RESERVATIONS DUE NOV. 5 FOR LUNCHEON AT STONE RIDGE

FOR reservations for the Wednesday, Nov. 10, BGSU Retirees Assn. luncheon, send an e-mail to Treasurer Hal Lunde <lunde@bgsu.edu>, or mail the form on page 8 with check. The reservation deadline is Nov. 5. Registration begins at 11:30 a.m. Cost is $11 per person, payable at the door (check to BGSURA preferred).

PLEASE NOTE: Reservations must be paid for regardless of attendance because Stone Ridge charges for the number of reservations.

NEXT LUNCHEON JAN. 10, 2010 – Traditionally a musical program. To be announced.

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Program Nov. 10 on BGSU women’s basketball history

Larry Weiss, Sue Hager and their DVD production

Women’s basketball at Bowling Green State University has come a long way since its earliest beginnings in 1918, when two literary societies began playing against each other. From the driving force of Dorothy Luedtke, the program’s founder, to the University’s most successful head coach Curt Miller, BGSU women’s basketball fans can experience the program’s history, thanks to a recently completed WBGU-PBS documentary “BGSU Women’s Basketball: A Legacy of Excellence.”

The story behind the DVD’s production and selected scenes will be the program at the Wednesday, Nov. 10, luncheon of the BGSU Retirees Association at Stone Ridge Golf Club, Muirfield Drive, Bowling Green.

“This documentary truly was a three-year labor of love,” says producer/writer and BGSU alumnus Larry Weiss, the former associate vice president for university relations and governmental affairs.

Former BGSU head coach Sue Hager joined the effort and the two collaborated as producer/writers, along with Associate Producer/Writer/Editor Tom Zapiecki and Associate Producer/Editor Tony Howard.

Through October, copies of the DVD may be purchased from WBGU-TV for $30 (includes shipping and handling), with $10 of that amount going directly to support the BGSU’s women’s basketball program. To purchase the DVD, contact Cari Tuttle at WBGU-PBS at 419-372-7024 or place an online order on the station’s secure Web site, http://wbgu.org/shop.
ON RUBLE can remember when he first fell in love with the theater – it was in the first grade. “I was a carrot in a first grade production of ‘Peter Rabbit,’” he recalled.

Since then Ruble has been heavily involved in all things theatrical, including 28 years on the faculty at Firelands College. He also has provided his considerable talents for 22 seasons to the Huron Playhouse, the longest continuous running summer theatre program in Ohio.

“I was attracted to the stage early and I’ve never really stopped working in theater,” he said. Through his days at Lucas (Ohio) High School and Otterbein College, he was both an actor and worked behind the scenes. He also lists Community Theater among his credits and even found time for theater while serving in the Air Force.

“In all, I have been active in theater for about 64 years,” he said.

Following his Air Force stint, he came to Bowling Green as a master’s degree student because the theater program had been highly recommended. “I received my degree in 1966 and Lee Miesle, then chair of the department of Speech and Theater, invited me to enroll in the doctoral program, which was new at that time,” he recalled.

His doctoral studies were delayed when in 1970 he became Firelands College’s director of the theater program, a position he held until retiring in 1998. He received his doctorate in 1975.

Ruble’s connection to the Huron Playhouse began in 1966 for 22 years, starting in 1966 while a graduate student. “Al Kepke was the director then and I learned a great deal from him,” he said.

He stopped his work at the Playhouse in 1978 to take time to raise his two sons, Eric and Kristopher. “I found I could not spend the time at the Playhouse during the summers and still do a good job of parenting, so I took a leave.”

In 2001, Jann Graham Glann, the current director, asked him to return to the Playhouse to direct a play called “The Nerd,” and he has been there since. This past season he was in charge of the weekly play programs and processing bills for payment.

He has lost count of the plays he has worked on, but “it must be in the hundreds.” His first Playhouse role as an actor was “Never Too Late” in 1966. Then he directed “Wait Until Dark” in 1968. His final Playhouse directing effort came with “Harvey,” in 2006.

RUBLE also served as the artistic director of the Caryl Crane Children’s Theater Program, which was started in 1986, when the Sandusky businesswoman endowed the program. “One of her dreams was to establish a children’s theater as a learning program where youngsters could be introduced to and learn the craft of theater as well as perform in productions,” said Ruble.

In 1991, the Caryl Crane program came under the umbrella of the Firelands College theater program and Ruble continued as artistic director.

“It is for kids aged 10-18 and we did workshops and performed two shows a year. It has been a great learning experience for hundreds of children from this area,” he said.

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Declining budgets lead to BGSU and Huron Playhouse parting ways

FOR 62 YEARS, the Huron Playhouse, the oldest continuing summer theater in Ohio, has been associated with Bowling Green State University and sponsored by the Department of Theater and Film.

That is no longer the case. The University has severed its financial ties with the Playhouse placing the 63rd season in jeopardy.

During the last six decades, thousands have been treated to first class entertainment at the Playhouse, and, more importantly, hundreds of students have received their introduction to summer stock.

Jann Graham Glann, the managing and artistic director of the Playhouse for the past 19 years, said she first learned that University support may be pulled two years ago at a department meeting. "It had to do with the budget and we were alerted that cuts were likely to be made," she said. Last spring, it became official. "We were informed the Playhouse would not be financially supported any longer by the University," she said.

Ron Shields, chair of the theatre and film department, the decision to cease Playhouse funding was "one of the hardest I have been associated with as chair."

But the reality is that the University no longer has the resources to sustain the Playhouse, he said. "The state’s poor economy has resulted in millions of dollars in cuts at the University in recent years, and there likely will be more in the foreseeable future," he explained.

Shields said the department had been aware for several years that cuts were coming and had been working with Glann and the Playhouse staff to reduce expenses. He called eliminating support for the Playhouse a business decision that has been "painful... I have great fondness for the Huron community and the Playhouse where I was managing director for two years (1986-87) and where my two sons were part of the operation for several summers," he said.

Without University budget support, the Playhouse is faced with some major decisions and time is running out. Glann said next season’s productions will have to be decided by mid-January. "Anything much later than that will make it very difficult to salvage the season," she said.

The Playhouse’s operating budget for the past two seasons has been around $300,000. Income from gate receipts and advertising has been about $100,000. That means roughly $200,000 is needed to produce a season of five plays.

Glann said several models are being studied to reduce expenses, including producing fewer plays and reducing the 40-45 student company and other support staff. Major sponsors for individual plays are also being studied.

The Friends of the Playhouse is spearheading a fund-raising drive, and the Chamber of Commerce and City Council has offered support.

"These are difficult economic times and it is unclear whether fund-raising efforts can be successful or done in time to assure a slate of productions next summer," Glann said.

Al Kepke, professor emeritus of theater and film, served as managing director of the Playhouse from 1967 to 1970, and was "very disappointed" to learn the University would no longer be associated with the Playhouse.

"Working there was one of my favorite assignments. I particularly enjoyed the way the community supported us and the economic impact was quite significant. It was a win-win situation for everyone," he said.

He also noted that the Playhouse was "a great recruiting tool for Bowling Green. Students who spent a summer at Huron would return to their campuses and talk about their summer theater experience. For many students the opportunity to perform in summer stock was a great attraction."

— Clif Boutelle

You will never know me, as I know me. What you see, does not equal what you get. Because, what I see of me is so much more. I am the one I have to live with.

If I enjoy being with me, then I will enjoy living. If I like me, then I will like others. If I believe in me, so will others!

— Ron Ruble from "The Pulse of Life: From A to Z."
Remembering Playhouse days
By F. Lee Miesle

IN JUNE of 1951, a bottom-of-the-line Ford cost about $1,500. Gas to run it was twenty cents a gallon. First class stamps were three cents, and a loaf of bread 16 cents. The average moviegoer attended 17 films that year, at an average admission charge of 47 cents.

To a certain gathering of 21 students and three faculty, however, the last figures were of greatest interest, since they were about to enter the competition for the entertainment dollar.

The group was the 1951 Huron Playhouse Company. The BGSU Department of Speech, assisted by a generous donation of facilities by the Huron Board of Education and a modest subsidy from the University, the Playhouse had completed two seasons.


• Rehearsal on the school lawn in 1949.

By the way, since the company was so small, John and I had to fill in as actors as well. The company was housed in residences along the lakeshore. University policy required these to be operated as dormitories. Students in the company paid a room and board charge of $200 for the nine weeks. Faculty families were assessed this charge also.

However, in return for faculty wives acting as housemothers, the family was not charged for room, and paid half-price for board. Thus, Betty Smith (Mrs. Elden T.) and Pat Miesle (Mrs. F. Lee) reigned over the two houses. There, they prepared and served breakfast for their charges (the other meals were served at the school cafeteria) and performed a variety of other house motherly custodial, maintenance, and counselling chores. And again, because the company was so small, Pat and Betty (both talented and experienced actresses) were called upon to perform, and also to provide costume and hairdressing assistance.

WHY these concentrated workloads? They were necessary to balance the budget. Staff costs had to be contained so that expectations for box office revenue were not unrealistic. The Playhouse contribution to 1951 cost statistics was “6 for $6,” a punch card offering six admissions at a dollar each. That’s a bargain, even when converted into current dollars. Even so, the Playhouse was asking the public to pay twice as much to see a season which had become available, and it’s gotten no easier over the years.

Why did students continue eagerly to seek out this experience, and faculty to volunteer season after season? Few complained, felt martyred or ill-used. If we think it’s important, legitimate, and worthwhile, we’ll not only put up with a lot, we may even consider it a labor of love. I would guess, in different detail, it’s the same in your discipline.

The Miesle Story
An editor’s note

F. Lee Miesle, a Fremont native, appeared in BGSU theatre productions after enrolling as a freshman in 1941. Called to active duty in 1943, he served as an Army combat medic with the 7th Infantry Division on Okinawa and in Korea as World War 2 ended.

Back on the BGSU campus post-war, Lee Miesle returned to his love of theatre as well as immersing himself in a variety of other campus activities like The BG News, debate and extemporaneous and oratory speaking, Book and Motor.

• From The 1948 KEY Theta Alpha Phi group photo: Dr. Elden Smith, adviser; graduate student F. Lee Miesle, senior Patricia Hiser, president. Dr. Smith later was BGSU dean of students and then president of Ohio Wesleyan University.
ASHEL G. BRYAN, one of BGSU’s and the City of Bowling Green’s greatest benefactors, died of congestive heart failure Sept. 26 at his home. He was 89. Earlier this year, he had been announced as one of BGSU’s 100 most prominent alumni. He was a member of the Class of 1946.

After growing up in Cleveland, he met his wife, Dorothy Uber, at Ohio Wesleyan University. He enlisted in the Army Air Corps during World War II and, stateside, trained as a B-24 pilot. The war ended before he had a chance to fly any missions.

After the war, he moved to Bowling Green, his wife’s hometown, and earned a bachelor’s degree in business from BGSU.

In 1951, after the founding of the Bowling Green Banking Co. at the corner of Main and Wooster streets, Bryan was hired as assistant to the cashier. He eventually rose to president as the bank evolved to First National Bank, and then to Mid-American National Bank and Trust Co. He retired as the bank’s chief executive in 1985, before its name changed to Sky Bank and it merged with Huntington.

Bryan was on the BGSU Board of Trustees (1968-1976) and on the BGSU Foundation Board (1985-1993).

PASSINGS

In the BGSU Department of Theatre and Film, the F. Lee and Patricia and Patricia H. Miesle Award, which is an endowed scholarship, recognizes “graduate students in the Department of Theatre and Film who demonstrated the highest standards of excellence in research and writing of the MA thesis, standards reflective of those taught and practiced by F. Lee and Patricia H. Miesle.”

Dr. Fred Walsh, who founded the Huron Playhouse in 1948, later joined the faculty at North Dakota State University, serving 24 years as chairman of the Speech and Theatre Department. He was considered one of the most influential men in the history of the North Central Conference and North Dakota State University athletics, playing a major role in the development of both organizations over a 12-year span. Dr. Walsh was a moving force in the building and expansion of women’s athletics in the conference and at NDSU.

Dr. Miesle may be reached at miesle@msn.com.

Miesle Story from page 4

Sophomore Class president and treasurer of Pi Kappa Alpha Fraternity, Workshop Players, and Theta Alpha Phi theatre honor society.

It was during play tryouts that Lee met another talented drama student, Patricia Hiser, who later became Mrs. F. Lee Miesle. An education major from the small Wood County village of Bradner, she was active in radio, Sigma Rho Tau Sorority, Kappa Delta Pi education honor society, Workshop Players, YWCA, AWS, and Pan-Hel Council.

Lee earned a bachelor’s degree in 1947 and master’s in 1948. He joined the BGSU Speech Department the next year as instructor and began working on his PhD from Ohio State. He earned the degree in 1955.

Dr. Miesle retired as emeritus professor in 1980.

In 1943, before leaving for Army service: Lee Miesle (shirtless in center) and other members of the cast of “Guest in the House” apply makeup while listening to play director Elden T. Smith.

In The KEY yearbook: F. Lee Miesle, 1947 senior portrait; Patricia Hiser, 1948 senior portrait.
Passings continued

The Bryan names can be found across campus — from the Dorothy Uber Bryan Gallery in the School of Arts Bldg. to Bryan Recital Hall in Kobacker Hall to the Ashel Bryan Endowed Professorship in the College of Business Administration.

“His generosity was instrumental in making BGSU what it is today on so many fronts,” said Marcia Sloan Latta, senior associate vice president for University Advancement/vice president, BGSU Foundation, Inc.

MARGARET KRUKENMYER, 85, of Bowling Green, died Sept. 2 at Hospice of Northwest Ohio. Born in McClure, she had worked as a cook at Webster Elementary School in the Eastwood district, the catering department at BGSU, and also worked at the Wood County Board of Elections.

JOHN C. KIEHL, 60, of Portage, died Sept. 3. Born in Van Wert and a 1969 graduate of Convoy-Crestview High School, he was a maintenance superintendent at BGSU.

RAYMOND J. ENDRES, 85, died of Parkinson’s disease in Fair Oaks, Calif., on Aug. 14. A native of Faribault, Minn., Dr. Endres joined the faculty of BGSU in 1965 and as an associate professor of education and director of the Upward Bound program. He also directed the NDEA Institutes for History Teachers and was dean of Summer Session and Extension until 1973, when he became dean of Continuing Education at Sacramento State University and professor of education. He retired in 1988. Dr. Endres was a World War II veteran, first in the Naval Air Training Program and then with the 6th Marine Division on Okinawa, his unit winning a Presidential Unit Citation for heroism on Okinawa.

ELAINE BRENTS, 74, of Weston, died Sept. 15. She retired after 31 years at the office of Applied Human Ecology at BGSU. She also was a Welcome Wagon hostess for several years before becoming employed by BGSU. She was active with Weston Days and the Weston Historical Society, and was a 1953 graduate of Woodward High School.

LEOTA NEAL, 58, died Aug. 18. She worked in the custodial department of BGSU and also was a cashier for Cut-Rate Tobacco in Bowling Green. She was born in Jellico, Tenn. “Leota always said she graduated from the School of Hard Knocks,” reported her obituary in the Sentinel-Tribune, and “she was affectionately known as Hillbilly Grandma.”

FRANCES JOHNSON PERRY, 77, died Aug. 14. She was in the late stages of Alzheimer’s disease. She was married to BGSU sociology professor Dr. Joseph B. Perry, who died earlier this summer. Frances Perry, who earned a PhD from the Sociology Dept. at BGSU, was an adjunct faculty member at BGSU and at the University of Toledo for 13 years.

Centennial Convocation Nov. 9

Retirees are invited to the formal academic BGSU Centennial Convocation Tuesday, Nov. 9, from 2:30 to 4 p.m. in Anderson Arena, Memorial Hall. The keynote speaker will be Ron Clark, the 2000 Disney Teacher of the Year and founder of the Ron Clark Academy in Atlanta.

NEWS&VIEWS about PENSIONS

EXPRESS-Scripts Inc., which handles the pharmacy benefits for Aetna Medicare Advantage for STRS and Humana Medicare Advantage for OPERS is unveiling a new program that aims to contact people who fail to take their drugs – before they actually stop, reported The Wall Street Journal Oct. 11. Also, some Aetna retirees have received small blood-pressure monitors to help them keep track of the ailment.
Be a member of the BGSU Retirees Association

If you retired during the 2009-2010 year, your membership in BGSURA was free. We hope you will choose to continue your membership by returning this form and a check for your dues.

* Name ________________________________________________________
* Mailing Address ________________________________________________
* City ______________________________ * State ___* ZIP __________-____
* Phone ______-______-______ * E-mail _____________________________

Check:  o OPERS   o STRS        No. of years at BGSU ___________
Check:  o Classified  o Faculty   o Admin.  Year you retired _____
Dept./Office from which you retired ______________________________

Sign me up as a :
 o First-year retiree member, Free!
 o New full member, 1 year $16
 o Associate member
   (Spouse or widower of retiree), 1 year $8
 o Life Member $200
 o Associate Life Member $100

• IMPORTANT: The information in bold type preceded with an * asterisk will be used to compile the 2011 BGSURA Directory to be published next January. Please circle any information you do NOT want to appear in the Directory. For a copy of the 2010 Directory, call or e-mail Jim Gordon at 418-352-8175, toll free at 888-564-8592, or jgordon@bgsu.edu.

Make check payable to BGSURA and mail with this form to:
Harold Lunde, BGSURA Treasurer
880 Country Club Drive
BOWLING GREEN OH 43402-1602

Dear BGSU Retiree:

Now is the time to join or renew your membership in the Bowling Green State University Retirees Association. The membership application below offers a variety of choices, with one that will best fit your lifestyle. (New retirees receive a one-year complimentary membership.

Besides publishing a newsletter and an annual directory, we hold five luncheon meetings with speakers during the year, sponsor various social functions, and fund a book scholarship for a BGSU student.

We also work with other retiree organizations to monitor and influence legislation and regulations affecting retirees from BGSU and other state universities in Ohio.

Jim Corbitt, Sue Hager
Co-chairs, BGSURA Membership Committee

BGSU
Retirees Association

2010-2011 Membership Application
**President’s Corner**

By Ramona

**My Garden Dilemma**

WHEN I retired in 1990, I became a serious gardener. I created two show gardens during the early 1990s: One at 149 Baldwin and the other at my present address. My gardens consist of perennials and occasional annuals. I build gardens by color. I have gardens with an all blue bed, an all yellow/orange bed, a pink/blue bed and a red bed. Of course, plantings are also controlled by size.

Some perennials have characteristics that make them unwelcome members of a garden. They are invasive and spread their wings either by self sowing or through a root system that courses through a flower bed like a river overflowing its banks. There is in my garden a beautiful species of autumn clematis that self sows and has appeared this autumn in my weeping beech tree and on my new arbor. Despite its sweet smell and beauty, the vine does not belong in my beech tree even though it has found a home there.

Since I have spent a minimum amount of time in my garden the past two summers because of my aging body and my lack of energy, some perennials have created flower chaos in my garden. What should I do with my flower beds? Should I convert some into grass, others into knock out roses and flowering shrubs, or keep some? This is the dilemma I will ponder during the dark and dreary winter months.

* • Dr. Cormier, Trustee Professor Emeritus, may be reached at rcormie@dacor.net.

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**Ron Ruble continued from page 2**

He has also written several plays, including “My Father’s Father,” a moving account of his grandfather’s life that played to popular acclaim in the Firelands area. Another play, “Tender Times,” about his experiences while growing up, also drew critics’ praise in the Sandusky Register. In addition to Firelands, the Sandusky Harlequins, one of the oldest community theaters in Ohio, performed “My Father’s Father.”

Ruble is an accomplished poet and has published hundreds of his works in various publications both in this country and internationally. “I wrote my first poem when I was eight and it was published in the school newspaper and thanks to the encouragement I received from my teachers, I’ve been writing poetry ever since.”

In his 2005 poetry book, “The Pulse of Life: From A to Z,” Ruble selected various words starting with all the letters in the alphabet and created short vignettes and poems based upon those words. “Words can be the glue which bonds us together, or instruments which tear us apart. Such words can and do alter the pulses of our lives,” he said. “It’s based upon my life experiences, with my family, friends and people I have met along the way,” he said.

“I was told in high school I would never amount to much. As stinging as that was, it served to challenge me to prove that person wrong and I think I did. I always wanted to teach, and I have. I wanted to be involved in theater and I’ve written plays, acted, directed, designed scenery, served as an artistic director, and I have been a business manager. I also wanted to write poetry, which I have done with some degree of success,” he said.

So, to borrow a line from Shakespeare, “All’s well, that ends well.”

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**Reservation for BGSURA’s Luncheon at Stone Ridge**

Reservation deadline Friday, Nov. 5! Luncheon is Wednesday, Nov. 10.

11:30-Noon: Check-in, socializing. Noon: Luncheon. $11 per person

Name(s) ____________________________________________________________

Number of reservations _____________________________________________

How to reserve #1: With this form by U.S. mail. Include a check.

How to reserve #2: By e-mail to hlunde@bgsu.edu. Pay at door, cash or check.

How to pay by mail: CHECK ENCLOSED FOR $_________ PAYABLE TO BGSURA.

If by mail: SEND RESERVATION FORM AND CHECK TO:

Harold Lunde, BGSURA Treasurer,
880 Country Club Drive, Bowling Green, OH 43402-1602. DEADLINE FRIDAY, NOV. 5.

Reservations by e-mail: hlunde@bgsu.edu. DEADLINE FRIDAY, NOV. 5!