Let Us Sing Ohio’s Praise

By Nancy Wardwell

On the Columbus Campus the 2017 freshman class is the best-prepared and most diverse freshman class in University history!

They have a record-high average ACT composite score of 29.2. A record 65 percent were in the top 10 percent of their high school classes. A new first-year student minority representation increased to a record 1,542 students – 21.6 percent of the class.

Overall, the University enrolled a record 66,444 students, including 59,837 at the Columbus campus. Undergraduate enrollment on all campuses also achieved record highs.

Earlier we have written about President Drake’s 2020 Plan and other initiatives to improve the college experience and retain more students. It seems to be working! Enrolling better-prepared students and focusing on their transition with campus-wide first-year programming has improved the first-year retention rate of 94.2 percent and a record-high four-year graduation of 62.4 percent.

Graduate and professional information for Columbus:
Enrolled graduate students:
Master’s ................................................................. 5,192
PhD ................................................................. 4,912
Non-degree/Certificate .................................. 568

Post-baccalaureate professional students enrolled, Columbus:
Dentistry ................................................................. 439
Law ................................................................. 594
Medicine ................................................................. 770
Optometry ......................................................... 264
Pharmacy ............................................................. 520
Veterinary Medicine ........................................... 632

Freshman Tuition for two Semesters, Columbus
Ohio Resident .................................................. $10,591
Non-Resident .................................................. $29,695
Room and Board .................................................. $12,252

Undergraduate distribution by major, Columbus
Arts and Sciences ................................................ 16,564
Business ......................................................... 7,359
Continuing Education ....................................... 747
Dental Hygiene ................................................ 120
Education and Human Ecology ......................... 3,314
Engineering and Architecture ......................... 8,537
Exploration ....................................................... 2,704
Food, Agricultural and Environmental Sciences .... 2,401
Health and Rehabilitation Sciences .................... 1,820
Nursing ........................................................... 944
Pharmacy ........................................................ 431
Public Affairs ..................................................... 279
Public Heath ..................................................... 318
Social Work ....................................................... 408
FROM: The President

OSURA Challenges of the New Year

On behalf of the OSURA Executive Board, I wish you a Hearty, Healthy, and Happy New Year.

The New Year is always a good time to re-think and re-set our challenges (to the euphoric, a.k.a. “opportunities”) for the coming year. I learned from a number of you, who attended the OSU retirement dinner at the Blackwell Hotel [Ballroom] in November 2017 (put on by the Office of Human Resources) and from several close colleagues, that the printed Newsletter is not getting to you as expected for paid members. Of course, if you requested “No communication from Ohio State University” on ANY of your OSU queries or if you chose “Online only” instead of a printed copy, you will NOT receive the printed Newsletter in your regular mail. For new members, it generally takes 4-6 months currently for your name-addresses to arrive at the printer’s new addressee-listings and be processed for mailing the Newsletter to new recipients. Otherwise, the fault lies with OSURA and the Alumni Association; please contact us to correct this shortcoming. As president of OSURA, I take full responsibility for this deficit. But hey, now it’s time we again look into this and shorten the waiting period.

We are in dire need of committee volunteers. As I noted in my prior “Letter to the Editor” (October 2017 Newsletter), we have 73 OSURA volunteers covering about 103 OSURA positions (out of over 3000 members!!). Again, refer to my October “Letter to the Editor” for a committee of your choosing and contact one of us on the Board or on the specific committee of interest. My information includes: email address is carl.leier@osumc.edu, or call me at 614-293-4983(O) or 614-431-9762(H). Hopefully, we can keep our many valuable programs, events and activities afloat and intact until new volunteers step up to assist us.

In terms of new ventures and programs on the horizon, OSURA is considering the establishment of an OSURA Scholarship Program in “Geriatric Medicine” or closely-related areas at The Ohio State University. There can be no better or more appropriate organization than The Ohio State University Retirees Association (OSURA) to establish and support a major program that is of potential direct benefit to all OSURA members and to Senior Citizens in general. Stay tuned for more on this later.

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Again, Happy New Year to you, your family and friends.

I remain joyously yours,

Carl V. Leier
President, Executive Board
Welcome New Retirees

Brenda Lee Barnette  
University Hospitals East

Melissa Lutz Burton  
Shared Services

Grazyna Christine Bushek  
University Hospitals

Candy J. Danforth  
Arts & Sciences Administration

Harvey J. Graff  
English

Richard Wayne Hall  
Arts & Sciences Administration

Edwin P. Harry  
University Hospitals East

Gail Ellen Herman  
Pediatrics

Phillip Eugene Holmes  
Facilities Operations

Howard Elmer Imhof  
Newark

Joan Elizabeth Leonard  
Molecular Genetics

Gretchen Luidens  
Harding Hospital

Joyce J. Martin  
University Hospitals East

Dena Kay Naumoff  
EHE Teaching & Learning

Clarence G. Pointer  
Veterinary Biosciences

Charles Douglas Reader  
OCIO Operations

Connie O’Reilly Restivo  
University Hospitals

Bradford William Roesch  
Law Academic

Linda Jean Spizzirri  
University Hospitals

Thomas Edwin Stapleton  
Cancer Hosp & Research Instit

Tammy Lou Timmons  
Comprehensive Cancer Center RU

Cheryl A. Wall  
Specialty Care Network

OSURA Spotlight

MEMBERS SPOTLIGHT:
Don Cruickshank

Don Cruickshank was delighted to accept the University’s invitation to join the faculty in the College of Education, and he spent 25 years trying to repay that trust. As an OSU administrator he first was chair of the department of Early and Middle School Education and later head of the Graduate Teacher Education Program. As a professor he taught courses that prepared grad students to instruct or administer at the university level. As a researcher, Don conducted inquiry on teaching and teacher preparation. His central focus was on teacher effectiveness and its correlates. Since retirement in 1992, Don has kept engaged professionally by co-authoring and revising a textbook on teaching. Prior to his arrival at OSU he was director of the Bureau of Research in the University of Tennessee’s College of Education.

Don feels fortunate that he has been able to keep alive friendships with many former campus colleagues. One of his great pleasures is lunching with a group of retired Education faculty. Many of them are members of OSURA who regularly engage in its activities and laud its benefits. He also strives to stay connected with scattered other colleagues and former grad students who were so much a part of his professional and personal life.

For recreation, Don enjoys tennis. A faculty-staff tennis program was launched in the mid-1970s when several College of Ed faculty discovered the new Jesse Owen West campus facility. Over the years, hundreds of faculty, staff, administrators and grad students from across the University have participated in this program that provides exercise and friendship. As he ages, one of Don’s goals is to try to stay relatively healthy. This takes him to a senior center where he dutifully, but reluctantly, participates in aerobics and strength training.

Through Syntero, a family support agency, Don found there is a great need of mentors for boys, and he has buddied up with a middle schooler. Mentoring is proving to be a worthwhile challenge and he encourages others to consider that role.

He and his wife Sue, an avid art quilter and Pickleballer, spend every March in California with a son and his family and in the Anza Borrego Desert. They also have three daughters, seven grandchildren and a great-grandson.
January 18 (Thursday)
Lunch Bunch
REGISTRATION NOT REQUIRED
Would you like to know more about your city? If so, join us when a representative of COSI will discuss current and future programs at COSI as well as development in the Franklinton area.
**Time/Place:** 11:15 a.m., MCL Cafeteria, Kingsdale
**Cost:** On your own, order through cafeteria line starting at 11:15 a.m., program at approximately 12 noon.
**Arrangers:** Julian Larson and Elenore Zeller (Social Committee)

January 20 (Saturday)
Walking/Hiking Group
Challenge Level 2-4
**Time/Place:** 11 a.m., we’ll meet at the Nature Center.
**Arranger:** Hallan Noltimier (Walking/Hiking SIG)

January 23 (Tuesday)
Tertulia Breakfast
Please join OSURA members and friends for breakfast and conversation.
**Time/Place:** 8 a.m., OSU Faculty Club
**Cost:** On your own
**Arranger:** Jerry Dare (Tertulia Breakfast SIG)

January 24 (Wednesday)
Bridge Group
We’re back at the tables...please join us. We welcome new members. There is no membership fee and it costs only 25 cents for prizes the day you play. Come enjoy the fellowship, and have fun playing a good game of bridge at the same time.
**Time/Place:** 1 p.m., Friendship Village of Dublin, North CR
**Arranger:** Steve Miller (Bridge Group SIG)

January 25 (Thursday)
Dinner Series: The Public Research University in the 21st Century – Presenter: President Michael V. Drake
REGISTRATION REQUIRED
Join us tonight for a special program by President Drake. Previously, he has made presentations to OSURA on university administration. Recently, he indicated he would welcome the opportunity to be a speaker at an event that offers him the opportunity to discuss a topic of personal interest. That event will be tonight.
**Time/Place:** 5 p.m., social hour, followed by dinner at 6 p.m. and program at 7 p.m.; OSU Faculty Club
**Cost:** $23 (service charge included)
**Registration Deadline:** Register at osura.alumni.osu.edu by January 22
**Arranger:** Howard Gauthier (Dinner Series SIG)

December 8th OSURA members toured legendary Malabar Farms.
Registration Instructions

1. Registrations requiring payment: Registrations can be made by going on-line 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.

SPECIAL EVENTS

January 17 (Wednesday)
Planetarium Show,
Solar Superstorms
5033 Smith Lab, campus
REGISTRATION REQUIRED
The modern projector at the Arne Slettebak Planetarium illustrates massive eruptions on the sun and their effects on Earth. The same program will be repeated. When registering, specify 6 p.m., 7 p.m. or either. planetarium.osu.edu/

Meet by: your registration choice; 5033 Smith Lab, 174 W. 18th Ave., campus
Cost: No cost
Registration Deadline: Register at OSURA.CulturalArts.Travel@gmail.com or call 614-292-2281 by January 15
Arranger: Jerry Newsom
(Cultural Arts Committee)

January 26 (Friday)
2017 Income Tax Seminar
Tax experts will discuss Federal and State income tax issues for 2017. Pre-registration is not necessary.

Time/Place: 1:30 p.m., Sanders Lounge, Longaberger Alumni House, 2200 Olentangy River Road
Cost: No charge
Arranger: Hallan Noltimier
(Benefits Committee)

February 9 (Friday)
BalletMet – Giselle
Senior Dress Rehearsal
Challenge Level 1
REGISTRATION REQUIRED
At a discounted price, witness a love story that has captivated hearts for centuries with the world premiere of Edward Liang’s Giselle. This timeless ballet, set to Adolphe Adam’s score, will feature classical elements as it weaves the haunting tale of a peasant girl’s quest for love. Register at osura.alumni.osu.edu or call 614-292-2281. Credit card preferred. If by check, it must arrive by February 5. Tickets will be held at Will Call.

Time/Place: Curtain rises at 11 a.m. Seating is general, so plan to arrive early for best seats. Doors open between 10 and 10:15 a.m., Riffe Center, 77 S. High Street
Cost: $19 (admission ticket)
Registration/Refund Deadline: February 2
Arranger: Rai Goerler
(Cultural Arts Committee)

March 8 (Thursday)
Tour of Pontifical College Josephinum
Worthington, OH
Challenge Level 2
REGISTRATION REQUIRED
Join us for a private tour of the Pontifical College Josephinum. Our tour will include the library, auditorium, and two chapels, while learning about the architecture and history of the only pontifical seminary located outside of Italy.

Meet by: 12:45 p.m. at Josephinum Parking Lot, 7625 N. High Street, Worthington
Cost: No charge
Registration Deadline: Register at osura.alumni.osu.edu or call 614-292-2281 by February 16
Refund Deadline: February 16
Arranger: Odette Blum
(Cultural Arts Committee)

April 25-26
(Wednesday, Thursday)
Frank Lloyd Wright and American Art:
Fallingwater and More
Greensburg and Farmington, PA
Challenge Level 3
REGISTRATION REQUIRED
Tours include: Frank Lloyd Wright’s architectural masterpiece Fallingwater, Kentuck Knob, and Westmoreland Museum of American Art. We’ll stay at historic Summit Inn (1807) with breakfast, heated indoor pool, exercise room, no elevators; dine at historic Stone House Inn (1822).

Meet by: 8:15 a.m., Wednesday, April 25th at Kohl’s, 3360 Olentangy River Road
Return: approximately 10 p.m. Thursday, April 26th
Cost: $290 double; $350 single. Cost includes motor coach transportation, 3 museum tours, one box lunch, hotel & breakfast, one dinner, snacks, and tips
Registration Deadline: Register at osura.osu.edu or call 614-292-2281 by February 16,
Refund Deadline: February 16
Arranger: Odette Blum
(Cultural Arts Committee)

NEW
At Malabar Farms
Your membership in OSURA may be providing more benefit than you ever expected, even keeping your body stronger and your mind more alert.

Three Dog Night hit it on the head when they sang, "One is the loneliest number that you ever knew," at least for older people. According to new research in the United States and Great Britain, there is a connection between isolation and physical illness. Mounting evidence also shows loneliness is more of a predictor of early death than obesity, according to the New York Times, Sept. 5, 2016.

Geriatrician Carla M. Perissinotto, at the University of California, San Francisco, warned, "The profound effects of loneliness on health and independence are a critical public health problem. It is no longer medically or ethically acceptable to ignore older adults who feel lonely and marginalized."

In her analysis of a large national survey, Perissinotto found lonely older people have less mobility, trouble doing daily activities, and even higher rates of death. A 2016 MIT study in Cell reported dopamine neuron levels in the dorsal raphe nucleus of the brain decrease when mice are isolated even for 24 hours. The DRN area has already been linked to depression.

The good news is strong social activities "may be as effective as fitness activities in lowering the risk of death," according to a 13-year study in Great Britain, reported the Washington Post, Aug. 11, 2016.

You may not have realized this extra, very important benefit to OSURA membership – life-improving community-building. The special interest groups connect you with like-minded folks. Our chock-full calendar gives ideas for social, cultural or educational fun. If you are looking for ways to serve, the 11 OSURA standing committees will welcome you.

Psychology professor John T. Cacioppo, University of Chicago, says older adults may think admitting we don’t get enough company is a sign of weakness. A Londoner, Mike Jenn, 70, told the New York Times that men, especially, “have this kind of male pride thing. We say, ‘I can look after myself. I don’t need to talk to anyone,’ and it’s a complete fallacy.”

You also may feel reluctant to reach out – maybe you’re afraid you won’t fit in. Or perhaps you don’t drive, or don’t have the energy to call a friend for a ride. If you need friendly advice, you can call the individual who is organizing the activity. She or he is listed in the Newsletter and osura.osu.edu calendars.

We hope you have renewed or joined for 2018. If not, you may do so at osura.osu.edu or by calling Customer Service, 800-762-5646. We look forward to helping you build your own community of friendly Ohio State retirees. It’s a $25 sure bet to help keep yourself healthy and happy.

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**In Memoriam**

**June Abbott**
December 11 | 88

**Leo Embro Bendixen**
November 26 | Horticulture and Crop Science, 94

**Terry Campbell**
November 15 | Graphics, 78

**Joyce C. Foor**
December 10 | Agriculture and Economics, 79

**Virginia Gordon**
November 21 | University College and OSURA, 89

**Brian Douglas Harper**
December 5 | Mechanical Engineering, 62

**Donald D. Harper**
November 30 | Kinesiology, 85

**William R. Hilton**
November 24 | Development Administration and OSURA, 76

**Helen A. Johnson**
December 16 | Social Work, 93

**Bernard J. La Londe**
December 11 | FCOB Marketing and Logistics, 84

**Thomas J. McNutt**
December 13 | OSU Extension, 84

**Anna Robinson Tibbs**
November 28 | OSU Hospital, 87

**Nancy K. Trabue**
November 10 | 86

**Michael E. Wykoff**
December 7 | University Hospitals and OSURA, 64

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**One is the Loneliest Number**

*By Gemma McLuckie*

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**2017 Holiday Buffet**

**Friends**

**Food**

**Fun**
FROM: The Benefits Committee

November 2017 OPERS Report

By Michelle Hobbs

- As of 9/30/17 Total Assets of Defined Benefits is 83.7 Billion
- As of 9/30/17 Total Assets of the Health Care Fund is 12.6 Billion
- Pension Liabilities are 80% funded. Health Care costs are 65% funded.
- The Funding of Retiree Pension Benefits: Retiree pensions are 100% funded at the time of retirement. Funded status measures the progress of accumulating the funds necessary to meet future obligations.
- By law, OPERS must remain within a 30-year funding window, meaning the System will pay all liabilities within 30 years. As of December 31, 2016 actuarial valuation, OPERS has a funded status of 80.1%, with the unfunded liability expected to be funded within 19 years.

- OPERS’ 2016 pension benefit payments to Ohio residents was $5.0 billion (90% of OPERS participants live in Ohio).
- OPERS’ 2016 health care costs on behalf of retirees and their beneficiaries was $1.2 billion.
- Assets invested with Ohio-based companies are $1.3 billion as of December 31, 2016.
- Assets under management with Ohio-qualified investment managers are $1.5 billion as of December 31, 2016.
- Fees paid in 2016 to in-state custodian and to Ohio-qualified investment managers is $9.2 million.
- Assets under management by in-state custodian are $89.0 billion as of December 31, 2016.

STRS Report

By Gerald Newsom

There was a time, back at the turn of the century, when STRS was relatively flush with cash thanks to the booming stock market, so they responded by changing the formula to increase pensions for new retirees. Many of us who retired after that date benefited. The timing was unfortunate, since the stock market had two major drops in the decade to follow. Since most of state pensions are paid by investment returns, STRS was then paying out more than they were taking in, an unsustainable situation. They were forced to make changes again, this time cutting pensions for new retirees and increasing employee contributions starting in 2012.

These changes dramatically cut the pension fund liabilities, but investment returns continued lower and retirees lived longer than expected. It was these factors that caused the STRS Board to stop the Cost of Living Adjustments (COLAs) for retirees starting last July. Having attended the Board meetings for the last year and a half, I believe they were acting responsibly. Consultants provide extensive projections for future financial stability, quantifying the uncertainty. To me, the most informative graph projects possible changes in the ratio of pension fund assets to liabilities for the next decade, based on uncertainties in investment returns, life expectancies, and growth in salaries. The graph indicates there is about a 30% chance that a decade from now STRS will be in a very strong position, in which case I’d expect COLAs would be reinstated and we could see the loss of COLAs in the interim was not needed. But there’s also roughly a 30% chance that the situation would be much worse, and in hindsight we would say the present cuts were too little, too late, and even larger cuts to pensions would be needed.

So now it’s a waiting game. Recent improvements in investment returns are comforting, but all the detailed studies by the consultants have demonstrated that in the future, conditions will either get considerably better or considerably worse, unless of course they stay more or less like they are now.

We regret that we no longer have the staff or means to send the Newsletter to a seasonal address. Please pick the one best for you!
Mark Your Calendars
Thursday, January 25, 2018
At OSU Faculty Club
5 p.m. Social Hour • 6 p.m. Dinner

TOPIC:
The Public Research University in the 21st Century