



### **“Changing U.S. Families”**

September 12 luncheon speakers are Susan Brown and Wendy Manning

**W**endy D. Manning, Distinguished Professor of Sociology, currently serves as Director of the Center for Family and Demographic Research and Co-Director of the National Center for Family & Marriage Research. She is a family demographer, and her research examines how family members define and understand their obligations to each other in an era of increasingly diverse and complex family relationships. She led the research for the ASA Amicus Brief filed to the U.S. Supreme Court in same-sex marriage cases. Manning has examined the meaning of cohabitation with her work on the measurement of cohabitation, fertility in cohabiting unions, the stability of cohabiting unions, transitions to marriage, and implications of cohabitation for adult and child well-being. Her work has focused on adolescent sexual decision-making as well as the patterning and quality of young adult relationships.

**S**usan L. Brown, Professor and Chair of Sociology, currently serves as Co-Director of the National Center for Family & Marriage Research. Her areas of expertise include family sociology and demography. Brown's research examines the implications of the rapid transformation of American family life, with a focus on recent changes in family structure and living arrangements. Much of her work examines cohabitation and its effects on the well-being of both children and adults. She also conducts research on emerging family trends among middle-aged and older adults, including the rise in gray divorce, cohabitation, and Living Apart Together (LAT) relationships. □

**Luncheon reservation and membership forms are on page 8.**

# REPORTS

## Update on Classified Staff Council (CSC)

No report was available for this newsletter.

## Update on Administrative Staff Council (ASC) by Judy Donald Observer for BGSU Retirees Association

### May 5, 2016 meeting

The guest speaker was Dr. Julia Matuga, Associate Vice Provost Institutional Effectiveness. She provided information regarding the types of data that her office collects and stated that all requests for data can be made through the Office of Institutional Research website.



Judy Donald retired from Continuing & Extended Education.

Chair Jeremy Joseph's meeting with HR addressed a question that was posed to him: How are years of service calculated? Only permanent contracts are included, Non-Continuing Appointments or Non-Student Letter of Appointments are not counted. This is not the same as for retirement, which is calculated based on your specific retirement program rules.

The Compensation Document was presented to Sheri Stoll and Viva McCarver. The State Share of Instruction (SSI) is not yet available so Stoll could not commit to any specific percentage increase. Employee fee waiver benefits are being finalized for faculty and plans are being reviewed to address the policy for Administrative Staff. A bonus policy central fund will not be created. If your department does not have the funds to cover a bonus, an employee can take it up the chain of command to see if there is another fund available to cover this.

Election results for 2016-17 were shared:

Chair-Elect: Beth Detwiler

Secretary: Jessica Belcher

Treasurer: Heidi Popovitch

Communications Officer: Robin Veitch

Ombuds training was held in April. There are now two Administrative Staff Ombuds, Chris Bullins and Jessica Tuross.

### June 2, 2016 meeting

There was a Lunch and New Representative Welcome beginning at noon and the regular meeting started at 1:30 p.m

Jeremy Joseph began the meeting by thanking the Council for a great year as he closed out his term as Chair of ASC. He also thanked those representatives whose terms were ending in June and passed out certificates to those individuals.

Jeremy met with HR to discuss the new overtime threshold change due to change in federal law. HR is working on this and will be working with the employees who fall below this threshold regarding the changes. Communication will be sent out later this summer to employees regarding updates to the tuition policy based on what the faculty Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) set as effective July 1.

University Council-The new smoking policy committee worked towards a revised policy with an extension of the timeline for the new policy roll out, as well as other proposed changes that would allow for enforcement options and extension of the free smoking cessation program. □

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This is a hole where the Faculty Senate report should be. BGSU Retirees Association currently has no official representative on Faculty Senate. If you enjoyed reading these reports, please volunteer yourself or a friend to help out with this valuable service. □

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**Summary of Ohio Council of Higher Education Retirees (OCHER) Board Meeting  
May 17, 2016**

Roger Anderson and Karel King attended the OCHER Board meeting in Columbus at STRS Headquarters, May 17, 2016. President Roger Anderson opened the meeting. Board members set meeting dates for 2016-2017 as: September 20, 2016; November 15, 2016; March 14, 2017; and May 16, 2017. Dr. John W. Cavanaugh was introduced as a guest. Dr. Cavanaugh became ORTA's seventh Executive Director on January 1, 2016. The treasurer's report showed a balance of \$5,314.82 in the OCHER account as of May 17th. The Board voted to contribute \$500 for dues to the Healthcare Pension Advocates (HPA).

Michele Hobbs presented the OPERS Report. As of March 30, 2016, investments are \$86.2 billion. The OPERS Trustees meeting focused on discussing the pros and cons of investing in hedge funds. OPERS reported that the National Institute on Retirement Security found that women who invest in defined benefit pension plans have higher incomes in retirement on average and lower poverty rates than women who were not in these funds. Also women who work in health care, education, and public administration fields are more likely to be better off in retirement than women in other fields, most likely because the listed fields generally offer employee access to defined benefit plans. The study found that typical retirement income for women over 65 is 25% less than for male counterparts. Fifty-seven percent of OPERS retirees are female.

President Anderson introduced Geoff Hetrick, President and CEO of PERI, Inc. Mr. Hetrick became President January 1, 2016. Hetrick reported that the new OPERS health care plan is working quite well. He said a recent survey among OPERS retirees found that 86% thought the new health care plan to be good or better than good. Fourteen percent were not happy with their plans. OPERS will continue to work on addressing OPERS retirees' problems with their plans, he said. Recent returns on OPERS investments are disturbingly low, Hetrick noted. He said investment return expectations may have to be adjusted in the future. PERI is starting a strategic planning process and will be meeting with OPERS and stakeholders as part of that process. The PERI mission and vision statements will be revised, and a new website will be introduced. PERI's overall goal is to provide better communications with their members through updates in social media. When asked about PERI membership, Hetrick said there were 60,000 PERI members who paid dues of \$10 a year or \$100 for life. Dues are likely to rise, he said. The PERI newsletter has been rated as excellent, so no changes are expected there.

Following Mr. Hetrick's presentation, Dr. John Cavanaugh, Executive Director of ORTA, made a few remarks. He said ORTA has 33,000 members. Dues are \$30 a year or \$500 life time. He passed out a brochure which described the numerous benefits provided ORTA members. He briefly summarized the three regional spring conferences, and ORTA's role in the Health Care Pension Benefits Coalition. Dr. Cavanaugh said ORTA hopes to increase their social media presence. He said he would like to see greater cooperation with OPERS and OCHER.

Dick Hill from OSURA presented the STRS Board Meetings Summary and Legislative Update. STRS investments, as of April 1, 2016 are at \$69.930 billion, a decrease of -.6% since the start of the Fiscal Year, June 30, 2015. Based on the STRS Executive Director's Report, 30% of the health care claims for STRS Retirees on Medicare were paid for in-patient services; 39% for outpatient services; and 30% for prescription drugs. For Non-Medicare STRS retirees the numbers were: 27% for in-patient services; 40% for outpatient services; and 33% for prescription drugs. Hill reported that STRS is lobbying to make certain that the current mitigating rate STRS charges, 4.5% remains the same in HB 520. The bill is not likely to come up for a vote until the lame duck session of the state legislature after the November election. The 4.5% rate has been in effect since July, 2013. Hill passed out a fact sheet on the Mitigating Rate provided by STRS. Hill said the Ohio Retirement Study Council met in April and expressed opposition to House Joint Resolution 6. In February Representative Terry Johnson (R.) introduced House Joint Resolution, HJR 6, which, if passed by a three-fifths majority of both Houses, would be placed on the ballot in November, 2016 as a Constitutional Amendment. The amendment would require state agencies and pension funds to end investments in companies with specific business operations in Iran, Sudan, Syria, and Cuba. The Ohio Retirement Study Council did not vote on the opposition to HJR 6 because they did not have a quorum at the meeting.

After lunch the OCHER Board heard from Greg Nickell, Director of Health Care Services for STRS. Nickell reported that the STRS Board at its April meeting approved changes in the Health Care Plan for 2017. Some of the plan changes are: emergency room co-pays will increase from \$65 to \$75 for Medicare enrollees; Medical Mutual non-Medicare enrollees residing outside Ohio will have to enroll in the Basic Plan administered by AETNA; urgent care co-pays will increase from \$35 to \$40; preferred networks for retail pharmacies will be adopted. Eligibility changes include: Medicare Part B premiums for survivors and beneficiaries who were 65 by 2008 will be discontinued. Subsidy changes for 2017 are as follows: the subsidy multiplier for non-Medicare benefit recipients will be reduced from 2.1% to 1.8%; Medicare Part B premium reimbursements will be phased out over a three-year period beginning in 2017.

*continued on page 4*

OCHER Board Meeting *continued from page 3*

Following Nickell's remarks, Marla Bump, Director of Government Relations for STRS, was introduced. At the national level there has been no action on the Public Employee Pension Transparency Act (PEPTA), or the Secure Annuities for Employment Retirement Act, both of which STRS opposes. At the state legislative level, STRS has met with Representative Sherring, sponsor of HB 520. He has agreed to maintain the 4.5% mitigating rate which is in the bill. There will be no vote on the bill until the lame duck session of the legislature after the November election. HJR 6 seems to be dead for 2016.

Jim Lapp, Chair of the Ad Hoc OCHER Constitutional Revision Committee presented the recommended changes in the OCHER Constitution as presented at the OCHER March meeting. The OCHER Board approved the motion to revise the Constitution unanimously. Jim Kweder, Chair of the OCHER Advocacy Committee presented the OCHER Policy Priority Recommendations presented to the Board at the OCHER March meeting. The motion to approve the recommendations passed unanimously. The Nominating Committee presented the following slate of officers for election for 2016-2017: for President, Roger Anderson, Bowling Green State University; for Vice-President, Nancy Wardwell, the Ohio State University; for Secretary: Michele Hobbs, the Ohio State University; for Treasurer, James Lapp, University of Toledo. There were no additional nominations, and the slate was approved by unanimous vote.

There being no further business, a motion was approved to adjourn. The next OCHER Council meeting will be September 20, 2016. □

### Mark Your Calendars

**September 12, 2016 Susan Brown & Wendy Manning**

**November 14, 2016 Lori Lewandowski**

**March 13, 2017 BG High School Madrigal Singers**

**April 10, 2017 Joint meeting hosted by UT Retirees Association**

**May 8, 2017 Don Scherer**

### BGSURA Newsletter

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Benevolence **Jan Peterson**  
Bylaws **Roger Anderson, Barbara Keller**  
Database **Paul Lopez**  
Membership **James Corbitt, Sue Hager**  
Nominating **Jan Peterson**  
Program **Ellen Dalton, Barbara Moses**  
Publicity **Barbara Keller**

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Classified Staff Council **TBA**  
Faculty Senate **TBA**

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## President's Message

It seems that the older I get, the more trouble I have keeping track of the seasons. Lately we have Mother Nature putting the current season under a walnut shell and shifting things until we have no idea what to wear.

If nature isn't enough to deal with, we then have the different merchandise marketing seasons. You know, January White Sales, Valentine's Day, St. Patrick's Day, Easter, Mother's Day, Father's Day and on and on and on. The problem with all of this marketing is the timing of all this. The stores still have 75% off sales on 4th of July gear and it seems to be surrounded by school supplies all of a sudden.

But the big winner in all this Chinese fire drill starts at 11:59 pm on Labor Day. An army of shelf stockers will pour out of tens of thousands of stock room doors with Christmas merchandise. While this is all going on we have sports seasons to cope with along with vacation seasons. But I have to fit all this season-sorting in between the one that for many retirees governs all, doctor season. We don't have to decorate or wear special attire but we do keep the checkbook handy because doctor season is the most costly of all!

I hope to see you at our luncheon meetings where we can take our minds off our doctors and enjoy friendship and food and learn some interesting things from our speakers.

*Chris Sexton*

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- To reach Chris Sexton:  
csexton@wcnet.org  
or call 419-354-2834.

The BGSU Retirees Association outing on April 21st to the Gish Theater for the Denzel Washington presentation by Dr. Cynthia Baron was enjoyed by 21 members. The impact of the societal norms on Denzel's career was enlightening and very thought provoking. Thanks to Frances Brent for her assistance in arranging the event. □



Cynthia Baron & Frances Brent





### **A Golden Year for the Pretzers**

Diane and Wally Pretzer were married on July 26, 1966, in Basel, Switzerland. The legal ceremony occurred first in a government registry office, and that was followed by a religious ceremony in a chapel of the 12th-15th century-built Basel Cathedral. Instead of one big event to celebrate their fifty years, they decided to do something special on or near the 26th of every month this year, thus having 12 mini-anniversaries. These have varied considerably and have included a simple evening out at the movies, entertaining friends in their home, attending theatrical and musical programs, celebrating while on a trip, and going out with friends or to the homes of friends. Other similar activities will take them through the remainder of this year.

Both Diane and Wally both taught at Bowling Green State University, which is where they met. Diane, originally from Chicago, joined the faculty in Spanish in 1962 and retired in 1990. Wally, originally from Hemlock, Michigan, came to the English faculty in 1963 and retired in 1992. Although they did not have children, they have acquired quite a few “honorary” children and grandchildren, especially because of their long-standing involvement with international students at BGSU. That combines well with their love of travel, which they hope to continue to enjoy, both in the US and in other countries, as long as their health permits. Both will turn 86 before the end of 2016.

Both Wally and Diane have served on the board for BGSU Retirees Association, although at different times. While on the board, Wally was activities coordinator, organizing events for members to do together. Somewhere along the way he got the idea of a cocktail party. Their house was too small to host, so they talked to Roger and Betty Jean Anderson who agreed to the use of their house. For the first event the co-hosts provided the beverages but it was soon decided to ask guests to bring their beverages as well as food to share. There have been many successful socials since then. Wally and Diane continue to chronicle the social events, providing the editor with photos and a story about each one. □

Editor's Note: We would like to recognize and share significant milestones in the lives of our members. Please submit information to me at [edalton@bgsu.edu](mailto:edalton@bgsu.edu) and it will be published as space permits.

# PASSINGS

For the period May 1 - July 7, 2016. Photos are included when they were available.

■ **DONALD BOWEN**, 84, passed away on May 26, 2016, in Scottsdale, Arizona. He retired from BGSU after serving as a member of the Classified Staff.

■ **BARTLEY BRENNAN**, 74, professor emeritus of legal studies, died May 26, 2016, in Bowling Green, Ohio. He taught at the University from 1974-1996.

■ **ANNE CRUSA**, 92, passed away July 6, 2016, in Bowling Green, Ohio. Anne retired in 1989 from Residence Life.

■ **CAROL DENNIS**, 72, died on May 6, 2016, in North Baltimore, Ohio. Carol worked as a secretary for the university.

■ **DENNIS EAST II**, 76, passed away, June 8, 2016, in Bowling Green, Ohio. Professor emeritus, Dennis retired from the University in 1997, after serving as Assistant, Associate and Interim Dean of BGSU Libraries and Learning Resources.

■ **COL. RAY J. HILL**, 83, passed away on June 23, 2016, in San Antonio, Texas. His last assignment prior to retirement from the Army was serving BGSU as Professor of Military Science.

■ **VIOLET LORENZEN KISH**, 87, passed away in Perrysburg, Ohio on May 20th, 2016.

■ **MARY KLEVER**, 70, passed away June 21st, 2016, in Maumee, Ohio. Mary worked in the Admissions Office at the university.

■ **JEANETTE MCCARTNEY**, 85, died May 4, 2016, in Toledo, Ohio. She served the university as Custodial Supervisor.

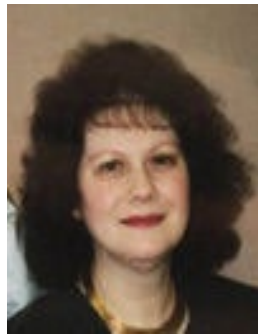
■ **PATRICIA 'TRICIA' MYERS**, 74, passed away June 20, 2016. She served the university as a custodian.

■ **FRANCES SRICKLEN-COURTNEY**, passed away on July 7, 2016, in Bowling Green, Ohio. Frances began work in the Custodial Department in 1968 and retired in 1991.

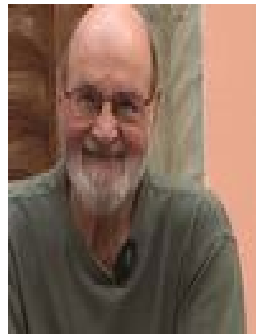
■ **BETTY TOMPKINS**, 74, passed away on May 7, in Pemberville, Ohio. Betty retired after 28 years at BGSU serving in the Housekeeping Department. □



Bartley Brennan



Carol Dennis



Dennis East II



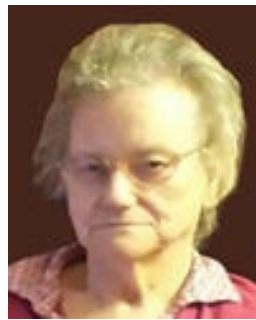
Col. Ray Hill



Violet Lorenzen Kish



Mary Klever



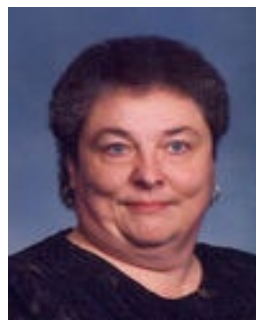
Jeanette McCartney



Patricia Myers



Frances Courtney



Betty Tompkins

