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Monitor Newsletter September 07, 2010

Bowling Green State University

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BGSU Monitor

SEPTEMBER 7, 2010

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Hunting dogs point way to behavior-genetics connection

Hunting is a survival skill that has united humans and dogs for about 17,000 years. During that time, people have bred dogs for specific traits to refine their hunting abilities, including searching for prey, pointing, flushing and retrieving. BGSU doctoral student Budhaditya Chowdhury is conducting the first-ever behavioral genetic study of the skills of hunting dogs. The project is a collaboration with Dr. Danika Bannasch of the Veterinary Genetics lab at the University of California - Davis.

Chowdhury chose to focus on searching strategies of bird dogs because searching behavior is perhaps most innate to dogs and "minimizes the training effect." And because hunting dogs have been so highly bred, they make the ideal subject for a study of behavior and genetics, he said. "Their genomes are extremely similar yet offer enough diversity for us to study."

Hunting is a perfect behavioral trait for comparative study because to different pointing dogs, the act of hunting means the same thing, unlike tricks they may be taught, Chowdhury said.

A recent morning found him in a field in nearby Tontogany with local dog trainers Steve Thompson and Dave Hagemeyer. The two have agreed to lend their German pointers to the experiment. Both they and the dogs are outfitted with GPS receivers that will render an image of their movements, recording the different hunting strategies, how effectively they use the wind, and how carefully they search.

After swabbing the dogs' cheeks for a DNA sample, Chowdhury sets a cage of prey birds in the close-cut field. He records the wind speed and direction, temperature and humidity. Then a handler and a dog begin to walk the field. Each time out, Chowdhury changes the location of the prey birds in order to randomize the experiment's design.

Hazel, a 13-year-old German pointer and experienced hunter, sets out in half circles, carefully covering ground. At one point she raises her head and closes her mouth to better catch scent on the wind. When she detects the presence of the prey bird, she goes into the classic point posture: head down, tail out, one foot raised. "Each dog is different," Thompson explains. "One might like to range out while another might like to work close."

After the trials, the owners are rewarded with printouts and descriptions of their dogs' behavior patterns, which they can use in training. Chowdhury will use the DNA from the cheek swab in his quest to match genes to behaviors.

"I can never remember a day in my life when I didn't have a dog," he said, which explains why, when his mentor, biologist Dr. Robert Huber, announced the possibility of working on a dog project with UC-Davis, he jumped at the chance. Both are part of BGSU's J.P. Scott Center for Neuroscience, Mind and Behavior, where Chowdhury is a Fellow.

"During the '60s, J. P. Scott did wonderful research in the genetics and social behavior of dogs, which is probably still the best behavioral genetics research ever conducted on dogs. He was one of the pioneers of behavioral genetics and conducted his research at BGSU. After so many years it is with great pride that we at BGSU embark on another behavioral genetic understanding of our four-legged friends," Chowdhury said.

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Attend forum on criteria for next president

The University community is invited to attend an open forum with representatives from Heidrick and Struggles, the search firm employed to help recruit the next president of BGSU.

The open forum will be held from 9:30-10:30 a.m. tomorrow (Sept. 8) in the Bowen-Thompson Student Union Theater.

The purpose of the forum is for Heidrick and Struggles to get to know BGSU, and for us to get to know Heidrick & Struggles. During their visit, the firm's representatives will be speaking with campus and community leaders and collecting information to construct a University profile that will enable them to help recruit candidates.

Please be prepared to offer your thoughts, observations, and insights on the University as a whole and on what you'd like to see in our new president.

IN BRIEF**Mark your calendars for Faculty/Staff Night at The Doyt!**

Don't miss the excitement of the home opener under the lights as Falcon Football kicks off its 2010 season at 7 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 18, vs. Marshall.

Faculty and staff are eligible to receive two football tickets compliments of the President's Office. Ticket distribution, with a valid BGSU ID, begins today (Sept. 7) at the BGSU Ticket Office in Memorial Hall.

The ticket supply is limited and available on a first come, first served basis. Additional tickets are available for purchase at a special discounted price of \$8 each.

Sheffer to discuss 'The Romance of Race'

How did America come to be recognized as a nation of immigrants, a melting pot, a salad bowl, or a mosaic? Who were the driving forces behind creating a modern multicultural image of America?

Dr. Jolie Sheffer, English, will discuss "The Romance of Race: The Familial Origins of American Multiculturalism, 1880-1930" at 2:30 p.m. Sept. 15 in 207 Bowen-Thompson Student Union. Her talk, which is free and open to the public, is part of the Artists and Scholars in Residence series sponsored by BGSU's Institute for the Study of Culture and Society (ICS).

Sheffer's talk investigates the work of Progressive-era women writers and activists in shaping American multiculturalism. They were pioneers in creating a hybrid national identity, and their works were the earliest to represent the U.S. nation as a large-scale nuclear family. In a period of profound demographic change, ethnic women writers were at the vanguard of efforts to democratize national identity. They reframed public debates about interracial marriage, immigration and imperialism through their narratives. Linking popular literature and activism to citizenship and anti-miscegenation laws, Sheffer examines the nature of kinship and taboo in the national imagination.

Sheffer's research and teaching interests include 20th-century American literature, multi-ethnic American literature, Asian American studies, gender studies and cultural studies. She is on the Literary Studies book award committee for the Association for Asian-American Studies. She has published articles in MELUS, the journal of the Society for the Study of the Multi-Ethnic Literature of the United States; the Journal of Asian-American Studies, and in the edited collection Sport, Rhetoric, Gender, and Globalization: Historical Perspectives and Media Representations (2010).

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Alumnus paintings show 'outsider's view' of area

An exhibit opening today (Sept. 7) in the Bowen-Thompson Student Union Art Gallery presents "The Northwest Ohio Landscape in Oil: An Outsider's View."

Painter Lee M. Bartholomew, a graduate student pursuing a master's degree in geology, has produced primarily abstract landscapes on canvas in oil depicting rural scenes, terrain and locations in northwest Ohio. The artist has been producing art professionally for five years and has been in the art industry since 1998.

"It is not my intention to accurately portray anything that I see, but to show an abstraction of the things in a scene that seem important to me at the time I paint it," he said. "I invite viewers to come and see how I find beauty in their native lands, and to personally experience the beauty themselves by going on long drives and walks down lonely stretches of road."

Bartholomew's work will be on exhibit through Sept. 27. Gallery hours are 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Sundays, 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday-Friday, and 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Saturdays.

Students, faculty, and alumni are permitted (and invited) to exhibit creative works of art in the Student Union gallery, which is located on the first floor of the Union. Anyone interested in showcasing art in the gallery may contact Kim Jacobs at kjacobs@bgsu.edu.

CALENDAR**Tuesday, Sept. 7**

Center for Teaching and Learning Workshop, "Cultivating Opportunities through Service," 9:30-10:30 a.m., 201 University Hall.

Center for Teaching and Learning Workshop, "Foster Significant Learning Using Integrated Course Design," 1:30-2:30 p.m., 201 University Hall.

Wednesday, Sept. 8

Open Forum, with presidential search firm Heidrick and Struggles representatives, 9:30-10:30 a.m., Bowen-Thompson Student Union Theater. Discuss desirable criteria in presidential candidates.

Brown Bag Series, "Protecting Your Heart: Eight Simple Strategies for Women," presented by Sharon Gutman, RD, LD, CDE, ProMedica, noon-1 p.m., Women's Center, 107 Hanna Hall. In recognition of Women's Health Month.

Speaker Series, "Cohabitation and Marital Stability," presented by Dr. Wendy Manning and Ph.D. student Jessica Cohen, sociology, noon-1 p.m., 314 Union. Hosted by the Center for Family and Demographic Research.

Biology Seminar, "Identifying and Understanding Strategies for Developing Students' Scientific Thinking Skills," with Dr. Karen Sirum, biological sciences, 3:30-4:30 p.m., 112 Life Sciences Building.

Center for Teaching and Learning Workshop, "Using Audacity and Podcasting to Extend the Classroom," 3:30-4:30 p.m., 201 University Hall. Register online at <http://www.bgsu.edu/ctl/page11755.html>.

Faculty Artist Series, featuring soprano Jane Schoonmaker Rogers, 8 p.m., Bryan Recital Hall, Moore Musical Arts Center.

Thursday, Sept. 9

Center for Teaching and Learning Workshop, "Pragmatic Practices for Teaching Assistants," 1-2 p.m., 201 University Hall. Register online at www.bgsu.edu/ctl/page10718.html.

Visiting Writer, Joshua Marie Wilkinson, poet, 7:30 p.m., Prout Chapel.

Friday, Sept. 10

Center for Teaching and Learning Workshop, "Group Projects: Structure, Substance, and Slackers," 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., 201 University Hall. Register online at <http://www.bgsu.edu/ctl/page77403.html>.

All-College Convocation, featuring alumna Jennifer Higdon, Pulitzer Prize-winning composer, 2:30 p.m., Kobacker Hall, Moore Musical Arts Center.

ARTalks 100@100 Alumni Lecture, "The Real Meaning of the Sistine Chapel Ceiling," with art historian Mary Wolfe, 5 p.m., Bryan Recital Hall, Moore Musical Arts Center.

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Women's Soccer vs. Minnesota, 5 p.m., Cochrane Field.

Volleyball vs. Cornell, 7 p.m., Anderson Arena.

Saturday, Sept. 11

Men's Cross Country, Mel Brodt Invitational, 11:30 a.m., Whittaker Track.

Volleyball vs. IPFW, 11:30 a.m., Anderson Arena.

Men's Soccer vs. Akron, 1 p.m., Cochrane Field.

Volleyball vs. Oakland, 7 p.m., Anderson Arena.

Sunday, Sept. 12

Women's Soccer vs. Cleveland State, 1 p.m., Cochrane Field.

Faculty Artist Series, featuring Penny Thompson Kruse, violin, 3 p.m., Bryan Recital Hall, Moore Musical Arts Center.

Monday, Sept. 13

Center for Teaching and Learning Workshop, "Learning 2.0 with Web 2.0 Tools," 10:30-11:30a.m., 201 University Hall. Register online at <http://www.bgsu.edu/ctl/page11755.html>

Center for Teaching and Learning Workshop, "The Ethics of Teaching," 1:30-3:30 p.m., 201 University Hall. Register online at <http://www.bgsu.edu/ctl/page11755.html>.

Continuing Events

Sept. 10-12

Caryl Crane Children's Theatre, "Hood: A Robin Hood Tale." Performances at 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday, and 2:30 p.m. Sunday, McBride Auditorium, BGSU Firelands. For tickets, call the box office at 2-0747.

Through Sept. 17

Art Exhibit, "The Aaron Macy Legacy Exhibit," ceramics by scholarship recipients, 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.

Through Sept. 21

Art Exhibit, paintings by Robert McCann, Little Gallery, BGSU Firelands. Gallery hours are 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Friday.

Through Sept. 26

Art Exhibit, "Re-imagining the Distaff Toolkit," 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.

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 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

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Robert Reed, 72, an associate professor emeritus of educational foundations and inquiry, died Aug. 22. He taught at BGSU from 1969-96.