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Monitor Newsletter July 25, 2005

Bowling Green State University

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U.S. Department of Education grant backs BGSU fight with high-risk drinking

BGSU is among 20 colleges and universities—and the only one in Ohio—to be awarded a U.S. Department of Education grant aimed at preventing high-risk drinking or violent behavior among college students.

One of 155 applicants nationwide, BGSU received the maximum \$300,000 award for a two-year project expanding the University's efforts to reduce student high-risk drinking, defined as having five or more alcoholic drinks in a sitting more than once in a two-week period.

Although that definition applied for about 56 percent of BGSU students surveyed in a biennial American College Health Association assessment last fall, the percentage has dropped by 5.6 percent since 2000. Contributing to the reduction has been what's called a social norms approach, which has been used since 1997 in an attempt to change student attitudes and behaviors and the campus social environment.

Pointing out that student perception of alcohol consumption by peers is much higher than reality is an example of the social norms approach, which will remain a primary part of the overall strategy. In response to that approach, less frequent high-risk drinkers have indicated they have changed their habits or are considering doing so, but "those who are the highest-risk drinkers pay little or no attention to the social norm message," said Dr. Terry Rentner, journalism department chair and director of the new grant project.

Falling into the highest-risk category are first-year students, athletes and members of fraternities and sororities, all of whom will be targets of the secondary strategies that are key to the project.

Each of those groups will be required to complete AlcoholEdu, an interactive, online prevention program aimed at such populations of students. Created by Outside The Classroom, a Needham, Mass.-based company, the course combines prevention strategies with science-based alcohol education in an effort to motivate behavior change; alter unrealistic expectations about the effects of alcohol; link choices about drinking to academic and personal success, and help students make safer, healthier decisions about alcohol.

Barbara Hoffman, health promotion coordinator at the Wellness Connection and coordinator of the grant project, said support will be needed from collaborating campus areas—including athletics, Greek affairs and the BGeXperience program—to ensure students complete AlcoholEdu.

Some fraternities and sororities are requiring the program for their members from the national level, she added, noting that it assesses students' behavior before and after they take the course.

The other new strategy in the University's integrated approach is training of Student Health Service and Wood County Hospital Emergency Room staff, as well as campus and city police and other BGSU representatives, to deal with alcohol poisoning. Bowling Green is the first university to receive grant funds to implement National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism guidelines for health care providers. They will be trained to use the guidelines for engaging students with an alcohol problem and referring them to a Wellness Connection counselor for help.

"The key is engaging," said Rentner, whose campaign against high-risk drinking at BGSU has been backed since 1997 with yearly \$25,000 grants from the Ohio Department of Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services. The University received an additional \$76,292 from the U.S. Department of Education in 1999 for what the department deemed one of seven model programs in

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the nation.

The new federal award will help BGSU serve as a model for others, too, in terms of the effectiveness of social norming, AlcoholEdu, and campus and community training, Rentner said.

"Social norms programming in itself is not the magic bullet," she pointed out, citing the importance of complementary strategies.

Considering the continuing influx of new students, Hoffman added, an effective fight against alcohol abuse on campus requires workable policy and a coalition with the city. She co-chairs—and Rentner is a member of—the University Committee on Alcohol and Other Drug Issues, which also includes community representatives.

"It helps when you have a lot of people coming together to discuss the issue," Hoffman said. "Ultimately, all of this affects retention (of students at BGSU)."

And progress, said Rentner, "is a slow change, but any health behavior is going to be a slow change."

IMPACT students show mastery of critical thinking, moral reasoning

As founder and director of the IMPACT Learning Community, Dr. Neil Browne felt that the students in the community were doing well, but the results of two recent formal assessments have amazed even him.

IMPACT centers around two skills: critical thinking and moral reasoning, Browne explained. In addition to annual self-evaluations, every three years the program conducts a major assessment of student learning using methods familiar to and accepted by the broader community of scholars. The students' performance on this year's external assessments demonstrated that they epitomize the University's emphasis on critical thinking skills and values exploration.

Last spring, IMPACT students' scores on the California Test of Critical Thinking averaged in the 97th percentile. When the results and analysis were returned they included a note from Dr. Peter Facione, the test's developer, that said, "These results are amazing. This is the highest mean score for any undergraduate group we have ever sampled since the inception of this test. Congratulations to your students."

"That's about as good of an endorsement as you can get," Browne said proudly.

The California Test of Critical Thinking is one of the three most widely regarded national measures of critical thinking. Facione, provost of Loyola University of Chicago, is a former BGSU philosophy department chair who is internationally known for his work in critical thinking.

When asked if the students were surprised by their outstanding results, Browne said "They were extraordinarily surprised. While these tests don't match exactly with what we're trying to do, they're a pretty good fit and to do this well really surprised them."

IMPACT students also scored exceptionally high in a recent assessment of their moral reasoning. They took the Defining Issues Test (DIT), one of the foremost measures of people's ability to use moral orientations to solve ethical dilemmas. Based upon Kohlberg's cognitive-developmental theory of moral reasoning, it rates stages of moral development. The highest level of achievement on the DIT is called "post-conventional."

"Thirty-eight students took the test, and 15 scored, according to the official results from the DIT coordinators, at the level of a graduate student in philosophy specializing in ethics," Browne said. "And every one of the IMPACT students scored in the post-conventional stage of moral development."

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Students participating in the assessment had been in the IMPACT program for a year and a half to four years.

In addition to the two tests, the program invited four external reviewers to campus to evaluate students' critical thinking abilities through observing two days of discussions on two topics: the writing of Arthur Miller and written arguments about partial birth abortion.

The evaluators, who included a philosophy professor from Florida, an ethics professor from Michigan, a California attorney who has written a business ethics text and numerous professional articles about critical thinking, and a representative from Procter and Gamble concerned with ethics. Following their observations, they provided an analysis of IMPACT members' performance.

The reviewers commented on the students' remarkable engagement with the topics and with learning in general, and on their demonstration, as one wrote, of "higher-order thinking skills: analysis, synthesis and evaluation. The IMPACT students demonstrated that, as a whole, they have mastered these skills." Another wrote that BGSU students are "performing extremely well across the measures of critical thinking."

IMPACT's focus on critical thinking has played a part in its students' success in the National Mock Trial championships. Two-thirds of BGSU's Mock Trial team members are also IMPACT members.

"Out of 555 teams, we wound up 23rd," Browne said, adding that BGSU's success comes despite its being at an "extraordinary disadvantage" in having to compete against universities such as Miami that have million-dollar endowments and several coaches.

Still, Bowling Green has now been invited to participate in two competitions for Top 20 teams for the 2005-06 season and plans to continue. "It's great experience for students in pre-law or communications," Browne explained.

Now entering its fifth year, IMPACT, which stands for Integrating Moral Principles and Critical Thinking, is a living-learning community located in Offenauer Towers. Members can be in any discipline, but all share a love of reading—an important quality since much of the learning in the program comes through reading, Browne said.

The students' dedication is evident in their decision to continue their Great Books reading program through the summer. "Twenty-five students chose to do this, which is way above and beyond what's expected," Browne said in amazement. Last week, the group wrapped up its summer reading of Russian books with a 12-hour book-sharing session in a member's apartment.

"The book discussions are probably one of the most popular things we do in IMPACT," said Bethany Nanamaker, a junior from Findlay majoring in political science. "What makes them so appealing is that, even though they have a common theme—we've done French books and Spanish books, a different theme each semester—everyone picks his or her own book, which can come from any discipline.

"Some people are actually coming from out of town to participate in the summer reading," Nanamaker added. The agenda is that the readers split into groups of three and share something about their book and then discuss the selections, looking for commonalities; then the groups rotate.

"When you're in your major, that tends to be all you read," Nanamaker said. "Through the Great Book readings, I've read books I probably would never have gotten to read—in psychology, philosophy and many other areas."

Participants compile lists of books they'd like to read based on their peers' recommendations, she said. "It's fun to do reading that isn't graded," she added.

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Family Campaign helps boost BGSU giving to new high

Fifty-five percent of current and retired faculty and staff participated in the 2005 Family Campaign, helping BGSU move toward its goals for scholarships and capital improvements.

The level of participation in the annual campaign was the greatest ever, according to campaign directors, and speaks highly of the campus community's commitment to the University.

Contributions to BGSU reached \$14.9 million during the fiscal year that ended June 30. That figure compares to \$11.7 million donated to the University the previous year and sets a new annual record for private giving to BGSU.

"It's clear that our supporters understand the need for private dollars to sustain and enhance the University's offerings," said J. Douglas Smith, vice president for University advancement. "They share our desire to see Bowling Green succeed in providing a quality education for students, regardless of their financial resources."

"I'm delighted we set new records in virtually every category, ranging from alumni and community members to our own faculty and staff, who gave \$982,566 versus last year's \$935,499," added Marcia Sloan Latta, associate vice president for University advancement and director of development. "It's amazing to think that participation by faculty, staff and retirees has more than doubled in six years."

For the first time this year, administrative staff giving was the highest of any constituent group, followed by retirees, faculty, classified staff and other donors.

Corporate, business and foundation gifts to the University were up this year as well, and a number of alumni and friends of the University offered significant gifts.

Building Dreams: The Centennial Campaign for Bowling Green State University had raised \$79.5 million toward the \$120 million goal as of June 30.

In addition to capital improvement projects, funding is being sought for a variety of programs and areas, including BGeXperience: Vision and Values, WBGU-TV, the President's Leadership Academy and endowed scholarships.

Approximately 280 new scholarships have been established since the beginning of the campaign in July 2002. Leadership gifts at the \$1 million level and above also have been pledged for the Dallas-Hamilton Center for Entrepreneurial Leadership, the Sebo Athletic Center and the Wolfe Center for the Arts.

'Guys and Dolls' winds up Huron Playhouse season

The Huron Playhouse ends its 2005 season this week with "Guys and Dolls," considered by many to be the perfect musical comedy, and one of the most famous ever written for the American stage.

Set in Damon Runyon's mythical New York City, the story of gamblers, gangsters and girls includes the memorable characters Sky Masterson and Nathan Detroit, first-class gamblers; Miss Sarah Brown, the upright "mission doll"; Miss Adelaide, the loveable, long-engaged nightclub performer, and many more. The award-winning musical boasts a rousing score, including such hits as "Luck Be a Lady" and "Sit Down, You're Rockin' the Boat."

"Guys and Dolls," runs Tuesday-Saturday (July 26-30). Performances are at 8 p.m. nightly in the McCormick School, 325 Ohio St., Huron. Tickets are \$11 for students and senior citizens, \$12 for other adults and \$8 for children under 12. For reservations, call 419-433-4744.

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Scholarships are at fore of classified golf outing

The 2005 Classified Staff Council golf outing was a hole-in-one. With all team spaces filled, last month's outing raised about \$3,500 for scholarships.

Classified staff scholarships are awarded annually to classified staff employees, their spouses or their dependents who are currently enrolled at BGSU and have achieved a minimum 2.4 grade point average.

Through last year's team fees and the donation of raffle prizes by campus and community members, Classified Staff Council was able to award 18, \$250 scholarships this spring—two more than in 2004.

IN BRIEF

W. Heinlen Hall Lecture Series to focus on photochemistry

Dr. Michael J. Therien, the Alan G. MacDiarmid Professor of Chemistry at the University of Pennsylvania, will present this year's W. Heinlen Hall Lecture Series next week (Aug. 2-5). All lectures are at 3:30 p.m. in 123 Overman Hall. (See calendar for specific topics.)

Therien's research is concerned primarily with mechanistic studies of charge transfer reactions as well as the biomimetic chemistry of light harvesting and small molecule activation. Electron and energy transfer processes impact a vast number of research areas of modern chemistry. Detailed understanding of these reactions is not only important from a theoretical but represents important first steps toward the development of both new solar energy storage technologies and molecular electronic devices.

The researcher in inorganic and bioinorganic chemistry received his bachelor of science degree from the University of California-Los Angeles in 1982 and his Ph.D. from the University of California-San Diego in 1987.

The annual Hall lecture series was established in honor of W. Heinlen Hall, a professor of chemistry at BGSU from 1936-71, who served as chair of the department through a period of extraordinary University growth. The lectureship presents the world's leading research chemists to students in chemistry, with the goal of exposing Bowling Green undergraduate and graduate students to thinking in chemistry at the frontiers, and to introduce them to intellectual leaders.

Additional eHire training sessions scheduled

Additional training sessions for using the online hiring component of PeopleSoft (eHire) have been scheduled for the following dates:

- Tuesday (July 26) from 9-10:30 a.m. in 208 Bowen-Thompson Student Union
- Wednesday (July 27) from 2- 3:30 pm in 208 Union
- Thursday, Aug. 11, from 2-3:30 pm in 208 Union

The PeopleSoft version of eHire requires the completion of special security access forms, which will be distributed during training. If you are responsible for completing or coordinating the student-employee hiring paperwork for your department (more than one or two students each year), you could benefit from using PeopleSoft eHire, which provides immediate feedback regarding students' employment status and the ability to track the progress of your hiring transactions.

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If you plan to attend either session, send an email message to Kriss Ferluga (krisf@bgnnet) or Jen Sader (jsader@bgnnet), trainers for the PeopleSoft project. Space is limited to 24 per session.

CALENDAR

Monday, July 25

Sundaes on Mondays, noon-1 p.m. (or while supplies last), Falcon's Nest, Bowen-Thompson Student Union. Sponsored by Union Programming.

Tuesday, July 26

BG@100 eHire Application Demonstration, 9-10:30 a.m., 208 Union. Used by those hiring student employees, eHire allows the employer to track the status of student hires and department-wide hiring activity.

Weight Watchers @ Work, noon-1 p.m., 314 Union. Sponsored by Union Programming.

Movie, "Are We There Yet?", 9 p.m., Union Theater. Sponsored by the Office of Campus Involvement.

Wednesday, July 27

Grilling on the Green, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m., outside the Falcon's Nest, Union. Sponsored by University Dining Services.

BG@100 eHire Application Demonstration, 2-3:30 p.m., 208 Union. See above.

Dissertation Defense, "A Phan-Type Theorem for Orthogonal Groups," by Adam Roberts, mathematics and statistics, 3:45 p.m., 459 Mathematical Sciences Building.

Thursday, July 28

Cedar Point Trip, 8 a.m., \$25 (BGSU affiliates) or \$27 (guest of BGSU affiliates). Cost includes round-trip transportation and ticket. For more information, contact the Office of Campus Involvement at 2-2343.

Monday, Aug. 1

Bingo, noon, Falcon's Nest, Union. Sponsored by Union Programming.

Continuing Events

Monday, July 25, and Tuesday, July 26

Open Auditions, "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory," 9-11:30 a.m., College Caryl Crane Children's Theatre, BGSU Firelands. For more information, call Dr. Ronald M. Ruble at 419-433-4744, or at home at 419-433-3820.

July 26-30

Summer Theatre, "Guys and Dolls," 8 p.m., Huron Playhouse, McCormick School, 325 Ohio St., Huron. For ticket information and reservations, call the box office at 419-433-4744.

Aug. 1-5

BGeXperience Faculty Workshops, 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., 309 and 318 Union.

Aug. 2-5

BGeXperience Faculty Workshops, 8 a.m.-12:30 p.m., 308 Union.

Through September 4

Art Exhibition, "Songs of Remembrance", 7 a.m.-7 p.m. Monday through Saturday through August 14; times may vary Monday-Sunday thereafter, 130 Union.

JOB POSTINGS

FACULTY

Visual Communication and Technology Education. Instructor. Call the department, 2-2437. Deadline: Aug. 1.

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

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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 to apply for the following position, which is open to BGSU employees only, is 1 p.m. Friday, July 29.

Secretary 1 (R-000017)—Office of Residence Life. Pay grade 6. Twelve-month, full-time position.

The following positions are advertised on and off campus:

Secretary 1 (R-000011)—University Advancement. Pay grade 6. Twelve-month, part-time position, 18 hours/week. Deadline: 1 p.m. Friday, July 29.

Student Loan Specialist 2—Collection Specialist (V-000016)—Office of the Bursar. Pay grade 7. Twelve-month, full-time position. Deadline: 1 p.m. Friday, Aug. 5.

ADMINISTRATIVE

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

Assistant Director of Student-Athlete Services (V-000003)—Intercollegiate Athletics. Administrative grade 12. Review of applications began July 15 and will continue until the position is filled.

Assistant Director, Cooperative Education and Internship Program (V-066)—Career Center. Administrative grade 15. Deadline: July 26.

Associate Director, Cooperative Education and Internship Program (V-065)—Career Center. Administrative grade 16. Deadline: July 26.

Data Management Coordinator (R-000008)—Psychology. Administrative grade 10. Deadline: July 29.

Recruitment and Data Collection Coordinator (R-000007)—Psychology. Administra-

tive grade 10. Deadline: July 29.

Financial Analyst (R-000006)—Student Affairs. Administrative grade 13. Review of applications will begin Aug. 1 and continue until the position is filled.

Second Assistant Women's Volleyball Coach (R-000004)—Intercollegiate Athletics. Salary is commensurate with experience. Review of applications will begin Aug. 1 and continue until the position is filled.

Director, Student Technology Center (V-000010)—Information Technology Services. Administrative grade 17. Deadline: Aug. 5.

Technology Support Specialist (V-000009)—Information Technology Services. Administrative grade 17. Deadline: Aug. 5.

Assistant Director of Athletic Communications (R-000013)—Intercollegiate Athletics. Salary is commensurate with experience. Review of applications will begin Aug. 12 and continue until the position is filled.

Video Coordinator/Football Operations (R-000012)—Intercollegiate Athletics. Salary is commensurate with experience. Review of applications will begin Aug. 12 and continue until the position is filled.

Associate Director of University Dining Services for Business Affairs (R-000015)—University Dining Services. Administrative grade 16. Deadline: Aug. 19.

Director, Dallas-Hamilton Center for Entrepreneurial Leadership (R-000018)—College of Business Administration. Administrative grade 18. Deadline: Aug. 18.

Associate Director of Residence Life for Business Affairs (V-034)—Office of Residence Life. Administrative grade 16. Review of applications began May 13 and will continue until the position is filled.

Associate Dean of Students (V-038)—Office of Campus Involvement. Administrative grade 18. Review of applications began May 27 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.

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OBITUARY

There were no obituaries this week.