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## Monitor Newsletter August 07, 2006

Bowling Green State University

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## Physician overcomes adversity to get public health degree

For most people, obtaining a medical degree would be a natural stopping place in their academic career. Likewise, most people with diabetes who undergo dialysis and quadruple bypass, kidney transplant and double lower-leg amputation surgery, all in two years, might be tempted to retire.

But not Dr. Anthony Linz of Sandusky, medical director of BGSU Firelands' respiratory care technology program. The pulmonary and critical care osteopathic physician, who first graduated from Bowling Green in 1971 with a degree in biology (pre-med) and a minor in chemistry, decided when faced with those daunting circumstances that he would simply change his career path. That was in 1999.

In 2001, he came back to school at BGSU, and on Aug. 5 received his master's degree in public health administration. Linz was surrounded by numerous family members who, like he, are Bowling Green alumni. They include his mother, Margaret Linz, a retired special education teacher and Martha Holden Jennings scholar who received her undergraduate and master's degrees in education at Bowling Green and has almost completed her Ph.D.

Linz has also served as director of cardiopulmonary care services at Firelands Regional Medical Center. Because of his suppressed immune system following the kidney transplant, Linz knew that visiting critically ill patients, especially in the hospital's intensive care unit, would no longer be healthy for him. "I began to think about what I could do," he remembers.

After reading about BGSU's program in public health—a consortium of BGSU, the University of Toledo and the Medical University of Ohio—he visited its director, Dr. Fleming Fallon. That meeting proved fruitful for both.

Not only did Linz enroll in the program, but he and Fallon, who was also a physician before coming to BGSU, combined their expertise to work on projects. The result has been the publication of four, peer-reviewed journal articles and two presentations of their research at annual meetings of the American Public Health Association and the National Association of Local Boards of Health.

"I have enormous respect for him, both personally and professionally," said Fallon. "He has overcome great adversity, and he doesn't whine about it; in fact, he makes jokes about his legs.

"He has only been in prosthetic legs for a few years and yet, two weeks ago, his daughter got married and I watched him dance," he said with admiration.

For the Linz family, BGSU has been not only their alma mater but also the place where they have met their spouses. Dr. Linz met his future wife, the former Kathleen Kovach, when she was an education major. Their son, Anthony Scott Linz, a business administration major, met his wife, Kristin Wetzel, an education major. Most recently, their daughter, Sara Elizabeth, a dietetics major, met her husband, Donald Hupp, who has two degrees from BGSU, in social work and psychology.

## Neal Jesse to study European politics as visiting professor

Dr. Neal Jesse, political science, will be spending fall semester in England as the Hallsworth Visiting Professor of Political Economy at the University of Manchester.

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The position was founded under the terms of a gift made in 1944 by the Rt. Hon. Lord Simon of Wythenshawe, of Didsbury, for the promotion of research and teaching in the social sciences. "They don't give the professorship out every year," Jesse said. "They wait until they have the right person, so I am very happy to have obtained it."

He was awarded the prestigious position in Manchester's Department of Politics after having already been appointed a visiting research fellow at the university, where he will teach a seminar. With the professorship come many additional advantages, Jesse said, which will help support the research he plans to conduct while in the United Kingdom. "I will have a lot of resources there," he predicted.

Jesse's research has centered on comparative politics, especially British and Irish party and electoral systems. While in Manchester, he will study strategic voting in European elections.

"I will look at why people vote, what happens when they aren't able to vote for their top choice, and at the effects on voter turnout of the British political system," he said. "I want to unearth some of that, and I'm sure the questions will unfold while I'm there."

The results of the European study will be applicable to the United States, he said, in that the American electoral system is based on the British model, in which the winner takes all. "The difference is that there they have more parties and more frequent elections," he said. In both countries, however, "the system does not inspire you to vote."

A new area of Jesse's research is political belief systems. He said he is pleased that he will be able to meet with BGSU political science colleague Dr. David Jackson, who will be in Dublin, Ireland. The two are examining the effects of celebrity endorsements on college-age voters' political beliefs, which Jackson has studied in Canada. They will expand their research with a survey of that demographic group in the U.K. and the Republic of Ireland.

Jesse will also continue his work on a book about ethnic conflict around the globe, which he is co-authoring with Kristen Williams, a faculty member from Clark University. The book will be published by the Congressional Quarterly Press.

He will spend the rest of his sabbatical year compiling and analyzing the results of his research. "That's what the spring and summer are for," he joked.

Jesse, who received his Ph.D. from the University of California at Los Angeles, is co-author with Williams of *Identity and Institutions: Conflict Reduction in Divided Societies* (SUNY Press, 2005) and numerous articles and book chapters. He has taught at BGSU since 1999.

### Book of essays on popular culture chronicles field's coming of age

What is meant by "popular culture," and is there a particular method for studying it? Even among scholars in the field, debate has gone on about these and other basic questions surrounding the relatively new discipline. Some of the best writing on the issues, representing a number of perspectives, has been compiled in a new, edited collection of essays on the still-controversial field of study.

BGSU popular culture faculty Drs. Marilyn Motz and Angela Nelson, chair of the department, along with Dr. Harold Hinds of the University of Minnesota at Morris, have compiled *Popular Culture Theory and Methodology: A Basic Introduction*. The book, published by the Popular Press, an imprint of the University of Wisconsin Press, brings together some seminal writings from the 1960s and chronicles the maturation of popular culture as an academic discipline.

Though sometimes still decried as unworthy of serious study, popular culture as a discipline has continued to grow and evolve in its consideration of those activities and products that

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people derive pleasure from, or, as Nelson says, "What do they do after work?"

BGSU's Dr. Ray B. Browne, one of the earliest pioneers in its establishment as a legitimate field of study, said popular culture is "all those elements of life which are not narrowly intellectual or creatively elitist and which are generally though not necessarily disseminated through the mass media."

It differs from elite culture, which typically requires some specialized training, and folk culture, which predates mass communication and Americans' move to the cities, but may contain elements of each. "Everyone participates in popular culture in some way depending on the different roles they have in life," Nelson says.

**A dual approach**

What is unique about the new book is that it combines both popular culture theory and methodology. It provides guidelines to understanding what popular culture is, along with the specific tools and methodology needed for a thorough examination and analysis.

In the past, Nelson says, scholars have attempted to examine popular culture using various cultural theories, as opposed to allowing the theory to arise from the popular culture products themselves. "Because of the multiplicities of popular culture itself, you need a methodology that will encompass the unique characteristics of each popular culture product," Nelson explains. The three editors have attempted to "pinpoint popular culture theory within cultural theory," she says.

The book contains several essays by Browne, whose "vision had a breadth that differed from some other of the early scholars," such as Dwight Macdonald and Russel B. Nye, Nelson says. While Nye was a supporter of the study of popular culture, she describes his views as at times "diametrically opposed" to Browne's. Writing a bit later was John Fiske, whose views on popular culture came from a Marxist and British cultural studies perspective; he is also represented in the book.

Other chapters deal with the evolution of the discipline, methodologies, aesthetics, folk culture and popularity, in essays by Gary Harmon, Lawrence Mintz, Tim Lally, John Shelton Lawrence and Elizabeth Bird, among many others.

Aimed at scholars and graduate students, *Popular Culture Theory and Methodology* is designed to "provide a vehicle for courses, curricula, programs and departments to be reevaluated, reformed and restructured," Nelson writes in her foreword.

**First GEAR UP scholars to enter BGSU**

The GEAR UP program has celebrated a milestone with the presentation of Toledo Community Foundation scholarships to the inaugural class of GEAR UP students—those who have been with the program since junior high school and graduated from Waite High School in June. The awards were given at a July 31 recognition ceremony at Waite.

GEAR UP (Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs) is a partnership of BGSU, the University of Toledo and Toledo Public Schools, and is funded by the U.S. Department of Education.

BGSU faculty and students have worked with East Toledo junior high and high school students, their parents and community organizations since 2000 to increase the number of at-risk students going to college. GEAR UP is based on three components: school restructuring, professional development of staff and direct services to students and families.

Dr. William Armaline and fellow education faculty member Dr. Kathleen Farber are co-directors of the program at BGSU. Other participants are Chris MacDonald, assistant director;

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Drs. Nancy Patterson and John Fischer, teaching and learning; Dr. Arthur Samel, geography; Amanda Vrooman, office manager, and Beth Watters, who handles budget and accounting.

"Kathy and I are especially happy to see the first GEAR UP class graduate and prepare to begin their college experience," Armaline said. "That is really the purpose of the project—to increase the number of students graduating from high school prepared to attend some form of post-secondary education.

"We are proud to have worked with the staffs at East Toledo Junior High and Waite High School and the East Toledo community over the past six years, and we look forward to greater achievements with them in the future."

Of the Waite GEAR UP contingent coming to BGSU this fall, four students received \$895 Toledo Community Foundation scholarships. They are Kristin Brown, Holly Gross, Alysia Martin and Joel Newton. In addition, all the GEAR UP students will receive substantial financial aid from BGSU.

Since GEAR UP's inception, a new group of seventh-graders has been added to the program each year, funded by a federal grant of about \$6.2 million to BGSU in conjunction with the schools, parents, community agencies and businesses. That grant was part of a larger award of roughly \$19.2 million to the Midwest Educational Reform Consortium, which, in addition to BGSU, included Western Michigan University and the University of Illinois-Chicago.

In 2005, a new federal grant gave Bowling Green another \$4 million-plus over six years, starting with that year's sixth- and seventh-graders on Toledo's east side. The grant is aiding with the transition to middle schools for grades 6-8, Armaline said.

**IN BRIEF****President to greet campus at Opening Day address**

President Ribeau will launch the new academic year on Aug. 18 with his Opening Day address. Faculty, staff and students are invited to come hear what is in store for 2006-07.

His talk will begin at 10 a.m. in the Lenhart Grand Ballroom of the Bowen-Thompson Student Union. The doors open at 9:30 for coffee and fellowship.

**CALENDAR**

**Monday, Aug. 7**

**Sundaes on Mondays**, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m., Falcon's Nest, Bowen-Thompson Student Union.

**Wednesday, Aug. 9**

**New Faculty Luncheon**, noon, Lenhart Grand Ballroom (202B), Union.

**Thursday, Aug. 10**

**Rhythmix Content Management System (CMS) Training**, for new users of the CMS, 8:30-11:30 a.m., 128 Hayes Hall. To register, call 2-0999. For more details, visit <http://www.bgsu.edu/offices/cio/webdev/page16548.html>  
**Administrative Staff Council**, 1:30-3:30 p.m., 207 Union.

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Friday, Aug. 11

**New Faculty Orientation**, 1-3 p.m., Lenhart Grand Ballroom (202B), Union.

**New Faculty Fair**, 3-4:30 p.m., Lenhart Grand Ballroom (202A), Union.

## JOB POSTINGS

### FACULTY

#### Sociology

- Assistant Professor (Criminology/Deviance). Call Stephen Demuth, 2-7260. Deadline: Sept. 18.
- Assistant/Associate Professor (Demography). Call Susan Brown, 2-7260. Deadline: Oct. 2.

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

### ADMINISTRATIVE

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

## OBITUARY

**Melvin Hyman**, 79, a professor emeritus of communication disorders, died July 10 in Perrysburg. He taught at BGSU from 1952-85 and was chair of his department for 29 years. Memorials may be given to the Mel Hyman Scholarship Fund in the communication disorders department.

**Francine Todd**, 61, died July 29 in Norwalk. She developed the BGSU Firelands radiologic technology associate degree program in 2004 and was its interim director and a visiting lecturer, as well as serving as its advisory board president. Memorials may be given to the BGSU Firelands Advisory Board Scholarship Fund.