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**Study finds technology access linked to local culture aids Nigerian farmers**

Feb. 28, 2007, found villagers and officials in Ihiala, Nigeria, at the opening ceremony for the SI May Knowledge Centre where, for the first time, local residents would have free access to the Internet. The center housed four computers offering resources of use to farmers and unrestricted access to the Web.

The process of creating the center involved an intercontinental collaboration between Dr. Louisa Ha, telecommunications; Primus Igboaka, a BGSU doctoral student in telecommunications, and Dr. Raphael Okigbo of Nnamdi Azikiwe University in Nigeria. It was the focal point of their pilot study looking at whether farmers would like and use the Internet and a specialized Web site, how they would use it and what they would find helpful.

One of the articles they wrote about the project, "Knowledge Creation and Dissemination in Sub-Saharan Africa," was published in *Management Decision*. It has been chosen for a Special Commendation for Research of Value to the Developing World among the 2009 Literati Network Awards for Excellence.

But more important than the award is the impact that sharing knowledge can have on people, according to Ha. "Creating something that has both theoretical and practical use to the community and that can contribute in some way to economic development—for the scholar, that is the most rewarding and gratifying," she said.

The project to bring information to farmers in rural southeastern Nigeria through the Internet was begun in 2007 with \$12,000 in funding from the Emerald Publishing Group in the United Kingdom. The grant was the first foreign grant to be received by BGSU and, as a nongovernmental grant, carried no political baggage, Ha said.

With about 20,000 people, "Ihiala is a rural area but with a certain distinction," Igboaka said of his hometown. "The people are quite well educated. And because it was visited by missionaries early in the last century, it is not uncommon to see Indian and Irish families; there is a lot of diversity."

However, Ihiala is poor, with high unemployment. It is still suffering the effects of being on the losing side in the 1967-70 civil war and lacks access to many government services. Its terrain is scarred with hundreds of erosion sites from deforestation. Before the creation of the center and the Web site, named Nigeria Knowledge Center (<http://www.nigeriaknowledgecenter.net/>), there was no Internet access to the world of information or for local farmers to share their knowledge with others outside the area.

Another problem, Igboaka said, has been that government services are often not useful to citizens because they are not based in research on what is actually needed. "We wanted to provide relevant knowledge to farmers in Ihiala."

Working with a team of student volunteers, Okigbo conducted a series of interviews and collected written questionnaires from local farmers—including a number of women farmers, who are particularly disadvantaged—asking them to identify their major farming problems and what they felt would be most useful in solving them, and how they thought they might participate in knowledge creation and sharing. Another goal was to assess their agricultural knowledge.

Following the center's initial three months of operation, the same farmers were again surveyed. "They perceived the center as helpful," Igboaka reported. Ha added that the farmers encouraged their friends and relatives to use the center. "It became a social atmosphere.

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People met and talked with one another.”

While the Internet center was a success, getting it under way was exceedingly difficult. “It took a lot of money, time and energy” to provide the connection in rural Nigeria, Igboaka said. “In the United States, there are telephone poles everywhere, but in Nigeria there are not.”

A VSAT (Very Small Aperture Terminal) satellite was chosen to bring the Web to Ihiala, using broadband service, which allows for downloading pictures and videoconferencing. “We are at the very forefront of broadband in Nigeria,” Igboaka said.

Now that the pilot study has been completed, “the knowledge center is no longer a research project, it’s a service,” Ha said. The goal is to find ways to continue that service in a permanent location for the villagers. Some funding has been received from a local foundation, and the team is seeking additional support.

Reported in the African and Chinese press, the study and the center would not have been possible without the help of Professor Okigbo and his volunteers, Igboaka said. “You need someone there to supervise. Finding the key people is the most important step to making it work.”

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### Student proposal earns funding to develop food-donation plan

Many poor children go to school without breakfast, but studies show that 92 percent of college students—even though most have meal plans—do not eat a morning meal either. Could that food be donated to those in need?

At the Core Commitments conference this spring at Babson College, a BGSU student’s proposal to create a program through which students could designate a portion of their allotted food for local shelters and food pantries, and for universities to donate unused food supplies, was chosen for funding. BGSU will receive \$10,000 to pursue implementation of the proposal this fall. Adam Haynes, a senior education major from Marion, advanced the idea for civic engagement that could be replicated at institutions nationwide and then worked with teammates at the conference to develop it.

Six groups, comprising about 30 student leaders from around the country, “rocket pitched” their ideas for social change on college campuses to a panel of judges from a variety of backgrounds in higher education and student affairs, Haynes said. He and his five teammates presented the “End Hunger—Fast!” initiative. His group included two students from Michigan State University, two from Babson and one from Elizabethtown College.

“Giving up a meal to help someone else eat would put a new perspective on hunger,” Haynes said, predicting that one meal-card “swipe” from numerous college students placing money into an account for the hungry would have a significant impact.

“We created a program to attack hunger using a pyramid structure to illustrate how campuses can reduce, reuse and redeem wasted food products which were prepared but never served. The goal is to donate those food items to local shelters, engage students in the process and create a learning opportunity where students, faculty and the community can learn about world hunger and take action.

“We have so much. Most of all we have a college education, and that’s the real riches,” he said.

A reciprocal benefit would be the experience gained by the students running the program, Haynes said. There will be much learning involved, he anticipates, such as health department regulations on storing and transporting hot and cold foods. In addition, a high level of organization will be needed to coordinate the effort. “As a senior, I can start the ball rolling, but it’s going to take other students to sustain it. I hope there would be a sort of board of trustees to keep it going from year to year,” Haynes said. The opportunity would be helpful to fraternities,

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sororities and other groups that pledge a number of volunteer service hours each year, he added.

“Combining the learning experience with community outreach” came naturally, said Haynes, who drew on his background as a member of BGSU’s Chapman Learning Community. He was also inspired by the BG Experience values-exploration program to become a peer facilitator for two years, which led to his being chosen to attend the conference. Also participating from BGSU was Starnisha Conyers-Page, representing the University’s Core Commitments group.

BGSU is one of 19 participants in the Core Commitments initiative sponsored by the American Association of Colleges and Universities. Part of the AAC&U’s Educating Students for Personal and Social Responsibility mission, Core Commitments seeks to embed personal and social responsibility objectives across campus as key educational outcomes for students, and to measure the impact of campus efforts to foster such learning.

BGSU was selected to participate in the Core Commitments project through a competitive grant process. “Our Core Commitments project was designed to leverage the work already accomplished on this campus through the values initiative and BG Experience program, with the goal of making the development of personal and social responsibility a University-wide commitment,” said Dr. George Agich, who directed the Core Commitments grant.

“The most important thing we came away with from the conference was that there are no limits,” Haynes said. “They told us ‘Don’t let anything stand in your way.’ It’s about taking responsibility.”

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## **Muego first American invited to teach at Hanoi education college**

While each new school year brings its challenges and new experiences, for Dr. Benjamin N. Muego, political science and Asian studies, fall 2009 promises to be especially remarkable. He will be traveling to Vietnam as the first U.S. faculty member to teach at the Hanoi University of Education (HUE).

Through the end of January 2010, Muego will teach American government, international relations, and methodology, as well as conduct a seminar for HUE faculty and staff on the concept of shared governance in American higher education. It will be a learning experience for him as well, in which he will study the Vietnamese language along with pursuing his own research on military and security issues in the region.

It is not the first time Muego has made a groundbreaking trip to the Southeast Asian nation. In 1993, he was part of a People to People Citizen Ambassador Program delegation to Vietnam—the first visit by American academics allowed by the Vietnamese government after the end of the Vietnam War in 1975. The group of 35 international-relations faculty from around the United States met with officials at seven institutions, including HUE, which was then called Hanoi National Pedagogical University.

Muego stayed in close communication over the years with the former director of HUE’s Office of International Relations, Dr. Vu Van Thanh, and the dean of the geography college, Dr. Nguyen Viet Thinh, who is now the president of HUE and a member of Vietnam’s National Assembly. During that first visit, Dr. Thanh suggested that to really develop a true and meaningful understanding of the country, Muego should organize a field study with students and other faculty.

“Bowling Green thus became the first American university to have an organized and structured relationship with a Vietnamese university,” Muego said. The trips, begun in 1995, have been conducted five times and averaged from 10-15 graduate and undergraduate students from leading institutions all over the United States.

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A number of HUE administrators and faculty have visited BGSU since 2000. “Four years ago, a group from HUE and the Vietnamese Ministry of Education and Training met with former president Sidney Ribeau and other BGSU officials to learn about the financial structure of Bowling Green,” Muego said. “BGSU represented all U.S. universities to them as they are moving away from the Soviet to the American model of higher education. It’s a great opportunity for Bowling Green to make an impact there.”

In welcoming Muego to HUE, President Think wrote, “We do hope that this exchange will be the continuation of the relationship between our two universities. There has been a growing need for institutions with common interests to share their expertise, particularly with regard to bridging the gap between theory and practice.”

The author of three books and numerous articles on security and political issues in Southeast Asia, Muego is also an adjunct professor of Southeast Asia Studies at Ohio University’s Center for Southeast Asian Studies; an adjunct professor of Southeast Asia Studies at the School of Professional and Area Studies of the U.S. Foreign Service Institute (which recognized him with its Distinguished Adjunct Faculty Award in 1997-98), and an adjunct professor of security assistance management at the U.S. Defense Institute of Security Assistance Management. He was an East-West Center Fellow in 1990-91 and is the current president of the Fulbright Association of Northeast Ohio.

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## Grading teacher training part of TEAMS work at BGSU

Persistent calls for improved math and science education have been met in recent years with efforts to better train teachers in the subject matter. For all the time and money spent on training programs, however, has it made a difference in the classroom?

There’s no simple way of accurately measuring if teachers are benefiting from professional development, says Dr. Emilio Duran, adding that “very little empirical evidence” suggests such programs are effective—and even less that students are doing better on standardized achievement tests as a result of their teachers’ training.

But Duran, School of Teaching and Learning, is heading an attempt to measure the impact of a professional development project that he also helps lead. More specifically, he and BGSU colleagues are looking to measure acquisition of content knowledge by participants in Northwest Ohio Teachers Enhancing Achievement in Mathematics and Science (NWO TEAMS).

Last year, Duran and Jake Burgoon, a TEAMS internal evaluator, presented a paper on science content knowledge in participating elementary and middle school teachers at the National Social Science Association conference. The paper was published recently in the association’s official publication, the National Social Science Journal, which accepts only about 15 percent of all submitted articles, screened by national referees and consulting editors, Duran says.

For teachers of grades 3-6, NWO TEAMS started three years ago as a Northwest Ohio Center of Excellence in Science and Mathematics Education effort, with \$1.9 million in grant funding from the Ohio Department of Education. Last year, the focus was narrowed to science at the same time the composition was expanded to special education teachers, of both gifted and special-needs students.

“We’re providing training for teachers to address the needs of every student,” says Duran, a former University of Toledo biologist whose career has shifted from molecular biology research to applied study of science education. The change began about 10 years ago, when he was asked to be part of a BG-UT grant pairing on professional development of teachers.

A spinoff of that elementary science-related project, NWO TEAMS has allowed his group to conduct research while being part of a professional development effort. Also among the subjects of study are factors that influence teachers’ beliefs and perceptions in science teach-

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ing and learning, he says, noting that the way teachers feel about their ability will affect their classroom performance. “Teachers are lifelong learners, and we need to come up with ways of helping them.”

To keep grant money coming for training programs, proof of their worth will be necessary as well, adds Duran, who came to BGSU in 2007. “If we don’t do something about it, we’re not going to get funding anymore,” he says, so TEAMS leaders are trying to develop accurate, effective ways of measuring the project’s impact in the classroom.

They hope to devise a model that is based on teachers’ needs and also applicable to other programs at BGSU and beyond—even with the knowledge that teachers, and students, all differ in ability and training. In science, Duran says, referring to his own background, thousands of researchers can look in a laboratory at cells with the same genetic information. But in education, “we can’t do that with our students,” he points out. “We need to do a better job, and everyone needs to do their share.”

He sees that happening at BGSU, which he calls “unique” for hiring people like him, with content knowledge in the sciences, to work with current and future teachers through its College of Education and Human Development. Citing the joint work of the education college and the College of Arts and Sciences, he says “the positive climate of collaboration that exists at BGSU right now is very rare.”

“We have an incredibly passionate group of people at BGSU who care about our teachers,” Duran adds. “We are one of the top colleges of education for a reason.”

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## Classified staff hit the links for scholarships

Classified staff and friends teed off for another successful Classified Staff Council golf outing June 5. Raising money for scholarships while having fun is the goal of the annual event—and both were accomplished.

Sixteen teams comprising 63 players took part, raising an estimated \$2,000. The day at Forrest Creason Golf Course also included a picnic lunch and drawings for raffle prizes, generously donated by members of the community.

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## IN BRIEF

### Final candidates for provost to hold forums this week

Open forums will be held this week by the final two candidates for provost and senior vice president for academic affairs. The University community is encouraged to attend, watch a live video stream of the presentations on MyBGSU, or view later at the same site.

Both forums will be held from 10-11 a.m. in the Bowen-Thompson Student Union Theater.

- Dr. Kenneth Borland, provost and vice president for academic affairs at East Stroudsburg (Pa.) University, will hold a forum Tuesday (June 16).
- The forum of Dr. Barbara Schirmer, special assistant to the president, vice president for academic affairs and student affairs and provost at the University of Detroit Mercy, will be held Friday (June 19).

Each forum will include a brief presentation by the candidate, followed by an opportunity for questions and answers. For those watching the video stream within MyBGSU, please note

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the 'Submit Question' button for use during the live forum.

To view a live or archived forum or download an evaluation form, click on the link on the Provost Search site, which is available from the BGSU home page.

### **Japanese Consulate in Detroit honors BGSU's Asian Studies director**

Akiko Kawano Jones, director of the Asian Studies Program, recently received a Consul General Award from the Japanese Consulate for Michigan and Ohio in Detroit.

The honor recognizes Jones' leadership of the Asian Studies Program as well as her outreach in the local community. The Consul General, Tamotsu Shinotsuka, presented the award at his residence in Bloomfield Hills, Mich.

Jones, a lecturer of Japanese language in the Department of German, Russian and East Asian languages, has taught at Bowling Green since 1983. In April 2008, the Ohio Foreign Language Association named her as Ohio's outstanding college language instructor.

Jones is also director of a summer program for BGSU students in Japan and organizes cultural events on campus, including the Ohanami (Cherry Blossom) Festival.

In addition, she works with Japanese businesses and families and with business development in northwest Ohio.

### **Submit work for second annual NoWOH Community Art Show**

Artists throughout northwest Ohio will have an opportunity to showcase their work in the second annual Northwest Ohio (NoWOH) Community Art Show, opening July 17 in the Dorothy Uber Bryan and Willard Wankelman galleries of the Fine Arts Center.

Last year's inaugural show featured more than 200 pieces of art from 79 area artists. Fourteen awards were presented during the opening reception, including a "Best of Show" and a People's Choice award. Awards selected by a professional juror are planned again this year.

The show, which will take place from July 18-Aug. 1, will bring artists of different ages and abilities together to promote participation in the arts and in the community. Artists ages 16 and older from Erie, Hancock, Fulton, Defiance, Ottawa, Paulding, Seneca, Henry, Lucas, Sandusky, Williams and Wood counties are eligible to participate. Each may submit up to three pieces of art. Submissions will be accepted from 3:30-7:30 p.m. July 9.

For more information, contact galleries@bgsu.edu, or visit <http://gallery.bgsu.edu> for a link to the exhibition prospectus.

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## **CALENDAR**

### **Monday, June 15**

#### **Eight-Week Summer Session Begins.**

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

**Summer Music Institute (SMI) Clarinet Faculty Recital**, 8 p.m., Bryan Recital Hall, Moore Musical Arts Center.

### **Tuesday, June 16**

**Provost Candidate Open Forum**, with Dr. Kenneth Borland, provost and vice president of academic affairs, East Stroudsburg (Pa.) University, 10-11 a.m., Union Theater. The forum will be streamed live on the Web through MyBGSU and will also be available for later viewing.

**Scholarship of Teaching and Learning Workshop**, "Brain Rules: Tailoring Learn-

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ing for Student Success,” 12:30-2 p.m., 201 University Hall. Register at [www.bgsu.edu/ctl/page10718.html](http://www.bgsu.edu/ctl/page10718.html).

**SMI String Orchestra Faculty Recital**, 8 p.m., Bryan Recital Hall, Moore Musical Arts Center.

#### Wednesday, June 17

**Classified Staff Council**, 10 a.m., BGSU Firelands.

**Summer Workshop Series**, “Introduction to Structural Equation Modeling,” by Hsueh-Sheng Wu, sociology, noon-1 p.m., 314 Union. Hosted by the Center for Family and Demographic Research.

**Instructional Design Workshop**, “Using Audacity to Create Podcasts for Learning,” 3-4 p.m., 201 University Hall. Register at [www.bgsu.edu/ctl/page10718.html](http://www.bgsu.edu/ctl/page10718.html).

#### Thursday, June 18

**BG’s Got Talent**, amateur talent contest open to all faculty, staff and students with prizes awarded, 11 a.m.-1 p.m., Union Oval and Falcon’s Nest, Union. To sign up to perform, visit <https://orgsync.com/forms/show/14827>.

**Instructional Design Workshop**, “Introduction to Clickers for Classroom Assessment,” 2-3 p.m., 201 University Hall. Register at [www.bgsu.edu/ctl/page10718.html](http://www.bgsu.edu/ctl/page10718.html).

**SMI Piano Finale Concert I**, 8 p.m., Bryan Recital Hall, Moore Musical Arts Center.

#### Friday, June 19

**SMI Piano Finale Concert II**, 10 a.m., Bryan Recital Hall, Moore Musical Arts Center.

**Provost Candidate Open Forum**, with Dr. Barbara Schirmer, professor, special assistant to the president, vice president for academic affairs, student affairs, and provost, University of Detroit Mercy, 10-11 a.m., Union Theater. The forum will be streamed live on the Web through MyBGSU and will also be available for later viewing.

**SMI Clarinet Finale Concert**, 1:30 p.m., Bryan Recital Hall, Moore Musical Arts Center.

**SMI String Orchestra Chamber Concert**, 8 p.m., Bryan Recital Hall, Moore Musical Arts Center.

#### Saturday, June 20

**SMI String Orchestra Quartet Recitals**, 10 a.m., Bryan Recital and Choral Rehearsal halls, Moore Musical Arts Center.

**SMI String Orchestra Finale Concert**, featuring the clarinet, piano and string orchestra camps, 1:30 p.m., Kobacker Hall, Moore

Musical Arts Center.

#### Sunday, June 21

**Ohio Ambassadors of Music Preview Concert**, 4 p.m., Kobacker Hall, Moore Musical Arts Center.

**SMI Vocal Arts Faculty Concert**, 8 p.m., Bryan Recital Hall, Moore Musical Arts Center.

#### Monday, June 22

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

**SMI Steel Drum Faculty Concert**, 8 p.m., Bryan Recital Hall, Moore Musical Arts Center.

#### Tuesday, June 23

**Assessment Workshop**, “Rubrics: Guiding Authentic Learning Experiences,” 11 a.m.-noon, 201 University Hall. Register at [www.bgsu.edu/ctl/page10718.html](http://www.bgsu.edu/ctl/page10718.html).

#### Wednesday, June 24

**Instructional Design Workshop**, “Advanced Uses of Clickers in Higher Education,” 2-3 p.m., 201 University Hall. Register at [www.bgsu.edu/ctl/page10718.html](http://www.bgsu.edu/ctl/page10718.html).

#### Thursday, June 25

**Instructional Design Discussion**, “What All Professors Should Know About Blogging,” 1-2 p.m., 201 University Hall. Register at [www.bgsu.edu/ctl/page10718.html](http://www.bgsu.edu/ctl/page10718.html).

#### Friday, June 26

**BGSU Firelands Behavioral Health Series**, “Supervision: Clinical and Leadership Development,” with Judi Fischer, counselor, consultant and manager of Lakeshore Educational and Counseling Services, 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m., 2002 Cedar Point Center. The fee is \$99. For more information or to register, call 2-0617 or visit [www.firelands.bgsu.edu/offices/oeo](http://www.firelands.bgsu.edu/offices/oeo).

**SMI Vocal Arts Finale Concert**, 10 a.m., Bryan Recital Hall, Moore Musical Arts Center.

**SMI Steel Drum Finale Concert**, 1 p.m., Bryan Recital Hall, Moore Musical Arts Center.

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

#### Monday, June 29

**Second Six-Week Summer Session Begins.**

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**Instructional Design Discussion**, "Developing the 'Promising Syllabus,'" 10-11 a.m., 201 University Hall. Register at [www.bgsu.edu/ctl/page10718.html](http://www.bgsu.edu/ctl/page10718.html).

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

#### Continuing Events

##### June 16-July 9

**Yoga Classes**, second session of WellA-ware's free summer fitness program for faculty and staff, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 5:15-6 p.m., Spinning Room, Student Recreation Center. To reserve a spot in the class, email [cspont@bgsu.edu](mailto:cspont@bgsu.edu). Meet at the front desk of the Rec Center Tuesday (June 16) to get a guest pass and follow instructor Layne Davis to the room.

#### Through 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.

#### Through June 20

**Summer Music Institutes**, clarinet, piano and string orchestra camps, Moore Musical Arts Center.

#### June 21-26

**Summer Music Institutes**, recording studio, steel drum and vocal arts camps, Moore Musical Arts Center.

#### Through July 20

**Art Exhibit**, "Life in Christ," Union Art Gallery. Gallery hours are 8 a.m.-9 p.m. Monday-Saturday and 10 a.m.-9 p.m. Sundays.

## JOB POSTINGS

### FACULTY

**Environmental Science/School of Earth, Environment and Society**. Instructor. Call the department, 2-8207. Deadline: July 1.

### 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/](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:

[www.bgsu.edu/offices/ohr/employment/BGSU\\_only/page11151.html](http://www.bgsu.edu/offices/ohr/employment/BGSU_only/page11151.html)

#### Off-campus classified:

[www.bgsu.edu/offices/ohr/employment/cl\\_staff/page11145.html](http://www.bgsu.edu/offices/ohr/employment/cl_staff/page11145.html)

### ADMINISTRATIVE

[www.bgsu.edu/offices/ohr/employment/adm\\_staff/page11137.html](http://www.bgsu.edu/offices/ohr/employment/adm_staff/page11137.html)

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## OBITUARY

**William Hann**, 80, an associate professor emeritus of biological sciences, died May 31 in Bowling Green. He taught at BGSU from 1967-92.

**Phyllis Johnston**, 75, died June 6 in Bowling Green. She was a clerk in the BGSU post office from 1954-85.

**McDonna (Micki) Doolittle**, 63, died June 4 in Perrysburg. She joined University Dining Services in 1966, working as a food service supervisor and manager, and most recently as a public inquiries assistant in the catering office.