WHEN it comes to blowing his own horn, no one does it better than James George, of Bowling Green, who will demonstrate his ability for BGSU retirees at the Jan. 17 luncheon at First United Methodist Church, East Wooster Street.

A BGSU alumnus, George will present a program on the euphonium, the musical instrument to which he was introduced as a BGSU music major after Prof. David Glassmire persuaded the freshman George that he would do better on the euphonium (or baritone, as it is sometimes called) than on the trumpet. George was started on the trumpet by his sixth-grade music teacher at Wauseon’s Elm Street School.

At BGSU, Prof. Glassmire emphasized his point by retrieving an old silver euphonium from a closet although George had planned on majoring in trumpet. The switch worked. As a freshman, George was featured as a soloist when the BGSU Concert Band went on tour.

George, who was raised in Wauseon, retired as band director after 25 years at Wauseon, previously teaching at schools in New London, Indian Lake and Grand Rapids. He earned a master’s from Colorado State in Greeley.

Accompanying George will be pianist Norma Stark, who retired in 1999 after a 30-year career teaching music in school districts in Ohio and Kansas. Her last teaching assignment was in the Eastwood School District. Stark earned her bachelors in music education at Ohio State University and a master’s in elementary education from BGSU.
Mark Kelly: Students called him ‘Chief’  

By Jan Pallister

Mark S. Kelly, Director of Bands Emeritus, served Bowling Green State University as Director of Bands from 1966 until his retirement in 1994, continuing to teach in the College of Musical Arts as a Professor of Music Education in the University’s Supplemental Retirement Program until 1996. As Director of Bands he guided all aspects of the Symphonic, Concert, Marching and Athletic Bands.

And, as you no doubt know, under his direction the BGSU Symphonic Band appeared regularly on state, regional and national stages!

Born in Centerville, Iowa, Mark received his education at the University of Iowa. Prior to coming to Bowling Green, he taught for fifteen years in the Iowa communities of Clarinda and Centerville and one year at the University of Iowa as a Graduate Assistant Director of Bands.

Mark was voted BGSU Faculty Man of the Year in 1972, received the Distinguished Teacher Award in 1978, the Edwin Franko Goldman Award (presented by the American School Band Director’s Association for outstanding contribution to the advancement of school bands in 1981); and in 1992, he received the Undergraduate Student Government Faculty Excellence Award from the College of Musical Arts for Outstanding Contributions to BGSU in the areas of teaching, research and service. Prof. Kelly also received the BGSU Pro Musica Award for Exceptional Service to Students in 1994. And, in 1995, the Ohio Music Educators Association named him the Outstanding Music Educator of the Year.

So outstanding were Mark’s achievements that upon his retirement, the BGSU Board of Trustees (responding to student-generated requests) voted to name the instrumental rehearsal room the “Mark S. Kelly Instrumental Rehearsal Hall.” And in February 2002, Mark was elected to the Ohio Chapter of Phi Beta Mu, the International Bandmasters Fraternity Hall of Fame. In December 2003, he was awarded the Midwest International Band Orchestra Clinic’s Medal of Honor. The Medal of Honor was established in 1962 for the purpose of recognizing those persons who have made meritorious contributions to bands and orchestras. Recipients of this citation are selected for their conspicuous efforts, world-wide recognition and continuing influence in the development and improvement of these ensembles. This Medal of Honor is a symbolic recognition of the respect and esteem which the individual has earned during the course of his or her professional career and is evidence of the gratitude which the Midwest Clinic holds for the individual. (Mark has been written up in “Faces of Midwest: Mark S. Kelly,” Midwest Motifs [May/June 2006]: 7-8, but we doubt the picture there is as good as ours.)

Now, our bandmaster has certainly not been idle since his retirement. In addition to the work that brought such honors as we have just mentioned, Mark is currently a vice-president of the Midwest International Band and Orchestra Clinic and holds membership in

• Mark and Helen Kelly. Photo by Clif Boutelle.

• Mark Kelly and Marching Band, 1991. Photo by Photography Services
No more personal charge accounts with Bursar’s Office

CHARGING goods and services to a personal account at the BGSU Bursar’s Office no longer is possible, according to a Dec. 7 E-mail announcement to faculty and staff by Dr. Christopher Dalton, senior vice president for finance and administration. The change in procedure was effective Jan. 2.

Instead, personnel, including retirees who have a photo ID card with a working magnetic stripe on the back, may choose to “load” their cards to “create a pool of money for their personal use” when charging goods or services on campus, Dr. Dalton said.

Or retirees, faculty and staff may pay with cash, check or credit card and show their photo ID or P00 card for a 10 percent discount where appropriate (Bookstore, for example, but not for computer repair through Information Technology Services or Jerome Library services). Not all offices or departments will accept credit cards, however.

An Account Management Center (similar to an ATM machine) is available near the Bowen-Thompson Union Information Desk to check whether the stripe on an old photo ID or P00 card will hold a magnetic charge. The BG1 Card Services office is just inside the Bookstore main entrance on the first floor of the Union.

Adding ‘bucks’

The photo ID card also is called a “BG1” card. But after funds have been loaded, the card becomes a “BG1 Bucks” card with “stored value” (a prepaid debit card) and can be used for purchases on campus (vending machines and food courts, for example) and at an increasing number of off-campus vendors such as Domino’s, Wooster Street Big Boy and Student Book Exchange. To load an ID card by mail, a form is available at bgsu.edu/bg1card/maildeposit.pdf

For parents of students who ask “How much money should I put on my son/daughter’s BG1 Bucks account per semester?” the University offers as a recommendation these amounts: Textbooks, $550; school/art supplies, $75; photocopies/printing, $20; dining and food services off campus (a meal plan is required for most students living on campus), $300; BGSU apparel, $65; and miscellaneous, $25, for a total of $1,060. Laundry and photocopying-printing services are coming soon.

Dr. Dalton said the “changes and new services will bring additional convenience while moving the University forward and into alignment with current ‘best practices’ in financial management and state regulations.”

The Bursar’s Office will continue to handle transactions such as issuance of parking tickets or a library fine. The Bursar’s Office will notify those affected by E-mail that there is an item on their account.

The BG1 Card Services manager, Jean Coffield, may be reached at 419-372-4127 or jcoffie@bgsu.edu. Card URL is www.bgsu.edu/bg1card/.

Mark Kelly continued

many significant professional music organizations. In fact, he is a Past-President of the American Bandmasters Association. In October 2006, he was guest conductor at the University of Nebraska, Omaha. He has also recently conducted the Athens High School band in Raleigh N.C., and has performed in many other places as well. Mark is quite active in helping various high schools with their bands and was especially busy with this activity last spring. And, too, he and his wife Helen very much enjoy attending music conventions around the country.

Speaking of Helen, a word about her is certainly in order. She worked in the Student Health Center of BGSU from 1972 to 1993 as a medical laboratory technician. In that capacity she feels she related to the students, and “calmed them down.” She was Honorary Band Mother, and advisor for some 20 years to Tau Beta Sigma, a women’s national band service sorority. These days she’s a great exerciser.

As is my habit, I asked the “chief” about his family, and learned that he and Helen are the parents of three daughters: Karen, Martha, and Barbara, and that through them they have four grandchildren. They like to travel, especially to the American Bandmasters Conventions, which they have attended in Florida, California, Wisconsin, and elsewhere. They vacation summers at the Lake of the Ozarks.

Aren’t you surprised to learn that they take a vacation?

• Janis L. Pallister, Ph.D., L.D., is Distinguished University Professor Emeritus of Romance Languages. Her E-mail address is jpallister@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 the math office, 372-2729.

Applebaum has responded to more than 1,000 calls for help since he was retained in 2000 by BGSU Provost Linda Dobb. Three-fifths of the calls were made to retirees’ homes.

• Applebaum
Ohio Council of Higher Education Retirees

- The meeting Nov. 8, 2006, included representation from STRS, ORTA and ICU on the topic of lobbying legislators effectively. The panel emphasized the importance of staying aware of emerging issues, building alliances, working for and against proposals, laying the groundwork for future action, defusing the opposition by being preemptive, maintaining communication with supporters as well as the alliance and keeping information concise, consistent and positive.
- An STRS representative reported a 4.9 percent increase in the financial situation resulting from the unfunded liability period reduced to a lower-than-projected payroll growth. The STRS financial picture continues to be positive except for interest assumptions which could necessitate a draw on monies from the health stabilization fund.
- An ORTA representative reported a 4.9 percent increase in the financial situation resulting from the unfunded liability period reduced to a lower-than-projected payroll growth. The STRS financial picture continues to be positive except for interest assumptions which could necessitate a draw on monies from the health stabilization fund.
- Geoffrey Meyers, the last of the three appointed investment experts, has resigned. Two seats remain unfilled. Executive Director Asbury’s contract has been extended.
- Pension benefits will be discussed at the Board meetings scheduled for Dec. 13-14, 2006.
- The STRS financial picture continues to be positive except for payroll growth which, although up slightly, is below the actuarial assumption which could necessitate a draw on monies from the health stabilization fund.

Ohio Retired Teachers Assn., Inc.

- ORTA continues to work with STRS and HCA meeting with legislators and promoting the proposed health care funding initiative.
- The OCHER communication network will focus on Medicare and Social Security.

Ohio Public Employees Retirement System

- Board election results: Kimberly Russell is to represent state college and university employees, and Sharon Downs was re-elected to represent retirees.
- Strong 2005 investment returns and implementation of an active management approach to the health care program has had positive effects extending the solvency period to 18 years. Plans call for a pilot wellness program with financial incentives. In accordance with HB98, OPERS began offering Life with Multiple Survivors (Annuity Plan F) effective Oct. 27, 2006. Support continues for HB272 as provisions would positively impact OPERS pension funding and health care.

Legislation — Federal

- The 109th Congress passed a massive tax and trade bill (Vietnam and Haiti). Only temporary spending legislation was passed, leaving an unfinished budget for the Democrats. The bill revives a variety of tax breaks set to expire.
- Of importance to retirees, bundled with the bill, was a halt to a 5 percent cut in Medicare payments to doctors scheduled to go into effect Jan. 1.
- Also included was approval of expanded offshore drilling in the Gulf of Mexico.
- The new Congress will face continuing important issues, while under a mandate for change and overshadowed by efforts to curtail terrorism and settle the Iraq situation.

Legislation — State

- In the midst of scrambling to enact proposed legislation, before the scheduled Dec. 21 closing, the Ohio General Assembly gave attention to the 2-year 1.8 million capital budget with its wish list of construction, renovation, equipment projects for schools, college/universities, government agencies and legislators’ pet projects.
- Efforts are being made to support Taft’s Core Education legislation to implement a high school curriculum heavy in math and science.
- It is also likely that endorsement will be given to legislation protecting the Great Lakes from water diversion.
- Taft’s veto of the recently passed law preempting local gun laws has been overturned. Consideration of the red-light camera bill (HB56), which places restrictions on traffic enforcement rules, could face a Taft veto.
- It is unknown what will come out of the mad scramble for action prior to the January date for working with a Democrat governor. The same can be said for what promises to be an interesting

Genevieve Stang

Association of School Business Officials that has promise to resolve school funding issues with the potential for property tax relief.

Dates for your calendar:

- March 14, combined BGSURA/WCRTA legislative meeting; April 27, ORTA legislative day in the Ohio State House.

State Teachers Retirement System — Board changes

- Taiya Hayden, a Columbus kindergarten teacher, was selected by current Board members to fill the continuing seat vacated by Billirakis until Aug. 31.
- The deadline for return of petitions for the spring ’07 election for the four-year term is Feb. 23.

Financials

- Geoffrey Meyers, the last of the three appointed investment experts, has resigned. Two seats remain unfilled. Executive Director Asbury’s contract has been extended.
- Pension benefits will be discussed at the Board meetings scheduled for Dec. 13-14, 2006.
- The STRS financial picture continues to be positive except for payroll growth which, although up slightly, is below the actuarial assumption which could necessitate a draw on monies from the health stabilization fund.

Health care

- Reimbursements for Medicare Part B have been returned to the 2003 level, necessitating an increased cost for recipients. STRS staff drafted language for technical changes to replace those stripped from HB 272.
- Legislation designed to provide a dedicated health care revenue stream was introduced Dec. 14, 2006. More on page 5.

...and the horns they blaze away...

The title of a popular song recorded in late 1945 by legendary crooner Bing Crosby — a tongue-in-cheek story of an Irish band written by O’Connor and Stanford. Released on Decca

Records in 1946, the song became a top-10 hit for Crosby, still one of his most popular songs, states Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia.
Health care funding legislation introduced at last minute to increase teacher, employer contributions

Rep. Scott Oelslager (R-Canton) introduced the STRS-proposed health care bill Dec. 14, House Bill 707 carries with it the support of all the Health Care Advocates for STRS — a coalition of major management, professional and retired organizations representing Ohio's public K-12 and higher education teachers.

This member-driven initiative calls for increasing public teachers' contributions to STRS by 2.5 percent and th employees' contributions by 2.5 percent to create an ongoing, dedicated revenue stream for the STRS Ohio Health Care Program. These increases would be phased in over a five-year period, in .5 percent increments.

STRS noted that, given the short amount of time remaining in the current General Assembly, the bill probably will need to be reintroduced at the start of the 127th General Assembly that convenes in January. STRS said, "The introduction is a positive move forward that will set the stage for continued dialogue about this important initiative before the Legislature. We are grateful to Rep. Oelslager for agreeing to sponsor the bill and support continued health care for Ohio's current and future retired educators." □

• From a Dec. 15, 2006, STRS E-mail to members.
LIFE MEMBERS

Pamela C. Anderson    Thomas A. Hern
Betty Jean Anderson    Richard D. Hoare
Roger C. Anderson      James P. Hoy
Robert G. Berns       David J. Hoy
Josef Blass            Allen N. Kepke
Eloise E. Clark        Marilyn K. Leathers
Robert K. Clark        Park E. Leathers
Alta B. Codding        Harold I. Lunde
Beverly Coppler        Sarah J. Lunde
Suzanne Crawford       John G. Mermiarn
Richard A. Edwards     Marjorie L. Miller
Rebecca S. Eninger     Patricia I. Patton
Kenneth C. Frisch      Adelia M. Peters
James R. Gordon        David J. Pope
Joan H. Gordon         Richard E. Powers
Emma J. Hann           Diane Goodrich
William D. Hann         Pretzer
Wallace L. Pretzer
Deanna J. Radeloff
Jane S. Schimpf
Christine Sexton
Sylvia Smith
Robert R. Speers
Robert W. Thayer
Betty Vandersmissen
Janice L. Veitch
Russell A. Veitch
Janet Wilhelm
Ralph Haven Wolfe
Bonadine R. Woods
Nancy Wygant-Mills

Membership as of Nov. 16, 2006

Congratulations and thank you for your support of the BGSU Retirees Association!

BGSU Retirees Association

LIFE MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name ____________________________

Mailing address ____________________________

City __________________ State _______ Zip _______

Phone ____ - ____ - ______ E-mail __________________________

Check: PERS ____ STRS ____ Number of years at BGSU _______

Retirement year ____ Department/Office retired from ______________

Your membership in BGSURA gives you an important way to stay in touch with the University as well as with friends and former colleagues, through five luncheon meetings a year and through our regular newsletter. We welcome you all!

____ Life member ............... $150 _______

____ Life Associate member .... $ 75 _______

MAKE CHECKS payable to BGSURA and mail with this form to:
Harold Lunde
BGSURA Treas.
880 Country Club Dr.
Bowling Green
OH 43402-1602
NEWLY published book by retired BGSU music Prof. David J. Pope explores the relationship between science and religion. The book, *Interrupting Behavioral Evolution*, mediates the conflict between the two areas. “They’re not two different issues, just two sides of the same issue,” Pope said, and reconciling secular realities with religious beliefs “can be an exciting challenge.”

The author describes his 96-page book as an “anthropological chronicle that explores the forces drawing humankind to the brink of self-fulfillment as we race with the ever-growing threat of self-destruction.”

Pope, professor emeritus of performance studies, joined the BGSU faculty in 1963 and retired in 1996. He and his wife Ann moved to Chattanooga in 1998. A Minnesota native, Pope earned bachelor’s and master’s degrees from Florida State University, where he met his wife, a Tennessee native. The couple are volunteers with the Allied Arts of Greater Chattanooga. They played recently as a two-piano team at the Florida State University sponsored International Dohnányi Symposium (Pope studied under Ernst von Dohnányi at Florida State) and for the Edward Kileny Jr. Memorial Concert. While at BGSU, Pope earned an MBA and a commercial pilot’s license, which led him to concert management, university administration, business consultancies, and some flight instructing.

The book, 4x6 inches, may be ordered from Pope’s web site for $17.75, including shipping. Publisher of the book is Waldenhouse, of Walden, Tenn., which works with authors to help them put their words into print.

For more information: dpope@bgsu.edu or the author’s web site, www.davidpopebooks.com.

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**BGSURA seeking funds for Golden Book Award**

In a letter from BGSURA Pres. Roger Anderson to be mailed soon, members will be invited to contribute to the association-funded Golden Book Award.

“This award will be given to needy students to help them purchase books,” said Anderson. “The award will be given to a few students initially, but over time our goal is to continue building the fund to be in a position to make awards to students representing each college at BGSU.”

To date, $5,000 has been raised through personal commitments from BGSURA board members. The mailing will include a form and a return envelope to send a commitment directly to the BG SU Foundation.

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**At the Nov. 28 reception . . .**

- Pres. Sidney Ribeau, Don Boren (newly retired, Legal Studies), J. Douglas Smith, vice president, Advancement.

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**From music prof to author: David Pope, science and religion**

- David and Ann Pope along the Tennessee River.

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**BGSURA Newsletter • 7**
LAST week our 19-year-old cat Taffy passed away. She lived a good life and had become an integral part of our family. For the first time since 1970 I found myself petless. I vividly recall a cold February night in 1990 when a young couple from Perrysburg came to the door holding a two-year-old orange tabby cat. They said the elderly woman next door had recently died leaving no heirs. They had cats but did not want another one. The woman explained that she was taking a chemistry course from BGSU’s Dr. Peggy Hurst, a cat fancier herself, and Peggy told her she thought I needed a new cat. That was true because at the time my ex-wife and I had recently separated, and she took the cat Sandy and I took Winnie, the springer spaniel.

After I invited the Perrysburg couple into the house, Taffy immediately jumped out of the woman’s arms and onto my couch and started purring. I was hooked! Taffy spent the next month practically living on top of my refrigerator. I doubt she had ever seen a dog before, and it took awhile for her to get used to Winnie. After that they became good friends. They played together in my backyard on Lyn Road.

In December 1993 I acquired a beautiful one-year-old male Norwegian forest cat, Agate. Again Taffy had a difficult time adjusting to the newcomer, but gradually the three pets became good friends. I remember the time I looked out my back window and watched while Winnie, Taffy and Agate walked single file around my swimming pool. In 1997 Winnie died of cancer.

Although Taffy and Agate missed Winnie they became closer companions, sometimes fighting like sisters and brothers. Last spring Agate died of cancer at age 12.

Days after Taffy’s death while thumbing through old magazines to clean house before the end of the year, I discovered an article in the April 2006 issue of Kiwanis magazine entitled “Pet Sounds: The Sweet Connection Between Animals and Human Health.” The article explained that child psychologist Boris Levinson’s path-breaking research on the relationship between children’s health and pets led behavioral scientists in the late 1970s and early 1980s to conduct further research demonstrating that pre-schoolers who had pets showed greater social and verbal skills and greater empathy for others than those pre-schoolers without pets.

Since that time studies have demonstrated that having pets lowers adult blood pressure and reduces anxiety and stress. Pets help children with poor reading skills, and autistic children improve. Pets help the deaf, the blind, the physically impaired, those with emotional problems, and the elderly, particularly in nursing homes.

The article noted that in 1977 the Delta Foundation was founded in Portland, Ore., to provide research funds to study why animals are important to human health and well-being. Today the Delta Society in Bellevue, Wash., with help from 8,000 volunteers across the nation continues the aim of “improving human health through service and therapy animals.”

Although Winnie, Agate and Taffy were not therapy animals, they did provide great comfort and companionship to the Anderson household. We will wait to acquire another pet, but chances are we will not be long without one.

The best to you all in 2007!

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