

BGSURA NEWSLETTER

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March 2004



Bowling Green State University Retirees Association

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St. Patrick's Day program to show Irish-Appalachian links in music, dance

THE March meeting of the BGSU Retirees Association Wednesday, March 17, will feature the connections between Irish music and the old-time music of southern Appalachia.

Dr. Lucy Long, who teaches at the Center for Popular Culture Studies, is presenting the program with Steve O'Megan, of Maumee. They have performed together for over two years as part of the Root Cellar String Band, playing and singing at dances and festivals, coffee shops and churches, schools and senior centers, art galleries and sidewalks. □



• *This rickshaw-riding retired professor, Park Leathers, and his wife Marilyn are featured in this month's profile by Janis Pallister on page 2*

Play ball!

PLANS have been made for members of BGSURA and the Wood County Retired Teachers Association to attend the Toledo Mud Hens-Louisville Bats game June 22 at Fifth/Third Field in Toledo. Deadline to reserve the \$7 tickets is May 17. For more information: Helen Dermer, 419-352-8822; 1210 Lyn Rd., BG.

What's ahead

- **MARCH 5** – Deadline to reserve tickets to the March 12 Legislative Luncheon, Wood County Retired Teachers Assn. Elks Lodge, 200 Campbell Hill Rd., BG. \$9 to Nancy Buchanan, 310 Martindale, BG.
- **MARCH 16** – Presentation on "The Patriot Act and Implications for Public Universities." 9:30 a.m., 202B Bowen-Thompson Union.
- **MARCH 17** – BGSURA Luncheon Meeting with Lucy Long, Popular Culture, and Steve O'Megan.
- **MARCH 31** – Annual Luncheon with Toledo and Medical College retirees. Noon, Inverness Club, Toledo. Program: New Maumee River Crossing Bridge.
- **MAY 17** – Deadline to reserve \$7 tickets for June 22 Mud Hens vs. Louisville game. Helen Dermer, 419-352-8822; 1210 Lyn Rd., BG. TARTA bus from Perrysburg.
- **MAY 19** – BGSURA Luncheon Meeting. Program: "Power of Music for Positive Change." □

○ Reservation Form for BGSURA's March 17 Luncheon ○

WEDNESDAY, March 17, 2004 • Reservation Deadline Friday, March 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, March 12.

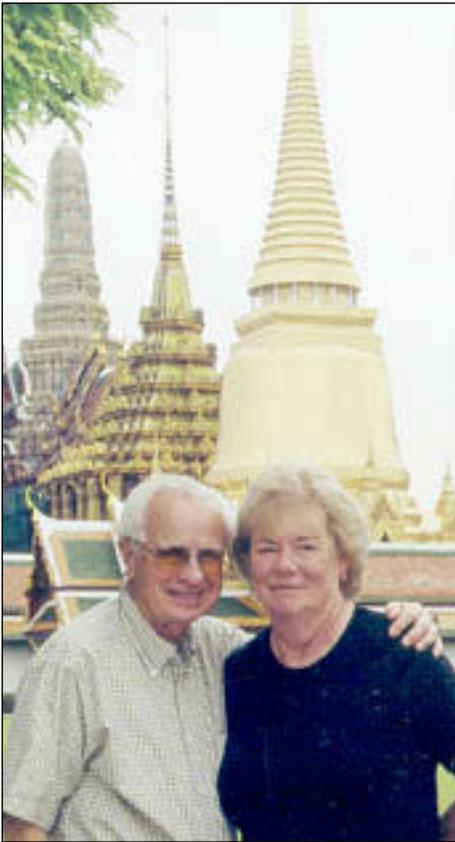
Name _____

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, MARCH 12. Telephone 419-352-8360



• Park and Marilyn Leathers in Bangkok

Park Leathers does not stay 'parked!'

BY JAN PALLISTER

THAT'S right: Park Leathers does not stay "parked" — especially since his retirement. You will all recall Park's distinguished career as a Professor of Auditing and Financial Accounting at BGSU, from which he retired in October 1995, followed by three years supplemental teaching. Since then, he and his wife Marilyn, who retired in September 2003 from a part-time position in the Registration Office, have been on the road a great deal.

Just listen to this: Following Park's 1995 retirement, they started their wanderings with a six-week driving trip through the American West and have averaged three to four trips per year since. They have been in all 50 states and all of the Canadian provinces except the Northwest Territories, Nunavut, Newfoundland and Labrador; they have seen all 50 statehouses and the provin-

cial capitols (and been in most of them), and have visited the graves of all of the deceased presidents.

They had always done a lot of traveling in North America, but they have markedly increased their overseas travel, which, prior to that, had basically consisted

of a joint survey trip to Europe and some overseas Army service and employment on Leathers's part prior to academe. By Park's count they have been in 32 countries since retirement.

Doubtless, a highlight was their trip in 2002 to Las Vegas for their daughter's wedding. They went to Las Vegas via Chicago, western Colorado, Mesa Verde, Lake Powell, Bryce Canyon, and returned via Sequoia NP, Yosemite, and Yellowstone.

THIS PAST YEAR has found the Leathers still investigating North America. In May they were in Philadelphia, Atlantic City, Chincoteague, Baltimore; in August in Mackinaw City area; in August-September 2003 in Maine and the Maritime Provinces of Canada.

And while we're still on North America, we should note that for the past five years they've rented a condo on North Padre Island near Corpus Christi. They drive down each year, taking different routes as they go.

Park and Marilyn are not chauvinists, though. They count among their most precious memories overseas visits to San Juan, Puerto Rico, and a cruise from there through the Caribbean and the Panama Canal, with stops in Caracas, the San Blas Islands, Cartagena, Martinique, and the Virgin Islands.

In the winter of 1997, they were in Northern India (Delhi, Jaipur, the Taj, Khajuraho, Varanasi) and Kathmandu,



• Park Leathers in The 1955 KEY: College of Liberal Arts, Book and Motor, Pre-Law Club, Men's Glee Club, Cinema Club.

Nepal. They count this trip as their favorite; it is the most exotic place they have ever set foot in. The Leathers have seen many other countries between 1997 and 2003: Cancun, Mexico; Mainland Greece and a cruise to Greek Isles. They also have been in Turkey, Hawaii, China (including Tibet and Hong Kong), with an extension in Bali.

Park and Marilyn have also gone via Trafalgar to Portugal (Lisbon, Albufeira, Evora, Viseu, Porto, Tomar) — where Park was able to practice his Portuguese, which he learned while he worked in Rio de Janeiro long before. From Portugal, it was on to Spain, and then home, but not for long.

BESIDES TRAVELING, Park, who received his bachelor's magna cum laude from BGSU and his master's and Ph.D. from the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania, loves to read — especially history and biography — and to collect recordings of Broadway musicals. His favorite is Steven Sondheim. Marilyn likes to read, too, and — like many of us women — to cook. Speaking of which, some of you will remember Marilyn Leathers Solt, Park's late sister, who earned her Ph.D. at BGSU and then taught children's literature in the University's English Department. We remember her for her brilliance and her adeptness on the bicycle. (Parks thinks of her more as a walker than a cyclist, however.)

The Leathers explain that they want to see the world while they still have the health to do so. But, despite all the wandering, it is, after all, likely that they will be "parking" for a while now. A lifelong resident of Bowling Green, Park and his wife (who is from Chicago, where they married in 1969) have two daughters — Alisa Suelzer, who works for Owens Corning, and Lori Tretter, the assistant to our city administrator John Fawcett. Well, these two daughters had children in July and at Christmas — and Park and Marilyn, the grandparents, are hooked. □

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

The Stang Report

BY GENEVIEVE STANG

THERE has been limited legislative action due to focus on political maneuvering. Neither HB227 nor SB133 has seen action. Five scheduled committee hearings to consider reconciliation of the two bills have been cancelled. While it appears that including the Treasurer on each of the pension boards seems to be dropped, the "Buy Ohio" portion of the House bill remains. However, some legislators have indicated they would not approve the bill if it remains. There remain efforts to keep active members of the Board in the majority, but the Senate bill calls for the addition of another retired member. It is possible that resolution will not be reached and no action will be taken on the bills. We need to keep legislators aware of the importance of adding a second retiree member and that "Buy Ohio" would be expensive. There likely will be no action until after the March 2 primary.

HB 213, introduced with a similar bill introduced in the Senate, proposes exempting from Ohio income tax up to \$10,000 in Ohio or federal government employee retirement benefits, including military personnel retirement pensions. Hearings were in January by the House Ways and Means committee. The current allowance of \$200 per year has not been changed.

THE OHIO Retirement Study Council has reissued bids for audits of the pension systems. As for the Milliman Report suggesting the pension systems are inadequate to meet obligations, it has been reported that such reports paint a rather misleading picture. All retirement systems remain financially secure to pay all mandated pension benefits when they come due.

STRS has reported that its goal of maintaining a 10-year balance going forward has been accomplished. Also, the fund was extended one year to 2015. Last year the fund was solvent to 2008.

STRS also has indicated that it reported to the ORSC that pension funds should not be tied to short-term fluctuations in the market but rather a long-term approach should be considered.

Also stressed was that changes must address health care.

STRS investment funds have rebounded. There was a 24.1 percent return for 2003. STRS recently sold real estate that resulted in the largest profit from a single real estate transaction. STRS had partnered to build an office tower in downtown Boston in 2000. This has been sold with a \$191 million profit being made. About nine percent of STRS investments (\$54 billion) is in real estate and about 83 percent is managed internally.

The STRS Board has adopted new guidelines regarding speakers at their monthly meetings. In order to accommodate out of town speakers, monthly meetings will convene at 3 p.m. on Thursdays and public comment will be invited then. Signing up to speak can be made at any time that day for a 3-minute time. They will accept a maximum of 20 speakers.

ALTHOUGH a year-long procedure had been developed and announced for selecting a new executive director, the Board named Damon Asbury, interim director, as the new director on Feb. 18. Asbury joined STRS in January 2001. He had been superintendent of Worthington Schools and had previously worked with the Columbus City Schools from 1967-1991.

As for federal legislation, there remain concerns about mandated Social Security. Among its provisions, HR743 would allow states outside Social Security to elect a divided retirement plan with the stipulation that if a state selects such, all new hires must go under Social Security. This is seen as a back door attempt to force new hires into Social Security.

On April 6 in Perrysburg, Ohio Retired Teachers Association district members will vote on the affiliation of Ohio Council of Higher Education Retirees with ORTA.

The next meeting of the Ohio Council of Higher Education Retirees will be March 16 in Columbus. The annual meeting will be April 28. The agenda includes representative speakers from both PERS and STRS. Attendance by BGSURA members is encouraged. □

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

BGSURA NEWSLETTER

Who's Who — BGSURA

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15 College Park Office Bldg.
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Note: All telephone numbers require a 419 prefix.

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COMMITTEES

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Administrative, Diane Pretzer, chair
Benevolence, Dolores Reynolds, chair
Bylaws, Jan Pallister, chair
Membership, Clif Boutelle, chair
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Office Staffing, Phyllis Oster,
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Professional, Richard Edwards, chair
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President's Corner

By Dr. Roger Anderson

NOW that most of the snow has melted and it is the first week of March I'm thinking about preparing the garden for spring planting. I cannot wait.

Personally, it has seemed like a long winter, probably because my trips to warmer climes were limited to a week in Miami in January and a four-day trip to Alabama in February to attend a funeral.

Despite the long winter, BGSURA has been active. In January we had almost 80 for our luncheon and a fine program by the Rev. James Bacik of Toledo.

On Feb. 18 we conducted our quarterly board meeting and heard the budget is in excellent shape and that our membership has increased over last year. The Professional Committee reported on its progress towards completing the retirees handbook. The Program Committee announced that almost all of the programs have



• Dr. Anderson

been planned for the 2004-2005 season. The Board discussed and approved some word changes in the bylaws and sent them on to the Bylaws Committee for consideration.

The Nominating Committee is developing a slate of candidates for the April BGSURA board meeting. Up for election are the Vice-President, Secretary and six Board members. If you are interested in serving, notify Bob Clark, chair, 419-352-2191 or 1064 Village Dr., Bowling Green.

The calendar on page one calls attention to other luncheon programs worth attending this month: The Wood County Retired Teachers Legislative Luncheon March 12, with Ann Hanning, the new Ohio Retired Teachers Association Legislative Agent as the guest speaker; and the annual luncheon at the Inverness Club, Toledo, with the University of Toledo and Medical College retirees groups on March 31. A special mailing will provide details.

On Wednesday, April 28, the Ohio Council of Higher Education Retirees Association will hold its annual conference from 9:30 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. at STRS Ohio, 275 East Broad Street, Columbus. The focus of the conference will be "Health Care." The cost is \$15. Reservations should be made by April 14 to Myra West, State Route 43, Mogadore, OH 44260. □

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

Passings

- **KATHRYNSPANGLER**, Bowling Green, died Feb. 1. She had been a parking officer at the University for 35 years, retiring in 1993.
- **OLMASWANSON**, Bowling Green, died Jan. 12. She was retired from the University's Food Service area.
- **ALFRED DECKER IV**, Bowling Green, died Nov. 25, 2003. He was an assistant professor of philosophy at BGSU.
- **RANDY SOKOLL**, director of the BGSU Ice Arena since 1992, died Dec 31 at Wood County Hospital, Bowling Green.
- **BERT BIHN**, Bloomdale, died Nov. 15, 2003. He retired in 1970 after 17 years as a BGSU custodian.
- **CHLORIS HINESMAN**, former assistant registrar at BGSU, died Oct. 7, 2003, in Bowling Green.
- **BETTY MACKKEY**, Kenton, died Oct. 18, 2003. She had been an associate professor in the College of Health and Human Services, retiring in 1978.
- **GAROLD JIMISON**, Bowling

Green, died Oct. 12, 2003. He had worked at Forrest Creason Golf Course for 19 years, retiring in 1990.

- **KAROLYNN BETTS**, Bowling Green, died Sept. 29, 2003, at home. The widow of Ted Betts, College of Musical Arts, she had worked in the College of Technology.
- **RUTH WELLING**, Pemberville, died Feb. 19, 2003. She had been a waitress at BGSU.
- **HARRIET CUNNINGHAM**, widow of Don Cunningham, long-time Sports Information Director at the University, died Oct. 8, 2003, in Bowling Green. □

Retirees handbook nears completion

BGSURA member Harold Lunde is spearheading production of the *BGSU Retirees Handbook* by the BGSURA Professional Committee. A first draft already is completed. Topics include volunteering for service to BGSU, opportunities for volunteer service "in the community and beyond," employment after retirement, BGSURA, Medicare, University benefits for retirees, health, housing, financial and legal issues, post-retirement resources, address change and notification of death of a retiree or spouse. □

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. □

Membership updates

New members

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New address

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Address correction

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