



Retirees NEWSLETTER Association

Published continuously since 1995

Lunch form on page 8

5 College Park Office Bldg., BGSU, Bowling Green, OH 43403-0201 • (419) 372-9696 retirees@bgsu.edu • Web: .bgsu.edu/offices/ohr/BGSU-retirees/ Hours: M 10-12, Th 1-3

November profile



CLIF BOUTELI

• This oil-on-canvas self-portrait, says Justine Magsig, "was painted from a photo taken by Marian Franz in the BGSU Union parking lot of me and my orange Beetle. Some of the background is imaginary. January 2007." Magsig's profile by Clif Boutelle is on page 2.

Classified Staff Report on page 3

We've moved!

BGSURA's Wednesday, Nov. 12, luncheon is at Stone Ridge Golf Club, 1553 Muirfield, Bowling Green. 11:30 a.m. View the map, page 4. Reservation deadline: Friday, Nov. 7.

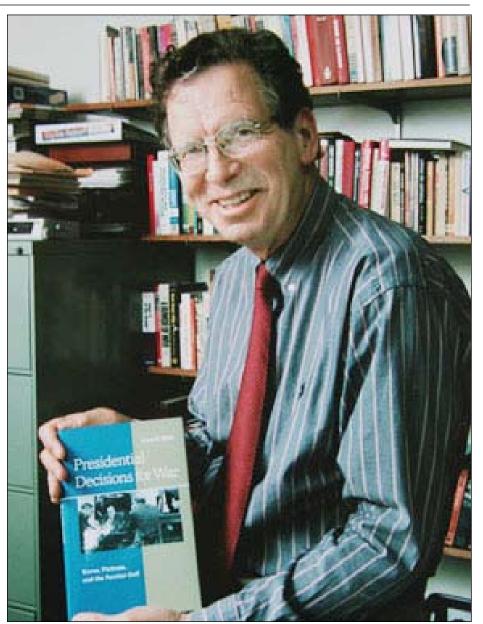




Rachael Sample writes a thank-you note. Page 7

■ Diane Pretzer, a retired professor of Spanish, writes a tribute to her long-time friend Janis Pallister (right), who died Oct. 18. Page 6





BGSU PHOTO SERVICE

WHO: Dr. Gary Hess, Distinguished Research Professor, Department of History, BGSU

MHAT: BGSURA Luncheon, \$10

WHEN: Wednesday, Nov. 12, 11:30 a.m. RESERVATIONS BY NOV. 7

MHERE: Stone Ridge Golf Club (map on page 4)

HEAR ALL ABOUT: "Challenges of Writing the University's 100th Anniversary History" (More on page 4)



• Postcards from her artwork...

November profile by Clif Boutelle

Justine Magsig returns to painting — on hold for 30 years — in retirement

HEN people retire, they often return to a long dormant interest and for Justine Magsig that interest is painting.

Her only art training had been a studio class taught by a Polish refugee when she was 16 years old. "Things were so different then," she recalled. "We had no color photographs to use for reference, no fixatives to preserve our artwork and we used carbon paper to make copies and a pantograph to enlarge drawings."

As a young woman she painted "off and on" but put her artwork on hold when she came to Bowling Green State University in 1978. She assisted Berry Cobb, a faculty member in the physics department, who had received a grant to develop an energy conservation program for Northwest Ohio communities.

When the University created an environmental studies program, she was a

half-time adviser and then became the assistant director. Adelia Peters was the first director and then Cobb took over the program for the next nine years. Roger Thibault followed him.

As the only full-time person, many thought of her as the person in charge of the program and it was true that she was the "go-to" person for many years.

"Initially we had about 10-12 students but by the end of the 1990s there were more than 300 students in environmental studies," she recalled.

A student again

When she retired in 2006 she was given \$90 worth of paint supplies and she began to resurrect her interest in art. She also enrolled in some art courses, including beginning oil painting from Tamara Monk, where she "learned so much."

She does portraits whenever she can but wanted a long-term project and settled on something that most people take for granted but held a fascination for her: the alleys and doorways of her hometown of Elmore.

She has completed seven alley paint-

A retirement gift – \$90 in painting supplies – resurrected her interest in returning to the easel

ings, which cover most, if not all the alleyways in her small town. "I find them interesting and there are always elements that people often overlook: a dumpster, a flowerbox, a bird feeder. It's fun to poke around and see different objects that I can include in my work."

"And wires! I never realized that there were so many wires carrying electricity to the buildings. There are at least 27 in one painting," she added.

She takes photographs of the alleys and tries to show them at different times of the day and seasons. "Often, but not always, there is something at the end of the alley that local residents will recognize, like the fire station or high school," she said.

Agenda: Local doorways

Next on her agenda is to paint local doorways, which she has been researching and has found interesting. "I think people will like seeing those," she said.

Friends have told Magsig that she does wonderful work but "that's the kind of thing you expect from friends. No one is going to tell me that they don't like my work," she said. So she sought out an unbiased opinion from the Woodmore High School art teacher and he verified what her friends had been telling her.

He suggested the paintings be displayed in the Elmore Public Library and this summer Magsig's work was on view for the library's patrons. The library even had post-cards made of her artwork and sold them, with all proceeds going to the library.

"It made me feel good that the library wanted to display my work," she said.

Magsig is not interested in selling her paintings but her work will have a permanent home as the city wants to display her alley pictures in the City Building.

Like most retirees, Magsig wanted to pursue a long-held interest and found something in her hometown that was "right up her alley."



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

Members question bonuses

MIKE Nehf. STRS executive director, responding to e-mail queries, explains bonuses for STRS investment associates. "The \$6 million paid to 87 Investment associates in September was for the...fiscal year 2008 [when] active management by these associates and external managers beat the benchmark return by +.35%, resulting in an additional \$215 million for the pension fund," he said. His reply may be found at strsoh.org.

REPORT FROM BGSU



STAFF COUNCIL

Ed. Note: Christine Sexton, an elected BGSURA Board member, is the association's representative to Classified Staff Council. Here is her report to the BGSURA Board about CSC's September meeting.



- Chris Sexton
- During the initial discussions with the BGSU administration after the passage of HB 187 the University indicated that it would work with Classified Staff Council on any staff reductions.
- The University anticipates staff reductions as part of an effort to deal with a projected \$4.5 million deficit, according to Sheri Stoll, Vice President for Finance and Administration,

at a meeting with Classified Staff Council in September.

- Stoll explained the 185 percent increase in unemployment compensation payments represents an increase in the budget over the amount actually spent in the prior year not an increase compared to the amount budgeted last year. The amount budgeted in past years has been very low and any additional funds would then be transferred from other benefits lines to make up the shortfall.
- Classified Staff expressed concern that several F & A areas have indicated there is a commitment from that office to replace vacant classified positions with an administrative staff person. Stoll indicated that she wants every position that becomes vacant to be automatically reviewed and re-evaluated. Faith Olson, the current CSC president, commented in writing later that now every position has to be evaluated on its own merits and necessary skill sets. All position descriptions, both administrative and classified, are evaluated against the Fair Labor Standards Act: Administrative Duties Test when the position becomes vacant.
- In response to concerns about outsourcing of traditionally classified positions, dining service, custodial and maintenance in particular, Stoll commented that she doesn't think outsourcing solves all our problems. It does allow her to gain types of management expertise that she doesn't currently have in-house.

In her experience, she said, she has used outside companies to provide management skills but kept the workforce intact. According to Stoll, the only outsourcing the university is looking at is the management-type.

Stoll also stressed that we have to ask "Why is BGSU here? Is it here to train students or is it here to provide jobs to the people of Wood County?"

• CSC has posted the link to the Retention Point Report on its web site under CSC Happenings. This will help classified employees to understand the process involved in layoffs and the bumping procedure. □

Historian calls writing BGSU anniversary book 'balancing act'

ISTINGUISHED Research Professor Gary Hess will talk about some of the questions and problems related to his writing of the 100th anniversary history of Bowling Green State University. Dr.Hess will meet with BGSU retirees at their luncheon Wednesday, Nov. 12, at Stone Ridge Golf Club at 11:30 a.m.

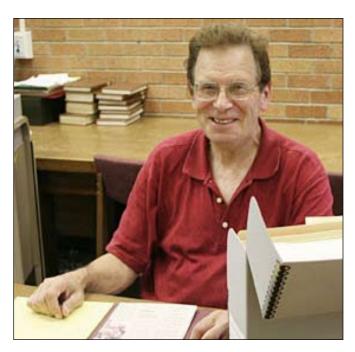
One of his objectives, Dr. Hess said, is "balancing" the many dimensions of University activities and the "serious history" vs. public relations objectives.

"We will delve into some tentative observations on the University's development from the perspective of the influence of its presidents," Dr. Hess said.

"Believe it or not there are now faculty who never heard of the Mc-Donald controversy. And there are students who cannot imagine that an earlier generation protested the Vietnam War from the steps of Williams Hall. The 100th anniversary history endeavors to place these and other defining moments in perspective."

The book will cover the entire 100 year history, building upon the earlier histories by James Robert Overman and Stuart Givens.

• For his 100th anniversary book on Bowling Green State University, Dr. Gary Hess researches Board of Trustees minutes, working in the University's Center for Archival Collections on the fifth floor of Jerome Library.



"The University archives at the Center for Archival Collections provide a rich documentary source for studying the University's history," Dr. Hess said. Plans are for a book with more photo-

graphs than the Overman and Givens books and have the use of side-bar stories to highlight some events and developments. We hope that it will be a 'coffee-table' type book." □

Volunteers staff BGSURA office in College Park

VOLUNTEER retirees, most of them members of the BGSURA Board of Directors, are



staffing the office at Room 5, College Park Office Bldg. The office

is open McOmber Mondays 10-noon and Thursdays

1-3. The office is closed when the University is closed.

Becky McOmber is in charge of office staffing. A new round of volunteers will be needed next semester.

Workers this semester include:

Nov. 6 - Clif Boutelle Nov. 10 - Sue Hager

Nov. 13 - Wally Pretzer

Nov. 17 - Diane Pretzer

Nov. 20 - Wally Pretzer Nov. 24 - Harry Hoemann

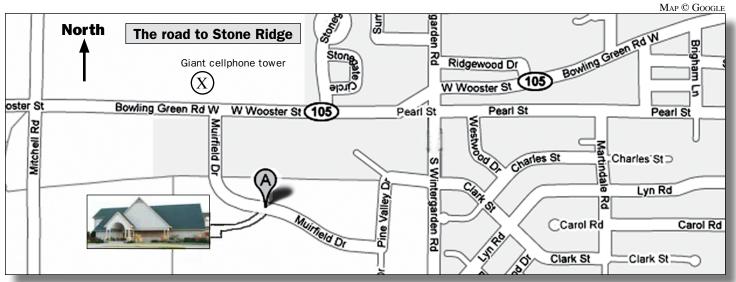
Nov. 27 - Thanksaivina

Dec. 1 - Mearl Guthrie Dec. 4 - Janet Parks

Dec. 8 - Phyllis Oster Dec. 11 - Becky

McOmber

Working earlier were Park Leathers, Elmer Spreitzer, Chris Sexton, Jackie Instone, Phyllis Oster, Roger Anderson and Jim Gordon.



Passings

■ DR. JANIS PALLISTER,

Distinguished University Professor Professor Emeritus of Romance Languages, died Oct. 18. She was 82. Dr. Pallister taught French at BGSU from 1961 until her retirement in 1985. A native of Rochester, Minn., she received bachelor's, master's and Ph.D degrees from the University of Minnesota. Dr. Pallister came to Bowling Green after teaching at Black Hills College, Spearfish, S.D., and at Colby College, Waterville, Maine. She published six books and co-authored books with Dr. Ramona Cormier, Trustee Professor Emeritus. In 1986, Dr. Pallister received the Friends of the BGSU Libraries Award. The Pallister Conference Room at Jerome Library was named in her honor after she provided funds for the restoration of the building's signature but decaying Donald Drumm murals on the walls of the Library. She initiated the Pallister Lecture Series in Canadian Studies. In 1997 she was named an honorary alumna of BGSU and in 2002 the University conferred upon her an honorary degree. For more on Dr. Pallister, turn to page 6.



BGSU Archival Collections

- President Sidney Ribeau and Dr. Janis Pallister at the 1997 dedication of the Pallister Conference Room.
- PHILIP F. O'CONNOR died Aug. 18 at his home in Kentfield, Calif. His novel about the trials

and tribulations of youth baseball, "Stealing Home," written in 1979, went on to become a best seller and Book-of-the Month Club alternate selection. He wrote several more works of fiction as well as numerous short stories. More than 50 of his short stories are in print. O'Connor was invited to BGSU in 1967 to establish a degree-granting creative writing program. In 1989 he was named Distinguished University Professor.

■ DR. PAUL MAKARA, Professor Emeritus of music performance, died Oct. 11. He was 77. Dr. Makara was the first violinist and founding member of the Bowling Green String Quartet and organized and performed concerts with the quartet in this country, Mexico, and Europe. As a soloist he appeared with the Detroit Symphony, Eastman-Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra and The Lake Placid Sinfonietta. He also served as concertmaster of the Toledo Symphony and assistant concertmaster of Lake Placid Sinfonietta. An active concert violinist and chamber music musician, he also performed a solo recital every year for the University community. Dr. Makara received the Distinguished Teacher Award from BGSU. He graduated from Julliard, Eastman, and the University of Michigan, and served in the Marine Band Orchestra from 1955-1957. In addition to his music, he was an award-winning photographer and active member of the Toledo Camera Club, a gourmet cook, and an avid hiker who climbed 100 peaks in the Adirondacks.

■ DAVID MELLE, a professor of performance studies in the BGSU College of Musical Arts from 1967 to 1995, died Aug. 11 on Catawba Island. At BGSU he taught flute and clarinet and performed in the faculty woodwind quintet called Venti da Camera. He also directed the award-winning Jazz Lab

- Band. He helped found the Toledo Jazz Orchestra in 1980 and was its director from 1996 to 2003. For a number of years, he played with the Johnny Knorr Orchestra.
- MALCOLM CAMPBELL died Sept. 23 in Bowling Green. He was a retired Professor Emeritus in the College of Education and Higher Education. He was known for his expertise in aiding writers with their publications and was sought after as a book reviewer.
- LIUDA ALSSEN died July 23 in Germany. She began teaching German, French, and Russian at BGSU in 1962, retiring in 1985 as Professor Emerita. An expert on Medieval German Chronicles, Dr. Alssen was an author and producer of two films on the artist M.K. Ciurlionis for WBGU-TV.
- STAN LEE SMITH, a professor in the Department of Biological Sciences for 28 years, died Sept. 20 in Bowling Green. He had taught anatomy and physiology and served as a graduate coordinator.
- MARY RUSSELL, who retired from the University as an executive administrative assistant in the Department of Psychological Services, died Sept. 2 in Perrysburg.
- MARGARET ALLER died Sept. 30 in Traverse City, Mich. She worked for 33 years at BGSU as head baker in the University Union.
- MANUELA DeLEON of Rudolph died Sept. 21. She had worked for BGSU in the custodial department.
- BETTY SHANER of Bowling Green died July 30. She had retired from the University Bookstore.
- DR. BETTY LOGSDON, 82, Professor Emeritus of Health, Physical Education and Recreation, died Oct. 19. She retired in 1985 after teaching 15 years at BGSU, previously at the University of Michigan, where she earned a master's degree, and Ohio State University, earning a doctorate. Her bachelor's is from Southern Illinois. □

A remembrance

By Diane Pretzer

HAVE known Jan Pallister longer than anyone else in Bowling Green. We met originally as classmates in doctoral level courses at the University of Minnesota, in the fall of 1956. Although I taught in the Twin Cities for three years, I discontinued graduate work there

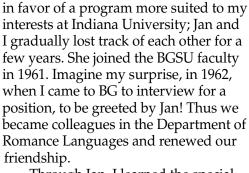


• Diane Pretzer is assocate professor emeritus of Romance Languages.

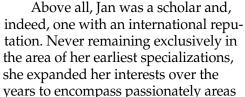
• Dr. Pallister

BGSU Archives

in the 1960s.



Through Jan, I learned the special qualities of Siamese cats; over the years, I have loved my own rescued ordinary cats, but hers were always very special and elegant. Jan was also an enthusiastic gardener, and she encouraged and aided her housemate, Ramona Cormier, in the creation and maintenance of one of BG's loveliest yards. She was also proud of her gourmet cooking and entertaining skills.



barely in existence when she started in academia in order to include French culture and Francophone literature outside of France in various African nations, Caribbean islands, and, especially, in Canada. She focused often on women writers in those regions, and also developed a special interest in films based on Francophone literature or directed by Francophone women. She published extensively, including several books, innumerable scholarly



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• Dr. Pallister in front of Don Drumm's mural on the west side of Jerome Library, restored with funding from her.

articles, well-wrought translations, and her own thoughtful poetry.

Jan could be very witty; she definitely had a way with words. Her courses were popular with students because, while demanding much of the students, Jan gave them much of herself in knowledge, encouragement, and hospitality. As an Acting Chair of Romance Languages more than once, she worked hard for the sake of the department and was never reluctant to state her views and make demands on higher administrators, as various former deans would surely testify.

With the passing of Jan Pallister Oct. 18, the University and the community have lost an outstanding mam-















The Pallister Chronicles

Ed. Note: In the May 2005 issue of the *BGSURA Newsletter*, I called them "The Pallister Chronicles." These were the two-page profiles

which Janis Pallister wrote for the retirees newsletter. These features were a different kind of poetry, focusing on the interests, activites and backgrounds of 40 BGSU retirees over an eight-year period.

The monthly series began with the May 2000 issue of the *BGSURA Newsletter*. Dr. Pallister described the accomplishments of Bob Thayer, retired dean of the Moore Musical Arts Center. Thank you, Janis...

LIFE MEMBERS

<u>BGSU</u> Retirees Association

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Briefs

IRA rollover extended

RA owners age 70½ can transfer up to \$100,000 each year through 2009 directly from their IRA to the BGSU Foundation and other public charities. Such gifts from IRAs are not considered taxable income as part of an owners required minimum withdrawal. Under the Pension Protection Act of 2006-07, BGSU received nearly a million dollars to fund scholarships, programs and capital building projects.

Missing disks

Computer disks containing personal information about 36,000 retirees have been lost in the mail, *The Columbus Dispatch* reported Oct. 24. The 11 disks contain Medical Mutual information about members of STRS, School Employee Retirement System, Ohio Police and Fire Fund, and the Ohio Highway Patrol Retirement System. If the disks aren't found, Medical Mutual will provide credit monitoring services and free credit reports for those affected.

Buffet at the club

THE "Chef's Creation" luncheon buffet at Stone Ridge Golf Club will vary for each BGSURA meeting and with the seasons but will

always consist of a main entrée, selections complimenting the main entrée, cookies, coffee, hot and iced tea, water and lemonade.

Pre-retirement help

THE Retirees Association Board is asking the Association's Professional Development Committee to explore the possibility of BGSURA providing preretirement assistance for all of the state's retirement systems which have BGSU employees.

At its meeting Oct. 15, the board learned that budget cut-backs are resulting in the elimination, at the end of 2008, of the part-time Human Resources position held by Diana Shamp, who retired from her full-time job last summer. Shamp is BGSURA's newly elected secretary.

Shamp said elimination of the position leaves the University without a staff member who is knowledgeable about the types of decisions which must be made by an employee in advance of his or her retirement date

Dr. Pietro Badia chairs BGSURA's Professional Development Committee. Other members include Harold Lunde, Beth Casey, and Christine Sexton.

Thank you from Rachael

I greatly appreciate this scholarship [BGSURA's Golden Book Award of \$500]. it will provide much needed assistance in paying for books this semester. As a creative writing major, I often need a great number of books for my classes. Further, given my love of learning, I tend to keep my books to reread in the future. This scholarship will help me derive the most of my learning this semester. Thank you for making this scholarship available to Bowling Green students like myself. As I go on to join the Peace Corps and work for change in communities across the world, I will remember the generosity I experienced here and try to emulate it.

Rachael Sample

Computer troubles?

ROBLEMS 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 the provost.



• Applebaum

President's Corner

By Dr. Ramona Cormier

Gajun Guisine

WAS raised in a small town in southwestern Louisiana during the 1920's and '30's. The community was Catholic and French speaking with life revolving around the church and the school. It was an insular community. In fact it was so insular that on occasion a Protestant non-French speaking individual entered the community and it was said "C'est un American." (He is an American.) The isolation did not



disappear until World War II and the advent of television. Today my nieces and nephews and their children who live in Cajun land have little sense of the style of living that I experienced as a child. In the area, efforts have been made to revive French as a second language but such efforts are difficult to encourage.

It is not the French language that I wish to dwell upon but that aspect of Cajun culture that has invaded American society, namely, its cuisine. But the contemporary Cajun cuisine, its spiciness and its blackened method of cooking, though notable, were not significant dimensions of my mother's cooking. The cuisine of that early time was tied to the seasons. During the summer, my mother served eggplant, cucumbers, okra, tomatoes, peppers, fresh peas, and those vegetables that were in season. In the winter she turned to dry beans and canned products. Rice was always served at dinner. Shrimp and crawfish were rarely on my mother's menu. We were occasionally served a court bouillon, a kind of soup made with catfish, tomatoes, and vegeta-

bles. The meats we ate were usually chicken, beef, and pork. The cuts of meat were not first class so my mother's cooking technique was to smother them. She would sear the meat on all sides, then simmer the cut in a covered pot with a small amount of water over a low flame. The smothering mode of cooking is far from the blackened process in vogue today. Smothering requires hours to achieve the desired results; blackening, only minutes. The one cooks on a slow flame in a covered pot; the other, on a high flame on an open grill or very hot iron skillet.

Favorite dishes

Some of my favorite winter Cajun dishes were gumbo and red beans and rice, dishes served today in many Cajun restaurants. Gumbo was made with chicken and sausage but not usually with okra even though the word "gumbo" comes from the Bantu word for "okra." This dish is based on a rich dark roux and today may contain anything you might wish to put in it. My mother's red beans and rice were usually made with bacon or salt pork which gave the concoction its special flavor. These dishes were always accompanied by French bread. There was a bakery in our town and as a child I went every noon to the small grocery store across the street with 15 cents to buy a hot loaf of French bread. For me the bread has not been equaled even in France.

My mother's food was well-seasoned but not as spicy as Cajun food is now, and nothing on her menu was blackened. Today with the packaging of ingredients for jambalaya, red beans and rice, and other Cajun dishes, the preparation time and maybe even the taste of long ago Cajun food has changed. I wonder.

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

 Reservation for BGSURA's Luncheon at Stone Ridge ○ Wednesday, Nov. 12, 2008, Reservation Deadline Friday, Nov. 7! Stone Ridge Golf Club. 11:30-Noon: Check-in, socializing. Noon: Luncheon. NOTE: Reservations at \$10 per person MUST BE MADE by Friday, Nov. 7.
Name
Name(s) of Your Guest(s) 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. Deadline Friday, Nov. 7!
NO LATER THAN FRIDAY, NOV. 7. Hal Lunde: Telephone 419-352-3929