

Reservation form page 8

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E-mail: [retirees@bgsu.edu](mailto:retirees@bgsu.edu) • Web: [www.bgsu.edu/faculty\\_staff/](http://www.bgsu.edu/faculty_staff/)

## Songs by BGSU choral group on the menu for Jan. 16



PHOTO BY JOAN GORDON

• At a December performance for the alumni of the Leadership BG program, the HeeBeeBGs wore tuxedos and white gloves.



PHOTO BY CLIF BOUTELLE

**Pallister Profile:**  
Larry Weiss!

THE HeeBeeBGs, a chamber ensemble of the BGSU Men's Chorus, will perform at the Wednesday, Jan. 16, meeting of the BGSU Retirees Association. The luncheon will be held at First United Methodist Church, 1526 East Wooster St. Cost is \$9 per person. Socializing starts at 11:30 a.m.

In the spring of 2007, graduate students Matt Young, from Stoughton, Wis., and Andrew Schultz, from Defiance, co-found-

ed and directed the group with the blessing of advisor Dr. William Skoog. The two students held auditions for the HeeBeeBGs, knowing members needed to be able and willing to take on the challenges entailed in starting a men's a cappella group.

A dedication to rehearse for multiple hours a week and the ability to perform a variety of songs in multiple genres were essential. With the HeeBeeBGs assembled, the group was successful in spring semester with performances for sororities and other student organizations, the Dance Marathon, BGSU sporting events, and local and civic groups like churches and local high schools.

*continued on 4*

## What's ahead

- **March 12, 2008** — Annual luncheon with Wood County Retired Teachers.
- **April 16, 2008** — BGSURA hosts the joint meeting with the University of Toledo Retirees Association. Speaker is Dr. S. Amjad Hussain, retired Toledo surgeon and columnist for *The Blade*, Toledo.
- **May 14, 2008** — BGSURA Luncheon. Kevin Maynard, City of Bowling Green director of utilities, is scheduled to speak. □

## On the BGSURA Entertainment Highway

THREE events for BGSURA members have been scheduled by Diane and Wally Pretzer. **Phone or e-mail Wally Pretzer (419-352-8057) or send an e-mail to [dpretze@bgsu.edu](mailto:dpretze@bgsu.edu) at least three days in advance of the activity.**

• Jan. 5, Saturday, 4 p.m., Anderson Arena. BGSU men's basketball team playing Ohio University. Dinner afterward at the Old Town Buffet, 1216 N. Main St., BG. Pay for your ticket at the arena and for your buffet (Asian and American foods) at the restaurant. Deadline for notification, Jan. 2.

• Jan. 17, Thursday, 7 p.m. at the home of Evan and Shirley McFee, 1205 Bourgoigne Ave. Let's play euchre and enjoy their refreshments. Deadline for notification, Jan. 14.

• Feb. 22, 4-6 p.m., Friday, at the home of Roger and Betty Jean Anderson, 463 Truman Ave. (south off Conneaut). Let's celebrate Washington's Birthday at a cocktail party. Please bring your favorite hors d'oeuvre. Beverages will be provided by the Andersons and the Pretzers. Then, at 8 p.m., we will attend the Black Swamp Players' production of "South Pacific." Buy your tickets in advance at Grounds for Thought. Deadline for notification, Feb. 19. □



PHOTO BY CLIF BOUTELLE

• Larry Weiss, in BGSU's Bowen-Thompson Student Union, which has a Larry Weiss Room on the third floor.

## *In the service of his Alma Mater: 34 years, still batting 1000!*

By Janis L. Pallister

LARRY WEISS has served the University in various capacities from 1973 to 2007 — a full 34 years. Most recently he served as associate vice president for University Relations and Governmental Affairs, and as a member of the President's Cabinet, working closely with Dr. Sidney Ribeau to establish and lobby for BGSU's economic and political agenda at the local, state and federal levels.



Profile by  
Pallister

Additionally Larry played a critical role in putting more northwest Ohio individuals in touch with the University and assisted in carrying out BGSU's agenda with community and service organizations.

A native of Canton, Larry graduated from BGSU in 1967 with a Bachelor of Science degree in journalism and a specialization in public relations.

Following graduation, he began his business career in the press relations department of Libbey-Owens-Ford Glass Co. in Toledo. During his time at L-O-F (1967-8),



• Larry fires a pitch during the annual Legends of Baseball Tournament in Cooperstown, N.Y. Players from all over the country, who must wear major league uniforms, make the annual trek to Cooperstown to participate in these summer tournaments. Larry has been participating every summer since 1996.



• Larry bats at Abner Doubleday Field in Cooperstown. This field is supposedly the oldest baseball diamond in the United States. The opportunity to play on this field is one of the reasons so many players return each summer.

he served as a loaned executive for the United Way and was president of the Maumee Jaycees.

In August 1968, he joined the cre-

• Last August, Larry Weiss (right) and another BG resident and BGSU journalism graduate Tom Walton were inducted into the Legends of Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown. This HOF honor is a baseball "Lifetime Achievement Award" much revered by all those participating in the Legends of Baseball program.



## Larry Weiss *continued*

ative advertising department of Firestone Tire & Rubber Co. in Akron. During his five years there, he held a variety of positions in advertising and sales promotion.

In 1973, during the presidency of Hollis Moore, Larry was recruited by Jim Lessig '57 to return to his Alma Mater as assistant director of Alumni Affairs, where he served as one of three staff members to work on a \$2.2 million campaign to build an alumni center on campus — the Mileti Center. Larry was named director of Alumni Affairs in 1978 and accumulated further responsibilities and job titles during ensuing years.

In 1998, he added state government relations to his responsibilities while still alumni director. In 2000, he moved to the President's Office.

From 2000-2007 Larry was a member of Sidney Ribeau's staff for government relations at the city, state and federal levels.

During his tenure in the alumni office, Larry also served as chair of the BGSU's 75th Anniversary celebration, was one of three alumni administrators in the United States selected by the Asian Institute of Management for travel to Manila to train Filipino educators, served as chair of

the 1993 Summer Institute in Alumni Administration sponsored by the Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE), was selected as editor of the

first-ever CASE publication on parent programs, and was host of the weekly "Time Out" on WBGU-TV.

Larry served on the boards of trustees for the Bowling Green Chamber of Commerce, the Bowling Green Community Development Foundation and the United Way of Greater Toledo. He was also a University representative on the Toledo Symphony Board. Last fall he chaired the Wood County United Way Campaign.

Larry's avocation remains playing baseball. Each summer he plays in an adult baseball league and, one week annually, in the Legends of Baseball League in Cooperstown,



PHOTO BY CLIF BOUTELLE

• *A room of his own: The "Larry J. Weiss Meeting Room" in the BGSU Bowen-Thompson Student Union was made possible from contributions by other alumni, colleagues and friends.*

N.Y. He also plays one week annually in the national Roy Hobbs World Series in Fort Myers, Fla.

But Larry is not finished serving BGSU. As a retiree, he is co-chair for the University's

Centennial Anniversary Commission to plan for the celebration in 2010.

Then, too, Larry has been asked by President Ribeau to write the history of women's basketball at BGSU and he will also participate in the history program on WBGU-TV's "Northwest Ohio Journal."

Larry is married to the former Frances Geiger, who worked at the University for 21 years. They love to travel, especially in the United States, and have two married sons and four grandchildren. □

• Dr. Pallister, PhD, LD, is Distinguished University Professor Emeritus of Romance Languages. Her address is jpallis@dacor.net.

## 80 ON BGSURA LIFE MEMBERS HONOR ROLL

Pamela C. Allison  
Betty Jean Anderson  
Roger Anderson  
Pietro Badia  
Thomas L. Bennett  
Judith C. Bentley  
Robert G. Berns  
Josef Blass  
Morgan M. Brent  
Zola R. Buford  
Eloise E. Clark  
Robert K. Clark  
Alta B. Coddling  
Beverly Coppler  
James R. Corbitt  
Ramona T. Cormier  
Suzanne Crawford  
Richard A. Edwards  
Kathy Eninger  
Rebecca S. Eninger

Patricia M. Erickson  
Kenneth C. Frisch  
Ronald J. Gargasz  
James R. Gordon  
Joan H. Gordon  
H. Theodore Groat  
David G. Hampshire  
Emma J. Hann  
William D. Hann  
Thomas A. Hern  
Richard D. Hoare  
James P. Hoy  
David J. Hyslop  
Barbara Y. Keller  
Allen N. Kepke  
Sally J. Kilmer  
Marvin L. Kumler  
Marilyn K. Leathers  
Park E. Leathers  
Paul G. Lopez  
Harold I. Lunde

Justine Magsig  
Ronald N. Marso  
Augustine (Tina) Martini  
Charles H. McCaghy  
M. Dawn McCaghy  
Rebecca K. McOmber  
John Merriam  
Marjorie Miller  
Willard E. Misfeldt  
Relda Niederhofer  
Reginald D. Noble  
Victor T. Norton Jr.  
Wilma Nye  
Janis L. Pallister  
Janet B. Parks  
Patricia I. Patton  
Joseph B. Perry  
Adelia M. Peters  
David J. Pope  
Richard E. Powers  
Diane Pretzer

Wallace Pretzer  
Deanna J. Radeloff  
Ronald M. Ruble  
Jane S. Schimpf  
Christine Sexton  
Sylvia Smith  
Robert Speers  
Edward G. Stockwell  
Robert W. Thayer  
Betty Vandersmissen  
Janice L. Veitch  
Russell A. Veitch  
Jerry W. Wicks  
Janet Wilhelm  
Ralph Haven Wolfe  
Bonadine R. Woods  
Nancy Wygant-Mills  
Ronald W. Zweirlein

• List current as of Nov. 25.

# PASSINGS

- **RAYMOND TUCKER**, a two-time Master Teacher Award winner at BGSU, died Oct. 25 in Texas. A professor emeritus of interpersonal communication and department chair for six years, he taught at BGSU from 1968 to 1995. He was a pioneer in statistical research in the field of interpersonal communication and presented more than 1,200 seminars and consulted for more than 300 corporations, including General Mills and American Movie Classics.
- **PATRICIA SMITH**, 89, professor emeritus of psychology, died Oct. 26 in Bowling Green. Internationally known in the field of organizational/industrial psychology, she was on the faculty from 1966 to 1980. Widely considered a leader in her field, she was recognized for her contribution in developing the Behaviorally Anchored Rating Scale, which provides ways to rate employees based on behaviors im-

portant to the job, and the Job Descriptive Index, an instrument to measure job satisfaction in organizations.

- **ERIK F. GRAUBART** of Perrysburg died Oct. 19. He had taught at the University in the department of German and Russian languages and was director of the Foreign Language Laboratory until his retirement in 2001.
- **ARMIN JOHN "PETE" RIESEN**, former assistant football coach and head wrestling coach at BGSU, died Oct. 13 in Findlay. For the 1982-83 wrestling season, he was named the Mid American Conference coach of the year.
- **CHARLES SCHULTZ** of Bowling Green died Nov. 4. He retired from the University in 1993 as assistant director of University Computer Services.
- **REBECCA MEEK**, who retired after working 20 years as the athletic ticket manager at BGSU, died Nov. 8 in Bowling Green. She had been named an honorary BGSU alumna in 1995.
- **EDITH PELTON**, who served as assistant to the dean of the Gradu-

ate College, retiring in 1978, died Dec. 3 in Findlay.

- **MAXINE ADAMS** of Neapolis died Nov. 26. She retired from the University, where she was a cook at Kreisler Hall for 15 years.
  - **DALLAS BRIM**, who retired as purchasing agent for the University Bookstore, died Oct. 16. As a student at BGSU, he was the drum major for the marching band.
  - **JULIE BURKE**, 54, chairman of the department of interpersonal communication, died Oct. 31. Just nine days earlier, she had been presented with the Faculty Distinguished Service Award. She previously had served as interim director of the School of Communications Studies. She came to BGSU as an associate professor in 1992.
  - **DANIEL STURGES**, 57, died Oct. 26 in Rudolph. He had worked in the University maintenance department for 30 years.
  - **KATHLEEN HILL** died Nov. 24 in Weston. She had been a secretary in the sociology department at the University some years ago. □
- *Compiled by Joan Gordon*

## HeeBeeBGs from page 1

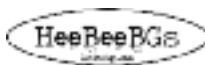
The group officially became a student organization last fall. Dr. Joseph Oravec, associate vice president of Student Affairs, became an additional advisor.

With his guidance and that of Dr. Skoog, the group has continued their success on campus and in the surrounding area. Young, who received his bachelor's from Luther College, Decorah, Iowa, graduated with his Master's in Music Theory from BGSU and continues to arrange music for the HeeBeeBGs as he works on his doctorate at the University of Texas. Schultz, who has his bachelor's from Ohio Northern, continues to direct the group while working on his Master's in Choral Conducting and

Business Administration.

Eric Watts has taken on the role of President for the HeeBeeBGs organization providing leadership as the group grows in popularity.

Five new members, including two freshmen, have helped to continue the new tradition of providing audiences with a superb quality of music and outstanding entertainment. □



• *Andrew Schultz*



• *Matt Young*

## Computer troubles?

**P**ROBLEMS getting connected to the Internet for e-mail and surfing? The services of Charlie Applebaum have been made available by BGSU Executive Vice President Linda Dobb. Applebaum may be reached by calling 419-352-0777 or by sending an e-mail message to [applebau@bgsu.edu](mailto:applebau@bgsu.edu).



• *Applebaum*

Applebaum has responded to more than 1,000 calls for help — three-fifths to retirees' homes. McAfee's VirusScan for Macintosh is available for installation on Intel Macs. The new Microsoft Office software for Mac may be available during the first quarter of 2008. □



# LEGISLATIVE REPORT

BY GENEVIEVE STANG  
ges@dacor.net

## OCHER (Ohio Council of Higher Education Retirees)

Tom Sweeney, Ohio State University, is now representing OCHER on the Ohio Retired Teachers Association Executive Committee. Consideration is being given to downsizing and reorganizing. The by-laws revisions being considered may affect the OCHER affiliation with ORTA.

- Laura Ecklar, STRS Director of Communication, reported that House Bill 315, to create an ongoing, dedicated revenue stream for the STRS Ohio Health Care Program, has been referred to the House Committee on Financial Institutions, Real Estate and Securities (also known as the FIRES Committee). HB152 relating to Alternative Retirement Plans also has been referred to the FIRES Committee.

- The importance of clarifying the perceptions of STRS reported in the Fordham Report released last June will be addressed at the March 18 OCHER meeting. STRS Ohio said the Fordham report contains "glaring mistakes and misstatements." A PDF with highlights of the report accompanied by an STRS Ohio response is at [www.strsoh.org/pdfs/fordham.pdf](http://www.strsoh.org/pdfs/fordham.pdf)

## FEDERAL

With continued divisional bickering and extensive political campaigning, little concrete actions have been taken.

On a positive note, the release of the Government Accountability Office report requested by Senators Grassley and Baucus to examine the state of public pension funding in an effort to avoid the significant benefit losses that were occurring at the time in private pensions revealed that, generally speaking, the systems are on sound financial footing and are well managed. A hearing was held on the Social Security offset impact legislation with recognition given of the problem by the chair of the Senate Finance Subcommittee on Social Security, Pensions and Family Policy (Kerry). He noted that the existing formula is irrational, un-

fair, and doesn't work, but that fixing it due to the cost is still a major challenge.

## STATE

While action to exempt veterans military pensions from state income taxes and waiving probate fees for families of military personnel killed in combat zones were addressed, action on legislation directly affecting retirees such as H.B.270 and H.B.240 related to re-employment, and H.B.151 dealing with divestment were not considered. These are issues of concern to PERS also. Earlier action had OK'd the sale of future tobacco settlements and approval to do away with the reduction of unemployment compensation based on the amount received in Social Security benefits.

H.B. 190 relative to teacher misconduct has been addressed and calls for criminal background checks for teachers every five years. Attempts to repeal a new state law limiting damages in

### STRS head to retire

THE executive director of STRS Ohio, R. Damon F. Asbury, announced in November that he will retire when his current contract ends on June 30, 2008.



• Dr. Asbury

Dr. Asbury began his career at STRS Ohio in July 2000 when he was designated deputy executive director for administration. He officially took over that position in January 2001. In August 2003 the Board asked Dr. Asbury to serve as STRS Ohio interim executive director after Herbert Dwyer, whose administration was noted for its extravagances, was fired. The Board then chose Dr. Asbury as permanent executive director in February 2004.

Playing key roles in 2003 to call attention to the excessive spending practices of STRS under Dwyer were BGSU alumni Dr. Dennis Leone, now an elected member of the STRS Ohio Board, and Dr. Paul Kostyu, Copley Newspapers Columbus bureau. □

consumer lawsuits and prohibiting public nuisance lawsuits ran out of time. Efforts to get a school funding issue on the ballot continue as do efforts to thwart gambling and smoking bans.

## STRS

At its October meeting the Board established a voluntary process for divestment of active direct holdings in Sudan and Iran, which will occur only when substitute investments with similar quality, return and safety can be identified.

To address what was described as a "recurring point of contention" between the STRS Ohio Board and Dr. Damon Asbury, executive director, the STRS Ohio Board will hold a January planning retreat. Dr. Asbury noted differing interpretations of the current board policies and perceived direction they provide. He said the senior staff has become unsure of what the board's expectations are for their role in the administration and operation of the system.

The October report noted that "the executive director will ensure that new employees will begin their employment at STRS Ohio without the transfer of sick leave from a prior employer." Further, awarding of severance checks and payments or benefits to STRS Ohio employees "will not occur absent a formal approval by the Board by a majority vote in public session."

The Columbus-based executive search firm, Hudepohl and Associates, has been chosen to assist the Retirement Board in its search for STRS Ohio's ninth executive director. An ad hoc committee of the board, consisting of Jeffrey Chapman, Craig Brooks, Mary Ann Quilter Cervantes, John Lazares and Mark Meuser, reviewed proposals, checked references and conducted interviews of several firms before recommending Hudepohl and Associates to the full board. The committee determined that this firm offered the best overall combination of work plan, qualified staff, experience and cost structure to assist the board.

Retirees should have received information from Express Scripts who are replacing Caremark beginning Jan. 1.

This spring there will be an election for replacement of the contributing member seat held by John Lazares whose term is expiring. To date five have submitted petitions. The deadline for return of petitions is Feb. 29. □

# Community Events and Activities



• *Members of the Terquasquicentennial Planning Committee roll down South Main Street during the Bowling Green Holiday Parade Nov. 17.*

## City prepares to salute its 175th birthday

THE City of Bowling Green will celebrate its Terquasquicentennial Anniversary (175 years) in 2008. The planning committee, chaired by BGSURA secretary Joan Gordon, has scheduled several events for the beginning of the year. Community residents are invited to attend the Falcon men's basketball game with the University of Toledo Sunday, Feb. 10, at 4 p.m. in Anderson Arena. During the intermission of the game, a foul-shooting contest will be held between Mayor John Quinn and Mayor Carty Finkbeiner of Toledo (he has been invited, but has not confirmed as of this printing).

• *The logo for the 175th anniversary was designed by SeaLion Studio of Bowling Green.*

On Saturday, Feb. 23, from 1 to 4 p.m., a Big BG Birthday Party will be held at Woodland Mall and planned as a family-centered event. Barbara Keller, BGSURA's representative to Administrative Council, chairs the major events committee. The activities and events of the committee are funded by the sale of commemorative items and donations from businesses, individuals, and organizations. The committee is currently selling a coffee mug, a glass ornament etched with the 175th logo, and an enameled pin by Marge Meserve, featuring the Clough Street windmill and a wind turbine. Items may be purchased at the Chamber of Commerce and selected retail outlets. For more information: [jhgordon@dacor.net](mailto:jhgordon@dacor.net), 419/354-6648. □

## Great Decisions series

THE popular series of weekly talks on world issues, "Great Decisions," will begin Saturday, Jan. 26, at the Wood County Senior Center from 9:30 to 11 a.m. The series continues Feb. 2, 9, 16, 23, and March 1.

The speakers are usually BGSU faculty members with expertise on the topics and countries under review. All sessions are free and open to the public.

Specific topics and speakers will be posted soon. Some of the topics under consideration are "Iraq End Game," "Talking to Our Enemies," "U.S.-China Trade Policy," "Russia," and "European Union at 50." □

## Active for Libraries

BGSURA members volunteer with Friends of the University Libraries, which supports programs and activities of the Libraries. Janet Parks, chair of the Board's Outreach Committee, encourages retirees to submit their research and work in the Authors and Artists Reception, an annual program to honor faculty and staff for scholarly and artistic achievement. The awards are presented at a special reception each fall.

Other BGSURA members on the Board include Roger Anderson, Beth Hofer, Beth Casey, and Joan Gordon. Details on membership are available from Parks at [jparks@bgsu.edu](mailto:jparks@bgsu.edu). □

**5 College Park Office Bldg.  
Bowling Green, OH 43403-0201**  
(419) 372-9696  
[www.bgsu.edu/faculty\\_staff/](http://www.bgsu.edu/faculty_staff/)  
E-mail: [retirees@bgn.net](mailto:retirees@bgn.net), [bgsu.edu](mailto:bgsu.edu)  
Telephone numbers require a 419 prefix.

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

**President, Ramona Cormier**, 353-9513  
[rcormie@dacor.net](mailto:rcormie@dacor.net)

**Vice President, Ted Groat**, 353-8977  
[tgroat@bgsu.edu](mailto:tgroat@bgsu.edu)

**Secretary, Joan Gordon**, 354-6648  
[jhgordon@dacor.net](mailto:jhgordon@dacor.net)

**Treasurer, Harold Lunde**, 352-3929  
[hlunde@cba.bgsu.edu](mailto:hlunde@cba.bgsu.edu)

**Ohio Council of Higher Education Retirees  
Representatives**

**Roger Anderson**, 354-6451  
[rogerca@bgsu.edu](mailto:rogerca@bgsu.edu)

**Genevieve Stang**, 352-5534, [ges@dacor.net](mailto:ges@dacor.net)

### DIRECTORS

**Pietro Badia**, 352-5022  
[pbadia@bgsu.edu](mailto:pbadia@bgsu.edu)

**Tom Bennett**, 352-3877  
938 Clark St.

**Don Bright**, 352-8360  
[mardon@wcnet.org](mailto:mardon@wcnet.org)

**Clif Boutelle**, 352-5625  
[clif5761@verizon.net](mailto:clif5761@verizon.net)

**Harry Hoemann**, 352-0493  
[hhoemann@verizon.net](mailto:hhoemann@verizon.net)

**Park Leathers**, 352-9171  
[pleathers@verizon.net](mailto:pleathers@verizon.net)

**Chuck McCaghy** 352-7211  
[cmccagh@bgsu.edu](mailto:cmccagh@bgsu.edu)

**Becky McOmber**, 352-6951  
[rkmcomb@bgsu.edu](mailto:rkmcomb@bgsu.edu)

**Janet Parks**, 352-0516  
[jparks@bgsu.edu](mailto:jparks@bgsu.edu)

**Jane S. Schimpf**, 352-6956  
[schimpf@bgsu.edu](mailto:schimpf@bgsu.edu)

**Christine Sexton**, 354-2834  
[csexton@wcnet.org](mailto:csexton@wcnet.org)

**Elmer Spreitzer**, 352-9318  
[espreit@bgsu.edu](mailto:espreit@bgsu.edu)

### COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Activities **Wally Pretzer**  
Administrative **Park Leathers**  
Benevolence **Chuck McCaghy**

Bylaws **Janis Pallister**  
Membership **Park Leathers**  
Nominating **Roger Anderson**

Office Staffing **Becky McOmber**  
Professional **Pietro Badia**  
Program **Ted Groat**

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Class. Staff Council **Christine Sexton**  
Faculty Senate **R.K. Clark**  
Faculty Senate Prof. Affairs **Bill Rock**  
Family Campaign **Ramona Cormier**

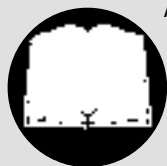
**Editor, Jim Gordon**, 352-8175  
[jrgordon@dacor.net](mailto:jrgordon@dacor.net)

**Director of Photography, Clif Boutelle**  
352-5625, [clif5761@verizon.net](mailto:clif5761@verizon.net)  
**Associate Editors, Joan Gordon**, 354-6648  
[jhgordon@dacor.net](mailto:jhgordon@dacor.net)

**Diane and Wallace Pretzer**  
352-8057, [dpretze@bgsu.edu](mailto:dpretze@bgsu.edu)

## *Baskets generate \$139 toward book fund at luncheon*

**T**HE BGSU Retirees Association continues its quest to endow its \$15,000 Golden Book



Award. Ten baskets placed on tables at the November luncheon at the Elks Banquet

Center members generated \$139 in cash for the fund. The baskets will reappear on tables at the Jan. 16 luncheon.

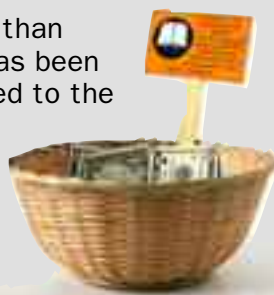
Members are reminded that contributions to the Book Award through the BGSU Foundation count toward BGSU's Family Campaign as well as counting toward President's Club pledges.

More than \$6,500 has been contributed to the Golden Book Award since the program began last year,

said Ramona Cormier, BGSURA president.

The first recipient, junior Angela Dawson, of Brunswick, Ohio, received \$500 last year with funding from the Golden Book Award escrow account.

The BGSURA Board has decided not to have a silent auction to raise funds for the endowment. □

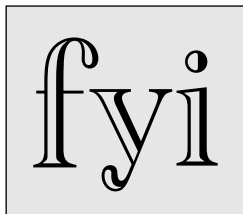


• *Baskets will be at each luncheon table for contributions.*

## **Business/finance magazine Barron's takes aim at state pension funds**

**M**EARL Guthrie, retired chair of BGSU's business education department, calls attention to the Barron's magazine Editorial Commentary in the Nov. 17 issue: "Losers Win and Winners Lose." Subject: Ohio's and other state's teacher pension funds in which defined-benefit systems may "lock people into jobs they do not like or push people out of jobs that they want to do."

The Commentary points to a study by researchers Robert Costrell, at Arkansas, and Michael Podgursky, of Missouri, who "wondered what foolishness had been swept under the rug by state governments operating defined-benefit pension plans for teachers."



Writes Barron's editorial page editor, Thomas G. Donlan, "We can blame state legislatures that write generous benefit rules without carefully considering the effect on the whole system. But just as in private systems, the big problem is the failure to link contributions and benefits."

Donlan concluded, "A defined-contribution system is simpler and fairer than a defined-benefit system because it pays in proportion to the contributions made on behalf of each beneficiary. It can be kinder because it does not lock people into jobs they do not like or push people out of jobs they want to do. And it can be as generous as employers make it, without deluding either workers or employers into thinking that the benefits are a free lunch."

The researchers noted that in 2006, Ohio STRS was underfunded by \$19.4 billion, California by \$19.6 billion, and New Jersey by \$10 billion while the "federal Pension Benefit Guaranty Corp. reported a mere \$13-billion deficit for all failed private plans under its control." □

## **26 years and \$14.5 billion to go**

• Ohio STRS, in its on-line October report, noted that "overall, the system's accrued liabilities dropped to about \$14.5 billion [in 2007] from \$19.4 billion and both the pension system's funding period and funding ratio improved. The funding period is the number of years required to pay off the unfunded accrued liability of the system. The funding period dropped to 26.1 years with 2007 actuarial gains.

"The system's funded ratio — the market-related (smoothed) value of assets compared to liabilities — increased to 83%. This means that STRS Ohio currently has on hand 83% of the assets needed to pay all benefits accrued by STRS Ohio members to date — even though the liabilities are not payable all at once." □

### **STRS on the Web:**

<http://www.strsoh.org>

### **Barron's Nov. 17 Commentary:**

[http://online.barrons.com/article/SB119525673941296335.html?mod=9\\_0031\\_b\\_this\\_weeks\\_magazine\\_main](http://online.barrons.com/article/SB119525673941296335.html?mod=9_0031_b_this_weeks_magazine_main)

**BGSURA Newsletter editor Jim Gordon:** [jgordon@bgsu.edu](mailto:jgordon@bgsu.edu)

**Mearl Guthrie:** [lguthrie@wcnet.org](mailto:lguthrie@wcnet.org)

**BGSURA:** [retirees@bgsu.edu](mailto:retirees@bgsu.edu)

## President's Corner *By Dr. Ramona Cormier*

I GREW UP during the 1920s and 1930s in Breau Bridge, a small town in the Cajun section of Louisiana. Since this was the time of the Depression, there was not much to do in a community of 1,500 except to get involved in school and church activities.

In the fall, winter, and spring, children went to school from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. with an hour off for lunch. There were no cafeterias in schools at this time so we walked home for dinner, the main meal of the day, and returned to school for afternoon classes.

School kept us occupied most of the year but then what was there to do in the summer? With neither a library nor a swimming pool, and the summer heat, we generally stayed inside during the main part of the day playing games and occasionally inventing some.

But my main summer pastime was reading. My father, who was the principal of the town school system, had a library of sorts: Books on education and books in the original language by French literary figures (his undergraduate major), and also some American novels, among them those of Jack London. The books in French I was not yet prepared to read, but I read the London and what French translations he also had in his collection.

When I was engrossed in a novel, my mother had difficulty weaning me away to do my share of the housework. Why is the reading of novels so seductive? The interest is not in the pages with black marks, for that is certainly not the novel. What is the novel then?

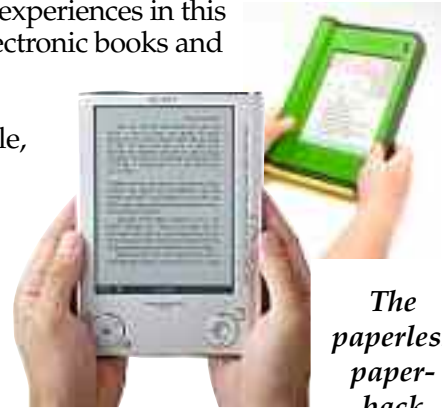
The literary art work is given life in the imagination



• *Dr. Cormier*

of the reader who lends his/her psychology to the work's characters. The reader in a sense creates the lives of the characters, pictures the environment, and vicariously experiences the human relationships depicted. Thus the writer needs the reader to give life to his/her work. If a writer has no readers, then his/her books of black marks remain dead and accumulate dust on a library shelf.

I LOVE books. I can take a book I am reading on a plane, to bed, to the beach, to a couch, to a special garden chair, and through my imagination enter the world of the author. What will happen to these experiences in this new world of electronic books and digitized data bases being created by Google, Amazon, and Microsoft, companies busy scanning millions of out-of-copyright books for Internet reading and searches?



It may not be so comforting to read Jane Austen, Thomas Wolfe, Shakespeare, or Khaled Hossein from an electronic screen as it is from a printed book. I dare say that in the future reading will take on new practices, and digitized libraries may become great resources for historians and researchers, but may not be so practical as a paperback or hard copy for the person who wishes to capture in his/her imagination the creative vision of a novelist or mystery writer. But then I am old-fashioned. What do you think?

• *Ramona Cormier, Ph.D., Trustee Professor Emeritus, is president of the BGSU Retirees Association. Her address is rcormie@dacor.net.*

### ○ **Reservation for BGSURA Luncheon Wednesday, Jan. 16, 2008** ○ **Deadline Friday, Jan. 11, 2008!**

**First United Methodist Church, 1526 E. Wooster. 11:30, Check-in, socializing. Noon: Luncheon.**

**NOTE: Reservations at \$9 per person MUST BE MADE by Friday, Jan. 11, 2008.**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s) of Your Guest(s) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Total Number of Reservations @ \$9

**BGSU**  
Retirees Association

CHECK ENCLOSED FOR \$\_\_\_\_\_. MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO BGSURA.

**SEND RESERVATION FORM AND CHECK TO HAROLD LUNDE, 880 COUNTRY CLUB DRIVE., BOWLING GREEN, OH 43402, NO LATER THAN FRIDAY, JAN. 11. Telephone 419-352-3929**