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Ohio's first lady to visit BGSU's Kindergarten Project

Two mornings a week, Dr. Joyce Eastlund Gromko travels from BGSU to Weston Elementary School to work with kindergarteners, whom she's been helping prepare for their music program on today (May 14).

On May 1, however, the BGSU professor of music education went to Columbus to share her methods with another interested listener—Frances Strickland, first lady of Ohio.

After hearing about Gromko's Kindergarten Project, Gov. Ted Strickland's wife accepted an invitation to visit the participating schools next fall. The first lady was also interested in broader dissemination of a music book like the one that was given to all the kindergarteners in the project this spring, Gromko said. She plans to contact a professional colleague who has recorded a CD that she hopes could be used to create another booklet of children's folk songs.

An educational psychologist by training, Frances Strickland developed a widely used screening test for kindergarten-age children. Also known for playing the guitar and singing, she is now, as first lady, advocating for music education as well.

"She brings all of that to the conversation," said Gromko, quoting Strickland as accepting the invitation by saying "I'm going to every single school."

Having learned of their shared interests late last year, Gromko wrote Strickland in mid-January to tell her about the Kindergarten Project, which Gromko started at Bowling Green in 1992. Each semester, her advanced methods students teach music to kindergarteners in several Bowling Green schools and at Weston and Haskins schools, both in the Otsego district.

"We know from our research that our Kindergarten Project benefits the children musically and in their performance of phonemic (speech sound) awareness," she added, inviting the first lady to visit any of the classrooms.

A few weeks later, Gromko received a phone message from Michelle Hardin, Strickland's scheduler and administrative assistant. Saying she and Strickland are working on a music project for children, Hardin asked about getting the music book and accompanying CD that Gromko had also mentioned in her letter.

The book and CD were new elements of the project this spring, funded by Continuing & Extended Education and private donors, and sent home with about 400 students at the project's six school sites.

The materials let the children share with their parents the 10 folk songs they had already learned at school, part of an effort "to build children's aural perception of high/low, fast/slow, and loud/soft sounds," Gromko explained in a follow-up letter to Hardin.

"We follow a sequence that builds auditory memory skills: chanting the words, clapping 'the way the words go,' and singing," she wrote. "After children can sing the folk song, we add a body percussion and instruments that reinforce their perception of high/low and fast/slow."

Finally, the kindergarteners touch pictorial notations of the songs, and those "touch charts" comprise the book, which includes instructions for parents. Tracy Bender, a senior graphic design major who works in the College of Musical Arts' public events office, did illustrations and layout for the book, while Tina Bunce, the college's publicity/publications manager, served as an editor.

Mark Bunce, director of recording services, recorded the CD in two sessions at the college.

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Graduate assistant and guitarist Wesley Ridenour accompanied the singer, Dr. Ann Corrigan, voice.

The finished book and CD were sent to Frances Strickland's office in late March, after which the May 1 meeting was scheduled. Corrigan traveled to Columbus with Gromko, as did Larry Weiss, associate vice president for University relations and governmental affairs, to discuss the book and the project in general.

The BGSU representatives also delivered a letter from Bowling Green Mayor John Quinn endorsing the project and inviting the first lady to the city, along with transcriptions of the songs in the book and samples of writing and pictures by kindergarteners at Bowling Green's Kenwood Elementary School. Those were presented to Gromko after the Kenwood music concert with the titles of the children's favorite songs from the book.

At Weston, kindergarten teacher Kirstina Roberts said she can see the benefit the project has beyond music. The children follow a beat and track movement, going left to right, with the music. Reading also involves tracking, moving left to right, and following a pattern, Roberts pointed out, saying "I know it (the music instruction) helps them with their reading skills."

"We're trying to get at why these skills are related," added Gromko, an editorial board member of the Journal of Research in Music Education. If they are related, there must be a cognitive mechanism that's shared, she said, noting her belief that children use the same mechanism to remember their telephone number as when they're learning a set of words or a tune.

Also working with the project in the schools this semester are BGSU students Jennifer Bell, a second-year graduate student from Chicago; first-year graduate students Jenni Lucas from Antwerp and Courtney Wright from Lexington, Ky.; seniors Kelly Diefenbach from Saline, Mich.; Melissa Flecher from North Royalton; Elena Funk from Canton; Emily Kuehn from Lancaster, and Matthew "Bo" Soddors from Lima, and the only student not in music education, Jody Lang, a second-year graduate student in music performance studies from Nova.

Three BGSU faculty, three students receive Fulbright Scholar grants

The University is celebrating a banner year for Fulbright awards. Not only have three faculty been named Fulbright Scholars, but three students as well—a first for BGSU.

David Wegehaupt of Glendale, Ariz., who graduated with a bachelor's degree in music May 5, will be studying saxophone at the National Conservatory in Paris. Meaghan Geraghty of Austinburg, Ohio, who graduated with a major in English and a minor in political science, will be going to Hong Kong to teach English. And Paul Lajeunesse, a 2006 graduate of the School of Art now living in St. Louis, will study landscape painting in Iceland. (See next week's Monitor for a related story.)

The three faculty members will soon be traveling to Eastern Europe as part of the Fulbright U.S. Scholar Program. Two, Drs. David Jackson, political science, and John Fischer, School of Teaching and Learning, are going to Poland, and the third, Dr. Marc Simon, also political science, will be heading to Austria.

Jackson, the first to depart, will leave in August. His Fulbright is a lecturing award for the University of Lodz, where he will teach U.S. Government, Media and Politics, and Canadian Government. In addition to teaching, he plans to research public opinion and political socialization. Jackson will study the relationship between entertainment media use and political beliefs among young people, and hopes to conduct several surveys while in Poland.

"I wanted the opportunity to teach in a completely new environment and to spend some time getting to know a foreign culture and letting them get to know me," Jackson said of his

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motivation to apply for a Fulbright grant. As for how he will benefit from the experience, he said, "I expect I will become a more flexible teacher. I also hope to learn more about Polish political, cultural and social life and to teach Americans what I learn about Poles when I return."

Fischer will depart for Krakow, Poland, in mid-September and return to the United States in late January 2008. He will teach two seminar courses, School Reform Issues around the World and Democratic Classroom Practices, at Jagiellonian University. For almost 10 years, Fischer has been working with colleagues at the Center for Citizenship Education in Warsaw and helping to build cooperation within various projects. He said he sees the Fulbright grant as a chance to deepen the collaboration and learn more about the Polish educational context.

Fischer expects to gain "a better understanding of the transition ongoing in Polish and European educational environments and a chance to see how the conception of democratic, active classrooms plays out in another cultural context."

Simon's award, Fulbright/Diplomatic Academy Visiting Professor of International Relations, will run from March 1 through June 30, 2008. He will teach three graduate-level seminars at the Diplomatic Academy of Vienna. Although he is still arranging specific classes, they are likely to be Theories of International Relations, Global Environmental Politics and either U.S. Foreign Policy or International Conflict Resolution. The Diplomatic Academy is an elite school for training midcareer European diplomats.

He was encouraged to apply for a Fulbright by Dr. Cynthia Crow, a former BGSU colleague who now works for the Fulbright program in Washington, D.C., and Diane Regan, Fulbright Program Advisor in the BGSU Center for International Programs.

Following his Fulbright semester, Simon will teach and conduct research during a fall 2008 Faculty Improvement Leave at the University of Salzburg, Austria, where he spent a previous leave.

After eight years as political science department chair, Simon hopes to have a productive year of research. "I'd like to develop relationships with the other faculty at the Diplomatic Academy. Richard Harknett, a former Fulbright Scholar at the Diplomatic Academy, was able to establish a joint M.A.-Ph.D. program with the University of Cincinnati and the academy. Finally, there is a European Peace University very near Vienna and I hope to have time to meet some faculty members there, as I am chairing the development of a Peace Studies minor here at BGSU."

The ultimate beneficiaries of these Fulbright awards will be the BGSU students fortunate enough to take classes taught by these returning professors energized by what they have learned overseas.

The Fulbright Program implements Sen. William Fulbright's visionary concept of promoting mutual understanding between the people of the United States and the people of other countries through academic and bicultural exchange. More than 150 countries currently participate in the Fulbright Program.

Learn action research skills, network at free workshop

University and community members and their organizations and agencies are invited to explore common interests and learn a technique for addressing campus/community concerns at a two-day workshop next month. The event will feature U.S. Rep. Marcy Kaptur, leading experts in the field of participatory action research, and community leaders.

The Sofia Quintero Art and Cultural Center in Toledo will be the site June 1 and 2 of "Common Interests, Shared Efforts," a workshop on participatory action research organized

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by BGSU's Partnerships for Community Action (PCA) and Center for Innovative and Transformative Education (CITE).

The free workshop is an opportunity for representatives of service agencies, research centers, community centers, universities, and youth-serving and grass-roots organizations to create connections among themselves and learn the basic tools and skills for participatory action research. While there is no charge to attend, registration is required by Tuesday (May 15).

Participatory action research is based on the idea that all citizens have the ability to evaluate their communities and take action to better their circumstances by defining issues, interpreting findings and determining solutions.

"It will be a community-building, networking weekend," said Patrick Vrooman, interim assistant PCA director. "The goal is to start here and see what comes."

Through interactive workshops, shared meals, presentations, a walking tour and community garden workshop, participants will have the chance to get to know one another and examine the main issues their groups are facing, their most pressing needs, obstacles they face, lessons learned and possibilities for collaboration they might offer.

Giving the opening address will be Andrew Mott, director of the Community Learning Project and a Senior Fellow at the Wagner School of Public Service at New York University, working with the Research Center on Leadership in Action. In 1967, Mott began 35 years of service with the Center for Community Change and its predecessor, the Citizens' Crusade Against Poverty. He helped provide technical assistance and assistance with organizational development, housing and community reinvestment and development to several hundred grass-roots, low-income and minority community organizations and community development corporations throughout the United States.

"Among other things, Andrew Mott has developed the idea of 'citizen monitors' and interdisciplinary programs focusing on activism for community colleges and universities," Vrooman said.

Also participating will be Dr. Mary Brydon-Miller, an associate professor of urban educational leadership and educational foundations at the University of Cincinnati. She is a participatory action researcher who engages in both community-based and educational action research. She is also on the editorial board of Action Research and is launching a new interdisciplinary Action Research Center to be housed in the College of Education, Criminal Justice, and Human Services at UC.

On Friday evening, June 1, Farm Labor Organizing Committee (FLOC) President Baldemar Velásquez, a national and international leader in many areas, including farmworker, immigrant, Latino, labor and environmental affairs, will give a presentation on "Music Born Out of the Struggle" and perform with his Aguila Negra Band.

Along with PCA and CITE, the workshop is sponsored in collaboration with the Quintero center; the Needmor Fund; FLOC; BGSU's School of Communication Studies, American Culture Studies Program and departments of sociology and educational foundations and inquiry; and the University of Toledo's Department of Foundations of Education.

The Sofia Quintero Center is at 1225 Broadway in Toledo. To register for the event, email pca@bgsu.edu or visit www.bgsu.edu/pca/ by Tuesday (May 15). For more information, call 2-7316.

2007-08 Festival Series announced

With five of six artists and ensembles making their local debuts, the 28th season of the College of Musical Arts' Festival Series will offer both fresh and traditional talent to northwest

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Ohio audiences.

The series opens Sept. 28 with the Academy of St. Martin in the Fields Chamber Ensemble giving the Lois M. Nitschke Memorial Concert. Comprised of the principal players from London's illustrious Academy of St. Martin in the Fields orchestra, the ensemble is considered one of the world's finest chamber ensembles, garnering rave reviews for its performances both on tour and in the recording studio.

Bassist Edgar Meyer and mandolin player Mike Marshall will perform on Oct. 12. For more than 20 years, Meyer and Marshall have been at the vanguard of American instrumental string music. Marshall is one of the world's most versatile acoustic musicians; his playing is as imaginative and adventurous as it is technically thrilling. Meyer, the recipient of a MacArthur Foundation Fellowship and winner of two Grammy Awards, is arguably the greatest classical bassist to ever pick up the instrument. The Festival Series welcomes these two artists in a lighthearted concert of adventurous music with the kind of variety, beauty and range rarely experienced.

Imani Winds returns to the series on Nov. 9. Comprised of five accomplished musicians of African/Latin American heritage who came together in 1996 to expand the boundaries of the traditional wind quintet, the ensemble has established itself with its distinctive presence, dynamic playing, innovative programming and inspirational outreach programs. "Imani" means "faith" in Swahili, and embodies the ensemble's mission to explore the links between European, African and American musical traditions.

Born in Tokyo and first appearing as a soloist with the Tokyo Symphony and Tokyo Chamber Orchestra at the age of 11, marimbist Naoko Takada makes her debut on the Festival Series on Jan. 31, 2008. Referred to as a "compact musical dynamo," she is renowned for her wide range of repertoire—from Bach to Piazzolla. First-prize winner of the 2002 Ima Hogg Young Artist Competition and the Young Concert Artists International Auditions, her concerts appeal to audiences of all ages with performances that explore the tone and nuances of her unique instrument. Takada's Bowling Green appearance will include a community mini-residency.

Dianne Reeves, the world's pre-eminent jazz vocalist, will appear on March 14. Reeves' improvisational prowess and unique jazz and R&B stylings have made her one of the most sought-after jazz artists today. Recipient of the Ella Fitzgerald Award at the Montreal International Jazz Festival and the first Creative Chair for Jazz for the Los Angeles Philharmonic, she has recorded and performed extensively with Wynton Marsalis and the Lincoln Center Jazz Orchestra. Reeves, who has won the Grammy for Best Jazz Vocal Performance for three con-

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'Give to your passion' with Family Campaign

There's about a month and a half left in this year's Family Campaign, which raises funds for scholarships and other campus needs. This year's theme is "Give to Your Passion," and faculty, staff and retirees are showing their commitment across campus.

As of May 4, the campaign had raised \$596,130 toward the goal of \$700,000. And 47.15 percent of faculty and staff have participated, bringing the number closer to the goal of 56 percent.

Students have benefited significantly from the campus community's generosity. The total of scholarship dollars given by faculty, staff and retirees since the start of Family Campaign in 1999 is \$1,515,183, according to Michelle Banks, director of annual giving.

"The overall amount given since the start of Family Campaign is more than \$7.2 million. Quite amazing, actually!" she noted.

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To have gifts count toward this year's total, community members are encouraged to contribute before the end of the fiscal year on June 30. To learn more about the campaign, visit <http://giving.bgsu.edu/development/fundingopps/familycampaign.jsp>.

New system in place for registering requests, identifying hardware

The ITS Technology Support Center (TSC) will begin using Altiris Help Desk as its system of record today (May 14). The Altiris software will replace the Remedy ticket system. Those using TSC services will see few changes with this implementation.

Visit www.bgsu.edu/offices/cio/page29922.html to view examples of incident email messages generated by the Altiris system, as well as examples of the bar code labels that will begin to be used for identifying hardware. The bar code labels will replace the red oval asset tag labels on equipment.

Contact the Technology Support Center at 2-0999 or tsc@bgsu.edu, or visit 110 Hayes Hall with any questions regarding the new system.

CALENDAR

Monday, May 14

First Six-Week Term of Summer Classes Begins.

Wednesday, May 16

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

Dissertation Defense, "Dynamic Criteria Mapping: A Study of the Rhetorical Values of Placement Evaluators," by Eric Stalions, English, 1 p.m., 206 East Hall.

Thursday, May 17

Baseball vs. Ohio University, 3 p.m., Steller Field.

Friday, May 18

Baseball vs. Ohio University, 3 p.m., Steller Field.

Saturday, May 19

Baseball vs. Ohio University, 1 p.m., Steller Field.

Continuing Events Through June 8

Art Exhibition, "In Closure: An Exhibition by Graduating BGSU Students," Union Galleries. Gallery hours follow building hours; check schedule.

May 14-July 11

Student Printmaking Exhibition, Little Gallery, BGSU Firelands. Gallery hours are 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Friday.

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FACULTY

Applied Statistics and Operations Research. Instructor. Call Arthur Yeh, 2-8386. Deadline: May 31.

Earth, Environment and Society. Instructor. Call the department, 2-8208. Deadline: June 1.

Music Performance.

• Instructor (voice). Call Bill Mathis, 2-8576.

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• Instructor (trumpet). Call Charles Saenz, 2-8549. Deadline: June 1.

Romance Languages. Instructor. Call the department, 2-2667. Deadline: June 8.

Technology Systems. Instructor (three positions). Call the department, 2-2837. Deadline: June 8.

Visual Communication and Technology Education. Instructor (six positions). Call the department, 2-2437. Deadline: June 8.

Economics. Instructor (two positions). Call John Hoag, 2-8231. Deadline: June 22.

Labor Postings
<http://international.bgsu.edu/index.php?x=facinfohires>

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 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:
www.bgsu.edu/offices/ohr/employment/BGSU_only/page11151.htm

Off-campus classified:
www.bgsu.edu/offices/ohr/employment/cl_staff/page11145.html

ADMINISTRATIVE

www.bgsu.edu/offices/ohr/employment/adm_staff/page11137.html

OBITUARY

There were no obituaries this week.