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Gender beliefs influence 'equally shared' parenting

It might seem like “equally shared parenting” would be a more commonly occurring phenomenon in the 21st century, but even for modern moms and dads, it’s not so simple.

In research conducted with graduate assistant Ryan Bogle, Dr. Catherine Kenney, sociology, found that mothers had “pretty broad acceptance of fathers playing with kids” but some resistance to dads’ involvement in educational and caregiving activities—moms’ more traditional domains.

Featured in a USA Today story May 5, the study of how mothers’ beliefs affect fathers’ involvement further found that a father spends less time involved with his child if the mother believes it’s important for husbands to make important household decisions. The same thing is true if the mother doesn’t trust the father, Kenney said. But fathers who believe that direct child care is their most important role do more with their children, she added.

Her interest in how people make equally shared parenting work led Kenney to look at how they divide parenting responsibilities. Gender beliefs are among the factors that can help predict, along with incomes and work hours, what proportion of the duties are done by fathers, she said.

She and Bogle began the research last summer using data from the ongoing Fragile Families and Child Wellbeing Study, which was launched in the 1990s by faculty at Columbia and Princeton universities, including Dr. Sara McLanahan, Kenney’s graduate advisor at Princeton.

Encompassing just under 5,000 families in 20 large U.S. cities, the study has followed them beginning with a child’s birth and through subsequent interviews when the child was ages 1, 3 and 5.

What makes it unique is the large number of unmarried parents involved, Kenney noted, pointing out that three-quarters of the mothers weren’t married when their children were born. That’s “a population we haven’t known as much about,” she said, explaining that previous similar studies have been primarily of smaller, more “convenient” (middle class, married) samples. “This gives us a better view of what’s going on across a broader swath of the population,” she added.

Also, unlike prior research that was based on mothers’ reports about fathers’ behavior, the Fragile Families study has interviewed fathers, Kenney said. She and Bogle applied information gleaned from parents’ expressed beliefs and attitudes about gender roles and fathers’ involvement to what the dads were actually doing when their children were 5.

Mothers may more likely be “gatekeepers” when it comes to reading and other educational activities with their children because society still tends to think that moms have the “real responsibility for making sure things get done,” Kenney suggested.

In addition, she said, with many women not respected for much that they do, “asking a person to step back from part of her life she does get respect for, without offering her anything else, is a lot to ask of somebody.” Use of the term “gatekeeper” sometimes implies that mothers are “meanies” who won’t let fathers get involved with their children, she continued, but maybe they hang onto certain kinds of caregiving “because they’re not getting rewards in other parts of life.”

At the same time, Kenney acknowledged, men can give up possible promotions and other opportunities at work when they commit to equally shared parenting. “When parents decide to do things equally, it can have costs on both sides,” she said.

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The next steps for the research, she said, include study of how equally shared parenting plays out in other groups in the population and its effects on children and marriages.

Students study environmental health issue in Ethiopia

In a truly “alternative spring break,” three students and Dr. Charles (Chris) Keil, environmental health, traveled to Ethiopia in March. Their goal was to measure indoor air pollution resulting from the country’s traditional coffee ceremony, which could have serious health implications, especially for women.

While the data the BGSU group gathered in the pilot study were preliminary, the experience was deep and eye-opening, both personally and professionally, the students reported. In addition to putting their technical skills to use in the home visits, “we learned about being kind and aware of their traditions,” said Jordan Hepler, a senior from Weston. “We also learned not to take a lot of what we have for granted.”

And because the coffee ceremony is conducted for friends and guests and the Ethiopians are very hospitable, it also meant drinking a lot of coffee. The group collected 10 sets of samples in the 12 days they were there. Each ceremony lasts about an hour and 20 minutes and entails drinking three small cups of coffee. “It was the best coffee I’ve ever had,” said Hepler, who was accompanied by Janelle Zindroski of Cleveland, who graduated earlier this month, and Alex Brown, a senior from Bay Village, who wrote about the research in his Honors paper.

For the three environmental health majors, seizing the opportunity to conduct research in Ethiopia was a “no-brainer,” Hepler said, despite the fact that they had to find their own funding.

Helping arrange the sampling home visits in Addis Ababa was Dr. Hailu Kassa, public and allied health, who is in Ethiopia this year as a Fulbright Scholar and who speaks the native Amharic. He and Keil have collaborated previously on teaching and consulting in the East African nation.

In a country where the average life expectancy at birth is only 55, and with a 7 percent infant mortality rate, many factors negatively impact health, Keil said. “Respiratory disease is present and could have many causes. We want to see if indoor air pollution from the coffee ceremony is one of them.”

The ceremony is conducted by women and begins with roasting green coffee beans in an open, concave round pan over a charcoal brazier. Because most Ethiopian residences consist of only one or two rooms, with little ventilation, the smoke and particles remain in the air. “The particles are very small, which allows them to penetrate deep into the lungs and thus present a higher health hazard,” Keil said.

After roasting, the beans are ground and the coffee brewed in a round-bottom clay pot over the coals or, in rural areas, over a dung or wood fire.

As the only woman in the BGSU group, Zindroski set up the sampling equipment on the women preparing the coffee. “They were more comfortable with me than with the men,” she said, adding that they also spoke more freely with her through the translators.

“Alex and I took the dimensions of the room and made notes on whether there were doors and windows. We took the samples in other areas of the room away from the fire and measured the airflow rates on the particle samples,” Hepler said.

“The actual data collection,” said Keil, “was very much student-driven”—a learning experience Zindroski found useful. “He let us do it on our own and make our own mistakes. It was a great experience, and having this knowledge will definitely help me in Atlanta,” she said. Zindroski has just begun a job with the Centers for Disease Control’s Agency for Toxic

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Substances and Disease Registration, where she is an ensign in the Commissioned Corps of the U.S. Public Health Service. Her work could take her to remote areas in the U.S. or to situations like Hurricane Katrina, she explained.

“Ethiopia is the 12th-poorest country in the world,” she said. “The impact of being there would change anyone’s life. I want to go back and I want to do more.”

The preliminary findings will be shared in an Ethiopian medical journal, and Keil hopes to expand the study to rural areas and other sampling sites.

Columbus physician appointed a BGSU trustee

Ohio Gov. Ted Strickland has appointed Dr. Kevin B. Lake, a board-certified physician in Columbus, to a nine-year term on the BGSU Board of Trustees. Lake replaces Michael Marsh of Bowling Green, whose term is expiring.

Lake, 43, is a full-time senior attending physician in family practice and serves as medical director of the Columbus Southern Medical Center, where he has worked since 1999 and has been in private practice since 1994. He is a member of the attending medical staffs in the Department of Family Medicine at Doctors Hospital, Grant Medical Center and Mount Carmel St. Ann’s Hospital in Columbus.

In 2008 he was appointed by Strickland to a five-year term on the Ohio University College of Osteopathic Medicine (OUCOM) Advisory Board. He is also a trustee of the Southside Community Health Association at Columbus Community Hospital, and is a member of the American Osteopathic Association, the Ohio Osteopathic Association and the American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians.

Lake is certified as a medical review officer by the American Association of Medical Review Officers, and certified in family practice and osteopathic manipulative treatment by the American Osteopathic Board of Family Physicians.

He graduated cum laude from Capital University in 1988 with a bachelor’s degree in biology and received his doctorate at OUCOM in 1992.

Mille Guldbeck’s art finds new home in Denmark

It’s been a very good year for Mille Guldbeck, art. Connections she made during her extended stays in Denmark in 2006 and 2007 have yielded new outlets and audiences for her paintings.

Born in Illinois, the painter spent a good part of her life in Denmark before returning to the United States and coming to teach at BGSU in 1999. A recent series of fellowships enabled her to revisit Denmark to paint and meet with other artists. She is finding a natural artistic rapport with her fellow Danes.

Six of her works appeared in a show north of Copenhagen at Rungstedgaard, the historic manor house and former home of Laura Dinesen, sister of writer Isak Dinesen. Two of the large paintings were purchased for permanent display in the building, which is now a conference center.

In addition, Guldbeck will have a show in Denmark in August curated by the same gallery director, whom she met during her earlier stays there.

“It’s been very gratifying to me to have my art back in Denmark,” she said. “People there understand what I’m doing, and it’s appealing in a different way.”

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After the usual end-of-semester activity at BGSU, where she is also graduate coordinator for the School of Art, and the toil of preparing her artworks to ship to Denmark, Guldbeck will be able to refocus on her painting this summer.

She has received a fellowship from the Virginia Center for the Creative Arts (www.vcca.com/about.html), and will spend the season painting in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains. Artists in residence there are provided living and studio space, the companionship of about 20 other visual artists, writers and composers, and—most importantly, the center says—“the time and space to do their work.”

Meanwhile, more than 2,000 galleries and curators nationwide will be seeing Guldbeck’s work in Studio Visit Magazine. Published by Open Studios Press, the magazine showcases work chosen by a panel of professional curators.

Memorial concert proceeds to help create Kawashima Peace Garden

A concert featuring home-grown, internationally acclaimed musicians will be presented June 5 to raise funds for the creation of a Japanese peace garden in memory of the late Dr. Fujiya Kawashima. Kawashima was a BGSU Asian studies professor widely recognized for his scholarly and artistic achievements, and for his work in strengthening ties between the United States and the Far East.

Vocalists Shawn Mathey and Sujin Lee and pianists Kimi Kawashima and Jason Hardink will be featured in the 7:30 p.m. concert in Kobacker Hall of the Moore Musical Arts Center.

Tickets, \$25 each, are on sale at Grounds for Thought, 174 S. Main St.; Calico, Sage and Thyme, 115 Clay St., and the Community Center, 1245 W. Newton Road. Tickets also can be ordered by mail from the Bowling Green Parks and Recreation Foundation, 1291 Conneaut Ave., Bowling Green 43402.

A native of Japan, Fujiya Kawashima came to Bowling Green in 1970 to teach Asian history. He was instrumental in establishing the University’s Asian Studies Program and was working to develop a Peace Studies Program at the time of his death in 2006.

Mark J. Cyr, a leading designer of Japanese gardens in the United States, has developed plans for a half-acre Kawashima Peace Garden that will become part of the city’s Simpson Garden Park. Visitors will experience a tranquil setting complete with a waterfall and small ponds as well as flowering trees and shrubs.

Returning this month from engagements in Europe, Shawn Mathey, a tenor and Bowling Green native, is a graduate of the Academy of Vocal Arts in Philadelphia. He has appeared in numerous performances of Mozart’s operas, and his recordings include the widely distributed CD “Without a Song,” featuring him and his father, longtime BGSU faculty member Richard Mathey.

Shawn Mathey’s wife, soprano Sujin Lee, is a native of South Korea. She has a master’s degree from the Manhattan School of Music and completed her residency at the Academy of Vocal Arts. She has appeared throughout the U.S. and Europe as Leonora in “Il Trovatore,” Liu in “Turandot” and as Cio-Cio-San with the touring company Teatro Lyrico d’Europa.

Bowling Green native Kimi Kawashima, the daughter of Fujiya and Joung-ja Kawashima, made her debut with the Toledo Symphony at the age of 14. She credits her local music teacher, retired BGSU faculty member Dr. Virginia Marks, for inspiring her career as a piano soloist, accompanist and chamber musician. A graduate of the Oberlin Conservatory of Music, she holds a master’s degree from Rice University, where she is completing a doctorate.

Kawashima’s husband, Jason Hardink, is principal symphony keyboard/opera rehearsal ac-

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companionist at the Utah Symphony and Opera. As a performer, he specializes in the music of Olivier Messiaen. In 2007 he performed the complete "Vingt Regards sur l'Enfant-Jésus" in cities across the U.S.

IN BRIEF

There are no news briefs this week.

CALENDAR

Monday, May 18

First Six-Week Summer Session Begins. Free Screenings, for hearing and speech/language, plus hearing aid cleanings, BGSU Speech and Hearing Clinic, 200 Health Center. Open to the University community and the public, for adults and children of all ages. To schedule an appointment, call 2-2515. In recognition of Better Hearing and Speech Month.

Wednesday, May 20

BGSU Surplus Property Auction, beginning at 10 a.m., with vehicles as well as bicycles and lost and found items selling at noon, Reed Street Warehouse. Parking is available in Lot 8, just east of the warehouse, without a parking permit. Statements made during the auction take precedence over printed material. Visit www.bgsu.edu/downloads/finance/file50567.doc to view the advertisement and list of items for sale. For more information, call Patti Crawford-Mayo at 2-2121. Conducted by Materials Handling.

Classified Staff Council, 10:30 a.m., 315 Bowen-Thompson Student Union. "Becoming Healthier through Exercise," a presentation by the School of Human Movement, Sport, and Leisure Studies, will precede the meeting at 10 a.m.

Healthy Ohio's "Ohio One-Mile Fitness Walk" around campus, led by certified fitness instructor and personal trainer Layne Davis and members of the WellAware committee, noon, Student Recreation Center. Every walker will receive free water and a BGSU lanyard; this is an eligible event for the Faculty and Staff Wellness Incentive Program. Hosted by the WellAware committee in conjunction with National Employee Health and Wellness Fitness Day.

Thursday, May 21

BGSU Firelands Behavioral Health Series, "ADHD and Substance Abuse Disorders: The Relationship and New Treatment Strategies," with Kelsey Loushin, licensed independent chemical dependency counselor and owner of Eldercare Professionals of Ohio, 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Cedar Point Center. The fee is \$99. For more information or to register, call 2-0617 or visit www.firelands.bgsu.edu/offices/oeo.

Monday, May 25

Memorial Day, Classes canceled, offices closed.

Wednesday, May 27

Powered Industrial Trucks Training Sessions, 7:30-10 a.m. and 1-3:30 p.m., 2 College Park Building. To register, call 2-2171 or visit www.bgsu.edu/offices/envhs/page22440.html. Hosted by Environmental Health and Safety.

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Thursday, May 28

Hazardous Materials Communication Training Session, 10-11 a.m., 2 College Park Building. To register, call 2-2171 or visit www.bgsu.edu/offices/envhs/page22440.html. Hosted by Environmental Health and Safety.

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PRIZM Art-A-Fair Opening Reception, raising arts awareness for artists and authors in northwest Ohio, 5-7 p.m., Fine Arts Center galleries. Exhibit continues through June 20.

Friday, May 29

Executive-in-Residence Series, with Steve Zirkel, director of global marketing at Owens-Corning, 3:30-5 p.m., David J. Joseph Business Hub, second floor of the Business Administration Building.

Continuing Events May 18-26

Wilderness First Responder Course, an 80-hour wilderness first-aid course that is the basic training for anyone interested in serious outdoor activity. First-responder cer-

tification offered to the campus community for a discount rate of \$495. For more information, contact Jerome Gabriel at 2-2146 or email outdoorpro@bgsu.edu. Sponsored by the Outdoor Program and GeoJourney.

May 28-June 20

PRIZM Art-A-Fair, gallery hours are 1-8 p.m. Thursdays and Fridays, and 1-4 p.m. Saturdays, Fine Arts Center galleries. Opening reception is from 5-7 p.m. May 28.

Through June 8

Art Exhibit, Graduate Arts Student Organization National Juried Show, Union Art Gallery. Gallery hours are 8 a.m.-9 p.m. Monday-Saturday and 10 a.m.-9 p.m. Sundays.

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FACULTY

Musicology/Composition/Theory. Three positions:

- Instructor-Musicology. Call Marilyn Shrude, 2-8508. Deadline: June 1.
- Instructor-Theory. Call Per Broman, 2-9370. Deadline: June 1.
- Instructor-Ethnomusicology. Call David Harnish, 2-8487. Deadline: June 8.

Theatre and Film. Instructor (three positions). Call the department, 2-2222. Deadline: June 2.

Public and Allied Health. Associate/Full Professor/Chair. Call Robert Harr, 2-2833. Deadline: Nov. 1.

Labor Postings

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

Contact the Office of Human Resources at 419-372-8421 for information regard-

ing 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

Craig Bedra, 58, died May 11. A former electronics technician with the chemistry department, he retired in December after 26 years with the University.