

12-12-2005

## Monitor Newsletter December 12, 2005

Bowling Green State University

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### Recommended Citation

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> **Top Stories**

In Brief

Calendar

Job Postings

Obituaries

## **BGSU students lending a holiday-break hand in Mobile, Ala.**

A group of 52 BGSU students, along with four staff members, will put the spirit of the season into action next week in Mobile, Ala.

Rather than heading home following finals, the students will board a bus to give several days of their holiday break to help Mobile residents still recovering from Hurricane Katrina.

From Dec. 18-21, the student and staff volunteers are scheduled to help tear water-logged flooring and walls out of homes that were flooded by the August hurricane; build a home with Habitat for Humanity; distribute donated toys, and, in smaller groups, spend time one evening with two "adopted" families.

BGSU student government leaders, recalling the Falcon football team's trip to Mobile for the GMAC Bowl last December, suggested that the University adopt the city after Katrina hit. More than \$5,000 was recently raised on campus for the Red Cross there.

"Out of the fund-raising efforts came a decision to do more than send money," said Clinton Stephens, explaining how the idea for the trip was hatched.

Stephens, coordinator of student organization and community service programs in the Office of Campus Involvement, is among the staff members who will be going to Alabama. Others are graduate assistants Adam McCready and Debra Smith, both in campus involvement, and Irene Scott, Disability Services.

Finding undergraduate student volunteers wasn't a problem—on Nov. 9, the first day they could sign up, 34 were waiting outside the office at 8 a.m. Within a week, enough had signed on to fill the charter bus, which will leave Lot 8, north of Offenhauer Towers, at 6 a.m. Dec. 17.

Two of the travelers will be sisters Sara and Kristen Lavery of Mentor. Sara, a junior majoring in education, is assistant chair of BGSUve, a campus-based community service organization.

"I just thought this would be a great experience to do community service on a slightly larger scale" while getting to know and work with others from the campus community, she said.

"Community service isn't about what you want to do; it's about a need," she added. "We're going to do whatever they need us to do."

And while the trip will mean several more days away from home before the holidays, the sisters' parents "were excited about it," Sara said. "My mom was thrilled about it. She said it was a great opportunity and to go for it."

After leaving BGSU, a 15-hour ride will take the volunteers to their base, Camp Pinetreat, a Presbyterian church camp about 37 miles outside Mobile. There, they will sleep in cabins and get three meals per day.

The delegation will tour the city the morning of Dec. 18, then begin its assignments, divided into four teams. Following four days of work, departure is scheduled for 6 p.m. Dec. 21, with arrival on campus expected around noon the next day.

Stephens got a preview of what the group will see in Mobile when he visited the city last week. "I was glad to see a lot of progress had been made," he said, "but I would also say there are many, many more months of work to be done."

## B O W L I N G   G R E E N   S T A T E   U N I V E R S I T Y

> **Top Stories**

In Brief

Calendar

Job Postings

Obituaries

"And the help the students are going to provide to these families is tremendous," he added, pointing out that with no government agency aiding the cleanup, the residents are doing it themselves and with contractors' help. He also noted that while many of them are living with relatives or elsewhere now, "the families will be there while we're doing this work."

Stephens sees the experience as beneficial to the students in several ways. "I think they're going to have more understanding of the importance of community service and civic engagement," he said. "They're going to have a new perspective on tragedies such as this" and can help others see the impact as well.

Preparing the students for what they will encounter was key to a Dec. 3 orientation. Two psychologists who have been in the hurricane-ravaged Gulf Coast area told the BGSU volunteers to expect an emotional impact and to take care of themselves, and each other, Stephens said.

The trip could also be a life-changing experience in terms of career paths, he said, predicting that some students may look into full-time service positions as a result. Representatives of the Volunteer Mobile organization, AmeriCorps\*VISTA (Volunteers in Service to America) and the Red Cross will speak to the students during their dinners.

The campus involvement office is contributing \$10,000 toward the trip, while the participating students are paying \$50 apiece.

**'The People' to mark northwest campus entryway**

By this time next year, drivers passing through the intersection of North College Drive and Poe Road will see a quite different sight than the one that greets them today. In place of the bleak, nondescript area, there will be a public artwork that identifies the site as part of the Great Black Swamp, of the city of Bowling Green and as the northwest entryway to the University.

BGSU's Public Art Committee approached the BGSU Sculpture Club this fall about coming up with a design to beautify the corner. The Wood County Commissioners and the city, also desiring to improve the site, contributed to the project as well.

Three teams of five students studied the situation in a "Poe Road Improvement Project" class taught by Greg Mueller, School of Art. Each came up with a very different concept for the area.

After presentations to a panel of judges that included Dr. Linda Dobb, executive vice president; Bowling Green Mayor John Quinn; Dr. Katerina Rüedi Ray, director of the School of Art, and sculptor Hanna Jubran, a professor from East Carolina University, the winner was announced Nov. 30.

Winning was a project called "The People," a portrait of the community in silhouette. To be created from laser-cut steel and matte-black aluminum, the piece consists of three thin walls set in tinted concrete.

The first, a mural "fence," would replace the battered chain link fence surrounding the Wood County highway garage on the southwest corner. The new fence will be made up of silhouettes of real community people engaged in everyday activities and jobs. The team explained that the intention was to draw the community into the artwork and show the diversity of Bowling Green.

Using computer technology to enlarge photographs taken by the team, the artists will create the silhouettes. "We'll have 300 feet of fence made up of people in the community," said Megan Small, a junior from Wooster majoring in two-dimensional art with an emphasis on drawing.

## B O W L I N G   G R E E N   S T A T E   U N I V E R S I T Y

## &gt; Top Stories

In Brief

Calendar

Job Postings

Obituaries

At the corner, that section will merge into a 12-foot silhouette depicting the Black Swamp. Its lacy design of native plants and animals is based on hundreds of photographs taken by the team and reflects the area's natural history. "We thought that it would be fun to hide little animals in it so that when parents and kids are stopped at the light, the kids can search for them. There's a turtle, a frog, a dragonfly—about 20 animals in all," explained Jason Karas, a junior from Akron majoring in 3-D art with an emphasis in sculpture. "We tried to put a bit of humor into the piece."

The third component is a cityscape of buildings from the area, including the city and University plus the new wind turbines west of Bowling Green.

The walls will be eight feet high, gently rising to the 12-foot Black Swamp design in the main area, where the plan is to eventually have benches around an existing tree. The pieces will be lit at night with low-energy, high-output LED lights.

Working within the confines of the \$20,000 budget, the students showed a good deal of initiative in soliciting donations to the project. Defiance Metal Products has agreed to donate all the steel and aluminum and to do the laser cuts, said Colby Zachrich, a senior from Bryan who is a 3-D art major with an emphasis in ceramics.

Student manpower will be added to the professional labor of concrete pourers and other skilled workers. Commissioner Tim Brown, who attended the presentations, said the county would also provide manpower for the project. "We have a vested interest in beautifying this corner, too," he said.

The other team members are Stephen Williams, a junior from Gibsonburg majoring in 3-D art with an emphasis in sculpture, and Bethany Haeseler, a senior from Sidney majoring in 3-D art with an emphasis in glass and metals.

Together, they studied the area's utility lines and property rights and consulted professionals in the construction trades. As much indoor work as possible will be done this winter, the team said, and then in April the actual construction can begin.

"As much as I tried to prepare them for the project, they still blew me away with all the extra effort they put in," Mueller said of all three teams. "They stepped up to the plate and really showed they are artist-citizens working with the community.

"April will be busy," he predicted.

The projects proposed by the other two teams were "Cyclebowl," a humorous, eye-catching display of giant, neon green bowling pins, and "Sculpture Park," a more pedestrian-oriented plan for a rotating outdoor sculpture garden and seating area.

All three projects can be seen through Jan. 8 in the Student Union Art Gallery. Gallery hours are 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday-Saturday and 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sundays.

**Genetic history of ancient wood revealed in King Midas's tomb**

BGSU biologist Dr. Scott Rogers, along with a Turkish colleague, has made a foray into the tomb of the legendary King Midas, seeking to determine if the huge timbers and logs lining the ancient burial site are Lebanon cedar, or perhaps a variety that has vanished altogether.

While most people are aware of the legend of King Midas—who foolishly wished that everything he touched be turned to gold, only to find to his horror that that included his beloved daughter, his garden and even his food—few realize that there was a real King Midas, who ruled the people of Mushki (known to the Greeks as Phrygia) between about 740 and 696 B.C.

## B O W L I N G   G R E E N   S T A T E   U N I V E R S I T Y

## &gt; Top Stories

In Brief

Calendar

Job Postings

Obituaries

The tomb was discovered in 1959 by a team from the University of Pennsylvania Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology making excavations at the ancient Phrygian capital of Gordion in central Turkey. Described as one of the most spectacular archaeological discoveries of the 20th century, the Midas Mound, now a tourist site, looms over the modern village of Yassihöyük and the village cemetery.

The mound is about 60 meters high and covered with earth and grass atop a heavy layer of rocks. The royal burial chamber is deep underground and, compared with the 100-degree July heat outside, was about 60 degrees, Rogers said. A double wall of tree logs and timbers surrounds the inner chamber, the earliest known intact wooden structure in the world.

Rogers, an expert in ancient DNA and the extraction and preservation of nucleic acids, and Dr. Zeki Kaya, a plant geneticist from the Department of Biological Sciences at Middle East Technical University in Ankara, Turkey, set out to determine if the logs are indeed Taurus, or Lebanon, cedar. Because of its resistance to rot, the highly prized wood was widely used in ships, buildings and tombs for important people in the community.

Extracting the DNA from the 4,000-year-old wood samples they collected has been a long and exacting process, Rogers said. Using sterile scalpels, they cut through many layers to find relatively fresh material, which then had to be decontaminated through a many-step process. "Fungi, mouse and human contaminants are a big problem," he said. The DNA they found was of low concentration and degraded, but using a technique called polymerase chain reaction amplification, they were able to amplify it a million times in five or six hours.

The ancient DNA sequences were compared with available fresh conifer-tissue sequences, and with samples from the GeneBank on the National Center for Biotechnology Information Web site.

Of the 46 samples they looked at, only two turned out to be cedar. "More samples and more DNA sequencing will be required to make a definite identification of the type of wood," he predicted.

The two scientists have submitted an article describing their work and findings to the journal *Silvae Genetica*.

Today there is no Lebanon cedar within 150 kilometers of the burial site, but in King Midas's time it had a broader range, Rogers said.

The study could reveal whether the cedar forest was in fact continuous from north to south, including the Gordion site, but was depleted by overcutting and overgrazing.

"There could have been bad forestry practices then, just as there are today," Rogers offered as a possible explanation for the disappearance of the wood from the area. Also, "humans can take a species down so far that if a disease or a fire comes along, it may become extinct."

The researchers would also like to identify which population of cedar the logs come from and how they were transported to the site.

Unlike the region's former rulers, the Hittites, who kept very careful records of events in their empire, the Phrygians did not, Rogers said, which makes the job of tracking commerce and the use of natural resources more difficult.

Ultimately, if the cedar turns out to be from an extinct population, the alleles, or genetic pairs, could be recovered, write Rogers and Kaya. This might be important to the future of this species.

Rogers and Kaya first met when both were at the State University of New York at Syracuse, where Kaya had a six-month Fulbright fellowship. Rogers may apply for a grant to spend about six months in Turkey pursuing the Midas tomb question.

In addition to the ancient wood, the tomb has yielded a bounty of other finds that speak of

## B O W L I N G   G R E E N   S T A T E   U N I V E R S I T Y

## &gt; Top Stories

In Brief

Calendar

Job Postings

Obituaries

life and funerary practices during Midas's time. According to the University of Pennsylvania Web site, upon breaking through the timber wall, the excavators were met with an amazing sight: King Midas laid out in state on a multi-layered pile of purple- and blue-dyed textiles inside his coffin.

"The riches in bronze in the king's tomb were matched by a wealth of organic residues left in the drinking vessels," the site says. "The team was able to reconstruct the Midas Tomb funerary feast in minute detail using such methods as infrared spectroscopy, liquid and gas chromatography, and mass spectrometry."

### Rampersad, Poor to address fall graduates

Dr. Arnold Rampersad, a noted scholar and biographer who earned two degrees from BGSU, and Dr. Gene Poor, the University's 2004 Master Teacher, will be the speakers for fall commencement exercises.

More than 1,000 students are expected to graduate during ceremonies at Anderson Arena in Memorial Hall. Rampersad will speak at commencement exercises for the Graduate College, which will be held at 7 p.m. Dec. 16, while Poor will speak at graduation ceremonies for the undergraduate colleges, at 10 a.m. Dec. 17.

Rampersad is senior associate dean for the humanities and Sarah Hart Kimball Professor in the Humanities at Stanford University. The Bowling Green alumnus also is the 2005-06 President's Visiting Scholar in the Humanities at BGSU. A native of Trinidad who came to the United States in 1965, he earned bachelor's and master's degrees in English from Bowling Green in 1967 and 1968, respectively. He went on to earn a doctorate in English and American literature in 1973 from Harvard University.

Rampersad's work has centered on interpreting the African-American experience through the lens of biography. His prize-winning books include *The Art and Imagination of W.E.B. DuBois*; *The Life of Langston Hughes* (two volumes); *Days of Grace: A Memoir*, co-authored with tennis legend Arthur Ashe, and *Jackie Robinson: A Biography*. Currently he is at work on a biography of the novelist Ralph Ellison.

In 1991, he was awarded a five-year, \$300,000 MacArthur Foundation Fellowship to further his scholarly research. Recipients of the fellowship are chosen on the basis of their talent, creativity and the potential benefit of their work to society. BGSU recognized Rampersad's accomplishments in 1992, presenting him the Distinguished Alumnus Award.

Poor, visual communication and technology education (VCTE), was honored by the Student Alumni Association as BGSU's Master Teacher last year.

Earlier this year, he was named the first Ernest and Dorothy Hamilton Professor of Entrepreneurship. The endowed professorship in the College of Business Administration was created with a gift from Olympic skater and Bowling Green native Scott Hamilton in memory of his parents, both of whom taught at the University.

Poor, who came to BGSU in 1970 as a doctoral fellow and later founded the VCTE department, is widely known for his pioneering work in the field of animatronics but equally, on campus, for his dedication to his students.

In 1999, he was given the Outstanding Adviser Certificate of Merit by the National Academic Advising Association. At BGSU, he received the 1997-98 College of Technology Adviser of the Year Award and was named co-recipient of the 1998 University Outstanding Adviser Award. The Undergraduate Student Government presented him with the Excellence in Teaching Award in 1985.

The founder of LifeFormations, an animatronics studio in Bowling Green, Poor's success in

**BGSU**

B O W L I N G   G R E E N   S T A T E   U N I V E R S I T Y

- > **Top Stories**
- > **In Brief**
- Calendar
- Job Postings
- Obituaries

business was recognized by the accounting firm Ernst & Young in 2004 when he was named a winner of the northwest Ohio Entrepreneur of the Year Award.

Poor has written seven books, two of them co-authored with VCT colleague Dr. Rodney Heiligmann.

At commencement, the Graduate College will award degrees to 25 candidates for doctoral degrees, two candidates for doctor of education degrees and 174 master's degree candidates. The remaining students will receive bachelor's degrees. Of those, 142 are expected to graduate with honors.

### **IN BRIEF**

#### **Review Severe Weather Policy**

Now that winter is upon us, employees should refer to the University's Severe Weather Policy for guidance.

To view the policy, visit  
<http://www.bgsu.edu/downloads/execvp/file8135.pdf>

#### **ITS extends test-scanning hours for finals week**

During finals week (Dec. 12-16), ITS test-scanning hours will be from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily. Participants should bring their National Computer System answer sheets to 301 Hayes Hall for scanning.

#### **Reception to honor IMS retirees**

All BGSU faculty and staff are invited to attend a reception honoring two Instructional Media Services (IMS) employees who will be retiring, Marlene Helm and David Hampshire. A reception will be held from 1:30-3 p.m. Friday (Dec. 16) in 103 Olscamp Hall.

Hampshire, IMS photographer, has been with the University for 33 years. Helm, secretary for film, video and camcorder rentals, has been at BGSU since 1976.

#### **Hardware Support revises its computer repair policy**

The policy for services provided within the Hardware Support area of the Technology Support Center in ITS has been revised and will become effective Jan. 1.

The new policy is available at: <http://www.bgsu.edu/its/hardware/page16248.html>.

Current students, faculty, staff and retirees may request service for supported hardware through the Technology Support Center in 110 Hayes Hall or by phone at 2-0999.

#### **2006 Ohioana Awards nomination deadlines approaching**

The Ohioana Library Association is seeking nominations of creative individuals for the annual Ohioana Awards, which honor Ohio writers, musicians and others in the arts and humanities.

These include the Ohioana Career Award, Pegasus Award, citations, book awards, Award for Editorial Excellence, Poetry Award, Award for Children's Literature, Helen and Laura Krout Memorial Poetry Award and the Walter Rumsey Marvin Grant.

## B O W L I N G   G R E E N   S T A T E   U N I V E R S I T Y

Top Stories

&gt; In Brief

&gt; Calendar

Job Postings

Obituaries

Past BGSU recipients of Ohioana awards are Dr. Larry Smith, humanities, BGSU Firelands, who received the Ohioana Citation for Poetry, and the Mid-American Review, which has won two Ohioana Awards for excellence in magazine publishing.

Nominees for most of the awards must have been born in Ohio or lived in the state for at least five years.

The Walter Rumsey Marvin Grant is a writers' contest for unpublished authors 30 years of age or younger.

Dec. 31 is the deadline for nominations, except for the Walter Rumsey Marvin Grant, which has a Jan. 31 due date.

For more information or nomination forms, visit <http://ohioana.org/awards/> or contact Linda R. Hengst by phone at 614-728-6974 or by email at [lhengst@sloma.state.oh.us](mailto:lhengst@sloma.state.oh.us).

## CALENDAR

Monday, Dec. 12

**Dissertation Defense**, "Synthesis and Photochemistry of 3,5-Dialkyl-3,5-Dihydro-3,5-Diphenyl-4H-Pyrazol-4-Ones," by Andrey G. Moiseev, photochemical sciences, 10:30 a.m., 123 Overman Hall.

Tuesday, Dec. 13

**Brown Bag Lunch Seminar**, "Stress Management," with Dr. Craig Vickio, clinical psychologist and director of the Counseling Center, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., 315 Bowen-Thompson Student Union. Sponsored by the Administrative Staff Council Professional Development Committee. For more information, contact Michael Ginsburg at [ginsbur@bgsu.edu](mailto:ginsbur@bgsu.edu).

Thursday, Dec. 15

**Holiday Open House**, with President and Mrs. Sidney A. Ribeau, 3-5 p.m., Lenhart Grand Ballroom, Union.

Friday, Dec. 16

**Graduate Student Reception**, 5:30-6:30 p.m., 101 Olscamp Hall.  
Graduate College Commencement, 7 p.m., Anderson Arena.

Saturday, Dec. 17

**Undergraduate Student Reception**, 8:30-9:30 a.m., 101 Olscamp Hall.  
Undergraduate Student Commencement, 10 a.m., Anderson Arena.

Sunday, Dec. 18

**Open Skate**, 3:30-5:30 p.m., Ice Arena. Free skating, entertainment, and a visit from Santa.

**BGSU Firelands Event**, "Holiday Jam 2005," presented by K-96, WLKR-AM-FM and the college, with performances by Underdog, Colin Dussault and The Blues Project, Steve Brownell, Dave James, Dan Fester, Walter Sanders and the Cadillac Band, Mary Spayd-McCormick and Chris Castle, 6:30 p.m., McBride Auditorium. No charge for the concert, but a free ticket and two nonperishable food items for Care and Share are needed for admission. For more information, contact Sandy DiCarlo at 2-0648.

Continuing Events  
Dec. 12-16

Final Exams.

Dec. 19-Jan. 6

Winter Break.

Through Dec. 20

**Planetarium Show**, "Secret of the Star: A Show for Christmastime," 8 p.m. Tuesdays and Friday (Dec. 16) and 7:30 p.m. Sunday (Dec. 18), 112 Physical Sciences Lab Building. \$1 donation suggested. The planetarium show is followed by stargazing in the observatory, if weather permits, on Friday and Sunday.

BGSU



B O W L I N G   G R E E N   S T A T E   U N I V E R S I T Y

- Top Stories
- In Brief
- > **Calendar**
- > **Job Postings**
- > **Obituaries**

Through Jan. 8

**Art Exhibition, "The Poe Road Public Art Project: Student Proposals,"** Union Art Gallery. Gallery hours are 8 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday-Saturday and 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Sundays.

Through Jan. 18

**Art Exhibition, 56th annual Faculty and Staff Exhibition,** Dorothy Uber Bryan Gallery, Fine Arts Center. Gallery hours are 10 a.m. to 4

p.m. Tuesday-Saturday and 1-4 p.m. Sundays. Closed Dec. 18-Jan. 9.

Through Jan. 18

**Art Exhibition, "Small Monuments,"** including artists Dan Dove, Julia Fish, Matthew Kolodziej, Christine Kuper, Wendy Miller, Susan Umbenhour, Paul Yanko and Charles Kanwischer, School of Art, Willard Wankelman Gallery, Fine Arts Center. Gallery hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday and 1-4 p.m. Sundays. Closed Dec. 18-Jan. 9.

**JOB POSTINGS**

**FACULTY**

**Chemistry.** Instructor/Associate Director. Call the department, 2-2032. Deadline: Dec. 30.

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**

View job descriptions at: [www.bgsu.edu/offices/ohr/employment/BGSU\\_only/page11151.html](http://www.bgsu.edu/offices/ohr/employment/BGSU_only/page11151.html)

**On-campus classified:**

[http://www.bgsu.edu/offices/ohr/employment/BGSU\\_only/page11151.html](http://www.bgsu.edu/offices/ohr/employment/BGSU_only/page11151.html)  
Print-friendly version:  
<http://www.bgsu.edu/downloads/execvp/file14824.pdf>

**Off-campus classified:**

[http://www.bgsu.edu/offices/ohr/employment/cl\\_staff/page11145.html](http://www.bgsu.edu/offices/ohr/employment/cl_staff/page11145.html)  
Print-friendly version:  
<http://www.bgsu.edu/downloads/execvp/file14822.pdf>

**ADMINISTRATIVE**

View job descriptions at: [www.bgsu.edu/offices/ohr/employment/adm\\_staff/page11137.html](http://www.bgsu.edu/offices/ohr/employment/adm_staff/page11137.html)

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Print-friendly version:  
<http://www.bgsu.edu/downloads/execvp/file14456.pdf>

**OBITUARY**

There were no obituaries this week.