

Lunch form on page 4

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*Profile by
Pallister*



• Mark Kasoff, p. 2

Ohio, Michigan attorneys general target fraud, mortgage mess

ON behalf of the Ohio Public Retirement System, Ohio Attorney General Mark Dann in January filed a securities class action fraud lawsuit against the Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corp., known as Freddie Mac.

The lawsuit was filed in federal court in Youngstown. OPERS losses as a result of the alleged fraud could be as high as \$27.2 million. Dann seeks to have OPERS designated as the lead plaintiff for all of the class members who have been harmed. Dann charged that Freddie Mac "secretly and intentionally participated in one of the largest housing investment deceptions in modern U.S. economic times."

OPERS' request to become the lead plaintiff in a similar case was filed recently in federal district court in New York City.

On Feb. 11, Michigan's attorney general and treasurer accused Tyco International, its disgraced chief executive Dennis Kozlowski and auditor Pricewaterhouse-Coopers LLP, of being part of a massive fraud scheme that sapped more than \$50 million from the state's pension funds. The lawsuit was filed in U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan for the Michigan Department of Treasury as custodian of four pension plans

Report from Columbus March 12 at annual joint legislative meeting



Jim Gordon

• Laura Ecklar, director of Communication Services for the State Teachers Retirement System, with Dr. Damon Asbury, executive director, who's retiring in June, during their visit in March 2006.

Wood County Retired Teachers join in luncheon

MEMBERS of the BGSU Retirees Association and the Wood County Retired Teachers Association will be updated on new and pending legislation at the March 12 joint meeting at the Elks Banquet Facility on Campbell Hill Road in Bowling Green.

Ecklar has been at STRS Ohio for almost eight years. As the director of Communication Services, she provides public relations counsel to staff and oversees all internal and external communications, including communications with members. She also has worked at Columbus Public Schools and at Capital University. Ecklar earned a bachelor's degree in journalism from Ohio University.

Keeping up with changes

STRS Ohio will hold an informational program, "Understanding Your Health Care Plan," at 1 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 28, at the Holiday Inn French Quarter, Perrysburg. Registration is requested because of limited seating. 888-227-7877 or www.strsoh.org.

OPERS members are reminded that Express Scripts takes over April 1 as the new prescription plan provider, joining STRS members, who were shifted to Express Scripts Jan. 1.

What's ahead

• April 16 — BGSURA

hosts the joint meeting with the University of Toledo Retirees Association. Speaker is



• Hussain

Dr. S. Amjad Hussain, retired Toledo surgeon who writes a column for *The Blade*, Toledo.
• **May 14** – BGSURA Luncheon. Kevin Maynard, City of Bowling Green director of utilities, is the speaker.

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

Applebaum's services are made available to retirees by the office of Linda Dobb, BGSU executive vice president.

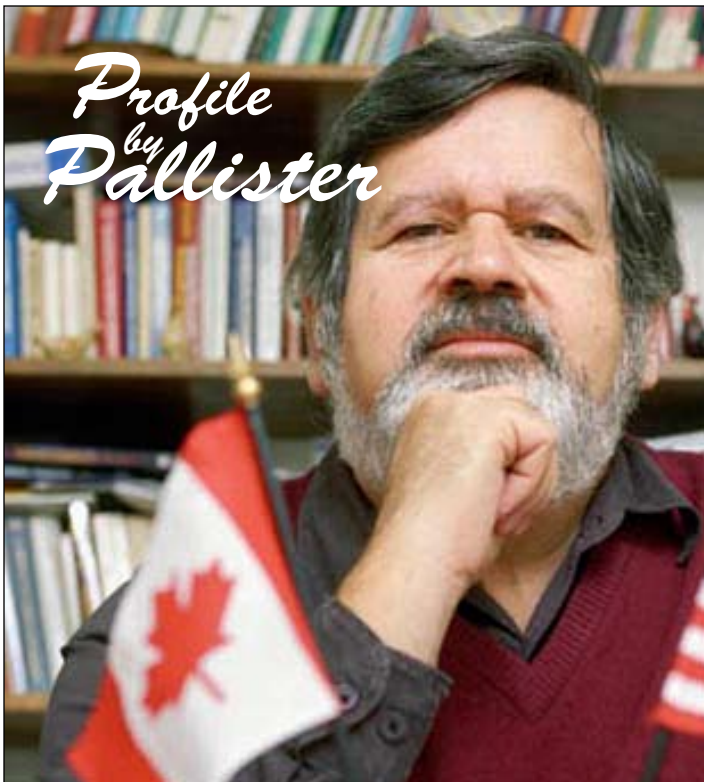


PHOTO BY BRAD PHALIN, BGSU

• Mark Kasoff

Mark my word: Mark has what it takes

BY JAN PALLISTER

TO THE BGSU community, the name Mark Kasoff is synonymous with Canadian Studies, a program that he directed from 1991 until his retirement last year.

During that period, he built a program dedicated to fostering a better understanding of Canada in Ohio and the United States, and the Canadian Studies Center became a leading generator of information that is used to strengthen vital economic ties with Canada by attracting Canadian investment to Ohio and providing opportunities for Ohio businesses to expand in the Canadian market.

Mark also developed strong partnerships with individual companies and numerous local and regional economic development agencies across Ohio and Canada.

At BGSU, Mark supported the development of a comprehensive outreach program that focused on economic, political and cultural aspects of doing business with Canada. And the Canada-Ohio Business Dinner (a networking event), which just celebrated its 15th year, was founded by him. Workshops organized under Kasoff's direction include the Québec-Ohio Strategic Alliances Workshop, the Ontario-Ohio Business Partnering Workshop, the series on Collaborative Economic Development between Ohio and Ontario Communities, and more recently, the Beyond Borders Supply Chain Securitization Workshop.

Mark writes: "I was happy to see the BGSU Canadian Studies program grow to become one of the best in the United States. Strong support from faculty, the administration and students made this possible. The State of Ohio was also a key player, recognizing how important Canada is for Ohio export

sales, direct investment by Canadian firms in the Buckeye State, and job creation. The presence of a French Canadian perspective in BGSU's program is assured with the annual Pallister Francophone Canadian Lecture series and an exchange agreement with Laval University." [I must add that it was not until Mark arrived on the scene that constituents of the Canadian Studies program bent to the fact that a large portion of the Canadian population speak and write in French. With his understanding attitude, the then Dept. of Romance Languages was able to demonstrate to the University community the importance of French in Canadian life and culture.]

The Canadian Studies Center prepares tomorrow's business leaders. Under Kasoff's watch, the academic program grew from a handful of enrollments in Canadian Studies to Canadian Studies in 1991 to more than 500 today. He was instrumental in revising the program for the Canadian Studies minor and assuring program breadth by facilitating the regular offering of Canadian content courses in French, Education, Geography, Political Science and History. Kasoff taught CAST 201 for 15 years and also taught several economics courses, particularly international economics and the NAFTA economy.

WAS Mark qualified to do all this? Well, yes! He received his PhD in economics from Indiana University and earned his undergraduate degree from the City College of New York. His first faculty position was at Antioch College in Yellow Springs, Ohio, where he taught for 14 years. Next, from 1982-1991, he chaired the economics department at the State University of New York at Potsdam, close to the Canadian border. During this time his research interests came to include Canadian direct investment in the U.S., Canada-U.S. trade flows and NAFTA, and comparative business costs between Canada and the U.S. He joined the BGSU faculty in 1991 to help develop the newly established Canadian Studies Center. At BGSU, he held the position of Director and Professor of Economics and Canadian Studies, retiring last year.

Kasoff is an established scholar. His ongoing research interests include Canada-United States energy relations, the Canadian economy, and Canada-U.S. economic relations. He has been co-editor of *The Elections of 2000: Politics, Culture, and Economics in North America*, University of Akron Press, 2005. Kasoff is also co-editor with Patrick James, of an introductory textbook *Canadian Studies in the New Millennium*, University of Toronto Press, 2008. The text is targeted for U.S. students of Canadian Studies. Kasoff served on the executive board of the Association for Canadian Studies in the United States (ACSUS) from 1997-2002, and from 2002-2006 he was the editor of the *American Review of Canadian Studies*, the prestigious scholarly journal of ACSUS. He has published numerous articles and chapters about the Canadian economy and Canada-U.S. trade and investment.

Mark and his wife Betty have relocated to Salem, Ore., to be closer to their grandchildren, Mitchell, 10, and Ryan, 7. The Kasoffs are members of the Institute for Continuous Learning at Willamette University. In addition to outside presentations, members also do sessions. This semester Betty will do one on China, where she has visited and taught many times, and Mark will focus on Canada (of all things)!

As we say in French: un coup de chapeau, Mark.

• Janis L. Pallister, Ph.D., L.D., is Distinguished Professor Emeritus of Romance Languages. She may be reached at jpallis@dacor.net.

PASSINGS

■ J. RUSSELL COFFEY, 109, a former physical education professor at BGSU and one of only three remaining U.S. veterans of World War I, died Dec.

20 in North Baltimore, where he had resided for the past three years. He was at BGSU from 1948 to 1969. He primarily taught physical education, although he also taught archery, psychology, swimming, and driver's education. He was director of graduate studies in health and physical education

from 1952 to 1968. He had garnered national attention last year for his status as the oldest surviving veteran of WWI. He credited physical activity and a healthy diet for his longevity. He continued to drive a car until he was 103, about the same time he moved from his home in Bowling Green to a nursing home in North Baltimore. Coffey was an active member of the Bowling Green Rotary Club for more than 50 years and was named "oldest living Rotarian in the world" by the club in 2004.

■ LELAND R. MILLER, an associate professor of computer science, died Dec. 29. He had retired in 2004 after more than 35 years on the faculty. He was active in organizing mission trips through the First Presbyterian Church. He was involved with Habitat

for Humanity and organized trips to repair houses in Mississippi, Kentucky and West Virginia.

■ EDIANN DIDHAM, who retired from BGSU as director of marketing and promotion for the Office of Continuing Education and International Summer Programs, died Feb. 9. She had also served in administrative and faculty positions, including assistant vice provost. As president/CEO, she had led Adopt America Network, a non-profit organization finding adoptive homes for children in foster care.

■ PAUL E. MOYER, a former assistant vice president of governmental affairs and treasurer of BGSU, died Dec. 15 in Hendersonville, N.C.

■ DOROTHY SERGENT, Pemberville, died Feb. 2. She had been a cashier at the University Bookstore for 25 years.

■ EDWARD FAYLOR, Portage, died Feb. 5. He had retired from the University as the building maintenance supervisor at the Ice Arena.

■ ANN STANDARD, who retired from the custodial department at BGSU, died Jan. 7.

■ VIRGINIA LIMES, Bowling Green, died Jan. 21. She had retired from food service at BGSU in 1978, where she worked in the Pheasant Room.

■ MARIA TREVINO, Weston, died Dec. 21. She had worked in the custodial department at the University.

■ ANNA STEIN, Pemberville, died Jan. 29. She was a custodial worker in BGSU residence halls, retiring in 1975.

■ JUDY PEARCE, Wayne, died Dec. 22. She had worked in the University custodial department.

• *Compiled by Joan Gordon*



PHIL MASTURZO, BEACON-JOURNAL

• *Russell Coffey*



*Postcard from
British Columbia*

• Lois and Trevor Phillips at Harrison Lake, British Columbia. They celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary last August. Trevor writes, "We are very well. We belong to a hiking club, walk every day, try to maintain a high level of fitness without overdoing it! Just after coming out here in 1997, I was a co-founder of Third Age Learning at Kwantlen, sponsored by Kwantlen University, providing courses for the over-55 set. It has become extremely popular, offering two separate sessions a year. As part of the organization, "Philosophers' Cafe" is a main staple, meeting biweekly in cafes/bistros or libraries to discuss and debate pre-announced topics. I served as chair of its committee

for four years, resigning a year or so ago. The whole association with the group has been extremely gratifying. I still help out with the cafes as a guest speaker."

• Trevor, professor emeritus of educational foundations and inquiry, may be reached at tphillips@shaw.ca. While Trevor and Lois live in Surrey, BC, they have a mailing address at PO Box 2656, Blaine, WA 98231-2656.

Retirees Association NEWSLETTER

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On calligraphy

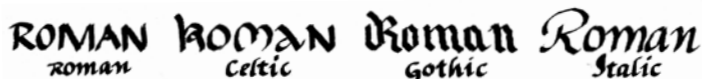
WHEN I was teaching at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville in the early 1960's, my handwriting got so bad that I could not read my lecture notes. It was then that I began the practice of calligraphy, which I have pursued off and on since. After I retired from teaching in 1990, I took several courses in Italic handwriting and Copperplate through BGSU's Continuing Education. These scripts are merely two of the many western calligraphers have produced. I will focus on four that I believe to be the most notable.



• Dr. Cormier

The Roman alphabet, one of the early scripts and the source of subsequent western styles of handwriting, is simple and similar to today's alphabet in capital letters. In 500 A.D. St. Patrick introduced Christianity into Ireland and brought with him texts in a form of round Roman letters that characterize the Celtic script that the Irish monks evolved. The famous illuminated manuscript, *The Book of Kells*, is in Celtic script. Gothic handwriting, which was popular in the monasteries of Germany and Estonia, combined Roman capitals with the angles of northern runes. This resulted in vertical lines characteristic of the pointed arches of Gothic architecture. The type for the first printed book was Gothic. The Italic style of writing arose in Italy during the Renaissance and spread beyond the monasteries to law, letters, finance

and other professions. It is a style of script in practice today and is easier to replicate than Celtic and Gothic. Here are my examples of each of these types of handwriting.



The Romans, as well as the Irish and German monks, developed handwriting to meet societal needs: the Romans to insure the survival of their empire and the monks to communicate and preserve the teachings of Christ. Calligraphy no longer has an essential social role: it is used primarily to create designs, posters, advertising texts, and commemorative awards. Also, the above mentioned scripts can be electronically produced thus eliminating the need to spend many tedious hours acquiring a manual skill. And since we now communicate more through e-mail and text messaging, handwriting no longer seems so necessary. Moreover, even one's signature seems obsolescent. One can use the internet to handle banking and credit card transactions without a signature. And the federal government is looking for a unique physical characteristic other than one's signature, easily replicated fraudulently, to serve as an identifying mark (perhaps the iris of the eye). With these comments, I am suggesting that in the future calligraphy may well become a historical curiosity.

• Ramona Cormier, Ph.D, is Trustee Professor Emeritus. She may be reached at rcormie@dacor.net.

○ **Reservation Form for BGSURA's March 12, 2008, Luncheon** ○
Wednesday, March 12, 2008 • Reservation Deadline Monday, March 3!
Elks Banquet Facility, Campbell Hill Road. 11:30-Noon: Check-in, socializing. Noon: Luncheon.
NOTE: Reservations at \$9 per person MUST BE MADE by Monday, March 3.

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.
 PHONE 419 352-3929. E-MAIL: hlunde@bgsu.edu**