BGSU presence at Chamber Mid-Year Awards Luncheon

• BGSU Retirees Association Life Member Dick Edwards introduces BGSU’s new president, Dr. Mary Ellen Mazey (left), to Jennifer Feehan, reporter for The Blade. Edwards was a member of the Presidential Selection Committee.

• “The Voice of Bowling Green,” Dave Horger, who received the Chamber of Commerce “I Love BG” award, is congratulated by Dr. Mazey. Horger’s morning newscast may be heard over WBGU-FM Radio, 88.1.

Business dean, now provost, to start BGSURA’s 17th year

Dr. Rodney Rogers, newly appointed to the post of interim provost by BGSU’s new president, Dr. Mary Ellen Mazey, will be the speaker at the BGSU Retirees Association 17th annual Convocation Wednesday, Sept. 7.

The event will be held at Stone Ridge Golf Club, Muirfield Drive, Bowling Green. Registration begins at 11 a.m. and serving of the sit-down meal at noon. Cost is $14. The reservation form is on page 4.

Wrong year in renewal form

THE BGSURA membership one-year renewal application mailed in June carried the wrong expiration date – June 2013 should be June 2012. The editor regrets the error.

Employees of The Copy Shop, 117 East Court St., owned by Van Spears (center). The Copy Shop won the Chamber’s first Small Business of the Year Award. From left are Ryan Davis, vice-president of operations; BGSU retiree Lee Thompson, graphics designer; Spears, president; Amy Batchelder, Web designer; and Beth Genson, publication production/sales. Spears, with a background in printers and copiers, was raised in Bloomdale and is a graduate of Elmwood High School and Owens Community College. He bought the business from Reed Bishop in January 2008. The firm added new high-speed digital color and black-and-white digital printers.

Special luncheon

Dr. Mary Ellen Mazey, BGSU’s 11th president, will be the speaker at a special BGSURA luncheon at Stone Ridge Golf Club on Wednesday, Oct. 5.
A MOTHER of two young daughters, Natallia LaMantia, of Bryan, is the recipient of the 2011 Golden Book Award of $500. She is in the third year of the registered dietician program. A native of Belarus in the former Soviet Union, she came to the U.S. 11 years ago and received her U.S. citizenship six years ago. “My goal as a dietician will be to help people meet their nutritional goals in order to live a healthier life. I truly believe in my heart I can help people,” she said. LaMantia has been invited to the Sept. 7 Convocation.

DR. BERNARD STERNsher, 86, Distinguished University Professor Emeritus of history, died July 16 in Kingston Residence of Perrysburg of complications from lung cancer. He retired in 1992. Born in Fall River, Mass., he was a Coast Guard veteran of World War II. In 1944, he was one of 19 survivors rescued after his ship, the cutter Jackson, was sunk in a hurricane off Cape Hatteras. The 19 survivors were rescued after clinging to life rafts for more than two days. Dr. Sternsher earned his bachelor’s degree at the University of Alabama in 1948, and his master’s and doctorate from Boston University. He joined the BGSU faculty in 1969 after teaching at the Rochester Institute of Technology, University of Rochester, Fairleigh Dickinson University, Seton Hall and Rutgers.

EMMA DEY DAUER, of Bowling Green, died July 2 at Hospice of Northwest Ohio, Perrysburg. She was 85. Dauer worked as a cook at the BGSU Student Union for 24 years, retiring in 1987.

DR. FRANK GLANN, 75, a BGSU alumnus and stalwart in the history of the Huron Playhouse, died July 18 in Firelands Regional Medical Center of an apparent heart attack. He had been undergoing treatment for pancreatic cancer. Dr. Glann retired earlier this year as associate professor emeritus of theatre/humanities and received the Faculty Senate’s Community Involvement Award ($1,000 award) for his career at BGSU Firelands. Dr. Glann’s work (next page)
P

UBLC employee pension plans are under attack. Politicians charge that these funds are overly generous to retirees, are underfunded, are a burden to the taxpayers and are unsustainable. Conservative policy groups and conservative state executives and legislators argue that the public would be better served if all public pension plans were converted to defined contribution. What is the difference?

In a defined benefit plan, employer and employee contribute to a pooled investment fund which is managed by professional managers. Funds are placed in diversified funds to be managed over the long term.

In a defined contribution plan, the employee and employer, or in some cases, only the employee, contribute to an investment account managed by a paid vender or by the individual.

STRS Ohio offers a defined benefit plan, but employees have the option to contribute to a defined contribution plan. Ohio PERS offers a defined benefit plan.

Defined benefit plans have more advantages to public employees:

- Defined benefit plans provide financial protection both for plan members and taxpayers because they provide long-term financial protection with a steady income for the retiree.

STRS Ohio costs members 24 cents per $100 of assets. Nationwide on average, defined contribution plans cost the member $1 per $100 of assets.
- Defined benefit plans are efficient and economical. The funds are more stable and provide less risk over time than do defined contribution plans.
- Defined benefit pension plans in most states are not in crisis.
- Defined benefit pensions provide a stable source of revenue for Ohio’s state and local economies. 86% of STRS retirees remain in the state and spend their money in Ohio. In an economic downturn, as we are currently experiencing, pension payments provide a regular source of income for local economies.

In Ohio the five public pension systems have proposed reforms in their respective systems which will address any immediate and long term problems with the plans. These reforms are addressed in Ohio Senate Bill 5 and House Bill 69.

For further information on defined benefits compared to defined contributions go to www.strs.org, www.opers.org, and www.nissonline.org (the National Institute for Retirement Security).

DR. ALBERT WALKER, who was Editor, University Publications, at BGSU from 1960 to 1967, died June 22 in DeKalb, Ill. He was 91. A veteran of World War II and Korea, Dr. Walker was a reporter for Stars & Stripes, Mid-Pacific Edition, while in the Army. He retired from Northern Illinois University in 1990 as Professor Emeritus of Public Relations, founding the PR program in 1968. Dr. Walker held the Ph.D from Case Western Reserve, M.S.J. from Northwestern and B.A. from Baker. Before BGSU, he was director of public relations for the University of Akron, and president’s assistant at Dickinson and Carthage colleges.
For the past three years, I have had the privilege of being involved with Honor Flight Northwest Ohio – first as a “guardian” (escort) and then as one of six Honor Flight NWO board members. Honor Flight NWO is an organization that currently takes World War II veterans (men and women) on a one-day trip to Washington, D.C., to see the World War II Memorial and several other military memorials. Other stops include the Korean War Memorial, the Vietnam Memorial, the Marine Corps (Iwo Jima) Memorial, the Air Force Memorial, the Women in Military Service Memorial, and the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington Cemetery.

Overall, Honor Flights are a way of “giving back” to those men and women who Tom Brokaw calls “The Greatest Generation.”

Three of the World War II veterans I have been a “guardian” for have been from Bowling Green – Elmer Girten (a BGSURA member), Ennio Migliarini, and Leigh Kendrick.

Many other Bowling Green residents have gone on Northwest Ohio Honor Flights – including former Bowling Green mayors Bruce Bellard and Wes Hoffman. Before the end of the 2011 “flying season,” two BGSURA members will be going on Honor Flights to Washington, D.C. – Tom Stubbs, the first president of BGSURA, on Aug. 31, and David Elsass, retired dean of the College of Education, on Sept. 28.

If you are interested, come out to the Grand Aire Terminal at Toledo Express Airport on one of these dates for the “send off” (7 to 9 a.m.) and/or the “welcome home” (8:30 to 10 p.m.). All you need to get into the hangar is a current picture ID. More information on Honor Flight NWO can be found at www.honorflightnwo.org.

• Dr. Chilson is an Associate Professor Emeritus of Computer Science. Write to him at chilson@cs.bgsu.edu.

Reservation – BGSURA Full-Service Luncheon at Stone Ridge
Reservation deadline Friday, Sept. 2
Luncheon Wednesday, Sept. 7
11:30-Noon: Check-in, socializing. Noon: Full-service Luncheon. $14 per person

Name(s) ____________________________________________________________

Number of reservations _____________________________________________

1. How to pay by mail:
   CHECK ENCLOSED FOR $_______ PAYABLE TO BGSURA.
   Send Reservation Form and Check to:
   Gaylyn Finn, BGSURA Treasurer,
   996 Deer Ridge Run, Bowling Green, OH 43402.
2. Reservations by e-mail: gfinn3@woh.rr.com. Pay by cash or check at the door.

Calendar
Sept. 21 – Reception for retirees by Mary Ellen Mazey, BGSU’s 11th president. More info to come.
Oct. 5 – Special luncheon. President Mazey. At Stone Ridge.
Nov. 7 – BGSURA officers meet with President Mazey. Send questions or topics for discussion to any of the officers in the masthead on page 3.
Nov. 16 – Regular BGSURA luncheon. At Stone Ridge. Nancy Orel, director, BGSU Gerontology Program.
April 11, 2012 – Annual joint luncheon with Toledo retirees. At Stone Ridge. Prof. Tim Fuerst, BGSU economics department.

President’s Message – Aboard the Honor Flight

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