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Retirees Association

NEWSLETTER

Published continuously beginning in June 1995

Lunch form on page 4

5 College Park Office Bldg., BGSU, Bowling Green, OH 43403-0201 • (419) 372-9696 E-mail: retirees@bgsu.edu • www.bgsu.edu/retirement

May profile

 Possessing an inquiring mind, George Clemans takes a lively interest in learning, like collecting and restoring old radios. His profile by Clif Boutelle begins on page 2.



Just the facts . . .

BGSU's Centennial Commission will publish a book of 100 University facts, and welcomes the assistance of any BGSURA member in compiling material for the book, which will be available next year.

Interested persons knowledgeable about BGSU's rich history may contact Julie Carle in the Office of Marketing and Communications at 419-372-8586 or E-mail her at julie@bgsu.edu.

Computer troubles?

ROBLEMS with your computer or connecting to the Internet? With Vista or Mac OS? Or Microsoft Office? Call Charlie Applebaum, 419-352-0777, or e-mail applebau@bgsu.edu.

The BGSURA expert begins his 10th year helping retirees with balky hardware and software. His services are made available by the office of the provost.



BGSURA's Retirement Assistance Program

WITH THE end of the academic year, many of our friends and former colleagues are considering retirement, notes BGSURA board member Christine Sexton. She suggests, "Be sure to remind them that BGSURA Retirement Information Volunteers can answer questions and help through the process."

Prospective retirees may call the BGSURA office, 419-372-9696, and leave their name and a phone number. A volunteer will be in touch. They can also send e-mail to retirees@bgsu.edu with the same information if they prefer.

BGSURA member-volunteers are trained to assist future retirees with information about the retirement process.



PHOTO BY CLIF BOUTELLE

• Dr. Michelle Grigore

Parks&Rec doctor to present May 13 program on Simpson Garden Park

ICHELLE GRIGORE arrived a second time in Bowling Green in 2004, when she was hired as the Director of Parks and Recreation for the City of Bowling Green. Her first stint here in the city was as an undergraduate at Bowling Green State University, where she received her bachelor's in biology. She went on to get her Master's and Ph.D. at the University of Toledo.

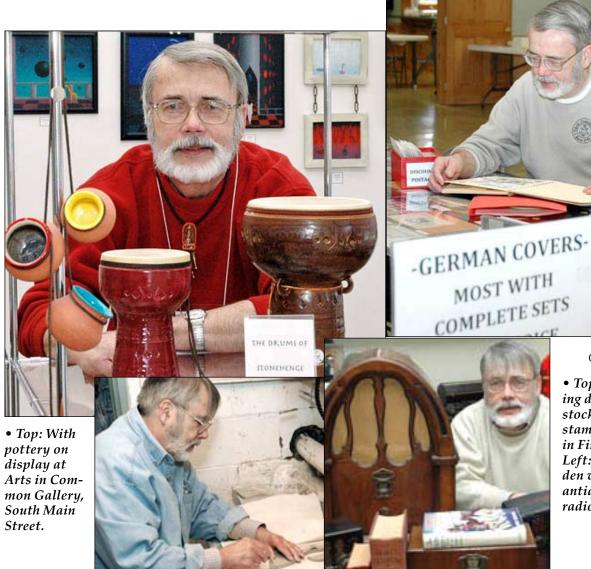
BGSURA's final luncheon meeting will be held Wednesday, May 13, at Stone Ridge Golf Club, Muirfield Drive, Bowling Green. Socializing begins at 11:30.

Dr. Grigore grew up in Maumee, and one of her first jobs was working at Ford Park for Maumee Parks and Recreation.

"That must have been an omen," she says, because Dr. Grigore went on to work for Toledo Metroparks for 13 years as a naturalist, assistant programs manager and development director.

Next she was Director of Slayton Arboretum and professor of botany at Hillsdale College for two years, and then director of Toledo Botanical Garden for four years.

Her responsibilities as Bowling Green parks (continued page 3)



PHOTOS BY CLIF BOUTELLE

• Top: Checking dealer stock at a stamp show in Findlay. Left: In his den with antique radios.

May profile

'Curious George'

Retirement a springboard to interests in 'everything'

By Clif Boutelle

ETIREMENT is generally thought to be a time for relaxing and kicking back from an active and busy career, but that's not the case with George Clemans. In fact, retirement has opened new vistas, which he has enthusiastically embraced.

• Cutting clay for molding into a pot.

Indeed, it's not too much of a stretch to refer to him as a Renaissance Man because of his broad intellectual interests and accomplishments in both the arts and sciences.

"George is curious about everything," says his wife, Edna, referring to his varied interests, including stamps, old radios, pottery, taking classes at the University, and reading.

He's not a collector in the usual sense in that he accumulates as

BGSURA May 2009 Page 2 •

much as he can; rather his interests serve as a springboard to learning everything he can find about them.

"You're never too old to learn," says Clemans, dusting off an old cliché. "There's always something new waiting for me and I can't wait to find it."

To further his thirst for new knowledge, he has taken full advantage of the University's Senior Adult Grant in Education Program (SAGE), which offers free courses on a noncredit basis subject to space availability and instructor approval, to persons 60 or older.

Since 1998, Clemans has taken more than 12 courses, including Renaissance Drama, The Indian in American History, Astronomy, Ceramics, Roman Literature, World Wars I and II, and Cold War. He finds the courses "stimulating" (next page)

George Clemans continued

and selects them according to his interests at the time. "It's like being a kid in a candy store because there are so many different courses to choose from," he said.

Dale Smith, who teaches the astromomy course, says Clemans' enthusiasm for the course and for learning make him a "great role model for the students. He contributes to our discussions but not in an imposing way. He's really like just one of the other students."

Clemans says the SAGE program "is one of the great benefits of living in a university community."

In Bowling Green, Clemans says he and Mrs. Clemans (Edna) found the perfect place to live and work. After earning his Ph.D. at Duke in 1964, Clemans held positions at Indiana and Arkansas before coming to the University in 1967 to teach organic chemistry. The late W. Heinlen Hall was the chair of the chemistry department when he came to Bowling Green. There he joined faculty like Joe Weber, Arlo Boggs, Hans Anders, Ivan Den Besten, and Peggy Hurst.

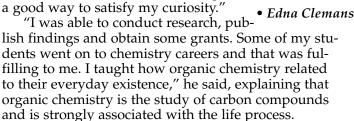
A good fit

"Bowling Green was a good fit for us; we were comfortable here and felt it was a community where we could build the kind of life we wanted."

Originally from Richmond, Va., George and Edna first met in the third grade and dated some in high

school. While in college she invited him to a dance ("I was kind of shy," he admits).

George developed an interest in chemistry during his senior year in high school and was encouraged to pursue it by his high school teacher. "I've always been inquisitive and decided that research and teaching was a good way to satisfy my curiosity."



He retired in 1998, but like many faculty at that time, taught three years under the Supplemental Retirement Plan and then taught summers until 2007.

Retirement has left him plenty of time to pursue other interests and rekindle others, like ceramics.

"I took a ceramics course in high school and the teacher showed an interest in my work and encouraged me to pursue it, but I never did anything until I retired," he said. Since then he has taken three ceramics courses at the University and has set up a small ceramics studio in his home with a wheel and workbench where he crafts his pottery. Since he did not have a kiln, he joined the Toledo Potter's Guild at the Toledo Botanical Garden where he fires and glazes his work.

He very carefully researches his work and last year for the Black Swamp Festival, where he is a regular exhibitor, he created drinking cups, apothecary jars and other pottery based upon medieval English and German designs. This year, he plans to have some ceramic musical instruments, including drums.

He is also a collector of old radios. I can thank Doug Neckers for that," he said. "Back in the early 1970s, Doug wanted the storage area cleaned out. I found a 1928 radio that did not work, so I took it home, tore it apart and put it back together and it worked. I couldn't believe it."

Clemans, in typical fashion, began to learn as much as he could about radios. He discovered that farmers

relied heavily on radios to get farm reports, especially in the early to middle years of the last century. "That was how they got their news and entertainment."

He and Edna started going to farm auctions and sales looking for old radios. "I researched them all and taught myself about the early electronics of radios, such as how the vacuum tubes commonly used in all early radios worked," he said. He trades and sells some of his radio parts with other collectors.

He also revived his childhood collection of stamps, which, unlike the fate of countless other kids' stamp collections, his mother didn't throw away.

The ever-curious Clemans likes to buy batches of stamps or long discarded stamp albums then scour through them to see if he can find something interesting. It's a practice that has pro-

duced some rare finds. "The fun is in the hunting," he

During good weather he often can be found running the trails in Wintergarden/St. John's Nature Preserve. "That park is a treasure for me, especially this time of year when plants and flowers are blooming, grass is growing, leaves are starting to appear on trees, and frogs are chirping. And it's varied because you run through woods as well as meadows. It's a great place. We are strong supporters of Bowling Green's park system."



■ Clif Boutelle retired from BGSU in 1999 as associate vice president for University Relations. He is a member of the BGSURA Board of Directors. clif5761@ verizon.net.

Dr. Grigore (from page 1)

and rec director include raising private donations, purchasing parkland, developing new parks and recreational facilities, assisting with land management, writing grants, surveying the community about

their recreational needs, and making tough decisions about where to best spend the public dollars entrusted to the parks.

Dr. Grigore is a trustee on the BG Convention and Visitor Bureau Board, Oak Openings Region Conservancy Board, Parks and Recreation Foundation Board, member of Kiwanis Club, Zonta Club of BG Board and secretary to the Black Swamp Arts Festival.

At the BGSU retirees' meeting, Dr. Grigore will talk about Simpson Garden Park, Bowling Green's newest public park.

President's Corner

By Dr. Ramona Cormier

My cat Cozy

OZY was not really my cat. When Jan and I moved to 1249 Brownwood Drive 15 years ago, she brought with her a Siamese tortie cat that

she had named Grace Cozy Toot Toot Cherie. Cozy was an elegant cat who bore the markings of her show cat mother. She was also a one person cat: She was Jan's cat.

Cozy developed a personality that was not always friendly. I was not welcomed in Jan's bedroom and study so when I went to bed at night, Cozy met me at the head of the stairs with an arched back and menacing hisses. Gradually she accept-



ed my presence in the house and even let me feed her, clean her cat box, and brush her fur. But she never sat on my lap.

Jan and I developed the habit of watching French movies on her big TV. Cozy departed as soon as I entered Jan's room – jealous perhaps?

On the days we entertained, Cozy always joined the company between 9:30 and 10 p.m. It was time for the guests to leave. After all, ten o'clock was bedtime.

In her youth, Cozy, an inside cat, became enamored of the outdoors. One day she escaped the house to play in St. John's Woods. Not knowing how to return home she traveled to Melrose Street and was returned to us several days later a mere shadow of

herself. Cozy's harrowing experience made her a truly indoor cat for she never asked to go out again.





After
Jan's death,
Cozy was
my cat. She
adjusted
reluctantly to
our togetherness and
occasionally
sat on my lap
but only for a
few moments.
She even
came into my
bedroom to

• Cozy bedroom to and bake her brain Jan on the heat exchange. I tried to accommodate her needs but she was never a happy cat after Jan's demise. She prowled the house day and night looking for Jan. On one

occasion I turned on Jan's computer. Who should appear but Cozy having recognized the computer start-up tune. Cozy and Jan had spent hours together in her study: Cozy sunning herself in her cat box while Jan wrote books.

Shortly before Cozy's 20th birthday last March, she had a stroke that made her blind. This was an unexpected and shocking event!

I miss Cozy's presence in the house as I do Jan's.

□

• Dr. Cormier is BGSURA president and Trustee Professor Emeritus. Her e-mail address: rcormie@dacor.net.

Reservation for BGSURA's Luncheon at Stone Ridge Wednesday, May 13. Reservation Deadline Friday, May 8! 11:30-Noon: Check-in, socializing. Noon: Luncheon.

NOTE: Reservations at \$10 per person MUST BE MADE by Friday, May 8.

Name	
Name(s) of Your Guest(s)	
Number of reservations	
CLIECK ENGLOCED FOR	MANUE CHECK DAVABLE TO



• Program: Dr. Michelle Grigore

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

Send Reservation Form and Check to Harold Lunde, BGSURA Treasurer, 880 Country Club Drive, Bowling Green, OH 43402-1602.

Phone 419 352-3929. E-mail: hlunde@bgsu.edu. Deadline Friday, May 8!

NO LATER THAN FRIDAY, MAY 8. Hal Lunde: Telephone 419-352-3929



Legislative Report

By Genevieve Stang ges@dacor.net

Whither we goest?

AXES, TAXES Dollars! Dollars! Dollars! Your income tax report is in the mail, but have all the tax obligations been met?

Have you adjusted withholding for next year to accommodate use of the new mandated IRS tax tables? What taxes are ahead of us? Federal taxes? State taxes? Local taxes? New fees?--Energy taxes? Gasoline tax increases? Taxes that will be needed in the future to support increased spending!

Federal legislation has been introduced, HR 1068, that proposes a tax be imposed on certain securities transactions which could cost STRS Ohio as much as \$100,000 or more annually. On a positive note, HR1203 introduced in the House and Senate would enable federal retirees, active duty military personnel, and military retirees to pay their health care insurance premiums with pre-tax dollars. Consideration is being given to determine if it would be possible to extend the benefit to all retirees. However, like cost implications of the repeal of GPO/WEP, the impact may make this untenable.

Budget considerations are ongoing at both federal and state levels. As yet, there is no mention of mandatory Social Security coverage. A competitive bidding system for Medicare Advantage plans based on an average of plan's bids submitted to Medicare is part of the President's savings from Medicare.

House Rep. Ackerman has introduced a bill that would authorize the Secretary of the Treasury to guarantee certain new preferred stock investments made by public pension plans in banks eligible for Federal TARP. Sen. Feinstein has introduced S116 that would require the Secretary of the Treasury to allocate \$10 billion of TARP funds to local governments that have suffered significant losses due to highly rated investments on failed financial institutions.

Ohio Attorney General Cordray has indicated that Ohio STRS, OPERS and other pension systems will sue Bank of America for losses caused by misrepresentation of Merrill Lynch's assets prior to their merger.

Gov. Strickland's proposed budget has presented new challenges for legislators. Use of one-time federal budget bailout dollars, depletion of the "rainy day" funds, unfunded mandates, cuts in funding, a complex "evidence based" education reform are a few of the issues.

Cost-savings efforts are underway in many areas. The reduced level of investment assets, combined with future expected investment earnings and member and employer contributions have resulted in serious consideration of possible pension and health care options that would lead to the preservation of benefit plans.

Membership of the Ohio Retirement Study Council (ORSC) has been completed with some returning members. State law requires public pension systems to present a funding report to the council when system funding positions go beyond 30 years, which is the case now. ORSC has asked the retirement systems to work together in meeting their obligations.

Efforts continue to establish a dedicated revenue stream for the Health Care Stabilization Fund, which given the current rate of expenditures could be depleted by 2018. Of interest was the announcement that former STRS Execustsive Director Damon Asbury has assumed a position as Director of Legislative Services for the Ohio School Boards Association, an oganization not known for its support of a dedicated revenue stream for the STRS Ohio Health Care program.

Gov. Strickland signed Executive Order 2009-03S that established the Ohio Health Care Coverage and Quality Council. Use of generic drugs is being pushed. Have you compared the cost of drugs secured from Walmart/Kroger's/Giant Eagle/Target with cost of Express-Scripts? There could be quite an annual savings. STRS may institute a similar plan.

Cost-savings plans are important for all and both OPERS and STRS have implemented a number. Others are under consideration at STRS including administrative costs as well as investment procedures and payment to investment staff. Acturial assumptions such as payroll growth and retiree life expectancy are under study. Long-term contingency planning that focuses on both health care and pensions is under way. Everyone is seeking means to fund what is deemed essential and voices of retirees must be heard. Retirees have dedicated individuals who are committed to work at both state and federal levels.

State Rep. Combs has introduced legislation (HB30) that would place certain restrictions on early retirement participants and the entities seeking to offer early retirement. It would prohibit a participant of an early retirement incentive plan who is covered by OPERS from being re-employed by the employer that offered the early retirement. It requires an analysis of the plan by a state university in the area. \square

Calendar

APRIL 28 – BGSURA Book Discussion, *The Nephew*, at the home of Diane and Wally Pretzer. Call or e-mail by Friday, April 24. 419-352-8057 or e-mail to dpretze@bgsu.edu.

MAY 1 — Deadline to reserve tickets for the annual excursion to the Mud Hens. The Hens play the Durham Bulls June 24. Call Helen Dermer at 419-352-8822 for more information.

MAY 4 — Ballots for two retiree positions on the STRS Board must be in by this date.

MAY 8 — Deadline for reservations for the May 13 BGSURA luncheon with Dr. Michelle Grigore, director of BG Parks and Recreation. See page 4.

MAY 10 — Deadline for reservations for the OCHER all-day conference May 19 at STRS headquarters in Columbus featuring national and state speakers addressing concerns critical to all retirees – pensions, health care. Only charge is for lunch. More information is available at the BGSURA Web site in an expanded version of this May newsletter. Roger Anderson is taking reservations. rogerca@bgsu.edu or 419-352-6451.

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Bowling Green, OH 43403-0201
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Diane Pretzer and **Wallace Pretzer** 352-8057, dpretze@bgsu.edu

Passings

- Dr. Joseph Mancuso, 75, professor of geology who taught at BGSU for 36 years, died April 7 at St. Vincent Medical Center, Toledo. He had amyloidosis, a protein accumulation. The son of Italian immigrants (his father was a Minnesota mine worker), Dr. Mancuso retired in 1996. He was Geology Department chair from 1975-79. He earned his bachelor's from Carleton College, his master's from Wisconsin and his doctorate from Michigan State.

 Dr. Robert A. Patton, 69, dean of the BGSU College of Business Administration from 1984 to his early retire-
- Dr. Robert A. Patton, 69, dean of the BGSU College of Business Administration from 1984 to his early retirement in 1992, died of lung cancer Jan. 29 in his Seven Lakes, N.C., home. He left Bowling Green to became dean of the School of Business, Economics and Management at the University of Southern Maine, retiring again to move to North Carolina in 1996.
- June Shrider, who was an executive secretary in the BGSU Office of the President, died March 10 at Sterling House in Bowling Green. She was 88. Ms. Shrider was a 1938 graduate of Bowling Green High School and earned a bachelor's degree in business from BGSU. Retiring in 1987, she also served as secretary to the BGSU Board of Trustees.
- Mary "Kay" Riesen, 82, of Findlay, died March 24 at home in Findlay. She

was a secretary for the Heidelberg College Athletic Department and the BGSU men's basketball team.

- Martha Musser, of Portage, who worked for 32 years in the BGSU Food Service Department, died March 22. She was 95.
- Richard E. Hoffman, 62, of Perrysburg, died Feb. 4 at Toledo Hospital following surgery for removal of a brain blot clot. He was director since 2007 of the Partnerships in Context and Community Residential Learning Community at BGSU, a program for education students who want to teach in urban schools. For 34 years he taught English at Woodward High School, Toledo. He earned bachelor's from the University of Toledo and a master's and doctorate from BGSU.

Residence Life position open

BGSU's Residence Life Department seeks a house mother, or house parents, for Phi Kappa Psi Fraternity with 35 residents. The position includes a furnished apartment with private bath, a 10% discount at the University Bookstore, A meal plan valued at approximately \$2,500 will be provided during the period of employment., plus \$2,500 incidental salary. The total package is valued at approxmately \$12,000. For more information: Gordon Heminger, 419-372-8890, or gordon@bgsu.edu.

BGSURA Programs for 2009-2010

Fall Convocation.
Tom Walton, retired editor and current col-
umnist for The Blade, Toledo, and a BGSU
alumnus.
Dr. David Skaggs, Professor Emeritus of
History at BGSU.
Dr. Carol Cartwright, President of BGSU.
Joint luncheon with Wood County Retired
Teachers Association (details to be arranged
by the WCRTA).
Joint program in Bowling Green with the
University of Toledo Retirees Association:
Dr. Melissa Miller, a member of BGSU's
political science faculty and a specialist in
American politics.
Jim Tichy, retired TV24 sports director and
BGSU alumnus, or another speaker on the
Honor Flight program, which honors veterans
of World War II.

Council of Higher Education Retirees Conference Engagements and Actions for Public Retirement Systems

Tuesday, May 19, 2009 Location: State Teachers Retirement System of Ohio (STRS Ohio) 275 E. Broad St., Columbus 43215-3771

Goal: To determine potential engagements and actions to cope with national and state political and economic concerns relative to public retirement systems exempt from Social Security.

PROGRAM				
9:30 a.m.	Introduction — Lou DiOrio, V. P. and Program Chair, OCHER			
9:35 a.m.	Welcome — Ted Foster, President, OCHER			
9:45 a.m.	"National Coalitions of State Pension Systems" Terri Bierdeman, Director, Governmental Relations, STRS Ohio			
10:30 a.m.	BREAK			
10:50 A.M.	"A Better Bang for the Buck — The Economic Efficiencies of Defined Be Beth Almeida, National Institute on Retirement Security	enefit Pension Plans		
11: 45 a.m.	LUNCH			
12:45 p.m.	"National Concerns — Engagements and Actions Panel" Lou DiOrio — Introduction Dick Hill — Moderator James Miller — OPERS Consultant Linda Brookhart — State Universities Annuitants Association — Illinois Beth Almeida — National Institute on Retirement Security Bill Leibensperger — Vice President, OEA (NEA) Ann Hanning — Executive Director, ORTA (NRTA)	Keynote		
1:45 p.m.	BREAK			
2:00 p.m.	"State Concerns — Engagements and Actions Panel" Dick Hill, Moderator Mike Nehf — STRS Ohio Executive Director Linda Brookhart — State Universities Annuitant Association — Illinois Aristotle Hutras — Director, Ohio Retirement Study Council Laura Ecklar — Director, STRS Ohio Communication Services Larry Lewellen — Assoc. V. P., Human Resources, OSU, IUC	Keynote		
3:00 p.m.	Summary — Tom Sweeney, OCHER			
3:15 p.m.	Adjourn			

Council of Higher Education Retirees Conference Engagements and Actions

Tuesday, May 19, 2009 Location: State Teachers Retirement System of Ohio (STRS Ohio) 275 E. Broad St., Columbus 43215-3771

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Phone(s)		E-mail Address
Name #2		
Address		
City/State/ZIP	Code	
Phone(s)		E-mail Address
Box lunch and Registration for		received by Tuesday, May 12, 2009. Roger Anderson (rogerca@bgsu.edu) 163 Truman
		Bowling Green, OH 43402
	Keep This Par	t for Reference
c		Ohio, 275 E. Broad St., Columbus 43215-3771 21; Cell (614) 406-4580; diorio.1@osu.edu
9:30 a.m.		
-	Contact: Lou DiOrio: Home (614) 451-80	
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