Pro Sport in Columbus

By Nancy Wardwell

There are forces in Columbus who are determined that we will be a professional sports town.

Of course, the benchmark sports are football, baseball, and basketball. Ice hockey and soccer are seen by some as, frankly, second tier. Being bracketed by Cleveland and Cincinnati and centered on the mighty Ohio State athletic program, we fall short of the power criteria to attract a franchise.

According to sport historian and OSU professor Mel Adleman (A Sporting Time), after horse racing and boxing, baseball was America’s first professional sport – but around 1900 in Columbus Ohio State Journal assistant Sport Editor Joe Carr, while continuing work as a machinist in the Pennsylvania Railroad Stations (PRR), organized a football team. Because most of the players worked for PRR and were called “panhandles” on the job, the team of burly players was called “The Columbus Panhandles - The Toughest Team in the National Football League 1900-1922.” Joe Carr became the manager. According to Chris Willis, head of the NFL Research Library and Joe Carr’s biographer, ease of transportation was an advantage for the railroad team! October 11, 1907 the

Panhandles played their first game in front of a crowd of 400. The Columbus Dispatch reported “Manager Carr’s Panhandle football team opened its season yesterday at Driving Park, defeating the opponent 38 to 0.”

By 1920 enough teams had developed to a point that the formation of a league was being promoted. Cities included in the league would be Columbus, Cleveland, Canton, Akron, Dayton, Toledo, Massillon, Cincinnati, and Fort Wayne. When the American Professional Football Association (APFA) was formed in Canton, it also included the Buffalo All-Americans and the Chicago Tigers. The great Jim Thorpe was the first president. When Thorpe stepped down, Joe Carr was asked to take the helm and he enthusiastically agreed, with Green Bay and Louisville being added to the league.

In 1922 the APFA changed its name – to the National Football League, and Carr set up the offices on the 11th floor of 16 East Broad Street, establishing Columbus as the first home of the NFL!

So, enjoy the rich and varied sport opportunities of Columbus, and the next time you hear someone whine, “Yah, but we don’t have a REAL pro team,” just say “Been there – done that!”
FROM: The President

Happy New Year. There is much to look forward to in the new year. Maybe a new family member, new friendship, new hobby, new trip. Whatever the new year brings to you embrace it and more importantly, enjoy it. I hope that OSURA can help you make the new year the best year by enriching your life with new friends, new activities, new trips, etc. We at OSURA are committed to providing you with the best possible activities to enrich your life.

El Camino, the way - Recently I was on a trip in northern Spain, an area that I was always interested in learning about the culture, architecture, history and the people. What I discovered early on was the Franco El Camino, one of the many networks of paths that pilgrims have traveled since the 9th century. The Franco El Camino starts in Roncesvalles in northern Spain near France, hence the name, and ends at the cathedral of Santiago de Compostela in Galicia in northwestern Spain, a journey of about 500 miles. The trip on foot can take up to six weeks, and last year over 265,000 people of all ages (18% over 60) and nationalities (10% USA) completed the walk. Many others, like our group, walked sections of the trail. The route, which is very well marked by scallop shells and painted arrows (photo), starts up in the Pyrenes, and goes through forests, towns, and cites. We did our walks in Roncesvalles (the beginning), Pamplona (running of the bulls), through the cathedrals in Burgos and Leon, the Templar fort in Ponferra and ended by walking through Santiago de Compostela to the Cathedral. Along the way we met many pilgrims who were walking for a variety of reasons, some because of religious devotions, many to honor a loved one who was ill or recently died. Others like me were connecting with ourselves, immersing in different cultures, tasting new flavors and expanding our horizons. What I discovered from interacting with these walkers, the El Camino is like the journey through life. In life we journey down many paths which take many twists and turns. We discover new paths. Along the way, we make new friendships, maybe start a family, career, lose family members and friends. This is all part of our El Camino, our self-discovery. I like to think that we have many more paths to discover and that retirement is but one of those paths. For the New Year I hope that you discover new paths through your El Camino and that these bring you much happiness.

Steven D'Ambrosio
President of OSURA
Welcome New Retirees

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>University/Department</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Robyn Elizabeth Deal</td>
<td>University Hospitals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Edward L. Gardner</td>
<td>Trans &amp; Traffic Mgmt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jimmy D. Garrett</td>
<td>Dining Services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rita E. Gottesman</td>
<td>University Hospitals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deborah A. Hanes</td>
<td>College of Nursing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Richard T. Hart</td>
<td>Biomedical Engineering</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>David Kevin Hepler</td>
<td>SL Bldg &amp; Mech Services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cindy Lou James</td>
<td>Chemical Instrumentation Ctr</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Danesh Karamian</td>
<td>Grad &amp; Prof Admissions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charlene Frances Kuehnle</td>
<td>University Hospitals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jo Ellen Lambert</td>
<td>Cancer Hosp &amp; Research Inst</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lynn Renee Mande</td>
<td>Food, Agric &amp; Env Sci Admin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joseph Gerald Marino</td>
<td>University Libraries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thomas Frederick Mauger</td>
<td>FGP-Ophthalmology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jeri L. McMichael</td>
<td>Electrical &amp; Computer Engr.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vicki Rose Morrison</td>
<td>Shared Services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mary E. Nash</td>
<td>Shared Services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dwight Alden Powell</td>
<td>Internal Medicine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Catherine Jane Ruther</td>
<td>OSUE County Operations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teresa A. Shiverdecker</td>
<td>EHE Educational Studies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gaylynn Jane Speas</td>
<td>FGP-Anesthesiology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patricia Su Stull</td>
<td>Wooster Campus Facilities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Judy Ann Varhola</td>
<td>Advancement Services</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Campus Campaign

Tom Sweeney

The Campus Campaign is a two-month period held in the spring during which special emphasis is placed on gifts to OSU from current and retired faculty and staff. In practice, any such gift made during the fiscal year is counted toward the goal of the Campaign.

As a group, retired faculty and staff, either through lifetime gifts or as bequest designations, have been generous donors. We hope that this tradition continues.

This year, OSURA itself is in need of donations. When the OSU contact point for OSURA was changed from Human Resources to the Alumni Association, we lost an annual cash subsidy, a half-time office manager, and easy access to office space, student help, and office supplies. (The funding amount for these items was retained by Human Resources and not transferred to the Alumni Association.)

We need to build our endowment so as to be able to assure a sound financial future for OSURA. Thus, we hope that part of your OSU donation or bequest designation will be directed toward the OSURA endowment fund (OSU endowment fund 605419).

If you have a traditional IRA and are at an age where you must make annual Required Minimum Distributions (RMD), you can avoid paying income tax on any part of the RMD that you donate to a charity such as an OSU endowment fund. There is no need to itemize to obtain this tax benefit. A call to your IRA custodian will make the process very easy.

Save the Date:
Wednesday, September 11, 2019

The Fall Conference Planning Committee is already at work.
January 16 (Wednesday)
Book Club
A Single Spy by William Christie. Alexsi Smirnov, an orphan surviving by thieving, is caught and trained by the Russian NKVD, and then inserted as a spy into Nazi Germany. He remains true to his personal motto – “Survive.” In the end, a single spy may change the course of history.

Time/Place: 1:30 p.m., Carriage Hill of Arlington Party House, Lafayette Drive. Call Lee Hill (614-459-4743) for directions.
Arranger: Lee Hill (Book Club SIG)

January 17 (Thursday)
Lunch Bunch
Come learn more about The American Red Cross and how you may become involved. Our speaker, Becky Dungee, will give us information about what the Red Cross does and the many opportunities available to help this organization continue its work.

Time/Place: 1:15 p.m., MCL Cafeteria, Kingsdale
Cost: On your own, order through cafeteria line starting at 11:15 a.m., program at approximately 12 noon.
Contact Person: Elenore R. Zeller (Social Committee)

January 23 (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 24 (Thursday)
Dinner Series: It’s All About the Economy
The presentation will focus on the current state of the U.S. economy and potential risks for the U.S. economy. We will look at the trends; in GDP, on interest rates, and the federal deficit. These will likely limit options for responding to a potential slowdown in the U.S. economy.

Time/Place: 5:15 p.m. reception, 6 p.m. dinner, 7 p.m. lecture; OSU Faculty Club
Cost: $25 (service charge included)
Registration Deadline: Register at osura.osu.edu or call 614-292-2281 by January 21
Arranger: Carol Newcomb (Dinner Series SIG)

Our Holiday Potluck was one of the best yet! Food, Friends – and Line Dancing!

January 3 (Thursday)
Benefits Committee
Time/Place: 9:15 a.m., Longaberger

January 16 (Wednesday)
Membership Committee
Time/Place: 10 a.m., Longaberger

January Board Meeting
No meeting this month – we’ll meet again February 12th

Monthly Activities
January 10 (Thursday)
Photo Society
Program: “The Dalmatian Coast” presented by Larry Kennedy.
Member Theme: Silhouettes—limit images to three. **All photos for the annual competition are due January 10**
Dues: $10; Make check to: OSU Photo Society, mail to Martha Warren, Sec./Treas., 3502 Wenwood Dr, Hilliard, OH 43026; or bring to the meeting.
Time/Place: 5:15 p.m., cocktails; 6 p.m., dinner; 7 p.m., program; OSU Faculty Club.
You MUST make reservations for dinner by calling 614-292-2262 by January 7.
Cost: On your own; ranges from $10-15
Program Chair: Jack Nasar (Photographic Society SIG)

January 15 (Tuesday)
Craft Group
Bring your own craft of choice as well as your ideas, or just join us to socialize and see the talents of other retirees. Please RSVP to marycull.4@gmail.com.
Time/Place: 2-4 p.m., Panera Bread (Community Room) 4519 N. High Street
Arranger: Mary Cull (Craft Group SIG)

January 19 (Saturday)
Walking/Hiking Group
Challenge Level 2–4
Join us as we walk the trails at Shale Hollow Park.
Time/Place: 11 a.m., Shale Hollow Park, 6320 Artesian Run, Lewis Center, OH (just off Rt 23)
Cost: On your own
Contact Person: Hallan Noltimier (Walking/Hiking SIG)

January 22 (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)
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 16 (Wednesday)**

**Planetarium Show: “Cosmic Origins Spectrograph”**

5033 Smith Lab, campus

REGISTRATION REQUIRED

The modern projector at the Arne Slettebak Planetarium follows the Cosmic Origins Spectrograph, one of the Hubble Space Telescope science instruments. The same program will be repeated. When registering, specify 6 p.m., 7 p.m. or either.

[planetarium.osu.edu/](http://planetarium.osu.edu/)

**Meet by:** your registration choice; 5033 Smith Lab, 174 W. 18th Ave., campus

**Cost:** No charge

**Registration Deadline:** Register at planetarium.osu.edu/ by January 14.

**Arrangers:** Bradley Peterson and Rai Goerler (Cultural Arts Committee)

---

**January 18 (Friday)**

**2018 Income Tax Seminar**

Tax experts will discuss Federal and State income tax issues for 2018. Pre-registration is not necessary.

**Time/Place:** 1 – 3 p.m., Sanders Lounge, Longaberger Alumni House, 2200 Olentangy River Road

**Cost:** No charge

**Arranger:** Hallan Noltimier (Benefits Committee)

---

**February 3 (Sunday)**

**“The Complete Works of Shakespeare (abridged)”**

Civic Theater

**Challenge Level 1**

REGISTRATION REQUIRED

Enjoy this fast-paced and funny collection of short excerpts from Shakespeare’s canon. Register at OSURA.CulturalArts. Travel@gmail.com PREFERRED, or call 614-292-2281.

**Time/Place:** 2 p.m. Civic Theater, 3837 Indianola Avenue

**Cost:** Payable at the theater — $10 (for the first ten who register); others $17.50

**Registration/Refund Deadline:** January 25

**Arranger:** Marilyn Blackwell (Cultural Arts Committee)

---

**February 22 (Friday)**

**National Underground Railroad Freedom Center**

Cincinnati

**Challenge Level 2**

REGISTRATION REQUIRED

Included are two guided tours:

1) a 90-minute highlights tour focusing on history: of slavery, the railroad, the abolitionists, current struggles; 2) exhibit: Mandela - The Journey to Ubuntu, commemorating his life and legacy. freedomcenter.org. Click on “exhibits.”

**Meet by:** 8:15 a.m., Longaberger parking lot, 2200 Olentangy River Road

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

**Cost:** $73; cost includes motor coach transportation, museum admission, Mandela exhibit, lunch, snacks, tips

**Registration/Refund Deadline:** Register at osura.osu.edu or call 614-292-2281 by February 1.

**Arrangers:** Odette Blum (Cultural Arts Committee)

---

**March 1 (Friday)**

**BalletMet – Don Quixote**

(Senior Dress Rehearsal)

**Challenge Level 1**

REGISTRATION REQUIRED

Join the man of La Mancha, at once charming and zealous, and a cast of colorful characters, for one of the most celebrated dance dramas in history, known for its beautiful costumes and elegant scenery. Choreography by our own Edward Liang. Register at osura.osu.edu or call 614-292-2281. 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 at 10:15 a.m., Ohio Theater, 39 E. State Street

**Cost:** $19 (admission ticket)

**Registration/Refund Deadline:** February 22

**Arranger:** Rai Goerler (Cultural Arts Committee)

---

**March 19 (Tuesday)**

**Kelton House: Tour & Tea with Sophia**

**Challenge Level 2**

REGISTRATION REQUIRED

“Sophia Kelton” will greet you in the parlor and tell you about the family’s life in the 1850s. “Sophia” will take you on a tour of her beautifully furnished Victorian home and then you will enjoy tea sandwiches, strawberry trifle and tea in the Carriage House.

**Meet by:** 2 p.m., Kelton House, 586 E. Town Street

**Return:** 3:30 p.m.

**Cost:** $15; cost includes tour and refreshments

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

**Arranger:** Rai Goerler (Cultural Arts Committee)
Bank Tellers Trained to Spot Fraud Against Older Customers

Bank personnel who know their customers are often the first to identify financial problems, fraud, and scams. Under new federal legislation, they are receiving training to improve their skills and knowledge about what to do when they think fraud may be involved. Under Ohio law, they are now mandated reporters just as health care providers are.

Although many consumers now bank on-line and may not visit their local branches regularly, more than 60% of baby boomers still bank face-to-face. One out of five older consumers report that they have been the victim or potential victim of financial abuse by strangers, friends, or family members. Types of fraud include:

- Check washing in which figures are altered
- Duplicating checks
- Unauthorized use of debit or credit cards
- Using fake checks

In addition, older consumers often are the targets of scams to get them to give over financial information to thieves. This information may be used to open new credit card accounts or to withdraw funds from bank accounts.

Consumers are urged to report any suspicious activity to local police.

New Medicare Rules To Monitor Nursing Home Readmissions

Medicare has begun a program to reward nursing homes with low re-admission rates back to hospitals and penalize those whose patients are returning to hospitals within 30 days. Nationally 11% of all older adults who are discharged from a hospital return within a month for the same issues. Hospitals are already penalized if patients return within 30 days of discharge for the same condition.

Many patients who are discharged from the hospital spend some time in a nursing facility for rehabilitation before returning home. This new program is encouraging more monitoring of the patients both while in rehab and when they return home.

We can expect more thorough discharge planning at both the hospital and nursing home levels. Consumers, too, need to educate themselves about the quality of local nursing facilities. Specific information about each facility is found at Medicare’s Nursing Home Compare (see https://www.medicare.gov/NursingHomeCompare.) The Medicare website provides information on staffing, case mix, patient outcomes, and links to recent state department of health annual inspections. Each facility also receives a rating of 1 to 5 stars based on their quality of care.

STRS Report

The STRS health-care fund is in an unexpectedly strong position at present and the pension fund now complies with legislated mandates for the ratio of assets to liabilities and the projected length of time until assets equal liabilities. Without the loss of our COLAs, the pension fund would be out of compliance. When will COLAs return? That depends on many factors, such as the future return on the fund’s investments. But it also depends on priorities. Who should get relief if or when financial conditions get much better? Certainly retirees would expect COLAs to be reinstated. But active teachers, who recently have seen their contributions to retirement increase from 10% to 14% of salary, would expect that rate to be scaled back. Employers (school boards and universities) also pay 14% of salary into the fund, and it would be attractive to the legislature to cut that rate; suddenly schools would have more money to spend on education without receiving any new tax money. Should rising health-care costs cause the health-care fund to become more depleted, there would be pressure to instate the 1% of salary that used to go from the pension fund to the health-care fund. And lowering the expected rate of return on investments would cut the projected rate of assets to liabilities (negating the apparent improved financial condition of the fund) but it would decrease the changes that a major downturn in the economy could cause STRS to be unable to meet its obligations. These are questions that future STRS Boards (and perhaps the legislature) will have to grapple with.
In Memoriam

Z. Norine Clark  
November 15 | Athletics, 88

Clara Creager  
November 20 | Arts, 88

Patricia Crepeau  
October 20 | OSURA, 97

Norma Disinger  
November 8 | OSURA, 87

Neal F. Johnson  
December 4 | Psychology and OSURA, 84

Charles "Chick" Mawhirter  
November 16 | 67

Patricia McCandless  
November 19 | Libraries and OSURA, 79

Mervin Muller  
December 3 | Comp & Info Science and OSURA, 90

Jane Newell Pletcher  
December 5 | Advis & Acad Services and OSURA, 64

Rose Alma Sliemers  
November 14 | OSU Hospitals, 87

Thomas B. Smith  
December 2 | Phys Facilities and OSURA, 98

Marilyn Snoddy  
November 4 | 93

Janet Stocker  
November 28 | OSURA, 90

Helen L. (Caldwell) VanCulin  
November 10 | 88

Mary Woody  
November 10 | 95

---

MEMBERS SPOTLIGHT:  
Norma Harper

Retired in 1998, Norma Harper keeps active by helping others. As a volunteer, she has helped the Make a Wish Foundation, A Kid Again, the Alcohol Drug and Mental Health Board of Franklin County, the Wexner Medical Center Service Board, State 4-H and the State Fair, to name a few. Her services brought special recognitions. In 1991 the Columbus Dispatch gave her the Community Service Award; in 2002 she became a member of the Senior Citizens Hall of Fame; and in 2016 The Young at Heart named her “Senior of the Year.” Recently, Norma admitted “I have volunteered for many agencies but retired from some of them so I could enjoy a little vacation.”

OSURA members who attended the summer picnic will recall the Mexican Folk dance troupe, with the gorgeous costumes and the fast dancing. Norma has led that group for about 20 years. It grew out of a folk dance program at the Whetstone Community Center. This lively group thrives on the sounds of Mexico and the beautiful colors of the costumes.

Born in Painesville, West Virginia, Norma’s family moved to Ohio when she was two years old. She grew up on a farm with thirteen siblings. After graduating from Johnstown High School, she worked for OSU part-time as a PBX (telephone) operator in Siebert Hall in 1964. A year later, she began as a secretary in the Agricultural Engineering Department and eventually became administrative assistant. She retired after 31 years of service. Even in retirement, she continues to organize lunches for retirees from her department and maintains contacts with current faculty and staff.

Norma’s family keeps her busy. She has two daughters, two sons, 34 grandchildren and seven step-grandchildren and grandchildren-in-law. At Thanksgiving of 2018 there was a family reunion of over 100 people. David Landis has been her partner for 24 years. Together, they spend winters in Florida, at Fruitland Park near The Villages.

OSURA has been important to Norma: “I enjoy the potlucks and some trips, and the fellowship.” She is also a member of OSURA’s Travel Committee.

Thanks for your service and your fellowship!
As Community Scholars, Kendal residents attend classes, lectures, concerts, plays, sporting events and more. If you’re open to new opportunities in retirement and enjoy a strong sense of community and collaboration, join us—we’re just minutes from OSU in Newark and Columbus, so you’ll always be close to the places and people you love!

“Whose woods these are I think I know. His house is in the village though; He will not see me stopping here To watch his woods fill up with snow.”

—Robert Frost, Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening