

## > Top Stories

In Brief

Calendar

Job Postings

Obituaries

### Student does his part for national security by learning Arabic

BGSU sophomore Christopher Kay is one of only 30 people nationwide to receive a U.S. Department of State Critical Language Scholarship to study Arabic in Amman, Jordan, this summer.

Kay left June 15 on the six-week, all-expenses-paid trip, which is sponsored by the state department's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs and the Council of American Overseas Research Centers. Competition was intense—there were more than 1,200 applicants for the 30 spots. The other winners came from some of the most elite institutions—such as Harvard, Boston College, the University of California at Los Angeles, Northwestern and Arizona State University—which tend to have Middle East Studies departments.

But Kay has something going for him that few others have: actual experience in the Middle East, having served in the Iraq war. When the war broke out while he was in high school, he enrolled in the Ohio Army National Guard the day after his 17th birthday and went to basic training between his junior and senior years. He delayed his college enrollment until he had completed advanced infantry training following graduation from Sylvania Southview High School.

Kay comes from a long tradition of military service. "My grandpa was in World War II; his unit liberated Dachau. My great-great-grandfather was in the Civil War, fighting from Texas. And my dad was a captain in the Vietnam War," he explained.

He registered for college in 2005, only to find he would be deployed to Iraq that January. His service was interrupted when he was diagnosed with testicular cancer in June 2005. He underwent surgery in the Green Zone in Baghdad and was sent home for radiation treatment.

For most people, searching for Improvised Explosive Devices, or IEDs, around Baghdad roadways six days a week would be enough service to their country, but Kay saw another, bigger problem than the deadly, hidden bombs.

"I really liked the Middle East, and I see the need for understanding other languages now. The biggest factor in why these people don't like us is that they don't understand us," he said. "Stationed in Baghdad, my unit regularly interacted with unfriendly Iraqis, most of whom could not speak English. Never having a native speaker, my unit was forced to rely on hand gestures and the few Iraqis with a rough knowledge of English. If every unit going outside the bases in Iraq had a translator, we would have been able to connect with the locals much more closely and gather information that we are still missing out on today.

"We don't really know anything about them, either," he said. "We don't take Middle Eastern history in school, and they don't study American history."

Kay's deployment often proved difficult and frustrating when he was dealing with local citizens, yet it taught him lessons he will never forget. "The most important lesson is that language is the biggest barrier to cross when dealing with a different culture," he says. "If two people cannot communicate, then cooperation is nearly impossible."

So when he learned of the language program from Dr. Kristie Foell, International Studies director, he immediately applied and, to his surprise since he did not yet have any grades on his BGSU transcript, was accepted. In fact, the agency said his application was one of the most impressive it had received.

Kay leaves June 15 for pre-departure orientation in Washington, D.C., then will fly to Jordan, where he will live with a local family and study at the American Center for Oriental Research at the University of Jordan. In a region where "the dialects vary even between cities," he will

**> Top Stories**

In Brief

Calendar

Job Postings

Obituaries

learn “modern standard Arabic,” but says he also hopes to pick up the colloquial Jordanian dialect.

While in Jordan, he is also planning to gather information in preparation for his Honors senior project, which will focus on terrorism. “I can get firsthand quotes while I’m in Amman,” he said.

In preparation for the trip, Kay has been taking Arabic at the Islamic Center of Greater Toledo. He has found the large Arab community in the area, which includes Toledo, Dearborn and Detroit, very generous, helpful and willing to teach non-Arabic-speaking people everything about their language and culture.

The international studies major plans to continue studying Arabic when he returns and hopes to obtain an internship with the CIA or the state department. He also would like to study abroad again, perhaps in Egypt.

Eventually, he would like to work in counterterrorism with the state department, CIA or the defense department. “I feel that if they give you this scholarship, you should use it to do something more than teach,” he said. “You need to contribute to the cause.”

As he wrote in his application for the Critical Language Scholarship, “In the post-Sept. 11 world, understanding of this area (the Middle East) is pivotal for our national security and I want to do everything I can to contribute to our nation’s safety and well-being.”

### **BGSU photochemistry research center in line for additional state funding**

BGSU’s Center for Photochemical Sciences will receive additional funding through a new program to be launched July 1 by the Ohio Board of Regents (OBOR).

The state’s Economic Growth Challenge/Innovation Incentive Program is designed to shift resources toward doctoral programs that have the potential to create more jobs and opportunities for commercialization in high-tech areas of research and manufacturing.

An outgrowth of the Commission on Higher Education and the Economy’s recommendations about higher education’s role in stimulating Ohio’s economy, the program will complement funds received through the Third Frontier Initiative.

Beginning in July, all state research institutions, including BGSU, must reallocate 1.5 percent of their state funding for doctoral programs every year for 10 years to the identified doctoral programs. The state will then match those funds, using 15 percent of its roughly \$160 million annual doctoral subsidy.

“The Innovation Incentive Program represents OBOR’s effort to focus resources on areas of research strength in Ohio,” said Dr. Heinz Bulmahn, vice provost for research and dean of the Graduate College. “BGSU’s response is to invest in photochemical sciences, our area of research strength that aligns with the Ohio Third Frontier Initiative.”

At the Center for Photochemical Sciences, researchers use the interaction of light and chemistry to address needs ranging from treating cancerous tumors to creating a quick-drying paint for battleships.

#### **Maximizing potential**

In 2004, the University began its own resource shift with its Research Enhancement Initiative. Through a competitive process, research clusters were identified for extra support based on whether they addressed research areas consistent with the governor’s Third Frontier Initiative and whether they showed strong potential to produce intellectual property that could stimu-

**> Top Stories**

In Brief

Calendar

Job Postings

Obituaries

late economic growth. A third criterion was programs' ability to attract additional external funding.

The photochemical sciences center, which comprises faculty from chemistry, biological sciences, and physics and astronomy, was chosen, and within it, the molecular photonics group.

In molecular photonics, a materials group focuses on creating new photo-generating materials for use in electro-optic devices such as liquid crystal displays and sensors for environmental toxins. A biology group studies computational chemistry and bioinformatics with the goal of developing bio-inspired devices applicable to medical practice.

To further strengthen the promising area, BGSU opted in 2003 to move one of its Ohio Eminent Scholar positions, which had been vacant for some time, from the applied philosophy department to photochemical sciences.

That came to fruition with the recent hiring of Dr. Peter Lu, a top scholar in physical chemistry, who was named an Ohio Eminent Scholar in photochemical sciences. He will join the faculty in August. Along with Lu, Dr. Massimo Olivucci of Siena, Italy, a renowned computational scientist, was hired and will begin this fall.

Lu and Olivucci, along with center faculty and doctoral students, will collaborate to advance understanding of biochemical processes related to proteins and their function in metabolism.

On the materials side, faculty have also garnered national and international attention for their research.

Dr. Pavel Anzenbacher last year received an Alfred P. Sloan Research Fellowship. The highly competitive national award is designed to identify those who show the most promise of making fundamental contributions to the development of new knowledge in the sciences.

The focus of Anzenbacher's research group is, in general, the development of advanced photonic materials in two main areas: supramolecular materials for sensor applications and materials that can be used in fabrication of flat displays. The researchers use the knowledge they generate for the preparation of optical sensors and synthesis of artificial dyes and pigments.

Another faculty member, Dr. Felix Castellano has been cited in the American Chemical Society's Chemical and Engineering News as well as publications abroad for his discovery of how to "upconvert" green light to higher-energy blue light.

"This is probably the biggest scientific discovery to ever come out of Bowling Green and has many important implications for developing new technologies," said Dr. Michael Ogawa, chair of the chemistry department. The U.S. Air Force Office of Scientific Research is funding the three-year, \$300,000 study that has produced the finding, so potential applications are particularly relevant to the military.

With the addition of the new faculty members, the Center for Photochemical Sciences will have about 15 researchers. Over the past four years, the center's faculty have attracted more than \$9 million in outside funding.

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### **BG meets new athletic director**

"We are thrilled and excited to be Falcons now," said Athletic Director Gregory Christopher at a campus press conference June 15.

The new director said he accepted the position because Bowling Green is "a first-rate aca-

**> Top Stories**

In Brief

Calendar

Job Postings

Obituaries

democratic institution, a terrific community for families and it has a rich athletic tradition—by all accounts, this is a terrific opportunity,” he said.

The former associate athletic director for external relations at Purdue University, Christopher jokingly referred to the BGSU football game against Wisconsin in Cleveland this September, saying, “Whether you’re gold (Purdue) or brown, it’s great to beat the Badgers.”

Christopher and his wife got a warm welcome from students, coaches, faculty and administrators at a reception that evening in the Bowen-Thompson Student Union.

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### Beerman work premieres to accolades in NYC

A new work by Dr. Burton Beerman, music composition, was the opening-night highlight of the American Composers Alliance’s annual festival at Symphony Space in New York City, according to a June 9 review in the New York Times.

In an article titled “Classical Traditions Kept and Upended,” Bernard Holland writes “The most interesting, and by far the most elaborate, display of experimentation was Burton Beerman’s ‘Still, Small Voice’: a multimedia field day of opportunities. Celesta Haraszti danced. Madeleine Shapiro played the cello. And geared in response were Mr. Beerman’s computer-generated sounds: an entertaining vocabulary of explosions, industrial shrieks and whistles and mimicked human voices. Commenting on all these were projections on a screen behind the performers.”

The performance took place on the first night of the festival, hosted by the alliance to promote the work of American composers. One of the group’s founders, in 1937, was Aaron Copland; it now has more than 200 members.

Beerman received a 2005 Barlow Endowment Commission for Music Composition to write “A Still, Small Voice.” The Barlow commission, considered one of the most competitive commissions awarded to composers, is given through an endowment at Brigham Young University. Its purpose is to encourage and promote individuals who demonstrate technical skills and natural gifts for the composition of great music.

“A Still, Small Voice” was composed for Shapiro and Haraszti. Considered the preeminent performer of experimental music for cello, Shapiro has participated in the premieres of numerous works by composers such as Milton Babbitt, John Cage, Charles Wuorinen and Mario Davidovsky. She is the director of the chamber ensemble MODERNWORKS!, which has appeared at the Ravinia Festival in Chicago and the Museum of Modern Art and the Guggenheim Museum in New York. Haraszti likewise has had a long involvement with innovative dance, having performed in and created more than 40 experimental works. Described a “virtuoso performer” by the Cleveland Plain Dealer, Haraszti has toured with Beerman since 1982 as the Electric Arts Duo, performing throughout the United States, Canada and Europe.

At BGSU, Beerman is director of the MidAmerican Center for Contemporary Music and in 1980 founded the University’s annual New Music and Art Festival, which attracts some 1,200 submissions annually from around the world. His groundbreaking work has earned him numerous prizes and awards.

Following the New York appearance, Beerman and Haraszti are in Greensboro, N.C., to record his composition, “Tikvah: A Concert of Hope and Remembrance,” which was part of the University’s Holocaust Conference in April 2005.

## &gt; Top Stories

In Brief

Calendar

Job Postings

Obituaries

**Prize-winning BGSU writer seeks to convey life's 'terrible beauty'**

Longing, love and death—the trajectory of a life—are themes explored by Creative Writing faculty member Theresa Williams. She has recently been recognized for her writing with a 2006 Individual Excellence Award from the Ohio Arts Council.

Williams received the top prize of \$10,000 in the highly competitive process. Honors are given in recognition of the “exceptional merit of a body of work that advances or exemplifies the discipline and the larger artistic community,” according to the council. The awards are designed to support artists’ growth and development and are not tied to specific projects.

The author of a novel, short stories and poetry, she has been a finalist for a Pushcart Prize for fiction, an Allen Ginsberg Poetry Prize and a Paterson Fiction Prize for her novel, *The Secret Of Hurricanes*, published in 2002 by MacAdam Cage. Her work has appeared in numerous journals and literary reviews.

Williams came to BGSU in 1987 as a Fellow in the Creative Writing Program, studying with Dr. Philip O’Connor, now Distinguished Research Professor of English, and Dr. Richard Messer, now a professor emeritus of English. She received her master of fine arts degree in 1989 and now teaches writing as well as courses in women’s studies, literature and composition.

“I came here because my creative writing teacher at East Carolina University, William Hallberg, had gotten his MFA here, and I loved his stories about BG,” she said.

After receiving a master’s degree in English from East Carolina, she was accepted by the writing programs at the University of North Carolina-Greensboro and BGSU. “I chose BGSU after visiting the campus and meeting Mary McGowan and Howard McCord,” Williams said. “I like them both very much, plus the campus spoke to me. It seemed very quiet here, very simple, and I was intrigued by the flat landscape.

“I moved to Bowling Green with my family in the summer of 1987. At the time, we had three small children. I remember I used to promise the youngest that if he’d be very quiet while I wrote, that I would get him a big bag of candy if and when I published one of the stories I’d been working on. He did end up getting that bag of candy, but not until 1994 when one of my stories came out in *The Chattahoochee Review*. That story was eventually expanded and revised into my novel, *The Secret Of Hurricanes*.”

Williams describes the novel as “an exploration of adolescent confusion and heartache.” Her next project, a collection of short stories, deals with middle age and a dramatic life change undergone by the main character.

What began as a trip purely for pleasure last summer has become the impetus for Williams’s next large project. She and her husband and their dog traveled the length of the Ohio River on a 22-foot, 1978 sailboat.

“The Ohio River has huge mythical implications that I would like to capture,” she said. “In mythology, there are many flood myths, and these myths emphasize the dual force of water: it gives and it takes away. Water reminds us that death is necessary for change and growth.”

The final shape of the river project is still evolving, she said, but a number of poems have already come out of it. She expresses the flavor of the river experience in the following short poem:

*We Proceed On  
toward Gallipolis.  
The world shrinks until  
it fits in our boat: the husks  
of mayflies  
maps, thoughts.*

> **Top Stories**> **In Brief**> **Calendar**

Job Postings

Obituaries

In her poetry, Williams says, "I look for a core that reveals the terrible beauty of things, and I want to slay the reader with that beauty. When I say 'terrible beauty,' I mean a force like the Ohio River, which can be placid and lovely, but which can also sweep you away and tear down your house. Another way of saying this is that I am searching for a way to express an experience of the sublime, which doesn't just mean beauty but also fear and awe."

**IN BRIEF****Fink continues as interim CTLT head**

Bonnie Fink, who has been interim director of the Center for Teaching, Learning and Technology, will remain in that role until next summer, Dr. Mark Gromko, vice provost for academic programs, has announced.

Fink is also director of the Ohio Learning Network regional center at BGSU.

**Come to BG@100 open house**

The BG@100 team will host an open house at the project office, 414 E. Wooster St., Wednesday (June 21) to introduce the campus to the project team and the facility. The team will be on hand to answer questions and give short tours and presentations.

Tours will begin at 9 and 11 a.m. and 1 and 3 p.m., but the campus community is invited to stop by anytime during the day.

The office is located just west of the railroad tracks, a short walk from main campus. There are a few parking places in front of the building and a small parking lot in the rear.

**CALENDAR****Monday, June 19**

**Dissertation Defense**, Reuben Muchemedzi, mathematics, "Likelihood-Based Confidence Bands for a ROC Curve," 11 a.m., 459 Mathematical Sciences Building.

**Tuesday, June 20**

**Rhythmyx Content Management System (CMS) Training**, for current users of the CMS, to learn the changes coming with Version 5.6 of the Rhythmyx software, 9-11 a.m., 128 Hayes Hall. To register, visit <http://www.bgsu.edu/offices/cio/webdev/page16548.html>.

**Wednesday, June 21**

**Classified Staff Council**, 9 a.m.-noon, 316 Bowen-Thompson Student Union.

**Rhythmyx Content Management System (CMS) Training**, for new users of the CMS, 1:30-4:30 p.m., 128 Hayes Hall. To register, call the Technology Support Center at 2-0999. For details regarding this and other CMS training sessions, visit <http://www.bgsu.edu/offices/cio/webdev/page16548.html>.

**Friday, June 23**

**Last Day of First, Six-Week Summer Term.**

**Monday, June 26**

**Beginning of Second, Six-Week Summer Term.**

**Sundaes on Mondays**, Free sundaes and ice cream novelties, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m., Falcon's Nest, Union (every other Monday

- Top Stories
- In Brief
- > **Calendar**
- > **Job Postings**
- > **Obituaries**

through the summer).

**Rhythmyx Content Management System (CMS) Training**, for new users of the CMS, 1:30-4:30 p.m., 128 Hayes Hall. To enroll, call the Technology Support Center at 2-0999.

#### **Continuing Events Through July 21**

**Photography Exhibit**, Brian Baby, Little Gallery, BGSU Firelands. Gallery hours are 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Friday.

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## **JOB POSTINGS**

### **FACULTY**

**University Libraries.** Dean. Call Kerry Foster, 2-9233. Deadline: Sept. 1.

Contact the Office of Human Resources at 419-372-8421 for information regarding classified and administrative positions. Position vacancy announcements may be viewed by visiting the HR Web site at <http://www.bgsu.edu/offices/ohr/>.

Employees wishing to apply for these positions must sign a "Request for Transfer" form and attach an updated resume or data

sheet. This information must be turned in to Human Resources by the job deadline.

### **CLASSIFIED**

#### **On-campus classified:**

[http://www.bgsu.edu/offices/ohr/employment/BGSU\\_only/page11151.html](http://www.bgsu.edu/offices/ohr/employment/BGSU_only/page11151.html)

#### **Off-campus classified:**

[http://www.bgsu.edu/offices/ohr/employment/cl\\_staff/page11145.html](http://www.bgsu.edu/offices/ohr/employment/cl_staff/page11145.html)

### **ADMINISTRATIVE**

[http://www.bgsu.edu/offices/ohr/employment/adm\\_staff/page11137.html](http://www.bgsu.edu/offices/ohr/employment/adm_staff/page11137.html)

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## **OBITUARY**

**Dr. Donald C. Kleckner**, 86, died May 26 in Redlands, Calif. He taught at BGSU from 1952-62, first as an assistant professor and director of forensics and later as chair of the speech and theatre department. He was also managing director of the Huron Playhouse at BGSU Firelands in 1956 and a play director there from 1953-59.

**Robert Holmes**, 58, died May 30 in Bowling Green. He retired in 2000 after 23 years in the legal studies department of the College of Business Administration.

**Dr. Emma Lila Fundaburk**, 83, a professor emeritus of economics, died June 3 in Daphne, Ala. She taught at BGSU from 1966-88.

**Dr. Stewart Berry**, 88, a professor emeritus of educational foundations and inquiry, died June 7 in Bowling Green. A faculty member from 1956-84, he first taught industrial arts and later, in EDFI, taught graduate-level statistics and research and helped develop the master's and doctoral degree programs.

**Nancy Malone**, 56, died June 13 in Maumee. She retired in 2003 as administrative assistant in the Chapman Learning Community after 28 years of work at BGSU.