

Electronic Field Trip program hailed in new documentary

A new public television documentary examining how "innovative leaders are connecting the notions of commerce and community to unleash prosperity in America and throughout the world" includes a segment on Ball State's Electronic Field Trip (EFT) program, which the show's producers applaud as an example of a "classroom on the cutting edge."

Called "Renewing American Culture: The Pursuit of Happiness," the one-hour public television special was produced and directed by multiple Emmy Award winner Todd Gould for national distribution by Indianapolis Public Broadcasting Service (PBS) affiliate WFYI-TV. It premiered Oct. 23 as part of the annual Heartland Film Festival in the Hoosier capital.

Ball State President Jo Ann M. Gora was an invited guest for the documentary's debut. At the film's conclusion, she also was among three panelists chosen to lead a discussion of its message and how it relates to local efforts at "Renewing the Indianapolis Culture."

"A year ago at this time, the university opened its downtown Indianapolis Center because we recognized how important it is for Ball State to be part of that renewal, to be available as a resource to government, education, community and cultural leaders here in Indianapolis," said Gora. "It was a genuine honor and pleasure - after such a relatively brief time - to be asked to participate in a panel on the important topic of renewing the community's culture, especially after Ball State was portrayed so wonderfully in the documentary shown earlier in the evening."

The EFT program - designed by educators, computer programmers and telecommunications professionals at Ball State - allows millions of elementary, junior high and high school students around the world to follow a team of student journalists as they travel to and report from many historic and culturally significant destinations throughout the United States.

During each live, 60-minute broadcast, students have the opportunity to call in or e-mail questions to a variety of experts assembled to discuss that program's topic. This year's schedule of four field trips began Oct. 16 with a telecast from Grand Teton National Park in Wyoming, featuring lessons on the particular geography and ecosystems of that Rocky Mountains region.

The next installment in the series, sponsored by the Best Buy Children's Foundation, will lead seventh-through-12th-graders on an examination of the civil rights struggle for desegregation of the nation's public schools. The show will mark the 50th anniversary of the "Little Rock Nine" - the first African-American students to attend previously segregated Central High School in Little Rock, Ark., under the Supreme Court's landmark 1954 ruling in *Brown v. Board of Education*.

Since its inception in 1996, the EFT program has taken young minds to the tops of an old growth forest in Washington State to the depths of Carlsbad Caverns in New Mexico, and from inside the high-speed world of auto racing at the historic Indianapolis Motor Speedway to outer space with a visit to NASA's famous Mission Control in Houston, Texas.

"Our Electronic Field Trips have long been a source of pride for Ball State," said Gora. "It's very gratifying that the program should be chosen for inclusion in this major new documentary that looks at some of the great challenges facing American society in the 21st century and some possible solutions."

Among other groups profiled in "Renewing American Culture: The Pursuit of Happiness" are Habitat for Humanity, saluted for its work building more than one million homes in 92 countries since 1976; Nueva Esperanza (or "New Hope"), a series of educational and economic revitalization programs designed to infuse new life into the Hispanic community of North Philadelphia; and The Baker House of Boston, an after-school "safe haven" providing high-risk youth an alternative to gangs and street violence.

Ball State to showcase digital projects Nov. 5-8

Ball State University will display a variety of innovative projects Nov. 5-8 during the Digital Exchange Showcase.

The event will highlight research and digital materials produced by Ball State's Center for Media Design (CMD) and the Digital Exchange, an initiative funded with a \$20 million grant from Lilly Endowment Inc. to enhance the university's innovative, immersive and educational experiences for students in digital technology.

In addition, visitors may review HD movies, animations, digitally produced prototypes and other projects created by CMD-administered institutes and other units, including the Institute for Digital Entertainment and Education (IDEE), the Institute for Digital Intermedia Arts and Animation (IDIAA), the Institute for Digital Fabrication (IDF) and the Digital Corps.

Projects will be on display in the David Letterman Communication and Media Building atrium.

For times and more information, go to www.bsu.edu/cmd/media/general/showcase1.jpg or contact Sam Gibbs, CMD communications coordinator, at sngibbs@bsu.edu or 765-285-8118.

Ball State to honor highly successful entrepreneurs with Ascent Award Nov. 10

Rather than honor popular, tech-based entrepreneurs, such as the chief executive officer of Google or Microsoft, Ball State University is recognizing three business leaders who embody the essence of its nationally recognized Entrepreneurship Center.

For the second consecutive year, Ball State's Entrepreneurship Center will honor one of the successful entrepreneurs with The Ascent Award on Nov. 10 during a dinner at the Conrad in Indianapolis.

The selection process began earlier in the semester with a nationwide search for entrepreneurs and then a group of Ball State undergraduate students selected three finalists. The award recipient will be chosen just prior to the ceremony by a group of Ball State entrepreneurship alumni.

"Last year's event far exceeded our expectations," said Larry Cox, director of the Entrepreneurship Center. "Each of the Ascent honorees was extremely accomplished yet so humble. This year's entrepreneurs are just as exceptional — their stories demonstrate the ascent that we are seeking to highlight through this event."

Finalists are:

- Former physicist John Shearer started his energy company by researching wireless electricity in a lab behind his family's coffeehouse. Today, he runs Powercast, a firm that has created products designed to deliver energy by utilizing wireless technologies. For more information, go to www.powercastco.com.
- Serial entrepreneur Tony Hsieh is the original investor in an Internet shoe company that was later renamed Zappos.com. Under his leadership, the company has grown gross merchandise sales from \$1.6 million in 2000 to \$597 million in 2006. For more information, go to www.zappos.com.
- A former inmate, Vickie Stringer started Triple Crown Publications by writing a fictionalized story of her life. She wrote the story in the federal penitentiary while serving five years for selling illegal drugs to a police informant. Stringer's company has published 45 titles by more than 25 authors. For more information, go to www.triplecrownpublications.com.

Ball State's Entrepreneurship Center, a division of the Miller College of Business, has consistently ranked as one of the nation's best by several publications, including U.S. News & World Report.

For more information, go to www.bsu.edu/entrepreneurship/ascent.

Renowned education author Jonathan Kozol to speak at Ball State

A nationally recognized author on education plans to speak at Ball State on Nov. 6.

Author Jonathan Kozol will visit Ball State to discuss his latest book, "Letters to a Young Teacher," at 8 p.m. Nov. 6 at Emens Auditorium. The presentation, "Public Education Under Attack: A Time for Fighting Back," is free and open to the public. It will last about 75 minutes. Kozol will stay afterward to sign copies of "Letters to a Young Teacher" and his 2005 book, "Shame of the Nation."

Though he often speaks in large cities, Kozol chose to come to Muncie because of Ball State's Teachers College.

"Under Dean of Education Roy Weaver, Ball State has become one of the most important teacher-education schools in the U.S.," Kozol said.

Weaver was enthusiastic about Kozol's second visit to Ball State.

"He's historically been an outstanding education analyst and critic," Weaver said. "He's a person who has a good pulse on the nation, the nation's schools and the demands on schools from society and the government."

Kozol's work focuses on low-income people and minorities and what he considers the nation's failure to educate them adequately. He hoped that students will find his lecture eye-opening.

"I hope they will recognize that teaching children of low income represents the front line of democracy," he said.

Weaver agreed.

"I have known Jonathan for nearly 30 years and know that his views will challenge some," Weaver said. "But that will be healthy, since engaging in dialogue and debate is the soul of a university."

For more information, contact Weaver at 765-285-5251 or rweaver@bsu.edu

Ball State's Bowen Center receives \$25,000 gift

Barnes & Thornburg LLP, Indiana's largest law firm, is giving \$25,000 to the Bowen Center for Public Affairs to help underwrite the operating costs of the Bowen Institute for Political Participation for five years.

The Bowen Institute for Political Participation is a two-day seminar that enables students and citizen leaders to hone their skills in political participation and civic engagement. The institute has been held in Indianapolis for the past 27 years. It has been recognized by the Indiana NAACP with the Earl T. Shinhoster Award for pioneering work in civic education.

Barnes & Thornburg LLP has agreed to help underwrite the institute, which will reduce costs for the Bowen Center from 2009 to 2014. These resources will assist in areas of meeting space, online registration, staff to host the institute, and food and beverages.

Additionally, Barnes & Thornburg LLP will help to meet a Bowen Center goal by providing the technology to allow the institute to transmit to potential satellite institutes in other parts of the state.

The Bowen Center for Public Affairs also provides training to public officials and supplies university-based, nonpartisan research aimed at improving the performance and delivery of government services.

With nearly 475 attorneys and other legal professionals, Barnes & Thornburg LLP represents businesses and individuals in more than 50 practice areas, including government services.

For more information, contact Michael Eikenberry, Ball State's development director, at 765-285-7055 or at mdeikenberry@bsu.edu.

Alumnus returns to Ball State as part of Chanticleer

The multiple Grammy-award winning and internationally renowned male choral group, Chanticleer, will make a stop at Ball State University as part of its 30th anniversary celebration. The College of Fine Arts, through its Arts Alive Series, will host Chanticleer at 8 p.m. on Nov. 6 in Sursa Performance Hall.

For one member, this will be a homecoming. Jace Wittig, a baritone from Indianapolis, joined Chanticleer in 2006 after earning a bachelor's degree in vocal performance from Ball State in 2004. Wittig studied voice with Craig Priebe, an associate professor of music performance, who later helped Wittig polish his audition pieces for Chanticleer.

Although Chanticleer is a prestigious group whose great variety accommodates many talents, Wittig said that his experience at Ball State thoroughly prepared him for joining the musical ensemble.

"My learning experience at Ball State was wonderful," said Wittig. "The School of Music is very well-rounded, and the students have access to everything they need to learn and succeed."

According to Wittig, Ball State is small enough to get specialized attention but large enough to provide invaluable opportunities for personal growth.

In his youth, Wittig started his singing career with the Indianapolis Children's Choir, which later led to participation in University Singers, Chamber Choir and Opera Theatre while in college.

Ball State's School of Music gives students strong enough communication skills to process all thoughts when performing and practicing, such as refined listening skills and exploring the meaning behind a musical composition, Wittig said.

Wittig said that the faculty at the School of Music also gave him motivation to explore more prestigious opportunities.

"My voice teacher, Dr. Craig Priebe, had a huge influence on me," Wittig said. "He was my life coach and motivated me to seek new opportunities."

Wittig said he is excited to come back to Ball State. He wants students to form the "if he can do it, I can do it" mentality and see that they, too, can be part of something great after graduation.

"It's reassurance for the students," Wittig said. "It makes them believe that they are in the correct program and are receiving a top-notch education and exposure."

Chanticleer spends six months out of the year touring everywhere from Muncie to Europe and Japan. The other six months are devoted to rehearsing new music, in-school educational activities, performing an extensive series of concerts for their local audiences and recording in the San Francisco Bay area, where the 12-member group is based.

"Our Bay-area concert series and work is a very important part of our job and the series comprises around 30 of the 120 or so concerts we do per season," Wittig said.

For advance tickets, contact the Sursa Hall box office 765-285-5581. Ticket cost for adults is \$35 and student cost is \$15.

For more information, contact the College of Fine Arts at 765-285-5495.

Lisa Ling, host of National Geographic 'Explorer,' to speak at Ball State Nov. 8

Lisa Ling, host of National Geographic "Explorer", will be at Ball State University to present "National Geographic Reports: A Global Perspective" at 7 p.m. Nov. 8 in the Pittenger Student Center.

Ling will discuss global issues impacting our world and the roles people can play to help those affected by these critical issues. She will share her personal success story of overcoming adversity and dramatic video clips from her television program, "Explorer."

There will be a short question-and-answer session and a 15-minute meet-and-greet following Ling's presentation.

Ling's lecture is sponsored by Excellence in Leadership, Asian American Student Association, Housing and Residence Life, the Multicultural Center and the Department of Telecommunications. The event is free and open to the public.

About Lisa Ling:

Lisa Ling is an American journalist best known for her role as a former co-host of ABC's "The View," host of National Geographic Channel's "Explorer," reporter on Channel One News and special correspondent for "The Oprah Winfrey Show." Meanwhile, "Explorer" takes viewers on unforgettable adventures and covers a wide range of human-interest stories, including the devastating natural disasters of the past year.

ON CAMPUS

Ball State men's basketball coach offers employees free tickets to season opener Nov.

Ball State University's head men's basketball coach Billy Taylor is inviting faculty, staff, students and fans to come out and create an "electric" atmosphere for the team's season opener against Butler at 7 p.m. Nov. 9 at Worthen Arena.

To show how much the players and staff appreciate the support, Taylor is offering Ball State employees two free tickets to the game. The tickets can be claimed at the Worthen Arena ticket office through Nov. 8. Employees can also pick up their tickets from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Nov. 6 and 7 at a "satellite" ticket outlet in the Atrium.

For more information, contact Chris Taylor, director of athletics communications and marketing, at 765-285-8242 or ctaylor@bsu.edu.

Savor the flavors and enjoy the sights at Ball State's International Festival Nov. 9

Food, music, clothing and culture from around the world will be on display at Ball State University's International Festival on Nov. 9.

Visitors can see displays about various countries, listen to international music, enjoy tasting free international foods and talk with the students about their countries from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Bracken Library.

A culture show, featuring song, dance, fashion and more, will take place at 6:30 p.m. in the Student Center Tally.

Admission is free to both events. The festival is sponsored by the Rinker Center for International Programs. For information, contact Deb Goens, Rinker Center program coordinator, at 765-285-5422.

Author James Loewen to present research on 'sundown towns'

Best-selling author James Loewen will present a lecture on "Sundown Towns in Indiana" at 7:30 p.m. Nov. 13 at Pruis Hall. This event is free and open to the public.

Sponsored by Freshman Connections, Loewen will speak about his research on "sundown towns," which are communities that restricted African-Americans from public places after sundown and excluded them from taking up residence. The lecture deals with themes in this year's Freshman Common Reader, "The Color of Water: A Black Man's Tribute to His White Mother" by James McBride.

Loewen is the author of "Lies My Teacher Told Me: Everything Your High School History Textbook Got Wrong" and "Lies Across America: What Our Historic Sites Get Wrong." Loewen attended Carleton College and has a doctorate in sociology from Harvard University. He taught about race relations for 20 years at the University of Vermont.

For more information, contact Melinda Messineo, associate professor of sociology, at 765-285-5530 or mmessine@bsu.edu.

IN THE NEWS

Ball State Apple Training Center

On Oct. 24, Inside Indiana Business profiled Ball State's selection as the state's first authorized Apple training center.

The authorization will allow Ball State to offer courses in digital media technologies using Apple software. The center will train a variety of Apple users, including professional editors, business executives and webmasters.

With the new affiliation, Ball State joins a network of colleges, universities and businesses throughout the nation training individuals in digital media technologies.

Larry Cox, director for the Entrepreneurship Center

Cox was quoted in a Sept. 24 article in the Indianapolis Business Journal about the business plan of local developer Greenwalt Development Inc.

After several years of company growth, founder Max Greenwalt sold Greenfield Builders Inc., his large commercial construction firm, to join his sons at Greenwalt Development. Greenwalt Development scaled back its size and began to focus on profitability over growth.

Cox suggested that growth can sometimes be a burden and that smaller companies have the potential to be more profitable.

"The thought has always been that the larger you get, the more insulated you get from competitive pressures," he said. "There's some truth in that, but at the same time, a smaller company can be much more profitable."

Jo Ann M. Gora, president

Gora was quoted in an Oct. 26 Inside Indiana Business article about the appointment of Frank Sabatine as associate vice president of economic development and community engagement at Ball State.

Sabatine will be responsible for Ball State's Building Better Communities, a university initiative created to spur economic development and quality-of-life advancement in Indiana.

"With initiatives like our immersive Business and Health Fellows programs and the continuation of our many efforts at building better communities throughout Indiana, the university enjoys a key role in helping secure both the economic and social well-being of the Hoosier State," Gora said. "Frank Sabatine's long experience and many professional associations in the area of economic development and community engagement will only strengthen those many community ties, while allowing us to better communicate our successes to a variety of important audiences in both government and business."

Dick Heupel, senior project director for Building Better Communities

Heupel was quoted in an Oct. 18 Chronicle-Tribune article about community growth in Swayzee.

Heupel was the key facilitator for a Swayzee Town Council meeting about community growth. The council decided to focus on developing Oak Hill schools as a way to spur growth in Swayzee. Other noted areas of improvement were sidewalks, water, public parking and new housing.

Heupel commented on the need for follow through on ideas for the future.

"The communities that really separate themselves are the ones that really follow up on these things," he said.

Michael Hicks, director for Bureau of Business Research

Hicks shared his thoughts on Gov. Mitch Daniels' proposal to reduce property taxes in an interview with WNDU 16 South Bend on Oct. 24.

Hicks talked about the critical elements of property tax reform, including consolidation of local taxing units and a shift towards local budget responsibilities. The issue of local tax restructuring was also a focus of his remarks.

Hicks generally approved of the governor's proposal.

"This proposal should allow the state to move forward with a more stable, adequate and less uncertain tax climate," he said.

Ray Scheele, professor of political science

Scheele was quoted in a Sept. 25 Associated Press article about Sen. Evan Bayh's presidential endorsement of Hillary Clinton.

According to the article, several political analysts and observers say Bayh is likely to be considered as Clinton's running mate if she wins the Democratic nomination.

Scheele noted that Bayh's popularity in Indiana could make the state winnable for Democrats if he became Clinton's running mate.

"Bayh's experience as a governor would underscore that he was not simply a Washington insider," Scheele said.

SPOTLIGHT

Recognitions

Victor Lawhead, dean emeritus and professor of education studies, was included in the 2007-08 edition of Marquis Who's Who in American Education.

Publications

Jeffrey Clark and **Denise Seabert**, Department of Physiology and Health Science, "Conversations with Early Leaders of Eta Sigma Gamma," *The Health Educator, Journal of Eta Sigma Gamma*, Vol. 39, 2007.

Scott Trappe, Human Performance Laboratory, "Time Course of Proteolytic, Cytokine and Myostatin Gene Expression after Acute Exercise in Human Skeletal Muscle," *Journal of Applied Physiology*, Vol. 103, 2007, 1744-1751.

Presentations

Dick Bellaver and **Steve Jones**, Center for Communication and Information Sciences, "Emerging Communication and Information Technologies and Handheld Computers in the Classroom," American Technical Education Association, Region 3 Conference, Indianapolis, October 2007.

John Dailey, Department of Telecommunications, and **Kirsten Smith**, Center for Information and Communication Sciences, "To the Screen and Back Again: Web site

Usability for Beginners and Experts," Indiana Evaluators Association, Indianapolis, October 2007.

Michael Holmes, Department of Communication Studies, "An Observational Method for Time Use Research," International Association of Time Use Researchers Annual Conference, Washington, D.C., October 2007.

Leonard Kaminsky, Human Performance Laboratory, "Comparison of Physical Activity Assessment Methods Among Phase III Cardiac Rehabilitation Participants," American Association of Cardiovascular and Pulmonary Rehabilitation, Salt Lake City, October 2007.

Ron Kovac, Center for Communication and Information Sciences, "The Challenges of Converged Networks," Association for Telecommunications Professionals regional conference, Minneapolis, October 2007.

Hubert Ludwig, Department of Mathematical Science,

- "Mathematics in Contemporary Culture: The Comic Strips," National Council of Teachers of Mathematics Regional Conference, Kansas City, Mo., October 2007.
- "Pi From Measuring Fields to Fractals," National Council of Teachers of Mathematics Regional Conference, Kansas City, Mo., October 2007.

Greg Siering, Office of Teaching and Learning Advancement, "Designing New Faculty Orientations and Programs to Meet Stakeholders' Needs," Professional and Organizational Development Network Conference, Pittsburgh.

Scott Trappe, Human Performance Laboratory, "Single Muscle Fiber Adaptations to Age and Exercise," San Antonio Nathan Shock Aging Center Conference on Age-Related Muscle Atrophy: Causes and Mechanisms, San Antonio, October 2007.

Tim Underhill, NewsLink Indiana,

- "Let Your Story Come Through the Technology: The Basics of Video Storytelling," Indiana Collegiate Broadcasting Conference, Indianapolis, October 2007.
- "Jump on the One-Man Bandwagon," Indiana Collegiate Broadcasting Conference, Indianapolis, October 2007.

Mei Zhong, School of Music, "The Experience of My Learning and Teaching in the U.S.," Donghai University, Taizhong, Taiwan, and National Kaohsiung Normal University, Gaohsiung, Taiwan.

Creative endeavors

Mei Zhong, School of Music, vocal recitals and master classes, Dongwu University, Taipei, Taiwan; Donghai University, Taizhong, Taiwan; National Kaohsiung Normal University, Gaohsiung, Taiwan, and National Pingtung University of Education, Pingtung, Taiwan.

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