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Monitor Newsletter July 09, 2007

Bowling Green State University

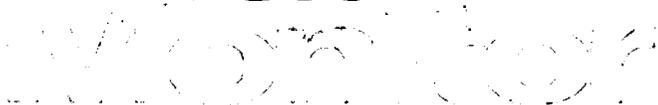
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BGSU



JULY 9, 2007

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BGSU digital media devotees taking 'virtual worlds' to Europe

Travelers from BGSU will be taking a lot of pictures during a study abroad experience in Europe over the next year. But many of the photos won't go into albums as mere mementos, but will be used instead to help take other people where they might not otherwise be able to go.

It's all courtesy of a technology, Pocket Virtual Worlds, that allows for navigation of virtual environments not while sitting at a computer but while actually walking around and exploring them. Photos create panoramas in which people can navigate by using a personal digital assistant (PDA).

The technology's co-developer is Dr. Larry Hatch, chair of visual communication and technology education. Hatch and four of the undergraduate and graduate students in his Digital Media Research Group leave July 18 for a European stay based in Salzburg, Austria. There, they will work with peers at the University of Applied Sciences ("Fachhochschule").

Hatch, who first visited Salzburg as a high school student in 1970, returned for three days as part of an international delegation at the university's opening about 18 months ago. When the institution subsequently sought exchange possibilities, the BGSU professor thought it would be a good place for his students to interact with international colleagues, sharing complementary research.

That research includes Pocket Virtual Worlds and, as Hatch pointed out, Europe offers "all sorts of things to photograph and put in this technology." Its premise is this: If a panorama represents a single point in space, then an array of panoramas is a virtual world. In the photographic environment, navigation mode allows users to walk on a map that, like a Global Positioning System (GPS), moves under the person to provide a real-world connection and physical sense of scale. At key areas of the map, the system switches to panorama mode, allowing a 360-degree view, and unlike GPS, it works indoors or outdoors.

"Every time you take a step, you see a world from a different perspective," said Hatch, explaining that a pocket navigator worn on the hip uses Bluetooth and location-aware technology. The navigator provides directional and distance information directly to the PDA, transforming body movement into a giant game controller that navigates the world automatically.

Then there's the benefit of getting kids moving away from their computer monitors, he added, citing the educational possibilities. The system can make visits to museums more interactive and take youngsters directly to places possibly otherwise out of reach, such as the Eiffel Tower or the Alamo. Hatch and his co-developer, Jared Bendis of Case Western Reserve University, have already taken about 230 panoramic photos at the Alamo to create a working prototype for the Pocket Virtual Worlds system.

The technology will also be expanded into a Pocket Mobile Gaming system that, in the gaming mode, Hatch said, can help children learn colors and shapes, sign language or another spoken language.

The "Pocket" products could work just as easily on smaller, portable gaming systems made by Nintendo and others, he noted, saying they probably won't be on PDAs eventually. But the developers needed to get them working on another format first, he continued, and the work of two members of the Digital Media Research Group was invaluable in making that happen.

Computer science students Alex Mach, a junior, and Craig Brown, a graduate student, did the math to devise a linear rectified image for a PDA—a way to wrap an image around a cylinder without distortion. "It was a great mathematical challenge for them to figure out how to do this on a PDA," Hatch said.

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Student opportunity

Traveling to Austria with Hatch will be Mach; his Centerville High School classmate Eric Gang, a visual communication technology (VCT) major; senior Brian King, a VCT and marketing major from Elyria, and first-year graduate student Jason Mellen of Palm Bay, Fla., who is in the master's degree program in technology education.

While some of the classes they are taking at the Salzburg university will be taught in English, several of the travelers have also taken a class in German to help prepare for the trip.

"The opportunity for me to travel overseas to study with students from another walk of life, on a project that I am passionate about, is something I never thought would happen to me," Gang said.

The research group members come from various majors, including education, art and math in addition to VCT and computer science. Working alongside his brightest peers both within VCT and outside the field "is nothing short of a dream come true," said Gang, who also called Pocket Virtual Worlds "the beginning of a new and innovative way to invoke learning."

The BGSU junior and Hatch agreed that the diversity within the research group is needed. Using resources from various disciplines is what makes the group "a groundbreaking entity in the institutional research community," according to Gang.

Hatch recruited many of the research group students from a creative experience called ViaMedia. ViaMedia is comprised of top incoming VCT students who, led by senior managers, take on two or three service-learning projects in media each semester to help area businesses and nonprofit organizations.

"It's hard work," Hatch said. "It just happens to be something we like to do."

Miller book traces streams of legal philosophy from ancients to Middle Ages

Since antiquity, philosophers have sought to understand the theoretical foundations of the law. A new book edited by Dr. Fred Miller Jr., executive director of BGSU's Social Philosophy and Policy Center, traces the historical development of legal thought, elucidating the origins of the modern philosophy of law in ancient and medieval philosophy.

"Western legal philosophy, like a stream flowing over three millennia, was fed by far-flung tributaries," Miller writes in the introduction to *A History of the Philosophy of Law from the Ancient Greeks to the Scholastics*. Recently published by Springer, the book traces those tributaries in a collection of original essays by a group of eminent international philosophers, classicists, historians and legal theorists. Assisting Miller in editing the compilation was his former doctoral student, Dr. Carrie-Ann Biondi, now teaching at Marymount College in New York City. The essays were originally presented at two international conferences organized by the Social Philosophy and Policy Center in conjunction with the Liberty Fund of Indianapolis, Ind.

The book is the sixth volume of a 12-volume series under preparation by an international team of renowned legal scholars. Titled "A Treatise of Legal Philosophy and General Jurisprudence," the definitive encyclopedia is edited by Enrico Pattaro of the School of Law at the University of Bologna, Italy, and includes five volumes on legal theory and seven on the history of legal philosophy. Bologna is the site of the world's first law school, founded in the 12th century.

Miller, a specialist in Greek philosophy and the author of *Nature, Justice and Rights in Aristotle's 'Politics'* (Oxford University Press, 1995), and co-editor of *A Companion to Aristotle's 'Politics'* (Blackwell, 1995), was invited to edit the volume. "I wanted to do it for two reasons,"



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Miller said. "First, I was interested in how ideas of natural law, legal normativity and human rights evolved, and second, there was no book like this that showed how early philosophers laid the foundation for modern legal thought. Modern legal concepts were 'baked in the cake,' so to speak. They were pre-formed and ready to develop."

Miller wrote the prologue on legal thought in the ancient Middle East and the chapters on Aristotle's philosophy of law and early Jewish and Christian legal thought. He co-wrote the chapter on law in Roman philosophy.

The concepts of legal normativity, the rule of law, the theory of constitutionalism, the idea of natural law and the theory of individual rights all have ancient and medieval roots. The issues raised by the philosophers of that time are still being debated today. For example, the question of legal normativity is still very much a live issue, as we question whether "simply because something is the law, is it right, and ought one to follow it?" Miller said.

Ideas about the source of the law play an important part in philosophical thinking, he pointed out. "The dominant idea of the ancients was that nature is the basis of the authority of law," he said, noting evidence of this as far back as the Egyptians. Philosophers have distinguished between rules based upon natural law and those based in conventional law. Aristotle wrote of the preeminence of natural law, or those precepts that are common among humans worldwide—such as the duty of parents to care for their children—over conventional, or agreed upon, law, of which a modern example might be driving on the right in the United States and on the left in England, Miller explained.

Catholic philosopher Thomas Aquinas, writing in the 12th century, attempted to synthesize Christian, natural and conventional law. "He wrote that even an atheist could discover natural law," Miller noted.

God is the source of authority in early Jewish legal thinking, beginning with the traditional Mosaic code and culminating in the Talmud. "Christianity soon became a separate branch and a distinct and powerful . . . influence on Western European legal philosophies," writes Miller in the prologue. But though viewed as the source of religious law, divine authority was not immune to questioning on the part of philosophers, he said. "A major controversy was going on in the Middle Ages over the question: Does the fact that God commands something make it right?" he said.

"You would never have a question like that" in Sharia, or Islamic law, he noted. The chapter by Dr. Charles Butterworth of the University of Maryland, one of the foremost scholars of Islamic societies, discusses the concept of "revealed law" given by Allah to Mohammed, which was expounded but never questioned. Conversely, other chapters discuss the Christian scholastics and their attempts to apply reason to matters of faith, an example of the sharp division between East and West.

"Another wellspring of Western legal philosophy was Roman jurisprudence, presented in a systematic manner by legions of Roman jurists," Miller writes. Though their system was temporarily lost in the barbarian invasions of Europe, which led to the rise of feudalism, it was rediscovered after the 12th century. "It began to be studied and law schools sprang up all over the world," Miller said.

The ancient philosophers were often prescient in their thinking. As if foreseeing the modern experiment with communism, Aristotle was critical of Plato's utopian ideal of a collectivized society in which all citizens would share ownership and responsibility for everything from children to property, saying that it was "contrary to human nature," Miller said. "Aristotle felt that if you try to construct a legal system that doesn't fit with human psychology, you're in for trouble."

And though "now widely forgotten," Miller pointed out, a group of early modern Spanish scholastic philosophers who were also Catholic priests spoke vehemently against the exploitation of the New World by the conquistadors. Writing against the subjugation of native peoples, Bartolomeo de Las Casas asserted that "men were not born slaves," that "God created rational men, not slaves," and that "all men and all lands were created free."

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Although these words were unheeded when written, they proved to be influential on later philosophers such as John Locke, whose theory of natural rights in turn influenced the American founders. The Declaration of Independence, drafted by Thomas Jefferson, exemplifies this natural rights tradition.

As it has throughout history, the philosophy of law continues to evolve and will ever remain "a work in progress," Miller stated.

Hammond takes helm of education college

Dr. Rosalind Hammond has been appointed interim dean of the College of Education and Human Development. Her appointment began July 1, Interim Provost Mark Gromko has announced. As interim dean, she is responsible for the fiscal and academic leadership of the college.

Hammond has significant leadership experience in the college. She has served as associate dean for academic affairs since 2000, and recently as interim director of the School of Teaching and Learning. She previously was interim director of the School of Family and Consumer Sciences, department chair and program coordinator.

Hammond replaces Dean Josué Cruz. The search for a permanent dean will begin at a later time, Gromko said.

Hammond has taught at BGSU since 1982. She received her doctoral and master's degrees in education from the University of Virginia and a bachelor's degree, also in education, from Longwood College.

New officers elected for BGSU's student government

New officers of Undergraduate Student Government (USG) and Graduate Student Senate (GSS) are in place for the coming academic year.

Johnnie Lewis was elected president of USG, with running mate Nicholas Gamero as vice president. GSS's president is Jeannie M. Sabaroff, while the title of vice president belongs to Gina Ondercin.

Lewis is a junior majoring in criminal justice with a double minor in political science and theatre. He was in the 2005 cohort of the President's Leadership Academy and is involved in the Latino Student Union, Vision, the Sailing Club, and public and alumni relations for Alpha Tau Omega. His parents are Jimmie and Turesa D. Lewis of Southfield, Mich.

Gamero is a junior majoring in liberal studies. He is involved with the Latino Student Union and the IMPACT (Integrating Moral Principles and Critical Thinking) learning community. The former editor of The Obsidian, Gamero is interested in politics, art, soccer and writing. He is the son of Juan and Donna Gamero of Medina.

Sabaroff is a master's degree student majoring in college student personnel. She is the Kappa Kappa Gamma house director and the chapter key advisor for Phi Sigma Sigma Sorority Zeta Omega Chapter. Sabaroff is also the 2007 Bacchus Gamma Region 7 Advisor of the Year. The daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Michael Sabaroff of Philadelphia, Pa., she graduated from Little Flower Catholic High School for Girls in 2002. In 2006, she received a bachelor's degree in criminal justice from Temple University.



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Ondercin, of Toledo, is a doctoral student majoring in higher education administration and works as a graduate assistant at the Career Center. She graduated from Unity Christian High School in Hudsonville, Mich., and went on to receive a bachelor's degree in public administration at Grand Valley State University and a master's degree in counseling and student personnel at Minnesota State University.

IN BRIEF

Monitor takes summer hiatus

Monitor will return July 30 following a two-week break in publication. Administrative and classified staff job postings will continue to be maintained online by the Office of Human Resources.

Saddlemire schedule update

The schedule of activity leading to the demolition of Saddlemire Student Services Building is taking shape following a July 3 meeting of BGSU representatives and the project contractors.

Marc Brunner, project manager in the design and construction office, said fencing is scheduled to be up at the site by Tuesday (July 10), followed by the start of hazardous-material abatement on July 16. Demolition is scheduled to begin about a week after that, he said.

For more information about the project, see the story in the July 2 Monitor at www.bgsu.edu/offices/mc/monitor/07-02-07/page32295.html. During the upcoming Monitor hiatus, updates will be communicated by campuswide broadcast email.

CALENDAR

Monday, July 9

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

Wednesday, July 11

Grilling on the Green, 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., Union.

Thursday, July 12

Administrative Staff Council, 1:30-3 p.m., 207 Union.
BG@100 Open Forum, 1:30-2:30 p.m., 314 Union.

Monday, July 16

Sundaes on Mondays, free ice cream, noon-1 p.m., Falcon's Nest, Union.

Wednesday, July 18

Classified Staff Council, 9 a.m., 316 Union.
Grilling on the Green, 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., Union.

Monday, July 23

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

Wednesday, July 25

Grilling on the Green, 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., Union.

Continuing Events Through July 11

Student Printmaking Exhibition, Little Gallery, BGSU Firelands. Gallery hours are 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Friday.



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July 10-14

Huron Playhouse, "Nunsense: The Mega Musical," 8 p.m. nightly, McCormick School, 325 Ohio St., Huron. Tickets are \$11 for students and senior citizens, \$12 for other adults, \$8 for children under 12, and \$10 for groups of 15 or more. For reservations, call the box office at 419-433-4744.

July 17-21

Huron Playhouse, "Leading Ladies," 8 p.m. nightly, McCormick School, 325 Ohio St., Huron. See above.

July 24-28

Huron Playhouse, "Annie," 8 p.m. nightly, McCormick School, 325 Ohio St., Huron. See above.

Through July 20

Art Exhibition, "Cream of the Crop," Union Galleries. Gallery hours follow building hours; check schedule.

JOB POSTINGS

FACULTY

There were no job postings this week.

Labor Postings

<http://international.bgsu.edu/index.php?x=facinfohires>

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://ment/BGSU_only/page11151.html

Off-campus classified:
www.bgsu.edu/offices/ohr/employment/cl_staff/page11145.html

ADMINISTRATIVE

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

OBITUARY

There were no obituaries this week.

