

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

# Transformations

COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES

Fall 2015

Where the Wild Things Art

The Bloomin' Algae

Communicating the Future



# Transformations

FALL 2015

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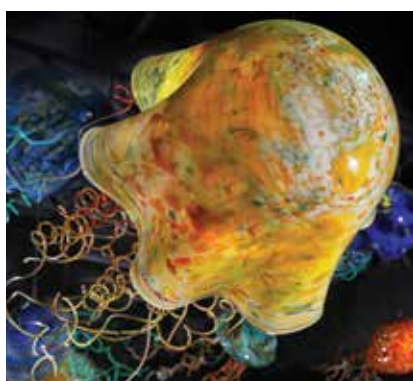
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#### ABOUT THE COVER

Colorful glass jellyfish float playfully above visitors to the Toledo Zoo & Aquarium in this photo illustration by University photographers Craig Bell and Brad Phalin. The glass masterpiece was created by BGSU alumni Adam Goldberg '11, Michael Stevens '12 and their team at Gathered Glass, and is just one of many art installations at the zoo that has been imagined by BGSU graduates.



Bowling Green State University  
College of Arts & Sciences  
Fall 2015

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**Transformations** is a publication of the College of Arts & Sciences at Bowling Green State University. Comments or questions should be directed to Transformations, College of Arts & Sciences, 205 Administration Building, Bowling Green, Ohio, 43403-0133 or email [jgordo@bgsu.edu](mailto:jgordo@bgsu.edu)

BGSU is an AA/EEO institution.

## INTRODUCING TRANSFORMATIONS

What a great time to be a Falcon! In this, our inaugural issue of Transformations, we proudly share stories of Bowling Green State University College of Arts & Sciences students, faculty and alumni. Our new title and format reflect the essence of BGSU for our students and our communities. People come to BGSU to be changed and to change the world. In this issue, we focus on the public good—how our students, faculty and alumni contribute to improvements in society. We will celebrate the transformations arising from the BGSU liberal arts experience.

When I came to BGSU just over a year ago, I was struck by how many people with ties to the College contribute in very real and significant ways to our communities, to our world. I once sat as an alternate juror in Judge Sara Lioi's federal courtroom and watched her adjudicate a high-profile case, not knowing at the time she was a BGSU political science grad. I recall how moved I was by the range and depth of talent of our students at my first ArtsX and at Bravo! BGSU—my feelings confirmed when Mariah Burks and her supporting partner David Baker won awards at the American College Theater Festival in April. And as a parent, I was heartened to see BGSU faculty, including Professors Wendy Manning (Sociology) and Peggy Booth (Education and Human Development and Graduate College) conducting a long-term study of student success in our nation's schools in collaboration with teachers and administrators in Fremont, Ohio. I learned early on that I'm not just occasionally impressed and amazed. I see every day—a transformation of my own—how our students, alumni, faculty and staff are making a difference.

In the College of Arts & Sciences we have much to celebrate, and future issues of Transformations will do just that by focusing on the contributions Falcons are making to the world through learning, research, the arts and public service. I encourage you to tell others about BGSU and what we—and you—do. Be proud. It is indeed a great time to be a Falcon!

Best regards,

Raymond A. Craig, Ph.D.

Dean, BGSU College of Arts & Sciences



*At right, the plunging penguin created by Sayaka Ganz '08 combines the beauty of art and the functionality of "found objects."*

*A life-size great white shark, created by BGSU alumni Douglas Kampfer '07 and Jeremy Link '02 and their company Graphite Design + Build, hovers over visitors to the Toledo Zoo & Aquarium.*



# WHERE THE **Wild Things** ART



*BGSU alumni create art installations at the new aquarium and at various locations throughout the Toledo Zoo.*



*Art by BGSU alumni shows up in other places at the zoo, including this giant crab playground feature, which is another innovation of Graphite Design + Build.*

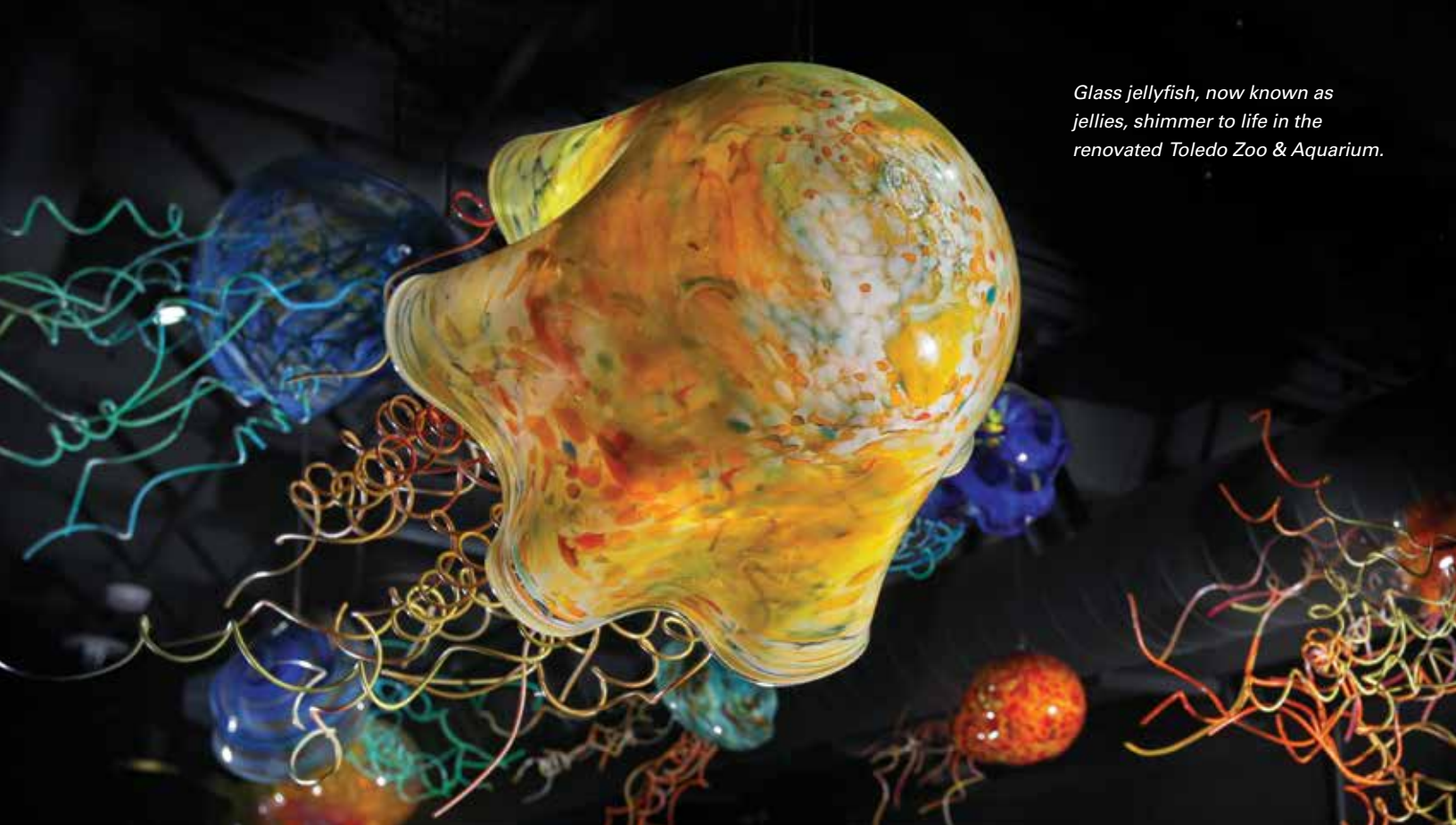
Massive tanks filled with colorful and camouflaged, ferocious and frolicking sea creatures line the walls in the newly renovated Toledo Zoo & Aquarium. The aquatic atmosphere overwhelms the senses, filling visitors with a sense of awe at the magnitude of nature.

Looking a little beyond the ocean lab and the touch tank, the enormous, 90,000-gallon reef and the rare giant Japanese spider crabs attractions that look alive, but look aren't, enchant young and old alike.

A life-size, great white shark hovers menacingly overhead. A colony of penguins made from recycled materials readies itself for a plunge into icy water. A smack of glass jellyfish shines eerily near the stunning glass tile mosaic map, Earth's Oceans. And a giant Pacific octopus stands by, ready to offer hand sanitizer.

These amazing art installations – and many more – were made at the hands of several talented and ambitious BGSU art graduates – Jeremy Link '02 and Douglas Kampfer '07 of Graphite Design + Build, Adam Goldberg '11 and Mike Stevens '12 of Gathered Glass and Sayaka Ganz '08 of Reclaimed Creations. Through their art, these young artists are helping people experience art in places where they may not expect it, and at the same time building their businesses and growing their artistic reputations.





*Glass jellyfish, now known as jellies, shimmer to life in the renovated Toledo Zoo & Aquarium.*

*"We want people to see the glass and make the connection between the zoo and Toledo as the Glass City, and to see that the glass movement is still alive in Toledo."*

**Adam Goldberg**

"Art is everywhere, and should be," said Ganz, who earned a Master of Fine Arts at BGSU in 2008. Known for her art installations that depict animals in motion, Ganz's "Plunge" features the penguins made of serving spoons and forks, spaghetti stirrers, parts of swim fins and many kids' knives and coat hangers. She hopes that once people look more closely "they will see the potential for beauty in discarded plastic items."

"At places like the zoo, you reach a different audience than when you show at a museum or a gallery. People aren't necessarily there to look at the art, but when art unexpectedly catches someone's eyes, the experience can create a deep impression."

That is exactly the reaction Link and Kampfer were hoping for when they created their three-dimensional and often-interactive art for the Toledo Zoo & Aquarium. "We always approach our work thinking about what we wanted to see when we were kids," said Link, who graduated in 2002 with an art degree specializing in computer animation. Kampfer graduated in 2007 with an art degree in three-dimensional studies.

"Both of us have fond memories of the zoos, parks and museums we visited during our childhoods. There are always certain sculptures, drawings or exhibits that inspired us and stuck with us through our lives to help us become the artists we are today. Our goal is to make those sculptures or exhibits that inspire kids to want to learn," Link said.

Goldberg '11 and Stevens '12, three-dimensional studies graduates from the School of Art, had an additional goal when creating Earth's Oceans and the glass jellyfish for the zoo aquarium.

"We want people to see the glass and make the connection between the zoo and Toledo as the Glass City, and to see that the glass movement is still alive in Toledo," Goldberg explained.

This idea of history and continuity was an important part of their concept for the zoo art, and it especially factored into the materials they chose.

"The WPA Building was all built by hand using materials and rocks and a lot of 'found objects,'" Goldberg said. "The mosaic (Earth's Oceans) was designed to be tactile, not perfect, similar to the construction of the WPA."

Goldberg admitted that creating the unique cast glass for the tiles was a team project that required pouring molten glass into stainless steel frames 1,500 times in order to create the multitude of blue/green/bronze-colored glass tiles.

"We want people to feel it, touch it," he said, hoping they will experience the different thicknesses and textures of each of the 1,368 tiles that come together to create the mesmerizing oceanic map.

### Artists as Entrepreneurs

A 2015 article in Inc.com asked: "Who is more entrepreneurial than an artist? They have new ideas. They meet resistance. They have to mobilize support. Half the time they don't even know if they are going to succeed."

These, and so many other BGSU artists have proven that they have the ability to build and take charge of their careers, to create important networks and to move forward. Contributing to this is the addition to the School of Art curriculum of an Arts and Entrepreneurship class, which is an offshoot of the entrepreneurship minor offered through the College of Business Administration to students from any major.

BGSU alumnus Tim Smith '65, who is president of the Medici Circle, was concerned that many of the students graduating from the School of Art — even with their great talent — didn't have any idea how to price their products, how to market them, how to account for them, how to network, etc."

When he suggested the idea of tailoring an entrepreneurship class for students in art, the idea was applauded, but met with some



*The giant Pacific octopus, the work of Graphite Design + Build, lends a tentacle at the hand sanitizer station in the aquarium.*

challenges. He was told that it would take about \$20,000 to develop and teach that curriculum for the first time. Smith met with Susan Conda, a friend and Medici Circle colleague, to seek ideas for finding sponsors for the class. She had to go no further than her parents, Joe and Judith Conda, to find the support for the pilot project. The Condas have been longtime supporters of BGSU, with Joe serving as a member of the BGSU Foundation Board and the two of them supporting such initiatives as Literacy in the Park and the Counseling Center.

This idea of an entrepreneurship class for artists resonated especially with Judith, who had seen a similar project started at the Toledo School for the Arts (TSA), where she sits on the board. "I had seen how successful it was for the TSA students, that I thought it would be a valuable idea for arts students at BGSU.

"We love collaboration and supporting programs that impact students," Conda added. The initiative between the College of

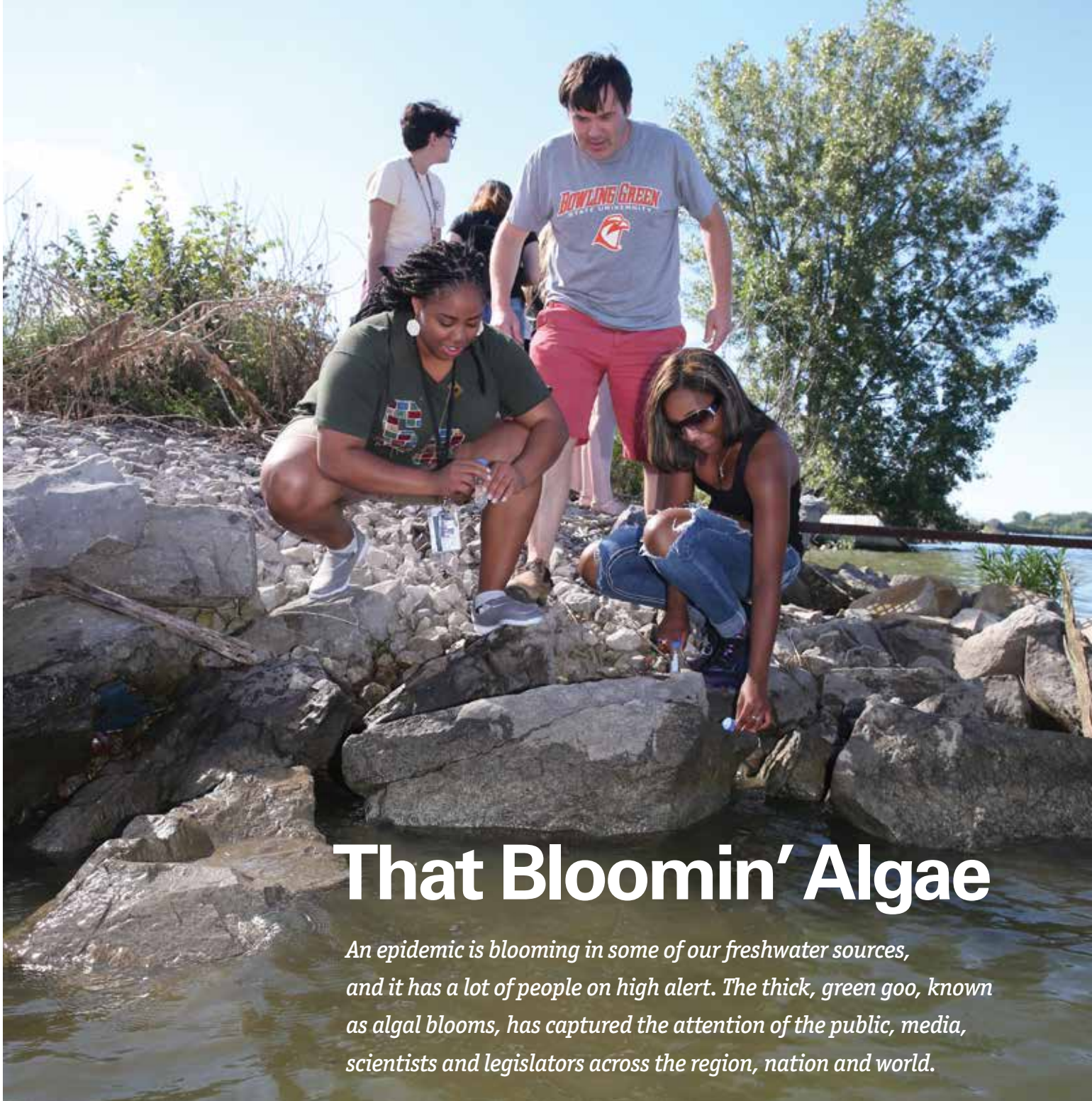
Arts & Sciences, the School of Art and the College of Business Administration was a natural fit for the couple's philanthropy.

"What a wonderful way to teach the breadth of the world and the opportunities that exist for artists who know how to think and act like entrepreneurs," she said.

The first Arts and Entrepreneurship class, offered in spring 2015, was taught by Kirk Kern and Gene Poor '73. They introduced 30 students to the planning, execution and maintenance of arts and arts-related ventures, helping students recognize and pursue opportunities in the burgeoning creative economy. Student feedback indicates that the class was a hit. Chloe Cinibulk, a senior BFA three-dimensional studies major, exclaimed, "Arts and Entrepreneurship was by far one of the best, most helpful and insightful classes I have taken at BGSU."

Katerina Rüedi Ray, director of the School of Art at the time and instrumental in moving the class concept forward, said she looks forward to creating a culture of arts entrepreneurs. Like those who have come before them and built arts businesses, the next generation of art graduates should have a tool kit of ideas and experiences to help them be successful artists and entrepreneurs.





# That Bloomin' Algae

*An epidemic is blooming in some of our freshwater sources, and it has a lot of people on high alert. The thick, green goo, known as algal blooms, has captured the attention of the public, media, scientists and legislators across the region, nation and world.*

While these harmful algal blooms (HABs) are a particular concern in the Lake Erie Basin, impacting the issue is really a global environmental challenge.

After a toxic algal bloom in August 2014 affected the drinking water supply of more than 500,000 residents in the Toledo area, the issue gained widespread exposure.

The public outcry to deal with the issue and to prevent it from happening again prompted local, state and national legislators to get involved. Researchers who have been studying Lake Erie for decades found themselves in the news as the public looked for answers.

Bowling Green State University scientists, already deep into researching the ecology of the lake, realigned their focus on these harmful algal blooms and what makes them turn toxic. Under the leadership of Drs. George Bullerjahn, professor of biology, and Robert Michael McKay, the Ryan Endowed Professor of Biology, BGSU partnered with the National Science Foundation (NSF) and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to sponsor an international workshop to address harmful algal blooms. In April, more than 100 scientists from five countries and 15



*Dr. Mike McKay (center) oversees the collection of water samples by two students.*

states attended “Global Solutions to Regional Problems: Collecting Global Expertise to Address the Problem of Harmful Algal Blooms.”

“The workshop successfully brought together experts who often do not have the opportunity to share ideas on how cyanobacterial blooms form and can be mitigated,” Bullerjahn said. BGSU students worked directly with international scientists during the workshop.

“As a scientific community we have made great strides in what we know about the cyanobacteria and what produces the toxins. We know much about the who, the what, the where and the when, but we know less about the why. We are still trying to understand why they produce these toxic compounds,” said Dr. Tim Davis, a molecular HAB ecologist at NOAA’s Great Lakes Environmental Research Lab. “Harmful algal blooms, while they are an issue, they are the symptom of a larger issue, which is excess nutrients going into our system,” he said.

“The event really put BGSU on the map in terms of this globally important issue,” said McKay. “Devastating, large-scale harmful algal bloom events are becoming increasingly frequent, and in part because of the success of this workshop and the networking opportunities that it provided, BGSU will be looked upon to help lead the fight to mitigate and prevent harmful algal blooms in the future.”

Discussions at the meeting held on the BGSU campus included topics such as the biology of bloom-forming species, environmental factors underlying bloom formation, sensor development in bloom detection, prediction of blooms and best practices for control.

Also during the workshop, the public provided comments to



*Drs. Mike McKay (left) and George Bullerjahn (right) work with a student to check a special buoy that is equipped with sensors to gather and upload data in real time directly to the team’s cellphones.*

submit to Congress as part of the Harmful Algal Bloom and Hypoxia Research and Control Amendment Act of 2014. Many of the attendees expressed a need for better reporting mechanisms, even suggesting that the health of Lake Erie should be included in daily weather reports on local television.

Bullerjahn and McKay’s research is proving invaluable in the gathering and analyzing of information to help determine why the blooms produce toxins. They actively involve both undergraduate and graduate students in their research, providing meaningful educational experiences to the next generation of scientists. Over spring break, the professors took a group of students to Hungary to study Lake Balaton, a freshwater lake that has similar characteristics as Lake Erie.

### **McCluney’s Lab Awarded Grant to Study Algal Blooms**

The BGSU lab of Dr. Kevin McCluney is actively involved in the Lake Erie toxic algal blooms study thanks to a sizable grant from the Ohio Department of Higher Education (formerly the Ohio Board of Regents). McCluney, whose main research focuses on how human alteration of environmental factors influences the dynamics of animals in terrestrial and aquatic food webs and ecosystems, is part of a collaboration with other universities to help determine the sources of phosphorus involved in the recent occurrence of toxic algal blooms. In addition to providing funds to the sample process, the grant also provides support for undergraduate and graduate assistantships at BGSU.



*Biology student gets experience at analyzing water samples from Lake Erie.*



*Dr. James Evans is an international authority on dam research that involves water quality issues.*

The collaboration's early efforts this spring and summer focused on method development in extracting and analyzing phosphorus from the water, McCluney explained. Using field samples from Bullerjahn and McKay's research, McCluney and his assistants have simplified the procedure from 25 steps to make it a much more efficient and manageable process. The majority of water sampling will take place in spring and summer of 2016, McCluney said.

McCluney and his team will be using stable isotopes of oxygen within phosphate molecules to trace the sources of phosphate from algal blooms. To determine the most influential source of phosphorus for algal blooms, he said, they will take samples from enough spaces down the river to see how isotope phosphorous changes. They will look at specific sub-watersheds and specific sources such as wastewater treatment plants or farms that may be contributing to the problem, and will also locate other places in watersheds that are naturally good at removing phosphorus from water systems.

"I like the idea of contributing to something important to a lot of people," McCluney said about the watershed research.

#### **Water Quality an Issue for Dam Project**

BGSU geologist Dr. James Evans also is a voice in water quality issues in Ohio and elsewhere. As a national and international authority on hydrology, engineering geology

and geological hazards related to dams, Evans has been called on to lend his expertise on questions about the removal and rehabilitation of dams.

Evans has been in the news recently in a controversy surrounding the Ballville Dam on the Sandusky River in Fremont, Ohio. The dam, which was found to be structurally unsafe, was to be removed; however the Sierra Club, which usually supports dam removals, wants to stop its removal out of concern that "the release of nutrients trapped in the sediment behind the dam would cause toxic algal blooms downstream in Lake Erie," Evans explained.

The group, which has filed a lawsuit to stop the removal of the dam, proposes that the river first be dredged and then that the built-up sediment be removed before the dam is taken down. "This would add appreciably to the cost of the dam removal and might even prevent the removal from taking place," Evans said.

Evans recommended removing the dam, finding that contaminant levels in the sediment are less than existing levels already in Lake Erie sediments, and that contaminants released by the dam removal would also be diluted before reaching the lake.

Both sides, pro and con, have quoted research conducted by Evans and his students along with other BGSU faculty working collaboratively with University of Toledo faculty and scientists with the Ohio Geological Survey and Ohio EPA.

*"We will determine  
hotspots of biological  
processing and removal  
of phosphorus from  
these watersheds."*

**Kevin McCluney**



COMMUNICATING FOR THE FUTURE

# Renovation Transforms Space for School of Media & Communication



*A new look and a new life come to South Hall. Renderings of the new home of the BGSU School of Media & Communication include the outside view of South Hall with the addition on the west side and the main lobby area with the convergence lab in the background.*

**An exciting renovation of South Hall is currently underway.**

Upon completion in fall 2016, the \$24 million transformation and expansion will make South Hall the new home of the BGSU School of Media & Communication.

The School of Media & Communication brings together the disciplines of communication, journalism and public relations, and telecommunications programming and curricula adaptive to the 21st century. Faculty, students and media professionals employ critical thinking, discovery and analytic skills while leveraging the values and traditions of a liberal arts education in recognizing and responding to emerging trends in a dynamic marketplace.



*The convergence lab will offer students a state-of-the-art space for new media and technology.*

The new South Hall design focuses on content development, editing and delivery using digital tools and a high-speed intranet. The building features signature spaces, including a multiplatform convergence lab, audio/video/production suites, conference facilities, media effects lab, recording and broadcast studios and collaboration spaces—all equipped with state-of-the-art, professional-grade equipment and technology. The new facility will be home to BGSU's student-run media outlets, including the nationally recognized newspaper BGNews, WFAL radio and On-Air BG24 News, all of which provide students with real-world, hands-on training and technical experience.

#### **Be a Part of BGSU's Exciting Future**

Private support is an important part of the college's mission to provide the measure of difference in educational quality that enables students to work collaboratively across programs and disciplines in



*South Hall becomes a new 'front door' for campus on Wooster Street.*

innovative spaces with the latest technology. You can be a part of the South Hall Renovation Project and make a difference for the next generation of media and communication professionals.

For more information about the new home for the School of Media & Communication and the opportunities to support this exciting renovation and expansion project, contact Tina Shunk, Director of Development, 419-372-2424, [tshunk@bgsu.edu](mailto:tshunk@bgsu.edu).



# Awards

## COLLEGE RECOGNIZES Outstanding Alumna Sara Lioi

The Honorable Sara Lioi was named the 2015 recipient of the College Alumni Award. Lioi, who graduated from BGSU in 1983 with a degree in political science, is a U.S. District Court Article III Federal Judge for the Northern District of Ohio. She joined the court in 2007 after being appointed by President George W. Bush.

While at BGSU, Lioi was named the Distinguished Undergraduate Political Science Major, received the prestigious Nordmann Award and was recognized by numerous honor societies, including the first Phi Beta Kappa class. She earned a Juris Doctor degree from The Ohio State University in 1987.

From 1987 to 1997 she practiced law at Day, Ketterer, Raley, Wright & Rybolt, Ltd., in Canton, Ohio. In December 1997 Ohio Gov. George V. Voinovich appointed Lioi to fill a judicial vacancy on the Stark County Court of Common Pleas. The following year she was elected to the position and served on that court until March 14, 2007, when she received her commission to serve on the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Ohio.

Lioi is a member of the Federal Judges Association, Federal Bar Association, American Bar Association, Ohio State Bar Association and Stark County Bar Association. She is chair of the Sisters of Charity Foundation of Canton Board of Directors and also serves on the Walsh University Board of Directors and The Ohio State University Moritz College of Law National Advisory Council.



*Outstanding Alumna Sara Lioi accepts her award from Raymond A. Craig, dean of the College of Arts & Sciences.*

## EXCELLENCE AWARDS A&S Faculty, Staff Honored

Several College of Arts & Sciences faculty and staff earned University honors at the 2015 Faculty Excellence Awards ceremony:

■ **Dr. Robert Michael (Mike) McKay**, Ryan Professor of Biology, was presented the 2015 Olscamp Research Award.

■ **Dr. Susan L. Brown**, chair of the Department of Sociology and co-director of the National Center for Family and Marriage Research, was awarded the title Professor of

Research Excellence. Full professors who have established a robust record of research and publication or artistic and creative achievements in their disciplines are honored with this distinction.

■ **Leigh-Ann Pahapill**, associate professor in the School of Art, received the 2015 Elliott L. Blinn Award for Faculty-Undergraduate Student Innovative Basic Research/Creative Work.

■ **Robert Kline**, academic adviser in the College of Arts & Sciences, received the 2015 President's Award for Academic Advising of Undergraduate Students.

■ **Dr. Kate Magsamen-Conrad**, an assistant professor in the School of Media & Communication, received a President's Award for Collaborative Research and Creative Work for her research into Intergroup Communication Intervention.

## UNDER NEW LEADERSHIP Outreach to Industry

The new director of the Center for Photochemical Sciences plans to raise its visibility and extend its outreach at the local, regional, national and international levels. Dr. Malcolm D. E. Forbes comes to BGSU from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, after 25 years of distinguished research, teaching and mentoring.

During his first month at the center, he co-chaired the Gordon Research Conference in Photochemical Sciences, one of the premier photochemical sciences conferences, and established numerous connections with companies, other laboratories in the region and funding agencies.

One exciting opportunity he and his team are exploring is working with the Ohio Federal Military Jobs Commission Research Centers of Excellence in the area of materials and advanced manufacturing. As Forbes explained, the center could be among the top research centers involved in the state's initiative to leverage state, federal and other funds for research that supports economic development and job growth.

The BGSU Center for Photochemical Sciences brings together research faculty from the departments of chemistry, physics and astronomy, and biological

## Scholarly Visibility

The Center for Photochemical Sciences was front and center at the 2015 Gordon Research Conference on Photochemistry held in July at Stone Hill College in Easton, Mass.

Dr. Malcolm D.E. Forbes, new director of BGSU's Center for Photochemical Sciences, was co-chair of the conference, and two BGSU faculty members, Dr. Alexis Ostrowski, an assistant professor of chemistry, and Dr. Mikhail Zamkov, an associate professor of physics and astronomy, were invited lecturers.

Additionally, a poster by Dr. Jeremy Klosterman, assistant professor of chemistry, was selected as one of the top five posters at the conference out of 133 submitted posters, resulting in an invitation to speak about his poster topic.



*Dr. Malcolm D.E. Forbes is the new director of the BGSU Center for Photochemical Sciences.*

sciences who share interests and expertise in the interaction of light with matter. Previous research from the center has resulted in practical applications such as the use of light to induce chemical reactions, the design of sensors for explosives and the development of drugs with light-based readouts.

"The center has a rigorous and deeply scientific environment," Forbes said about his decision to take the position. "There is already a great nucleus of people in place at BGSU with broadly based scientific interests." He pointed out that the center is "unique, as the only institution in the world that grants a Ph.D. degree in photochemical sciences." Currently, about 55 students are enrolled in the center's doctoral program.

A collaborating faculty member in the center is Dr. H. Peter Lu, an Ohio Eminent Scholar who has made significant advances in high-resolution microscopy that allows single enzyme molecules to be studied as they undergo structural changes while catalyzing chemical reactions. Lu's research contributions were recently recognized by his election as a Fellow of the American Physical Society.

Forbes plans to leverage the successes of the past and expand the collaborations across disciplines to help the center "grow up and out." Over the next several years, he looks forward to adding at least one senior-level scientist to the faculty as well as several new junior faculty, allowing him to mentor the next generation of leaders in the field of photochemistry.

"His experiences in the lab and working with faculty around the world will enhance the good work that is already being done here and secure the center's reputation as a premier facility," said Dr. Raymond Craig, dean of the College of Arts & Sciences.



## HUBER Shares Computer Vision Expertise

BGSU neuroscientist Dr. Robert Huber is sharing his expertise with colleagues at Harvard University this year as a Fellow of the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Studies. Best known at BGSU for his research into the neurochemistry of behavioral phenomena such as aggression and addiction in crayfish, Huber also has specialized experience in computer vision, which he will apply to Harvard's quantitative behavioral study of *Drosophila*, or fruit flies.



"Breakthroughs and innovations in science and technology very often occur at the intersection of different fields, so the fostering of new collaborations within the center, as well as externally, is critical for our future success," he said.

**More about Malcolm Forbes:** He is a spectroscopist by training, and his research focuses on the structure, reactivity and dynamics of free radicals. His work is the topic of more than 100 publications and 150 presentations nationally and internationally. Throughout his career, Forbes has earned numerous honors and awards, including a National Science Foundation (NSF) Young Investigator Award and an NSF Postdoctoral Fellowship.

Forbes's research program is highly interdisciplinary, collaborative and international in scope. As a J. W. Fulbright Senior Scholar in 2008, he was a visiting professor at the International Tomography Center at Novosibirsk State University in Russia. And as a Japan Society for the Promotion of Science Foreign Fellow, he visited Tohoku University in 1997 and Shizuoka University in 2004.

Over the past three decades, he has secured over \$5 million in funding, the majority from the NSF, as well as from private foundations and industry. From 2011-14, Forbes served as a program officer at NSF, overseeing a budget of \$18 million across many Division of Chemistry programs. "I learned an enormous amount about good grantsmanship in a very short time," Forbes said of his tenure at the agency.

## PARTNERSHIP Fosters Forensic Science

When the Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) opened its facility on BGSU's campus last fall, the Center for the Future of Forensic Science also was introduced.

The partnership between the Ohio Attorney General's Office and BGSU established the center to foster innovative forensic scientific research and create training opportunities for forensic professionals and for students in forensic science-related fields. The center focuses on the applied needs of forensic disciplines to drive research development and advance forensic science.

Dr. Jon E. Sprague, the center's first director, brings a wealth of scientific knowledge and expertise to the position. Most recently, Sprague served as the University Director of Academic Research and Head of Pharmaceutical Sciences for the College of Pharmacy at Ferris State University. Before joining Ferris State, he served as dean and professor of pharmacology at the Raabe College of Pharmacy at Ohio Northern University. He received his Ph.D. in pharmacology and toxicology from Purdue University, where he was also on the faculty in the College of Pharmacy.

"The Ohio Attorney General's Center for the Future of Forensic Science will help train a new generation of forensic scientists and also advance research and scientific discoveries," said Ohio Attorney General Michael DeWine.

## ANTHONY DOERR Light Shines on Doerr for Pulitzer Win

The 2015 Pulitzer Prize for fiction was awarded to Anthony Doerr '99 for his best-selling novel "All the Light We Cannot See."

The novel, more than 10 years in the making, is about World War II, the parallel stories of a blind French girl and a young German soldier, a mythical diamond, the power of radio and the ways people try to be good to one another.

"All the Light We Cannot See," published by Scribner, hit the New York Times best seller list at No. 10 on May 18, 2014 and rose to No. 1 eight months later.

Doerr, an alumnus of BGSU's Creative Writing program, explained that the story is about radio and the way it was used as a tool of both control and resistance during World War II. "But it's also about the lives of children, he said, about color and light, and about wonder." The book's central theme arises out of a question that one of the character asks: "Is it right to do something just because everyone else is doing it?"

According to Doerr, the book took a decade to write because of the intricate historical details that went into the storytelling, which required significant research. "I was working in the late 1930s and early 1940s and didn't immediately know, for example, what sort of meals German orphans would be eating in 1937, or what a blind French girl's schooling situation might be like, or if there were refrigerators in Parisian kitchens in 1940, or electric lamps on the streets of a mining town in Germany, etc."

The subject matter was difficult as well. "The Nazi regime committed atrocities on so many different levels, and reading about them in such detail tended to make me feel lousy," Doerr said. So I wrote two whole books ("Memory Wall" and "Four Seasons in Rome") just as procrastination from writing this novel, really as a way to take a breath and step away from the material."

As part of his research, Doerr took multiple trips to Europe to visit the sites and to get a feel for the place and the people.

Doerr received a Master of Fine Arts in creative writing from BGSU and in 2010 was named one of the University's 100 Most Prominent Alumni. He has won four O. Henry Prizes, three Pushcart Prizes, the Barnes &



*BGSU alumnus Anthony Doerr wins the Pulitzer Prize for fiction.*

Noble Discover Prize, the Rome Prize, the New York Public Library's Young Lions Award, a Guggenheim Fellowship, a National Endowment for the Arts fellowship, the National Magazine Award for Fiction, the Pacific Northwest Book Award, three Ohioana Book Awards, the 2010 Story Prize, considered the most prestigious prize in the U.S. for a collection of short stories, and the Sunday Times EFG Short Story Award (the largest prize in the world for a single short story.) His books have twice been named a New York Times Notable Book and an American Library Association Book of the Year, among making many other year-end "Best of" lists.

Doerr lives in Boise, Idaho, with his wife and two sons.

## THEATRE ALUMNUS Lights Up the Stage

Christopher Moeller '08 is the man behind the lights for some major New York City productions. Moeller, who earned a bachelor's degree in design and technical theatre, is a production electrician whose work has included lighting for two main stages at the New Year's Eve celebration in Times Square and live television shows, one of which was the NBC productions of "The Sound of Music" starring Carrie Underwood, and "Peter Pan," starring Allison Williams.

He maintains that hard work and networking with fellow BGSU alumni and others in the industry have been key to his success thus far. He credits his professors for providing solid foundations, and his involvement in the Falcon Marching Band, Kappa Kappa Psi and Phi Kappa Psi for teaching him how to manage his time, and communicate with others effectively working toward a common goal.





## ARTS Showcase

At the Bravo! BGSU gala in March, funds were raised to support scholarships for students in the University's arts programs. The event, sponsored by PNC Bank, celebrated the quality and vibrancy of the University's arts programs through student, faculty and alumni performances, readings, exhibitions, presentations and demonstrations. Next year's Bravo! BGSU celebration will be held April 2, 2016.

## ON TO THE NEXT ACT Mariah Burks wins national award

Musical theatre student Mariah Burks wowed the judges at the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival held in April in Washington, D.C., where she won the national Irene Ryan Acting Scholarship.

"I am thrilled and honored," said Burks. "Being at the Kennedy Center competing with the best from all over the country was amazing. It was truly a mind-blowing experience when we won!"

Gregg Henry, artistic director of the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival, said "Our judges were looking for the complete package—a strong range, a big heart, great collaboration. Everyone at the national level had those things, but no one was surprised that Mariah won. She stood out in all areas, leading the pack in spirit as well as ability."

As winner of the Irene Ryan Scholarship, Burks, a senior at the time, received a \$5,000 scholarship. Currently she is continuing her theatre studies at Case Western Reserve University. Burks' partner, David Baker, also a BGSU senior at the time, received a \$1,000 scholarship; he is currently working in New York City.

"Going to the national level, performing on the Kennedy Center stage and helping Mariah win first place was one of the best highlights of my college and professional career thus far," said Baker.



*Mariah Burks and David Baker celebrate success at Kennedy Center festival.*

### EBONEE JOHNSON Thinking Globally. Acting Locally

Thinking globally is a big part of Ebonee Johnson's life. But acting locally is just as important.

From the mission trip she took to the Dominican Republic at the age of 16 to the semester she spent studying abroad at the Institut Catholique de Paris last year, Johnson takes seriously her mission to acquaint herself with the world.

The Detroit native is a member of the Sidney A. Ribeau President's Leadership Academy (PLA), which is a four-year leadership and development program that engages students in workshops, classes, experiential learning and community service. The international studies major hopes her global experiences will inform her future career in international affairs, foreign policy or national security.

"One of my biggest dreams would be to be the one sitting in the situation room, advising the president," said Johnson. "I would love to be a policy analyst or a political adviser."

In the meantime, Johnson is learning a lot about how government and policy-making work at more local levels through her work on the University's Undergraduate Student Senate (USG) and the Student Budget Committee.

During her three-year term on USG, she served as the organization's City, State and National Liaison, a role that required her to stay up-to-date on what's happening in legislation at local, state and national levels in order to keep students aware of issues that could affect them.

In addition to those responsibilities, she also serves as president of the International Relations Organization, which participates in the annual American Model U.N. conference.

After she graduates from BGSU, Johnson plans to pursue a master's degree related to international or security policy.

"Through PLA, I have felt so encouraged to do more and be more in this world."

*"Being able to experience different cultures and see things from the perspectives of different societies is a big part of why I love international studies."*

Ebonee Johnson



President's Leadership Academy helped Ebonee Johnson feel "encouraged to do more and be more in the world."



(Left to right) Dr. Peggy Booth, associate dean of the Graduate College; Dr. Wendy Manning, professor of sociology; and Dr. Tracy McCaudy, superintendent of Fremont Local Schools discuss the recent Fremont Study, which looks at various factors that impact student success in middle school and high school. Fremont Schools faculty and staff discussed some of the findings during a summer conference at BGSU, and are implementing some of the recommendations this fall in their classrooms.





*Meredith Barnes and Dr. Shannon Orr*

## CLASS PROJECT For Love, Money and Land Trusts

A class project to help a local land conservancy group turned into a helpful fundraising resource for nonprofit organizations.

Students in Dr. Shannon Orr's Environmental Management class worked with the Black Swamp Conservancy (Perrysburg, Ohio) to identify best practices for fundraising. The class wrote an academic paper outlining tangible steps that are effective in creating support that range from attracting and retaining new donors to following through on assessments and analyses. Not only did the organization benefit, but because the paper was published in *New Visions for Public Affairs*, a student-run, peer-reviewed journal, other organizations have access to the new resource.

According to Orr, the article fills a knowledge gap. Master of Public Affairs students Meredith Barnes, Tara Schuler, Tao Tang, Sarah Tekle and Christopher Van Newhouse conducted a Web-based national survey of all other U.S. land trusts to see what works, how much time it takes, what the challenges are and what advice they had to offer.

## GRUNDEN SHARES Expertise on Chemical Weapons

Of all the weapons of war, toxic chemicals are the most frightening and the least well understood among the general public in the United States, said Dr. Walter Grunden, an associate professor of history and an expert on military history. From mustard gas to napalm to Agent Orange, many countries have used chemical weapons at some point or are still using them, and a disturbing number of them are still in storage today.

A specialist in policy history, Grunden presented "No Retaliation in Kind: Japanese Chemical Weapons Policy in China and the Pacific" at the recent international conference at the Max Planck Institute in Berlin, commemorating the 100th anniversary of the use of chemical warfare in Ypres, Belgium, during World War I.

"While the use at Ypres may be an event that few Americans may recognize as significant today, it is still very important and relevant in Europe," Grunden said. "One wonders how many Americans had a grandfather or great-grandfather affected by chemical weapons in WW I and do not even know it now."



*Dr. Walter Grunden, history faculty member and expert on military history*

### VIETNAM: Explaining America's Lost War

Was the Vietnam War “lost” because it was unwinnable from the beginning or because of blunders in strategy and leadership? Those are the questions addressed in the second edition of Dr. Gary Hess’s book “Vietnam: Explaining America’s Lost War.” Hess, Distinguished Research Professor Emeritus of History and a nationally known authority on U.S. foreign relations, revised and updated his 2008 book that is part of Wiley Blackwell’s “Contesting the Past” series.

Additional research since publication of the first edition has “broadened our understanding of how historians interpret the war,” Hess said. His new conclusion examines the competing lessons of the war as interpreted by military leaders, political scientists, policy makers, journalists and others and the ways in which those interpretations of the war have influenced national security policy over the last 40 years.

### DISSECTING VIEWS on the American Revolution

In his new book, “Fighting over the Founders: How We Remember the American Revolution,” Dr. Andrew Schocket, history professor and director of BGSU’s American Culture Studies program, looks at the ways in which the Founders have been put to use by politicians and the judiciary, schools, the media and popular culture to promote, even unconsciously, their particular agendas. The Revolution has become a “battleground for debating what the nation is about and who belongs to it,” Schocket said.

Published in late January 2015 by New York University Press, “Fighting over the Founders” has received much attention in the media. It was excerpted on the front page of Salon on Presidents’ Day and reviewed in such publications as Public Books, Publishers Weekly and the National Journal. Schocket has been interviewed on WAMC’s “The Roundtable,” Sirius Radio’s “Signorile Show,” and on KERA’s “Think.”



*Dr. Jolie Sheffer and graduate student Joshua Catalano*

### RESEARCH SHEDS New Light On The ‘60s

The 50th anniversary of the civil rights movement and Freedom Summer is important for Ohio, said Dr. Jolie Sheffer, English and American Culture Studies, because the training sessions for volunteers took place at Western College for Women in Oxford (now part of Miami of Ohio).

Research by Sheffer and her students resulted in a journal article by a master’s student and a digital gallery on the University Libraries site. The research illuminates one of the most interesting eras in recent memory and makes available to readers documents and other information.

Sheffer is taking an intense look at the period and the current fascination Americans have with that time — particularly people who did not experience it themselves or were not yet mature enough to be conscious of current events. In our trying to “recapture an essence of the ‘60s,” the era has taken on a patina of nostalgia and aesthetic beauty that often reduces and represents the political and social struggles in terms of personal relationships, she said.

### PARENTING TIME Quality Outplays Quantity

BGSU undergraduate and graduate students are working with Dr. Kei Nomaguchi to study the importance of quality vs. quantity of time for parents and their children. Nomaguchi, associate professor of sociology, received a grant from the National Institute for Child and Human Development to support her research on the social and interpersonal environments and parent-child relationship quality from preschool to adolescence.

The April issue of the Journal of Marriage and Family includes the study, which is the first large-scale longitudinal study of parent time. The finding purports that the amount of time parents spend with their children between the ages of 3 and 11 has “virtually no relationship to how children turn out, and a minimal effect on adolescents.” Parent time is important, but quality of time results in positive outcomes for children more than quantity of time.

Additionally, Nomaguchi points out in a March 28 Washington Post article about the study that mothers who are stressed as they try to juggle work and find time to spend with their children may be affecting their children poorly.





2015 Bioethics Bowl team members Ashley Van Order, Mikayla Keating, William Kennedy, Jacob Moor with coach Dr. Ian Young. Co-coach Christian Coons is not pictured.

## BIOETHICS Dilemmas Debated

BGSU's four-member Bioethics Bowl team made it to the "elite eight" in the National Undergraduate Bioethics Bowl competition hosted by Florida State University in Tallahassee this spring.

Members Ashley Van Order, Mikayla Keating, William Kennedy and Jacob Moore won five of their nine debates and placed eighth overall in the competition. In the first round, the BGSU undergrads defeated teams from the University of Miami and Loyola University Chicago and narrowly lost to Dartmouth College. In the quarterfinal round, the team lost to the University of Denver.

The competition was part of the annual National Undergraduate Bioethics Conference, focusing on Global Medicine, Social Justice and Bioethics. Among the bioethical dilemmas the BGSU team debated in the bowl were case studies about an individual who refuses his psychotropic medications (Loyola Chicago), the possibility of creating a "love pill" to help people form and maintain attachments with each other (University of Miami), and the refusal to force-feed detainees at Guantanamo Bay (Dartmouth). During the quarterfinal competition, the team presented on the case about clinical trials for the Ebola virus. Debates were judged on deliberative thoughtfulness, identification and discussion of central ethical dimensions and clarity and intelligibility.

Philosophy faculty members Dr. Ian Young and Dr. Christian Coons coach the BGSU Bioethics Bowl team.

## MENTORING YOUTH Effort Makes Impact

Dr. Sherona Garrett-Ruffin, a lecturer of psychology, and a number of BGSU students spend many Saturday mornings each semester at the Juvenile Residential Center of Northwest Ohio. Garrett-Ruffin developed a service-learning project for first-year students that takes them into the facility to serve as peer mentors for male youth offenders between 12 and 18 years of age.

Her program, called Teen Mentors, has a successful track record for the past four years, providing valuable experiences for both the first-year students enrolled in BGSU's Chapman Learning Community @ Kohl and the center's residents. For her efforts leading a student-based initiative related to diversity, Garrett-Ruffin earned the BGSU College of Arts & Sciences Diversity Award.

First-year students from any major



participate in Garret-Ruffin's project. Usually, five to seven students go with her to the facility where they offer "therapy-inspired activities" in a group setting to anywhere from three

to 13 residents. The lessons learned are on both sides — students see diversity training firsthand within the facility, and the residents witness positive social behaviors and leadership modeling by the University students.

According to Bridget Ansberg, director of the center, "The Teen Mentors program has had such an impact on the residents in the four years Sherona has run it that it has become an integral part of the residents' treatment plan."

## MADDI GEORGOFF

### Working Toward a World Without Injustices

As a self-described “timid sophomore,” Madison “Maddi” Georgoff decided to plan a small service trip to Detroit. There in the midst of the stress, confusion and excitement of planning her first alternative break for BGSU students, Georgoff discovered her true passion: community service.

“Something that I really discovered at Bowling Green is that there is good to be done in the world and it doesn’t have to be done alone,” said Georgoff, who graduated in May with a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology degree.

#### Foundations in Service

Georgoff had been involved in community service even before coming to BGSU which influenced her decision to live in the BGSU Chapman Learning Community@ Kohl as a freshman. This award-winning, high impact program for first-year students of all majors, offered the Millbury, Ohio, native opportunities to connect with professors and to work on service-learning field projects for a variety of populations.

As a sophomore, she was accepted into the Civic Action Leaders program, a three-year scholarship-internship program for students involved in community service, civic engagement and social justice. It was during that experience she realized “the power of education, advocacy and service.”

#### Life-changing Experience

Among Georgoff’s first assignments as a Civic Action Leader was the organizing of an alternative break for BGSU students. In preparation for this, she attended an alternative break conference in Detroit in 2013 where she connected with other university students from across the country who were involved in alternative break programs.

“During that week, I realized that the alternative break movement that BGSU was joining is incredible. It was something that I knew I wanted to be a part of and had grown a passion for — a passion that would change my life,” she explained in a blog.

For her, the magic of an alternative break is found within the connections made between the communities and the group of student volunteers.



“When students completely immerse themselves in the experience of an alternative break, a new level of learning is achieved,” she said. “Stereotypes are crushed, social issues are confronted and active citizens are born.”

#### Dedication and Hard Work Rewarded

Georgoff admitted that her first year trying to establish the Bowling Green State University Alternative Break program (bGAB) was rough. But her goal to set a standard for future alternative breaks at BGSU kept her motivated and forward looking.

It didn’t take long for her to identify a small executive board of student leaders who also believed in the mission. The group’s first trip was to Detroit, where Georgoff already had established strong connections and had gained an early understanding of the city’s plight. Fourteen BGSU students spent four days of fall break 2013 focused on the issues and effects of poverty and homelessness.

Georgoff was rewarded for her efforts when she was named the winner of a 2015 Campus Compact Newman Civic Fellows Award, which recognizes students’ “public involvement and . . . motivation to create lasting change.” She is one of 201 student leaders from colleges nationwide to receive the prestigious award.

“Maddi’s passion and commitment to work for social justice attracted her to the sociology major,” said Dr. Margaret Weinberger, a lecturer and undergraduate adviser for the Department of Sociology. “She actively sought ways to serve the community, and she learned as she served.

“Her experiences supported her academic work, making her a well-informed and compassionate student, able to think critically and apply sociological research within a humanistic framework,” Weinberger stated.

Since graduating in May, Georgoff has continued her advocacy work as the Parent Engagement and Resource Coordinator for Toledo Public Schools’ Partners in Education.



# Dean's Circle

## 2014 and 2015

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Keep your classmates and the University current on your achievements. These will be submitted to the BGSU magazine. The BGSU Magazine receives multiple submissions for the Alumni Notes section of each issue. It is not the practice to print engagement, marriage or birth announcements. BGSU reserves the right to edit or omit any information submitted.

A convenient online form is available at [bgsu.edu/casalumninews](http://bgsu.edu/casalumninews).

## Brenda Hollis to deliver Alumni Lecture at Homecoming

A beloved American tradition, Homecoming, unites BGSU alumni and students with a common goal: to experience and encourage pride in our school and traditions old and new.

With this year's theme – "Once a Falcon, Always a Falcon" – the College of Arts & Sciences welcomes '68 BGSU alumna Col. Brenda Hollis to present the College's Alumni Lecture during Homecoming Week. Hollis, whose distinguished career led to her being named to the International Criminal Tribunal, including the Special Court for Sierra Leone and the International

Criminal Tribunals for Rwanda and Yugoslavia, will present "Dictators on Trial," which focuses on the motivation for and importance of trying dictators for their crimes. Her talk will begin at 1 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 16 in the Pallister Room, in the William T. Jerome Library. The event is free and open to the public, however, space is limited. Please register early at [bgsu.edu/hollis](http://bgsu.edu/hollis).



The College also will host a tent in the Falcon Tailgate Park near Doyt Perry Stadium on Saturday from 12-3 p.m., prior to the football game, pitting the Falcons against the Akron Zips. There is no cost or registration needed to visit the tent. Please stop by for conversation and food. Football tickets are available at [bgsufalcons.com/tickets](http://bgsufalcons.com/tickets) or by calling 877-BGSUTICKET (247-8842).