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Monitor Newsletter August 14, 2006

Bowling Green State University

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> **Top Stories**

In Brief

Calendar

Job Postings

Obituaries

Painter Mille Guldbek reconnected with her Danish roots

"My personal journey is to reclaim and discover the things that I love, and it inevitably leads to the natural world and the question of what is my place in it," says painter Mille Guldbek.

The BGSU artist has been selected for two prestigious exchange programs that will allow her to reconnect with friends, colleagues and the once-familiar landscape of Denmark.

The daughter of Danish parents, Guldbek said that, for part of her childhood in Illinois, life was focused on Danish culture and the family's roots. That sense of belonging continues to draw her back to her ancestral home, where she had moved at age 17. She is fluent in Danish and proficient in Swedish and Norwegian, which she believes played a part in her being chosen for the two programs that seek to bridge the distance between countries and cultures.

She left at the end of July for her first exchange program in Denmark, in the official capacity of guest artist in the Baltic Sea International Artist Residency program of the Nordic Institute for Contemporary Art (NIFCA). NIFCA comprises artists from Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Poland, Russia and Sweden.

Guldbek, who has been a BGSU School of Art faculty member since 1999, is spending the month of August in a guest studio and residence for sculptors and painters in Odense—birthplace of Hans Christian Andersen—where she is focusing primarily on creating works on paper. She will also meet with other artists in the region and hopes to arrange a small showing of her work.

Connecting art and nature

The second program, with an \$8,400 Fellowship grant from the Amanda C. Roleson Fund of the American-Scandinavian Foundation, will enable her to spend six months in Denmark. From February-August 2007, she will work alone on the remote island of Mon studying organic systems and rare plant life as the basis for new paintings.

Mon, about an hour and a half south of Copenhagen, is worlds away from life as most Americans know it and is being declared a protected area, Guldbek said. Close to the former home of her paternal grandmother, "it's the only place in Denmark with white chalk cliffs, like the cliffs of Dover, and is very beautiful and very inspirational."

Leaving her airy studio overlooking the corn and soybean fields of northwest Ohio, she will live in a cottage and bike the 8-10 miles into town. "It's definitely going to be a lot slower and a lot healthier," she said.

"I look forward to experiencing all kinds of weather and being in a place where I can explore how we experience our notions of the sublime, as artists and as people," she said. Guldbek likens her recent work to that of the German Romanticists, in which the landscape tends to envelop human beings. "There's an element of terror linked to the sublime," she observed.

"It's hard to be on that Romantic side in this day and age," she acknowledged, "but maybe that longing for the sublime and intensified Romantic concentration on nature is a symptom of being alienated from nature. I want to see what is my relationship to that terror and that beauty and what comes out of it."

Primarily a colorist, Guldbek's work reflects the natural world's nonhierarchical systems and her perception that "out in nature, so many things happen at once." Her paintings reveal themselves slowly to the viewer, each color and gesture making itself felt not as a single note but as parts of a chord. "I'm interested in the 'tuning' of color, and when it 'sounds' right I feel it here," she says, gesturing to a spot just below the diaphragm.

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

Guldbeck's concern with and connection to the environment have influenced her choice of medium as well. She works mostly on wood, in water-soluble casein pigments, which are derived from milk. Sometimes, as in her "Ghost Vertical II," she burnishes the color until it glows and gains a depth that draws the eye into the painting.

In a break from her self-described "monastic studio practice" in Denmark, she will engage in a collaborative project with Danish painter Else Ploug Isaksen and hold a weeklong workshop and lecture series at the Aarhus Kunstakademi, a four-year art school. Just north of Odense, Aarhus is a center of the Nordic art scene, Guldbeck said.

In addition to the American-Scandinavian Foundation fellowship, Guldbeck recently learned she has been named the 2006 Roth Fellow and will receive a grant of up to \$1,250 from the Lois Roth Endowment, based in Washington, D.C. The special award honors the late Sonja Bundgaard-Nielsen, the former executive director of the Denmark-America Foundation.

Connecting with fellow artists

The frequent emails and letters she has been receiving from Denmark since word of her upcoming fellowship got out are increasing her excitement, both personally and professionally. "The arts community is small and tightly knit," she said. "Denmark is a real 'hot spot' for art right now, and there are many fabulous artists in the forefront of what's happening in the art world."

She is determined to widen awareness of that art scene, which is largely unfamiliar to Americans in part because of the great expense of shipping artwork to stage exhibits. Consequently, Danish artists' work is not often shared or seen outside the country. The problem exists even for artists in the United States, Guldbeck said.

"I'm really hoping to create a faculty exchange, and I plan to work with Else (Ploug Isaksen) on developing those possibilities while I'm there," she said. "That would help provide an international venue for those who may not have the ability to do it on their own."

"I also want to work on linking international organizations with Bowling Green," she said. "Part of the emphasis and the mission of the American-Scandinavian Foundation is to encourage lasting ties between countries."

BGSU biologist trying to crack microscopic code

Dr. Ray Larsen is trying to learn a second language.

The BGSU biologist wants to crack the communication code of proteins, especially the ones whose "talking" aids and abets disease.

"Proteins interact; they 'talk' to each other," Larsen says. "It's how they know what to do, and it's how most of the things that need to happen for living organisms get done." He is seeking a research grant renewal from the National Science Foundation, which has provided \$300,000 in support over the last three years.

What talking proteins have to do with infectious disease is a story fleshed out in the submicroscopic world of molecular biology.

It starts with bacteria, which are cloaked by an outer membrane—a defensive barrier against the harsh elements of their environment, whether toxins in nature or the protective antibodies of an infected host. Specific proteins interact to support this shield, and knowing how they communicate would provide a key to disabling it, Larsen says.

Once communication questions are answered, a goal is to develop drugs to break the barrier, rendering the bacteria more susceptible to the human body's natural defenses—antibod-

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

ies—as well as certain antibiotics, he points out.

While keeping potential dangers out, the outer membrane must also be porous enough to allow nutrients in, he continues. As an analogy, he cites a house with a yard and a chain-link fence that “keeps the dogs out of the roses but lets the butterflies through.”

A short distance separates the outer membrane and the rest of the organism. How the bacteria maintain their barrier when it’s physically removed from the rest of the cell, and thus separated from its energy source, is where his interest lies.

“The barrier is not self-sustaining, so the bacteria must export energy to it,” says Larsen, referring to protein systems that take cellular energy and use it to support the outer membrane. “It’s kind of like getting oil from the Middle East.”

Targeting proteins

Proteins do all the business of cells, including energy transfer, which a couple of different systems handle, according to Larsen. The TonB system, which controls certain “gates” in the outer membrane, is a good model for resolving questions of how a protein recognizes and communicates with others with whom it’s exchanging energy, he says. A similar system, called the Tol system, is important in maintaining the defensive barrier, although which proteins it delivers energy to as part of that process aren’t known.

Finding that answer is a long-term objective, he adds, saying it could help lead to the development of a drug that could break the barrier.

Some drugs already target the outer defenses of bacteria. Perhaps best known is penicillin, one of several existing antibiotics that successfully target specific structures required for the barrier function to work, Larsen notes. The outer membrane is stabilized by a grid of sugar polymers, and penicillin wrecks the grid, making the cells susceptible to a body’s natural defenses.

Disrupting energy flow—knocking out the TonB and Tol systems—would provide another powerful weapon against disease-causing bacteria, he says, but researchers must first understand how the two systems work. They are similar enough that they have some relatively interchangeable parts, but they don’t swap perfectly. He compares the situation to two people speaking different dialects of the same language—“not everything makes total sense.” But the TonB-Tol “cross talk” does provide a tool for mixing and matching parts of the systems and asking what’s important and what isn’t.

“To begin understanding how proteins talk, we first made random mutations—we broke things and then asked what happened,” Larsen says. “That strategy worked well and allowed us to identify the key ‘words.’ Now we want to know what the ‘words’ mean, and we are starting by asking what happens when we mix the ‘dialects.’

“It’s genetic tinker toys,” and an area, he adds, in which BGSU doctoral student Kerry Brinkman is “breaking new ground.”

Learning from *E. coli*

Larsen and his graduate assistants do their work with *E. coli* bacteria, which he calls “the world’s best Lego set” and a genetic model for 60 years, on a par with rodents in other research areas. The problem, however, is that laboratory *E. coli* are the “98-pound weaklings in the real world,” not offering barriers as robust as other bacteria maintain outside the lab, he says.

So he has begun studying the type of bacteria that is the leading cause of shellfish poisoning in the United States. It lives, he notes, in two “incredibly different environments”—estuaries of the Gulf of Mexico and Chesapeake Bay, and the human intestinal tract. That means the types of proteins in its outer membrane must change to reflect the environment, giving researchers a “thread you can pull,” he says.

Living in and adapting to different environments is “part of who they are,” but also, Larsen hopes, an avenue to additional funding for his research of the bacteria, which he calls a “little

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

brother" to the organism that causes cholera.

He has received funding from the BGSU Faculty Research Council to follow up on a finding by master's degree student Cari Smerk that a protein in the Tol system is pirated by certain viruses. "Viruses are con artists, and this one has gotten the Tol system's PIN number, so we have begun asking what the virus proteins are telling the Tol system to convince it to work for them," Larsen says. "We actually know very little about how most viruses work; this is going to tell us something interesting."

Be personal advocates for higher education, Folkins tells new faculty

The University welcomed about 50 newcomers Aug. 9 at the annual new faculty luncheon. Among them are two new deans: Dr. Wayne Unsell, of the College of Technology, and Dr. Rodney Rogers, of the College of Business Administration.

Because "there's a lot about higher education that the public doesn't understand," resulting in inaccurate stereotypes of faculty members and a climate of distrust—and in light of the current challenges to education funding and academic freedom—"we need to improve how we communicate with the public in many ways," Provost John Folkins told the group.

One way is on a very casual, individual level, when faculty members are asked what they do. Folkins advised the faculty to develop an "elevator speech" to describe their teaching and research. "Don't be aloof and waste this powerful opportunity to tell people what you do and why it's important," he said.

Like an elevator ride, the description should be short, he said. It should also be in layman's terms that cover the central points without being too general. "Understanding is the goal—not showing off," he said. "If we can't explain what we do, how can we be seen as effective teachers?"

"Make it relevant," he went on. "Tie what you're doing to making a better world. Whether we're in basic, applied or engaged scholarship, we're doing our work to make an impact."

And while not taking yourself too seriously, Folkins said, make sure to convey why the work is important. With such strong competition for resources today, "we need to stand up and take credit for our contributions."

Professional group honors Louisa Ha for teaching excellence

Dr. Louisa Ha, telecommunications, was presented the 2006 Barry Sherman Teaching Award in Media Management and Economics at the annual conference of the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication (AEJMC).

A specialist in media convergence and media management, Ha is the undergraduate coordinator and the faculty member responsible for her department's media management focus area. At the undergraduate level, she has taught all courses in that area. For the management curriculum, she developed a Media Sales and Promotion course, which was also offered as one of the department's first Web-based courses.

Last fall, Ha taught a graduate-level course, Media Economics and Diversity. "Out of the 14 graduate students in the course, 11 submitted abstracts to the AEJMC Mid-Winter Confer-

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

ence this year; 10 got accepted," wrote telecommunications Chair Dr. Ewart Skinner in nominating her for the award. "Dr. Ha also works closely with graduate students on collaborative projects. Her research with graduate student Lisa Marshall received the Second Best Faculty Paper Award at the Media Management and Economics Division (MME) paper competition last year," he added.

Ha is also the chair of the Emerging Media Research Cluster in the School of Communication Studies.

She has helped steer students to various media management and sales careers. Three of her Media Sales and Promotion class students received National Media Sales Institute Fellowships. This year, she developed a new course in audience research introducing students to audience theories and research techniques.

Ha contributed to the teaching of colleagues last year at AEJMC as the teaching-standards chair in the Media Management and Economics division. In 2004, she organized a one-day, pre-convention workshop on teaching audience research for the association. She also presented media management curriculum issues at the National Cable Television Association Academic Seminar.

The Barry Sherman Teaching Award recognizes excellence and innovation in the teaching of media management and economics. Nominees are required to submit examples of innovative teaching assignments and evidence of teaching effectiveness. The nominations and teaching materials were judged by three eminent scholar-teachers in the field of media management and economics.

The award honors the memory of Barry Sherman, who, at the time of his death in May 2000, was Lambdin Kay Professor in the Grady College of Journalism and Mass Communication at the University of Georgia. Sherman was director of the prestigious Peabody Awards from 1991-2000. In 1995, the International Radio and Television Society Foundation named him a Stanton Fellow for his "outstanding contribution to electronic media education."

Retirees move on to new life adventures

The University notes the retirements of administrative and classified staff members and faculty since last November. They will be honored at a tea Nov. 28.

From the administrative staff, retiring were: Robert R. Hayward, director of administrative services, facilities services, in November, and Deborah E. Smith, executive assistant, psychology, in May.

From the classified staff, the employees who retired and their dates of hire are:

January: Denise Freeman, administrative assistant, marketing department, August 1975; Randy Roach, carpenter, facilities services, June 1974; Shirley Snyder, custodial worker, facilities services, February 1979; Marlene Helm, secretary, Instructional Media Services, July 1976; Raymond Gonyer, building maintenance superintendent, facilities services, August 1979, and Glenn Beard, maintenance repair worker, facilities services, September 1984.

February: Joel Burg, food service manager, University Dining Services, November 1982; Jeanett Payne, custodial work team leader, facilities services, September 1974, and Linda Babcock, library associate, University Libraries, November 1990.

March: Princess Eschedor, custodial worker, facilities services, March 1979.

April: Cathy Eckel, secretary, student life, January 1973; LuAnn Lanning, account clerk,

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

psychology, June 1976; Mary Joyce Smeltzer, account clerk, business office, April 1973, and Gary Mayberry, custodial worker, facilities services, September 1998.

June: Sandra Gilbert, cook, University Dining Services, September 1966; Marvin Maas, Help Desk consultant, Information Technology Services, February 1987; Carol West, cashier, University Dining Services, October 1994; Jeanne Malcolm, publications specialist, residence life, June 1973; Carol Zamarripa, custodial worker, facilities services, September 1999; Gary Dennis, custodial worker, facilities services, July 2000; Jeffrey Jackson, building maintenance superintendent, facilities services, July 1974; Crispina Molina, building maintenance superintendent, facilities services, December 1971, and Patricia Carol Beardsley, housekeeping manager, facilities services, October 1984.

July: Kausalya Padmaraj, library associate, University Libraries, December 1975; Annette Reazin, programmer/analyst, ITS, August 1991; Jack Gangwer, auto body repair worker, facilities services, October 1975; Jennifer Honsberger, administrative secretary, University Libraries, January 1988; Joy Kantner, administrative secretary, University advancement, September 1968; Janet Watson, administrative secretary, communication disorders, June 1968; Tina Tampurages, secretary, Bowen-Thompson Student Union, July 1976; Cynthia Trumbull, custodial worker, facilities services, January 1995; Robert Blackburn, police lieutenant, public safety, January 1984; Daniel Sturges, maintenance repair worker, facilities services, September 1981, and Tina Tracy, custodial worker, facilities services, January 1980.

August: Evelyn Lindquist, custodial work team leader, facilities services, January 1979.

Faculty members who have retired and the year they came to BGSU include:

- Dr. Donald Boren, legal studies, 1976.
- Dr. Lawrence Daly, history, 1965.
- Dr. Glen Frey, geography, 1968.
- Dr. Mary Jane Hahler, humanities and romance languages at BGSU Firelands, 1970.
- Dr. Sally Kilmer, School of Family and Consumer Sciences, 1979.
- Dr. Steven Ludd, political science, 1976.
- Dr. John Makay, interpersonal communication, 1968-70, returning in 1991.
- Steven Moorhead, visual communication and technology education, 1988.
- Dr. David Newman, chemistry, 1965.

IN BRIEF

President Ribeau to deliver Opening Day address Friday

Start off the academic year at President Ribeau's Opening Day address Friday (Aug. 18) in the Lenhart Grand Ballroom of the Bowen-Thompson Student Union. Reconnect with colleagues and students over coffee at 9:30 a.m. and hear the president's message at 10.

BG@100 open forums keep campus up to date

BG@100 open forums are held monthly to update interested faculty, staff and students about progress on the PeopleSoft implementation. In addition to presenting project information,

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

project team members are available to answer questions regarding BG@100.

The next forum is scheduled for 1:30 p.m. Thursday (Aug. 17) in 316 Bowen-Thompson Student Union. Registration is not required—anyone interested is invited to attend. A list of upcoming open forum dates and times is available on the project Web site at www.bgsu.edu/bgat100 under the Communications link.

BG@100 FMS introductory training is under way

The BG@100 training team has begun to offer training sessions for the upcoming implementation of PeopleSoft FMS. The Introductory Training Series comprises four courses that provide an introduction to PeopleSoft and FMS-specific terms and concepts that will be used throughout FMS training.

You can obtain information on specific courses by visiting the BG@100 project page at www.bgsu.edu/bgat100 and selecting the Training link. All who will be using the PeopleSoft FMS system to complete financial transactions are encouraged to review this course material. Questions regarding training or the project may be directed to BGat100@bgsu.edu.

Fact or hearsay? Check it out at the BG@100 Rumor Mill

Have you heard something about the BG@100 project and wonder if it is true? Send your inquiry to the BG@100 Rumor Mill. Questions may be submitted anonymously or with a request for an email response. All questions and responses will be posted to the BG@100 Rumor Mill Response Page. Check it out on the BG@100 project page <http://www.bgsu.edu/bgat100> by selecting the Rumor Mill link.

CALENDAR

Wednesday, Aug. 16

Classified Staff Council, 9 a.m.-noon, 316 Bowen-Thompson Student Union.

Friday, Aug. 18

Opening Day Address by President Ribeau, 10 a.m., Lenhart Grand Ballroom, Union. Doors open at 9:30 a.m. for coffee.

Monday, Aug. 21

Fall classes begin.

Continuing Events
Aug. 21-Sept. 20

Art Exhibit, sculpture by Karen Gallup, Little Gallery, BGSU Firelands. Gallery hours are 9 a.m.-5 p.m. weekdays.

JOB POSTINGS**FACULTY**

There were no faculty 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 <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

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**

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

Frieda Morlock Lichtenwald, 97, died Aug. 5 in Bowling Green. She worked for many years at the University presidents' residence.

Victor Repp, 81, a professor emeritus of technology, died Aug. 9 in Maumee. He taught manufacturing technology at BGSU from 1960-85, returning under the supplemental retirement system until 1989.