

Ball State dedicates Mueller Lobby in honor of music professor, wife

The sound of a timpani was a fitting herald to the unveiling of signage that marked the Dec. 6 dedication of the Music Instruction Building's new Barbara D. and Erwin C. Mueller Lobby.

The naming of the lobby is in recognition of a recent gift from the Muellers, who are Ball State alumni. Erwin Mueller is Ball State faculty member who recently celebrated 50 years at Ball State. He launched his career at the university in 1958, teaching percussion.

A wind ensemble and symphony band concert featuring Erwin Mueller preceded the dedication ceremony.

President Jo Ann M. Gora was present for the ceremony and praised the Muellers for their longtime contributions to the university over the years. Gifts from the Muellers have led to the creation of the Barbara D. and Erwin C. Mueller Percussion Scholarship and the Percussion Emergency Fund, which creates graduate assistantships and mitigates student financial hardships.

The Muellers' recent pledge of \$1 million will go toward the establishment of a permanent endowment providing freshman merit scholarships for music education majors.

"The center of their lives has been the effect they have had on hundreds of Ball State students over the past five decades." Gora said. "Erwin is one of those passionate professors who bring learning to life each day, and Barbara shares his passion to teach and mentor the students of this university. You don't have to spend much time with the Muellers before they are talking about the many times they have had 'their kids' over to the house for dinner or to chat after a performance."

Repp named new vice president for information technology

Nationally recognized campus technology innovator Phil Repp has been named vice president for information technology (IT) at Ball State University, where he has served as associate vice president for IT since 2002 and interim vice president since September 2007. The author or co-author of two major grant proposals to the Lilly Endowment Inc. resulting in \$40 million for the university and the establishment of its renowned Center

for Media Design (CMD), he now will help oversee implementation of a new \$17.7 million Emerging Media Initiative (EMI) meant to focus and accelerate the university's expertise in the field while spurring economic development through innovation, technology transfer and the enhanced skills of a 21st century workforce.

Repp, who joined Ball State in 1981 after teaching and administrative stints at Michigan State and Virginia Tech, is among Campus Technology magazine's 2008 innovators of the year for his efforts in forming and advancing Ball State's Digital Corps, the university's in-house group of professional and student media experts. His work also is responsible for burgeoning collaborative relationships between Ball State and major technology players such as Apple and Microsoft, including an agreement to be one of the latter's few alpha testers for its cutting-edge Surface technology.

"Our leadership in emerging media owes much to Phil's tireless pursuit of new technology-related immersive learning opportunities for our students," said President Jo Ann M. Gora in announcing Repp's permanent appointment. "He was instrumental — together with Dave Ferguson, our newly named associate vice president for emerging media — in creating the CMD, which has made important contributions to the research, testing and practical application of digital technologies for the workplace, classroom, home and community, while at the same time putting some of the latest technology available at our students' fingertips. As we pursue even more ambitious goals with our new Emerging Media Initiative, Phil's commitment, as well as his more than 25 years of information technology and higher education experience, should prove only more valuable to Ball State's future success in this vital area."

Formed in renewed response to the influential 2000 Battelle Institute study that identified information technology as one of four "pillar" industries (along with advanced manufacturing, life sciences, and transportation and logistics) critical to Indiana's continued economic viability, EMI plans to invest \$17.7 million during the next five years to, among other objectives, explore evolving Web 2.0 applications and other Internet-based communication and entertainment innovations that are spawning both new businesses and products.

"One needn't look very far — the laptop in front of you or the BlackBerry or iPhone of the person next to you — to realize the central roles that information technology and emerging media increasingly play in our daily lives," said Repp. "Just think of Google, YouTube or Facebook, none of which existed as we know it now even a decade ago. Today, they've become almost indispensable to how many of us gather, process and share information.

"That 'trajectory of technology' is only getting steeper, and so we must remain proactive not only in improving our information technology and administrative services, but also in enhancing tech support on campus, attempting to realize greater organizational efficiencies within our IT structure and now, additionally, in seizing opportunities to support EMI. I am very excited at our prospects and look forward to intensifying my engagement with that always new set of challenges."

Student documentary to explore challenges faced by sexual assault victims

Sexual assault victims can never have too many advocates.

The latest group coming to their aid is a class of Ball State University students who spent the fall semester immersed in a victim-centered perspective of the sexual assault casework process.

Under the leadership of John McKillip, associate professor of biology, the students participating in the Virginia B. Ball Center for Creative Inquiry seminar created a documentary addressing two key issues in the handling of sexual assault casework: how to better meet victims' needs in the wake of assaults and how to reduce or eliminate the problematic DNA evidence backlog that exists in many states' crime labs.

A premiere of the documentary "State of Assault" will take place at 7:15 p.m. Dec. 8 at the Ball State University Alumni Center, 2800 W. Bethel Ave. The event is free and open to the public. Attendees are advised that the documentary contains sensitive subject material.

McKillip said the documentary will leave viewers with a better understanding of the problems faced by assault victims and future trends in sexual assault case management, such as rape kit protocol changes and new laboratory technologies. "The message is delivered in a poignant manner that should challenge all those who listen to act," he said.

The seminar's community sponsors include the Anderson Sexual Assault Treatment Center and the Indianapolis-Marion County Forensic Services Agency.

McKillip said the documentary is scheduled to air at 11 p.m. Dec. 8 on WIPB-TV with additional times and PBS stations in Indiana to be announced at a later date. He also hopes to market the DVD to audiences in the fields of criminal justice, forensic nursing and victim advocacy, in addition to making it available to sororities via their national headquarters.

ON CAMPUS

Museum of Art presents Friday with Friends: An Evening in India

To celebrate Indian Miniature Paintings from the David T. Owsley Collection, the Ball State University Museum of Art will host Friday with Friends: An Evening in India on Dec. 12 from 5 to 7 p.m.

There will be a cash bar for those 21 or older, as well as Indian hors d'oeuvres. Indian entertainment will be featured. The event is free and open to the public.

Indian Miniature Paintings from the David T. Owsley Collection will be open through Jan. 4, 2009. For more information about the exhibit or the event, call 765-285-5242.

Employee completes professional enhancement program in information processing

On Nov. 21, Susan Bourne, an administrative coordinator in the mathematical sciences department, completed the Professional Enhancement Program (PEP) in Information Processing sponsored by the Office of Training and Development. To date, 14 university employees have completed the program.

The certificate program, which began in 1995, requires 12 semester hours of Ball State course work offered by the Department of Information Systems and Operation Management in the Miller College of Business. Electives include microcomputer applications for business; databases and information resource management; business systems application development; and business and managerial communications.

PEP allows employees to upgrade and master information processing skills that enhance current job performance and open the door for future employment opportunities.

Participants are admitted to the university as non-degree students although employees currently enrolled as regular students are also eligible. Use of Ball State's fee remissions program (free tuition) is available for eligible employees for these undergraduate classes.

For more information, contact Andy Gothreau, assistant director of human resources, training and development, at 285-1819.

IN THE NEWS

Ball State University

A Ball State study was featured in a Nov. 19 Marketing Profs article, "I Told You Not to Call Me Here." Marketers rush to create ads for young females who can't live without a cell phone. However, a study by ExactTarget and Ball State said young homemakers don't want to hear from marketers by phone or text. The group is identified as females, between the ages of 18 and 34, who consider homemaker to be their primary occupation. They are media savvy and love to use cell phones. Across the board, they spend approximately 40 percent of their day exposed to two or more forms of media concurrently.

President Jo Ann M. Gora

Gora was quoted in a Dec. 1 Inside Indiana Business article, "BSU Unveils the Letterman Lecture Series." Ball State is launching a new lecture series, made up of prominent business, media and academic figures, to discuss current issues and trends in the rapidly changing field of communications. Newsman Ted Koppel and best-selling author Tom Kelley are among the initial guests for the series. The series will begin during the spring semester of 2009. "The true sincerity and depth of Dave's regard for Ball State is again demonstrated by this latest involvement in the life of the university," Gora said. "Our students, the broader campus community and those who study the various roles and influences of communications in our society will gain from the David Letterman

Distinguished Professional Lecture and Workshop Series for years to come. We are truly grateful for Dave's generosity and continuing commitment to our students." The story was also published by the Northwest Indiana Times.

Michael Hicks, director of the Center for Business and Economic Research

The Indianapolis Business Journal quoted Hicks in a Dec. 1 article, "Forecast: Recession Will End Early Next Year." Indiana will be out of recession by spring, but the Indianapolis area will perform so well that most people will not even realize the recession came and went, he said. "I'm not sure that you're going to feel a recession in Indianapolis," Hicks said. Ball State economists believe the nation likely went into a recession this quarter or possibly late in the third quarter, and that down draft will last into the first quarter of next year. They expect the picture will improve beginning in the spring, but companies won't ramp up hiring until summer or fall.

Stephen Kendall, professor of architecture

Kendall was quoted in an Oct. 26 Boston.com article, "The Incredible, Flexible, Movable House: How We Could Save Money, Time and the Environment by Making Homes Easy to Remodel." People are having costly remodels done to their houses several times. However, Kendall and other architects have started creating houses that are easily transformed. "It's the reality that people want to change their houses," he said. "Advocating adaptable housing is to say, 'Let's pay attention to reality.'" Kendall and others are building houses where electrical outlets can be relocated and the walls can be moved around. A few can even be quickly disassembled with everyday tools.

William Marquez, instructor of architecture

Marquez was mentioned in a Nov. 19 Indy.com article, "Faces, Wil Marquez." He started his career path in design by constructing snow forts in his Portage backyard. Today, Marquez is an instructor of architecture at Ball State, which has led to constant creative renewal for him and chances for his students to gain work experience through professional collaboration.

SPOTLIGHT

Presentations

Jeffrey Clark, Department of Physiology and Health Science, and Jim Jones, Department of Technology, co-authors, "Curriculum Evaluation: A Longitudinal Study of the Michigan Model for Health Education Curriculum," American School Health Association, School Health Conference, Tampa, Fla., Nov. 14, 2008.

Jeffrey Clark, Department of Physiology and Health Science, "Coordinated System for Accrediting Health Education Programs and the National Health Educator Competencies Update Project (CUP): Implications for School Health Preparation Programs," American School Health Association, School Health Conference, Tampa, Fla., Nov. 14, 2008.

James Ruebel, Honors College, "From Honors Program to Honors College: More Than Just Stationery," panel member, National Collegiate Honors Council, San Antonio.

Service

Jeffrey Clark, Department of Physiology and Health Science, appointed as the American Association for Health Education representative to the Research Consortium Executive Board through 2011.

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