

Connexus

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

Fall 2005

Focus on an Alumna

BGSU graduate is Finalist for National Teacher of the Year

BGSU alumna Vicki Goldsmith was named the 2005 Iowa Teacher of the Year and was one of four finalists for the National Teacher of the Year.

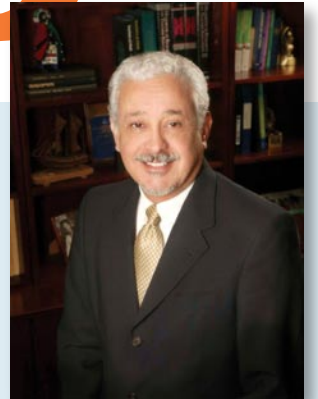
The University and the college are proud of her accomplishments. Goldsmith received her bachelor of science degree in education with a major in English in 1962 and her master of arts degree in 1966, both from BGSU. She has taught for nearly 40 years and currently teaches English and other studies at Des Moines Roosevelt High School, where she has taught for 16 years. As Iowa Teacher of the Year, one of Goldsmith's responsibilities is to travel throughout the country this next year as an ambassador for the profession. She sees education as a way to transform our lives and not just as "job training." For more information about Iowa Teacher of the Year Vicki Goldsmith, refer to www.trhsalumni.org/newsletter.pdf.



Photo provided by Vicki Goldsmith

Vicki Goldsmith (right), who was one of the top four finalists for the National Teacher of the Year, poses with President George W. Bush and First Lady Laura Bush at the special ceremony in Washington, D.C.

From the Dean



As we end one academic year and begin another, I am very excited about what is happening within the College of Education and Human Development.

In this edition of *Connexus*, you will see how the college is actively addressing issues that are in the national and international spotlight, such as improving literacy and spreading democracy. In light of the continuing reduction of state funding, you will see how the funds we are raising for the college are essential in maintaining our reputation of excellence and funding various programs, services and equipment that might otherwise go unfunded.

The college had nearly 1,000 new freshman go through Orientation and Registration and more than 550 students graduate in May. And our students continue to achieve and bring recognition to our college. The EDHD faculty are also active. During the past year, they have published nine books and numerous chapters, articles and abstracts. They also have received many prestigious awards and grants.

We announced in the previous *Connexus* that we had appointed an Advocates Board for EDHD this past fall. I am pleased to announce that Christine Seidman and Dr. Jane Wiechel (both graduates of BGSU with a bachelor's and master's degree, respectively) have joined the Advocates Board. This brings our number of advocates to 10 dedicated individuals working to support and assist me in achieving the college's stated goals and mission; offer leadership and insight; help identify and secure resources for major initiatives and priorities; and promote and advance the college, its academic programs, and the University as a whole.

I am glad to be able to communicate some of the exciting things happening within our college. I hope you will consider joining us for homecoming on Oct. 1, 2005.

Dr. Josué Cruz Jr.

Focus on Students

The College of Education and Human Development is proud of its students and their accomplishments. We would like to recognize the following individuals and groups for their successes:

- Melissa Popovich '05, an apparel merchandising and product development major from Medina, Ohio, won the technical design category of the 2005 American Association of Textile Chemists and Colorists design contest and \$1,000 for her Wheelchair/Walker Transition Bag.
- Early childhood methods students, under the leadership of School of Teaching and Learning instructor Marjori Krebs, collected 3,115 books for the northwest Ohio Migrant program.
- For their "Capture the Memories" entry, six apparel merchandising and product development majors (Jessica Bertsch of Clyde, Ohio; Alicia Elwer of Delphos, Ohio; Lindsay Green of Somerset, Ohio; Beth Lasko of Cleveland; Abby Richards of Woodville, Ohio; and Danielle Szejbka of Erie, Penn.) were semi-finalists in the best window display category of the National Association of College Store's 2005 Dynamic Window competition.

Bowling Green State University

Your Donations at Work

Each spring, BGSU Telefund student callers contact College of Education and Human Development graduates asking for donations to the college. That support is crucial for providing various programs, services and equipment for the college that might otherwise go unfunded.

Some of the most recent donations have been used to:

- Purchase risers and 100 theatre-style, upholstered chairs for the Mary "Eli" Whitney Dance Studio in Eppler North.
- Support teaching and research graduate assistantships.
- Provide scholarships for students.
- Co-sponsor lectures, such as Dr. Howard Gardner, renowned Harvard educator, author and psychologist. An eminent scholar in teaching and learning, Gardner also met with local

teachers, superintendents and BGSU faculty during his visit.

- Impact education policy in Ohio by co-sponsoring and providing an opportunity for two of EDHD's faculty to participate in the School Readiness Solutions Group, headed by Sen. George Voinovich. This group works to increase the number of Ohio children who enter school encouraged, supported and fully prepared to succeed. For more information about this group, refer to www.schoolreadiness.ohio.gov.

With the generosity of our alumni and friends, the college continues to touch the lives of students and the lives of those they will touch in the future. Please help support these efforts by making a contribution. To make a donation to the college, visit the BGSU Web site at www.bgsu.edu, click on "Make a Gift," and select the College of Education and Human Development as your designation.



Reconnect at Homecoming 2005

The College of Education and Human Development once again is hosting a tent during 2005 Homecoming on Oct. 1. Please stop by the tent from 2 to 4 p.m. for free food and to reconnect with your EDHD friends. For more information about homecoming, refer to <http://falconsalumni.bgsu.edu/alumni/programs/homecoming.jsp>.

Local Volunteer Reading Program Receives National Attention

Nine years ago Kim Christensen (lecturer, School of Intervention Services) established a volunteer reading program in partnership with the Bowling Green (Ohio) City Schools to provide her son, Bryce (an eleven-year old boy who is medically fragile with profound disabilities), opportunities for stimulation by having students read to him. Since the program began, more than 100 children (many with BGSU connections) have participated by coming to the Christensen's home to share stories and friendship with Bryce.

And now this volunteer reading program has received national attention as it has been featured on local and national segments of the popular PBS children's show, "ZOOM," and was also included in a *Zoom into Reading* booklet distributed in Chick-Fil-A kids' meals.

"It has always been my family's vision that the experience we have had with Bryce has meaning beyond our own personal family," Christensen says. "The opportunity to impact others across the country that might read this booklet and start a similar program is a step in that direction."

For more information about this local volunteer reading program, refer to www.toledoblade.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20050608/NEWS17/506080488. For more information about the student volunteers honored this year, refer to www.bgcs.k12.oh.us/news/brdsum/june7.05.htm. For ideas about how to involve children and families in volunteering, refer to pbskids.org/zoom/activities/action and pbskids.org/zoom/grownups/action.



Photo provided by Kim Christensen

Scott Swegan (left), son of BGSU Admissions Director Gary Swegan, reads to Bryce Christensen, son of EDHD faculty member Kim Christensen. Scott is one of the volunteers who was recently honored for participating in the nationally recognized volunteer reading program.

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Faculty Continue Engagement Activities

Engagement, according to BGSU's Academic Plan, "fosters the continuous flow of ideas that invigorates the process of inquiry and heightens individual and institutional achievement."

At BGSU, engagement is encouraged at both the personal and institutional level. Individuals cultivate confidence and self-esteem as valued participants and create a sense of understanding about and responsibility for other individuals and for society at large. Institutional engagement provides the programmatic support for individual participation and creates pathways for University interaction regionally, nationally and internationally.

During the 2005 spring semester, 93 percent of the College of Education and Human Development's 132 faculty members reported being involved in more than 232 different community activities impacting more than 114 school districts, 300 schools and 204 community organizations, healthcare facilities and retail businesses. And many EDHD faculty have been recognized for their engagement activities. Among them is Dr. Geoffrey Meeks (HMSLS), who received the Faculty Recognition for Community Involvement award for his many outreach efforts.

For more information about engagement at BGSU, refer to www.bgsu.edu/offices/provost/engagement.

EDHD Goes International

"The best way to teach democracy is to do it," says Alden Craddock, director of BGSU's International Democratic Education Institute.

In the classroom, this means using appropriate curriculums and teaching students skills such as discussion and critical thinking, and modeling respect for others' opinions. Effective teaching techniques for democracy revolve around active teaching and learning and hands-on experiences—ideas and strategies that are new to many teachers and a primary focus of the institute's work.

The International Democratic Education Institute (IDEI), housed within the School of Teaching and Learning (STL) in the College of Education and Human Development, has become the focal point for a number of projects already under way by BGSU faculty.

The institute's goal is to foster a new generation of citizens equipped to participate in functioning democracies, both in the United States and abroad.

"Educational exchange is the primary focus of our activities," Craddock said. Connecting schoolteachers, university faculty and other

educators in the United States with peers and colleagues in other countries creates a nexus for the development of research, curriculum, school reform, professional development, assessment and student involvement.

The core faculty group and the countries they focus on includes Craddock, STL, Ukraine; John Fischer, STL, Poland; Sharon Subreenduth, STL, South Africa; and Alexander Sidorkin, Division of Educational Foundations and Inquiry (EDFI), Russia.

"The transformative nature of these collaborative activities is astounding," Subreenduth said. "Our educators consistently speak to the critical impact these experiences have on them, both professionally and personally. The international experiences allow educators to re-examine their notions of democratic teaching and learning and help them to draw connections between their classrooms and the world."

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

Excerpted from *Monitor Monthly*

Faculty and Staff News

The College of Education and Human Development is pleased to welcome the following new faculty:

Human Movement, Sport and Leisure Studies

- Dr. Pam Bechtel, assistant professor, kinesiology and physical education teacher education.
- Colleen Murphy, instructor, dance.
- Dr. Sally Ross, assistant professor, sport management.
- Tammy Starr, assistant professor, dance.
- Rebecca Summersett, instructor, physical education teacher education.

Leadership and Policy Studies

- Dr. Erin Curran, assistant professor, educational foundations and inquiry.
- Heather Sheehan, lecturer, educational foundations and inquiry.
- Dr. Dafina Stewart, assistant professor, higher education and student affairs.

Intervention Services

- Robyn Beck, instructor, deaf education.
- Dr. Mary Murray, assistant professor, early childhood special education.

Teaching and Learning

- Dorothy J. Kern-Blystone, lecturer, business education.
- Sansanee Ohlson, instructor, introduction to education.
- Dr. Richard Oldrieve, assistant professor, early childhood education.
- Patricia Ritchey, lecturer, classroom technology.
- Jenny Thompson, instructor, early/middle childhood education.

It is also with mixed joy and sadness that we announce the retirement of the following faculty, who received emeritus status following their retirement:

- Dr. Patricia Erickson, who has served as president of the National Association of Teacher Educators for Family and Consumer Sciences and has been the recipient of many awards and grants,

retired from the School of Family and Consumer Sciences after 27 years of service to BGSU.

- Dr. Robert Berns, well known for his work on grants for school-to-work issues and his work in contextual teaching and learning, retired from the School of Teaching and Learning after 20 years of teaching at BGSU.
- Dr. Pamela Allison, a nationally recognized expert in physical education teacher education at the elementary school level, retired from the School of Human Movement, Sport and Leisure Studies after teaching at BGSU for 19 years.
- Dr. Mary Ann Robertson, whose research interests included constraints affecting the progression of people through motor developmental sequences and correlates of people's attitudes toward sexist language, retired from the School of Human Movement, Sport and Leisure Studies after 13 years of service to BGSU.

Faculty, Staff Support 2005 Family Campaign

For seven years, current and retired faculty and staff within the College of Education and Human Development have supported the BGSU Family Campaign. During the 2005 Family Campaign, 72 percent of the college's faculty and staff made a gift to the annual fund-raising campaign.

Campuswide, more than 55 percent of the faculty and staff participated in the 2005 campaign, up from 53.7 percent the previous year. A total of \$982,566 in gifts and pledges was included in this year's efforts, compared to \$935,499 last year.

Before the Family Campaign began in 1999, less than one-fourth of the BGSU family were donors. Because of the campaign's success, it has become an internal fund-raising model used by other universities.

Monies raised through the Family Campaign also are part of the University's comprehensive campaign called Building Dreams: The Centennial Campaign for Bowling Green State University. For more information about the BGSU Building Dreams campaign, visit the development Web site at <http://giving.bgsu.edu/development/buildingdreams>.