A "STROLL" along Bowling Green’s Main Street awaits members at the Wednesday, March 16, luncheon meeting of the BGSU Retirees Association. The program, “Main Street Bowling Green: Past, Present and Future,” will be presented by Earlene Kilpatrick, director of Main Street Bowling Green, and Floyd Craft, one of the city’s leading entrepreneurs and a key player in...

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• Reservation Form for BGSURA’s March 16, 2005, Luncheon

   • Reservation Deadline Friday, March 11!

   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 11.

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 11. Telephone 419-352-8360
the revitalization of downtown Bowling Green.

The luncheon meeting will be held at the First United Methodist Church, East Wooster St., with check-in and socializing beginning at 11:30.

The revitalization of the city’s central business district began with the formation in the late 1990s of a Heritage 2000 committee chaired by banker Richard Gordon. The group persuaded local business, civic and government leaders to provide taxing authority for a capital improvements project covering 13 blocks centered on the city’s Four Corners (Main and Wooster streets). Included were new sidewalks and pavement, new street signs and lighting, upgraded off-street parking, planters and waste receptacles, and the conversion to underground wiring.

Residents will recall the months, if not years, of detours, excavations, plank sidewalks and assorted other frustrations as the downtown area was rebuilt.

With the reconstruction nearing completion, a Special Improvement District was established Oct. 1, 2000, to replace the Bowling Green Downtown Business Association. The newly formed SID, which has taxing authority, now helps “direct and oversee the downtown,” said Kilpatrick, in areas such as “daily cleanup, promotions, marketing and recruitment of business.”

Bowling Green has become a member of the National and Ohio Main Street programs (the National Main Street Center is part of the National Trust for Historic Preservation). Kilpatrick said Bowling Green’s participation “provides a powerful support system for local commercial district revitalization. Our Main Street program works to encourage downtown shopping and to improve the downtown’s image, appearance, and quality of business,” Kilpatrick said. “By organizing merchants, citizens, and city officials, Main Street Bowling Green has built a framework to keep downtown from the neglect and despair many other downtowns have fallen to.”

Main Street Bowling Green uses the “Four-Point Approach,” a comprehensive plan established by the national center:

- Design enhancement of the physical appearance of the business district.
- Organization to build consensus and cooperation.
- Promotion to market the downtown area to customers, potential investors and visitors.
- Economic restructuring to find ways to strengthen existing businesses and to meet new challenges.

Kilpatrick, a Lima, Ohio, native, previously was director of the Bowling Green Downtown Business Association. She attended Bowling Green State University. She also has worked for Heritage Inn, H&R Block, Community Nursing Home and the Wood County Board of MR/DD.

Craft, who owns Ben Franklin, Ace Hardware and For Keeps, began his retailing career with the W. T. Grant Co. in his hometown of Washington, Pa. His 20 years with the Grant Co. (he was a district manager in Champaign, Ill.) ended in 1976 when he moved to Bowling Green and bought the Ben Franklin store. Daughter Amy Craft Ahrens manages the For Keeps store.
By Genevieve Stange
ges@dacor.net

E F F O R T S to present a legislative view has become quite a task—much like trying to look through a frosty glass with the smoke of uncertainty swirling around solid objects (familiar reoccurring issues) making unclear just what is going on. The picture is similar at both federal and state levels.

Those topics which are clearly present but incomplete as far as action include: social security, medicare, tax reform, health care, and education all with limited resources. Attempts are being made to establish workable budgets in a very tight financial scene and also face the war on terror.

Legislators have many critical decisions to make as they work through these challenges. Continuous monitoring will be needed to thwart efforts to use already limited pension funds to ease budget woes and successfully protect pension systems from being diluted or removed. Our support is needed not only to encourage legislators (state and federal) to continue to recognize the needs of retirees but also to encourage them as they face the daunting task of balancing needs, wants and possibilities for the many people they represent.

FEDERAL

Social Security Reform possibilities are very unclear. One thing that does seem clear is the possibility that those drafting reform legislation might consider requiring state and local employees not now covered to participate even though this might solve only about one-tenth of the $3.1 trillion, 75-year deficit. Sen. Voinovich continues to make efforts to ensure that mandatory coverage is not established. The Coalition to Preserve Retirement Security, of which STRS Ohio is a member, also is working to keep mandatory coverage out of the picture. The cost to Ohio of mandatory coverage of newly hired state and local government employees would be nearly $4 billion over the first five years.

GPO/WEP (Government Pension Offset/Windfall Elimination Provision). Rep. McKeon (R-CA) and Berman (D-CA) have reintroduced legislation from last session to completely repeal both GPO and WEP. Although there is growing pressure from the public sector for this, most legislators believe the prospect for reform is on the back burner. Concern does remain that a push for full repeal will be used as a bargaining chip in exchange for mandating social security coverage for state and local employees.

Although social security reform is a complex task, an even greater need is facing the Medicare issue. Increases in cost calculations on the yet to be implemented Medicare D Prescription drug benefits seem to be prompting calls for reconsideration of the legislation even though President Bush has vowed to veto any legislation that seeks to reduce new benefits.

HEALTH CARE issues remain as does the push for establishment of Health Savings Accounts. Unfortunately increases in health care costs also remain.

TAX CODE changes are part of the swirling mix of ideas being put forth. Efforts to simplify the tax code and yet meet ever increasing needs presents quite a challenge. The likelihood of a major overhaul this year is dim.

TORT REFORM. Shifting of class-action law suits from state courts to federal courts has been enacted in the name of tort reform. More reform is needed.

Calls have been made for consideration of: Immigration regulations; changes in implementation of No Child Left Behind law; and focus on older students for better preparation of them for jobs, post-secondary education and citizenship. Higher standards needed for high schools.

STATE

The view of state legislation is somewhat clearer than at the federal level now that the Governor has presented his budget asking for cuts, changes and eliminations. Although it is too soon to determine just what will happen, it is clear that the economy is the number one focus. Since Medicaid accounts for about 38 percent of the budget, this is a focus for cuts in the efforts to balance a two-year budget nearly five billion in the red. The stark budget presented slashes aid for local governments and libraries, cuts about 30,000 poor Ohioans from the Medicaid rolls, shifts regulatory costs to consumers through higher fees, limits increases in spending for K-12 schools, higher education and prisons. It is interesting to note that Taft proposed to expand the voucher program for students in failing schools with grants to attend private schools. This even in light of reports that only about 50 percent of charter school teachers are certi-

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Tutolo’s at home at the range...

By Jan Pallister

I’M SURE many if not most of you are acquainted with Don Daniel Tutolo, though I suspect I’ve turned up some things about him that you never guessed.

But first, a bit of history. Dan, who earned his PhD from the University of Akron, came to Bowling Green in 1973 as a professor of Education Curriculum and Instruction, and retired in 1994, having given dozens of workshops and speeches, and having also produced a highly impressive publication record, some of it in Italian.

Nonetheless, he has continued to teach part time since then, once a week, for one semester per year, in an innovative off-campus project, called the Cohort program. This is a program in which students seeking the MEd take all the beginning classes at their respective high schools, coming to campus for specialized classes in the summer.

But here’s what I am eager to tell you about: Following the evolution of his brain child, together with Bob Blinn (the soup specialist), he has coordinated a Cooking Class for Men, which is now in its third year. The group meets at Stone Ridge Golf Club once a week for a five-week course.

The first chef to assist them in this venture was Johnny — whom they lost to the Toledo Club. They are now assisted by Colleen Cassidy — the regular chef at Stone Ridge. She enables, helps, and supports their cooking. She also coordinates the activities, photocopies the recipes, purchases ingredients and does advanced preparation when necessary. (Dan’s specialty, by the way, is ... Guess? Si, si, la cucina Italiana. And he makes no bones about it.)

The initial group of “guys wanting to improve their cooking skills” was comprised of 15 members, but the 2005 class, which began in January, was up to 26, a number they feel is as high as they would want to go. Together they prepare a meal, working at stations. The first year the class involved learning the rudiments, i.e., what tools to use and how to slice and dice. The second year the men learned through handouts and hands-on experience to prepare a number of ethnic foods: Asian, French, Mediterranean (Greek and Lebanese), and — guess. That’s right, Italian.

Wine accompanies these meals, as selected by BG Beverage’s Norm Heineman. This year emphasis was on healthy eating, including the use of peppers and tomatoes. These meals featured such things as stuffed peppers and included a different vegetable each week. The men are real purists: They follow the recipes and prepare everything from scratch.

Now, the fellows belonging to this group are from many professions. Some of them you know, not only as colleagues, but as members of BGSURA. To name a few: Barry Cobb, Lew Fulcher, Charles Shirkey, Ed Marks, Leo Navin, Peter Wood, Tom Bennet. There are among them old men and young men, professors — as you see — but also public school teachers, a dentist, an optometrist, an allergist, and so forth. I also learned that my closest neighbors, Bob Callecod and Ken Bartlett, participate in this activity, though I’ve not yet profited from their new-found talents.

Dan finds that the cooking class has great benefits for the guys: It has sensitized them to be careful about their eating and provides them not only with an incentive and the confidence to cook, but also is a source of friendship. And the camaraderie present in the class has spilled over into other activities, especially playing golf with one another.

Don’t worry about Dan’s waist, however. You’ll probably see him at St. Julian’s Fitness Center on North Main Street, whenever you yourself go, if you do.

Don’t worry, either, that Dan does nothing but cook. As you saw, he still teaches. He also volunteers for Hospice and devotes time to his wife Jo. The couple has five children together, and hence six grandchildren. • continued next page
Computer troubles?

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

Tutolo’s at the range

• continued

Some of them are quite far away, one even in Great Britain. On the other hand, some are close, in Toledo and in Louisville, Ohio, allowing for regular visits.

Whether you profit from the newfound skills of these men or not — indeed, wherever you eat, whatever you eat — I’m sure they all wish you buon appetito. Meanwhile, if you have any questions, contact Dan at (419) 352-5482. He anticipates a new “class” forming in early 2006.

Ciao.

• Janis L. Pallister, PhD, LD, is Distinguished University Professor Emeritus of Romance Languages. E-mail her at jpallis@dacor.net.

TAX REFORM proposals are aimed at attracting more business to the state but some proposed cuts are countered by proposed increases such as boosting the kilowatt hour tax on electricity consumption by 30 percent. Proposed creation of a new commercial activities tax on businesses aims to eliminate corporate franchise and tangible personal property tax and to shift taxes to the consumer through expanded fee structures.

As the state looks for money, Ohio’s public pension system continues to be viewed as a possible source of funding. The movement in California to shift away from defined benefit pension to a defined contribution could spread to Ohio and other states.

The Capital budget approved by House and Senate amounted to one million less for public universities some of whom already have initiated tuition increases. The $1.5 billion capital budget bill approved by Senate shows Northwest Ohio is to receive funding for a number of projects.

The Capital Budget also included renaming Medical College of Ohio to Medical University of Ohio. It also added funding for two additional leadership roles.

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WCRTA legislative luncheon March 9

THE Wood County Retirees Association will hold its annual Legislative Luncheon at noon Wednesday, March 9, at the Bowling Green Elks Club, 200 Campbell Hill Rd. Reservations at $9 each are due Friday, March 4, with checks payable to WCRTA sent to Nancy Buchanan, 20983 Hoytville Rd., Deshler, OH 43516. Telephone (419) 278-6483 or leean@wcnet.org, or President Pat McGinnis (419) 352-5494.

FAYETTA M. PAULSEN, 79, assistant vice president of student affairs and associate professor of education, died Feb. 20 in Hudsonville, Mich. She had served as an administrator, including service as dean of women, for 27 years at BGSU, retiring in 1990. The University honored her by naming a lecture series in her honor and named a room for her in the Saddlemire Student Services Building.

She had served as president of the Ohio Association of Women Deans, Administrator and Counselors, Ohio College Personnel Association. At the time she was the only person in Ohio to have been president of all three state professional personnel organizations. In 1989, the BGSU chapter of Mortar Board was named the Fayetta M. Paulsen Cap and Gown Chapter of Mortar Board. The National Association for Women in Education honored her in 1996 with a distinguished Service Award.

JAMES L. GALLOWAY, 81, director of Placement Services at BGSU for 28 years, died Jan. 14 in Palm Harbor, Fla. He was one of the first to videotape students about their qualifications and job interests and send the interviews to prospective employers.

He was named the national placement director of the year in 1972 by the Association of School and University Services. He started his career at BGSU as an assistant admissions director in 1955, retiring in 1983. While in Bowling Green, he served on the Bowling Green and Penta County Joint Vocational School boards of education. Following his retirement, he moved to Florida and continued his community service activities.

As “Jimbo,” he was an active member of a clown unit in Tampa, where he earned “Clown of the Year” and Red Nose honors and received the prestigious “Gold Nose Award” from the International Shrine Clown Association for service to Shriners’ Children’s hospitals.

CHARLES O’BRIEN, 54, Bowling Green, died Feb. 4. He was a head diving coach and assistant aquatic director at BGSU from 1971 to 1991.

JUNE L. GUHL, 82, Bowling Green, died Jan. 3. She had worked at the BGSU Student Union, retiring with 18 years of service.

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Gov. Taft continues to push for his $500 billion Third Frontier High Tech initiative.

Gov. Taft signed into law an overhaul of Ohio’s civil litigation system that caps damages. A constitutional test remains a possibility.

Rep. Latta’s bill to require DNA samples from all felons and expands the DNA program comparisons has passed. Another way retirees may feel the tax pinch is a sales tax law that goes into effect July 1 requiring retailers to charge tax rates for the counties where goods are delivered rather than where sold.

SEVERAL bills that impact retirees were left pending at the end of the last session and could be reintroduced. These include SB98, HB455, HB449 and Am. Sub. SB133. SB16 has been introduced by Hagan (D-Yongstown) that would provide a drug importation program through the State Pharmacy Program requiring them to establish and maintain a website accessible to the public listing each terminal or wholesale distributor of dangerous drugs approved by the Board as a non-domestic distributor.

Key leadership appointments include Sen. Wachtmann (R-Napoleon) who was retained as chair of Senate Health & Human Services (includes pension related legislation); Rep. Widener was named Chair of Financial Institutions, Real Estate & Securities; and a permanent Retirement and Pensions sub-committee has been named with Michelle Schneider as chair.

SB24 (Larry Mumper and Lynn Wachtman) have introduced an “academic bill of rights” aimed at both public and private colleges and universities. In reality it is very restrictive of academic freedom and the promotion of diversity. Broad wording and absence of enforcement mechanism are flaws in this bill, which addresses an issue already considered at most universities.

STRS

Petitions for candidacy for the STRS Board elections closed Feb. 25th. Four have filed for the one “active” seat. They are Rolla Beach (Southwest City Schools) [ORTA endorsed]; Mary Ann Quilter-Flanagan (Oregon Schools); Mark Frederick (Cleveland Municipal Schools) and F. James Norris 11 (Lebanon Schools).

Candidates for the two retiree seats are: L. Neil Johnson (Broadview Hts. [ORTA endorsed]; W. David Speas (Springfield) [ORTA endorsed]; Jeff Chapman (Chardon); Teresa Green (Eastlake); and Dennis Leone (Chillicothe). Ballots are to be out in April and election completed by May.

HEALTH CARE

Scott Solsman, J.D. and M.P.A. has been selected as the Director of Health Care Services. He comes from the Benefits Division of the Ohio Dept. of Administrative Services and joined STRS on Nov. 22. He is a 25 year employee of the State of Ohio.

In October the Board set up a sub-committee to prepare a draft health care plan aimed at preserving retiree health care. An engagement and communication strategy was to be set up to include all constituents in the planning process in order to build broad support for the final plan. Health Care Advocates for STRS ([HCA]) will assist.

In February the Board received an actuarial valuation of retiree health care plans which showed some progress in extending the life of the Health Care Stabilization fund [runs out 2018 instead of 2015.] However, it also showed continuing challenges of sustaining affordable retiree health care and still confronts serious shortfalls. Included in a variety of approaches suggested to address the Health Care problem were potential reduction in pension benefits to free up funding health care and a tiered system of benefits in which future retirees and new hires would have lesser benefits. HCA did not endorse these.

Billirakis, chair of the STRS Health Care Committee, supported the need for a dedicated revenue stream for health care. The Board will continue to explore all options. HCA sees the need for cost containment and recognizes that additional revenue is necessary. HCA has not reached a consensus on the amount or the allocation between employers and employees.

FINANCIAL

Plans for an assets/liabilities study have been initiated with a completion date of 8/31/05. Securities litigation settlements have been $3.6 million since 7/1/04. STRS Ohio and other Ohio pension systems have been named lead plaintiff in class action suits against four businesses and STRS Ohio is pursuing litigation separate from the class against ENRON and World Com.

Investment returns did better than expected and beat most major stock and bond market results in 2004. However, more was spent on retiree benefits and other costs last year than was received from employees’ and employers’ contributions. Thus, it was good that investments held up. The unfunded liability amortization period is 42.2 years. Since 30 years is required by the state, a report must be made to the Ohio Retirement Study Council (ORSC) and an approved plan to meet the requirement presented.

Procedures have been clarified by ORSC for an Independent Fiduciary Services to follow in assessing ability to attract and retain qualified staff and measure effectiveness and efficiency of the organization.

Since there are a number of technical corrections and clarifying languages needed in the Pension Reform bill passed, it is possible than an omnibus pension bill will appear, probably after the IFS audit report.

THE pension reform bill requires the Chief and assistant investment officers and asset managers to have an investment license. STRS has determined that portfolio managers, regional real estate directors an strategy committee members also should secure a license. Financial disclosure forms are required to be filed for calendar year 2004. Thirty associates in the investment department will be licensed and file a form.

The number of Partial Lump Sum Option Plan (PLOP) payments have increased. About 113 percent of those eligible to select PLOP since its inception in 2002 have elected to do so. The average monthly benefit reduction due to PLOP was $45,217. The average PLOP payment was $62,432.

MEMBERSHIP. More (706) teachers retired this summer than last summer. Membership for fiscal year 03/04 increased 3.52 percent. The total payroll increased 3.9% which was less than the 4.5% actuarial assumption. Thus contributions paid to unfunded liability were less than expected.
About a life of service

By Dr. Roger Anderson

AFTER I had surprisingly received the Bowling Green Male Citizen of the Year award for volunteer services to the community, I was asked what motivates me to devote so much of my life to civic activities and volunteer work. It’s a good question, but not easy to answer.

I started volunteering for service projects early in life and have continued because it gives me great satisfaction to give back what I can to the community. In junior high and high school I was involved in a service club sponsored by the YMCA and in other service-related organizations.

In college in 1962 I was one of 16 U.S. students selected to work for a month in Callao, Peru, a suburb of Lima, at a camp sponsored by the student YMCA organization. We helped develop soccer fields, basketball courts, and a shower facility for a low-income neighborhood. We worked closely with college students from San Marcos University in Lima.

That experience sparked my interest in future volunteer work and also led me to further study Latin American politics and culture. I ended up with a specialization in Latin American government and politics as part of my doctorate training. I used my knowledge and experience to teach, study, and write about Latin American politics at Bowling Green State University.

I also regard civic engagement and volunteer service as important because as an undergraduate at the University of Minnesota I was impressed by how many of the faculty I knew or knew about who participated in the community, either in politics or as volunteers. Although I did not have him in class, I was aware that Hubert Humphrey, one of my heroes, not only taught political science classes. And the mayor of Minneapolis, Art Naftalin, was on the faculty in the Economics Department.

As a graduate student at the University of Wisconsin, I heard much about the “Wisconsin Idea.” Jack Stark, in his history of the Wisconsin Idea, defines it as “the University’s [Wisconsin’s] direct contributions to the state: To the government in the forms of serving in office, offering advice about public policy, providing information and exercising technical skill, and, to the citizens, in the forms of doing research directed at solving problems are important to the state and conducting outreach activities.”

It seemed to me when I attended graduate school and even now that many of the faculty and graduate students at Wisconsin absorbed the “Wisconsin Idea” and practiced it or intended to do so. I know I was fascinated with the concept and endorsed it enthusiastically.

When I moved to Bowling Green I became good friends with Dr. Charles A. Barrell, who had served as chair of the Political Science Department and on the Bowling Green City Council for 16 years. He encouraged me to engage in politics and other civic activity. I also became concerned with the state of our environment during and after the first Earth Day in 1972. I joined many local and national environmental groups and wanted to engage in direct action to clean up the environment. I eventually joined Help Us Recycle Trash (HELP), the volunteer organization which started recycling in Bowling Green founded by some members of the Bowling Green League of Women Voters and committed spouses of a number of the psychology department faculty.

Whatever the other reasons for my civic participation, and there are probably many more, I will continue to volunteer and participate in the community. I am thrilled to receive one of the Citizen of the Year awards and to join such a distinguished group of current and previous award winners.

S Witching subjects: BGSURA had a good crowd for our Jan. 19 luncheon and program featuring selected musicians from the Bowling Green Symphony Orchestra. On Feb. 16 the BGSURA Board held its quarterly meeting, at which time we learned that we had $5,539 in our budget as of Dec. 31, 2004, and had a total membership of 302. The Board decided to send membership cards to the Life Members this year and to all members beginning next fall.

The Program Committee reported that almost all of the programs for 2005-06 had been planned. The Nominating Committee will be meeting soon to develop a slate of officer candidates and board candidates. The President and Treasurer positions are up for election along with our six board candidate slots.

If you are interested in running for office, please contact Elfreda Rusher, chair of the Nominating Committee, or Richard Edwards or DeLores Reynolds, members of the committee.

And plan to attend our March 16 luncheon with the program on Main Street Bowling Green.

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Life Members

IFETIME Memberships in BGSURA are available for $150 for members and $75 for associates. For more information: Treasurer Harold Lunde, (419) 352-3929, or by e-mail to hlunde@cba.bgsu.edu.

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