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BGSU's first Givens Fellows to pursue passions in India, Africa

Elizabeth Kovar and Martina Hanulova are BGSU students with a passion for peace.

Kovar believes in the inner mental and spiritual, as well as physical, benefits of yoga, and would like to teach it to others. Hanulova's interest in peace is evident in her plans beyond BGSU: "My highest goal is to work for the United Nations."

Both students have a new avenue to follow their dreams as the first recipients of a Stuart R. Givens Memorial Fellowship. Chosen from among eight applicants, Kovar and Hanulova will each receive \$6,000, with which Kovar will train in India to become an Ashtanga yoga instructor and Hanulova will travel to Ghana to work in a Liberian refugee camp.

Dr. Chris and Ellen Dalton created the fellowship, named for the longtime BGSU history professor and University historian. Each year, the program will allow one or two undergraduates to pursue an intense interest in a self-designed experience not possible in a traditional classroom or even study abroad.

"One requirement was passion, and they're obviously very passionate about their interests," said Chris Dalton, BGSU's senior vice president for finance and administration, after meeting Kovar and Hanulova earlier this month. Ellen Dalton, coordinator of budgets for the College of Musical Arts, noted their common theme of peace, calling them "very impressive young ladies."

Both recipients are seniors who intend to undertake their projects this year—Kovar in the summer and Hanulova in the fall—before returning to BGSU and graduating in spring 2008.

Kovar, a sport management major from Willoughby Hills, said she has always been a health and fitness enthusiast and practiced yoga off and on for a few years. She "fell in love with it," however, during a seven-month study abroad experience at Australia's Griffith University.

She has begun teaching yoga at the Student Recreation Center and, in India, will take a six-week course that will certify her to teach the Ashtanga philosophy and style. "I think studying it in India would be the most beneficial experience," Kovar said, describing her project as learning from the discipline's "founding fathers."

Kovar, who also wants to see the Taj Mahal and Bombay during her stay, would eventually like to follow in her father Larry's footsteps as a business owner, opening her own yoga studio. Also the daughter of Monica Latosky of Willowick, Kovar credits her mother with teaching her the Ayurvedic yoga principles of curing illness by using particular ingredients in Indian cooking.

A native of Slovakia, Hanulova came to the United States as an exchange student at Rossford High School, where she graduated in 2000. She returned to Slovakia to finish school there, too, but came back to northwest Ohio and spent two years at Owens Community College before transferring to BGSU, where she is majoring in French and international studies.

Among her other travels has been a three-month stint last summer as an English teacher at a private school in Burkina Faso, Africa. "Despite the extreme poverty and harsh living conditions, I found Africa to be a little piece of heaven where I would like to return and to which I want to devote my education and future work," Hanulova wrote in a statement accompanying her proposal for the fellowship.

Looking online, she found the Liberian refugee camp project, which is organized by the Global Village Network, a private, nongovernmental organization based in Wellington, New Zealand. And last fall, she found a potential funding source through a friend who had learned

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about the Givens Fellowship.

Ghana's Buduburam Refugee Settlement, which houses about 43,000 Liberians displaced by unrest in their home country, caught her eye "because it was directed toward peace, education and reconciliation," said Hanulova, whose future plans also include graduate study in international development.

"I can talk to people and, thanks to my traveling abroad, I became more understanding of what people's problems are," she added.

The Ghanaian government can't support the refugees, who founded the camp in 2003, Hanulova explained. So Global Village Network works with the local community to understand and address their needs. "That was something that grabbed my attention," she recalled, saying that while she's still unsure of her role at the camp, it could involve teaching again or working, she hopes, with peace and reconciliation projects or with women on a microcredit program.

"That kind of passion and engagement was what we were looking for," said Dr. Simon Morgan-Russell, when Hanulova and Kovar were among the four fellowship finalists interviewed by the selection committee, composed of faculty from across campus. "They are from different colleges, which is nice, too," he added, noting that the Givens award is open to students in any major.

Kovar is in the College of Education and Human Development and Hanulova in the College of Arts and Sciences, where Morgan-Russell helps administer the fellowship as associate dean for curriculum and faculty advancement.

Modeled after the Burch Fellows Program at the University of North Carolina, the Givens Fellowship "is a very special award because it recognizes students with passion, imagination and resourcefulness, and enables them to undertake projects that will help them grow personally and intellectually, thereby broadening and deepening their educational experience," said Dr. Donald Nieman, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences.

Kovar and Hanulova, he continued, are "very serious students who are thoughtful and curious, eager to learn as much about the world as possible, passionate about their projects, and willing to follow a road less traveled. It's wonderful that, through the generous support of Chris and Ellen Dalton, we are able to help them pursue their passions."

BGSU Mock Trial team making fourth straight trip to national tournament

It's called Mock Trial, but BGSU's success in it is very real.

In mid-March, the University's team will travel to the National Intercollegiate Mock Trial Tournament for the fourth consecutive year. The team qualified for the national berth at the Lower Great Lakes regional competition earlier this month at Notre Dame University.

Northwestern University will host the national tournament, where BGSU has improved its ranking each of the last two years. After Bowling Green finished 34th in 2003-04, the 2004-05 team moved up to 23rd and last year's team tied for 10th with Drake University and the universities of Wisconsin and Chicago.

About 10 percent of the roughly 700 collegiate Mock Trial teams nationwide advance from the regional level, which, at Notre Dame, included about 24 teams from Indiana, Illinois, Michigan and Ohio. Leading BGSU's effort there were five students who collected one quarter of the 20 "Best Attorney" and "Best Witness" awards given overall by the actual judges and attorneys who serve as competition judges.

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Among the award winners was M. Allison Smith, a senior from Hamilton majoring in social work and the third-ranked Mock Trial attorney in the nation last year. She was honored in the “Best Attorney” category along with Patrick Emery, a junior from Bowling Green majoring in English and political science.

Top witnesses from BGSU were James Longley, a junior from New Knoxville majoring in creative writing; Shannon Rawski, a sophomore psychology major from Toledo, and Lyndsay Berry, a senior from Brook Park majoring in broadcast journalism.

All five students are in BGSU’s Integrating Moral Principles and Critical Thinking (IMPACT) Learning Community, whose director, Dr. M. Neil Browne, a Distinguished Teaching Professor of economics, is also the Mock Trial team advisor.

Other team members are Shannon Rawski’s sister, Audren, a senior education major; Mandy Valentine, a senior from Wilmington majoring in human development and family studies, and Mike Ellis, a junior from Bellbrook majoring in business pre-law.

“I think this team is better than any team I’ve had,” said Browne, in his third year as the primary advisor. “This group is not only very hard working, but they’ve also taken advantage of the knowledge base” acquired over the last few years, he said, noting that a 100-page book of practice tips has evolved from experience.

Through the team’s success, “it is very much building a tradition and then saying to the University community, ‘Come join a tradition of winning,’” Browne added.

Campus plans for emergency management

A group of faculty, staff and administrators spent some time recently considering possible worst-case scenarios for the University and asking “Are we ready?”

The eye-opening exercise was part of a special event on “Preparing for the Unexpected: Emergency Management Planning,” sponsored by Academic Affairs and BGSU’s Emergency Response Working Group. The group has been developing a comprehensive crisis plan for the University in coordination with campus offices and departments and local and regional organizations such as the Wood County Health Department and Emergency Management Services. The University Student Health Service also coordinates with the national Centers for Disease Control.

Helping guide the discussion was Dr. Joseph Morreale, provost and executive vice president for academic affairs at Pace University in New York City, whose downtown campus was directly in the danger zone of the World Trade Center attack in 2001.

“You have a very good team in place, and they are creating an emergency response plan,” Morreale told those at a luncheon following a morning workshop.

“Having a plan is the single most important step in dealing with a crisis,” he said, adding that most universities do not. Before 9/11, Pace was among those.

One of the hardest parts is convincing people that creating a plan is essential, he said. For example, in the case of Hurricane Katrina, much invaluable research stored on computers was lost because faculty did not have it backed up on home computers or other sites outside their universities.

“The most important thing is to prepare ahead of time. In an emergency, you have no time to think. You have to have everything in place and ready to go, and everybody has to know it.”

Each department and unit should consider in advance what it has to lose and begin to prepare accordingly, Morreale said.

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Leadership is crucial in devising and communicating the crisis plan, but in an emergency, “everybody becomes a leader,” he said. In the case of Pace, on the morning of 9/11, the entire university leadership was at a conference in midtown Manhattan (which they later realized meant that had they been in the trade center as originally scheduled, Pace’s leadership would have been wiped out—something to consider when planning events). Communications were disrupted throughout the city. Luckily, back on the downtown campus, the head of facilities quickly realized that with the tremendous amount of smoke in the air, he should shut down the campus air conditioning system. “That single act saved lives and allowed our students to remain in the buildings,” Morreale said.

An important part of emergency preparedness is training and, with that, permission to act, he noted.

Setting priorities

Even though the primary function of a university is education, it is almost like a city in the other functions it serves, such as food service and health care. “In an emergency, these services become more important,” he said. Depending on the type of crisis, any or all could be affected and thus must be included in the plan.

“A good plan must reach all the way down and all the way across the university,” Morreale said. It must take into account everything from natural to manmade disasters to illness, such as the Avian flu or a longer-lasting epidemic, such as the polio that struck the United States in the 1940s and early 1950s. With global warming bringing more severe and unpredictable weather, and new illnesses emerging, he said, it is challenging but critical to think through all the possible ramifications of each type of emergency.

Groups at the luncheon tackled sample problems such as a severe flu outbreak or a chemical spill in the neighborhood and strategized about such questions as who must be involved in the response and what duties each should have, what to do with on-campus and off-campus students, and what faculty and staff should be instructed to do.

Taking the long view

“In an emergency, you automatically think about what’s happening in the moment and try to deal with that, but it’s very important that you also immediately begin looking toward re-opening and what you need to do to prepare for that,” Morreale said.

“You plan for returning to normalcy—even though sometimes nothing is normal, as in 9/11 or Hurricane Katrina—but you try,” he said. Referring to Albert Maslow’s hierarchy of needs, he said you must plan to first bring back the basic services such as food, shelter and health care, and decide which of the other services you would restore next—and how to pay for them. These can be decided on a cost-benefit basis or by considering what is most critical and what would be the biggest loss were it not returned.

In the case of a long-term health crisis or physical disaster, how would you make up the time if the university were shut down for three to four months, Morreale asked. And though it is possible to conduct classes online, if faculty could not have access to their offices in the case of a pandemic, for example, and had not placed their course materials on the shells they all have on Blackboard at BGSU, they would not be able to take advantage of this option.

The group heard from a representative of Information Technology Services that ITS is working on providing access to office computers from home through myfiles@bgsu.edu and will announce when it becomes available.

Communication becomes essential

In times of crisis, the leadership of an institution must be visible and available around the clock, Morreale said. The community needs reassurance that leaders are prepared and ready to act and will act, he said.

Communication is vital to making people feel secure, Morreale said. Web sites that are kept up to the minute, telephone hotlines manned night and day and media announcements are

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all important. During the 9/11 aftermath, when electronic communication was completely down, Pace even ran daily advertisements in the New York Times, which, though expensive, kept everyone abreast of developments and were much appreciated, he said.

Morreale reiterated that communication is equally important before a crisis strikes, in the form of collaboration with off-campus organizations, on-campus education and training in preparedness, and familiarizing everyone with the emergency plan. Universities should institute risk-reduction activities into their policies and integrate disaster-resistance concepts into the educational experience, he said.

Alumna's research provides hope for burn victims

How does one go from being an undergraduate geology/paleobiology major to a postdoctoral research fellow in materials science at a major research center, working on developing replacement skin for young burn victims? In the case of Heather Powell, a 1999 BGSU graduate, a small research grant she received as an undergraduate led her to other possibilities and a change in career direction.

Powell returned to BGSU Feb. 15 to share her work—optimizing a bioengineered skin model for clinical use in the pediatric burn unit at Shriners Hospital for Children in Cincinnati—and to talk about the process of transitioning from one area of science to another.

Her talk, though not about geology, was arranged by her former BGSU geology professor and mentor Dr. John Farver, now the director of undergraduate research. It was under his guidance that she applied for and received a research grant from the Materials Research Society, leading to her eventual specialty.

"Heather is a wonderful role model for women in science, and for anyone interested in pursuing an interest in science," Farver said admiringly. "She's doing cutting-edge work that is being funded by a major research organization. And she's really just getting started—it wasn't that many years ago that she was sitting in these chairs, listening to these same talks."

Speaking from her office at the hospital in Cincinnati before visiting her alma mater, Powell said, "My research experience as an undergraduate was fantastic. I actually did two projects in John Farver's lab, one in paleobiology and then one in materials science research." She explained that the materials science project conducted at BGSU involved the design of bioceramics for the replacement of diseased or damaged bone.

"I realized that while I enjoyed paleobiology, it wasn't the way I wanted to spend my career. Through my materials research grant, I was able to learn a variety of characterization techniques including the scanning electron microscope in the biology department—which they let me use for free even though it's an expensive piece of equipment—and I loved it."

She also said the work confirmed her desire to be a scientist. "It's such a unique and rewarding experience to conduct research as an undergraduate. Getting hands-on experience gives you great insight when choosing a career path. For some people, when they do an experiment and the results don't come out as they had expected, they get discouraged and find they don't really like the process. But if you're like the rest of us, it's exciting and encourages you to do more."

Participating in research is "an exceptional way to learn more about the other sciences," she said. "And many research techniques are fundamentally the same from one area of science to another. Learning them as an undergraduate at BGSU made the transition to graduate-level research much smoother.

"Getting hands-on experience really gives you a sense of why you're doing things, especially in a field-based science like geology," she added. "And participating in research often gives

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you an understanding of how your work affects the general population.”

Powell’s educational career has led her from her BGSU bachelor’s degree in geology, with a paleobiology emphasis, to master’s and doctoral degrees in materials science and engineering at Ohio State University, to the Shriners hospital. She was also a National Defense Science and Engineering Graduate Fellow from 2001-04, one of only 285 out of 3,200 applicants to receive the designation.

Her work at the Shriners hospital involves directing research on autologous bioengineered skin, in which cells from a small biopsy collected from a patient’s own skin are grown in a culture and then put onto a collagen-based scaffold. “This process results in an engineered skin graft that is applied to the patient’s wounds. The benefit of this method is that from one small piece of donor skin, the laboratory can generate a thousand times more skin for grafting, eliminating the need for painful harvesting of skin from unburned areas of the patient. And sufficient donor sites are often not available in severe burns,” Powell said.

She conducts preclinical trials on the product to improve its design for both cost and mechanical strength. The products she produces in the lab are used for children who have third-degree burns over at least 60 percent of their body.

Changing direction

Powell said it’s important for students to know that, while it puts more pressure on you to take additional classes if you transition from one area of science to another, “it’s not outside the realm of possibility. If you want it, you have to work at it.”

Besides, she pointed out, using her own area of materials science as an example, even if students were to major in the field at one institution as undergraduates, their core curriculum would likely be slightly different than the university’s they choose to attend for a doctoral program; thus, all students arrive with different strengths and educational backgrounds.

She added that students just entering college who want to major in science or medicine should not choose a school solely on its reputation in those areas. “You always think you have to go to a large, Research I school, but you don’t. Your undergraduate career is what you make of it.

“You just need to inquire, and a lot of researchers would be glad to have undergraduates helping them with their projects. So stop by and ask your professors if they have any projects under way that you could get in on. The work might not always be paid, but the experience you get will be worth it.”

In Powell’s case, that has been more than proven true.

IN BRIEF

Nominations requested for 2007 Ornelas Award

The BGSU Human Relations Commission is seeking nominations for the 2007 Miguel Ornelas Award, which recognizes an individual, group or organization on campus whose programs, services or actions have significantly enhanced human relations at BGSU.

The award, given in honor of Dr. Miguel Ornelas, a former Human Relations Commission member and director of Affirmative Action at BGSU, will be presented during the Latino Issues Conference luncheon on April 12.

Any member of the BGSU community may nominate candidates for the Ornelas award. The nomination form is available on the Human Relations Commission Web site at www.bgsu.edu/organizations/hrc/page15825.html. The deadline is 5 p.m. March 16.

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Contact HRC Chair Peg Yacobucci at mmyacob@bgsu.edu or 2-7982 for more information.

Nominate a fellow employee for the BG Best Award

Administrative Staff Council is accepting nominations for BG Best Awards, which will be presented at the spring reception April 3.

The nominee should meet at least one of the following criteria:

- Implemented a new idea or program to benefit the BGSU learning community;
- Improved the quality of programs and/or services on the BGSU main or Firelands campus;
- Showed an outstanding commitment to BGSU by volunteer involvement in campus/community activities;
- Provided excellent customer service to the BGSU community, or
- Demonstrated exemplary commitment to the core values of BGSU.

The application can be found online at www.bgsu.edu/organizations/asc/awardindex. Applications are due by 5 p.m. March 9 and should be submitted to Lee Floro-Thompson, Instructional Media Services, at 101 Education Building or by email at lflorot@bgsu.edu.

Dial 372-SNOW for latest info on University closings

The University policy is that if weather warrants closing or limiting the hours of the University, the decision to close will include both classes and nonessential areas on campus. If classes are canceled, nonessential areas will be closed as well. The decision is typically made for day classes by 6 a.m. and for evening classes by 4 p.m., unless developing weather systems necessitate intermediate action.

The campus community should refer first to the University recorded message (372-SNOW), the BGSU home page, the Fact Line (372-2445) and local TV and radio stations. Radio stations WSPD, WCWA, WIOT and YES-FM are among those who will announce closings.

For those who use Safari as their browser, it is sometimes necessary to refresh the home page or click "Reset" under Preferences to see the latest updated pages.

Please note that BGSU Firelands follows its own guidelines on weather closings.

CALENDAR

Monday, Feb. 19

Presidents' Day Open House, 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m., campuswide.

BGSU Firelands Man's Inhumanity to Man Movie Series, "Guns, Germs, and Steel: Geographic Luck," 11:30 a.m., Firelands Room, 115 West Building.

Tuesday, Feb. 20

Film Director Series: Andrei Tarkovsky, "Solyaris (Solaris)" (1972), Russia/USSR, 7:30 p.m., Gish Film Theater, Hanna Hall.

Concert, Student Jazz Combos, 8 p.m., Bryan Recital Hall, Moore Musical Arts Center.

Movie, "Casino Royale," 9:30 p.m., Bowen-Thompson Student Union Theater.

Wednesday, Feb. 21

Classified Staff Council, 9 a.m., 316 Union.
BGSU Firelands Man's Inhumanity to Man Movie Series, "Guns, Germs, and Steel: The Great Conqueror," 11:30 a.m., Firelands Room, 115 West Building.

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Brown Bag Luncheon, "Credit 101: Protecting Your Credit," by John Walter, Consumer Credit Counseling Services of Northwest Ohio, noon-1 p.m., Women's Center, 107 Hanna Hall. Sponsored by the American Association of University Women.

Black History Month Film, "Lost Boys of the Sudan," with discussion led by Dr. Awad Ibrahim, leadership and policy studies, 3-5 p.m., Union Theater. Sponsored by University Libraries and Human Values for Transformative Action.

BGSU Firelands Man's Inhumanity to Man Movie Series, "Lakota Woman," 7 p.m., Firelands Room, 115 West Building.
Men's Basketball vs. Ohio, 7 p.m., Anderson Arena.

Faculty Artist Series, bassoonist Nathaniel Zeisler and pianist Wei-Han Wu, 8 p.m., Bryan Recital Hall, Moore Musical Arts Center.

Art History Association Film Series, "Amistad," 9 p.m., 204 Fine Arts Center. February's theme is Black History Month.

Thursday, Feb. 22

Center for Teaching, Learning and Technology Seminar, "Challenges Regarding Copyright and Use," noon-1:15 p.m., Pallister Conference Room, Jerome Library. Register by email at ctl@bgsu.edu.

Black History Month Event, A Tribute to Bob Marley, documentary and discussion, 4-7 p.m., 207 Union. Reception with light refreshments follows, 7 p.m. to midnight, Black Swamp Pub, Union.

International Film Series, "Alles auf Zucker! (Go for Zucker!)" (2004), directed by Dani Levy, Germany, 7:30 p.m., Gish Film Theater, Hanna Hall.

Creative Writing Program MFA Readings, Raegen Pietrucha, poetry, and Debra Nicholson, fiction, 7:30 p.m., Prout Chapel. Student Composers' Forum, 8 p.m., Bryan Recital Hall, Moore Musical Arts Center.

Friday, Feb. 23

BGSU Firelands Man's Inhumanity to Man Movie Series, "Guns, Germs, and Steel: The Power of Germs," 11:30 a.m., Firelands Room, 115 West Building.

Movie, "Casino Royale," 6:30 and 9:30 p.m., Union Theater.

Hockey vs. Michigan State, 7:05 p.m., Ice Arena.

Multicultural Dinner Theatre, "The '90s, Part 2," 8 p.m., Lenhart Grand Ballroom, Union. Tickets are \$12, including light refreshments. For more information, contact the Center for Multicultural and Academic Initiatives at 2-2642. A Black History Month event.

Saturday, Feb. 24

Women's Basketball vs. Ohio, 1 p.m., Anderson Arena.

Multicultural Dinner Theatre, "The '90s, Part 2," 7 p.m., Lenhart Grand Ballroom, Union. Tickets are \$20, including dinner buffet and cash bar. For more information, contact the Center for Multicultural and Academic Initiatives at 2-2642. A Black History Month event.

BGSU Firelands Man's Inhumanity to Man Movie Series, "Guns, Germs, and Steel: Geographic Luck," 11:30 a.m., Firelands Room, 115 West Building.

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

Sunday, Feb. 25

Movie, "Casino Royale," 9:30 p.m., Union Theater.

Monday, Feb. 26

BGSU Firelands Man's Inhumanity to Man Movie Series, "Forgiving Dr. Mengele," 12:30 p.m., Firelands Room, 115 West Building.

Music at the Forefront, "Voices of Dissent," with composer, flutist and performance artist Janice Misurell-Mitchell, 8 p.m., Bryan Recital Hall, Moore Musical Arts Center.

Continuing Events Through Feb. 21

Art Exhibition, BGSU's third annual Architecture Studio Exhibition, Union Art Gallery. Hours are 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday-Wednesday.

Feb. 23 and 25

Bowling Green Opera Theater, "Dialogues of the Carmelites," 7:30 p.m. Friday (Feb. 23) and 3 p.m. Sunday (Feb. 25), Kobacker Hall, Moore Musical Arts Center. Tickets are \$8 for students and senior citizens and \$10 for other adults. To order, call the Moore Center box office at 2-8171.

Feb. 25-March 12

Art Exhibition, "A Whole Other World," paintings and photography by Amber LeFever, a junior from Sidney majoring in art education who spent fall semester at Hunter College in New York City. Gallery hours are 8 a.m.-9 p.m. Monday-Saturday and 10 a.m.-9 p.m. Sundays, Union Art Gallery.

Through Feb. 28

Art Exhibition, annual Undergraduate Art

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and Design Exhibition, Dorothy Uber Bryan and Willard Wankelman galleries, Fine Arts Center. Gallery hours are 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday and 1-4 p.m. Sundays.

Through March 2

Planetarium Show, "Nine Planets and Counting," 8 p.m. Tuesdays and Fridays and 7:30 p.m. Sundays, BGSU Planetarium, 112 Physical Sciences Lab Building. \$1 donation

suggested. Stargazing follows planetarium show on Fridays and Sundays if weather permits.

Feb. 26-April 4

Art Exhibition, "Florilegium: Camerale, Filmless Images," by Kim Kaufman, Little Gallery, BGSU Firelands. Gallery hours are 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Friday.

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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

Bruce Pratt Jr., 75, died Jan. 31 in Michigan. He worked in facilities services from 1969-93.