

BGSURA NEWSLETTER

Vol. 9, No. 3
January 2004



Bowling Green State University Retirees Association

15 College Park Office Bldg., BGSU
Bowling Green, OH 43403 • (419) 372-9696
Email: retirees@bgsu.edu • Web: www.bgsu.edu/faculty_staff/

Theologian is Jan. 21 speaker

Fr. James J. Bacik is university parish pastor

THE Rev. James J. Bacik, currently the pastor of Corpus Christi University Parish in Toledo, will be the speaker at the Jan. 21 luncheon meeting of the BGSU Retirees Association at First United Methodist Church, East Wooster street. His topic is "A Spirituality for Retirees."

Fr. Bacik has the MA from the Athenaeum of Ohio, an MS from Fordham University and a doctorate of theology from the University of Oxford. He was a part-time lecturer at BGSU in 1978-80.

A recipient of the Archbishop Paul J. Hallinan Award in "recognition of his extraordinary support of Campus Ministry through his teaching, writing, creative programming and unwavering dedication," Fr. Bacik is one of only four individuals who have received that honor in the 25-year history of the Catholic Campus Ministry Association. □



• *The Rev. James J. Bacik*

What's ahead

- **March 17, 2004** – Prof. Lucy Long, Popular Culture, on Irish music.
- **May 19, 2004** – "Power of Music for Positive Change."

The Stang Report

BY GENEVIEVE STANG

AS OF this date, no definitive action has been taken on HB227 and SB133, bills which affect the future of the STRS, PERS and other retirement systems in the state. Both bills were passed. However, the differences between the two bills were such that resolving them in conference was not possible before the break.

It is rumored that the Governor wants to add appointees as a means of a compromise for the "Buy Ohio" provision. It is important to let the Governor and other legislators know that the retirement systems need to remain independent, additional political influence is not needed, and our financial resources should not be diminished.

We need to support increasing the number of retirees on the boards and avoiding domi-

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○ **Reservation Form for BGSURA's Jan. 21 Luncheon** ○
WEDNESDAY, Jan. 21, 2004 • Reservation Deadline Friday, Jan. 16!
1st United Methodist Church. 11:30-Noon: Check-in and socializing. Noon: Luncheon.
NOTE: Reservations at \$8 per person MUST BE MADE by Friday, Jan. 16.

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, JAN. 16.** Telephone 419-352-8360



• Margaret and Duane Tucker

You've heard about Duane; Now here's Margaret

BY JAN PALLISTER

IT IS certainly rather questionable that anyone in BGSURA would not know who Margaret Tucker is. However, I think I can tell you a few things about her that you didn't know.

Margaret was born in Mt. Hope, Kansas, and spent her childhood on a farm near this town with a population of 500 and land "as flat as Northwest Ohio." A depression victim, like most of us, she tells me that her childhood was not easy. In the third grade, for example, she owned three dresses — all homemade; and her underwear was made from flour sacks. Two of the dresses were for school and one was her Sunday go-to-meetin' dress. Besides, as she was an only child, she was somewhat lonely most of the time, although she had great times with her grandmother, who was her playmate and her buddy.

Now, all we can say to that is "you've come a long way, baby." For Margaret received her associate in Fine Arts from what is now Denver University in 1943 and her B.S. in Education from Emporia (Kansas) State University in 1945. We will get to her illustrious career in a moment, but now is the appropriate time to say that it was at the Emporia night acting class that she met Duane — our former WBGU-TV director — to whom she has been married for 58 years.

While a student at ESU, Margaret was producer-announcer for a children's program on KTSW, a commercial radio station affiliated with the Mutual Radio Network. Later, she conducted a "Shop Scout" program for an Emporia department store on KTSW, writing and announcing the program. From 1945 to 1946 she was an instructor at ESU, where she taught sections of Fundamentals of Speech. In 1958-59 she worked for KOAC-TV, an ETV station operated at Oregon State University, Corvallis, by the General Extension Division of the Oregon System of Higher Education. Her work as a half-time continuity writer consisted primarily

of preparing program promotion copy. From 1962 to 1970 she was WFOB's Women's Program Director, producing and announcing a 40-minute program five days per week. She then became the Director of the Northwest Ohio Education Television Foundation (located on the BGSU campus), a position she held from 1970 until her retirement from this post in 1984.

During this period Margaret was also involved in proclaiming the importance of television as an educational tool. In this capacity she became editor of *Scanner*, a monthly newsletter sent to all administrators and teachers served by NWOET, and wrote *Knowing and Growing*, a teacher's resource guide to an elementary television series on health. She was also creator and executive producer for *News Six*, a weekly news program written and performed by sixth graders in Northwest Ohio schools and broadcast on WBGU. Besides, Margaret was behind the raising of enough money to finance the first addition to the TV station.

Margaret Tucker has been recognized through many awards and honors. She was the first woman named by the Governor to the All Ohio School Board (1972). She has also received BGSU's Merit Award (1975) and in the same year the Abe Lincoln Award to Distinguished Broadcasters. She was named Employer of the Year (1979) and also Woman of the Year by the Chamber of Commerce (1985). This is not to mention the Ohio Educational Broadcasting Network Commissioner's Award (1986); the Ohio Educational Library/Media Association Award of Merit (1987) and the AAUW's Outstanding Community Leader Award "recognizing a non-member" (1991). She holds membership in the honorary societies Phi Theta Kappa, Pi Delta Kappa, and Kappa Delta Pi.

In 1984 Margaret retired as director of WNOET, but she stayed on at WBGU for six years as consultant and assistant to the director. She retired officially in 1990. "Retired" is not an operative word here, however. Margaret has also been active in Pro Musica, in the Four Corners Garden Club and particularly in the city's Parks and Recreation and vice-president of the Parks and Recreation Foundation and the Bowling Green State University Retirees Association. She and Duane were honorary co-chairs of the Wood County District Public Library Fund drive.

But that's not all! A member of the Executive, Finance and Chair of Program Committee of the Wood County Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services Board, she co-chaired a levy drive for this organization. She is a continuing member of the Wood County Hospital Guild and one of the organizers of Coalition for Green Space, which raised the funds to purchase 22 acres adjacent to Wintergarden Park.

Margaret and Duane have raised a son (Todd) and a daughter (Margaret). They are grandparents of two granddaughters with three great grandchildren.

You would think there has been little travel in her life. Yet she has been on almost every continent. (In fact it was in Africa I really came to know Margaret and Duane.) She loves to read, to attend theater and concerts, and, as those of us who know her will attest, to decorate and redecorate their home. □

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

Passings

Sam Cooper, BGSURA founder, swim coach

SAMUEL M. Cooper, who coached the Bowling Green State University swim team to six Mid-American Conference titles and chaired the health and physical education department for 24 years, died Dec. 12 at Blakely Care Center, Bowling Green. He was 89. Heart trouble was suspected as the cause of death.

Dr. Cooper founded the BGSU Retirees Association in 1995 and served as its first leader.

As head swim coach from 1946 until 1963, he led the team to a 160-49-1 record and winning the MAC title from 1956 through 1960 and in 1962.

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• Dr. Sam burned the torch at his home during Olympic years.

The Stang Report

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nation by one organization.

Rep. Latta and Sen. Gardner appeared in an open forum sponsored by a BGSU Faculty Senate committee. Rep. Latta reviewed the problems faced by the retiree systems. Sen. Gardner made clear his understanding of the problem and his belief that the addition of the Treasurer on each of the bills would not go through. Questions from the audience brought up concern for the composition, election and term length of the STRS Board. In addition, concern for HB337, which allows for expansion of the Alternative Retirement Program, was expressed with the view that adding additional opportunities would dilute the financial standing of the systems.

Sen. Gardner indicated that he had not heard much opposition to this bill. Thus, if you have concerns about the Alternative Retirement Program be certain to let legislators know. (My apologies for the error made in Sen. Gardner's e-mail address listed in the Legislative alert that was distributed when soliciting your help in alerting legislators regarding HB227 and SB133. Correct: [ra_gard@mailr.sen.state.oh.us]. Names and address of legislators are at the ORTA website: <http://www.orta.org>.

The Health Care Advocates, the 14 organizations that have concerns about STRS

Health care programs, was to consider a coalition of all five Ohio retirement systems with the view of considering potential savings with a combined health care program. We need to monitor this to avoid having the legislators consider this as an opportunity to combine all five retirement boards.

At the December meeting of the STRS Board, the annual audit report was presented with an indication that there were no instances of non-compliance. Also, it was reported that service credit purchases doubled in that period, more than \$3 billion was paid in benefits, including \$456 million in health care benefits.

It was reported that baby boomers are working longer, and the choice of the defined contribution and combined plans remains steady — 14 percent choosing these plans rather than the Defined Benefit Plan. It was reported that operating expenses continue to decrease (13.7 percent) and that staff salary was down.

At the federal level, confusion about what the MEDICARE legislation means to us remains, but it doesn't go into effect until 2006. It is important to let senators and others know that mandatory Social Security is not good for Ohio.

Thank you for your assistance in letting our legislators, State and Federal, know where we stand.

The annual meeting of OCHER has been planned for April 28. □

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

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Who's Who — BGSURA
BGSURA Office,
15 College Park Office Bldg.
(419) 372-9696
www.bgsu.edu/faculty_staff/
E-mail: retirees@bgnnet.bgsu.edu

Note: All telephone numbers require a 419 prefix.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President, Roger Anderson, 354-6451
rogerca@bgnnet.bgsu.edu
Vice President, Joan Gordon, 354-6648
jhgordon@dacor.net
Secretary, John Hiltner, 353-3615
jhiltner@wcnet.org
Treasurer, Elfreda Rusher, 352-4579
emrusher@dacor.net
OCHER Representatives
Genevieve Stang, 352-5534,
ges@dacor.net
Richard Edwards, 353-4135
redwards@wcnet.org

DIRECTORS

Dennis Anderson, 385-0441
Janet Lundy Barga, 288-9036
Don Bright, 352-8360
mardon@wcnet.org
Robert K. Clark, 352-2191
Richard Edwards, 353-4135
redwards@wcnet.org
Rebecca Eninger, 352-6072
reninger@wcnet.org
Robert E. Kreienkamp, 353-4376
kamp@wcnet.org
Harold I. Lunde, 352-3929
hlunde@cba.bgsu.edu
Phyllis Oster, 352-4360
poster@bgnnet.bgsu.edu
Dolores Reynolds, 352-3688
sdmkap@aol.com
Wallace Pretzer, 352-8057
waldipret@wcnet.org
Karl Vogt, 352-5574
karlvogt@wcnet.org

COMMITTEES

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Dolores Reynolds, co-chairs
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Editor, Jim Gordon, 352-8175
jrgordon@dacor.net

Associate, Joan Gordon, 354-6648
jhgordon@dacor.net

President's Corner

By Dr. Roger Anderson

WELCOME to 2004! 2003 seemed like a whirlwind, internationally, nationally and at the local and personal level. It was a good year for BGSURA with a strong membership base, a good series of luncheons and programs, and an active and supportive group of officers, board and committee members. Personally, July was a highlight, with my marriage to Betty Jean Bourrillion in Hawaii, where we honeymooned. We also consolidated households and moved to our new home on Truman.

In November, BGSURA had an excellent turnout for the luncheon and program. Bowling Green's Mayor John Quinn gave a witty and informative brief history of city government and an update on the state of the city.

After the November program a number of us assembled at the newly remodeled Kohl Hall on campus to receive a tour of the facilities and an overview of the Chapman Community and the Partners on Content and Community programs.

Also in November Richard Edwards and Genevieve Stang, our OCHER representatives, and I attended the Ohio Council of Higher Education Retirees Board meeting in



• Dr. Anderson

Columbus. We continued to work on the strategic plan, heard about the affiliation of OCHER with the Ohio Retired Teachers Association, and received a thorough analysis of Substitute Ohio House Bill 227 and Substitute Ohio Senate Bill 133, each of which, if passed, would have substantial impact on the retirement systems.

Early in December Genevieve Stang and I were invited to a meeting of the BGSU Faculty Senate's Committee on Professional Affairs to address our concerns regarding House Bill 227 and Senate Bill 133. On Dec. 12 the Committee on Professional Affairs invited Representative Robert Latta and Senator Randy Gardner to speak on House Bill 227 and Senate Bill 133 at an open forum on the BGSU campus. Thanks to active and retired members of the retirement systems, the forum was well-attended. The session was informative and helpful.

Shortly before the holidays, the university, the community and BGSURA lost a long-time leader, friend, and advocate, Dr. Samuel M. Cooper. Sam founded the Bowling Green Retirees Association in 1995 and was our first leader. He served on the Board and as our representative to OCHER until 2002. We will miss his leadership, his knowledge of campus and community history, his insights, and his humor.

Place Jan. 21 on your calendar and come to the First United Methodist Church for lunch and what promises to be an excellent program by Fr. Jim Bacik. I heard Father Bacik speak at the City tribute to Martin Luther King several years back, and he was outstanding. □

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

Passings • continued

He was department chair from 1949 until his retirement in 1975. He started intercollegiate soccer, lacrosse, and hockey programs, former Coach Mickey Cochrane said. While Dr. Cooper was chairman, the department graduated more health and physical education majors than any other school in the state, Cochrane said.

Dr. Cooper was inducted into the BGSU Athletic Hall of Fame in the mid-1970s and the Oberlin College Hall of Fame in 1989 and named a BGSU honorary alumnus in 1977.

BGSU named its new swimming pool for Dr. Cooper, who was influential in getting the school to name things after others, Cochrane said.

Dr. Cooper skated in ice shows at the arena and performed duets with Scott Hamilton.

In 1936, Dr. Cooper went to the Berlin Olympics to take part in an exhibi-

tion of American sports. In Olympic years, he put an exhibit in front of his home, with a gas torch that he lighted at the beginning and put out at the end of the games.

Dr. Cooper was born Jan. 29, 1914, in Bellevue. He graduated from Bellevue High School in 1932 and Oberlin College, where he was class president, in 1936. He received a master's from New York University in 1937 and a doctorate from Western Reserve University in 1955. Cooper taught and coached in Sandusky and Bellevue public schools. He was a World War II Navy veteran.

In 1939 he married Louise C. Stapf. She died in 1987.

Dr. Cooper had been president of the St. Mark's Lutheran Church council, the Wood County Mental Health Board of Directors, and the Wood County Heart Association.

Among his survivors are his wife of 16 years, Marilyn Cooper, and daughter, Emily Welty. □

• Based on a report in The Blade, Toledo.

• **LENORE ESCHEGOR**, Bowling Green, died Sept. 11. After 28 years of service, she retired in 1985 as food service director of the Student Union.

• **DELORES A. BRIM**, died Sept 9. She had worked for the BG News and in the library and telecommunications department.

• **DAVID WEIS**, Bowling Green, professor in human development and family studies, died Sept 5. □

Computer troubles?

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

BGSURA Online
www.bgsu.edu/faculty_staff