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Monitor Newsletter June 26, 2006

Bowling Green State University

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BGSU Archival Collections preserving local African-American history

BGSU's Center for Archival Collections is partnering with the Toledo-Lucas County Public Library, the Ward M. Canaday Center for Special Collections at the University of Toledo and the African American Legacy Project to gather and preserve materials related to the history of the northwest Ohio African-American community.

The formal partnership was announced at a news conference June 19 at the African American Legacy Project headquarters in Toledo. Founded in 2002, the project is a repository of information about the region's black history.

The agreement calls for the partners to work together to professionally preserve materials donated to the project, while making vital documents available to the public.

Representatives of the four organizations have been meeting for the past year to finalize the agreement, which outlines how materials will be collected and enables each institution to own donated material. A significant portion of the collection will be retained at the project's Upton Avenue facility in Toledo.

The coalition sees it as an important step in preserving local history.

"Much local ethnic history has been lost or overlooked ... our meetings and discussions over the last year hope to correct this issue," noted James C. Marshall, manager of the local history and genealogy department at the Toledo-Lucas County Public Library.

Ann Jenks, who heads BGSU's Center for Archival Collections, said she is excited about working with the African American Legacy Project board, and added that because "there will be four institutions working together, there is an increased chance of garnering some grant funds for this effort."

The partner institutions reserve the right to accept only those materials each feels is appropriate to their own collection policies. For example, a collection documenting African-American organizations beyond Toledo and Lucas County would likely be best preserved by the Center for Archival Collections. If other partner institutions were approached about such a collection, they would refer the materials to BGSU.

While Bowling Green's center has a few documents related to black history—such as transcripts of interviews with former slaves conducted in 1937-39—Jenks notes, "Our collections of African-American materials are severely under-represented. We hope to change that with this project."

Ellen Williams offers American education perspective in China

Dr. Ellen Williams, intervention services, was only in China for a month this spring, but left a significant imprint.

Williams was the first BGSU faculty member, and the first foreign teacher, to offer a short-term graduate course at Xi'an International Studies University (XISU), with which BGSU has had an exchange program since 1985. Her students are majoring in the teaching of English.

The focus of the course was a comparison of educational systems between the United

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States and China, looking at compulsory education, teacher training and preschool, remedial, special, secondary, higher and adult education.

In addition to teaching her course, she met extensively with the university's president, associate dean and director of international programs. "They're interested in exploring how to expand the faculty and become more diverse," Williams said. "President Hu is very forward-thinking and wants to develop further BGSU connections."

Williams said students were eager to participate in the course, and in addition to those enrolled, many more audited the class. Most of the students are working teachers.

XISU, which is in the heart of the bustling city of six and a half million people, has opened a new campus on Xi'an's outskirts, where it plans to eventually move all undergraduate classes. Williams was asked by the dean of the English-language program to name several rooms, facilities and even buildings during her tour of the new campus.

She also delivered a lecture on "Education in America: General Issues" for about 250 undergraduates at the new campus.

"Everything is big there," Williams said. "XISU has 20,000 students on its two campuses." Right next door to the inner-city campus is Shaanxi Normal University, with 48,000 students, many of whom are also preparing to be teachers.

Williams discussed school bullying with the associate dean of Shaanxi. A significant topic in U.S. education circles for some time, it has only recently become a developing issue in China, she said. She agreed to share BGSU's "anti-bullying" resources with the school. "We also identified a potential area of research related to the bullying topic," she said. "We discussed conducting a comparison of the characteristics of the victims and perpetrators of bullying in the two countries."

Some of the students in her graduate courses accompanied Williams on her school visits, which included a stop at Shaanxi Middle School. Like the universities, the school has a large enrollment, with 8,000 children in three grades. Despite the large class sizes in China, however, the system appears to be very effective in teaching subjects such as math and science, which have lagged in the United States, Williams noted.

In addition, she observed, "it's considered very important to learn English in China. There are some teachers working in language immersion in the public schools."

Under the Chinese system, public education is open to all but there are fees to attend, making it difficult for some families to continue sending their children to school. A significant development while Williams was in the country was the lifting of school fees in rural areas.

China has a number of special schools for children with disabilities, but as yet Xi'an appears to have no teacher training in the areas of autism or mental retardation. She arranged to help locate materials on teaching strategies for retardation and autism, which her Chinese students will translate from English to Chinese. She also visited the Xi'an Deaf Mute Special School, where she met with administrators and teachers.

The BGSU-Xi'an exchange is organized through the German, Russian and East Asian languages (GREAL) department but relies on close cooperation with the English department and other BGSU units. About 30 BGSU faculty and staff have participated in the exchange program.

Williams and Barbara Laird, an advisor in Academic Enhancement who is participating in the exchange program for the entire 2006-07 academic year, also met with a group of XISU colleagues and BGSU alumni in Xi'an. A number of BGSU alumni now teach or work at XISU.

One, Dr. Shaorong Huang, who received his undergraduate degree from XISU and his Ph.D. from Bowling Green, now teaches at the University of Cincinnati in English and communication. This spring, he and his wife were visiting XISU, where he was teaching a short-term graduate course.

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Williams said the experience was an excellent learning opportunity and encourages others who might be interested in such an exchange to contact her or GREAL Chair Dr. Timothy Pogacar.

Firelands author Larry Smith publishes 'A River Remains'

Dr. Larry Smith, a professor emeritus of English and director of the Writing Center at BGSU Firelands, has published his eighth book of poetry, *A River Remains: Poems*.

The themes of Smith's new poems include his working-class background, family and bout with prostate cancer. He says, "I'm at an age when my life seems a part of history, yet I want to remain alive to the moment and be in the here and now."

Poet Diane Gilliam Fisher says of the new book, "Many of us know Larry Smith as a working-class poet, and in *A River Remains* he sets out to do what Rilke calls 'perhaps the most difficult of all tasks, the ultimate, the last test and proof, the work for which all other work is but preparation—the work of love.' These poems look straight at the things we are most afraid of, and treat them with tenderness. This book is a lesson in saying yes to life."

Dr. Joel Rudinger, a professor emeritus of English, comments, "It is in the small quiet moments that life gives up its meaning, and no one captures the gentle undercurrent of the bliss of life better than Larry Smith. His poems are personal and modest, yet they radiate a universal voice. We can say when we have read his poems that here is a man who lives a deep and watchful life, a man who cares much."

Smith has also published two books of fiction, three literary biographies and a book of memoirs (*Milldust and Roses*), and has written two film scripts for documentaries on Ohio poets James Wright and Kenneth Patchen. As a reviewer and editor, he has edited six anthologies for Bottom Dog Press and acted as managing editor of 15 volumes of Heartlands magazine. He is a member of the Academy of American Poets and a recipient of an Ohio Arts Council Fellowship for criticism.

He and his wife, Ann, are both from Mingo Junction, Ohio, in the industrial Ohio River Valley, and have lived in Huron since 1970.

A River Remains: Poems is available through the WordTech Communications catalog at <http://www.wordtechweb.com/smith.html>.

Cuneen receives award from national professional society

Dr. Jacquelyn Cuneen, chair of the Division of Sport Management, Recreation and Tourism, received the Dr. Garth Paton Distinguished Service Award at the 2006 North American Society for Sport Management (NASSM) Conference June 2 in Kansas City, Mo.

Named for one of the founding members of NASSM, the award is one of the organization's most prestigious honors. It is presented annually to one member, and nominees must have at least 10 years of experience in the field and an ongoing exemplary record of service to NASSM and the profession.

"I am so proud to receive the Paton Award," Cuneen said. "To me, it really represents all the great people I've been associated with on various committees and councils. It's the opportunity to work with and learn from colleagues that's really been the reward for me."

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She has been a faculty member in the School of Human Movement, Sport and Leisure Studies at BGSU since 1989, teaching primarily in sport and event promotions and sport-management field experiences.

Cuneen has served NASSM and the field of sport management in numerous ways. A charter Research Fellow in the society, she was its president in 1999-2000 and received the Dr. Earle F. Zeigler Lecture Award in 2003. She has been editor of *Sport Marketing Quarterly* since 2004 and a member of the editorial review boards of the *Journal of Sport Management* and the *International Journal of Sport Management*. She currently reviews for the *Journal of Physical Education, Recreation and Dance*, and *Future Focus*.

Additionally, she co-authored *Sport and Management Field Experiences*, the first textbook written for sport-management experiential education, and has published more than 40 scholarly and professional articles.

Huron Playhouse announces summer season

BGSU's Huron Playhouse has announced the lineup for its 58th consecutive season. Ohio's oldest continuing summer theatre will feature five productions with the theme of "Celebrating America."

Shows run Tuesday through Saturday evenings, July 4-Aug. 5. Curtain time for all performances is 8 p.m. in the McCormick School on Ohio Street in Huron.

- The season will open fittingly on July 4 with the musical "1776," by Peter Stone and Sherman Edwards, playing through July 8.
- The funny and touching "Steel Magnolias," by Robert Harley, will be performed July 11-15.
- "Tintypes," a nostalgic Broadway musical revue, takes the stage July 18-22.
- The Pulitzer Prize-winning comedy "Harvey," by Mary Chase, runs July 25-29.
- The season ends with the ever-popular musical "Damn Yankees," by Richard Adler and Jerry Ross, from Aug. 1-5.

Season passes and individual tickets are available. For ticket information and reservations, call the playhouse at 419-433-4744 or write to Huron Playhouse, P.O. Box 487, Huron, OH 44839.

IN BRIEF

Countdown is on for Family Campaign

There are only five days left to make your pledge or contribution to support scholarships and programs through the 2006 Family Campaign.

So far, 52.88 percent of employees have participated, and together with retirees have given \$780,457 in gifts and pledges.

"As we enter the final week of Family Campaign 2005-2006, we are excited to see continued momentum and growth," said Amy Edgar Davis, campaign director. "Volunteers have been hard at work with a final push, and their efforts are paying off. Faculty, staff and retirees have

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until Friday (June 30) to participate this year. I hope many more will choose to be a part of Family Campaign.

"Every gift can make a difference in the life of a student and helps impact the University. We encourage people to give to areas that match their passions—whether it's a scholarship or fund designated for their specific department. Faculty and staff participation in our Family Campaign sends a very strong message when the University applies for funding through outside foundations and corporations."

Brady Gaskins appointed graduate student trustee

Gov. Bob Taft has appointed Brady Gaskins, from Bowling Green, as the graduate student trustee on the BGSU Board of Trustees. He replaces Korine Steinke, whose term expired.

Gaskins has both a bachelor's degree in education and a master's degree in sport and recreation administration from the University.

A doctoral intern with the Chapman Learning Community, he is pursuing a Ph.D. in higher education administration. The former director of programs and promotions for Recreational Sports, he is also the announcer for BGSU men's basketball games.

WBGU-PBS to visit county fairs

WBGU-PBS will provide live coverage at 11 county fairs through Sept. 14.

The station covered local county fairs in the early 1970s, and earlier this year its Public Advisory Council for Television endorsed the idea of once again broadcasting live from the Wood County Fair and others throughout the station's coverage area.

The 30-minute, live broadcasts begin at 8 p.m. each Thursday. Cathy Pratt, host of WBGU-PBS's "60-Plus" series, will be at each of the fairs interviewing fair planners, 4-H advisors/participants, and other special guests.

The station will also be recording community members' testimonials to public television to be aired later.

WBGU-PBS will be at the following county fairs on these dates: Paulding, July 13; Logan, July 20; Seneca, July 27; Wood, Aug. 3; Mercer, Aug. 10; Henry, Aug. 17; Allen, Aug. 24; Hancock, Aug. 31; Hardin, Sept. 7 and Williams, Sept. 14.

CALENDAR

Monday, June 26

Beginning of Second, Six-Week Summer Term.

Sundaes on Mondays, Free sundaes and ice cream novelties, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m., Falcon's Nest, Bowen-Thompson Student Union (every other Monday through the summer).

Rhythmyx Content Management System (CMS) Training, for new users of the CMS, 1:30-4:30 p.m., 128 Hayes Hall. To enroll, call the Technology Support Center at 2-0999.

Monday, July 3

Bingo, noon-1 p.m., Falcon's Nest, Union.

Continuing Events
Through July 21

Photography Exhibit, Brian Baby, Little Gallery, BGSU Firelands. Gallery hours are 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Friday.

Art Exhibits, "New Talent 2006," featuring works from freshman scholarship winners and pieces by School of Art faculty and staff.

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Union art galleries. Gallery hours are 8 a.m.-9 p.m. Monday-Friday and 10 a.m.-9 p.m. weekends.

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FACULTY

Romance Languages. Instructor. Call Philip Peek, 2-2468. Deadline: July 18.

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 <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

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

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

Diane Crowe, 71, died June 18 in Bowling Green. She was retired from the computer science department, where she had been a secretary.