BGSU chemist receives $1.1 million to enhance research

Studying small molecules has been worth big dollars for Dr. Alexander Tarnovsky this year. The BGSU chemist, who likens his research to making “a molecular movie,” has received two grants from the National Science Foundation (NSF) totaling more than $1.1 million.

A Faculty Early Career Development, or CAREER, award has netted Tarnovsky about $689,000 over five years. CAREER grants go to teacher-scholars who are likely to become academic leaders, notes Dr. Michael Ogawa, chair of the chemistry department. His and Tarnovsky’s colleague in chemistry, Dr. Felix Castellano, is a past recipient.

Tarnovsky, who came to Bowling Green in 2005, was also awarded $482,000 by the NSF for a new laser system and other instrumentation for the Ohio Laboratory for Kinetic Spectrometry at BGSU. Ogawa says the equipment upgrade will strengthen the laser facility originally built six years ago by Dr. Michael A.J. Rodgers, an Ohio Eminent Scholar.

“We are going to be even stronger,” says Tarnovsky. “Not many people can perform the experiments we can perform.”

Those experiments involve “mapping the development of chemical reactions,” he explains. A reaction may be slow overall but comprised of extremely fast steps, and “ultrafast” reactions are ultra-efficient, adds Tarnovsky. He uses flashes of laser light 1 trillion times faster than blinking to trigger reactions in the lab.

Processes at the molecular level decide if the reaction will be ultrafast, so he and his research colleagues are studying those events. They hope to learn what makes some reactions so fast and efficient and, beyond that, perhaps how to gain control over the molecular processes. If conditions can be manipulated, he says, so can outcomes, “which can be most useful” in, for example, medical applications.

Tarnovsky’s “using a very advanced technique to understand the nature of chemical bonding,” says Ogawa, calling the work “important studies that will advance our fundamental understanding of chemistry.”

Fine Arts Center lobby redesign earns kudos

Warm, maple floors contrast with a metal mesh ceiling, small spotlights highlight pieces of art, and windows look onto galleries in a space embraced by a curving, weathered steel wall. Thanks to the efforts and vision of a number of people both on and off campus, the Fine Arts Center lobby has been given a brand new look and a more functional design.

In recognition of the transformation, the state chapter of the American Institute of Architects recently named the lobby renovation one of four recipients of the Honor Award Award, the institute’s highest recognition. This follows an Honor Award last fall by the local chapter. “The jury was very excited about the overall integrity of the project,” wrote the award presenters. The architects succeeded in “creating sense of infinite space and luxurious appointments, despite the small square footage and budget.”

Led by architect Michael Muse, AIA, of the Toledo firm The Collaborative Inc., and his colleagues Matt Clarkson and Lisa Crawford-Nusser (both BGSU alumni), the project took nearly three years of design and construction. BGSU’s team was led by Marc Brunner, project manager and architect, and included Dr. Katerina Ruedi Ray, director of the School of Art, and a steering committee of art faculty. “It was a highly collaborative effort,” Brunner said.
Students are pleased with the results. "It's beautiful," said Carrie Day-Fruth, a senior from Fostoria majoring in ceramics. "It has a nice flow that leads you into the gallery, and the lighting is better for displaying art and more appropriate for an art building."

In addition to new display cases around the edges of the room, two pieces by seminal glass artist Dominic Labino have been reinstalled. Removing the old acoustical ceiling tiles gave a sense of volume to the room. "We were also able to build a permanent display case for 3-D art and for jewelry," Muse said.

While the Dorothy Uber Bryan and Hiroko Nakamoto galleries are well-lit, pleasant spaces holding striking displays of art, the gallery entry was not. "It was an oppressive space, with low ceilings and low lighting," recalled Brunner. "It was not a monumental space that would complement the galleries."

The planners faced several challenges. Working with a limited budget, they had to design a lobby that could also serve as a venue for opening receptions and for displaying student work or as an extension of the main gallery. In addition, some sort of screen was needed for the ramp leading into the galleries so that it did not become the backdrop for speakers at events there, Muse said.

The design solution was the curved wall, created of rusted "mild" steel. Its burnt orange color was achieved by sandblasting and washing it with salt water until it had reached the desired texture and color, he explained. Stylized cutout steel letters spelling out the gallery names and cast interesting shadows on the floor. "Hats off to Van Tassel Construction, our construction team, Muse said. "This was a very specialized custom installation, and they were always very accommodating."

Express your opinion, ask questions, view video on CUE site

The Connecting the Undergraduate Experience (CUE) project is progressing steadily, and there are now more opportunities for the University community to engage with the process.

Faculty, staff and students attended the recent forums on main campus and at BGSU Firelands, where they learned about the proposed conceptual learning model and shared their responses with one another and the CUE Committee.

To watch video from these forums, visit the CUE home page at http://bgsu.edu/cue and click on Learning Model on the left navigation bar. There, you can see segments from the sessions and download a response form.

The second important development is that the CUE blog is now live. That link is also on the CUE home page.

Sherman Alexie shares wit, sharp observation in Firelands talk

Native American writer Sherman Alexie shared his wry perspective on life, politics, America and education with a packed auditorium at BGSU Firelands Nov. 10.

The final speaker in Firelands' All-College Book Series, Alexie kept the audience of about 300—including a group from Pittsburgh—laughing throughout his presentation, even though the subject matter was often painful and serious. Describing himself as an angry person who uses humor to vent his rage, he spoke about his upbringing on the Spokane Coeur d'Alene Indian reservation, where his childhood was marked by serious illnesses, poverty and his parents' alcoholism.

That prolonged early contact with doctors, however, made him realize the importance of
education and reading. He told his listeners he felt that one's happiness in life is directly related to the number of books in one's house.

From an early age, he pursued his interest in education, becoming the only student from his reservation to attend high school in the nearby white farm town. The decision earned him the resentment of his classmates and a black eye from his best friend.

Tall and gangly and with a speech impediment from his birth defects, Alexie was taunted and beaten up at his new school but, he said, he "joined a new tribe," and went on to college and renown as an author, poet, screen writer and humorist.

Though his success was hard won, he told his listeners to view every circumstance as an opportunity and, above all, enjoy life.

Mahoney in online chat with Washington Post reporters

Dr. Annette Mahoney, psychology, is engaged in a live, online chat this morning (Nov. 16) with Washington Post reporters Ellen McCarthy and Sally Quinn. The three are discussing interfaith marriage.

The co-director of BGSU's Spirituality and Psychology Research Team, Mahoney was contacted about doing the chat when her recent talk by on the effect of religious practices on families caught the eye of the Post.

McCarthy featured her research, which Mahoney shared in an invited talk at a Heritage Foundation conference on Oct. 29, in a Nov. 14 article as part of a series the Post is running on the experiences of interfaith couples.

The online chat takes place from 11 a.m. to noon today at http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/discussion/2009/11/12/DI2009111209328.html.

BGSU boosts entrepreneurial strength at VentureTech

A key driver of job creation is the age of a company, a group of entrepreneurs and other business people heard at last week's VentureTech conference. Firms in existence from one to five years are the main producers of new jobs, a report from the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation found. Conversely, most heads of these startup companies are from 50–60 years old.

BGSU is here to help businesses young and old with a variety of needs, Provost Kenneth Borland told attendees. The University was the lead sponsor of the inaugural three-day event, designed to bring together entrepreneurs, venture capitalists and business experts to promote shared success. Also partnering were the Regional Growth Partnership, Rocket Ventures and a number of state and local organizations and companies.

Bowling Green offers a number of programs through its centers of excellence that both help meet the needs of business and prepare students to be successful employees and economic leaders. Through its research, government relations capabilities, grants and contracts expertise and technology transfer services, BGSU is poised and willing to help businesses increase their success while bolstering regional economic development, Borland said.
Pianist Alan Feinberg to perform at BGSU this week

Area audiences will have the opportunity to hear acclaimed pianist Alan Feinberg, one of the pre-eminent performers of contemporary music, in a campus appearance on Thursday (Nov. 19).

Part of the Music at the Forefront concert series sponsored by the College of Musical Arts' MidAmerican Center for Contemporary Music, his program includes works by Robert Helpern, Mauricio Kagel, Jo Kondo, Olivier Messiaen, Eric Moe and Charles Wuorinen. The concert begins at 8 p.m. in Bryan Recital Hall of the Moore Musical Arts Center and is free and open to the public.

Feinberg has forged a remarkable career based on musical exploration. With well over 300 premieres to his credit by such composers as John Adams, Milton Babbitt, John Harbison, Steve Reich and Wuorinen, he is well known for recitals that pair old and new music and put a fresh and provocative perspective on both.

Often on the cutting edge, Feinberg was featured on opening night of the San Francisco Symphony's Maverick Festival, as well as the first performance of John Adams' "Nixon in China" for the Guggenheim's Works in Progress Series and Carnegie Hall's birthday celebration of the music of George Gershwin with Dick Hyman. He is a frequent soloist with orchestras in the United States and abroad.

Feinberg has recorded four solo CDs for London/Decca that survey American music, in addition to piano concertos numerous composers. He received his fourth Grammy nomination for "Best Instrumentalist with Orchestra" for his recording of the Amy Beach's "Concerto" with the Nashville Symphony. Recent recital programs have highlighted his interest in bridging the old and the new.

Feinberg has appeared at festivals worldwide and was the first pianist invited by the Union of Soviet Composers to present American contemporary music in Moscow and Leningrad. Music at the Forefront is an annual concert series featuring performances by accomplished and innovative performers of contemporary music. For more information, contact the center at 2-2685 or email kdoles@bgsu.edu.

IN BRIEF

Be sure to get benefits forms in by Nov. 20

All full-time faculty and staff must submit 2010 enrollment forms for health care, dental and vision coverage and life insurance this year. There are now two options for health care benefits, and everyone is required to choose one.

All forms must be received by the Office of Human Resources by 5 p.m. Friday (Nov. 20). Again this year, those whose spouse has primary coverage under the BGSU plan must submit the Primary Coverage Spouse Form in order to continue or begin coverage for 2010.

All forms and important open enrollment information are online at www.bgsu.edu/offices/ohr/page72130.html.

Women’s Center to host nontraditional student group discussion

Join the Women's Center for refreshments and conversation and help shape the center's programming to address topics of importance to the nontraditional student population. The brown bag lunch will be held at noon Wednesday (Nov. 18) in 107 Hanna Hall.
The National Center for Education Statistics' definition of a nontraditional student includes being a parent, working 35 hours or more per week, attending school part time, being over the age of 25, and not entering college the same year as graduation from high school.

Special ticket offers for Nov. 20 BG-Akron football game

Fresh off two straight road victories, the BGSU Football team (5-5 Overall, 4-2 MAC) will return home to face Akron on Friday (Nov. 20) looking to officially become bowl eligible. The ESPN kickoff is set for 5:30 p.m. at Doyt Perry Stadium.

Take advantage of a pair of great walk-up ticket offers:

$9 tickets*, courtesy of Meijer—BUY, BRING, GET. BUY two Meijer brand nonperishable food products, BRING them to the game, GET one game ticket for the special low price of $9, a saving of $11 per ticket off the walk-up price. All food collected will benefit the Bowling Green Food Pantry.

FREE youth tickets*—It’s Take a Kid to the Game Night. Receive one free youth ticket with the purchase of one adult ticket, a saving of $14 off the walk-up price!

*Both offers are walk-up only, not available in advance. Meijer offers one $9 ticket for each two Meijer nonperishable items, valid at the prime bench reserved-seat price/level. The Take a Kid to the Game Night offer is valid only at the bench reserved-seat/price level.

Town Hall gathering explores CSS, HCM v. 9 upgrade

Learn about the CSS and HCM v. 9 Upgrade Project at a town hall meeting from 1:30-3:30 p.m. Wednesday (Nov. 18) in 113 Olscamp Flail and by teleconference in 1011 Cedar Point Center at BGSU Firelands.

The project will work through the processes involved in upgrading the CSS and HCM portions of Oracle/PeopleSoft from version 8.9 to version 9.0.

At the meeting, the upgrade plan and team members will be introduced, benefits of the upgrade will be examined, and attendees will also look at the testing and switchover schedule.

CALENDAR

Monday, Nov. 16

**Instructional Design Discussion**, “Active Learning and Problem-Based Learning Strategies,” 9:30-10:30 a.m., 201 University Hall. Register at www.bgsu.edu/ctl/page10716.html.

**Instructional Design Workshop**, “Learning 2.0 with Web 2.0 Tools,” 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., 201 University Hall. Register at www.bgsu.edu/ctl/page10716.html.


**College of Arts & Sciences Forum**, featuring Dieter Sperl, Austrian novelist, poet and Max Kade Writer in Residence, lunch at noon and free lecture at 12:30 p.m., 201 Bowen-Thompson Student Union. Additional information can be found at www.bgsu.edu/downloads/cas/file73789.pdf.

**Economics Colloquium Series**, “News Shocks and Technology Adoption,” with Yi-Chan Tsai, Ph.D. candidate, Ohio State University, 1:30 p.m., 1001 Business Administration Building.

**Presentation**, "Landing a Job in a Difficult Economy," with Timothy Augustine, 5:30-6:30 p.m., 228 Union. Hosted by the College of Business Administration and Delta Sigma Pi.
Architecture Lecture Series, featuring Ulrike Passe, professor of architecture, Iowa State University, 6 p.m., 121 West Hall. Series sponsored by the American Institute of Architecture Students.

Guest Artist Concert, featuring violinist Marcia Henry Liebenow, Bradley University, with Robert Satterlee, piano, 8 p.m., Bryan Recital Hall, Moore Musical Arts Center.

Tuesday, Nov. 17

Falcon Alumni Career Workshop, 8 a.m. to noon, Milleti Alumni Center. For more information and to register for this live workshop, visit www.bgsu.edu/offices/alumni/programs/page73505.html. Hosted by the Alumni Association.

Master Calendar Meeting, for departments to begin to reserve spaces in the Union and 101 Olscamp Hall for 2010-11, 9 a.m., 316 Union. Space request forms will be available at the meeting, or forms may be picked up in 231 Union or printed from the Web at www.bgsu.edu/offices/sa/union/page10530.html. No forms will be accepted before the meeting. If you have questions, contact Gale Swanka at 2-2942 or gswanka@bgsu.edu.

Information Session, demonstrating the CSS submission process for final grades, 10-11:30 a.m., 113 Olscamp Hall and 101 Cedar Point Center, BGSU Firelands. For more details about the process, visit www.bgsu.edu/offices/cio/grades.html.

Scholarship of Teaching and Learning Workshop, "E-Books and Digital Content for Teaching," with Amy Fry, electronic resources coordinator, 4:30-6 p.m., 201 University Hall. Register at www.bgsu.edu/cst/page10718.html.

Student Jazz Combos, 8 p.m., Bryan Recital Hall, Moore Musical Arts Center.

Pub Unplugged Series, featuring Bill Porter, 8-10 p.m., Black Swamp Pub.

Urban Education Conference, second of three sessions, hosted by the Partners in Context & Community (PCC) learning community, 9:15-10:30 p.m., Education Building. The conference will conclude on Nov. 24. For more information, contact Patrick Vrooman at 2-9185 or vrooman@bgsu.edu.

Wednesday, Nov. 18

Asbestos Awareness Training, 9-11 a.m., 101A Olscamp Hall. Register at 2-2171 or www.bgsu.edu/offices/envhs/page22440.html.

Classified Staff Council, 10 a.m. to noon, 136 Perry Field House.

BGSU Firelands Annual Beggars’ Banquet, a canned food collection for "Care and Share of Erie County," featuring entertainment by acoustic guitarist Neil Jacobs, 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., Vendeteria and the Pit, Firelands. The price of admission is two canned goods.

Brown Bag Lunch, discussion on nontraditional students and suggestions for related programming, noon, 107 Hanna Hall.

CFDR Fall Speaker Series, "Persistent and Transitory Depression among New Mothers: Consequences for Children's Behavior," with Dr. Kristin Turney, RWJ Postdoctoral Fellow, University of Michigan, noon-1 p.m., 315 Union. Sponsored by the Center for Family and Demographic Research.

Thursday, Nov. 19

Popular Culture Colloquium Series, "The Golden Avenger and the Dark Knight: Superheroes and National Security Cinema," with Mark Bernard, doctoral candidate, American culture studies, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., 207 Union.

Brown Bag Lunch, "Eat to Energize," 14 Family and Consumer Sciences Building, 12:15-12:45 p.m. Presented by the dietetics program as part of the "Nutrition: What's in It for Me?" series.
Graduate Women's Caucus Roundtable Discussion Series, "Women in Academia," 1-2 p.m., Women's Center, 107 Hanna Hall. Food and beverage will be provided.

Master Class, with pianist Alan Feinberg, 1:30-3:30 p.m., Bryan Recital Hall, Moore Musical Arts Center.

Beer Tasting, "Beers Around the World," 5:30 p.m., Black Swamp Pub. $10 fee; must pre-register at Information Center in the Union. Sponsored by the Union.

Free Trial Zumba Fitness Class, 7 p.m., Student Recreation Center Dance Room. Qualifies for the fall WellAware Faculty and Staff Wellness Incentive Program.

Third Annual Passport to Entertainment, featuring international food, dancers, entertainment acts, art and a silent auction, 7-9:30 p.m., 228 Union. Tickets are $5 in advance at the Union contact tables and $7 at the door.

MFA Reading, with Jessica Stump, poetry, and Jacqueline Vogtman, fiction, 7:30 p.m., Prout Chapel.

Music at the Forefront Series, featuring pianist Alan Feinberg, 8 p.m., Bryan Recital Hall, Moore Musical Arts Center. Feinberg will also teach a master class at 2 p.m. Friday.

Friday, Nov. 20

Assessment Workshop, "SNAP Is The Buzz," with William Knight, director of the Office of Institutional Research, 9-11 a.m., 222 Education Building. Register at www.bgsu.edu/ctl/page10718.html. This is the second of the recommended two sessions.

Master Class, with Alan Feinberg, piano, 2 p.m., Bryan Recital Hall, Moore Musical Arts Center. Feinberg is the featured artist in Thursday's Music at the Forefront Series.

Pre-Game Event, featuring refreshments and family entertainment, 3:30-5:30 p.m., Milette Alumni Center. $5 admission, children age 5 and under free.

Philosophy Colloquium, featuring work by Sigur Svaavarsdottir, 4-6 p.m., 301 Shatziel Hall.

Football vs. Akron, 5:30 p.m., Doyt Perry Stadium.

Saturday, Nov. 21

Double Reed Day, featuring master classes and an instrument workshop, as well as performances by BGSU faculty and students, all day, Moore Musical Arts Center. Hosted by the College of Musical Arts and the BGSU oboe and bassoon studios. For more information, visit www.bgsu.edu/colleges/music/events/doublereed/register.html.

Concert, featuring the A Cappella Choir and University Women's Chorus, 8 p.m., Koback er Hall, Moore Musical Arts Center. Tickets are $7 for students and senior citizens and $10 for other adults in advance, and an additional $3 apiece.

Sunday, Nov. 22

Concert Band and University Band, 3 p.m., Kobacker Hall, Moore Musical Arts Center. Program, featuring Praecepta, the student chapter of the Society of Composers, Inc., 8 p.m., Bryan Recital Hall, Moore Musical Arts Center.

Monday, Nov. 23

Open Forum, "Bowling Green State University: A Comparison with Sister Institutions," with President Cartwright, Sherideen Stoll, vice president for finance and administration, and Dr. Kenneth Borland, senior vice president for academic affairs/provost, 9-11 a.m., Union Theater. Dr. Ron Shields, chair of Faculty Senate, will facilitate. The forum will be a live feed broadcast and will include an opportunity for questions at the presentation or by phone at 2-6609. Hosted by the Faculty Senate Executive Committee.

Instructional Design Discussion, "Developing the 'Promising Syllabus,'" 9:30-10:30 a.m., 201 University Hall. Register at www.bgsu.edu/ctl/page10718.html.

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

Continuing Events

Nov. 19

Exhibition, "The Poetic Dialogue," Dorothy Uber Bryan Gallery, Fine Arts Center. Gallery hours are 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Tuesday and Wednesday and 6-9 p.m. Thursday.

Beginning Nov. 20

Art Exhibit, "Southern Graphics Council Traveling Exhibition," Willard Wankelman 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. Closed Nov. 26-30.

Through Nov. 21

Planetarium Show, "Hubble’s Universe," discoveries of the space telescope, show­ings at 8 p.m. Tuesdays and Fridays, and 2 p.m. Saturdays. $1 donation suggested.

Beginning Nov. 22

Planetarium Show, "Hubble Vision," best of
the space telescope, showings at 7:30 p.m. Sundays, 8 p.m. Tuesdays and Fridays, and 2 p.m. Saturday. $1 donation suggested.

Through Dec. 6
Art Exhibit, "Art from Visiting the Margins," by Bill Thompson, United Christian Fellowship in Bowling Green, Union Art Gallery.

JOB POSTINGS

FACULTY

Musicology/Composition/Theory.
- Assistant Professor (17th and 18th Century Western Art), Call Mary Natvig, 2-7351. Deadline: Jan. 4.
- Assistant Professor (Art after 1945), Call Effie Papanikolaou, 2-2933. Deadline: Jan. 4.

Labor Postings
http://international.bgsu.edu/index.php?x=facinfohires

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

There were no obituaries this week.