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Astrobiologist to discuss exploration of Mars

A member of NASA's Mars Exploration Rover Team will review recent discoveries by robotic "field geologists" on the Red Planet when he speaks at BGSU Thursday (Sept. 23).

Jack Farmer, director and principal investigator of the NASA Astrobiology Institute at Arizona State University, will discuss exploration of Mars at 7 p.m. in 115 Olscamp Hall. His free, public address is part of a two-day visit to campus, during which he will meet and speak with a number of students and faculty.

The "field geologists" on Mars are Spirit and Opportunity, robotic rovers that NASA landed earlier this year at two sites—Gusev Crater and Meridiani Planum. Both sites are believed to be locations of ancient Martian lakes. The rovers have confirmed that early in its history, Mars was a more habitable place, with enough water to potentially support microbial life.

Farmer will outline the implications of Spirit and Opportunity's discoveries for future missions that will look for a fossil record of Martian life.

The guest speaker is the University's first McMaster Visiting Scientist, in a program underwritten by a \$250,000 endowment funded by Helen and the late Harold McMaster. The longtime BGSU benefactors, from Perrysburg, funded the interdisciplinary program to bring eminent scholars or practitioners from the fields of chemistry, biology, geology, physics or astronomy to the University.

Farmer is also a professor of geological sciences at Arizona State, where he assumed leadership of the astrobiology program after his arrival in 1998. Astrobiology seeks to understand the origin of the building blocks of life; how they combine to create life; how life affects, and is affected by, the environment from which it arose, and, finally, how life expands beyond its planet of origin.

Farmer, who earned a Ph.D. in paleontology from the University of California-Davis in 1978, is a member of the Astrobiology Institute's executive board and leads its Mars Focus Group. He serves on various NASA committees as well, including the Space Science Advisory Committee and several related to Martian exploration.

His interests include early evolution of the biosphere—the part of the earth's crust, waters and atmosphere that supports life—as well as strategies for exploring Mars and other extraterrestrial bodies for a past or present biosphere. He is also interested in the microbiology and biosedimentology of thermal springs and other extreme environments.

Before joining the Arizona State faculty, Farmer worked at NASA's Ames Research Center in California, first as a National Research Council Senior Fellow and later as a research scientist in the center's exobiology branch. Exobiology is the study of the origin, evolution and distribution of life in the universe.

He has also been a senior museum scientist and lecturer at UC-Davis, a faculty member at UCLA, and a senior petroleum geologist for Exxon in Los Angeles.

Farmer's public lecture is part of a two-day stay hosted by the College of Arts and Sciences. During his time on campus Thursday and Friday, he will meet with science faculty and students, including undergraduate student researchers; attend classes, and give a technical talk for graduate students and science faculty.

For more information about Farmer, visit his Web site at <http://geology.asu.edu/jfarmer/>.

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BGSU, community partners to launch Wood County AmeriCorps

The University and six community partners have formed a consortium for service in Wood County.

The partners have been awarded a \$50,000 planning grant through the Ohio Community Service Council to design an AmeriCorps program for the county. A second grant will be sought for operating funds to launch the program next fall.

AmeriCorps is a network of national service programs that engage more than 50,000 Americans each year to meet critical needs in education, public safety, health and the environment.

"Many people would call it the domestic version of the Peace Corps," noted Jane Rosser, assistant director of BGSU's Partnerships for Community Action (PCA), which is leading the county consortium.

Other partners are the Children's Resource Center, Wood County Juvenile Court, the Wood County District Public Library, the Wood County Educational Service Center, the Wood County office of United Way of Greater Toledo, and the United Christian Fellowship.

The library will host a kickoff event for the planning grant from 4-5:30 p.m. Tuesday (Sept. 21). The Wood County Commissioners will speak at 4:30 p.m. in the library atrium, along with Provost John Folkins and Thomas Trimboli, assistant to the president.

Rosser described the consortium as "a very natural coming together" of partners who have worked cooperatively in the past on initiatives such as the partnership support grant program, which is coordinated by PCA and the campus Center for Innovative and Transformative Education. That program funds projects that address community needs through BGSU-community partnerships.

She said the community partners asked PCA to take the lead on the AmeriCorps project, turning to the University as the largest employer in the county and the source of many volunteers already. "I see it as a way to link the University with the community," she added, calling the project a way to strengthen infrastructure for community service with the help of students and other BGSU volunteers.

Created in 1993, AmeriCorps is part of the Corporation for National and Community Service, which is providing the grant funding through the Ohio Community Service Council. The council is committed to ensuring that northwest Ohio receives funding, Rosser said, pointing out that the Wood County proposal was among 10 given "seed money" statewide to create new AmeriCorps programs.

With the planning grant in hand, and the second, prospective grant to provide funding for operations beginning in fall 2005, "it gives us a year to figure out what we want to do in the county," she said.

"Volunteers are the lifeblood of a lot of our organizations," so volunteerism will be a priority, as will sustainability, she predicted. The partners would like to see at least 25 people in the county working full time as AmeriCorps members, who serve through nonprofit and public agencies as well as faith-based organizations.

IPC students give artwork new voice

Interpersonal communication intersected with art restoration the week of Sept. 13 when a group of students refurbished a crumbling sculpture adjacent to Jerome Library. Instructor Jason Schmitt described the project as "tangible learning."

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The 19 students in his IPC 102 class in the Partners in Context and Community (PCC) learning community in Kohl Hall undertook the project as an exercise in group and individual communication. In the process, they left a legacy for the campus in keeping with the theme of PCC.

The 1960s-era sculpture was in very bad repair, damaged in spots and its paint worn off. Directly in the path of campus tours, it did not speak well for the University. Schmitt, who says he has a passion for restoring homes and especially contemporary architecture, saw it as a perfect opportunity to apply communication theory while providing a service to campus.

The class was divided into eight committees involving public relations and construction. "There was a huge amount of research into how to repair cement and how to do public relations communications," Schmitt said. Then the students taught one another such skills as cement patching, using paint rollers and selecting the proper paint. The PR group wrote to various people on campus, including President Ribeau, about the project and asked for their response.

"This class is very much a 'leader body,'" Schmitt said. "Everyone in it has very interesting qualities." Part of the experience was observing how the class grouped and regulated itself and how leaders are delegated, he said.

No matter what committee they served on, every student took part in every aspect of the restoration, from applying patching material to sanding to painting. "When it was over, the response was 'What a difference this makes!' and 'Look how easy this was,'" Schmitt said. "I hope that my students will carry this assertiveness forward in their lives."

The class will now engage in a reflective exercise, writing a paper on how tangible learning might be applied in different settings.

Communication faculty honored for volunteer role in Croatia

Faculty, staff and administrators from across the University gathered in McFall Center Gallery Sept. 13 for the presentation of the President's Volunteer Service Award to School of Communication Studies faculty.

Nancy Brendlinger, Catherine Cassara and Dennis Hale journalism; Laura Lengel and John Warren, interpersonal communication, and Chuck Hoy, formerly of telecommunications, were presented the award by Brock Bierman of the United States Agency for International Development.

Bierman, chief of staff in the Bureau for Europe and Eurasia, in December 2003 proposed that faculty develop a workshop for public information officers in Eastern Europe. After several months' work writing curricula in response to the needs identified by the PIOs, the faculty spent two weeks in Croatia in May presenting classes in news writing, photojournalism, public relations, speech writing and video and Web basics to agency staff from approximately 20 countries.

The workshop was a pilot for USAID's Academic Collaborative Initiative, designed to bring professors together with USAID staff for intensive examination of topics central to the agency's mission.

In presenting the awards, Bierman said, "In the short time I've been involved with USAID and our government's foreign policy initiatives, particularly with regard to the implementation of our programs in the field, I have been most impressed by the effectiveness of American volunteers in their efforts to tell our story, build relations, tear down barriers and serve as true diplomats of this country.

"Although our professional diplomats play a key role in delivering our country's foreign

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policy objectives and sustaining communications between governments, it is truly the one-on-one contact that occurs at the grassroots level of community development that builds understanding, trust and respect.

"This work sets the stage and is the very foundation for our success as representatives of the United States.

"Today, I am honored to be here to recognize six outstanding professors who have distinguished themselves in becoming such wonderful goodwill ambassadors."

Bierman added that the USAID's goal and hope is that eventually, those who have been helped by the agency and its volunteers will be in a position to offer the same kind of assistance they received to others in need.

IN BRIEF**Learn about managing your personal health care**

Bring your lunch and join Stephen Horowitz, family and consumer sciences, and Joanne Navin, certified nurse practitioner, Wednesday (Sept. 22) as they discuss important issues regarding employee health.

Horowitz and Navin will talk about why health care costs continue to rise, and offer some strategies and tools for managing those costs. They will also discuss personal health care and wellness education for BGSU employees.

The discussion will be held at noon in 1 College Park Office Building. Call human resources at 2-8421 or email ohr@bgnet.bgsu.edu for reservations.

The discussion will be repeated at 9:30 a.m. Oct. 19, in 314 Bowen-Thompson Student Union, and at 2 p.m. Oct. 25, in 207 Union.

The event is part of the new "Well Aware" program for employees. Attendees will receive one of the five needed wellness cards toward half-price membership in the Student Recreation Center. Next week's Monitor will have more details on the program.

Annual Technology Fair seeks participants

The BGSU Northwest Ohio Technology Fair is scheduled for 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Oct. 21 in the Bowen-Thompson Student Union's Lenhart Grand Ballroom. Participant sign-up will continue through Tuesday (Sept. 21).

Any technology group, organization or business that would like to participate in the Tech Fair may complete the sign-up form available at www.bgsu.edu/offices/studenttech/techfair/ or contact Kim Fleshman at 2-9459.

BG@100 hosts open forum

A BG@100 Open Forum will be held at 9 a.m. Thursday (Sept. 23) in 314 Bowen-Thompson Student Union. The event provides an opportunity for University employees and students to learn more about the BG@100 project implementing PeopleSoft administrative systems.

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Monday, Sept. 20

CFDR Fall Speaker Series, "Adolescents' Motivations for Abstaining from Sexual Intercourse and Subsequent Sexual Initiation," by Meredith J. Porter, sociology graduate student, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., 207 Bowen-Thompson Student Union. Sponsored by the Center for Family and Demographic Research.

PCA/CITE Support Grant Writing Workshop, 4-5 p.m., 201 Bowen-Thompson Student Union. Sponsored by Partnerships for Community Action and the Center for Innovative and Transformative Education. Call 2-7316 for information.

Tuesday, Sept. 21

Administrative Staff Fall Reception, 2-4 p.m., 202B Bowen-Thompson Student Union. With presentation of Administrative Staff Council scholarships and the Michael R. Ferrari Award.

Henry A. Garrity Documentary Film and Lecture Series: Films in French, "The Hop," 2000, Belgium, directed by Dominique Standaert, 7:30 p.m., Gish Film Theater, first floor, Hanna Hall.

Lecture, "The Universe: Was It Designed or Did It Happen By Chance?" by John Laird, chair of physics and astronomy, 8 p.m., Planetarium (112 Physical Sciences Building). A question-and-answer period will follow the talk. Sponsored by the InterVarsity Christian Fellowship.

Movie, "Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban," 9:30 p.m., Bowen-Thompson Student Union Theater. Sponsored by UAO.

Wednesday, Sept. 22

Brown Bag Lunch, "Constructing a Blind Faith: Identity and Expectation in (Un)familiar Territory," with Denise Menchaca, communication studies, noon-1 p.m., Women's Center, 107 Hanna Hall.

Brown Bag Lunch, "Personal Health Care Management for BGSU Employees," with Stephen Horowitz, family and consumer sciences, and Joanne Navin, certified nurse practitioner, noon-1 p.m., 1 College Park Office Building. Call 2-8421 or email ohr@bgnet.bgsu.edu for reservations.

Faculty Artist Series, William Mathis, trombone, and Laura Melton, piano, 8 p.m., Bryan Recital Hall, Moore Musical Arts Center.

Thursday, Sept. 23

BG@100 Open Forum, 9 a.m., 314 Bowen-Thompson Student Union.

Dissertation Defense, "Fractal Control of Ultrafast Dynamics of Chromophore Aggregates for Light-Harvesting Applications," by Dmitri V. Voronine, photochemical sciences, 1:30 p.m., 132 Overman Hall.

International Film Series, "Ni neibian jidan (What Time Is It There?)," 2001, Taiwan/France, directed by Tsai Ming-Liang, 7:30 p.m., Gish Film Theater, first floor, Hanna Hall.

College of Arts and Sciences Visiting Writer Series, readings by author Frank Chin, 7:30 p.m., Prout Chapel.

Friday, Sept. 24

Movie, "Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban," 7 and 9:30 p.m., Bowen-Thompson Student Union Theater. Sponsored by UAO.

Sunday, Sept. 26

Sunday Matinee, "Chandu the Magician," 1932 film directed by William Cameron Menzies, 3 p.m., Gish Film Theater, first floor, Hanna Hall. With an introduction by Jan Wahl.

Faculty Artist Series, David Okerlund, baritone, and Adelle Eslinger, piano, 3 p.m., Bryan Recital Hall, Moore Musical Arts Center.

Monday, Sept. 27

CFDR Fall Speaker Series, "The Failed Century of the Child: Governing America's Young in the 20th Century," by Judith Sealander, history, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., 314 Bowen-Thompson Student Union. Sponsored by the Center for Family and Demographic Research.

Dissertation Defense, "American Progressivism and the Cold War: The Case of Edward Lamb of Toledo, Ohio, 1901-87," by Roger Chapman, American culture studies, 3 p.m., 222 Administration Building.

Music at the Forefront Series, ConText Performers Collective featuring percussionists Ayano Kataoka and Sylvia Smith, 8 p.m., Bryan Recital Hall, Moore Musical Arts Center. Sponsored by the Mid-American Center for Contemporary Music.

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Continuing Events

Sept. 23-26

Theatre Performance, "All My Sons," by Arthur Miller. Performances are at 8 p.m. Thursday (Sept. 23), Friday (Sept. 24) and Saturday (Sept. 25), and at 2 p.m. Saturday and Sunday (Sept. 26), in the Joe E. Brown Theatre, University Hall. Tickets are \$7 for adults, including students and senior citizens, and \$5 for children under 12. Call 2-2719 for reservations. Sponsored by the Department of Theatre and Film.

Sept. 24-Nov. 23

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

Through Sept. 26

Art Exhibits, "Process=Pattern: The Hand-dyed and Digitally Printed Textiles of

Ana Lisa Hedstrom," and "Intersecting Traditions: Recent Textiles by Cynthia Schira," both exploring the relationship between handwork and electronic technology in textile design, Dorothy Uber Bryan Gallery, Fine Arts Center. Gallery hours are 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday and 1-4 p.m. on Sundays.

Through Sept. 29

Art Exhibit, "Baggage, or the Residual Effects of Dreaming," a collaborative installation by participants in the 2004 Alternative Spring Break-Artist West Coast Road Trip, Bowen-Thompson Student Union Galleries. Gallery hours are 8 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday-Saturday.

Through Oct. 6

Art Exhibit, sculpture by David Collins, Little Gallery, BGSU Firelands. Gallery hours are 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Friday.

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Ethnic Studies. Assistant or Associate Professor. Call the department, 2-2796. Deadline: Oct. 30.

Economics. Assistant Professor (two positions). Call John Hoag, 2-8231. Deadline: Nov. 15.

Romance Languages. Assistant Professor (Spanish). Call Lynn Pearson, 2-2667. Deadline: Nov. 15.

Human Services. Assistant Professor (gerontology). Call Nancy Orel, 2-7768. Deadline: Dec. 3.

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, Sept. 24.

Maintenance Repair Worker 1 (C-78-Ve)—Plant Operations and Maintenance, BGSU Firelands. Pay grade 6. Twelve-month, full-time position.

The following position is advertised on and off campus. The deadline for employees to apply is 1 p.m. Friday, Sept. 24.

Clerical Specialist (C-75-Re)—Office of Development. Pay grade 5 (\$12.27). Part-time position, 18 hours per week, 11 months per year.

ADMINISTRATIVE

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

Director, IDEAL (R-106)—Continuing and Extended Education. Administrative grade 16. Deadline: Oct. 1.

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Biology Coordinator (04-110NF)—Natural and Social Sciences, BGSU Firelands. Administrative grade 13. Deadline: Oct. 8.

Web Application Developer (V-111)—Information Technology Services. Administrative grade 16. Deadline: Oct. 8.

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-088)—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.

Coordinator of 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.

Internal Auditor (M-080)—Internal Auditing and Advisory Services. Administrative grade 15. Review of applications began Sept. 10 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.