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Undergraduates experience America on GeoJourney

Nineteen BGSU undergraduates took off Aug. 15 on a "GeoJourney" that promises to be the trip of a lifetime and a unique educational experience.

Led by geology faculty members Joe and Nikki Elkins, the group is traveling in a modern-day caravan that will lead them through many of the nation's most spectacular parks, monuments and educational sites, plus several major cities from Chicago to San Francisco to New Orleans and back. The group will camp out each night and move to new campgrounds every few days as they make their way across the country and back. During the day, the students will be completing day hikes in national parks, visiting regional museums and completing field projects.

"They will be getting the 'big picture' significance of geoscience education," said Joe Elkins, who has been doing a similar trip for several years with the University of Georgia. "We have three primary goals for the geology portion of the course. First, using their own observations, we want students to formulate questions about the development of their physical surroundings and the geologic process they see at work. Second, we want them to identify hand samples of geologic materials such as rocks and fossils and use the information in those samples as evidence to support their ideas about the geologic process responsible for shaping their environment. Third, we want them to communicate their ideas in writing and in discussions so that they are able to successfully defend their own ideas, and so that they will be able to evaluate the ideas communicated by others and determine the validity of those arguments."

During their eight weeks and 13,000 miles on the road, the students will take four classes—two in geology: Field-Based Historical Geology and Field-Based Physical Geology; one in American culture studies: Indigenous Cultures of North America, and one in environmental science: Environments in Context. All the classes count toward University general education requirements.

Mark Gromko, vice provost for academic affairs and director of general education, will be joining the trip for a week to 10 days. Other University personnel will also visit at times. Four of Elkins' former students from the University of Georgia will serve as support staff.

"We want to push the boundaries of what we can do in field-based, interdisciplinary education," Elkins said. "They will be getting over 200 contact hours of instruction—more than in a 16-week semester."

Part of the uniqueness of GeoJourney is its interdisciplinary nature and the fact that it encompasses an entire semester. When they return, students will have 16 credits and will have completed fall semester, Elkins said. They will not be required to return to campus.

"We hope that GeoJourney will help Bowling Green's continuing efforts to take a leadership role nationally in general education reform," Elkins said. "We think GeoJourney will help us recruit the best students to Bowling Green and give those students the opportunity to learn in a different context from the classroom."

Instead of the typical laptop computers and textbooks of the traditional classroom, GeoJourney students will carry an orange-bound notebook in which to record their observations and class notes. Their preparations included outfitting themselves with sturdy hiking boots, rain gear and a good hat. In addition to the integrated academic experience, GeoJourney will be a learning exercise in planning, packing, conserving energy and group dynamics.

The University has committed about \$20,000 in start-up funds to purchase tents, water coolers, cooking equipment, digital cameras, video cameras and other necessities. Tracy

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Budden, a former Technology Education Consulting Specialists (TECS) student, will be along to provide technical support and will maintain a Web site for the journey.

Traveling in three, 15-passenger vans, the students will participate in a sort of “mobile education,” Elkins said. The vans have been outfitted with flat-screen LCD monitors and public address systems so the faculty can teach and employ PowerPoint presentations as well as instructional videos during the long hours between stops.

“Learning en route will give the students more time to explore the actual sites on their own,” he said. Other instruction will take place around the nightly campfires, during which students will discuss what they’ve learned during the day. They also have been given reading packets of both scientific and popular literature designed to provide the local perspective on issues they will be studying, such as water rights and resource management, Elkins said.

Their first stop will be the Field Museum in Chicago, where the faculty will begin “laying the foundation for the rest of the course, and teaching the terminology and vocabulary they will be using,” Elkins said.

One of the class’s longer stops will be at Ranch A, an environmental science center in Beulah, Wyo. Described by Elkins as a “two-story log palace,” the center is the former site of a National Fish Laboratory and is where the GeoJourney students will participate in a week-long, intensive lecture-lab crash course in the four classes.

Holly Myers-Jones, geography and director of Environmental Science Programs, said there are three main goals of the environmental science component besides the usual course content: “First, we want students to have the opportunity to begin to become astute observers of how humans have reshaped the environment and impacted it in even the most remote and rural locations. Second, we want them to gain firsthand experience of regional differences in how we define environmental issues and sets of issues, and in how we approach their solutions and how stakeholders are represented in their solutions. And third, we really hope they will gain a greater appreciation that the United States is not the sole controller of many of our environmental assets, and that we have to consider our neighbors Canada and Mexico. As we come to the Pacific Coast, we even have to consider Japan. We want them to understand how important it is that we have to wisely manage our natural resources.”

Nikki Elkins, who will teach the American culture studies course, said, “My goal is for the students to understand and appreciate the enormous cultural diversity that existed in North America prior to Euro-American contact/influence as well as to recognize that this diversity continues to exist and influence regional politics, economies and culture.

“We will observe various cultures throughout North America from an archaeological, historical and modern perspective—from the vast Anasazi ruins of Chaco Canyon in New Mexico to the modern Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota. Ultimately, the student will be able to make connections about why people chose to live where they did, how/why they made their living the way they did, and to compare how modern societies/cultures utilize the same regions today.

Planning GeoJourney required extensive collaboration with numerous University offices and departments to work out the myriad details of such a large undertaking, Elkins said. Some of the key people were Gromko and Vickie Shields, associate dean in the College of Arts and Sciences, for help with the development of the four courses; Paul Moore, director of the Honors Program; Cecilia Born in admissions; Kim Miller, director of risk management; Rich Peper, purchasing; Norm Bedford in Student Financial Aid; Amy Dugan, clinic coordinator in the Student Health Service, and Bursar Nancy Colman.

Together again—TCOM rejoins communication studies

Following a two-year split, the Department of Telecommunications is once again part of the School of Communication Studies. The board of trustees in May approved the reunification

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of three departments: interpersonal communication, journalism and telecommunications.

Joseph Frizado, geology, will serve as interim head of the newly reunited school while an external search for a permanent director is conducted.

"I asked Joe Frizado to serve as interim director because I have enormous respect for him and confidence in his abilities," said Donald Nieman, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. Nieman added that Frizado is well suited to sustain the important changes made in the school in the past three years and to assure that the search for a permanent director proceeds smoothly and is successful.

Frizado has had extensive administrative experience, having twice been chair of the geology department—during which he led the department through program review—and as a member of the Promotion, Tenure and Review Committee, which crosses all boundaries within the college.

He has also served on committees dealing with media rights and with media in instructional settings.

Frizado said of the re-merger, "It's a challenge. Right now we're working to energize the faculty and find common ground. The original school structure and the departments have changed and evolved over time. It's also different because it's not a mixture of programs. There's more autonomy within the departments."

The departments have complete control over their undergraduate curriculum, he said, but faculty will cooperate at the graduate level. Telecommunications separated from the school in 1998, and by so doing no longer participate in the school's graduate programs. With reintegration, it will resume its involvement in graduate studies in communications. The master's and Ph.D. degrees granted will be in communication studies.

"Being back together means we can centralize our services and optimally utilize our resources to improve instructional support," Frizado said.

Frizado pointed to the recent collaborative project in which faculty from all three departments wrote and delivered a curriculum in public relations to foreign service officers in Croatia for the U.S. Agency for International Development

"That's the perfect example of the kind of synergy the school can foster and of how each department can contribute its own expertise," he said.

According to telecommunications Chair Ewart Skinner, "Reintegration will provide a more cohesive center for the study of media, telecommunications, communication and culture at Bowling Green. It gives the school and its associated scholars a better-defined profile on campus. For TCOM it will mean shared ownership in the graduate program of which we have historic membership. Of course, we must be careful to fulfill the University's interest in undergraduate education while pursuing a graduate mission."

Meanwhile, some of the school's personnel have changed. Former director Michael Sproule left in May to become dean of arts and sciences at St. Louis University. John Warren, interpersonal communication, is now the graduate coordinator. Julie Burke is this year's chair of interpersonal communication; Terry Rentner is chair of journalism.

Campus update: new academic year brings changes

The new academic year will see some changes in campus offices. Following is a short wrap-up of some of the developments faculty and staff might need to be aware of.

Stephen Langendorfer, human movement, sport and leisure studies, became the new director of general education on June 1. See the full story in next week's Monitor.

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College of Arts and Sciences

- The Department of Telecommunications has rejoined the School of Communication Studies. Joseph Frizado, geology, will serve as interim director. A search for a permanent director has been launched (See related story).
- Joe Jacoby will be interim chair of the sociology department while Gary Lee is on leave.

College of Education and Human Development

- Martha Gaustad, intervention services, has been named associate dean for research and field experience.
- Deborah Wooldridge is the new director of the School of Family and Consumer Sciences. Rosalind Hammond had served as interim director. Wooldridge comes to BGSU from Zayed University in the United Arab Emirates, where she was dean of the College of Family Sciences. Her background is in resource management and consumer behavior.
- As previously announced, the School of Education and Intervention Services has split into two parts—the School of Teaching and Learning, directed by Leigh Chiarelott, and the School of Intervention Services—directed by Eric Jones.

College of Health and Human Services

- Dean Linda Petrosino has announced that, in the Department of Communication Disorders, Larry Small has been named chair and Lynne Hewitt was named graduate coordinator.
- Nancy Orel is now the director of the Gerontology Program in the Department of Human Services.

College of Musical Arts

- Elaine Colprit has taken over as chair of music education, following the departure of Victor Fung.

College of Technology

- Melanie Drewes (pronounced “dravis”) has replaced Chris Peper, who retired, as administrative assistant to Dean Ernest Savage.
- A search is under way to replace Francey Ackerman-Edelen, who resigned as academic adviser in the Program Services office.

BGSU Firelands:

- Two faculty members have retired: Marianne Bedee, mathematics, and Ronald Olsen, chemistry.
- Searches are under way to fill the positions of two administrative staff members who have retired: John Girard, director for educational outreach, and Marc Adkins, academic support coordinator.

President Ribeau’s Opening Day address, “Organizing for Engagement: Working Together to Build a Strong, Vital Ohio,” is at 10 a.m. Friday (Aug. 20) in the Lenhart Grand Ballroom.

IN BRIEF**City, University seek volunteer greeters**

Volunteers are needed to welcome and distribute information to BGSU students living off-campus in Bowling Green neighborhoods.

On Aug. 28, the city of Bowling Green and the University will distribute “welcome bags” to off-campus students at their residences. The bags will contain both University- and city-related materials, such as important phone numbers, voter registration cards and coupons from local vendors.

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BG@100 Executive Steering Committee minutes available

The BG@100 Executive Steering Committee oversees the BG@100 project and has overall responsibility for the project including scope, timelines and priorities.

Committee members are Bruce Petryshak, chief information officer; Christopher Dalton, senior vice president for finance and administration; Linda Dobb, executive vice president; and Ron Lancaster, computer science.

Meetings are held on the second Monday of each month. The meeting minutes documenting the work of the committee are available for reference at <http://www.bgsu.edu/offices/cio/page5239.html>.

CALENDAR

Monday, Aug. 16

New Faculty Luncheon, noon, 308 Union.

Wednesday, Aug. 18

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

Friday, Aug. 20

President's Opening Day Address, "Organizing for Engagement: Working Together to Build a Strong, Vital Ohio," 10 a.m., Lenhart Grand Ballroom, Union. Coffee and fellowship begin at 9:30 a.m.

Sunday, Aug. 22

Convocation and Picnic, 3:30 and 5:30 p.m., University Hall lawn. In case of rain, the picnic will be held in the dining centers.

Monday, Aug. 23

Opening Day.

Continuing Events

Aug. 13-Sept. 3

Photography Exhibit, "Fowl Faces," by BGSU alumnus Kurt Reichert, Bowen-Thompson Student Union Galleries. Gallery hours are 8 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday-Saturday.

Through Aug. 20

GradSTEP, Professional Development Workshops and Departmental Programming. Check-in and registration for participants who pre-registered is 8-9:30 a.m. today (Aug. 16).

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

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

The deadline for employees to apply is 5 p.m. Friday, Aug. 20.
Administrative Assistant 1 (C-67-Ve)—Career Services. Pay grade 8. Twelve-month, full-time position
Secretary 1 (C-68-Ve)—Counseling Center. Pay grade 6. Twelve-month, full-

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time position (grant funded).

Secretary 1 (C-66-Me)—Continuing and Extended Education/PACE. Pay grade 6. Nine-month, part-time position

The following position is advertised on and off campus. The deadline for employees and external candidates to apply is 1 p.m. Friday, Sept. 3.

Audio Visual Services Supervisor 1 (C-65-Me)—Instructional Media Services. Pay grade 7. Twelve-month, full-time position.

ADMINISTRATIVE

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

wCoordinator, 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 began Aug. 6 and will 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 began Aug. 6 and will continue until the positions are filled.

Assistant Director (V-092)—Career Center. Administrative grade 12. Deadline: Aug. 20.

Coordinator of Greek Affairs (V-091)—Office of Residence Life. Administrative grade 13. Review of applications will begin Aug. 27 and continue until the position is 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.

OBITUARY

Evelyn Steidtmann, 102, died Aug. 4 in Bowling Green. In addition to conducting a Sunday duplicate bridge club in the Student Union for 34 years and teaching bridge classes for more than 50 years through the Union (now University) Activities Organization, she also served as manager of Founders residence hall for 17 years, retiring in 1972.

Memorials may be given to the Waldo E. and Evelyn Steidtmann Biology Scholarship Fund at BGSU.