

Connexus

Connexus ~ Latin ~ bound together by ties of friendship, kinship, etc.

Spring 2006



Jen Stacy (left) and Lindsay Gottschalk (red shirt) pass out supplies to teachers from Gorenflow and Beauvoir elementary schools in Biloxi, Miss.

Students Aid Hurricane Victims

Tragedy, such as Hurricane Katrina, brings out the best in human nature.

And juniors Lindsay Gottschalk (Minster, Ohio) and Jen Stacy (Fairfield, Ohio) are no exception.

After Katrina, the two early childhood education majors began talking about how they could help the children affected. They turned their words into action by organizing a book drive for the Biloxi public schools in Gulfport, Miss.

Gottschalk and Stacy wanted to get school supplies into the hands of students displaced from their homes and schools, so they set up boxes around campus to collect books and school supplies for all ages. Gottschalk said, "It was amazing to see how many of our classmates,

families and everyone on campus wanted to help."

They gathered 94 boxes of books and school supplies including clothes and shoes. The donations came from hundreds of students, faculty and friends. Dr. Sharon Subreenduth (assistant professor, School of Teaching and Learning) donated many books in conjunction with a previous book-collection effort. BGSU's Child Development Center, Curriculum Resource Center and Martha Gesling Weber Reading Center as well as the Wood County District Public Library and businesses and schools in the students' hometowns were also generous in donating resources.

After a 14-hour drive during fall break, Gottschalk and Stacy visited Beauvoir Elementary School where they distributed the

supplies and books they had collected.

"The teachers flocked to us because they didn't have books. It never occurred to us the teachers didn't have books," said Stacy.

"They were crying and hugging us. I loved seeing the reaction of all the teachers," Gottschalk recalled.

The EDHD students were overwhelmed with the results of their hurricane book drive. Stacy said, "Just being able to say 'I know the difference one person can make' is the motivation for a lot of the things we want to do in the future. I would encourage everyone to make their visions a reality and do something to make a difference."

By: Erdoog Ngur (Senior, Interpersonal Communications)



From the Dean

In these challenging times, I am proud of the work being done within the College of Education and Human Development. Through engagement activities, our faculty, staff and students are reaching beyond the confines of the campus and touching people across our community and the world at large.

Anne Leser, program director for early childhood studies at BGSU Firelands, took nine students to South Africa in July 2005, to gain an understanding of their role in a democracy within a global community. Working with the Amy Biehl Foundation Trust, they spent six days teaching lessons in a primary school, presenting workshops and learning that stewardship is the necessity to assume responsibility and take action on a belief. Everyone came back changed. For more information about the Amy Biehl Foundation Trust, refer to www.amybiehl.org.

There are many new and emerging democracies across the globe, and education faculty from the International Democracy Education Institute (IDEI)—Dr. Alden Craddock (STL), Dr. John Fischer (STL), Dr. Sharon Subreenduth (STL), Dr. Nancy Patterson (STL), Dr. Awad Ibrahim (LPS) and Dr. Alexander Sidorkin (LPS)—are promoting democratic education through partnerships and exchanges with local teachers in Ukraine, Poland, South Africa and Russia. For more information, refer to www.bgsu.edu/colleges/edhd/idei.

In addition, Fulbright Scholar, Dr. Patricia Kubow (LPS) is working with teachers, students, administrators and community members in black townships in the Western Cape province in South Africa. Her work is centered around democracy education and indigenous knowledge (the values, beliefs and practices within a specific culture).

Through this international work, all of these faculty members are an integral part of helping to build these institutions. In return, they are learning more about the countries they work with and about the meaning of democracy itself. Each spring, education students from EDHD are given the opportunity to study abroad at Keele University in Staffordshire, England. This opportunity enables them to experience another culture and education system as well as appreciate similarities and differences. This summer, Dr. Rubén Viramontez-Anguiano (FCS), will begin a short-term study abroad program primarily focused on students interested in working with children, families, schools and communities. For more information, refer to educationabroad.bgsu.edu and click on Study Abroad Programs, then Semester/Academic Year Programs and England-Staffordshire.

From these examples to the EDHD students you will read about who collected and delivered books for hurricane victims, as well as the faculty and students who are doing great service learning and engagement activities throughout our local communities, I am proud to be part of a college that has such a far reaching impact on our global community.

Dr. Josué Cruz Jr.

Your Donations at Work

The contributions we receive from friends and alumni provide a variety of important programs, services and initiatives that would otherwise go unfunded. Here are some of the activities that are made possible through your generosity:

- The Literacy in the Park conference on March 18, 2006 in the Bowen-Thompson Student Union (sponsored by EDHD's Martha Gesling Weber Reading Center), where families can spend the day listening to renowned authors, watching children's theatre and participating in a variety of "make it-take it" literacy activities.
- The Ohio Association of Gerontology and Education conference on March 31, 2006 in the Bowen-Thompson Student Union (co-sponsored by EDHD and the School of Family and Consumer Sciences) entitled "Social and Generational Justice: Personal and Professional Responsibilities." Students and professionals will continue their work with Ohio's aging network to advance education and research in the field of aging.
- The Literacy Serve and Learn project, an after-school tutoring program in conjunction with the Greater Toledo Urban League, Toledo Public Schools and the Bowling Green City Schools.
- Service-learning and engagement opportunities such as teaching, interior design and family intervention support for the Perrysburg Heights Community Association.

YOU Make a BIG Difference

The College of Education and Human Development has been doing great things for our students, faculty, alumni and community for years, and with your help we can do even more.

On Jan. 23, 2006, current BGSU students will begin calling our alumni as part of the annual telefund drive, and it's important that you fully recognize and understand what a tremendous impact your contribution will have.

So much has been accomplished over the years with the help and generosity of our alumni and donors—in fact, many of our greatest achievements would not have been possible without the financial support provided by people like you. Scholarships have been created, community outreach efforts have been initiated and expanded, and teaching and research methods have been continually updated to ensure that we remain on the cutting edge.

Shrinking state support and continual budget cuts make your gift to the college even more critical at this juncture. Your contribution makes a huge difference no matter the amount. Each and every dollar helps us maintain and enhance the reputation we have earned for high-quality programs and top-notch graduates.

Thank you for your help!

Recent Graduates: Double Your Money!

If you graduated between 2000-2005, your donation to the college can go twice as far this year thanks to the generosity of education graduate Wiley Blevins '87.

An EDHD Advocates Board member, Blevins will match any contribution you make in an effort to endow a book scholarship for first-generation students.

EDHD graduate and vice president, editorial director at MacMillan/McGraw-Hill Wiley Blevins, known for his spirit as a University cheerleader, shows his continuous support by extending a telefund challenge to recent graduates.



Focus on an Advocate Sherrie Jones Leads by Example

Dr. Sherrie Jones '72, '76 continually looks for ways to make the world a little better. Although she calls Gross Pointe Farms, Mich., her home, she spends most of her time on the road, traveling overseas for business or making frequent trips to BGSU to volunteer. No matter where she finds herself, she always finds time to focus on how she can make a difference and be a positive role model.

She began her career in education, serving as a teacher, principal, administrator and director of curriculum and technology before moving on to the world of business. Because of her entrepreneurial spirit, she started her own business and now owns several successful national and international companies.

An avid supporter of both the College of EDHD and the University for many years, she is a member and current chair of the College of EDHD's Advocates Board, holds membership in the Presidents Club, serves on the Foundation Board of Directors, is chair of the board's major gifts and planned giving committee and is heavily involved in the Music Plus program. She is also actively involved in community programs such as Rotary Club.

Jones is especially supportive when it comes to helping students. She created a scholarship years ago that now annually supports four to six students in the college. She enjoys meeting "her students" and sharing her expertise with them whenever possible.

Jones agreed to serve on the Advocates Board because, "the country needs quality education, and the best way to obtain that is to turn out quality teachers and administrators. BGSU's College of Education and Human Development is one of the best at doing just that."

Because she feels the leadership of the college is in very capable hands, Jones wanted to support the administration's efforts. "Dean Cruz has a strong vision for the college, is an excellent advocate for the students and possesses the leadership skills necessary to continue moving the college in the right direction," she said. "I wanted to be a part of supporting all that."

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Scholarship Makes an Impact

Nanci Ickes, a student in the School of Family and Consumer Sciences, came to BGSU from North Olmsted, Ohio, to make a difference in the lives of others. She reached her goal, to impact her peers through health, in part because of a scholarship she received.

The scholarship allowed her to work on completing her senior honors project instead of working those hours at a job. The result was a compelling display on campus educating students about responsible decision-making regarding alcohol.

"The scholarship has helped me pursue my goals and aspirations of being a health promotion specialist," Ickes said. "My scholarship contributors have aided in the well being of my peers by financially supporting me through this scholarship and continuing to improve our wonderful BGSU."



A student takes a look at the display created by Nanci Ickes to educate students about responsible decision-making regarding alcohol.

Focus on Faculty Congratulations to Dr. John Fischer

Dr. John Fischer (assistant professor, School of Teaching and Learning) received the 2005 Outstanding Young Scholar Award at BGSU. The Office of Sponsored Programs and Research presents the University-wide award annually to a young faculty member who has demonstrated scholarly ability and potential significance of scholarly accomplishments and efforts in security external funding. Previous winners from EDHD include Dr. Daniel Brahier and Dr. Jodi Haney.

Did You Know?

The College of Education and Human Development is:

- first in number of initial teacher preparation (bachelor) degrees granted in Ohio
- first in the number of total education degrees (includes advanced degrees and specialists) granted in Ohio
- 17th in the number of initial teacher preparation degrees granted in the United States
- 14th in the number of total education degrees granted in the United States

Source: American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education's (AACTE) 2004 Professional Education Data System Report