Inauguration of BGSU’s 11th president

Dr. Mary Ellen Mazey prepares to present her Inaugural Address. On the platform with her Dec. 2 in the Stroh Arena are (front row) Debra Ryan, BGSU trustee; Judge Robert King (Dr. Mazey’s brother); Gary Cates, vice chancellor, Ohio Board of Regents; Peter Magrath, speaker; William Primrose, trustee. Back: Karen Schwab, Classified Staff Council (hidden), Sheri Orwick Ogden (hidden), Administrative Staff Council; Beau Slater, trustee; Daniel Keller, trustee; David Levey, trustee; Jason Ratliff, Graduate Student Senate; John Folkins, Faculty Senate; David Glass, Alumni Association; Emily Ancinec, Student Government. For a digital copy of the program as a PDF sent by email, send a request to jgordon@bgsu.edu.

• At the Inauguration: Ralph Wolfe, and Wally and Diane Pretzer. Dr. Wolfe will host his second annual holiday party for BGSURA members at his North Baltimore home Dec. 15. Call or e-mail your reservation by Monday, Dec. 12, to BGSURA activities chair Pat Koehler, pkoehler3@woh.rr.com, or call Pat at 419-352-6180.

Party time approaching at North Baltimore home.
BGSU trustees approve gerontology master’s

At the Dec. 2 meeting, the BGSU Board of Trustees approved a new master of science degree in interdisciplinary gerontology. In his story in that day’s Sentinel-Tribune, Harold Brown reported that Dr. Linda Petrosino, dean of the College of Health and Human Services, credited Dr. Nancy Orel “for putting this all together.” Dean Petrosino said “this program’s strength is that it will ... combine education and research from so many areas.” The new program, which now goes to the Ohio Board of Regents for approval, involves the social, biological and psychological aspects of aging, Brown reported.

PASSINGS

Cherie “Jan” Patton, 71, formerly of Findlay and Bowling Green, Ohio, and Seven Lakes, N.C., died Nov. 26. Her husband, Robert A. Patton, a professor emeritus of applied statistics and operations research and former dean of the College of Business Administration at BGSU, died of lung cancer in 2009 in North Carolina. He was 69.

Jan Patton received her B.S. from the University of Missouri at Columbia, and M.Ed. and Ph.D. in Educational Administration from Bowling Green State University. She began her career as a junior high and high school teacher in the Missouri and Bowling Green public schools. She advanced in her career as assistant superintendent and then superintendent in the Findlay City Schools.

In 1991, the Pattons moved to Portland, Maine, where she served as the Principal at Deering High School until her retirement in 1994. Then they moved to Seven Lakes.

At BGSU, Robert Patton became acting dean of business administration in 1982 and then dean in 1984, a post he held until 1990. He retired in 1992 and became dean of the School of Business, Economics and Management at the University of Southern Maine, retiring again to move to North Carolina in 1996.

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(continued on page 4)
Volunteers sought to staff BGSURA office for spring semester.

Dear Members of the BGSU Retiree’s Association,

I am now recruiting volunteers for Spring Semester 2012, which begins Jan. 9 and ends May 3, 2012. Attached is a list of the dates available. If you can help out and volunteer to work one 2-hour day, it would be most appreciated! Of course, if you can work more than one day that would be super! Just drop me an e-mail or give me a phone call by Dec. 14. Let me know if you were migrated to @falcon.bgsu or are retaining the @bgsu.edu e-mail address.

With your help we can keep the Retirees Office open to meet the needs of retirees and current BGSU staff contemplating retiring. We are located in Room 27 College Park Office Building. Once you are scheduled, I will send you a roster of workers for the semester and training materials. It’s easy to do and most of us bring a book or other items to work on during our 2-hour time slot. Thank you! Your service to the organization is greatly appreciated!

Jan Peterson
JPETERS@FALCON.BGSU.EDU
419.352.7168

BGSURA OFFICE STAFF SCHEDULE

SPRING SEMESTER 2012

COLLEGE PARK ROOM 27

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BGSU retirees at the annual Women’s Club Holiday Boutique Dec. 3 at Stone Ridge

• George Clemans with visitor Tom Tatham. Clemans was profiled by Clif Boutelle in the May 2009 Newsletter on line.

• The Sergents plus one: Retiree Kay Sergent (right), niece Kaymie Sergent Hafner, daughters Delaine Sergent Landry and Dana Sergent Nemeth. Plus Eric Honneffer, a BGSU Archives staffer with Dana.

• Retiree Tom Klein describes a beads bracelet he made to Genevieve Stang, a BGSURA board member. Klein was profiled by Jan Pallister in the September 2005 Newsletter.
Robert Reider was photographed in the Sentinel-Tribune pressroom in 1985 as a continuation of the Bowling Green Sesquicentennial Portrait Project begun in 1983 with BGSU photojournalism students. Photo by Susan Cross.

Robert M. Reider, long-time general manager of the Bowling Green Sentinel-Tribune, who saw the newspaper through 40 years of changes, from Linotype typesetting when he started there in 1947, to digital typesetting and offset printing, died Nov. 24. He was 86.

Starting as an ad salesman, Reider was promoted to advertising director in 1948. He became vice-president and general manager in 1965, the position he held until his retirement in 1990.

Information from the Sentinel-Tribune.

Among those at a "special" Sociology Department meeting Nov. 3 at Stone Ridge, including a reunion visit by Art Neal (at left): Meredith (Med) Pugh, Ted Groat, and Dave Chilson.

From left: Elmer Spreitzer, Harry Gyman, Art Neal, Ted Groat, Steve Cernkovich, Chuck McCaghy, Dave Chilson, Aida Tomeh, Joe Kivlin, Ken Rothrock, Peggy Giordano, Rich Zeller, Ralph Wahrman, Eldon Snyder, Don McQuarie, Joe Perry, and Joe Jacoby. The photo was taken in 1979 or 1980.

President’s Message
No place like home . . .

I came to Bowling Green State University in September 1969 as a graduate assistant in BGSU’s Department of Sociology. My first two courses (Concept Formation and Research Methods) were with Dr. Art Neal and Dr. Aida Tomeh, respectively. And my graduate assistantship was with Dr. Al Schnur.

By the time I received my M.A. in March 1971 (and left for active duty in the Navy), two sociology professors had become my mentors and role models – Dr. Ted Groat and Dr. Elmer Spreitzer. And thanks to Dr. Ken Rothrock, I developed an interest in statistics, methodology, and research design.

After 3 1/2 years in the Navy and one year working for Boeing, I came back to BGSU in September 1975 as a sociology doctoral student. I taught Introductory Statistics and Statistical Packages, but my primary duties involved working with Ted Groat, Art Neal, and Jerry Wicks on a three-year NSF research grant.

After receiving my Ph.D. in June 1978 (and thanks to Dr. Mick Ferrari, Dr. Dave Fulton, and Dr. Ron Lancaster), I was hired as an assistant professor in BGSU’s Department of Computer Science (with a joint appointment in BGSU’s Department of Sociology). I would occasionally teach Introductory Statistics and Computers and Society in the Sociology Department.

I have maintained my friendships with members of BGSU’s Sociology Department over the years. About 1979 or 1980, there was a nice Sociology Department picnic in Bowling Green City Park. A group picture from this picnic is above.

In recent years, thanks to the late Joe Perry, a group of retired sociology professors would meet several times a year for lunch, usually at SamB’s. Special get-togethers were held when Dr. Art Neal and his wife Dr. Helen Youngelson-Neal would return to Bowling Green from their home in Portland, Ore.

BGSU’s Sociology Department was (and still is) a wonderful department. I feel thankful and fortunate to have been a member of the department.

Dr. Chilson is emeritus associate professor of computer science. Write to him at chilson@cs.bgsu.edu.

Passings from page 2
A LISTING of deceased retirees is available online at the bgsu.edu/retirement website. The listing, compiled by Linda Hamilton, BGSU Retirees Association secretary, is based on obituaries appearing in the Association newsletter. The listing downloads as a searchable PDF.

The project was coordinated by Lolita Guthre and Jim Instone, of the Wood County Genealogical Society. Hamilton is a volunteer worker with the Society. At right at the Society office are Hamilton (right) and Guthrie.

On the Web

At its Nov. 16 meeting, the Ohio Retirement Study Council (ORSC) heard presentations from three firms vying for the opportunity to advise the Council on the pension reform plans currently in pending legislation (S.B. 3 and H.B. 69). Following the presentations and question-and-answer sessions with each firm, the ORSC unanimously selected Pension Trustee Advisors (PTA) to conduct the review.

The Council questioned whether the three senior principals proposed to lead the project would be sufficient to accomplish all of the work, but the firm addressed this concern to the satisfaction of Council members. The PTA partners said they have no ongoing long-term contracts and will be able to focus their work on the Ohio pension funds. They said they expect to be able to complete their work by July to meet the ORSC’s time line. PTA referred to prior work done with CalSTRS and the city of New York to show its experience with larger public pension funds.

Pensions in the private sector could be at risk as the parent company of American Airlines, AMR Corp., filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy Nov. 29. AMR has about $8.3 billion in assets to cover $18.5 billion in pension benefits owed to active and retired employees, according to the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corp., the federal agency that insures pensions. The Wall Street Journal, Nov. 30.

On Nov. 29, in an editorial in The Wall Street Journal stated that New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo and government unions are “hatching a plan to use the state’s pension funds to bankroll public works like replacing the Tappan Zee Bridge” across the Hudson north of New York City. “Pension cash has been the holy grail of politicians for decades, and once they start tapping it, look out below,” The Journal said.

Maine is looking for more retirees. Maine’s Republican governor, Paul LePage, is proposing to exempt all public and private retiree pension income from state personal income tax. It would help main compete for retirees with places like Nevada and Florida, which have no personal income tax. The Wall Street Journal, 11/28/11.

Medicare’s official handbook for 2011 describes the yearly “wellness visit” as a “physical exam.” But the visit is mainly a discussion that provides a snapshot of the patient’s health and medical risk factors, states the September AARP Bulletin. Because of the confusion, some patients have paid from $70 to $400, instead of the so-called “free physical exam,” stated the Bulletin.

Got a new address, or other changes in your BGSURA membership information? Tell Paul Lopez plopez43569@gmail.com

What’s ahead

Dec. 15 – Holiday party at the North Baltimore home of Ralph Wolfe. RSVP information on page 1.
April 11, 2012 – Annual luncheon with Toledo retirees. At Stone Ridge. Prof. Tim Fuerst, BGSU Economics Department.