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Bowling Green State University

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BGSU Monitor

SEPTEMBER 27, 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

National Guard honors Holden for advocacy efforts

Dr. Brett Holden, theatre and film, has made a life mission of raising awareness about veterans and their families and the struggles they face — by both integrating the subject into his academic teaching and organizing services for their benefit.

This summer, the Ohio National Guard expressed its appreciation for his enduring commitment when it presented him the Adjutant General's Award. Col. John C. Harris, Jr., Assistant Adjutant General Army, presented the award to Holden on behalf of Major General Deborah A. Ashenhurst, the Adjutant General of the state of Ohio, in Findlay.

Holden was nominated for the award by his longtime community partner Margret Szymanski, a Family Assistance Specialist with the Ohio National Guard, with whom he has worked for a decade.

Holden has an established relationship with the military in northwest Ohio due in part to his affiliation with BGSU, as well as his personal and professional relationship with the local infantry unit, B Co. 1-148th. His service-learning course, "War, Film, and the Soldier Experience," highlights the discrepancies between the portrayal of the soldier experience and the reality, and has moved undergraduates to research and assist the veteran population. Through reading and research, students learn to separate propaganda from fact and become aware of the power of film to influence.

Holden also encourages administrators at BGSU to understand the experience of veteran soldiers' transition to civilian life, facilitating outreach to veterans on campus, and reaching out to the local infantry unit and their families during deployments.

In 2003, Holden organized VAST – the Veteran Assessment and Service Team—on campus. In this group, students have volunteered service hours to assist local service members and their families and worked with other organizations that support veterans. The mission of VAST is to educate students and community members about war, the effects of war, and the veteran experience in general.

VAST members and students enrolled in "War, Film, and the Soldier Experience" have worked closely with B Co. 1-148th and the Family Assistance Center by assisting at Family Readiness Group meetings, providing volunteers at briefings, organizing care-package drives and phone card donations, and serving in the homes of deployed service members. Holden has tied student service directly to the outcomes of his film course.

In 2009-10, Holden was co-chair of the Student-Veteran Task Force at BGSU, working with University personnel and student veterans to create a plan to better meet the needs and desires of veterans on campus.

"Dr. Holden's passion for veterans is unwavering. He has dedicated a large portion of his life to educating students on the effects of war through film and text and to mentoring on-campus veterans to help them reintegrate back into college life. His work with the local unit in Bowling Green has assisted many families directly and indirectly and he remains steadfast to continue that work," Szymanski said.

> Top Stories

Computer security team uses expertise to thwart crime

Computer and software analysts are sometimes stereotyped as punching in 0's and 1's all day long. However, Matthew Haschak utilizes those 0's and 1's to catch the bad guys.

Haschak, BGSU's director of information technology security and infrastructure, and the Information Security Office maintain the online campus security, including anti-virus programs, firewalls, password changes and basic security information. The team also uses these strategies to assist the campus and local police departments in their pursuit of online criminals.

The BGSU Police Department saw the need for a security office during an increase in fake identification creation nearly 20 years ago.

"It wasn't like the person was hacking or sending death threats," Haschak said, explaining that the first instances had to do with facilitating underage drinking.

Today, BGSU Police Capt. Timothy James works with the Information Security Office about once a month, depending on crime trends. The department looks to Haschak and his team for guidance through the "technological minefield."

"The crime trend is really changing to be more technologically advanced," James said. "Just about any crime has some kind of link to technology."

Once the police department has collected evidence, the Information Security Office is able to analyze the information. The police department can then use that information as evidence.

"It's great working with our own team," James said. "What they do for us is amazing. We could probably get our job done in an effective manner, but with [Haschak] and his team, they make our job easy when it comes to technology. It's amazing to have that resource."

The most frequent crimes that occur through technology systems are identity theft, laptop theft and hacking crimes, James said.

Haschak has also worked with a sheriff's office of another county in Ohio on a case. The sheriff's office investigated a BGSU student who used his computer for criminal activity. After issuing a search warrant and collecting the student's computer, the sheriff's deputies said that they would utilize the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Identification and Investigation, which would take approximately nine months to sort through the evidence.

Haschak stepped in analyzed and copied the hard-drive of the suspect. Within three weeks, the Holmes Country Sheriff's Office had enough evidence to prosecute the man.

The University Information Security Office primarily works with the BGSU Police Department and only assists with outside investigations on a case-by-case basis. The office includes Haschak, along with information security analysts Erik Evans, Jeff Burt, Dave Hayes and Josh Young.

In the future, Haschak foresees the computer services team possibly expanding its services beyond the University.

"I would love to; I think it would be a great service and a good way to generate revenue for the University," Haschak said.

Time is the biggest obstacle holding back Haschak and his team from turning this resource into a full business, he said.

"I would really like to do this, but the team and I are really busy providing this service to the University community so that we haven't had time to focus on expanding outside of BGSU," he said. "It would be great; it is an aspiration that we have. We're definitely ahead of most universities."

