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BGSU historian's book answers why Japan lagged in World War II weaponry

In his 1985 book, *Japan's Secret War*, Robert Wilcox contends that Japan successfully tested a nuclear device on Aug. 12, 1945—six days after the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and three days after the attack on Nagasaki.

Wilcox makes his case in a History Channel documentary—scheduled to premiere at 8 p.m. Aug. 16—in which Dr. Walter Grunden, history, takes the opposing view.

Grunden argues “there’s just not enough evidence to say they succeeded” in developing a nuclear weapon, and in a new book, he outlines reasons why Japan was unable to produce any potentially decisive weapons during the war.

In the book, *Secret Weapons and World War II: Japan in the Shadow of Big Science*, Grunden explains that “Big Science”—a term coined after the war—requires the intersection of several elements.

Sufficient numbers of scientists, engineers and technicians who can do research and development are needed. So is scientific apparatus—a nuclear particle accelerator, for instance—for experiments. Production of planned weapons then requires abundant natural resources and industrial capacity, in the form of factories, machines and tools. And extensive capital is needed to fund it all.

Although not to the extent of the United States, Germany and the Soviet Union, World War II-era Japan had some of the necessary components. “They were a player,” says Grunden, who joined the BGSU history department in 1999.

But a failure of policy is largely to blame, he maintains, for the Asian empire’s inability to develop what are now called weapons of mass destruction.

Coordinating the components among the state, military and large corporations requires a central administrative organization, which was in place elsewhere, Grunden points out. Germany had its Reich Research Council, for example, and the U.S.’s Manhattan Project—which produced the atomic bomb—was an affiliate of the central Office of Scientific Research and Development.

Japan’s comparable entity was called the Technology Agency, but unlike the American OSRD, which directed all branches of the military, the Japanese agency was essentially an office of the army, which had been heavily involved in its formation, Grunden says.

It had been designed to have authority but due to infighting for resources, “the Technology Agency in Japan never rose to that level,” according to the author. Because the agency couldn’t implement policy across the board, the Japanese army and navy didn’t work together, even having separate programs for radar development, nuclear research and advanced aeronautical weapons, he adds.

It may be too simple to say this is why Japan was ultimately defeated, but “all of the factors that go into why they couldn’t produce WMDs are the same explanation for why they lost the war,” says Grunden, who holds a Ph.D. in history from the University of California-Santa Barbara.

By the war’s end, even advanced technology such as better radar or jet interceptors wouldn’t have turned the tide in Japan’s favor, “because all of that would have been used for defensive systems by ’45,” he says. “Only a nuclear weapon would have made any difference.”

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And Grunden's research indicates that probably wasn't a possibility. In the National Archives and Tokyo's National Defense Library, he has seen a number of original documents, including U.S. military intelligence on Japanese nuclear research, he says. He has also met three Japanese scientists who were involved with that research. And while he thinks Japan may have tested something on Aug. 12, 1945, he doesn't believe it was nuclear.

Grunden says a possible explanation for Wilcox's belief otherwise is that his source, a counterintelligence agent, may have been trying to throw him off the trail of a biological weapons production facility. In that area, Japanese development was more successful, although it's not believed they used biological weapons against the Allies. "Where there was fear of retaliation, they didn't use them," he notes.

Nonetheless, the Japanese example can be a lesson, and concern, in today's global climate, Grunden says. "The (weapons) program with the highest priority for a developing nation would be biological weapons," he contends, saying they're the easiest and cheapest to produce, as well as hide. "Japan serves as that model."

Although their work didn't help prevent defeat in World War II, Japanese scientists did lay the foundation for their country's post-war emergence as an economic power, adds Grunden.

"There are people in Japan who will tell you it was a useful war," he says, arguing that "the Japanese were able to make a rapid economic and industrial recovery after the war because they had laid the groundwork for the evolutionary transition to 'Big Science' during the war."

Published by University Press of Kansas, *Secret Weapons and World War II* is available at the University Bookstore and BGSU on Main.

BGSU musicians perform and teach in Greece

Sixteen faculty, staff and students from the College of Musical Arts are participating in the third Summer Music Academy and performing on the first "Corfu Festival - Ionian Concerts 05" in Corfu, Greece.

Sponsored by the Municipality of Corfu, the music studies department at Ionian University and the Melos Brass Quintet, the Corfu Festival features more than 35 concerts at a number of venues in and around the city, including the St. George Basilica in the Old Fortress and the Achilleion in Garitsa. Promoters are referring to the event as the "month of music."

The international academy is holding 11 different sessions, ranging from studies in brass and ancient Greek music to jazz and recording techniques. Sessions featuring BGSU faculty and staff include early music, piano and strings from July 18-24 and classical saxophone and sound engineering from July 25-31.

Vasile Beluska, violin; Mark Bunce, electronic/recording engineer and director of recording services; harpsichordist Dr. Vincent Corrigan, musicology; Csaba Erdelyi, viola; Maxim Mogilevsky, piano; saxophonist Dr. John Sampen, Distinguished Research/Artist Professor; pianist Diana Barker Smith; Dr. Alan Smith, cello, and pianist Svetlana Smolina of Russia, a May graduate of BGSU, will teach and present concerts, workshops, lectures and master classes.

Accompanying the group to Greece will be Dr. Richard Kennell, dean of the College of Musical Arts.

The event is also part of a student/faculty exchange between BGSU and Ionian University that began in May 2004.

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Popular culture pioneer edits two new compilations

Pinocchio and NASCAR don't often come up in the same discussion, but in a new book titled *Profiles of Popular Culture: A Reader*, the two otherwise disparate subjects are both at home.

Dr. Ray B. Browne, the book's editor and a Distinguished University Professor Emeritus of popular culture at BGSU, employs essays about Pinocchio and NASCAR fans as part of explorations of myths and heroes, respectively. He similarly uses other essays, from both scholarly and mainstream media, to help illustrate broader topics from A (advertising) to V (vacationing and sightseeing), with food, fads and fashion among those in between.

While *Profiles of Popular Culture* serves as both an academic book and a reference for a general audience interested in popular culture's role in contemporary society, a second new volume edited by Browne is specifically subtitled *Essays for Educators*.

That book, *Popular Culture Studies Across the Curriculum*, emphasizes the need for interdisciplinary mingling and explores ways in which popular culture studies can deepen inquiry in particular fields. The 18 essays span campus curricula, including the humanities, social sciences, geography, women's studies, business and economics. The importance of popular culture courses in community colleges and high schools is also addressed.

McFarland & Company Inc. is the publisher of *Popular Culture Studies Across the Curriculum*, while *Profiles of Popular Culture* is published by the Popular Press, an imprint of the University of Wisconsin Press. Browne and his wife, Pat, founded the Popular Press at BGSU. It was acquired by the University of Wisconsin three years ago.

After coming to Bowling Green in 1967, Ray Browne also established a center for popular culture study and the Journal of Popular Culture. Often credited with coining the term, he also co-founded the Popular Culture Association, BGSU's Department of Popular Culture—the first academic department of its kind in the nation—and the University's Popular Culture Library, which is now named in his and his wife's honor.

Named a Distinguished University Professor in 1977, he created the Journal of American Culture the following year and remained a full-time teacher until retiring in 1992. He has continued to work as a writer and editor, with more than 70 books and hundreds of articles to his credit.

'Wait Until Dark' provides chills at Huron Playhouse

"Wait Until Dark," the suspenseful thriller, will be performed this week by the Huron Playhouse.

Set in New York City in 1966, the mystery deals with Suzy Hendrix, a blind woman living with her husband in a Greenwich Village basement apartment. Alone for the weekend, Suzy, who is blind, is visited by three men whose intentions become increasingly menacing.

"Wait Until Dark" begins tomorrow evening (July 19) and runs through Saturday (July 23). Performances are at 8 p.m. nightly in the McCormick School, 325 Ohio St., Huron. Tickets are \$11 for students and senior citizens, \$12 for other adults and \$8 for children under 12. For reservations, call 419-433-4744.

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International Friendship Program seeks families

For more than 30 years, the International Friendship Program at BGSU has been matching international students attending the University with interested families in the community, giving the students an opportunity to know more about how Americans live and giving community members a chance to get to know someone from a different country.

The Center for International Programs is expecting nearly 200 new international students to arrive in August and needs new families 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 in the program. The students do not live with the host families but enjoy being invited to share a meal, a holiday, a trip to the mall, etc. For more information or to receive an application, call the Center for International Programs at 2-2247.

If you would like to talk with someone who has participated in the program, you may call Betty Laukhuf at 352-0685, Phyllis Oster at 352-4360 or Monna Pugh at 352-4860.

BGSU dean chairs statewide group

Dr. Josué Cruz Jr., dean of the College of Education and Human Development at Bowling Green State University, has been elected as chair of the State University Education Deans of Ohio. His one-year term begins in August.

The State University Education Deans (SUED) is a group of public university education deans representing the 13 state universities across Ohio. It is designed to bring the state-supported institutions together to coordinate and provide cohesiveness in their oversight of teacher preparation.

SUED works closely with various legislative bodies and other statewide bodies, including the Ohio Department of Education and the Ohio Board of Regents, to follow and recommend policies pertinent to teacher education and certification/standards.

Auditions slated for 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory'

Auditions for the Caryl Crane Children's Theatre production of "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory" will be held next week at BGSU Firelands.

Adapted for the stage from the novel by Roald Dahl, the play includes numerous roles for actors ages 10-adult. Auditions will be held from 9-11:30 a.m. July 25 and 26 in McBride Auditorium, Huron.

"Charlie and the Chocolate Factory," directed by Dr. Ronald Ruble, will be performed at 7:30 p.m. Sept. 9 and 10 and at 2:30 p.m. Sept. 11 in the auditorium.

For more information, call Ruble at 419-433-4744.

CALENDAR

Monday, July 18

BG@100 View Paycheck Demonstration,

8 a.m.-5 p.m. (a new demo will start at the top of each hour), 117 Olscamp Hall. This demonstration session will introduce the

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View Paycheck self-service application used to obtain paycheck information. Faculty, administrative and classified staff and student employees may attend.

Bingo, noon, Falcon's Nest, Union. Sponsored by Union Programming.

Movie, "Friday Night Lights," 9 p.m., Bowen-Thompson Student Union Theater. Sponsored by the Office of Campus Involvement.

Tuesday, July 19

BG@100 View Paycheck Demonstration, 8 a.m.-5 p.m., 117 Olscamp Hall. See above.

Weight Watchers @ Work, noon-1 p.m., 314 Union. Sponsored by Student Union Programming.

Movie, "Friday Night Lights," 9 p.m., Union Theater.

Wednesday, July 20

Grilling on the Green, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m., outside the Falcon's Nest, Union. Sponsored by University Dining Services.

Classified Staff Council, 9 a.m.-noon, 316 Union.

Summer Falcon's Nest Performers, 4:30-6:30 p.m., Falcon's Nest, Union. Featuring Katie Stanko, musical/theatrical performance.

Thursday, July 21

BG@100 View Paycheck Demonstration, 8 a.m.-5 p.m., 117 Olscamp Hall. See above. **BG@100 Open Forum**, 9:30 a.m., 315 Union. Learn about the project to implement PeopleSoft for BGSU's administrative systems.

Saturday, July 23

Russian Great Books Discussion, 10 a.m., 103 Olscamp Hall. Sponsored by IMPACT learning community.

Monday, July 25

Sundaes on Mondays, noon-1 p.m. (or while supplies last), Falcon's Nest, Bowen-Thompson Student Union. Sponsored by Union Programming.

Continuing Events Through July 22

Art Exhibition, photographs by Rebecca Dickerson, Little Gallery, BGSU Firelands. Gallery hours are 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Friday.

July 19-23

Summer Theatre, "Wait Until Dark," 8 p.m., Huron Playhouse, McCormick School, 325 Ohio St., Huron. For ticket information and reservations, call the box office at 419-433-4744. Season passes and individual show tickets are available.

July 26-30

Summer Theatre, "Guys and Dolls," 8 p.m., Huron Playhouse. See above.

July 22-Sept. 4

Art Exhibition, "Songs of Remembrance," 7 a.m.-7 p.m. Monday-Saturday through Aug. 14; times vary Monday through Sunday thereafter, 130 Union.

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FACULTY

Sociology (two positions). Assistant Professor, criminology. Call Peggy Giordano, 2-2320. Assistant Professor, social psychology. Call Monica Longmore, 2-2320. Deadline for both positions: Sept. 15.

Finance. Assistant/Associate Professor. Call Dan Klein, 2-8963. Deadline: Oct. 1.

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

Contact the Office of Human Resources at 419-372-8421 for information regarding classified and administrative positions. Position

View job descriptions at: www.bgsu.edu/offices/ohr/employment/BGSU_only/



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The deadline for employees to apply for the following position, which is open to BGSU employees only, is 1 p.m. Friday, July 22. **Secretary 2 (R-000014-Vf)**—School of Leadership and Policy Studies, Educational Foundations and Inquiry. Pay grade 7. Twelve-month, full-time position.

The following position is advertised on and off campus:
Secretary 1 (R-000011)—University Advancement. Pay grade 6. Twelve-month, part-time position, 18 hours/week. Deadline: 1 p.m. Friday, July 29.

ADMINISTRATIVE

View job descriptions at:0
www.bgsu.edu/offices/ohr/employment/adm_staff/

Assistant Director of Student-Athlete Services (V-000003)—Intercollegiate Athletics. Administrative grade 12. Review of applications began July 15 and will continue until the position is filled.

Physician/Associate Director, Clinical and Educational Services (V-060)—Student Health Service. Administrative grade 18. Deadline: July 19.

Assistant Director, Cooperative Education and Internship Program (V-066)—Career Center. Administrative grade 15. Deadline: July 26.

Associate Director, Cooperative Education and Internship Program (V-065)—Career Center. Administrative grade 16. Deadline: July 26.

Data Management Coordinator (R-000008)—Psychology. Administrative grade 10. Deadline: July 29.

Recruitment and Data Collection Coordinator (R-000007)—Psychology. Administrative grade 10. Deadline: July 29.

Financial Analyst (R-000006)—Student Affairs. Administrative grade 13. Review of

applications will begin Aug. 1 and continue until the position is filled.

Second Assistant Women's Volleyball Coach (R-000004)—Intercollegiate Athletics. Salary is commensurate with experience. Review of applications will begin Aug. 1 and continue until the position is filled.

Director, Student Technology Center (V-000010)—Information Technology Services. Administrative grade 17. Deadline: Aug. 5.

Technology Support Specialist (V-000009)—Information Technology Services. Administrative grade 17. Deadline: Aug. 5.

Assistant Director of Athletic Communications (R-000013)—Intercollegiate Athletics. Salary is commensurate with experience. Review of applications will begin Aug. 12 and continue until the position is filled.

Video Coordinator/Football Operations (R-000012)—Intercollegiate Athletics. Salary is commensurate with experience. Review of applications will begin Aug. 12 and continue until the position is filled.

Assistant Director of Gift Planning (V-023)—Office of Development/University Advancement (search extended). Review of applications began June 24 and will continue until the position is filled.

Associate Director of Residence Life for Business Affairs (V-034)—Office of Residence Life. Administrative grade 16. Review of applications began May 13 and will continue until the position is filled.

Associate Dean of Students (V-038)—Office of Campus Involvement. Administrative grade 18. Review of applications began May 27 and will continue until the position is filled.

Residence Hall Director (V-013)—Residence Life. Administrative grade 13. Review of applications will continue until the position is filled.

OBITUARY

There were no obituaries this week.