

Ball State's Educational Leadership program ranked one of the nation's best

For the second consecutive year, Ball State's Department of Educational Leadership has been ranked by Leadership Excellence magazine as one of the nation's top leadership development programs.

Ball State's program ranks 11th, just behind Duke University, Harvard University and Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). The magazine surveyed 600 organizations throughout the country.

"To have our program recognized for a second straight year in this category, along side elite business schools and other outstanding education programs around the country, just adds more credibility to our program," said Joseph McKinney, department chair. "This is a well-deserved honor for which our department and the university is very proud."

Ken Shelton, the magazine's editor, said programs were ranked on a set of guidelines that included vision, participation, accountability, curriculum, presentation, take-home value for participants and outreach.

Highlights of the department include:

- Offering classes face-to-face, through TV (webcasting) and the Internet
- a master's cohort in Indianapolis
- a doctoral cohort in Carmel, Fort Wayne and Elkhart
- a master's program yearlong immersive internship
- has helped the most students obtain a principal's license over the last five years in Indiana

For more information on Leadership Excellence, visit www.leaderexcel.com.

Freedom in America: Some Assembly Required

The National Park Foundation, Ball State and almost 20 million children and community members from 49 states and 3 countries will participate in a simultaneous virtual visit to Independence National Historical Park in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

On October 17 children from across the country and around the world will take part in Ball State's Electronic Field Trip complete with live tours, in-class activities, and an online panel of experts. The program, developed by teachers and National Park Service educators, will broadcast live from Independence Hall, the Liberty Bell and other prominent historical landmarks.

"Our National Parks preserve history so future generations can see the past in the present and learn the stories of America in the places where they actually happened," said Vin Cipolla, President and CEO of the National Park Foundation. "Using cutting-edge technology to connect our children to their heritage ensures that National Parks remain vital and relevant."

Ball State's Electronic Field Trip "Freedom in America: Some Assembly Required" is an interactive 60-minute broadcast from Independence National Historical Park featuring Park experts as well as online and in-class activities. Working alongside experts on the show, students will learn about our Nation's "firsts" by examining historical photos, maps, artifacts and documents, including the Declaration of Independence and the U.S. Constitution; touring the 21 historical sites of Independence National Historical Park; and questioning experts through a live satellite feed, email and phone calls.

"The partnership between the National Park Foundation and Ball State University's Electronic Field Trips program is giving millions of children the opportunity to learn about our nation's history using the very unique platform," said Ball State President Jo Ann M. Gora. "This innovative use of interactive technology will allow viewers to see Philadelphia and its history, converse with leading experts, and deepen their learning experience through the use of Web-based educational games and lesson plans based on national standards."

Ball State's Electronic Field Trips program, which is supported by Best Buy Children's Foundation, received six Telly Awards for last year's programming. The Web site is a key part of the program and was honored by the Center for Digital Education with a Best of the Web award in 2005 and two gold awards at the 2006 World Media Festival.

The partnership with Ball State is part of the National Park Foundation's ongoing efforts to connect America's youth to their National Parks. In April 2006, the National Park Foundation and Ball State University hosted the largest ever simultaneous "visit" to a National Park when approximately 36 million viewers took an Electronic Field Trip to Carlsbad Caverns during National Park Week. In 2007, the University and the Foundation will partner on two Electronic Field Trips, examining the unique ecosystems and distinct human culture at Hawaii Volcanoes National Park and learning about the Japanese internment camps at Manzanar National Historic Site.

About the National Park Foundation

The National Park Foundation (www.nationalparks.org) is 501(c)(3) organization chartered by Congress in 1967 to continue a century-long tradition of private

philanthropy to help preserve and enhance the legacy of our National Parks. As the official non-profit partner of America's National Parks, the National Park Foundation strengthens the connection between the American people and their National Parks by raising private funds, making strategic grants, creating innovative partnerships and increasing public awareness. Support of the National Park Foundation ensures that the evolving history and rich heritage of our Nation remains vital and relevant.

Electronic Field Trip Schedule for 2006-07:

- "Freedom in America: Some Assembly Required," Oct. 17, National Historic Park, Philadelphia
- "Eruption! An Island Rising from the Sea," Dec. 5, Hawaii's Volcanoes National Park, Hawaii
- "Desert Diamonds Behind Barbed Wire," Feb. 19, 2007, Manzanar War Relocation Center, California
- "Going, Going, Faster: The Science of Speed!" April 17, 2007, Indianapolis Motor Speedway, Indianapolis
- "Listening to our Ancestors," May 8, 2007, North Pacific Coast, Juneau, Alaska

Ball State assisting area schools to meet state-mandated wellness initiative

Ball State is leading a public/private partnership to assist four local school districts in meeting a state mandate that calls for establishing formal health and wellness plans by the end of 2006-07.

A grant from the Ball Brothers Foundation is funding a partnership between Ball State's Fisher Institute for Wellness and Gerontology and the Indiana Youth Institute. The partnership also will assist local school systems to examine options that create healthier schools.

Participating districts include Muncie Community Schools, Delaware Community Schools, Mt. Pleasant Community Schools and Daleville Community Schools. The initiative calls for the three remaining school districts in Delaware County to join the plan by 2007.

"Most schools have physical education classes and some sort of wellness or health-related classes, but few have comprehensive plans," said David Gobble, director of the Fisher Institute. "Ball State is the first university in the state to use its resources to assist local school systems meets the mandate.

"We see this as a long-term project as we will soon be helping communities in developing their own health and wellness programs," he said. "We want to get people to the table, talking about what their communities need to become healthier. In the end, we should empower both schools and communities to make changes."

The Ball Brothers Foundation School Wellness Initiative will be directly funded by the foundation through grants to the Fisher Institute and Indiana Youth Institute.

Each school also will be eligible for wellness grants from the foundation to purchase necessary items for the programs they establish. School districts may also use other community resources available to assist them on an operational level as they move forward to meet the requirements of the state mandate.

The foundation hopes the collaborative effort will be viewed as a model for similar partnerships throughout the country, said Doug Bakken, the foundation's executive vice president and chief operating officer. The Muncie-based foundation, founded in 1926, promotes philanthropic efforts in the state of Indiana with a focus on Delaware County.

In the coming weeks, faculty, staff and students from the Fisher Institute will meet with local school administrators and teachers to assist with the formalization of health and wellness plans.

The first year of the program calls for developing long-term sustainability plans, documenting existing school wellness experiences and establishing a support system for teachers and service staff.

Ball State also will create a School Wellness Coordinating Center to assist area schools with the project. The center will house an online information repository, a wellness materials exchange program and training programs.

The Indiana Youth Institute, a youth development organization, will assist with collecting data, planning, developing an evaluation/assessment plan and making other resources available as needed.

The project will allow Ball State students to work directly with area school teachers in an immersive leaning environment, said Jane Ellery, project coordinator for the Fisher Institute.

"This grant provides a unique experience for college students to work with other organizations to influence the health and well being of our youth," she said. "As a result, students will work in exceptional, community-based learning laboratories and the community gets innovative ideas and students with the energy to help make significant change occur."

Ball State president spreads message about redefining education, improving communities

Ball State's President Jo Ann M. Gora is on the road again - this time to publicize and celebrate the university's initiatives to meet the ever-changing needs of students and communities alike.

Gora is talking about the university's Building Better Communities (BBC) initiative and the new tagline - Education Redefined - and the message it conveys about Ball State's commitment to give high-caliber students opportunities to collaborate with expert, energized faculty who are outstanding in their fields.

In addition, Education Redefined aligns with Ball State's dedication to provide students and faculty with leading-edge technology and state-of-the-art facilities, she said.

As a result, Ball State will continue to attract talented students and faculty members, who frequently create immersive learning opportunities that benefit cities, towns and businesses through Ball State's BBC initiative, which is designed to spur economic development and quality-of-life advancement in the state.

"Ball State University has a long history of working at the local level to foster economic development and improve the quality of life throughout Indiana," she said. "From providing workforce training to cultivating entrepreneurship, from leading downtown redevelopment to helping small towns secure broadband technology, our faculty, staff and students have made direct contributions to the welfare of the state."

Gora spoke Oct. 3 in Terre Haute and will address the Muncie Noon Rotary Club Oct. 17 at the Hotel Roberts. In addition to the civic clubs, the president has or will be interviewed by media outlets in Indianapolis, Fort Wayne, Richmond, Muncie and other cities across Indiana, stressing Ball State's willingness to help cities, towns and communities answer the developmental, educational and quality-of-life questions with which they struggle.

"This strikes at the core of a social responsibility to put the collective knowledge, talent and resources of our institution to work for the betterment of Hoosiers," Gora said.

Arts Alive season kicks off with world-class concert Oct. 10

Ball State will open this year's Arts Alive Concert Series with the Orion String Quartet at 8 p.m. Oct. 10 at Sursa Performance Hall.

The Orion String Quartet - violinists Daniel Phillips and Todd Phillips, violist Steven Tenenbom and cellist Timothy Eddy - collaborate regularly with numerous composers, such as Chick Corea, Alexander Goehr, Leon Kirchner and Wynton Marsalis.

This season's repertoire includes cycles of Beethoven and Mozart, in addition to mixed programs of Haydn, Mendelssohn, Schubert and Schulhoff.

Ball State's own Mihai Tetel, cello, will perform as a guest artist. Atar Arad, violist from Indiana University, will also perform with the quartet.

Timothy Noble, baritone, accompanied by Edwin Penhorwood, will perform the series' second concert at 8 p.m. Dec. 5. The series will conclude with pianist Antonio Pompa-Baldi at 8 p.m. Feb. 13, 2007.

Tickets for the three-concert Arts Alive Series cost \$80; individual concert tickets are \$35. For more information, contact the College of Fine Arts at (765) 285-5495.

Indiana's first lady Cheri Daniels will be at Ball State to promote Heart to Heart initiative

Cheri Daniels, Indiana's first lady, will visit Ball State to promote her Heart to Heart initiative, which encourages Hoosier women to lead heart-healthy lifestyles.

Daniels will discuss the initiative at 7:30 p.m. Oct. 11 in the L.A. Pittenger Student Center, Cardinal Hall B. Daniels' presentation is open to all students, faculty and staff, but it is specifically targeted to young college-age women.

The event is sponsored by the Panhellenic Council and the Health Education Office. Before the first lady's program, blood pressure, cholesterol and glucose screenings will be offered beginning at 6:30 p.m. by Ball State Memorial Hospital.

In addition, Ball State staff working in the health education department will provide information about body mass index and body fat composition. Screenings will be available to a limited number of students.

For more information about the Heart to Heart initiative visit www.in.gov/gov/firstlady/hearttoheart/.

Comedy, angst abound in Ball State's upcoming 'Erratica: An Academic Farce' production

So you think you run away from your problems?

Samantha Stafford, the lead character in "Erratica: An Academic Farce," has you beaten by a mile. The comedy tells the story of Stafford, an English professor who has been running from her problems for too long. That is until a saucy dead poet, an Indiana Jones-style librarian, a missing 17th century diary and a weepy undergraduate shake up her life.

The world premiere of "Erratica: An Academic Farce" will be presented by the Ball State Department of Theatre and Dance and directed by Elliott Lemberg, a senior majoring in directing and theater education. Shows will be at 7:30 p.m., Oct. 19-21 and 24-26 with 2:30 p.m. matinees Oct. 21-22. All shows will be at the Strother Theatre.

"I wanted to direct this particular play because it is about a common struggle: man (woman) fighting himself (herself)," Lemberg said. "There are moments in all of our lives when we would prefer to run away from a problem or ignore it rather than confront it

head-on," he added. "If we, as human beings, are to live full and rewarding lives, we must be able to accept our problems and deal with them, even if they challenge our worldview, even if they scare us."

This will be the premiere of the play written by Reina Hardy, a Chicago playwright and freelance play critic. The presentation is the result of a partnership between the theater and dance department, Algonquin Productions, which specializes in new play productions, and Algonquin's artistic director Tony Sportiello, Lemberg said.

As part of the process, he worked with Hardy to rewrite the script for Ball State's production.

"Working with the playwright has been a rewarding and enlightening experience," he said. "It's not just any day you can call up the playwright and ask them about meanings of scenes and clarifications."

The cast features Kate Ponzio as Samantha Stafford, Tony Howell as deceased Elizabethan poet and playwright Christopher Marlowe, Maeghan Looney as weepy coed Elspeth Lisseth, Alli Miller as the professor's Machiavellian publicist and Ryan Krause as an Indiana Jones-style librarian.

Tickets cost \$8 for the general public and \$6 for students and are available from the University Theatre Box Office, which is open Monday through Friday and can be reached at (765) 285-8749. For further information, visit www.bsu.edu/theatre.

Other upcoming theater productions include:

- "Thoroughly Modern Millie" – 7:30 p.m., Nov. 9-11, Nov. 15-18; 2:30 p.m., Nov. 12. This singing, dancing and romancing musical brings all the jazz age razzamatazz of Roaring 20s' Manhattan to Ball State's main stage.
- "Rhythm and Soul (A Passion for Latin)," – 7:30 p.m., Dec. 7-9; 2:30 p.m., Dec. 10. Cold winter evenings heat up as Ball State Dance Theatre brings the sultry movement and music of Latin dance to University Theatre.

Faith activist Roy Bourgeois to speak Oct. 18

Roy Bourgeois, former naval officer-turned Maryknoll priest, will present "School of Assassins," a speech on Latin American foreign policy, at 7:30 p.m. Oct. 18 in the L.A. Pittenger Student Center Ballroom. A reception will take place immediately following in the Alumni room.

In 1990, Bourgeois founded SOA Watch, a nonviolent grassroots organization dedicated to closing the U.S. Army School of the Americas (SOA) at Fort Benning, Ga.

During its 60-year history, the SOA, renamed the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation (WHINSEC) in 2001, has trained an estimated 60,000 Latin

American soldiers and police squads at a cost in the hundreds of millions of dollars to U.S. taxpayers, according to Bourgeois. SOA graduates have been linked to murders, massacres and human rights violations in several Latin American countries, Bourgeois assents.

Each November, Bourgeois leads a weekend vigil at the gates of Fort Benning, seeking to close the SOA/WHINSEC and to change U.S. foreign policy in Latin America.

More than 15,000 supporters of all ages from across the U.S. participate annually. In 2002, Amnesty International USA described the work of Bourgeois and SOA Watch as "an effective reform movement."

Bourgeois has spent his priesthood with the poor in Bolivia and in social justice causes across Latin America and the United States. He has spent more than four years in U.S. federal prisons for nonviolent protests against the training of Latin American soldiers and police squads at Fort Benning. He has also helped produce several documentary films, including "Gods of Metal" in 1983 and "School of Assassins" in 1995, both of which received Academy Award nominations.

He continues to travel extensively, speaking to universities, religious organizations and other audiences on the mission of SOA Watch.

The event is free and open to the public. It is sponsored by the Office of the Provost, the Center for Peace and Conflict Studies and the Campus Activities Fund Board.

ON CAMPUS

Philosophy professor wins teaching award

David Concepcion, a Ball State philosophy professor, recently received an award for researching about his field.

Concepcion received the American Association of Philosophy Teachers' Mark Linsen Prize for his research on the teaching of philosophy. The award is given for the best article written on the teaching of philosophy over a two-year period.

The award was presented in August at the organization's biennial international meeting. It was selected from more than 100 articles that appeared in one of four peer-reviewed publications.

Concepcion is a faculty member in the philosophy and religious studies department. In 2005, he received the Lawhead Teaching Award in General Education and the Excellence in Teaching Award.

Pi Sigma Alpha to host political debate

Pi Sigma Alpha (PSA), Ball State's political science honor society, will host a political debate from 6:30 to 9 p.m. Oct. 9 in the L.A. Pittenger Student Center Ballroom. The event is free and open to the public.

Candidates invited to the debate include: Bill Davis (R) and Ron Liggert (D), from House District 33; Carrie Dillard-Trammell (L), Adrian Leavell (R) and Dennis Tyler (D), from House District 34; L. Jack Lutz (R) and Lee Ann Mengelt (D), from House District 35; and Sue Errington (D) and Andrew Phipps (R), from Senate District 26.

PSA will mediate the debate and is accepting questions by e-mail at psabsu@yahoo.com or in writing at the political science department, North Quad, room 240. All questions will be reviewed and considered for use at the debate.

Sympathy Club plans annual meeting, membership drive

Ball State's Faculty/Staff Sympathy Club will hold its annual meeting at 7 p.m. Oct. 17 in the L.A. Pittenger Student Center, Forum Room.

The meeting coincides with the club's annual membership drive. Membership is open to all active employees and their spouses, children, grandchildren, brothers, sisters, nieces and nephews.

Now in its 32nd year, the Sympathy Club was formed to aid beneficiaries upon the death of a member. Last year, \$1,200 was paid immediately upon receipt of a death certificate. This year, beneficiaries will receive 90 percent of the paid up membership, which will be determined after the membership drive. More than \$750,000 has been paid during the group's existence.

There is a one-time membership fee of \$2. Each member is assessed \$1 upon the death of a member in good standing.

Those who join during the fall membership drive will be entered into a drawing to win one of two cash prizes of \$25 or \$50. Door prizes will be raffled at the meeting, with a grand prize of \$100.

For more information or a membership application, contact Sue Gaylor at 284-3204.

IN THE NEWS

Michael Bloxham, testing center director, Center for Media Design

Bloxham was quoted in a Sept. 27 article on the Web site InsideINdianaBusiness.com about the amount of television commercials that are being watched during prime time.

A recent study by the Center for Media Design (CMD) found that nearly a third of television commercial breaks are watched from start to finish during prime time. However, half are watched for only 60 seconds or less.

"The debate to define a commercial minute is currently a major point of discussion for advertisers, media owners and agencies," Bloxham said. "This study has enabled us to provide insights to what really happens during an average person's prime-time viewing such as the percentage of commercial breaks we observed where attention was compromised through channel-changing, using another medium like a magazine, talking to someone else in the room or leaving the room altogether."

A study by the CMD was also mentioned in an article on the Web site MediaPostPublications.com.

Jo Ann M. Gora, Ball State president

An Oct. 3 article in the Courier Times (New Castle) quoted Gora about the \$20 million grant from Lilly Endowment Inc. that is being used to develop "a capstone immersive experience for every student."

The experience Gora hopes to create will put students in real-life ventures during their college career, instead of simply sitting in a classroom.

"We also believe this approach will help fight 'brain drain,'" she said. "It can keep Indiana's best and brightest high school graduates in-state."

Wes Janz, associate professor of architecture; and **Nihal Perera**, associate professor of urban planning

Janz and Perera were mentioned in a Sept. 29 article in the Detroit Free Press about work they have done to provide shelter to communities after natural disasters.

They took a group of students to Sri Lanka shortly after the 2004 tsunami to offer assistance and to learn from others. They built structures for the homeless made from simple wooden pallets and other available materials. The pallets, often discarded, are strong and, when reconfigured and linked together, can provide free or low-cost shelter.

Roger Lavery, dean of the College of Communication, Information and Media; and **Chris Bavender**, managing editor, NewsLink Indiana

An Oct. 3 article on the Web site MediaPostPublications.com quoted Lavery and Bavender about the News Research Institute (NRI) that will spot, study and offer solutions about issues that impact both the news industry and its consumers.

The NRI will bring together industry pros, faculty members and students to help navigate the news business in a time of volatile change.

"The news industry is grappling with a rapid rate of technological advances that is changing how consumers access information," Lavery said. "At the same time, the industry also faces challenges as newspaper readership drops, TV viewing becomes more segmented and traditional radio programming battles satellite options."

Veteran journalist Bavender will direct NRI operations. She is currently managing director of NewsLink Indiana.

"This will be an excellent opportunity to bring many of our immersive learning projects under one roof," Bavender said. "Our students will then be able to work with and learn from many of the leading professionals from the communications industry brought to campus to participate in our projects."

The story was also featured on the Web sites InsideINdianaBusiness.com, BroadcastNewsroom.com and DigitalVideoEditing.com.

James Lowry, professor emeritus of marketing

Lowry was quoted in a Sept. 28 article in the Charlotte Observer (S.C.) about why Americans will spend more money this year on Halloween.

Halloween is the second-most popular decorating holiday, behind only Christmas. Lowry has attributed this year's large increase in spending to growing consumer confidence.

"We survived the hurricane season reasonably well, gas prices are down, and I think people want to enjoy themselves," he said.

Bob Papper, professor of telecommunications

An Oct. 4 article on the Web site AdWeek.com featured a study conducted by Papper, which found that more Americans still turn to TV news as their top choice over all other media.

When asked for their top three news sources, 65.5 percent named local TV as the major source, followed by local newspapers, national network TV, local radio news, the Internet and national newspapers.

The study was also featured in articles on the Web sites BroadcastingCable.com and Poynter.org.

O'Neal Smitherman, vice president for information technology; and **Ione DeOllos**, associate professor of sociology

Smitherman and DeOllos were quoted in an Oct. 2 in USA Today about Ball State's wireless campus.

Student expectations for constant connectivity have prompted Ball State to innovate, Smitherman said.

"In the world today, we have the potential to know and be able to access any kind of information that has ever existed," he said. "While you may not want to have all that information every minute, you do want to be able to access it whenever you need. If you happen to be riding on the campus shuttle bus, you can't afford to be out of touch."

DeOllos serves as a member of the task force that helps direct technology efforts on campus.

"We felt far too often technology was the tail wagging the dog - that technology was placed in the classrooms, and we have fully technological classrooms, but without really any input from the faculty about what they would need and use."

The story was also featured on the Web sites YahooNews.com, CIO-Today.com and NewsFactor.com.

Warren Watson, director, Journalism Institute for Digital Education, Activities, and Scholarship

An article by Watson about the amount of news coverage in which today's young people are exposed was featured in an article in the Oct. 2 edition of the Fort Wayne Journal Gazette.

Growing up, Watson said media permeated his home. Newspapers and nightly TV news reports were his family's main source of information. According to a recent study, today's young people get a steady diet of news and information, but it's mostly from the Internet. However, students still tend to trust television and newspapers as the most accurate sources for news.

SPOTLIGHT

Presentations

Paul Gestwicki, Department of Computer Science, "Robo Battle Pigs: AI Challenge," Nifty Tools and Assignments Panel, Consortium of Computing Sciences in Colleges Midwest Conference, Greencastle, Ind.

James Walters, Ramesh Dangol and Sushil Sharma, Information Systems and Operations Management, "Beyond Economic Justification for Outsourcing: Agenda for Future Research?" Fifth Annual International Smart-Sourcing Conference, Los Angeles.

Publications

Gerry Appel, Department of Journalism, wrote the lead story for the fall 2006 issue of *Communication: Journalism Education Today*, a national magazine published by the Journalism Education Association.

Mark Groover, Department of Anthropology, multiple entries in *The South Carolina Encyclopedia*.

Arlene Ignico and **Carla Vidoni**, School of Physical Education, "The Effects of an Intervention Strategy on Children's Heart Rates and Skill Performance," *Early Child Development and Care*.

James Walters, **Ramesh Dangol** and **Sushil Sharma**, Information Systems and Operations Management, "Beyond Economic Justification for Outsourcing: Agenda for Future Research?" refereed conference proceedings from the Fifth Annual International Smart-Sourcing Conference, Los Angeles.

Service

Ron Kovac, Center for Information and Communication Sciences, was recently elected chairman of the Publications Committee for the Association for Communications Technology Professionals in Higher Education.

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