Monitor Newsletter September 08, 2009

Bowling Green State University

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Student's invention gaining momentum

It was just about a year ago, on Aug. 23, 2008, that James Baker recorded an idea in his journal for an improved method of converting organic material into usable energy. Known as biomass gasification, the process reduces sources such as grass or wood to produce synthetic gas similar to natural gas or propane. These fuels can be used in a variety of applications, from automobiles to heating furnaces.

The ultimate goal for the student from Rossford is to make a different type of hybrid/dual fuel processor small enough to fit in the trunk of an automobile. The gasifier would convert cellulose derived from biomass into a clean, burnable gas that could supplement the gasoline used in the vehicle's engine.

Baker, now a senior majoring in engineering technology, said of his inspiration, "A lot of people were skeptical that it would work—a lot of people still have a hard time believing it will work."

However, after months of design, construction and bated breath on the part of its creators, the centrifugal gasification reactor has validated Baker's initial concept. In its recent first test, it outperformed his expectations. "Getting it working was the Eureka moment," Baker said. Though the test was only the first step of many, he said, "the really important part of it works, so it's on its way."

Though others doubted, the University saw potential in the idea. When Baker transferred to BGSU from Owens Community College in fall 2007, he disclosed his concept to the Office of Sponsored Programs and Research, which found enough merit in it to be willing to help fund its development. "The PATDOC (Patent Advisory and Technology Development Oversight Committee) members were impressed with the knowledge and initiative evidenced by James in his invention. We decided that we wanted to fund further development of his idea. BGSU does have a fund to support small projects that could lead to commercialization of BGSU intellectual property," said Dr. Deanne Snavely, interim vice provost for research and dean of the Graduate College.

Barry Piersol, director of the Electric Vehicle Institute (EVI), is the principal investigator on the project and has handled all the financial aspects. Under his direction, Baker participated in the SETGO undergraduate research program this summer (www.bgsu.edu/offices/mc/monitor/08-24-09/page6667.html), spending 10 weeks building the biomass gasifier.

"James is the first undergraduate in my memory who has presented us a potentially patentable invention," Piersol said. "It's been refreshing to be engaged with a young mind with lots of creative juices."

BGSU also offered Baker the invaluable assistance of Charles Codding Jr., EVI process engineer and former engineering instructor, who guided the physical building of the apparatus. "His expertise and knowledge of manufacturing and engineering processes got this project off the ground. I'm indebted to him because of his help," Baker said.

Codding mentored him while he was making the initial design, which helped reduce the cost significantly, Baker added.

The two availed themselves of the vast array of equipment the College of Technology has amassed over the years. "We probably used every tool in the research lab, including some that hadn't been used for years," Baker recalled.

The aluminum castings were done in a local foundry, and Baker and Codding machined the rough metal pieces. Finally, the gasifier was sent out to be balanced. Then came the all-important actual test, which, to everyone's great relief and exultation, worked.
Baker has been intrigued with science and physics since he was a child reading a set of scientific encyclopedias on inventions that he described as a "catalog of ideas."

"I'm always thinking of how to mesh ideas to create a new idea," he said.

Now that the SETGO summer program is completed, the project will move back into the EVI Research and Development Laboratory in the technology college, where Baker can continue testing and refinements.

**WBGU-PBS receives national award for outreach projects**

WBGU-PBS is one of 26 public television stations across the country to receive national recognition for community engagement efforts. The station was presented the My Source Community Impact Award for Engagement from the Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB) on Sept. 2.

The station was honored for its "Building a Living Legacy of Hope," a cancer awareness project, and "There's No Place Like Home," a mortgage foreclosure outreach project.

"The My Source Community Engagement project is one of the most rewarding endeavors we've ever been involved with," said Mark Erstling, CPB senior vice president, who came from Washington, D.C., to present the award during a reception for the station's community partners in the projects. "This award demonstrates the important services WBGU-PBS provides to the community and is a reflection of the staff's skill and sensitivity to tuning into the needs of individuals at two of the most difficult times of their lives—facing cancer or mortgage foreclosure."

Accepting the national award were President Carol Cartwright; Patrick Fitzgerald, WBGU general manager and director of television services, and Jan Osborn, chair of WBGU-PBS' Public Advisory Council for Television.

Cartwright thanked the CPB for "this important recognition of partnerships," as well as community partners and WBGU staff members for "having the ideas and stepping forward to launch these two important initiatives. For over 45 years, WBGU-PBS has been a very important part of our public service mission, connecting Bowling Green State University with our communities," she said.

"These two projects show the power of what locally owned and operated public television can do. BGSU and locally based community agencies are extending the impact of services well beyond what otherwise could be accomplished," Fitzgerald said.

For "Building a Living Legacy of Hope," WBGU and its partners launched an extensive campaign that included building awareness of "standard-of-care" services and support available locally, and providing cancer survivors who might be isolated with information and sources of support. Outreach activities included a community health fair, fielding questions during two locally produced programs on "Living With Cancer" and "The Changing Face of Cancer Research and Clinical Trials," and setting up phone banks of oncologists, cancer survivors and clinical trial administrators to field calls during a series of cancer programs WBGU aired in June. The culminating event, held at the station, enabled cancer survivors and their loved ones to record and share their experiences and inspirational advice with others.

Area agencies and organizations donated $8,000 to the "There's No Place Like Home" project. WBGU and a group of new community partners joined to present information on community resources available for those who might be at risk for foreclosure in a "NW Ohio Journal Special Report: Mortgage Foreclosure Intervention." The two-hour program aired live on April 14, 2008. Local experts answered calls throughout the broadcast offering advice on how to prepare for and prevent foreclosure and presented phone numbers of agencies and resources, by county.
While producing the program, WBGU formed new alliances with banks in Allen, Ottawa and Erie counties and WSOS Community Action. This continuing partnership resulted in a successful grant application to the Federal Home Loan Bank of Cincinnati for a $200,000 foreclosure mitigation grant. In all, the program encompasses 12 lenders and WSOS, and serves Huron, Erie, Wyandot, Seneca, Sandusky, Ottawa, Wood, Hancock, Putnam, Allen and Lucas counties. The consortium is now looking to engage additional lending institutions and local governments in a regional foreclosure recovery program as part of the $4 billion Housing and Urban Development Neighborhood Preservation Program passed by Congress this summer.

BGSU biologists’ work published in Nature

The research of two BGSU biologists into Phytophthora infestans, the dangerous water mold that was responsible for the Irish potato famine, will be included in the Sept. 9 issue of Nature. The publication is one of the foremost international science journals.

Drs. Vipaporn Phuntumart and Paul Morris, biological sciences, were members of a cohort of 96 scientists who applied their expertise to the analysis of the genome sequence of the pathogen. Scientists at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology’s Broad Institute coordinated the project.

The work is especially timely because the mold is considered a re-emerging disease and has recently attacked tomato crops at home gardens and farms in New York and Virginia as well as Ohio. In addition, increasing knowledge of how the plant pathogens work could also help scientists better understand how other organisms break down a body’s resistance to both disease and treatment.

Phytophthora infestans causes destructive leaf blight also known as “late blight” in potato and tomato in the U.S. and worldwide. It is now classified in a “supergroup” of protozoan and multicellular organisms that include both photosynthetic algae and the malarial pathogen. It infects and harms plants under cool, moist conditions. In the 1840s, the epidemics due to P. infestans known as the Irish potato famine led to starvation, death and mass migration of millions of people from Ireland.

Phuntumart and Morris’s interests focus on the evolution of membrane transporters. Comparisons across different Phytophthora genomes enable them to identify transporters that have diverged due to selective pressure from their plant hosts. In addition to providing insights into the evolutionary history of the pathogen, this approach will enable scientists to better understand the pathogenic strategies of this group of organisms. This information can then be used to develop better management strategies to minimize crop losses.

Phuntumart and Morris have also brought their gene-decoding skills to another member of the Phytophthora family, P. sojae, which causes soybean root rot—of great concern in north-west Ohio especially. Other members of the plant pathogen family attack various vegetables and even oak trees.
BGSU breaks ground on its future

On Sept. 3, the University embarked on what President Carol Cartwright called "one of the most significant building and remodeling programs in our history."

The occasion was the groundbreaking for the Stroh Center, BGSU's future convocation center near Doyt Perry Stadium, scheduled for completion in late 2011.

The president thanked the donors to the $36 million project, beginning with former BGSU trustee Kerm Stroh and his family. Their lead donation of $7.7 million is the largest single private gift in the University's soon-to-be 100-year history.

Cartwright also thanked BGSU students, who voted in March to affirm the Undergraduate Student Government (USG) endorsement of a student fee to help fund the center. "Like the previous generations that gave us facilities like the Student Recreation Center and the Bowen-Thompson Student Union, today's students have made a commitment to the future of BGSU," Cartwright said.

Emceeing the groundbreaking ceremony were two of those students, Sundeep Mutgi, USG president, and Sarah Clapper, a co-captain of the 2009-10 women's basketball team.

The center will be "the most environmentally friendly building on campus," the president added, and coming with it will be other facility improvements, most notably the new Wolfe Center for the Arts, academic building renovations, and new and upgraded residence and dining halls.

"It's all part of preparing BGSU for its second century of service—giving our University the world-class facilities it needs to support its world-class programs."

Sphinx Chamber Orchestra kicks off 2009-10 Festival Series

The Festival Series opens Sunday (Sept. 13) with the Sphinx Chamber Orchestra. The performance, at 3 p.m. in Kobacker Hall of the Moore Musical Arts Center, is also the Louise F. Rees Memorial Concert.

The first concert of the group's 2009 national tour will feature special guests Elena Urioste on violin and the Harlem String Quartet. Conducting the orchestra will be Damon Gupton.

The orchestra, comprising top alumni of the national Sphinx Competition for young black and Latino string players, will perform a diverse program of repertoire including works by African-American and Latino composers.

The afternoon program will include "Divertimento for Strings in F Major" by Mozart. Urioste will solo with the orchestra on "Autumn" from "The Four Seasons of Buenos Aires," by Astor Piazzolla; "Mi Menor Conga," by Guido López-Gavilán; "Hellbound Highball" from "At the Octofoon Balls" by Wynton Marsalis featuring the Harlem String Quartet, and "Serenade for Strings" by Tchaikovsky.

The Sphinx Organization is a national, nonprofit organization whose goal is to help overcome the cultural stereotype of classical music and to encourage participation by blacks and Latinos in the field. It was founded in 1996 by Aaron Dworkin, a graduate of the Interlochen Arts Academy and the University of Michigan.

Urioste was recently selected by Symphony magazine as an emerging artist to watch, and has been hailed by critics and audiences alike for her rich tone and the nuanced lyricism of her playing. First-place winner in both the junior and senior divisions of the Sphinx Competition, she made her Carnegie Hall debut in 2004 as a featured soloist in the inaugural Sphinx Gala Concert.
The Harlem String Quartet, whose members are winners of the Sphinx Competition, received rave reviews from the New York Times after its debut in fall 2006 at the Sphinx concert at Carnegie Hall.

A native of Detroit, Gupton was assistant conductor of the Kansas City Symphony from 2006-08. He received his bachelor's degree in music education from Michigan and a diploma from the drama division at Juilliard. He studied conducting with David Zinman and Murry Sidlin at the Aspen Music Festival and with Leonard Statkin at the National Conducting Institute in Washington, D.C.

As an actor, Gupton has had roles in television, film and on stage, including the late Wendy Wasserstein's "An American Daughter," "True History and Real Adventures" and "Treason." He starred opposite Tony Award-winner Phylicia Rashad in the world premiere of Tracey Scott Wilson's critically acclaimed "The Story" at New York's Public Theater. His television credits include "Law and Order," "Conviction," "Third Watch" and "Hack."

The popular Festival Forum, hosted by Gupton, will be held at 2:15 p.m. Sunday in Bryan Recital Hall. The forum is an informative half-hour to introduce audience members to the performers.

Tickets are $36, $28 and $20 for adults and $29, $22 and $15 for students. For subscription information, call the box office weekdays from noon-6 p.m. at 2-8171.

McMaster Visiting Scientist to explore origins of animal varieties

The explosive rise of animals some 530 million years ago was a watershed event in the history of life, but what caused it remains mysterious. An intriguing new theory will be discussed next week by paleobiologist Dr. Kevin J. Peterson, BGSU's 2009 Harold McMaster Endowed Visiting Scientist.

In his public lecture on "microRNAs and the Evolution of Animal Body Plans," at 4 p.m. Monday (Sept. 14) in the Bowen-Thompson Student Union Theater, Peterson will suggest that a newly recognized group of genes—microRNAs—might have played a unique role in this "Cambrian explosion" of animal body plans, and thus RNA might hold not only the key to understanding the origin of life, but the origins of complex life as well. Following Peterson's talk, a reception open to all will take place outside the theater.

Peterson, an associate professor of biology at Dartmouth College, focuses his research on attacking the problems surrounding early animal evolution using a molecular paleobiological approach. He is a 1989 graduate of Carroll College and earned his Ph.D. from UCLA in 1996.

To learn more about Peterson and his research, visit http://www.dartmouth.edu/~peterson/.
IN BRIEF

Free football tickets for Faculty/Staff Night available starting today

Beginning today (Tuesday, Sept. 8) and until they're gone, free tickets to see the Falcons play Boise State University on Sept. 26 may be picked up at the athletics ticket office in Memorial Hall.

Two free Faculty/Staff Night tickets are available to each BGSU employee, with the option to purchase additional tickets for only $7 apiece. Employees must present a valid BGSU ID. The ticket office is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays.

Kickoff is at 7 p.m. Sept. 26 at Doyt Perry Stadium.

Be sure to support the football Falcons at their other home games, slated for:
Oct. 3 vs. Ohio University at 4 p.m.
Nov. 20 vs. Akron at 5:30 p.m.
Nov. 27 vs. Toledo, time to be announced.

Clinic offers help for those with learning, attention challenges

The ROWing Clinic, in the campus Speech and Hearing Clinic, provides below-market-price evaluations and therapy for school-age and college students as well as adults who are experiencing difficulties in reading, writing and/or organizational skills.

For those who have diagnosed learning disabilities, dyslexia and/or ADHD, as well as for those who suspect they might have one of these disabilities, the ROWing Clinic is a low-cost resource directed by a certified and licensed speech-language pathologist with specific expertise in language, literacy and learning disabilities.

If you would like more information or are interested in scheduling an evaluation or therapy, contact the clinic at 2-7165, or email Dr. Lauren Katz at katzla@bgsu.edu. More information is also available on the Web at http://www.bgsu.edu/departments/cdis/page67032.html.

Deadline approaching to apply for student Fulbright awards

Oct. 19 is the deadline to apply for the 2010-11 Fulbright U.S. Student Program.

The federal government-sponsored program provides future American leaders an unparalleled opportunity to study, conduct research and teach in other countries. Fulbright student grants aim to increase mutual understanding among nations through educational and cultural exchange while serving as a catalyst for long-term leadership development.

The program awards approximately 1,500 grants annually and operates in more than 130 countries worldwide. Fulbright English Teaching Assistantships are now available in over 40 countries. Fulbright full grants generally provide funding for round-trip travel, maintenance for one academic year, health and accident coverage and full or partial tuition.

Applicants to the Fulbright U.S. Student Program must be U.S. citizens at the time of application and hold a bachelor's degree or the equivalent by the beginning of the grant. The program does not require applicants to be currently enrolled in a college or university. Applications from young professionals interested in an international experience are also encouraged.

For more information, visit the Web site at www.us.fulbrightonline.org. BGSU students should contact the campus Fulbright Program advisor, Paul Hofmann, at phofman@bgsu.edu, 2-2248, or in 219 University Hall, for more information. Applications must be submitted
both electronically and in hard copy to Hofmann by 5 p.m. Oct. 15. For the national deadline, applications must be received at the Institute of International Education electronically by Oct. 19, and in hard copy by Oct. 21.

CALENDAR

Tuesday, Sept. 8

Instructional Design Discussion, "Integrated Student Learning," 10-11 a.m., 201 University Hall. Register at www.bgsu.edu/ctl/page10718.html.

EcoBreak Seminar Series, video from the Ohio Vernal Pools Partnership, with Mike Plenzler, graduate assistant, biological sciences, 3:30-4:30 p.m., 332 Life Sciences Building.

Instructional Design Discussion, "Using Assessment Rubrics in Student-Centered Learning," 2-3 p.m., 201 University Hall. Register at www.bgsu.edu/ctl/page10718.html.

Tuesdays at the Gish Film Series, "Bad Taste" (New Zealand, 1987), 7:30 p.m., Gish Film Theater, Hanna Hall.

Wednesday, Sept. 9

Brown Bag Lunch, "Driving Our Own Cars: Managing Stress and Dis-Stress in Our Lives," with Joya D'Cruz, M.A., LMFT, noon-1 p.m., Women's Center, 107 Hanna Hall. Held in recognition of Women's Health Month.

CFDR Fall Speaker Series, "The Hidden Health Costs of Socioeconomic Mobility of African-Americans in the United States," with Dr. Cynthia Colen, Department of Sociology, Ohio State University, noon-1 p.m., 315 Bowen-Thompson Student Union. Sponsored by the Center for Family and Demographic Research.

Thursday, Sept. 10

Instructional Design Workshop, "Learning 2.0 with Web 2.0 Tools," 11 a.m.-noon, 201 University Hall. Register at www.bgsu.edu/ctl/page10718.html.

Weight Watchers at Work Open House, for anyone who may be interested in joining, noon, 314 Union. For more information, contact Kim Jacobs at kjacobs@bgsu.edu.

MFA Reading, with Callista Buchen, poetry, and Stephanie Marker, fiction, 7:30 p.m., Prout Chapel.

Friday, Sept. 11

Assessment Workshop, "SNAP Is 'The Buzz,'" 9 a.m.-noon, 201 University Hall. Register at www.bgsu.edu/ctl/page10718.html. This is the first of the recommended two sessions. The second session is Sept. 18 from 9-11 a.m.

BGSU Firelands Behavioral Health Series, "Helping Families Facilitate Discussion," with Gayle Reeves, law practitioner and president of the Lorain County Bar Association, 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m., 202 Cedar Point Center. The fee is $99. For more information or to register, call 2-0617 or visit www.firelands.bgsu.edu/offices/oeo.


College of Musical Arts Convocation, 2:30 p.m., Kobacker Hall, Moore Musical Arts Center.

Volleyball vs. Northern Iowa, Best Western Falcon Plaza Invitational, 7 p.m., Anderson Arena.

Sunday, Sept. 13

Women's Soccer vs. Youngstown State, 1 p.m., Cochrane Field.
**BOWLING GREEN STATE UNIVERSITY**

Top Stories
In Brief
> **Calendar**
Job Postings
Obituaries

**Festival Series Forum,** with conductor Damon Gupton, 2:15 p.m., Bryan Recital Hall, Moore Musical Arts Center.

**Festival Series,** Louise F. Rees Memorial Concert, featuring the Sphinx Chamber Orchestra with violinist Elena Urioste and the Harlem String Quartet, 3 p.m., Kobacker Hall, Moore Musical Arts Center. Tickets are $20, $28 and $36 for adults and $15, $22 and $29 for students. For tickets, call the box office at 2-8171.

**Monday, Sept. 14**

**CFDR Fall Workshop Series,** "Introduction to Stata," noon-1 p.m., 7C Williams Hall. Sponsored by the Center for Family and Demographic Research.

**Instructional Design Discussion,** "Principles for Good Practice," 2-3 p.m., 201 University Hall. Register at www.bgsu.edu/ctl/page10718.htm.

**Service-Learning Faculty Learning Community Meeting,** 4-5:30 p.m., 201 University Hall.

**ARTalk,** "Reframing African Art: The Contemporary," with Tavy Aherne, art historian, Indiana University, 6 p.m., 1101 Fine Arts Center.

**Continuing Events**

**Beginning Sept. 8**

**Free Faculty/Staff Night Tickets** available at the Memorial Hall ticket office for the Sept. 26 football game against Boise State. Employees may receive two free tickets each with valid BGSU ID. Additional tickets are $7 each. The ticket office is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays.

**Beginning Sept. 9**

**Art Exhibition,** "There Will Be Oil," Union Art Gallery. Gallery hours are 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday-Friday, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Saturdays and 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Sundays.

**Beginning Sept. 9**

**Beginning Adult Karate Classes,** 6:30-8 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays through Oct. 7. A free self-defense night will be offered at the Sept. 9 class. The fee is $25 for full time and $12.50 for half time (one day per week); uniforms are not required. For more information or to register, call 2-8181 or visit http://pace.bgsu.edu/registeronline. The second session will begin Oct. 19.

**Beginning Sept. 12**

**Children's Gymnastics,** preschool level (ages 3-4) from 9:30-10:30 a.m., beginner's level (ages 5-7) from 10:45-11:45 a.m. Classes held on Saturdays through Nov. 21; no class Oct. 10. The fee is $89. For more information or to register, call 2-8181 or visit http://pace.bgsu.edu/registeronline.

**Beginning Sept. 14**

**Free Tai Chi Classes,** four-week session offered to employees through Oct. 7, 5:15-6 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays, Student Recreation Center Spinning Room. No membership required. To sign up, email Caitlin Spontelli at cspont@bgsu.edu.

**Sept. 14-15**

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

**Through Sept. 22**

**Art Exhibition,** paintings by John Nativio, Little Gallery, BGSU Firelands. Gallery hours are 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Friday.
Through Oct. 4

**Art Exhibition**, “UpScaled/DownSized: Intimate and Meticulous Works of Art,” William Wenkelman Gallery, Fine Arts Center. Gallery hours are 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Tuesday-Sunday, 6-9 p.m. Thursdays and 1-4 p.m. Sundays.

Through Oct. 4

**Art Exhibition**, “FOCUS: Area High School Artists,” Dorothy Uber Bryan Gallery, Fine Arts Center. Gallery hours are 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday, 6-9 p.m. Thursdays and 1-4 p.m. Sundays.

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

Off-campus classified:
http://www.bgsu.edu/offices/ohr/employment/cl_staff/page11145.html

**ADMINISTRATIVE**

http://www.bgsu.edu/offices/ohr/employment/adm_staff/page11137.html

**OBITUARY**

There were no obituaries this week.