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Attendance at Sept. 15 luncheon sets record

Jerry Anderson a hit with retirees, guests; so's apple pie dessert



Jill Gordon

• ONE-HUNDRED persons were served at the BGSURA's 16th annual Convocation at Stone Ridge Golf Club.

In this issue



• Carl Lipp won the centerpiece at his table. Carol Lininger is BGSURA's Webmaster. More photos on 2, 3.

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COMING ATTRACTION

Nov. 10 – The History of BGSU Women's Basketball, presented by Larry Weiss and Sue Hager. More in the print newsletter for November.

Dean Streichler returns to discuss route from 'industrial arts' department to technology college

THE BGSU educator considered the founder of the College of Technology will return to campus to give a Centennial Lecture, "On Becoming a College," on Thursday, Sept. 30, at 4 p.m. at Mileti Alumni Center. A reception will follow.



Dr. Jerry Streichler, charter dean of the College of Technology and Trustee Professor Emeritus, retired from BGSU in 1993 and now lives in San Diego.

The name, College of Technology, was adopted after Dr. Streichler came to Bowling Green in 1967 as chair of what was then the Department of Industrial Arts and Engineering Drawing. He was

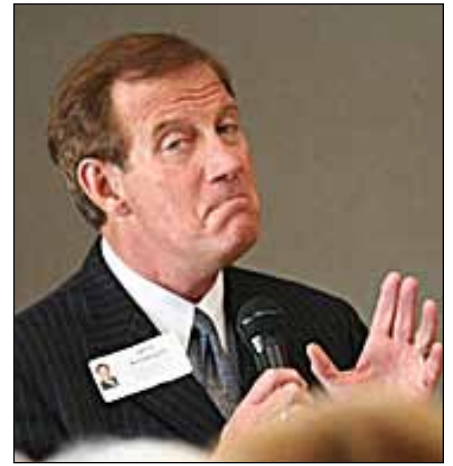
instrumental in the name change and providing the leadership in curriculum development, reflecting a desire to steer more students toward industry. □

This newsletter digital only

THE nearly 300 BGSU retirees for whom the Association has E-mail addresses are receiving this issue of the BGSURA Newsletter. The next print issue will be in October, in advance of the Nov. 10 luncheon. Newsletters are on line at www.bgsu.edu/retirement.



The November issue will feature a profile of BGSURA Life Member Ron Ruble, long-time faculty member at Firelands. Written by Clif Boutelle, the issue also will include Boutelle's story about the demise of the Huron Playhouse.



• Jerry Anderson – of 1,000 faces and gestures! Anderson returns to Bowling Green Friday night for the wine and cheese party and auction for the Save-the-Woods campaign. The event is at the Simpson Building.



• Ilse Thomas, Pat Fitzgerald



• Paul Lopez presents the table centerpiece to Carl Lipp as Diana Shamp and Carol Lininger look on.



• Helen Dermer, Judy Maxey



• Wendell and Carole Jones



• Helene and Morris Weinberger



• Linda Hamilton, Ron Zwierlein, Joe Jacoby, above; Patricia Griffith, left



• Otis Sonnenberg and Sue Rock look at snapshots.

PHOTOS BY JIM GORDON



• Ron Lancaster, Tom Hern



• Frances Brent, Margaret Tucker, Charlie Applebaum, Jan Finn

• Near right: Judy Boutelle, Norma Stickler. Far right: BGSURA Board members Sue Hager, Jim Corbitt



BGSU Parking Services makes free registration easy for retirees

RETIREES may request, by U.S. mail, telephone, or by e-mail, registration cards to obtain free on-campus vehicle parking passes good for 2010-2011, BGSU Parking Services announces. Direct registration by e-mail also is possible by sending this information to parking@bgsu.edu:

Name, address, city, state, zip,

telephone, e-mail address, and vehicle make, year, and model. Each retiree may register two vehicles.

Retirees also may register by printing out the form below and mailing it to Parking Services, 104 Commons, BGSU, Bowling Green, OH 43403-0042. The registration form also is available online at www.bgsu.edu/retirement.

Retirees also may call Parking Services at 419-372-2776 and request that registration cards be mailed. The parking passes, to be hung from the inside rear-view mirror, will be sent by U.S. mail. "We want to make it easy for retirees to have access to parking passes and campus," said Amy Kolk, Parking Services staff member. □



Parking Services, 104 Commons Bldg.
BGSU, Bowling Green, OH 43403-0042
419-372-2776

2010-2011 Vehicle Registration Form for BGSU Retirees

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Telephone _____

E-mail _____

Vehicle No. 1 Year _____ Make _____ Model _____ License Plate _____

Vehicle No. 2 Year _____ Make _____ Model _____ License Plate _____

NOTE:
Registration is FREE
for BGSU retirees.

Please return this form to:
Parking Services, 104 Commons, BGSU, Bowling Green, OH 43403-0042.

■ French lawmakers continue their march toward raising the retirement age from 60 to 62. As protesters converged across the River Seine from the National Assembly building, lawmakers voted 329-233 to approve the bill. The upper chamber, the Senate, will begin its debate Oct. 1. AP 9/16

■ California finance officers are looking into whether the strapped state can borrow \$2 billion from the California Public Employees Retirement System, the nation's largest pension fund. A Calpers spokesperson said the fund has no position yet, adding that there are concerns about the proposal's legality. WSJ 9/16

■ Ohio's two candidates for governor. Gov. Ted Strickland and GOP rival John Kasich, say they support releasing records about the state's public-employee pension funds as newspapers around the state have requested, reported Mark Niquette, of the *Columbus Dispatch*, Sept. 11.

Meeting with the editorial board of the *Dispatch*, Gov. Strickland said, "As long as individual information can be protected, and my understanding is it can be, I think the other information ought to be made public."

Kasich said he also supports sufficient transparency to guard

Computer aid offered

BGSURA's computer expert, Charlie Applebaum, has been retained by the Chief Information Officer of BGSU as a resource person for any retired BGSU faculty or staff member within the city with a software or hardware problem.

Dr. Applebaum has 49 years of experience in mainframe and personal computing.

He may be reached at 419-352-0777 or applebau@bgsu.edu. □



• Applebaum

against fraud and abuse, said Kasich spokesman Scott Milburn.

■ On Sept. 10, the *Columbus Dispatch* reported that Ohio's five pension funds spent more than \$1 million between June 2009 and June 2010 on conference-related travel. "The expenses ranged from a few dollars to attend a workshop at a Columbus hotel to more than \$10,000 to hobnob with executives in South Africa and London," wrote reporter James Nash.

The article said two representatives of the Ohio Police & Fire Pension Fund spent more than \$400 per night for three nights at the New York Palace, a five-star hotel, with conference registration costing \$1,125 per representative.

Note: Ohio STRS board report for September (next page) discusses board travel.

■ "Many of America's largest pension funds are sticking to expectations of fat returns on their investments even after a decade of paltry gains, which could leave U. S. retirement plans facing an even deeper funding hole and taxpayers on the hook for huge additional contributions." So said *The Wall Street Journal* Sept. 18. A survey by the National Association of State Retirement Administrators found that the median expected investment return for more than 100 public pension plans remains eight percent, the same level as 2001. The 15 largest have an expected average return of 7.8 percent, the newspaper reported.

■ **NON-PENSION:** Kent State University wants to increase student fees \$24 per credit hour to pay for \$250 million in new buildings and other renovations. But Regents Chancellor Eric Fingerhut. AP 9/17-9/22. □

BGSURA Newsletter

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Wally Pretzer

It's Fun Time!

BGSURA'S FALL SEMESTER ACTIVITIES

By Wally Pretzer

WOULD^N'T you like to spend an evening in Helena, Ohio? From 5:00 to 10:00 p.m. on Friday, October 8th? Yes, Helena, Ohio! There for your enjoyment is Chateau Tebeau Vineyard and Winery, one mile south of route 6, just east of the village of Helena on route 635 (that's the Wonderley Collision corner). You will find there an attractive



• *Wally Pretzer*

home, whose porch and gazebo you may enjoy, the winery building, whose air conditioning or fireplace can make you comfortable (depending on the weather), and a cluster of outdoor tables and chairs with colorful umbrellas around the spot where a musician will (most probably) entertain you.

Furthermore, you can look over the vineyard itself or take a stroll on the path through the woods. You might want to start with a six-wine sampler (\$4.00) from among the reds and whites, dries and sweets, before

choosing your favorite for a few generous glasses or a bottle shared with friends. There are some soft drinks, too, and panini sandwiches, pizzas, a cheese plate, a soup, etc. If you plan to join us, let Wally Pretzer know by Wednesday, October 6th (419-352-8057 or dpretze@bgsu.edu).

BGSURA's **seventh book discussion** will take place at the home of Morris and Helene Weinberger, 31 Rosewood Court, at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, October 13th. They have chosen Muriel Barbery's *The Elegance of the Hedgehog* to discuss. This contemporary novel is funny and sad, intellectually chal-

lenging, and full of ideas which easily stimulate conversation; furthermore, you'll have to read it to understand its intriguing title. Heading west on Conneaut Ave., turn right on Cedar Lane and take the second left into Rosewood Court. Some copies of the book are already available and others will be at the second floor Information Desk in the Wood County Public Library by September 17th. If you plan to attend, contact Wally (419-352-8057 or dpretze@bgsu.edu) or the Weinbergers (419-352-6744) by Monday, October 11th.

Dance (or just enjoy the music) at the Bavarian Haus from 4:00 to 8:00 p.m. on Sunday, November 21st. You can enjoy polkas, waltzes, fox trots, chachas, square dancing, line dancing, etc. The featured band will be Ted Lange's "Squeezebox" with vocalist Mollie Busta, who has won national awards. Food, beer, and soft drinks are available at reasonable prices and admission will probably be in the \$5 to \$7 range. The most direct route from BG is west on route 6 to McClure, south/left on route 65, and left a couple of hundred yards where route 18 turns left toward Deshler. Dance like nobody's watching, and get good exercise too!

BGSURA's **fifth cocktail party** will be held from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. at the lovely home of Ralph Wolfe in North Baltimore on Thursday, December 16th. His address is 134 S. Main St., on the edge of downtown adjacent to the Bob Kelley Chevrolet-Buick dealership. Since previous cocktail parties have been successful with group participation, please bring your own favorite beverage (alcoholic or nonalcoholic) and an appetizer to share. If you plan to attend, please notify Wally (419-352-8057 or dpretze@bgsu.edu) by Monday, December 13th. Ralph has suggested that, after the cocktail party, you may wish to have dinner at the nearby Whistle Stop Inn, 100 N. Main St. □



League of Women Voters Candidates Forum Oct. 17

THE BGSU Retirees Association is among the sponsors of a Candidates Forum Sunday, Oct. 17, at 7 p.m. at First United Methodist Church, E. Wooster St.

Candidates running for county offices in the November election will appear

at the event, which is organized by the League of Women Voters, and also sponsored by the American Association of University Women, Chamber of Commerce, and the BGSU Undergraduate Student Association. □



• *The Candidates Forum in October 2009 at First Methodist Church. The League has a Web site at www.wcnet.org/~lwvbg/.*

The State Teachers Retirement Board held its monthly meeting last week.



Following the regularly scheduled meetings, a report titled "Board News" is posted on the STRS Ohio Web site, as well as mailed to a number of members and education organization representatives who have requested it.

SEPTEMBER BOARD NEWS

HILL AND PRICE TAKE SEATS AT BOARD TABLE

Mark Hill and Dale Price began their four-year terms on the State Teachers Retirement Board this September, following their election to the board last spring.

BOARD BEGINS HEALTH CARE STRATEGIC PLANNING DISCUSSION

As noted in previous STRS Ohio communications, funding for the STRS Ohio Health Care Program will be depleted by 2021. At the September 2010 meeting, the Retirement Board and staff began a review of the history and current status of the health care program as the first step in developing a strategic plan for retiree health care for adoption next spring.

When the STRS Ohio Health Care Program began in 1974, health care costs were insignificant compared to today. Just as an example, the limit for lifetime health care benefits for an enrollee was just \$20,000. In 2010, the lifetime coverage is \$2.5 million and it will be unlimited in 2011. During the last 20 years, STRS Ohio's health care cost trend rate has averaged about 11%. Despite managed care and the significant changes STRS Ohio made to the program in 2004 that significantly increased enrollees' portion of the health care costs, the trend continues to rise, matching what is happening nationally. Staff noted that the balance in the fund that supports the health care program must grow year-after-year just to help offset the yearly health care cost increases.

In the coming months, the board and staff will begin examining the four levers that affect the financial status of the health care program: (1) funding, (2) plan design, (3) eligibility and (4) premium subsidy. However, in light of pension funding issues, it is unlikely employer contributions beyond the cur-

rent 1% allocation to the health care fund can be increased.

At the October meeting, the board will receive a presentation outlining how STRS Ohio's Health Care Program compares to the current marketplace and how the future retiree marketplace will change in light of national health care reform.

BOARD STILL AWAITING PENSION LEGISLATION

A final comprehensive bill containing the respective board proposals from each of Ohio's statewide pension systems to help address their long-term sustainability has not yet been forwarded to the systems for review.

During its September meeting, the board continued its review of the alternative proposal for pension benefit changes presented earlier this year by the Healthcare & Pension Advocates for STRS (HPA). The board also asked staff to study the possibility of providing further assistance to low-income retirees with at least 30 years of service credit; a report will be provided to the board at its November 2010 meeting. Any changes the board makes in the future to the proposed plan it approved on Sept. 1, 2009, will likely be included as amendments to introduced pension reform legislation. Staff recommends that if STRS Ohio members encounter legislators during this campaign season, encouraging support of the anticipated legislation could prove helpful when a bill is finally presented to the Legislature.

RETIREMENTS APPROVED

The Retirement Board approved 1,546 active members and 251 inactive members for service retirement benefits.

OTHER STRS OHIO NEWS

NEWSPAPER STORIES GENERATE SYSTEM RESPONSE

Several Ohio newspapers recently ran a story about conference-related travel by Ohio's five public pension funds, using data provided by each of the systems. Unfortunately, in the case of STRS Ohio, some important facts were not included. A significant portion of the travel expenses reported by STRS Ohio for the 12-month period was a direct reflection of the responsibilities STRS Ohio investment staff have for the internal management of international investments, real estate and the overall total investment

fund, which currently stands at \$58 billion. STRS Ohio manages about 80% of its total investments in-house, which is the highest level of internal management among the five Ohio systems. Further, STRS Ohio manages about 88% of its real estate investments in-house and about 59% of its international investments in-house. This internal management saves STRS Ohio approximately \$90 to \$100 million per year.

STRS Ohio has a stringent travel policy for board and staff that recognizes their collective responsibility to control operating expenditures. However, the board and staff also have a responsibility to maintain a level of knowledge and to conduct the due diligence that enables them to perform as successful fiduciaries of the system. In this time of global economic issues and global investments (including real estate funds), not all of that knowledge can be obtained in Columbus, Ohio.

Some Ohio newspapers have also recently voiced concern about the five Ohio systems declining their request for information from member records. This request was declined as current Ohio law prohibits STRS Ohio from releasing personal history information about individual members, such as their monthly benefit amounts. Further, redacting the names and addresses of STRS Ohio members would not be sufficient to protect their identities if members' personal data maintained by STRS Ohio was made public. STRS Ohio provides a significant amount of member information in aggregate, as well as information regarding its finances and operations, through various reports and third-party reviews. All of this information is readily available to the media.

CEM STUDY CONFIRMS COST SAVINGS OF INTERNAL INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT

For a number of years, STRS Ohio has participated in custom peer group benchmarking studies conducted by CEM Benchmarking Inc. One of these studies compares costs among participating plans' investment programs. The most recent CEM study shows that the savings to STRS Ohio due to the lower cost of its internal management compared to external management fees was \$99 million in calendar year 2009.

To view past news e-mails, go to http://www.strsoh.org/past_news_e-mails/main.html.