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BGSU students seeking sources of Wood County water pollution

Potential for water contamination is always among the biggest concerns of rural residents near concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFOs), sometimes called “factory farms.”

In a project teaming BGSU with the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) and the Wood County Health Department, Bowling Green students are helping to develop new techniques intended to identify sources of bacteria in water from various county waterways.

Those sources can be humans and other animals as well as livestock, notes Dr. Robert Midden, chemistry and director of the Chapman Community. Students in the residential learning community are collecting the samples from different locations, which also include septic systems and municipal wastewater treatment plants. DNA analysis of the samples by the U.S. Geological Survey will tell whether there are specific DNA markers present that are unique to bacteria from the different sources, Midden explains. If those markers can be identified, he adds, they in turn can be used to identify contamination culprits.

Among the locations being monitored are select ditches and creeks upstream and downstream from fields where manure from dairy CAFOs is applied. Dairy-based pollution would be higher downstream from the farm, Midden points out, so if bacteria counts aren't higher downstream, or if DNA markers indicate the bacteria isn't coming from cows, the dairy probably isn't the source.

The project is still at a “very early stage,” he says, but so far, no conclusive evidence has been found of surface water problems emanating from the county's two operating dairy CAFOs—Manders, at Range Line and Maplewood roads southeast of Weston, and Reyskens, on Cygnet Road north of Hoytville. Operations are pending at two other dairies—Naomi, west of Jerry City, and Green, southeast of Bowling Green.

“We don't know what we're going to find,” says Midden, who has met the owners of Manders Dairy—in operation since 2002—and has background data from the Reyskens site, taken before operations began there last year. “This is not a witch hunt; we're not out to find things that don't exist.”

The American Public Health Association has called for a moratorium on construction of new CAFOs. Midden urges caution, saying that since construction is allowed, the next best thing is to monitor the mega farms, trying to collect the best scientific data possible. County officials can be informed of any problems, enabling them to take steps to minimize adverse effects.

With much of a recent \$50,000 allocation from the county commissioners to the health department going toward the project, “that's an effort by the commissioners to address concerns of citizens of the county,” he adds. A one-year grant approved earlier this fall is providing \$30,000, with the USGS matching a \$15,000 award from the Ohio Lake Erie Commission's Lake Erie Protection Fund.

In addition, BGSU's Partnerships for Community Action contributed what Midden calls “crucial” funding of \$5,000 for campus testing for total fecal coliform and E. coli, high levels of which indicate contamination by fecal material from animals or humans. Samples also go to a commercial testing laboratory in Northwood to check for nitrates and nitrites, ammonia, nitrogen and total suspended solids.

Uncertainty about local CAFOs aside, Midden asserts there are definitely failed septic systems in Wood County—a “major problem” in some areas, he says—and a number of contaminated water wells. Contamination from abandoned oil wells has been documented, and because the wells can provide a conduit to groundwater, contamination from other sources,

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including manure, also seems reasonable, though evidence is needed, he says.

Concerns also exist about municipal wastewater emissions and application of wastewater sludge, as well as CAFO manure, to farm fields. But those issues just haven't been systematically studied yet, although some work is under way, he says.

On the front line of the current study are roughly 15 BGSU undergraduates, most of them first-year students in the Chapman Community, who are divided into four groups that go out about once a week, sampling at two or three sites per trip.

One of the students, Alysia Martin of Toledo, says the work has changed her opinion about CAFOs, which she was "totally against" when she got involved with the project. "I thought that I would be able to help find information to hold against them," admits Martin, an early childhood education major.

"But instead, what I have learned is that not all of them are completely bad," adds the BGSU sophomore, who has also visited Manders Dairy. "Now I am neither for them or against them. My interest lies strictly in what types of contamination are occurring and where it is coming from."

Also noting the possibility of groundwater pollution from faulty septic systems and other sources, she says the project "has taught me a lot about relying on facts. In this case, the results are everything."

That scientific approach is a desired outcome. "They have to learn the science concepts, but they also learn how science is actually practiced," says Midden. The students gain a sense of the amount of work needed to get accurate, reliable data and, at the same time, the satisfaction of doing it, he summarizes. Chain-of-custody records are being maintained so their results are admissible as evidence in court.

"They take it seriously because they know it's real," Midden says, explaining that the students understand their responsibility to do the job well because people are relying on it. "This is about as real as it gets."

BGSU designers explore 'look' of Toledo

It began with a simple question: What is the graphic culture of Toledo? The exploration of that topic by 13 BGSU graphic designers has led them down some unexpected avenues that may help the struggling city repair its self-image. The journey also resulted in a book of fresh and original visual takes on the town that Toledo Mayor Carty Finkbeiner and his delegation took with them on their trip to London recently for the most-livable city competition.

Amy Fidler and Jenn Stucker, School of Art, led a workshop last summer in which they began by asking the 11 participants to think about the images that come to mind when one visualizes cities like Los Angeles (bright colors, palm trees, eclectic buildings), Miami (pastels, Art Deco, swimsuits) or New York (dark spray paint, taxicabs, skyscrapers).

And Toledo? At first, a blank, then . . . gray, Lake Erie, and maybe Katie Holmes or Jamie Farr.

"That is not much of a visual palette for representing a city whose metro area includes over 600,000 people," Fidler and Stucker wrote in the foreword to *Toledo Remanufactured: Extracting a City's Graphic Identity*. "Visual expression lives everywhere else. Does it die in Toledo? We don't think so."

Meeting in the neutral territory of a barn at Fidler's Monclova home, the artists, who ranged from a sophomore to two recent graduates, talked about their own conceptions of and assumptions about Toledo and then set out on a series of field trips, first in a group and then on their own. They "looked at the spaces in between" the more well-known sites of Toledo,

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Fidler said, and found an undiscovered world of revealing detail, shape and color.

The artists then each focused on an aspect of the city, from its multitude of churches to its downtown windows to its culture of special desserts, as Zack Seuberling saw it, and came up with striking visual images for chapters in the book. These include Fidler's tongue-in-cheek proposition that the city's many near-deserted shopping malls be reconceptualized as metroparks to a series of quirky images based on the shape of Lucas County.

The book has proved popular with local Toledoans and "expatriates" alike, she said. It has provoked two types of reactions: the "Yes!" of recognition and the surprise of getting a fresh look at something the viewer had not really seen before. Toledo Remanufactured can be purchased at www.toledoremanufactured.com. The mayor's office bought 300 copies for distribution.

While the group did not find a common graphic culture, "There is beauty there," Fidler said. "You just have to look at it in a positive way. It's not glamorous, but it's accessible.

"The book ends up being very positive," she said, adding that she and Stucker did not intentionally attempt to influence the outcome.

"It is important to note that the students undertook this project without receiving college credit or monetary compensation," Stucker said. "Their participation and dedication to this intensive four-week project was a wonderful example of their passionate interest in their field of study."

A different view

Seuberling, who with Garret Bodette traversed Route 2 from one end of Lucas County to the other, taking photos at every mile, said the class gave him not only a new method of working to add to his repertoire of skills, but a new way of seeing. "Things I wouldn't have noticed before were now glaring at me," he said. Being from Cincinnati, he added, he had not explored the city much until he took the workshop, but "the class changed my perspective a lot. Now I really like Toledo, especially the downtown. I found my viewpoint in it."

Alyson Moutz used the geometric shapes she saw in the city to create new design. "I liked finding the small things that had their own significant beauty because most of these patterns and shapes people take for granted because they pass them every day, whether they're walking to school or the store or they drive by it on their way to church. They're the little things that make the city unique."

Changing perceptions

As active members of the arts community, Stucker and Fidler are eager to help rehabilitate Toledoans' negative self-image. They have participated in the Downtown Windows project, sponsored by the city and the Greater Toledo Arts Commission to create art for empty storefront windows (See www.designerid.com/portfolio.php?id=8312), as well as the annual Artomatic 419 Lite exhibit sponsored by the commission, where *Toledo Remanufactured* was displayed this year.

The two designers co-founded the local chapter of the American Institute for Graphic Arts, now known as the Professional Association for Design. The chapter already has 70 members, including representatives of the major design firms in the area, and has partnered with the city's Live Work Create Toledo initiative to attract artists to the area.

Stucker and Fidler feel strongly that, with the disappearance of many of the city's former top corporations, local design has been bypassed in favor of work from New York or Chicago. "We want to reintroduce local design talent to the area and pull business back in," Fidler explained. "We hope to unite the design community and also elevate the quality of work."

The two plan to hold a second workshop next summer and "would like to attract people from different disciplines and make it a collaborative project," Fidler said. To learn more, visit www.sweatspace.com.

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"We hope to get college-age people interested and invested in the city's future, so they don't see the need for flight. We hope we can inspire them to resist the peer pressure to leave," she added.

In addition to making use of the book to promote the city, the mayor's office honored Fidler, Stucker and their students at the Toledo Pride meeting in October.

Campus wraps up charitable-giving campaign with record number of donors

"You really are making a difference," Dr. Bob DeBard, chair of the 2007 United Way with Northwest Ohio Community Shares campaign, told those gathered at a Dec. 13 reception.

The \$121,202 raised and pledged this year came from 719 donors across campus and included 241 new givers—a record for the University. "I'm very proud to be part of the campaign and I'm very proud of all of you," said DeBard, higher education and student affairs.

This year's total surpassed last year's by 8 percent, he said, and while leadership gifts actually went down—due in part to several retirements—the increased giving across campus boosted the amount raised to a new high.

DeBard had BGSU sweatshirts for representatives of campus constituent groups who were leaders in giving. They were Dr. Stephen Langendorfer, School of Human Movement, Sport and Leisure Studies and director of the BG Perspective program; Dr. Wendy Manning, sociology and director of the Center for Family and Demographic Research; Kathy Newman, administrative assistant in the Office of Service-Learning, and Sheri Stoll, CFO.

"I believe in the cause not out of a soft-heartedness but out of a hard-headedness," said DeBard, who has been involved with United Way for a number of years in Erie and Wood counties and the Greater Toledo office. "The United Way does know how to administer fund-raising and be accountable to the public." He added that the local office has earned a five-star rating, the highest given to fund-raising organizations.

Speaking on behalf of President Sidney Ribeau, Executive Vice President Linda Dobb said, "The spirit of the holiday is something we can make last much longer by giving to agencies that support children and families in our area."

Special thanks went to the team of Kerry Foster, in Dobb's office; Elaine Michalak, marketing and communications, and Laura Emch, student financial aid, for their work in organizing and promoting the campaign. The facilities services department was also noted for being especially generous this year.

Jackson contributes to international conference on political opinions of the young

Dr. David Jackson, political science, was invited to share his expertise on the influences that shape young people's political beliefs at a conference in southern England earlier this month. Jackson, who is on faculty improvement leave for the 2007-08 academic year, is a Fulbright Visiting Professor this semester at the Katedra Amerykanistyki i Mass Mediow at the University of Lodz, in Poland.

The conference, on the topic of "How Do Young People Form Political Opinions," was held Dec. 7-9 at the Ditchley Foundation (www.ditchley.co.uk), which is devoted to the advancement of international learning and bringing together worldwide leaders to discuss global

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problems. Jackson was invited by foundation member Dr. Jeremy Greenstock, former British Ambassador to the United Nations.

Drawing around 45 academics, activists, politicians and journalists from Europe and North America, discussions focused on all aspects of political socialization, but paid particular attention to voter turnout levels of young people (which remain relatively low), as well as the forms of socio-political participation young people seem to prefer, including local charity activity and single-issue activism. Discussions also focused on how to encourage young people to continue those activities, but also to add voting to the list.

Jackson said he was particularly gratified that the conference included discussions of the influence of entertainment media and celebrity endorsements on young people's opinions and behavior.

"I was invited to the conference because of the research I have been doing for years on popular culture and politics," Jackson said. "Now, more than ever, professors and practitioners are realizing the importance of entertainment and entertainers in politics. I'm not saying Oprah can put Obama in the White House, but she helps draw a crowd and raise money, and my research has shown that celebrities do influence how young people, at least, think about politics."

He said he came away from the discussions with a renewed commitment to stressing critical thinking about the relationship between entertainment and politics among his students. "My work and other research has shown the influence of popular culture on young people's beliefs, but I want my students to think seriously about why celebrity influence might work, and whether or not it should."

Jackson also said the conference influenced his research plans. "So far, I have relied on survey research to determine aggregate relationships between media use and political beliefs. Now I want to conduct deeper discussions with young people in a focus group format to determine at the individual level what young people are thinking about when they consider the various influences over their political beliefs.

"I was also very pleased to be able to tell an international audience about the good things going on at BGSU in terms of research and teaching, for example the Bookstore Engagement Scholarship's combining of community service with a course on the meaning of civic engagement."

Second time is a charm for returning alumnus

While Steve Engle of Colorado is past president and an active member of the BGSU Denver alumni chapter, there was one thing he was missing: a diploma. Engle, who is a special projects coordinator for Aflac Insurance, left the University to get married in 1972 just shy of completing his coursework.

In the intervening years, though he was a successful businessman living in his dream location, "I felt incomplete," he recalled. And after attending a number of graduation ceremonies for others, the feeling nagged at him, as did the promise he had made to his parents, now deceased, that he would return to college.

That all changed Dec. 15 when he received his diploma in education, surrounded by family members, friends and fellow alumni from Colorado, and Dr. Barbara Henry, director of student and academic services in the College of Education and Human Development. It was Henry who mentored him and put together the program that allowed Engle to finish his degree.

Making the occasion even more special was that he shared it with his daughter, Janelle, who graduated with a major in visual communication and technology education and a minor in marketing.

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The two have shared her apartment this semester while he lived the life of a student once again. “She’s been very helpful to my cause,” he said, remembering that when he was first on campus there were no computers, no cell phones, and women were required to swim across the former Eppler pool to graduate.

Though the work was challenging to the returning student, it also provided some unexpected bonuses. As part of his Families in Middle and Older Age course, Engle was required to interview a person age 70 or older. He reconnected with an aunt in Tiffin whom he had not known well before, and eventually wrote a 40-page paper on her life. He also enjoyed the discussions in his classes, feeling that his life experience gave him a different perspective from the rest of the students. Now, “I want to take more courses; it’s so much fun—just not with the pressure of all these papers,” he said as he studied for three finals last week.

Engle said he has again been impressed with the quality of his education at BGSU the second time around. “I’ve had four Ph.D.s as professors and another as an advisor,” he observed, “and everyone was really kind.”

Active student

As a former alternate Freddie Falcon, varsity swimmer, president of his fraternity and member of the Anteans Society, an honorary Greek leadership organization, Engle was an engaged student, but changing his major had caused him to lose ground in his progress toward graduation. When his wife, the former Suzanne Kapler, graduated, he felt it was time to get on with his life. “I felt I had to show her I would actually work,” he joked.

As true “Falcon Flames,” the two had met in Biology 101 in Hanna Hall. “Sue was a wonderful woman and I knew I needed to be with her,” he said. The two chose Colorado as the place they wanted to live. Suzanne is now a partner in an accounting firm specializing in not-for-profit organizations such as the Denver Zoo and Art Museum.

Last year, with Janelle, a legacy scholar, beginning her final year at BGSU, and having reached a point in his career when he could take some time off, Engle contacted the University about the possibility of returning. Brenda Sattler in the registrar’s office was the first to take up his case and get him pointed in the right direction, which turned out to be Henry, in Human Development and Family Studies.

“She was critical,” Engle said. “She took the time to get my transcripts from 1968-72 and put together a program for me. I wanted to succeed but I didn’t know what to take. I’ve met with her about every two weeks. She rescued me.”

The family showed its appreciation for Henry by presenting her a special “Engle Family Award” at a luncheon in the Bowen-Thompson Student Union following graduation Saturday.

Now Engle can start the new year and the next phase of his life—as a college graduate.

Farewell to retiring employees

The close of the year is also the close of a chapter in the lives of employees who are retiring. Following is a list of those who have retired since August.

Classified staff

In August, Janet Cavanaugh, facilities services, retired after 17 years with BGSU, as did Sharon Apple, registrar’s office, who had been with the University since 1983.

September’s retirees included Steven Schwab, facilities services, after 36.5 years at BGSU, and Elizabeth Wilhelm, University Libraries, after 33.5 years.

On Dec. 1, Kenneth Stemen, facilities services, retired with 27 years of service.

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Administrative staff

August's retirees included Teresita Domini, Student Health Center, who joined the University in 1982; Susan Gruber, Information Technology Services, 1977; Paul Lopez, WBGU-PBS, 1980; James Stainbrook, business office, 1996, and Larry Weiss, University relations and governmental affairs, 1973.

Nov. 1 saw the retirement of Claudia Clark, Counseling Center, who had been with BGSU since 1990; Daniel Connelly, University Athletics, 1996; Deborah Smith, Graduate College, 1974, and Ilse Thomas, treasurer's office, 1958.

Faculty

Dr. Fiona MacKinnon, higher education and student affairs, retired in December. MacKinnon joined the College of Education and Human Development in 1988. Also this month, Dr. Larry Dunning, computer science, retired after 28 years with BGSU.

IN BRIEF

Technology Support Center to be open extended hours

The Technology Support Center (TSC) will be open from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Jan. 5 and 6 prior to the start of spring classes.

MyBGSU adds hours in preparation for new semester

To provide additional access to online services, MyBGSU will be available for extended hours the weekend before spring semester begins. Following is the schedule:

Saturday, Jan. 5 7:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.
 Sunday, Jan. 6 7:30 a.m. to 11:59 p.m.
 Monday, Jan. 7 midnight to 9 p.m.

MyBGSU may be unavailable for up to a 60-minute period beginning at about 5:30 p.m. on Jan. 6 and for a 30-minute period beginning around 6 a.m. on Jan. 7 in order to complete system functions. Applications for "Parking," "Change of Home Address," "My Financial Aid Status" and "Hire a Student Employee" will not be available beyond their normal schedule.

Monitor takes holiday break

This is the last Monitor until Jan. 7. Monitor wishes the campus a pleasant and restful holiday.

CALENDAR

Tuesday, Jan. 8

Movie, "Zoolander," 9:30 p.m., Union Theater.

Wednesday, Jan. 9

Women's Basketball vs. Akron, 7 p.m., Anderson Arena.
Faculty Artist Series, featuring pianist

Robert Satterlee, 8 p.m., Bryan Recital Hall, Moore Musical Arts Center.

Thursday, Jan. 10

BG@100 Open Forum, 1:30-2:30 p.m., 315 Union.
Creative Writing Program MFA Readings, by Chris Bloomfield, poetry, and Megan

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Ayers-Vidmar, fiction, 7:30 p.m., Prout Chapel.

Friday, Jan. 11

Movie, "Zoolander," 9:30 p.m., Union Theater.

Saturday, Jan. 12

Track Meet, BGSU Triangular, 11 a.m., Whitaker Track.

Women's Basketball vs. Ohio, 2 p.m., Anderson Arena.

Gymnastics vs. University of Missouri, 7 p.m., Eppler Center Gymnasium.

Sunday, Jan. 13

Bowling Green High School Bands Winter Concert, 3 p.m., Kobacker Hall, Moore Musical Arts Center.

Praecepta, "24: The Concert," 6 p.m., Bryan Recital Hall, Moore Musical Arts Center.

Movie, "Zoolander," 9:30 p.m., Union Theater.

**Continuing Events
Jan. 8-16**

Art Exhibition, 58th annual Faculty/Staff Exhibition, showcasing the work of more than 40 artists, Dorothy Uber Bryan Gallery, Fine Arts Center. Gallery hours are 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday and 1-4 p.m. Sundays. Gallery closed Dec. 16-Jan. 7.

Jan. 8- 25

Art Exhibition, "Trench Cuisine: A Rock Band's Recipe for Semi-Success," a multimedia songbook presentation by Craig Matis, Willard Wankelman Gallery, Fine Arts Center. Gallery hours are 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday and 1-4 p.m. Sundays. Gallery closed Dec. 16-Jan. 7.

Jan. 14-Feb. 13

Art Exhibition, Paintings by Rebecca Kaler, Little Gallery, BGSU Firelands. Gallery hours are 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Friday.

JOB POSTINGS**FACULTY**

Human Services. Associate/Full Professor. Call Steve Lab, 2-2326. Deadline: Jan. 28.

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://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

Off-campus classified:

http://www.bgsu.edu/offices/ohr/employment/cl_staff/page11145.html

ADMINISTRATIVE

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

OBITUARY

There were no obituaries this week.