Mary and Frederic Wolfe put the finishing touches on a ceramic model representing the new Wolfe Center for the Arts. The “groundbreaking” ceremony was held April 25, 2009. Construction of the $40 million, 93,000 square-foot Wolfe Center was completed last year. Inset: Dr. Ron Shields (BGSU Photos).

Wolfe Center focus at Sept. 12 BGSURA Convocation

At the BGSU Retirees Association’s 18th annual Convocation Sept. 12 at Stone Ridge Golf Club (registration at 11:30 a.m.), Dr. Ron Shields, professor of theatre and film, will focus on the design and planning for the Wolfe Center. His presentation, “Building a Building for the Arts,” will include an overview of “what changed along the way and what remained constant.” Besides providing a “behind the scene look” at how buildings get built at BGSU, Dr. Shields will share details about what makes the structure a “signature” building for the campus.

One of the most distinctive buildings on Bowling Green State University’s campus is now one of its greenest. The Wolfe Center for the Arts was awarded Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Silver status by the U.S. Green Building Council and verified by the Green Building Certification Institute. The Wolfe Center, which opened last January, was designed by the international architectural firm Snohetta. Dr. Shields, a native of Rochelle, Ill., stepped down as department chair in July, after 17 years in that leadership position, returning to the faculty this fall to teach both undergraduate and graduate students – a doctoral seminar in 19th Century American Theatre History and a section of Introduction to Performance Studies.

In high school at Rochelle, Dr. Shields said his teachers were outstanding. “We all had excellent music and drama/speech teachers in the public schools. I acted in plays with Joan Allen, who went on to receive an Oscar for her role in The Crucible.

Dr. Shields received his Ph.D. from Louisiana State University and joined the BGSU faculty in 1986. In recent years his scholarship and production work have focused on staging the operas of Cavalli (two collaborative productions with colleagues from the Eastman School of Music) and Handel (stagings of Acis and Galatea and Hercules). Dr. Shields has presented his research on baroque opera at national and international conferences, including a lecture at the Sibelius Institute in Helsinki and as the BGSU Arts and Sciences Distinguished Lecture Speaker last spring.

Membership and Convocation reservation forms are on page 8.
It’s a wonderful life!

Scholarship set Norma Stickler on a career path she never imagined

Story and Photos by Clif Boutelle

The impact of a scholarship cannot be overstated. For some it can be life changing because it provides an opportunity that would not otherwise be available.

That was the case for Norma Stickler.

She grew up in Edmore, Mich., a tiny town known as the state’s potato capital. She remembers school closing each fall for a few days so that students could help pick potatoes.

Money was tight for her family and like many of her classmates she was planning on getting a job following high school. College wasn’t on her radar.

But all that changed when she received an Honor’s Scholarship to attend nearby Alma College. With it came possibilities that greatly changed her career path. She majored in Spanish and following graduation was offered a position at Midland (Mich.) High School to teach Spanish and English.

She traces her interest in Spanish to a summer job she had while in high school working in a general store in Wyman, Mich. Since it was one of the few stores in town, just about everybody came in to shop, including migrant workers who were employed at local farms. “I interacted a great deal with Hispanics and wanted to learn their language,” she said.

She taught four years at Midland, but while the teaching was rewarding the highlight was meeting a German teacher at the school who was to be...

Norma’s fish story:

I caught this largemouth bass the first summer we had our lake place in Michigan. I was fishing for blue gills with a small hook and bobber. The bass was lurking in a shallow area near our frontage and it bit on both the hook and the bobber. I pulled him in and held him while John raced 200 feet up the hill to the house to get the camera. We returned the fish to the water before it was injured – or expired, confident it survived, much to the relief of our neighbors who wanted to try their luck at catching it.

Norma Stickler tends to her rudbeckia, also known as coneflowers. “I have several different coneflower plants because they are a favorite of goldfinches and butterflies,” she says. “The finches sit on top of the dying blossoms at this time of the year and eat the seeds.”
come her husband…John Stickler, who after four years in the Coast Guard was into his first teaching job.

They married in 1965 and moved to Lansing so that John could pursue graduate studies at Michigan State University. During that time Stickler found a position at nearby Williamston High School teaching Spanish, English and French. “I’m really not multilingual but knew enough Spanish and French to teach at the high school level,” she said.

From Lansing it was on to Bowling Green, where John joined the German and Russian department. “He was also offered a position at Northern Michigan but we thought it was too cold up there and chose Bowling Green instead. That turned out to be a great decision.”

Bowling Green High School did not need a Spanish teacher but she soon began her University career working part time doing statistical and clerical work in the Resource Planning Office.

In 1975 she decided to work full time. “So I gathered up my courage and walked into Dr. (Michael) Ferrari’s office and asked if my job could be upgraded to full time. I didn’t know how he would react. I thought it was a pretty bold move on my part. He looked at me and said ‘OK,’ and that was it,” she recalled.

Actually it was an easy decision for Ferrari.

“I was greatly impressed with the quality of her work and was delighted when she wanted to work full-time. She is tremendously bright and has a strong work ethic as well as a great analytical mind,” said Ferrari, who was vice president of resource planning at the time.

ORMA took on additional duties helping with long-range planning and gathering and analyzing institutional data when Ferrari was named provost in 1978. “Hollis (Moore) was an advocate of making data-driven decisions where issues were analyzed fully. He believed that kind of information resulted in more efficient operation. We analyzed everything, academic programs, facilities, administrative areas; really anything that had to do with the operation of the university,” Norma said. And she was in the middle of all that.

“She became the go-to-person of our office,” Ferrari said. “She had a good grasp of issues, what needed to be done and she went about doing it in her usual efficient manner. One of her strengths was working with people throughout the campus. She interacted well with them and had their trust and confidence.”

“Of all the administrative officers I worked with in my years at Wright State, Drake and Texas Christian, I would put Norma near the top of the list, that’s how much I respected her work and her as a person,” he added.

She also coordinated all dean searches, which included taking in nominations and applications, compiling candidates’ credentials, making arrangements for campus visits, insuring the University adhered to affirmative action guidelines and verifying credentials.

“We probably had at least one search going on every year and I recall one year we had four,” she said.

When Ferrari became interim president following the death of Hollis Moore in 1981, Stickler worked with a succession of provosts including John Eriksen, Karl Vogt, Betsy Clark and Chuck Middleton.

Because she was becoming more involved in key operational areas of the university, she began work on an MBA degree in 1982, which she received in 1986. “I thought the degree would be useful in the work I was doing in the provost’s office and it was.”

By the time she retired in 1998 she was director of academic services and special assistant to the provost/vice president for academic affairs.

A particularly trying time came in 1983 when President Paul Olscamp ordered the University salary book be placed in the library for all to see. “It became the most read book in the library and resulted in a number of grievances and that led to a lot of work for the Provost’s Office. It took an enormous amount of time,” she said.

Stickler is proud of her role in helping establish the Administrative Staff Council in 1982-83, along with Zola Buford, Joe Martini, Gregg DeCrane and others. It was the first time administrative staff were given a voice.

She was also on the committee that in 1983 established the criteria and guidelines for the Michael Ferrari Award, the highest honor given annually to an administrative staff member for demonstrated excellence in one’s work and being committed to the growth and betterment of BGSU and its students.

In 1995 Stickler was the recipient of the Ferrari Award (See Monitor next page).

In retirement she has found plenty to keep her busy. She is the current president of the Bowling Green Women’s Club, a service organization that undertakes projects to benefit the University, students and faculty. She is also on the committee that selects the Michael Ferrari Award (See Monitor next page). It was established 1983 in honor of her late spouse.

During the last year of her life, John Stickler was selected as a recipient of the 2003 Williamston High School Blue Ribbon Award for his work as a member of the Pacific Rim International Business Group. He died in 2005.

“Throughout his career he brought a sense of humor and friendliness to all he worked with. He was a wonderful person,” Norma said.

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New gerontology master’s program offered

BGSU now offers a new Master of Science in Interdisciplinary Gerontology (MSIG), the only interdisciplinary gerontology master’s program in the state. It will prepare professionals in a variety of fields to provide services to older adults and their families, and as the basis for pursuit of a doctorate.

“Our focus is on helping people age successfully,” said Dr. Nancy Orel, director of the gerontology program and MSIG graduate coordinator. The benefits extend not only to the older population but to the community as well. “Older adults tend to be the most vulnerable but also the most likely to lend assistance to others,” she noted.

With the number of older Americans doubling during the next 25 years, gerontology is a promising career for those just starting out as well as for people who need to reinvent themselves professionally.

The program has broad appeal. It was approved by the Ohio Board of Regents in January and already has a number of students enrolled, including an urban fire department administrator concerned about the safety and needs of the elderly.

Dr. Orel was the speaker at last November’s BGSURA luncheon.
PASSINGS

Center to celebrate Title IX

Gloria Steinem, legendary feminist scholar, activist and author, will be on campus Sept. 25 for special activities as part of the BGSU Women’s Center celebration of the accomplishments of the Women’s Equity Action League.

WEAL founder Elizabeth “Betty” Boyer, a 1937 BGSU alumna, played a key role in helping pass Title IX, the landmark legislation that WEAL helped pass which decreed educational institutions receiving federal funding may not discriminate on the basis of gender. For more information: www.bgsu.edu/offices/women/index.html.

Express-Scripts, Walgreens end 7-month impasse

WALGREEN Co. and Express Scripts Holding Co. have ended a seven-month contract impasse that forced millions of customers to go elsewhere to fill prescriptions. Express Scripts is the pharmacy benefits manager for Ohio STRS and PERS. The agreement, effective Sept. 15, restores Walgreens 7,900 stores to the Express Scripts network, reported The Wall Street Journal July 30.

Walgreens said it was losing money and Express Scripts said Walgreens would have been its priciest in-network pharmacy. An analyst said only 10 percent of the lost business would trickle back to Walgreens. “Only time will tell if one company ultimately comes out ahead.”

KEITH BRADLEY, the voice of the National Tractor Pull at the Fairgrounds for 45 years, died July 20, of complications from a heart attack and pneumonia. He was 79. At right, Bradley auctioned off cakes which celebrated the city’s 175th anniversary. Assisting at the February 2008 event in Woodland Mall is Christie Weingner, former director of the Wood County Historical Center and Museum, now executive director of the Rutherford B. Hayes Presidential Center, Fremont.

ROBERTA COOKSON, of Weston, who worked as a BGSU Union Food Service coordinator for 31 years, died July 4 at Hospice of Northwest Ohio. She was 61.

DAVID CROOKS, director of the BGSU Bowen-Thompson Student Union for 17 years, died Aug. 15. He was 72. A former restaurant owner in Sandusky, Crooks earned bachelor’s and master’s degree from BGSU.

DOROTHY FEEHAN, who worked at the BGSU Union for more than 25 years, died Aug. 4 at Blakely Care Center, Bowling Green. She was 98.

LLOYD SHELTON, 92, died June 26. He was a Bowling Green Council member from 1968 to 1971, farmer, pilot, Army Air Corps and Air Force officer, business owner, handball player, bicycle rider, staunch Republican. He was, his obituary noted, “a character.” During World War II, he flew C-46 transports over “the Hump” in the China-Burma theater. He was a founding member of the New Year’s Day Bicycle Bean Ride to Tontogany.

NILDA STINSON, 90, who was married to Robert E. Stinson, emeritus professor of art, died July 7. She came to the U.S. from her native Peru to study at the University of Texas. She earned a master’s degree at the University of Iowa, where she met her husband and helped him translate articles in Spanish that he needed to write his master’s thesis. A book that Prof. Stinson co-wrote with colleagues Otto Ocvirk, Robert Bone, Phil Wigg, Will Wankleman and David Cayton, Art Fundamentals: Theory and Practice, more than 50 years ago, is still in print with its 12th edition.

CHRISTOPHER WHITE, 56, son of Micki White and the late Allen White, professor emeritus of theatre, died July 5. Chris was a member of the 1984 BG High School hockey team that won the state championship.

• Compiled from the Sentinel-Tribune and The Blade.
Stickler (continued)

A globe vase is one Norma purchased from Robert (Bud) Hurlstone, a nationally known glassblower who has taught at Bowling Green since 1978. “I bought it with some of the cash award I received as a recipient of the Ferrari Award,” she said.

Clif Boutelle retired from BGSU in 1999 as associate vice president for University Relations. This is Clif’s 25th in a series of retiree profiles that began when he succeeded the late Janis Pallister with the September 2007 issue. He may be reached at clif5761@frontier.com.

In 1999, they bought a home on Ribeck Lake near Montgomery, Mich., about a two-hour drive from Bowling Green. “We’re both Michiganders and the thought of having a place in our home state was appealing to us. It was a great place to get away to and that was our trade-off for doing a lot of traveling. We sold it two years ago because it was getting to be a lot of work maintaining two homes, especially keeping up with the gardening, which I enjoy immensely.”

One by-product of their Michigan tenure was fly-fishing. “John likes to fish and I joined him from time to time. In the 1990s we attended a fly-fishing school in Maine sponsored by L.L. Bean. It was fun, although we haven’t kept up with fly-fishing.”

Stickler likes to keep busy but “not too busy. I don’t want to spend all my time going to meetings. I think I have struck a good balance between being active and enjoying retirement. It’s a good life.”

Uprising at Bowling Green
How the Quiet Fifties Became the Political Sixties
By Jim Gordon

A STUDY of one of the most traumatic episodes in the history of Bowling Green State University – the tumultuous 100 days that led to the resignation of President Ralph W. McDonald on June 24, 1961 – is now available as a book researched and written by three former members of the BGSU sociology department.

The demonstrations were big news in Ohio, where BGSU was regarded as a “strict, conservative campus, more like a private Bible-belt college than one supported by public funds,” the authors wrote.

The book was a project four decades in the making for Dr. Norbert Wiley, professor emeritus of sociology at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign; and two emeritus professors of sociology at Bowling Green State University, Dr. Arthur Neal and the late Dr. Joseph Perry Jr.

The three were all teaching in the BGSU sociology department in the spring of 1961 when BGSU students rebelled against Dr. McDonald’s in loco parentis rules.

Dr. Wiley, then a graduate student, was walking on campus with his son that warm
afternoon, March 26, 1961, watching a water fight between two fraternities. Campus police were on the scene. The dean of men, Wallace W. Taylor Jr., showed up to disperse the crowd. Then, the authors wrote, “A pledge snuck up behind the dean and hit him on the head with a balloon full of water.” When the dean and the police chased the pledge, the crowd chased the police, and the demonstration was on.

“This was the first student rebellion of the 1960s,” Dr. Wiley wrote in an email. “And in some ways, it initiated this protest decade.” He added, “We three were supportive of the students’ actions, and we were close to the charismatic philosophy professor, Sherman Stanage, who was advising the students.” President McDonald fired Stanage on Commencement Weekend. The dismissal of the Philosophy Department chairman was a “fateful error,” the authors wrote. At the end of the academic year, Dr. Wiley said, he, too, was “fired for being too opinionated, so to speak.”

Dr. Wiley recalled, “We took a lot of notes on the demonstrations and we hoped to write a book about the events, but it took us almost 40 years to formally begin the project. “I’d see Joe Perry at the annual sociology convention and after 20 or 30 years we started talking about doing the project. We began by presenting a paper at a sociology conferences.”

Dr. Wiley said he wrote the initial paper, but Dr. Perry and Dr. Neal expanded it into a full-scale draft for a book. “This gave us about 10 chapters, which we then circulated among the three authors. Each of us worked on each chapter, and it would be impossible at this point to specify who wrote what.”

Everyone said it was a story that was too old, local and linked to an obsolete topic (student protest in the 1960s). “We got maybe three reviews and the reviewers were quite negative and discouraging,” Dr. Wiley said.

Still no book. “Then Art and I were at a sociology convention in San Francisco and we ran across the Paradigm Publisher booth. Owner Dean Birkenkamp has a personal interest in the 1960s and he encouraged us to submit our manuscript. We kept enlarging the topic, from Bowling Green to the whole United States, etc. I also happen to know one of the great sociologists, Dr. Randall Collins, of the University of Pennsylvania, and he agreed to write an introduction which made the book look better to the publisher. Dr. Collins called the BGSU protest the first of the 1960s, and the most successful of all student protests because it forced the president to resign.

“So after many false starts and a great deal of pain we finished the job. The core story is so fascinating it carried the project along. I also kept finding people from the original 100 days and getting their recollections several decades later. This helped.”

Dr. Wiley retired from the University of Illinois in 1995. In 2003, he was appointed Visiting Scholar at the University of California, Berkeley. He now lives in Little River, Calif. Dr. Neal retired from BGSU in 1992 and lives in Portland, Ore. Dr. Perry, who lived in Bowling Green after retiring in 1994, died in 2010.

Norbert Wiley may be reached at norbert@redshift. Arthur Neal may be reached at nealag@comcast.net. Jim Gordon was director of BGSU’s News and Photography Services from 1959 to 1966. His collection of newspaper clippings provided the “backbone” for the book, Dr. Wiley noted.
Stay in touch. Don’t let your BGSURA membership lapse.

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Make check payable to BGSURA and mail with this form to:

BGSU Retirees Association
attn: Gaylyn Finn, BGSURA Treasurer
966 Deer Ridge Run,
BOWLING GREEN OH 43402-4487

Reservation – BGSURA Full-Service Luncheon at Stone Ridge
Luncheon Wednesday, Sept. 12. Cost $15
Reservation deadline Friday, Sept. 7
11:30-Noon: Check-in, socializing. Noon: Full-service Luncheon. $15 per person

Name(s) ____________________________________________

Number of reservations @ $15 ______________________________________

1. How to pay by mail:

CHECK ENCLOSED FOR $ ________ PAYABLE TO BGSURA.

Send Reservation Form and Check to:

Gaylyn Finn, BGSURA Treasurer,
966 Deer Ridge Run, Bowling Green, OH 43402.

2. Reservations by e-mail: gfinn3@woh.rr.com. Pay by cash or check at the door.

Deadline for reservations Friday, Sept. 7

Hot Served Luncheon
Chicken Teriyaki
Rice Pilaf
House Salad with Ranch and Raspberry Vinaigrette Dressing
Rolls and Butter
Iced Tea and Lemonade
on Alternating Tables
Coffee and Hot Tea Station
Water Carafes on Tables