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BGSU accredited to offer degrees via distance education

Bowling Green has taken a big step toward meeting a state mandate that instructs colleges and universities to expand access to bachelor's and master's degree programs.

BGSU has won accreditation from the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools to offer full degree programs—not just individual courses—online.

With that “stamp of approval,” the University is poised to respond to the mandate from Gov. Bob Taft’s Commission on Higher Education and the Economy by delivering academic programs to underserved populations throughout the state, thereby enhancing Ohioans’ skills and opportunities for advancement, said Dr. Bruce Edwards, associate dean for distance education and international programs.

The accreditation also allows the University to move forward quickly on key components of its Academic Plan that focus on “enhancing educational opportunities such as evening, weekend, degree completion, and distance learning programs in targeted areas.”

The plan isn’t to put everything at BGSU online, Edwards said, but rather to target needs of the state’s citizens with offerings that will be helpful in the workplace, beginning with the Advanced Technological Education degree completion program in the College of Technology. The program is aimed at adults with an applied associate degree and work experience in business, industry or education.

Come fall 2005, the next two programs to be available completely online will be a bachelor’s degree completion option in liberal studies—which, in the College of Arts and Sciences, has allowed students to focus on subject areas of interest in a traditional format for a number of years—and a master’s degree in education. The latter program is for teachers who want to develop special education expertise.

Given the University’s new emphasis on engagement, the accreditation also provides impetus for joint ventures with regional two-year campuses that will encourage those who earn an Associate of Arts degree to continue their pursuit of a bachelor’s degree at BGSU online. Through a recent Ohio Learning Network grant, the University is exploring a collaborative distance completion degree in Fire Science and EMS that would serve the needs of many emergency services workers throughout Ohio.

Getting the learning commission’s approval for online degree programs was a yearlong process that encompassed a thorough review of BGSU’s technological infrastructure, academic curricula, online course design and faculty and student support units. The evaluation culminated with a two-day site visit last August by Dr. Roberta Teahen from Ferris State University in Big Rapids, Mich., and Dr. Von Pittman from the University of Missouri-Columbia.

“BGSU has positioned itself to deliver intellectually rigorous and technologically sophisticated distance education courses,” they wrote in a follow-up report. “The team is impressed with the thorough manner in which BGSU has approached its expansion of distance learning.”

Teahen and Pittman were so impressed, in fact, that they encouraged developers of the distance education program “to write and speak about their approach so that others may learn from their experience.” They’ll be doing just that in April, having been invited to make a presentation at the commission’s annual meeting in Chicago.

“That was a pleasant surprise,” said Edwards, explaining that the presentation will focus on how the University made its case for accreditation. The invitation “just means that

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BGSU gets its day in the sun as a campus that has successfully initiated, virtually from scratch, its distance education program," according to the associate dean, who credited the achievement to a cooperative University-wide effort that included Firelands faculty and administration.

Among the elements of BGSU's distance education effort that received specific praise from the learning commission evaluators were technological structure and faculty support, particularly through IDEAL. Housed in Continuing and Extended Education, IDEAL, short for Interactive Distance Education for All Learners, "has great expertise that will be useful to the rest of the campus — particularly in the areas of instructional design, use of technology-mediated instruction, and assessment," they wrote.

Calling online learning commensurate with the best of BGSU's face-to-face classroom experience, Edwards noted that "consistency and innovation remain its key values." At a time when students are more technologically and communication savvy, he said, not offering distance education would mark BGSU as not in tune with those students' expectations.

Dr. William Balzer, associate vice president and dean of Continuing and Extended Education, added that the North Central Association's approval, through the HLC, gives the University's distance programs essential credibility. "Accreditation assures Ohio's citizens that these online academic programs are intellectually comprehensive and rigorous, providing a high-quality education for success in the workplace," he said.

*It's music to our ears***BGSU garners Grammys**

BGSU College of Musical Arts faculty and alumni were well represented at the annual Grammy Awards Feb. 13.

Andrew Pelletier, a visiting assistant professor of horn, won in the Small Ensemble Performance (with or without conductor) category. Performing with the Southwest Chamber Ensemble, a California-based classical group, Pelletier played French horn on "Sonata for Four Horns" on the CD "Carlos Chavez—Complete Chamber Music, Vol. 2."

Alumna Jennifer Higdon's album of her compositions "City Scape" and "Concerto for Orchestra" was named the Best Classical Engineered Album. Released last March on Telarc and performed by the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra, the recording was also nominated for best classical contemporary composition, classical album and orchestral performance.

After graduating from BGSU in 1986 with a bachelor's degree in flute performance, Higdon received master's and doctoral degrees in composition from the University of Pennsylvania and an artist diploma from the Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia, where she is now on the composition faculty. A nationally recognized composer, her work has been commissioned and performed by orchestras across the country, including a piece that was commissioned in 2003 by the National Symphony Orchestra and performed at Washington, D.C.'s Kennedy Center. She has received many prestigious awards and fellowships, including a Guggenheim and a Charles Ives, the latter from the National Academy of Arts and Letters.

Her teachers at Bowling Green included Dr. Marilyn Shrude, Dr. Wallace DePue, Judith Bentley and Robert Spano, who directed the Bowling Green Philharmonia from 1985-89.

"The whole Grammy experience was an incredible thrill," Higdon wrote in an email. "Creating a CD is such a collaborative effort that a ton of folks deserve the applause. But one of the biggest thrills for me in making the CD was working with conductor Robert Spano (former director of orchestras at BGSU) and having a chance to catch up with Lochlan McBain in the viola section (he was one of my classmates at BG). BG had a real

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presence in that disc.”

Spano was also recognized by the Grammys—first, as conductor of the Atlanta Symphony on Higdon’s recording, and second, for Best Choral Performance as conductor on Berlioz’s “Requiem,” with the Atlanta Symphony and Chorus.

In another award category, Richard Perry, who attended BGSU in the 1970s, played tenor sax, including a solo, on “Concert in the Garden” with the Maria Schneider Orchestra. Released by ArtistShare, the recording won Best Large Jazz Ensemble Album.

BGSU student affairs leaders receive prestigious awards

BGSU was spotlighted at the Ohio Association of Student Personnel Administrators/Ohio College Personnel Association joint conference earlier this month.

Dr. Edward Whipple, vice president for student affairs, was honored twice, receiving both the OASPA Gerald L. Saddlemire Leadership and the OCPA Gerald L. Saddlemire Mentor awards, named after a former BGSU student affairs administrator.

The leadership award is presented annually to an individual who has significant experience and involvement in the field of higher education and student affairs; has demonstrated consistent involvement at the state, regional or national level; has contributed to the profession through the development and mentoring of new professionals, and who has exemplified a commitment to the students on his or her campus. Whipple is a past president of OASPA.

The mentor award is presented to a student personnel professional who embodies and advances the true spirit and ideals of Dr. Saddlemire, who was known as an effective administrator, a true scholar and educator. He was a mentor who accepted each person as a unique individual and believed that the ability and potential of men and women is the profession’s greatest asset.

Mary Ann Begley, a doctoral graduate assistant in Whipple’s office, won the OCPA Graduate Student of the Year Award, which is given to a deserving Ohio graduate who possesses unlimited energies and dedication in creating the future direction of the field of student personnel.

Also, Dr. Wanda Overland, associate vice president for student affairs and dean of students, began her term as the 2005 OASPA president. In addition to her many other tasks at Bowling Green, she finds time to advise BGSU’s Mortar Board National Honor Society, the Undergraduate Student Government and the Graduate Student Senate.

BGSU Opera Theater presents an evening of one-acts

Three one-act operas by American composer Thomas Pasatieri will be performed at 8 p.m. Friday (Feb. 25) and 3 p.m. Sunday (Feb. 27) by the BGSU Opera Theater.

The works, “La Divina,” “The Women” and “Signor Deluso,” will be presented in Kobacker Hall of the Moore Musical Arts Center.

Pasatieri will attend the Friday performance, and a special recital of his vocal music will be performed by BGSU music students at 8 p.m. Thursday (Feb. 24).

Born in 1945, Pasatieri attended the Juilliard School of Music and was the recipient of a doctoral degree from the prestigious school.

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In addition to art song, he is well known for film orchestrations. His credits include “Road to Perdition,” “American Beauty,” “The Little Mermaid,” “The Shawshank Redemption,” “Fried Green Tomatoes,” “Legends of the Fall” and “Scent of a Woman.” He has also taught composition at Juilliard, the Manhattan School of Music and the Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music.

“The Women” premiered at the Aspen Music Festival in 1965 after winning the festival’s annual composition competition. The opera is a powerful surrealist study of a man, his wife and his mother. Set in the afterlife, it stresses the eternal nature of this triangle conflict.

“La Divina,” which premiered at Juilliard in 1966, is set in the dressing room of an aging coloratura soprano on the evening of her farewell concert.

Premiering in 1974, “Signor Deluso” tells the tale of CÈlie, who is in love with LÈon but has been forced by her father to marry the wealthy ValÈre. A comedy of errors results when CÈlie faints on the town square and is helped by Signor Deluso. Clara, Deluso’s wife, sees him holding CÈlie and concludes he is being unfaithful. Soon all the couples suspect their true loves are involved in affairs with others.

The stage director for the BGSU production is Dr. Geoffrey Stephenson, an instructor of opera and voice. Kevin Bylsma, an instructor of opera, will conduct members of the Bowling Green Philharmonia. Keith Hofacker, technical director at the College of Musical Arts, is the lighting and scenic designer for the production.

Tickets are \$5 for senior citizens and students and \$8 for other adults. For reservations, call 2-8171.

Bowling Green to roll out red carpet for films’ premiere

This weekend, the stars will arrive at the big event in limousines, stepping onto the red carpet and making their way between the velvet ropes and into the theater.

The Cla-Zel Theater. In Bowling Green.

Sure, they’ll be doing the same thing Sunday at the Kodak Theatre in Los Angeles, where the Hollywood glitterati will gather for the Academy Awards. But they’ve done that for 77 years now.

There’s never been an iMovie Festival @ BG, though—until Saturday, when eight short flicks by freshman filmmakers at BGSU will have their gala premiere at the venerable Main Street theater.

Beginning at 6:30 p.m., limos will indeed deliver the students to a red carpet outside the Cla-Zel’s door, along with those who will judge their work in the competitive portion of the event. The theater’s doors will open to the public free of charge at 6 p.m., and at 7 p.m., the festivities will commence with master of ceremonies Stephen Kendall.

Kendall, an instructor of telecommunications and multimedia productions manager for Instructional Media Services at BGSU, will introduce the movies—glimpses of the freshman experience at the University, each three-to-five minutes long, produced by teams of three to five students.

The films were selected for the Saturday screening from among 14 entries, encompassing the efforts of 70 students. While the first-ever festival has been roughly nine months in the making—after University Bookstore Director Jeff Nelson saw a Chronicle of Higher Education story about a similar event at Duke University—the filmmakers had only two weeks to shoot and edit their iMovies.

Apple representatives at Duke suggested a short production window, which festival organizers at BGSU refined to one week for filming with digital video cameras and another

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week for editing with FireWire drives. The finished products were due Feb. 16.

Open to all freshmen, the event was envisioned as a fun way for them to learn about campus resources, including the video equipment and the Student Technology Center, where they could use the equipment and get help if necessary, said Michael Hachtel, assistant director of residence life for information technology at BGSU and co-chair of the festival planning committee. But it was also meant to be an exercise in teamwork and in preparation of the kind of project increasingly required in college classes, he said.

“Presentations are getting more and more technical,” and the festival represents a chance for students to gain experience with video production before a class grade may depend upon their ability in that area, Hachtel noted.

One member of each participating team had to attend a training session on the event’s rules, which included no sex, drugs or alcohol in the films, he added.

To Saturday’s victors will go the spoils: an Apple iPod, along with a gift certificate for 10 free songs, for each member of the winning team; apparel from the bookstore for the runners-up, and a Flash (USB) drive from CDWG for each member of the third-place team. All participants will receive a DVD with all the films on it.

Among the judges will be Thomas Hofbauer, a BGSU alumnus and Toledo-based writer/producer/director whose films include the award-winning “In the Company of Strangers.” Judges from BGSU will be Marcos Rivera, co-director of the Office of Student Academic Achievement; Dr. Cynthia Baron, theatre and film, and Michelle Simmons, associate director and student employment manager in Student Employment Services. Rob Goldberg, a regional representative for Apple, will be the fifth judge

In addition to the bookstore, the Student Technology Center and the Office of Residence Life, about 20 other BGSU units have assisted with the event, Hachtel said. Among them is the Resident Student Association, which will supply ushers at the theater and, soon after the festival, will broadcast the films on campus cable station WRSA, he said.

Off-campus sponsors include the Main Street Bowling Green association, he added, saying that organizers are “hoping to get this (festival) to be a tradition downtown.” Easy Street Caf , Staples and Pepsi are also on the list of sponsors, who will be featured in slide shows and commercials in the theater from 6-7 p.m. Saturday.

Easy Street Caf  gift certificates and Flash drives will be among the many prizes available to the theatergoers, who can catch a ride to the Cla-Zel via University shuttle from parking Lot N beginning shortly before 6 p.m.

For more information on the festival, contact the Student Technology Center at 2-9277.

IN BRIEF**Faculty, staff and students invited to State of the University address**

President Ribeau will address the campus community Thursday (Feb. 24) concerning the state of the University.

The annual address will begin at 10 a.m. in the Lenhart Grand Ballroom of the Bowen-Thompson Student Union. The BGSU Firelands campus can view a simulcast of the speech in 1003 Cedar Point Center.

Everyone on main campus is invited to arrive at 9:30 a.m. for coffee and fellowship preceding the talk.

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Arts and Sciences Forum to explore jazz as an art form

College of Musical Arts faculty members Chris Buzzelli, Jeff Halsey and Roger Schupp will present “Toward a Perception of Jazz: America’s Creative Improvised Art Music” on March 2 as the next event in the College of Arts and Sciences Forum series.

The three musicians will give a short lesson and demonstration on the significant artistic skills needed in order to seemingly spontaneously improvise new melodies over existing forms and harmonic structures.

The free performance begins at 12:30 p.m. in 202B Bowen-Thompson Student Union. A lunch of pasta primavera, Caesar salad and garlic bread will be served at noon for \$7.65. Lunch is payable by cash, check or BGSU ID card. Reservations must be made by Friday (Feb. 25) by calling 2-2340 or emailing mjhitt@bgnet.bgsu.edu. Include your BGSU identification number with your reservation.

Turn ordinary computer files into strong printed material

The Administrative Staff Council Professional Development Committee will present “Make a BIG Impact: How to Prepare PowerPoint Presentations and Other Common Files for Printing” from 12:30-1:30 p.m. Wednesday (Feb. 23) in 316 Bowen-Thompson Student Union.

Brent Cavanaugh, Large Format Digital Imaging Division, will give creative tips on how to turn ordinary computer files into extraordinary, attention-getting graphics—from tabloid to billboard.

Attendees are welcome to bring their lunch. Snacks will be provided.

For more information, contact Sheila Irving at sirving@bgnet.bgsu.edu.

‘Literacy by the Zillions’ conference highlights importance of reading

University education majors and professional educators are invited to partake in a day of learning about the importance of reading.

The Martha Gesling Weber Reading Center is hosting its first reading conference, titled “Literacy by the Zillions,” from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. March 19. The conference will be held in 101 Olscamp Hall.

In conjunction with March Is Reading Month, the center will host keynote speakers Patrick J. Finn, author of *Literacy with an Attitude*, and children’s author Jerry Pallotta.

Finn will discuss how to involve parents, teachers and community members in helping children receive the empowering education they deserve, regardless of social or economic status. He will offer a question-and-answer session following his speech.

Pallotta is the author of a series of nonfiction children’s books that focus on the content areas of reading, writing, math and science. In his presentation he will describe various ways to encourage children to read and write “zillions of books.”

Pallotta, along with Nanna’s Bookstore of Bowling Green, will provide a selection of books for purchase at the end of the conference.

Each participant has the option of choosing from among 20 different sessions. During the course of the day, participants will divide into the groups they have chosen to they will discuss literacy topics and how to develop professionally.

Educators will receive credit for seven professional development hours for attending.

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The cost is \$85 for education professionals and \$25 for undergraduate students. Prices include materials and a buffet lunch. The registration deadline is March 1.

For more information, contact Lindsay Luidhardt at reading@bgnet.bgsu.edu or call 2-7323. Registration forms are available in 576 Education Building.

CALENDAR

Monday, Feb. 21

Presidents' Day Open House, campus wide.

Center for Family and Demographic Research Spring Speaker Series, "Gay Marriage and Gay Marriage Bans: The Social Implications for Family Well-Being," presented by Laura Sanchez, sociology, noon-1 p.m., 347 Education Building.

Human Rights Film Festival, "Long Night's Journey into Day: South Africa's Search for Truth and Reconciliation," 2000, 6-8 p.m., Bowen-Thompson Student Union Theater. To borrow films, or for more information, call 2-7897.

Tuesday, Feb. 22

BGSU Firelands Diversity Event, "Issue One: Marriage Laws and Nontraditional Families," by Rob Salem, clinical instructor, University of Toledo College of Law, 1-2 p.m., 115 West Building.

Student Composers' Forum, 8 p.m., Bryan Recital Hall, Moore Musical Arts Center.

Wednesday, Feb. 23

Dissertation Defense, "Visualizing Levinas: 'Mulholland Drive,' 'Memento,' and 'Vanilla Sky' through Existence and Existents," by Holly Baumgartner, English, 10:30 a.m., 206 East Hall.

Brown Bag Lunch, "Women, Smoking and Advertising: Have We 'Come a Long Way, Baby'?" presented by Michelle Grindstaff, College Student Personnel Program, noon-1 p.m., 107 Hanna Hall.

Women's Basketball vs. Marshall, 7 p.m., Anderson Arena.

BGSU Firelands Event, "A Child in War," by Maha Najd, 7:30-9 p.m., 115 West Building.

Guest Recital, featuring Yury Shadrin, piano, in an all-Chopin program, 8 p.m., Bryan Recital Hall, Moore Musical Arts Center, call 2-2830 for more information.

Thursday, Feb. 24

State of the University Address, by President Ribeau, 10 a.m., Lenhart Grand Ballroom, Union. Coffee and fellowship begin at 9:30 a.m.

BGSU Firelands Diversity Event, "Untold Stories in American History," by Sandusky's Project Dialogue, 6-7:30 p.m., 1001 Cedar Point Center.

International Film Series, "Lola," France, 1961, directed by Jacques Demy, 7:30 p.m., Gish Film Theater, first floor, Hanna Hall.

Poetry Reading, by Dr. Amy Newman, College of Arts and Sciences Distinguished Visiting Writer, 7:30 p.m., Prout Chapel. Newman is a faculty member in English at Northern Illinois University.

Vocal Music Concert, music by American composer Thomas Pasatieri performed by undergraduate and graduate voice students, 8 p.m., Kobacker Hall, Moore Musical Arts Center. Pasatieri will be in attendance as a guest of the College of Musical Arts.

Friday, Feb. 25

BGSU Firelands Diversity Event, "Civil Rights Movement," presented by Helen O'Neal McCray, 1:30-3:30 p.m., 1001 Cedar Point Center.

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

Saturday, Feb. 26

Women's Basketball vs. Toledo (Senior Day), 1 p.m., Anderson Arena.

Monday, Feb. 28

BGSU Firelands Diversity Event, "Trains: A Memoir of a Hidden Childhood during and after World War II," presented by Maria Orłowski, child of the Holocaust, 6-7:30 p.m., 1001 Cedar Point Center.

Human Rights Film Festival, "State of Denial," about the HIV/AIDS crisis in South Africa, 2003, closed caption, 6-8 p.m., Union Theater.

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Feb. 25 and 27

BGSU Opera Theater One-Acts, compositions by Thomas Pasatieri, 8 p.m. Feb. 25 and 3 p.m. Feb. 27, Kobacker Hall, Moore Musical Arts Center, tickets are \$5 for students and senior citizens, and \$8 for other adults. Call 2-8171 for tickets.

Through March 2

Undergraduate Art and Design Exhibition, Dorothy Uber Bryan and Willard Wankelman galleries, Fine Arts Center. Gallery hours are 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Tuesdays through Saturdays and 1-4 p.m. Sundays.

Through March 4

Planetarium Show, "Skywatchers of Africa." Showings are at 8 p.m. Tuesdays and Fridays, at 7:30 p.m. Sundays and at 2 p.m. Saturday, March 5. \$1 donation suggested.

Feb. 28-April 6

Art Exhibition, "Natura Morta," digital collage by Karen La Vallee Norton, Little Gallery, BGSU Firelands. Gallery hours are 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Friday.

JOB POSTINGS

FACULTY

There were no jobs posted this week.

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

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

The deadline for employees to apply is 1 p.m. Friday, Feb. 25.

Accounts Clerk 3 (C-007-Vf)—Office of the Bursar. Pay grade 7. Twelve-month, full-time position.

The following position is advertised on and off campus:

Clerical Specialist (C-006-Vf)—University Bookstore. Pay grade 5. Twelve-month, part-time position. Deadline: 1 p.m. Friday, Feb. 25.

ADMINISTRATIVE

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

Program Adviser (R-015)—Student Support Services. Administrative grade 12. Deadline: March 4.

Assistant Athletic Director for Financial Affairs (R-009)—Intercollegiate Athletics. Administrative grade 16. Review of applications began Feb. 14 and will continue until the position is filled.

Psychologist (V-147)—Counseling Center liaison to the College of Arts and Sciences. Administrative grade 14 (unlicensed) or 17 (licensed). Review of applications began Feb. 18 and will continue until the position is filled.

Psychologist (V-147)—Counseling Center liaison to the Office of Residence Life. Counseling Center Outreach Coordinator. Administrative grade 14 (unlicensed) or 17 (licensed). Review of applications began Feb. 18 and will continue until the position is filled.

Assistant Director, Student Union (R-007)—University Dining Services. Administrative grade 16. Review of applications will begin Feb. 21 and continue until the position is filled.

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Technology Support Specialist (V-041)—Information Technology Services. Administrative grade 13. Deadline: March 4.

Manager, University Dining Services (V-119)—Student Affairs (re-advertised). Review of applications began Nov. 15 and will continue until the position is filled.

Coordinator for Greek Affairs (V-145)—Student Affairs (re-advertised). Administrative grade 12. Review of applications began Jan. 31 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.