

BGSURA NEWSLETTER

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January 2005



Bowling Green State University Retirees Association

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What's ahead

- **March 16, 2005** – Earlene Kilpatrick, Executive Director, Main Street BG.
- **April 6, 2005** – Daryl Stockburger, director of BG Public Utilities, will discuss the wind-turbine project, now with a total of four units in place at the Wood County Landfill, at the Regional State Retirees Luncheon. It will be held in the McMaster Meeting Room 308 of the Bowen-Thompson Student Union.
- **May 18, 2005** – Ray Fischer, Wood County Prosecutor, will discuss "Identity Theft." □

BG Symphony Orchestra Trio to present program

A "town-gown" mix of musicians will present a program of popular and classical music at the Jan. 19 luncheon meeting of the BGSU Retirees Association at the First United Methodist Church, East Wooster St.:



• Grace Baker



• Amanda Amos

• **Grace Baker**, of Bowling Green, is concertmistress of the Bowling Green Symphony Orchestra. The Oberlin College graduate, who has a master's from Ohio University and who has taught at Kent State and Hiram College, will play violin.

• **Amanda Amos**, of Bowling Green, a music major at BGSU's College of Musical Arts, will play cello.

• **Jesse Griggs**, a senior performance major at the College, from Olathe, Kan., will play viola.

Socializing begins at 11:30 a.m. and Chef Don Bright will ring the dinner bell at noon. □

Life Memberships

LIFETIME memberships in the BGSURA are available for \$150 for members and \$75 for associates. Current "lifers" may be found in the BGSURA Directory, included with this newsletter.

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• Working out at the BGSU Rec Center is Phyllis Oster, the subject of Janis Pallister's feature beginning on page 2.

○ **Reservation Form for BGSURA's Jan. 19, 2005, Luncheon** ○
Wednesday, Jan. 19, 2005 • Reservation Deadline Friday, Jan. 14!
1st United Methodist Church. 11:30-Noon: Check-in and socializing. Noon: Luncheon.
NOTE: Reservations at \$8 per person MUST BE MADE by Friday, Jan. 14.

Name _____

Name(s) of Your Guest(s) _____

_____ Total Number of Reservations

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

**SEND RESERVATION FORM AND CHECK TO DON BRIGHT, 1209 CLARK ST., BOWLING GREEN, OH 43402,
NO LATER THAN FRIDAY, JAN. 14. Telephone 419-352-8360**



• Phyllis Oster is volunteer office staffing coordinator for the BGSURA at College Park.

Woman of engagement: AV, fruit flies and beyond

BY JANIS PALLISTER

I RECENTLY chatted with Phyllis Oster and was fascinated to learn of her many experiences of an international order. Since retirement, Phyllis has joined the BGSU retirees trips abroad (three times to France and once to Spain), and it came as no surprise to her to learn that throughout Provence, the Dordogne and Normandy the cuisine was great; she is an admirer of French style and culture.

But these were hardly the first experiences Phyllis had had with life abroad. She lived in Edinburgh, Scotland, in 1959-60 and visited England and Holland. In 1961 she returned to Edinburgh and visited Paris. A visit to East Germany was postponed for fear of getting trapped behind the Wall. In 1968 she traveled east, to Japan.

Born in New York of immigrant Russian parents, she attended Herman Ridder Junior High School, where she learned the value of education through studying Greek and Roman mythology. "I realized that study, often of subjects that seem to have no bearing on one's life, gives one a better understanding of the world," she said. Phyllis later learned that Bernie Linden and David Newman both attended the same junior high school!

In 1948 Phyllis graduated from James Monroe High School in the Bronx and then attended Brooklyn College for two years, majoring in so-

ciology and minoring in psychology. She earned her degree of Bachelor of Liberal Studies after coming to Bowling Green.

Phyllis married Irwin Oster and moved to Bloomington, Ind., where she was clerk of the Indiana University Audio-Visual Center. Two of her three children, Eric and Roslynn, were born there. She learned to handle *Drosophila*, while assisting her husband in his work. This continued at the Institute for Cancer Research in Philadelphia, working in the *Drosophila* Genetics Lab. (*Drosophila melanogaster* is a fruit fly about 3mm long, of the kind that accumulates around spoiled fruit. It is also one of the most valuable of organisms in biological research, particularly in genetics and developmental biology. *Drosophila* has been used as a model organism for research for almost a century, and today, several thousand scientists are working on many different aspects of the fruit fly.)

IN 1966 the Osters moved to Bowling Green, where Phyllis became the curator of stocks of the Mid-America *Drosophila* Stock Center, which had been started at the Institute in Philadelphia and was moved to Bowling Green State University.

"Since there was no one trained to handle the stocks, I took the job on a temporary basis and stayed on for 30

years." Meanwhile she was a volunteer tutor for English as a second language in the 1980s.

Retiring in 1996, she finds the nine years have gone fast. She is active in the International Friendship program sponsored by the University's Center for International Programs. This program is set up for BG families to aid, assist and befriend foreign students. Phyllis has truly bonded with several foreign students: An undergraduate from Japan; a Chinese couple who had their son on Christmas Day, with Phyllis in attendance; a Mexican couple; a young French woman; and most recently a woman from India. Phyllis remains in contact with these people, and points out that more volunteer families are needed to help with the program.

TO KEEP fit, Phyllis works out four to five times a week, lifts weights and walks, eats fruits and veggies, and combats osteoporosis also with medications. She still tutors English. As a Wood County Hospital volunteer, she works the reception desk Thursdays. She also attends plays and concerts at the University on a regular basis, likes "good" movies — favoring foreign — and reads mysteries including those by Faye Kellerman among others.

Meanwhile, Phyllis is gaining expertise with the computer, including the Macintosh in the BGSU Retirees Office in the College Park Office Building. Her four grandchildren live in Oregon, Florida and New York. Her email address is poster@bgnet.bgsu.edu. □

• Jan Pallister, Ph.D., L.D., is Distinguished University Professor Emeritus of Romance Languages. E-mail her at jpallis@dacor.net.

Computer troubles?

PROBLEMS getting connected to the Internet for E-mail and surfing? Call Charlie Applebaum, 352-0777, E-mail applebau@math.bgsu.edu, or the math office, 372-2729. This "help" program is sponsored once again by the Office of the Provost. □

Genny Stang's Legislative Report

BY GENEVIEVE STANG

CONCERNS for the war on terror and the Iraq situation continue to loom large over our nation. At the federal legislative level, efforts to finance/reform Social Security as well as resolve the Medicare problem remain challenges. Rising health care costs and decisions regarding drug importation also add to demands on legislators at both the federal and state level as well as focusing on the establishment of workable budgets. Continuous monitoring will be needed to thwart efforts to use already limited pension funds to ease budget woes. By the time you read this, legislators will have returned from recess and budget development will be underway.

In a flurry of action prior to the close of the last session, state legislators acted on a number of bills and sent them on to the governor. A tort reform bill was passed capping some awards and not others. It is expected that a court challenge will follow. At the close of the last session, Gov. Taft called a special session and some legislation was passed including a campaign finance bill requiring disclosures, increasing the amount individuals can contribute and cracking down on use of county party funds.

LEGISLATION also was sent to Taft providing new benefits for Ohio's service men, a bill dealing with securing DNA samples and an amendment to existing legislation dealing with eviction of sex offenders. HB 449 passed and was sent to Taft permitting reemployed retirees to withdraw accumulated contributions and interest

after termination but prior to age 63 in lieu of benefits for the period of reemployment. However, some bills did not complete the process and may be reintroduced in the next session. HB455 dealing with distribution of payments following marriage or remarriage died on the Senate floor. Another piece of legislation that may have died is HB98, distribution of retirement payments. At the federal level, action on GPO/WEP is unlikely but the issue will remain as Social Security reform is considered.

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Life Memberships • continued

BGSURA Directors approved the Lifetime Memberships at their July 2004 meeting, after a presentation by BGSURA Treasurer Hal Lunde, who presented a model of life expectancies for persons retired at age 55, age 60 and age 70 and resulting benefit to BGSURA.

Directors pointed out that becoming a life member means the organization gets a commitment from the member, and it indicates the member believes in the organization.

Campaign report

Treasurer Lunde also told the BGSURA board that the retirees association had 373 donors to the BGSU Family Campaign. Their total contribution of \$383,544 was the largest from any sector at BGSU and was up \$55,000 over the previous year.

Copies of the new Retiree's Handbook are still available. □

Faculty Development Center. Dr. Rabin was an Ohio licensed psychologist and mental health consultant. He was a life member of the American and Ohio Psychological Associations. During his tenure at BGSU, dating from 1955, he was active in faculty governance and served on numerous commissions and special administrative committees.

• **DELBERT D. KARNES JR.**, who retired as an associate professor of business

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Passings

• **BERNARD RABIN**, 87, retired professor in the College of Education, died Nov. 10 in Hospice of Northwest Ohio. Prior to his death, he established the Rabin Helping Hand Fund to provide emergency funds for students without family support who are working their way through school. Before his retirement in 1982, he had directed the

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Who's Who — BGSURA

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At the state level, efforts by private vendors to require more external investment management continue even though current STRS investment management has been shown to be financially prudent and fiscally responsible. This pressure also has been felt by PERS. A number of other issues have been brought forth that could have an impact on retirees either through influence on taxes or through court challenges. These include a potential 32 cent monthly fee on cell phones, efforts to capture revenue from internet and catalog sales, efforts to overhaul Ohio's tax base and reduce tax burdens, efforts to limit levies and local control over property tax hikes and a change in land-fill assessments that will provide added funding for health boards. Also the use of state gas taxes and construction monies to lower turnpike fees for trucks was noted. In a more intangible way, possible impacts on funds could come from potential costs for court challenges such as the cost to universities offering insurance to employees same sex partners now that Issue I was passed at the last election. Also, lawsuits such as Petro's against a drug maker alleging price gauging, as well as unresolved lawsuits such as those coming from the Enron scandal pose further potential financial impacts. Revisions on how schools classify students when determining district annual progress were made to reflect modifications required by federal policy recently adopted. Another school funding issue to watch relates to charter school administration. The school funding issue continues to be of concern.

Medicare puzzle

Selection of a drug card and implementation of the Medicare program continue to be a puzzle to many. Now that types of health care plans expand and benefit cuts are made while health care costs zoom, further challenges are being faced by retirees. At the state level, Auditor Montgomery has proposed legislation for next year that would repeal 1998 state law to restore state auditor's authority to do management audits hoping to root out more fraud and overpayments in Medicaid. The Ohio Com-

mission to Reform Medicaid, which account for about forty percent of state budget spending, is looking at recommending ways to reduce costs including a freeze on reimbursement for hospital inpatient care and reduction in nursing home costs.

Retirement Boards

Passage of the pension reform bill (SB133) has resulted in changes to the composition of both the STRS and the PERS Boards. Both will have their full complement of eleven members when they meet in January and many of these new members will have limited experience with the Boards. This next year should prove interesting and increasingly important to monitor actions. Dr. Stephen Buser, retired professor of finance from The Ohio State University and Geoffrey Meyer, financial administrator of Manor Care in Toledo, have been appointed recently. They join Judith Fisher who was appointed by the Governor as financial experts and Dave Speas the second retiree on the STRS Board. The replacement for Chapman, Connie Ramser, was appointed earlier. Two retiree seats and one for an active member will be filled in elections to be held in May. The OPERS Board will consist of five elected members, two elected retiree members, the Director of the State Dept. of Administrative Services and three appointed members with investment or financial expertise. Their names were not available at this printing.

The STRS Board has authorized renewal of the Life Masters Contract started for non-medicare and Medicare B only retirees who have chronic diseases. The program produced a savings of about six million in the first year of use. The annual financial statement audit report was positive. STRS continues in its efforts to examine management and spending practices and to implement cost-saving measures while safeguarding the pension funds and working to address long term health care coverage.

Training sessions

Current and newly appointed board members from the five public pension systems participated in an intensive two-day training program prescribed by pension reform legislation. Experts

from around the country provided information about investments, actuarial principles, government and legislative relations, ethics, fiduciary responsibilities and health care issues. The Ohio Retirement Study Council has met with STRS and will continue meeting with OPERS and the other retirement boards. The STRS ORSC report is expected in mid-March.

OCHER

At the Nov. 16, 2004, meeting of the Ohio Council of Higher Education Retirees, Ann Hanning, Ohio Retired Teachers Association Legislative Agent, reviewed ORTA action and pending state and federal legislation. She reported that ORTA had received a grant to survey members as a part of their Strategic Planning. She also announced that Dave Travis, ORTA Executive Director plans to retire at the same time that Joe Endry leaves the STRS Board. OCHER President Niedzielski reported he had sent letters of support for Lou DiOrio as directed and a request to Shawnee State to identify a retiree representative. Absences of such from Shawnee State and Cincinnati were noted.

Reports were presented by DiOrio, ORTA Executive Board member, and Niedzielski ORTA district representative. Promotion of ORTA membership was encouraged. In the absence to Hill, DiOrio presented an overview of federal and state legislation from a report prepared by Hill. He also presented an account of the meetings he attended for Health Care Advocates.

An extensive discussion regarding OCHER strategic planning was held and action taken establishing a survey of OCHER representatives' views regarding strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats. A report of survey results will be given at the March OCHER meeting. Discussion re date, location and agenda for the OCHER annual meeting followed.

Richard Edwards reported on his meeting with PERI and indicated that the PERI Board will consider PERI/OCHER affiliation.

OCHER meets again on March 26 in Columbus. □

• Genevieve Stang may be reached at ges@dacor.net or 419-352-5534.

President's Corner

By Dr. Roger Anderson

A HIGHLIGHT of the last several weeks, in addition to celebrating the holidays with family, was our trip to the GMAC Bowl in Mobile, Ala., to see the football Falcons play the Memphis Tigers. We left from Detroit on Monday, December 20, for Pensacola, Fla., where we rented a car to drive to Gulf Shores for a visit with the cousin of my wife Betty Jean. He took us on a tour of the devastation caused by the September hurricane. Waves 20 to 30 feet had driven water through hundreds of condos and businesses, washing out roads and pushing debris far up shore.

That evening we dined in an excellent seafood restaurant in Gulf Shores, where one of the restaurant owners pointed out the high water mark halfway up the wall of the second floor restaurant.



• Dr. Anderson

THE next day, we drove the short distance to Mobile, where we were greeted at the door of the Mobile Marriott by Falcon supporters dressed in orange, including the Cooks, the Weisses and Ashel Bryan. After checking in, we headed to the Captain's Table restaurant for another outstanding seafood meal. From the window of the restaurant we could see the battleship, the USS Alabama, which we later toured at its mooring in the Gulf.

That same evening we drove to Bellingrath Gardens and Home near Theodore, Ala., west of Mobile to see the beautiful Christmas in Lights display. The gardens and home were originally owned by the founding distributor of Coca Cola in the southern United States.

Although the temperature had been in the 40s when we arrived in Pensacola it warmed to almost 80 on Tuesday. On Wednesday we woke up to torrential driving rain and temperatures in the high 60s. Given the weather conditions we decided an indoor tour of a historic Mobile house would be best. We wisely chose Oakleigh, Mobile's Official Period House Museum, circa 1833, a unique T-shaped Greek

Revival mansion furnished with period antiques. Our excellent docent, outfitted in a hoop dress, gave us a very detailed and fascinating tour of the house. She said she had recently graduated from the University of Alabama as a political science major and lived with her boyfriend, a chef, a few blocks from the historic house.

Since we had packed no rain gear for the 7 p.m. game, and because more torrential rains were expected, we headed to a mall to purchase raincoats. After several unsuccessful tries we found rain gear at Sears. We then headed back to the hotel, changed into our game clothes and took the shuttle bus to the stadium for a pre-game meal and rally sponsored by the Falcon Club.

FROM 3 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. there was no rain. Then about the time everybody was moving to their seats, the downpour started again. We purchased ponchos at the stadium to put over our raincoats, and as a result we both stayed dry. Although Betty Jean stayed under the stands most of the first half, I stubbornly sat in my seat during the driving rain and watched the Falcons take a 35-28 lead at halftime. Fortunately, the rains stopped for the second half, and the Falcons played a good second half and won 52-35. We had a good time at the post-game party back at the hotel.

On Thursday we returned to Pensacola and fortunately had an afternoon flight back to Detroit because we later learned that the Detroit, Cincinnati and Toledo airports had shut down for part of the morning because of snow. Although our flight to Atlanta was 90 minutes late — and our flight to Detroit was equally late — we got to Detroit after the snowfall. The roads were relatively clear. We arrived back in Bowling Green at 11 p.m. to see nine inches of pretty newly fallen snow.

I HOPE all of you have either picked up or received in the mail by now the Retirees Handbook. Thanks to the professional committee and especially, Hal Lunde for the writing and distribution of the handbook. If you did not receive a copy, please e-mail us at retirees@bgnet.bgsu.edu

For those of you in the area plan to attend the January 19th luncheon and program featuring selected members of the BG Symphony Orchestra. □

• Dr. Anderson is Associate Professor Emeritus of Political Science. His address is rogerca@bgnet.bgsu.edu.

Passings

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education in 1985, died Nov. 24 in Naples, Fla. He took a position in the business education department at BGSU in 1970 so he could teach and continue his graduate education at the same time. After retiring to Florida, he worked as associate director of recruitment for Walden University from 1991 to 2002. Before coming to BGSU, he had taught at Tiffin University.

• **JANET BARGA** died Nov. 6 at her home in Wayne. She was formerly employed at Heidelberg College, Tiffin, and she later retired from BGSU.
• **LOIS A. "SUNDE" CRABTREE**, Perrysburg, died Dec. 4. She had worked at BGSU for many years.
• **MARY M. HARTMAN**, Pemberville, died Oct. 26 at Hospice of Northwest Ohio. She was employed at BGSU for 25 years, retiring in 1979.
• **ILO D. EVANS**, Burns, Ore., formerly of Bowling Green and a BGSU

employee, died Nov. 14 in Burns.
• **ELSIE MAE HEEBSH**, 88, died Dec. 22 at Genoa Care Center. She was a cook at BGSU for 10 years, retiring in 1976.
• **DONNA M. LAHEY**, 76, who retired in 1994 after 22 years as an assistant administrator in the BGSU Counseling and Career Center, died Dec. 23 at her home. Vice president of Lahey Appliance and TV in Bowling Green for 53 years, she completed a two-year secretarial science program at BGSU. □