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Monitor Newsletter December 13, 2004

Bowling Green State University

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Journey to Vietnam is healing quest

Although it had been nearly 33 years since Tom Wiseman, political science, served in the Marine Corps in Vietnam, the demons that took up residence within him during that war continued to haunt him.

Neither the passage of time nor the many accomplishments over three decades of service to his community and fellow veterans had healed the wounds inflicted upon his psyche, he said. Perhaps out of an unexpressed need to regain inner peace, he continually thought about going back to the war-torn country he had left behind upon his return from the service.

As it turned out, Wiseman was not alone in his urge to revisit Vietnam. In 2002, he and two veteran friends made the journey back in an effort to reclaim their souls. Wiseman wrote about the experience in a book by the same name: *Reclaiming the Soul*, co-authored with Theresa Bowen, was published last summer by PublishAmerica.

The book is available at the University Bookstore as well as on Amazon.com and at Barnes and Noble.

Max Cleland, Vietnam veteran and former U.S. senator, wrote of *Reclaiming the Soul*, "Dr. Tom Wiseman has shown us in this enchanting volume that each of us has an odyssey of the soul. We veterans of the Vietnam War are challenged at the deepest level of our lives to reclaim our soul which many of us thought we lost in the war. Tom Wiseman encourages all of us Vietnam veterans to give ourselves a 'second chance.'"

After years of contemplating it, the logistics of returning to Southeast Asia were surprisingly easy, he writes. But the culture shock of suddenly being in a hotel bar in Saigon (now Ho Chi Minh City) was almost as jarring as abruptly finding oneself back home only hours after being shot at in the rice paddies of Vietnam.

"One thing that made Vietnam, where we lost 58,000 troops, different from World War II, where we lost 290,000, or Korea, where we lost 37,000, was the speed. Now that we're living in the Jet Age, there's no time to adjust. In Vietnam, 24-36 hours after you were being ambushed, you could be sitting in a fast food restaurant in southern California," Wiseman explained.

Uncertain how they would be received back in Vietnam and with scenes of the war fresh in their minds, the three men traveled around the country, meeting with civilians, former enemies and fellow soldiers. Wiseman writes of the various people they encountered on their travels and of the places they revisited, such as the infamous "Hanoi Hilton" prison, where they left an American flag in memory of all who suffered there. Though for the three travelers and other veterans—both American and Vietnamese—the memories are still vivid, for the most part, "Vietnam doesn't remember," Wiseman said. "Sixty-two percent of the people who were alive during the war are dead now."

Wiseman and his friends found they felt most connected to those who shared their experience as soldiers, whether American, South Vietnamese or Viet Cong. The differences of nationality, belief and background turned out to be insignificant in the larger picture, and they enjoyed filling in one another's memories about the events of so long ago.

Common emotions and experiences were what emerged from their conversations, as well as the need to move on with their lives. Wiseman asked Dong, a former Viet Cong soldier now operating a China Beach parking lot, what he liked to do now that he no longer had to fight, to which Dong responded, "I like to spend time with my grandchildren."

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Wiseman writes that, thinking of his own grandchildren halfway around the world, "For the first time it truly hit me, and suddenly I realized that we former enemies really wanted the same thing. We both wanted to be grandfathers now."

Though going back is definitely not for everyone, Wiseman said, for him it presented the opportunity to heal. Wiseman, who was mayor of his hometown of Defiance, Ohio, for eight years, a county commissioner and the county veterans services officer, finally found the peace that had eluded him.

"I contend that when a war veteran can shake hands with his former enemy, there's a cleansing that happens," he said. When, for example, Dong said to him, "We be friends now," the sense of forgiveness he felt helped wash away the pain.

He was also uplifted to see the progress in the country since the war. Where 30 years ago most people lived in thatched huts with ditches for latrines, today most live in small but sturdy homes with running water and electricity. Wiseman compares it to the mid-1950s in the United States.

And when he drove past the place where he used to be assigned to lie in ambush and saw that today it is a beautiful, peaceful spot with no reminder of the violence that had taken place there, "tears of joy came to my eyes," he said.

For Wiseman, the healing process has brought a profound change in his thinking: "Vietnam is no longer a war—it's a country."

Now back at home and a political science instructor at BGSU, Defiance College and Northwest State Community College, Wiseman is working to establish a Defiance chapter of the Vietnam Veterans of America.

Wiseman earned a bachelor's degree in history from Defiance College, a master's degree in public administration from BGSU and a Ph.D. in intergovernmental mediation from Andrews University in Berrien, Mich.

Diversity project earns award

A project aimed at increasing knowledge about diversity issues and providing related academic initiatives in University residence halls was recently given the Outstanding Commitment to Diversity Award by the Great Lakes Association of College and University Housing Officers (GLACUHO).

The award was presented to the "Quads Project" during the GLACUHO regional conference Nov. 7-9 in Cleveland.

The project was conducted last fall, bringing together collective residential environments within Harshman and Kreisler quadrangles. It successfully linked academics to residence life and reached the needs of more than 2,500 students and staff on campus.

Ryan Keytack, the project organizer and a resident adviser at the time, said project leaders wanted "to do something neat with the residents" involving more academic initiatives in the residence halls. He noted that the award "says a lot about BGSU" and its initiative to challenge students and expose them to diversity.

According to nominator Deborah Novak, assistant director of residence life, the idea that discrimination and the shadow of oppression are felt in both direct and indirect ways was addressed throughout the project.

"It's a program that teaches people how to respond to the community," added Keytack. "It

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challenged people who were uncomfortable with the topic (of diversity)."

The project focused on social issues raised by "The Laramie Project," a play by Moises Kaufman about the aftermath of the ruthless killing of gay Wyoming student Matthew Shepard, which BGSU's required Common Reading Experience for fall 2003.

First-year students, learning-community residents and all members of the residence life staff, among others, brought the reading to life through discussions related to diversity, social justice issues and the community. Students earned course credit while gaining a better understanding of the difficult reading of the play.

Residence life staff, including Director Linda Newman and Associate Director Nick Hennessy, also helped to make the Quads Project a success.

"It helped the BGSU community by providing a program that was clearly linked to the 'The Laramie Project,' and was able to join activities in the residence halls with things going on in the classroom," said Hennessy. "It also provided good educational programming regarding an important topic of diversity."

The project comprised a number of events and activities. One, the Matthew Shepard Vigil, was held on the anniversary of Shepard's beating. Students and faculty gathered around a stage surrounded by life-size fences bearing the words "Don't hate me because I'm different." The fences remained standing as a reminder throughout the project.

"Queer Eye for the BG Guy" capped the Quads Project and was featured in local newspapers. Men from both residence halls had the opportunity to enter an essay contest explaining how the project helped their growth as an individual. Four heterosexual students were selected along with five members of BGSU's gay community to engage in particular areas of the gay culture for a weekend. The event was filmed and the footage edited into a movie that was later shown on campus. Later, Ohio State University and Baldwin Wallace College requested assistance from BGSU to help them succeed in their own "Queer Eye" programs.

Other events during the project included an improvisation workshop, a diversity movie marathon and a diversity-themed ice cream social. Each program was designed to trigger awareness and perspective about the self and the community.

"It was unique because it offered so many different formats and degrees of programs that any student could enjoy, whether they chose to get more deeply involved, or simply wished to be more passively involved," Hennessy said.

According to Novak, "The Quads Project made a huge impact on individuals within the residence halls, but the impact to the entire BGSU community and beyond was inspiring, moving, and groundbreaking."

"It was a powerful program, and it was amazing to see the staff and students come together in planning it," said Hennessy.

Partners in Wooster Street project celebrate completion

Wrapping up the work at BGSU's "front door" before winter has earned Kokosing Construction a \$200,000 bonus from the city of Bowling Green.

City council made it official Dec. 6, awarding the incentive for completion of the East Wooster Street project nine months prior to the original completion date.

Joe Rutherford, public information officer for Ohio Department of Transportation District Two, said the only remaining work is "punch list" items such as grass seeding and other "little odds and ends" that will be done in the coming months. ODOT managed the project.



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which began last March.

The city's push for the street widening, and offer of the bonus to finish it early, supported the University's view of improvements to the Wooster corridor—the "front door" of both the campus and the city, added Robert Waddle, assistant vice president for capital planning.

Not only has the project made a difference in traffic flow, but the view onto campus with the overhead utility lines removed "is really a tremendous improvement," Waddle said.

The work will also help the University create the future view envisioned in its master plan as a canopy of trees replaces those removed for the project, he noted.

Giving the roadway back to Bowling Green residents before winter was a city goal in offering the incentive to Kokosing, said Lori Tretter, public information officer for the city and assistant to the municipal administrator.

"We don't have to have a winter filled with barrels," she said, recalling the difficulty of recent winters when work on South Main Street made it a construction zone.

The bonus came from a fund established for property acquisition for the project. About \$700,000 of the \$1 million in the fund had been spent previously. City officials thought the expenditure was a prudent use of taxpayer money, Tretter said, because it would benefit the entire community, as well as BGSU students and other visitors to the city.

Rutherford called the effort a "model project" in terms of both communication and cooperation among the participating governmental entities. "There's a lot of credit that needs to go around," he said, citing the city, Kokosing and BGSU representatives in particular.

Both he and Waddle said the project wouldn't have been as successful as it was without the University's liaison, Wayne Colvin, whom Waddle described as "incredibly detailed."

"I can't think of a better person to put on that job because it required so much detail on a daily basis," he said.

"We really did have a true, strong partnership," Tretter added. "There were so many benefits to everyone involved."

Corporation for Public Broadcasting awards grant to WBGU-PBS

WBGU-PBS has been awarded a Digital Distribution Fund grant from the Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB). The \$217,000 grant will cover half the cost of updating the station's master control area and increasing digital storage capacity.

"Great thanks goes to Director of Technical Services Al Bowe and his team for their leadership in creating a plan that ties so well into new digital technology," said WBGU-PBS General Manager Patrick Fitzgerald. "This grant will help us to achieve new efficiencies in monitoring, storing and moving content in the new digital age."

As with most public television stations, the primary goal during WBGU's conversion to digital broadcasting in August 2003 was to get a signal on the air, while maintaining the analog broadcast signal used by the vast majority of the station's viewers.

Master control upgrades will enable one person to monitor and control the station's five different program channels and enable audio and video elements such as weather warnings and graphics to be inserted on each digital channel.

Increasing the station's digital storage capacity will enable WBGU to store and transport local programs digitally, which will preserve program quality, improve station workflow and

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result in significant cost savings.

"We'll be able to retire our 20-year-old tape machines," says Bowe. "We'll save money on tape stock, and at the same time reduce the number of steps and the multitude of hours it presently takes to get programs on the air."

Students prepare for next step with graduation

The University will award degrees to 1,101 students during fall commencement exercises this weekend (Dec. 17 and 18).

The fall semester graduating class includes 24 candidates for Ph.D.s, four candidates for doctor of education degrees, one candidate for the specialist in education degree, 247 master's degree candidates and 825 candidates for bachelor's degrees.

Commencement for students in the Graduate College will be held at 7 p.m. Friday (Dec. 17). Students in the undergraduate colleges will receive degrees at 10 a.m. Saturday (Dec. 18). Both ceremonies will be held at Anderson Arena.

Among the bachelor's degree recipients are 138 candidates for honors. Twenty-two students are expected to graduate summa cum laude for maintaining grade point averages between 3.9 and 4.0 on a 4.0 scale. Forty students are candidates for magna cum laude recognition for having academic averages between 3.76 and 3.9, and 76 students are candidates for cum laude recognition, which is given to those who have grade point averages of 3.5 to 3.75.

BGSU 2003 Master Teacher, Michael French, Division of Teaching and Learning, will give the commencement address at each of the two ceremonies. President Sidney A. Ribeau will preside.

Members of the fall graduating class represent 58 Ohio counties, 31 states and 17 countries.

IN BRIEF

Celebrate the season with the Ribeaus

Join President and Mrs. Ribeau as they bring in the holiday season at an open house from 3-5 p.m. Wednesday (Dec. 16) in McFall Center Gallery.

Faculty, staff and students are invited to come and enjoy the sounds of the Blue Square Saxophone Quartet, surrounded by multicultural holiday displays.

Year-end giving to BGSU aids students, gives tax relief

Throughout 2004, the faculty and staff of the University have touched the lives of thousands of students. In addition to the important work done in the classroom and around campus, faculty and staff have supported students by funding scholarships and other important initiatives. As donors, faculty and staff have reached new levels of commitment and engagement with BGSU in the last year. Their increased support is allowing BGSU to expand opportunities for students and the entire campus community, according to Amy Edgar Davis, director of annual giving.

Davis says, "As we near the end of 2004, please consider BGSU in your year-end giving plans. A convenient way to make your gift is by using our online giving Web site at <http://foundation.bgsu.edu>, or call the Development Office at 2-2424 for other giving options,

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including payroll deduction. Remember, if you make your gift before Dec. 31, it can have a positive impact on your tax situation, as well as on the lives of current students."

Yolanda King to speak at University

Yolanda King, eldest daughter of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and Coretta Scott King, will address the University in celebration of her father's legacy. King will speak at 7 p.m. Jan. 27 in the Lenhart Grand Ballroom of the Bowen-Thompson Student Union.

An actor, producer and humanitarian, King has used her theatrical and public speaking skills to promote human rights and peace across the United States and in Europe, Africa and Asia. Her mission is to encourage personal and social change through her artistic endeavors and teaching. She has appeared in numerous film and stage productions including *King*, *Death of a Prophet* and *Ghosts of Mississippi*.

For more information on King's visit, call the Office of Campus Involvement at 2-2343 or email hbishara@bgnet.bgsu.edu.

The free event is sponsored by the president's and the provost's offices and the Martin Luther King Jr. Legacy Committee.

Test-scanning hours extended during finals week

ITS will extend its hours for test scanning during finals week. The hours are 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday and from 8 a.m. to noon Saturday. Participants should bring their National Computer System answer sheets to 301 Hayes Hall for scanning.

Technology-equipped classroom training to be offered

Instructional Media Services will offer two sessions for those interested in learning more about the operation of equipment in technology-equipped classrooms. A technology-equipped classroom contains, at a minimum, a permanently installed video projector and a computer. Attendees will be provided with information on the use of equipment and streaming video on campus.

Sessions will be offered at 10 a.m. Jan. 5 in 226 Oiscamp Hall and at 1:30 p.m. Jan. 6 in 206 Education Building.

No prior registration is required. Any questions or requests for further details may be directed to Julie Baker at jbaker@bgsu.edu.

Read about attempted PeopleSoft takeover

The December update for the BG@100 project is available on the project home Web page at <http://www.bgsu.edu/BGat100>. The update includes links to two letters recently received from PeopleSoft regarding the hostile takeover attempt by Oracle. Any questions or comments regarding the project may be directed to BGat100@bgsu.edu.

CALENDAR

Thursday, Dec. 16

Gals' Grading Group, for faculty and graduate instructors, 11 a.m.-4 p.m., 107 Hanna Hall. Drinks provided, bring snacks to share.

Holiday Open House, hosted by President and Mrs. Ribeau, with the Blue Square Saxophone Quartet and multicultural holiday displays, 3-5 p.m., McFall Center Gallery.

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Friday, Dec. 17

Board of Trustees, 1:45 p.m., 308 Union Graduate College and Firelands Commencement with speaker Michael French, Division of Teaching and Learning, 7 p.m., Anderson Arena, Memorial Hall.

Saturday, Dec. 18

Undergraduate Commencement, with speaker Michael French, Division of Teaching and Learning, 10 a.m., Anderson Arena, Memorial Hall.

Continuing Events

Through Dec. 18

Planetarium Show, "Secret of the Star." Shows are at 8 p.m. Tuesday and Friday, 7:30 p.m. Sunday, and 2 p.m. Saturday.

\$1 donation suggested.

Through Jan. 18

Art Exhibition, 55th annual Faculty and Staff Exhibition, Dorothy Uber Bryan Gallery, Fine Arts Center. Gallery hours are 10 a.m.- 4 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday and 1-4 p.m. Sundays. Closed Wednesday (Dec. 15) through Jan. 12 for winter recess.

Through Jan. 18

Art Exhibition, "Design Migrations: UniGraphics' Best," curated by Paul Obringer, UniGraphics director, designer and instructor, Willard Wankelman Gallery, Fine Arts Center. Gallery hours are 10 a.m.- 4 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday and 1-4 p.m. Sundays. Closed Wednesday (Dec. 15) through Jan. 12 for winter recess.

JOB POSTINGS

FACULTY

There were no job postings 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.

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

View job descriptions at: www.bgsu.edu/offices/ohr/employment/BGSU_only/

The deadline for employees to apply for the following positions is 1 p.m. Friday, Dec. 17.

Secretary 2 (C-133-Ve)—Institute for the Study of Culture and Society. Pay grade 7. Twelve-month, part-time position.

Secretary 2 (C-134-Ve)—International Studies. Pay grade 7. Twelve-month, part-time position.

Storekeeper 2 (C-135-Ve)—University Bookstore. Pay grade 7. Twelve-month, full-time position.

The following position is advertised on and off campus.

Secretary 2 (C-128-Re)—Romance Languages-AYA Program Offices. Pay grade 7. Twelve-month, part-time position. Deadline: 1 p.m. Friday, Dec. 17.

ADMINISTRATIVE

View job descriptions at: www.bgsu.edu/offices/ohr/employment/adm_staff/

Assistant Director (C-130)—Center for Teaching, Learning and Technology. Administrative grade 16. Deadline: Dec. 17.

Technology Project Specialist (V-132)—College of Arts and Sciences and Information Technology Services. Administrative grade 13. Deadline: Dec. 17.

Data Warehouse Analyst (R-139)—Office of the Chief Information Officer. Administrative grade 13. Deadline: Dec. 24.

Digital Asset Analyst (R-137 and R-139)—Instructional Media Services (two positions). Administrative grade 12. Deadline: Dec. 24.



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Web Applications Developer (V-134)—Information Technology Services. Administrative grade 14. Deadline: Dec. 24.

Associate Director of Academic Affairs (V-140)—University Honors Program. Administrative grade 15. Deadline: Dec. 31.

Registrar (V-131)—Registration and Records. Administrative grade 19. Deadline: Jan. 10.

Senior Associate Director (V-119)—University Dining Services. Review of applications began Nov. 15 and will continue until the position is filled.

Manager, University Dining Services (V-035)—Division of Student Affairs (Re-advertised). Two positions, administrative grade 12. Review of applications began Aug. 6 and will continue until the positions are filled.

OBITUARY

Delbert Karnes, 71, associate professor emeritus of business education, died Nov. 10 in Naples, Florida. He taught at the University from 1970-84.

Ilo Evans, 94, died Nov. 14 in Burns, Ore. She was a dining services employee from 1966-72.

Gertrude Sparks, 88, died Dec. 1 in Bowling Green. She worked in dining services for 38 years, retiring in 1981.

Lillian Lance, 92, died Dec. 2 in Weston. She worked in dining services from 1966-74.

Lois "Sunde" Crabtree, 78, died Dec. 4 in Bowling Green. She left the University in 1973 after working many years as a clerk-typist.