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SETGO students immersing themselves in research

It's a bit of a leap from studying theatre arts to looking for the genetic marker of a plant species, but for Amanda Ramirez of Toledo, funding and mentoring through the Science, Engineering and Technology Gateway Ohio (SETGO) program made it a possibility.

Ramirez, a second-year biotechnology student at Owens Community College, is one of 38 students on the BGSU campus this summer engaged in independent research through SETGO. The students are spending 10 weeks in hands-on projects, mentored by BGSU faculty in their labs, while receiving a \$3,500 scholarship. Their projects range from directional ability in pigeons to alternative energy to computer science, wetlands restoration and astronomy.

The schedule is demanding. "They're working on their projects at least five days a week for 10 weeks," said Dr. Moira van Staaden, biology, who is co-director of SETGO along with Dr. Anne Bullerjahn of Owens. "It's research, and you do what you have to do. But it's giving you the chance to actually work in what will be your eventual environment."

"With graduate school as competitive as it is, it's so important for undergraduates to get themselves out there and get experience," said senior Jennifer Noland, a nontraditional BGSU student with three children.

"My SETGO project is in quantitative ecology," said the Portage resident, who is majoring in mathematics and minoring in biology. "I'm using my math skills to answer certain biological problems." The project has the potential to trace the movements of sport fish by measuring mineral deposits accumulated in their skull bones before their release from Great Lakes hatcheries.

For Stacey Burris of Maumee, a second-year biology major from Owens, the summer project has been the first opportunity to actually apply what she has been learning in the classroom. She is cloning transcription factors from a major pathogen of soybeans. And even though the work initially did go smoothly, "it's reaffirmed that this is what I want to do," said Burris. "When things don't work out as you planned, you have to adapt and change, and then when you finally get results, it's so much more rewarding because of the effort you've put into it."

The students seem to agree the experience has been productive. "Science always interested me, but I never felt I could apply myself as well as I could in theatre arts," Ramirez said. "But our faculty mentors have welcomed inexperienced students with open arms, and I have never felt intimidated here. I've learned so much in the program."

Developing student skills is a primary goal for Dr. Scott Rogers, chair of biology. His two SETGO students are involved in his ice core research, which looks for bacteria and fungi from a subglacial lake in Antarctica. He hopes the students will continue in his lab this fall. "They're making culture plates for growing fungi and bacteria, and they have more than a dozen colonies growing already," Rogers said. "When they extract the DNA and see something on a gel, they're genuinely excited. I want to expose them to as many methods as possible this summer so they're trained and ready to go."

Funded by the National Science Foundation, SETGO is designed to increase the number of science, math, engineering and technology graduates in the region. In addition to the summer research program, it comprises a bridge program at Owens between high school and college, and student participation in an Art of Science Community, which meets periodically throughout the year.

The summer program also includes a weekly meeting of all the students to share information and hear from a faculty member about an area of science.

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The students will show the results of their work in a poster session Aug. 14 in the Bowen-Thompson Student Union.

BGSU launches effort to connect undergraduate experience

BGSU is bringing together the minds, talents and experience of faculty and staff to create an important step forward in the evolution of the University. Called Connecting the Undergraduate Experience (CUE), the project aims to revamp the general education curriculum and in the process help shape Bowling Green's identity.

"Our approach to an integrated undergraduate experience has the potential to define our identity," President Carol Cartwright said in her first State of the University address. Undergraduate education can be a "signature program for BGSU," she predicted.

The decision to proceed with the redesign is the result of an in-depth survey of faculty and staff conducted last winter by Keeling and Associates consultants, and is closely tied to what the University community expressed in the strategic planning focus groups held last fall. That effort resulted in a number of strategies. Strategy No. 1 calls for BGSU to "create distinctive, coherent learning experiences that integrate curricular and co-curricular programs."

The project's name reflects its central theme: ensuring that students' learning is cohesive and that experiences both in and out of the classroom contribute to their academic and personal development. Significant investment has already been made in first-year experience programs at BGSU; CUE seeks to strengthen the entire four-year college experience—"from orientation to capstone courses," as Cartwright described it.

"This must be an intensive and extensive institution-wide conversation, and it is a significant opportunity to build upon some important, innovative and high-quality work we do here," she said.

The University is providing substantial material support for the effort. In the 2009-10 budget, the board of trustees allocated funds for the general education redesign, recognizing its importance to the success of the University and to recruitment and retention.

The CUE effort, which is expected to take from 18-24 months, is already under way. Based on the results of the Keeling study, which affirmed that the process must be faculty-driven to be successful, the CUE Steering Committee is a Faculty Senate ad hoc committee. Led by Catherine Cardwell, interim vice provost for academic programs, the elected committee members are:

- Steve Boone and Dr. Dale Klopfer, from the College of Arts and Sciences
- Dr. Greg Rich, from the College of Education and Human Development
- Dr. Andrew Kurtz, from BGSU Firelands
- Dr. Nancy Orel, from the College of Health and Human Services
- Dr. Per Broman, from the College of Musical Arts
- Dr. Larry Hatch, from the College of Technology
- Colleen Boff, from University Libraries

Representing the constituent groups are:

- Dr. Franklin Goza, associate deans group
- Dr. Ellen Williams, Faculty Senate
- Dr. Barbara Henry, Undergraduate Council
- Dr. Neal Jesse, University Council of Chairs and Directors

Representing other University groups are:

- Dr. Joseph Oravec, Division of Student Affairs
- Dr. Beatrice Guenther, experiential learning
- Dr. Radhika Gajjala, interdisciplinary learning
- Dr. Paul Moore, Honors Program
- Dr. Stephen Langendorfer, BG Perspective

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The committee will develop educational criteria and potential conceptual models for a revised general education program (known here as BG Perspective) and share those models with the University community. It will eventually propose a model and work toward its adoption and implementation.

The group will hold two, two-day retreats, July 23 and 24 and Sept. 25 and 26, to allow time for uninterrupted, intensive discussions and reflection on what the character of BGSU's general education program should be and how to achieve it.

Curricular changes will need to be approved by February 2011 in order for the new curriculum to begin in fall 2011.

Subgroups of additional members of the University community will also be formed to address issues related to creating an expansive, coherent undergraduate experience as these issues arise from the steering committee's discussions.

Charged with communicating about the activities and progress of the effort are Bonnie Fink, Center for Teaching and Learning, and CTL graduate assistant Michelle Rodems; Dr. Bettina Shuford, associate vice provost, and Nicky Dutt, BG Perspective graduate assistant. The goal is to keep the process as transparent as possible.

Richard Keeling and Dick Hersh, of Keeling and Associates, will help guide the process. (See www.bgsu.edu/offices/mc/monitor/02-16-09/index.html.)

Long-forgotten Chinese museum design becomes reality

Plans created 20 years ago by Kerry Sizheng Fan, architecture, for a museum in Hubei Province, China, have at last been realized. The museum, celebrating the rich cultural history of the area, has been built and is now open to the public.

Nearly forgotten by Fan after so many years, the project got off the ground unbeknownst to him. Fan has taught at BGSU for 11 years since leaving China to further his architecture studies at Cornell University. He was surprised to learn, in 2007, that the last component of the museum had been completed and an official opening planned. He got to see the results of his efforts when he and his family traveled back to China.

The initial plan was to create an extension of the original small museum in which to display artifacts from China's Three Kingdoms era, a politically turbulent yet culturally dramatic time from about CE 200 to 280. As an instructor at Huazhong University of Science and Technology in central China, Fan worked on the project in collaboration with a colleague, Professor Zhang Lianggao, who was exceptionally well versed in the history and culture of the region.

"Every boy in China knows a lot of stories about the Three Kingdoms," Fan said. "It was a short but storied time."

However, the project's backers changed their minds and wanted a more focused display for a nationally famous set of chime bells dating to the third century BCE, in the Warring States Period. The idea was taken up by the local government, and the plan was enlarged to include three more pavilions to accommodate the display content and in anticipation of a staged government funding program.

The new idea seemed fitting, said Fan, as Hubei is geographically important in both of these ancient periods. In the midsection of the Yangtze River, it is close to the Three Gorges Dam. The museum is situated beside Donghu, or East Lake, in Wuhan, the capital city of Hubei Province.

Fan worked on the design for the museum for more than two months. Incorporating features of earlier cultural periods, he used forms reminiscent of pyramids and tombs, with slanted

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columns that suggest the timber framework of Chinese traditional buildings. Based on the third evolution of the design, Fan made a rendering that was accepted into the National Gallery in 1987 and published in *The Architectural Journal* the same year. The colors and style of his rendering call to mind an ancient painting. The design was also featured on the cover of the local architectural journal in 1989.

The museum as it stands today is a bit more conservative than Fan's original design and was accomplished by a major design firm in the region. "Several other designs were attempted by the firm, but eventually the structure as built seems to have come back to a modified version of my plan," Fan said. Even with the changes, it is easy to see all the elements of the basic plan still in place.

While the time between conception and realization seems long, Fan says, "It is interesting to note that in the history of architecture, extensively dragged-out design and construction of high-profile projects were by no means rare. The construction of Gothic cathedrals can easily stretch for several decades or even over a century. A recent example was the famous Sydney Opera House: Planning began in the late 1940s, the design competition was in 1955, and the building was not completed until 1973."

Compared to those earlier marathon projects, perhaps it is lucky that Fan saw the completion of his project within just two decades.

Catalano adding 'Highlights' to illustrative resume

Nearly 20 years ago, *The Bear Who Loved Puccini* launched Dr. Dominic Catalano's career as an illustrator of children's picture books.

Twenty-eight books later, the art education faculty member is still drawing bears, which may have landed him an ongoing spot in a different, but just as familiar, forum.

Catalano has tentatively been tabbed to take over illustration of "The Bear Family," a bi-monthly feature in *Highlights*, the children's magazine that's been a staple of doctors' and dentists' waiting rooms for some 60 years. Although a final decision about the feature's future in the magazine is still pending, he would likely also provide the words for the characters, who reinforce positive, moral behavior in relationships with others.

Catalano's book publisher, Boyds Mills Press, is the trade arm of the magazine, which he described as the "cash cow of the organization." Having illustrated two covers for *Highlights* several years ago, he had worked with its art director, Cindy Faber-Smith, but she hadn't seen his renderings of bears until last November, he said.

She was invited to speak at a workshop he was conducting for the *Highlights* Foundation and, looking at the portfolio he had on hand for students to see, came across bears he had drawn for four books in the "Basil Bear" series. With the magazine knowing that the writer and illustrator of "The Bear Family" were stepping down, and wanting a new look, Smith asked Catalano if he could provide a sample, which he did in December.

Word balloons are planned as part of the new look, said Catalano, who would work with the same cast of characters—two boy bears and one girl, plus parents and grandparents—and traditional media, probably pen and ink. He would also do the painting and, just recently, has been asked to submit several scripts for review as well.

The father of two sons, ages 5 and 3, he called his house "a good place for inspiration" for the cartoon family, whose children are 10, 6 and 2.

"This is a great opportunity for me because it's a feature that runs six times a year," and in an internationally distributed magazine that's among the most popular for children, Catalano said. "It has such a history, such a legacy," he added about *Highlights*, which is still run by its founding family but, as part of a recent update, is also now online, too.

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The magazine is “founded in educational theory,” with editors who hold Ph.D.s in education, said Catalano, who shares a similar background. He is a former teacher in New York state, where he taught at every level from kindergarten through high school, and earned a doctorate in art education from Ohio State University in 2005. That same year, he joined the BGSU art faculty.

Catalano’s interest in illustration for children goes back to third grade, when he received Maurice Sendak’s classic 1963 book, *Where the Wild Things Are*, as a Christmas present. He decided then, he recalled, that “this is what I want to do”—a notion reinforced when, in high school, the teacher of a children’s literature class that he was taking stressed the importance of Sendak and his Caldecott Medal-winning book. Catalano put together a picture book as his final project for that class, then took another on illustrating for children’s picture books as an art education major at Buffalo State College, where he also drew cartoons to help build his portfolio.

When he was teaching, he took the portfolio to a New York City conference where editors and art directors saw it. A phone call from one of those editors afterward led to *The Bear Who Loved Puccini* and the professional career he has pursued ever since.

IN BRIEF**Family Motor Coach Association is coming**

BGSU will host the Family Motor Coach Association (FMCA) annual international convention from July 20-23. More than 5,000 people (with nearly 2,000 motor coaches) are anticipated on campus. Attendees will begin to arrive this week (July 13-18), but the majority are expected in Bowling Green on Sunday (July 19).

Additional traffic (particularly motor coach and motor home traffic) can be expected this week. The Bowling Green Convention and Visitors Bureau will host an outdoor welcome picnic from noon-5 p.m. Sunday in downtown Bowling Green.

Since such a large number of people are coming to campus, you might consider allowing extra time for your lunch (if you are buying lunch on campus), packing your lunch for the week, or adjusting your lunch schedule for your convenience. The Bowen-Thompson Student Union is the location for many FMCA seminars; thus, there will be a heavy flow of traffic in the building. It is expected that the busiest convention day in the union will be July 20, when hundreds of convention attendees will meet and dine there. The FMCA has scheduled lunch from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. that day.

While student parking lots will be affected by the convention, faculty and staff lots will not.

For more information on the convention, visit www.fmca.com/index.php/conventions/bowling-green-oh.

Final BG@100 town hall meeting to be held

In preparation for the final go-live of the Campus Solutions System (CSS), a BG@ 100 Town Hall meeting will be held at 11 a.m. Thursday (July 16) in 113 Olscamp Hall. BGSU Firelands faculty and staff can participate by teleconference in 1011 Cedar Point Center.

The go-live, scheduled to take place the weekend of July 18, is the 11th in the yearlong implementation of the PeopleSoft CSS. Go-live activities surround Federal Work Study and Third-Party Awards for the Student Financial Aid module. In addition, Student Records activities will concentrate on Alumni and Clearinghouse interfaces, Grade Average Report and Grade Distribution Reports, HEI (Higher Education Information) files, Dean’s List and Graduation News Service Queries.

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The Student Center will be enhanced with an Academic Standing link that will provide information to advisors through their advising information in Faculty Center as well.

Information about the go-live and change-management items may also be obtained at: www.bgsu.edu/offices/cio/page67995.html.

CALENDAR

Monday, July 13

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

Tuesday, July 14

Instructional Design Discussion, "Active Learning and Problem-Based Learning Strategies," 10-11 a.m., 201 University Hall. Register at www.bgsu.edu/ctl/page10718.html.

Wednesday, July 15

Classified Staff Council. 10 a.m., 220 Olcamp Hall.

Summer Beer Tasting, hosted by Mike Coomes, higher education and student affairs, 5:30-8 p.m., Black Swamp Pub, Union. The cost is \$9. Register and pay at the information center in the Union.

Thursday, July 16

BG@100 CSS Town Hall, 11 a.m.-noon, 113 Olcamp Hall and 1011 Cedar Point Center, BGSU Firelands.

BG's Got Talent, amateur talent contest open to all faculty, staff and students; 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, "Using Audacity to Create Podcasts for Learning," 2-3 p.m., 201 University Hall. Register at www.bgsu.edu/ctl/page10718.html.

Friday, July 17

NOWOH Art Show Opening Reception, 7-9 p.m., Fine Arts Center galleries.

Monday, July 20

Sundaes on Mondays, free ice cream, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m., Falcon's Nest, Union. **Instructional Design Workshop**, "Learning 2.0 with Web 2.0 Tools," 1-2:30 p.m., 201

University Hall. Register at www.bgsu.edu/ctl/page10718.html.

Wednesday, July 22

Summer Workshop Series, "Grant Writing," by Wendy Manning, sociology, noon-1 p.m., 208 Union. Hosted by the Center for Family and Demographic Research.

Friday, July 24

BGSU Firelands Behavioral Health Series, "The Skilled Helper: Understanding Grief and Loss," with Judi Fischer, 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.

Fifth Annual Office of the CIO Golf Outing, where teams of four will compete in a best-ball scramble format, Stone Ridge Golf Club. Registration includes lunch, 18 holes of golf, complimentary range balls, two drink tickets and appetizers. A 50/50 drawing and prizes will be awarded following completion of play. Further details and registration information are available at www.bgsu.edu/offices/cio/golf.

Monday, July 27

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

Continuing Events Beginning July 13

Free Excel Training, first of four sessions, 9-11:30 a.m. To register or for more information, visit <http://ctc.bgsu.edu/training> or call 2-8181. Hosted by Continuing and Extended Education (CEE) and Information Technology Services (ITS).

Beginning July 13

Free Access Training, first of four sessions, 1:30-4 p.m. To register or for more information, visit <http://ctc.bgsu.edu/training> or call 2-8181. Hosted by CEE and ITS.

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July 14-18

Summer Theater, "The 1940's Radio Hour," 8 p.m. nightly, Huron Playhouse, McCormick School, Ohio Street, Huron. Tickets are \$13 for students and senior citizens, \$15 for other adults, \$10 for children under 12, and \$12 for groups of 15 or more. Season passes are \$60. For reservations, call 419-433-4744.

July 14-Aug. 6

Tone and Stretch Classes, offered through WellAware's free summer fitness program for faculty and staff, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 5:15-6 p.m., Spinning Room, Student Recreation Center. Meet at the front desk of the center on Tuesday (July 14) to get your guest pass for the session. To reserve a spot in the class, email cspont@bgsu.edu.

Beginning July 15

Free Dreamweaver Training, first of four sessions, 9-11:30 a.m. To register or for more information, visit <http://ctc.bgsu.edu/training> or call 2-8181. Hosted by CEE and ITS.

Beginning July 18

NOWOH Art Show, nonjuried exhibit showcasing the artwork of northwest Ohioans. Hours are 1-8 p.m. Thursdays and Fridays and 1-4 p.m. Saturdays, Fine Arts Center galleries. The opening reception will be held from 7-9 p.m. Friday (July 17).

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.

Beginning July 21

Free InDesign Training, first of three sessions, 9-11:30 a.m. To register or for more

information, visit <http://ctc.bgsu.edu/training> or call 2-8181. Hosted by CEE and ITS.

Beginning July 21

Free Microsoft Word Training, first of four sessions, 1:30-4 p.m. To register or for more information, visit <http://ctc.bgsu.edu/training> or call 2-8181. Hosted by CEE and ITS.

July 21-25

Summer Theater, "Our Town," in honor of Huron's bicentennial, 8 p.m. nightly, Huron Playhouse, McCormick School, Ohio Street, Huron. Tickets are \$13 for students and senior citizens, \$15 for other adults, \$10 for children under 12, and \$12 for groups of 15 or more. Season passes are \$60. For reservations, call 419-433-4744.

Beginning July 22

Free Photoshop Training, first of three sessions, 1:30-4 p.m. To register or for more information, visit <http://ctc.bgsu.edu/training> or call 2-8181. Hosted by CEE and ITS.

Beginning July 23

Free Outlook Training, first of three sessions, 9-11:30 a.m. To register or for more information, visit <http://ctc.bgsu.edu/training> or call 2-8181. Hosted by CEE and ITS.

Beginning July 23

Free HTML Training, first of three sessions, 1:30-4 p.m. To register or for more information, visit <http://ctc.bgsu.edu/training> or call 2-8181. Hosted by CEE and ITS.

Beginning July 24

Free Flash Training, first of four sessions, 9-11:30 a.m. To register or for more information, visit <http://ctc.bgsu.edu/training> or call 2-8181. Hosted by CEE and ITS.

JOB POSTINGS**FACULTY**

There were no jobs posted 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 www.bgsu.edu/offices/ohr/.

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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.

Off-campus classified:

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

ADMINISTRATIVE

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

CLASSIFIED

On-campus classified:

www.bgsu.edu/offices/ohr/employment/BGSU_only/page11151.html

OBITUARY

There were no obituaries this week.