

7-7-2008

## Monitor Newsletter July 07, 2008

Bowling Green State University

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### Recommended Citation

Bowling Green State University, "Monitor Newsletter July 07, 2008" (2008). *Monitor*. 1711.  
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# BGSU Monitor

JULY 7, 2008

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## **NASA learning from BGSU geologists' digital mapping program**

NASA landed in the San Juan Mountains of Colorado this summer. Geology faculty and students from BGSU were there to meet them.

Each summer, the geology department teaches its field course in Colorado and New Mexico. The course includes about two dozen undergraduate geology majors, two professors and two graduate assistants. During the roughly six-week course, the students learn a variety of techniques including digital mapping—using ruggedized tablet computers in the field to plot geological information directly onto digital images such as an aerial photograph or topographic map.

This year, the field course had an unexpected visitor: NASA. “You folks are the only program in the country doing this type of digital mapping,” said Dr. Dean Eppler, a research scientist at the Johnson Space Center in Houston, Texas.

Eppler's mission is to design spacesuits and field equipment for NASA's mission to return to the moon in 2020 and land the first scientists on Mars in 2030. Unlike the Apollo moon missions of the late 1960s and early 1970s, which focused mostly on life sciences—survival of the astronauts on the lunar surface—the new missions will be focused mainly on geology. The goal is to establish a permanent facility on the moon, where astronauts will live for up to six months at a time and will need to extract lunar resources to survive.

A geologist by training, Eppler spent a day in the field with the BGSU geology group learning how the tablet PC works as a mapping tool in demanding mountain conditions, at elevations of 11,000 feet. He was enthusiastic about the ease of use, particularly the stylus pen used to draw geological information on the interactive screen of the computer.

Eppler explained the practical difficulties of working in spacesuits and the limited range of mobility of spacesuit gloves. Working on the lunar or Martian surface will require elaborate and expensive suit fabrics, a combination of hard and soft points that are hinged to allow human movement, and a cooling system, which he characterized as more difficult to regulate than the supply of breathable gas. The tablet computer could also display some of the spacesuit functions to the astronauts.

The stylus pen system used by the BGSU geology group is far more functional than other systems NASA has investigated, which require a keyboard. “Imagine typing with tennis balls on the tips of your fingertips,” said Eppler, who was excited to see the BGSU tablet computers use a handwriting recognition program that transfers notes made with the stylus pen into printed text. This feature, combined with the differential Global Positioning System (GPS) and ArcGIS components of the program, would allow astronauts to annotate digital photographs of the lunar surface when taken in the field.

Bowling Green's field geology course first used computers and GPS in 1996, “and we have continuously updated and expanded the use of technology since then,” said Dr. Jeffrey Snyder, co-director of the course.

“We hope to give the students an appreciation of the potential of computers to enhance field data collection,” he said, pointing out that the acquired skills can be applied to many different career paths.

Geological research on the moon will be for far more than extracting the resources needed for astronauts to survive. The lunar soil contains a record of the solar wind (the stream of particles from the sun), which has implications for understanding Earth's climate and how space weather affects Earth-orbiting satellites. Lunar geology fills in several significant gaps in understanding the geological history of Earth and the early development of the solar system.

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Why send people to the moon and Mars rather than robots? Eppler laughed and said: "Despite the success of the Martian rovers Spirit and Opportunity, they have only traveled seven kilometers in the past four years. In contrast, the final Apollo flight (Apollo 17) had two trained astronauts who accomplished more in three days."

"Many of the recent findings from Mars and the moon show significant similarities to the geology of Earth," added Dr. James Evans, geology, who has taught the field course the past 16 years. "It is tremendously exciting to see that we can use the same tools and methods to study extraterrestrial geology."

Eppler is trying to revive the field geology expertise that NASA used to have. Although the Apollo astronauts were test pilots by training, each had received more than 1,000 hours of geology instruction. They became so skilled, he said, that they actually corrected their Earth-bound flight controllers about which geological features they were observing. But with many of those astronauts and their trainers now in their 70s or 80s, much experience will soon be lost, he noted, suggesting half-seriously that the new class of astronauts be sent to the BGSU geology field camp for training.

Eppler also made the Bowling Green students an offer, saying he would help replace the leather cases used to carry the tablet computers with new ones made from decertified spacesuit materials.

Just another way of emphasizing the planetary aspect of the geosciences.

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### Enjoy farewell lunch with Ribeaus

Bid farewell to President Sidney Ribeau and Paula Whetsel-Ribeau tomorrow (Tuesday, July 8) at a summer lunch on the lawn. The entire campus community is invited to share in the music, food and reminiscences, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in front of University Hall. Listen to live jazz from 11 a.m. to noon, followed by remarks.

The lunch menu includes pulled pork sandwiches, grilled chicken breast with citrus glaze, Boca® burgers, fresh fruit kebabs, Greek pasta salad, assorted chips, beverages and dessert.

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### Hess examines Vietnam War literature

The seventh book by Dr. Gary Hess, Distinguished Research Professor of history and nationally known authority on U.S. foreign relations, addresses seven critical issues in the literature about the Vietnam War.

*Vietnam: Explaining America's Lost War*, published recently as part of Blackwell Publishing's Contesting the Past Series, examines the vast war literature, much of which focuses on differing interpretations of American failure.

Beginning with the debate as the war was being waged, Hess traces the works of historians, journalists, participants and others, and the often contentious and emotional argument about whether the war was "lost" because it was "unwinnable" from the beginning or because of "blunders" in strategy and leadership.

The seven critical issues examined are the "necessity" of holding South Vietnam, the reasons President Lyndon Johnson took the nation to war, the bombing of North Vietnam, the land war against communists in South Vietnam, media coverage of the war, the Tet Offensive of 1968 and President Richard Nixon's pursuit of "peace with honor."

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Hess became, in 2006, the 10th recipient of the Norman and Laura Graebner Award for lifetime achievement as a historian of U.S. foreign relations. His nominator was the 2004 winner, Dr. Warren Cohen of the University of Maryland-Baltimore County, who also praises his colleague's latest book.

"Hess, one of America's leading diplomatic historians, has written the most useful book to date—for both teachers and students—of the nation's ordeal in Vietnam," according to Cohen. "It is a magnificently balanced study of the issues and the literature."

Hess's previous book, *Presidential Decisions for War: Korea, Vietnam, and the Persian Gulf*, published by Johns Hopkins University Press in 2001, led to his service the following year as a consultant to the Central Intelligence Agency on long-range planning of U.S. foreign policy. Also among his books is *Vietnam and the United States: Origins and Legacy of War*, published in 1990 by Macmillan/Twayne.

Another outgrowth of his expertise on U.S.-Asian relations has been his work as a consultant and lecturer in the officer training program at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton.

Hess is past president of both the Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations and the Ohio Academy of History. He is a former editorial board member for the journal *Diplomatic History* and former chair of the U.S. State Department's Advisory Committee on Historical Diplomatic Documentation.

The Pittsburgh, Pa., native joined the BGSU faculty in 1964 and has held the rank of professor since 1972. He was named Distinguished Research Professor in 1988 in honor of his work on U.S. foreign policy and Asia. That same year, he received the Olscamp Research Award from the University, which subsequently presented him with its Distinguished Faculty Service Award (1997) and Lifetime Achievement Award (2000).

Also the recipient of three Fulbright awards and two National Endowment for the Humanities Fellowships, Hess was chair of the BGSU history department from 1973-81 and 1985-92, as well as acting dean of the College of Arts and Sciences during the 1981-82 academic year.

He earned his bachelor's degree from the University of Pittsburgh, in 1959, and his master's and doctoral degrees from the University of Virginia, in 1962 and 1965, respectively.

### Stellar speakers to discuss media, war, conflict resolution at BGSU conference

International journalists and scholars will engage with BGSU faculty and students this fall to explore the interconnections among the media and the complicated political roles journalists play worldwide in fomenting or preventing war, and in fostering the dialogue needed for conflict resolution.

The Conference on Media, War and Conflict Resolution will be held Sept. 17-19 at the Bowen-Thompson Student Union. Top speakers include major award winners such as Pulitzer Prize-winning author Richard Rhodes, on nuclear issues; Chris Hedges, author and New York Times war correspondent; Robert Parry of Consortiumnews.com, and George Esper of the Associated Press, who was a Vietnam War correspondent.

Also participating are influential academics who study media coverage of war, including Daya Thussu of the University of Westminster and executive editor of the Sage journal *Global Media Communication*, and Andrew Hoskins of the University of Warwick and executive editor of the Sage Journal on *Media, War and Conflict*.

Conference organizers encourage BGSU faculty and students to register and attend this timely event. Early bird registration provides a substantial discount for those who sign up by July 15.



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Also at the conference, panel sessions on peer-reviewed papers will feature both established and emerging young scholars who offer contemporary analyses of media, war and conflict resolution. A pre-conference workshop on Sept. 17 showcases research by BGSU faculty on educators' roles in peace and justice communication. The conference also marks the start of the new Peace and Conflict Studies program and minor at BGSU.

Conference participants can also look forward to other related activities. The Gish Theater's *International Film Series* will be presenting films that tie in with the conference themes of the media's role in war, conflict and peacemaking.

The event is the brainchild of Dr. Oliver Boyd-Barrett, director of the School of Communication Studies, and Dr. Marc Simon, former chair of political science who has recently returned from a year of teaching and research in Austria that focused on many of the conference themes. Their goal was to organize a conference that would showcase the interdisciplinary talents of BGSU faculty members on those topics.

To learn more about the conference, visit <http://scs.bgsu.edu/mwcrConf/index.php> or contact Dr. Ellen Gorsevski, interpersonal communication, at [elleng@bgsu.edu](mailto:elleng@bgsu.edu) or 2-1997. Anyone interested in volunteering at the registration desk, as a panel chair, badge checker, or in some other capacity may also contact Gorsevski.

### 'The Mousetrap' snaps on Huron Playhouse stage

An unparalleled hit in its native London and worldwide, "The Mousetrap," by prolific mystery writer Agatha Christie, is the longest running play in history, and the second production of the Huron Playhouse's 60th anniversary season. Running nightly Tuesday-Saturday (July 8-12), the show promises to provide an evening of spellbinding suspense.

"Darkness ... the music of 'Three Blind Mice' is heard in the distance. ... suddenly a piercing scream ... voices shouting ... then absolute silence." Christie's drama is mystery writing at its finest. Set at a creepy inn during an unexpected blizzard trapping guests inside with the prospect of murder at every turn, the plot provides the audience with a wealth of "whodunit" clues that preserve the suspense till the final curtain.

Making her playhouse directing debut will be veteran company member Heather Williams of Bowling Green. Williams was most recently seen on the playhouse stage as Miss Hannigan in last season's production of "Annie." Several members of the theatre and film department are involved in the production as well, including Steve Boone, who has returned to design the set; Esther Iverson, designing the costumes, and Todd P. Canedy, technical director.

Curtain time is 8 p.m. nightly. Ticket prices for all Huron Playhouse productions are \$12 for students and seniors, \$14 for other adults, and \$9 for children under 12. For reservations and further information, call the Huron Playhouse at 419-433-4744. The box office at McCormick School, 325 Ohio Street, is open Monday through Saturday from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.

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IN BRIEF

Community artists invited to show work at BGSU

Artists in 12 northwest Ohio counties will have the opportunity to showcase their work in the first Now Ohio arts organization (NoWOH) 2008 Summer Art Show, from July 18-27 at BGSU. The NoWOH show will bring together artists of different ages, backgrounds and media to promote participation in the arts and form a stronger bond among community members.

The Willard Wankelman and Dorothy Uber Bryan art galleries will host the show. Awards, including the \$400 Best of Show, plus Best Young Artist and five other cash prizes, will be presented at the opening reception from 7-9 p.m. July 18. Visitors to the reception will also be able to vote on the People's Choice Award.

The exhibit is sponsored by sustainable energy manufacturer First Solar along with the College of Arts & Sciences, Arts Village, Partnerships for Community Action, and Coca-Cola.

Students from two BGSU arts administration classes planned and organized the show, the first of its kind at the University.

Galleries Director Jacqueline Nathan said, "It's been wonderful to work with two classes and a number of interns to plan this exhibition. We are very excited about hosting this show, and we hope for broad artist participation and lots of community involvement. Another feature is that the show will coincide with the 175th anniversary of the city of Bowling Green and help to celebrate that event, also."

Artists 16 years of age and older living in Defiance, Erie, Fulton, Hancock, Henry, Lucas, Ottawa, Paulding, Sandusky, Seneca, Williams and Wood counties are eligible to submit up to three pieces to exhibit. All submitted artwork will be displayed for the duration of the show. A professional juror will judge the work.

Artists should bring their pieces for the show on Thursday (July 10). For more information, including the procedure for submission, visit <http://gallery.bgsu.edu>. Brochures containing entry guidelines and forms, along with further details about the show, are available at public libraries in the 12 participating counties and can also be found at the Web site.

Now Ohio is a nonprofit organization that seeks to enrich the northwest Ohio community through the arts by promoting arts education and the practice of all forms of art. Together with existing organizations, Now Ohio hopes to help provide exciting and challenging new programs that otherwise would not exist in this area.

CALENDAR

Monday, July 7

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

Wednesday, July 9

**Lunch on the Lawn**, farewell picnic for President Sidney Ribeau and Paula Whetsel-Ribeau, 11 a.m.-1 p.m., University Hall lawn.

**Dissertation and Thesis Support Group**, 1:30-3 p.m., 422 Conklin Hall. No registra-

tion needed. Call the Counseling Center at 2-2081 for more information.

Thursday, July 10

**Administrative Staff Council**, 1:30-3 p.m., 207 Union.

July 8-12

**Summer Theater**, "The Mouse Trap," 8 p.m. nightly, Huron Playhouse, McCormick



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School, Ohio Street, Huron. Tickets are \$12 for students and senior citizens, \$14 for other adults, \$9 for children under 12,

and \$11 for groups of 15 or more. Season passes are \$55. For reservations, call 419-433-4744.

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**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/](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](http://www.bgsu.edu/offices/ohr/employment/BGSU_only/page11151.html)

**Off-campus classified:**

[www.bgsu.edu/offices/ohr/employment/cl\\_staff/page11145.html](http://www.bgsu.edu/offices/ohr/employment/cl_staff/page11145.html)

**ADMINISTRATIVE**

[www.bgsu.edu/offices/ohr/employment/adm\\_staff/page11137.html](http://www.bgsu.edu/offices/ohr/employment/adm_staff/page11137.html)

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**OBITUARY**

There were no obituaries this week.