Bipartisan support from several Ohio elected officials is helping the Institute for Child and Family Policy (ICFP). The institute is reaching out to state legislators and members of Ohio’s Family and Children First Council, a survey of middle school-aged children for the BG Partners organization, a comprehensive program evaluation for the Ottawa County Juvenile Court, and additional evaluation for the Lucas County Kinship Navigator Program and Adopt America Network. Through each of these projects, the institute is able to provide services and resources not otherwise available to the various agencies as they explore new projects, the institute is able to provide services and resources not otherwise available to the various agencies as they explore new development of a program evaluation model for the Lucas County Kinship Navigator Program and Adopt America Network. Through each of these projects, the institute is able to provide services and resources not otherwise available to the various agencies as they explore new evaluation and planning programs for the Lucas County Kinship Navigator Program and Adopt America Network. Through each of these projects, the institute is able to provide services and resources not otherwise available to the various agencies as they explore new development of a program evaluation model for the Lucas County Kinship Navigator Program and Adopt America Network. Through each of these projects, the institute is able to provide services and resources not otherwise available to the various agencies as they explore new evaluation and planning programs for the Lucas County Kinship Navigator Program and Adopt America Network.

External funding combined with the generosity and cooperation of our faculty, staff, alumni and donors, enable us to continue to positively affect the lives of thousands of people, now and in the future. Thank you so much for your support in this important endeavor.

Josué Cruz Jr.
From the Dean

Institute reaches out to community

The School of Family and Consumer Sciences’ new Institute for Child and Family Policy (ICFP) is providing a myriad of services and resources to agencies in the local community and across the state of Ohio. The institute’s mission is to strengthen connections between research, policy and practice through non-partisan summaries of topical family and child research, insightful policy analysis and support for research on the impacts of social policy on children and their families. In this respect, the institute serves as a primary form of outreach for the College of Education and Human Development and reflects a commitment to providing research and services that will improve the quality of life for children in Ohio.

The institute has already taken on a number of projects including development of a program evaluation model for the Wood County Family and Children First Council, a survey of middle school-aged children for the BG Partners organization, a comprehensive program evaluation for the Ottawa County Juvenile Court, and additional evaluation and planning programs for the Lucas County Kinship Navigator Program and Adopt America Network. Through each of these projects, the institute is able to provide services and resources not otherwise available to the various agencies as they explore new policy and programmatic interventions.

ICFP also is reaching out to state legislators and members of Ohio’s Congressional delegation. Institute staff are presently developing a number of policy briefs in response to legislative inquiries. In addition to these briefs, ICFP will conduct an initial seminar addressing the issue of school readiness for state legislators and legislative staff this March. The only policy institute of its kind in Ohio, ICFP has received wide bipartisan support from several Ohio elected officials including Ohio State Senator Randy Gardner ’91, ’57 and Rep. Robert Latta ’78.

For additional information, refer to www.bgsu.edu/colleges/edhd/icfp.
Focus on an Advocate: Myrna Bryan

Myrna Bryan has participated in this year's efforts, making a difference. “In some ways the Poland-Ohio partnership embodies the core ideals of the program,” said Deborah Price, deputy secretary of the U.S. Department of Education, during her remarks at this year’s World Congress in Poland. Representatives from nearly every state in the United States and from more than 90 countries attended this year’s congress including IDEI faculty member Dr. Joseph Nemeth, director of BGSU’s Martha Gesling Weber Reading Center from 1965 to 1985, was one of her teachers. After receiving her bachelor’s degree in elementary education and master’s degree in education from David and Myrna Bryan (see related story above).

Gesling Weber Reading Center, thanks to a generous donation from the Toledo (Ohio) Public Schools, Myrna is invited, but far from inactive, especially in education. During her career, she served as an elementary teacher, reading teacher, consultant and supervisor, as well as director of Toledo Public Schools’ diagnostic reading center.

After receiving her bachelor’s degree in elementary education and master’s degree in education administration from the University of Toledo, she became one of the first people in the Toledo area to receive her state certification as a reading supervisor. Dr. Joseph Nemeth, director of BGSU’s Martha Gesling Weber Reading Center from 1965 to 1985, was one of her teachers and mentors. She met David, her husband of 35 years, when they were teachers and mentors.

LITERACY STUDIO: Where research and reading come together

A literacy studio soon will become a reality for the Martha Gesling Weber Reading Center, thanks to a generous donation from David and Myrna Bryan (see related story above).

“Myra and I believe that education is essential. The college is accomplishing so many wonderful things under Dean Jessup Cruz’s leadership. We wanted to be a part of creating a place where reading can be researched scientifically and students can work together with kids to improve literacy skills and teaching strategies.”

The Literacy Studio is expected to serve approximately 1,000 pre-service teachers, graduate students and faculty on a regular basis, when it opens next fall.

For pre-service teachers in all areas (early childhood, middle childhood, adolescent, young adult and intervention services), the studio will enable them to participate in, teach and experiment with a wide array of the literacy-based strategies, materials, technology and instructional techniques. With state-of-the-art technology, the studio will provide distance learning by providing access to K-12 classrooms, enabling teachers to model a variety of literacy approaches. This will provide an enhanced educational experience in literacy not only for the pre-service teachers, but also for their future students.

Additional information about the literacy studio, contact Trinka Messenheimer at 419-372-7395 or trinka@bgsu.edu.

IDEI RECEIVES $1 MILLION FOR DEMOCRATIC EDUCATION

From Poland to Ukraine and South Africa to Russia, the International Democratic Education Institute (IDEI) is working to educate the world about democracy.

Recently, IDEI was awarded more than $1 million from the Higher Education Development program office of the U.S. Agency for International Development.

The grant will enable the institute to continue its Civic Education Partnership Initiative in Lebanon and Morocco. This partnership will assist educators in developing educational curriculum to promote democratic citizenship.

Based on the positive comments and variety of activities the faculty members

have participated in this year, their efforts are making a difference. The institute also participates in many engagement activities on a local and international level. Five educators from South Africa visited Bowling Green this past fall to participate in the Civic Education Partnership Initiative. The purpose of the South African educators’ visit was to share experiences with educational transformation and focus on school development and empowerment.

For additional information about IDEI, refer to www.bgsu.edu/colleges/edhd/idei.

Spring semester marks college TELEFUND CALLS

The generosity of the College of Education and Human Development alumni is clearly evident each year when student telefund callers ask for support for the college.

This spring semester, one of our students will be calling to inform you about college activities and to ask for your assistance.

The student will update you about the new master’s degree in cross-cultural and international education, the exciting opportunity to visit campus for Literacy in the Park in March or the alumni dance gala in April, and the innovative research and work that is being done by the Institute for Family and Child Policy.

We deeply appreciate your support and involvement. Your role remains key as we strive to provide outstanding educational opportunities to our students. We ask you to consider supporting the college when the telefund caller calls.

SPORT MANAGEMENT ALUMNI OFFERS MATCH

Derek Eiler, a 1993 sport management alumnus, is offering an extra incentive for sport management graduates to make an impact in their program. Eiler, who is chief operating officer for The Collegiate Licensing Company in Atlanta, will match dollar-for-dollar gifts made to the sport management program during the college telefund appeal. Student callers will ask sport management alumni to support the network appeal.

He has established a fund at the University to support a sport management network. Funds raised will be used to create a stronger network of sport management alumni, by connecting alumni with current students and supporting events and activities, such as an annual symposium for sport management.

Monies raised through the telefund are counted toward Building Dreams: The Centennial Campaign for Bowling Green State University. As of Nov. 30, 2006, the campaign has raised nearly 90 percent of its $120 million goal.

Dance gala, events planned

The BGSU Dance Program and the University Performing Dancers (UPD), which are part of the School of Human Movement, Sport, and Leisure Studies (IMSSLS), are keeping busy this spring, with performances and planned activities.

On April 13, the program will host the Alumni Gala performance at the Whitney Dance Studio, 222 Eppler North. IMSSLS faculty will choreograph the dances and alumni will perform.

The School of IMSSLS in conjunction with the Department of Theatre & Film will host the Gold Dance Festival April 20-22 on the BGSU campus. The festival, which is open to students and the community, will feature a dedicated showcase and an audition class. The events will be held in Eppler Complex and the Eva Marie Saint Theatre.

For more information, contact Tammy Starr at tammyan@bgsu.edu.

EVENT FOCUSES ON FAMILY LITERACY

The Martha Gesling Weber Reading Center will host the second annual Literacy in the Park on Saturday, March 31. The event, which will be held from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Lernhart Grand Ballroom, Bowen-Thompson Student Union, promotes family literacy.

The conference provides an opportunity for families to spend the day listening to renowned authors, watching children’s theatre and participating in a variety of “make it-take it” literacy activities.

Marc Brown, author and illustrator of more than 100 children’s books including his best-known “Arthur” books, will be the featured guest. He will also be available for autographs.

The event is free and will include snacks, beverages and activities for readers of all ages. Additional special guests also will attend throughout the day.

For more information, contact the Martha Gesling Weber Reading Center at 419-372-7323 or reading@bgsu.edu.

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