“The destination is never a place but a new way of seeing things.”

Henry Miller
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(BGSU degrees noted in parenthesis)
DEAN’S PERSPECTIVE

As a native of North Yorkshire, England, I first came to the U.S. as a graduate student from another country, much like many of our international students at BGSU. And, although I spoke the native language, the cultural differences and impact of those on the language variations posed interesting challenges I had to overcome.

Through those experiences, along with other international travel following graduate school, I gained a greater understanding of not only a variety of cultures and languages, but also of myself. In the College of Arts & Sciences, I am often reminded of the value of these types of opportunities that allow our students to immerse themselves in a foreign environment. The insight and knowledge they gain encourage a deeper empathy and respect for others, as well as a greater understanding of themselves and how they relate to the world.

In this issue of Dimensions, we examine the “International Perspective” as seen through the eyes of current and past students and our faculty. From their perspectives we are granted a glimpse at the life-changing power of international experiences, for both those students who have come from other countries to study here, as well as U.S. students traveling abroad.

Falcon Flame alumni Shantanu and Reni Narayen, who met at BGSU as graduate students from India, say they found that the experience of becoming part of a foreign community “opens the mind tremendously” and provides insights that are irreplaceable. The Salzburg, Austria, study abroad experience taught alumna Marsha Bordner, President Emeritus of Terra Community College and current Arts & Sciences Advocates Board member, “that the world itself was much more a classroom than the actual classrooms.” Charlie Polinko, a 2013 graduate with a double major in international studies and political science, found that his study abroad experience was “one of the greatest aspects” of his education and that it taught him that he is more adaptable and capable than he gave himself credit for.

In addition to travel abroad and international student experiences in the articles that follow, you will read about the globalization efforts of BGSU’s Language Services Group, as well as the new Chinese minor, which, according to Dr. Yiju Huang, assistant professor in the Department of German, Russian and East Asian Languages, will open a window to a whole realm of careers and make graduates more marketable in the global workplace.

Time and again these transformational experiences are recounted by our students and alumni. Equally important is the ever-present faculty commitment to mentor and guide the students along the way. The immeasurable faculty dedication and involvement in the shaping of these students’ paths is vital to their success and is the essence of a BGSU education.

I hope you enjoy reading about the international perspectives shared in the stories that follow. This issue of Dimensions also marks my final year as dean of the College of Arts & Sciences as I will be embarking on a new journey. Throughout this academic year I have been heading the new Honors College as dean and exploring ways in which to expand our reach with high-achieving students. A search for my successor is already in progress, and when that individual is in place, I’ll be committed full time to my role as Dean of the Honors College at BGSU.

Over the course of my six years as dean of A&S, I’ve worked with many talented faculty and staff in the college, and I’ve met students and alumni whose achievements are genuinely humbling. In closing, I would like to thank all of you for the contributions—past and present—that you’ve made to the College of Arts & Sciences and BGSU, and I hope that you’ll continue to support us in the future.

With very best wishes,

Simon Morgan-Russell | Dean
India and Bowling Green, Ohio, may be a world apart, but education is universal. And when you are passionate about learning, you are willing to cross oceans and cultures to pursue that passion. When Shantanu ’86 and Reni ’86 Narayen came to Bowling Green State University in the early ’80s, they were among just a few dozen Indian students on the campus. But that didn’t deter the two from diving into their master’s programs and navigating America’s Midwestern culture.

Today, Shantanu, president and chief executive officer of Adobe, one of the world’s largest and most diversified software companies, and Reni, a psychologist and philanthropist, look back at their initiation into American life and their time at BGSU with fondness and gratitude.

“There were fewer than 50 Indian students in BG when I arrived in 1984,” Shantanu said. “As a result, we all hung out together and became friends and every graduating class took it upon themselves to help the newbies get settled in. This made a huge difference in creating an environment in which one could learn. Fridays, of course, were a time to celebrate—pizza at Myles and music at Howard’s.”

“Being in a small group helped to form close bonds, and friends that we made in Bowling Green are still today some of our closest friends,” Reni added.

“My impressions of BGSU and Bowling Green were also my first impressions of America,” she said. “This was the first time I had left India. I was relieved to see it was nothing like JFK Airport in New York, which was my first glimpse of the United States! My fears melted away as soon as I landed in this town. New Delhi, where I grew up, is a fairly cosmopolitan city, so Bowling Green appeared like a very safe academic environment.”

“However, we didn’t make many American friends here,” Shantanu continued. “There were not too many of us and the majority of students on campus were American. We did try, but many of the people we met were German or Polish, and we spoke only English. While we learned a lot about the environment, climate, and culture here, we didn’t learn too much about the American student body.”

Today, Shantanu and Reni use their experiences to help others, and they encourage current students to make the most of their time on campus. “We had a lot of opportunities to learn, and the university did its best to help us get settled in,” Shantanu said. “We would encourage students to always take advantage of these opportunities.”
“I’ve worked for some of the greatest companies in the world – Adobe, Apple and Silicon Graphics and all of that was as a result of my advanced degree in computer science from BGSU.”

SHANTANU NARAYEN

enclave in comparison. I could walk back past midnight from the library to my apartment, and that was very new to me. When I left India, women usually didn’t walk around alone late at night anywhere. I loved this freedom.”

The two, who met at BGSU, found the faculty to be particularly helpful to international students. “It really helped having a mentor and guide (Dr. Bill Forisha, professor of human development and family studies) who was familiar with Indian culture,” Reni said. “I quickly learned about a place where international students hung out, and met a few others from India and around the world. That made a huge difference, and helped nip what could have otherwise become bouts of homesickness. Everyone here had come far away from their homes to study, so despite having different nationalities, we had a lot in common.”

Shantanu, who was a co-founder of Pictra, an early pioneer of digital photo sharing over the Internet, and also held management positions at Silicon Graphics and Apple Computer, credits computer science faculty Drs. Larry Dunning and Ron Lancaster with having a big impact on his studies. “I also met some terrific instructors and teaching assistants at BGSU who became friends—Ed Morris, John Townsend and John Rice.”

Reni said the biggest cultural differences to her didn’t involve food or language, but the Western way of thinking. “While I was aware that in the West people were much more focused on the individual, I never understood this concept fully until I came here. For me, no emotional or mental problem could exist in just the individual. It had to have its roots in the family and society at large. But the way treatment approaches worked here, it quickly became apparent to me that the onus for recovery and treatment is primarily on the individual.”

Both agree that international studies programs are invaluable to the education process. “No matter how many movies you watch about another culture, or how much you imbibe a new culture through books, these cannot replace an actual experience where a person becomes part of a foreign community,” Reni said. “The insights you get this way are irreplaceable.”

“Undergraduate students in the U.S. should be required to spend a semester or year abroad and we should make available opportunities for students from foreign countries to experience our institutions,” Shantanu added. “It opens the mind tremendously!

“At BGSU, I worked hard and fell in love with computer science, which led me to this wonderful career, and made a lot of great friends and met my future wife,” What more could an aspiring graduate student from India ask for?”
Charlie Polinko ’13 will tell you quicker than you can say Oktoberfest that his best university experience was the two semesters in his sophomore year that he spent studying abroad at the University of Salzburg in Austria.

“That was one of the greatest aspects of my education,” said Polinko, who completed a double major in international studies and political science. “Not only did I become incredibly proficient, if not fluent, in a foreign language, but I also learned that I am more adaptable and capable than I give myself credit for. I also learned how to work with uncertainty and I learned so much about so many different cultures.”

When he wasn’t in the classroom, studying everything from geography and political science (all taught in German), he traveled and explored Austria and neighboring countries. Polinko enjoyed Oktoberfest as it can only be truly experienced—in Munich. He scaled mountains, went snowshoeing in the Alps, and toured the Neuschwanstein Castle in Germany. He visited Berlin, Nuremberg, Verona, Venice and Strasbourg, France, along with Amsterdam and Ljubljana, Slovenia. For his spring break during his study abroad program, Polinko travelled to the Island of Hvar in Croatia.

“I expected to make friends during my study abroad experience, but I was surprised at all the different places that those friends came from,” he says, noting that they are from Ireland, Russia, Korea and Iran.

“Before I left for my study abroad experience, I was so naive about how the world worked and the people in it,” he said. “Being forced out of my comfort zone, I learned so much about how the world actually is and about many of the people in it. Most of all, I learned about myself; I learned my strengths and weaknesses and I learned, through climbing a mountain, traveling alone for a week and spending entire classes not understanding a word, that I am much more capable than I had ever known.”

To learn more about Charlie’s study abroad experience, view the video interview at www.bgsu.edu/dimensions. Click on the 2014 magazine and the link on page 4.
Kara Fallon, who graduated in 2012 with a BFA in two-dimensional studies and a marketing minor, knew from a young age that she wanted to study abroad.

“My sister, Jami Fallon, also a BGSU alumna, studied abroad during her undergraduate years, in the summer of 1997,” says Fallon. “With her advice and support, I followed through with enrolling at the Studio Arts Centers International (SACI) in Florence, Italy.”

Fallon said the experience was culturally enriching and played a pivotal role in her career development.

“At the time that I studied abroad I was beginning to focus on the photography portfolio that I would potentially use for my senior thesis exhibition upon graduation,” she says. “It was a crucial developmental stage and influenced which direction I took my work the following semester at BGSU. It was during my summer in Florence that I had the time and freedom to reflect and experiment with what I wanted to pursue through my photography.

“As an artist, studying and living in Florence was an incredible opportunity. The Italian countryside, art and architecture are incredible, like I had heard.”

Fallon spent the weekdays studying photography and batik in classes at SACI and travelled extensively on the weekends.

“Through the art history class I travelled to Fiesole, Pisa, Lucca, Volterra, San Gimignano, Arezzo and Monterchi. Then a small group of us would try to catch a train out to one of the Cinque Terre beach towns on our day off—Vernazza, Monterosso and Riomaggiore.”

The five weeks she spent was an ideal amount of time, she says. “It was enough time to really travel and become familiar with the city and culture and also get past the initial ‘tourist’ phase. I was surprised by how quickly I adjusted to living in Italy—from being completely overwhelmed the first day I arrived to being totally comfortable and independent.”

Study abroad experience was benissimo!
When she first arrived at Bowling Green State University from Mumbai, India, culture shock came quickly for Sadia Azmi. “At first, I thought Bowling Green was too small and quiet,” Azmi said. “But as I explored the campus and the Bowling Green community, I found it all so welcoming and interesting. The weather, the land, the people and culture are all very different, yet all very nice.” Azmi, a psychology major, chose BGSU after her online research revealed it is ranked third in the country for its industrial-organizational (I-O) psychology program. “I wanted to learn from the best minds in industrial psychology,” she said. Azmi recalled that her adviser, Dr. Mike Zickar, chair of the Department of Psychology and a specialist in I-O psychology, helped her immensely, serving as a mentor from her first days at Bowling Green. “The University is not very large, so it is easy to make friends and get to know different people,” she said. “The professors and instructors are very culturally sensitive and have been very helpful. “Also, the Indian community here is very active, and the Indian festivals and national holidays are celebrated by the community with great vigor,” said Azmi, who joined the India Students Association and lived in a dorm to experience residence life. Her friendships span both ages and cultures. “I have made friends with people who are 65 years old and children as young as 3,” Azmi said. “I have met people who have never gone outside Ohio, to people who have visited over 20 countries. At weekly lunch and dinner gatherings I had with various groups we shared a lot of topics and experiences. These will always be a part of my most cherished memories because they have made me more confident and, at the same time, more aware of the similarities that we share with each other.” Azmi, who is preparing for her GRE, the test required for application to graduate school, hopes to attend a program in industrial-organizational psychology. “I would like to do academic work and research in this field, particularly in the area of leadership development and work-life balance.” While she has immersed herself in American life, Azmi also wants to share her talents with those in her homeland. She is raising funds for the Zaheer Alam Foundation Academy, her nonprofit startup, for a school in rural India that will teach English and other modern subjects to local children.

To learn more about Sadia’s BGSU experience, view the video interview at www.bgsu.edu/dimensions. Click on the 2014 magazine and video links on page 6.
Dr. Marsha Bordner grew up a daughter of a farming family in a small rural town in Ohio. She had one major dream since she was in grade school: to travel and see the world. So it’s no surprise that in 1971, during her junior year at BGSU, when the opportunity to spend a year in Salzburg, Austria, presented itself, she jumped at the chance.

Learning the German language, which Bordner later decided to major in, was fairly easy, since classes were taught in German and all of the students were required to speak it. “When you are hungry, you learn to speak the language quickly,” she joked.

While she spent days studying German and immersing herself in the Austrian culture at the University of Salzburg, during spring break and holidays it wasn’t unusual for Bordner and other students to hitchhike (common in the 1970s), hop on the Eurail or travel on the Autobahn to other parts of Europe—from Florence, Italy, to the Straits of Gibraltar to Amsterdam.

Bordner’s roommate, a native of Linz, Austria, once invited her to her family home. The region was one of the most beautiful areas Bordner recalls of her study abroad. While visiting her roommate’s family, she had the chance to taste food indigenous to the region, including blood sausage. “The sight of it did not appeal to me at all, but I learned that not to eat it would insult their family.”

Bordner explored as much of the surrounding countries as possible. “The experience fulfilled all of my dreams. You just cannot imagine the grandeur of art and the countryside until you see it firsthand.

“I didn’t grow up in a home with a lot of music, so to visit the home of Mozart and watch the opera ‘The Magic Flute’ was extraordinary. I danced a waltz for the first time in Vienna,” she adds. “How incredible is that?”

Along with a rich cultural experience, Bordner says the people of Austria, including the professors, were exceptionally kind to the young foreigners. Although the students were advised to never ask the Austrians about World War II, Bordner (who says she was never one to do as she was told) began speaking with a man who had been indoctrinated by Hitler’s army to be a young leader (Jugend Fuhrer) but later turned against the army. “Here I was in Austria, listening to a firsthand account of the war from a young man who had to make a very difficult decision.

“My study abroad experience taught me that the world itself was much more a classroom than the actual classrooms. I became more culturally sensitive,” says Bordner, “and more respectful of other cultures. Studying abroad made later travels to Japan and other countries easier.

“I learned that in life there is definitely more that joins us than that separates us.”

After returning from her study abroad experience, Bordner graduated summa cum laude from BGSU with bachelor’s degrees in German and English and later a master’s degree in English. She continued her studies at Ohio State University, earning her doctorate in English. Her knowledge of the German language and her study abroad experience led OSU to waive its foreign language requirement in her doctoral studies. Following two decades of teaching and administration in Ohio, she was named president of Terra Community College in 2003, retired in June 2012 and was subsequently named President Emeritus.

While she is now “semi-retired,” she has many plans to share her knowledge of the world, one that takes her all the way back to Austria. Her husband, Harold Brown, was a Tuskegee Airman, the first African-American military aviators in the United States during World War II. Brown, ironically, was shot down just south of Austria during his service years and was almost hanged there. Bordner, who plans to write Brown’s biography, says, “We are linked to the same place, but our experiences were totally different.”
When the local DGL Consulting Engineers group participated in the Five Lakes Global International Economic Forum with Chinese investors last year, the results more than exceeded the expectations of the 87-year-old engineering company. The goal of the area conference was to give Chinese investors a broad view of investment possibilities in the Toledo area and help them to build relationships with northwest Ohio businessmen, educational leaders and others.

With the help of an interpreter and translator from BGSU’s Language Services Group (LSG), not only did DGL meet three strong potential clients from China during the forum, but the meeting also led to a 10-day trip to mainland China to meet with the businesses.

“BGSU’s Language Services Group provided an interpreter for us, Yanghao Lu,” says Tom Brown, director of customer relations at DGL. “He was incredibly helpful. Not only did he translate and facilitate conversations, he also translated a PowerPoint presentation about DSL for the Chinese guests. In fact, we were so impressed with Yanghao that we considered taking him with us on our trip to China.”

In addition to Chinese, the Language Services Group offers assistance with dozens of languages, from Arabic and Portuguese to Russian and Swahili.

“With an economic climate ripe for international growth, translation and interpretation services for businesses expanding their global operations are on the rise,” says Dr. Irina Stakhanova, executive director of LSG. “We’ve seen a steady growth in the demand for all of our programs.”

Those services range from cultural consulting services for businesses to 15-hour noncredit language course modules for adults, to individual and group instruction on site or at BGSU’s Bowling Green or Levis Commons campus.

According to Dr. Timothy Pogačar, chair and associate professor of Russian in the Department of German, Russian & East Asian Languages, understanding a country’s culture can make or break a business deal. “We offer culture classes that help businesses understand everything from how to greet and address people, to understanding work and leisure activities, to following the correct etiquette during a foreign dinner.”

New Chinese minor boosts international careers

While businesses and local, regional and national governments race to forge cooperative relationships with China, Bowling Green State University is giving students a competitive career edge. BGSU launched a Chinese minor program, offering more students the opportunity to learn what is considered one of the four crucial languages for Americans as the growth in U.S. and Chinese economic and cultural partnerships skyrockets. The minor is open to all students and has garnered interest from students across all curriculums.

“A Chinese minor definitely makes graduates more marketable in the global workplace,” says Dr. Yiju Huang, assistant professor in the Department of German, Russian and East Asian languages. “This will open a window to a whole realm of careers.”

BGSU students who minor in Chinese take 16 hours of core Mandarin Chinese language courses, three hours of elective courses in Chinese literature or cinema, and three hours of advanced language study through either a summer study abroad program in China or a third-year Chinese language class.

“While highly structured, the Mandarin Chinese language classes are also fun and allow for student creativity,” says Huang.

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Eva Marie Saint returns to BGSU for theater dedication

Serenaded by current members of her sorority, actress and Bowling Green State University alumna Eva Marie Saint once again played the “leading lady” when she returned to campus October 2012 for the dedication of a new theater named in her honor.

She and her husband, producer/director Jeffrey Hayden, celebrated the relocation of the theater from University Hall, where she began her acting career as a student, to BGSU’s new Wolfe Center for the Arts.

Cast members from two BGSU productions, “The Seagull” and “Arabian Nights” talked with Saint and Hayden in the Eva Marie Saint Theatre, hearing stories and advice from the couple. The students presented Saint with a bouquet and glass paperweight to commemorate her visit as theatre faculty.

After the dedication ceremony, held in the larger Thomas B. and Kathleen M. Donnell Theatre, Delta Gamma members sang and presented her another bouquet, of white roses. She invited them to join her in her new theater, where a full house had gathered and were again treated to conversation with Saint and Hayden.

Also at the dedication were President Mary Ellen Mazey, theatre major Natalie Golz of Rocky River, recipient of the Eva Marie Saint Scholarship; Dr. Ralph Haven Wolfe, Distinguished Teaching Professor Emeritus of English, Gish Professor of Film Studies and curator of the Gish Film Theater; and Bowling Green Mayor Richard Edwards and his wife, Nadine, along with a number of current and former faculty members.

Saint later attended the BGSU-Miami football game that day, accompanied by theatre and film students and Arts and Sciences Dean Simon Morgan-Russell.

During the weekend visit, she also took part in a commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the film careers of Lillian and Dorothy Gish, on Oct. 14 - Lillian Gish’s birthday - in the Dorothy and Lillian Gish Film Theater and Gallery, where Saint spoke about her memories of the iconic actresses and the lessons she learned.

Saint has had a distinguished career on stage and television and in film, appearing in more than 161 productions and performing with actors such as Marlon Brando, Paul Newman, Frank Sinatra, Bob Hope, Lillian Gish, Elizabeth Taylor, Richard Burton and Cary Grant; and directors Elia Kazan, Alfred Hitchcock, Norman Jewison, Otto Preminger and Fred Zinneman.

Her many honors include an Academy Award for “On the Waterfront” and a 1990 Emmy for her role in “People Like Us.” She received three more nominations for her work in television, and has two stars on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.

Still active in acting, she can be seen in the recently released film “Winter’s Tale,” co-starring Colin Farrell, Jessica Brown Findlay (“Downton Abbey”), Jennifer Connelly, William Hurt, Russell Crowe and Will Smith.
Contributions of faculty recognized

The achievements and contributions of BGSU's faculty were recognized and rewarded last year as follows:

Distinguished Research Professor
Dr. Timothy Fuerst, Economics

President's Award for Collaborative Research and Creative Work
Dr. Ellen Broido, Higher Education and Student Affairs

Student Alumni Connection Master Teacher Award
Dr. Stephannie Gearhart, English

FACULTY SENATE AWARDS

Leadership as a Chair/School Director Award
Dr. Cindy Hendricks, Division of Teaching and Learning, and Dr. Katerina Rüedi Ray, School of Art

Faculty Mentor Award
Dr. Peggy Booth, Graduate College

Unit Recognition Award
Dr. Sara Bushong, University Libraries

Distinguished Service Award
Dr. B. Madhu Rao, Applied Statistics and Operations Research

Lifetime Achievement Award
Dr. Neocles Leontis, Chemistry

Olscamp Research Award
Dr. Susan Brown, Sociology

Young Investigator Award
Dr. Ksenija Glusac, Chemistry

Arts and Sciences team is tops

Maintaining an office with such varied and complex needs as the College of Arts and Sciences is a challenge, but the team of classified staff who keep things running does it masterfully. The group was recognized with the Team Award by Classified Staff Council at the May ceremony.

Team members Connie Allison, Chris Bloomfield, Amy Davidson, Mary Hitt, Toni Jacobs, Megan Lucy and Nancy Martin will share a $1,500 cash prize.

Nominated by the office’s administrative staff, the team was praised for its ability to tend to the needs of both people and processes, and for serving as a vital communication link among numerous constituents.

“The college staff works tirelessly to provide the best educational experiences for students in the College of Arts and Sciences,” Dean Simon Morgan-Russell said. “The roles of the classified staff members in the college office are as diverse as the college itself, but the staff work together exceptionally well and truly function as a team.”

Messer-Kruse book named ‘Outstanding Academic Title’

Choice magazine named “The Trial of the Haymarket Anarchists” by Dr. Tim Messer-Kruse, ethnic studies, an “Outstanding Academic Title of 2012.”

The list is made up of titles that were reviewed during the previous calendar year and contains around 10 percent of the approximately 7,000 works reviewed by the magazine. In awarding the honor, editors apply several criteria to reviewed titles including overall excellence in presentation and scholarship, importance relative to other literature in the field, and originality or uniqueness of treatment.

Choice is a publication of the Association for College and Research Libraries that reaches almost every undergraduate college and university library in the United States. Academic librarians, faculty and other decision makers use its reviews for collection development and scholarly research.
Coates novel wins Dasher Award
A tale set in California has won the top prize from the College English Association of Ohio. Dr. Lawrence Coates, English and director of the creative writing program, has received the 2013 Nancy Dasher Award for his novel “The Garden of the World” in a ceremony at the University of Dayton. The Dasher Award recognizes outstanding publications by faculty members from an association-member department.

Coates discovered the inspiration for the book while researching his first novel. He found a story about a vineyard in California that was robbed of $400,000 worth of wine during Prohibition. The robbery was never solved, but the authorities suspected the owner of the vineyard was involved in the theft as a way to move some of his wine. Coates said of the story, “It had wine. It had Prohibition. It had gangsters. It had money. And, it was about the history of California.”

A California native, Coates’ work reflects his roots. “I try to pass on this deep engagement with place to my students,” he said.

His first novel, “The Blossom Festival,” was selected for the Barnes and Noble Discover Great New Writers Program and went on to win the Western States Book Award in Fiction. His second novel, “The Master of Monterey,” appeared in 2003, and his work has been recognized with a National Endowment for the Arts Fellowship.

Falcon Forensics continues to dominate opponents
The Falcon Forensics Speech and Debate Team scored a first place finish last October in Boston, beating Harvard by more than 120 points and also besting Emerson College, Suffolk University, Penn State University, George Mason University and others. Each member of the team placed in multiple final rounds, qualifying for Nationals. Of the 11 events offered, BGSU won five.

“T is truly humbling to see the dedication and skill of these students,” said Paul Alday, communication instructor and director of the team. “In order to qualify for national competition, teams must participate in a series of tournaments starting in mid-September and lasting through early March, where students vie for final rankings that place them in the final rounds, earning their nationals qualification. This is particularly rewarding as 10 of the students representing BGSU are new recruits to the institution, starting their first year with the team.”

Forensics and Debate is a co-curricular, competitive program offered through the School of Media and Communication and Department of Communication, offering BGSU undergraduate students the opportunity to hone their communication and performance skills in competition with other colleges and universities from around the nation and globe.

BGSU team wins design award for Toledo project
The “You Are Here” project, sponsored by the Arts Commission of Greater Toledo, was among 20 Outstanding Achievement Award winners in the International Design competition in the March issue of HOW magazine. Of nearly 1,000 submissions, 242 were accepted and only 20 overall were recognized as “Outstanding.”

The AIGA (the professional association for design) Toledo team was led by Jenn Stucker, an assistant professor of graphic design in the School of Art, as creative director and project manager. The Creative Production Team included graphic design instructor Amy Fidler (who is also a BGSU alumna) and alumni artists Ben Morales and Zach Zollar, along with fellow designer Matt Rowland.

Their challenge was to enhance awareness about Toledo and create a stronger sense of place, both for visitors to the city during the International Glass Arts Society conference and also for Toledo residents. In the process they employed not only graphic design but mobile technology and a “collect the dots” contest for participants.

“You Are Here” was widely covered in the press and Stucker presented it at the national AIGA leadership conference. For more on the project, visit www.youareheretoledo.com.

HOW, a leading business and creativity magazine for graphic designers, has been published for 20 years and hosts the largest annual gathering of graphic designers in the U.S., HOW Design Live.
Unforgettable film’ wins audience hearts at film festival

“Bearing Witness: The Voices of Our Survivors,” a documentary film by Heather Elliott-Famularo, School of Art, had its world premiere in April 2013 at the Palm Beach International Film Festival (PBIFF), where it was one of the two winners of the Audience Favorite Award for Best Documentary.

“Bearing Witness” has also recently been nominated for an Emmy Award through WGTE Public Media.

The film features the collective stories of six Toledo-area Holocaust survivors, as told to students, grades 7-12, from the three area synagogues’ Sunday Schools. The interviews were conducted through a collaborative process with the Jewish Federation of Greater Toledo.

“I was stunned by the positive reaction to the film in Palm Beach,” Elliott-Famularo said. “I have dedicated the past three years of my life to this research, to these survivors, so seeing the film on a big screen in a sold-out theater made all the difference. It made me realize that our survivors are the world’s survivors. They may be living in Toledo, Ohio, but their stories can touch the hearts of people anywhere.”

National leader in psychology of religion recognized with Samaritan award

Dr. Kenneth Pargament, a professor of psychology at Bowling Green State University and Distinguished Scholar at the Institute for Spirituality and Health at the Texas Medical Center, is now part of a list that includes former first ladies Betty Ford, Barbara Bush and Rosalynn Carter. Pargament was presented the 2012 National Samaritan award during a ceremony in Denver.

The award honors individuals who have made significant contributions to human health and growth. The Samaritan Institute, which chooses the winners, explains that honorees “have demonstrated a religious sensibility in their work and personally and professionally exemplify the ideals of the Samaritan program.” According to the Institute, Pargament is “a leading figure in the dramatic resurgence of attention to the vital connection between religion and mental health through his research, writing and worldwide consultation.”

“I feel very honored to be recognized by the Samaritan Institute, a pioneer in the movement toward mental health care that integrates mind, body and spirit,” Pargament said.

He has been a national leader in the psychology of religion and in the effort to bring a more balanced view of religious life to the attention of social scientists and health professionals. Having published extensively on the vital role of religion in coping with stress and trauma, he is the author of two books—“The Psychology of Religion and Coping: Theory, Research, Practice” and “Spiritually Integrated Psychotherapy: Understanding and Addressing the Sacred,” published in 1997 and 2007, respectively. He is also the editor-in-chief of the two-volume “APA Handbook of Psychology, Religion, and Spirituality” published by the American Psychological Association in 2013.

The Samaritan Institute is an association of accredited counseling centers with offices in 400 cities throughout 29 states and Tokyo. The centers provide more than 650,000 sessions of behavioral health care for individuals, couples, families, and organizations annually.

Pargament has taught at BGSU since 1979 and has directed over 25 doctoral students in clinical psychology.
BGSU students succeed again at Model European Union

BGSU students repeated their previous year’s victory at the annual Model European Union simulation, held by Washington and Jefferson College in conjunction with the University of Pittsburgh’s European Union Center of Excellence.

Four BGSU undergraduate teams (representing Germany, Italy, Finland and Lithuania) had to discuss and negotiate a solution to the Greek debt crisis with 23 other country teams. BGSU returned home with a top award and an honorable mention for its performances.

According to team academic adviser Dr. Stefan Fritsch, political science, this year’s simulation was extremely technical and required the students to apply a truly interdisciplinary perspective by combining economics and politics. “The Greek debt crisis and the Eurozone crisis at large represent very complex challenges. In this high-impact learning experience, students get a taste of the difficult choices that political decision-makers face as well as the complexity of the negotiating process itself. The challenge lies in trying to find compromises that help to solve the problems, yet are acceptable to each country.”

One great teacher spawns another

The high marks he gets from his English students have landed Dr. Richard Gillin in Princeton Review’s 2012 edition of The Best 300 Professors.

The BGSU alumnus, now the Ernest A. Howard Chair of English and Literature and director of the Humanities Program at Washington College, in Chestertown, Md., says he learned from the best: BGSU’s Dr. Ralph Haven Wolfe, Distinguished Teaching Professor Emeritus of English, Gish Professor of Film Studies and curator of the Gish Film Theater. Wolfe was his Ph.D. thesis director when Gillin was at Bowling Green in the early 1970s.

“He was one of the great exemplars of teaching who inspired me. His teaching was legendary and is still applicable today. He really was and still is an inspiration to me. I took his class and I was hooked,” said Gillin, who returned to BGSU in 2011 for the opening of the Dr. Ralph H. Wolfe Viewing Center in Hanna Hall.

Wolfe is quite proud of his protégé, and with good reason. Using the online survey RateMyProfessors.com and other metrics, the Princeton ranking takes into account 42,000 professors to come up with the eventual list of 300. According to Washington College, “The final group of 'best' professors constitutes less than .02 percent of the roughly 1.8 million post-secondary teachers instructing students at colleges and universities across the U.S.” Students quoted in the guide describe Gillin as “extremely helpful and flexible,” and “the best English professor and kindest soul you’ll ever meet.”

Gillin seems a bit abashed by the honor. “I was taken aback, but in a good way. I really did not expect this at this point in my career, but it’s very gratifying and something I never expected.

“Literature as a perspective on life is primary. Students tell me later they cherish the time they had to read things that are important in their life,” he said.
Yale dean discusses future of plants

BGSU welcomed Sir Peter Crane, Carl W. Knobloch Jr. Dean of the School of Forestry and Environmental Studies at Yale University, as the McMaster Visiting Scientist, for three days of campus activities. Crane’s work focuses on the diversity of plant life—its origin and fossil history, its current status, and its conservation and use.

Plants are indispensable to human survival and provide us with food, medicines, and a variety of raw materials. They are also important regulators of ecological processes at global to local scales. However, relatively little attention is paid to how these crucial global resources, accumulated over more than 450 million years of evolution, will be managed for the future. Crane’s lecture, “The Future of Plants,” explored the current status of plant diversity and some of the challenges in conserving and managing plants in sustainable ways for human benefit.

Crane also met with students and faculty, including a technical seminar and a discussion of one of his papers.

The Harold McMaster Visiting Scientist 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 annually. The visiting scientist delivers a public lecture and interacts in classes and small groups with undergraduate and graduate students, faculty and members of the community.

Award-winning Alan Heathcock speaks about writer’s life

Alan Heathcock left BGSU in 1996 with his Master of Fine Arts degree in creative writing. He returned to speak at the Winter Wheat Festival of Writing and to read from his book of short stories, “Volt,” which was named a “best book” of 2011 by national newspapers and magazines, was acclaimed by the New York Times and earned him many awards, including the recent Whiting Award in Writing, which also made him $50,000 richer. He teaches fiction writing at Boise State University. “The life of a writer is you sit by yourself. There’s not a lot of room in my intellect for thinking about what people are going to think about what I write or say about the book. I’m using all my intellect just to try to inhabit the characters.”

The intensity of his work mirrors the intensity of his time in the Creative Writing Program. “I struck gold in coming to Bowling Green. I was so lucky to be among a group of people who were really talented and really invested in becoming better writers. It was an inspired environment and the kind I needed. A big thing that I don’t take for granted is being here at that time.”

Heathcock said he benefitted from a number of great teachers whose words have had a lasting effect on him, both as a writer and as a teacher himself. Wendell Mayo was one. “I still quote things he told me.”

Lifelong Lillian Gish fan donates collection to BGSU

Exclamations of surprise and discovery arose from around a table in the Center for Archival Collections at Jerome Library as Dr. Ralph Haven Wolfe, Distinguished Teaching Professor Emeritus of English, Gish Professor of Film Studies and curator of the Gish Film Theater, and Dr. Brett Holden, a theatre and film faculty member and associate curator of the University’s Gish Film Theater, looked over items donated to the Gish Collection, along with University conservator Frederick Honneffer.

Honneffer was in the process of cataloging the 555-piece collection provided by Todd Light, of Arlington, Texas, an avid fan of Lillian Gish since the age of 12. Included is a newspaper clipping from the early 1970s showing an adoring, teenaged Light seated next to Gish when she visited his hometown in Connecticut to promote her book “Dorothy and Lillian Gish.”

“With this collection, in addition to what we already have, the Gish Collection is the best collection of Gish materials between the coasts,” Wolfe said, noting that other Gish collections are in the New York Public Library and the Library of Congress.

Forensics specializations broaden options

The announcement by the state that it would build a Bureau of Criminal Identification and Investigation crime lab on campus prompted the creation of a new focus area at the University. Starting last fall, the departments of criminal justice, chemistry and biology offered undergraduate specializations in forensic sciences.

BGSU will join the very small number of colleges nationally with on-campus crime labs. Having access to personnel from a state-of-the-art crime lab will provide students opportunities for learning through internships and guest lectures. That interaction will help prepare them for careers in public safety and forensic sciences.
Environmental impact on national security topic of Peace Lecture

The link between environmental sustainability and national security was explored in the Edward Lamb Peace Lecture. Dr. David Orr of Oberlin College presented “Peace, Security and Resilience in a Black Swan Future.”

“Black Swan” events are characterized as being rare, having a large impact, and largely unpredictable. Orr is the Paul Sears Distinguished Professor of Environmental Studies and Politics and special assistant to the president of Oberlin and executive director of the Oberlin Project, which is focused on making the city of Oberlin a model of full-spectrum sustainability and then replicating that effort through a National Sustainable Communities Coalition.

His career as a scholar, teacher, writer, speaker and entrepreneur spans fields as diverse as environment and politics, environmental education, campus greening, green building, ecological design and climate change.

BGSU’s Edward Lamb Peace Lecture annually brings internationally recognized experts to campus to address major environmental issues and how they affect world security. The lecture series began in 1986 in honor of the late Edward Lamb, a prominent Toledo lawyer committed to social justice, civil rights and world peace. It is underwritten by the Lamb Foundation of Toledo.

Stafford named new director of the School of Media and Communication

Dr. Laura Stafford, director of the School of Media and Communication, has more than 29 years of experience in the academic world. A specialist in interpersonal communication, she has been honored multiple times for both her teaching and research.

Before joining Bowling Green State University in July 2013, Stafford was with the University of Kentucky. She joined the Department of Communication there as a professor in 2008 and assumed the position of chair of the department in 2011. She began her teaching career at the Ohio State University, where she taught in the School of Communication from 1985-2008.

At Ohio State, Stafford received the 2005 Faculty Member of the Year Award from the School of Communication, a graduate-student nominated and selected honor in recognition of her teaching and advising. She was also honored in 2000 at OSU for contributing to undergraduate academic achievement. In 1991 she earned the university-wide Outstanding Teacher Recognition Award.


Stafford received her bachelor’s degree from Missouri State University and her master’s and doctoral degrees from the University of Texas at Austin.

International journalist to address potential for peace

Leading geopolitical analyst and journalist Gwynne Dyer gave the third annual Nakamoto Peace Lecture, “The End of War? Nonviolence in the 21st Century.” The event was hosted by the Peace and Conflict Studies Program.

Dyer also spoke to several classes during his campus visit, discussing climate change, nuclear weapons issues and war coverage by the international media.

The lecture series is funded by BGSU alumna Hiroko Nakamoto. She has been a strong supporter of the Peace and Conflict Studies Program at the University as well as a “Gateway to Peace” memorial project in her hometown of Hiroshima, Japan.

Alumnus to oversee content for Scripps newspaper group

A BGSU alumnus will be in charge of shaping the content of all the newspapers owned by the E.W. Scripps Company.

Mizell Stewart III has been named vice president of content for the Scripps newspaper group. As chief content officer, Stewart will be responsible for developing content strategy and directly overseeing the creation and production of news, information and entertainment for both print and digital platforms in the 13 Scripps newspaper markets. All Scripps editors will report directly to him.
Dr. Deidre L. Donaldson Named Chief Clinical Officer of May Institute

May Institute, a leading national provider of educational, behavioral, and rehabilitative services for individuals with special needs, has announced the appointment of Dr. Deidre L. Donaldson, as chief clinical officer.

As chief clinical officer, Donaldson will provide clinical oversight for all of May Institute’s programs and centers. Her responsibilities include setting standards for clinical practice, credentialing and privileging staff, supervision of clinical procedures and interventions, and oversight of professional training and research. She will also ensure the quality of clinical services through supervision of the Quality Improvement team and the development of performance improvement projects.

Donaldson received a Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology from Bowling Green State University. She was a postdoctoral psychology Fellow at the Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University where she remains as adjunct faculty.

A transformational gift for biology faculty

Dr. Lee and Marge Meserve ’94 are known for their faithful—some would say extraordinary—attendance across multiple Falcon sports.

They are inaugural Champions Circle donors and have endowed the Meserve Scholarship. In February 2013, they made their newest, historic gift valued at more than $650,000. Because they have also endowed a biological sciences professorship by including BGSU in their estate, the overall impact will be nearly $1 million, making it one of the largest gifts from a faculty member in BGSU’s history.

Gajjala and partners make distance learning more collaborative

Members of society have barely had enough time to wrap their heads around the idea of a MOOC—a massive open online course—and scholars are already coming out with alternatives.

Dr. Radhika Gajjala, School of Media and Communication, has been working with FemTechNet, a network of feminist scholars, to create a participatory model for online teaching, also known as a distributed open collaborative course or DOCC, that is a bit different from the MOOC.

Although the MOOC is offered online and is available to a very large number of people, Gajjala said it is only partly free and offers a limiting style of learning. A DOCC, on the other hand, takes the basic idea of a MOOC and modifies it a bit.

Rather than having expert faculty strictly deliver information to the students, a DOCC distributes expertise throughout the network, whether it is from teacher to student, student to teacher, or student to student. The focus is community formation and learning through engagement with knowledge and not just transmission of information.

As opposed to MOOCs, the three key aspects of the DOCC are collaboration, access and human interaction.

Gajjala has been working with FemTechNet and the project for nearly two years, but has experience teaching fully online courses and blended courses using the latest online technologies for over 15 years.

So in the spring of 2013, Gajjala worked with Alex Juhasz of Pitzer College to conduct a BETA class to work out some of the kinks of a DOCC. Titled Feminist Dialogues in Technology, the course allowed students and faculty to take advantage of multiple digital platforms, such as Facebook, Vimeo, Zotero, Secondlife, Youtube, Skype and Google+ Hangouts among other interactive tools.

Gajjala taught American Culture Studies 3000/Women’s Studies 3000 at BGSU as a DOCC 2013 course and had help from two doctoral advisees, Anca Birzescu and Nicki Reamer. The course was strictly online, but to develop a relationship with her students, Gajjala had them use social media and she set up regular Skype meetings so they could get to know their peers and faculty better, something not typically found in an online class.

BGSU hosts largest gathering of heavy metal music scholars

The Department of Popular Culture hosted metal studies scholars to share research and celebrate the musical culture’s endurance at the Heavy Metal and Popular Culture International Conference in April 2013. The organizers believe it to be the largest academics heavy metal conference in history. The conference was a response to the dramatic rise in prominence of heavy metal studies as a field of serious scholarly inquiry that encompasses myriad disciplinary approaches in the humanities and social science.

Enzymes and proteins may have energy impact

Dr. H. Peter Lu, Ohio Eminent Scholar, professor of chemistry at BGSU, and an expert in biochemical nanoscience, focuses on the motions and properties of single molecules of proteins and enzymes as they perform their biological functions. Using sophisticated equipment and techniques he and his team have pioneered, they can observe and measure the interactions of single molecules of enzymes with other enzymes and proteins to gain a better understanding of complex metabolic processes over time. They are gaining international notice for investigating biomedical applications and examining single molecules to learn how nature is able to convert solar energy into electricity.
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