

Faculty members recognized for outstanding teaching, service and more

Ball State bestowed its most prestigious honors to 12 faculty members during the annual fall faculty meeting on Aug. 22.

The outstanding educators received cash awards from the Ball State University Foundation and plaques from the Alumni Association during the ceremony, the pre-eminent annual awards presentation for faculty.

Each was honored for outstanding contributions to students and to the university. Honorees include:

Excellence in Teaching Awards

Winners of this award are given the opportunity to teach a "dream course" they have always wanted to lead.

- **Dale Hahn**, professor, Department of Physiology and Health Science: Hahn's course will allow students to better understand the way in which fine arts influence a person's health.
- **Patricia Lang**, professor, Department of Chemistry: Lang's course aims to bridge the arts and sciences by helping students better understand light, color, the features of pigments and the preparation and properties of an artist's colors.
- **Christopher S. Thompson**, associate professor, Department of History: Thompson's course is designed to foster global citizenship by examining history and how past events can prepare us to find appropriate actions for today's challenges.

Lawhead Teaching Award in the University Core Curriculum

Robin Ruffatto, instructor, Department of Mathematical Sciences
Ruffatto is a facilitator in the Office of Teaching and Learning Advancement and has helped address curricular innovations in both the department and in the university core. She has been actively involved with Freshman Connections since 1999 and has been described as a great role model for her students.

Outstanding Administrative Service Award

Donald Whitaker, professor, Department of Mathematical Sciences
Whitaker is head of the Office of Academic Assessment and Institutional Research (OAAIR) and is responsible for many of the faculty and peer evaluations still in use today. Through his work with OAAIR, Whitaker has helped create the institutional research certificate and has been a leader in every institutional self-study effort for more than a decade.

Outstanding Creative Endeavor Award

Timothy Gray, associate professor, Department of Architecture
Gray is known globally as a hands-on designer and builder of architectural installations. He led his students in rebuilding a Sri Lankan village after the 2004 tsunami and, more recently, completed the first load-bearing straw-bale structure in the region with the Straw Bale Eco Center on Cooper Field (located off Ind. 332).

Outstanding Faculty Award

Nancy Carlson, associate professor, Department of Telecommunications

Known as a professor who "makes special things happen," Carlson has worked on numerous award-winning documentaries and TV episodes and leads groups including the Indiana Media Network, WCRD, and University Senate. She has received more than \$3 million in grants and two Emmys and is a previous winner of Ball State's Creative Endeavor Award.

Outstanding Faculty Advisor Award

Sadatoshi Tomizawa, professor, Department of Modern Language and Classics
Colleagues credit Tomizawa as the leader in devising Ball State's Japanese program. He has established three exchanges and logged hundreds of hours annually communicating with Japanese universities. His affiliations include the Association of Indiana Teachers of Japanese and the Indiana Foreign Language Teachers Association.

Outstanding Faculty Service Award

Beth Messner, associate professor, Department of Communication Studies
In the past year, Messner has served as departmental advisor for 300-plus communication studies students and chaired curriculum, scholarship and program development committees, among other commitments. She and her students have been of service to the Muncie Human Rights Commission, TEAMWork for Quality Living and the Southern Poverty Law Center.

Outstanding Junior Faculty Award

Eva Zygmunt-Fillwalk, assistant professor, Department of Elementary Education Zygmunt-Fillwalk routinely teaches eight different courses, recently completed an immersive-learning seminar at the Virginia B. Ball Center and has more than 10 national presentations and 15 refereed manuscripts to her name. She also is a representative for the Association of Early Childhood Education International at the United Nations.

Outstanding Research Award

Lawrence Gerstein, professor, Department of Counseling and Guidance Services Gerstein has written extensively on employee assistance programs and on factors affecting loneliness. His most recent work focuses on social justice and the internationalization of counseling psychology. He has published over 70 articles and 14 book chapters in 20 years and is renowned as being in the top 10% of scholars in his field.

Outstanding Teaching Award

David Concepcion, associate professor, Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies Concepcion adds this award to a growing list of accolades, including an Excellence in Teaching Award and the Lawhead Award, among others. Along with publishing his research in noted journals and garnering grants in his discipline, Concepcion has implemented 16 new courses in 11 semesters. Colleagues say that his pedagogical range is staggering.

New dean of Rinker Center is flying high and hitting the ground running

After only one day on the job, Ball State President Jo Ann M. Gora sent Ken Holland packing — literally — as he accompanied the president and other Ball State officials last month on a three-week trip to China and Korea in hopes of increasing its international presence and student enrollment.

Having logged more frequent flyer miles than hours in the office, Holland is no doubt still settling into his role as dean of Ball State's Rinker Center for International Programs, but he has certainly hit the ground running.

Before coming Ball State, Holland was the associate provost for international programs at Kansas State, where he played a key role in building up its international programs.

Pence hails education grant for Ball State

U.S. Congressman Mike Pence announced that the U.S. Department of Education has awarded a grant of \$113,257 for Ball State University's Disabled Student Development and its Division of Student Affairs.

"I am pleased to hear that Ball State will be receiving these funds to ensure a top-quality educational experience for their students," Pence said. "With the kind of steps Ball

State is taking and the funding awarded in this grant, Ball State University will not only continue to be a great educational institution in the state of Indiana, but will continue to serve as a model to all schools nationwide."

University receives federal funding for a Ball State-Brazil exchange to study sustainability

Ball State University has received a \$220,000 federal grant to support a consortium promoting Ball State and Texas A&M student and faculty exchange with Brazilian universities in a collaborative effort to teach students how to create universities that address current global environmental, social and economic challenges. The consortium is also funded by a parallel Brazilian grant that supports Brazilian student and faculty exchange.

Landscape architecture professor and Land Design Institute director John Motloch will oversee Ball State's involvement in the US-Brazil Universities of the Future Consortium (USBUCF). Other U.S. partners include Texas A&M University and the not-for-profit Center for Maximum Potential Building Systems. Brazilian partners include the Federal University of Brasilia and the Catholic University of Rio Grande do Sul.

Funds from the grants will cover stipends over the next four years for up to 40 students and eight faculty members from the partnering universities to participate in short-term or semester-long exchanges, Motloch said. The grant also will pay for the related expenses of curriculum development and supported research.

"Our aim is to educate students to address the profound challenges that must be addressed in the immediate and long-term future if humankind, as we know it, is to survive," Motloch said.

The program is jointly administered by the U.S Department of Education's Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education (FIPSE) and the Brazilian Ministry of Education. Ball State's grant for the USBUCF was one of 13 awarded this year under the nation's U.S.-Brazil Higher Education Consortium Program.

A previous grant from the program funded Ball State's U.S. leadership in the U.S.-Brazil Sustainability Consortium, also overseen by Motloch.

ON CAMPUS

New options available to help with on-campus parking, high gas prices

With construction projects limiting the number of on-campus parking spots available to faculty and staff, Ball State is helping ease the burden of getting everyone's vehicles to campus this fall.

Gene Burton, director of public safety, said changes this year include the introduction of parking spaces for mopeds, which may prove more popular with campus commuters now

that the cost of gas hovers near \$4 a gallon. Registration for moped drivers will be voluntary and those who do register will be charged a \$1 processing fee to receive a registration number to place on their moped. Burton said moped parking will be located in areas not used by motor vehicles. No parking spaces are being removed to make way for moped parking.

Ongoing construction work on projects, including North Hall, the new Student Recreation and Wellness Facility and the Pittenger Student Center renovations, has temporarily reduced the number of parking spaces on campus, Burton said. The Office of Parking Services has a limited number of restricted lot passes available as well as general passes.

To help ease the situation, Burton and other university officials are encouraging faculty and staff to explore carpool opportunities with their co-workers. Those interested can visit www.bsu.edu/webapps/rideboard to make requests for fellow riders or to enter a search and see if someone else is interested in carpooling with them. The service is self-maintaining; there is no rideboard manager, according to Judy Burke, director of human resources.

Angels for Life blood drive scheduled

Ball State Staff Council and the Indiana Blood Center are sponsoring an Angels for Life blood drive from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. September 3-4 in the Pruis Hall lobby.

Anyone is welcome to donate if he or she is at least 17 years old and weighs at least 110 pounds. Appointments are encouraged, but walk-ins are welcome. For an appointment, send an e-mail to Kim Hiatt.

Free T-shirts, snacks and food coupons will be given to donors. In addition, donors are eligible for door prizes. Other sponsors of the blood drive include National Society of Collegiate Scholars, the University Program Board, and the Ball State Staff Council.

Computer classes offered on Ball State campus

This fall, Ball State University's Business Development Division, formerly the Center for Organizational Resources, will offer a variety of noncredit computer courses including Microsoft Office 2007, Microsoft Windows Vista, Adobe Photoshop Elements 6.0 and SQL training.

Authorized instructors will teach introductory and advanced courses in Word, Excel, Access, PowerPoint, Photoshop, Movie Maker and Structured Query Language (SQL.)

The courses are open to the public and will be offered in sessions that begin Sept. 8. Price will range from \$45 to \$85 per session. Discounts are available for multiple attendees from the same company.

For the class schedule and registration information, call Leanna Smith at 765-285-4912 or log on to www.bsu.edu/cor, and click on "Computer skills class schedule."

IN THE NEWS

Center for Media Design

A study conducted by the Center for Media Design was featured in an Aug. 19 MediaPost article, "Nielsen-backed group bids for set-top based TV ratings." A group backed by millions of dollars in funds from Nielsen Media Research is seeking other research companies to propose new methods for measuring TV audiences based on viewing data from digital set-top boxes. Of the \$12 million dollars Nielsen is funding for the project, the Center for Media Design is receiving the largest grant, totaling \$3.5 million. The center will use the funds for a comprehensive observational study of how people use the media.

Martin Bennett, director, Rinker Center for International Programs

In an Aug. 12 article titled "A bookend approach to attracting Chinese students," Inside Higher Ed quoted Bennett about how he approached new Chinese exchange students on campus. He said the Chinese undergraduate exchange students have a distinct effect on campus. "These students have, I think, a much more significant impact on the campus than perhaps international graduate students might, just because undergraduates, by nature, are much more involved in the day-to-day aspects of campus life," Bennett said.

Peter Ellery, assistant director for the media of health, Center for Media Design

Ellery was quoted by U.S. News and World Report in an Aug. 15 article titled "Study probes Internet health-related search patterns." Ball State researchers recently released a study about Google trends as a research tool for health information. Ellery says more people search at certain times of the year, based on seasonal interests and events. "Search volumes for words like diet and exercise tended to increase sharply at certain times of the year, like right around New Year's, for example," he said. The article was distributed by Health Day News to 57 media outlets, including Forbes, Health Today and Health Central.

Wes Gehring, professor of telecommunications

ABC News quoted Gehring in an Aug. 11 article, "Dark days for stars of 'Dark Knight.'" The article says three of the film's stars, Heath Ledger, Christian Bale and Morgan Freeman, have faced death or violence since the film wrapped. "America and the world love a good story, a good conspiracy. It's fun to play with, but I don't really think of curses that way," he said.

Nancy Prater, university Web coordinator

In an Aug. 13 Business Wire article, "Ball State University deploys Sitecore, produces award-winning Website," Prater was quoted about Ball State's use of the content management service software, Sitecore, to revamp the school's Web site and create uniformity for all university Web pages. Prater said Ball State is happy with the new site and how it reflects the university. She also said response has been positive. "With the aid of our revamped site, we have already seen a 17-percent increase in applicants. And, on the technical side, we have built a solid foundation for the future. The best is yet to come," Prater said.

Scott Trappe, director of the Human Performance Laboratory

Trappe was quoted by The New York Times in an Aug. 19 article, "Getting better with age: Dive in." The article discusses the change and improvement of middle-aged swimmers from the past to the present. Trappe told the newspaper that people are exercising at older ages to focus on their own fitness needs. He said, "Before, it was thought that athletes peak at 25. But now the whole paradigm is getting shifted. People are paying more attention to their own fitness and nutrition." The story was distributed to four other media outlets by the New York Times News Service.

Trappe also was featured in an Aug. 22 Time article "How fast can humans go." Trappe told the magazine that Olympic runners, such as Usain Bolt, have more fast-twitch muscles (quick contracting muscles that easily fatigue but generate power) than other people, which allows them to run faster. However, they also have more superfast-twitch muscles (which perform at double the rate of regular fast-twitch muscles) than other people which make them even faster. Trappe says most people have 1 to 2 percent superfast-twitch skeletal muscle mass; however, a sprinter like Bolt, may have up to 25 percent.

SPOTLIGHT

Presentations

Jeffrey Fry, Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies, "Living Like There's No Tomorrow: Urgency, Mindfulness, and Psychological Realism," Society for Philosophy in the Contemporary World, annual conference, Snow Mountain Ranch, Colo.

Robert Habich, Department of English,

- "Rethinking Curriculum Design as Literary History," European Teacher Education Network Conference, Liverpool, England.
- "Independence and Politics in Thoreau's Thinking," workshop, Thoreau Society Annual Gathering, Concord, Mass.

Beth Messner, Department of Communication Studies, "Learning from a Legacy of Hate," American Psychological Association Conference, Boston.

Gregory Morrison, Department of Criminal Justice and Criminology,

- "Deadly Force Training: The Sum of Its Parts?" International Law Enforcement Educators and Trainers Association, annual conference, Wheeling, Ill.
- "Advancing Firearms and Deadly Force Training for Performance," International Association of Law Enforcement Firearms Instructors, annual conference, Reno, Nev.

Dennis Wible, Department of Educational Studies,

- Keynote speaker for the opening of Cowan School District, Cowan, Ind.
- "Improving Teaching and Learning," Networking Works!, Career College Association Leadership Institute, Leesburg, Va.

Publications

Rebecca Brey, Susan Clark, and Molly Wantz, Department of Physiology and Health Science, "This is Your Future: A Case Study Approach to Foster Health Literacy," Journal of School Health, June 2008.

Jeffrey Fry, Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies, "On Fumbling the Ball," "Football and Philosophy: Going Deep," University Press of Kentucky, 2008, 18-30.

Gregory Morrison, Department of Criminal Justice and Criminology, "The FBI's Practical Pistol Course: Police Reform, Officer Safety, and Handgun Training in the Mid-20th Century," Law Enforcement Executive Forum, 2008.

Recognition

Ron Morris, Department of History, received a preservation award from the Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana for restoring the renowned James Rariden House in Centerville, Ind.

Service

Jay Kandiah, Department of Family and Consumer Sciences, president-elect of the Indiana Dietetic Association.

Tania Said, Museum of Art,

- Appointed by Muncie Mayor Sharon McShurley to serve on the board of Action Inc., a private nonprofit community action agency.
- Elected to serve on the board of the Museum Education Roundtable, 2008-2011.

Dennis Wible, Department of Educational Studies, 23rd year facilitating the one-week resident Career College Association Leadership Institute, 2008.

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