

BGSURA NEWSLETTER

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November 2004



**Bowling Green State University
Retirees Association**
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Program on one-day trips is feature of November luncheon

A GRADUATE of BGSU and a personality at Toledo's WTOL-TV, Dick Berry, will present the program at the BGSURA luncheon meeting Wednesday, Nov. 17, at the First United Methodist Church, East Wooster Street.



• A list of Dick Berry's sites for "Day Trippin'" may be found at the WTOL-TV Web site, wtol.com. On this Home page, click on FEATURES, then click on Day Trippin' 2004 for Berry's suggestions for one-day excursions in Ohio, Michigan and Indiana.



• Brief descriptions of each trip, such as this one about the WWII Victory Museum in Auburn, Ind., may be found at the WTOL Web site.

Ohio Retired Teachers Assn.

INCLUDED with this issue of the BGSURA Newsletter is an application for membership in the Ohio Retired Teachers Association (retired Conneaut School principal Patricia McGinnis is president of the Wood County chapter of ORTA). BGSURA members are urged to join ORTA for a stronger retiree voice in Ohio.

What's ahead

- **Jan. 19, 2005** – Musicians from the Bowling Green Symphony Orchestra, with Estelle Dobbins in charge.
- **March 16, 2005** – Earlene Kilpatrick, Executive Director, Main Street BG.
- **April 6, 2005** – Daryl Stockburger, director of BG Public Utilities, will discuss the wind-turbine project, now with a total of four units in place at the Wood County Landfill, at the Regional State Retirees Luncheon. It will be held in the McMaster Meeting Room 308 of the Bowen-Thompson Student Union.
- **May 18, 2005** – Ray Fischer, Wood County Prosecutor, will discuss "Identity Theft."

Tea Dec. 1

THE annual Fall BGSU Retirees Reception, sponsored by the BGSU Office of Development, will be held Wednesday, Dec. 1, from 3-5 p.m. at Mileti Alumni Center. Recent retirees will be honored.

○ **Reservation Form for BGSURA's Nov. 17, 2004, Luncheon** ○
Wednesday, Nov. 17, 2004 • Reservation Deadline Friday, Nov. 12!
1st United Methodist Church. 11:30-Noon: Check-in and socializing. Noon: Luncheon.
NOTE: Reservations at \$8 per person MUST BE MADE by Friday, Nov. 12.

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 DON BRIGHT, 1209 CLARK ST., BOWLING GREEN, OH 43402, NO LATER THAN FRIDAY, NOV. 12. Telephone 419-352-8360



• Bob Goodwin

No 'pedantic philosopher he' *'Molière should have met Bob Goodwin'*

BY JAN PALLISTER

REMEMBER Molière's Bourgeois Gentleman? As the various "masters" of music, dance, fencing and philosophy each claim their superiority over one another, the "master" of philosophy remains above the contest. A philosopher, says the nameless "master," knows how to take things — and he declares that he is going to compose a satire about the others in the style of Juvenal which will teach them a lesson.

"But never mind about that," he says. "What do you want to learn...?" And in response to Jourdain's inquiries, he explains that without knowledge, life is almost an image of death. He then offers to teach him a number of things: Logic; morality, which treats felicity and teaches men to moderate their passions; physics,

which explains the principle of natural things and the proprieties of the body, etc. And when finally Jourdain settles on asking to learn "spelling," he is taught how to pronounce vowels and the difference between prose and verse. "Oh la belle chose que de savoir quelque chose!" ("How wonderful it is to know a thing or two," concludes Jourdain.)

Molière is of course ridiculing pedantic philosophers. But I think if he had met Bob Goodwin he might have thought twice about the undertaking. Not only is Bob a philosopher, he is also a man of parts.

Born in New York City in 1925, Bob studied for the priesthood, attending Immaculate Conception Seminary in Long Island. It was there he acquired his phenomenal knowledge of Latin. (He is able even now to read the works of St. Thomas Aquinas in the original Latin without a dictionary.)

Changing direction

Leaving aside this earlier vocational plan, Bob sought his PhD in philosophy from Georgetown University, which he attended from 1953-1958. There he acquired his specialty in American philosophy, writing his dissertation on Charles Peirce and American pragmatism. Following this he took his first assignment at DePaul University, Chicago, where he taught from 1958 to 1961. Coming to BGSU in 1961, he taught American philosophy and medieval philosophy.

Bob's interest in Latin and his passion for philosophy explain how he came to be friends with classics professors on the campus — and especially with Boleslav Povsic, an immigrant from Slovenia, a noted scholar, a professor of Greek and Latin, and a member of BGSURA, who recently died.

NOW READ THIS: Retiring in

1990, Bob turned his attention to ethical issues, and since 1996 he has been concerned with the ethical problems revolving around stem-cell research, so much a part of present-day political debate. As a member of the Ethics Committee of Wood County Hospital, he has lectured on this matter as well as others, such as the question of abortion. I have witnessed the fascination Bob displays as he wonders about the moment at which a human being becomes a human being. It is clear that these new pursuits are integrally tied to the foundations of his life: The quest for knowledge and his profoundly religious nature.

Other pursuits

Bob has other pursuits as well: He is the treasurer of the BG Symphony Orchestra, and — the father of 11 children, 32 grandchildren and one great grandchild — he has turned lately to writing short short stories for children. Not surprisingly these little stories — sometimes verging on the autobiographical — have hidden morals: Not to be bossy, not to be haughty, etc.

He has a granddaughter attending Western Washington University. An artist, she has been doing illustrations for these stories. They hope to publish their work in the near future.

Bob and his wife Elaine have done considerable traveling since his retirement: They have gone to Alaska, Ireland, France, Spain (with Mercedes Junquera as their guide) and Italy, which Bob likes best of all. He is especially fond of Tuscany — for the beauty of the locale, its cobblestone walks and its pasta!

It should come as no surprise that Bob loves to read. It seems he is always reading. Sometime it's heavy-duty material, such as the biography of John Adams or the history of the Building of the Brooklyn Bridge. And then again sometimes it's mystery stories, especially those of Robert Parker.

Is Bob sedentary? No. He swims every day.

• Jan Pallister, Ph.D., L.D., is Distinguished University Professor Emeritus of Romance Languages. Email her at jpallis@dacor.net.

The Stang Report

BY GENEVIEVE STANG

DISCUSSION at the Ohio Council of Higher Education Retirees September meeting at Ohio State University focused on STRS issues, Board membership, health care, federal and state legislation, status of inactive chapters, consideration of PERI affiliation with the Ohio Retired Teachers Association, and election of OCHER representatives to ORTA. Lou DiOrio was elected as the OCHER representative to the ORTA Executive Committee and Bob Niedzielski as ORTA District 12 representative. Lou DiOrio was inducted into the OCHER Hall of Fame.

Todd Gournio, STRS coordinator of Higher Education Retirement Programs, reviewed programs that have been developed and the procedures for establishing such. He addressed issues facing STRS like health care costs, "double dipping" and efforts to meet unfunded liability requirements. The next meeting of OCHER will be Nov. 16.

STRS

With the passage of the pension reform bill, new members added to the STRS Board are Dave Speas, an ORTA director (Springfield), appointed by the Governor to fill the new second retirement seat until September. Judith Fisher, retired chief financial officer for Huntington Bancshares, was appointed by the Governor as an investment expert. Appointments by the Speaker of the House and Senate President are expected by mid November.

Connie Ramser (Massillon) was appointed by the Board to fill Jack Chapman's seat. Joe Endry, retiree representative to the Board, has chosen not to see re-election. Thus two retiree seats and one contributing member seat will be open at the May election, which will be managed by VR Election Services, Carrollton, Texas. Nominating petitions for the seats will be available from STRS Dec. 1 with a deadline for return Feb. 25, 2005. Ballots will be mailed on April 25, 2005. Ability to vote by toll-free phone and internet will be provided.

Preliminary reports from the Board actuarial committee indicate an exceptionally good year regarding investment returns but a loss in the area of retire-

ment and separations which, combined with an increase in the number retiring with 30 years or more and the higher rate of teacher salary increases, resulted in little change in both the funding period (42.2 years) and the funded ratio (75.9 percent). Thus these still do not meet the state mandated level.

HEALTH CARE

Two-thirds of the STRS members in 2005 will have lower premium costs. Up to 95 percent of enrollees could benefit from changes in the Advance PC drug program. Open enrollment for 2005 health care began in September and material has been mailed. Concerns have been raised about the impact of younger, healthier members with fewer than 15 years leaving the program. Two promising cost-containment management programs are being considered.

PERS

Items from the September meeting of the OPERS Board included guardianship and power of attorney issues, the Health Care Prevention Plan, strategic planning, disability earnings limits, and the Investment Repository Project.

LEGISLATION

Topics that continue to need monitoring at the federal level include drug importation, health care coalitions, simplified senior tax form, drug cards, privacy and ID theft measures. Items at the state level include ARP legislation, Single Payer Action (SB263, HB455 and SB225) regarding designation of benefit recipient, HB449 and HB213 regarding refund of contributions to PERS, exemptions for Ohio income taxes; also HB468 and HB469, which deal with purchase of PERS service. Although a compromise was made with regard to "Buy Ohio," monitoring still is needed to protect pension funds.

• Dr. Stang may be reached at ges@dacor.net.

Computer troubles?

PROBLEMS getting connected to the Internet for E-mail and surfing? Call Charlie Applebaum, 352-0777, or send an E-mail to applebau@math.bgsu.edu, or phone the math office, 372-2729. This "help" program is sponsored once again by the Office of the Provost.

BGSURA NEWSLETTER

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President's Corner

By Dr. Roger Anderson

BY the time you receive this newsletter we will have voted and, hopefully we will know who the next President of the United States is. Ohio, and particularly Northwest Ohio, have been at the center of the Presidential campaign for months, given the importance of Ohio's electoral votes. I have given up counting the number of times Senators Kerry and Edwards and President Bush and Vice-President Cheney have visited Ohio and this area. Although I enjoy engaging in politics and discussing it, it will be great to take a vacation from politics for the next several months.

BGSURA's 10th annual convocation in September was a success with almost 90 attending. Dr.

Robert Glidden, retired president of Ohio University, gave humorous insights into his service as a college president. He then carefully and thoughtfully detailed a number of challenges facing universities in the next 10 years, especially in Ohio.

On October 20 the BGSURA officers and board held our quarterly meeting. Membership chair Clif Boutelle reported that the membership campaign was going well with a number of retirees opting for lifetime membership. If you have not renewed yet, please do so as soon as possible. At the board meeting Hal Lunde, our treasurer, announced that as of Sept. 30, BGSURA has a balance of \$3,000 in the account, which is right on budget.

Genevieve Stang and Richard Edwards, secretary and



• Dr. Anderson

vice-president of the Ohio Council of Higher Education Association respectively, and our OCHER representatives, highlighted the September 16th OCHER board meeting in Columbus. Covered were the changes taking place in the Ohio retirement systems as a result of the pension reform bill signed by Governor Taft this past summer, pending state and national legislative relevant to retirees, STRS health care changes for 2005, and possible candidates for STRS board elections in spring 2005. Dick Edwards reported on his work with PERI members and the organization. Both representatives stressed the importance of OCHER's recent affiliation with the Ohio Retired Teachers Association for greater advocacy for retirees. I urge you to read the enclosed membership application from ORTA. If you are not already a member, I urge you to join!

Bob Clark, chair of the BGSURA activities committee, noted that he is contacting Star Tours of Ohio about providing tour opportunities for our members. Star Tours, in Pemberville, provides day and multi-day bus tours for retirees and others and is currently working with the Wood County Retired Teachers Association on tour possibilities for retired teachers.

Dennis Anderson from our program committee summarized the BGSURA luncheon dates and speakers for the remainder of 2004-2005. The committee has identified tentative programs and speakers for 2005-2006, but if you have a program idea do not hesitate to contact any Board member or the program committee.

Although our committee membership has been approved by the Board, we always are seeking candidates for Board membership beginning July 1, 2005. Please contact any Board member or me if you're interested in serving as a member of BGSURA's Board of Directors. □

• Dr. Anderson is Associate Professor Emeritus of Political Science. His address is rogerca@bgnet.bgsu.edu.

Passings

• **PHILIP R. WIGG**, professor emeritus of art and an internationally known artist, died Oct. 15 at his home in Bowling Green. He retired from full-time teaching of printmaking, drawing and sculpture in 1982 and then taught part-time for five years. In 1993 he received the BGSU Honorary Alumnus Award. In the 1950s and 1960s he worked as a pilot after serving as a pilot with the Navy in World War II. He joined the BGSU faculty in 1948.

• **EVELYN STEIDTMANN**, died Aug. 4 in Bowling Green. She had

retired in 1972 after 17 years as office manager of Founders dormitory. She was well known as a teacher of bridge classes, having taught for more than 50 years. She operated a Sunday duplicate bridge club in the University Union for 34 years.

• **HELEN CRAWFORD** died Oct. 14 in Bowling Green. She retired from the University in 1965 after 16 years as a cook.

• **DOROTHY FAUSNAUGH**, Rudolph, died Oct. 23 in Wisconsin. She was a custodian at the University for 13 years.

• **HELEN MALONE**, Weston, died Oct. 13 at her home. She was a retired BGSU police officer.

• **DONALD YOUNG**, who retired in 1993 after working as a maintenance supervisor for the University Police Department for 25 years, died Aug. 15.

• **CARLOS M. REYES SR.**, Perrysburg, died Aug. 11. He had worked as a supervisor of custodial workers at the University, retiring in 1997.

• **HELENA MORLOCK** died Sept. 29 in Bowling Green. She had worked at the BGSU Health Center for 10 years.

• **TERRY CHAPMAN**, North Baltimore, died Sept. 5. He had retired in 1998 after working for 33 years as a custodian at BGSU.