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BGSU-trained geologist monitors Mount St. Helens

When Mount St. Helens erupted in 1980, 57 people were killed, homes and recreational areas were destroyed or abandoned and the surrounding landscape was changed for years to come.

Now the volcano, which had abruptly stopped its dome-building activity in 1986, has come to life once more, and geologists are intensively monitoring the situation. One of those scientists is David Ramsey, who received his master's degree from BGSU in 1997.

As a graduate student working with Charlie Onasch, geology chair, as his thesis adviser, Ramsey learned how to use geographic information systems (GIS) technology, which involves computer mapmaking. Now, as a geologist and GIS specialist with the United States Geological Survey, he is using his skills to track and map changes in the volcano.

"GIS is used to visualize and analyze volcanoes," he said. "We're also working to refine the seismic network around the volcano so we can determine if and where we need to move or add seismometers."

Normally stationed in Menlo Park, Calif., Ramsey recently spent an exhausting two weeks in Vancouver, Wash., with the Cascades Volcano Observatory, where he was called in to assist with GIS efforts following the Oct. 1 explosion of Mount St. Helens. The steam and ash eruptions since then have led to the formation of a new lava dome about 650 by 650 meters across and about 100 meters tall, he said.

Local officials, the U.S. Forest Service and media representatives from around the country all needed immediate information, and Ramsey was part of a team assigned to provide it.

While the eruption of a volcano can be disastrous, for geologists it is an exciting event, Ramsey said. He recalled going on helicopter observation flights over the mouth of the crater and opening the windows to see if the team could smell sulfur, whose presence would indicate volcanic gasses. "We flew right through the steam cloud coming off the new dome, but the steam was very pure, very white, with no hint of sulfur," he said somewhat disappointedly.

In addition to the observation flights, Ramsey spent long hours in the operations room at the observatory monitoring the seismicity of the volcano as information was coming in from the 20-30 seismometers placed around it. The instruments help measure the vibrations from the many small earthquakes taking place deep within the volcano and the resulting movement of magma as it races up to the surface, Ramsey said. "We're trying to determine if there's pressure that could lead to another eruption like the steam and ash eruption that happened earlier this month," he said. The information is relayed to the helicopter flight teams to insure their safety, he noted.

Also while at the observatory, he spent time in the field studying and collecting ash from the volcano to send to the U.S. Geological Survey's Denver laboratory. "USGS will analyze it chemically to see what kind of magma it's from," he said. "Is it volatile, gas-filled magma that could explosively erupt, for example?"

He also visited the "Pumice Plain," the area devastated by the 1980 earthquake, where the ground is covered with downed trees and a thick coating of pumice from the spewed volcanic ash. Now, nearly 25 years later, he said he was amazed at the color sprouting on this once-desolate area, with small shoots of green grass and purple wildflowers poking up from the gray surface. "We startled a herd of elk feeding on the young grass and when they ran away, they left a cloud of pumice," he recalled.

Following the 1980 eruption, Mount St. Helens was named a Volcanic National Monument

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and the surrounding area cleared of homes. Thus, tourist traffic in the potentially dangerous area can be controlled fairly easily, Ramsey said. The environment is perfect for geologists and other scientists to study the events unfolding now.

“It’s a natural laboratory and we want to study it as thoroughly as possible,” he said. “There are a lot of people coming back who were here in 1980, and it’s a great opportunity for people my age to learn from people with such a wealth of experience. It’s been a really interesting learning experience.”

Yacobucci makes connection between values and science

When people think of values and ethics in terms of science, they typically think of researchers’ responsibility to be honest and not falsify or steal data, says Margaret (Peg) Yacobucci. But there is another aspect to values in science that has gone largely unexplored, she points out.

When the geology faculty member addresses the Geological Society of America at its annual meeting in Denver this week, she will speak on the importance of acknowledging and making clear to students that, though mostly unexpressed, values are infused in the scientific process.

In a presentation titled “‘I’m a Scientist, not a Politician!’: How to Integrate Critical Thinking about Values into a General Education Geology Course (and Why You Should),” Yacobucci will share her encounters with first-year students in her historical geology class for the BGeXperience program.

“Science is performed by human beings who make research decisions based in part on their own value preferences. I would argue that a critical exploration of values within scientific disciplines should be considered part of a science course’s core content, not an ‘extra’ or a ‘gimmick,’” Yacobucci stated in the abstract of her presentation.

Someone once said, “Education is what remains after you’ve forgotten the facts.” That in part is the philosophy of the BGeXperience—to teach students not just the facts of the discipline but to give them a way to evaluate the knowledge they are receiving and to recognize the values implicit within it, along with their own values. “That’s going to be more important for them to remember than that, for example, fossil bacteria are 3.5 billion years old,” Yacobucci said, especially considering that most of the students in general education classes are not science majors.

“One of the reasons I got involved in BGeXperience was that I had already been talking to students about these issues,” she said. “This gave me a chance to take it a step further. As a colleague once said, ‘There is no such thing as a value-blind curriculum, there are only value-masked curricula.’ I agree with that and I feel strongly that it is better to help students see that you’d better recognize and articulate the values you hold when making decisions about what to do research on and what to teach—especially when you’re making public policy based on those values.”

She also feels that instructors have a responsibility to teach students to question the values embedded in the textbooks they study. “They should be asking why a textbook author is emphasizing this idea and not telling you much about another. I encourage them to probe behind the material,” she said, adding that faculty should also present other possibilities that are not included or are given short shrift.

In her historical geology class for BGeXperience, she focuses on several value-laden issues, including global climate change, evolution-creationism, Mars exploration, gradualism vs. catastrophism, the commercialization of vertebrate fossils and the cloning of extinct fossils.

Yacobucci reports that, though they at first expressed reservations about discussing values and the scientific process instead of delving right into geology itself, students in the BGeX classes at the end of the course said the “discussions about these real-world

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controversies greatly increased their interest in the geological topics we covered. Students left the class with a better sense of how scientists actually do their work, and of the non-scientific factors that affect scientific inquiry.” They also gained experience in critically evaluating and defending a position, distinguishing between opinions and supported arguments, and making choices based both on scientific information and consideration of the social consequences of their actions.

Yacobucci, who has served on the Faculty Advisory Committee for the BGeXperience program, noted that, as the University gains more experience with the program, assessment has helped improve the teaching process. It has become easier and more natural to incorporate the discussion of values into more subjects since the structure of the classes was opened up following a modification of the identified learning outcomes for BGX classes, she said.

“I think it’s important that we retool our curriculum to raise students’ awareness of how values are an inherent part of everything we do,” she said. “It’s better to recognize that than to pretend they aren’t there.”

College of Musical Arts presents ‘The Marriage of Figaro’

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart’s comic opera “The Marriage of Figaro” will be performed at 8 p.m. Friday (Nov. 5) and at 3 p.m. Sunday (Nov. 7) by the College of Musical Arts’ Opera Theater.

The opera will be performed in English and the arias in Italian with English subtitles in Kobacker Hall of the Moore Musical Arts Center.

“Figaro” premiered in 1786. It is one of the most frequently performed and best-loved operas of all time. The opera is based on a play by Pierre Augustin Caron de Beaumarchais, which was banned in France by Louis XVI. The librettist is Lorenzo da Ponte, a frequent collaborator of Mozart’s.

The opera begins where Rossini’s “The Barber of Seville” leaves off. Figaro, a valet interested in improving his position, and his fiancée, Susanna, a chambermaid, are planning their marriage.

The comedy is made complicated by the young, passionate page Cherubino; the meddling Marcellina; the cantankerous Dr. Bartolo; a drunken gardener, and Basilio, the bizarre music master. In the center of the action is the Count, who has become bored with his marriage and frustrated in his attempts to control the events in his life.

Bowling Green’s production of the opera is directed by Jennifer Hilbish Schuetz, an instructor of opera. The orchestra, comprised of members of the Bowling Green Philharmonia, will be conducted by Emily Freeman Brown, director of orchestral activities.

Tickets for “The Marriage of Figaro” are \$8 for senior citizens and students and \$10 for other adults. A special date-night package, including a flower at the box office, is \$16 for BGSU students..

For more information, call 2-8171.

IN BRIEF

Q & A sessions offered on BGSU health care plan

The employee Open Enrollment period for health care benefits ends at 5 p.m. Nov. 20. There are three educational sessions scheduled this month. Representatives from Medical Mutual of Ohio, Caremark and Delta Dental will be present to answer questions. Session

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times and locations are:

- Thursday (Nov. 4) from 2:30-4 p.m. in 100 College Park, Room 1
- Tuesday, Nov. 9, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in 204 Foundation Hall, BGSU Firelands
- Tuesday, Nov. 9, from 6-7:30 p.m. in 100 College Park, Room 1
- Wednesday, Nov. 10, from 9-10:30 a.m. in 100 College Park, Room 1

Call 2-2112 to reserve a seat.

BGSU hosts third annual Native American Unity Forum

The third annual Native American Unity Council Speakers' Forum and Pow Wow will be held Monday (Nov. 8) and Tuesday, Nov. 9, in 101 Olscamp Hall. This year's theme is "Human BE-ing: Identity as a Verb." All events will be held in 101 Olscamp Hall.

Nationally recognized Native American scholars will be presenting on both Monday and Tuesday.

Giving individual presentations are Tony Clark, American studies faculty member at the University of Kansas; Eddie Madril, a member of the Pascua Yaqui tribe of southern Arizona and northern Sonora Mexico.; Richard Morris, a Mescalero/Kiowa and communication studies faculty member at Arizona State University, and Steven Pratt, a communications faculty member at the University of Central Oklahoma. A speakers' panel will be held from 7:30-8:30 p.m. Monday.

The speakers' Nov. 9 presentations will be followed by the Pow Wow at 7 p.m. with the Mingo Nation Drumming Group.

Call Lynda Dixon, communication studies, at 2-7172 for more information.

BGSU to host Ohio Academy of Science; abstracts invited

The 2005 meeting of the Ohio Academy of Science will be held at BGSU April 1-3. Faculty members, graduate and undergraduate students who are conducting research and would like to present it at the meeting are welcome to submit an abstract. The abstract must be postmarked on or before Monday (Nov. 8).

Details about the abstract submission process can be obtained from www.ohiosci.org/BGSUCFP.pdf.

Literary festival designed for aspiring writers

The "Winter Wheat: Mid-American Review Festival of Writing" offers more than 40 writing workshops for aspiring writers of all abilities. The event includes panel discussions and readings by poets Carl Phillips, Allison Joseph and Camille Dungy; fiction writers J. David Stevens and Gabriel Welsch, and several BGSU faculty members.

The festival will be held Nov. 12-14. The majority of the workshops will be held Nov. 13, from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. in the Bowen-Thompson Student Union.

From 1-2:15 p.m. Nov. 13, there will be a special panel discussion on young adult (YA) fiction. The panel discussion will be moderated by YA author Erik E. Eskilsen and will include Toledo YA author Paul Many, librarians, educators, and young readers.

Carl Phillips is the author of four collections, most recently *The Rest of Love* (Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 2004). He has been a finalist for the National Book Award, the National

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Book Critics Circle Award and the Lambda Literary Award. He also serves as a consulting editor for *MAR*. He will give a reading at 4 p.m. on Nov. 13 in the Bowen-Thompson Student Union Theater. A question and answer period will follow.

Allison Joseph is the author of four collections of poetry, most recently *Imitation of Life* (Carnegie Mellon, 2003). She is also the editor and poetry editor of *Crab Orchard Review*. She will read at 6 p.m. Nov. 13 in the Sky Bank Room of the union.

For registration and event information, contact Karen Craigo at karenka@bgnet.bgsu.edu or visit www.bgsu.edu/midamericanreview. The suggested donation is \$50, but the event is on a sliding scale.

BG@100 open forum set

The next BG@100 open forum will be held at 11 a.m. Nov. 23 in 314 Bowen-Thompson Student Union. It is an opportunity for faculty, staff and students to learn more about the project to implement PeopleSoft administrative systems.

CALENDAR

Monday, Nov. 1

Dissertation Defense, "Taking/Doing Diversity Still: A Critical Focus Group Study Investigating Differences, Community, and Social Justice in Pedagogical Practices," by Christine Pease-Hernandez, School of Communication Studies, 9-11 a.m., 310 West Hall.

Dissertation Defense, "Would a Farm by Any Other Frame Smell As Sweet? New Frames, Factory Farms, and Social Protest," by Jeanette Wenig Drake, School of Communication Studies, 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., 310 West Hall.

Tuesday, Nov. 2

Faculty Senate, 2:30 p.m., McFall Assembly Room.

ART Talk, "Making Modern Men: Visual and Spatial Education at the Bauhaus," by Katerina Rüedi Ray, director, School of Art, 4 p.m., Bowen-Thompson Student Union Theater. Call 2-8575 for further information.

Election Night in the Pub, 7 p.m.-midnight, Black Swamp Pub, Bowen-Thompson Student Union.

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

Movie, "Dodgeball," 9:30 p.m., Bowen-Thompson Student Union Theater. Sponsored by UAO.

Wednesday, Nov. 3

Brown Bag Lunch, "The Silent Witness Re-shrouding," presented by staff and volunteers of the Transformation Project,

noon-1 p.m., Prout Chapel.

6 O'Clock Series, "Everything You Always Wanted to Ask a Lesbian," with Cynthia Mahaffey, English, 6-8 p.m., 222 Bowen-Thompson Student Union. Call 2-9000 for further information.

Bryan Chamber Series, duo piano concert in honor of Dorothy Price, 8 p.m., Bryan Recital Hall, Moore Musical Arts Center.

Thursday, Nov. 4

BGSU Research Conference Presentation, "The Continuing Evolution of the DuPont/University Interface," by Robert R. Gruetzmacher, director, Technology Commercialization, DuPont Center for Collaborative Research and Education, 2:30-3:15 p.m., Lenhart Grand Ballroom, Bowen-Thompson Student Union.

Canadian Studies Lecture, "Hockey and High Finance: How to Compete in Both Arenas," by Dave O'Brian, former BGSU hockey player and member of the 1984 NCAA championship team, 4:30 p.m., 101 Olscamp Hall. Sponsored by the Canadian Studies Center. For further information, call 2-2457.

Visiting Lecture/Film Screening, by documentary filmmaker Katrina Fullman, IPFW, 5:45 p.m., 115 Olscamp Hall.

Visiting Photographer, Nicholas Nixon, 7 p.m., 221 Olscamp Hall. Call 2-8380 for further information.

Hockey vs. Notre Dame, 7:05 p.m., Ice Arena.

International Film Series, "Nachtgestalten (Night Shapes)," 1999, Germany, directed

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by Andreas Dresen, 7:30 p.m., Gish Film Theater, first floor, Hanna Hall.

Guitar Ensembles, directed by Chris Buzzelli and Matthew Ardizzone, musical arts, 8 p.m., Bryan Recital Hall, Moore Musical Arts Center.

Friday, Nov. 5

Economics Colloquium Series, "Firm-Specific Capital, Nominal Rigidities, and the Business Cycle," with David Altig, vice president and associate director of research, Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland, 1-2:30 p.m., 4000 Business Administration Building.

Women's Research Network, "Child Well-Being in Cohabiting Families," by Susan Brown, sociology, 1:30-3:30 p.m., 107 Hanna Hall. Sponsored by the Women's Studies Program and the Women's Center.

Movie, "Miracle," 7 p.m., Bowen-Thompson Student Union Theater. Sponsored by UAO.

Bowling Green Opera Theater, "The Marriage of Figaro," 8 p.m., Kobacker Hall, Moore Musical Arts Center. Tickets are \$8 for students and senior citizens and \$10 for other adults. To reserve, call 2-8171.

Movie, "Dodgeball," 9:30 p.m., Bowen-Thompson Student Union Theater. Sponsored by UAO.

Saturday, Nov. 6

Young People's Concert, "Saxophobia," with John Sampen, Distinguished Artist Professor, 11 a.m., Bryan Recital Hall, Moore Musical Arts Center. Tickets, available at the door, are \$2 for adults and \$1 for children.

Football vs. Western Michigan, 1 p.m., Doyt Perry Stadium.

Movie, "Miracle," 7 p.m., Bowen-Thompson Student Union Theater. Sponsored by UAO.

Movie, "Dodgeball," 9:30 p.m., Bowen-Thompson Student Union Theater. Sponsored by UAO.

Sunday, Nov. 7

Bowling Green Opera Theater, "The Marriage of Figaro," 3 p.m., Kobacker Hall, Moore Musical Arts Center. Tickets are \$8

for students and senior citizens and \$10 for other adults. To reserve, call 2-8171. **Movie**, "Dodgeball," 9:30 p.m., Bowen-Thompson Student Union Theater. Sponsored by UAO.

Continuing Events

Nov. 4 and 5

BGSU Research Conference, "Engaging Minds Across Disciplines," 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Bowen-Thompson Student Union. For a complete schedule, visit www.bgsu.edu/offices/spar/Research_Conference/

Through Nov. 10

Art Exhibition, "Crucial State: Selections from Ohio Arts Council 2004 Fellowship Award Winners," including BGSU photographer Brad Phalin, Willard Wankelman Gallery, Fine Arts Center. Gallery hours are 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday and 1-4 p.m. Sundays.

Through Nov. 10

Art Exhibition, "The Proper Inflection," by Mille Guldbek, art, Kennedy Green Room, Moore Musical Arts Center, 8 a.m.-5 p.m. weekdays.

Through Nov. 21

Art Exhibition, "INterVENTIONS," featuring pieces from artists Ken Aptekar, ChanSchatz, Mark Dion and Ellen Harvey, Dorothy Uber Bryan Gallery, Fine Arts Center. Gallery hours are 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday and 1-4 p.m. Sundays.

Through Nov. 23

Planetarium Show, "Space Dreams: Our Quest to Explore the Universe." Shows are at 8 p.m. Tuesdays and Fridays, 7:30 p.m. Sundays, and 2 p.m. Saturdays, Nov. 6 and 20. \$1 donation suggested.

Through Dec. 3

Art Exhibition, painting by Neil Jussila, Little Gallery, BGSU Firelands. Gallery hours are 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Friday.

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JOB POSTINGS

FACULTY

University Libraries. Assistant Professor. Call Beverly Stearns, 2-7891. Deadline: Jan. 3.

Music Education. Assistant Professor. Call Joyce Gromko, 2-2005. Deadline: Jan. 5.

Arts and Sciences. Director of COSMOS (professor ranking). Call Jan Varney-McKnight, 2-2018. Deadline: Jan. 15.

Music Performance Studies. Assistant Professor. Call Charles Saenz, 2-8549. Deadline: Jan. 15.

School of Art. Assistant Professor. Call Rebecca Green, 2-2786. Deadline: Jan. 21.

School of Art. Assistant Professor. Call Rosalie Politsky, 2-2786. Deadline: Jan. 21.

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 following positions are advertised on

and off campus. Please note the respective deadlines.

Dispatcher (C-116-Re)—Public Safety (collective bargaining unit). Part-time position, 16-30 hours per week. Deadline: 1 p.m. Friday, Nov. 5.

Maintenance Repair Worker 1 (C-117-Ke)—Plant Operations and Maintenance, BGSU Firelands. Twelve-month, part-time position. Pay grade 6. Deadline: 5 p.m. Friday, Nov. 12.

ADMINISTRATIVE

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

Associate Director of Operations (V-116)—Student Health Service. Administrative grade 17. Deadline: Nov. 9.

Senior Associate Director (V-119)—University Dining Services. Review of applications will begin Nov. 15 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 began Aug. 6 and will continue until the positions are filled.

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

Director, Office of Educational Outreach (04-100NF)—BGSU Firelands. Administrative grade 16. Review of applications began Sept. 17 and will continue until the position is filled.

OBITUARY

There were no obituaries this week.