



**Bowling Green State University
Retirees Association**

15 College Park Office Bldg., BGSU • Office open 10-12 M, 1-3 Th
Bowling Green, OH 43403 • (419) 372-9696
Email: retirees@bgnnet.bgsu.edu • Web: www.bgsu.edu/faculty_staff/

What's ahead

- **Jan. 21, 2004** – The Rev. Jim Bacik.
- **March 17, 2004** – Prof. Lucy Long, Popular Culture, on Irish music.
- **May 19, 2004** – “Power of Music for Positive Change.”

Mayor John Quinn Nov. 19 speaker
To present ‘Community Update’

BOWLING Green Mayor John Quinn, whose second four-year term as the city’s chief executive begins next Jan. 1, has been a resident of Bowling Green since 1965, when he arrived on the BGSU campus as a freshman. He received a bachelor of education degree in 1969 and a master’s in history in 1972, also from BGSU.

Raised in Canton, Ohio, Mayor Quinn retired in June 1999 with 30 years of Bowling Green teaching service, at the Junior High from 1969 to 1974 and then at the Senior High School. In addition to teaching American history and world government, he also coached football, girls’ basketball, swimming, and tennis, and was cofounder of the quiz bowl team.

Involved in city government since 1979, the mayor served as a member and chairperson for the Housing Commission and was elected to two Council-at-large

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• *Mayor John Quinn*

Retirees invited to Kohl

NEWLY remodeled Kohl Hall, the new home of the Chapman Community and Partners in Context and Community programs, will hold an open house for retirees after the Nov. 19 luncheon.

“Visitors will see a bold new educational experience in action,” said Dr. Tom Klein, Chapman Community director. “The success of these living-learning communities helps explain why BGSU, for the first time, made the short list of *U.S. News & World Report* 2004 College Edition for best colleges in the U.S.,” he pointed out.

Open for touring will be the library-conference room, art studio, music practice room, café, garden areas and galleries, faculty offices, and student classrooms. □

○ **Reservation Form for BGSURA’s Nov. 19 Luncheon** ○
WEDNESDAY, Nov. 19, 2003 • Reservation Deadline Friday, Nov. 14!
1st United Methodist Church. 11:30-Noon: Check-in and socializing. Noon: Luncheon.
NOTE: Reservations at \$8 per person MUST BE MADE by Friday, Nov. 14.

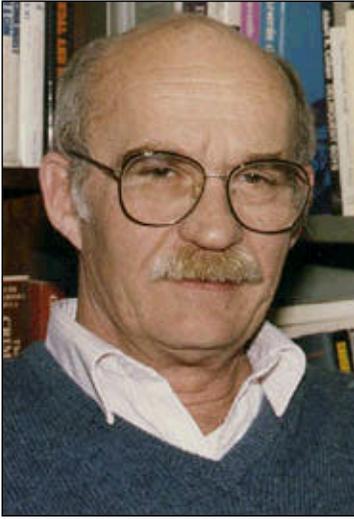
Name _____

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, NOV. 14.** Telephone 419-352-8360



Meet Joe Perry

*Southern
gentleman,
leader, scholar*

BY JANIS L. PALLISTER

Désastre
parlez-moi du désastre
parlez-m'en
—Hoquet
Léon-G. Damas

A PROFESSOR who has been an outstanding leader of Faculty Senate and a member of many committees, Joe Perry needs little introduction to most retirees of BGSU. However, I suspect that few people have even the least inkling of his specialties and accomplishments in his field, which, as you know, is sociology. All are familiar, on the other hand, with his gracious Southern manner and soft accent.

And indeed, the South is in Joe's bones. He was born in 1930 in Dallas, Texas. He grew up there except for a short spell in Richmond, Va. — his mother's birthplace. He earned his B.S. at the University of North Texas, his M.A. from the University of Texas, and his Ph.D. from Washington State University. At 17 Joe joined the Naval Reserve, and as a Seaman Recruit he went on the Navy's Midshipman cruise of 1947. He saw a London in ruins. "Blocks upon blocks, upon blocks of nothing but cellars." This was Joe's first of many experiences with disasters. In marked contrast, on the same voyage he visited Gothenburg, Sweden, which was physically untouched by the war. Joe was also stationed in Japan during the Korean War and visited Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

Joe's academic interest in disaster began during his first year as a graduate student at the University of Texas. He was hired to code questionnaire data collected from the victims of the May 11, 1953, tornadoes which struck Waco, Texas (114 dead), and San Angelo, Texas (19 dead).

THESE EXPERIENCES led Joe to a lifetime interest in disasters of all kinds, and in various forms of collective behavior, including mobs, crowds, revolution, social movements, panic, hysteria, and non-violent means of conflict resolution. Since 1953 he has been researching and teaching courses in Collective Behavior, Social Change, and the Sociology of Conflict. On the methodological side, he has dealt with Concept Formation, Methods of Research and Research Design. Disaster in all its forms has been his chief

concern. It is as if he had heard Damas saying, "Disaster; speak to me of disaster; speak to me of it."

Joe's teaching experiences are extremely rich: He spent Fall 1967, Spring 1968 and Fall 1968 in Uppsala, Sweden, on a Fulbright lectureship; this gave him a chance to see in operation the social experiment described by Marquis W. Childs in Sweden: *The Middle Way*. Joe taught social psychology, among other things, to English-speaking students in the Department of Sociology. And while there he and his wife Frances (who holds the Ph.D. from BGSU and has taught sociology and Women's Studies at the University of Toledo and at BGSU) took courses in Swedish. His son Joseph — then 8 — and his daughter Wynn — then 12 — went to Swedish schools. And Joe says his son, now a teacher of German history in Georgia, learned Swedish in about 20 minutes. Joe came to BGSU first in 1959-62 as an instructor, then taught at Louisiana State University and North Texas State University — where, as we noted above, he had received his B.S. in 1953, and more importantly, perhaps, had met his future wife, Frances. He then returned to BGSU in 1965, following his stint at L.S.U., and remained with us until 1994, when he retired. During this time, he gave many courses on many subjects and also directed Ph.D. dissertations.

AS FOR RESEARCH, Joe's study of disaster has continued well beyond his retirement., prior to which he had already authored or co-authored two books and dozens of articles and book reviews. In 1996, two years after he retired, he co-authored "Response to Severe Winter and Blizzard Conditions in Grundy and Buchanan County." Only this year he has presented two studies, one an article entitled "Crowds," for the *Encyclopedia of Community...* and another on Gustave LeBon (1841-1941), a French Social Theorist. At present Joe is — along with Art Neal, Richard Carpenter, and Norbert Wiley — writing a treatise on the uprising at BGSU (1961), remarkable by the fact that the "revolution" occurred in a small, non-elite school. The preliminary findings of this research were presented in 2002 at a conference of the American Sociological Association. In 2002 Joe also published an article entitled "Where Have All the Typewriters Gone: To the Junkyard Almost Every One." This treatment of new disasters, brought about by a fragile society, will be the basis of a book. And Joe projects, also, a history of Faculty Senate in collaboration with his colleagues Tom Kinney, Neocles Leontis, Benjamin Muego, and David Newman. (Those promise to be jewels, don't you think?)

DESPITE his usually gentle demeanor, Joe becomes angry over injustice and incompetence. On the personal side, in his 50s he developed a fear of flying that keeps him almost ever on terra firma. He's also the epitome of the absent-minded professor, claiming he has worked hard at developing that image. Joe is, moreover, the proud father of three accomplished offspring: Wynn, the curator of the new art gallery at Owens Tech, where she teaches drawing and history of art; Joe, the middle son, a teacher of German history in Georgia, and

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Mayor Quinn • *continued*

terms and served as president of Council from 1984 to 1990. He co-chaired a Charter Review Committee, served on the Planning Commission, Comprehensive Master Plan Review Committee, and the Board of Public Utilities.

Mayor Quinn said he believes that the quality of the service that a city provides to its residents is essential to making a city a desirable place to live and work. He is proud that 279 full-time employees and their nearly 200 part-time counterparts work hard each day to deliver high quality services to Bowling Green's citizens in a friendly and caring manner.

He and his wife, Jane, who has a business degree from Heidelberg College, have been married 35 years. They have two daughters, Carrie, who resides in the Cincinnati area, and Maggie, who died in 1991. Mrs. Quinn also is a Canton native. They grew up a mile from each other and were born in the same hospital several days apart. □

Holiday reception Dec. 17

RETIREEES are invited to celebrate the holiday season by attending the BGSU Retirees Holiday Reception Wednesday, Dec. 17, from 3:30-5 p.m., at the Mileti Alumni Center.

Reservations would be appreciated by calling 419-372-2424 or emailing develop@bgnnet.bgsu.edu. The reception is sponsored by the BGSU Office of Development. Postcard invitations will be mailed to retirees around mid-November. □

Been there, done that?

CONTRIBUTIONS are sought by Janis Pallister for a series on "Bowling Green Retirees See the World," about the travels of BGSURA members. "I would like to hear from retirees about the continents, countries and states visited since retirement," she said. "Please send all information, including dates of visits, to me at my e-mail or home address."

jpallis@dacor.net
1249 Brownwood Drive
Bowling Green OH 43402-3535

The Stang Report

BY GENEVIEVE STANG

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

THE OHIO Retired Teachers Association (ORTA) asks for BGSURA support of a revised Board of the State Teachers Retirement System (STRS): Four active teachers, two retired teacher members, two statutory members (State Auditor and State Superintendent) and one local board of education member. ORTA wants legislation that will make the ratio of the STRS Board more in line with the members it serves and prevent any group from exercising control of the Board by holding a majority of the nine seats.

Retirees are urged to write to Rep. Charles Blasdel, Chairman, Banking, Pensions and Securities Committee, Ohio House of Representatives, 77 South High St. Columbus, OH 43266-0603, and to Sen. Lynn Wachtmann, Chairman, Health, Human Services and Aging Committee, Ohio Senate, Statehouse, Columbus, OH 43215, to support for these bills, with copies to Rep. Bob Latta and to Sen. Randy Gardner.

Dr. Robert Brown is the newly elected STRS Board member and was present at the September OCHER meeting. He has enough time in to retire but assured the group he intends to complete his full term. He said he won't be unduly influenced by the Ohio Education Association (OEA).

The OEA has begun the process of electing a replacement for a member whose term on the STRS Board expires next year. Keep in touch with active teachers to support someone being nominated who is understanding of retiree concerns.

Affiliation of OCHER with ORTA will be completed at an ORTA meeting this month.

Dr. Lou DiOrio, OCHER president and OCHER representative to the 14-member Health Advocates Committee, has instituted strategic planning for OCHER and has asked for a retirees survey on these issues:

- Need for a dedicated revenue stream
- Increases in employee and/or employer contributions
- More conservative or aggressive investment program
- Pooling Ohio retirement systems for overall health care coverage

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BGSURA NEWSLETTER

Who's Who — BGSURA

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15 College Park Office Bldg.
(419) 372-9696

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Note: All telephone numbers require a 419 prefix.

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Wallace Pretzer

President's Corner

By Dr. Roger Anderson

AS I SIT down to write, I am still experiencing the BGSU pride I felt as a result of last Saturday's Bowling Green-Northern Illinois football game and the pre- and post-game events. Although I am often critical of the overemphasis our culture places on major collegiate sports at the expense of minor sports and other fine aspects of a university, nevertheless, I believe last Saturday's events gave much desired recognition to BGSU and to the MAC. The atmosphere at Saturday's game was similar to that which I experienced at football games during my undergraduate days at the University of Minnesota and my graduate years at the University of Wisconsin.



• Dr. Anderson

Moving beyond Falcon pride, BGSURA has had an active and productive fall. In September we enjoyed our largest attendance ever at the annual convocation at the Bowen-Thompson Student Union. The food was good, parking arrangements worked out well, and Dr. Michael Ferrari gave an excellent address. Thanks to all who worked on the program and especially to Richard and Nadine Edwards, who so graciously hosted Mick and Jan Ferrari.

In September our OCHER representatives, Genevieve Stang and Richard Edwards, and I attended the Ohio Council of Higher Education Retirees meeting in Columbus. We met

and talked with Bob Brown, the newest member of the STRS Board, and received an update on health care issues and pending state and national legislation pertaining to STRS and PERS retirees.

With the upcoming Ohio Retired Teachers Association vote to accept OCHER as an affiliate, OCHER board members were encouraged to recommend to our members that they affiliate with ORTA on the local level.

The BGSURA Board met Oct. 15 and approved a budget for the year and the committee membership list. We heard reports from the major committees, discussed a proposed by-laws change, voted to allow University-affiliated organizations use of our mailing list, accepted Dr. Tom Klein's invitation to tour Kohl Hall after our Nov. 19 luncheon and program, and made some minor revisions to our honorarium guidelines for program participants. The next meeting of the BGSURA Board is Feb. 18, 2004.

If you know of a retiree who has not yet joined BGSURA, invite him or her to the Nov. 19 luncheon and program that features Mayor John Quinn of Bowling Green. See you on Nov. 19. □

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

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 □

The Stang Report • continued

- Vesting times and subsidy levels
- Hardship provisions, "grandfathering"
- Spouse, dependents, disabled, retiree-rehire coverages
- Spouse survivor benefits
- In-house M.D. and Pharm advisory-plan review staff.

HB227 calls for replacement of one active teacher on the STRS Board with a retired teacher. SB133, an omnibus bill covering all five retirement systems, does not remove an active teacher — it replaces the Superintendent of Public Instruction with a retired teacher and replaces the Attorney General with the Director of Budget and Management. This bill also requires periodic fiduciary performance audits and licensing of system officials if they deal with investment matters. It also gives the Attorney General the power to investigate and bring action

against Board members who violate their fiduciary responsibilities.

The Public Employees Retirement System (PERS) supports SB133. It is reported that ORTA opposes removal of the State Superintendent and the addition of the Director of the Office of Budget and Management. ORTA proposes a nine-member Board of four active teachers, two retirees, State Superintendent, State Auditor, and one local board of education member. There is concern that SB133 is the first step in the Legislature taking over the retirement systems.

Other legislation needing monitoring includes: HB242 (Taylor and Schuring), financial disclosure, in committee; HB 271 (McGregor), restrictions on salary and benefits; SB204 (Fedor), investigations by Inspector General; and SB126 (Shuring), investigation and recall of Board members as well as opening to the public those documents regarding the filling of Board member vacancies. □

Meet Joe Perry • continued

Paul, a special ed teacher in Toledo. By Paul, Joe is twice a grandfather: Monica at 8 is "most perfect and most beautiful," while Jasper, only one, has not yet manifested such perfection, but no doubt will.

JOE LIKES to garden. He raises okra, which few gardeners of this area succeed in doing. But he says he "always loses the battle of the weeds." (Who doesn't?) Joe and Frances have several cats; one — a marmalade cat — is a foundling who has discovered Southern Hospitality. Why are we not surprised? □

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