

Connexus

Connexus ~ Latin ~ bound together by ties of friendship, kinship, etc.

Spring 2007

From the Dean

There is so much going on in the College of Education and Human Development, and I am pleased to highlight just a few of those activities in this edition of *Connexus*.

From reading and literacy advancement to democratic education and the work being done by the Institute for Child and Family Policy, I believe we are making a big difference in our community, country and world.

A new program called parent/professional empowerment is the partnership between families and professionals in which families are encouraged to make choices and engage in collaborative decision making with professionals. This is an exciting opportunity to further educate our students and the parents of children with disabilities.

Among other happenings, you will read about speakers like Eddie Daniels, a South African freedom fighter who visited BGSU this past fall, and programs such as the BGSU Dance Program gala that is planned for this coming spring.

External funding combined with the generosity and cooperation of our faculty, staff, alumni and donors, enable us to continue to positively affect the lives of thousands of people, now and in the future. Thank you so much for your support in this important endeavor.

Josué Cruz Jr.



South African freedom fighter visits BGSU

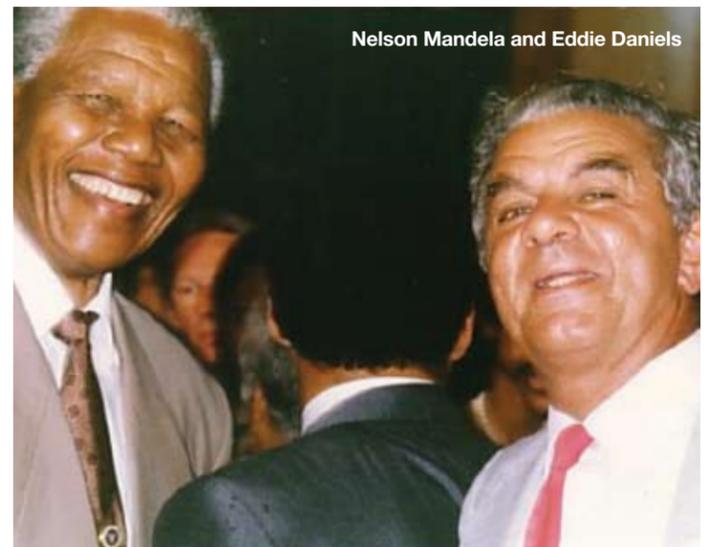
In October an audience of more than 200 BGSU students, faculty and community members listened attentively to Eddie Daniels, a South African freedom fighter and former prison mate of Nelson Mandela.

Daniels, who was imprisoned on Robben Island because of his opposition to apartheid, spoke about growing up in racially segregated South Africa, the fight to end apartheid, his life in prison and the new era that has begun for South Africa.

Dr. Patty Kubow (School of Leadership and Policy Studies) met Daniels during her recent sabbatical in South Africa and arranged his visit to BGSU. After the lecture, Kubow said that Daniels inspired many students to think about how they could make a difference in the world. She explained, "You could see, through their questions and comments later, the light bulbs going on."

During his lecture tour at BGSU, Daniels shared his personal story of the liberation struggle with graduate students and pre-service teachers, and he brought his message of

anti-racialism and justice to the greater northwest Ohio community when he spoke to more than 100 local high school seniors and seventh graders.



Nelson Mandela and Eddie Daniels

Institute reaches out to community

The School of Family and Consumer Sciences' new Institute for Child and Family Policy (ICFP) is providing a myriad of services and resources to agencies in the local community and across the state of Ohio.

The institute's mission is to strengthen connections between research, policy and practice through non-partisan summaries of topical family and child research, insightful policy analysis and support for research on the impacts of social policy on children and their families. In this respect, the institute serves as a primary form of outreach for the College of Education and Human Development and reflects a commitment to providing research and services that will improve the quality of life for children in Ohio.

The institute has already taken on a number of projects including development of a program evaluation model for the Wood County Family and Children First Council, a survey of middle school-aged children for the BG Partners organization, a comprehensive program evaluation for the Ottawa County Juvenile Court, and additional evaluation and planning programs for the Lucas County Kinship Navigator Program and Adopt America Network. Through each of these projects, the institute is able to provide services and resources not otherwise available to the various agencies as they explore new policy and programmatic interventions.

ICFP also is reaching out to state legislators and members of Ohio's Congressional delegation. Institute staff are presently developing a number of policy briefs in response to legislative inquiries. In addition to these briefs, ICFP will conduct an initial seminar addressing the issue of school readiness for state legislators and legislative staff this March. The only policy institute of its kind in Ohio, ICFP has received wide bipartisan support from several Ohio elected officials including BGSU alumni Sen. Randy Gardner '81, '87 and Rep. Robert Latta '78.

For additional information, refer to www.bgsu.edu/colleges/edhd/icfp.

Empowerment project unites parents, professionals

A unique project in one of the School of Intervention Services (SIS) classes is creating a special collaboration in the classroom.

Students in the Consultation and Collaboration with Colleagues and Families class (EDIS 424) enjoy the class so much they say they don't want to miss the class. The key to keeping their interest is that parents of children with disabilities have been added to the class as part of the parent/professional empowerment project.

This past fall, the school and the Lucas County Board of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities (LCBMRDD) partnered to create a project where parents join pre-service teachers in class. The project was designed to provide training to a core group of parents along with university students about the skills necessary to work together more effectively to provide services and support for children with disabilities.

Mary Murray, assistant professor in the School of Intervention Services, co-teaches the class with Timothy Floyd, family support specialist from the Lucas County board and a parent of a child with a disability. The parents attend and participate in all of the class activities and discussions. As a culminating project, teams of students and parents present topics related to empowerment to BGSU students, educators and parents in the Lucas County community.

Upon completion of the course, the parents provide training to other parents in the community on the subject of parent/professional empowerment. In addition, the students are better prepared to collaborate with parents.

With more than 35 pre-service teachers and six parents of children with disabilities in each section of the class with up to three sections each semester, it is hoped that hundreds of students and parents will be reached with important information about parent/professional empowerment, which will benefit thousands of children with disabilities in the future.

This project was funded by the Partnerships for Community Action (PCA) and the Center for Innovative and Transformative Education (CITE) and will be supported by the LCBMRDD for the coming year.

For additional information, contact Mary Murray at 419-372-7288 or mmurray@bgsu.edu.

IDEI RECEIVES \$1 MILLION FOR DEMOCRATIC EDUCATION

From Poland to Ukraine and South Africa to Russia, the International Democratic Education Institute (IDEI) is working to educate the world about democracy.

Recently, IDEI was awarded more than \$1 million from the Higher Education Development program office of the U.S. Agency for International Development. The grant will enable the institute to conduct the Civic Education Partnership Initiative in Lebanon and Morocco. This partnership will assist educators in developing educational curriculum to promote democratic citizenship.

Based on the positive comments and variety of activities the faculty members

have participated in this year, their efforts are making a difference.

"In some ways the Poland-Ohio partnership embodies the core ideals of the program," said Deborah Price, deputy secretary of the U.S. Department of Education, during her remarks at this year's World Congress in Poland. Representatives from nearly every state in the United States and from more than 50 countries attended this year's congress including IDEI faculty members Drs. Leigh Chiarelott, Alden Craddock, John Fischer, Nancy Patterson and Awad Ibrahim.

"Over the 10 years of this partnership, the Polish and United States partners have continued to redefine the

next challenge to democratic citizenship education and work in a collaborative manner to bring about positive change in teaching and learning about democracy," Price continued.

The institute also participates in many engagement activities on a local and international level. Five educators from South Africa visited Bowling Green this past fall to participate in the CIVITAS Africa program. The purpose of the South African educators' visit was to share their experiences with educational transformation and focus on youth engagement and empowerment.

For additional information about IDEI, refer to www.bgsu.edu/colleges/edhd/idei.

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Focus on an Advocate: Myrna Bryan

After 30 years serving in the Toledo (Ohio) Public Schools, Myrna Bryan is retired, but far from inactive, especially in education. During her career, she served as an elementary teacher; reading teacher, consultant and supervisor; as well as director of Toledo Public Schools' diagnostic reading center.

After receiving her bachelor's degree in elementary education and master's degree in education administration from the University of Toledo, she became one of the first people in the Toledo area to receive her state certification as a reading supervisor. Dr. Joseph Nemeth, director of BGSU's Martha Gesling Weber Reading Center from 1965 to 1985, was one of her teachers and mentors.

She met David, her husband of 35 years, when they were teachers in Toledo during the Vietnam War era. Together, they are long-time supporters of the University, supporting initiatives ranging from athletics to the arts. They also are major donors to the Martha Gesling Weber Reading Center's Literacy Studio (see related story below).

Currently, Myrna serves on the EDHD Advocates Board, and David, with Myrna's assistance, is chair of the Medici Circle, the patrons'



Myrna Bryan

society in support of the School of Art.

"Professionally, I am most proud of serving as the president of the International Reading Association of Northwest Ohio, developing and supervising the first approved extended-day kindergarten in Ohio and my work in Toledo's diagnostic reading center," explained Myrna. "As far as personally, I am especially proud of the work I have done with the Toledo Symphony League as the president and currently a corporate fund raiser."

When Myrna isn't volunteering for the Advocates Board or the Toledo Symphony League, she enjoys gardening, golfing, attending concerts and operas, and cheering on BGSU athletes, especially basketball.

"With her dedication to education, reading and BGSU, Myrna is a valuable member of EDHD's Advocates Board," expressed Dean Josué Cruz. "I am very glad to have her on our team."

LITERACY STUDIO: Where research and reading come together

A literacy studio soon will become a reality for the Martha Gesling Weber Reading Center, thanks to a generous donation from David and Myrna Bryan (see related story above).

"With our backgrounds in education and reading," Myrna said, "Dave and I believe that education is essential. The college is accomplishing so many wonderful things under Dean Josué Cruz's leadership. We wanted to be a part of creating a place where reading can be researched scientifically and students can work together with kids to improve literacy skills and teaching strategies."

The Literacy Studio is expected to serve approximately 1,000 pre-service teachers, graduate students and faculty on a regular basis, when it opens next fall.

For pre-service teachers in all areas (early childhood, middle childhood, adolescent, young adult and intervention services), the studio will enable them to participate in, teach and experiment with a wide array of the literacy-based strategies, materials, technology and instructional techniques. With state-of-the-art technology, the studio will offer distance learning by providing access to K-12 classrooms, enabling teachers to model a variety of literacy approaches. This will promote an enhanced educational experience in literacy not only for the pre-service teachers, but also for their future students.

For additional information about the literacy studio, contact Trink Messenheimer at 419-372-7395 or trinka@bgsu.edu.

Spring semester marks college TELEFUND CALLS

The generosity of the College of Education and Human Development alumni is clearly evident each year when student telefund callers ask for support for the college.

This spring semester, one of our students will be calling to inform you about college activities and to ask for your assistance. The student will update you about the new master's degree in cross-cultural and international education, the exciting opportunity to visit campus for Literacy in the Park in March or the alumni dance gala in April, and the innovative research and work that is being done by the Institute for Family and Child Policy.

We deeply appreciate your support and involvement. Your role remains key as we strive to provide outstanding educational opportunities to our students. We ask you to consider supporting the college when the telefund caller calls.

Sport management alumnus offers match

Derek Eiler, a 1993 sport management alumnus, is offering an extra incentive for sport management graduates to make an impact in their program. Eiler, who is chief operating officer for The Collegiate Licensing Company in Atlanta, will match dollar-for-dollar gifts made to the sport management program during the college telefund appeal. Student callers will ask sport management alumni to support the network appeal.

He has established a fund at the University to support a sport management network. Funds raised will be used to create a stronger network of sport management alumni, by connecting alumni with current students and supporting events and activities, such as an annual symposium for sport management.

Monies raised through the telefund are counted toward *Building Dreams: The Centennial Campaign for Bowling Green State University*. As of Nov. 30, 2006, the campaign has raised nearly 90 percent of its \$120 million goal.

Dance gala, events planned

The BGSU Dance Program and the University Performing Dancers (UPD), which are part of the School of Human Movement, Sport and Leisure Studies (HMSLS), are keeping busy this spring, with performances and planned activities.

On **April 13**, the program will host the **alumni gala performance** at the Whitney Dance Studio, 222 Eppler North. HMSLS faculty will choreograph the dances and alumni will perform.

The School of HMSLS in conjunction with the Department of Theatre & Film will host the **OhioDance Festival April 20-22** on the BGSU campus. The festival, which is open to students and the community, will feature classes, an adjudicated showcase and an audition class. The events will be held in Eppler Complex and the Eva Marie Saint Theatre.

For more information, contact Tammy Starr at tammyan@bgsu.edu.

EVENT FOCUSES ON FAMILY LITERACY

The Martha Gesling Weber Reading Center will host the second annual Literacy in the Park on Saturday, March 31. The event, which will be held from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Lenhart Grand Ballroom, Bowen-Thompson Student Union, promotes family literacy.

The conference provides an opportunity for families to spend the day listening to renowned authors, watching children's theatre and participating in a variety of "make it-take it" literacy activities.

Marc Brown, author and illustrator of more than 100 children's books including his best-known "Arthur" books, will be the featured guest. He will also be available for autographs.

The event is free and will include snacks, beverages and activities for readers of all ages. Additional special guests also will attend throughout the day.

For more information, contact the Martha Gesling Weber Reading Center at 419-372-7323 or reading@bgsu.edu.