Online degree program delivers coursework to students' desktops

A Buddhist saying goes "The teacher will appear when the student is ready." If the Advanced Technological Education degree program at BGSU is any indication, the "teacher" is appearing for a growing number of students.

ATE is an online, degree-completion program aimed at adults who have an applied associate degree and work experience in business, industry or education. The program, a collaboration between the College of Technology and Interactive Distance Education for All Learners (IDEAL), Continuing and Extended Education's distance education unit, represents a natural evolution from the previous program, which used interactive video and required students to come to a central location for class.

"It enables us to offer a College of Technology degree to working adults who can't come to Bowling Green," said faculty member Bonnie Fink, visual communication and technology education. "Typically our students are ages 35-50, with families, and need the four-year degree to advance in their careers. We have everybody from firefighters, radiation therapists and information technology specialists to people who work in heating and air conditioning and the tool and die business, for example.

The strength of the degree was a factor in BGSU's recent accreditation for distance learning through the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools. Online coursework is tied into the standard learning outcomes of the University with the same expectations of students, Fink said. Critical thinking, research, writing and problem solving are incorporated in the online courses just as they are in traditional classes, she explained.

Bruce Edwards, associate dean for distance education, noted, "The ATE program serves as a good model for other online degree-completion programs here at BGSU."

"Everyone knows BGSU for its really good undergraduate programs," Fink added. "I hope now they will know us as having high-quality distance education programs."

The program is designed to allow students to transfer easily with an associate degree. Articulation agreements with other colleges have been developed, and students telecommute from many counties in Ohio. Others participate from as far away as California and Georgia.

"Through distance learning we can provide more Ohioans the opportunity to earn a bachelor's degree," Fink said. Courses run throughout the year, and students may enter the program at any point. There are about 180 students enrolled now, taught by five faculty members and a doctoral student.

William Balzer, associate vice president and dean of Continuing and Extended Education, gives much of the credit for the program to Larry Hatch, chair of the VCTE department, and Edwards, in addition to the participating faculty.

The ATE curriculum includes 10 core courses from the College of Technology. Depending on their associate degree programs' curriculum, students select from a number of online general education classes to round out their studies and meet the University's bachelor's degree requirements. Because ATE is a technology degree, co-ops are required, but since the students are already working, that is easily arranged, Fink said.

With students in so many different fields of work, the online discussions can become very lively, participants said, with everyone bringing his or her own perspective to the topic and sharing examples from individual areas of expertise. The program uses Blackboard for
Several BGSU staff are enrolled in the program, which allows students to work from home, at their own pace, taking as many or as few classes as they can manage at a time. Amy West, administrative assistant in marketing and communications, varies her course load to accommodate family and work demands, sometimes taking only one and other times two courses per semester.

Kerry Foster, administrative secretary to Executive Vice President Linda Dobb, on the other hand, is eager to finish her degree by December and is taking three classes this semester. "I have young children who still go to bed early, so I can work at night and on weekends," she said. "I feel that having that bachelor’s degree will open so many doors to me, even here at the University. It just makes sense, if you’re working at a university, to take advantage of all it has to offer."

Rhonda Hogrefe, a personnel technician in Human Resources, said the flexibility of the program has worked perfectly for her. As an active community member with two part-time jobs in addition to her University position, her free time is limited. "Having the College of Technology working with Continuing Education—that's the combination that makes this work," she said. "I think a lot of people in the program are doing something we’ve wanted to do for a long time and finishing something we didn’t have time to finish before."

She is also a prime example of the "teacher appearing" theory: One day she took a phone call at Human Resources from someone asking about the ATE program, and, in helping the caller learn about it, "I found the answer to what I needed."

Like other ATE students, she said the required classes in adult learning styles, technological systems in society, computer-mediated communication and transformational learning and technical change have proved both helpful and applicable to her job.

"This lends itself to what I do," she said. "I love working with Human Resources, the University’s Career Center and Student Services. The classes give us insight into how people think, how we work as a group and how technology affects our jobs, our perceptions and our thought processes. For instance, how is PeopleSoft going to impact the University?"

Fink noted that a goal of the program is to help students learn to be leaders in technological change.

Kenneth McCrelght, a 53-year-old program manager and instructor in applied industrial technology at Cuyahoga Community College, said that after 20 years of teaching and developing coursework and curricula, he had come to the realization that "there’s always something more to learn. But I wanted to learn it from people with my background in technology. The BGSU program has been fabulous. I love the faculty there. My adviser, Burr Shilling, has been excellent, as have my instructors Dave Heiser and Jim Bradford."

Like several others in the program, he says he plans to go on for a master’s degree.

ATE reflects society’s advancing technological involvement, Hogrefe noted. "From banking to bill paying to manufacturing—it's all technology-driven today. I hope through getting this degree we can help people open themselves up to change so that when it happens they can be right there with it or even ahead of it."

BGSU to remember tsunami victims in words, song

The University will commemorate the lives lost in the devastating Dec. 26 tsunami in south Asia with a campus observance at 4 p.m. Thursday (Feb. 10) in 101 Olscamp Hall.

The event, which is open to the public, will include reflections by two BGSU graduate
The BGSU Collegiate Chorale will perform three numbers during the observance, which will open and close with the striking of the Kusuma Sari, a bronze gong from the University’s gamelan (a group of instruments made together).

Dr. David Hamlish, ethnomusicology, will strike the gong 11 times to symbolize the 11 countries directly affected by the tsunami. The Kusuma Sari, or Inner Flower, was forged in Bali, Indonesia—one of the nations hardest hit—and is the same kind of gong found in Sumatra, Indonesia, where Aceh and North Sumatra provinces were among the areas most tragically affected.

Each representing the BGSU Department of Biological Sciences, the three speakers from India include Arup Chakraborty, who is also president of the University's World Student Association and will discuss the global impact of the tsunami; Dr. Ravindra Kolhe, a medical doctor who will relate his experiences as part of the relief effort, and Dr. Vincent Therasisathan, a post-doctoral faculty fellow who will look to the future of the impacted area.

Providing spiritual reflections will be Dr. Achahn Chuen Pangcham, from the Midwest Buddhist Meditation Center in Warren, Mich.; Imam Farooq Aboelzahab, from the Islamic Center of Greater Toledo; Temple Priest Anant Dhot, from the Hindu Temple of Toledo, and the Rev. Ken Morman and Sister Mary Kuhlman, both from St. Thomas More University Parish in Bowling Green.

Directed by Dr. Mark Munson, music education, the Collegiate Chorale will perform “Motherless Child,” an African-American spiritual arranged by Adolphus Hailstork and featuring soloists Chris Watkins and Renée Schwarz; “Frohe dich nicht (Fear Not),” by Bach, and “Set Me As a Seal,” by René Clausen.

Dr. William Balzer, associate vice president and dean of Continuing and Extended Education, will give introductory remarks. A moment of silence will also be observed, directed by program hosts Alex Wright, president of Undergraduate Student Government (USG), and Luke Nichter, president of Graduate Student Senate (GSS).

USG, GSS and the World Student Association are sponsoring the program along with the Center for International Programs, Office of Campus Involvement and the College of Musical Arts.

Campus community aids tsunami victims

Though it happened halfway around the world, those who lost their loved ones, homes, businesses and schools as a result of the Dec. 26 tsunami remain in the minds of the BGSU community. Some 100 University students are from the 11-nation region directly affected by the tsunami.

When classes resumed in January, campus community members came together to make plans to assist relief operations. They immediately began collecting donations that are being channeled to the affected nations through the local chapter of the American Red Cross.

The World Student Association, Center for International Programs and Office of Campus Involvement have sold red wristbands stamped with the words “Relieve, Recover, Rebuild” for a minimum donation of $3 each.

Coupled with fund-raising activities at BGSU basketball games and at the Bowen-Thompson Student Union, the efforts have raised more than $3,500, according to Erin Hachtel of the Red Cross.
Alumna who chronicled women sports pioneers is honored as one

Dr. Janis Taylor chronicled the first female professional baseball players on film several years before they were featured in the movie "A League of Their Own."

Last weekend, Taylor was among the BGSU alumni recognized by the University as women sports pioneers in their own right.

Roughly 800 female students played competitive sports at BGSU before women's athletics received varsity status on campus in 1977. About 215 of them returned to receive varsity letters at a Feb. 4 banquet and ceremony. They were also introduced at the women's basketball game versus Ohio University the next day in Anderson Arena.

The University recognized their contributions during "Women and Sport: Before, During, and After Title IX," a five-day symposium celebrating women in athletics.

"Every university and college needs to consider giving this type of recognition to pre-Title IX athletes," said Taylor, who graduated from BGSU in 1971 with a bachelor's degree in health and physical education.

During her college years, she played volleyball, basketball, field hockey and softball—the sport on which she focused after being "crushed" to learn at age 11 that "girls don't play baseball."

"When I was 15, a woman by the name of Katie Horstman joined our softball team," Taylor remembered. "She said that she had played baseball when she was 16. Of course, I said what everybody had said to me, "No, you didn't; girls don't play baseball."

But Horstman, a player in the All American Girls Professional Baseball League from 1951-54, made a believer of Taylor on their team's next practice day, bringing scrapbooks with newspaper stories about, and photos of, women playing baseball.

"Just to know that somewhere, at some time, women DID play baseball and got paid for it made all the difference to that little 15-year-old kid," recalled Taylor, who also earned a master's degree in college student personnel from BGSU, in 1973.

She went on to pursue a Ph.D. in film and broadcasting, eventually receiving the degree from Northwestern University in 1985. That same year, her former softball team, the Oxford (Ohio) Merchants, reunited to host a state tournament in Hamilton. She returned for the event, as did Horstman, who told her, "Jan, the All American Girls are reorganizing and having a reunion in Fort Wayne. You've got to come and make a documentary."

With the help of funding from Northwestern, where she had become an assistant professor of radio/television/film, Taylor produced "When Diamonds Were a Girl's Best Friend" in 1986. Released in 1987, it was followed by "When Dreams Come True" in 1989. The short documentaries were reviewed for setting of mood and some narrative aspects, she said, by producers of "A League of Their Own," the 1992 film that told the story of the AAGPBL's birth during World War II.

Taylor moved on to Northern Kentucky University in 1990, becoming an associate professor of communication. After retiring, she was granted emeritus status in 1999—the same year she took her current job as an administrator at Graifville, an environmental, education and retreat center in Loveland, Ohio.

More than 30 years removed from graduation, the Oxford resident was excited to come back to Bowling Green for the ceremonies honoring those who paved the way for today's women athletes.

"Our professors and coaches were outstanding individuals who influenced and inspired so many young women," Taylor said, noting that returning to BGSU "always feels like coming home."
Community, BGSU celebrate partnerships for mutual benefit

From literacy projects to environmental awareness efforts, the winners of this year's partnership support grants given by Partnerships for Community Action and the Center for Innovative and Transformative Education will be honored Wednesday (Feb. 8). This year's theme is "Reclaiming and Revitalizing Public Education: Threats, Rights and Responsibilities."

The 2005 campus participants and their community partners will be introduced at noon in the Lenhart Grand Ballroom in Bowen-Thompson Student Union. Funded projects from 2004 will be on display, and partners will be available to talk about their work. The day's events include a symposium and artistic residency.

Ten mutually beneficial University/community partnerships were funded for a total of $44,814. The projects, their partners and the amounts awarded are:

- Bringing Books to Life: Engaging School-age Students in Book Reviewing—Sara Bushong, BGSU Libraries; Stacey Osborn, English; Kathy East, Wood County District Public Library, and Amy Laukhuf-Fish, Otsego Middle School, $4,550. The project introduces area educators and librarians to BGSU's Children's Book Center in the Curriculum Resource Center, Jerome Library. In conjunction with area schoolchildren and students in BGSU's English 342 course, a substantial number of exceptional picture books will be explored, critiqued and reviewed during an artist-in-residence series.

- Cultural Awareness for At-Risk Youth—Sandra DiCarlo, student and campus activities coordinator, BGSU Firelands, and Ben Youkowitz, Erie County Juvenile Detention Center, $3,200. The program's design is to give at-risk youth greater access to education concerning cultural awareness. It is also a bridge connecting BGSU Firelands students, by way of the opportunity to share their knowledge, with the at-risk youth at the Erie County Juvenile Detention Center.

- "Educating the Jurors" Media Campaign—Deidra Bennett, Women's Center; Amy Dugan, Student Health Service; Colleen Busboom, BGSU interpersonal communication/marketing student; Julie Broadwell, Behavioral Connections of Wood County; Gary Bishop, Wood County Prosecutor's Office; Sandra Carsey, Wood County Job and Family Services, and Lauri Conkey, Wood County Hospital, $4,975. Targeted to reach all persons of voting age in Wood County, "Educating the Jurors" is a countywide media campaign to reach potential jurors and raise awareness about the types of sexual assaults most common in today's society.

- Family House Service-Learning Project—Gordon Ricketts, School of Art; Autumn Beechler, BGSU art major; Dr. Tom Klein, professor emeritus, Chapman Learning Community, and Janet Hill, Family House of Toledo, $4,844. The project involves faculty and students with the staff and residents of the Family House homeless shelter in Toledo. The alliance between these diverse groups provides cultural awareness while promoting personal growth.

- First Steps: A Children's Dance Experience—Tammyann Metz Starr, human movement, sport and leisure studies (HMSLS), and Jennifer Jarrett, the Toledo Ballet Association, $4,727. Working in eight kindergarten classrooms of three Toledo Public Schools, BGSU dance education students will assist Toledo Ballet instructors and document the curriculum utilized in the Toledo Ballet's First Steps program. The finished curriculum will
The students update the University. The University moves toward the Bowen-Thompson fellowship preceding the date of June 27. With the first BG@100 “Go Live” date of June 27 moving closer, all faculty, staff, and students are invited to a BG@100 open forum to learn more about the project. The forum will be held at 2 p.m. Feb. 15 in 314 Bowen-Thompson Student Union. A project update and time for questions and answers will be included.
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<td>Monday, Feb. 7</td>
<td><strong>ART Talks Presentation.</strong> &quot;What's New?: A Museum Director's Perspective,&quot; with Don Bacigalupi, president, director and CEO, Toledo Museum of Art, 6 p.m., 1101 Fine Arts Center.</td>
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<td>Tuesday, Feb. 8</td>
<td><strong>Ceramics Organization Lecture,</strong> by Stephen Grimm, Southern Illinois University-Carbondale, and Steve Godfrey, University of Alaska Anchorage, 9 p.m., 204 Fine Arts Center. Call 2-3836 for further information.</td>
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<td>Wednesday, Feb. 9</td>
<td><strong>Interior Design Master Lecture.</strong> &quot;Creating Assisted-Living Environments to Help People with Alzheimer’s Disease,&quot; with Dr. John Zeisel, president and co-founder of Hearthstone Alzheimer Care, 9:30 a.m., 203 Bowen-Thompson Student Union. For more information, call Joy Pothoff at 2-7847.</td>
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<td>Thursday, Feb. 10</td>
<td><strong>Brown Bag Lunch.</strong> &quot;Winter Blues—Seasonal Affective Disorder,&quot; with Cindy Puffer, Student Health Service, noon-1 p.m., 107 Hanna Hall.</td>
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<td>Friday, Feb. 11</td>
<td><strong>Lecture.</strong> &quot;Why is Contemporary Art So Weird?&quot; presented by Richard Vine, managing editor, Art in America magazine, 6 p.m., 204 Fine Arts Center.</td>
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<td>Saturday, Feb. 12</td>
<td><strong>BGSU Philharmonia Concert,</strong> featuring the winners of the 38th annual Competitions in Music Performance, 8 p.m., Kobacker Hall, Moore Musical Arts Center. Tickets are $5 for students and senior citizens and $8 for other adults, and can be reserved by calling 2-8171.</td>
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<td>Sunday, Feb. 13</td>
<td><strong>Women’s Gymnastics vs. Western Michigan,</strong> 2 p.m., Epler Center.</td>
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<td>Monday, Feb. 14</td>
<td><strong>Music at the Forefront,</strong> featuring Daniel Lipshitz, guitar, 8 p.m., Bryan Recital Hall, Moore Musical Arts Center. Sponsored by the College of Musical Arts’ Midamerican Center for Contemporary Music.</td>
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Cornell University, 8-10 p.m., 101 Olsccamp Hall.

Continuing Events
Feb. 9
The 2005 Grant Launch, Symposium and Artistic Residency, "Reclaiming and Revitalizing Public Education: Threats, Rights, and Responsibilities." sponsored by Partnerships for Community Action and the Center for Innovative and Transformative Education, 11 a.m.-10 p.m. Events include:
• PCACITE Partnership Support Grant Launch, 11 a.m.-1:15 p.m., 201 Union.
• Symposium, 1:30-4 p.m., 201 Union.
• Discussion Café, 4:30-7 p.m., 201 Union.

Feb. 15-March 2
Art Exhibition, annual Undergraduate Art and Design Exhibition, Dorothy Uber Bryan

JOB POSTINGS

FACULTY
There were no postings this week.

Contact the Office of Human Resources at 419-372-6421 for information regarding classified and administrative positions. Position vacancy announcements may be viewed by visiting the HR Web site at www.bgsu.edu/offices/hr.

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/hr/employment/BGSU_only/

The following position is advertised on and off campus:
Custodial Worker (C-003-RF)—Facilities Services. Pay grade 2. Part time—6:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. Deadline: 1 p.m. Friday, Feb. 11.

ADMINISTRATIVE
View job descriptions at: www.bgsu.edu/offices/hr/employment/admin_staff/

Director, Student Technology Center (V-008)—Office of the Chief Information Officer. Administrative grade 17. Deadline: Feb. 11.

Assistant Athletic Director for Financial Affairs (R-009)—Intercollegiate Athletics. Administrative grade 16. Review of applications will begin Feb. 14 and continue until the position is filled.


Executive Assistant to the Dean (R-010)—College of Arts and Sciences. Administrative grade 14. Deadline: Feb. 18.

Psychologist (V-147)—Counseling Center liaison to the College of Arts and Sciences.
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Manager, University Dining Services (V-118)—Student Affairs (re-advertised). Review of applications began Nov. 15 and will continue until the position is filled.

Coordinator for Greek Affairs (V-145)—Student Affairs (re-advertised). Administrative grade 12. Review of applications began Aug. 6 and will continue until the position is filled.

Residence Hall Director (V-013)—Residence Life. Administrative grade 13. Review of applications will continue until the position is filled.

Obituary

There were no obituaries this week.