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Dining Services bringing food from local farms to campus tables

Cucumbers, green peppers, melons and sweet corn are among the locally grown produce University Dining Services (UDS) brought to dining centers across campus last summer. Now the University has become part of a pilot project to grow fresh vegetables locally during the winter in "hoop houses," which are similar to greenhouses but use almost no energy or heat.

Red Fire lettuce grown in a hoop house at Bittersweet Farms in Whitehouse was delivered last week to the Bowling Greenery. The project was funded through a grant from the Center for Innovative Food Technology (CIFT). "We're very excited that this technology is available in northwest Ohio," said Amy Hoops, quality assurance and purchasing coordinator for dining services. "This is a way to feed people in our area at a very low energy cost."

The new technology could extend the University's ability to serve fresh, locally grown food year 'round. In the summer, "when produce is at its best in Ohio, we have few students," Hoops said.

She and Lois Serfozo, UDS assistant general manager, were guests at a demonstration of the growing method Feb. 5 at Bittersweet Farms. Also attending was U.S. Rep. Marcy Kaptur (D-Toledo), whose office works closely with CIFT to identify "ways of feeding ourselves without depending on California and Florida," Hoops said.

"The hoop house is just four layers of plastic, with something like a hair dryer to circulate air between the layers, and it's not warm inside like a greenhouse," she explained. "The real key is situating it properly, maintaining the right humidity, preparing the soil and knowing what varieties will grow well in it.

"We'd love to find a place to use hoop house technology closer to campus," she added.

A grand plan

She and Dining Services Director Gail Finan share a passion for bringing locally grown food to campus. "It's been Gail's goal since coming here as director," Hoops said.

As the daughter of a local farm family, Hoops is especially pleased to support local growers. "We returned \$15,000 to the local economy last summer," she said.

BGSU was invited to participate in the hoop house project by CIFT, which has also played a pivotal role in connecting the University to local farmers. Though that had been their goal, Finan and Hoops had had limited success until becoming involved with the organization. They had bought cucumbers and peppers from FFA students at Eastwood, but without a campus central receiving office, the process of each dining hall checking the produce for quality and the farmers' making multiple stops on campus proved unworkable.

Then, through its Farm to Chef program, CIFT associate program director Rebecca Singer put Finan and Hoops in touch with distributors Vince and Charlotte Zelenak of Vin Char Produce in Bowling Green. That was the key to the kingdom of locally grown strawberries, blueberries, raspberries, watermelon, tomatoes and more, Hoops said. "They assure the quality and that the produce is clean and properly packed," she said. The tomatoes actually come from a hoop house at Riehm Farms in Tiffin.

"It's worked out tremendously well," said Charlotte Zelenak of the relationship. "Quality is the first thing for us, and it's the first thing for the University. We've all been very satisfied."

Singer said the process of developing connections with farmers and buyers and distributing locally grown food is quite complicated, and the BGSU relationship has proved valuable to

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CIFT as well. “We had worked for some time to find a school that could purchase the quantity necessary to be worthwhile for a grower, and having a direct connection with BGSU has been very accommodating.

“It’s also a great resource for feedback on what things we need to change and improve upon,” she added. “We want to keep putting the focus on ‘local’ and we hope we can keep making that happen. We certainly appreciate all Bowling Green is doing and all their insights.”

Hoops, Finan and the Zelenaks attended a CIFT-sponsored dinner last summer at Diva restaurant in Toledo, honoring local partnerships and demonstrating what can be done with locally grown foods.

“CIFT is really doing their job, and I’m very happy to be working with them,” Hoops said. “We’ve been taking baby steps toward our goal and now we can see a lot more possibilities.”

CIFT is the food technology division of EISC Inc., a network of engineers and business advisors who work with small companies to apply research and technology solutions to help them better their market positions. One of CIFT’s services is to help local farmers find better ways to distribute their products.

Now that the lettuce crop has gone by, the Bittersweet Farms hoop house will be replanted for the next crop. “We expect fresh tomatoes by the end of May,” Hoops said. “And we’re looking forward to fresh asparagus this spring from our local farmers.”

BGSU, state seek ways to address projected budget deficit

A less optimistic budget outlook than anticipated has the state looking at additional ways to economize, Gov. Ted Strickland has announced. While the two-year state budget that went into effect last July originally projected a surplus by the end of June 2009, circumstances have developed that now point to a shortfall of \$733 million to \$1.9 billion.

According to a Jan. 24 story in the Columbus Dispatch, the higher deficit could be as much as 3.6 percent of the budget. A slowing economy, lower tax revenue, climbing fuel prices, the fallout from the sub-prime mortgage crisis and job losses are among other factors that have contributed to the worsening of state finances.

To help deal with the shortfall, Strickland has again asked state agencies to identify spending cuts and other savings. Instead of raising taxes or cutting services, he called for doing things “at less cost and more efficiently.”

The governor has pledged to protect higher education from state cuts as happened in the past. But, as President Sidney Ribeau noted in his State of the University address, under current conditions, it is still possible that higher education may receive a reduction in its appropriation before the end of the next fiscal year on June 30, 2009.

Campus efficiencies studied

Just as Ohio must have a balanced budget, as required by the state Constitution, so must state universities, said Sheri Stoll, BGSU’s chief financial officer. At the University, “we need to look at things we can delay or defer in the upcoming year,” she said, asking all departments and areas to examine their budgets for possible savings.

Delaying or deferring expenditures that are discretionary in nature could potentially provide BGSU with needed flexibility in our financial planning as we navigate through the state’s economic and budgetary uncertainties, she explained.

“For example, the amount and timing of employee compensation increases are under consideration,” Stoll said. Traditionally, compensation increases at BGSU are determined as part

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of the University's annual budget preparation in late spring and become effective with the start of the new fiscal year July 1.

"It seems prudent to me this year to consider delaying or limiting possible compensation increases until we are certain that we have sufficient resources to fund them," she said. "If it becomes apparent that no state cuts are forthcoming and we can grant increases, we can then consider the possibility of making the increases retroactive to July 1. However, we want to be certain we can fund the increases without having to make position or operational cuts elsewhere in the University to pay for them."

University on cutting edge of an emerging technology

A project pairing BGSU and Case Western Reserve University has been cited as an example of an emerging technology by the New Media Consortium.

Pocket Virtual Worlds, a three-dimensional, photographic virtual space that can be explored on the screen of a handheld device, is an application of mobile broadband technology—one of six described as emerging by the consortium in the 2008 Horizon Report.

The report is an annual collaboration between the EDUCAUSE Learning Initiative and the consortium, an international group of learning-focused organizations, including BGSU, that are dedicated to exploration and use of new media and technology.

The report predicts that the six technologies—also including grassroots video, collaboration webs, data "mashups" (a combination of data from multiple sources in one tool), collective intelligence and social operating systems—will likely enter mainstream use in higher education and similarly focused organizations within the next five years.

Time-to-adoption of mobile broadband is listed as two to three years. But the developers of Pocket Virtual Worlds, Dr. Larry Hatch, visual communication and technology education, and Jared Bendis of Case Western Reserve, are working to push the pace of their technology, whose goal is to enable classroom-bound students to take virtual field trips.

"We were very delighted to have it selected as one of the new technologies to watch," said Hatch, who is spending this academic year at the University of Applied Sciences in Salzburg, Austria. Four students from his Digital Media Research Group at BGSU also went to Salzburg last summer, and while they have returned to Bowling Green, three are continuing to work with Hatch and his Austrian colleagues through the Internet.

Hatch noted that he and Bendis, the creative director for new media at Case Western Reserve, have made presentations about Pocket Virtual Worlds to New Media Consortium members for the last two years.

The technology allows for navigation of virtual environments while actually walking around and exploring them. Photos create panoramas in which people can navigate by using a handheld device. That originally meant a personal digital assistant, but "we are currently moving the technology to work in the much larger market of mobile phones," Hatch said.

Underlying the technology is the premise that if a panorama represents a single point in space, then an array of panoramas is a virtual world. In the photographic environment, navigation mode allows users to walk on a map that, like a Global Positioning System (GPS), moves under the person to provide a real-world connection and physical sense of scale. At key areas of the map, the system switches to panorama mode, allowing a 360-degree view, and unlike GPS, it works indoors or outdoors.

"Just yesterday (Feb. 5) I took dozens of panoramas at St. Mark's Square in Venice during Carnival," said Hatch, adding that he has also completed documenting a castle near the

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Austrian university where he's working. "Both of these data sets will be used with our mapping program."

Those locations could thus become destinations for the desired virtual field trips, with classroom projects and discussion stemming from what students "see" around them. Since the technology can use digitally created images as well as photographs, students could also theoretically explore outer space or locations in history. Hatch and Bendis took about 230 panoramic photos at the Alamo to create the working prototype for Pocket Virtual Worlds.

The technology has also been expanded into a Pocket Mobile Gaming system that, in the gaming mode, can help children learn colors and shapes, sign language or another spoken language, according to Hatch.

"Mobile devices have come a long way in the past few years," the Horizon Report points out in its assessment of mobile broadband technology. "Now they are video players, Web browsers, document editors, news readers and more. The technology and infrastructure have developed to the point where mobile devices are becoming essential tools, bringing the whole of the Internet and all your social connections to the palm of your hand."

The report describes the continuing work of the New Media Consortium's Horizon Project, a five-year research effort that has distilled the viewpoints of more than 175 project advisory board members from business, industry and education, as well as drawing on extensive published resources, current research and practice, and the expertise of the consortium and EDUCAUSE communities.

Campus emergency notification systems to be tested

The University will conduct a test of its emergency notification procedures on March 12.

This will include:

- text messages from AlertBG
- a campuswide email
- recorded messages on 419-37-ALERT and 372-SNOW
- announcements on the Bowen-Thompson Student Union televisions
- other available means of communication

Following the test, the crisis committee will assess the results and ask the campus community for its input.

More information on the test and what to expect will be coming in the next two Monitors and in Campus Update.

AlertBG updates

In the meantime, those who have not registered to receive emergency text messages should sign up on MyBGSU. AlertBG is the third tab to the right of the Welcome tab at the top of the page.

If you have already signed up for the messages but have changed carriers or cell numbers, do not open a new account. Instead, simply go into your account and enter the new information.

Deans and directors are working with their faculty to determine what policy will work best for their areas in regard to asking students to turn off cell phones during class. Faculty should consult with their dean when deciding how to proceed.

An updated FAQ page is being prepared and will be posted shortly to address issues that have arisen since AlertBG was inaugurated. Basic information is available at www.bgsu.edu/offices/mc/page39812.html

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Learn about Japanese calligraphy at exhibit, workshops

The campus and community are invited to view contemporary Japanese calligraphy, attend a demonstration of the ancient art, and even try their hand at it in the next few weeks. A special exhibition called “Shodo: The Way of Writing” will be on view in the McFall Center Gallery beginning tomorrow (Tuesday, Feb. 26) through March 18.

Comprising 50 scrolls of calligraphy in three styles, the show is the only one in the region and comes to BGSU through the generosity of the Consulate General of Japan in Detroit and the International Culture Promotion Foundation of the Shodo Journal Research Institute. Akiko Kawano Jones, faculty member in Japanese and co-director of the Asian Studies Program, arranged for the campus exhibition and related events.

As part of the exhibit, two of the artists will give a free demonstration from 5-6 p.m. March 17 in McFall Assembly Room, showing the active movement of Japanese calligraphy. A reception will follow.

On March 18, two free workshops will be held, from 11:30 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. and again from 4-6 p.m. in the same space. A limited number of calligraphy sets will be available at a reduced price, Jones said. No artistic or calligraphic experience is needed, but reservations are required. Contact Jones at 2-7136 or jakiko@bgsu.edu.

Campus sponsors of the exhibit and events are the Asian Studies Program, the College of Arts and Sciences, the Office of the Executive Vice President and the Japanese Club.

IN BRIEF**School of Art presents its public scholarship in ‘Imagining America’**

Faculty in the School of Art will discuss their public scholarship projects from 5:30-7:30 this evening (Monday, Jan. 25) in 2000 Fine Arts Center. Special guest Dr. Jan Cohen-Cruz, director of Imagining America: Artists and Scholars in Public Life, will be on hand for the round-table discussion and reception.

The event is designed to connect BGSU faculty and staff with the work of Imagining America, and is part of a two-day conference (See www.bgsu.edu/offices/mc/monitor/02-18-08/page46540.html). Imagining America is a national consortium of colleges and universities committed to public scholarship in the arts, humanities and design.

A poster session and the reception will begin at 5:30, followed by presentations and discussion. The projects and their participants include:

- Partnerships with Prints—Janet Ballweg, art
- The Art of Homelessness: Family House Homeless Shelter—Stephanie Rozene, art and Chapman Community at Kohl
- Service-Learning through Travel—Gordon Ricketts, art and director of the Arts Village, and students Melissa Cook, Ross Roadruck, James Maloney, Hannah Kuenneke and Kevin Vanek
- Art in TARTA—Amy Fidler, art, and student Brian Watterson
- Poe Road Public Art Project—Greg Mueller, art, and alumnus Jason Karas

Tech Trends speaker to address Microsoft Vista and Office 2007

DeVaris Brown, academic relations manager for the Heartland Region of Microsoft Corp., will speak on “Microsoft Vista and Office 2007: Your Gateway to Productivity” at 2:30 p.m. Tuesday (Feb. 26) in 206 Bowen-Thompson Student Union as the next speaker in the Tech Trends Series.

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Brown will explain that, despite the myths, Vista's security and stability outperforms its predecessor, Windows XP. He will describe how Office 2007 delivers new functionality, including an improved user interface and the timesaving Office Ribbon.

The series is sponsored by Information Technology Services.

CEO of White Castle to speak on campus

The chief executive officer of the Ohio company that invented the Slider® will speak about leading an American brand Thursday (Feb. 28).

BGSU alumnus Bill Ingram, the president and CEO of White Castle Systems Inc., will be the inaugural speaker for the College of Business Administration's 2008 Executive Lecture Series. His presentation on the importance of leadership is scheduled from 4-5 p.m. in 202B Lenhart Grand Ballroom of the Bowen-Thompson Student Union. It is free and open to the public.

Since its founding in 1949, White Castle has achieved many "firsts." Best known for its signature burger, White Castle not only was the first fast-food hamburger chain in the world, it was the first to sell a billion burgers, the first to mass produce paper hats and the first to sell frozen fast food.

Ingram earned a bachelor of science degree in economics from Bowling Green in 1972. He took over the CEO position from his father in 1979 and today is a well-known Columbus philanthropist.

The war on terror and its images are topic of lecture

The role that images play in wars, and especially the current "war on terror," is the topic of the next talk in the Provost Lecture Series. Dr. W.J.T. Mitchell of the University of Chicago will explore terrorism, violence and media in "Cloning Terror: The War of Images, 9-11 to Abu Ghraib."

Author of *What Do Pictures Want?: The Lives and Loves of Images*, Mitchell will speak at 7 p.m. Thursday (Feb. 28) in the Bowen-Thompson Student Union Theater. His talk is free and open to the public.

Mitchell holds that, while wars have always been fought over and conducted by images, the current "war on terror" has raised the imaginary component of warfare to a new level of importance. He discusses new media technologies that have made the reproduction, circulation and transformation of war images much faster. He will explore the metaphor of a "war on terror" as an imaginary, fantastical notion—a metaphor that has become all too literal, real and deadly. Mitchell also will look at whether the war on terror has had the perverse effect of strengthening and proliferating its enemy, or "cloning terror."

A professor of English and art history, Mitchell is editor of the interdisciplinary quarterly journal *Critical Inquiry* and a leader in the emerging fields of visual culture and iconology, the study of images across the media. His numerous awards include the Guggenheim Fellowship and the Morey Prize in art history, given by the College Art Association of America.

Support for the series, which is hosted by the Institute for the Study of Culture and Society, comes from the College of Arts and Sciences, the Graduate College, the Department of Theatre and Film, the Department of Ethnic Studies, the School of Art, the American Culture Studies Program and the Office of the Provost.

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Monday, Feb. 25

Arts and Sciences Forum, "The Engaged University," with keynote speaker Dr. Jan Cohen-Cruz, director of Imagining America and professor at Syracuse University, 12:30-1:15 p.m., 308 Bowen-Thompson Student Union.

Tuesday, Feb. 26

Tech Trends Series, "Microsoft Vista and Office 2007: Your Gateway to Productivity," with DeVaris Brown, academic relations manager for the Heartland Region of Microsoft Corp., 2:30 p.m., 206 Union. Sponsored by ITS.

Tuesday Nights Film Series, "Felicia's Journey" (1999), Canada, directed by Atom Egoyan, 7:30 p.m., Gish Film Theater, Hanna Hall.

Movie, "Tommy Boy," 9:30 p.m., Union Theater.

Wednesday, Feb. 27

Brown Bag Luncheon, "Gifts of Diversity: A History of Women of Color at BGSU," presented by Chrishawn Marsh and Tamara Serrano, American culture studies, noon-1 p.m., Women's Center, 107 Hanna Hall. In recognition of Black History Month.

Dissertation Defense, "Academic and Disciplinary Outcomes following Adjudication of Academic Dishonesty," by Casey Sacks, higher education and student affairs, 3 p.m., 301 Education Building.

Native American Dance Performance, presented by the Cleveland American Indian Education Center, 6 p.m., Central Lounge, BGSU Firelands. A BGSU Firelands Diversity Celebration Event.

Black History Month Event, "Real Hip-Hop/Music," featuring original poetry, live bands, emcees, neo singers, smooth rock, rap, R & B, jazz and hip-hop, 7-11 p.m., Black Swamp Pub, Union. Sponsored by the Black Student Union.

Concert, with the BGSU Concert and University bands, directed by Carol Hayward and Kenneth Thompson, respectively, and the BGSU Wind Symphony, directed by Bruce Moss, 8 p.m., Kobacker Hall, Moore Musical Arts Center.

Thursday, Feb. 28

Executive Lecture Series, with BGSU alumnus Bill Ingram, president and CEO of White Castle Systems Inc., 4-5 p.m., 202B Lenhart Grand Ballroom, Union. Sponsored by the

College of Business Administration.

Provost Lecture Series, "Cloning Terror: The War of Images, 9-11 to Abu Ghraib," by W.J.T. Mitchell, English and art history, University of Chicago, on the relation of visual and verbal representations in the context of social and political issues, 7 p.m., Union Theater. Sponsored by the Institute for the Study of Culture and Society.

International Film Series, "Tsuki wa docchi ni dete iru (All under the Moon)" (1993), Japan, directed by Sai Yoichi, 7:30 p.m., Gish Film Theater, Hanna Hall.

Lecture, by College of Arts and Sciences' Distinguished Visiting Writer Tony Barnstone, English, Whittier (Calif.) College, 7:30 p.m., Prout Chapel.

Planetarium Show, "It's About Time," a show for Leap Year, 8 p.m. A \$1 donation is suggested.

Concert, Doctor of Musical Arts Showcase, featuring College of Musical Arts' doctoral students, 8 p.m., Bryan Recital Hall, Moore Musical Arts Center.

Friday, Feb. 29

Women in Science Day, an interactive program to help female high school students discover careers available in science, math, engineering and technology, 8 a.m.-2 p.m., Lenhart Grand Ballroom, Union.

Board of Trustees, 1:30 p.m., 308 Union.

Saturday, March 1

Men's Basketball vs. Kent State, 12:30 p.m., Anderson Arena.

Women's Basketball vs. Buffalo, 4 p.m., Anderson Arena.

Hockey vs. Michigan State, 7:35 p.m., Ice Arena.

Continuing Events

Feb. 25 and 26

Conference, "Imagining America: Artists and Scholars in Public Life," a national consortium of colleges and universities committed to public scholarship in the arts, humanities and design. All events will take place in 308 Union. For a complete list of activities and participants, visit www.bgsu.edu/offices/service-learning/page46220.html.

Feb. 25-April 2

Art Exhibition, box assemblages by Becki Smith, Little Gallery, BGSU Firelands. Gallery hours are 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Friday.

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Feb. 26-March 18

Art Exhibition, "Shodo: The Way of Writing," contemporary Japanese calligraphy by 50 artists, McFall Center Gallery. Gallery hours are 10 a.m.-5 p.m. weekdays, with a special Saturday showing from noon-5 p.m. March 15.

Through Feb. 27

Art Exhibition, annual Undergraduate Art and Design Exhibition, Dorothy Uber Bryan and Willard Wankelman galleries, Fine Arts Center. Gallery hours are 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Tuesday and Wednesday.

Feb. 28-March 1

Conference, "Beholding Violence: A Conference on Medieval and Early Modern Culture," with keynote speakers W.J.T. Mitchell, English and art history, University of Chicago, and Michael Uebel, psychotherapist and medical social worker, Austin Center for Relational Psychoanalysis and Psychotherapy. Co-sponsored by the Institute for the Study of Culture and Society and the School of Art. For more information, visit www.bgsu.edu/departments/art/beholding or contact Dr. Allie Terry at 2-8533 or alterry@bgsu.edu.

Feb. 28-March 2

Caryl Crane Children's Theatre Production, "Stuart Little-The Musical," music by Ronna Frank, lyrics by Joseph Robinette and Ronna Frank, original story by E.B. White, dramatized by Joseph Robinette. Performances are at 7:30 p.m. Thursday-Saturday (Feb. 28-March 1) and 2:30 p.m. Sunday (March 2), McBride Auditorium, BGSU Firelands. Tickets are \$4 for BGSU students, \$5 for children, \$6 for senior citizens and \$8 for other adults. To order, call the box office at 2-0747.

Through Feb. 29

Planetarium Show, "Blown Away! The Wild World of Weather," showings at 8 p.m. Tuesday and Friday. \$1 donation suggested. The show will be given again March 11-April 5, including some Saturdays.

March 3-7

Spring Break. No classes, offices open.

Through March 8

Art Exhibition, "Circumstance: The Intersection Between Choice and Chance," student art, Union Art Galleries. Hours are 8 a.m.-9 p.m. Monday-Saturday and 10 a.m.-9 p.m. Sundays.

JOB POSTINGS

FACULTY

Computer Science. Visiting Assistant Professor. Call Ron Lancaster, 2-2337. Deadline: March 3.

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.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

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OBITUARY

There were no obituaries this week.

