

Lunch form on page 8

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CRAIG BELL/BGSU



Profile by Pallister

• Janet
Parks
On page 2

What's ahead

• **Sept. 17** — BGSU journalism graduate Larry Weiss, chair of the University's Centennial Commission, will be the Convocation speaker to kick off BGSURA's 14th year. A great fan of baseball, Larry is public address announcer for Falcon men's baseball games this spring. He was a Profile by Pallister feature in the January BGSURA Newsletter.



• Larry Weiss

ETHAN MAGOC/BG NEWS

Pension funds gain leeway on terror laws

LAWMAKERS in some states are backing away from their demands that public pension funds rid themselves of investments in companies that do business with countries considered sponsors of terror, like the Sudan and Iran, reported *The Wall Street Journal* April 15.

Ohio's five pension funds were not mentioned specifically in the article.

With markets pummeling most pension funds, the hard-line stance adopted last year by state lawmakers, including Ohio's, is coming under scrutiny, said *The Journal*. "In the first quarter," it reported, "the average public-pension fund lost about five percent, while its funding liabilities rose about two percent." The newspaper attributed these figures to Watson Wyatt, a global consulting firm focused on human capital and financial management.

The pension funds argue that the restrictive laws, "while well-meaning, conflict with a fund's fiduciary duty to get the best returns for beneficiaries." More than 20 states have passed restrictive laws. Maine voted down a bill. An Idaho Senate Committee rejected a bill.

"At our April board meeting held last week," said Laura Eckler, commu-

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City utilities manager to present program at May 14 luncheon

SPEAKER for the BGSURA luncheon Wednesday, May 14, at the Elks Banquet Facility on Campbell Hill Road, is Kevin Maynard, the city's director of municipal utilities. A Northwest Ohio native (born in Hicksville southeast of Bryan), Maynard is in charge of the city's electric, water and wastewater department. He took over the utilities operation in 2005, after the retirement of Daryl Stockburger.

A graduate of Stryker High School, Maynard has an associate's degree in electromechanical engineering from the former Northwest Technical College in Archbold and a bachelor's degree (magna cum laude) in business administration from Defiance College.

Maynard came to Bowling Green after working as general manager for the Wyandotte, Mich., Municipal Services. Previously he was general manager for AMPO Inc., a wholly-owned subsidiary of American Municipal Power-Ohio, the non-profit wholesale power supply and services provider for more than 120 municipal electric utilities in Ohio, West Virginia, continued on page 7



• Kevin Maynard



JOAN GORDON

• Kevin Maynard was the speaker at the March meeting of the Bowling Green League of Women Voters.

Computer troubles?

PROBLEMS getting connected to the Internet, surfing and the Vista operating system for PCs? Call Charlie Applebaum, 352-0777, or e-mail applebau@bgsu.edu Applebaum's services are made available to retirees by the office of Linda Dobb, BGSU executive vice president. □



• Applebaum

A podium encore by 'The Chief'

COMMUNITY Band musician Richard Edwards, who plays the alto sax, writes about retired BGSU Director of Bands Mark Kelly, who was a guest conductor April 13.



On page 4

BGSU



PHOTO BY CLIF BOUTELLE

Profile by Pallister

Janet Parks: Feminist and prescriptive grammarian

By Janis L. Pallister

DR. JANET PARKS, well-known to the University community, came to BGSU in 1965 and taught until her retirement in 2004. Her education goes before her accomplishments. She did her Master of Science in physical education at Illinois State University in 1965 and received her doctor of arts in 1977 from Middle Tennessee State University. She also did post-doctoral study in 1994-95 at the University of Wisconsin-Madison (statistics, sociology, language development). In 2002-03, she did post-doctoral study at the University of Wisconsin-Madison in non parametric statistics, multivariate statistics, and the psychology of women.

From 1965-1981 Dr. Parks taught courses in aspects of physical education and, more recently, graduate level courses and directed readings. Since 1981, she has worked in the field of Sport Management. She was deservedly made Distinguished Teaching Professor in 2002, shortly before her retirement. Parks has also been inducted into the Athletic Hall of Fame, Charter Class (2003) of Girls Preparatory School in Chattanooga, Tenn.

As an arm of her field in Sport Management, Dr. Parks has examined attitudes regarding women in the work place. She has done extensive research on sexist language, finding that young people (college students) are less opposed to it than older people. She finds that older people are more open-minded, especially those who came of age in the 60s. Of course, her emphasis is on sexist language in sports, e.g., reference to women athletes as girls or ladies; use of the generic "he"; resistance to change, as with Ms. for Mrs./Miss. She and I both abhor the use of the nominative pronoun as the object of a preposition. We prefer to have Hillary Clinton say, "There's not much dif-

ference between Obama and me" (not between Obama and I, as she did for all to hear). We grant that this is prescriptive grammar, but so be it.

It should be noted that this interest in language is not a passing fancy with Janet. Since retiring, she has written and published several refereed articles on this issue. A new piece has been accepted for publication in *Sport Management Education Journal*. It was written with Sally Ross, assistant professor of sport management at BGSU, and is entitled "Enhancing sport management students' attitudes toward women: A challenge for educators."

On this subject Janet has also written (with Mary Ann Robertson, BGSU professor emeritus) "Generation gaps in attitudes toward sexist language." This work has been accepted by the *Journal of Language and Social Psychology*, for publication. In 2005, also with Mary Ann, she published "Explaining age and gender effects on attitudes toward sexist language" in the *Journal of Language and Social Psychology*.

IN ADDITION to this language research, Janet is working with Ann Bowers to prepare a photo-essay book on women's intercollegiate sports at BGSU. Interestingly enough the project began as far back as 1988, when one of Janet's master's students gathered preliminary information.

As might well be expected, much of Dr. Parks' energy has been devoted to issues surrounding Title IX. She is presently working with the National Association for Girls and Women in Sport on the preparation of an instructional DVD about Title IX and women in sports. She is concerned with the legal and social climate that existed when Title IX was passed.

Dr. Parks' published research also includes articles

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Janet Parks – In her own words words . . .

WE HAD an extensive inter-scholastic program in high school in Chattanooga, where I was raised. I played varsity basketball from grades 9 through 12. I was also on the tennis team. There was no intercollegiate sports program for women at the University of Chattanooga, so we made one up for ourselves. We played industrial league basketball. Our team was the Provident Life and Accident Insurance Company (my father worked for the company).

We also arranged tennis tournaments and hosted several at UC. We also went to several volleyball tournaments across the state. So, we were very inventive – we didn't let the absence of a formal intercollegiate program stop us!

For graduate school, I had a Carnegie Fellowship to attend Middle Tennessee State University in Murfreesboro. The doctor of arts is a teaching degree, rather than a research degree, and the Carnegie Foundation was very supportive of it. That money paid my tuition and fees, but I still needed to live because I was on an unpaid leave of absence from BGSU. For a couple of summers before I went away for additional graduate study, I worked at the Forrest Creason Golf Course and in a fender factory in Pemberville (I'm not making this up) to make extra money. At the factory, we made quarter fenders and tandem fenders for semis. I worked on the factory floor stamping and shearing steel as well as riveting drivers' log boxes together, and I drove trucks delivering the fenders to vendors in Michigan, Ohio, and Indiana. Some of the men in the stores where I delivered them resented my having that sort of job. They said I was taking jobs away from men, and they made me unload the truck all by myself. That was no big deal to me, but I thought they were a bit rude.

WHEN I went to Madison, I was on faculty improvement leaves, which paid 70 percent of my annual salary. That was fine — I didn't need to moonlight while I was there! The teachers of the classes let me sit in — I didn't have to pay. They were very nice. They treated me well, and I learned a lot! The students treated me well also. During my first stint there, I



• Janet Parks on the courts when she was BGSU tennis coach.

was in my early 50s. I walked to school every day — about 40 minutes each way. One of the students told me, “Gosh I hope when I'm your age, I can still walk that far.” I'm sure she meant it as a compliment, so I took it as such! But it did make me laugh!

MY FOCUS on sexist language and Title IX came about through my dissertation, written in the late 70s. A book about physical education, it was written exclusively with the masculine pronoun. One of the reviewers questioned the publisher about whether they really wanted to publish a book with exclusively masculine pronouns. Her question made me think about it, and I thought she had a good point. Then, I came across a book by Casey Miller (a Toledo native) and Kate Swift titled “The Handbook of Non-sexist Writing.” It is a brilliant book that changed my life. Casey Miller has passed away, but Kate Swift is still alive, and we still communicate occasionally. She's 85 and is still giving talks about sexist language. She lives next door to Chris Dodd and was very disappointed that he dropped out of the race for the Democratic presidential nomination.

I think a prescriptive grammarian is a person who believes that there are rules regarding grammar and that those rules should be followed in order to communicate correctly and effectively. My high school had a very strong (and demanding) English program. □

Retirees Association NEWSLETTER

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Janet Parks *from page 2*

and books on Sport Management. She has also delivered dozens of papers at conferences, reviewed many manuscripts and articles, and served many times as a consultant.

Indeed, Janet's service to the University and the Bowling Green community has been most impressive, and continues to be. Since her retirement, she has been a member of the Friends of the University Libraries from 2005-2008, its president in 2005.

But that is hardly all. She was a member of the steering committee for the Greater Cleveland Sports Commission, Title IX Conference, 2005-2007; the Board of Directors, Cocoon Shelter, 2007-present; City Parks and Recreation Department "Save the Woods" Campaign, 2005-present; Alumnae Advisory Council, Girls Preparatory School, Chattanooga, 2006-present; Advisory Board, Wood County Corps (AmeriCorps), 2005-2007; University



BRADLEY DAVID PHALIN/BGSU

Libraries Advocates Board, 2007-present; and the BGSU Retirees Association Executive Board, 2007-present.

Janet claims golfing and travel as her hobbies; she has travelled widely with her friend Dolores Black.

Recently she has also been involved in tracing her genealogy. She has gone back on her mother's side as far as 1650 (in this country), tracing the background of the Bliss family (Bliss is her middle name), and finding out much about both sides of her family and its role in the Civil War. In the process she has learned a great deal of history, especially on the subjects of the Civil War and slavery.

In April, Dr. Parks was honored as an Honorary Alumna of BGSU (at left).

She insists on the feminine form of the Latin word, even though it is not in widespread use on the campus. As I said, a feminist and a prescriptive grammarian. □

• Dr. Janis L. Pallister is Distinguished University Professor Emeritus of Romance Languages. E-mail: jpallis@dacor.net.

Pension funds *from page 1*

tions director for STRS Ohio, "we reported that our preliminary total fund return for this fiscal year through March 31 is a negative 4.5 per cent. Factors such as high oil and gas prices, coupled with concerns about inflation increasing, a possible recession and credit market issues, are creating significant amounts of volatility in domestic and international markets. STRS Ohio staff believes that economic activity should pick up in the latter half of the year, with good growth anticipated in fiscal 2009, which begins July 1. □

Help Wanted with...

- 1. Formulating a Letters to the Editor policy (relevant to the University community).**
- 2. Drafting an editorial policy including the areas of identifying and researching a problem, describing the problem, and offering a solution). If interested, call Jim Gordon, jgordon@bgsu.edu, or 419-352-8175 or 888-564-8592.**

'Take it from the top ... just one more time'

By Dick Edwards

ON THE EVENING of April 3, the members of the Bowling Green Area Band were treated to something special by BGSU Director of Bands Emeritus Mark Kelly.

The event was a practice session for the band's first concert on April 13. Mark Kelly had accepted Band Director Nick Ezzzone's invitation to be a guest conductor for playing the "Hosts of Freedom" march by Karl L. King.

For many members of the 80-member band, this was their introduction to Mark either in person or as a conductor. For other members, it represented a re-connecting with their much loved and admired former band director affectionately known as "Chief."

For one hour, Director Kelly "worked" the band on the art of playing a march. "A march, if it is played right, will put a smile on your face and make your toes tap."

He had the band play again and again one section of King's march and then another and challenged the members of the band, even by singing the tone, sound level and precise quality desired.

"Vary the sound," he admonished the band. "Your



• Mark Kelly at rehearsal.

PHOTO BY AARON CARPENTER/SENTINEL-TRIBUNE

challenge is to keep the audience interested."

When "the clinic" concluded, the band gave Mark Kelly a standing ovation. Smiling faces of respect and enthusiasm were everywhere. Once again, Professor Kelly left his special "mark" on a band, something he did throughout his career at BGSU, at the University of Iowa, in directing high school bands in his native Iowa, and as a guest conductor at clinics throughout the country.

When asked how the band sounded on April 13, he responded with a smiling "pretty good" and quickly acknowledged that he enjoyed the experience. So did the band with another "standing O."

Now in its second year, the BG Area Community Band is open to all interested musicians. Ages in the band range from high school to the mid-80's. The band's next concert is scheduled for the Wood County Historical Center on June 14 and at the BG City Park on the following evening. The band also will perform at the City's annual Fourth of July fireworks celebration and then again on July 12 at St. Mark's Lutheran Church. □

Cormier, Lunde present members with \$4,000 challenge

THE president and treasurer of the BGSU Retirees Association, Dr. Ramona Cormier and Dr. Harold Lunde, have teamed up to challenge members to match the \$4,000 they have pledged for the BGSURA Golden Book Award. "This will double the value of any gift made toward the award and help us reach our 2008 goal of getting this fund to the endowment level of \$15,000," Dr. Cormier said. "We need \$8,000 to meet this goal."



The first BGSURA Golden Book Award was given this year through the Academic Enhancement Program to Angela Dawson, of Brunswick, who attended BGSURA's Fall Convocation.



• Dr. Cormier



• Dr. Lunde

"Until we reach our long-term goal of making an award in all the colleges every year, we will rotate the award through the colleges alphabetically until fully endowed," Dr. Cormier said.

Dr. Cormier pointed out that contributions to the Golden Book Award

also count within BGSU's Family Campaign.

Contributions to the Golden Book Award may be made on line through the BGSU Web site or by check or pledge to the BGSU Foundation and earmarked for the BGSURA Golden Book Award. □

• Dr. Lunde is the editor and producer of the *BGSU Retirees Handbook*, first published in 2004 and updated last year.

The handbook now is on line at <http://www.bgsu.edu/downloads/execvp/file12602.pdf>.



Cliff Bouteille

Passings



Jim Gordon/BGSU

• William Travers Jerome III

■ **WILLIAM TRAVERS JEROME III**, the sixth president of BGSU, died March 10 in the Vermont Veterans' Home, Bennington. Dr. Jerome was 88 and in declining health, said his son, William T. Jerome IV. Dr. Jerome was dean of the School of Business Administration at Syracuse University when he became BGSU president in 1963, succeeding Dr. Ralph G. Harshman. Dr. Jerome left BGSU in 1970 to help a former BGSU varsity football place kicker, Dr. Charles E. Perry (Perry Field House), start up the newly created Florida International University. Dr. Jerome saw enrollment increase from 8,200 to 14,000. Among the buildings constructed on his watch were Jerome Library, Health Services, Ice Arena, Student Services Building, Life Sciences, Mathematical Sciences, Psychology, Education and Business Administration buildings, the football stadium and the golf

course. During the days of turmoil after the May 1970 shooting of Kent State students by Ohio National Guardsmen, Dr. Jerome's leadership kept the University open through graduation after others in Ohio shut down. Dr. Jerome was succeeded by Dr. Hollis Moore. At his final Commencement, Dr. Jerome was awarded an honorary degree. In 1981, he received BGSU's Honorary Alumnus Award. A 1941 Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Colgate University, he attended Yale University Law School. In 1946 he received an MBA from Harvard and in 1952 received a doctor of commercial science degree. Dr. Jerome was a World War II Army veteran, serving in military intelligence. He retired from Florida International in 1990.

■ **DUANE TUCKER**, the founder and general manager of WBGU-TV, died March 24. He had served on the faculty for 30 years and served as general manager for 25 years before retiring in 1989. In 1963, Dr. Tucker established BGSU's closed-circuit instructional television system in South Hall. The facility housing the television station was named in honor of Tucker and his wife, Margaret, in 1994. He began his broadcasting career in 1941 as an announcer



• Dr. Tucker

with KTSW radio in Emporia, Kan. He headed the radio-television-film sequence in the speech department, where he started the master's degree program and created the related doctoral program. He was a board member of the Sight Center Audio Network in Toledo where he volunteered weekly for 13 years as a reader to the blind. He was also active in many professional and community organizations.

■ **DENNIS HALE**, a member of the journalism faculty at the University for 25 years, died March 15 in St. Louis. He retired in 2005 to Edwardsville, Ill. He taught news reporting and feature writing but his specialty was media law and ethics, the First Amendment and newspapers. He taught at Tacoma Community College and Baylor University before coming to BGSU in 1980. A native of Tacoma, Wash., he had also written for several newspapers in the western U.S.

■ **DOROTHY L. RANDALL**, a registered nurse, died April 2 in Bowling Green. She had retired as head of the physical therapy department at BGSU.

■ **MARCIENE DAUTERMAN**, Portage, died March 14 in Bowling Green. She worked in food service at BGSU for 22 years, retiring in 1977.

■ **ELAINE THOMAS** died March 9. She had been a secretary at BGSU and retired in 1998.

— Compiled by Joan Gordon

Legislative report

By Genevieve Stang
ges@dacor.net

At its April 17 meeting, the State Teachers Retirement Board:

- Reviewed the proposed system budgets for the 2009 fiscal year (July 1, 2008-June 30, 2009) of \$99,537,200, which represents a \$3.5 million, or 3.7%, increase over the current year budget. The system expects to spend \$4,883,100 on the continuing project to replace STRS Ohio's obsolete pension management computer system.

- Learned that a telephone survey shows that almost all active and retired members of STRS Ohio have positive impressions of STRS Ohio overall. The survey showed that health care continues to be an issue of concern among retirees and, to a lesser extent, among active members.

- Heard results of a survey reporting that STRS Ohio holds the No. 1 spot among 74 leading global pension systems for its service to members.

- Learned that Rep. Scott Oelslager (R-North Canton), the sponsor of H.B. 315, will meet with key stakeholders interested in the legislation to create a dedicated revenue stream for the STRS Ohio Health Care Program.

- Learned that legislation designed to prevent active members from returning to their former positions immediately following retirement is likely to be on the agenda of the House Financial Institutions, Real Estate and Securities Committee this spring, according to the sponsor of H.B. 270. The Ohio School Boards Association and the Ohio Association of School Business Officials have testified in opposition to the bill.

STATE

Fifteen of the Senate's 33 seats are up for election. In the House, all 99 seats remain up for election, 16 uncontested including that of Rep. Oelslager, sponsor of House Bill 315 for a dedicated health care revenue stream. Ohio's U.S. Senate seats are not up this year. The 18 U.S. House seats are up for grabs, three of which do not have an incumbent running. In 10 of the others, incumbents did not have a primary challenger.

STRS actives will vote on a contributing members seat this month, choosing between Tim Myers of Elida Local Schools and Dan Vincent of the

Stone Ridge replacing Elks hall for future meetings

AFTER BGSURA's Sept. 17 Convocation in the Bowen-Thompson Union, the rest of the year's luncheons will be held at Stone Ridge Golf Club, announced Ted Groat, association vice-president and program chair at the BGSURA Board's April meeting.

The May 14 luncheon, with Kevin Maynard as speaker, will be the last in the Elks Banquet Facility.

Dr. Groat said the First United Methodist Church no longer is available for meetings. Dissatisfaction with service at the Elks Banquet Facility also played a role in the move, he added. The Kiwanis and Exchange clubs in Bowling Green also have moved to Stone Ridge. Dr. Groat said the move also requires an increase in the luncheon cost from \$9 to \$10.

In other business, the Board of Directors will look into what appears to

be a confusing application of discount benefits to different categories of retirees. Wording of the software contract between the University and Microsoft may discriminate against classified and administrative staff as well as those retired faculty who may not have "emeritus" status.

The discount policy surfaced when a retired faculty member attempted to purchase a copy of Microsoft Windows Vista at the BGSU Bookstore and was denied the discount price of \$10. Street prices for the Vista upgrade from Windows XP range from \$100 to more than \$300, depending upon the version.

Action taken by the Board directs Dr. Ramona Cormier, BGSURA president, to write to Dr. Shirley L. Baugher, vice president for academic affairs and provost, for clarification of the discount policy. □

10th anniversary



• April 17, 1998: Dr. Ramona Cormier and BGSU Pres. Sidney Ribeau at the dedication of the Ramona Cormier Reading Room on the eighth floor of Jerome Library. A key to the room is available to retirees at the first floor circulation desk. Photo scanned from the May 1998 BGSURA Newsletter. About 100 friends and colleagues attended the dedication ceremonies.

Letter to the Editor

Good, true and beautiful!

Please consider this a reminder to the membership about the nice benefit that the BGSU retirees have in the Ramona Cormier Faculty Reading Room on the eighth floor of the main library. It is a lovely room, well appointed, and very conducive to private reading and contemplation of the good, the true, and the beautiful.

Elmer Spreitzer
Bowling Green

NOTE: The BGSURA Newsletter invites Letters to the Editor on topics of interest to the University retirement community. Letters may be edited. Include contact information and send them to jgordon@bgsu.edu.

Medina County Educational Service.

Health Care Services has worked with other Ohio retirement systems to collaborate as a purchasing group for administrative services for health care plans. STRS Board has decided not to make changes in design plans for 2009. That doesn't mean there may not be an increase in premium costs.

Effective 1/1/09 STRS Ohio will only provide secondary coverage to any non-Medicare eligible health care plan enrollee who has been rehired by a private or public organization

and is eligible for health care coverage through that employer.

BILL WATCH

SB162 and SB191 deal with exemption of a portion of public pension income from the state income tax. HB433 also deals with such an exemption

HB270 requires forfeiture of pension benefits upon return to the same or similar position in the same district within 60 days of retirement.

NOTE: A detailed report of the April meeting may be found at www.strs.org/.

With 'full, ineluctable attention' to task at hand

REFLECTING the vocabulary of William F. Buckley Jr. comes reportage of a recent BGSURA event. There was badinage — no



• Wally Pretzer

rododromontade and no insouciance — exhibited by the meritocratic book discussion group of seven who, at times, uttered a salvific laugh as they expressed their views on *The Rake*, a possibly perdurable novel written by the aforesaid Buckley. The full, ineluctable attention given to the task at hand cannot be gainsaid.

The location for this nascent venture was Margaret Tucker's "caravansary" in Bowling Green. Enjoying libations and savories amid the fervid discussion were Frances Brent, Dick Edwards, Julie Pontasch, Wally



• Book discussion group: Margaret Tucker, Bonnie Woods, Julie Pontasch, Diane Pretzer, Frances Brent and Dick Edwards. Words and pictures by Wally Pretzer.

and Diane Pretzer, Bonnie Woods, and Margaret. Considering that Mr. Buckley had died recently (Feb. 27) at age 82, Margaret had purposely chosen this book for the discussion.

As activities coordinator for BGSURA, Wally invites others to have book discussions in their homes. If interested, contact Wally at 419-352-8057 or dpretze@bgsu.edu. Choose the book and time when you wish to schedule such an event. □



• Gov. Strickland presented the Strategic Plan for Higher Education in March.

essentially of the "what does this mean?" variety.

And since no one felt competent to respond with any certainty, most questions were perforce simply left hanging. Of course, the over-arching question about nearly everything was "how is this going to be financed?" and more particularly, "how is this likely to affect the financial support for BGSU?"

At length, the chairperson thought it wise to develop a written statement

reflecting a general posture that "the Plan seems to contain some good ideas but needs to be examined much more thoroughly," which might be passed along to State Sen. Randy Gardner and others, and he undertook to draft a statement to be circulated via email among members for their reactions.

• **Ed. Note:** The full report may be found at <http://universitysystem.ohio.gov/>. Dr. Rock, professor emeritus of history, may be reached at wisurock@wcnnet.org. □

The 'Plan:' What does it mean?

REPRESENTING the BGSU Retirees Association on the Faculty Senate Professional Affairs Committee is Dr. William Rock. Here is his report from the group's April 9 meeting:

A rather unfocused discussion centered on members' reactions thus far to the new Ohio "Strategic Plan for Higher Education." Meaningful discussion was, in candor, stunted because no one had yet tried to digest the 140-page document in its entirety, and when questions were raised about specific aspects of the Plan, they were

Maynard *continued from page 1*
Virginia, Michigan and Pennsylvania.

Maynard's more than 28 years of experience in the electric, natural gas, telecommunications, water and wastewater industries includes serving as director of utilities for the Bryan (Ohio) Municipal Utilities from 1993 to 1997, as general manager of Austin (Minn.) utilities from 1997 to 1999, and as general manager of Wyandotte (Mich.) municipal services from 2001 to 2005, when he came to Bowling Green.

Kevin has served on the boards of American Municipal Power-Ohio, Inc., (1993 to 1997 and 2005 to the present), the Southern Minnesota Municipal

Power Agency (1997 to 1999), the Michigan Municipal Electric Association (2003 to 2005), the Michigan Public Power Agency (2005), and was secretary of the Ohio Public Power Educational Institute from 1993 to 1997.

He is a past president of the Williams County (Ohio) Historical Society and co-authored two award-winning local history books, including a teacher's guide for the Williams County elementary schools. He currently serves on the Board of Trustees of the Stryker (Ohio) Area Heritage Council and served as this local historical organization's president in 2006-2007. □

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

By Dr. Ramona Cormier

Glassmaking: Craft and Art

GLASS making, which I undertook as a hobby after I retired in the early 1990's, is an ancient craft whose origins, it is believed, began in Mesopotamia some 3,000 years before Christ. The glass medium is unusual, for unlike iron and most molten substances, it does not undergo an internal structural change as it passes from a hot liquid state to a cold rigid one. When the ingredients of glass, sand, soda, and silica are heated, they produce a viscous substance which can be manipulated in its liquid state to make the many glass objects that we take for granted. But unlike the clay of the ceramacist or the wood of the woodworker, hot glass cannot be handled by the human hand. So over the centuries, techniques and tools were invented for making glass that are still in use today, some with little modification.

Glass ingredients liquefy when heated between 2,200 to 2,400 degrees Fahrenheit in a pot, a brick structure capable of sustaining these high temperatures. The glass maker retrieves hot glass from a pot with a blowpipe or similar rod used to shape the liquid material. While shaping a liquid mass that is continually cooled and reheated in a glory hole, various tools such as wood blocks and wet newspaper may be used, as well as several types of metal implements including jacks and pincers. Frit, glass powder, glass cane or other materials may decorate the vessel. To complete the process, the glass form is transferred to a punty, a metal rod, for the opening of the vessel's top. When finished, it is moved to an annealing oven for gradual cooling to prevent the object from shattering. One may observe the process of glass making at the excellent glass studio in the new Toledo Museum of Art Glass Pavilion.



• Dr. Cormier

As is the case with all crafts, the craftsman's objective is to produce a product with a specified function. The artist, on the other hand, makes an object whose intent is guided by a creative urge. For example, if a craftsman makes a vase it must meet criteria set by the vase's function. It must be of a certain size, hold water, and not topple over when filled. The artist, however, may create a vase with holes in it because his/her creative effort is free to pursue its own ends and ignore the vase's functional elements.



• The piece on the left was created by Baker O'Brien, the second by Bob Guion. The two at the right, more functional, are by Ramona Cormier.

In the course of the transition of glass making from a craft to an art, glass vessels have assumed more sculptural forms, so that the functional element in the craft appears to have vanished. This is illustrated in the works of Harvey Littleton and Dale Chihuly on exhibit in the Toledo Glass Pavilion. Yet one cannot say that all glass working is art, for craftsmen still exist who make glass vessels with specific functions, and they will continue to do so in scientific laboratories, glass factories, and glass studios. The only conclusion that can be drawn, then, is that at times glass making is a craft and at other times an art.

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○ **Reservation Form for BGSURA's May 14, 2008, Luncheon** ○
Wednesday, May 14, 2008 • Reservation Deadline Monday, May 9!
Elks Banquet Facility. 11:30-Noon: Check-in, socializing. Noon: Luncheon.
NOTE: Reservations at \$9 per person MUST BE MADE by Friday, May 9.

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 HAROLD LUNDE, BGSURA TREASURER,
880 COUNTRY CLUB DRIVE, BOWLING GREEN, OH 43402-1602.
PHONE 419 352-3929. E-MAIL: hlunde@bgsu.edu**