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BGSU, Owens get grant to produce more scientists

BGSU is teaming with Owens Community College to address a goal that's easy to state and offering a challenge to meet.

It's "fairly ambitious," says Dr. Moira van Staaden, biology, of a national business-backed goal of doubling the number of college graduates in the sciences by 2015. "But we need to do it."

She and a colleague from Owens, Dr. Anne Bullerjahn, hope to do their part as directors of a project funded by the National Science Foundation for up to \$2.2 million over five years. Science, Engineering and Technology Gateway Ohio (SETGO) is expected to encompass several hundred Bowling Green and Owens students and faculty in a three-pronged approach to generating more scientists.

The national need stems from an aging work force in the so-called STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) fields, says van Staaden, whose project co-director at BGSU, Dr. Tracy Huziak-Clark in the Division of Teaching and Learning, will assess its effectiveness.

While the number of jobs requiring at least a two-year degree in the STEM disciplines is expected to increase by 2020, the number of American college graduates in those fields is declining, van Staaden explains. "It's not just an Ohio problem, but it's particularly acute here because education is problematic in Ohio," she adds, noting that Ohio is in the bottom half of states in its percentages of both STEM graduates and residents with at least a two-year degree.

Research has shown that many students who enter college in math or the sciences but then leave those disciplines do so because they weren't prepared for the college-level content they encountered, van Staaden says. So SETGO will begin with a five-week "bridge" course at Owens, taught by Owens faculty, to bolster incoming students in math and science, including chemistry and biology.

Owens students sometimes start there thinking they're not interested in science, says Bullerjahn, a professor of math and life/natural sciences, but "with this grant, we can say, 'Do we have a program for you!'" The bridge course will provide an opportunity to learn about different branches of science—also including ecology, for example—in a lab-based, hands-on setting.

"I think if we can tap into that interest and show the aspects of science they've never seen before, it will take off for them," she predicts.

Students in the bridge program will be in cohorts of 24, which are further divided into study groups of six people working closely with a peer teaching assistant. Three other Owens faculty members are also involved with the bridge program, which, van Staaden points out, is modeled after BGSU's successful Academic Investment in Math and Science (AIMS) program for young women and students of color.

"What we're trying to do is recreate the social and academic support connections that AIMS is so good at providing and put it in a framework that will work for a broader demographic," she says, noting that Owens students are often older than the traditional college-age students served by AIMS.

Following the summer bridge program, SETGO students—who must be American citizens—will be part of a BGSU-based, academic-year learning community called the Art of Science Community. It's so named because evidence elsewhere suggests that students with other creative interests and outlets tend to be more successful in the sciences, and institutions attracting such students can increase their graduation rates, van Staaden says.

The learning community will host monthly meetings of faculty and students, to be held alternately at BGSU and Owens, with the theme "Building a Better Environment." The two-hour meetings will cut across the sciences, with one hour devoted to a scientific presentation with broad appeal followed by an hour of social programming, according to the Bowling Green biologist. Video podcasts will be part of the meetings as well, allowing more students to participate at some level, she says.

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Faculty—along with BGSU undergraduate and graduate students—can serve as mentors to the Owens students, many of whom the directors hope will transfer to Bowling Green to complete four-year degrees after two years at the community college. “This provides a mechanism for them to transition to BG if they have the desire to do that,” she says.

Bullerjahn points out that BGSU will afford the students more opportunities for research experiences—the third element of SETGO. The idea is for students to work in faculty members’ labs during the summer following the academic year in the learning community. The project’s success will depend largely on how many faculty get the students involved with research that piques their interest, says van Staaden, adding that many of her science colleagues already do a “splendid” job of it. The grant offers funds to faculty for materials, as well as student stipends.

Ortiz is ‘history detective’

Soon after joining the history faculty at BGSU last fall, Dr. Stephen Ortiz took on his first case as a detective.

The mystery surrounded an Easter Seals-like stamp with the words “Pay the Bonus” beneath an image of a World War I doughboy. Also appearing on the stamp’s left side was the right half of the logo of the Veterans of Foreign Wars—a logo with which Ortiz was very familiar through his ongoing research of the VFW.

With those clues, it didn’t take long for him to solve the case, whose resolution is scheduled to be revealed nationally as part of the Public Broadcasting Service’s “History Detectives” on July 28. Including the stamp story and two others, the hourlong program premieres at 9 p.m. that Monday on WBGU-PBS.

“History Detectives” solicits historical mysteries from viewers and combines traditional investigative techniques with modern technologies and lots of legwork to solve them. Many items are submitted to the show but few pan out as viable story lines, said Ortiz, noting that they must have a compelling element or significance in American history.

In his case, Ortiz explained, a man whose grandfather was a World War I veteran was curious about the stamp’s origins and the importance of the bonus issue.

Bonus history

Ortiz said the producers of “History Detectives” talked to scholars who had material about the Bonus March. The march was a 1932 assemblage of World War I veterans, their family members and others in Washington, D.C., where they sought immediate payment of “adjusted compensation” (the bonus) promised to veterans in legislation adopted by Congress in 1924. Based on days of service, the bonus averaged about \$600 per person but for some was as much as \$1,500 or more. The problem, from the perspective of veterans mired in the Depression by 1932, was that the 1924 statute didn’t allow distribution of the bonus until 1945. Legislation that would have changed that had passed the House of Representatives but stalled in the Senate, and the marchers’ attempt to force the issue was met with force by Gen. Douglas MacArthur-led Army troops, who destroyed their “Hooverville” camps on the outskirts of the capital.

Ortiz said one of the scholars contacted by “History Detectives,” Lucy Barber of the National Archives, suggested they call him if the case involved the VFW. That call came last November, said the BGSU historian, who has written about the veterans’ organization as well as the Bonus March. For a book to be published next year by New York University Press, he has been researching the VFW and veterans’ issues in the 1930s at the FDR Presidential Library in Hyde Park, N.Y.

He had seen the “Pay the Bonus” stamp at the library. “There was no doubting the authenticity of this,” Ortiz said. “It was just a matter of placing it, time and place.”

At the library, the stamp from a San Francisco VFW post was found on a May 1935 petition, among the thousands of pieces of mail sent to Roosevelt asking him to sign bonus-payment legislation that, unlike in 1932 and again in 1934, had made it through

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Congress. Ortiz said he discussed “what an enormous issue this was in ‘35” during his “History Detectives” taping at Hyde Park in January with Wes Cowan, one of the show’s four hosts.

Rest of the story

Despite the considerable urging to support the bill, FDR vetoed it before a joint session of Congress and on a live radio broadcast—actions not taken by any other president before or since, Ortiz pointed out. Roosevelt’s rationale, and Herbert Hoover’s before him, he added, was that the 1924 law represented a contract that couldn’t be broken and that, during the Depression, the federal government couldn’t afford the estimated cost of the bonus payments—over \$2 billion for about 4 million veterans.

In 1936, however, when Congress again passed legislation that FDR again rejected—that time in a 200-word note—the veto was overridden.

The Depression-era presidents’ thinking about the economic effect of the bonus payments was just the opposite of the presidential position on this year’s economic stimulus payments, Ortiz noted. “Both Hoover and Roosevelt derided the idea it would have any impact on the Depression whatsoever,” he said, but the one-time cash infusion helped make 1936 the United States’ most successful economic year since 1929.

He pointed out, too, that FDR later provided more expensive veterans’ benefits when he signed the G.I. Bill in 1944.

Battle aids VFW

Also benefiting from the bonus battle was the VFW, which Ortiz said had started prodding Congress to allow veterans to cash in their bonus bond-like certificates even before the stock market crash in October 1929. “The VFW, from 1929 to ‘36, was the strongest proponent of immediate payment of the bonus,” he said, adding that its lobbying was also a way to entice veterans to join what was then a much smaller organization than the American Legion. And it worked—the VFW grew from about 60,000 members in 1929 to roughly 300,000 in 1936, making it “one of the only dues-paying, voluntary organizations to not only survive the Depression, but come out more powerful,” Ortiz said.

His interest in the VFW and veterans’ stories stems in part from his father, a physician with the Veterans Administration. Then, when he came upon VFW documents while in graduate school at the University of Florida, he realized the organization and the bonus issue had received little previous scholarly treatment.

His forthcoming book, “Beyond the Bonus March and G.I. Bill—How Veteran Politics Shaped the New Deal Era,” is the first by Ortiz, who holds three degrees in history from Florida, including a Ph.D. conferred in 2004.

Governor’s Council to honor BGSU for employment of people with disabilities

The Governor’s Council on People with Disabilities has chosen BGSU as the winner of the Public Best Practices Award for 2008. The award is given to nonprofit institutions that implement “innovative and progressive methods of improving the quality of life for Ohio residents with disabilities,” the council says. “The agencies selected are considered a symbol of all who have significantly contributed to employment opportunities and community involvement for people with disabilities.”

The council examines issues affecting people with disabilities and advises the governor and General Assembly. Its most recent legislative effort looks at accessibility of hotels; House Bill 535, an education bill concerned with the cost of textbooks, provides special recognition of the needs of people with disabilities to have no- or low-cost electronic textbooks.

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In June, council Vice Chair Isaac Demarest and member Brianne Clink visited campus to meet with Dr. Robert Cunningham, director of disability services; Leslie Fern, employee relations specialist, human resources; and Yvonne Stoner, associate director of the University Bookstore, in preparation for the official award ceremony Aug. 13 in Columbus. Gov. Ted Strickland will make the BGSU presentation, along with other awards to private businesses.

Among the criteria for the Public Best Practices Award are the percentage of employees who have disabilities and the level of their employment. "Many businesses and institutions employ people with disabilities, but only at entry levels. BGSU scored very high in both numbers and levels," Demarest explained.

"People with disabilities are a vast untapped resource," he said.

BGSU was nominated by Steve Michaluk, an employer services specialist with the Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission (RSC), representing the northwest Ohio region. "For the past four years, I have worked with Bowling Green State University through several of their departments, including disability services, human resources and Student Financial Aid to enhance opportunities for employment of our RSC consumers. In all of the many contacts, I have been greeted with an open mind and attitude," Michaluk wrote in his letter of nomination. The human resources office began by sending his office a list of available BGSU jobs, resulting in a number of people with disabilities being hired, he said.

Disability services promotes factors that help employees be successful, such as accommodation for people with disabilities, proactive employment practices, training and education for all employees on working with people with disabilities, and using technology to help employees with disabilities do their jobs more efficiently. Cunningham often collaborates with Michaluk.

"Future collaborative activities between the University and the Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission include a mentoring/job shadowing activity to take place in October as part of Disability Employment Awareness month," Michaluk said.

Through good practices providing accommodation and equal opportunity, the productivity of employees with disabilities can be boosted, Cunningham noted.

The University has a number of services for people with disabilities and is in the process of updating its Americans with Disabilities Act accommodations plan, he added. His office partners with community agencies such as the Ability Center, on architectural issues, and Behavioral Connections, for those with mental health issues. In addition, University areas such as admissions and financial aid each have a designated contact person, for example, to help smooth out problems for students, he said.

Last fall, disability services sponsored "Windmills" disability awareness training for a variety of areas from dining services and residence life to the bookstore. Aimed at dispelling myths and misperceptions about people with disabilities, the title was based on Cervantes' story of Don Quixote, who was known for "tilting at windmills," or taking on giants.

"All in all, BGSU is opening doors to job seekers with disabilities in a variety of ways due to the proactive efforts of both Leslie Fern ... and Rob Cunningham," Michaluk wrote. "In the future we look forward to expanding our network at BGSU to include more departments and many more employment opportunities for job seekers with disabilities in this growing northwest Ohio community."

Campus greets Dr. Carol Cartwright

Today (July 21), the campus welcomes Interim President Carol Cartwright, who will lead the University during the search for its next president.

Cartwright's office is in 220 McFall Center. Call the main office number at 2-2211 to contact her.

As one of the most highly respected voices in higher education, Cartwright served as president of Kent State University from 1991-2006. She brings to Bowling Green a wealth of experience and the stated desire to work collaboratively to keep BGSU strong and moving forward.

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Falcon statue donated for Stroh Center entrance

BGSU's progress toward a new convocation center has received a boost from Charlotte, N.C., philanthropist Irwin Belk, who has donated \$100,000 to cast and build the largest Falcon statue in the world as part of the front entrance to the Stroh Center.

The 23-foot statue will be part of the Falcon Spirit Plaza, which will serve as a front entrance not only to the new arena, but to the BGSU campus and community.

"We are grateful to Mr. Belk for his gift to the athletic department and the University," said Athletics Director Greg Christopher. "The Falcon statue will provide a terrific entrance to the Stroh Center and campus, capturing the spirit of BGSU's students and alumni. Mr. Belk's passion for college athletics has played out through statue sculptures on many campuses. We are honored that he has chosen to help BGSU in this manner."

Belk, a former member of the North Carolina House of Representatives and state senator, is a retired officer and director of The Belk Group, Inc., which operates department stores throughout the southeastern United States.

A former track and field standout at the University of North Carolina, Belk has a long history of charitable giving. His philanthropic resume includes serving as president of the American Cancer Society Foundation for over 40 years. He received that organization's highest award, the Merit Award, in 2002. His other interests include the U.S. Olympic Committee, which awarded him the Olympic Order that same year.

Belk has commissioned about 50 statues for colleges and universities nationwide.

"I am pleased to help the Falcon statue become a reality at Bowling Green," said Belk. "The University has a long tradition of success, both academically and athletically. This statue and the Falcon Spirit Plaza will help to provide an attractive entryway to the new convocation center."

The Falcon statue will be created by sculptor Jon Hair, owner of the Jon Hair Studio of Fine Art in Cornelius, N.C. Longtime BGSU athletics booster John Bureau is donating the concrete as part of the Falcon Spirit Plaza.

Hair is among the country's most highly commissioned monument sculptors. He is a member of the National Sculpture Society, and his work has appeared in galleries, private collections and on a growing number of corporate and college campuses. In 2003 he was designated an "Official Sculptor to the U.S. Olympic Team" and an "Official Sculptor to the U.S. Olympic Committee."

Construction of the Stroh Center is scheduled to begin in 2010 with completion in 2012.

No Monitor next week

Monitor will not be published next Monday, July 28. Updated job postings will be available on the Human Resources Web site. For campus news and updates next week, watch your email for the July 30 edition of @BG. Monitor will resume publication on Aug. 4.

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Fire training scheduled on campus Tuesday

The Bowling Green City Fire Department will have a fire-training exercise on campus Tuesday (July 22). The department will be at Harshman-Bromfield from approximately 9-11:30 a.m. for the pre-planned training exercise.

CSS sessions set

In preparation for the BG@100 PeopleSoft Campus Solutions (CSS) implementation, sessions introducing CSS to the campus community have been scheduled, beginning this week.

CSS will be implemented in phases between next month and August 2009, replacing the University's legacy SIS system as the system of record for student information. The advisory sessions will provide an overview of the featured topic and will complement the online training courses in which all users will participate prior to receiving CSS security access.

Pre-registration is not required for the sessions, all of which will be held in 1007 Business Administration Building unless otherwise noted. They include:

- Introducing CSS, 1:30-2:30 p.m. Wednesday (July 23) and 9-10 a.m. Thursday (July 24)
- Understanding Academic Structure, 1:30-2:30 p.m. July 30 and 9-10 a.m. July 31
- Campus Solutions: Learning the Basics, 1:30-2:30 p.m. Aug. 6 and 9-10 a.m. Aug. 7
- Course/Class, 1:30-3 p.m. Aug. 13 and 9-10:30 a.m. Aug. 14
- Understanding Campus Community, 1:30-2:30 p.m. Sept. 3 in 115 Education Building and 9-10 a.m. Sept. 4
- Understanding Admissions, 1:30-2:30 p.m. Sept. 10 in 115 Education Building and 9-10 a.m. Sept. 11

Information about the advisory sessions will also be available online at: www.bgsu.edu/offices/cio/page52101.html.

In addition to the sessions, users may attend venues such as the BG@100 open forums where these topics will also be covered. For forum dates, times and topics, go to: www.bgsu.edu/offices/cio/page5614.html.

Any questions about BG@100, the advisory sessions or the CSS implementation may be directed to the BG@100 email address: BGat100@bgsu.edu.

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CALENDAR

Monday, July 21

Interim President Carol Cartwright arrives on campus.

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

W. Heinlen Hall Lecture Series, "Ultrafast Spectroscopy: Lasers, Wavepackets and Solvation," by Dr. Graham R. Fleming, University of California-Berkeley, 3:30-4:30 p.m., 123 Overman Hall. Hosted by the chemistry department.

Tuesday, July 22

Weight Watchers at Work, noon-1 p.m., 314 Union.

Special Faculty Senate Meeting, with Provost Shirley Baugher, 3-5 p.m., McFall Assembly Room.

W. Heinlen Hall Lecture Series, "Nonlinear Spectroscopy: Especially Photon Echoes," 3:30-4:30 p.m., 123 Overman Hall.

Wednesday, July 23

W. Heinlen Hall Lecture Series, "Photosynthesis: The Primary Steps and Their Regulation," 3:30-4:30 p.m., 123 Overman Hall.

Thursday, July 24

Grilling on the Green, 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., patio outside Falcon's Nest, Union.

W. Heinlen Hall Lecture Series, "Multidimensional Spectroscopy: Landscapes and Quantum Dynamics," 1:30-2:30 p.m., 123 Overman Hall.

Friday, July 25

Special Board of Trustees Meeting, to discuss the presidential search, 8 a.m., 308 Union.

Monday, July 28

Sundaes on Mondays, free ice cream, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m., Falcon's Nest, Union.

Tuesday, July 29

Weight Watchers at Work, noon-1 p.m., 314 Union.

CONTINUING EVENTS

July 22-26

Summer Theater, "Rumors," 8 p.m. nightly, Huron Playhouse, McCormick School, Ohio Street, Huron. Tickets are \$12 for students and senior citizens, \$14 for other adults, \$9 for children under 12, and \$11 for groups of 15 or more. For reservations, call 419-433-4744.

Through July 27

Art Exhibition, Now Ohio Summer Art Show, bringing together artists of different ages, backgrounds and media, Willard Wankelman and Dorothy Uber Bryan galleries, Fine Arts Center. Gallery hours for the show this week are 7-9 p.m. Thursday (July 24) and 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday-Sunday (July 25-27). Sponsored by First Solar Inc., the College of Arts & Sciences, Arts Village, Partnerships for Community Action, and Coca-Cola.

July 29-Aug. 2

Summer Theater, "Thoroughly Modern Millie," 8 p.m. nightly, Huron Playhouse, McCormick School, Ohio Street, Huron. Tickets are \$12 for students and senior citizens, \$14 for other adults, \$9 for children under 12, and \$11 for groups of 15 or more. For reservations, call 419-433-4744.

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Aug. 1 and 2

Kenya Scholars & Studies Association Conference, 8 a.m.-4 p.m., Sky Bank Room, Union. Kenya is in the middle of a major political, social and economic crisis. The purpose of this inaugural KESSA Conference is to examine the genesis of this and other Kenyan political, social, economic and environmental challenges from a variety of disciplinary/interdisciplinary perspectives, with the hope of contributing to the resolution of these issues. Papers that advance solutions to immediate and long-term political, social, economic, educational, scientific and environmental challenges are especially encouraged. For more information, visit <http://kessatr.googlepages.com>.

JOB POSTINGS**FACULTY**

There were no faculty job postings 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://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

OBITUARIES

Winona Fortney, 95, died July 14. She was a former secretary in the library.

Mayira "Jo" Gottschalk, 68, died June 28 in Bowling Green. She was an employee in the custodial department from 1987-98.

Joan Potter, 84, died June 29 in Bowling Green. She worked in dining services for 23 years.