Monitor Newsletter April 07, 2008

Bowling Green State University

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For anyone who has ever wondered what ethical questions might confront a college student, Dr. Caryn Musil offered a snapshot of a typical morning routine:

The hypothetical student rises and gets dressed. She might wonder where the seams on her jeans were sewn and how much that worker earned. What was the environmental impact of the dyes used in their production, and the carbon imprint of the jet that transported them to the United States?

She then wonders whether to wake up her roommate, who has been out drinking for several nights and missing class, and whether to alert someone in residence life to a possible problem. Her dilemmas continue at breakfast, with questions about the source of the foods offered and their economic and social implications, and in class, where she sits next to a veteran of the war in Iraq, which she disagrees with but does not want to discuss in a way that is insensitive to her classmate's sacrifice.

"These are the kinds of questions a student might have, and how will faculty and those in student affairs help them learn to think through and make sense of all these issues?" Musil said in her April 2 talk titled "No Longer Elective: Educating for Responsibility."

The senior vice president of the American Association of Colleges and Universities (AAC&U), Musil was on campus to speak about the Core Commitments program, of which she is the director and BGSU a participant. President Sidney Ribeau is a member of the advisory board for Core Commitments and works with Musil on an outreach committee to educate other University presidents about the importance of education for personal and social responsibility.

The guiding philosophy of Core Commitments is that:

- Student learning is the collective obligation of all individuals and units responsible for the curriculum and co-curriculum.

- Education for personal and social responsibility, to be intentionally fostered in all students, should pervade institutional cultures.

- Higher education institutions have an educational and civic obligation to unapologetically teach for personal and social responsibility.

- Ethical, civic and moral development should be closely tied to a substantive vision for student learning that is shared across constituent groups.

- The development of personal and social responsibility is cumulative, built on prior knowledge and experience, and should be assessed along the way.

One of the reasons Bowling Green was "at the top of the list" among the 135 applicants for a Core Commitments grant is that it promotes its values-exploration emphasis in its recruiting and marketing efforts, Musil said. BGSU received the $25,000 grant in 2007 from AAC&U.

"Bowling Green is not embarrassed to talk publicly about values and personal responsibility," she said. "You are helping students to become leaders themselves."

Looking inward first

One of the first steps in the process of teaching for social and personal responsibility is to assess students, faculty, student affairs staff and academic administrators' perceptions of opportunities for personal and social responsibility across the institution.

BGSU has surveyed its four groups. As part of the discussion following Musil's talk, Dr.
William Knight, director of institutional planning and research, reported on the outcomes, which he said "almost exactly parallel the national results." Some of the findings were disturbing, he said, and the campus will need to look more deeply to understand them. For example, there was a discrepancy between what faculty and administrators see and what students see. Moreover, first-year students reported more awareness of these opportunities than did seniors.

Dr. John Folkins, CEO of the BGSU Research Institute, noted that in the area of engagement, it might be the case that, as students become more socially aware and responsible, "their horizons move outward" and they focus more on how far they have to go in their development instead of how far they have come.

Another common result of the survey, both at BGSU and nationally, is that while everyone tends to agree on the importance of education for responsibility, no one seems to take ownership of it. "Everyone agrees that there's a clear gap between what should be and what is," Musil said. Nevertheless, "students at the participating universities believe they're stronger in the five dimensions of social and personal responsibility. In other words, it matters that they've been here."

Responding to a changing world
The world is changing so quickly that it is challenging higher education, whose leaders are normally "deeply deliberative," to change the way it does business, Musil said. Today, she said, "uncertainty is the norm, complexity is routine and diversity is a given," all of which mean students have different needs now. A transformation in the academy is under way, she said, and nowhere more so than in Ohio, where the state system of higher education is changing.

"Teaching must become more exploratory and more inventive," and the academy more agile if it is to educate students to function as responsible citizens in the world they will inhabit.

A college degree is becoming less the privilege of the wealthy and more a necessity for all, she said. The view of education as a private good for personal enrichment is being challenged by the view that education is a public good for community purposes, economic reallocations of opportunities and global cohesion.

To be effective, learning must be more experiential and curricula less Western-centered, and there must be more synthesis and integration in place of the disparate group of courses students took in the past, Musil said.

In today's world, she said, we know that students learn best when engaged in real-world situations, classroom barriers are more permeable than ever, students are "co-creators of knowledge and not the blank slates" once believed, and institutions embody the values that influence student development.

"Students are reading us when they look at our brochures and visit our campuses. If they don't see an emphasis on personal and social responsibility right up front, and if institutions don't place a value on it, then they can only assume it isn't important in this environment," she said.

Langendorfer part of effort to apply science to water safety
Around the turn of the 20th century, when Wilbert "Commodore" Longfellow got involved with the U.S. Volunteer Life Saving Corps (a forerunner of today's Red Cross lifeguarding program), there were more than 10,000 drownings annually in the United States. The population at that time was about 75 million. Today, though the population has soared to over 300 million, there are only 3,000-4,000 cases of drowning a year, thanks in part to the presence of trained lifeguards at public pools and the prevalence of swimming lessons for children and adults.
But even that reduced number is too many, says Dr. Stephen Langendorfer, kinesiology. An avid Masters swimmer, Langendorfer is engaged in several efforts nationally to update and improve water safety for swimmers through research and sharing of knowledge.

It's an idea whose time has come, he said. "The aquatics field is extremely tradition-bound and pragmatic," he explained. "Research has not been an integral part of improving our practices. Recently, there has been a convergence of several organizations and coalitions, whose purposes are to reduce drownings, to identify where research exists, where it is lacking and what we still need to know."

The American Red Cross, the YMCA of the USA and the U.S. Lifesaving Association (USLA) have joined in one effort, called the U.S. Lifeguarding Standards Coalition, with significant funding from the National Swimming Pool Foundation, an industry trade organization. Two of the three coalition chairs are medical doctors allied with the Red Cross and the USLA, Langendorfer said, which has contributed to the increased interest in identifying and promoting research-based practices.

As part of the effort to both promote and share research, Langendorfer was selected as the editor of the International Journal of Aquatic Research and Education, published by Human Kinetics Publishers. Focusing on all areas of noncompetitive aquatics, the quarterly journal deals with a broad array of topics from lifeguarding and water safety to aquatic exercise and therapy, and contains peer-reviewed research as well as professional and educational articles. Now in its second volume, the journal has had contributors from Europe, South America, Australia and New Zealand, in addition to those from the U.S.

Practice grounded in evidence
Aquatic professionals are concerned that current practices have never been tested and rarely have been revamped, Langendorfer said. "It's time to take a fresh look at different practices. We need to conduct an evidence-based, scientific review process that involves a literature search on various issues and questions," he said, in addition to surveying working professionals for best practices. "Ultimately, we need many more people conducting scientifically sound research on the questions to which there are no existing answers or evidence."

For example, he said, using the gains in medical knowledge, one question that needs to be explored is whether, when rescuing a person who is drowning and may have stopped breathing, rescue breathing should begin in the water, or the victim carried as quickly as possible to shore, where CPR can also be started?

In addition, some basic lifeguarding practices are clearly outdated, he said. "Lifeguards typically have been taught to approach a struggling swimmer by diving under the surface, grasping them around the knees, turning them around and then doing a cross-chest carry to tow them to safety. But in the late 1980s, when we asked professional lifeguards if they really do this, they said, 'Of course not, that's silly. It doesn't work.' What really happens is that when you provide them a rescue buoy or tube that the lifeguard carries to the victim, they stop struggling and you tow them in. This is a much more effective technique and safer for the rescuer and the victim," Langendorfer said.

An even more basic question that surprisingly has not been addressed is the degree to which learning to swim prevents or reduces the risk of drowning, he said. Though widely assumed by aquatic professionals to be helpful, "there's been remarkably little research and thus only a limited amount of evidence. And, if learning to swim is very important, at what age does learning to swim really prevent drowning?" Langendorfer said. "There is very little evidence that learning to swim before the age of 4 or 5 has any significant drowning-prevention effect. Children can and should learn to swim at young ages, but not as a primary drowning-prevention strategy."

In addition to helping aquatic agencies better target their efforts, having scientific evidence addressing these questions could help professionals respond to potentially spurious claims by some swimming schools promoting "drown-proofing young children," Langendorfer said.

Recent research already has altered some of the practices aimed at teaching very young
In response to changing lifestyles and trends among potential lifeguard candidates, Langendorfer is exploring whether it would be appropriate to offer online training to lifeguards for some specialized components of the course, instead of continuing the current practice of using only face-to-face instruction.

"Young people are not willing to commit the 40-50 hours required for an all-around lifeguard training," he said. "Current lifeguard courses are only 20-25 hours long, but training is done for much narrower and limited lifeguarding jobs. There is concern that lifeguards don't have as many or as strong skills as before."

Online coursework might work well in helping teach lifeguards the techniques related to observation and judgment about when a situation is becoming dangerous. "Lifeguards must learn vigilance skills since the vast majority of their time on the job is spent watching patrons, not rescuing victims," he said. "Currently, lifeguarding courses spend most of their time teaching rescue techniques and only mention the importance of scanning and vigilance skills without spending any time helping candidates learn these skills. When you stop and think about it, that doesn't make sense."

Langendorfer has been exploring the broad possibilities of online instruction with BGSU's Center for Teaching, Learning and Technology and IDEAL (Interactive and Distance Education for All Learners), pointing out that firefighter training in Ohio has already begun using online instruction. "It's an appropriate learning tool, especially for this generation," he said. "If online instruction works for firefighters, it should also work for training lifeguards, who are also first responders."

The hoped-for outcomes of all this emphasis on scientific review and research will be improved lifeguarding and learn-to-swim practices, Langendorfer predicted, and even fewer water mishaps.

BGSU graduate's article wins national award

A journal article based on a doctoral dissertation in industrial-organizational psychology by a BGSU graduate has been honored by the Academy of Management.

Dr. Mo Wang won the academy's Human Resources Division 2007 Scholarly Achievement Award for the article, "Profiling Retirees in the Retirement Transition and Adjustment Process: Examining the Longitudinal Change Patterns of Retirees' Psychological Well-Being." The article appeared in the Journal of Applied Psychology last year.
The award goes to the author of the most significant article in human resource management published in recognized journals and research annuals. Criteria include significance and importance of the problem to human resources; extent to which the design, findings or orientation advances research or theory, and the likelihood that the paper will be widely cited in future published work.

Wang, now an assistant professor of industrial-organizational psychology at Portland (Ore.) State University, studied retirees for his doctorate in industrial-organizational and developmental psychology at BGSU. He received his Ph.D. in 2005, two years after earning his master's degree from Bowling Green.

His dissertation research found that declining health had a more significant impact on retirees' psychological well-being than financial declines, and that "bridge employment" helped maintain that well-being. Given the latter finding and projected growing labor shortages stemming from baby boomers' retirement, he pointed out the potential benefit to governmental and corporate policy-makers of reducing barriers to and encouraging work at older ages.

"For example," Wang wrote, "government may facilitate partnership-building among public universities, organizations, and older-worker advocacy groups to provide skill enhancement training for older workers. Employers may also provide multiple work patterns and options to help older workers to less abruptly transition into retirement." Among those options could be phased retirement, job sharing, job transfers, job redesign, sabbaticals and flexible work arrangements, he added.

The findings also suggested that policy-makers see the importance of helping and encouraging retirees to get better health insurance plans, and that a prevention-oriented health care system may be more effective than a curing-oriented system, he said.

In addition, Wang maintained that the study provided "a feasible way to predict the psychological well-being change patterns during the retirement transition and adjustment process." Along with health and bridge employment, he used variables such as engagement in retirement planning, marital satisfaction, and physical demands, stress and satisfaction related to the job from which they retired to profile retirees.

Applying those "predictors" could help prospective retirees "build realistic expectations about the obstacles and barriers they may face in their retirement transition and adjustment," which in turn could help them develop better coping strategies, he noted.

Psychologists could use the profiles as well "to identify retirees likely to experience negative changes in psychological well-being," and intervention programs could be designed and tailored to improve retirement quality, Wang wrote.

Wang's faculty advisers at BGSU were Drs. Michael Zickar and Yiwei Chen, psychology.

**Peace Lecture explores feeding the world while preserving the earth**

While Americans are in the midst of a renewed fascination with food, evidenced by a proliferation of celebrity chefs and television shows devoted to cooking, threats to the global food supply are growing, and much of the world is still wondering where its next meal will come from.

Rajul Pandya-Lorch of the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) will address "Global Food Security: Emerging Challenges and Opportunities" in this year's Edward Lamb Peace Lecture. She will speak at 7 p.m. Thursday (April 10) in the Bowen-Thompson Student Union Theater (Room 206).

Pandya-Lorch heads the institute's 2020 Vision for Food, Agriculture, and the Environment
Initiative, a global effort that seeks to identify solutions for meeting world food needs while reducing poverty and protecting the environment. A Kenyan citizen of Indian origin, she is also chief of staff in the IFPRI director general's office and was previously special assistant to the director general.


She earned a bachelor's degree in economics from Wellesley College and a master's degree in public and international affairs from Princeton University.

The Edward Lamb Peace Lecture annually brings to BGSU internationally recognized experts to address major environmental issues and how they affect world security. The lecture series began in 1986 in honor of the late Edward Lamb, a prominent Toledo lawyer committed to social justice, civil rights and world peace. It is underwritten by the Lamb Foundation of Toledo.

The Environmental Health and Environmental Studies programs organize the conference each year. For more information, contact Dr. Gary Silverman at silverma@bgsu.edu, or 2-6886.

Latino Issues Conference looks at gender and empowerment

Dr. Diana Marinez, a biochemist and longtime college administrator who has devoted her life to the advancement of women and minorities in science, will be the keynote speaker at the 14th annual Latino Issues Conference on April 16. The theme this year is "Gender and Empowerment of Latino/as in Contemporary America."

Students and faculty from BGSU and other universities will gather in the Lenhart Grand Ballroom of the Bowen-Thompson Student Union from 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. for the event, which will include five discussion sessions comprising faculty, community members and students, and a luncheon at which Marinez will speak.

At the noon luncheon, Marinez, a retired dean of the Corpus Christi College of Science and Technology, Texas A&M University, will speak on "Latinas in the Sciences." During her tenure as dean, her college's enrollment rose from the lowest among Texas A&M's colleges to the highest, and she created numerous programs to encourage students from high school onward to pursue science-related degrees and careers. She has managed significant grants from the National Science Foundation and other organizations to promote science and math education in poor, rural Texas school districts and create pipelines to higher education.

She especially aims to get more women into engineering and the physical and math-related sciences, where the lack is greater than in biology, psychology and the social sciences, she says.

Session topics will include "Between Gender, Service-Learning and Activism," at 9:30 a.m.; "Between Education, Race and History," at 10:45 a.m.; "Between History, Law and Free Trade," at 2 p.m.; "Between Slavery, the Border and Film," at 4 p.m., and "Election 2008: The Role of Latino/as," an open forum for students, faculty, staff and community members, at 5:30 p.m.

Artwork for the conference has been provided by Santa Fe artist Pola Lopez (http://www.polalopez.com/)
The cost of the Latino-themed luncheon is $8. RSVP to 2-2642.

The conference is presented by the Center for Multicultural and Academic Initiatives (CMAI). For more information, call Dr. Manuel Pomales, CMAI senior associate director, at 2-2642.

GeoJourney to hit the road again this fall

GeoJourney is still accepting applications for the fall-semester class, announces new director Nikki Elkins, geology. Up to 24 students may enroll in the interdisciplinary program, which will take to the road in August.

The nine-week, cross-country field experience provides 18 credits and is open to students from any class year and any major. Students travel from Bowling Green to New Orleans to San Francisco and back, visiting national parks and cities to study physical/historical geology, American and Native American culture, the environment and critical thinking.

For more information and online applications, visit www.geojourney.org or contact Elkins at nikki@geojourney.org.

IN BRIEF

Attend open forum on University finance and planning

The Faculty Senate Executive Committee and Dr. Shirley Baugher, provost and vice president for academic affairs, will host an open forum tomorrow (April 8) to present a BGSU finance and planning update.

Panelists will include Bill Mathis and Mel Hudson-Nowak, co-chairs of the Strategic Planning Group, who will give a brief progress report on the group’s work. Information on financial planning at BGSU will be given by Baugher; Sheri Stoll, vice president for finance and administration, and Dr. William Knight, director of institutional research and planning.

Following the presentations, Faculty Senate Chair Patrick Pauken, Vice Chair/Chair-Elect Ellen Williams and Secretary Rich Hebein will take questions from the audience. Participants at BGSU Firelands, in 1004 Cedar Point Center, may phone in questions.

Scheduled from 2:30-4:30 p.m. in the Bowen-Thompson Student Union Theater, the forum will be streamed live by WBGU’s Television Learning Services on Stream 4 in all equipped BGSU classrooms, including those at Firelands. Individuals may also view the forum on their desktop computers live or shortly after the event ends at http://qtss.bgsu.edu:8080/bgsu/provostforum-apr08/ For more information, call 2-2751.

CALENDAR

Monday, April 7

Women’s International Film Festival Tour, 7:30 p.m., Gish Film Theater, Hanna Hall.
Poetry Reading, “Ataxia,” 8 p.m., BGSU Planetarium, 112 Physical Sciences Lab Building.

Tuesday, April 8

Teacher Job Fair, 8 a.m.-5 p.m., Perry Field House.
Faculty Awards Luncheon, 11:30 a.m., 308 Bowen-Thompson Student Union.
Forum, University finance and planning, 2:30-4:30 p.m., Union Theater. Hosted by the
In Brief

Calendar

Baseball vs. Dayton, 3 p.m., Steller Field.

Tuesday Nights Film Series, “Nosferatu, eine Symphonie des Grauens” (1922), Germany, directed by F.W. Murnau, 7:30 p.m., Gish Film Theater, Hanna Hall.

Concert, BGSU Jazz Lab Band II, directed by Jeff Halsey, 8 p.m., Kobacker Hall, Moore Musical Arts Center.

Movie, “National Treasure 2,” 9:30 p.m., Union Theater.

Wednesday, April 9

Health and Wellness Fair, “Hoe Down for Health,” interactive displays, free cholesterol testing, fitness information and more, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Lenhart Grand Ballroom, Union. Sponsored by the Wellness Connection and the Student Health Service.

Student Project Displays, “Values in Action,” featuring displays that demonstrate how student organizations are promoting personal and social responsibility throughout Bowling Green, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Union Lobby. A reception will be held from 4:30 to 5 p.m., 207 Union, immediately followed by the program and discussion at 5 p.m. in the same location. The project is part of Core Commitments and the values initiative.

Brown Bag Luncheon, “Hello Kitty Goes to College: Poems about Harassment in the Academy,” presented by Dr. Sandra Faulkner, interpersonal communication, noon-1 p.m., Women’s Center, 107 Hanna Hall. In recognition of Sexual Assault Awareness Month.

Poetry Readings and Talks, featuring published poet and performer Ray McNiece, and Philip Metres, English, John Carroll University, 7:30-9 p.m., Cedar Point Center, BGSU Firelands.

Concert, BGSU Percussion Ensemble, directed by Roger Schupp, 8 p.m., Kobacker Hall, Moore Musical Arts Center.

Thursday, April 10

College of Arts and Sciences Forum, “Testing the ‘Saturday Night Live’ Hypothesis: Preliminary Findings on Hillary Clinton’s Press Coverage,” by Dr. Melissa Miller, political science, 12:30 p.m., 207 Union.

ASC Spring Reception, with awards presentation, 2 p.m., Lenhart Grand Ballroom, Union.

Lecture and Book Signing, “The Power of Procrastination,” by Jorge Cham, PHD (Piled Higher and Deeper) comic creator, 4:30 p.m., 308 Union. Visit www.PHDComics.com to learn more about Cham’s humorous look at academic life. In recognition of BGSU’s Graduate Student Recognition Month.

Edward Lamb Peace Lecture, “Global Food Security: Emerging Challenges and Opportunities,” by Rajul Pandya-Lorch, head of a global initiative that seeks to identify solutions for meeting world food needs while reducing poverty and protecting the environment, 7-9 p.m., Union Theater.

Creative Writing Program BFA Readings, featuring work by creative writing students Charlotte Bohnett, Liz Clark, Courtney Phelps and Beth Plotts, 7:30 p.m., Prout Chapel.

International Film Series, “Russkii kovcheg (Russian Ark)” (2002), Russia, directed by Aleksandr Sokurov, 7:30 p.m., Gish Film Theater, Hanna Hall.

Concert, Graduate String Quartet, 8 p.m., Bryan Recital Hall, Moore Musical Arts Center.

Friday, April 11

Clothesline Project, a display of T-shirts created by women affected by violence, meant to increase sexual assault on campus and within the community, noon-4 p.m., Education Building lawn. In recognition of Sexual Assault Awareness Month.

Softball vs. Eastern Michigan, double-header, 1 and 3 p.m., softball field.

Conference, “Fast Food World: Food and Globalization in the 21st Century,” featuring a speakers from a variety of universities and a panel of local organization representatives, 1:30-5:30 p.m., 308 Union. Presented with support from the Social Philosophy and Policy Center, the College of Arts and Sciences, the School of Family and Consumer Sciences, BG Experience, and the departments of history and American culture studies, in cooperation with the International Studies Program.


Movie, “Bee Movie,” 6:30 p.m., Union Theater.

Art Exhibition Opening Reception, for the MFA Thesis Exhibition I, 7-9 p.m., Dorothy Uber Bryan and Willard Wankelman Galleries, Fine Art Center.

Movie, “National Treasure 2,” 9:30 p.m., Union Theater.
Saturday, April 12

2nd Annual Art History Symposium, featuring various speakers from BGSU and other universities around the country, a round-table discussion and a closing reception, 8:30 a.m.-6 p.m., 204 Fine Arts Center.

Economics Undergraduate Research Conference, with student paper presentations, 10 a.m.-3:30 p.m., 201A Union.


Softball vs. Central Michigan, 2 p.m., softball field.

Movie, “Bee Movie,” 6:30 p.m., Union Theater.

Movie, “National Treasure 2,” 9:30 p.m., Union Theater.

Sunday, April 13

Softball vs. Central Michigan, 1 p.m., softball field.

Planetarium Kids’ Show, “Larry Cat in Space,” 2 p.m., BGSU Planetarium, 112 Physical Sciences Lab Building.

Concert, University Men’s Chorus, 7:30 p.m., Bryan Recital Hall, Moore Musical Arts Center.

Concert, Steel Drum Ensemble, directed by Bryan Stanbridge, 8 p.m., Kobacker Hall, Moore Musical Arts Center.

Lecture, by Kris Beam, author of Transparent: Love, Family and Living the T with Transgender Teenagers, 8-10 p.m., 228 Union. Reception and refreshments to follow.

Continuing Events
April 6, 8 and 11

Planetarium May Days, “Unworldly Weather,” spectacular weather of the Earth and planets, showings at 8 p.m. Tuesday (April 8) and Friday (April 11) and 7:30 p.m. Sunday (April 6), BGSU Planetarium, 112 Physical Sciences Lab Building.
JOB POSTINGS

FACULTY

General Studies Writing. Two Instructor positions (Composition), and Visiting Assistant Professor (Rhetoric and Composition). Call Donna Nelson-Beene, 2-7885. Deadline: April 25.


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 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 sheet. This information must be turned in to Human Resources by the job deadline.

CLASSIFIED

On-campus classified:

www.bgsu.edu/offices/ohr/employment/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

Dorothy Randall, 93, died April 2 in Bowling Green. She worked in the Student Health Service from 1967-78, first as a nurse and later as head of the physical therapy department.