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Bowling Green State University

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Film by BGSU’s Angel Vasquez a critical, audience success

BGSU film faculty member Angel Vasquez is riding high these days following the successful release of “Colma: The Musical,” which he co-produced.

The movie opened in Manhattan in early July and was the featured review in the New York Times July 6. The reviewer said, “An itty-bitty movie with a great big heart, ‘Colma: The Musical’ is about how we learn to give voice—joyfully, honestly, loudly—to the truest parts of ourselves.”

Reader ratings gave five stars to the film about high school students in the small town south of San Francisco. “It’s been exciting,” Vasquez said. “It’s another part of the film process. It’s surprising the turns a project takes.”

The movie’s New York success followed a similar response in California, where it debuted in March 2006 at the San Francisco International Asian-American Film Festival. “Colma” had a “fantastic run in San Francisco,” Vasquez said.

It then found more success on the festival circuit. “It’s a great film festival movie,” Vasquez said. “It was well received and well attended.” “Colma” now has national theatrical distribution through the Roadside Attractions company. The film opened in San Francisco June 22 and will soon be in Los Angeles, Portland, Houston and other cities with Landmark cinemas. Next it will go to DVD and be distributed through Netflix.

The young filmmaker partnered with Paul Kolsanoff and Richard Wong, with whom he had previously worked, to produce the movie.

On a smaller scale, Vazquez also recently had a short experimental film, “Dan,” shown at the Wexner Center for the Arts in Columbus. “Dan” is also making its international debut in Seoul, South Korea.

In addition to the reception “Colma” is enjoying, “one of the most wonderful pieces of news I’ve gotten is that one of our students, Sara Lawrence, has been accepted into New York University to study film,” he said. Lawrence was presented BGSU’s Lillian and Dorothy Gish Film Scholarship last October for her work in film criticism.

Empowering students

Vasquez’s aim is for BGSU students to benefit from his contacts and experience in the movie industry. Always working on several projects at once—from experimental and political works to documentaries—Vasquez tries to involve them as much as possible in hands-on production from the very beginning of their studies.

One of his latest efforts is having students from two classes participate in a competition sponsored by Owens-Illinois to design an “indie” advertising campaign for glass. “This is a real-world exercise and an ideal situation for students to come up with ideas and a concept for a commercial project,” Vasquez said. The winning entry will be distributed through a worldwide campaign. “It’s a lot of exposure if they can pull it off,” he said.

“To me, this is an integral part of being at BGSU, to be able to share professional and personal career experiences with students,” Vasquez said. “To get them working on film projects and develop relationships that extend beyond the classroom—that’s priceless.”

For more on “Colma: The Musical,” visit http://www.colmafilm.com/
BGSU researchers look at psychology of anti-Semitism

Osama bin Laden says the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on the United States were justified by what he claims to be U.S. desecration of Saudi soil during the Gulf War. And many Americans feel that 9/11 was a desecration of our values, justifying the military response.

Do religious groups also react with prejudice toward those they perceive as threats to their sacred values? BGSU psychologists tested the idea that Christians who view Jews as desecrators of the Christian faith are more likely to feel prejudice toward Jews. The study, reported in the current issue of the quarterly Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion, confirmed their hypothesis.

Typically, says Dr. Kenneth Pargament, the article’s lead author, research on prejudice focuses on the participants’ personalities or general religiousness rather than whether they perceive other groups as threats to their values. But the study of 139 undergraduates indicated that to the extent Christians see Jews as a threat, “they’re more likely to react with antagonism and prejudice,” according to Pargament, who will present the findings Aug. 20 at the American Psychological Association convention in San Francisco.

The results may help explain many of the world’s religious conflicts—and underscore the importance of sensitivity to others’ spiritual values, he notes. “If you perceive another group as threatening your most sacred values, that can trigger a strong reaction.” That perception also adds “a sacred dimension to conflict,” which “raises the stakes,” making the conflict more difficult to resolve, he says.

The findings have been replicated in subsequent studies of prejudice against gays and lesbians, and against Muslims, according to Pargament. His BGSU collaborators on the study were Dr. Annette Mahoney, also psychology, and graduate student Kelly Trevino.

New faculty, administrators introduced

The University greeted 45 new faculty and administrators at an Aug. 8 luncheon. Welcoming the newcomers was Dr. Shirley Baugher, in one of her first duties as provost and vice president for academic affairs.

Baugher encouraged the faculty to immerse themselves in the rich traditions and rituals of BGSU and to have fun “beginning or continuing your own legend.”

A faculty member in the School of Family and Consumer Sciences as well as provost, she in turn was introduced by Dr. Deborah Wooldridge, director of the school, who had previously known Baugher professionally. Wooldridge noted that Baugher is well known in her field both in the United States and in such countries as Egypt, Russia, China, Mexico, Thailand, Northern Ireland, Brazil and Peru.

“She’s about strategic planning, organizational management, setting directions and an agenda, and about vision,” Wooldridge said of the new provost.

Other new administrators included Dr. Thomas Atwood, dean of University Libraries, and Dr. James Maxwell, chair of visual communication and technology education.

With specialties ranging from algebraic ring theory to digital crime, the new faculty included newly minted Ph.D.s and seasoned professionals.

Introductions revealed that even among the younger faculty, there already exists a considerable body of scholarly activity. Dr. Scott Magelssen, for example, in theatre and film, is a specialist in living history museums and this year published Living History Museums: Undoing History through Performance. A second book, Querying Difference in Theatre History, a
collection of essays he is co-editing, will be published by Cambridge Scholars Publishing later this year. Winner of the American Society of Theatre Research Young Scholar Award, Magelssen is currently researching the way the military uses theatre and performance to train soldiers for counterinsurgency and nation-building in Iraq.

The new faculty also were welcomed by President Sidney Ribeau, who celebrated the “community of like-minded people,” so critical to solving problems in a civilized world, he said. “If there weren’t universities in the world,” he added, “we’d have to create them.”

Faculty Senate Chair Dr. Patrick Pauken urged the group to become involved in shared governance, noting that it is one of the most rewarding activities an academic can engage in. Bowling Green is small enough for many to participate yet large enough to offer many opportunities, he said.

Campus marks retirement of classified, administrative staff

The University will be starting the new academic year without a number of employees who have retired since January. The campus community wishes them well in this next phase of their lives and will honor them at a tea Nov. 27 in Mileti Alumni Center.

Administrative staff retirees
Florence Klopfenstein, dining services, retired Dec. 31. She joined the University in 1984.

Retiring in January were Gene Palmer, registration and records, who was hired in 1993, and Carol White, alumni and development, who was hired in 1977.

Janice Peterson, continuing and extended education, retired in June. She had been with BGSU since 1974.

And Cheryl Takata, marketing and communications, retired July 31. She had worked at the University since 1985.

Classified staff retirees

Classified staff who retired in January—and the year they joined BGSU—included:
Candace Bucher, Information Technology Services, December 1978; Joyce Chamberlain, human resources, February 1977; Douglas Cook, facilities services, July 1978; Marie Derkis, geography, August 1976; Jacqueline Krassow, facilities services, January 1977; Ruth Maas, Student Health Service, October 1979; Letha McCartney, postal services, October 1979;
Judith Miller, Health Center, August 1995; Jean Panning, University athletics, June 1977;

March retirees included:

May retirees:

June retirees:

July retirees:
Linda Glomski, School of Communication Studies, September 1973; Jodi Laubis, Student Recreation Center, June 1976; Patricia Stavish, Student Financial Aid, September 1983. From
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Obituaries

BGSU Firelands, Karen Munsterman, with 16 years of service, and Lisa Freitas, with 30 years.

August retirees:
Sharon Apple, registration and records, February 1983, and Janet Cavanaugh, facilities services, hired in 1990.

IN BRIEF

Come to Opening Day address

Be sure to attend President Sidney Ribeau's Opening Day address this Friday (Aug. 17) at 10 a.m. in the Lenhart Grand Ballroom of the Bowen-Thompson Student Union. Reconnect with friends and colleagues over coffee beginning at 9:30.

CALENDAR

Wednesday, Aug. 15
Classified Staff Council, 9 a.m.-noon, 316 Bowen-Thompson Student Union.
Greek Move-In, 4 p.m.

Thursday, Aug. 16
First-Year and New Student Move-In.

Friday, Aug. 17
Opening Day Address, by President Sidney Ribeau, 10 a.m., Lenhart Grand Ballroom, Union. Doors open at 9:30 a.m. for coffee and conversation.

Saturday, Aug. 17
Welcome Picnic, 5-6:45 p.m., McDonald lawn and Alumni Mall (between Kreischer and Harshman).

Monday, Aug. 20
Fall Semester Begins.

Continuing Events
Aug. 16-Sept. 2
Art Exhibition, "Textile Expression: The Moment of the Line—Act II—Motif and Idea Expansion," by Korean artist Si Won Lee, Union Art Gallery. Hours are 8 a.m.-9 p.m. Monday-Saturday and 10 a.m.-9 p.m. Sundays. A reception will be held at 3 p.m. Aug. 23 in the gallery.

Aug. 17-19
BG Experience Introduction, 10 a.m.-8 p.m. daily.

JOB POSTINGS

FACULTY
There were no jobs posted 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.

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

William C. Spragens, 81, a professor emeritus of political science, died July 17 in Reston, Va. He taught at BGSU from 1969-86.