BGSU gets continued federal funding to monitor Lake Erie water quality

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) has awarded BGSU a $349,000 grant to continue monitoring water quality in Lake Erie using remote sensing technology.

Last year, the University received about $435,000 from the federal agency for the monitoring work, said Dr. Robert Vincent, geology. Vincent is leading the pilot project, which uses satellite data obtained through remote sensing to monitor cyanobacterial blooms in the lake. Cyanobacteria are especially harmful algal blooms because they sometimes produce toxins that can sicken or even kill humans and other mammals, as well as fish.

"It is important that Americans understand that this is not a regional problem—the deterioration of the Great Lakes affects the country as a whole," said U.S. Sen. George Voinovich (R-Ohio), who helped secure the NOAA funding through the U.S. Department of Commerce. Voinovich is a member of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee.

"I'm so glad to have it," said Vincent about the grant, for which he also credited U.S. Rep. Paul Gillmor (R-Tiffin). "This is critically important to the Great Lakes region," Vincent added, because "so many people drink water out of the Great Lakes."

Scientists at Heidelberg College, the University of Toledo, and Central State and Cleveland State universities are also involved with the project, which uses maps derived from LANDSAT satellite data to pinpoint the algal blooms. Peaking in September or October, this year's blooms might be the biggest ever, owing largely to heavy runoff of nitrogen and phosphorus from farm fields into the lake's tributaries, as well as warm weather, Vincent said.

BGSU has patented Vincent's algorithm (or "recipe") for converting LANDSAT data to images that show where early blooms of cyanobacteria are occurring in a body of water. The University and Vincent believe this will also be important for monitoring drinking-water reservoirs in Ohio and worldwide.

A BGSU faculty member since 1993, he wrote Fundamentals of Geological and Environmental Remote Sensing, an early textbook on the subject, in 1997. He is also a founder and former director of OhioView, a remote sensing consortium of 12 public research universities in the state.

Hans Schmalzried receives Clyde R. Willis Award

Dr. Hans Schmalzried is the 2007 recipient of the Clyde R. Willis Faculty Development Award in the College of Health and Human Services.

The award, named for former health and human services Dean Clyde Willis, is given annually to a college faculty member based on teaching, scholarship, service and research. This is the fifth year the award has been presented.

Schmalzried, public and allied health, is a member of the Northwest Ohio Consortium for Public Health. He taught as an adjunct professor at BGSU for several years before joining the University full time in 2005.
Since 2005, he has published three, peer-reviewed articles and four book chapters regarding public health management. He has submitted a federal research proposal to study a variety of health-promotion programs for improving the oral health of women and infants. He will work with six county health departments in northwest Ohio as part of the collaborative research.

Schmalzried is active with the National Public Health Foundation, where he is a member of the board of directors, chair of the development committee and a member of the finance committee. He also provides service to local health organizations and is a member of the board of directors for Henry County Hospital and chair of the hospital board’s strategic planning committee.

According to Dr. Robert Harr, chair of public and allied health, Schmalzried “has been an established teacher and continues to receive very high student evaluations for quality.”

Schmalzried received a bachelor of education degree in 1978, a master of science degree in public health education in 1982 and a doctoral degree in public health administration in 1990, all from the University of Toledo. He is a 1996-97 graduate of the Centers for Disease Control and University of California Public Health Leadership Institute.

He served as health commissioner for Fulton and Henry counties’ health districts for 19 years, where he led a staff of more than 85 people providing traditional public health services and innovative programs. He also spent seven years with the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency, first as an environmental scientist and then as a certified environmental engineer.

BGSU psychologist puts spirituality research into practice in new book

Diagnosed with bipolar disorder, she had been suicidal and hospitalized many times over the previous 30 years. And in the first year she had been his client, Dr. Kenneth Pargament psychology, didn’t feel he had been much help.

Talking to him one day, hysterical, she wailed, "When will my suffering end?" She had told Pargament early on that she wasn’t particularly religious, but her lament struck him as almost biblical, so he asked where she turned for solace.

When she was hospitalized for the first time at age 14 and put in restraints, she thought she was going to die—until she felt a warm sensation in her chest that spread, she said, throughout her body. “I felt it was God talking to me,” telling me he would always be with me, Pargament recalls her saying. The feeling returned occasionally thereafter, each time with an assurance that she would be all right.

But she had never told anyone about her spiritual experiences during 30 years of therapy, and Pargament wondered why. “They already think I’m crazy,” she replied.


The intervening decade has seen a “sharp upsurge” in the study of spirituality, he notes, adding that the results are clear—religion plays an important part in shaping many people’s health and well-being.

While it has the potential to facilitate those things, religion can be part of a person’s problems as well, Pargament points out. For example, he explains, some people believe that God will
take care of them if they lead "good lives." They have no theology of pain and suffering, so
when they encounter serious illness or other troubles, a spiritual dimension is added to their
struggle. "Major crises can shake one's spiritual foundation," he says.

That spiritual dimension must be addressed to help people deal with their problems, but
psychologists, who tend to be less religious than the general population, aren't comfortable
talking about spirituality and are apt to change the subject, according to Pargament.

They often want to explain spirituality in terms of presumably more basic issues, such as de­
sire for the love of a parent, comfort, belonging or identity. In the process, they overlook the
possibility that the yearning for the sacred is a primary motive—one that "can't be explained
away," he says.

Most people are "looking for something that transcends themselves," he maintains, calling
spirituality "an irreducible part of life." But scientists haven't taken it seriously in and of itself,
says Pargament, recalling the immunologist who asked him at a conference on spirituality,
"Don't you think we're just talking about hormones here?" Getting health professionals to
move beyond such stereotypes and biases is probably the biggest challenge in the field, he
adds.

Discussions of religion with clients may be particularly helpful in evoking positive emotions
such as hopefulness, gratitude and a sense of meaning. For many people, Pargament says,
God is the "motivating force in their lives," and tapping into that resource helps them deal
with numerous problems. The book is designed to help psychologists put that and other
research findings into practice.

Regardless of a person's stand on religion, "no one's neutral on it," he notes. "That tells me
there's power in spirituality, and psychologists should take a long, hard look at it. When we
overlook this vital part of people's lives, we're less than fully helpful to them."

Pursuing a spiritual dialogue proved beneficial with his bipolar client, who has been hospi­
talized only once in the last five years. "She has made so much progress," Pargament says,
"and spirituality has been a key part of it.

"Helping people identify and draw on their spiritual resources makes a lot of sense. We
should be learning how to do it."

Band leader, composer Terence Blanchard in residence at BGSU

The 2007 Hansen Musical Arts Series at the College of Musical Arts will feature a residency
by famed trumpeter, composer and band leader Terence Blanchard Sept. 5-7.

A Blue Note recording artist, Blanchard is the most prolific jazz musician to ever compose for
motion pictures. Born and raised in New Orleans, where he studied with the Marsalis broth­
ers at the famed New Orleans Center for the Creative Arts, he won a scholarship to Rutgers
University and immediately began performing in the Lionel Hampton Orchestra.

Two years later he succeeded Wynton Marsalis in the legendary Jazz Messengers, before
forming his own influential groups. He originally began performing on film director Spike Lee's
soundtracks, including "Mo' Better Blues," in which he ghosted the trumpet for actor Denzel
Washington.

Blanchard's visit to Bowling Green will include a variety of activities with students, faculty,
staff and the general public. On Sept. 5, he and his band will perform a free jazz concert at
8 p.m. in Kobacker Hall of the Moore Musical Arts Center. Sidemen include Brice Winston,
tenor sax; Fabian Almazan, piano; Derrick Hodge, bass, and Kendrick Scott, drums.
Also open to the public will be a Sept. 6 screening of “25th Hour,” one of Blanchard's many collaborations with Lee, for whom he has composed numerous film scores.

“25th Hour” depicts the last day of freedom for a young man before he begins serving a seven-year jail term for drug dealing. Prowling through the city until dawn with his two close male friends and his girlfriend, he is forced to re-examine his life and how he got into his predicament, which leads to a shocking, disturbing finale. The 2003 film stars Ed Norton, Philip Seymour Hoffman and Rosario Dawson.

The 2 p.m. screening in the Bowen-Thompson Student Union Theater will be followed by a question and answer session with the composer. Daniel Williams, theatre and film, will be the moderator.

At 2:30 p.m. Sept. 7, Blanchard will speak to students and faculty at the Fall Convocation of the College of Musical Arts in Kobacker Hall. That evening, he will be a featured guest artist with the Toledo Jazz Orchestra at 8 p.m. in the Franciscan Center at Lourdes College in Sylvania.

Blanchard also will work with student jazz musicians, composers and film students during his residency, which is supported by Dorothy and DuWayne Hansen. Dorothy Hansen is an alumna of the College of Musical Arts, and DuWayne Hansen is a former chair of the Department of Music Education.

The Dorothy E. and DuWayne Hansen Musical Arts Series Fund was established in 1996 to bring to the campus and the Bowling Green community significant representatives of the musical and creative arts to share their talent and knowledge with students and community residents.

This fall’s residency is the fifth of the series. Sesame Street regular Bob McGrath was the inaugural guest in 2003, followed by Broadway star Craig Schulman in 2004, and educator and researcher Dr. Howard Gardner in 2005. The husband and wife team of composer and critic Greg Sandow and Anne Midgette, arts critic for The New York Times, were the 2006 guests.

All residency events on the Bowling Green campus are free and open to the public. Contact the Franciscan Center box office at 419-824-3999 for ticket information at that venue. For more information, visit www.bgsu.edu/music.

IN BRIEF

Celebrate new year at All-Campus Picnic

The annual All-Campus Picnic will be held from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Friday, Sept. 7, in front of University Hall. Also that afternoon will be Campus Fest, with table displays around the Union Oval representing a number of campus and community organizations.

Saddlemire coming down

Much of the Saddlemire Student Services Building's top floors were collapsed Aug. 22 by workers from Baumann Enterprises, the demolition contractor for the project. Work at the site will continue this week and into September, as the University makes way for the future Wolfe Center for the Arts.
CALENDAR

Tuesday, Aug. 28
Movie, "Spiderman 3," 9:30 p.m., Bowen-Thompson Student Union Theater.

Thursday, Aug. 30
Author Readings, from Prairie Margins, a literary journal edited by undergraduate students, 7:30 p.m., Prout Chapel. Hosted by the Creative Writing Program.

Friday, Aug. 31
Blood Drive, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Multi-purpose Room, Union. Everyone who comes to donate will be entered into a raffle to win a Chevy Cobalt from Dave White Automotive Group.

Monday, Sept. 3
Labor Day. Classes canceled, offices closed.

JOB POSTINGS

Due to the recently announced hold on all hiring for faculty and staff, no jobs will be posted until further notice.

OBITUARY

Gertrude Brumbaugh, 93, died Aug. 14 in North Baltimore. She retired from the University in 1980.