

Thanks to Sen. Lugar, Ball State receives funds to continue improvement project

Ball State University received a major boost as Congress approved \$950,000 to begin work on the third phase of the McKinley-Riverside Avenues Safety Improvement Project.

The funds for the project were championed by U.S. Sen. Richard Lugar (R-Ind.) and included in the recently passed omnibus appropriations bill. President Obama signed the bill into law on March 11. The McKinley-Riverside project, authorized by Congress in 1998, has already had a major impact on the safety of Ball State's central corridors.

"This important project does more than enhance the campus; it improves the safety of our main thoroughfare," Ball State President Jo Ann M. Gora said. "The infusion of funds puts completion of the project within reach. We appreciate Sen. Lugar's ongoing support of Ball State."

The first and second phases of the project were completed in 2006 and included reconstruction of McKinley Avenue between Riverside and Bethel avenues at a total cost of \$10.68 million. Along with improving the safety of Ball State's main corridors, the first phases also earned multiple state honors.

The project's third phase is estimated to cost \$6.4 million and will address reconstruction of McKinley between Riverside and University avenues and reconstruction of Riverside Avenue between Meadow Lane and Dicks Street. University officials are hoping to secure economic stimulus dollars from the Indiana Department of Transportation to defray the cost of the project.

The timeless art of dance meets emerging media in University Theatre

Ball State's Dance Theatre Company will bring together the timeless art of dance and emerging media in a cutting-edge concert.

In *Dance Revelations*, new technology is explored in a body-meets-science world in which a variety of dance styles are reimagined for the 21st century. The show will be at 7:30 p.m. March 26-28 with a 2:30 p.m. matinee March 29. All performances will take place in University Theatre.

Artistic direction for the performance was provided by Lou Ann Young, assistant professor of dance, and Audra Sokol, assistant professor of dance. The concert will feature 22 student dancers performing eight faculty choreographed pieces including

works by Young and Sokol and two specially chosen works by seniors Chadae Nichol and Emily Bennett.

"The goal was to join digital effects with a variety of dance styles, including contemporary pointe, tango and modern dance," Young said.

Other choreographers include Greg Lund, assistant professor of dance; Michael Worcel, assistant professor of dance; and Susan Koper.

The performance will engage several forms of technology and dance, including a piece by Lund that begins in the 1950s and follows the development of dance through the decades. This work tracks the change of movement and expression over time and uses emerging media to aid in the exploration.

Young believes that audience members should prepare for a show where anything is possible. "I am anxious to see how the addition of digital media will enhance the choreography and dance. Two departments working together on a dance theatre production is a new experience and I think the final product will be inspiring," she said.

Purchase tickets at the Theatre and Dance box office located in the lower lounge of University Theatre. Box office hours are noon to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday or call 765-285-8749.

Other upcoming productions include "The Full Monty" — 7:30 p.m. April 23-25, April 29-May 2; 2:30 p.m. April 26. Based on the hit 1997 film of the same name this musical follows the journey of six steel workers from Buffalo New York who bond over one crazy idea to make money and restore their manhood.

Students use HD movie-making skills to take gritty look at friendship, graffiti

When it came to creating a fifth high definition (HD) movie, Ball State students not only decided to tell the story of a relationship as part of the often misunderstood world of graffiti art, but they also acquired highly valued emerging media skills.

"Free Wall," slang for graffiti spray painted on walls in urban areas, focuses on a friendship between two young men — one a well-to-do Caucasian and the other an African-American from a poor inner city neighborhood. Despite clashes between their cultures, the pair develops a friendship based on a shared love of graffiti.

The immersive learning project was eye-opening for Heather Trojack, a senior from Medina, Ohio, who served as the movie's producer. She was in charge of high-tech production sites in Muncie and Indianapolis for weeks at a time.

"There were some long days when we were filming, and I had to be highly organized," Trojack said. "I don't think many college students get a chance to produce a major movie project using state-of-the-art equipment. I can go on the job market with this on my resume and show them that I've done the job."

Allowing students to produce HD movies is part of Ball State's Emerging Media

Initiative (EMI), a \$17.7 million investment focusing the university's historic strengths in this area to accelerate benefits to the state of Indiana and give students innovative and entrepreneurial opportunities.

A recent university study found that human resource managers are willing to pay more for new employees with emerging media skills, a fact not lost of the majority of the crew for the movie, Trojack said.

"Ball State is full of opportunities to learn new skills," she said. "If you want to do something, all you have to do is ask."

A year in the making

"Free Wall" is collaboration between the College of Communication, Information, and Media and the College of Fine Arts. About 180 people, including actors and production staff, got real-world experience making a film. Writing took place in the spring, with filming in the summer and postproduction work in the fall.

"We spent a great deal more time on the script than in the past, and then we left campus to shoot in Indianapolis, giving the movie a grittier, urban feel," said Tim Pollard, a telecommunications associate professor. "That allowed us to create more roles for minorities, pushing the boundaries of relationships and storytelling beyond what college students are used to doing."

Telecommunications students completed the majority of the video and audio postproduction work as part of their courses in the new state-of-the-art David Letterman Communication and Media Building. Ball State plans to have two movies in production during a typical school year.

Students are putting the final touches on the 60-minute HD movie as well as promotional videos, sound track and music videos with plans to enter the movie in a variety of contests in the coming months.

More than the big screen

The number of Student Academy Awards, regional Emmys and wins at various film festivals showcases Ball State's strength in developing theatrical productions for a number of platforms and builds upon the university's reputation for creating content for emerging media, Pollard said.

He is a member of a faculty team mentoring the university's summer high definition (HD) movie immersion project. Team members include Rich Swingley, telecommunications digital audio instructor; Betsy Pike, telecommunications instructor; and Jonathon Huer, director of the Digital Corps.

"We've established ourselves as being on the cutting edge when it comes to developing content for a variety of platforms," Pollard said. "The days of simply producing films are

over. Students today want to learn how to produce movies, videos and other items for their iPhones and other mobile devices. That is where we are headed today."

Just as good as NYC, LA

Pollard said Ball State's telecommunications department is working with the Indiana Film Commission to enhance the state's reputation as a destination of choice for movie and video production.

"You don't have to go to Los Angeles to do this work because we have facilities in the Letterman building that rival the top studios on the East and West Coasts," he said.

Pollard points out Ball State's reputation for movie development was recently elevated when the university's fourth HD movie, "Grove Lake," was recently added to IMDB.com, the Internet Movie Data Base that is one of the world's largest sites for movies. The movie, trailer, a music video featuring the pop music band Arrah and the Ferns, which consists of several current and former Ball State students, poster and credits may be found at www.imdb.com/title/tt1338605.

A teen-oriented horror flick is next HD project on tap for summer with assistance of the university's Digital Corps, a group of professional and student media software experts who provided the graphics for "Free Wall."

Research into interactive television takes leap forward at Ball State with new kit

Ball State University's research and development of interactive television (iTV) will take another step forward next school year when its students become the first in the country to have access to a new application kit.

OEDN, a New York online developer network for the promotion of interactive television application and service development on digital cable television, is making its Academic ITV Software Developer Kit (AISDK) available to Ball State's Center for Media Design as part of a national program.

The kit is designed to bring select universities the tools and test environments necessary to build applications locally — while testing them remotely — a process that allows student-built iTV applications to be created and tested in real-world conditions.

"Ball State is excited to be the first university to participate in this new OEDN program," said Mike Bloxham, CMD's director of Insight and Research. "We look forward to applying our strengths in research, usability and the talent of our students and faculty by integrating this project into our existing and emerging curriculum. Ball State has a long and distinguished history of innovation in education and in media research, and this collaboration builds on that."

Dave Ferguson, associate vice president of Ball State's Emerging Media Initiative and CMD executive director, added that, "This commitment to advance the knowledge base in interactive television fits perfectly into Ball State's recently launched \$17.7 million Emerging Media Initiative."

The first students at Ball State to use the kit will be those immersed in a yearlong interactive media class known as iMedia, which allows students to develop and design interactive news and advertising for a variety of platforms.

Students enrolled in this multidisciplinary course are developing interfaces for the widely popular iPhone and iPod touch as well as other multimedia devices. The CMD's Insight and Research team is assisting with usability testing of television and mobile device interfaces created from this course, and the team of professors who lead the course will synthesize that data.

Another group to have access to the kit next school year will be Digital Corps, a group of professional and student media software experts. Housed in the Emerging Media PowerHouse, a high-end, Macintosh OS based computer lab open to the entire Ball State community, Digital Corps members provide high-level customer support during all hours of operations.

Digital Corps members also use their creative skills and media software expertise for a variety of projects for both Ball State and outside clients. These projects include Web sites, videos, widgets and digital billboards.

OEDN has been working in collaboration with several key iTV companies and partners to make the kit available to colleges and universities across the country.

Those partners include Ensequence and the Comcast Media Center.

Founded in 2007, OEDN is dedicated to supporting emerging and long-term needs of software engineers and product teams building applications to run not only on digital cable television, but also converged applications and services spanning mobile and broadband devices.

OEDN will serve the role of coordinating all parties involved and providing student developer support through OEDN.net.

Ball State student invited to the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival

For the fifth consecutive year, a student from Ball State University's Department of Theatre and Dance has been invited to participate as a national qualifier in the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival (KCACTF).

The KCACTF is a national theater program involving 18,000 students from colleges and universities across the country with the aim of improving the quality of college theater in the United States.

Students participating in the program compete at state and regional festivals in January and February. Those with the best and most diverse productions are selected to have their work showcased at the national festival at the Kennedy Center each spring.

This year, Marciel Greene, a Ball State senior theater design and technology major, will attend the national festival, to be held April 14-20 in Washington, D.C., in recognition of her lighting design work for the play "In the Blood."

Greene competed against more than 20 other student lighting designers at the regional level and eight designers at the national level before learning her work had been selected for inclusion in the national festival's production.

"To prepare for the competition, I created a display of my design process, including my research images, concept statement and an example of the lights that I designed and handmade for the show out of Ball jars," Greene said.

Last year, Greene was named runner-up in the festival for her light design for the production "The Wild Party."

Bill Jenkins, chair of Ball State's Department of Theatre and Dance, said having Ball State students participate in KCACTF's national festival five years in a row is a testament to the talent and quality of work being produced by students at the university.

"Having students win for five consecutive years places us in an elite status," he said. "Recognition by the Kennedy Center is our equivalency of a bowl game or NCAA Final Four; it says to the nation, we, the Ball State theater department, are a national player."

Greene attributes her success to the professors, mentors and friends within the Department of Theatre and Dance. She said she is very fortunate to have found a place where she can thrive as an artist and a developing individual.

"The thing I found most amazing at KCACTF is that we competed against programs with graduate students and undergraduates, and our department has successfully stood up against all other programs five years in a row," Greene said.

After graduation, Greene plans to travel to Illinois to work as the master electrician for the Illinois Shakespeare Festival. Following that, she plans to move to Chicago to pursue her design career.

ON CAMPUS

Ball State celebrates Women's Week March 23-28

Ball State University will offer a variety of lectures, discussions, music and art celebrating the achievements and experiences of women during Women's Week March 23-28.

At 7 p.m. on March 23 in Emens Auditorium, the internationally recognized Core Ensemble will perform "Tres Vidas". The group includes members Tahirah Whittington, cello, Hugh Hinton, piano and Michael Parola, percussion and feature actress Georgina Corbo.

"Tres Vidas" celebrates the life, times and work of three significant Latin and South American Women — painter Frida Kahlo of Mexico, peasant activist Rufina Amaya of El Salvador and poet Alfonsina Storni of Argentina.

The script offers powerful portrayals of each woman and includes traditional Mexican folk songs as well as Argentinean popular and tango songs made famous by Mercedes Sosa and Carlos Gardel.

The Core Ensemble has toured nationally and internationally in England, Russia, Ukraine, Australia and the British Virgin Islands. It has won several awards including the 2000 Eugene McDermott Award for Excellence in the Arts awarded by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Women's Week activities are free and open to the public and have been organized by the women's studies program in connection with National Women's History Month.

A complete list of the week events and presenters include:

March 23

- "What is Fibromyalgia and what can be done about it?" — Panel discussion made up of Patricia Atherton, Laurel Fisher, Natalie Havice and Najma Javed and moderated by Julee Rosser. Panel is co-coordinated with disabled student development. The discussion will take place at noon in the Fine Arts Building, room 217.
- Women's Week 2009 Proclamation Reception, Emens Auditorium, 5:30 p.m. The Core Ensemble will perform "Tres Vidas" at 7 p.m.

March 24

- Diva of Debris — Lisa Laflin will discuss basic steps toward being green using the three Rs: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle. Session begins at 9:30 a.m. in Bracken Library room 225.

- Jane Jacobs: A woman on a mission, her life, works, and impact — Vera Adams and Rabita Rajkarnikar discuss the life of an urban writer and activist, Jane Jacobs, who championed new, community-based approaches to planning. The discussion will be at noon in the architecture building room 100.
- Lesbian Studies: What do we know? Where are we going? — Panel discussion on issues in lesbian studies, moderated by Carmen Siering. Discussion begins at 2 p.m. in the Fine Arts Building, room 217.
- State of Assault — Discussion of the results of an immersive project with Ball State students, the Virginia Ball Center for Creative Inquiry and Dr. John McKillip. The 4 p.m. session in the David Letterman Building, room 125 will address the evolving needs and future trends in sexual assault case management.
- Remembering Oscar Romero and the Mothers of the Disappeared — Marguerite Rivage-Seul, associate professor of women's studies and director of women's studies department at Berea College will present her essay in homage to Oscar Romero, connecting his life to the Mothers of the Disappeared and Demeter and Persephone. The presentation is at 6:30 p.m. in Ball Building, room 101.

March 25

- The Empowerment of Women: A Conversation with Indiana Women of Achievement — Presented by the College of Sciences and Humanities Task Force on the Status of Women. The panel will be made up of Terry Whitt Bailey, Betty Cockrum, Molly Flodder and Patricia Schaefer and moderated by Mary Dollison. The discussion will take place at 1 p.m. in the L.A. Pittenger Student Center Forum room.
- Iron Jawed Angels— A film that shows how activists Alice Paul and Lucy Burns broke from the mainstream women's rights movement and created a more radical wing. It will be shown at 7 p.m. in Pruis Hall.

March 26

- Third Annual African Diaspora Research Conference: Sisters, Girls and Women: Gender Solidarity and Struggle — A one-day conference that explores issues related to the roots and global dispersion of ethnically African people. The conference is from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. in Bracken Library, room 225.
- Nina B. Marshall Art Exhibit: Understanding Cultural Domain — A display of women's artwork. The exhibit opens at 4 p.m. in the Atrium Gallery.

March 27

- Males Doing Feminist Work — Panel discussion that will include Abel Alves, David Concepcion, Mark Malaby, Joseph Merchal and Tal Peretz and will be moderated by Adam McLachlan. The panel begins at noon in the Fine Arts Building, room 217.

March 28

- "Sonnets for My Sistahs," — a two-part play that features comedy, drama, song and dance of relationships in the new millennium. Written by Indianapolis resident Vernon Williams and many of the cast members are BSU Alumni. The play begins at 2 p.m. in Pruis Hall.

For more information, visit www.bsu.edu/womensstudies or contact the women's studies program at (765) 285-5451.

Red Carpet Department of the Month winner named

The Office of Bursar and Loan Administration has been selected as the first recipient of the Red Carpet Department of the Month award for January.

The new award recognizes departments with excellence in customer service that best exemplify the Roll Out the Red Spirit of Service. The new customer service recognition started last month and will continue for the remainder of the year.

Employees of the bursar's office were nominated in recognition of their customer service skills such as focusing on the situation at hand and listening to the customer to determine and resolve each issue.

As Red Carpet Department of the Month, the bursar's office received a framed certificate signed by Ball State President Jo Ann M. Gora. Tom Kinghorn, vice president of business affairs and treasurer, presented the award to Judy Merritt, bursar and loan administration director, and her staff on Feb. 9.

Nominations for the Red Carpet Department of the Month are due the 20th of each month and may be submitted online by completing the form on the Web site, www.bsu.edu/rolloutthered. Contact Andy Gothreau, assistant director of human resources, training and development with any questions about the Roll Out the Red Spirit of Service initiatives.

Second Red Carpet Department honored

Telephone and Postal Services was recognized as the second Red Carpet Department of 2009 for best exemplifying the Roll Out the Red Spirit of Service. Employees of Telephone and Postal Services routinely take ownership of a problem and work to make the process better, more efficient and easier for campus customers. This new customer service recognition started in January and will continue for the remainder of the year.

As a Red Carpet Department, Telephone and Postal Services was awarded a framed certificate signed by President Jo Ann M. Gora. Tom Kinghorn, vice president of business affairs and treasurer, presented the award to Mark Watters, director of Telephone and Postal Services, and his staff earlier this month.

Nominations for Red Carpet Department recognition are due by the 20th of each month

and may be submitted online to Andy Gothreau, assistant director of human resources, training and development. Contact Gothreau for more information or visit the Roll Out the Red Spirit of Service Web site, www.bsu.edu/rolloutthered.

IN THE NEWS

Ball State University

Ball State was featured in a March 6 article in the Indianapolis Star. The story explains funds in the Omnibus Appropriations Act to be used in various projects around Indiana. Thanks to Sen. Richard Lugar, \$950,000 will be used to help improve safety on McKinley and Riverside avenues on the Ball State campus.

David Call, assistant professor of geography

Call was recently featured in a March 5 episode of WFYI-TV's "Indiana Expeditions," a locally produced science show. The episode was about severe weather in Indiana.

Michael Goldsby, director of the Entrepreneurship Center and the Stoops distinguished professor of entrepreneurship

Goldsby was quoted by Inside Indiana Business in a March 10 article, "Ball State Business Competition Set for IMS." The Nascent 500, Ball State's annual business plan competition hosted by the Entrepreneurship Center, is set for March 20. The competition gives student teams from universities across North America the opportunity to pitch business ideas to judges in the back of a limousine as it goes around the track. "We are looking at possibly some of the top new businesses to be developed in the next few years," Goldsby said. "It is always exciting to give aspiring professionals the opportunity to showcase their business plans on a stage like the Indianapolis Motor Speedway."

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

The New York Times quoted Hicks in a March 5 article, "Piecemeal Recovery Fills Void in a Former GM Town." Anderson, Ind., was once ranked as having the second largest concentration of GM operations, behind Flint, Mich. However, Anderson is now enjoying some bragging rights as Nestlé opened a new Coffee-Mate and Nesquik plant and is investing \$529 million, creating hundreds of new jobs. As GM shuts down more plants, the new plant is Anderson's attempt to recuperate from "the GM hangover," according to Hicks. "What we have experienced is a lot of jobs lost in an industry that, even when the plants were here, was subject to boom and bust," he said. "Anderson is trying to replace that highly cyclical industry."

Scott Truex, associate professor of urban planning

Truex was quoted in a Jan. 30 Goshen News article, "Ball State students want to turn Nappanee green." In the summer, students will study Nappanee as a potential model for a sustainable community. They will spend 12 to 15 days looking at the carbon footprint of the city, as well as talking to people in the community, setting up an IMAX portal in order to interact with people stopping at the Main Street Coffee House and offering community book club nights and community films regarding the subject of going green. The students will conduct surveys twice during the project to see if they have persuaded residents to go green. Truex encourages his students and the community to join the movement. "Instead of hitting the gym for an hour before work, you can ride your bike," Truex said. "It'll take the same amount of time and cost less."

SPOTLIGHT

Recognition

Robert "Pritch" Pritchard, Department of Journalism, received the Jackson-Sharpe Award for the best co-authored academic/practitioner paper at the 12th International Public Relations Research Conference luncheon, Miami, Fla., March 14, 2009. (Pritchard received this award with co-author Debbie Davis, MA in public relations '03.)

Presentations

Mike Bloxham, Center for Media Design, panel presentation addressing steps industry is taking to understand how consumers use and perceive media, American Association of Advertising Agencies' Trade Show and Convention, New Orleans, March 3-6, 2009.

Dustin Supa, Department of Journalism, co-author, "Maximizing Media Relations Through a Better Understanding of the Public Relations Practitioner-Journalist Relationship," 12th annual International Public Relations Research Conference, Miami, Fla., March 11-15, 2009.

Leland Yarger, School of Physical Education, Sport, and Exercise Science, co-presenter, "Evidence vs. Assumption in Aquatics," National Drowning Prevention Symposium, Miami Beach, Fla., Feb. 23, 2009.

Publications

Mir Masoom Ali, Department of Mathematical Science, co-author, "Marginal Distribution of Crossing Time and Renewal Numbers Related with Two-State Erlang Process," Journal of the Korean Data and Information Science Society, Volume 20, No. 1, pages 191-202, 2009.

Barbara Zimmermann Bogue, Department of English, "Above the Carnage," short story, "Out of Line," yearly anthology, Patchwork Press, pages 45-56.

Chu-yuan Cheng, Department of Economics, "China and the World: Sun Yat-sen's Doctrine and Renaissance of Chinese Commonwealth," Straits Review, No. 219, pages 1-11, March 1, 2009, Taipei, Taiwan.

Mark Massé, Department of Journalism, "Inspired to Serve: Today's Faith Activists," featured in the Selected Historical Bibliography of Literary Journalism in Norman H. Sims' book, "True Stories: A Century of Literary Journalism."

Beth Messner, Department of Communication Studies, co-author, "A City at War: Commemorating Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.," Communication Studies, Volume 60, No. 1, pages 17-31.

Leland Yarger, School of Physical Education, Sport, and Exercise Science, co-author, "Aquatics Professional Development," International Journal of Aquatic Research and Education, Volume 3, No. 1, pages 83-88, February 2009.

ServiceChu-yuan Cheng, Department of Economics,

- Granted interview to Voice of America, Washington, D.C., on China's economic stimulation program, progress and prospects, Feb. 28, 2009.
- Granted interview to Radio Free Asia, New York, on China's efforts to achieve 8 percent growth in 2009 GDP, hurdles and outlook, March 2, 2009.

Mark Groover, Department of Anthropology, conference chair, 27th annual Symposium on Ohio Valley Urban and Historical Archaeology, Alumni Center, Ball State, Feb. 28, 2009.

Creative Endeavors

Mei Zhong, School of Music, solo in the concert of Impression China 2009, Corbett Auditorium, College – Conservatory of Music, University of Cincinnati, Jan. 17, 2009.

Get Update Delivered to Your Home E-mail Address

If you would like to have Update delivered to your home e-mail address, visit the Update Web site at www.bsu.edu/update and click on the "Subscribe" link.