and Haiu Kassa, public and allied health, will work with the Toledo-Lucas County Health Department and the LaGrange Development Corp. to identify high-risk neighborhoods.

According to Silverman, even low levels of lead pose an environmental threat to children. "It is well known that lead interferes with development of the central nervous system, causing lifelong impairment of intellectual development and other problems related to the nervous system," he said.

In the United States, the most prevalent sources of lead exposure for children are contaminated paint, house dust, and soil in and around older, poorly maintained homes, particularly those built prior to the 1970s.

Completely removing lead is both expensive and difficult to finance in inner-city locations where much of the problem occurs. However, Silverman said, contamination levels can be substantially reduced by adopting systematic, specialized cleaning and avoidance practices.

The Lucas County Health Department will assist in the project by helping to identify aging homes at high risk for lead contamination, and by measuring environmental and blood lead concentrations.

In addition, project team member Jennifer Wise of the LaGrange Development Corp, a privately funded neighborhood group that engages in civic-minded projects, will identify local people to take part as trainers. Using instructional materials developed by the BGSU faculty, the trainers will teach community residents how to employ practices that will reduce children's exposure to dangerous levels of lead.

All of the work, Silverman said, will be coordinated with the Toledo Department of Economic and Community Development, which recently received a \$3 million HUD grant to remedy lead problems throughout the city.

The project is expected to be fully under way by late spring or early summer.

**Winged sculpture gives lift to union**

Suspended from the ceiling high above the mezzanine is the Bowen-Thompson Student Union's newest piece of artwork: a sculpture titled "Pterous," created by BGSU graduate student Zachary Orcutt.

Pterous, which means "having wings," was envisioned to be two pods, similar to seedpods of maple trees with wings. The piece is made up of four streetlights, a satellite dish and several cast aluminum elements. By combining these parts, Orcutt was able to make a large, lightweight piece that could be suspended from the ceiling. "Pterous" embodies a bird-like weightlessness with the strength and integrity of an airplane. The piece is the first in a series of works that will be the body of Orcutt's thesis show in the spring of 2004.

Orcutt is currently working toward a MFA in sculpture. He has also studied in Florence, Italy, and at the Johnson Atelier Technical Institute of Sculpture, where he was hired as a staff member in the installation department. Many of his pieces have been selected for display in institutions all over the world.

Orcutt says that he sees flight as a metaphor for his journey as an artist, which is also a reason he felt that his piece belonged to the union. In his thesis he states, "I believe the student union is the perfect forum for this piece, as students build their knowledge and pioneer their methods toward gaining altitude in this world."

The union features rotating exhibits in the galleries, permanent collections and pieces on loan located throughout the building from BGSU fine arts faculty.



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**A BGSU bowl game is only a drive to Detroit away**

It's not often that Bowling Green football fans get to see the Falcons take on a Big Ten opponent so close to home, let alone in a bowl game. But the opportunity is there Dec. 26, when BGSU makes its first bowl appearance since 1992, meeting Northwestern in the Motor City Bowl at Detroit's Ford Field.

Tickets are \$45 and may be purchased at the athletic ticket office in Memorial Hall. Office hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays, or call 2-0000. Tickets are bursarable or may be purchased with cash, check or credit card.

The BGSU Alumni Association is sponsoring a bus trip to the game, which will kick off at 5 p.m. at the indoor stadium in downtown Detroit. The trip is free for students with a game ticket and \$15 for others. The bus will leave Lot L, north of Doyt Perry Stadium, at noon on game day. Contact the alumni association at 2-2701 to reserve a seat.

In addition, the alumni association is sponsoring a pre-game event at Ford Field, with hot hors d'oeuvres, from 2-5 p.m. The cost is \$25 for the pre-game event only.

Among the available package deals are:

- The Falcon Package, at \$85 per person, includes bus transportation, admittance to the pre-game event and a game ticket.
- The Freddie Package, at \$70 per person, includes admittance to the pre-game event and a game ticket.
- The Frieda Package, at \$60 per person, includes bus transportation and a game ticket.

Other packages include hotel accommodations. For details, visit [www.bgsualumni.com](http://www.bgsualumni.com) or call the alumni office at 2-2701. The deadline for reservations is Friday (Dec. 19).

**IN BRIEF****Test scanning hours extended for finals**

Information Technology Services will extend the test scanning hours for finals exams to include Saturday (Dec. 20) from 8 a.m. to noon. Participants should bring their National Computer System answer sheets to 301 Hayes Hall.

The window at 301 Hayes is open during the noon hour Monday-Friday. During finals week, the window will be open until 6 p.m. Monday-Friday.

**CALENDAR**

**Monday, Dec. 15**

**Apple Computers Demo**, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Union lobby. Sponsored by the University Bookstore.

**Tuesday, Dec. 16**

**Small Business Research Funding Workshop**, 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m., Electronic Reading Room, Jerome Library. The cost is \$30 including lunch. Faculty interested in exploring possible funding for their research projects are invited. Hosted by the Procurement Technical Assistance Center. Board of Trustees, 1:45-3 p.m., 308

Union.

**Theatre Display**, 6:30-8:30 p.m., 308 Union.

**Wednesday, Dec. 17**

**Classified Staff Council**, 9 a.m.-noon, 316 Union.

**Holiday Reception for Retirees**, 3:30-5 p.m., Mileti Alumni Center. Recent retirees will be honored at 4:15 p.m. Sponsored by the Office of Development. Retirees interested in attending should respond by calling 2-2424 or by email at [develop@bgnnet.bgsu.edu](mailto:develop@bgnnet.bgsu.edu).

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**Thursday, Dec. 18**  
**Music Technology I Final Projects**, 7 p.m., Bryan Recital Hall, Moore Musical Arts Center.  
**Men's Basketball vs. Detroit**, 7 p.m., Anderson Arena.

**Friday, Dec. 19**  
**Graduate Commencement Exercises**, 7 p.m., Anderson Arena.

**Saturday, Dec. 20**  
**Undergraduate Commencement Exercises**, 10 a.m., Anderson Arena.

**Continuing Events**  
**Through Dec. 19**  
**Ceramics Exhibit**, 8 a.m.-6 p.m. daily, Union Galleries.

**Through Dec. 21**  
**Planetarium Presentation**, "Secret of the Star: A Show for Christmas," showings at 8 p.m. Tuesdays and Fridays, 7:30 p.m. Sundays and 2 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 20. \$1 donation suggested.

**Through Jan. 18**  
**54th Annual Faculty/Staff Exhibition**, featuring a special tribute to the art of Tracy Ruhlin (1957-2003), Dorothy Uber Bryan Gallery, Fine Arts Center. Gallery hours are 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday and 1-4 p.m. Sundays. Gallery will be closed Dec. 15-Jan.13 for winter recess.

**JOB POSTINGS**

**FACULTY**

There were no jobs posted this week.

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**

The deadline to apply is 1 p.m. Friday, Dec. 19.  
**Secretary 2 (C-58-Vd)**—Technology/Program Services. Pay grade 7.

**ADMINISTRATIVE**

**Registrar (V-078)**—Registration and Records. Administrative grade 19. Deadline: Jan. 23.

**Staff Internal Auditor (R-077)**—Internal Auditing and Advisory Services. Administrative grade 15. Review of applications will begin Dec. 15 and continue until position is filled.

**Director of Gift Planning (V-046)**—Office of Development, University Advancement. Administrative grade 18. All applicants will receive full and fair consideration until the position is filled.

**Major Gift Officer (V-068)**—Office of Development, University Advancement. Administrative grade 15. Review of applications will continue until the position is filled.

**WBGU Major Gift Officer (R-071)**—Tucker Center for Telecommunications. Administrative grade 15. Review of applications will continue until the position is filled.

**OBITUARIES**

**Alfred Decker IV**, 53, died Nov. 25 in Toledo. He had been a visiting assistant professor of philosophy since 2002.