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**DISTANCE EDUCATION HELPS HARRIS,
OTHER BGSU STUDENTS GET THEIR DEGREES**

Josh Harris won't be picking up his diploma in person Saturday (Aug. 7) at BGSU's summer graduation ceremonies.

The former Falcon quarterback will be at McDaniel College in Westminster, Md., continuing his football education in the training camp of the NFL's Baltimore Ravens.

Because a pro prospect's "post-graduate work" begins well before the annual April draft of collegiate players, let alone the opening of camp in July, Harris wasn't on campus during spring semester, either. That was when he joined a lengthening list of BGSU students who, for career and other reasons, are finishing their degrees online.

The honorable mention All-American quarterback left Bowling Green soon after being named Most Valuable Player in the Motor City Bowl, where he led the Falcons to a 28-24 win over Northwestern.

After traveling to Mobile, Ala., to play in the Senior Bowl in January, Harris was in Louisiana for two months, working out for scouts in preparation for the draft. At the same time, however, he was taking independent study classes in interpersonal communication—his major—and sport management, and a distance education course in American culture studies.

"I made sure I was lined up before I left (BGSU)," said the Ravens' sixth-round draft pick, who ended spring semester with a 3.11 cumulative grade point average. He took two more online courses this summer, in sociology and another in sport management, to complete the requirements for his degree in communication.

That wouldn't have been possible until a year ago, when BGSU began expanding its online offerings in key general education and 300- and 400-level courses needed by students to finish their degree programs, said Dr. Bruce Edwards, associate dean for distance education and international programs.

"Josh is in a unique early participant group because the availability of the courses hasn't been there before," said Edwards, noting that courses in the College of Arts and Sciences were particularly targeted for online instruction.

This summer, more than 130 sections of over 90 University courses were scheduled online, doubling the number of sections offered a year ago. In addition, last summer's total online enrollment of 999 has nearly doubled, to 1,797.

Because not every student's personal situation is known, it's hard to say how many are using distance education to complete their degree programs, according to Edwards. But it's "a growing number," he said, adding that job and travel demands are among the many factors that may take students away from campus, "and this (online learning) is just a great way to serve them."

Regardless of degree program, "we would be doing this for any student close to graduation who needs to find a different route to completion," he said.

That was the case for Harris, who said remaining on campus last spring "wouldn't have been in the best interest of my football career." Without the distance education option, he said, "I wouldn't have been able to graduate (now) because I needed to leave Bowling Green."

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Getting that degree in four years plus a summer term, when many students now need five years to graduate, "speaks about his performance in the classroom," noted BGSU Athletics Director Paul Krebs.

Being a student-athlete isn't easy, he said. But in addition to Harris, who may be the most visible recent example of a successful BGSU student-athlete, the University also had several academic All-Americans in 2003-04, including Craig Jarrett in football, Stefanie Wenzel in women's basketball and D'Arcy McConvey in hockey, Krebs pointed out.

"More than anything, the time demands required to compete at this level require somebody who's very dedicated and very focused," he said, citing those student-athletes in particular for their work in both roles.

BGSU TO HOLD 250TH COMMENCEMENT SATURDAY

The University will mark the 250th commencement in its history on Saturday (Aug. 7), awarding degrees to nearly 1,300 students during summer graduation ceremonies.

The ceremonies will begin at 9:30 a.m. on the University Hall lawn, with President Sidney A. Ribeau presiding. Addressing the graduates will be Stephen Weber, president of San Diego State University and a 1964 BGSU graduate, who will also receive the Distinguished Alumnus Award. In the event of rain, graduation will be held in Anderson Arena.

The summer graduating class includes 707 students who will receive graduate degrees, including 35 doctoral candidates, about 665 master's degree candidates, two candidates for the doctor of education degree and five candidates for the specialist degree in education.

Of the roughly 575 students receiving bachelor's degrees, 67 are expected to graduate with honors. Seven students are expected to graduate summa cum laude, for maintaining a grade point average between 3.9 and 4.0. Seventeen degree candidates are expected to graduate magna cum laude, for maintaining grade averages in the 3.76-3.9 range, and 43 candidates are eligible for cum laude recognition, for averages in the 3.5-3.75 range.

The graduating students represent 64 Ohio counties, 34 states and 27 nations.

OREL EARNS WILLIS AWARD FOR TEACHING, SCHOLARSHIP, SERVICE

Nancy Orel, director of the gerontology program, has been named the second recipient of the Clyde R. Willis Faculty Development Award from the College of Health and Human Services.

Initiated last year, the award is named for former health and human services Dean Clyde Willis, who retired in 2002 after 18 years in the position. It is given on the basis of teaching, scholarship and service during the previous year, with emphasis on accomplishments in research and with preference given to junior, probationary faculty whose accomplishments represent significant progress.

"It has been gratifying to witness Dr. Orel's dedication to her students in the classroom as well as the growth in her research program," said current Dean Linda Petrosino. "Over her four years in the gerontology program at BGSU, she has established strong teaching and research.

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"Additionally, her teaching and scholarship is complemented by an incredibly impressive record of service to organizations serving the elderly and other populations in need of assistance," added Petrosino. As one example, she cited Orel's 2003 Excellence in Community Service Award from the Wood County Board of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities.

"It is clear that Dr. Orel has the talent and the commitment to continue making significant contributions to her students and to the profession, and it is a pleasure to be able to recognize her talents with the distinction of becoming this year's Willis Scholar," the dean said. "She has demonstrated the abilities and commitment that I believe Dr. Willis wished to recognize through this award."

Orel joined the gerontology faculty in 2000. She received a bachelor's degree in psychology from BGSU in 1978 and a master's degree in guidance and a Ph.D. in counselor education from the University of Toledo, in 1983 and 1999, respectively. She has also taught gerontology at Lourdes College, and served as assistant to the editor at the Journal of Counselor Education and Supervision.

As a licensed professional counselor, Orel's professional experience includes more than 15 years of clinical experience working with older adults. She was the executive director of the Washtenaw County (Mich.) Council on Aging and is a former member of both the Turner Geriatric Clinic Advisory Board and the Eastern Michigan University Gerontology Advisory Board.

Among her teaching and research interests are qualitative studies exploring grandchildren's perceptions of grandparent-grandchild relationships, and grandchildren's perceptions of multigenerational caregiving. Her research interests also include studies in gerontological counseling and investigating the impact of disruptive life events such as caregiving and divorce on retirement patterns among women of the Baby Boom generation.

WOOSTER STREET UPDATE FOR THE WEEK OF AUG. 2

Work on East Wooster Street will continue between the Interstate 75 interchange and Enterprise Street the week of Aug. 2. Also, work will continue on Mercer Road between East Poe Road and East Wooster Street; in the Manville/East Wooster/Thurstin intersection, and on Campbell Hill Road from East Wooster about halfway to Clough Street. The contractor and subcontractors are scheduled to work Monday-Saturday (Aug. 2-7).

There will be significant changes in the areas of work and the amount of activity this week. Everyone is encouraged to be especially alert in the construction zones.

Construction on East Wooster Street

Utility crossover work, excavation and installation of curbs and gutters will continue the length of East Wooster Street. This work will cause traffic delays and lane closures controlled by flaggers. Delays are expected. Local traffic is strongly encouraged to avoid the area if possible.

Work is scheduled to shift to the north side of East Wooster between Mercer Road and I-75 on Monday (Aug. 2). This means the traffic pattern in this area will shift to the south side of the road. Please be alert for these changes.

Alumni Drive will be closed from Monday through Aug. 14 for extensive work, including widening, paving, installation of conduits, and curb and gutter work. Access to Lot 20 and the Visitor Information Center will be by the drive just east of Alumni Drive. The contractor will be installing signs, and this drive will be labeled Alumni Drive until Aug. 14 to help people find the information center.

Widening work will continue on the north side of East Wooster from Harshman Quadrangle to Enterprise Street.

The installation of curbs and gutters from Thurstin Avenue to Mercer Road is scheduled for completion early this week. The following drives will be closed until the end of the week to allow the cement to cure: McFall Center parking lot, South Hall loading dock, Lot D entrance, center Fraternity Row drive and Conklin east drive. Work in the Lot A entrance will not begin until the Lot D entrance is open.

The Founders Hall loading dock will have periodic closings for the next three weeks while widening work is in progress. The Founders front drive will be closed for the next three weeks while the drive is reconfigured.

The installation of a communication duct bank for Verizon along the north side of East Wooster will continue at various locations between Mercer Road and Founders.

Sidewalk installation is scheduled to take place in a number of locations between Thurstin and Mercer this week.

Verizon, Time Warner Cable and the city electric department may be working on telephone lines, cable TV lines and street lighting on the north side of East Wooster from Mercer Road to I-75 as time and weather permit.

Construction on Thurstin and Manville avenues

Curb and gutter work will be taking place on both sides of Thurstin Avenue this week. As a result, Lot 11 will be closed from Monday (Aug. 2) until Aug. 14.

This work will cause traffic delays and lane closures controlled by flaggers. Delays are expected. Local traffic is strongly encouraged to avoid the area if possible.

Pedestrians should avoid this area and not plan to cross at this intersection while work is in progress.

Construction on South College Drive

The city electric department and Verizon will be moving a number of utility poles on the east side of South College Drive during the next two weeks. Beginning July 31, South College will be closed at East Wooster Street from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily for utility relocation operations. These closures will end on Aug. 13, weather permitting.

Work is scheduled to begin on the west side of South College this week. The Popular Culture Center parking lot will be closed while this work is in progress. A temporary walk is being installed from East Wooster Street to the front door of the center to provide pedestrian access to the building.

The contractor is working to complete the sidewalk on the west side of South College prior to the beginning of fall semester.

This work may require lane closures controlled by flaggers or the closure of the section of South College between East Wooster and Clough streets.

Construction on Campbell Hill Road

Work on Campbell Hill Road will continue.

Construction on Mercer Road

The renovation of the Harshman east parking lot is in progress. Paving has been completed, and the painting of lines in the lot is scheduled for this week.

Restoration of the grounds along Mercer Road continues. The work will be completed during the next four weeks as weather and construction schedules permit.

The remainder of the sidewalks and sidewalk ramps will be completed soon in this area.

As restoration work is in progress and work continues, the right southbound lane on Mercer Road will be closed for worker safety and construction vehicles.

Utility crossover work, excavation, and installation of curbs and gutters will continue in the Mercer/East Wooster intersection. This work will cause traffic delays and lane closures controlled by flaggers. Delays are expected. Local traffic is strongly encouraged to avoid the area if possible.

Pedestrians should avoid this area and not plan to cross at this intersection while work is in progress.

General Notes

As the project progresses, updates will be provided to the University community.

All construction schedules are subject to change due to weather and construction-related issues.

Kokosing is working hard to complete the majority of the work in key intersections affecting the University community before the academic year begins, so the disruption is reduced. The University community is asked to assist Kokosing by avoiding the work zones as much as possible.

Be alert to increased pedestrian traffic and to the movement of construction vehicles. Please drive slowly and carefully through all construction zones and be prepared to stop. The speed limit on University drives and in all campus parking lots is 15 mph.

Weather permitting, the project will be completed in August 2005. As the contractor provides updated information, it will also be sent to the University community by broadcast email.

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BGSU Firelands summer enrollment up 8.2 percent

Enrollment at BGSU Firelands rose to 607 this summer, an 8.2 percent increase from a year ago.

The Huron campus experienced double-digit percentage growth in its numbers of sophomores, juniors, seniors and master's degree students. Master's students numbered 79 this summer, a 68.1 percent increase from the 47 enrolled in summer 2003, while the number of sophomores rose by 30.3 percent, from 89 last year to 116 this summer.

In addition, Firelands students were enrolled for 9.5 percent more credit hours this summer than a year ago. Student credit hours, measuring the combined for-credit hours taken by all students, are assessed—per a mandate from the Ohio Board of Regents—at all colleges and universities on the 15th day of every enrollment period.

"We are delighted to see the growth trend continue during the summer," said Firelands Dean James Smith. The data, he said, "confirm what we call 'The 360 Degree' experience here at BGSU Firelands: master's, bachelor's and associate's degrees and flexible transfer options, with superb quality and affordable prices, is an excellent personal fit for today's college students."

Collaborative parking agreement reached with UT, MCO

To encourage collaborative research and academic initiatives, BGSU, the Medical College of Ohio and the University of Toledo will honor each other's faculty and staff parking permits, the Office of Inter-Institutional Collaboration has announced.

Effective fall semester, any faculty or staff member holding a current parking permit at any of the three institutions will be allowed to park in a valid parking spot on any of the campuses. Each campus's parking regulations must be followed when parking there.

Refer to the respective university Web sites for parking maps and regulations:

BGSU: <http://www.bgsu.edu/offices/safety/parking/parking.html>

MCO: <http://www.mco.edu/depts/police/parking.html>

UT: <http://parkingservices.utoledo.edu/>

Union computer lab to require BGSU domain log-on

The Bowen-Thompson Student Union computer lab, located in 103 Union, will require users to log on to the BGSU domain using their BGNet authentication user name and password beginning today (Aug. 2). Any questions regarding this change may be directed to the Technology Support Center at 2-0999 or tsc@bgnet.bgsu.edu.

BG@100 adds staff

The BG@100 project welcomes two new team members today (Aug. 2). Joan Jaffray joins the team as Training Lead, while Kriss Ferluga will serve as Change Management Coordinator. A complete listing of team members is available at www.bgsu.edu/offices/cio/page5262.html.

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CALENDAR

Monday, Aug. 2

Dissertation defense, "Amplified Anion Sensing by Conducting Polymers," by Dmitry Aldakov, photochemical sciences, 3 p.m., 132 Overman Hall.

Continuing Events

Through Aug. 13

Art Exhibit, drawings and paintings by Kevin Casto, Little Gallery, BGSU Firelands. Gallery hours are 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Friday.

JOB POSTINGS

FACULTY

There are no faculty postings 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

No classified positions are available this week.

ADMINISTRATIVE

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

Project Coordinator (R-074)—Design and Construction. Administrative grade 14. Deadline: Aug. 6.

Academic Adviser/Recruiter (R-084)—College of Technology. Administrative grade 14. Deadline: Aug. 13.

Project EXCITE Program Manager (V-046)—College of Health and Human Services. Administrative grade 13. Deadline: Aug. 13 (Search extended).

Coordinator, Donor Relations and Communications (R-083)—Office of Development. Administrative grade 13. Deadline: Aug. 20.

Applications Developer (V-053)—BG@100 Project. Administrative grade 16. Review of applications began July 2 and will continue until the position is filled.

Assistant Director, Student Union (V-071)—University Dining Services. Administrative grade 16. Review of applications will begin Aug. 6 and continue until the position is filled.

Manager, University Dining Services (V-035)—Division of Student Affairs (Re-advertised). Two positions, administrative grade 12. Review of applications will begin Aug. 6 and continue until the positions are filled.

Internal Auditor (M-080)—Internal Auditing and Advisory Services. Administrative grade 15. Review of applications will begin Sept. 10 and continue until the position is filled.

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OBITUARY

There are no obituaries this week.