

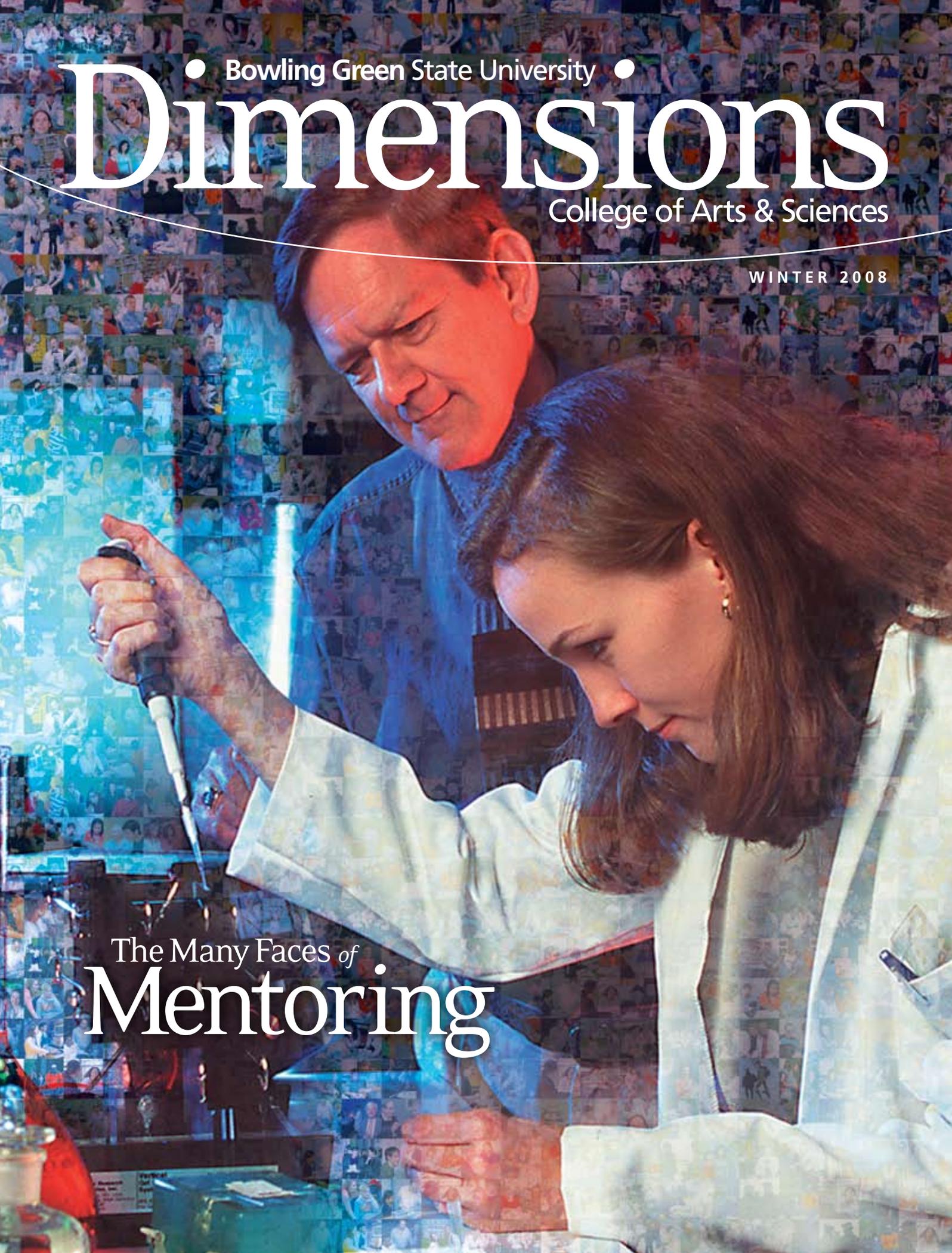
Bowling Green State University

Dimensions

College of Arts & Sciences

WINTER 2008

The Many Faces of
Mentoring



features

Mentoring: Fostering Connections Beyond the Classroom

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Dimensions

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DEAN'S PERSPECTIVE

What comes to mind when you think of learning? A student poring over a textbook or notes from class? A solitary individual in the library going through a stack of books? Or someone with a laptop exploring the cornucopia of information and images the internet makes available through a few keystrokes? If you visited the BGSU campus and went to Jerome Library, peered into a residence hall window, strolled through the union or entered a computer lab, these familiar images would be abundant.

But if you probed deeper—and you wouldn't have to probe too deeply—you'd discover that learning is not only, or even principally, a solitary activity. It takes place in community. Whether it's a formal class, students gathered together in a study group in the union or talking informally in a residence hall room about a book or an assignment, or a BG Experience peer facilitator helping a first-year student understand the fundamental value conflicts raised by the debate over global warming, learning happens in community. Or you might stroll through the Life Sciences Building and glimpse a group of students working in a faculty member's lab or pass through Shatzel Hall or the Falcon's Nest and see students and faculty members discussing a book, an assignment, a research project, or a medical school or graduate school application. Individuals are coming together to share ideas, listen and ask questions—and learning is taking place.

We are a learning community—a place where learning takes place through interaction with others, indeed, through relationships—relationships based on caring, commitment, mutual curiosity and passion for understanding, discovering, and, yes, even changing the world.

Mentoring is a special relationship that lies at the heart of the deep, often transformative learning that takes place at BGSU. Faculty in the College of Arts & Sciences teach thousands of students every year in a wide variety of classes, ranging from general education courses for first-year students to advanced undergraduate and graduate courses. But for most of my colleagues, teaching goes well beyond the formal classes they teach to working intensively with students one-on-one in mentoring relationships. These powerful relationships help our students grow personally and intellectually, overcome challenges, gain confidence and discover just how far they can go.

We've focused this issue of *Dimensions* on mentoring to give you a taste of how learning takes place in community at BGSU and how the deep relationships Arts & Sciences faculty develop with their students help our students make the most of their talents and prepare for life. I think you'll enjoy these stories and be as impressed with our faculty and our learning community as I am every day. But as you read, please bear in mind that these stories only skim the surface. There are many, many more we could have included. Because this *is* a learning community forged out of special relationships.

Dr. Donald G. Nieman | Dean



Teaching and Research— a true collaboration

A number of years ago, Dr. John Laird, professor and chair of the physics and astronomy department at Bowling Green State University, developed a method for measuring the abundance of chemical elements in stars using very low-quality spectra, making it possible to analyze large samples of stars.

One of the main limitations to the method is that it measures only the average abundance of a variety of chemical elements, rather than each element individually. While generally acceptable, there is a group of elements—known as “alpha” elements—that vary differently, making them especially important to measure separately from the rest.

As a freshman in the AIMS (Academic Investment in Math and Science) program, Tarrah Graham, from Farrell, Pa., began working on an independent research project to see whether the alpha elements could be measured separately from low-quality spectra by modifying Laird’s original technique. The project was a dramatic success. Her work showed that the new method produced remarkably good alpha measurements comparable to—or even better than in some cases—published work.

Graham then took the project a step further. She applied the results to stars belonging to different groups within the galaxy. The undergraduate combined her alpha element results with previous measurements of the stars’ motions to classify them according to their population group and time of origin. She was able to identify a small number of stars with unusually high or low alpha abundances, which suggests they formed in some unusual environment.

Graham presented her research at the Ohio Science and Engineering Conference in Columbus in 2006 and 2007, the BGSU Undergraduate Research Symposium in 2007, and at several AIMS seminars. Both Laird and Graham received funding from the National Science Foundation (NSF) to carry out their research, and Laird reported her work in a new research proposal submitted to the NSF this fall.

While it certainly is impressive that Graham has achieved such a breakthrough while still an undergraduate, it is not unusual for Bowling Green students to be involved in such engaging and important research. According to Laird, undergraduate research is an essential component of the curriculum within the sciences.

He explains, “Teaching and research are inexorably connected, especially in the sciences, and BGSU’s faculty are actively involved in providing research opportunities for students. Our students can’t learn to be scientists simply from textbooks; they must actually perform scientific experiments and research. Practical experience is essential for students’ education and for whatever comes next, whether they pursue graduate studies or enter the work force directly.”

Laird continues, “Tarrah’s work is an excellent example of how teaching and research complement one another. She understands many complex physics concepts better because of her research and examples of her work, as well as my own research methodology and results, have become part of my teaching. Students learn that research can address such big questions as, ‘Where did we come from?’ and perhaps also lead to answers for vexing societal issues such as climate change and sustainable growth.”

According to Graham, “Conducting research with Dr. Laird was an experience that educated me in many different aspects of the research process as well as in my life generally.

“The most important lesson I’ve learned is time management,” she says. “Planning for each day’s work enabled both Dr. Laird and me to visualize our progress in reaching the main goal of getting effective results. Time became a disciplining factor in how I handle all my work. Aside from spending many hours working on the research project itself, valuable time was spent on talking with Dr. Laird as a collaborator.

“When I began the research project with Dr. Laird, the workload was intense—and it was my first time doing anything of that nature,” continues Graham, “but he showed me constant support and encouragement.”

the transformation of Bill Roehl



According to Wheeler, Roehl taught her something, too. “He had no hesitation about telling me when he thought my approach wasn’t connecting with students—and complimenting me when I hit the right note. I think seeing me respond to him and his criticisms made it easier for him to respond to my criticisms of his work—it was a two-way street—so he was able to ‘save face’ (and I think that’s how he saw it initially) while letting me guide him.”

Helping students find the connection between their college experience and a meaningful life after graduation is at the center of Wheeler’s teaching philosophy. She keeps an open door at her campus office and also frequently invites students to her home. “I think it is essential that students connect with professors beyond the classroom,” emphasizes Wheeler. “Too many students think that professors don’t have real lives... that there isn’t a connection between vigorous academic pursuits and a satisfying life. Students are learning so much more than just textbook material when they are in college; they are really deciding what kind of lives they will live. When I invite them to my home to meet my family, it gives them new ideas and options for their own lives.”

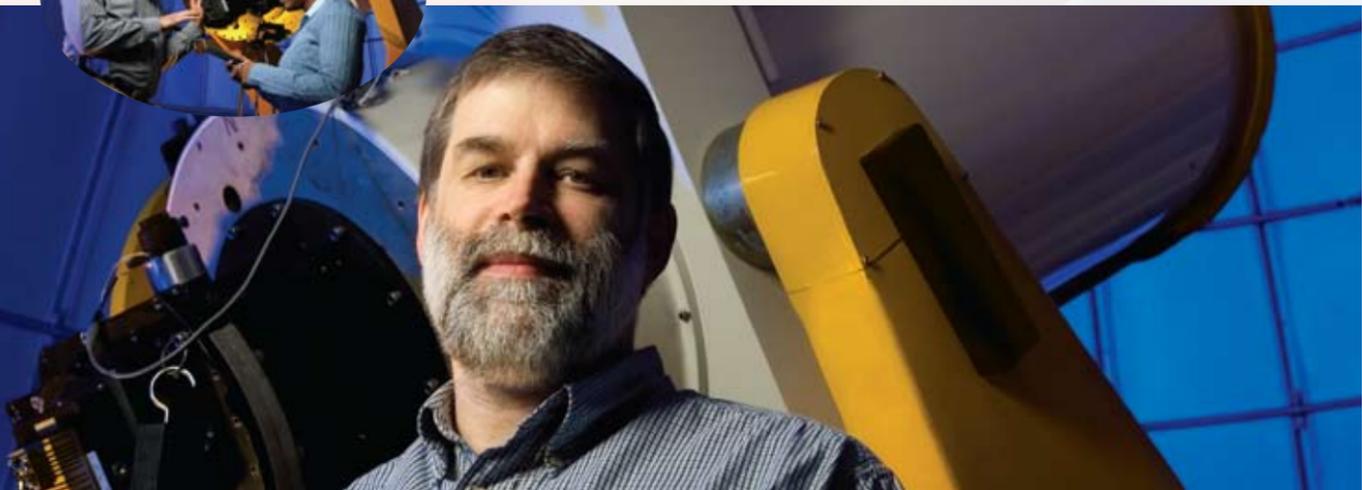
Wheeler’s interest in her students’ overall progress is what distinguishes her from other professors, according to Roehl. “Leigh Ann is a master at finding out what makes students tick. For me, I needed someone to take me seriously, to argue with me about ideas and make it clear that mediocre work wasn’t acceptable. A shy student might not respond to this vigorous intervention, so Leigh Ann tones it down. No matter her approach, her end goal is always to make sure a student is constantly progressing toward a life of value.”

It is difficult to equate the Bill Roehl of today—a man who has found meaningful work managing recruitment data and conversions in order to improve student recruitment and retention at Century College in White Bear Lake, Minn.,—with the student he was during his early years at Bowling Green State University. He says, “I wasn’t quite a slacker, but I was close. I did the bare minimum of work required and was just coasting through college.”

It wasn’t until Roehl completed his first assignment for Dr. Leigh Ann Wheeler, an associate professor of history, that his outlook began to change. He explains, “I put forth my usual amount of effort and expected to get a decent grade. Instead, I received my worst grade ever. After talking with Leigh Ann about the paper, she challenged me to do better. She said I had good ideas, but they needed to be more fully developed and supported by solid research. She was so sincerely engaged and interested in my ideas and progress that I became determined to do better.”

Roehl says he went from spending less than a day preparing a paper to spending an entire week just on the research component. He states, “Leigh Ann is very approachable and loves to talk about history. Whenever I shared my research findings with her, she would ask me questions that made me want to find more answers. Acquiring the ability and willingness to dig deeper for answers changed not just my attitude about college, but also led me to success in my career.”

“It is always immensely gratifying when a student credits you with a positive life-changing event,” says Wheeler. “However, I don’t remember Bill’s success as one miraculous moment—it was more like a gradual metamorphosis as he realized he could use his outstanding intellect to find meaning and success in college and beyond.”



Tom Muir's metalsmithing protégés learn by his example



Marissa Saneholtz, a senior majoring in 3-D art focusing in metals and jewelry, had work accepted into the juried Ohio Governor's Youth Art Exhibition while still a student at Bowling Green High School. She went on to win the Freshman Talent Award from the BGSU School of Art, first place and honorable mention awards in both the 2005 and 2006 BGSU Undergraduate Art and Design Exhibition, and the 2007 Society of North American Goldsmiths conference scholarship award. Her work has been selected at numerous exhibits including the First and Second Intercollegiate Metals Exhibitions at Arizona State University and the 2006 and 2007 BGSU Undergraduate Art and Design Exhibitions.

A senior honors student majoring in 3-D art focusing in metals and jewelry, Andrew Kuebeck is one of only a few students in the world to be featured in the prestigious *500 Metal Vessels: Contemporary Explorations of Containment*. Kuebeck received honorable mentions at the 2006 and 2007 BGSU Undergraduate Art and Design Exhibitions and was selected as an exhibitor at the First and Second Intercollegiate Metals Exhibitions at Arizona State University. His work is featured in the 2007 Society of North American Goldsmiths juried student slide show in Memphis, Tenn., and at the Ohio Craft Museum's Best of 2007 national competitive exhibit.

These two accomplished students have more in common than impressive resumes in a highly competitive field; they both count themselves fortunate to be students of Distinguished Professor of the Arts Tom Muir.

A world-renowned metalsmith who has worked in gold and silver for more than 20 years, Muir is recognized as a leader in the discipline of metalsmithing and one of the foremost artists working in hollowware. The recipient of several grants and fellowships, he has participated in more than 300 exhibitions and received eight best-of-show and 26 other awards.

Articles about Muir and photographs of his work have appeared in many books and publications from around the world.

At the University, his "presence in the field has also been felt through the students whose careers have been launched in the BGSU metals program," according to School of Art Director Dr. Katerina Rüedi Ray. "Over the past 17 years, hundreds of his students have won awards and participated in national and international exhibitions."

"I can't imagine a better teacher of metalsmithing than Tom," states Saneholtz. "Not only is he an incredibly creative artist, but he also has amassed this vast collection of complicated technical competencies that he can access at any given time. And, he is unbelievably generous in sharing his knowledge. He is a perfectionist when it comes to craftsmanship and always willing to work with you until you develop and execute your idea to its maximum potential. Tom also cares deeply about his students' success after graduation. He always keeps us up to date on exhibit, conference and publishing opportunities and I don't think he ever turns down a request for a letter of recommendation."

Kuebeck agrees with Saneholtz, stating, "Tom is an amazing teacher. He is able to offer these very smart critiques about your work while allowing for your own creativity and personal aesthetics."

Kuebeck remembers the first critique he received from Muir was during a guest lecturer event at a Bowling Green High School metals class. Kuebeck says, "After the lecture, Tom told me I would be wasting a lot of talent if I pursued my original goal of a medical career. Since then, I have taken every class Tom teaches. He is literally a walking encyclopedia of complicated metalsmithing processes and has the most amazing creative sense. Somehow he is able to push, prod and nudge students to ever greater competencies without ever imposing his own artistic vision."

Muir shares credit with Saneholtz and Kuebeck for building the mentor relationship, explaining, "I strive to offer individualized guidance about the creative, technical, exhibiting, publishing and networking components of metalsmithing to all my students."

He continues, "When I see talented students like Marissa and Andrew embrace any chance to improve their work it is very inspiring. They are both fabulous artists whose work has been exhibiting nationally for the past year. They also are exceptional people-considerate, enthusiastic, hardworking- and it is a tremendous joy to see them excel and achieve."

In early December, Muir and Saneholtz received word that they both would be featured in a new, coffee table-style book titled *Art Jewelry Today*.

"It's incredible that two of our undergraduate students would get into two different books with this level of international competition against seasoned professionals," says Muir. "I'm extremely proud of both Marissa and Andrew!"

No Barbies allowed

Technology and gender equity at BGSU

It may be difficult to believe, but as recently as 1992 Mattel introduced a Barbie doll, "Teen Talk Barbie," which, among other phrases, told young girls "math class is tough."

Although such obviously negative messages about girls' math, science and technology abilities have decreased, research studies, including those by the American Association of University Women, indicate that girls still face many barriers to achievement in these fields.

Dr. Kristine Blair, chair of the English department, says expectations about girls and technology are pervasively negative, explaining, "A host of gender biases exist that systematically turn girls away from technology." These disabling stereotypes include:

- > A belief that there is a biological foundation to gender performance in technology, science and math.
- > An equating of computers and technology with masculinity and male pursuits.
- > Competitive, not cooperative, learning environments that make it difficult for girls to reconcile their desire to improve society with a future career in technology.
- > A preponderance of computer games and software geared toward boys with an emphasis on action, violence, sports and aggressiveness. A further troubling component of these products is the overriding depiction of hypersexualized women in passive traditional roles, such as the voluptuous princess who must be saved by the male hero.
- > Parents, teachers and guidance counselors not encouraging girls to pursue technology classes, clubs and careers.

Blair submits these facts, combined with recent headlines warning of the dangers lurking within popular Web portals such as MySpace, create an unwelcoming and even frightening image of technology for girls.

To combat this alarming trend, Blair established The Digital Mirror, a computer camp for girls in grades 6-8. The three-day camp is intended to pique girls' interest and confidence in digital literacy at a critical age developmentally, and allow them to explore the ways they define themselves within technological environments.

Through a blend of hands-on computer lab work in Web writing and design, digital imaging, video and audio editing, and mentoring by University women involved in careers in technology across campus, the camp strives to engage girls in an exploration of how technology is a vital part of their academic and professional careers.

"Mentoring is a vital component of The Digital Mirror," states Blair. "With so many biases against girls and technology, girls often feel like they are going against the norm when they pursue technology or computer classes. When we can provide a mentor, girls see firsthand that a successful career in technology is not only a possibility, but also a viable option. With The Digital Mirror, we have created a safe haven for girls where they can enhance their technology literacy and begin to see themselves as part of the technology profession."

Jennifer Almjeld, a graduate student in the writing and rhetoric program, was a camp facilitator and says she developed a reciprocal relationship with the girls she mentored, explaining, "I loved to share my knowledge with these girls. However, every day they taught me as much as I taught them—lessons about creativity, spontaneity and discovery. At the same time, I worked with my own mentor, Dr. Blair, who generously shared her own insights with me about research, publishing, networking and job opportunities. As technology continues to redefine our personal and professional lives, it is vital for female students of all ages to have access to communities of support."

Wendy Like, who registered her sixth-grade daughter for the camp and is director of BGSU's Large Format Digital Imaging Lab, agrees with Almjeld. She says, "Beliefs that girls do not do well in technology erode girls' sense of self-confidence in their technological interests and abilities. My daughter already sees me working in a tech field, so she understands and enjoys technology. The Digital Mirror mentors provided further reinforcement about women's role in technology literacy and made learning about new technology fun, interesting and engaging."

Not only will Like's daughter attend the camp again next year, but Like herself also will join as an instructor to introduce the students to the Large Format Digital Imaging Lab. As Blair concludes, "This is what the camp and mentoring is all about: people with a shared passion for gender equity in technology literacy coming together to encourage girls and women to persevere and succeed in technology fields."

For more information about *The Digital Mirror*, contact Dr. Kristine Blair, at 419-372-7540 or kblair@bgsu.edu.



Call me...

PLA mentor keeps her line open for students

Mentoring is a key component of BGSU's President's Leadership Academy (PLA). Established in 1997 by President Sidney Ribeau, the PLA is a comprehensive four-year program that emphasizes student development in the area of leadership. These select BGSU students participate in classes, workshops, experiential learning and community service activities to expand their horizons and learn not only about leadership, but also about other people and themselves.

"The students accepted into the PLA have a broad range of academic experiences," says Ana Brown, assistant director. "What all the students share is a desire to develop their leadership ability and the need to have someone help show them the way. Each of our first-year students is paired with a PLA mentor (PLA Pal) who meets with them at least twice a month to encourage them, provide advice on navigating BGSU, and give them someone close to their age just to talk to. Additionally, each scholar meets one-on-one with either PLA Director Andrew Rivers or myself at least once a month to assess academic progress, review community service activities, identify leadership opportunities, and guide students toward continued maturity, competence and independence."

Sometimes the mentoring relationship surpasses the program's expectations. A prime example is the special bond shared between Brown and junior physical therapy major Shacorra Crosby. "I met Ana the summer before my freshman year, and she has always been more to me than a PLA staff member," explains Crosby. "She has given me her cell phone number and I never hesitate to use it whenever I need to talk about classes, friends, finances, work, family... you name it, Ana has been there to help me."

Crosby continues, "When I was a freshman, I was struggling with Biology 205. Ana set aside her own time each week to tutor me for free. When the material was exceptionally difficult, we met twice a week. Ana gives me advice that helps me maintain a healthy lifestyle and balance school, work, home and a social life. She encourages me to do my best and is proud when I achieve my goals. She also encourages me when I may not be doing as well as I would like, and if she can't help me she knows someone who can. I don't think I would be at this happy and successful point in my life without Ana. I will always appreciate all she has done for me and strive to emulate her positive example with my own mentoring activities."

"Everyone needs a mentor," stresses Brown. "Someone to talk to, bounce ideas off of, verbalize your thoughts—someone who has some perspective to say 'I've been where you are, and this is the path I chose.' I've had wonderful mentors throughout my entire academic career and feel a strong obligation to help other students as I was so generously helped."

She observes, "People ask me, 'How do you find time to mentor students?' I answer, 'How dare I not do everything in my power to help a student who wants to succeed?' When I meet a remarkable student like Shacorra who excels in the classroom and is a campus tour guide, orientation and registration team leader, NAACP parliamentarian, STARS student researcher, a member of the Greek Scholarship Board and Phi Eta Sigma Honors Society, vice president of Delta Sigma Theta sorority, and also holds a job in Continuing & Extended Education—how can I not give her everything I have?"

Brown tells students, "If you need me, call me." She says it, she means it, and her caring presence makes an extraordinary difference for BGSU students.



Inspiration

& dedication

Writing with Karen Craigo



Like many freshmen, Peter Winovich was nervous about his first official day as a BGSU student. Now a senior with a 3.42 GPA and winner of the 2006-07 Male Scholar Athlete of the Year Award, he vividly remembers his first day. "My first class was Monday morning at 9:30 for English 110," he recalls. "After all the preparation to attend the University, I still wasn't sure what to expect. I didn't know any college professors, I was worried about balancing my athletic and academic responsibilities, and I was still learning my way around campus."

He continues, "Thankfully, my first instructor was Karen Craigo. She has a very warm personality and puts people at ease quickly. After that first class I finally felt like I could really handle college. From the beginning, she made it clear that she would do whatever she needed to make sure each of us succeeded in her class. She was always willing to review a paper with you and offer specific guidance about developing paragraphs or improving sentence structure without ever suppressing your creativity. What is amazing is how she would offer this level of assistance and mentorship to any student who asked."

As further testament to Craigo's effectiveness, Winovich brought his younger sister to class. He says, "My younger sister was questioning which college to choose and I brought her to Karen's class so she could get a firsthand look at a BGSU classroom. Karen made her feel so welcome that my sister ended up attending Bowling Green the following year." He adds, "Now, my football 'little brother' is a student of Karen's and I meet with her regularly to make sure his assignments and progress are on track. Year after year, student after student, she gives teaching her all."

Craigo says she is delighted to hear such comments from students, explaining, "I have a great interest and passion for creative writing and hope to inspire my students to become better writers. It is essential that students master English 110 if they are to be successful throughout their college years and beyond. I could just sit at my desk and cover their papers with red editing marks. However, real progress doesn't usually begin until we bend over those papers together and rebuild sentences, improve the vocabulary selection and refine the overall composition."

However, Craigo strives to provide more than writing instruction to her students. She states, "For many students, I am the first instructor or professor they have ever met. I want to demystify who and what we teachers are so students can make a smooth transition into college life and feel part of our learning community. I want to make sure they know faculty are accessible so they won't feel intimidated about asking for help or getting involved in additional academic pursuits."

Craigo's passion for writing and mentoring extends beyond her English 110 efforts. She also is the co-editor-in-chief and poetry editor for *Mid-American Review* and director of the annual Winter Wheat Festival. *Mid-American Review* is a literary journal published by the Department of English and the Creative Writing Program. The journal staff has been publishing poetry, fiction and essays for 20 years, by both new and established writers, and has had work reprinted in numerous literary publications. Craigo says, "Ultimately, our goal is to publish some of the best contemporary writing and put it in front of the largest possible audience. We dedicate ourselves to encouraging, nurturing, teaching and learning from the writers we meet through careful consideration of their work and meaningful dialogue."

Similarly, Craigo's work as director of the Winter Wheat Festival fosters a sense of mentoring within the writing community. She states, "We bring exemplary contemporary writers together to read from their newest works which provides inspiration to everyone who participates. The Festival offers sessions for beginners through professionals. There is something for every writer at Winter Wheat,"—or wherever you find Karen Craigo and her dedication to inspiring every writer to become a better writer.

(Mentoring features—Terri Carroll '88)

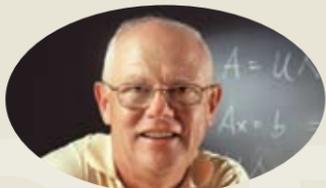
James Bailey '67 remembers the late Dr. Clifford Long

James Bailey said his Bowling Green education was critical to his success in the business world. He had a distinguished career in banking, holding executive vice president positions at both Citicorp and U.S. Trust.

He admitted that a number of outstanding professors impacted his life, including the late Dr. Clifford Long, mathematics professor. "You remember those professors who struck you as being great teachers," he said. "As a student, you really learn when someone inspires you and motivates you. Those individuals make all of the difference in the world."

Bailey was impacted so much that he recently has returned the favor, first by establishing an endowed professorship in mathematics education, and second by becoming a visiting professor and sharing his knowledge of history with current students.

James Bailey retired from an illustrious career in the banking industry where he most recently was chief operating officer with U.S. Trust, in charge of the company's management-marketing area. Previously, he worked for 28 years at Citibank, where he retired in 2001 as executive vice president. Bailey is a member of the BGSU National Campaign Steering Committee, a board member of the Visiting Nurse Service of New York and a member of the Advisory Board for the College of Arts & Sciences at New York University. He is a past member of the U.S. and International Board of Directors of VISA and the Board of the Depository Trust Corporation.



Anthony Doerr '99 remembers Dr. Wendell Mayo, professor of creative writing

"What Wendell taught me first and foremost was to be very scrupulous with language. He taught us how to challenge every word in every sentence—to examine how necessary any particular word was, how relevant, whether it could be excised. To ask students to do this demands a very high level of attention from a teacher. When I came to get my master's degree at BGSU I barely dreamed I could become a published writer; I assumed writing was an almost quasi-mystical art, and that one either had a certain level of talent or did not. I figured I'd come to BGSU simply to figure out if I had any talent at all.

"But what Wendell showed us, implicitly, was that hard work was a huge component of literature; that all of writing was revision, and that, eventually, a good writer questioned every level of his or her narrative, probing it and testing it and trying to understand if and how it worked. Wendell put literally thousands of hours into teaching us this, scribbling carefully all over our manuscripts, and it was his energy—his high standards, his conscientiousness, his assiduousness—that helped me become a better writer and teacher."

Anthony Doerr is the author of three books, The Shell Collector, About Grace, and Four Seasons in Rome. The Shell Collector, a volume of eight short stories, was published in 2002 and won the Barnes & Noble Discover Prize, two O. Henry Prizes, the Rome Prize and the Ohioana Book Award. It was a New York Times Notable Book and an American Library Association Book of the Year. About Grace, a novel, was named a "Best Book of 2004" by the Washington Post, won the Ohioana Book Award again, and was a finalist for the PEN USA fiction award. In 2007, the British literary magazine Granta placed Doerr on its list of 21 Best Young American novelists. Doerr lives in Boise, Idaho, with his wife and two sons. In 2008, he'll be teaching in the low-residency MFA program at Warren Wilson College. From 2007-10, he will be the Writer-in-Residence for the State of Idaho.



Steve Hanson '75 remembers Dr. Gene Poor, professor of visual communication and technology education, and Dr. James Gordon, professor of journalism

"My best teachers at BGSU were those that took lessons beyond the classroom and into the real world.

"For example, Dr. Poor assigned a multimedia presentation to my class. He challenged us to think of a way to use multimedia not just to meet the classroom assignment, but also for a real communications challenge. I thought that freshman orientation would benefit from adding a multimedia component to the standard welcome event. Gene encouraged me to schedule an appointment with the University president to present my idea. The resulting production, which won a national award for its imagery and music, became an essential element of freshman orientation and a stepping-stone to my career in communications.

"My photojournalism professor and advisor, Dr. Gordon, provided similar opportunities. He used his own set of contacts to challenge and motivate me with string assignments for *The Blade* and United Press International (UPI). I ended up photographing the Kentucky Derby for UPI for 16 years.

"These professors, as well as numerous others, went out of their way to craft a perspective that surpassed textbook memorization and encouraged creative and critical problem-solving. I can't think of a better lesson to learn from a teacher."

Hanson is the founder, president and CEO of Hanson Inc., an interactive agency specializing in visualization technologies.

grads who recall



Julie Kiechel '04 remembers Professor Shawn Morin from the School of Art

"When I earned my MFA in 3-D art in 2004, I was old enough to be the grandmother of many of my classmates. As a nontraditional student, I was warmly welcomed by the highly talented and accredited BGSU School of Art faculty.

"I had undertaken several distinct careers before applying and being accepted into the Fine Arts graduate program. I designed and manufactured contemporary jewelry using high-tech metals such as anodized aluminum, was a high school art teacher, owned a women's apparel business for 12 years, and even did some city planning. As part of the retail world for many years, I had handled countless items that were made and sold for a specific season and then cast aside for no reason. I was hungry for something more substantive—something bigger.

"I found what I was looking for with the School of Art and their young, vibrant team of teachers. I found their energy, ideas and passion for the arts invigorating. In particular, I was, and continue to be, inspired by the mentoring and tenets shared by Shawn Morin in his course 'The Art of the Commission.'

"Shawn is an incredibly upbeat and positive person and his energy is contagious. He encourages students to think deeply about the work they create and allows an unbelievable amount of latitude as you discover your full potential as an artist. Furthermore, he taught us how to present ourselves in order to find success in a competitive field. Even with my years of business experience, I learned invaluable lessons about the presentation aspect of a current career in the arts.

"The level of dedication, enthusiasm and professionalism Shawn brings to teaching is critical when you consider the declining value placed on the arts in today's society. As a society we continue to place a greater emphasis on sports, electronics and popular consumerism rather than on a sustainable arts community. Art students, especially younger undergraduate students, don't fully appreciate the uphill battle they will face when establishing careers as artists.

"I am hopeful that our communities will take to heart recent economic data that demonstrates the arts are a fundamental component of a robust economy and will work to create a more welcoming climate for artists. In the meantime, we need teachers such as Shawn to provide inspiration and hard won insights to our aspiring artists."

Kiechel is an artist residing in Perrysburg, Ohio. She is currently pursuing public art commissions and guest teaching opportunities for textile/sculptural works.



From left: Drs. Susan Brown and Wendy Manning.

BGSU site of new National Center for Marriage Research



Dramatic shifts in the American family structure in recent decades—including increases in the average age of first marriages and in the percentages of children born out of wedlock—raise important questions about how these trends impact our society.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) aims to find out through the formation of a new National Center for Marriage Research to be established at BGSU.

Federal funding for the center is \$4.35 million over five years. BGSU is contributing the balance of the \$5.5 million budget for the project.

According to sociologist Dr. Wendy Manning, the center's co-director, policymakers recognize the value of marriage and want to see new research generated on the subject, based on good questions and measurements.

The idea is to bring researchers and policymakers together, as well as to learn leading practices in marriage

education and train the next generation of marriage scholars, explains Dr. Susan Brown, sociology, the other co-director. "The American family is complicated, and a lot of children are experiencing a diverse set of families," says Manning. The need exists to account for the full range of experiences that children are going through.

As families have become increasingly complex, researchers are "racing to keep up," addressing such questions as how diverse living arrangements affect individual well-being and what divorce and remarriage mean both for children and adults, Brown points out.

In addition to the relationship between family structure and well-being, the center's researchers—including other scholars from BGSU and elsewhere—will look at how family processes and resources mediate that relationship; factors associated with formation and maintenance of healthy marriages/relationships; how adolescents make the transition to healthy marriages; pathways of family formation outside marriage and how those families compare with married families, and the roles of marriage education programs in supporting healthy marriages and well-being.

Manning and Brown have previous experience with many of these issues not only through their research but also as director and associate director, respectively, of BGSU's Center for Family and Demographic Research. CFDR incorporates perspectives from various disciplines, just as the marriage research center intends to do.

"Our experience with a center helped us compete for the marriage center funding," says Manning, expressing the directors' hope that the new center will give greater visibility to the field of family demography and help boost the number of student applications to BGSU.

Six students—two undergraduates, three graduate students and one postdoctoral fellow—will be affiliated with the center, which will also hire three or four staff members and have a 10-member national advisory committee, appointed by the directors and HHS representatives.

Among its many planned activities, the center will conduct workshops, seminars, conferences and small-grant competitions; build a marriage-related data and measurement infrastructure; and disseminate research findings by various means, including its Web site, www.ncmr.bgsu.edu.

Second Life—BGSU creates a virtual campus

Members of BGSU's School of Art are helping create an educational environment on its own virtual island.

"It's like an empty canvas; you can do anything," says Bonnie Mitchell about BGSU's home in Second Life, a three-dimensional, virtual environment open to multiple users. "That's why it's great for education—we can define a new direction."

Mitchell, digital art, is co-administrator of the island with Anthony Fontana, art. They are also co-facilitators of BGSU's Second Life Learning Community, which was seeded with a \$6,000 grant from the Ohio Learning Network and is studying how the technology can be used educationally.

Some University faculty members who have joined the community have begun exploring the possibilities of using digital representations—or avatars—controlled by real people, and another group is researching the concept of embodiment via avatars.

Mitchell is taking advantage of the technology as well. She has displayed her students' digital art work in a virtual "vertical gallery" whose patrons use their avatars' ability to fly in order to view the art. A second gallery hosts art exhibits from around the world, including one from Perth, Australia, in which Mitchell participated. The actual art is scanned into the virtual environment and "note cards" projected on the computer screen provide information about the works.

Streaming media, movies and PowerPoint presentations can be seen in a virtual conference room, and various media can also be viewed in a newly built virtual theater. Approaching the theater recently, Mitchell's avatar met a counterpart from James Madison University in Virginia. "It's all very impressive," the visitor texted, adding this reaction to the BGSU island: "A little jealous."

The Web site SimTeach.com lists Bowling Green among fewer than 90 universities, colleges and schools worldwide that are, in Fontana's words, "investigating or using SL in some way." Only "a fraction" of them, he says, own an island. The BGSU island was purchased in April with the support of the Office of the Chief Information Officer.

While it looks like a video game, Fontana and Mitchell say the difference with Second Life is the lack of levels, strategies or goals. In addition, says Mitchell, the companies that sell video games create all the architecture and objects in their virtual worlds. Not so with Second Life, which was developed by San Francisco-based Linden Lab and lets participants create everything, Fontana notes, except their avatars' bodies and the land around them.

The BGSU island allows students and other visitors to build in the "sandbox," which Mitchell calls "the most popular part of our island." But new creations don't stay there indefinitely, she explains—after a few hours, what's built in the sandbox goes into the builder's digital inventory.

"Every week we add new architecture and new learning objects," she says, noting that BGSU's neighbors on what she terms "the 3D Internet" include Princeton, Cornell and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. "We're out there with the top dogs. It's an exciting place to be."

Bowling Green's virtual campus is an open, "PG island" in a university sector of Second Life. A visit by a University of Oklahoma class interested in the technology is an example of the benefits of having an island open to the public, according to Mitchell. At the same time, she points out, "we have full control," with the ability to set permissions and eject and ban problem users.

Mitchell compares her excitement about Second Life to her interest in the World Wide Web when it was introduced. "I could just see the potential," she recalls. "That's what's happening with Second Life right now. It's in its infancy, and the potential is huge."

"We're creating an environment that is very interactive and engaging," she adds, echoing Fontana's assertion that a traditional classroom and lecture format "really doesn't fly" in Second Life. "I just love it because I know we're at the forefront of something big."



Findlay couple supports arts center



Theatre alumni Kate Gibson and Ryan Zarecki talk with Kate and Tom Donnell.

Thomas '72 and Kathleen Donnell, of Findlay, have presented a \$750,000 gift to help fund the Wolfe Center for the Arts.

Their gift will provide for the main theater within the planned arts center on campus. In addition to the theater, the new facility will contain classrooms and production and studio spaces to link students and faculty in the School of Art, the Department of Theatre and Film and the College of Musical Arts.

The arts center project, which is part of Building Dreams: The Centennial Campaign for BGSU, was initiated when the state awarded BGSU \$8.7 million in capital funding to build a state-of-the-art arts complex. The University is raising additional funds to complete the facility.

"Tom and Kate Donnell are valued members of the Bowling Green State University family," says President Sidney Ribeau. "For many years they have supported the University; their gift to the Wolfe Center for the Arts is another indication of their commitment to the arts and to northwest Ohio."

Their relationship with BGSU started when Donnell pursued an MBA at the University in the early 1970s. For more than 30 years, the Donnells have maintained ties with BGSU through their interests in education, the arts, athletics and international experiences. He is a past director of the BGSU Foundation Board and played a key role as a member of the campaign task force that helped determine the need for the current fund-raising campaign. The couple are members of the BGSU Presidents Club and supporters of various University initiatives, including the Arts Campaign and the creation of the present Bowen-Thompson Student Union.

"We are delighted that Tom and Kate are supporting this important initiative," says Dr. Donald Nieman, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences.

"Their gift will help ensure that BGSU theatre and music students can learn and perform in a facility that inspires them and allows them to fulfill their creative potential."

"We are pleased to be a part of this project," says Thomas Donnell. "We enjoy the arts and have a passion for supporting the arts and Bowling Green State University. Additionally, our friends Fritz and Mary Wolfe's involvement in the arts center lent a lot of credence to the project for us."

Donnell, who is chairman emeritus of Fifth Third Bank, Northwestern Ohio, began his career with the bank (formerly First National Bank of Findlay) in 1974. He rose through the ranks, serving in various capacities throughout his career. In 1989, he was named chairman and CEO of Fifth Third Bank of Northwestern Ohio, and was elected to the board of Fifth Third Bank of Toledo. He retired in December 2003.

In addition to his professional work, Donnell is a member and past chair of the finance and investment committee of the Community Foundation of Findlay-Hancock County and was co-chair of the steering committee that established the foundation in 1992. He also serves as a corporate advisor to the Arts Partnership of Greater Hancock County and is secretary/treasurer of the Donnell Foundation.

The Wolfe Center for the Arts will serve as home to BGSU's nationally recognized Department of Theatre and Film. Additionally, the building will support teaching and creation of collaborative art in the areas of digital art and animation, musical theater and opera, and performance art and electronic composition.



Manning receives Olscamp Research Award

Dr. Wendy Manning, sociology, is the winner of this year's Olscamp Research Award. Given annually to a faculty member for outstanding scholarly or creative accomplishments during the previous three years, the award includes a \$2,000 cash prize and a reserved parking spot for one year.

Receipt of a \$4.35 million federal grant to establish the National Center for Marriage Research at BGSU is just the latest research-related success for Manning. (See story on page 10.)

A nationally recognized demographer, her research focuses on adult and adolescent relationships, with primary concentration on families and relationships that exist outside the boundaries of marriage, including cohabitation, adolescent dating, unmarried childbearing, divorce and nonresident parenting.

Manning founded BGSU's Center for Family and Demographic Research (CFDR) in 2000 and in 2002, she obtained three years of National Institutes of Health (NIH) funding for the center through the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD). Two years ago, she gained an additional five years of federal support, totaling \$1.4 million.

Over the past three years, she has skillfully juggled eight grants, on five of which she was the principal investigator, has been elected to leadership positions in several prominent national organizations in her field, published 14 articles in refereed journals and authored 15 paper presentations.

Dr. Gary Lee, a professor and chair of the sociology department, says Manning "is without a doubt the most accomplished scholar for her career stage with whom I have worked, and one of the leading scholars in the country in her discipline. We would not be the department or university we are today without her."



Laird earns Blinn Award

Dr. John Laird, chair of physics and astronomy, has been named the 2007 recipient of the Elliott L. Blinn Award for Faculty-Undergraduate Student Innovative Basic Research/Creative Work.

The award is given in memory of the late Dr. Elliott Blinn, a chemistry professor who devoted his career to sharing the excitement of the discovery process with undergraduate students.

Laird, who has involved students in measuring the composition of stars, received a \$1,000 cash award and his department received \$4,000 for use in supporting further undergraduate research. The award particularly recognizes his work with an undergraduate student in the Academic Investment in Math and Science (AIMS) program, which seeks to encourage more women and minorities to pursue careers in mathematics and the sciences. Their research was supported by a National Science Foundation (NSF) grant. (See story on page 2.)

"Research collaboration provides the most rewarding teaching experience I have had, and benefits my research as well by focusing the attention of both me and the student," says Laird.

Ten undergraduates have worked on research projects with him over the years. The funds his department received from the Blinn Award will be invested in specialized equipment and travel for future student researchers.



Ekstrand named Outstanding Young Scholar

Dr. Victoria Ekstrand, an associate professor of journalism, has been named the 2007 Outstanding Young Scholar.

Ekstrand, who joined BGSU in 2002, studies the cultural, historical and legal foundations of the ownership of communication and analyzes the implications of a system that is increasingly privatizing forms of and forums for communication.

The Young Scholar award helps enhance the academic career of junior faculty by providing discretionary funds for the support of future scholarly activities. It brings a \$1,000 credit to the recipient's discretionary research account, in addition to a \$2,000 cash award.

Ekstrand's work has been published in journals such as *Journalism and Mass Communication Quarterly* and *Communication Law and Policy*. In addition, *News Piracy and the Hot News Doctrine: Origins in Law and Implications for the Digital Age*, her 2005 book, was adopted by Harvard Law School, Yale Law School, Duke Law School and the University of California-Berkeley Law School's libraries.

According to Dr. Terry Rentner, chair of the journalism department, "Ekstrand's reputation as a scholar is gaining national prominence, and I think she will be one of the top, if not the top, scholar in media law in the very near future."

"Her research clearly lies within the parameters of what is considered scholarship of engagement. I expect to see her research impact legal findings in the areas of intellectual property and internet piracy. Her work is cutting edge and, with the explosion of the internet, the importance and the need for her expertise in communication law will only continue to grow."



Two Alumni Laureate Scholars named

Joseph Chenevey, a physics major from Akron, and Samantha Peña, a chemistry major from Ottawa, have been named Alumni Laureate Scholars and will receive full tuition, fees and a \$1,000 book award annually. They will also participate in leadership workshops and community activities and work with alumni leaders. Alumni Laureate Scholars are chosen on the basis of leadership skills, citizenship, achievement, personal integrity and involvement—in and out of the classroom. Scholarship criteria include a grade point average of 3.5 or above and a minimum score of either 27 on the ACT or 1100 on the SAT.

Chenevey is a graduate of Ellet High School where his honors and awards included student of the month and academic awards three times during his high school career, an Optimist Club of Akron Youth Appreciation Award, and an award for his presentation at the National Honor Society national conference. Peña is a graduate of Bluffton High School where she was a member of the National Honor Society and was recognized as the best in class for anatomy and physics, chemistry, Latin I, Spanish II and III and home ec I and II. She also was a cheerleader, varsity letter winner and scholar athlete for soccer and cross country, and class secretary for three years.

Arts and Sciences faculty, alumni receive Fulbright awards

The College of Arts and Sciences is celebrating a banner year for Fulbright awards. Not only have two faculty been named Fulbright Scholars, but two recent alumni as well.

Dr. David Jackson, political science, is in Poland where his Fulbright is a lecturing award for the University of Lodz, where he will teach U.S. Government, Media and Politics, and Canadian Government. In addition to teaching, he plans to research public opinion and political socialization. Jackson will study the relationship between entertainment media use and political beliefs among young people, and hopes to conduct several surveys while in Poland.

Dr. Marc Simon, also political science, will be heading to Austria. His award, Fulbright/Diplomatic Academy Visiting Professor of International Relations, will run from March 1 through June 30, 2008. Simon will teach three graduate-level seminars at the Diplomatic Academy of Vienna. Following his Fulbright semester, Simon will teach and conduct research during a fall 2008 Faculty Improvement Leave at the University of Salzburg, Austria, where he spent a previous leave.

The ultimate beneficiaries of these faculty Fulbright awards will be the BGSU students fortunate enough to take classes taught by these returning professors energized by what they have learned overseas.

New alumni will also be traveling the world as Fulbrighters.

Meaghan Geraghty '07, who graduated with a double major in English and political science, will have an English Teaching Assistantship at the Hong Kong Institute of Education, a public university-level institution dedicated to the preparation and professional development of teachers. Her 11-month appointment will run through June 2008 and is renewable.

Paul Lajeunesse '06 graduated from the School of Art and will study the light and unique landscape of Iceland while stationed in Reykjavik through May 2008. He hopes to mount an exhibit of his work at BGSU when he returns.

The Fulbright Program implements Sen. William Fulbright's visionary concept of promoting mutual understanding between the people of the United States and the people of other countries through academic and bicultural exchange. More than 150 countries currently participate in the Fulbright Program.



First Givens Fellows named

Martina Hanulova, a College of Arts and Sciences senior majoring in French and international studies, joins Elizabeth Kovar, a sport management major, as the first recipients of a Stuart R. Givens Memorial Fellowship. Each student received \$6,000. Hanulova, a native of Slovakia, traveled to Ghana to work in a

Liberian refugee camp, and Kovar trained in India to become an Ashtanga yoga instructor.

Dr. Chris and Ellen Dalton created the fellowship, named for the longtime BGSU history professor and University historian. Each year, the program will allow up to two undergraduates to pursue an intense interest in a self-designed experience not possible in a traditional classroom or a study abroad program.

Modeled after the Burch Fellows Program at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, the Givens Fellowship "is a very special award because it recognizes students with passion, imagination and resourcefulness, and enables them to undertake projects that will help them grow personally and intellectually, thereby broadening and deepening their educational experience," says Dr. Donald Nieman, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. "It's wonderful that, through the generous support of Chris and Ellen Dalton, we are able to help these students pursue their passions."



Blair wins national technology award

Dr. Kristine Blair, chair of the English department, is the winner of the Conference on College Composition and Communication (CCCC) 2007 Technology Innovator Award. The CCCC is the leading national organization in rhetoric and composition studies.

The award is presented annually by the CCCC Committee on Computers and Composition "to a person who serves as an exemplar for teachers working with computer technologies in their classes and who represents the highest ideals of scholarship, teaching and service to the entire profession."

Blair, a specialist in digital rhetoric and gender and technology, edits the refereed journal *Computers and Composition Online* and established The Digital Mirror, a computer camp for girls. (See story on page 5.)

Magazine cites BGSU programs

BGSU is among a select number of universities with "programs to look for" in the 2008 edition of "America's Best Colleges" by *U.S. News & World Report*.

It is the sixth straight year the magazine has published a list of schools with outstanding examples of academic programs commonly linked to student success. BGSU has been listed each of the last five years. This year, the University is cited for its first-year experience programs and learning communities.

The magazine compiled the lists of outstanding programs by working with the Association of American Colleges and Universities to identify the types of programs that enhance student success. The editors then sought nominations from colleges and universities to identify which campuses offer "stellar examples" of such programs.



McMaster Visiting Scientist discusses radioactive waste

Dr. Rodney Ewing, an internationally known authority on the management of radioactive waste and its environmental impact, discussed his work during his visit to BGSU last fall. He spoke on "The Nuclear Fuel Cycle vs. the Carbon Cycle: Plutonium vs. Carbon" as the 2007 McMaster Visiting Scientist.

Ewing has identified and been granted a patent for the development of a highly durable material that immobilizes nuclear waste and makes its storage less hazardous. He is the Donald R. Peacor Collegiate Professor of Geological Sciences, the William Kerr Professor of Nuclear Engineering and Radiological Sciences and a professor of materials science and engineering at the University of Michigan.

The McMaster Visiting Scientist program is underwritten by a \$250,000 endowment funded by Helen and the late Harold McMaster. The longtime BGSU benefactors, from Perrysburg, funded the interdisciplinary program to bring eminent scholars or practitioners from the fields of chemistry, biology, geology, physics or astronomy to the University.

Symposium held on Asia's nuclear threats

An international panel of experts gathered at the University recently to discuss global implications of rising nuclear threats in Asia.

"Nuclear Asia: A Symposium on Policy, Proliferation, and Weapons Research in the Cold War and Beyond" included speakers from the National University of Singapore, the Chinese Academy of Sciences, Johns Hopkins University and the Tokyo Institute of Technology.

Symposium chair was Dr. Walter Grunden, history, who specializes in the history of weapons of mass destruction, particularly focusing on the Pacific War and the Cold War era.

Symposium sponsors were BGSU's Hiroko Nakamoto Endowment Fund, Asian Studies and Peace Studies programs, College of Arts and Sciences, Graduate College, Graduate Program in Policy History, and history and political science departments.



Lu to speak in Stockholm

Dr. Peter Lu, professor and Ohio Eminent Scholar, will speak at a Nobel Symposium on single molecule spectroscopy in chemistry, physics and biology scheduled for June 2008 in Stockholm, Sweden.

Lu, who joined the photochemical sciences department last year, is well known in the scientific community for his pioneering work analyzing the interaction of single molecules with enzymes and proteins. These complex interactions are important to metabolism, and understanding them will allow scientists to better address biological problems.

A&S award winners

A trio of BGSU students won the top prize in the world's first international FJORG! "Viking Animator" Competition.

Based on storytelling, animation talent, use of resources, creativity and technical skills, the judges declared BGSU's Team Mocop the first-place winner for their animation, "Switch."

Members of the winning team were BGSU seniors Jim Levasseur of Libertyville, Ill., and Tomas Jech of Pittsburgh, Pa., along with recent graduate W. Jacob Gardner of Western Springs, Ill. All three members of the winning team have studied digital arts in BGSU's School of Art.

FJORG! was held in conjunction with SIGGRAPH 2007, the 34th International Conference and Exhibition on computer graphics and interactive techniques at the San Diego Convention Center.

Matt Fredericks and A&S Vision—the college's video production unit—were recognized at the 2007 annual Crystal Awards program sponsored by the Toledo Professional Chapter of the Association for Women in Communications. Awards of Merit were given for an informational video and a production for the 2006 Alumni Awards, as well as a Crystal Award for a Family Campaign DVD.

BGSU part of national initiative

The Association of American Colleges and Universities (AAC&U) has announced that BGSU is among 18 institutions that will lead the first phase of a national initiative, Core Commitments: Educating Students for Personal

and Social Responsibility. The initiative seeks to embed personal and social responsibility objectives pervasively across the institution as key educational outcomes for students, and to measure the impact of campus efforts to foster such learning.

Consortium members were selected both on the basis of work already accomplished in the spirit of Core Commitments and on an articulated plan to deepen and extend that work on campus. The member institutions will implement in their own ways one of the key recommendations articulated in AAC&U's recent report from its initiative, Liberal Education and America's Promise. The report, College Learning for the New Global Century, recommends in part that every college or university "foster civic, intercultural and ethical learning and emphasize personal and social responsibility" for all students and in every field of study.

BG Experience, the University's first-year values-exploration program, was cited in the report as one of the programs nationwide that is implementing a new set of principles of excellence in education.

In addition to BG Experience, BGSU offers other programs that were included in the report's recommendations for higher-education practices, such as service- and community-based learning, learning communities and undergraduate research.

Lecture series features sports reporter

Lynn Zinser, a reporter for *The New York Times*, discussed sports journalism in the modern media environment when she spoke on campus as the 2007 Currier Visiting Lecturer. Her talk was titled "Beyond the Fighting Dogs and Attack Blogs: Practicing Real Sports Journalism in the New Media World."

Zinser has been a sports reporter at the *Times* since August 2003. After two seasons as the New York Giants' beat writer, she became the newspaper's primary Olympics writer in January 2005. She reported on the 2006 Turin Winter Games—the fourth Olympics she has covered since 1996—and New York's bid for the 2012 Summer Games.

Before moving to the *Times*, Zinser was a sports feature writer for the *Newark Star-Ledger* and a sports columnist for the *Colorado Springs Gazette*. She has also worked at the *Philadelphia Daily News*, *Charlotte Observer*, *Memphis Commercial Appeal* and *Syracuse Herald-Journal*.

BGSU's Currier Visiting Lecture Series is made possible in part by an endowed gift from the estate of Florence and Jesse Currier, who came to Bowling Green in 1940. Jesse Currier established the University's modern journalism program, and Florence Currier served as dean of women from 1949 until her retirement in 1963.

The Florence and Jesse Currier Fund at BGSU is used for journalism scholarships, faculty development, special projects and the annual lecture series, which brings distinguished journalists and media professionals to campus to speak and meet with students and faculty.

Classnotes

1950s

Jeane Marie Knapp '52, English, a retired editor who has authored numerous stories and articles and received awards for her feature writing, is listed in the 2006-07 *Who's Who of American Women*. She resides in Piqua, Ohio.

1960s

Kathy Hauelsen '68, journalism, is a Lutheran pastor in Houston. She also edited a book about the Lutheran community's volunteer response to the triple disasters of Hurricane Katrina, the breaching of the New Orleans levees and Hurricane Rita. She has two daughters and six grandchildren.

1970s

Thomas E. Davis '70, biology, is a Clyde Culbertson professor of pathology and laboratory medicine at Indiana University School of Medicine in Indianapolis.

Nanci Volk Wilfong '75, speech, is a credit/collections analyst for Apex Systems Inc. She resides in Richmond, Va.

David C. Rinebolt '78, liberal studies, is manager and counsel for Ohio Partners for Affordable Energy. He graduated from Catholic University Law School in 1981 and passed the District of Columbia Bar in 1982. He resides in Findlay, Ohio.

1980s

Rebecca Aguilar '80, interpersonal communication, received the 2007 Broadcast Journalist of the Year Award by the National Association of Hispanic Journalists. She has also won numerous Emmy, Associated Press and Radio-Television News Directors Association awards. In 2005 she received the Texas AP Broadcast of the Year Award. She resides in Dallas.

Charles L. Ullestad '83, liberal studies, is a lieutenant colonel in the U.S. Air Force, an instructor pilot and assistant deputy director of combat forces Air Combat Command at Langley AFB, Va. He is married with four children and is working on his master's degree in education to go along with his master's degree in history. He hopes to teach high school social studies upon retirement.

Julie R. Beck '85, interpersonal communication, received her master's degree in Tourism Management from North Carolina State University in May 2006. She resides in Mount Olive, N.C.

Cari Lee (Cifani) Remy '85, liberal studies, is the manager for shipboard media for Crystal Cruises in Los Angeles. She is the executive editor for the company's loyalty program magazine and oversees all print and broadcast media for the company's fleet. She resides in Los Angeles.

Jeannine Diane (Hartnett) Brown '87, mathematics and statistics, is assistant vice president, Life Product Development of Ohio National Financial Services. She resides in Cincinnati.

Rafaela Reyes '87, interpersonal communication, is sales training manager for Brother International Inc. She resides in Strongsville, Ohio.

Arlene Angelica Andreas Parris '88, journalism, is a partner in the consulting law and marketing firm Scheperboer & Parris in Curaçao. She resides in Willemstad, Curaçao.

1990s

Todd Baer '90, graphic design, and **Lisa Rinschler-Baer '91**, art, owners of Baer Design Group, a strategic branding and identity firm based in Chicago, received three awards in the annual design book *Creativity 36*. They reside in Morton Grove, Ill.

Gregory Paul Wasson '91, general studies in business, is a chain account manager for Bonbright Distributors and resides in Tipp City, Ohio.

Fred Wright '92, English, has written a humorous novel about a garage rock band. He resides in Lakewood, Ohio.

Jeff Strand '93, creative writing, is a 2007 Bram Stoker Award nominee for superior achievement in a novel. The award is given out each year by the Horror Writers Association. He resides in Tampa, Fla.

Marjorie Preston '93, journalism, is a recent graduate of the Second City Training Center's Advanced Writing Program where she co-wrote a show called "Home Is Where The Hurt Is" and also handled sound effects, music transitions between scenes and public relations. She resides in South Euclid, Ohio.

Bill Auld '94, theatre and film, is a professional performer rigger for live entertainment. He will be the technical director for the Broadway show "Lookingglass Alice" at the New Victory Theater in New York. He resides in Toledo.

Angela Krizza Martin '95, interpersonal communication, started an innovative new service called "10 to 2" that places college educated professionals in long-term, part-time jobs. She resides in the Columbus, Ohio, area with her husband and three children.

Andrew Bonser '95, geography, was promoted to national sales manager for Motionwear Inc. in Indianapolis, Ind. He resides in Greenwood, Ind., with his wife **Heather (Lantz) Bonser '95**, telecommunications, and their two children.

Matt Havas '94, interpersonal communication, is director of database administration at National Association of College Stores/Partnership in Oberlin, Ohio. Matt is married to **Marny Fannin Havas '92**, English.

James Ryan Jeansonne '96, telecommunications, is an investment marketing associate at JPMorgan. He resides in Lewis Center, Ohio.

Michael Witt '96, general studies in business, is assistant professor of library science and interdisciplinary research librarian for Purdue University. He resides with his wife and six children in West Lafayette, Ind.

Michael E. Abhulimen '96, chemistry, is director for technology commercialization with Reynolds American Tobacco in Winston Salem, N.C., where he resides.

David L. McKinney '99, music and German, is director of keyboard studies at Santa Fe Community College in Gainesville, Fla. He teaches courses in music theory, music fundamentals, music appreciation and world music. He is also pursuing a master's degree in human performance. He resides in Gainesville.

2000s

Stephen Imes '01, interpersonal communication, is assistant manager of the Toledo Kiosk with Verizon Wireless. He resides in Waterville, Ohio.

Larry G. Heckman '01, interpersonal communication, is district manager of Chief Buildings and is working on his MBA. He resides in Delaware, Ohio.

Courtney Regan Good '02, telecommunications, is a kindergarten teacher for Palmetto Elementary School and resides in Bradenton, Fla.

Firas Kobeissy '02, biology, is pursuing a Ph.D. in neuroscience from the University of Florida-Gainesville. She resides in Gainesville.

Nikki M. Miller '02, biology, graduated from the Medical University of Ohio in Toledo in 2006 with a Doctor of Medicine degree. She is a first-year resident in pediatrics at the University of Virginia Health Systems and resides in Charlottesville, Va.

Sean Ward '04, computer science, works on campus at Residential Computing Connection, and is married to **Meghan Kahn**, a graduate student who is working on her Ph.D. in neuroscience at BGSU. They reside in Bowling Green.

Laquita M. Forrest '05, interpersonal communication, is a service representative at Nationwide Insurance. She resides in University Heights, Ohio.

Melissa Ann Frontino '06, interpersonal communication, is an insulin pump specialist at Medtronic and resides in Northridge, Calif.

Suzanne Ondrus '06, creative writing, returned from eight months volunteering in Benin where she managed a local library, offered community classes and gave pedagogical advice to primary school teachers. She is working on her Ph.D. in comparative literature at the University of Connecticut in Storrs. She resides in Chagrin Falls, Ohio.

Mentoring



Telefund records a good year

A total of \$103,126 in gifts and pledges was given by College of Arts and Sciences alumni during the 2007 annual appeal.

Your generosity helped fund numerous activities that contributed to advancing our students, faculty and the programs mentioned in this issue of *Dimensions*.

One of our students will be calling you soon to ask for your support of the College of Arts and Sciences in 2008. Thank you for your continued confidence in your alma mater.

For more information about giving opportunities, please contact Erin Keller, major gifts officer, Office of Development, 419-372-9464.

Longitude & Latitude

Where are you? What are you doing?

We encourage our alumni to submit information about their professional accomplishments using our Web site: www.bgsu.edu/colleges/as/update.html.

The form below is also provided. Please send it to Jasmine Gordon Schulz, College of Arts and Sciences, 205 Administration Building, Bowling Green State University, Bowling Green, Ohio 43403.

Full name

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Position/title

News

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LOOK FOR US ONLINE

Dimensions Online allows us to send you timely information and news specifically related to the College of Arts and Sciences, as well as upcoming alumni activities and features on the college that appeared in our internal publications. While there is not a set schedule for *Dimensions Online*, it will come to you as often as necessary. If you have not received an issue, please supply us with your current email address by visiting our Web site: www.bgsu.edu/colleges/as/update.html.



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