

October 15, 2004

Students using fall break to help restore northwest Indiana prairie

A group of Ball State students and staff will spend their upcoming fall break working on a project to restore the state's natural prairie in northwest Indiana.

Nine students and an adviser will visit the Kankakee Sands Nature Conservancy near Morocco, Ind., Oct. 16-18 on an alternative fall break. The group will work at the conservancy turning abandoned farmland back into natural prairie grounds. Students will be assisting with stump and decayed crop removal, seed cleaning and planting.

The trip should provide students with an opportunity to learn more about Indiana's history as well as offer an opportunity to better understand restoration efforts, said J.R. Jamison, alternative break programming director for Ball State's Office of Leadership and Service Learning.

"The purpose of the alternative break program is to connect students to communities and raise awareness in terms of civic engagement and community service, as well as offer an alternative to traditional college student breaks," he said.

Surrounded by nearly 16,000 acres of pristine protected areas, the Kankakee Sands project office and [preserve](#) will reconnect four protected areas, thereby restoring a large contiguous segment of prairie. Before settlers arrived in Indiana in the late 1700s and early 1800s, Indiana consisted of more than two million acres of prairie. Today, all that remains is a few scattered remnants.

The first university-sponsored alternative break program in nine years was last spring break when a group of Ball State students visited Caretta, W.Va., one of the poorest rural areas in the nation. Students worked on a variety of community service projects, including roofing and painting houses and assisting with an enrichment project at the local high school.

"The program was such a success, and the impact the program had on the students was enormous," Jamison said. "Our office formed an advisory board over the summer to explore more alternative break options. Our students have told us it is something they want to do."

The alternative spring break program will return in 2005, sending a group of students to Caretta, W.Va., and another to Chicago, Ill., to work with inner city youth through an art program.

Students participating in the fall break project include Yunghee Lee, South Korea; Jackie Dulian, Round Lake, Ill.; Glenn Sanford, Indianapolis; Hillary Johnson, Decatur; Alysha Oglesby, Selma; Katy Dennison, Noblesville; Natalie Nauman, Marion; Josh Clauser, Ft. Wayne.

Co-adviser Becky Konoyima, a graduate student from Marion, also will participate.

Two student groups nominated for online journalism awards

Two groups of Ball State students are finalists for the fifth annual Online Journalism Awards.

Given annually by the Online News Association (ONA) and the University of Southern California's Annenberg School for Communication, the awards honor excellence in digital journalism.

[NewsLink Indiana](#), centerpiece of the university's digital journalism convergence initiative, was nominated for best student Web site. Additionally, the Friendship Project, a class project in the journalism department, is under consideration in the student journalism category.

Students participating in the NewsLink Indiana program practice convergence or the sharing and cross-promoting of content from a variety of media through newsroom collaborations and outside partnerships.

NewsLink is part of the Center for Media Design, cornerstone of the \$20 million iCommunication initiative funded by Lilly Endowment Inc. Located in the Ball Communication Building, the center serves as a research, assessment and development hub for digital media applications in education, industry and communities.

The [Friendship Project](#), created by students in a class taught during spring semester by journalism instructors Pamela Leidig-Farmen and Larry Dailey, profiled eight pairs of local residents who share their views about overlapping facets of their relationships.

The winners will be announced Nov. 13 at the ONA conference. The winning sites will receive a special plaque and a certificate, while finalists will receive a certificate.

Memorial concert Oct. 21 to honor former business professor

Ball State is bringing renowned pianist Hakan Toker to campus Oct. 21 for a memorial concert to honor a former business professor.

The Erdogan Kumcu Memorial Concert will be at 7 p.m. at the Alumni Center. "Transformations: An Evening with Pianist Hakan Toker" is free and open to the public.

Kumcu, who died earlier this year after teaching for 21 years in the Department of Marketing and Management, was instrumental in developing the international education component in the Miller College of Business. At the time of his death, he was the director of Global Media Network, an interactive distance education system that allows students and faculty around the world to interact in real time for classes, seminars and meetings.

The concert also will officially begin a campaign for the Erdogan Kumcu International Education Fund, which will provide opportunities for students to study abroad and will help to sponsor exchanges with international universities. Contributions to the fund may be made at the concert or may be sent to the Erdogan Kumcu International Education Fund, Ball State University Foundation, P.O. Box 672, Muncie, IN, 47304.

Toker's music has been described as provocative, stunning and played with both wit and energy. His original compositions reflect his classical training in an avant-garde manner that includes a trace of romanticism. His repertoire ranges from classical and jazz to ethnic and electronic music. A master of improvisation, Toker often interacts with his audience as he plays themes and weaves totally unrelated elements into an incredible aesthetic whole.

A graduate of the Indiana University School of Music, Toker has played in cities across the United States as well as in the Ukraine, Turkey and Russia. He is a current recipient of an Indiana Arts Council Grant to perform throughout Indiana.

For reservations, contact Ball State's Bureau of Business Research at mekrigelski@bsu.edu or 5-5926.

Trustee among six outstanding Hoosier women to be honored

Ball State Trustee Ceola Digby-Berry is among six Indiana women to be recognized Oct. 27 for their outstanding professional and personal accomplishments.

The recipients of the 2004 Indiana Women of Achievement Award are Indiana women, by birth or adoption, who have enriched the lives of others through their accomplishments.

Recipients were chosen by the Task Force on the Status of Women from Ball State's College of Sciences and Humanities.

Award winners are:

- Vaneta Becker, distinction in service to government, has represented the Evansville area since 1981 in the Indiana House of Representatives, where she is a member of the public health committee.
- Margaret Curtis, distinction in advocacy for reproductive rights, is a longtime volunteer in the Muncie community. Curtis, a Muncie resident, is the founding president of Planned Parenthood of Delaware County.
- Ceola Digby-Berry, distinction in human services and higher education, is a licensed psychologist and a health service provider in psychology. Digby-Berry has private practices in Muncie and New Castle. In 1999, she was appointed to the Board of Trustees at Ball State, where she earned her master's degree and doctorate.
- Katherine (Kate) Endress, distinction in academics and leadership, is a senior at Ball State majoring in entrepreneurship. She is a member of Ball State's women's basketball team, ranking seventh on the school's scoring list. Endress is also a volunteer for Big Brothers-Big Sisters of East Central Indiana. Endress is originally from Evansville.
- Lori Jacquemin, distinction in academics and leadership, is a senior at Ball State majoring in biochemistry and pre-medicine. Her student leadership accomplishments include serving as president of the Panhellenic Council, working as a chemistry and biology tutor in the Ball State Learning Center and serving as a Cardinal Leadership and Service seminar mentor.
- Margret G. Robb, distinction in service to government, worked in private law practices for 20 years until 1998 when she was appointed a judge in the Fifth District of the Indiana State Court of Appeals. Robb graduated from the Indiana University School of Law-Indianapolis in 1978. She currently lives in West Lafayette.

Recipients will be honored during ceremonies and dinner at the Alumni Center. Cost of the dinner is \$30.

For more information, contact Fred Meyer, political science professor, at 5-8794.

Family endows scholarship to honor former Burriss teacher

Friends and family members of the late Nancy J. Mannies have created a scholarship in her honor.

The Nancy J. Mannies Memorial Scholarship will provide scholarships to graduating seniors from Burriss Laboratory School and students in teacher education at Ball State. The scholarship was created with an initial gift of \$25,000 from friends and several family members, including her husband, Morry; daughter, Julie; and son, Jeffrey.

Nancy J. Mannies was born in Detroit, Mich., in 1938, attended Burriss Laboratory School and graduated from Peru High School in 1956. She received a bachelor's degree in English and journalism in 1960 and a master's degree in journalism in 1969 from Ball State.

Mrs. Mannies was a Ball State professor of education and a social studies teacher at Burriss from 1969 to 1990. She was also editor of the Ball State Alumnus magazine from 1962 to 1968. She died in 2003.

Nancy and Morry Mannies met while attending Peru High School. Their children are Burriss graduates. Since 1956, Morry Mannies, a former speech professor at Ball State, has been the "Voice of the Ball State Cardinals" on WLBC-FM.

The first scholarship recipient is Elizabeth Williamson, a 2004 Burriss graduate, who is majoring in elementary and special education at Ball State.

Nursing study finds socialization key to online learning success

Since online learners may feel isolated by distance, increased personal interaction with their classmates and instructors is important for the education to succeed, according to a Ball State study.

Nursing faculty members Nagia Ali, Kay Hodson-Carlton and Marilyn Ryan interviewed nursing graduate students confidentially to understand their experiences with online learning. The interviews revealed interaction and socialization are important for effective online learning.

"Online learning forces students to participate," Ali said. "They must participate to succeed in the courses."

Students reported a conscientious effort to do good work, since classmates can read all of their assignments in a permanent online environment. Such interaction fosters competition and promotes learning, according to the study.

"We feed off one another and learn who does well in the class and try to do as well or better than that person," one student said. "I think it accelerates learning."

Students also said convenience and flexibility were the main reasons they liked online distance learning. Many said that timely feedback from their instructors on technical or coursework questions was very important.

Interviews with 20 graduate students showed that faculty must work at making the online environment comfortable for students, Ryan said. For example, she suggested using personalized e-mails.

Students also told the study's authors about some of the drawbacks of online distance learning.

"There are some disadvantages, such as computer and technical problems and a lack of face-to-face interaction," Ryan said. "Some students may feel isolated just looking into a screen. One student felt that it was just like 'typing into space or something.'"

The study draws on Ball State's strengths in information technology and nursing. Ball State was among the earliest universities in the nation to offer a technology-based online nursing master's degree.

Community-based education, public service topic for talk

"The Muncie Urban Design Studio: Combining Community-Based Education and Public Service" is the topic of an Oct. 26 presentation.

Led by Tony Costello, Ball State's Irving Distinguished Professor of Architecture, the presentation is designed to assist students in better understanding many of the social problems facing the Muncie community.

Sponsored by Ball State's chapter of Phi Kappa Phi, an all-discipline honor society, the presentation begins at 4 p.m. in the Whiting Business Building, room 144. After the presentation, which is free and open to the public, there will be an informal reception.

Established in 1980, the Muncie Urban Design Studio is part of Ball State's nationally recognized architecture program in the College of Architecture and Planning. This nationally distinguished program mixes community-based education and public service opportunities for its design and planning students.

In his presentation, Costello will review case studies involving partnerships between local organizations and the studio.

Bush, Kerry reaching public on entertainment television shows

It's not surprising that presidential candidates are using comedy shows, talk shows and other entertainment-oriented television programs to get their messages to the public, says a Ball State telecommunications instructor.

President George W. Bush and John Kerry, the Democratic nominee, and their wives, are making the rounds on various television entertainment shows.

"Politicians love to be interviewed by entertainers rather than journalists," said Phil Bremen, a telecommunications professor and former NBC television news correspondent. "It's not just the opportunity to answer softball questions and be seen in soft, cozy surroundings. It's also the opportunity to reach viewers who are looking for entertainment, not news."

In the last several weeks, both the President and his wife and the Kerrys have appeared on "Dr. Phil"; Laura Bush has been interviewed by Jay Leno on "The Tonight Show" and Larry King; and John Edwards, Kerry's running mate, has made appearances on "Live with Regis and Kelly," "The View," and "The Tonight Show."

Bremen said that in the majority of the shows, both candidates were able to show off their strengths in a relaxed fashion.

"All you had to do was glance at President Bush's appearance on 'Dr. Phil.' The video told the story," Bremen said. "Unlike his first debate with Kerry, the president looked relaxed and comfortable. And why not? He was speaking at his Texas ranch, not a chilly, neutral television studio. He was wearing a short-sleeved shirt and seated on his own sofa, shoulder-to-shoulder with his smiling wife."

Campus offers artful variety of tricks and treats for Halloween

The University Film Series and the College of Fine Arts are scaring up some Halloween festivities sure to fright and delight guys and ghouls of all ages:

- **Museum of Art Annual Halloween Party – 6 to 8 p.m., Oct. 29.** In celebration of the Halloween season and Ball State's Family Weekend, the museum will host its annual Halloween Party. Events for all ages include blues music by Mike Milligan and Steam Shovel, a costume contest, museum scavenger hunt and refreshments.
- **America's Hometown Band Spooktacular Concert – 4 p.m., Oct. 31, Emens Auditorium.** Families and children are invited to enjoy music by the Muncie Civic Band. Tickets are available at the Emens Box Office, open 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.
- **Special Halloween Staging of Bat Boy – 7:30 p.m., Oct. 31, Strother Theatre.** For mature audiences only. Based on a tabloid news story, "Bat Boy" is a musical comedy/horror show about a half-boy/half-bat creature found in a cave in West Virginia. Brought out into the world, Bat Boy tries to fit in with the small-minded folk of Hope Falls and discovers that "normal people" aren't always what they seem. Audience members are encouraged to attend in their Halloween costumes and will have a chance to win prizes.
- **"Freaks" – 7:30 p.m., Oct. 31, Pruis Hall.** This film is about circus freaks, including Siamese twins and a bearded lady, in which a midget takes gruesome revenge on a bareback rider who betrayed him. Studio executives found the original version too shocking and cut 25 minutes out. "Freaks" is not rated but was banned by several countries on its release. Free and open to the public.

Student Technology Incubator topic for Oct. 19 Tech Tuesday

Ball State's Student Technology Incubator will be the topic of the Oct. 19 Tech Tuesday session at Muncie's Horizon Convention Center.

Suzanne Plesha, project manager for the Student Technology Incubator Program at the Center for Media Design, is speaker. The 4:30 p.m. program is free and open to the public.

As manufacturing jobs move out of the region, East Central Indiana is becoming more economically diverse by necessity. Some areas showing the greatest potential for future economic growth are in the technology and digital media sectors.

A pilot program at Ball State's Center for Media Design is looking at ways to foster entrepreneurship among college students by allowing them to identify, develop and ultimately launch small business ideas while they are still in school.

Tech Tuesday is a networking and technology information program sponsored by the Muncie-Delaware County Community Technology Initiative. Meetings are at 4:30 p.m. on the third Tuesday of each month.

For more information, contact Sara Lewis, 751-9116, or slewis@muncie.com.

Poet to give reading Oct. 25 as part of Visiting Writers Series

Poet Marilyn Kallet will read at 7 p.m. Oct. 25 in the Art and Journalism Building, room 225, as part of the Visiting Writers Series sponsored by Lilly II and the English department's creative writing program.

A book signing and reception follows. Both events are free and open to the public.

Kallet is the author of nine books, including her most recent collection of poems, "How to Get Heat without Fire," and a book for young readers, "One for Each Night: Chanukah Tales and Recipes." She co-edited "Sleeping with One Eye Open: Women Writers and the Art of Survival."

Her poems have appeared in hundreds of literary magazines, including New Letters, Prairie Schooner and Tar River Poetry. She is the poetry editor for New Millennium Writings. In 2005, BkMk Press, University of Missouri-Kansas City, will publish her next volume of poems, "Lure," and the University of Tennessee Press will publish an essay collection she co-edited, "The Art of College Teaching: 28 Takes."

Kallet holds the Hodges Chair for Distinguished Teaching at the University of Tennessee, where she is a professor of English.

In the News

Bryan Byers, criminal justice and criminology professor

Be careful when visiting the Sunshine State. The Florida Times Union of Jacksonville reported Oct. 7 that more than 130,000 Floridians over age 50 are carrying guns.

The newspaper quoted Bryan Byers' comment to the Christian Science Monitor that gun ownership provides peace of mind.

"People become more sensitive to the threat of victimization as they age," Byers said. "The fear of crime eventually outweighs the reality."

Dom Caristi, telecommunications professor

Dan Rather's troubles didn't keep viewers from tuning in to CBS for the Oct. 1 debate between President George W. Bush and Sen. John Kerry.

In its morning-after report, the Atlanta Journal-Constitution noted that CBS finished second in the debate derby despite the controversy touched off by the use of unverified documents by Rather in a report that questioned Bush's military record.

However, Dom Caristi said much of the network's audience might have been drawn in by "Survivor," the same way NBC benefited with strong lead-ins from "Joey" and "Will & Grace."

"As frustrating as it is to news people, the biggest effect on news ratings is often the show that precedes or follows the news," Caristi said.

Tony Edmonds, history professor

Tony Edmonds told a North Carolina newspaper he's not surprised that some National Guard members have had enough of deployments. The Asheville Citizen-Times reported Oct. 10 that many Guard members from Western North Carolina are quitting.

"I'm convinced the major reason a lot of people in small towns went into the Reserve or the Guard was the financial aspect of it," Edmonds said.

Edmonds said rural areas remain strong contributors to the armed services for another reason.

"There is a strong sense of 'my country needs me,' a strong sense of patriotism in these areas," he said.

That sentiment can wane, though, as an engagement drags on with no end in sight.

"The ultimate reason the U.S. withdrew from Vietnam was that it dragged out too long and too many people were dying," Edmonds said.

Ann Leitze, Urban Semester director

A Ball State program to prepare students to teach in urban schools was the topic of an Oct. 11 WISH-TV (Channel 8) report.

Since 1997, the Urban Semester program has been sending groups of students into Indianapolis Public Schools for specific on-the-job training. Ann Leitze, Urban Semester director, said about half of the 130 students who have been through the program are teaching in urban schools.

"We can teach about something in our methods class," Leitze said. "The students walk down the hall to their elementary school classroom and, in some cases, apply it immediately."

James Lowry, marketing professor

James Lowry spoke with the Birmingham News Sept. 23 on a local company's plans to sell six enclosed malls so it can develop more open-air shopping plazas.

Lowry said the sale is part of a trend toward open-air plazas, such as The Summit in the Alabama city, which offers a Main Street feel and storefront parking. Nationwide, new construction of open plazas outpaces that of enclosed malls 10-to-1.

"The lifestyle centers are becoming very popular," Lowry said. "They attract upscale stores, have really nice architecture and are more appealing to some people than the traditional enclosed block."

Also, Lowry's comments to CBS MarketWatch were quoted in an Oct. 12 Alameda (Calif.) Times-Star article about drawing the line when it comes to children's costumes. Lowry said that over the last decade, Halloween has become an adult holiday.

David Pearson, physical education professor

Young consumers have helped turn energy drinks into a lucrative niche for beverage companies, according to an Oct. 14 report in the Journal News, covering Westchester, Rockland and Putnam counties of suburban New York.

David Pearson told the Journal News that mixing the drinks with booze is dangerous.

"The combination of stimulants in some energy drinks and the depressants in alcohol could cause cardiopulmonary or cardiovascular failures," Pearson said.

Claudia Updike, speech pathology and audiology professor

Teachers find pupils tune in when the mikes are turned on, according to the Oct. 2 Chicago Tribune.

School officials across the nation are buying pricey sound systems to amplify the teacher's voice to improve behavior, attention and performance in the classroom. The Tribune cited Claudia Updike's three-year study of elementary school students whose teachers have been using microphones and speakers.

"I've seen an increase in attention skills, ability to understand and definitely in academics," Updike said. "It should be standard equipment, and that's what everybody is pushing for right now."

On Campus

Industry and Technology hosts high school visitors over fall break

The Department of Industry and Technology will welcome more than 150 high school students to campus for its annual fall conference Oct. 19.

While the rest of campus is quiet for fall break, students, parents and teachers visiting from nine high schools will tour the university and learn about undergraduate programs in the department.

The highlight of the day will be various team competitions, with students designing unique vehicles, creating new packaging systems, solving calculator problems and working on other technology-based projects.

Most events will take place within the Applied Technology building.

Students form first state chapter of American Society of Microbiology

A new student group plans to bring speakers to campus in the coming months to discuss crime scene investigation, bioterrorism, vaccines and biotechnology jobs.

The student chapter of the American Society for Microbiology (BSUASM), organized by John McKillip, a microbiology professor, consists of undergraduate, graduate and doctoral-level students majoring in biology. The chapter is the first in Indiana.

McKillip believes there will be a strong working relationship between BSUASM-sponsored activities and those of the new biotechnology certification program at Ball State.

"There is now a critical mass of faculty and students at Ball State with interest and enthusiasm in areas of microbiology and biotechnology," he said. "This new chapter will be a terrific means for students across multiple disciplines to learn more about what these fields have to offer."

The chapter also plans cooperative service activities with other student organizations, including a joint venture with the student members of the American Chemical Society.

For more information on the chapter, go to www.bsu.edu/web/asm/index2.html.

University community contributes \$3,200 to assist family after fire

The Ball State community has raised more than \$3,200 to help the family of Sylvia Ewert, administrative coordinator in the Department of Accounting.

Beverly Rowe, accounting professor, started an assistance fund after the family lost its home and belongings in a Sept. 20 fire.

"The funds have helped them greatly get through this transition period between losing everything and settling with the insurance company," Rowe said.

The family has also received gifts of clothing, a few kitchen items, restaurant gift certificates and phone cards. The Ewerts are currently in a fully furnished apartment, which includes kitchen utensils, dishes and linens.

"They were absolutely overwhelmed and continue to be exceedingly grateful for all the assistance, support and love they've received from the Miller College of Business community and the Ball State community at large," Rowe said.

The Ewerts will be rebuilding the same house by the same builder on their existing lot. Demolition of the old house began last week.

Rowe said any further gifts should be given directly to Ewert.

Career Center to present panel discussion on graduate studies

Each year at least 14 percent of all Ball State seniors go directly to graduate school.

To help students explore this option, the Career Center is sponsoring a panel discussion from 3:30 to 5 p.m. Oct. 28 in the Fine Arts Building Recital Hall (room 217).

Students will receive information, resources and tools to help them navigate the graduate school exploration and application process. The program features insights from current graduate students representing various academic programs and Mary Kite, associate dean of the Graduate School.

For more information, contact Sarah Jones or Joe Goodwin at 5-2430.

Free student-focused technology workshops available at library

Technology Training Support Services in Bracken Library will offer a series of free workshops designed especially for students. Attendees will learn how to manage ideas and communication endeavors by using software more efficiently.

Topics to be covered in the first round of workshops include creating outlines and tables of contents using Microsoft Word, inserting multimedia elements into Word and PowerPoint documents, and moving Web content to the iWeb server. The workshops will be held in Bracken Library, room 8.

These student-focused workshops will be offered in the late afternoon and evening, repeated numerous times to provide opportunities for as many students as possible. For a complete schedule, visit www.bsu.edu/techtrain

Spotlight

Contracts and Grants

Jennifer Blackner, Theatre and Dance, \$6,208 from Arts Place Inc.

Jeffrey Clark, Physiology and Health Science, \$70,500 from Centers for Disease Control

Earl Conn, emeritus, Journalism, \$10,000 from National Endowment for the Arts

James Glass, Architecture, \$43,124 from Indiana Department of Natural Resources

Dwight Hymans, Social Work; **Mary Germani**, Speech Pathology and Audiology; **Kay Hodson-Carlton**, Nursing; and **Maria Williams-Hawkins**, Telecommunications, \$12,820 from American Speech-Language-Hearing Association

Arlene Ignico, Physical Education, grants of \$128 and \$1,055 from Head Start Action Inc.

Ronald Morris, History, \$2,000 from Indiana Humanities Council

David Ober and **James Watson**, Physics and Astronomy, \$110,471 from National Science Foundation

Robert M. Schwartz, Geography, \$200 from Natural Hazards Research and Applications

Gerald Wagner, Teachers College, \$522,234 from Indiana Department of Education

Wayne Zage, Computer Science, \$134,154 from Arxan Technologies Inc.

Christian Zenbower, Music, \$463 from The Wayne County, Indiana, Foundation Inc.

Recognitions

Six faculty members in the Department of Information Systems and Operations Management were named among the top authors for two premier refereed business education journals. *Business Education Research Article Titles and Authorship Characteristics* reported the top authors for *The Delta Pi Epsilon (DPE) Journal* and *The NABTE Review*. In the *DPE Journal*, **Melody Alexander** ranked first in the number of articles (including co-authorships) published from 1993 through 2002. **Marilyn Chalupa** was third and **Allen Truell** and **Jensen Zhao** were in a three-way tie for sixth. In *The NABTE Review* for the same period, Alexander tied for third with four other people. **Robert Underwood** and **Rodney Davis** tied for eighth with eight others.

Publications/Creative Endeavors

Bob Gustafson and **Michael Hanley**, Journalism, "10 Ways to Tutor Advertising Students," *MarketingProfs.com*. The online newsletter is distributed to 115,000 advertising and marketing professionals and academics.

Job postings

Descriptions of the following positions are available at [University Human Resource Services](#):

Assistant Professor, Department of History

Assistant/Associate Professor, Department of Speech Pathology and Audiology

Coordinator of Research Compliance, Academic Research and Sponsored Programs

Executive Director of University Development