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Monitor Newsletter December 07, 2009

Bowling Green State University

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Ph.D. student gets national grant for dissertation research

How might your life be different had you been exposed to millions fewer words in your home as a preschooler?

For children from low-income homes, that may not be a hypothetical question. At least one study has estimated that parents in middle- and high-income households use a minimum of four million more words around a child by age 3 than parents in low-income homes, according to Bowling Green State University doctoral student Emily Rusnak.

Rusnak, in the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders, has been looking at the effects of poverty on early language development—research that got a boost recently with the presentation of a \$10,000 grant from the American Speech-Language-Hearing Foundation. The former speech-language pathologist in southeast Michigan schools was among only seven graduate students nationwide to receive one of the awards for dissertation research.

If children aren't exposed to some words in lower-income homes, "they're not ready for school," said Rusnak, who is designing a feasibility study to see if the effects of poverty-related risk factors on language development can be eased through a parent-training program.

If those children haven't picked up what they need at home, they're ill equipped to learn how to read at school, she added, noting that oral language development affects literacy skills.

Head Start is among the existing programs that attempt to combat the situation and, beginning next month, her dissertation project will constitute a new intervention program. Children in low-income households are affected by their families' lack of resources, which may include such things as quality health care, day care, nutrition and housing, as well as finances, Rusnak explained. Parents dealing with those issues are stressed, may feel they can't care for their children and may not talk to them as much, giving the preschoolers less stimulation, she said.

Her project targets areas where parents need support and will try to teach them to be more sensitive to their children's language development needs, Rusnak continued. Over the nearly three-month study, they will receive information about, for instance, vocabulary and richness of words, language stimulation and creative conversations, plus child temperament and how preschoolers interact with others.

Researching poverty isn't typical in her field, noted Rusnak, saying she has enjoyed her BGSU doctoral experience because of that flexibility in programming. "I've only had major benefits coming here," said the Saline, Mich., resident, who holds a master's degree in speech-language pathology from Eastern Michigan University and plans to receive her Ph.D. in communication sciences and disorders next August.

Zoom News Recap Dec. 1-4**Dec. 1**

- *Zooming to your inbox*
- Saxophonist Bixler to perform at Lincoln Center
- Focus on enrollment

<http://www.bgsu.edu/offices/mc/zoom/news120109.html>

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Dec. 2

- Ballweg shares her art in China
 - 'Friday Night Lights' saves big for BGSU
 - Financial Aid TV a must-see for families
- <http://www.bgsu.edu/offices/mc/zoom/news120209.html>

Dec. 3

- Voluntary separation benefit approved
 - Positive trend seen in student applications
- <http://www.bgsu.edu/offices/mc/zoom/news120309.html>

Dec. 4

- Campus welcomes visiting STEMS students
 - BGSU administrators, students tapped for ODK membership
 - Podcast launches with discussion of separation plan
- <http://www.bgsu.edu/offices/mc/zoomnews/page75051.html>

IN BRIEF

Latta receives Outstanding Fundraising Professional award

Marcia Sloan Latta, interim vice president for advancement, was named the 2009 Outstanding Fundraising Professional by the Northwest Ohio Association of Fundraising Professionals (AFP) at the annual National Philanthropy Day celebration.

Nominated by members of her staff, Latta was honored for her work as director of the \$120-million "Building Dreams: The Centennial Campaign" at BGSU. The campaign culminated with more than \$146 million raised—the largest fundraising effort in northwest Ohio history.

Latta, who received her Certified Fund Raising Executive designation in 1995, is active in the advancement profession. She has served as faculty chair for the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education (CASE) and as past president of the Northwest Ohio AFP. A frequent presenter on philanthropy, she has also received numerous awards, including three national Circle of Excellence Awards from CASE.

Safety guidelines reviewed

Portable Heater and Halogen Lamp Policy—Portable heaters and portable halogen lamps are prohibited in University buildings. Fires and fire-related deaths have occurred nationally when halogen bulbs came in contact with combustible materials such as clothing, curtains, bedding and upholstered furniture. The portable heater and halogen lamp policy can be viewed at <http://www.bgsu.edu/offices/envhs/page14014.html>.

Decoration Policy—For the safety of students, employees and visitors to campus, there are requirements for the use of candles, lighting, Christmas trees and holiday decorations.

• Candles, incense, lanterns and similar "open-flame" receptacles are not permitted in residential housing, burned or unburned. Candles and other open-flame devices can be burned only in Olscamp Hall, the Bowen-Thompson Student Union and Prout Chapel, and only with a permit issued by Environmental Health and Safety.

• Decorations shall be fire resistant, and cannot interfere with safe passage or evacuation.

• Exit signs, fire extinguishers, smoke detectors, fire-alarm pull stations, emergency lights, sprinkler heads and audible fire signals/strobe lights cannot be decorated, covered or obstructed in any way.



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- Live or cut trees, straw, hay, leaves, corn shocks or dry vegetation is not permitted in any building.
- BGSU prohibits amusement or educational events in which building occupants or the general public is conveyed through a fixed or restricted course.

See the complete Fire Safety Decoration Policy at <http://www.bgsu.edu/offices/envhs/page14008.html>.

CALENDAR

Wednesday, Dec. 9

Aerial Lift Training, 8-11:30 a.m., 2 College Park Building. To register, call 2-2171 or visit www.bgsu.edu/offices/envhs/page22440.html.

Undergraduate Preliminary Auditions, for the 43rd annual Competitions in Music Performance, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Kobacker Hall, Moore Musical Arts Center.

EcoBreak Seminar Series, with Amanda Kuntz, biological sciences graduate assistant, 11:30 a.m., 332 Life Sciences Building.

Brown Bag Lunch, "Deck the Halls: Making Your Own Holiday Decorations," with Mary Ann Gibson, The Flower Basket: A Flower and Gift Shop, noon-1 p.m., Women's Center, 107 Hanna Hall.

Biological Sciences Seminar Series, "The Impact of Nanoparticles Commonly Found in Consumer Products on Bacteria Viability," with Dr. Cyndee Gruden, civil engineering, University of Toledo, 3:30-4:30 p.m., 112 Life Sciences Building. Meet the speaker at the 3 p.m. social prior to the talk.

Stained Glass Class, create a stained-glass snowflake ornament, 6:30-9:30 p.m., 2 College Park Building. The fee is \$29 plus a \$12 material fee. For more information or to register, call 2-8181 or visit <http://pace.bgsu.edu/registeronline>.

Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service Challenge Planning Meeting, 8 p.m., 315 University Hall.

Thursday, Dec. 10

Undergraduate Preliminary Auditions, for the 43rd annual Competitions in Music Performance, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Kobacker Hall, Moore Musical Arts Center.

Popular Culture Colloquium Series, with Dr. Katherine Meizel, musical arts, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., 207 Bowen-Thompson Student Union.

Graduate Preliminary Auditions, for the 43rd annual Competitions in Music Perfor-

mance, 2:30-5 p.m., Kobacker Hall, Moore Musical Arts Center.

Free Trial Zumba Fitness Class, 7 p.m., Student Recreation Center Dance Room. Qualifies for the fall WellAware Faculty and Staff Wellness Incentive Program.

BFA Reading, featuring Danielle Bonnano, James Lampe, Sarah Messham, Brian Metzger and Rachael Sample, 7:30 p.m., Prout Chapel.

Friday, Dec. 11

Last Day of Classes.

Record and Book Sale, hosted by the Music Library and Sound Recordings Archives, 9:30 a.m. to 9 p.m., Pallister Conference Room, Jerome Library. Payment may be made with cash, check or BG1 Card.

Graduate Preliminary Auditions, for the 43rd annual Competitions in Music Performance, 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Kobacker Hall, Moore Musical Arts Center.

Hockey vs. Michigan State, 7:05 p.m., Ice Arena.

Saturday, Dec. 12

43rd Annual Competitions in Music Performance Finals, 10 a.m., Kobacker Hall, Moore Musical Arts Center.

Breakfast with Santa, with crafts, a picture with Santa and a breakfast buffet, 10 a.m. to noon, 101 Olscamp Hall. The cost is \$7.50 for adults and \$4.25 for children 2-8 years old. To register, call 2-7950 by today (Dec. 7).

Sunday, Dec. 13

Jewelry Class, learn how to make an "X-marks-the-spot" bracelet, 1:30-3:30 p.m. The fee is \$19 plus a \$16 material fee. Class led by accessory designer Ann-Marie Searle. For more information or to register, visit <http://pace.bgsu.edu> or call 2-8181.

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**Continuing Events
Beginning Dec. 9**

Art Exhibit, "Synthetic Space," Union Art Gallery. Gallery hours are 8 a.m.-9 p.m. Monday-Saturday and 10 a.m.-9 p.m. Sundays.

Dec. 10-11

Footfalls Dance Concert, 8 p.m. each night, Whitney Dance Studio, 222 Eppler North. Tickets are \$5 at the door.

Through Dec. 13

Art Exhibit, Southern Graphics Council Traveling Exhibition, Willard Wankelman Gallery, Fine Arts Center. Gallery hours are 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday, 6-9 p.m. Thursdays and 1-4 p.m. Sundays.

Dec. 14-18

Final Exam Week.

Through Dec. 15

Art Exhibit, Faculty/Staff Exhibition, Dorothy Uber Bryan Gallery, Fine Arts Center. Gallery hours are 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday, 6-9 p.m. Thursdays and 1-4 p.m. Sundays.

Through Dec. 24

Planetarium Show, "Secret of the Star: A Show for Christmastime," showings at 7:30 p.m. Sundays, 8 p.m. Tuesdays and Fridays, and 2 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 19, and Thursday, Dec. 24. \$1 donation suggested.

JOB POSTINGS

FACULTY

There were no jobs posted this week.

Labor Postings

<http://international.bgsu.edu/index.php?x=facinfohires>

Contact the Office of Human Resources at 419-372-8421 for information regarding classified and administrative positions. Position vacancy announcements may be viewed by visiting the HR Web site at www.bgsu.edu/offices/ohr/.

Employees wishing to apply for these positions must sign a "Request for Transfer" form

and attach an updated resume or data sheet. This information must be turned in to Human Resources by the job deadline.

CLASSIFIED

On-campus classified:

www.bgsu.edu/offices/ohr/employment/BGSU_only/page11151.html

Off-campus classified:

www.bgsu.edu/offices/ohr/employment/cl_staff/page11145.html

ADMINISTRATIVE

http://www.bgsu.edu/offices/ohr/employment/adm_staff/page11137.html

OBITUARY

There were no obituaries this week.