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STRS chief on March 15 program

THE executive director of Ohio's State Teachers Retirement System, Dr. Damon Asbury, will meet with members of the BGSU Retirees Association Wednesday, March 15, in a joint luncheon with the Wood County Retired Teachers Association. The luncheon will be held in the Bowling Green Elks Club on Campbell Hill Road, two blocks south from the BGSU Football Stadium. Exit I-75 at Bowling Green Road East (Wooster Street).



• Dr. Asbury

Dr. Asbury, who was superintendent of Worthington (Ohio) City Schools for nine years, joined STRS Ohio in 2000 as deputy executive director for administration. He was appointed interim executive director in August 2003 after the resignation of Herbert Dyer. The STRS board named Dr. Asbury as the STRS executive director in February 2004. He was with the Columbus City Schools from 1967-1991, where his positions included interim superintendent, associate superintendent of management services and assistant superintendent of schools.

Dr. Asbury received his doctorate from The Ohio State University in psychology — school, educational, developmental and exceptional children bachelor's and master's degrees in school psychology / exceptional children.

Laura Ecklar, director of communications for STRS, will accompany Dr. Asbury to help answer questions. □

Lunch reservation form page 4

Who?



• The feature spotlight of writer Janis Pallister shines on this happy percussionist who was photographed in 1975 by the University Photography Service. See page 2. The photo was retrieved through the courtesy of the Jerome Library Archives.

Room 19 assignment: Social change at BGSU, nation studied by team

BGSURA's Professional Committee has assigned Room 19, College Park Office Bldg., to a research team composed of Joseph B. Perry, BGSU; Norbert Wiley, University of Illinois and adjunct University of California at Berkeley; Arthur G. Neal, BGSU and adjunct, Portland (Ore.) State University; and Richard C. Carpenter, Bowling Green

State University. The team said that Dr. Carpenter, who died in March 2004, had made such an enormous contribution to the project that the group decided to list him as an author on all publications and presentations that might emerge from the research.

The project concerns social change at BGSU and the nation as a whole from the 1950s to the end of the century. Part 1 is called "The 1961 Bowling Green State University Demonstrations: How

the Students Won." An early draft under this title was presented in a panel session at the 2002 annual meeting of the American Sociological Association. It stated, "This is an analysis of the 1961 student demonstrations at Bowling Green State University. The demonstrations, which lasted three days, were perhaps the most successful of the 1960's, for the students eventually succeeded in forcing the controversial

Continued on page 3



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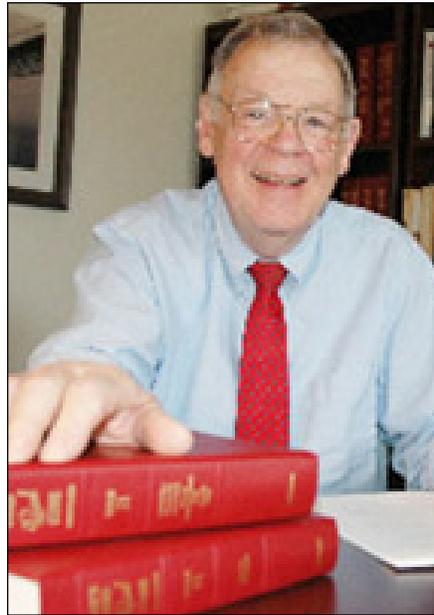
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What's ahead for 2006

- **April 19** – Luncheon meeting with UT and MUO retiree associations at Toledo Country Club, hosted by Medical University of Ohio.
- **May 17** – Adelia Peters, Chinese folk cultures.
- **June 27** – Mud Hens baseball. Bus from Levis Commons. Helen Dermer is in charge of arrangements. More to come.



• Wendell Jones as musician



• Wendell Jones as attorney

PHOTOS BY CLIF BOUTELLE

The Jones Boy: Musician, Attorney

By Janis L. Pallister

THE great Canadian actor Christopher Plummer recently published the this statement in *Entertainment Weekly*: "I think retirement is death. People who retire are checking out of life. Old Johnny Gielgud went on 'til he was 95 or 96, acting away . . . So there's hope for us all."

Well, it seems to me that the word "retirement" needs defining here, and also that Christopher Plummer has not (for obvious reasons) met the "retirees" of Bowling Green State University.

Certainly one "retiree" Plummer should meet, among many others, is Wendell Jones. Jones, a native of Dayton, received his music training at the Ohio State University (BSc 1953) and at the University of Northern Colorado (MA 1970). But the unique thing about Wendell is that he also holds the JD in Law from the University of Toledo (1985). While at the University he taught and performed as a vibist (specializing in the marimba and vibraharp), and upon occasion he performed as a member of the Toledo Symphony Orchestra.

Retail business, too

Incidentally, he was in the retail music business in Sandusky before coming to BGSU, and at that time he did part-time teaching of percussion at various area schools.

Wendell's description of his experiences at The Ohio State University are quite amusing. He had gone there asking to specialize in the marimba, but was told they didn't have a specialty in that. They then asked him if he could sing, to which he replied "No." But they suggested that he audition in voice anyway, and he did, though his heart was hardly in it. He says he sang *God Bless America* and was found good enough to be accepted as a voice major! But at BGSU he played and taught the marimba, the vibraharp, and many other percussion instruments!

'Leading small combos'

"Retiring" from BGSU in 1992 after 25 years on the faculty, during which time he was active in the early evolution of the Jazz Studies Program in the College of Music, Wendell has continued to lead his own small combos: Duos, trios, and quartets in the commercial or jazz idioms — something he was in fact already doing before his retirement. He has organized appearances for quartets and also for trios, often with present faculty members Jeff Halsey (bass violin), Chris Buzzelli (guitar) and himself (on the vibraharp). Jones's own quartet appeared as recently as 2005 in the Summer Jazz Series at the Toledo Botanical Gardens.

But Wendell has also continued to perform as a soloist: He has given four concerts in Columbus and also at

church and club functions. At times he has had Virginia Marks as his accompanist, and he regards her as a highly accomplished pianist. He speaks respectfully of other former colleagues as well, and especially of his musical collaborations with Bernie Linden. With less joy Wendell evokes his early years on the faculty and the strict parameters of its administration at that time. But on the other hand he recalls pleasant times as soloist at parties given by the Moores and the Stranahans.

'Conflict of interest'

However, Wendell's active law practice is seemingly encroaching on his life as a musician. He is focused in that domain on the general practice of law, and currently finds himself addressing areas of personal injury (of a criminal nature), on appellate practice (out of all local courts), landlord-tenant disputes, and estate (probate) matters. Asked how he came to study law, Wendell states that, though the practice of law was certainly foreign to him, on a given day he decided, somewhat out of the blue, to apply for law school.

Though he found the studies difficult, he passed the bar in 1987 and has been active in his law practice ever since.

In 2001 Wendell Jones was inducted into the "Columbus Senior Musicians Hall of Fame" in recognition of his significant musical contributions to the Central Ohio community. In November of that same year, he released a CD entitled "Have You Met This Jones," featuring a trio including Halsey, Buzzelli, and himself. This CD is for sale at the Finders Record Store in Bowling Green.

Wendell's wife's name is Carol. He married her just prior to his appointment at the University in the Spring of 1967. They have two adult children: Jack (44), who lives in Colorado, and Janet (35), who lives in Columbus. Wendell and Carol love the Far West and travel there often. They have visited all the Rocky Mountain states, including Montana, the Indian country in southern Utah, and, of course, Colorado.

One final note: In all my conversations with Wendell I have observed one salient characteristic in his personality: He has always been, and still is, for change, for trying the new, for meeting a challenge. In that he is the model "retiree." □

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

And the 'winners' are . . .

TOP choices for BGSURaprogram speakers, as indicated by the 74 questionnaires returned are Diane Larson, WTVG-TV anchor and BGSU journalism graduate; Roberta DeBoer, columnist for *The Blade*, Toledo; Mary Alice Powell, retired *Blade* food editor; Fed Folger III, historical lecturer; Eric Honneffer document conservator, BGSU; Jack Ritchie, president, Phoenix Technologies, Bowling Green; Jeff Twyman, president, Green Line Products, Bowling Green; Bent Weinmann, Sun Seed Co. owner, Weston; David Miller, editor *Sentinel-Tribune* and BGSU journalism graduate; and Tom Walton, publisher, *The Blade* and BGSU journalism graduate.

In November's newsletter and at January's luncheon, BGSURA members were asked to fill out a questionnaire which measured the interests in twenty programs which had been suggested to the program committee. □



• *Enduring friendships — The KEY, 1961, Sociology faculty: Joseph Perry (front), Samuel Lowrie, Donald Longworth. Row 2: Arthur Neal, Norbert Wiley, Frank Miles.*

Research project from page 1

president out of office. About one third of the faculty, including five departmental chairpersons, sided with the students.

"After the demonstrations in late March there were three months of jousting in which the students took their cause to the press and the Ohio State Legislature. The University administration also attempted to influence the press and the legislature, but they were far less effective. Finally the President lost a showdown vote in the legislature by a vote of 112 to nothing, following which the president re-

continued on next column

Passings

• **ROBERT J. KEEFE**, a 1997 inductee into the BGSU Athletic Hall of Fame, died Dec. 30 in Bowling Green. He was the tennis coach at BGSU from 1955 to the late 1960s. His 1964 team won the Mid American Conference title. He retired in 1978 after 23 years of teaching health and physical education; the BGSU tennis courts were named in his honor. He was a charter member of the Bowling Green Curling Club.

• **DOLORES REYNOLDS**, a member of the BGSURA Board of Directors, died Feb. 12. She was the secretary for the Department of Economics at BGSU for 26 years, retiring in 1993.

• **AGNES HOOLEY**, a faculty member at BGSU from 1954 to 1977, died in Gibsonia, Pa., Oct. 5, 2005. She served as the first chair of the then-Recreation and Dance Division. She also was a former president of the Ohio Association of Health, Physical Education and Recreation. She co-authored "Physical Education for the Handicapped," a guide for therapists and educators. She was active in the Black Swamp Players and as a specialist for the City of Bowling Green's Park and Recreation Commission in the 1970s.

• **GLENN DANIELS** died Jan. 21 in Springfield, Ill. He was Professor Emeritus of Instructional Media Services at the University.

• **JAMES W. CHILD**, professor and former chairman of the Department of Philosophy at BGSU, died Dec. 25 in Findlay. He also was a Senior Research Fellow at the Center for Social Philosophy at BGSU. He authored innumerable scholarly articles, chapters, and books and was an accomplished scholar, academician, and businessman with far-ranging interests.

• **ENID JENSEN**, of Luckey, died Dec. 27. She was a cook at the University for 15 years before retiring in 1982.

• **DORIS CARIS**, a former cook at BGSU, died Feb. 2 in Pemberville.

• **BEAULAH HARRISON**, who retired in 1993 after 25 years of service as a cook in the student cafeterias, died Jan. 19. □

signed." Dr. Perry said, "We have also increased the scope of the study which we believe will lead to a significant contribution to our understanding of the struggles following World War II in the United States." □

• Dr. Perry's address" pjoeb@bgnet.bgsu.edu.

Retirees Association NEWSLETTER

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President's Corner

Happy [productive] Days!

By Dr. Roger Anderson



A NUMBER of friends and relatives nearing retirement, including my brother, have asked me what I do each day in retirement. I think many in the working world have an outdated and false understanding of retirement. All the retirees I know enjoy an active and varied life and have a positive view. They develop routines which enable each to continue to do what she/he wants to do while enjoying themselves. Perhaps the two main obstacles to enjoying retirement are money and health issues. Planning and working to avoid or overcome these obstacles can make retirement even more rewarding.

In an effort to convince my brother and others that retirement is just another phase of life, I will chronicle a typical week in my retirement life to illustrate what a positive and liberating experience it can be. I have randomly selected the week of Sunday, Feb. 5, to Saturday, Feb. 11, to illustrate.

For the past 28 years — with one exception, when I was traveling in Thailand — I have hosted a Super Bowl party at the house. Usually 10 to 20 friends gather to watch the game, chat, watch the commercials and eat a light dinner at half-time. This Feb. 5, what was unusual was that the 10 present actually watched the game and the commercials. Perhaps it was because "Big Ben" of Pittsburgh and Findlay, Ohio, fame was playing for the Steelers.

On Monday I attended a morning meeting of the advocates for the College of Continuing and Extended Education chaired by Dean Bill Balzer

Following lunch with the group I helped chair a meeting of the grassroots committee involved with raising funds for the planned Simpson Garden Park behind our property in Bowling Green. Late afternoon I made phone calls, checked E-mail and the internet and sent some E-mails. In the evening I gathered with six other friends at Easy Street in Bowling Green for a few drinks and stimulating conversation. This group of friends which numbers about 12 at its peak has met at least once a week on either Monday or Thursday nights since 1977.

The following day Betty Jean (my wife) and I spent the early morning at a water aerobics class I have attended for

three years at the BGSU Recreation Center. We are led by our skilled and entertaining instructor, Geoff Meek. At 11 a.m. I and my partner Bob Guion delivered wheeled meals for seniors from the Wood County Hospital. At 6:45 p.m. I attended an orientation meeting of the Staff Parish Committee of our church.

Wednesday morning was devoted to reading three newspapers, some recent magazines and a few journal articles. At 11:30 a.m. Betty Jean and I had lunch with retirees Ray and Pat Browne, a frequent practice. The afternoon was devoted to household chores, errands and a short nap. At 7 p.m. I attended the League of Women Voters of Bowling Green board meeting. As vice-president of programs I summarized the January program planning session and highlighted the upcoming Feb. 21 program at the Wood County Senior Center on the needs of the elderly featuring Denise Niese, director of the Wood County Committee on Aging.

Thursday morning was another water aerobics session. At 11:30 a.m. I attended the weekly Bowling Green Kiwanis meeting, lunch and program presided over by President Joan Gordon. Jim Carter, Wood County Commissioner and Kiwanis member, presented the program, "What Wood County Commissioners Do." It was informative and interesting. At 2 p.m. I attended a program planning meeting of the BGSURA program committee.

Friday morning was devoted to personal business. Betty Jean took her mother to St. Luke's to have a knee replacement operation. By noon my mother-in-law was already doing physical therapy. She is recovering well and will leave the physical therapy section of the hospital early next week to go home. I visited my mother-in-law that afternoon. Friday night we rented a DVD and watched "Monk," one of our favorite shows on television.

Saturday night Betty Jean and I attended a Valentine Dinner dance at Stone Ridge Golf Club in Bowling Green featuring the North Coast Big Band led by Gary Keller, principal of Bowling Green's Kenwood Elementary School. Gary and I are members of one of the town-gown clubs in Bowling Green, the Junto Club. The majority of the audience at the club were Junto members with their spouses, and the rest were members of the club.

As you can see my typical week is made up of exercise, reading, entertainment, socializing with friends and family, and volunteering. It makes for a happy and rewarding life. □

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

○ Reservation Form for BGSURA's March 15, 2006, Luncheon ○

This is a joint meeting with the Wood County Retired Teachers Association.

Wednesday, March 15, 2006 • Reservation Deadline Friday, March 10!

Elks Club, Campbell Hill Road. 11:30-Noon: Check-in and socializing. Noon: Luncheon.

NOTE: Reservations at \$10 per person MUST BE MADE by Friday, March 10.

Name _____

Name(s) of Your Guest(s) _____

_____ Total Number of Reservations

Menu

Salad bar, two soups, cold cuts (ham, turkey), bread. Hot entree: roast beef, potatoes, gravy.

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 10. Telephone 419-352-8360

Legislative Report

By Genevieve Stang • ges@dacor.net



This report was written Feb. 10 and thus will not reflect actions that may have been taken through March 15th. But the issues probably will remain those that have been the center of focus for some time — health care, pension reform, medicare, wars, funding, immigration issues, etc.

focus for some time — health care, pension reform, medicare, wars, funding, immigration issues, etc.

WASHINGTON

Legislative sessions were in recess much of January but behind-the-scenes deliberations went on.

Selection of supreme court justices provided a stage for some legislators. Funding for and the process being used in Iraq and the war on terror have not left center stage nor has hurricane restoration and explanation. Lobbying scandals remain in the forefront and have not been eclipsed by appropriateness of procedures used to gather information needed for the war on terror. Concerns about the mid-east have heightened with results of recent elections and Iran's continuation with nuclear development. Agreement was reached on extension of the Patriot Act and efforts have been made to establish lobbying reform.

The President's budget focuses on building up military capacity and defense against terrorist threats while restraining expenditures on many domestic areas such as education programs and medicare spending. He, like Gov. Taft, is encouraging more emphasis on math and science education. Much debate is expected before final resolution of the budget.

Although consideration of Social Security reform appears to be on hold, there has been action on pension reform legislation with attention to shoring up the Pension

Benefit Guaranty Corp., the system which insures private pensions across the country. There have been numerous situations where pension benefits have been cut or eliminated. There also is a push toward more use of defined contribution pensions rather than a defined benefit plan such as ours. There has been talk that some Ohio legislators have been approached to allow "actives" to go on a defined contribution plan. According to Dr. Damon Asbury, executive director, this would have a very negative effect on STRS funds.

There has been some effort to alter what happens to Social Security payments when a retiree returns to work if they have retired before age 65. This appears to be aimed at situations where the worker has gone on unemployment. Current Ohio "offset" law calls for reduction of the jobless worker's unemployment checks by the full amount of their Social Security check. Ohio has the nation's most punitive Social Security offset law. Certainly the GPO/WEP offset regulations for retired teachers who do not return to work and are not unemployed in another job but are receiving both a service retirement and Social Security for work previously done have found the "offset" issue to be a detriment. Efforts to repeal legislation in that area have not been successful but continue to surface.

The Medicare drug program got off to a rocky start but problems seem to be ameliorating. It will be important for Ohio retirees to watch what will occur after this transition year finishes. There has been growth in the development of biotechnology drugs, which has added to increased health care costs. Government regulations prohibit generic versions of these drugs. FDA has

a web site to get information about FDA approved generic drugs:

www.accessdata.fda.gov/scripts/cder/drugsatfda/

There have been some shifts in legislative leadership roles both in Washington and Ohio.

OHIO

Gov. Taft has called for more rigor in education core programs and emphasis on math and science. Concerns for the cost of implementing such plans have been apparent. Swift action is being taken to permit the merger of UT and MUO. Concerns re charter schools re number, quality and impact on public school finances continues.

The governor has signed an election reform bill which among other things would require voters to show an ID in some form. Some provisions of the bill take effect with Ohio's May 2 primary. Others, including the ID requirement, would be delayed until June 1. There is no dearth of issues facing legislators. A Senate bill is aimed at toughening licensing and regulation in the mortgage market to stem predatory lending. There has been consideration given to limiting requirements for listing one's social security number. A bill has been introduced to force school districts to adopt policies prohibiting physical and verbal bullying of students on school property. A bill has passed both houses that would force pharmacies to strictly regulate the sale of over-the-counter cold medicines that contain an ingredient used in methamphetamine, source of a growing drug problem.

SB9, Ohio's version of the federal Patriot Act, was signed by the Governor Jan. 11 with no divestiture language being added which had been a concern of STRS investment program.

Legislative Report

continued

HB272 remains under review and contains a number of aspects that would impact all five retirement systems, ie: allowing (over) savings account, addressing double dipping coverage of health care, and determining service credits.

While concerns over the gas/oil energy crisis remains, there is beginning to be an awareness of the need to protect our Great Lakes waters.

STRS

Dr. Asbury and Laura Ecklar, STRS director of communications services, will have an update on STRS Board activities at the March 15 meeting and they welcome questions. The young, new, and diverse STRS Board has been grappling with a number of issues including continued efforts to seek a dedicated source of revenue for the health care stabilization fund.

Results of the Health Care Member Education and Engagement campaign were positive and the Board began work on a legislative proposal. Senate Pres. Harris has made it clear that legislation this year is not likely.

A change in your Medicare Part B premium reimbursement should have appeared on your January statement, a change was made possible with funds from Medicare for staying with the STRS drug plan. The change is for one year only.

Recently the Board has been considering policies regarding the disability appeals process and dis-

cussing results and recommendations in a recently completed study of associate compensation and benefits. These discussions were continue at the STRS Board meeting Feb. 15-16.

Also under consideration has been the impact of SB190 passed in April of 2000 with particular reference to provisions that have had an impact on unfunded liability. These actions were retroactive to 1999, before the economic downturn. The five-year study did reveal that the unfunded liability would not have been as great as now. The system's current funding period stands at 55.5 years. A 30-year funding plan must be presented to ORSC this month.

The Board held a three-day retreat early in February. Accomplishments and major action taken in 2005 were on the agenda. Concerns for the impact of SB190 were brought up. Dr. Asbury gave assurance that there is no plan to repeal the 35 year benefit.

An election for two four-year active terms will be held next month. The terms of Dr. Brown and Ms. Ramser will expire. In addition to Ms. Ramser, seven actives have submitted petitions.

ORTA

Blin Scatterday was elected as the new president and our own Don Bright as president-elect, to take over next January. There also have been changes in some directors and trustees. Ann Hanning remains executive director. The regional ORTA conference will be held in Lima March 22. Call Bernie Scott in Tonto-

gany at (419) 823-3360 or email to bjs@wcnet.org if interested.

ORTA has decided not to interview candidates for the open STRS Board for active member terms. However, they have requested statements from each candidate and these will be printed in the Spring Quarterly.

OPERS

Laurie Hacking, Exec. Director of OPERS, has resigned to take a position as Exec. Director of the Minnesota Teachers Retirement Association. The OPERS Board is expected to appoint Blake Sherry, the system's chief operating officer, to be interim director until a national search for a successor is completed.

Ms. Hacking will be missed. Growth in both the system's assets, the creation of a \$12 billion separate health care fund, establishment of a member-directed and combined retirement plan and increased use of technology to enhance member services are accomplishments under Ms. Hacking's leadership. The system's 101% funding status was reached when investment markets produced better than expected returns and has gone to about 88%, a drop similar funds have experienced due to the 2001-2003 market downturn.

OCHER

OCHER will meet March 21. Further consideration will be given to the Strategic Planning the group has been pursuing. OCHER President Richard Edwards is involved in program planning for the annual meeting in April in Columbus.

Calendar

March 10 — Deadline for reservations for joint luncheon, WCRTA and BGSURA, Elks Club, Bowling Green.
March 22 — Regional Conference, workshops, Ohio Retired Teachers

Assn. Lima Convention Center. Reservations due Friday. Story page 1.
April 19 — Luncheon, BGSURA, with UT, MUO retirees at Toledo Country Club.
April 27 — Annual meeting, Ohio Council of Higher Education Retirees (ORTA and BGSU associa-

tions are members). Columbus.
May 16 — WCRTA Spring Luncheon, First United Methodist Church, Bowling Green.
May 17 — BGSURA Luncheon, First United Methodist Church.
June 27 — Mudhens baseball trip. Bus from Levis Commons.