

> Top Stories

In Brief

Calendar

Job Postings

Obituaries

BGSU gets triple notice in 'America's Best Colleges'

The report is in, and BGSU has reason to celebrate. The 2009-10 edition of U.S. News and World Report's "America's Best Colleges" cites the University for excellence in undergraduate education in three categories—a strong commitment to teaching, first-year experience programs and learning communities.

Reflecting its strong emphasis on teaching, BGSU is ranked 11th with eight others among 80 institutions that have a focus on undergraduates in the "national universities" group. The group comprises public and private institutions including the University of Michigan and Howard, Princeton, Yale and Stanford universities. Rated by their peers, the 80 were singled out for their "unusual commitment to undergraduate teaching" and for "emphasizing that aspect of academic life."

"It's gratifying to be recognized by our peers in higher education as an outstanding university to receive an undergraduate education," said BGSU President Carol Cartwright. "This illustrates our commitment to helping students succeed."

BGSU faculty are known for their focus on engaging students in undergraduate research, service-learning that links out-of-classroom experience to the curriculum, and their availability to students.

"America's Best Colleges" identifies national universities as those "262 American universities (164 public and 98 private) that offer a wide range of undergraduate majors as well as master's and doctoral degrees." To rank them, U.S. News assigns them to a group of their peers using basic categories developed by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching.

Under "Programs to Look For," a section that lists "schools with outstanding examples of programs that are commonly linked to student success," BGSU is included for its First-Year Experience programs as well as its learning communities. Bowling Green was first included for the former in the 2006 edition of the report, and has been noted for its learning communities multiple times, beginning in 2003.

Says the magazine of first-year experience programs, "Orientation can only go so far in making freshmen feel connected. Many schools now build into the curriculum first-year seminars or other academic programs that bring small groups of students together with faculty and staff on a regular basis." Among those on the list are Duke, Notre Dame and Purdue universities.

Getting students off to a strong start has been a priority for the University for a number of years. Extending that commitment by staying connected with and supporting students throughout their undergraduate experience is a key element of BGSU's new long-term strategic plan, which emphasizes links between classroom learning and co-curricular activities.

One way of creating an integrated educational experience is through learning communities, an area in which Bowling Green has been at the forefront. U.S. News notes that "in learning communities, students typically take two or more linked courses as a group and get to know one another and their professors well. Some learning communities are also residential."

BGSU has a number of these communities, ranging from those in which students share a common major, such as health science or urban education, to those in which they share a commitment to an area of interest, such as global connections or appreciation of the arts.

Villanova, Syracuse and Indiana universities are among those highlighted for their learning communities.

> Top Stories

In Brief

Calendar

Job Postings

Obituaries

To view the listing for excellence in undergraduate teaching, visit:
<http://rankings.usnews.com/best-colleges/national-ut-rank>

For more on first-year experience programs, visit:
<http://rankings.usnews.com/best-colleges/first-year-experience-programs>

To view the list of universities with strong learning-communities, visit:
<http://rankings.usnews.com/best-colleges/learning-community-programs>

Online progress reports boost faculty-student connections

Two new, Web-based tools available to faculty this semester provide an easy-to-use means for them to give their students progress reports, beginning as early as the third to fifth week of each semester.

Housed in the Faculty Center in MyBGSU, the Early Alert tool and the Midterm Grade Report encompass all students in all classes. "This move to reporting for all students allows us to connect with them throughout their college careers, which is critical to their progress toward graduation," said Barbara Henry, associate vice provost for advising and academic success. "This is an advance for us.

"All the research tells us that early and consistent feedback is critical to student success because it allows students time to adjust their behavior," Henry said. "These reports provide a snapshot in time of student performance and are one of many ways in which faculty communicate with students. Given the importance of feedback to retention, this is a high-impact practice."

"We know that students who attend class regularly and get prompt feedback from instructors are more likely to succeed in their courses. This is true for all undergraduate students, not just students in their first year," said Catherine Cardwell, interim vice provost for academic programs. "The implementation of the new Progress Report system is one strategy among many to improve student learning and student success."

Students will view the alerts in the Student Center "View My Grades" window, where they can see the entries immediately once posted as well as whether faculty have completed the reports or have not reported.

The Early Alert, in weeks three-five, will enable faculty to notify students if their attendance or class performance is putting them at risk. The attendance alert is checked if the student has missed two or more classes as of the report date. The performance alert is checked if the student has earned a D or lower to date. While checking for alerts, faculty may also send a personal email to students by clicking on their email address, just as in the Class Roster, Henry added.

The system provides another way "for faculty to begin the dialogue in time for students to adjust their approach," Henry said, pointing out that "if you're a student with a D average in your class work, midterm is too late to really turn it around."

The second tool, the Midterm Grade, is used if students are found to be falling behind in performance by weeks six-eight. It is another opportunity for advisors to connect them with campus resources such as the various academic success centers and explain to them the importance of talking with their faculty. "It's a great tool for academic advisors to start conversations with students," Henry said.

Two training sessions on Early Alert and Midterm Grade will be offered. The first is from 1:30-3 p.m. Sept. 2 in 107 Olscamp Hall and by teleconference in 1011 Cedar Point Center at BGSU Firelands. The second is from 4-5:30 p.m. Sept. 3 in 113 Olscamp and 1003/1004 Cedar Point Center. Online training tutorials will also be available shortly.

> Top Stories

In Brief

Calendar

Job Postings

Obituaries

SETGO students advance skills, knowledge

It wasn't a typical summer vacation for students in the SETGO program. They spent 10 weeks in campus labs and at research sites conducting independent study on all manner of topics. Each received a \$3,500 scholarship.

The 38 hard-working students, from BGSU and Owens Community College, shared the results of their studies Aug. 14 at the SETGO (Science, Engineering and Technology Gateway Ohio) poster presentation. In addition to faculty mentors, peers, families and friends, the session was attended by BGSU President Carol Cartwright and, from Owens, President Christa Adams and project co-director Dr. Anne Bullerjahn.

"You should congratulate yourselves for having the will to take this kind of time this summer and not to be on the beach but to work on something with long-term results," Cartwright told the students, adding that their effort spoke of their commitment. "Not everyone gets the opportunity to do something like this. We congratulate you, and we need you," she said.

Martez Mott, a senior computer science major from Detroit, said, "The research experience will help in grad school. I was able to get a feel for it before I go on." Ultimately, he would like to do both teaching and research. Teaching, because "I like to help people, and research is really exciting. You're always pushing the state of the art."

Ashley Hannah, a BGSU senior from Macedonia, Ohio, majoring in pre-med biology, worked with SETGO co-director Dr. Moira van Staaden, biological sciences. They were engaged in a study of the sensory system of cichlids, looking at the fishes' lateral line systems. "I did learn a lot. SETGO gave me the full opportunity to conduct research and learn more about science," Hannah said.

For some, the research also revealed something about the bigger picture of evolution. Senior Brian Greer, from Akron, also a biology pre-med student, worked with Dr. Robert Huber, biology. Greer's poster detailed the results of his teaching crayfish to self-administer amphetamine in a test of how strongly addictive the drug is in the crustaceans.

"No paradigms exist for this in drug research," Greer said. That was the exciting part; the slow and painstaking process the work required was difficult, he recalled. "It teaches you to have patience," he said. "But it's worth it to prove that after 600 million years of evolution, we're still connected to them in how our reward system functions."

"When they run into trouble, that's the best thing, that's how they learn," said Dr. Vipaporn Phuntumart, biology, who mentored three students this summer. "When you have a problem, you have to think harder, analyze it and learn how to solve it."

In some cases, the students' work also helped advance ongoing research by faculty, as in the contribution of senior Jennifer Noland to a project of Drs. Jeffrey Miner, biology, and John Farver, geology. Noland's mathematical analysis of data (working with Dr. J. Gordon Wade, mathematics) on mineral deposits in fish skulls, which serve as chemical fingerprints, helped confirm that they reflect fishes' place of origin, enabling the researchers to track their movements.

For more on SETGO, visit <http://www.bgsu.edu/offices/mc/monitor/07-13-09/page67647.html>.

Top Stories

> **In Brief**

Calendar

Job Postings

Obituaries

IN BRIEF

Leave Bank Program enrollment deadline extended

Due to feedback from constituents, the deadline to donate sick-leave hours to the Leave Bank has been extended to 5 p.m. Friday (Aug. 28).

For more information, see the policy and forms or contact the Office of Human Resources. Policy and forms are located at:
<http://www.bgsu.edu/offices/ohr/employment/page68395.html>.

Classes start at BGSU Levis Commons

The University expands its reach today (Aug. 24) with the opening of classes at its newly renovated facility at Levis Commons in Perrysburg. All classes are aimed at professionals and adult learners.

The Professional MBA program begins classes there with a new cohort this evening.

The Master's in Public Health consortium will hold three courses at Levis this semester, beginning Wednesday (Aug. 26).

Continuing & Extended Education is also offering programs at BGSU Levis Commons.

An office will be open to the public for information from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays. All classes will be held in the evenings.

Families sought to share culture with international students

If you would like to invite an international student in Bowling Green to share a meal, a holiday, a trip to the mall or other activities, you can volunteer through the Center for International Programs (CIP) and the International Friendship Program.

The friendship program is designed to help BGSU international students become better acquainted with the culture and customs of the United States through interaction with the Bowling Green community.

For more than 30 years, the program has been matching hundreds of international students from about 80 countries with interested families in the community, giving the students an opportunity to know more about American life, and giving community members a chance to get to know someone from a different country.

BGSU is expecting nearly 200 new international students, and new families are needed to join the program so no international student who wishes to meet an American family is disappointed.

Not only traditional families may participate. Single people, widows and widowers, those who are divorced and retirees are all welcome. There is no cost to participate. The students do not live with the host families but enjoy being invited to do things together.

For more information about the program, contact CIP Graduate Assistant Yuchun Zhou at 2-8480 or at yuchunz@bgsu.edu.

To talk with someone who has participated in the program, call Betty Laukhuf at 352-0685, Phyllis Oster at 352-4360 or Monna Pugh at 352-4860.

Top Stories

> **In Brief**

> **Calendar**

Job Postings

Obituaries

Community education classes combine fun and fitness

Continuing & Extended Education has announced its fall line-up of classes.

Offered for the first time this year is Zumba. A new movement in the fitness world, it is an energizing combination of Latin dance moves and aerobic conditioning. Both Zumba and Zumba Gold (for the older active adult) classes are available.

Also new this year are classes in jewelry making, plus half-day workshops by Joe Zsigray in which participants can learn to play the mountain dulcimer, ukulele or harmonica.

Anyone who has ever dreamed of performing magic tricks before a captivated audience will enjoy the Magic Close Up workshop. Aspiring magicians will leave the two-hour workshop with a repertoire of 10 tricks.

Creativity and artistic skills for young people ages 3-19 are enhanced in the popular Saturday Art Program, which begins Sept. 26. Preschoolers can explore a variety of materials as they create their own unique works of art, while older children can hone their skills and increase their knowledge of artistic media, processes and techniques.

Classes in gymnastics run from basic tumbling and balancing for preschoolers to more advanced skills such as the balance beam, uneven bars and vaulting for older children.

Karate classes will be offered for children ages 3-14 and for adults. The Little Dragons class is for children from 3-5 and teaches basic karate skills. Children ages 6-14 will learn a variety of self-defense techniques while enhancing discipline and self-confidence. Beginner, intermediate and advanced karate classes for adults teach karate as an art and sport as well as a method of self-defense.

Also available is instruction in the waltz, fox trot, rumba and tango in Ballroom Dancing, back by popular demand.

For more information about BGSU's community education classes, visit <http://pace.bgsu.edu> or call 2-8181.

CALENDAR

Monday, Aug. 24

Fall Semester Begins.

Tuesday, Aug. 25

Open Skate, featuring free admission and skate rental, music and prizes, 8-11 p.m., Ice Arena.

Wednesday, Aug. 26

BG@100 Strategic Needs Meeting, 8:30-9:30 a.m., 315 Bowen-Thompson Student Union.

Homecoming Save the Date, 11 a.m.-3 p.m., Union Oval.

College of Health and Human Services Welcome Picnic, 4-6 p.m., Health Center Lawn.

Student Organization Kick-Off, 5:30-6:30 p.m., Lenhart Grand Ballroom, Union.

Thursday, Aug. 27

Nonvoluntary Furlough Informational Sessions, 9 a.m., College Park Building, and 1:30 p.m., 105 Foundation Hall, BGSU Firelands. Information is also available on the Human Resources Web site: www.bgsu.edu/offices/ohr/employment/page69005.html. The deadline to select furlough options is 5 p.m. Monday, Aug. 31.

University Film Organization Showcase, featuring the 2009 BGSU Film and Festival winners, 6 p.m., Gish Film Theater, Hanna Hall.

BFA Welcome, 7:30 p.m., Prout Chapel.
Comedic Monologue, "My Wacky Adventures in Race and Racism," with Nancy Giles,

- Top Stories
- In Brief
- > **Calendar**
- Job Postings
- Obituaries

CBS Sunday Morning contributor, comedian and actress, 2 p.m., Union Theater.

Dorothy E. and DuWayne H. Hansen Musical Arts Series, "An Evening with Nancy Giles," 8 p.m., Kobacker Hall, Moore Musical Arts Center.

Friday, Aug. 28

Deadline to Enroll in Employee Leave Bank (Extended), 5 p.m., Human Resources. See www.bgsu.edu/offices/ohr/employment/page68395.html.

Women's Soccer vs. Indiana State, 5 p.m., Cochrane Field.

University Film Organization Showcase, featuring the 2009 BGSU Film and Festival winners, 6 p.m., Union Theater.

Saturday, Aug. 29

Alexander Technique Lecture/Master Class, with guest lecturer Dr. James Brody, University of Colorado at Boulder, 10 a.m.-1 p.m., 202B Union. Hosted by the College of Musical Arts and Theta Alpha Phi.

Alexander Technique Master Class, with Dr. James Brody, 2:30-5 p.m., Bryan Recital Hall, Moore Musical Arts Center. Sign-up for Sunday's small-group lessons will take place at this session.

2009 Falcon Sports Kickoff, featuring free admission, free ice cream, a free raffle and other activities, 6-8 p.m., Doyt Perry Stadium. RSVP requested to 2-2401.

BiG Stars Talent Showcase, 7:30 p.m., Lenhart Grand Ballroom, Union. Hosted by the Office of Multicultural Affairs.

Sunday, Aug. 30

Small-Group Alexander Technique Lessons, with Dr. James Brody, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Moore Musical Arts Center. Sign-up for the sessions will be held at the master class on Saturday.

Monday, Aug. 31

Tunes @ Noon, noon, McDonald Dining Hall. Sponsored by the University Activities Organization.

Service-Learning Faculty Learning Community Meeting, 4-5:30 p.m., 201 University Hall.

Monday Night Trivia, 9 p.m., Black Swamp Pub, Union.

Continuing Events Aug. 24-26

BGSU Firelands Sweets and Treats Welcome, 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. daily, The Pit, Firelands.

Beginning Aug. 24

Intermediate/Advanced Adult Karate Classes, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays through Dec. 7. No class will be held Sept. 7, Oct. 12, Nov. 11 or Nov. 25. The fee is \$100 for full time and \$50 for half time (one day per week); the cost of uniforms is not included in the class fee. For more information or to register, call 2-8181 or visit <http://pace.bgsu.edu>.

Beginning Aug. 28

Art Exhibition, "UpScaled/DownSized: Intimate and Meticulous Works of Art," Willard Wankelman Gallery, Fine Arts Center. Gallery hours are 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday, 6-9 p.m. Thursdays and 1-4 p.m. Sundays.

Aug. 29-30

Alexander Technique Workshop, featuring guest lecturer Dr. James Brody, University of Colorado at Boulder, Moore Musical Arts Center. All workshops, classes and lessons are free and open to the public. No registration required for the master classes; sign-up required for the small-group lessons. Sponsored by the College of Musical Arts Dean's Fund and Theta Alpha Phi.

Through Sept. 3

Wellness Week, featuring free personal training sessions and group exercise classes, Student Recreation Center. Stop by the Wellness Connection in the recreation center for more information.

Through Sept. 3

Free Use of the Climbing Wall, 5:30-9:45 p.m. nightly, Student Recreation Center Climbing Wall. Registration and waiver required; wall membership and belay certification not required.

Through Sept. 6

Art Exhibition, "Loss and Desire," Union Art Gallery. Gallery hours are 8 a.m.-9 p.m. Monday-Saturday and 10 a.m.-9 p.m. Sundays.

Through Sept. 22

Art Exhibition, paintings by John Nativio, Little Gallery, BGSU Firelands. Gallery hours are 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Friday.

Top Stories

In Brief

Calendar

> **Job Postings**

> **Obituaries**

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/.

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

OBITUARY

There were no obituaries this week.