To Infinity and Beyond*

By Nancy Wardwell

Recently OSURA members were treated to a session at the OSU Arne Slettebak Planetarium located in Smith Hall. The planetarium was opened in 1968. It closed in 2012-2013 for renovation and installation of the state-of-the-art Spitz SciDome XD digital projection system, which “takes you on a digital journey to planets, stars, and distant galaxies.” This time Planetarium Director Wayne Schlingman led a new presentation by NASA, showing results of the important Cosmic Origins Spectrograph, installed from the Space Shuttle into the Hubble Telescope. Vastly simplified, the spectrograph separates light by wavelengths, in this case, to determine the composition of various objects in the skies and suggesting origins of stellar and planetary systems.

Usual planetarium programs are “sky shows” that demonstrate the movement and positions of celestial objects – and planetariums are not new. In fact, the spoils of the Crusades included a sort of turntable tent with holes made by Arab craftsmen. For the next 600 years various domes and globes were constructed. In the early 1900s a museum opened in Munich that showed planet movements plus nighttime scenes with stars. Zeiss engineers originally used light bulbs, and then projected light to simulate the skies. The first planetarium in North America was the 1924 Adler Planetarium in Chicago.

Observatories provide the opportunity to study the sky directly. Ohio is not noted for its clear dark skies but we do have quite a few observatories. In Ohio there are 11 astronomical observatories that have telescopes for research. Most are located at our public and private universities. Perkins Observatory, which once had the third largest telescope in the world, is the best known in Central Ohio. It has a fascinating history – but what is important here is that Ohio Wesleyan and Ohio State variously shared its operation and research – and that public programs are held almost every Friday and Saturday night through the year.

Light pollution has become a serious limitation to viewing the night skies. Dark Sky Parks have been established where there are areas most protected from electric lights. In 1993 Michigan had the first, but there are now almost 60 areas across the United States – and in June, 2018 Ohio dedicatd the John Glenn Astronomy Park near Old Man’s Cave in Hocking County. It is a relatively dark place where people can bring their telescopes, explore the heavens and enjoy the programs that are offered during the warmer months!

The website says “no camping – but you can stay the night!”

*Buzz Lightyear (Toy Story)
FROM: The President

We all know that February is the shortest month of the year with 28 or 29 (leap year) days. From the web and Wikipedia, the word “February” comes from middle English feuerer and Old French fevierer. These are based on Latin februarius, from februa, the name of a roman purification feast held in this month and the current spelling in the 15th century.

Interestingly, in the Catholic tradition, February is the month of the Purification of the Virgin Mary and many times contains Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent.

For such a short month February is packed full of exciting events. February is frequently known as the month of love, it is Heart Health Awareness month, National Wear Red Day 2/1 and Valentine’s Day 2/14. In addition to being a month of love February is a month in which to reflect on the great men and women who have come before us, celebrating Black History Month and Presidents Day 2/18. Are you tired of the cold and wondering how many more days until spring? Make sure to watch the groundhogs 2/2 for Groundhog Day. If you are looking to celebrate New Year’s again, take part in the Chinese New Year 2/5 and if you are looking for some fun events the Super Bowl is 2/3 and Oscars 2/24. With so many things to look forward to in February make sure you check your OSURA newsletter for an exciting list of events, including theater, lunch and tours. Remember to take time to check on your health, stay warm, enjoy what is left of winter and take in as many February festivities as you can.

Steven D’Ambrosio
President of OSURA
Live in style.
Live in the moment.
Live in The Fairfax.

Retirement living. Upper Arlington style.

It’s the beauty of a spacious residence with nine-foot ceilings and expansive windows. It’s the beauty of a lush green campus behind a gated entry. But the real beauty of living at The Fairfax is having the time to enjoy and appreciate all that you’ve earned in life.

When it opens in 2021, The Fairfax at First Community Village will offer 70 contemporary, spacious apartment homes in the English Country Manor style along with the security of lifelong healthcare. And the best time to secure your place in the next generation of retirement living is right now.
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.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

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

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

February 20 (Wednesday)
Membership Committee
Time/Place: 10 a.m., Longaberger

MONTHLY ACTIVITIES

February 14 (Thursday)
Photo Society
Program: 2018 Photographic Society’s Annual Awards
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 February 11.
Cost: On your own; ranges from $10-15
Program Chair: Jack Nasar (Photographic Society SIG)

February 16 (Saturday)
Walking/Hiking Group
Challenge Level 2–4
Everyone welcome. Join us on the trails at Sharon Woods Metro Park, 6911 Cleveland Ave., Westerville.
Time/Place: 11 a.m., we’ll meet at the Ranger Station.
Arranger: Hallan Noltimier (Walking/Hiking SIG)

February 19 (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)

February 20 (Wednesday)
Book Club
“Astrophysics for People in a Hurry” Neil deGrasse Tyson. Here’s an easy-to-understand introduction to the laws that govern the universe. What is the nature of space and time? How do we and the universe fit together? All is explained in easy-to-understand terms—you’ll be ready to discuss the Big Bang, black holes, quarks...should you need to do so!
Time/Place: 1:30 p.m., Carriage Hill of Arlington Party House, Lafayette Drive. Call Lee Hill (614-459-4743) for directions. WINTER WEATHER NOTE: If Columbus City Schools close due to weather, we will cancel also.
Arranger: Lee Hill (Book Club SIG)

February 21 (Thursday)
Lunch Bunch
Our speaker, Dr. Jason Cervenec, a leader in the Columbus Climate Change Action Plan Task Force, will discuss climate change and its impact on Columbus, Ohio.
Time/Place: 11:15 a.m., MCL Cafeteria, Kingsdale
Cost: On your own

February 26 (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)

February 27 (Wednesday)
Bridge Group
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)

February Dinner Series
No program this month. See you March 28th when we look at how pets affect our lives.
Arranger: Carol Newcomb (Dinner Series SIG)

Dan Mertz, a retired attorney from OSU and a Red Cross volunteer, talked at Lunch Bunch in January about his training and his experiences as a volunteer for the Red Cross. He has been active in disaster relief for the Red Cross and drives supplies of blood from donation centers.
**Registration Instructions**

1. **Registrations requiring payment:** Registrations can be made by going on-line to [osura.osu.edu](http://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

**February 3 (Sunday)**  
“*The Complete Works of Shakespeare (abridged)*”  
Civic Theater  
**REGISTRATION CLOSED**  

**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., Lakefront lot (3152 E. 17th Avenue) **THIS IS A CHANGE**  
**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 8 (Friday)**  
OSU Center for Automotive Research Tour  
**Challenge Level 2**  
**REGISTRATION REQUIRED**  
The Center for Automotive Research (CAR) is the preeminent research center in sustainable and safe mobility in the United States and an interdisciplinary research center in The Ohio State University’s College of Engineering.

**Meet by:** 10 a.m., OSU Center for Automotive Research, 930 Kinnear Road  
**Return:** 11:30 a.m.

**Cost:** Free, but limited to 15

**Registration Deadline:** Register at OSURA.CulturalArts.Travel@gmail.com by March 1  
**Arranger:** Marilyn Blackwell  
(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)

**April 10 (Wednesday)**  
The Ohio State University Airport (Don Scott) Tour  
**Challenge Level 2**  
**REGISTRATION REQUIRED**  
Join a guided tour of the inner workings of the OSU Airport. Afterwards, walk to the attached hangar to view a privately-owned small plane and hear from a member of the International Organization of Women Pilots and a participant in the annual Air Race Classic.

**Meet by:** 12:45 p.m., OSU Airport, 2160 West Case Road  
**Return:** 3:30 p.m.

**Cost:** No cost

**Registration Deadline:** Register at OSURA.CulturalArts.Travel@gmail.com by April 3

**Arranger:** Susan Berntson  
(Cultural Arts Committee)
FROM: The Benefits Committee

STRS Report
By Jerry Newsom

Policies governing STRS are set by the Retirement Board, with 5 members elected by current teachers, 2 elected by retirees, and 4 appointed by the government (one each by the governor, jointly by speaker of the House and Senate president, by the treasurer of state, and by the superintendent of public instruction). STRS is legally separate from and fiscally independent of state and local governments, but it operates under rules of the Ohio Revised Code. STRS, along with the other public pension systems in Ohio, is overseen by the Ohio Retirement Study Council (ORSC) on behalf of the legislature. The ORSC holds periodic meetings to carry out its oversight.

A curious provision of the Ohio Revised Code (3307.14(E)) is that if STRS finds it cannot pay its obligations, the employer contributions to the system would be raised to cover a deficit, which would be highly unpopular for school districts and universities. Under this circumstance, ORSC and the legislature might step in and mandate cuts to STRS spending. The hope, of course, is to make sure STRS never gets into this condition to begin with.

OPERS Supports Ohio 2
By Michael Pramik, Ohio Public Employees Retirement System

As the largest public pension fund in Ohio, OPERS supports economic growth in the Buckeye State.

We thus have many investments with Ohio-based companies, from holdings in small, privately held companies to shares of some of the biggest in the state. Our goal is to help support the businesses that provide Ohioans with jobs, wealth and a better way of life.

Ohio law directs OPERS to consider investment managers “that enhance the general welfare of the state and its citizens.” These Ohio-qualified investment managers must offer similar “quality, return and safety comparable to other investments currently available to the Board.”

Like other Ohio public pension funds, OPERS has established a policy regarding Ohio-qualified investments or managers. To be Ohio-qualified, a company must satisfy at least one of the following criteria:

- Have its corporate headquarters or principal place of business in Ohio.
- Employ at least 500 in Ohio.
- Have a principal place of business in Ohio and employ at least 20 residents of the state.

Our Ohio-qualified investment managers in private equity, real estate, public markets, as well as our work with Ohio-qualified brokers, have in general had a positive impact for our members and retirees. We make the investments consistent with our fiduciary duty to act in the best interests of our participants and their beneficiaries.

Those investments include:

- Private equity
- Real estate
- Other Ohio investments
- External public markets
- Other Ohio investments

OPERS’ commitment to Ohio extends beyond external money managers. For instance, last year we transacted more than $10 billion in national bond value with Ohio-qualified brokers. We paid nearly $4 million in custodial and banking fees, mostly to Ohio-related institutions, and we paid another $5 million in fees to Ohio-qualified asset managers.

Finally, the OPERS investment staff internally manages more than $54 billion, saving many millions in management fees and allowing us to take a hands-on approach to preserving our members’ retirement security.

Franklin County Emergency Management & Homeland Security coordinates and prepares for county-wide all-hazards disaster planning, community education, warning, training, grant funding, response, and recovery efforts in order to prepare and protect the citizens of Franklin County before, during, and after natural and man-made disasters.

Shelter in Place
Safety Information
By Meg Teaford

Will you know what to do if you are told to shelter in place? Severe weather, criminal activity or a chemical hazard may cause officials to advise you to stay put. Shelter in place means finding a safe location indoors & staying there until given an “all clear” or directed to evacuate. Learn how to be prepared for all hazards, and register for local emergency alerts at https://alertfranklincounty.org/
Julian Larson grew up in northern South Dakota on a farm. His family planted and harvested grain and also had cattle, hogs, and chickens. Later in life, these rural experiences and his interests served him well in managing the Worthington Farmers Market and in establishing the Westerville Farm Market. (One of his hobbies is to create quality wines from dandelions and grape concentrate.)

As a child, he attended a one-room schoolhouse through the eighth grade. There were never more than two students in his grade and usually less than twenty students in the entire school. After graduating high school, he earned a secondary education degree from North State Teachers College in Aberdeen, South Dakota.

Although Larson taught middle and high school math and science in Browns Valley, Minnesota, teaching proved to be only one of several careers. He farmed for one year with his father and then took a job as a chemist at a uranium processing plant in St. Louis.

After earning a degree in library science from Western Reserve University, Julian moved to Barberton to work as Research Librarian at PPG Industries. In 1970, the Larson family (Julian, his wife and two children) moved to Columbus, where Larson joined Chemical Abstracts Service. Then, the Larsons relocated to Australia for one year. Julian was a library consultant for the New South Wales Department of Alcohol and a teacher of a library science course at the New South Wales Institute of Technology. While living there, he and his family traveled widely in Australia and New Zealand.

At OSU his career began at the Center for Human Resource Research in 1985. In addition, Julian has worked and volunteered at the James Cancer Hospital and the Wexner Center for the Arts. He retired in 2012. However, he continues to volunteer for OSU’s Athletic Department by helping out at swimming meets and at events such as golf, gymnastics, and fencing.
Welcome New Retirees

Teresa Sue Camelford
University Libraries
Debra Joyce Clark
University Hospitals
Karen Lynn Elekes
Food Science & Technology
Mary Catherine Foltz
Mansfield Campus
Terri Ann Fox
Mansfield Campus
Judith Ann Gallucci
Chemistry and Biochemistry

Kathleen Ann Harper
Facilities Operations
Lois Jean Harris
Disability Services
Cynthia Elaine Price
Medicine Admin
Sonnie Lee Smith
University Hospitals
Yvonne Willis
Stu Life Environmental Svcs

OSU retirees are eligible for a variety of valuable discounts. A list is available on our website osura.alumni.osu.edu.

For many of the offered discounts, you are encouraged to carry an Ohio State BuckID with you. If you do not have a current ID, it is not at all difficult to get one.

If you retired in 1997 or later, take a picture ID and go directly to: BuckID Card Services, 3040 Ohio Union, 1739 North High Street.

If you retired prior to 1997, contact: Benefits/Retirement Services OSU Office of Human Resources, 1590 North High Street Suite 300.

Request an authorization form that you then take to the BuckID Card Services in the Ohio Union.

It never hurts to show your BuckID wherever you shop!