Ghosts of Summer

By Nancy Wardwell

There was a time in Columbus, if on a summer evening you wanted to go dancing, there were several nice dance pavilions where you could dance the latest steps to great local and traveling big bands. During the day these parks offered wonderful attractions. There were rides like Loop the Loop, Shoot the Chutes, ferris wheels, roller coasters – and a gigantic swimming pool.

Olentangy Park, first called The Villa, opened in 1893 by Robert M. Turner. In 1896, the Columbus Street and Railroad Company bought the property and renamed it Olentangy Park. It quickly became known as one of the city’s most beautiful spots.

Minerva Park opened in 1895 with a reputation for “respectable folks,” as intoxicants and games of chance were banned. The park was developed by the Columbus Central Railway to encourage use of its new Columbus to Westerville Interurban line. Delighting young and old were the Zoological Garden, Ornithological Museum, the Scenic Railway roller coaster, Shoot the Chutes (the water slide of its day), swimming, boating, baseball, bowling, concerts, dancing, picnics, strolls in the cool woodlands, pony rides, fireworks, the orchestration replicating a 36-piece orchestra, grand vaudeville and theater.

Railway and steamship companies had a big hand in the development of many amusement parks and resorts across America. Coney Island, NY and OH are examples, as is Sun Valley and Banff.

Less is known about Norwood Park. We do know it was gone by the 1950s, but there are personal recollections from the Columbus Public Library Collections of a merry-go-round with a calliope, Dodgems and the Caterpillar ride.

Indianola Park opened in 1905 along 4th Street at 18th. In addition to its Blue Streak Roller Coaster it had a dance pavilion and a beautiful swimming pool. Unique among the parks were the airship rides. It closed in the 1930s, but in the immediate area, Smith Roller Skating Rink survived many years longer.

Olentangy Park is by far the best documented and remembered. Imagine Olentangy Park’s romantic dance pavilion with a dance floor extending out over the Olentangy River. Over the years one could find a restaurant and colonnade, a figure 8 and other roller coasters, row boats, a bowling alley, a zoo, a Japanese village and the largest theater in America at the time. Olentangy Park also offered one of the first looping coasters, the Loop-the-Loop. It didn’t last long because of the extreme forces on the riders. It took until 1975 to solve the technical problems of the looping coaster, when the ride opened at Cedar Point.

In 1937 L.L. Leveque bought the park and developed the charming Olentangy Village Apartments. The gigantic swimming pool was the surviving attraction and it remained popular for many years. Only recently has it been completely replaced with a smaller, more modern pool.

In Amazing the Millions, John Kasson wrote that the downfall of Coney Island, NY and other parks was due to the growth in movie houses and the automobile. Those distractions may explain the demise of the early parks, but hardly explains the burgeoning and popularity of Cedar Point and Kings Island in Ohio and venues like 7-Flags and the Disney Parks around the world!

Online Sources: Clintonville.com, columbusrailroads.com, Defunct Amusement Parks of Columbus, ehistory.osu.edu
FROM: The President

On July 1, 2017 I assumed the office of President of The Ohio State University Retirees Association (OSURA), the office you elected me to serve until the same date in 2018. I eagerly anticipate the challenges of this position and certainly hope that I can function to your level of expectation and more.

OSURA is a tremendous organization. Its rich history is amplified by the many, varied activities and benefits which are arranged for its members, keeping the promise to continue these, and adding more programs in the future. A favorite saying around OSURA is “We have something for everyone.” It is our intent to have you select OSURA as your retirement hub and link to The Ohio State University during your many years in this golden period.

I joined OSURA four years ago after I glanced over one of its monthly newsletters for members. I was intrigued by the cultural and educational events and the trips offered to its members, all for an annual fee of $25. I learned that OSURA covers most areas of interest for retirees and spouses. It closely monitors and offers suggestions on pensions and health care benefits to our retirement agencies (e.g., STRS, OPERS) and regularly reports on these activities to our membership. OSURA provides information on most day-to-day aspects of retirement (e.g., facilities, legal, health, discounts) through the newsletter, email communication, and the one full-day, comprehensive Annual Conference/Meeting in the fall of each year. The many cultural events of OSURA provide a wide spectrum of entertainment (e.g., plays, ballet, music, opera) covering the varied interests of our members. For those who have retained the passion for learning from their university days, OSURA provides two or more lectures a month on a variety of interesting topics and often with an accompanying lunch or dinner to add some relaxation and socialization to the event.

OSURA offers a tax seminar yearly, well in advance of the tax due-date. The Health and Wellness group arranges 2-3 lecture-seminars (2-3 hours each) annually on topics of interest selected by our members. The Hiking/Walking group meets monthly for an informative walk in our locale, led by a renowned geologist. The 4-6 trips each year have included Canada by Rail, Scandinavia, Chicago tour, National Great Lakes Museum in Toledo, Cleveland’s Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Christmas Story House and more. Christmas and Spring potluck luncheons with entertainment are fun for all.

Needless to say, I had little to do with this legacy and I’m simply standing on the shoulders of the prior 33 presidents and the hundreds of former and current Executive Board and Committee Members. I will address the remarkable achievements of the immediate past president (Shirley F. McCoy) in my next letter.

For the honor and privilege of having the opportunity to serve as your president over the next year,

I remain sincerely yours,

Carl V. Leier

PS: We hope you can attend the Annual OSURA Conference/Meeting, September 20, 2017 covering a wide spectrum of topics, many of which will undoubtedly be of interest to you. The application form is available online or via the July newsletter mailing with a September 1, 2017 deadline to register. There will NOT be a separate mailing for this conference.
Welcome New Retirees

Derek Bernard Alwes  
English

James Robert Anderson  
Facilities Utilities

Gwen Marie Antone  
University Hospitals

Beverly Jean Barrick  
Food Agr & Biological Engr

Carol Ann Bottoms  
OSUE Regions

Clarence Edward Bowen  
Stu Life Environmental Svcs

Barbara Ann Brahm  
OSUE Regions

William A. Brantley  
Dental Restorative/Prosthetic

Jennifer Rae Brehm  
University Hospitals

Sharon Ann Caldwell  
Grad & Prof Admissions

Jamie M. Cano  
ACEL

Wayne Earl Carlson  
Art

Carol Elaine Chappell  
Advancement Services

Vicki Lee Chorman  
Schottenstein Center

Christopher Lynn Coppus  
University Hospitals

Frank Maxfield Croft  
Civil, Envir & Geod Eng

Carol Bianchini Daniels  
EHE Centers

Michael George Dunn  
Mechanical & Aerospace Engr

Mark Thompson Farrell  
University Registrar

Deborah S. Flower-Smith  
Criminal Justice Research Ctr

Timothy Alan Gerber  
School of Music

Charles Leon Glenn  
University Hospitals

Archie Mason Griffin  
Advancement Services

Trudy Lee Hamilton  
Cancer Hosp & Research Instit

Linda M. Hays  
University Hospitals

Vicki Lynn Heinke  
Cancer Hosp & Research Instit

Charles Richard Helm  
WCA-Performing Arts

Samuel Anthony Hendren  
WOSU Public Media

Gail Ellen Herman  
Pediatrics

Eugene William Holland  
Comparative Studies

Donna Lynn Huelf  
Ross Heart Hospital

David E. Inyang  
Stu Life Environmental Svcs

Kevin Eugene Jewell  
OARDC Interdisciplinary

Cheryl A. Johnson  
EHE Centers

Laura Ann Kelley  
Dentistry Administration

Robert A. Klips  
Marion Campus

Barbara LaMoreaux  
ATI - Academic Affairs

Randy Lee Leasure  
SL Bldg & Mech Services

Thomas Richard Lemberger  
Physics

Cheryl Ann Levering  
University Hospitals

Richard Allen Mackey  
Arts & Sciences Advising

Kathy Ellen Maksymicz  
ATI - Student Services

Edward W. Martin  
Surgery

Lora Jean Moore  
Comprehensive Cancer Center

Steven C. Moulder  
Bldg & Mech Services

William Irwin Notz  
Statistics

Patricia Stone Patterson  
Sch of Environ & Natural Res

Lynda Rae Petty  
University Hospitals

Daniel Timothy Reff  
Comparative Studies

Judith Sulkes Ridgway  
Introductory Biology

Susan J. Runk  
Dentistry General Operations

Robert Menno Rupp  
Arts Science Business Tech

Keiko Komiya Samimy  
EHE Teaching & Learning

Rajiv Shivpuri  
Integrated Systems Engineering

Philip John Smith  
Adv Computing Ctr/Art & Des

Robert E. Smithberger  
Trans &Traffic Mgmt

Karen Ellen Sobul  
Ctr-Language, Lit & Culture

Nancy Blosser Stark  
Cancer Hosp & Research Instit

Daniel Henry Struble  
OCIO Operations

Zenaida Gloria Swinger  
University Hospitals

Diane Marie Thake  
University Hospitals

Jeffrey W. Thomas  
University Libraries

Billy J. Wadley  
Athletics

Sharon Waymer  
Comprehensive Cancer Center

Patty Forchione Werner  
Cancer Hosp & Research Instit

Miechelle Orchid Willis  
Athletics

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Book Club... Indulge Yourself With Us

No Dues • No Book Reports • Just Join the Discussion

No need to have read the whole book – or even part of it! Same time, same place every month – lots of parking.

Contact Lee Hill (SIG Leader) for details at 614-459-4743 or by email at hill.30@osu.edu

Join Today!
Light – may include a few stairs.
Moderate – may include a few sets of stairs.
Moderate + – may include climbing many stairs and/or uneven terrain.
High – may include lots of walking, climbing stairs, hilly walkways and/or extended weather exposure.
**Registration Instructions**

1. **Registrations requiring payment:** Registrations can be made by going online to osura.osu.edu or by calling 614-292-2281 or 1-800-762-5646. You can pay by credit card (preferred), or if you mail in a check make it payable to OSUAA. Put the name of the trip in the Note/Memo section of the check and send or drop off to:
   - Customer Service
   - c/o OSURA
   - Longaberger Alumni House
   - 2200 Olentangy River Road
   - Columbus, OH 43210
   *The reservation is not made until payment is received.*

2. **Registrations NOT requiring payment:** Registrations will be made through the Arranger’s email provided in the description of the event, or if you do not have computer access call 614-292-2281.

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**September 12-16 (Tues. - Sat.)**

**Stratford Festival**

**REGISTRATION CLOSED**

**Meet by:** 7:45 a.m., Tuesday, September 12th back parking lot at Kohl’s, 3360 Olentangy River Road

**Return:** approximately 5 p.m.

**Saturday, September 16**

**Arrangers:** Odette Blum and Marilyn Blackwell (Cultural Arts Committee)

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**September 20 (Wednesday)**

**2017 OSURA Annual Fall Conference**

**REGISTRATION REQUIRED**

**Time/Place:** 8 a.m. – 3:30 p.m., Fawcett Event Center, 2400 Olentangy River Road

**Cost:** $25 members – includes continental breakfast and lunch

**Parking:** Free

**Arranger:** Rachael Turner

(Benefits/Conference Committee)

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**September 27 (Wednesday)**

**OSURA Gallery Hop**

**NEW**

**Short North**

**Challenge Level 2**

**REGISTRATION REQUIRED**

Visit three top Short North galleries—Hammond-Harkins Gallery, Sherrie Gallerie, and Studios on High. Enjoy refreshments and learn about the galleries and their current exhibits. This is an encore event because the one last year was so popular that not everyone could attend. So, register soon!

**Meet by:** 11 a.m. at Hammond-Harkins Gallery, 641 N. High Street

**Return:** Hop will end at approximately 1 p.m.

**Cost:** $5; Includes light refreshments at each gallery, including a light lunch of cold meats, cheese, and wine; with coffee/tea and cookies afterwards.

**Registration Deadline:** Register at osura.osu.edu or call 614-292-2281 by September 22.

**Arranger:** Les Benedict (Cultural Arts Committee)

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**October 18 (Wednesday)**

**Rare Books and Manuscripts at OSU: Exhibit of the Reformation and a Tour**

**NEW**

Thompson Library (OSU Main Campus)

**Challenge Level 2**

**REGISTRATION REQUIRED**

Curator Eric Johnson will guide us through a new exhibit, “Publish or Perish.” It commemorates the 500th anniversary of the Reformation by featuring publications that stoked the religious controversies. He will also talk about the missions and collections of the Rare Books and Manuscripts Department of the OSU Libraries.

**Meet by:** 1:30 p.m., Thompson Library

**Return:** approx. 3 p.m.

**Cost:** Free

**Registration:** Register at OSURA.CulturalArts.Travel@gmail.com or call 614-292-2281 by October 13

**Arranger:** Raimund Goerler

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**October 30 & 31 (Mon. & Tues.)**

**Berea KY Tour**

**NEW**

**Challenge Level 2**

**REGISTRATION REQUIRED**

Visitberea.com. Visit KY Artisan Center for shopping and lunch on your own. Enjoy a guided tour of Berea with two stops: a mystery dinner theatre and overnight stay at Boone Tavern. Optional Berea College Artist demonstrations or $40 craft class.

**Meet by:** 7:15 a.m., Monday, October 30th back parking lot at Kohl’s, 3360 Olentangy River Road

**Return:** approx. 5:30 p.m., Tuesday, October 31st

**Cost:** $196.50 double; $260.50 single

**Registration/Refund Deadline:** Register at osura.osu.edu or call 614-292-2281 by October 17

**Arrangers:** Sandy Nicholson and Jessica Pritchard (Travel Committee)

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**November 17 (Friday)**

**La Comedia Dinner Theater–White Christmas**

Springboro, OH

**Challenge Level 1**

**REGISTRATION REQUIRED**

La Comedia Dinner Theatre presents “White Christmas”. Included is La Comedia’s buffet. lacomedia.com

**Meet by:** 9 a.m. back parking lot at Kohl’s, 3360 Olentangy River Road

**Return:** 4:30 p.m.

**Cost:** $74; includes motor coach transportation, buffet lunch, admission, snacks and tips

**Registration/Refund Deadline:** Register at osura.osu.edu or call 614-292-2281 by October 17

**Arrangers:** Sandy Nicholson and Jessica Pritchard (Travel Committee)

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**Upcoming Event**

Look for details in future issues.

**December 8**

**Christmas at Malabar Farm**

Lucas, OH

**Arrangers:** Jessica Pritchard and Alabelle Zghoul
Join the OSURA-OSU Photographic Society

I am interested in photography but...
I don’t know if my pictures are good enough for the Society.

Don’t worry—our members range from beginners to very good amateurs.
This gives one the opportunity to informally learn to take good photos through sharing experiences and techniques while enjoying the fellowship of other enthusiasts.

But I tend only to take photos of family, friends and vacations...

As retirees, we have the opportunity to significantly interact with family/grandchildren and become a more significant part of their lives. We also have the opportunity to travel and explore remarkable local, national and international places, at a pace quite different from the often hectic aspects of one’s pre-retirement life. As a result of these opportunities and the exponential increase in people’s use of photography with digital cameras and cell phones, virtually everyone is now a storyteller.

What you see, what you learn, what you think, potentially affects a wide range of people. Come share these experiences with us.

But I am just beginning to take photos...

Over the last decade, there has been an explosion in the use of photography in all walks of life using cell phones, new cameras and the convenience of digital images. Anytime one takes a photo, we expect to obtain a good result, but unfortunately for all of us, this is often not the case. Composition, lighting, exposure, etc. all impact our resulting photographs. Interacting with peers in the Society provides an opportunity to become more knowledgeable of these influences and how to account for them. In addition, as part of our annual schedule of programs, we include discussions of techniques for post processing of our images in order to both enhance and salvage photographs. This should be beneficial to many of our existing members and as an attraction to new OSURA members.

But I am not sure what I’d get from participating in the Society...

Photography allows one to share and remember experiences which hold the opportunity for enriching one’s retirement. In addition to learning good photo techniques, as part of monthly programs, members have the opportunity to share photos of their travels and activities, expanding our appreciation of places and activities. Further, members can highlight their images in our revolving display of members’ photos in our Photo Gallery on the Faculty Club’s second floor.

OSURA members are invited to...

Join us and participate in our monthly meetings in the Faculty Club on the 2nd Thursday of each month. This year, our first meeting is on September 14th with each individual being able to present 8 of their recent photographs. Subsequent meetings give individuals the opportunity to share a few of their photographs to the group, resulting in a kaleidoscope of interests prior to the scheduled presentation. The program begins at 7 p.m. preceded at 5:30 p.m. by cocktails and dinner for those wishing to socialize and exchange ideas prior to the program. Individuals wishing to present their photos to the Society should email them to me in a power point format the week preceding the meeting.

For additional information, contact Gus.Brunsman@gmail.com or 614-499-3545.

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In Memoriam

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To Your Health

Sneaky Dehydration

1. You Have Bad Breath
When you’re dehydrated, your body secretes less fluid. You already know that means decreased urination, but it’s also true for tears and saliva. Saliva is antibacterial, so if you’re not producing enough, it can lead to bacteria overgrowth in your mouth.

2. You’re Craving Sweets
Dehydration can mask itself as hunger, especially in the form of sugar cravings. Before you reach for the sweets, drink some water. You might find it satisfies your craving.

3. Your Skin Feels Cold and Dry
When you’re approaching severe dehydration, your body starts to limit blood flow to the skin. Your body is doing what it can to conserve whatever fluid is left—even stealing water from Peter to pay Paul. The skin is the first place to be robbed of water.

4. You Fail the Pinch Test
If you pinch the skin on the back of your hand and it doesn’t snap back as quickly as usual, it might mean you’re dehydrated. Just don’t expect your skin to rebound as quickly as it did in your twenties.

5. You Feel Lightheaded or Dizzy
Less water circulating in the body means less blood, too. This can lead to lower blood pressure and cause you to feel lightheaded, faint, or dizzy.

STAYING HYDRATED:
YOUR ACTION PLAN
There’s no set amount of water that every person needs. What’s best for you depends on the foods you’re eating, how much you exercise, and any health conditions you may have. Listen to your body and watch for signs of dehydration—the five above plus more obvious ones like headache, fatigue, and yellow urine. And if you’re ever concerned about hydration or experience any unusual or ongoing symptoms.

By Jim Shadbolt  Silver Sneakers, April 5, 2017

JOIN THE PREGAME HUDDLE
Join the Ohio State University Retirees Association at the Pregame Huddle prior to the Ohio State vs. Maryland Homecoming.
Saturday, October 7, 2017
2.5 hours before kickoff
Ohio State vs. Maryland
3:30 or 4 p.m. kickoff
RPAC | Tom W. Davis Special Events Gym
337 Annie and John Glenn Ave.
Football ticket and Pregame Huddle package is $112.50 per person, limit 4. Pregame Huddle only is $25. Your admission includes a game-day menu, host bar and game-day activities. Must be an OSURA member to receive football tickets.
Space and tickets are limited. To RSVP, please call Customer Service at 800-762-5646.
Unfortunately, we will not be able to provide refunds after your registration is processed. Please contact Customer Service at osuaa@osu.edu or call 800-762-5646 for more information.

REGISTER FOR THE OSURA CONFERENCE
The deadline for registrations is September 1, 2017. Go online to https://osura.osu.edu and find the event. For assistance with your password or registration, call Customer Service at the Alumni Association – 614-292-2281 or 1-800-762-5646.

FROM: The Benefits Committee

Report from the STRS Board

By Jerry Newsom

One can never say the staff at STRS doesn’t do a thorough analysis of their finances. At the last Board meeting, the investment team presented their economic outlook, with reports from teams focusing on fixed income, domestic equities (expect S&P 500 to be in the 2300-2600 range, with increased volatility), international equities (consider, for example, the effect of the Italian election, how China will manage its debt, and the likely impact of corruption in Brazil and South Africa), real estate investments (in FY 2017 STRS acquired $480 million and sold $1.0 billion of real estate), alternative investments (e.g., hedge funds, which at 2.4% of assets are a smaller part of STRS’s portfolio than in most retirement funds), and risk management. Expected rate of return must be balanced with associated risk; e.g., the higher return expected from emerging markets goes along with greater risk. Now that the Board has reduced the assumed future return on investment, STRS will adjust investments for a lower likely return but with less risk of losing money, for example by moving funds to fixed income investments (a 1% increase in July and another 1% expected later in the fiscal year). It’s an intricate $75-billion game.

The return on investments for STRS in FY 2017 (ending June 30) was estimated at about 14%, well above the long-term expected return of 7.45%. That helps the bottom line, but there’s still a long way to go to reach solvency.
Many Thanks to Our Retiring Officers
Shirley Fields McCoy, President
Phyllis J. Carroll, Member at Large
Jerome G. Dare, Member at Large
Howard Gauthier, Finance

Well Wishes to Our New Officers
Carl Leier, President
Steven M. D’Ambrosio, President Elect
Members at Large
David M. Crawford
Mary J. Cull
Gemma McLuckie
Gaibrille M. Reissland