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Monitor Newsletter January 23, 2006

Bowling Green State University

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BGSU celebrates Black History Month

The University will host a number of events commemorating Black History Month, beginning with a Jan. 30 presentation by Jane Elliott, adapter of the groundbreaking "Blue Eyes, Brown Eyes" experiment.

Now a lecturer on diversity and prejudice, Elliott is the former teacher who received national attention for a lesson on discrimination in which participants were labeled inferior or superior based on their eye color. She will speak at 7:30 p.m. Jan. 30 in the Lenhart Grand Ballroom of the Bowen-Thompson Student Union.

She first conducted the experiment with her Riceville, Iowa, third-graders following Dr. Martin Luther King's assassination in April 1968 and later repeated the exercise with various other groups. In her BGSU presentation, titled "The Anatomy of Prejudice," she will discuss the results of her experiment and explore issues of diversity and discrimination as they relate to a college setting. Her talk, which is free and open to the public, is sponsored by the University Activities Organization.

Elliott's work has been documented on several award-winning television specials, including ABC's "The Eye of the Storm" and "A Class Divided," and "The Eye of the Beholder," on PBS' Frontline series. Her most recent film is "The Angry Eye."

Also for Black History Month, Da' Coloured Gurtz Collective, a Toledo-based theatre troupe that uses music, dance, video and drama, will give two performances on Feb. 8:

- "It's All Connected! Building Partnerships Across Issues of Difference," from 1:30-3:30 p.m. in the Union ballroom, will feature a performance and audience discussion centered on freeing ourselves from the definitions assigned us by society and learning to hear others' true voices.

- "The Histories: Celebrating Black History Month," will be held from 4:30-6 p.m. in 201 Union. Using spirituals, drama, poetry and video, the presentation demonstrates how the collective histories and contributions of people of all colors and orientations must be taken into account in order to understand the larger history of America.

On Feb. 17 and 18, the Center for Multicultural and Academic Initiatives will host the 17th annual dinner theatre featuring music, dance and skits from black sitcoms from the '90s.

Tickets are \$15 for the Feb. 17 performance and \$20 for the Feb. 18 performance and include a buffet and cash bar. Both take place in the Union ballroom. For more information, contact the Center for Multicultural and Academic Initiatives, 2-2642.

Black History Month will conclude on Feb. 28 with an "Old Skool' Motown Sound Explosion!" featuring the performance group TOUCH. Doors will open at 8 p.m. for the 8:30 p.m. show in the ballroom. The Black Student Union sponsors this event.

The seventh annual Black Issues Conference, titled "A House Divided: Brothas Stand Up, Sistaz Speak Out," will be held later in the semester.

Swahili teacher brings East Africa to BGSU

Africana Studies students have the opportunity for the first time this year to study Swahili, thanks to Susan Muthoni Irungu, a Fulbright Foreign Language Teaching Assistant from Kenya.

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Irungu taught a beginning class in Swahili fall semester that she is continuing this semester in addition to a second beginner class. Of the six students in the first class, she said, "They're doing well. It's very surprising how good they are."

Sam Parks, a junior from Smithville majoring in international studies, said of Irungu, "She's a great teacher and a lot of fun. I was really excited that our Swahili teacher is actually from Africa so we get the true Kenyan accent."

"There are a lot of opportunities to speak Swahili on campus," he added, due to the considerable community of Kenyan students and faculty at BGSU.

Having Irungu here "adds an East African component to our program, both in language and culture," said Dr. Lillian Ashcraft-Eason, Africana Studies Program director. "We've had more of a West African influence before."

A reflection of the various colonial powers once on the continent, Swahili is a mix of about 50 percent Arabic words with elements of Portuguese, Spanish and English.

"Swahili is spoken in quite a number of countries, and it's continuing to expand," Irungu explained. "It's been in the East and now is in the West and is even expanding to the South. There is a movement to adopt Swahili as a 'national language' for the continent."

Irungu, whose first language is Kikuyu, studied English and Swahili from elementary school on. Before coming to BGSU, she was the Swahili editor for Macmillan Publishers in Nairobi.

As a student at Moi University, she majored in languages with an emphasis in Swahili. It was her former dean, with whom she kept in touch after graduation, who encouraged her to apply for the Fulbright position.

The competition was intense. Irungu was one of only four people chosen from the 2,000 who applied. "The elimination process was quite rigorous," she said.

The other three Fulbright language teachers are at Brown University and the universities of Massachusetts and Missouri.

Irungu says she has been happily surprised by BGSU. "My experience has been different from what I expected. When you are coming to the United States, they warn you that you will experience culture shock, but everyone has been so friendly that I immediately felt so at home. The environment is very hospitable. It was a good start."

So good, in fact, that she is applying to graduate school at BGSU in rehabilitation counseling, which is not offered at Kenyan universities. Irungu, who has previously worked in AIDS education in her home country, added, "I have a keen interest in programs that provide community services, in addition to the languages and publishing industry."

A snapshot of foreign language study on campus

On Jan. 5, President Bush announced a plan to enhance the foreign language skills of American students. To be called the National Security Language Initiative, the program's aim is to increase the number of students studying other languages, particularly what Bush described as those critical to cultural understanding and national security: Arabic, Chinese, Russian, Persian, Hindi and Farsi.

Chinese and Russian are among the foreign languages taught at BGSU, which also offers Japanese, German, Spanish, French, Italian, Latin and, this academic year, Swahili.

Student interest is growing in Chinese and Russian as well as Japanese, noted Dr. Timothy Pogacar, chair of the German, Russian and East Asian languages (GREAL) department. "The

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Asian Studies Program has been a big supporter of our Japanese and Chinese programs. The beginning and intermediate Chinese classes have the highest enrollment in 20 years," with about 20 students participating, he said. Plans are under way for a summer study-abroad program in partnership with the University of Cincinnati.

Enrollment in Russian classes is the highest in five or six years, Pogacar said, adding that BGSU has a summer program in Russia.

Meanwhile, enrollment in Japanese classes is the highest in a decade, and classes have been filled to capacity for the past three years. The department plans to hire a second faculty member for next fall. This year, three students are studying in Japan, said Akiko Jones, co-director of the Asian Studies Program, adding that she will accompany 12 BGSU students to Japan this summer.

In GREAL, undergraduate and graduate students logged almost 1,500 student credit hours last fall, not counting students in study-abroad programs, Pogacar said. About a third of those hours represent courses taught in English about the cultures, literatures, cinemas and other aspects of China, Germany, Japan and Russia, he said.

This semester, 21 graduate and 15 undergraduate students are participating in the German department's study-abroad program in Salzburg, Austria.

In romance languages, which comprises Spanish, French, Italian and Latin, 891 students took courses last fall in Spanish studies; 248 in French, 79 in Italian and 241 in classical civilization studies, for a total of 1,459. These numbers reflect on-campus enrollment.

A number of students take part in study abroad as well. The total number of students who take courses offered by romance languages on campus and abroad during the academic year and summer sessions exceeds 3,200, Chalupa said.

This semester, 19 undergraduates and eight graduate students are studying in Spain, with another 20 undergraduates and five graduates at the program in Mexico.

The French department has exchange programs in Tours, France; Québec, Canada, and Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, in Africa. This semester, 21 undergraduate and 11 graduate students are in France, and 15 of those undergraduates will also study in Burkina Faso. In addition, one graduate student is in Canada.

The classical studies and Italian programs will offer their first study-abroad opportunity this summer, Chalupa said. Students will live in Rome and study the classics while honing their language skills.

BGSU volleyball team nets \$6,000 for Katrina victims

Denise Van De Walle was no doubt among many Americans who, when they heard that Hurricane Katrina had struck the Gulf Coast, thought "we have to do something for those people."

For the BGSU volleyball coach, that "something" literally became a team effort.

Van De Walle's players wound up raising \$6,000 for hurricane relief through "Kills for Katrina and Digs for Dollars," in which sponsors pledged a specified amount for each point-scoring kill, and/or point-saving dig, by a particular team member this season.

The money was presented to Erin Hachtel, Wood County office director for the Greater Toledo Area Chapter of the American Red Cross. "The funds raised provide for food, clothing, shelter and any other basic emergency needs of the victims," also including prescription drug and mental health needs, Hachtel said.

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"I didn't know how much we could actually raise," said Van De Walle, who led the effort with a pledge of \$1 for every kill her team recorded. The Falcons compiled 1,762 kills en route to an 18-14 record.

"It was just neat because we tried to involve every player," the coach said. She came up with "Kills for Katrina"—provided by front-row players—before "Digs for Dollars" added their back-row teammates to the mix.

The players first heard Van De Walle's idea the weekend after the hurricane hit, at the Falcons' season-opening tournament in Chicago. "All of our families really jumped into it," said Stephanie Swiger, a sophomore from Findlay who raised \$462 through her play.

Generating the most money via pledges was Emily Manser, a senior from Westerville, with more than \$675. Maggie Karges, a sophomore from Joliet, Ill., collected more than \$640, while Meghan Mohr, a freshman from Elida, was responsible for \$552 of the total.

"I don't think anybody who's been to that (Gulf Coast) region hasn't come back touched," said Hachtel, who thanked Van De Walle and her players for their contribution to the recovery effort. "This is just really exciting."

Staging the Super Bowl: NFL executives to provide inside look at BGSU

The attention of millions of football fans will turn to Detroit for Super Bowl XL on Feb. 5. But the National Football League's focus has long been on the Motor City as it prepares to host the championship game.

A group of NFL executives will take time out from their preparations Thursday (Jan. 26) to give a BGSU audience a behind-the-scenes look at staging the Super Bowl.

Dick Maxwell of NFL Broadcasting Operations will be among the panelists, whose free, public presentation will begin at 8 p.m. in 115 Olscamp Hall. A 1970 Bowling Green graduate, Maxwell is the primary liaison between the league and its television rights holders.

Joining him on the panel will be Frank Supovitz, head of NFL Special Events, who is in charge of the Super Bowl operation; Kimberly Fields, also of NFL Special Events, who is involved with community events and minority initiatives; Pete Abitante of NFL Communications, who oversees the media schedule; Leslie Hammond, who deals with specific media requests, including credentials, for NFL Communications; Paul Ridgeway of Ridgeway International, who coordinates transportation and parking, and David Tossell of NFL International, who is based in London and will offer an international perspective.

At 7:45 p.m., a video about events surrounding Super Bowl XXXVIII in Houston will open the presentation, which is being hosted by BGSU's Sport Management Alliance. The alliance is a student organization within the Sport Management, Recreation and Tourism (SMRT) Division of the School of Human Movement, Sport and Leisure Studies, part of the College of Education and Human Development.

The NFL executives are coming to Bowling Green "solely because of Dick Maxwell's high regard for our sport management program and our faculty and students," according to Dr. Jacquelyn Cuneen, chair of the SMRT Division.

"Whenever he has NFL business in Cincinnati, Cleveland or Detroit, he always calls ahead and asks if he can speak in a few classes or visit a Sport Management Alliance meeting," Cuneen added. "He is a natural-born educator, and the students are fascinated with the insights he shares about the sport industry."

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IN BRIEF

Mark your calendars for State of the University address

President Ribeau will deliver his annual State of the University address at 10 a.m. Feb. 3 in the Lenhart Grand Ballroom of the Bowen-Thompson Student Union.

Coffee and refreshments will be served at 9:30 a.m.

Help needed to make Presidents' Day open house a success

Volunteers are needed campuswide for the University's upcoming Presidents' Day open house on Feb. 20.

Admissions staff members are organizing the annual event, which last year brought about 6,500 prospective and admitted students and their families to campus. With an event of that size, many people are needed to greet and direct the visitors, conduct tours and provide information, says Admissions Counselor Adrea Spoon, who is coordinating the volunteer program.

Volunteers are asked to work at least a two-hour shift in order to assure continuity throughout the day. Events will run from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Thirty-minute training sessions for volunteers will be held Feb. 15 and 16 at times listed on the Presidents' Day Web site. All training will be held in the Assembly Room on the second floor of McFall Center. A 5 p.m. session will be held for those who wish to help but are unable to attend during regular work hours.

During training, Spoon will explain the scope and mission of the program and provide the day's agenda. Printed materials will be distributed so volunteers will be able to provide the information needed to answer visitors' questions. Volunteers will also learn their work assignments at the training session.

Because details change from year to year, training sessions are mandatory.

A separate training session will be held for those volunteers assigned to the shuttle and bus runs. Admissions will be contacting them soon to confirm assignments. Bus and shuttle riders are asked to attend a special session from 4-4:30 p.m. on Feb. 16.

If you're interested in helping out, complete the volunteer form at www.bgsu.edu/offices/admissions/volunteer by Feb. 3. General information for volunteers is also located at this site.

Questions may be directed to Spoon at 2-9872 or adrea@bgsu.edu.

CALENDAR

Tuesday, Jan. 24

President's Lecture Series, John Beck, co-author of the book *Got Game: How the Gamer Generation is Reshaping Business Forever*, 3:30 p.m., Lenhart Grand Ballroom, Bowen-Thompson Student Union. Followed by a reception at 5 p.m.

The Reel Black History Month Film Series: "Dour Little Girls," Oscar-nominated documentary directed by Spike Lee, 7 p.m., Gish

Film Theater, Hanna Hall.

Men's Basketball vs. Buffalo, 7 p.m., Anderson Arena.

Movie, "Saw II," 9:30 p.m., Union Theater.

Wednesday, Jan. 25

Brown Bag Luncheon, "Smart Girls on TV," with Cindy Conaway, American culture studies, noon-1 p.m., Women's Center, 107 Hanna Hall.

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Faculty Artist Series, bassoonist Katherine Oliver, 8 p.m., Bryan Recital Hall, Moore Musical Arts Center.

Thursday, Jan. 26

Workshop, "How to Report Incidents of Violence on Campus," with Becca Ferguson and Marsha Serio, Office of Human Resources, 9:30-10:30 a.m., Room 1, College Park Office Building. To register, call 2-8421 or email ohr@bgsu.edu.

Service-Learning Roundtable, "Integrating the Scholarship of Engagement, the Scholarship of Discovery, and the Scholarship of Teaching Through Service-Learning," with Dr. Bob Midden, director of the Chapman Community and Partnerships in Context and Community, noon-1 p.m., 107 Hanna Hall.

Women's Leadership Reception, hosted by the Women's Center, 4-5:30 p.m., 107 Hanna Hall.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Legacy Celebration, An Evening with Coaches Herman Boone and Bill Yoast, 7 p.m., Union Ballroom. Doors open at 6:15 p.m. Overflow seating will be available in 228 Union.

Visiting Artist Lecture, by photographer Judith Joy Ross, 7 p.m., 1101 Fine Arts Center.

International Film Series, "Vodka Lemon," directed by Hiner Saleem, 2003, Armenia/France/Italy, 7:30 p.m., Gish Film Theater, Hanna Hall.

Readings, by M.F.A. students Gary McDowell, poetry, and Beth Kaufka, fiction, 7:30 p.m., Prout Chapel.

Friday, Jan. 27

Flute Fest Concert, 8 p.m., Bryan Recital Hall, Moore Musical Arts Center.

Movie, "Saw II," 9:30 p.m., Union Theater.

Saturday, Jan. 28

Women's Basketball vs. Western Michigan, 1 p.m., Anderson Arena.

Gymnastics vs. Northern Illinois, 7 p.m., Eppler Center.

Sunday, Jan. 29

Men's Basketball vs. Akron, 2 p.m., Anderson Arena.

Movie, "Saw II," 9:30 p.m., Union Theater.

Monday, Jan. 30

Black History Month Presentation, "Anatomy of Prejudice," with Jane Elliott, 7:30 p.m., Union Ballroom. Sponsored by UAO.

Continuing Events

Jan. 27-28

University Performing Dancers: Dancing at Kobacker, with contemporary and traditional dance works choreographed by Isadora Duncan, alumna Mary Jo Freshley and BGSU faculty Colleen Murphy, Tammy Metz Starr and Deborah Tell, 8 p.m. Friday (Jan. 27) and 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. Saturday (Jan. 28), Kobacker Hall, Moore Musical Arts Center. Tickets are \$8 for students and senior citizens and \$10 for other adults.

Through Feb. 3

Art Exhibition, third annual Student Art Education Association exhibit, Union Gallery. Gallery hours are 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday-Saturday and 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Sundays.

Through Feb. 14

Art Exhibition, "Student Enameling Exhibition," Little Gallery, BGSU Firelands. Gallery hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Friday.

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FACULTY

Art Instructor (First-Year Studies, 3-D). Call Michael Arrigo, 2-9320. Deadline: March 3.

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

On-campus classified:
http://www.bgsu.edu/offices/ohr/employment/BGSU_only/page11151.html

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Off-campus classified:

http://www.bgsu.edu/offices/ohr/employment/cl_staff/page11145.html

ADMINISTRATIVE

http://www.bgsu.edu/offices/ohr/employment/adm_staff/page11137.html

OBITUARY

There were no obituaries this week.

BGSU