The Year of Thurber

By Nancy Wardwell

The rest of the world may think of James Thurber as a New Yorker – but in 1894 he was born in Columbus, graduated from East High School and attended Ohio State University – wrote for the Dispatch, and incidentally, is buried in Section 50 of Greenlawn Cemetery. He used his Columbus and Midwest observations and experiences throughout his career, so it is no wonder that the city of Columbus and the University are going all out to celebrate his 125th year!

The Thurber House (77 Jefferson Avenue) is coordinating the organizations participating in the “Year of Thurber”; in fact, OSURA member Barbie Tootle is the chair of the “Year of Thurber” committee.

The festivities are already underway, the first being the awarding of the annual Thurber Prize for American Humor. The Thurber House, Columbus Museum of Art, Keny Galleries in German Village and The Ohio State University are among those offering special celebrations.

Thurber at Ohio State

James’ relationship with OSU had its ups and downs. He attended Ohio State for five years, did not graduate but in 1995 was posthumously awarded the Doctor of Humane Letters. He was in a fraternity and served as editor of the Sundial but one gets a much different impression reading Chapter 8 “University Days,” in his 1933 autobiography My Life and Hard Times. In that chapter he tells the tale of the Botany class (the only class he failed – because of his inability to use the microscope) and of the two-year requirement ROTC where his mediocrity at drill and as a soldier kept him in uniform all his years at Ohio State.

It was in Econ where OSU football took its first beating by Thurber. Through the travails of a fellow student, a football player named Bolencieczewicz, Thurber shared his impressions of the academic intellect of the men recruited to play football. (Perhaps that is where Sports Illustrated got some of its ideas). His dim view of athletics came up later in other writings – but after leaving OSU, his wonderful, simple cartoons became the cover of the 1936 Homecoming Football Program. (Ohio State beat Michigan 21-0).

It was at The New Yorker that Thurber really gained his reputation as a journalist, humorist – and cartoonist. He was a master of illustrating the often comedic frustrations of ordinary people. Many of those pieces have been collected and published. In fact, there is a new collection – Collected Fables, edited by Michael J. Rosen. Thurber fables are fabulous and fanciful little stories, always concluding with a Moral.

The all-time best moral, useful in so many situations is:

MORAL: Fools rush in where angels fear to tread, and the angels are all in Heaven – but few of the fools are dead!
Dear OSURA members:

I am writing to you on a hot, sunny Sunday afternoon—a glorious summer day filled with daylilies and the fragrance of “real” lilies. Definitely iced tea weather!

In a few weeks, first-year and overseas students will arrive on the Ohio State campus to begin new studies and adventures. The University will kick off the celebration of its Sesquicentennial. To commemorate the founding of the Ohio A & M College in 1870, there will be a wide variety of events across campus, Ohio, and even the world. (Go to http://150.osu.edu to learn more).

OSURA will be playing a part in these celebrations starting with our Annual Conference on September 11. You do not want to miss the following:

• A surprise visit by Ohio State’s first president, Dr. Edward Orton, and a talk by our current president, Dr. Michael Drake

• A remembrance of September 11, 2001 by OSURA member Shirley Brooks-Jones and her experience afterwards in Newfoundland which are portrayed in the Broadway musical “Come Away”

• The history of the Oval and Mirror Lake

• Restorative yoga

• Learning about dark energy and the accelerating universe

• Updates from the OPERS and STRS retirement systems, and many more

The conference also offers you a chance to catch up with long-time friends and colleagues over breaks and lunch. You will be able to chat with our sponsors and learn about what they have to offer OSURA members. Finally, you can end your day with a tour of Chadwick Arboretum, the Center for Automotive Research, or a tour of campus by bus to see exciting changes there. To register, call 614-292-2281.

As our former president Steven D’Ambrosio mentioned in his June 2019 column, OSURA is also participating in the 150th anniversary by helping today’s students. The Board has created an endowment fund to help combat student food insecurity. Too many students with limited funds have difficulty putting together healthy and nutritious meals. Our endowment will assist the Buckeye Food Alliance, our student food pantry. (Go to www.buckeyefoodalliance.org to learn more) This student-run organization provides the healthy and fresh supplemental food that these students need. Please bring a couple of canned goods to the Annual Conference to re-stock the shelves for the autumn semester. And if you haven’t done so yet, please consider contributing to our endowment fund by calling 614-292-2141 and giving to Fund 316596.

When you read this, I will be visiting the campus of the University of Illinois in Champaign-Urbana for the annual meeting of the Big Ten Retirees Association. Together with vice-president Jerry Dare, we will be learning about what other similar organizations are doing. I’ll have a short report for you next month. Until then, as a song says, “See you in September...”

Yours,

Margaret H. Teaford
President of OSURA
Live in style.
Live in the moment.
Live in The Fairfax.

Residences are reserving fast. Don't miss your chance.

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.
### OSURA News

## Calendar of Events

### COMMITTEE MEETINGS

**August 6 (Tuesday)**  
**Benefits Committee**  
**Time/Place:** 9:15 a.m., Longaberger

**August 13 (Tuesday)**  
**Board Meeting**  
**Time/Place:** 9:30 a.m., Longaberger

**August 22 (Wednesday)**  
**Membership Committee**  
**Time/Place:** 10 a.m., Longaberger

### MONTHLY ACTIVITIES

**August 15 (Thursday)**  
**Lunch Bunch:** *BalletMet’s 42nd Season Overview and More!*  
**REGISTRATION NOT REQUIRED**

Sue Porter, Executive Director of BalletMet, will talk about the upcoming season and the activities of BalletMet, one of the cultural treasures of Columbus. Ms. Porter is an excellent speaker and has presented to OSURA in the past.  
**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.  
**Contact Person:** Elenore R. Zeller (Social Committee)

**August 20 (Tuesday)**  
**Craft Group**  
Be ready to work on holiday crafts—it’ll be here before you know it. 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)

### August 27 (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)

### August 28 (Wednesday)**  
**Bridge Group**  
Join us — enjoy the fellowship, and have fun playing a good game of bridge.  
**Time/Place:** 1 p.m., Friendship Village of Dublin, North CR  
**Arranger:** Steve Miller (Bridge Group SIG)

### August 20 (Tuesday)**  
**Photo Society**  
No meeting until Thursday, September 12th....but keep those cameras at the ready and ready to share.  
**Arranger:** Jack Nasar (Photographic Society SIG)

### August Book Club

The “right stuff” consists of background, abilities, temperament, ambition and resilience. How did Lincoln, Theodore Roosevelt, F.D.R., and Lyndon B. Johnson show they had it? Find out in *Leadership: In Turbulent Times* by Doris Kearns Goodwin. We’ll discuss this when we meet on September 18th.  
**Arranger:** Lee Hill (Book Club SIG)

### 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)

### August Dinner Series

No event until the fall. Look for future announcements.

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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  
   
   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.

**August 21 (Wednesday)**

**Tour the OSU Stone Lab Facility on Lake Erie**

**Challenge Level 3**

REGISTRATION REQUIRED

We will take a boat to the OSU facility on Gibraltar Island, tour the facility, eat lunch on the island, then take a boat on the lake to understand the lake and its inhabitants.

**Meet by:** 6:30 a.m., Lakefront Bus Terminal (3152 E. 17th Avenue)  
**Return:** approximately 7:30 p.m.

**Cost:** $124; cost includes facility tour, lunch, ferry, motor coach transportation, snacks, tips  
**Registration/Refund Deadline:** Register at osura.osu.edu or call 614-292-2281 by August 7.

**Arrangers:** Jessica Pritchard and Margaret Hinkle-Grimm (Travel Committees)

**September 11 (Wednesday)**

**2019 OSURA Annual Fall Conference**

REGISTRATION REQUIRED

**Time/Place:** 8 a.m. – 3:15 p.m., Fawcett Event Center, 2400 Olentangy River Road

**Cost:** $30 members – includes continental breakfast and lunch; $10 extra for optional tours

**Registration Deadline:** August 30–September 11.

**Parking:** Free

**Arrangers:** Rachael Turner and Sally Dellinger (Conference Committee)

**September 18 (Wednesday)**

**Roscoe Village Tour**

Cosocton  
**Challenge Level 2**

REGISTRATION REQUIRED

Go back in time to a little village. We will take a canal tour, tour the town, and enjoy lunch.

**Meet by:** 8 a.m., Lakefront Bus Terminal (3152 E. 17th Avenue)  
**Return:** approximately 5 p.m.

**Cost:** $69; cost includes lunch, guided tours, motor coach transportation, snacks, tips  
**Registration/Refund Deadline:** Register at osura.osu.edu or call 614-292-2281 by September 11.

**Arrangers:** Deb Zang and Jessica Pritchard (Travel Committee)

**October 3 (Thursday)**

**National Veterans Memorial and Museum – Guided Tour**

**Challenge Level 1-2**

Wheelchairs available  
**REGISTRATION REQUIRED**

Established in 2018 by an act of Congress, the National Veterans Memorial and Museum (NVMM) is a tribute to men and women – in and out of uniform – who served this country. The mission is to share their experiences with the world, through exhibits, architecture, and landscaping.  
www.NationalVMM.org

**Meet by:** 10:15 a.m., 300 W. Broad St.  
**Return:** approximately 11:30 a.m.

**Cost:** $12 admission, parking $6...both free for veterans; lunch on your own  
**Registration/Refund Deadline:** Register at osura.osu.edu or call 614-292-2281 by September 13.

**Arrangers:** Ron Currin (Cultural Arts Committee)

**FROM: The Benefits Committee**

Both STRS and OPERS provide regular information and updates by US Mail and email. If you need to contact either, here is the contact information.

**STRS**

State Teachers Retirement System of Ohio  
275 E. Broad St.,  
Columbus, OH 43215  
888-227-7877  
contactus@strsos.org

**OPERS**

Ohio Public Employee Retirement System  
277 E. Town Street  
Columbus, OH 43215  
1-800-222-7377  
benefitquestions@opers.org

**Reminder:** if you do not have a home computer, your public library will assist you!
**Welcome New Retirees**

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**Titles have been selected for the 2019 – 2020 Reading Year**

_The OSURA Book Club • Indulge Yourself With Us • We’re Easy!_

- ✓ No dues—we’re cheap!
- ✓ No book reports—thank goodness!
- ✓ Probably won’t read or finish the book?–join the crowd!
- ✓ Can’t attend meetings—no problem! Some members I’ve never seen, but the relationship continues onward just fine.
- ✓ Can’t host a meeting?—that’s OK! We always meet at the same time, same place, with ample parking at my condominium’s party house.
- ✓ No money for books?—isn’t the free library system wonderful? We only choose books available from it.
- ✓ Poor eyesight—our books come on audio CDs, in large print, and in digital formats where you can adjust the print size.
- ✓ No e-mail?—so what! Lee is so old fashioned that she likes to use Ma Bell and the US Mail to keep in contact.

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**No more Excuses! Join today!**

Contact Lee Hill (SIG leader)
Phone: (614) 459-4743
e-mail: hill.30@osu.edu
MEMBER SPOTLIGHT:
Gaibrelle Reissland

Are you busy? Gabby (Gaibrelle) Reissland is. Although retired from OSU, she continues to work: “Being a nurse and an attorney, I have a special set of skills that people seek that keep me employed. Every time I think that I am going to stop working, within three weeks I get a phone call drawing me back to work.” She also is a seamstress and sews dresses for brides, bridesmaids and mothers of brides. In her spare time, Gabby does crafts and annually makes one hundred hats and scarves for her sister’s elementary classes. To stay fit and to enjoy the outdoors, Gabby takes her bicycle for long distance cycling. Each of her rides take her anywhere from 30 to 100 miles.

OSURA also keeps Gabby active. She has been a Member at Large of its Executive Board and continues to be a member of the Finance Committee. She was helpful in assisting the Board in selecting an insurance company. In addition, Gabby takes part in the Conference Planning Committee and also serves on the Bylaws Committee.

Born in England, Gabby was the child of an Air Force family and lived on bases until moving to Columbus. She went to St. Ladislas Catholic School for elementary school and then to Father Joseph Wehrle Memorial High School. At Capital University, she earned a BS in Nursing and also a JD. Additionally, she attended George Washington University in DC to earn a Compliance educational designation.

Her career at OSU began early, when Gabby was in the 10th grade. After school and during the summer, she worked as a banquet waitress at the old Ohio Union. While attending Capital University, Gabby was a student nurse intern working in Doan Hall, but living in Means Hall during the summer of her junior year. After graduating, Gabby became a staff nurse in Rhodes Hall, in the first trauma unit at OSU Hospitals. After graduating from Capital Law School and working nine months at a private firm, Gabby returned to the OSU Medical Center, in Legal Services and Risk Management. In 2010, she left the Medical Center to start up OSU’s first Enterprise Risk Management department but returned to OSU’s Medical Center to lead the Compliance Department. She retired from OSU twice, first in 2014 and again in 2016.

Although she still works, Gabby has enjoyed activities of OSURA. In February she joined the OSURA tour of the National Underground Railroad Museum and Freedom Center in Cincinnati. A few weeks later, she toured Kelton House with OSURA. Last year, she attended the Fall Conference: “The fall conference is a plethora of information and an opportunity to see people you haven’t seen in years. At the last conference I was able to connect with one of the nurses who was a mentor to me when I was just a graduate nurse. That was over 36 years ago!”

OSURA is important to Gabby: “I love learning and I have learned many things since joining OSURA. Although I wanted to divorce myself from OSU upon retirement, OSURA was an avenue of connecting with individuals who have the same experiences as me working for OSU. It helps you stay connected to OSU without the burden of working at OSU.”

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July 4
Rai Goerler was awarded the 2019 Outstanding Service Award at our recent Annual Meeting. Each year we recognize a member who has contributed greatly to the betterment of OSURA retirees. Among his many contributions, Rai has served as our President, the Vice President of Finance, and has done great work with Social, travel, SIGS, and cultural arts – and is well known to the many who use our electronic communications! He manages our Facebook page and our activity Listserve.

DEADLINE IS AUGUST 30