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Bowling Green State University

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Craig Mertler gives teachers tools for success

American K-12 teachers are facing many more demands for accountability for what students learn in their classrooms, says Dr. Craig Mertler, educational foundations and inquiry (EDFI).

With that in mind, he is attempting to help teachers learn to use standardized tests and interpret statistical data—subjects generally held in low regard by teachers and students alike—to improve their teaching and customize their methods to the needs of their students.

Mertler has written four books since 2000 and has just signed a contract for another. The books are designed for both pre-service and in-service teachers as well as graduate students in education.

Combining his expertise in research methods, statistics, and measurement and assessment with his experience as a high school science teacher, he aims his work at creating better teachers and presenting usable information to them in a readable, accessible manner.

“Math and research methods are topics most people don’t like and tend to avoid. I want to say to teachers, ‘Don’t shy away from them, but try to learn how they can help you do your job—helping students learn—more effectively,’” Mertler said.

And while most students and teachers don’t like standardized tests, he adds, “my argument is that since standardized tests are not going to go away, especially with the No Child Left Behind law, why not use them as another source of data to help make effective decisions about what students are and are not learning?”

He is excited about the new book he is working on, *Strategies for Data-Driven Instructional Decision Making*, to be published in 2007 by Sage Publications. Again, the current climate of enhanced accountability has made the topic very timely, he said.

In 2001, when No Child Left Behind was introduced, he conducted what he said were successful districtwide workshops with the Bowling Green City Schools on interpreting data from test scores. Teachers can now look at tests and see which content students seem to be having trouble with and then use that information to adapt their teaching methods accordingly.

“Now that they’ve gotten into it, it’s become just something they do, and their test scores have reflected that,” said Mertler, who is also a member of the Bowling Green Board of Education. For *Strategies for Data-Driven Instructional Decision Making*, he plans to conduct interviews with Bowling Green teachers and administrators on their experience with the methodology.

“Craig Mertler is one of the most professional authors I’ve worked with since becoming an acquisitions editor,” said Diane McDaniel of Sage, with whom Mertler is collaborating for the second time.

His expertise in the field has also resulted in his being invited to contribute chapters to two books. The first, for reporters, is on linking curriculum alignment and test scores, and the second, for teachers, is on designing scoring rubrics for the classroom.

But, in addition to using tests to tell them how their students are doing, teachers can conduct their own studies, Mertler says. His most recent book is *Action Research: Teachers as Researchers in the Classroom*, also published by Sage.

“It provides the methodology to enable teachers to do research in their own classrooms, and to find results that are perfectly applicable in their classroom and their building,” he explained. “As teachers, we always try new things anyway, keeping the things that work and

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discarding those that don't work. The book simply gives a way to do that in a more systematic, formalized way."

It helps teachers learn how to collect and analyze data, utilizing procedures that can be used in conjunction with their everyday activities. Keenly aware of teachers' time constraints, he designed the projects and suggestions to be workable for them.

According to McDaniel, "One of the primary concerns of students in K-12 teacher preparation and certification programs is that the focus of their courses be practical and directly applicable to their work in the classroom. In my interchanges with instructors, they tell me that they are constantly juggling their need to impart the big picture, which includes more theoretical and research-based material, to students who are understandably focused on preparing to work with their students.

"*Action Research: Teachers as Researchers in the Classroom* brings these potentially competing needs into perfect balance by focusing on research methods and procedures that teachers can use in conjunction with their everyday instructional practices and activities in classrooms."

Mertler says he feels the action research methodology has great potential for increasing student learning because of its applicability to the specific setting. "I hope people will use it as a resource for professional development, and that local school districts will incorporate it in classrooms" as a means of improving teaching and, concurrently, test scores, he said.

"I want to encourage teachers to deeply look at and reflect on their own practice," Mertler said. "Teaching is a profession, and if we want to be viewed as professionals, we need to do that."

This year, he and his colleague Dr. Rachel Vannatta, also EDFI, co-authored the third edition of *Advanced and Multivariate Statistical Methods: Practical Application and Interpretation*, published by Pycszak. It is aimed at the master's and doctoral-level student.

He also is revising the fifth edition of *Introduction to Educational Research*, a hands-on, introductory text for graduate students composing their first educational research project. Published by Pearson, an imprint of Allyn and Bacon, it provides eight research methods and teaches learners to prepare a research plan, gather and analyze data, address research questions and hypotheses and organize a report on their findings. Mertler, who was initially asked to revise the fourth edition of the book first written in 1985 by Dr. C.M. Charles of San Diego State University, said the goal is to "take it to the next level and keep it current, trying to be responsive to the needs of the people who use the book and their students."

For undergraduate pre-service teachers, he has written *Classroom Assessment: A Practical Guide for Educators*, published in 2003 by Pycszak. Designed for use in both elementary and secondary classrooms, it provides basic information on the various forms of assessment and on designing tests and developing rubrics for grading. "This is the kind of information pre-service teachers really come to need when they're faced with the actual classroom," Mertler explained.

Mertler's work exemplifies the concepts of the scholarship of engagement. "It all comes down to application," he said. "Everything I do, from research to writing, is done to try to shed greater light on the work done by K-12 teachers and to hopefully enable them to help children learn more."

Technology co-op program accredited by national council

In a survey earlier this year, 64 percent of the respondent graduates of BGSU's College of Technology said their cooperative education experience at Bowling Green helped them find their current, or a previous, job.

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And more than 90 percent of the technology alumni credited the co-op program with improving their problem-solving and interpersonal skills and aiding development of professional work habits.

But graduates aren't the only ones affirming the value of the program these days. It has also received the seal of approval of the Accreditation Council for Cooperative Education (ACCE), "the only national accrediting body for cooperative education in the country," according to Thomas Siebenaler, assistant director of the BGSU program.

The council granted full accreditation, through December 2007, following a process that included submission of a self-study by the program last spring and a site visit by a three-member ACCE team in July.

In its report, the accreditation team praised the "conscientious and thorough" co-op staff, "significant" faculty involvement and "strong support" for the program throughout the College of Technology.

Program Director Barry Piersol said the staff had thought BGSU offered a good match with the council's criteria for accreditation, which he called "a nice little feather in your cap."

The co-op program is mandatory, and credit bearing, for all technology majors, who must have three full-time, semester-long experiences as part of their degree requirements. "It's fully integrated with the coursework," Piersol noted, and the experiences are alternated with semesters in classes. That way, students can share, and apply, what they've learned with peers and professors.

"It makes learning and retaining the information so much easier," said Siebenaler, adding that the last semester before graduation is spent on campus.

"The unique imprint of College of Technology majors is they graduate with the equivalent of a year of industrial experience," Piersol pointed out.

More than 13,000 alumni have done so since the program's inception in 1968, when "we were the founding co-op program on campus," he said. This year, the number of students placed in positions worldwide reached 734, and their combined wages exceeded \$3.7 million.

Last summer alone, technology co-op students worked in 27 states and five countries. "We encourage them to broaden their horizons," Siebenaler said. "They're thinking outside the box."

Because they have already looked for three full-time jobs while in college, the students will know what one is like when they enter the workforce, he said. And through their co-op experiences, they can build a network of contacts as well.

Piersol described the program as an integral part of the College of Technology, whose academic program is also accredited, by the National Association of Industrial Technology.

Gathering information for the ACCE accreditation process was "a bonding experience" for faculty and staff in the college, and the positive result serves "to convince others that we have been reviewed by an outside group," he said. "Someone else is looking at it (the program) and agrees with it."

"It's validation," added Siebenaler, that the college is on the industry forefront.

Send-off planned for skater Alissa Czisny

Help give a great send-off to BGSU skater and Olympic hopeful Alissa Czisny as she heads off to nationals. Czisny will compete at the U.S. Figure Skating Championships Jan. 12-14,

BGSU

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in hopes of qualifying for the 2006 U.S. Olympic team. She'll be vying for a top-three finish against some of the best skaters in the world, including Michelle Kwan, Sasha Cohen and Emily Hughes.

The Ice Arena will host a communitywide celebration on Wednesday (Dec. 21) featuring an 8 p.m. exhibition, followed by an autograph and photo session and free open skating at 8:30 p.m. Publicity photos will be given to the first 300 youths in attendance.

National and international singles skaters and a pairs team from the Detroit area will perform along with Bowling Green skaters Melissa Telecky (two-time national competitor) and Matthew Ko (Junior national competitor in 2004 and 2005). Bowling Green Skating Club beginner Emily Sherrick and pre-juvenile competitor Courtney Van Horn will also be featured. The exhibition's capstone skater will be Amber Czisny, Alissa's twin sister, best friend and training partner.

Bowling Green Mayor John Quinn, BGSU Vice-President for Student Affairs Dr. Ed Whipple and Lona Leck, Alissa's first coach, will speak at the ceremony, which will include several special presentations.

Alissa and Amber, now BGSU sophomores, began their skating careers at the Ice Arena before the age of 2. The sisters have worked under the tutelage of several local professionals and currently train at the Detroit Skating Club.

The event is hosted by the BGSU Skating Club—which is sanctioned by U.S. Figure Skating—and is sponsored by the Ice Arena, BGSU's Office of the Executive Vice President and Jackson Ultima Skates.

BGSU honors retirees

A number of administrative and classified staff members have retired since July. A reception in their honor was held Nov. 29 in the Mileti Alumni Center.

Administrative staff who have retired include Cynthia Colvin, College of Arts and Sciences, and Richard Peper, purchasing, both in July, and Sharon Hanna, development, on Sept. 30.

Classified staff who have retired and the year they began work at BGSU include: In September, Vicki Henson ('75), human resources, and Donna Benschoter ('88), University Dining Services.

In October, James Brotherton ('86), recreational sports; Marjorie Wittmer ('99), chemistry; Mary Stewart ('78), facilities services, and Sandra Reiber ('84), BGSU Firelands.

In November, Mary Jo Briner ('95) and Jeannine Catua ('85), both University Libraries, and Rose Hunt ('76), facilities services.

On Dec. 1, Ruth Kruse ('85), public safety; William Gould ('87), facilities services; Stella Meyers ('84), disability services, and Ella Kasmarik ('78), criminal justice.

The University wishes them much happiness in their retirement.

Campus shares wealth of literature with Tunisian university

The BGSU community's generosity was experienced by students and faculty in Tunisia last month when a bounty of donated books arrived on their campus.

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About 20 boxes of English-language books given by BGSU faculty, staff and students were delivered by the U.S. Embassy to the Institut de Presse et des Sciences de l'Information (IPSI) at the Université de la Manouba in Tunis. IPSI and BGSU are partners in the U.S. State Department's Middle East Partnership Initiative (MEPI), a two-year, grant-funded project designed to improve the teaching of media and journalism in Tunisia and the North African region.

The arrival of the books coincided with a visit from Dr. Catherine Cassara, journalism; Bob Bortel, director of student publications, and sophomore journalism majors Joshua Comer of Triffin and Stephanie Guigou of New Knoxville. They spent three weeks conducting workshops for IPSI students and attending the United Nations World Summit on the Information Society, held Nov. 16-18.

The first, two-day workshop, which focused on coverage of the summit and how to conduct investigative reporting, was also taught by Dr. Laura Lengel, interpersonal communication. The second, weeklong workshop dealt with student newspapers.

Dr. Hamida El Bour, the IPSI faculty member who received the MEPI grant for the student newspaper project, said of the donation, "The topics of the books will be helpful for the students of both specialties—journalism and communication—and many of them will be referred to as main sources in preparing fourth-year students' theses. It is also interesting because it is improving our library books in English, as the main books we have are in Arabic and French. The books will be very helpful for the teachers, too, in their curriculum and research in the fields of journalism and communication."

Titled "Capacity Building for a Democratic Press: A Sustainable Partnership to Develop Media and Journalism Curricula in Tunisia," the MEPI project has already resulted in several extended visits between BGSU and IPSI faculty and students. It has also produced a Fulbright Scholar-in-Residence award to BGSU's School of Communication Studies for Dr. Fatma Azzouz, an assistant professor of journalism at IPSI and the Tunisian partnership director for the collaboration.

Also during the visit, Lengel and Cassara presented at the U.N. summit, which brought together heads of state, industry leaders and members of civil society organizations to analyze the problems of the digital divide and information access and flow, particularly in developing nations.

The two BGSU faculty members were part of a panel of faculty from IPSI that focused on online media and journalism teaching in international contexts.

Cassara, Lengel and their IPSI colleagues and alumni also attended the opening plenary session addressed by U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan.

BGSU Fulbright gathering has international flavor

Despite a snowstorm swirling outside, the atmosphere was warm at a reception for the University's Fulbright scholars in the Bowen-Thompson Student Union Dec. 9.

Conversation was lively as they discussed international issues, compared experiences and offered advice to a number of students who have applied for the award.

In subject areas ranging from music to marketing to journalism and public health, BGSU has 24 active faculty members who have been Fulbright recipients and several more who are retired.

"That's actually a big number for the type and size of university that BGSU is," said Diane Regan, Fulbright Program adviser and director of faculty/staff immigration services in the Center for International Programs. Regan organized the reception and has planned another event for spring semester in which past Fulbrighters will share their experience with other

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faculty considering applying to the program.

"I want to build this Fulbright community," Regan said. "These people are true internationalists. They 'get' the concept of globalization and international cooperation."

Among those attending the gathering were Dr. Gary Hess, Distinguished Teaching Professor of history, who has had three Fulbright stays in India; Dr. Milt Hakel, Ohio Eminent Scholar in psychology, who went to Italy in 1978, and retired English professor Dr. Les Barber, also a former executive assistant to the president, who went to Slovenia in 1989-90. The three chatted with master's degree students Orien Schmidt, who is applying for a Fulbright Foreign Language Teaching Assistant position in Germany, and Cortne Johnson, who is also applying to go to Germany but by way of Istanbul, where she would first study language as part of the new Fulbright Islamic initiative. Both Schmidt and Johnson are majoring in German.

Discussing his plans was Dr. Dwayne Gremler, marketing, who will leave in January for a Fulbright stay at the University of Maastricht in the Netherlands.

Dr. Fatma Azzouz, a current Fulbright Scholar-in-Residence from Tunisia, addressed issues of immigration and ethnic strife with the group, which also included Jeff Grilliot, director of Immigration Services for Students and Scholars, who is applying for a new, five-week Fulbright program for administrators; and Suzanne Ondrus, a master of fine arts degree student majoring in poetry who has applied to go to Burkina Faso. Ondrus should be well suited for international travels, the group agreed, since she speaks French, Italian, Russian and German, and has taught English in Germany.

It is not unusual for faculty to have had more than one stint as a Fulbright scholar, and sometimes to very different areas of the world. Dr. Gary Silverman, director of the Environmental Health Program, has been to Malaysia and Costa Rica; Dr. Kristie Foell, director of International Studies and a faculty member in German, had a Fulbright to Germany in 1995-96 and another to Austria in 1989-90, and Dr. Nancy Brendlinger, journalism, has had Fulbright awards in Indonesia and Slovakia.

Also at the reception were Travis Chapin, construction management, who went to Kenya in 2004; Dr. Srinivas Melkote, telecommunications, who taught in India in 2002; Dr. Salim Elwazani, architecture, who went to Bahrain in 2001; Dr. Laura Lengel, interpersonal communication, who had a Fulbright to Tunisia in 1993-94, and Dr. David Harnish, musical arts and Asian studies, who went to Indonesia twice on Fulbright awards, once as a master's degree student and again as a doctoral student.

IN BRIEF

Monitor goes on holiday break

This is the last issue of Monitor until Jan. 9.

Looking ahead on campus

Save the dates for two special programs in January.

Speaking in the President's Lecture Series on Jan. 24 will be John Beck, author of the book, *Got Game: How the Gamer Generation is Reshaping Business Forever*. The free, public lecture will begin at 3:30 p.m. in the Lenhart Grand Ballroom of the Bowen-Thompson Student Union. A reception for the speaker will follow at 5 p.m.

Then, on Jan. 26, the University will mark Martin Luther King Jr. Day with a presentation by Herman Boone and Bill Yoast, the two inspirational coaches whose lives were captured in the hit film "Remember the Titans," starring Academy Award-winner Denzel Washington. They will speak at 7 p.m. in the ballroom.

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MyCourses (Blackboard) hours extended

MyCourses (Blackboard) will offer extended hours the weekend prior to the start of spring semester to provide additional access to faculty class rosters and student class schedules.

Hours will be:

Jan. 7—7:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Jan. 8—7:30 a.m. to 11:59 p.m.

Jan. 9—midnight to 9 p.m.

Applications for "Parking" and "My Financial Aid Status" will not be available beyond their normal schedule.

In order to complete necessary system functions, MyBGSU may be unavailable for up to a half hour beginning at 5:30 p.m. Jan. 8 and 6 a.m. Jan. 9.

Technology Support Center extends hours

The Technology Support Center in 110 Hayes Hall will be open from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. the weekend of Jan. 7-8.

Classroom technology equipment training scheduled

In January, Instructional Media Services (IMS) will offer two sessions for those interested in learning more about the operation of equipment in technology-equipped classrooms.

Sessions will be offered from 2:30-3:30 p.m. Jan. 4 and from 10-11 a.m. Jan. 5 in 225 Olscamp Hall.

A technology-equipped classroom contains, at minimum, a permanently installed video projector and a VCR. Those attending the sessions are provided with information on use of equipment and streaming video on campus.

No registration is required. Questions or requests for further details may be directed to Julie Baker at jbaker@bgsu.edu or at 2-7414.

Submit audio-visual equipment requests for spring 2006

To facilitate a smooth start to the spring semester, instructors who will be placing requests for audio-visual equipment for their classrooms through Instructional Media Services (IMS) are asked to do so prior to the first day of classes. Requests may be made by either calling IMS at 2-6993 or emailing ims-req.bgsu.edu.

Learn content management system

The Office of Web Development will be offering regular monthly training for the Rhythmyx Content Management System (CMS) starting in January.

Sessions, all in 128 Hayes Hall, will be offered:

- Jan. 3, 1:30-4:30 p.m.
- Feb. 14, 8:30-11:30 a.m.
- March 14, 1:30-4:30 p.m.
- April 11, 1:30-4:30 p.m.
- May's session will be determined at a later date.

Who should attend?

- Webmasters for BGSU departments that are moving into CMS
- New Webmasters for BGSU departments that are already in CMS
- Anyone who has been using CMS and would like to learn more about it

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- Anyone who wants to know more about the content management system

What will you learn?

During the first two hours you will learn:

- What CMS is and how it works
- How to use the Content Manager menu page efficiently, including the search engine and the action menu
- What fields are in the different content types and which ones are required
- Why Category, Workflow and Template fields are very important
- How to use the slots to finish a page with images and a navigation bar

During the last hour, you will learn the most efficient way to convert Dreamweaver pages to CMS. This is offered for those who have Web pages in Dreamweaver; other participants need not stay for this portion.

Follow-up with individuals after the training sessions will address participants' specific needs.

To enroll in one of the sessions, call the Technology Support Center at 2-0999.

CALENDAR

Tuesday, Dec. 20

Planetarium Show, "Secret of the Star: A Show for Christmastime," 8 p.m., 112 Physical Sciences Lab Building. \$1 donation suggested.

Monday and Tuesday, Dec. 26 and 27

Offices Closed.

Monday, Jan. 2

Offices Closed.

Continuing Events

Dec. 19-Jan. 6

Winter Break. No classes.

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.

JOB POSTINGS

FACULTY

There were no jobs posted this week.

Contact the Office of Human Resources at 419-372-8421 for information regarding classified and administrative positions. Position vacancy announcements may be viewed by visiting the HR Web site at www.bgsu.edu/offices/ohr.

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

On campus classified:
http://www.bgsu.edu/offices/ohr/employment/BGSU_only/page11151.html
Print-friendly version:
<http://www.bgsu.edu/downloads/execvp/file14824.pdf>

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Off campus classified:
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

Jobs
http://www.bgsu.edu/offices/ohr/employment/adm_staff/page11137.html
Print-friendly version:
<http://www.bgsu.edu/downloads/execvp/file14456.pdf>

OBITUARY

There were no obituaries this week.