Art on Campus

By Nancy Wardwell

It may just be the time of year – but a stroll on main campus is stunning with its varied architecture and careful landscaping. (OK -ignore the chain link fences for now.) Art is being infused on buildings and in green spaces – There are 13 dedicated galleries listed on the Arts and Sciences website – and there is considerable art of all disciplines inside our buildings.

The Faculty Club is used frequently for OSURA events, and it has become a treasure trove for some of the most accessible and interesting works on campus. In the hall of the second floor the Photographic Society displays their best works. For more than 20 years the first floor has offered rotating exhibits of current artists – but it is the permanent collection that is the lasting gold mine.

In the Board Room there is a Bellows and there are several fine paintings by James R. Hopkins (a chairman of Fine Arts, for whom Hopkins Hall is named) – but it is the vibrant watercolors of Ralph Fanning in the main dining room that have particular interest for many towns of Ohio, especially Columbus, and of course the OSU campus, because they were frequent subjects of his work.

Before he joined the OSU Art faculty, Fanning had earned a BS in Architecture at Cornell and a M.S. in History and Architecture from the University of Illinois. Because of his architecture background he saw the buildings he painted in a unique way. He painted the Ohio Capitol and many paintings during the building of the Ohio Stadium.

His paintings documented the growth around Columbus in the 20s.

Ralph Fanning came to Ohio State to teach Art History in 1921 and retired 35 years later in 1956. Over his career he created perhaps as many as 6000 paintings, and when his sketches are added, his production was more like 10,000 works.

Fanning’s watercolors are still in demand by collectors and galleries. The Faculty Club now has 19 works in their permanent collection. We are indeed fortunate to be surrounded by some of his favorites and greatly appreciate the interest of the Faculty Club in keeping his work in the public eye.
FROM: The President

OSURA: Time to Retreat

As the summer of 2017 unfolded, I felt that the best and safest course for OSURA during academic year 2017-18 is to keep the many programs intact from the prior year, while we get settled into our new base of operations. We needed to see how well the OSU Alumni Association (AA) could accommodate OSURA with its multiple and varied activities. I felt that even a minor change or shift in our programs in these new environs, before we became acclimated and familiar with the AA personnel and operations, would run the risk of some chaos. Although exciting, I've never been a fan of chaos.

But now that we are more familiar with the operational personnel and the many functions of the AA and as we head into the autumn of academic year 2017-18, it is time to review all that is OSURA. The format for this review was a well-organized and structured RETREAT. This 5-hour event, held on April 17, 2018 at the Longaberger Alumni House, was led by Dr. Steven D'Ambrosio, Vice-President of OSURA. As the incoming president, he'll have to work with the decisions adopted from the Retreat.

The attendees-participants consisted of all Executive Board and Committee Members; in other words, very active OSURA volunteers. The working groups (5-7 members in each) and leaders included MEMBERSHIP RECRUITMENT by Gemma McLuckie, OPERATIONS by Steven D'Ambrosio, MANAGEMENT and ENGAGEMENT and ACTIVITIES by Jerry Newsom, COMMUNICATION STRATEGY by Shirley McCoy, OSURA LEADERSHIP RECRUITMENT by Gabby Reissland, and INTERNAL ENGAGEMENT and ACTIVITIES by Jerry Newsom.

A more detailed report of the 2018 OSURA Retreat will be forthcoming, but in general, the Retreat covered many areas of interest for OSURA members. Topics and action items included more sessions on the various aspects of retirement for both retirees and pre-retirement employees (this will also enhance OSURA's visibility and membership recruitment), comprehensive retirement planning (e.g., financial, health care) for OSU pre-retirees; reaching out to OSU retirees from regional campuses and to those who don’t live in the central Ohio area; gratis Newsletter for one year to all OSU retirees during their first year of retirement (should augment member recruitment); facilitating communications at all levels for OSURA members; and related issues.

The OSURA Executive Board and Leadership also reviewed itself and its own operations by examining the makeup, tasks, and activities of its committees; enhancing recruitment of and active involvement in committees by OSURA membership, insuring that the Board and Committees of OSURA represents most areas on campus and if possible, non-central Ohio areas; review the operations of the Executive Board and the duties of individual Board members; and related issues.

These are the salient features of the OSURA 2018 Retreat. This Retreat demonstrated to me the deep feelings and concerns that your Board and committee members have for this venerable organization; and all efforts, ideas and recommendations were focused on unfolding and guaranteeing a bright future for OSURA.

The officers and committees of OSURA thank Leslie Shoaf, BA ’08, MA (Regional Engagement Officer, Alumni and Constituent Engagement) and Natasha Kanakkanatt (Regional Engagement Officer, Northeast & Midwest US) of The Ohio State University Alumni Association Outreach & Engagement Office for their assistance in organizing the Retreat and making sure it generates reasonable, working conclusions. We thank Melinda Alonzo for arranging the facilities and organizing the Retreat and making sure it generates reasonable, working conclusions. We thank Melinda Alonzo for arranging the facilities and organizing the Retreat.

For the privilege of submitting an overview of the 2018 OSURA Retreat,

I remain enthusiastically yours,

Carl V. Leier
President of OSURA
LIVE FOR TODAY WHILE PLANNING FOR TOMORROW

Experience a carefree lifestyle and the security of a life plan community in a spacious, private manor home, just minutes from everything Columbus has to offer.

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Calendar of Events

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

June 5 (Tuesday)
Benefits Committee
Time/Place: 9:15 a.m., Longaberger

June 12 (Tuesday)
Board Meeting
Time/Place: 9 a.m., Longaberger

June 27 (Wednesday)
Membership Committee
Time/Place: 10 a.m., Longaberger

MONTHLY ACTIVITIES

June 26 (Thursday)
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)

June 27 (Wednesday)
Bridge Group
Join us – 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)

June
Lunch Bunch
No event this month... but don’t forget to join us at the Annual Picnic scheduled for Thursday, June 7.
Arrangers: Phyllis Carroll and Elenore R. Zeller (Social Committee)

June, July, August
Photo Society
No meeting until Thursday, September 13th
Arranger: Jack Nasar (Photographic Society SIG)

June, July, August
Book Club
While the OSURA Book Club is on summer hiatus until September 19, why not start reading our first book in the new reading year? Killers of the Flower Moon: The Osage Murders and the Birth of the F.B.I. by David Grann. The true story of greed, death, and the evil machinations of more than one individual to acquire the wealth obtained from oil in the 1920s by the Osage Indian tribe. What part did the fledgling F.B.I. under J. Edgar Hoover play?
Arranger: Lee Hill (Book Club SIG)

June, July, August
Walking/Hiking Group
No planned group walk until September. So get out there and explore other places on your own. Stroll the beach, woods, and trails of summer....but don’t forget the sunscreen.
Arranger: Hallan Noltimier (Walking/Hiking SIG)

June, July, August
Dinner Series
No event until we reconvene on September 27th for another year of great programs.

SPECIAL EVENTS

June 7 (Thursday)
Annual Potluck Picnic
Amelita Mirolo Barn
REGISTRATION NOT REQUIRED
Come prepared for an afternoon of delicious food, fun activities, prizes and exciting entertainment at our annual potluck picnic. Bring your favorite dish to share and a non-perishable food item to donate to the Buckeye Food Alliance/OSU Food Pantry. Everything else will be provided.
Time/Place: 11:15 a.m., Sunny 95 Park, 4395 Carriage Hill Lane, Upper Arlington.
Cost: a dish to share and serving utensil
Arrangers: Elenore Zeller and the Social Committee

June 18 (Monday)
Litter Picking Team
Challenge Level 3

NEW
Our intrepid Litter Pickers did their magic from the Longaberger through Bloch Cancer Survivors Plaza to the Chadwick Arboretum.

Thanks to Larry Kennedy for the many beautiful pictures of Panama and Costa Rica and an informative presentation.

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CHALLENGE LEVELS

1 Light – may include a few stairs.
2 Moderate – may include a few sets of stairs.
3 Moderate + – may include climbing many stairs and/or uneven terrain.
4 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 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.

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**June 23 (Saturday)**

**Health & Wellness:**

**Geriatric Medicine**

REGISTRATION NOT REQUIRED

Geriatric physicians Drs. Tanya Gure and Guibin Li from the OSU Geriatrics Section will present information on Geriatric Medicine and its role in the care and well-being of our senior population.

**Time/Place:** Check-in 8:30 a.m.; lectures 9 and 10 a.m., Auditorium- Morehouse Medical Plaza, 2050 Kenny Road

**Cost:** Free

**Arrangers:** Rod Tomczak and Carl Leier (Health & Wellness SIG)

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**June 26 (Tuesday)**

**Spangler Candy Factory and Sauder Village**

Bryan and Archbold, OH

**Challenge Level 2**

REGISTRATION REQUIRED

Visit the Spangler Candy Co., enjoy a trolley ride, and a pizza buffet lunch. Then we’ll go to Sauder Village for a self-guided tour. A box meal will be furnished for the trip home. www.spangercandy.com, www.saudervillage.org

**Meet by:** 6:45 a.m. at Longaberger parking lot, 2200 Olentangy River Road (this is a change)

**Return:** approximately 7 p.m.

**Cost:** $87; includes transportation, site admissions, trolley ride, pizza lunch, box meal, snack and tips

**Registration Deadline:** Register at osura.alumni.osu.edu or call 614-292-2281 by June 5.

**Arrangers:** Bruce and Sandy Wylie (Travel Committee)

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**July 16 (Monday)**

**Litter Picking Team**

**Challenge Level 3**

Please join us as we pick up litter from the Longaberger Alumni House through the Bloch Cancer Survivors Plaza to the Lane Avenue Gardens of the Chadwick Arboretum. Wear your walking shoes, sunblock and hat. Gloves, tongs, trash bags and buckets provided.

**Meet by:** 8:30 a.m. in the lobby of the Longaberger, 2200 Olentangy River Road. Parking is free. (In the event of inclement weather, this group will not meet.)

**Arranger:** Mary Cull (Litter Pickers SIG)

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**July 18 (Wednesday)**

**The Wilds Tour**

Cumberland, OH

**Challenge Level 2**

REGISTRATION REQUIRED

See where threatened and endangered animals from all over the world live in mixed-species groups roaming expansive natural habitats, where scientists and educators are working to better understand and conserve the world’s animals and natural resources. www.thewilds.org

**Meet by:** 8:15 a.m. at Longaberger parking lot, 2200 Olentangy River Road (this is a change)

**Return:** approximately 6 p.m.

**Cost:** $68.50; includes Wilds admissions, transportation, lunch, snack and tips

**Registration Deadline:** Register at osura.alumni.osu.edu or call 614-292-2281 by July 1

**Arrangers:** Alabelle Zghoul and Betty Hriesik (Travel Committee)

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**August 29 (Wednesday)**

**Special Sights in Cincinnati and Newport, KY**

**Challenge Level 3**

REGISTRATION REQUIRED

Come join us for a stop at the American Sign Museum in Cincinnati, followed by a buffet lunch cruise on a BB Riverboat on the Ohio River, and finally a tour of the Newport KY Aquarium.

**Meet by:** 6:45 a.m. at Longaberger parking lot, 2200 Olentangy River Road

**Return:** approximately 6:30 p.m.

**Cost:** $98; includes admissions, transportation, buffet lunch, snacks and tips

**Registration Deadline:** Register at osura.alumni.osu.edu or call 614-292-2281 by August 20

**Arrangers:** Jessica Pritchard and Alabelle Zghoul (Travel Committee)

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**Event In the Works...**

**October 11 (Thursday)**

**Whistle While You Walk**

A visit to the American Whistle Factory and a walking tour of Old Worthington

**Arranger:** Diane Driessen

**November 1-3**

**Spain’s Costa del Sol & The Portuguese Riviera**

**Arranger:** Alabelle Zghoul (Travel Committee)

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On May 17 The Lunch Bunch heard Danielle Murphy, a consumer educator from the Ohio Attorney General’s Office, give very helpful tips about avoiding identity theft.
FROM: The Benefits Committee

STRS Report
By Gerald Newsom

The great majority of funds to pay STRS pensions and all of the funds to subsidize health insurance come from the return on investments, so investments get a lot of attention. As of mid-April, the return for the fiscal year was about 8.5%, ahead of the 7.45% on which projections are based. Higher returns over the last 18 months have provided a slight cushion, as a result of which the proposed mix of investments can be made more conservative (called derisking, with a likely lower return but less chance of a large drop). Consultants provided illustrations of the effect of different investment mixes. Under the most conservative mix, the one standard deviation range in the 10-year annual return would be between +14.35% and -3.45%, while the mix with the highest risk came in between +23.26% and -9.68%. The conservative mix was very unlikely to have a negative average return, but at the expense of giving up the possibility of a very large increase. The STRS Board is continuing its discussion on this but no decision is expected for another month or so.

Occasionally retirees ask how soon is STRS likely to reinstate COLAs if future investment returns are good. Any predictions are speculative, but a comment by one Board member may be of interest, to the effect that if in about 20 years funding for pensions looks more secure, the Board will have to decide then whether to increase subsidies for health care or reinstate the COLAs. While there’s always the hope that strong investment returns in future years will allow STRS to responsibly reinstate COLAs before then, I certainly wouldn’t depend on getting a COLA in my STRS pension any time soon.

One group that sets standards for actuaries is the Actuarial Standards Board, which is considering a proposal that would require accountants to “reflect the cost of effectively defeasing the investment risk of the plan.” The word “defeasing” is not actually defined but we can catch the drift. If adopted, accountants would be required to use the yield on U.S. Treasury debt or similar instruments when projecting investment returns. There are real problems with this. State pension systems generally have a “fiduciary duty,” meaning their investments must be prudent, and putting all the investments in Treasury debt would clearly violate this requirement (i.e., it would be illegal). While STRS may be required to get actuarial analyses of their investments, any report made under the “defeasing” plan would be ignored, raising questions about using pension funds to pay for useless reports. The Code of Professional Conduct requires that actuaries not produce reports that can be used to mislead other parties, but defeasing seems designed to do exactly that. One STRS Board member estimated that if STRS put all its investments in Treasury debt, all pensions would have to be cut about 60%, meaning the pension system would be wrecked. Many people believe that is the goal; if one thinks we shouldn’t have public pension plans, perhaps defeasing is the easiest way to get rid of them.
MEMBER SPOTLIGHT:  
Don Larson

Helping people to make food more affordable and increase its productivity has been the focus of Don Larson’s career. As a faculty member in the Department of Agricultural, Environmental, and Development Economics at The Ohio State University since 1970, he not only taught and conducted research in agricultural business and marketing on campus but he also worked on short-term food marketing research projects in about 50 countries throughout the world.

As a graduate student at Michigan State University, Don’s first international assignment was a food marketing research project in Recife, Brazil, followed by a similar project in Cali and Bogota, Colombia. After completing his PhD at Michigan State University, he accepted a position at The Ohio State University, and he returned to Brazil, this time to Piracicaba, Sao Paulo on an OSU/U.S. Agency for International Development to develop a graduate program at the University of Sao Paulo, College of Agriculture. During their time in South America, the Larsons traveled to many South American countries. Michael, their first child was born in Colombia, daughter Andrea, in Brazil, and daughter, Kristina, in Columbus (a true “Buckeye”).

Don retired from OSU in 2006. He and his wife, Karen, continue their travels in retirement, including trips to Alaska, Scandinavia, South Africa, Australia, and New Zealand. On an Elbe River cruise in eastern Germany, they had the opportunity to learn about the difficult life of the people during the Communist years. On the Seine River in France, they saw the Normandy beaches of the D-Day invasion during World War II and visited the American cemetery there. During the cruise they visited the beautiful Monet gardens and home at Giverny. This summer Budapest is the destination on a Danube River cruise.

They still find lots of time to spend with their seven grandchildren, being “soccer-grandparents” cheering them on at soccer, basketball, flag football and more. In addition, they enjoy many OSU events including football, basketball and concerts.

Don has served on the OSURA Membership Committee for many years, including terms as chairman. As such, he was a member of the OSURA Executive Board. He and Karen regularly attend the fall conference, lunch and dinner series events. While enjoying the sights and sounds of the Big Apple on an OSURA trip to New York City, they hobnobbed with friends and made new ones among OSU retirees.

They have found Columbus and OSU a wonderful place to live, work and enjoy the many things it offers.
The Ohio State University Retirees Assn.
Customer Service
Longaberger Alumni House
2200 Olentangy River Road
Columbus, Ohio 43210

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By notifying Enterprise Security of this threat, you have alerted us of the danger this sender may pose, which enables us to prevent future phishing attempts against the University.

If you have any additional questions, please reach out to security@osu.edu.

Wednesday, Sept. 26, 2018
KEYNOTE SPEAKER ANNOUNCED

Dr. Christopher Hoch
Director of The Ohio State University Marching and Athletic Bands
See you at the Fawcett Center! We have great informative sessions as we meet new friends and greet those friends who come to our conference every year.

OSURA FALL CONFERENCE