

5-31-2011

## Monitor Newsletter May 31, 2011

Bowling Green State University

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### Recommended Citation

Bowling Green State University, "Monitor Newsletter May 31, 2011" (2011). *Monitor*. 1827.  
<https://scholarworks.bgsu.edu/monitor/1827>

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# BGSU Monitor

MAY 31, 2011

B O W L I N G   G R E E N   S T A T E   U N I V E R S I T Y

## Top Stories

### GREAL program home to four Fulbright winners

A group of four graduate students share a unique history. They all began the master's degree program in German at the same time, spent a year in Austria together and have all been named Fulbright Award winners.

Katie Portnoy knew at an early age she had an aptitude for languages. She took German in high school and decided to continue studying it in college. After earning an undergraduate degree at Truman State University in Missouri, the St. Louis native headed north. "BGSU was one of the only schools that offered the first year abroad and that's how I ended up here for grad school," Portnoy said.

"When I first heard that BGSU's program was in Austria, instead of Germany, I was a little apprehensive," she said. "The German dialect in Austria is different, but I learned to love the language there. It has a comforting feeling to it."

Portnoy will go back to Salzburg, Austria, in the fall for her Fulbright assignment to work as an English assistant in the Austrian version of a high school. She hopes to become a translator for the federal government or work freelance.

Washington native April Reiter's Fulbright assignment will require a bit of additional planning. Reiter, who is dating fellow Fulbright winner George Hemphill, will be Tamsweg, Austria, far from the city Hemphill is assigned. She says they've worked out a plan, but it will still be an adventure.

Reiter will be an assistant English teacher at three secondary schools and plans to pursue a career in international education and/or educational publishing.

"I can't wait to see my friends again, join my Scottish Country Dancing group again, and hike the gorgeous mountains there," Reiter said. "And how amazing is it to get paid to live abroad in a country you love and get the chance to speak a language you love every day?"

Austria is a familiar country to Hemphill. He spent time in Salzburg during his undergraduate years at the University of Maine, where he was a double major in international affairs and political science and German. He'll spend his Fulbright assignment in Lambach, Austria.

"I look forward to not only obtaining new work experience in a foreign country by being a teaching assistant there, but also the chance to develop the contacts I have made over the previous years," Hemphill said.

He hopes to continue his studies either in a Ph.D or different master's program with the goal of working for the U.S. government, a non-governmental organization, or an international organization such as the United Nations.

Music is Andrea Weatherman's first love, and what she got her undergraduate degree in at Converse College in South Carolina. An accident aggravated chronic back problems, and she chose to give up piano and look at other career options.

"I had considered teaching as a career for a while," Weatherman explained. "I'd taught piano in the past and done some tutoring. I'd studied some foreign language as an undergrad, but it was a dynamic classroom experience later on that got me interested in German and I threw myself into learning the language."

The Arkansas native says she realized studying German reminded her of her music studies. "There are a variety of skills to be practiced and explored, and that appeals to me."

JANUARY 25, 2011

## B O W L I N G   G R E E N   S T A T E   U N I V E R S I T Y

## &gt; Top Stories

Weatherman will be spending her Fulbright assignment in Germany as an English teaching assistant at a secondary school.

The U.S. Congress established the Fulbright in 1946. It provides funding for students to participate in graduate study, advanced research, university teaching, and teaching in elementary and secondary schools.

### Temple Grandin keynote speaker at autism summit

Dr. Temple Grandin is primarily known for two things—her expertise on animal care and handling and the award-winning HBO movie “Temple Grandin,” which focuses on her autism.

Grandin will be in Wood County next week to address both topics. She is the keynote speaker at the 10th annual Autism Summit of Northwest Ohio June 10 at BGSU. On June 9, she will talk with area livestock producers and people with an interest in farm animals.

The Autism Summit of Northwest Ohio will feature Grandin for the majority of the program, which runs from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Lenhart Grand Ballroom of the Bowen-Thompson Student Union. Grandin will discuss her early years and answer questions from the audience during the morning session. In the afternoon program, she will talk about her later years, ending with another question-and-answer session.

Ballroom seating is sold out. Attendees can also watch the presentation in 206 Union via a live video stream for \$20. A certificate with contact hours will cost \$10.

The summit is sponsored by Robert and Nancy Williams, the School of Intervention Services, the College of Education and Human Development, the Office of Marketing and Communications, the Lucas County Board of Developmental Disabilities, and the Wood County Educational Services Center.

For more information or to register, contact the Office of Continuing and Extended Education at 2-8181 or visit <http://cee.bgsu.edu/autism2011>.

The June 9 event will be held in Cygnet at the Nichols Farms, located at the southeast corner of Cygnet Road and Washington Street.

Grandin, a professor of animal science at Colorado State University, is also a best-selling author and consultant to the livestock industry. She admits her autism has helped her gain insight into the minds of cattle, which has allowed her to develop methods to treat livestock more humanely at farms, livestock yards and slaughter facilities.

A meal will be served at the farm at 6 p.m., followed by Grandin's presentation and a question-and-answer session. After the presentation, visitors are invited to tour the livestock handling facilities with her. The event is free and open to the public; however, reservations are requested by today (June 3) by calling 419-354-6916 or 419-354-9050.