Orel honored for dedication to service-learning

For BGSU gerontology students, learning is inseparable from service, and the community of elderly people constitutes their “research lab,” thanks to the efforts and philosophy of gerontology program director Dr. Nancy Orel.

For her extraordinary commitment to service-learning, Orel was selected as one of four finalists for Campus Compact’s 2010 Thomas Ehrlich Faculty Award for Service-Learning following her nomination by BGSU President Carol Cartwright.

“Although the external reviewers selected another as this year’s recipient of the award, it is an honor to have been among the finalists for this most prestigious national award,” said Dr. Linda Petrosino, dean of the College of Health and Human Services. Orel will represent BGSU as a finalist at the annual Association of American Colleges and Universities in January.

Orel is well known in the Bowling Green community and nationally for the programs she has created and for using her groundbreaking research to develop curriculum and practices and provide outreach to meet community needs.

For example, her community-based research into the previously unrecognized growth of HIV infection rates among the elderly resulted in a University-community partnership that planned and implemented the “No One Is Immune” HIV-AIDS prevention program. She also taught a course that involved developing and hosting a conference on the subject. One of her articles on this “hidden” topic is among the top-25 most requested manuscripts published in the Journal of Applied Gerontology, and she has been honored with the Ohio HIV/AIDS Award.

Orel has provided exemplary leadership in the scholarship of engagement, Cartwright said, noting, “Her work demonstrates how teaching and research can be integrated with and applied to community-based learning and produce products that impact societal issues.” She has been a promoter of service-learning and a generous mentor to other faculty across campus.

Orel has revised the gerontology curriculum to ensure that a focus on civic and community engagement permeates the program, with many tangible results. The ongoing partnership with the Wood County Committee on Aging has yielded staff and student training in such issues as opportunities for senior citizens with developmental disabilities and elder-abuse prevention. Students are engaged on all levels, as participants, volunteers and interns. They have been part of planning, implementing and evaluating aspects of the community work. Their success has been recognized with numerous community-service awards from local and state entities.

“Partnerships are at the heart of Dr. Orel’s work,” Cartwright said. Recently, she has developed a service-learning partnership with Hospice of Northwest Ohio that resulted in gerontology students’ becoming fully trained as hospice volunteers and completing a period of service.

As Orel said, her work has the “common goal of bringing visibility to those who have been overlooked and/or ignored by the scientific community and society at large.” Under her example and mentorship, BGSU is producing a new generation of gerontologists who will continue to revolutionize the field for the benefit of some of our most vulnerable, and valuable, citizens.
Donohue's art cars put the 'popular' in popular culture

Dr. Matt Donahue's art cars are "popular culture" in both senses of the term. The highly painted, unique creations continue to garner attention and awards, proving their popularity with the public and the art world. The popular culture faculty member exhibited two of his cars in the Maker Faire July 31 and Aug. 1 at the Henry Ford Museum in Dearborn, Mich., and came home with the editor's choice award for his "Red, White and Blue Jackson Pollocktik" car.

"There were numerous organizations at the event including Kettering University, Ford Motor Company, the U.S. Army and Subaru, and they chose my exhibit," said Donahue appreciatively. The fair was sponsored by Make magazine and the Ford museum.

To view the two cars, visit
http://makerfaire.com/pub/e/4101
http://makerfaire.com/pub/e/4203

Donahue also exhibited three of his art cars at the Kentucky Museum of Art and Craft in Louisville as part of its art car weekend Aug. 5-7. See http://www.kentuckyartcarketweekend.com/kyartcar2.html

IN BRIEF

BGSU students participate in leadership retreat

Every year since 2001, a group of select BGSU students have participated in a Student Leadership Retreat. The students are chosen from various campus organizations. This year's retreat starts today (Aug. 9) and runs through Wednesday (Aug. 11) in Lakeside.

Students will learn how to encourage collaboration, work on networking and help out in the community. All community service projects will take place from 2-5 p.m. tomorrow (Aug. 10). The projects include landscaping maintenance at Island View Manor in Marblehead, park trail maintenance at Meadowbrook Marsh in Danbury Township and working with the Ida Rupp Library in Port Clinton to connect to social networking sites.

CALENDAR

Monday, Aug. 9
Center for Teaching and Learning Workshop, "Designing a Learner-centered Syllabus," 11 a.m.-noon, 201 University Hall. Register online at http://www.bgsu.edu/ctl/page74986.html.

Tuesday, Aug. 10
Center for Teaching and Learning Workshop, "Effective Public Speaking in Academic Settings," 10:30 a.m.-noon, 201 University Hall. Register online at http://www.bgsu.edu/ctl/page11755.html.

Continuing Events
August 11 and 12
New Faculty Conference, 8 a.m.-5 p.m., Bowen-Thompson Student Union.
AUGUST 9, 2010

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August 15-20

JOB POSTINGS

FACULTY


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

Kirill Hartman, 81, an assistant professor emeritus of German, Russian and East Asian languages, died June 22 in Berkeley, Calif. He taught at BGSU from 1964-92.

Helen Lakofsky, 88, died Aug. 4. She was a piano instructor in the Creative Arts Program at the University from 1952-2001. Memorials may be given to the Helen Lakofsky Music Scholarship Fund in care of the BGSU Foundation.