

Ballot on page 5 • 15 College Park Office Bldg., BGSU, Bowling Green, OH 43403-0201 • (419) 372-9696
E-mail: retirees@bgnet.bgsu.edu • Web: www.bgsu.edu/faculty_staff/

*Lunch reservation
form on page 8*



• Pat and Ray Browne at home. Janis Pallister's profile of the Brownes is on page 2. Photo by Clif Boutelle.

Board seeks your input

THE AARP describes TEL/TABOR as a "wolf in sheep's clothing." A state-wide coalition calls the constitutional amendment facing Ohio voters in November a "politician's gimmick."

It would limit growth in state and local budgets to a formula of inflation (the Consumer Price Index) plus population growth, or 3.5 percent, whichever is greater.

The TEL/TABOR amendment (Tax and Expenditure Limitation), also known as the Tax payers Bill of Rights, would squeeze budgets over time for such services as education, public safety, health care, child protection and economic infrastructure, the Coalition for Ohio's Future warns.

The BGSURA Board will take a position on the amendment at its July meeting. The Board urges BGSURA members to study the amendment's fine print and share their opinions with the Board. More on page 5. □

Chinese folk art program for May 17

AN EXPERT on Chinese folk artists — from paintings to puppets — will present a slide-illustrated program at the May 17 luncheon of the BGSU Retirees Association luncheon at First United Methodist Church, 1506 East Wooster St. Socializing begins at 11:30 a.m.; the buffet line opens at noon.

Over the course of a dozen trips to China since 1983, Dr. Adelia M. Peters, Professor Emeritus of Educational Foundations and Inquiry, found herself drawn increasingly to the work of folk artists as a collector and exhibitor of their works.

Her interest began in 1983 when Dr. Peters was a participant in the first faculty exchange between BGSU and the Xi'an Foreign Languages Institute (now the Xi'an International Studies University). Invited by one of her students to visit nearby Huxian, Dr. Peters was introduced to a community of folk artists famous for their peasant paintings.

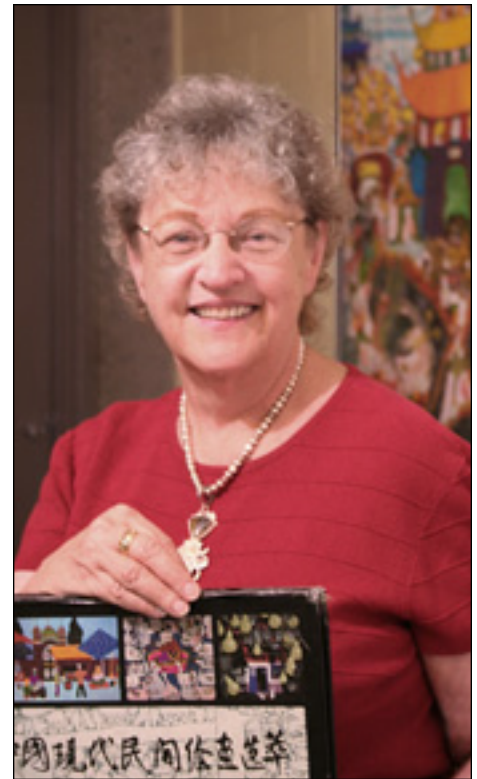
Visit U.S.

Ten years later, three of the painters, sponsored by BGSU, visited the U.S. for six weeks. They participated in a project to raise funds for international exchanges and scholarships. Their paintings were given to contributors to the fund.

Each year an award is given to a student who will participate in an international studies program through the International Education Scholarship Fund in the BGSU College of Education and Human Development.

Reflecting her wide-ranging interest in the Chinese folk art, Dr. Peters has collected art from different parts of China including embroidery, paper cuts, shadow puppets, clothing, dough and clay figures. Examples will be available for viewing at the luncheon. Several of the peasant paintings grace the walls of her department in the Education Building.

"Not only are they used to decorate and reinforce traditional Chinese values, including longevity, prosperity and happiness, but political changes since the 1970s," Dr. Peters said. Two years ago she returned to Xi'an for the 20th reunion of the first group of students



• Dr. Peters (in front of one of her favorite paintings) retired from BGSU in 1996 after 28 years.

Models of hard work and generosity: Ray and Pat Browne

By Janis L. Pallister

IT IS SAID of Georges Simenon, the creator of the famous Maigret series, that he wrote more than 400 books. But our very own Ray Browne, Distinguished University Professor of Popular Culture, is no slouch when it comes to writing and publishing books either — and if we add his published articles to his printed books Ray is coming into Simenon's camp.

Before his retirement from BGSU in July of 1992, he had written or edited 51 book and also published some 70 articles on all subjects, including three on Shakespeare and three on Mark Twain. Many of these works were published by the Popular Press (BGSU), but one came out with the University of California Press (1958) and one also with the Indiana Historical Society (1964), while a number of them also appeared with Purdue University Press. Several deal with crime fiction, and one of his books was translated twice and published in China.

Notorious and notable

Ray, who has his PhD from UCLA in Folklore and American Studies, claims that the most notorious of his books was *Against Academia: The History of the Popular Culture Association/American Culture Association* (1989). Also notable among his books — whose very titles denote his versatility — are *Melville's Drive to Humanism* (1971); *Popular Culture and the Expanding Consciousness* (1973); *Lincoln-Lore: Lincoln in the Contemporary Popular Mind* (1974); *The Burke-Paine Controversy* (1963); *Laws of our Fathers* (1986); *Murder on the*



• Pat and Ray Browne at Bowling Green's well-known sandlot at the intersection of N. Church and West Washington streets. Their house is beyond the small bluff in the background, just past the line of trees. Photo by Clif Boutelle.

Reservation (2004); and *Profiles of Popular Culture: A Reader* (2005).

Ray's wife, Pat, who holds the B.A. from Florida State, has worked alongside him as a partner and as an independent editor. She has edited five books, one by herself and four with others. By herself she edited *Heroes of Popular Culture* (1982). With Marilyn Motz she edited *Making the American Home* (1988). Her greatest editorial job was with Ray: *The Guide to United States Popular Culture* (2001). After Ray's retirement, Pat took over and ran the Popular Press for ten years, herself retiring in 2002.

Ray, as you probably all know, is the proud founder and editor of the *Journal of Popular Culture*, the *Journal of American Culture*, and the Popular Press. Moreover, the Popular Culture Library is one of his



Profile by
Pallister

and Pat's most important contributions to the University. It is said that the Popular Culture Library is the third largest in the U.S., after the Library of Congress and the New York Public Library collections on the subject. And the history of the Popular Culture Library is compelling. In 1968, a year after the Brownes came to BGSU (from Purdue) Bill Randall, a radio DJ in Cleveland, informed them that he had a huge library he wanted to donate to BGSU. It was huge, alright. Ray and a colleague went to get it with a truck! After this the library grew and grew.

13,000 and then some

The Brownes themselves have already given 13,000 books and still give several thousand a year. Pat in particular has been involved in this collection. With a special interest in detective literature, she purchases used and new books of any kind dealing with popular culture issues. (She attempts to get all

books by particular crime fiction authors and at least one book by every detective author.) I'm sure it will be no surprise to you to learn that she shops a great deal in used book stores. The Brownes stress that the Popular Culture Library has grown not only through their efforts, but also through the generosity of others. David Anderson, of Michigan State University, has pledged his library of thousands of books, for instance. And when Ray goes to the office, he sees, at least twice a week, big boxes of books that have come from many corners.

Endowment supports buying

As if these abundant gifts-in-kind were not enough, the Brownes have also given \$50,000 plus to be used for buying books for the Popular Culture Library. The interest from the endowment is used not only for books, however, but for other needs pertaining to the collection. They hope to see this endowment raised to \$100,000 through an additional \$15,000 in contributions from others, as the fund is now worth approximately \$85,000.

Other monetary support has been forthcoming as well. Recently the Popular Culture Association awarded a grant of \$5,000 that was used to hire an archivist, who catalogued the PCA's files found on the fourth floor.

But what is most striking and most impressive is that since his retirement Ray has written and published three books. It seems to me it is interesting to cite them here:

Murder on the Reservation: Indian Crime Fiction (Popular Press, 2004); *Popular Culture Studies across the Curriculum* (Popular Press, 2005); and *Profiles of Popular Culture: A Reader* (Popular Press, 2005).

You can tell that Ray likes to work. Some of you may remember how he balked at the legally forced retirement, because he wanted to

go on working for the University. Ironically the law that professors had to retire at the age 70 was abolished one year after his retirement. He loved to teach and boasts a number of excellent students who have gone on to be leaders in the field. The present editor of the *Journal of Popular Culture*, who is a former student of Ray, claims that his goal in life is to keep Ray's legacy alive.

Now listen to this: Ray Browne still goes to the office five days a week to check the mail and so forth. And he is deeply involved in the writing of yet another book, this time on Shakespeare and the Civil War and Reconstruction. He has found that Shakespeare was regarded as a common literary ancestor for both the North and the South, and one who could be considered as a unifying force. We won't try to tell all about this here; you may want to read the book, however. But let's at least say that Ray finds that the literature of the South is deeply indebted to Shakespeare. Those who have been influenced by "the greatest dramatist who ever lived" would include, according to Ray, Emerson, Whitman, Twain, W.D. Howells, and Faulkner, among others.

The Brownes, natives of Alabama, are the parents of three grown children and grandparents of three youngsters. Their oldest son, Glenn, is a Professor of Business at Texas Tech in Lubbock. Their other son, Kevin, is a consultant on

ethnographic issues in Madison, Wisconsin. He holds the Ph.D. in anthropology and has a five-year-old child. Their daughter, Alicia, who has two master's degrees, one in Public History and the other in Museum Studies, is assistant director of housing at the University of Alabama and has two children. A family as accomplished as their forebears, wouldn't you say?

Though we have spoken a bit much in numbers here, this hard-working and generous couple has contributed enormously to the University on all levels and is deserving of our esteem and gratitude.

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

Take me out to the ball game

BGSURA members are invited to join Wood County Retired Teachers Association members for a Toledo Mud Hens vs. Norfolk game at noon on Tuesday, June 27. Reservation deadline is May 27.

Tickets are \$6. Make a check to WCRTA and include a stamped self-addressed envelope to have tickets mailed. Otherwise, they'll be distributed at the ARTA bus stop at Riverplace, south of Bassett's Market in Perrysburg. Fare for the bus, leaving at 11 a.m., is \$1. Send to Helen Dermer, 1210 Lyn Rd., Bowling Green. Phone 419-352-8822. □



• Helen Dermer

Dr. Peters *continued*

she taught there — and also made a return visit to the artists in Huxian.

Raised in Lakewood, Ohio, Dr. Peters earned her bachelor's degree at Valparaiso University and her master's and doctorate at the University of Rochester.

Since 1959, her experiences as a student, volunteer, consultant,

guest lecturer or group leader have taken her to Western Europe, Egypt, Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, Turkey, Brazil, Costa Rica, Mexico, Guatemala, Korea, Japan, Nigeria, Australia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, India, Sri Lanka, and Thailand, as well as to China. □

• Dr. Peters may be reached at apeters@bgsu.edu

President's Corner

Bon Voyage!

By Dr. Roger Anderson

By the time you read this column, we will be returning from a twenty-two day group tour to China. We visited Beijing, Xi'an, Chongqing, several cities along the Yangtze River where we cruised; Lijiang, Kunming, Guilin, and Shanghai. In preparing for the trip, my wife and I relied on the knowledge I gained while teaching the BGSU Continuing Education course, "Foreign Travel: An Independent Approach," for twenty years with Roger Holliday and Claudia Fischer, travel columnists for *The Blade*, Toledo.

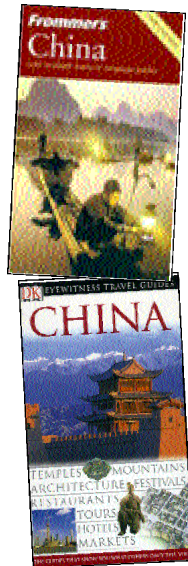
The travel course covered such topics as choosing a destination, researching your trip, passports and visas, travel insurance, transportation, packing and luggage, money and budget, accommodations, health and safety, restaurants and food, language, sightseeing, shopping, photography and U.S. customs.

While the travel course was primarily focused on traveling independently in Europe, it still could be applied to group travel and to other parts of the globe. There were many aspects of the course we used. However, space limits discussion to just one topic, research.

Researching important

Researching a trip is very important even if it is a planned group tour. It gives you a heads-up so that you do not miss experiences that might be the highlight of your trip. You also know beforehand what is available so you can make better choices on the tour. Research should not be boring. It should be exciting, an integral part of the trip. It involves reading, writing down notes, and talking to others who have been where you are traveling. It includes reading books, magazines, newspapers, watching videos, looking at pictures, surfing the Web, and consulting friends.

One of the first steps in researching a trip is to read or acquire several guide books. There are several types. The first is the all-inclusive or what we called the "the meat and potatoes" guide which tells you what to do, where to go, how to do it. There are more and more on the market. For this particular trip we used Frommer's *China*, first edition, Wiley Publishing, Inc. 2004, and Dorling Kindersley,



Eyewitness Travel Guides: China, DK, 2005. The Frommer series is a personal favorite. We also consulted the *Lonely Planet Guide*, Lonely Planet Publications, Australia. Other guides could include *The Rough Guide Series*, the *Let's Go* series, the **Fodor's** series and *Insight Guides*. Books are usually available at Border's, Barnes and Noble, Books a Million, Walden's or online at Amazon, etc. Each series is aimed at a different audience, so look over the book carefully before you buy. You might borrow a book from friends or check one out at your local library before you purchase.

Photocopying saves weight

Once you decide on a book or books use the indexes to locate your destinations, look at the maps and readings, take notes, and photocopy sections from books you do not intend to take along. Choose only one or two maximum to take on your trip. Consider the size and weight before you pack them. In our case, we took the Frommer book but copied portions of the *Eyewitness Travel Guide*, which was heavy and full of photos which we could examine before and after the trip at home.

Other travel books that could be consulted included special interest types such as those which emphasize walking tours, food, language, and shopping, and personal travel experiences such as Paul Theroux's *Riding the Iron Rooster: By Train Through China*, Ivy Books, 1988, which we read. Novels, histories, and biographies can also be examined. We recently finished Jung Chang and Jon Halliday's biography, *Mao: The Unknown Story*, Knopf, 2005.

Periodicals and newspapers can also be read before you go. We consulted articles in *International Travel News* and the travel section of *The New York Times*. Do not forget to confer with friends who have traveled where you are visiting. We spent considerable time with Diane and Wally Pretzer, who have traveled to China several times. Tourist offices are another source of information. We also carefully read the *China in Depth*, 2006 booklet our tour company, Odysseys Unlimited, provided us.

Other topics we spent considerable time on in preplanning our trip included packing and luggage, money and budget, health issues, food, language, and shopping hints. Based on our pre-trip research, we felt we were well prepared for a much-anticipated adventure. □

• Dr. Anderson is associate professor emeritus of Political Science. His address is rogerca@bgnet.bgsu.edu.



BGSU

Retirees Association
15 College Park Office Bldg.
Bowling Green State University
Bowling Green, OH 43403

Ballot

May 1, 2006

To: Members of the Bowling Green State University Retirees Association (BGSURA)

From: BGSURA Nominating Committee

ANNUAL ELECTION

- Please mark the ballot, fold, tape and apply a 39-cent stamp.
- Ballot must be received on or before May 31, 2006.

Thank you for your support.

Ballot for the two-year term beginning July 1, 2006, and ending June 30, 2008

VICE-PRESIDENT

____ Eloise Clark

SECRETARY

____ Joan Gordon

BOARD MEMBERS (SIX TO BE ELECTED)

____ Tom Bennett

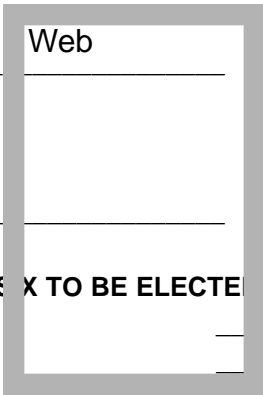
____ Clif Boutelle

____ Ted Groat

____ Harry Hoemann

____ Park Leathers

____ Chuck McCaghy



**Ballots must be
received on or before
May 31**

TEL/TABOR: Time to study

OHIO voters will vote on this constitutional amendment on the November statewide ballot. The Coalition for Ohio's Future urges Ohioans to vote NO on this amendment. The TEL/TABOR proposal limits growth in state and local budgets through a formula of inflation (the Consumer Price Index) plus population growth, or 3.5 percent, whichever is greater. Under this rigid formula, budgets are squeezed over time, with no flexibility to address the realities of funding for public services.



The Ohio TEL/TABOR is nearly identical to the one enacted in Colorado more than 10 years ago. A politician's gimmick, it sets up a faulty fiscal system, critics say

Against TEL/TABOR is the Coalition for Ohio's Future, a large, bipartisan organization including teachers and other educators, firefighters, police, elected officials in state and local government, concerned citizens, social service organizations, business people, doctors and other health professionals, labor unions, senior citizens, faith-based organizations and many others.

Under TABOR in Colorado, funding for schools fell to 50th in the nation, graduation rates plummeted, and personal income growth went from first to 50th. Last November, Colorado voters suspended the state's TABOR amendment for five years to allow

the state to restore critical funding for higher education, K-12 education, roads and health care.

The Ohio TEL/TABOR amendment requires that any local tax increase or spending increase beyond the TABOR constitutional spending cap would require the "approval of a MAJORITY of electors in that political subdivision," not just a majority of those electors voting. This means that if the voter turnout for local election on a tax increase or spending increase fell below 50 percent the measure would automatically fail.

William D. Novelli, CEO of AARP, in his column in the April AARP Bulletin, warns that "we would do well to remember the lessons of Aesop's famous fable on the consequences of deception in considering proposals for a taxpayer bill of rights." Novelli said the proposed amendment is a "wolf in sheep's clothing." AARP warned of "hidden costs." While the amendment might sound appealing, it could have "harsh consequences."



The Coalition for Ohio's Future pointed out that in November 2004, Ohio voters approved 114 school levies. But if the TABOR "majority of electors" rule had been in effect, only 11 of those would have passed. The proposed constitutional amendment would require the "approval of a majority of electors," not just those voting

Visit www.ohiosfuture.org to get more information about TABOR. Its office is at 175 S. Third St., Columbus, OH 43216. □

Tape at top, please.

39 cents
postag e

BGSU

Retirees Association
15 College Park Office Bldg.
Bowling Green State University
Bowling Green, OH 43403-0201

Fold



Fold

What's ahead

The schedule for the new year

- Sept. 13 — Convocation. Dr. Kendall Baker, president of Ohio Northern University.
- Nov. 14 — David Bienemann, Bowling Green City arborist.
- Jan. 17, 2007 — Jim George, Wauseon Public Schools music teacher.
- March 14, 2007 — Joint meeting with members of the Wood County Retired Teachers Assn.
- May 16, 2007 — To be announced

Ideas sought

CONCERTS. Plays. Athletic events.
Lectures. Art exhibits. One-day trips.
Museum visits.

Is there an activity that BGSURA could sponsor for its members (and guests) in the coming year? The BGSURA Board welcomes suggestions . Please give your suggestion to an officer or Board member (they're listed in the masthead in this newsletter). A more formal questionnaire may be forthcoming at a future BGSURA luncheon.

Legislative Report

By Genevieve Stang • ges@dacor.net



Federal

THE threat to mandatory Social Security has been stalled, but it is always in the background. Defined benefit pension programs are being threatened in favor of defined contribution programs. The government is looking at the Pension Benefit Guaranty program, concern about the ability to meet pension obligations.

• *Dr. Stang*

Three fronts emerge in federal health care agenda: establishment of savings accounts, changes in mal-practice statutes, and portability of insurance. Efforts are being made to address functioning of the Medicare Part D program. The threat to cut doctors' Medicare pay has not gone through, relieving for the time Medicare patients' problems seeking a doctor who will accept payments. Congress is considering a bill to let small businesses band together to buy insurance.

America has become increasingly owned by foreign interests — 51% of U.S. debt. Within recently proposed regulations by IRS was a rule change allowing sales of information from tax returns to marketers. The Great Lakes Regional Project bills have not been positively received and concerns remain for water utilization.

OHIO

Gov. Taft urged lawmakers to strengthen the curriculum for students headed to Ohio colleges. Mid-term budget corrections focused on re-shuffling spending priorities. School districts are allowed to seek property tax levies that would increase with inflation (up to 4%). School vouchers at the taxpayers' expense were expanded. Tax breaks for retailers were considered.

The Ohio Retirement Study Council (ORSC) rejected HB270 and HB282, noting the negative impact

these bills would have on OPERS' pension and health care funding.

HB272 has been recommended by ORSC. It deals with medical savings accounts and the "double-dipping" issue. HB506 has been introduced to establish health savings accounts for public employees.

STRS has begun to educate legislators on the need to go beyond the 10% legislated limit. It is doubtful that legislation can be accomplished this year. The Health Care Stabilization Fund is projected to be depleted by 2021 if nothing is done quickly. Pressure has come from ORSC to make changes. STRS's 3% COLA may come under review.

Of major concern is the proposal to amend the Ohio constitution to limit expenditures for state and local services. The TEL/TABOR proposal is similar to the one Colorado has suspended for five years since it caused a severe decline in that state's economic development, education system, industrial infrastructure and health care (i.e., funding for public schools dropped to 50th in the nation). The proposed Ohio amendment is **not** endorsed by STRS, ORTA and about 265 other organizations because of the serious ramifications of restrictions inherent in the proposal, such as requiring approval of a majority of electors — not just a majority of those voting — on tax or spending increases.

For-profit education has become a growth business with increase in on-line programs and charter schools. Calls continue for investigation of the management of charter schools in Ohio.

STRS

The Board is expected to announce its final decision on 2007 health care premiums at its August meeting. Staff members have been looking at changes in plan design in an effort to reduce the projected double-digit increases. STRS staff and representatives from the HCA continue to hold meet-

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Retirees Association NEWSLETTER

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Bowling Green, OH 43403-0201
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○ **Reservation Form for BGSURA's May 17, 2006, Luncheon** ○
Wednesday, May 17, 2006 • Reservation Deadline Friday, May 12!
1st United Methodist Church, E. Wooster St. 11:30-Noon: Check-in, socializing. Noon: Luncheon.
NOTE: Reservations at \$8 per person MUST BE MADE by Friday, March 10.

Name _____

Name(s) of Your Guest(s) _____

_____ Total Number of Reservations

BGSU
Retirees Association

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

SEND RESERVATION FORM AND CHECK TO DON BRIGHT, 1209 CLARK ST., BOWLING GREEN, OH 43402
NO LATER THAN FRIDAY, MAY 12. Telephone 419-352-8360

ings with legislators to educate them about the health care legislative initiative and to obtain feedback.

The STRS Board voted to restructure base salary structure for associates and to revise the PBI plan for eligible investment associates.

There has been an effort to reduce the operating budget by operating as "lean" as possible.

SB190 is cost neutral to STRS when projected to infinity and was judged successful in having teachers remain contributors rather than re-

tirees for additional working years to the advantage of the stabilization fund.

The investment picture looks positive for the year. The 2300 Defined Contribution and Combined Plan participants will have the opportunity of reselecting their plan before the June 1 deadline.

The election of two active members concluded last month. Statements from the five certified candidates appeared in the Spring ORTA quarterly.

OPERS

The OPERS Board has been discussing management strategies regarding private real estate investments; a revised approach to staffing with OME managers; the investment risk management plan for 2006; health care strategies (prevention); formation of a Budget Policy Review Committee, and replacement of the executive director when Laurie Hacking resigned to become head of the Minnesota's state teachers retirement system. □

Field trip to Schedel

A FIELD trip and tour to Schedel Arboretum and Gardens, near Elmore, Ohio, and a catered "all-American" picnic lunch is scheduled for BGSURA and Wood County Retired Teachers Association members July 11. The event begins with a 10:30 a.m. lecture. Cost of the package is \$18 (\$12 for Schedel members). A tour in a golf cart is available for an additional \$5, payable to the driver

Reservations are due by May 27. A check payable to WCRA should be sent to Helen Dermer, 1210 Lynn Rd., Bowling Green, OH 43402. Provide a telephone number for information about car-pooling to Schedel. Dermer may be reached by calling her at 419-352-8822. □

Passings

■ **FUJI KAWASHIMA**, director of Asian Studies at Bowling Green State University, died March 5. He began teaching at BGSU in 1970. He also created a Peace Studies Program, which grew from the collaboration that he fostered between the University and Hiroshima University Japan. Dr. Kawashima was active with the Toledo Museum of Art and the National Association of Asian Studies, and founded Nakama, a forum for American and Japanese businesses.

■ **OLDRICH JICHA**, 99, a retired professor of finance at BGSU, died March 30 in Dublin, Ohio. He was a long-time supporter and formed Board member of the Wood County Humane society. He also

was a member of the American Contract Bridge League, having earned the rank of Life Master.

■ **LOIS E. STARRICK**, Pemberville, died March 18. She worked for more than 25 years as a bookkeeper at BGSU, retiring in 1976.

■ **VIOLET BUMPUS**, a custodian at BGSU, retiring in 1983, died Feb. 24.

■ **ROBERT H. CRON** died Feb. 18 in Bowling Green. A plumber in the maintenance department at BGSU for 27 years, retiring in 2000.

■ **DOROTHY MAE BRIGHAM**, formerly of Bowling Green, died March 1 at her home in Lowell, Mich. She had worked as a telephone operator and later as a cook at the University.

■ **PAUL S. REED SR.**, formerly of Bowling Green, died March 17 in Napoleon. He was a custodial supervisor at BGSU for more than 15 years, retiring in 1989. □