



“Staying human in a social media world: the risks, benefits, and ethics of connecting online.”

**Montana Miller will speak
at
May 13 luncheon**



Montana Miller

Montana Miller is an Associate Professor in the Department of Popular Culture at BGSU and also serves as BGSU's Research Compliance Officer. A nationally known expert on Internet and ethnographic research ethics, she specializes in youth culture and Internet culture and teaches courses in ethnographic research methods and ethics. She is the author of "Face to Face with the Digital Folk: The Ethics of Fieldwork on Facebook," the concluding chapter of Trevor Blank's 2012 volume *Folk Culture in the Digital Age: The Emergent Dynamics of Human Interaction*.

Montana Miller's research interests include

- Emerging traditions and symbolic expression in youth culture;
- Internet communities including adolescent social networks and support groups;
- Dramatic drunk driving prevention programs in American high schools;
- Experienced/professional skydivers' beliefs and attitudes regarding death and mortality.

She received a B.A. from Harvard University, an M.A. and a Ph.D. from UCLA, all 3 degrees in Folklore & Mythology. □

Luncheon reservation form is on page 8.

REPORTS

Update on Administrative Staff Council (ASC)

by Judy Donald, Observer for BGSU Retirees Association

February 7, 2019 meeting

Chair Margo Kammeyer presided.

The 1st Guest Speaker was Shannon Wolverton, Admissions Counselor who spoke about President's Day, February 18th. There are currently 1017 students signed up with an expected 4000 visitors to campus. This is a large visit day with a 75% return on the students that choose BGSU.



Judy Donald retired from Continuing & Extended Education.

The 2nd Guest Speaker was Leslie Fern, Employee Relations Specialist who hosted an Active Listening professional development session for ASC.

Chair Report

HR meeting: the Leave Bank is open and accepting donated sick leave hours from eligible staff members until Feb. 22, which is during the Open Period. To be eligible to petition to withdraw from the leave bank, you must have donated during one of the last two enrollment periods.

MLK Jr. Day of Service: ASC and CSC held a friendly food drive competition for MLK Jr. Day, with ASC the winner of the first annual ASC/CSC MLK Jr. Day Food Drive Challenge.

Committee Reports

- Awards & Recognitions-Marketing end of year awards, planning reception, and January Spirit of BG award was awarded.
- Outreach & Activities-ASC Bowling night-Feb 8th at Al Mar Lanes has been re-scheduled for March 8th.
- Personnel Welfare & Compensation-No report.
- Professional Development-No report.
- Student Scholarships-Scholarship committee taking part in BGSUOneDay platform to encourage support of the ASC scholarship to take place April 2nd, with more information to come.

Liaison Reports: Classified Staff Council-Canned food drive a success, looking forward to doing it again next year. Working on reviewing scholarship applications.

Compensation request is in progress.

Ombuds Update-1 staff has contacted the Ombuds in the past month.

Old Business: None

New Business

-Submitted compensation requested to ASC, voted on and approved by council. There were a few suggested changes to this version: voted on suggested changes and document was approved by ASC. Will move forward with document. □

Do you know whose house this is? See page 6.



BGSURA Newsletter

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REPORTS

Summary of Ohio Council of Higher Education Retirees (OCHER) Board Meeting

March 26, 2019

written by Roger Anderson

Roger Anderson, Karel King and David Hyslop attended the OCHER Council meeting in Columbus at STRS Headquarters, March 26, 2019. President Steven Howe presided. The November 20, 2018 minutes were approved. The treasurer's report showed a balance of \$6,009.35 in the OCHER account as of March 26, 2019. Revenues are \$1,300.00 with expenditures of \$654.45.

Michele Hobbs presented the OPERS Report. As of December 31, 2018 the OPERS Defined Benefits Fund is \$81.1 billion, and the Health Care Fund is \$11.3 billion. Hobbs reported that OPERS Executive Director Karen Carraher said that the OPERS Board and staff are placing an increased emphasis on providing needed information to its members in 2019. The goal is to provide more information on the topics of greatest importance to the members: health care coverage and cost; investments and returns; annual cost-of-living adjustments. OPERS will continue to provide access to the Medicare Connector and provide monthly health care payments to Medicare retirees which now average \$330 a month. Feedback from members will continue to be gathered through a series of health care meetings across the state this spring.

President Howe introduced Gordon Gatien, Director of External Relations of OPERS. Gatien said the OPERS Board has seen a turnover of six members in the past two years which he thinks gives new energy to the Board. Currently, the OPERS staff is meeting with the 30 new state legislators and the two new Ohio congressional representatives. Currently, there are no bills in the Ohio state legislature which pertain to any of the pension plans. In the past year the OPERS Board has reduced the assumed rate of returns for its investments to 7.2% from the previous 7.5% as recommended by the consultant. Dialogue on any reduction in the COLA continues, but there will be no attempt to reduce the COLA in 2019. H.B. 572 passed the legislature in December and was signed by the Governor. It changes the language for the period of minimum service time to receive OPERS retirement benefits from five years of minimum service time to 60 contributing months. The bill also provides OPERS service credits to Directors of Development Disabilities. Gatien said OPERS is 77% funded with the goal being 90% funded. In 2018 there was a 3% decline in pension investment earnings and a 5% decline in health care fund investment earnings. In order to sustain the health care system there should be a 5% increase in pension investment earnings each year. The OPERS Medicare Connector program is working with few complaints.

Marla Bump, Director of Government Relations for STRS, gave her report. In February the Government Relations staff attended the National Association of State Retirement Administrators/ National Council on Teacher Retirement Joint Winter Conference in Washington, D.C. At the meeting the new Vice-President of Policy and Advocacy for Arnold Ventures, a privately funded conservative advocacy group, said that Arnold Ventures would move away from funding grants to advocacy groups that are against public defined benefit pension plans. Bump said that the members in attendance seemed skeptical of that decision. While in Washington the STRS staff met with all the Ohio congressional staff. Bump said that the STRS staff has been meeting with new Ohio legislators and handing them STRS's new brochure "Quick Facts and Resources." **(A copy of this brochure has been sent to all Bowling Green State University Retiree Association members who have an e-mail account).** Bump said that U.S. Senators Sherrod Brown (D) and Rob Portman (R) have introduced the Pension Accountability Act which intends to give workers and retirees a say when multi-employers bankruptcies lead to pension cuts or eliminations. The Ohio Retirement Study Council held its first meeting of the year on March 14. A number of reports were given. The topic for the April meeting is Unfunded Liabilities and the 30 Year Amortization for Ohio pension funds.

After lunch the OCHER Board heard from Greg Nickell, Director of Health Care Services. Nickell said the STRS Board will evaluate any changes in Health Care costs and benefits at their April & May meetings and recommend any changes at the June meeting. He predicted that there may be a slight increase in cost for Medicare retirees. Nickell passed out copies of a research paper on alternative models for pharmaceutical rebates. Three options were discussed: 100% pass-through with all rebates going to the entity administering the plan; point of sale with all rebates going to the individual who signed up for the plan; and the elimination of all rebates and a switch to pharmacy discounts.

Gerald Newsom, OCHER Representative to STRS and HPA, gave his report. STRS investment losses in December, 2018 resulted in the fiscal year-to-date returns of 1.75%, a potential loss of \$6.3 billion when compared to the assumed rate of return. As of December 31, 2018 STRS Fiscal Year investments beat the benchmark by .29% and outperformed 89% of funds in Callen's Public Fund Sponsor Databank. Newsom said discussion at the

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REPORTS

OCHER Report *continued from page 3*

February STRS Board meeting revolved around restoring part or the entire COLA. He said the Board's primary goal is to "safeguard members' benefits in the long term," and therefore the Board wants to avoid any future cuts in benefits.

Newsom reported that STRS stated that this past year 8% of new members in teaching had converted their retirement funds into the Defined Benefit Plan from either the Defined Contribution Plan or the Combined Plan. In their fifth year of teaching, teachers in STRS are permitted to change their plans. In the most recent STRS phone survey of active and retired teachers, 95% of the sample of teachers said they were very favorable or somewhat favorable to STRS. Over the last three years the percentage of STRS retirees who felt their pension benefits were an excellent or good value numbered 84%, 86%, and 77% respectively. Last year's lower percentage Newsom said can probably be attributed to the lack of a COLA. Retirees' perception of the STRS Board went up from 71% to 76%.

In a comparative study of employer-employee contribution rates of states whose state pension plans did not provide social security benefits, Ohio at a 28% contribution rate is below the average contribution rate. This is because Ohio relies more on employee contributions than employer contributions. Of seventy state plans, Ohio's STRS defined contribution plan was thirteen percent lowest, while the member contribution rate was 18th highest. The employer contribution rate was 10th lowest. Ohio's employer contribution rate is fixed by law whereas in some state it is set each year. For example, in Pennsylvania the employer contribution rate has varied from 1% to 32.6% of payroll.

In other STRS news Newsom reported that STRS Executive Director Mike Nehf is retiring in 2020 so a search is underway for a successor. A common complaint given by visitors at STRS Board meetings is that STRS staff should not be given raises until the COLA is restored. Callen consultants note that is difficult to get good asset managers, and if they were not given raises and bonuses they would leave STRS. Money would then have to be found to hire new asset managers which in the end would cost STRS more money. CEM Benchmark reported that for a fourth year in a row STRS received the top score for customer service. STRS administrative costs decreased in Fiscal Year 2018 but so did the number of active and retired teachers so the cost per member remained at \$105.

There were no representatives present from Akron University to discuss major program cuts and faculty furloughs and buyouts. Ohio University representatives gave a campus report. Representatives of Wright State gave a special report. Under a previous provost, university spending increased so rapidly that resources went from \$160 million to \$30 million. The university was placed on Fiscal Watch. Now it is off. Faculty contracts expired in July, 2017 without a new contract signed. The Wright State administration raised health care costs for administrative staff and tried to do the same for faculty without consultation. Wright State faculty went on strike for twenty-one days. The faculty has voted no confidence in the Board of Trustees. Student enrollment has declined and is now at 15,000.

President Howe suggested that Gordon Gaten be invited to all of our meetings in the future to give a report, and the OPERS Council agreed. For the May 21, 2019 meeting the President of the STRS Board will be invited to attend along with a major STRS fiscal officer. Also the new Chancellor of Ohio Higher Education will be invited to speak. A representative from the University of Akron Retirees Association will be asked to discuss the Akron situation. □

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR 2019-20 PROGRAM YEAR

September 9, 2019 Mayor Dick Edwards with BG city employees on how city government works

November 11, 2019 Tom Walton: Musings from retired editor Toledo Blade

March 9, 2020 Student musicians from College of Musical Arts

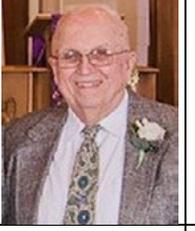
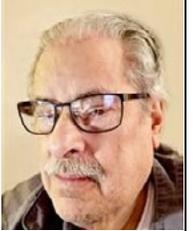
May 11, 2020 Catherine Smith, BGSU Aviation Technologies, on BGSU Aviation Studies program

PASSINGS

For the period January 1 - March 10, 2019. Photos are included when available.

- ◆ **Thomas D. Anderson**, 89, professor emeritus of geography, died January 21, 2019, in Bowling Green, Ohio. He taught at the University from 1964-1995.
- ◆ **James G. Bond**, 94, died January 16, 2019, in Seattle, Washington. He was the University's first vice president for student affairs, from 1967-1972. He joined the BGSU psychology department in 1960 and served as director of the psychology clinic
- ◆ **Lois Cheney**, 87, professor emeritus of theater, died February 4, 2019, in Bowling Green, Ohio. She taught at BGSU from 1964-1985 and developed and directed the Readers Theater.
- ◆ **Edmund Danziger**, 80, Distinguished Teaching Professor Emeritus of history, died January 8, 2019, in Sylvania, Ohio. He joined the University in 1966 and retired in 2013.
- ◆ **Keith Rusk Dearborn** passed away on January 30, 2019, in Florissant, Colorado. He was an associate professor emeritus of Music Education.
- ◆ **Irene Farr**, 87, died February 10, 2019, in Bowling Green, Ohio. She retired in 1993, from the Jerome Library.
- ◆ **John Hiltner**, 86, professor emeritus of geography and gerontology, passed away on March 9, 2019, in Bowling Green, Ohio. John started the Gerontology program at the University and became an expert in the field of aging and nursing home administration.
- ◆ **Susan Norris Huss**, 73, passed away on February 19,

- 2019, in Perrysburg, Ohio. An associate professor in the School of Counseling and Special Education, she joined the formerly named School of Education and Intervention Services in 1998. She retired from BGSU in 2017.
- ◆ **Judy Jennings**, died on February 13, 2019, in Bowling Green, Ohio. She was a Secretary in the College of Technology, retiring after 25 years of service to the university.
- ◆ **Sally J. Kilmer**, 83, professor emeritus of family and consumer sciences, passed away on March 9, 2019, in Bowling Green, Ohio. She held a joint appointment in the College of Health and Human Services and the College of Education and Human Development. She retired in 2006 after serving 27 years at BGSU.
- ◆ **Marvin Lee Kumler**, 78, passed away on February 18, 2019, in San Francisco, California. He was a professor emeritus of psychology and taught at BGSU from 1968-1998.
- ◆ **Mostafa Nagi** passed away on October 27, 2018. He retired from the University as professor emeritus of Sociology.
- ◆ **Susan Rahl-Huether**, 73, died on February 10, 2019, in Bowling Green, Ohio. She worked at the University for more than 25 year as public safety dispatcher and parking and traffic services officer.
- ◆ **Kay Williamson**, 82, passed away March 5, 2019, in Bowling Green, Ohio. A Wayne, Ohio resident, she retired from the University after serving as administrative assistant

				
Thomas D. Anderson	James G. Bond	Lois Cheney	Edmund J Danziger Jr.	Keith Dearborn
				
Irene Farr	John Hiltner Jr.	Susan Norris Huss	Judy Jennings	Sally J. Kilmer
		Rest In Peace		
Marvin Kumler	Mostafa Nagi		Susan Rahl- Huether	Kay Williamson

BGSU Retirees Association Social Gathering in December 2018

reported and photographed by Wally Pretzer

The ninth cocktail party at the fully decorated home of Ralph Haven Wolfe in North Baltimore OH took place from 4-7 p.m. on Friday December 14 2018. Even though Ralph will say that he did not really do anything, he overlooks how beautifully he displays the 160 red bows throughout the house. In addition he arranges to have as many as eighteen Christmas trees displayed; most of them appear on the various rooftops so that those approaching his house can express adulations regarding his holiday endeavors. Ralph, a gentleman of the first order, is to be applauded many times for his efforts that have gone on for nine years. Retirees as well as others who attend next year should wear a lapel pin that features the number 10.

Vi Jacobs has been Ralph's very capable assistant in making the event go smoothly. In addition to Vi and Ralph, forty-three others came to the party: Barbara & Charlie Applebaum, Sue & Les Barber, Joan & Bob Callecod, Judy & Cliff Boutelle, Ray & Joanna Craig, Nadine & Dick Edwards, Jan & Gaylyn Finn, Sharon & Ron Gargas, Peggy Giordano & Ted Groat, Milt Hakel, Ray Heitger, Tom Hern, Brett Holden, Emily & Bill Lake, Naomi & Gary Lee, Nancy Leetch, Dawn & Chuck McCaghy, Jim Miller, Joanne & Leo Navin, Sherry & Reginald Noble, Vic Norton, Judith & Ralph Olson, Sue Potter, Wally Pretzer, Sue & Bill Rock, Chris Sexton, and Ellen Williams.



Dick & Nadine Edwards



Vi Jacobs & Ralph Wolfe



Judith & Ralph Olson
(right)



Brett Holden (above)
Sue Potter (below)



Les & Sue Barber



Jim Miller





Joanne & Leo Navin



Milt Hakel (above)



Emily & Bill Lake



Nancy Leetch



Wally Pretzer (below)



Clif & Judy Boutelle



Peggy Giordano & Ted Groat



Left: Ellen Williams



Right: Ray Heitger, Gaylyn Finn, Tom Hern



Ron & Sharon Gargasz

President's Message

At the end of June, I will be finishing my third two year term as President of the BGSU Retirees Association. The time has flown as it does at this time of life.

When I began things rapidly got hectic with the passing of Jim Gordon who, it seemed, was doing an army's worth of tasks. Ellen Dalton stepped up to edit the newsletter, Paul Lopez took on administering the data base, Carol Sanner had the luncheon programs printed, a job now taken on by Linda Treeger. Barbara Keller volunteered to write publicity releases, something we've never had before.

We've tried some new things like on-line voting and credit card payments. But our small group size made it hard for the Foundation and BGSU IT to economically process the bank charges. Sometimes as you try to move forward, circumstances stand in your way.

Personally, I can't stand stuffy, boring meetings and because of this I tend to conduct board meetings according to Bobby's Rules of Order rather than Robert's Rules. Some folks think things should be more formal but so far, no Board members have left a meeting with a bloody nose and most meetings are over in a hour and a half or less.

I hope I'm leaving things better than I found them. Thank you for allowing me to serve the BGSU Retirees for six years, it has been an honor.



• To reach Chris Sexton:
csexton@wcnet.org
or call 419-354-2834.

Chris Sexton

Editor's Note: Speaking of transitions, Paul Lopez has gotten the database in such good shape that he's ready to move on to other challenges. We are seeking a volunteer to take over the database maintenance job. Paul says "I would teach them everything they'd need to do and stay with them until they felt fine going on their own. Comfortable with an Apple computer is all I'd say is key. Maybe a bit OCD....helps too." Please contact Paul: email plopez43569@gmail.com.

Reminder about Lunch Reservations

Our policy is that persons making a lunch reservation but unable to attend are responsible for paying for their reservation since we have to pay the Country Club for the number of reservations made. We appreciate your cooperation. Thank you.

Reservation -- BGSU Retirees Association Luncheon at Bowling Green Country Club
Monday May 13, 2019. Cost \$15.
Reservation deadline Wednesday May 8.
11:30-noon: check in, socializing. Noon: buffet luncheon including dessert

Name(s) _____
Number of reservations @ \$15 _____

1. Reservation by mail:
Send reservation form and check payable to BGSU Retirees Association to:
Barbara Moses
734 McKinley Dr, Bowling Green OH 43402

2. Reservation by email:
Send message to bmoses@bgsu.edu. Pay by cash or check at the door.

If you make a reservation but are unable to attend, you are responsible for paying for your reservation. Please send a check as in #1 above. Thank you.

Luncheon Menu
Beef burgundy
Amaretto chicken
Buttered noodles
Green beans almonidine
Garden salad
Rolls & butter
DESSERT
Beverages