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Bowling Green State University

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BGSU

SEPTEMBER 10, 2007

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Clark to curate Henson's handiwork at puppetry center

The daily companions of Bradford Clark, theatre and film, might include four-foot Italian marionettes, rare Egyptian shadow puppets and 200-year-old, carved puppet heads from Japan. Now, Kermit the Frog and the Swedish Chef—the handiwork of Muppets creator Jim Henson—will also keep him company.

In addition to teaching at BGSU, Clark is the curator of collections at the Center for Puppetry Arts in Atlanta. The center, which is the premier institution of its sort in the United States, has recently been chosen by the Jim Henson Foundation to receive hundreds of puppets and other items produced by Henson and his studio, in addition to props, sketches, pieces of scenery, reproductions of sketches and drawings by Henson and other items from the Henson family's collection.

The gift is contingent upon the success of a capital campaign to expand the museum and build a Jim Henson Wing. "Jim Henson: Puppeteer," a preview exhibit featuring puppets Henson worked with, opens Sept. 23.

As curator of the proposed new wing, Clark also designed "Jim Henson: A Man and His Frog," unveiled at the press conference announcing the gift. (See www.youtube.com/watch?v=zg14o0-5X7Q).

The announcement was covered by the New York Times www.nytimes.com/2007/07/25/arts/design/25pupp.html?ex=1343016000&en=909c882bd4b7470d&ei=5088&partner=rssnyt&mc=rss), the International Herald Tribune, the BBC and other international media.

The media interest is perhaps not surprising, given the worldwide appeal of the famous puppets. Cheryl Henson (Jane and Jim Henson's daughter and president of the Henson Foundation) said at the press conference that "Sesame Street" has been seen in nearly every country, and "The Muppet Show" was the first program to be translated and broadcast in nearly every language and in most countries.

Jim Henson's affiliation with the center goes back to its founding, in 1978, when, alongside Miss Piggy, Kermit cut the ribbon. Henson and Miss Piggy also returned for its 10-year anniversary.

Some of the first puppets to arrive at the center are "touchstone puppets," Clark explained. "These are of tremendous historical significance. The Swedish Chef, for instance, was the first (of the chef) ever made, and partially built by Jim."

Since the announcement of the gift, Clark has been working closely with Cheryl Henson and others of the Jim Henson Legacy (dedicated to building awareness of his career and innovations) and the Jim Henson Co. to conceptualize the organization of the collection and plan its display. He said it is difficult sometimes to overcome his awe of the iconic figures, many of which are quite old and fragile.

"When Kermit the Frog arrived, in a big, purpose-built foamcore box, he was strangely posed for transport and I was afraid to move him," he recalled, laughing. "Bonnie Erickson, one of Jim's key designers and vice president of the Jim Henson Legacy, basically said, 'Oh, just pose him, for heaven's sake!'"

Her attitude is indicative of the Hensons' style and approachability, he said. "The family is so down to earth and nice. They've been extremely generous and supportive and have helped me with anything we've needed. They're all brilliant—it's an amazing family."

In researching the collection, "there have been a lot of fun discoveries for me," he said, such

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as a rare tape of a 1970 PBS documentary called "The Muppets on Puppets."

Clark has traveled to the Henson Foundation offices in New York to meet with members of the Henson family and the Jim Henson Legacy, then to Los Angeles to visit Jim Henson Studios, where he met with additional family members and toured the Henson Creature Shop. The studio was built and formerly owned by Charlie Chaplin; visitors are greeted by a Kermit figure dressed as the Little Tramp. "It was amazing to be in that space and to have the family share their stories and perspectives and aesthetics," Clark said.

The Jim Henson Studio no longer owns the Muppet characters belonging to Muppet Studio LLC, which is a wholly owned subsidiary of the Walt Disney Corp., Clark explained. Some other characters are owned by Sesame Workshop. The Hensons do own characters from "The Dark Crystal," "Labyrinth" and many other films and television projects.

The items donated are from the Henson Co. and the family's private collection. The proposed gift will be permanent if the center can raise enough funds to significantly increase its space, another project Clark is involved with planning. To that end, the National Endowment for the Humanities recently awarded the center a \$40,000 planning grant. An internationally known design firm, professional consultants and a number of the most accomplished puppetry scholars in the country were engaged to help conceptualize the installation of the museum's international collection, which Clark is curating.

Preserving the legacy

For Clark, the gift represents the opportunity to share with the public the astounding breadth of innovation and productions that Henson contributed to the world of puppetry and entertainment.

"Jim Henson did an awful lot of work that people don't even know about," Clark said. "We owe him a big debt." In addition to the famous Muppets and Sesame Street characters such as Bert and Ernie, Oscar the Grouch and Cookie Monster so beloved by children and their parents alike, Henson's company developed the Henson Performance System of robotics, which has been used to create special effects in such films as "Babe." He was also one of the first, in the 1980s, to use computer-generated graphics on screen like those seen today in "Happy Feet" (leading to a U.S. patent), and did groundbreaking work on the creatures in "Labyrinth" and "The Dark Crystal."

"He had so much potential. He could have gone on making his Muppets forever, but he wanted to see what else could be done and took completely different approaches to puppetry," Clark said of Henson, who died in 1990 at the age of 53. "People spun off from the original show and are still working in the field and keep in touch with the family."

It was the desire of the children that their father's legacy be honored and for his work to be seen in its entirety, Clark added. "There's an emotional element in this for them—it's their dad," he said.

Puppetry perpetuates culture

Henson was also a strong supporter of puppetry arts and the founder and first president of the American chapter of UNIMA, the international puppetry association. The Henson Foundation still supports projects of individual puppeteers today.

Since ancient times, puppets have been important in many cultures, Clark explained, and serve a variety of purposes beyond entertainment. In Bali, puppets of a religious nature are part of ceremonies, for example, and in Japan they are taken very seriously and perform plays that help preserve culture for each generation. Puppets can also be used to make political and social commentary that in some cases would not be permissible by humans.

"At the Center for Puppetry Arts, we try to go beyond just displaying the puppets but put them into their cultural, historical and geographical context," Clark said. "There's so much that goes beyond that little figure. They give us the entry to another world, with the puppet as the guide."

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9-11 survivor to speak at BGSU memorial service

Earl Johnson was on the 51st floor of the World Trade Center's North Tower when it was struck by one of the hijacked airliners on Sept. 11, 2001.

On Tuesday, the sixth anniversary of the terrorist attacks, Johnson will relate "Stairwell to Heaven: A 9-11 World Trade Center Survivor's Story of Escape" at BGSU. He is scheduled to speak at 9:25 p.m. in the Lenhart Grand Ballroom of the Bowen-Thompson Student Union.

Johnson's appearance is part of a 9-11 Never Forget Ceremony and Candlelight Vigil on campus. Hosted by the BGSU College Republicans and the Young America's Foundation, the memorial service is free and open to the public.

Johnson's career in the financial services industry took him from Bainbridge Island, Wash., to New York City in 2001. After 9-11, he and his family returned to Bainbridge Island, just across Puget Sound from Seattle, and, inspired by the sacrifice he had witnessed that September morning, Johnson ran for and was elected a commissioner of the island's fire department. He turned his attention to public speaking following the publication of his book, *Stairwell to Heaven*.

At BGSU, 9-11 memorial events will begin with a campuswide moment of silence at 9:11 a.m. Tuesday. From noon to 2 p.m., nearly 3,000 American flags—one for each of the attacks' victims—will be placed around the Union Oval, and from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., donations may be made to the 9-11 Victims' Fund at tables in the Union.

"United 93," the film about the plane that crashed in Pennsylvania after passengers attempted to overtake the hijackers, will be shown at 4 p.m. and 6 p.m. in the ballroom.

The evening program will start at 9:11 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance and singing of the National Anthem. At 9:15 p.m., the Rev. Michael Dandurand, pastor at St. Thomas More University Parish, will discuss "9-11 and How It Shapes Our Faith."

After Johnson's talk will be a time for recognition of members of the armed forces and law enforcement agencies, firefighters, and their families. A slide presentation is set for 10 p.m., followed by silent adjournment to the Union Oval at 10:15 p.m. for the candlelight vigil. There, the ceremony will conclude with a memorial prayer, music by the BGSU Men's Chorus, presentation of arms, a moment of silence and the playing of taps.

Values Exploration and Engagement Project gets under way

The University is expanding its commitment to its values initiative through involvement in a national project. BGSU is one of 23 institutions selected from a group of 125 applicants to participate in the Core Commitments project sponsored by the Association of American Colleges and Universities (AAC&U). (See www.bgsu.edu/offices/mc/monitor/01-22-07/page26201.html).

The AAC&U project is designed to bring together the most promising institutional practices related to educating students for personal and social responsibility, and to deepen and extend these efforts throughout the undergraduate curriculum and co-curriculum.

In January, the University learned it would receive a \$25,000 grant to develop programs that support those purposes, and is focusing on expanding the BG Experience program, enhancing campus service-learning and tying co-curricular activities more closely to the development of social and personal responsibility. In addition, BGSU was named to the Leadership Consortium of the AAC&U's Core Commitment effort.

The Values Exploration and Engagement Project will carry out four, campus-based

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initiatives as part of the Core Commitments grant.

In preparation, the Office of Institutional Research will administer an AAC&U-developed Personal and Social Responsibility Inventory (PSRI) this fall to students, faculty, student affairs and academic administrators. The inventory is designed to identify where different groups on campus see opportunities to foster learning about personal and social responsibility and to serve as a catalyst for dialogues across the institution about ways to make such learning more pervasive.

"This will give us a sense not only of where we are, but also where other universities are, in regard to personal and social responsibility," said Dr. Peg Yacobucci, geology. "For example, Miami University of Ohio is also participating, and the results will show how that very different population will react to the survey questions."

Campus community members will soon receive an email requesting their participation in a survey, said Dr. William Knight, associate vice president for planning and accountability.

"We would appreciate your participation," he said, "as it will help us develop these programs in a more useful way and provide a starting point for campuswide dialogues about education for personal and social responsibility (EPSR), which will take place over the next two years." The goal is to have summaries of dialogues among all academic and student affairs units and student organizations in response to the following guiding questions:

1. What results of the PSRI spark your attention or concern?
2. What are the key components of EPSR?
3. What would BGSU look like if EPSR were pervasive?
4. What are good ways to promote EPSR?
5. What can your unit/group do?
6. What barriers would need to be overcome and what could be done to mitigate these barriers?

Additionally, plans are under way to expand the BG Experience program beyond the focus on critical thinking about values in students' first semester. The College of Business Administration, the School of Communication Studies and the Department of History have been chosen to participate in a pilot project designed to plan and carry out curricular revisions. New BG Experience courses in students' majors will be developed this academic year and offered for the first time in 2008-09.

A parallel effort is to expand the University's service-learning capacity. A faculty learning community comprised of 10 members will develop new service-learning courses and/or incorporate a significant service-learning component into existing courses that will be offered for the first time during 2008-09. The learning community will not only generate new service-learning courses, but will also create a model for continued faculty development in service-learning and expand opportunities for community and campus partnerships.

Last, BGSU plans to expand education for personal and social responsibility within the co-curriculum. A group of four faculty members, four student-affairs professionals and four student leaders will work with 12 student organizations on projects selected by the student organizations. Yacobucci, who is one of the faculty members participating, said "the goal is to be more purposeful in designing community service activities so that students really have a connection to the people they're raising money for or helping in some way." The projects will serve as models to show "here are some of the things student organizations can do to connect with the community and demonstrate social and personal responsibility," Yacobucci said. The participating student organizations will display their projects next spring through an interactive, Web-based Core Commitments e-portfolio and a University-wide e-dialogue and poster session.

The BGSU Core Commitments team includes team leaders Drs. George Agich, BG Experience director, and Edward Whipple, vice president for student affairs, along with Drs. Bettina Shuford, assistant vice president for student affairs; Donald Nieman, dean of the College of Arts & Sciences; Jane Rosser, director of the Office of Service-Learning; Yacobucci, and Knight.

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United Way campaign aims to increase participation

The BGSU 2007 United Way Campaign will officially kick off Wednesday (Sept. 12). The goal is \$125,000, or 10 percent over last year's total of \$112,724. This year, the campaign team is emphasizing the University's connection to agencies and efforts within Wood County, such as the new Teen Center, the Cocoon women's shelter and the Wood County Humane Society.

"It's important for potential donors to realize that by giving, they are helping improve the lives of children and families in our community," said Dr. Bob DeBard, higher education and student affairs, who is chair of this year's campus campaign.

Last year, 601 full-time employees and 62 retirees donated to the campaign. "We would like to raise the level of giving so that everyone is involved," said DeBard.

Another goal is to increase the number of leadership gifts of \$1,000 or more. Fifth Third Bank and The Andersons have created a challenge grant program that matches every \$1,000 gift.

One of the most exciting new options available to donors this year is the BG Teen Center, according to Executive Vice President Linda Dobb. The center is staffed by BGSU students and is designed as a safe place for local teens to meet and study.

Again this year, the campaign will be conducted in conjunction with Northwest Ohio Community Shares. In Wood County, the major agency benefiting from this partnership is the Wood County Humane Society.

"What donors need to realize is that they have the right to put down any local charity on their pledge form. We just want to encourage giving," said DeBard. "So many people benefit when our community gives from its heart."

IN BRIEF**Mexican banditry is focus of first talk in series**

The Artists and Scholars in Residence Series begins its 2007-08 season Sept. 17 with a talk by Dr. Amy Robinson, romance and classical studies. She will discuss "True Stories of Mexican Banditry: The Case of Chucho el Roto" at 12:30 p.m. in 201A Bowen- Thompson Student Union.

The series is sponsored by the campus Institute for the Study of Culture and Society (ICS) and showcases the research of faculty affiliated with the institute.

What is the allure of banditry in Mexico and how does it change over time? How does a common criminal become known as a generous Robin Hood?

Robinson will address these questions in her talk, which will focus on the factual and fictional identities of Jesús Arriaga, aka "Chucho el Roto," a thief from Mexico City during the 1880s. Chucho was publicly lauded as a generous bandit who stole from the rich to give to the poor, and his celebrity was used as a tool for reflecting on social conditions for ordinary Mexicans under the authoritarian rule of Porfirio Díaz. While numerous studies make reference to Chucho's case to debate the symbolic importance of banditry in Mexico, Robinson's investigation traces Chucho's cultural footprints through a series of literary texts as well as documentation of his crimes. By situating Chucho's identity in distinct historical and literary contexts, we can better understand how banditry has been used over time to mediate deep-rooted concerns about cultural belonging and political legitimacy that have characterized modern Mexico.

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Robinson's research and teaching focus on 19th- and 20th-century Spanish-American literature and the Mexican Revolution, especially the representations of bandits and outlaws, as well as cultural studies, subaltern studies and cultural history. She has published in the *Colorado Review of Hispanic Studies* and contributed to the anthology *Leading Ladies: Mujeres en la Literatura Hispana y en las Artes*. Currently a fellow at ICS, she is at work on a book-length study of representations of Mexican banditry and this figure's relationship to politics and citizenship.

Support for the series has come from the Office of the Vice Provost for Research and the Office of the Dean of Arts and Sciences.

CALENDAR

Monday, Sept. 10

ARTalk, "Mississippi: State of the Art," by BGSU alumnus Dan Piersol, deputy director for programs at the Mississippi Museum of Art and former curator of prints and drawings at the New Orleans Museum of Art, 6:30 p.m., 204 Fine Arts Center.

Tuesday, Sept. 11

Film Director Series, "Before Sunrise" (1995), directed by Richard Linklater, 7:30 p.m., Gish Film Theater, Hanna Hall.

Support Grant Workshops, sponsored by Partnerships for Community Action (PCA) and the Center for Innovative and Transformative Education (CITE), 10 a.m.-noon, Women's Center, 107 Hanna Hall.

Movie, "Mr. Brooks," 9:30 p.m., Bowen-Thompson Student Union Theater.

Student Composers' Forum, showcasing the works of graduate and undergraduate student composers in the College of Musical Arts, 8 p.m., Bryan Recital Hall, Moore Musical Arts Center.

9-11 Memorial Ceremony, "Stairwell to Heaven: A 9-11 World Trade Center Survivor's Story of Escape" with author Earl Johnson, 9:25 p.m., Lenhart Grand Ballroom, Union. Hosted by the BGSU College Republicans and the Young America's Foundation. For other 9-11 events, see related story.

Wednesday, Sept. 12

Brown Bag Luncheon, "Aches, Cramps, Pain ... Could It Be Endometriosis?" Presented by Randee Masciola, RN, MS and CNP clinical instructor, noon-1 p.m., Women's Center, 107 Hanna Hall. In recognition of Women's Health Month.

Faculty Artist Series, bassoonist Nathaniel Zeisler and pianist Robert Satterlee,

assisted by mezzo-soprano Lorraine Yaros Sullivan, violist Megan Fergusson and oboist Jacqueline Leclair, 8 p.m., Bryan Recital Hall, Moore Musical Arts Center.

Thursday, Sept. 13

BG@100 Open Forum, 1:30-2:30 p.m., 315 Union.

International Film Series, "The Lives of Others" (2006), Germany, directed by Florian Henckel von Donnersmarck, 7:30 p.m., Gish Film Theater, Hanna Hall.

Visiting Writer Series, with award-winning short story writer and novelist Ron Carlson, English faculty and director of MFA in Fiction program, University of California-Irvine, 7:30 p.m., Prout Chapel.

Friday, Sept. 14

ARTalk, "Remembered as an Image," by painter Matthew Friday of Ohio University, 6:30 p.m., 204 Fine Arts Center.

Diamante Awards, recognizing outstanding service and contributions to the Latino community, 6:30 p.m., Lenhart Grand Ballroom, Union. Tickets are \$60 per person or \$100 per couple in advance, or \$75 and \$125, respectively, at the door. Proceeds will fund scholarships at four participating institutions.

Guest Lecturer, "Markets, Maslow, and the Evolution of the Modern Family," presented by Steven Horwitz, economics, St. Lawrence University, 4-6 p.m., 301 Shatzel Hall. Sponsored by the Social Philosophy and Policy Center.

Men's Soccer, BGSU Invitational, vs. Central Arkansas, 2:30 p.m., Cochrane Field.

Movie, "Mr. Brooks," 6:30 and 9:30 p.m., Union Theater.

Volleyball, BGSU Invitational, vs. DePaul, 7 p.m., Anderson Arena.

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Women's Professional Development

Series, "The Ins and Outs of Starting a Small Business," presented by Daniel Slifko and Aggie Dahar, certified business advisors and members of the Toledo Regional Chamber of Commerce, 1:30-3 p.m., Women's Center, 107 Hanna Hall.
Women's Soccer vs. Wright State, 5 p.m., Cochrane Field.

Saturday, Sept. 15

Cross Country, Mel Brodt Invitational, 10:45 a.m. women, 11:30 a.m. men, Forrest Creason Golf Course.

Volleyball, BGSU Invitational, vs. Duquesne, 12:30 p.m., Anderson Arena.

Volleyball, BGSU Invitational, vs. Valparaiso, 7 p.m., Anderson Arena.

Sunday, Sept. 16

Men's Soccer, BGSU Invitational, vs. Canisius, 2:30 p.m., Cochrane Field.

Movie, "Knocked Up," 9:30 p.m., Union Theater.

Sunday Matinees, "Stage Struck" (1925), U.S., directed by Allan Dwan, with Gloria Swanson, 3 p.m., Gish Film Theater, Hanna Hall. The program includes Max Fleischer's seven-minute cartoon "Ko-Ko the Kop" (1927). With commentary by film historian Dr. Jan Wahl and piano accompaniment by Stuart Oderman.

Monday, Sept. 17

ARTalk, "Contemporary Artist Projects in Art Education," by Stef Stahl, adjunct faculty member at Ohio State University, 6 p.m., Union Theater.

ICS Artists and Scholars in Residence Series, "True Stories of Mexican Banditry: The Case of Chucho el Roto," presented by Dr. Amy Robinson, romance and classical studies, 12:30 p.m., 201A Union.

Sponsored by the Institute for the Study of Culture and Society.

Continuing Events**Sept. 10 and 11**

Men's Golf, John Piper Invitational, all day, Forrest Creason Golf Course.

Sept. 15 and 16

Women's Tennis, BGSU Invitational, 9 a.m., Keefe Courts.

Through Sept. 19

Art Exhibition, "2-D or not 2-D? Danish Artists Flirt with Space," works by seven artists, curated by Mille Guldbek, art, and painter Else Ploug Isaksen, Willard Wankelman Gallery, Fine Arts Center. Gallery hours are 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday and 1-4 p.m. Sundays.

Through Sept. 19

Art Exhibition, Ceramic sculpture by Melissa Parrott, Little Gallery, BGSU Firelands. Gallery hours are 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Friday.

Through Sept. 29

Art Exhibition, Contemporary Art Western Spring Break Trip, Union Gallery. Gallery hours are 8 a.m.-9 p.m. Monday-Saturday and 10 a.m.-9 p.m. Sundays.

Through Sept. 30

Art Exhibition, "HEROES," approaching the mystique of the hero with a lively mix of media from painting to knitting, and styles ranging from pop-culture collage to naturalistic portrait sculptures. Featuring work by Matthew Friday, Mark Newport and Scott Fife, Dorothy Uber Bryan Gallery, Fine Arts Center. Gallery hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday and 1-4 p.m. Sundays.

JOB POSTINGS

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

OBITUARY

There were no obituaries this week.

BGSU