

7-6-2010

Monitor Newsletter July 06, 2010

Bowling Green State University

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Recommended Citation

Bowling Green State University, "Monitor Newsletter July 06, 2010" (2010). *Monitor*. 1799.
<https://scholarworks.bgsu.edu/monitor/1799>

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BGSU Monitor

JULY 6, 2010

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ICE Center provides teachers entrée to Middle East

Education — its teachers and its curriculum — has a strong impact on how we understand who we are and who others are. A group of BGSU education majors and faculty and local schoolteachers is spending the month of July in Jordan to explore the idea of identity among Jordanians who, like U.S. citizens, are of a variety of ethnic backgrounds. They predict that what they learn will help them in their own classrooms to understand cultural diversity.

The trip is organized by BGSU's Center for International Comparative Education (ICE), which obtained a Fulbright-Hays grant as part of the Group Projects Abroad Program in the U.S. Department of Education. Dr. Patty Kubow, ICE director and a faculty member in the School of Leadership and Policy Studies, is leading the trip for the second time.

Also on the journey are Dr. Bruce Collet, School of Leadership and Policy Studies, and Dr. Mohammed Darabie, School of Teaching and Learning, who is from Jordan. Both were part of the ICE Center's research and curriculum study in Jordan in 2008.

Four northwest Ohio schoolteachers (including one from Toledo School for the Arts), three undergraduates and five graduate students at BGSU are participating in the program, which began with an intensive, eight-day pre-departure orientation organized and administered by Kubow. The group prepared for the experience with the trip faculty and Dr. Marc Simon, political science. They visited the Islamic Center in Perrysburg, began a study of basic Arabic and immersed themselves in learning about Jordan's political, cultural, religious and immigration history.

In Jordan, they will visit historic sites and interact with Jordanian partners at the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Political Development, the University of Jordan, Al-Hussein Bin Talal University, the National Centre for Human Rights, and other agencies.

"I believe this will be a life-changing experience for me, both personally and professionally," said Leilani Kupo, a Ph.D. candidate in higher education administration who will graduate in August. "I'm already thinking about things differently. We will also have a spectrum of world views, experiences and even ages in our group, which I think will contribute a beautiful richness to the experience."

Jill Posta, a geometry teacher at Maumee Valley Country Day School in Toledo, is the only non-social studies teacher on the trip. "Maumee Valley has a large number of Arab students. In order for me to connect with my students, it's important to understand their background," she said. She plans to incorporate elements of Arabic art into her geometry curriculum, using tessellations, or repeating patterns, found in mosaics and tapestries, which she said fits well into hands-on lessons on congruence and symmetry.

The cultural sensitivity gained by the Jordan experience should be reflected in the lesson plans the participants produce — tangible products they can use in the classroom as a result of their Fulbright program experience. "For example, one of our focuses, in teaching about culturally important places, is that we need to take care how we present them, that we don't 'exotify' or demean them or treat them too lightly," Kupo said. Ohio has the ninth largest Arab American population, and there is great need for cultural competency.

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Huron Playhouse shows 'The Importance of Being Earnest'

"Be yourself" are not words to live by in "The Importance of Being Earnest." The classic comedy by Oscar Wilde is the next production in the Huron Playhouse season.

Shows are at 8 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday (July 6-10) at the playhouse, located in the McCormick Middle School on Ohio Street in Huron.

The witty comedy revolves around a notable and ingenious case of manufactured mistaken identity in which John Worthing and Algernon Moncrieff have taken to bending the truth in order to add a dash of excitement to their lives. However, their deceptions eventually cross paths, resulting in a series of hilarious crises that threaten to spoil their pursuits of their true loves, Gwendolyn and Cecily.

Tickets are \$14 for students and senior citizens, \$16 for other adults, \$11 for children under 12, and \$13 for groups of 15 or more. Season passes are \$65. For reservations, call 419-433-4744.

IN BRIEF

Quakers on campus for conference this week

This week the University welcomes the Friends General Conference, a weeklong immersion in Quaker spirituality and community. About 1,200 guests will be on campus until Saturday (July 10).

Most will be staying in Founders, Harshman or Kohl halls. Some will be camping in tents outside Harshman while others will stay in RVs by Doyt Perry Stadium.

The group is very diverse and will be holding activities across campus, ranging from operating a large bookstore in the Harshman community room, using the gyms in Eppler Center, meeting in Olscamp Hall, and using the Fine Arts Center. Moore Musical Arts Center will be used in the afternoons for worship, and dance classes will be held in the Student Recreation Center.

Their visit is coordinated through Conference Programs and Guest Services.

CALENDAR

Wednesday, July 7

Center for Teaching and Learning Workshop, "Deep Learning: Can You Make It Happen?," 9:30-10:30 a.m., 201 University Hall. Register online at <http://www.bgsu.edu/ctl/page75113.html>.

Summer Colloquia, with Christopher Coyne, assistant professor of economics, West Virginia University, 12:30-2:30 p.m. Seating is limited; contact Ben Dyer at bdyer@bgsu.edu for reservations and location information. Hosted by the Social Philosophy and Policy Center.

Monday, July 12

Sundaes on Mondays, free ice cream, noon-1 p.m., Falcon's Nest, Bowen-Thompson Student Union.

Center for Teaching and Learning Workshop, "Foster Significant Learning Using integrated Course Design," 1-2 p.m., 201 University Hall. Register online at <http://www.bgsu.edu/ctl/page11755.html>.



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Continuing Events
July 6-10

Summer Theater, "The Importance of Being Earnest," 8 p.m. nightly, Huron Playhouse, McCormick School, Ohio Street, Huron. Tickets are \$14 for students and senior

citizens, \$16 for other adults, \$11 for children under 12, and \$13 for groups of 15 or more. Season passes are \$65. For reservations,

JOB POSTINGS

FACULTY

English. Instructor. Call Kristine Blair, 2-2576. Deadline: July 26.

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 website 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.