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Ohio high school juniors, seniors coming to BGSU for REAL

More than 50 high school juniors and seniors from throughout Ohio are getting REAL about environmental health this month at BGSU.

The 54 students are coming to campus for the first Regents Environmental Academy for Learning (REAL), funded with \$340,000 from the Ohio Board of Regents.

After arriving Sunday evening, participants will start three weeks of classes today (June 11). Classes are scheduled from 9 a.m. to noon and 1:30-5 p.m. weekdays in 117 Olscamp Hall, followed by seminars from 7-8 p.m. in McFall Center. Field trips to the Toledo Zoo and a Toledo Mud Hens game will also be part of the program, as will a canoe trip and outings for ice skating and bowling.

Owens Community College is a partner in the academy, one of 10 statewide. They are aimed at encouraging high school juniors and seniors to study the STEM disciplines (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) and foreign languages in college, particularly in hope that the students will consider secondary teaching in those fields as a career.

Students who may not currently plan to study a STEM discipline or foreign language, or even to attend college, are targeted by the program. It will give about 500 Ohio juniors and seniors the chance to earn college credit, at no cost to them, while also meeting high school requirements.

BGSU's academy will focus on problem-based learning approaches in environmental health science—a teaching model developed through the University's Project EXCITE (Environmental health science eXplorations through Cross-disciplinary and Investigative Team Experiences). The National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences has funded EXCITE, primarily for students in the middle grades, with about \$1.8 million over the last seven years.

"We're modifying for a higher grade level some of the curricula we developed for Project EXCITE," said Dr. Charles "Chris" Keil, environmental health and the academy director.

The 54 students will be divided into four groups for instruction. In addition to earning college credit while their room and board is paid, they will receive a \$600 stipend. They will earn credit in environmental health through BGSU and in chemistry, through Owens, while exploring environmental health issues such as "factory" farming.

In the fall, the students may choose to receive additional college credit by participating in a distance-learning section of Environmental Health 210, which addresses international environmental health issues. That course meets BGSU's international perspectives requirement, and the University has agreed to waive instructional costs for taking it, Keil said.

Local teachers have collaborated with Bowling Green and Owens faculty to craft the academy curriculum, building on the materials and teaching approaches developed and field-tested by EXCITE. High school teachers are also joining BGSU and Owens faculty and Bowling Green undergraduate students to form the three-member teaching teams instructing the REAL students.

The goal for the juniors and seniors, Keil said, "is to get them in here and give them a really positive experience" with both science and the University.

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Campus to welcome new students, families at Orientation and Registration

BGSU will begin welcoming its newest students to campus June 18 with the first day of Orientation and Registration, for transfer students. Close to 9,000 students and their families will arrive on campus over the next five weeks for their formal introduction to campus life. The experience is designed to provide incoming freshmen with the necessary tools and information for a smooth transition to college life, and to give families the resources and connections they will need.

Between June 19 and July 19, 16 two-day sessions will be held, each offering events and activities for students and parents separately and together.

Students will register for classes and meet with advisors to learn more about academic expectations and their departments and majors. During their stay here, they will also hear about opportunities for campus involvement and BGSU's social life, and what it means to be part of the larger community.

Parents will receive information on such topics as financial aid, health services and their opportunities for involvement in the campus experience. Coffee and Connections is an informal get-together at which they can ask questions of faculty, staff and students, and share with one another.

"Though we organize and lead the program, it's really a University initiative," said Jodi Webb, associate dean of students. "We rely on so many people across campus to pull this off. This is a time when students and their families make positive connections with students, faculty and staff and begin to feel comfortable picturing themselves here. We've had great community support every year."

Orientation leaders play key role

Incoming students will be guided through the program by their Orientation Leader, with whom they will continue to communicate throughout the first semester. The leaders do everything from guiding families to parking to leading discussions about how to be successful on campus. "They're a huge part of our program," Webb said.

"They are good ambassadors for the University," she explained. "Every year we do a comprehensive evaluation at the end of Orientation and Registration, and students and their parents are always most positive about their interactions with the Orientation Leaders. We train them well, but information just has a different ring when you hear it from a student. They are often very reassuring to the parents."

"It puts parents at ease a bit because they see us being successful and they think, 'My child can be successful. People will be there to help them,'" said Aysen Ulupinar, a senior who is returning for a second year of being an Orientation Leader.

The diversity of the group is reassuring to students and families alike, concurred Marelya Mares, also a senior and a returning leader. "We're all so different, and so they can see their child fitting in and being happy here."

The 24 upperclassmen are carefully chosen in a competitive process from an average of 100 applicants. "It's a highly sought-after student leader position on campus," Webb said. "We really get the cream of the crop. They're all very strong academically and they have very diverse interests, from academics to athletics. Many have been resident advisors or tour guides or the president of their sorority or fraternity. They bring a lot of their own campus experience to the program."

"Aside from our involvement, our campus knowledge is really an important part of working with the students," said Ulupinar. "If we don't know the answer ourselves, we know where to find it, and we have each other to ask as well. Students can have confidence that information we give them is reliable."

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Of the 24 Orientation Leaders, up to six may be returnees, and during the weeklong training sessions before Orientation and Registration begins, “they provide insight and ideas as well as mentoring to the new Orientation Leaders,” Webb said. Being a leader last year was a peak experience, said Mares and Ulupinar. Both described it as the “best summer of my life.”

“It’s a chance to meet amazing people, like the faculty who lead the breakout sessions, and getting to know one another,” Mares said.

“It’s an opportunity for Orientation Leaders to tell parents and freshmen how awesome BG is every day,” Ulupinar said, adding jokingly, “and to wear orange every day.”

“It’s easy to tell them because of our own love for BG,” Mares added. “We don’t have to be like salesmen. It’s not fake; it’s how we really feel.”

The leaders work with the program again beginning with Fall Welcome, and stay in contact with their groups weekly through the semester. “They’re a familiar face to new students and a resource for asking questions, such as what should I bring for my residence hall room and what do you know about a particular class,” Webb said. “They send out weekly messages, such as reminders about upcoming dates and meeting with advisors, dealing with stress and test-taking tips, but a lot of it is informal communication with their group members. It’s a good way to extend the communication after the summer program ends.”

Kristine Blair wins national technology award

Dr. Kristine Blair, chair of the English department, is the winner of the Conference on College Composition and Communication (CCCC) 2007 Technology Innovator Award.

The award is presented annually by the CCCC Committee on Computers and Composition “to a person who serves as an exemplar for teachers working with computer technologies in their classes and who represents the highest ideals of scholarship, teaching, and service to the entire profession.”

The recipient is considered “an outstanding leader in computer-based pedagogy who has made a continuing contribution to the application and use of computer technology in the field of composition studies” and one “who pushes the envelope, who . . . calls our assumptions into question, urging us to engage in an active search for new and exciting ways to accomplish our pedagogical goals.”

The CCCC is the leading national organization in rhetoric and composition studies. A specialist in digital rhetoric and gender and technology, Blair received the award last month at the 2007 Computers and Writing Conference at Wayne State University in Detroit.

Blair edits the refereed journal Computers and Composition Online and is currently co-developing a computer camp for girls, The Digital Mirror, co-sponsored by BGSU, COSI Toledo and the American Association of University Women. BGSU will host the camp Aug. 8-11.

BGSU Firelands’ Debralee Divers wins state award

Debralee Divers, director of admissions and financial aid at BGSU Firelands, received the James W. White Award for Outstanding Volunteer Service at the annual Ohio Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators conference, held May 16-18.

White was the director of financial aid at Muskingum College from 1962-67 and at Oberlin

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College from 1967-90. The award exemplifies the OASFAA commitment and dedication to serving others.

"It is truly an honor to be given this award. Having known Jim makes it that much more special," Divers said. "He was and still remains a guiding influence in our financial aid profession. I am honored and humbled to be awarded this recognition, knowing it was named after him."

"We are all exceptionally proud of Deb Divers and the recognition for the good work she has done in student financial aid," said Dean James Smith. "Financial aid is incredibly important to students at BGSU Firelands. All the work Deb and her staff have done has certainly helped our students and our enrollment."

Divers will serve as OASFAA treasurer in 2007-08 and has served a one-year term as treasurer-elect. She is active in her church and community and is the incoming treasurer of the Edison Athletic Boosters.

She earned a bachelor's degree from Heidelberg College and a master's degree from the University of Toledo.

OASFAA's nearly 800 members represent colleges, universities, community colleges and technical schools, as well as public, private and proprietary schools in Ohio. They also represent lenders, guarantors and service providers in the student loan industry. The organization hosts two conferences and more than 28 training opportunities each year, and is viewed as one of the strongest in the Midwest.

BGSU administrator to appear on 'Jeopardy'

Viewers tuning into "Jeopardy" tomorrow (June 12) can cheer for Dr. Karen Meyers, assistant director of Adult Learner Services, who will be a contestant on the show.

Ever since she was in high school and Art Fleming was host, Meyers has been playing "Jeopardy" at home along with millions of other viewers. Friends told her how good she was, and she was always faster with the answers than the TV contestants. She didn't find out why until she was an actual contestant.

In March 2006, "Jeopardy" posted an online contestant test, allowing 15 seconds to answer each of the 50 questions. Meyers took the test along with 100,000 other aspirants and was notified that she passed. In June, she traveled to Chicago where she and the other hopefuls had to repeat the test—"presumably to make sure that someone else didn't take it for us," she conjectured—play a game of "Jeopardy" and undergo a personal interview. Five thousand prospective contestants were invited to auditions at various locations around the country. From this group, 400 were chosen for the contestant pool.

Meyers was selected last January and in February flew to Sony Studios in Culver City, Calif., to fulfill her longtime dream of appearing on the show. "We were sequestered, almost like being on a jury, but it was fun," she said of her contestant experience. "The other contestants were very interesting and there was a lot of camaraderie. Strangely enough, we were asked to write something like a press release about being on the show before we'd actually played, before we won or lost."

She wasn't nervous at all in the weeks before the show, but when filming started, she was shaking so hard she could barely sign in. The 50-degree temperature in the studio didn't help. She felt she was over-focused when the show began. "I couldn't even smile, I was concentrating so hard," she remembers.

The Toledo resident soon discovered why she always beat the contestants to the buzzer at home. The contestants can't push the button until a light blinks.

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Literature, art, film and history are the categories Meyers considers her best. So what came up? Sports. "I don't know very much about sports," she said, "but I did manage to answer a couple of questions."

In all the years she watched the show, Meyers had never seen anything like what happened when the contestant next to her missed a Double Jeopardy question. "I must have made quite a face because Alex Trebek said to me, 'Karen, you look like you know the answer,' and he let me answer it."

When her "Jeopardy" appearance airs at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Meyers will be watching with a group of friends and coworkers at the Ground Round Restaurant on Dussel Drive in Toledo.

"I hate to have my picture taken," Meyers said, but, like all the contestants, she did have her photo taken with Alex Trebek. Her souvenir picture frame stands empty, waiting for the print she'll receive after the show has been broadcast.

"Competing on "Jeopardy" is a once-in-a-lifetime event. When your run on 'Jeopardy' ends, whether it's lengthy like Ken Jennings' or only one show, you can never try again, except for occasional tournaments of champions for people who win more than a specified amount," Meyers explained. Contestants are also banned from competing on any other quiz show for one year. Would Meyers consider trying out for another quiz show? "I would," she said, "but not one where the contestants jump up and down.

"I enjoyed being treated like a celebrity on the way home when people in the airport spotted my 'Jeopardy' bag and questioned me about being on the program," she said. On Tuesday she'll once again be a celebrity, receiving her 30 minutes of fame and maybe fortune. Only Meyers knows the outcome and she's not allowed to tell.

IN BRIEF**Looking ahead—Opening Day is Aug. 17**

President Sidney Ribeau will welcome faculty and staff back to campus Aug. 17 for his Opening Day address at 10 a.m. in the Lenhart Grand Ballroom of the Bowen-Thompson Student Union.

Blood Drive set for Wednesday

The University will host a campus blood drive from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesday (June 13) in 228 Bowen-Thompson Student Union.

The American Red Cross, which tries to keep a three-day supply of blood on hand, reports it is experiencing a shortage.

Donors must be at least 17 years old, weigh between 110 and 350 pounds, be in general good health and feel well on the day of donation. The process takes about an hour—time well spent to help save as many as three lives, blood drive organizers note.

Everyone who donates blood will be entered into a raffle to win a Chevy Cobalt from Dave White Automotive Group.

Books on Perry, Prohibition win BGSU local history awards

A book by Dr. David Skaggs, a professor emeritus of history, has won first place in the academic scholar division of the Local History Publication Awards, presented by the Center for Archival Collections (CAC).

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The committee called *Oliver Hazard Perry: Honor, Courage, and Patriotism in the Early U.S. Navy* the “hands down winner” in its division and an “important work of significance by a major voice in the field.” Skaggs taught at BGSU from 1965-98.

The winning entry in each division receives a \$300 cash prize and a plaque.

In the independent scholar category, the winner was ...*nothing personal just business ...: prohibition and murder on Toledo's mean streets*, by Kenneth Dickson. In the same category, Rita Turnwald's *History of Ottoville and Vicinity 1845-2001* received honorable mention from the selection committee as an important contribution to the Putnam County village, local historical societies, and libraries.

Dickson was hailed by the committee as “a very dogged researcher. Focusing on one local incident, he broadens interest in parallel events with national impact from Detroit and Chicago to St. Louis.” His book tells the true story of the Prohibition-era conflict between Toledo saloonkeeper Jack Kennedy and mobster Yonni Licavoli and his gang.

The awards committee reviewed six books this spring, and the CAC is now accepting nominees for next year's honors. More information is available at www.bgsu.edu/colleges/library/cac/award.htm.

Falcons Barnstorming Tour in area

The Falcons Barnstorming Tour is in Fremont and Lima this week, bringing coaches, players and staff from 18 sports to meet alumni and friends.

Today (June 11) the tour stops at the Fremont Country Club, 2340 E. State St. Tuesday (June 12) it moves to the Shawnee Country Club, 1700 Shawnee Road, in Lima.

Both events will be held from 5:30-7:30 p.m. and will feature autograph sessions, raffles, silent auctions, BGSU merchandise, and food and beverages. Everyone is welcome.

Admission is free with advance registration, or \$5 at the door. For more details or to register, contact BGSU Athletics at 2-7100 or rbcoats@bgsu.edu, or visit bgsufalcons.com.

CALENDAR

Monday, June 11

Eight-Week Term Begins.

Bingo, noon–1 p.m., Falcon's Nest, Bowen-Thompson Student Union.

Dissertation Defense, “Study Behavior of Nursing Students,” by Lori Doll-Speck, higher education administration, 2 p.m., 444 Education Building.

Wednesday, June 13

Grilling on the Green, 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., Union.

Thursday, June 14

One-Day Blood Drive, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., 228 Union. To schedule an appointment, visit www.givelife.org and enter the sponsor

code “BGSU.” Walk-ins are also welcome. Positive ID is required in order to donate. All donors will be eligible to win a Chevy Cobalt.

Dissertation Defense, “The Impact of Student Characteristics on Students' Perceptions of Service-Learning,” by Karen E. Shultz, division of higher education and student affairs, 10 a.m., Women's Center, 107 Hanna Hall.

Dissertation Defense, “Indirectness in Vietnamese Editorials,” by Thai Tran, English, 2 p.m., 206 East Hall.

Friday, June 15

Summer Music Institute: Vocal Arts Final Concert, 10:30 a.m., Bryan Recital Hall, Moore Musical Arts Center.

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SMI: Brass Final Concert, 1 p.m., Bryan Recital Hall, Moore Musical Arts Center.
SMI: Jazz Final Concert, 4:30 p.m., Bryan Recital Hall, Moore Musical Arts Center.

Sunday, June 17

SMI: Piano Faculty Concert, 8 p.m., Bryan Recital Hall, Moore Musical Arts Center.

Monday, June 18

Sundaes on Mondays, free ice cream, noon-1 p.m., Falcon’s Nest, Union.
SMI: Musical Theatre Faculty Concert, 8 p.m., Bryan Recital Hall, Moore Musical Arts Center.

**Continuing Events
June 14-20**

Art Exhibition, “Cream of the Crop,” Union Galleries. Gallery hours follow building hours; check schedule.

Through July 11

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

JOB POSTINGS

FACULTY

There were no jobs posted this week.

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 <http://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.html

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

Helen Long, 55, died May 29 in Findlay. She was a retired police dispatcher for the University.

Grace Cupp, 93, died June 2 in Bowling Green. She was retired from the BGSU custodial staff.

