Friday, August 16 was the annual OSU logistical miracle – Move-In Day! Some 7800 new first-year students joined the 61,000 students enrolled on the Columbus campus. They will have more than 200 majors to consider and much of their educational experience will require a vast array of electronic equipment!

The University is rolling out a year-long celebration and examination of our first 150 years – the Ohio State University Sesquicentennial. The Cannon Act, the bill that established the Ohio Agricultural and Mechanical College, was signed in 1870, but it wasn’t until September 13, 1873 that the first students arrived to begin studies. It was a much different scene that first day! University Hall, the single building on the muddy campus, was not quite finished and the noise of carpenters and plumbers finishing their work was to be heard for months after the opening.

There were seven faculty members and President Orton to greet the 25 students who included two women (both were daughters of Professor Townshend). The street we know as High Street, known then as the Worthington Pike, was a rutted muddy mess. There was no remote parking for shuttles to carry belongings to dorms – in fact, the dormitory wasn’t quite finished either.

To be fair, enrollment actually continued, and by the end of the academic year 90 students were able to choose one of two courses of study: Agriculture and the General or Scientific Course. Within five years the name had been changed to The Ohio State University, enrollment had grown to 198, the faculty had grown to 12, including the first female faculty member, and courses offered were taught in 12 departments. Six men were the first to graduate in June 1878, and Mary Morrison, the first woman to graduate a year later. Morrison Tower is named in her honor.

There are many ways to study the evolution of OSU. Our own Rai Goerler’s The Ohio State University: An Illustrated History was a great help for this article, and newly released Time and Change: 150 Years of the Ohio State University by Tamar Chute (a speaker at our Fall Conference) are two of the most recent. And there is another way to learn about our history!

A few years ago we wrote about MOOCs (Massive Open Online Courses) where interested students have open access to a vast array of course topics taught by the greatest teachers at the greatest universities. We have one of our own! “Buckeye Biography: 150 Years of Ohio State” will be taught by David Staley, Director of the Humanities Institute, and Tamar Chute, Head of University Archives. The on-line course runs from August through December.

I’m signed up for this one! You, too, can enroll through 150.osu.edu.

Top: First graduating class - 1878 Left: Local announcement of the college opening, Sept. 1873 Photo credit: OSU Archives
Dear OSURA members:

I’ve been on the road this summer. Jerry Dare, our vice-president, and I drove up to Wooster on July 30 to have a delightful lunch with our OSURA members in that area. Recent retirees were also invited to join us. We hosted them over sandwiches and iced tea at the Shisler Campus Center.

Then in early August, my husband and I traveled to Champaign-Urbana to the University of Illinois for the Big Ten Retirees’ Association annual meeting. This was an opportunity to hear what our colleagues at the other Big Ten universities are doing as well as to hear about current trends in higher education. Our Illini friends treated us to good fellowship, food, and entertainment.

Annual Conference: There is still time to register for the OSURA Annual Conference on September 11 at the Fawcett Center. Remember, we will be helping to kick off the year-long celebration of Ohio State’s Sesquicentennial with a keynote address from President Drake and a surprise visit from our first President, Edward Orton. And we will be remembering the events and heroes of September 11, 2001, too. Please call 614-292-2281 now so that you can join us.

Speaking of September 11 and our conference, I am sure that each of us remembers what we were doing on that day and where we were. I know I certainly do! I’d like to collect those remembrances and display them at the conference. So if you would like to share with us, please send me an e-mail at https://osura.alumni.osu.edu/about/contact with a short paragraph story about September 11. Let me know if you want me to share your name, too. I am looking forward to hearing from you!

OSURA Endowment Fund: Finally, we have a progress report on the new OSURA endowment to combat student food insecurity. We have raised almost $20,000 in cash and pledges as of early August. You’ll find a bar graph measuring our progress in the newsletter. To make a gift to Fund 316596, please use the form in the newsletter or call (614) 292-2141. Thanks to those who have already given!

See you at the conference!

Yours,

Margaret H. Teaford
President of OSURA
From: The Benefits Committee

STRS Report

By Jerry Newsom

In June the STRS Board finalized the medical insurance plan for 2020. Thanks to favorable claims experience, retirees will see little or no cost increase in their STRS medical insurance: 92% of enrollees will have premiums equal to or less than what they have been paying. This will be the fifth year in a row that premiums for the Aetna Medicare Plan will have gone without an increase.

It’s been quiet since the June board meeting, since the STRS Board, ORSC, and HPA all did not meet in July.

Legislative news

A bill to bail out the multiemployer private pension plans passed the U.S. House but is not expected to pass the Senate.

The dismal public pension crisis in Kentucky continues. A pension reform law requires covered public employers to choose to either stay in the pension system (with its current contribution rate of 83% of salary!) or leave the system and promise to pay back their existing pension liabilities (either as a lump sum or spread over 30 years). Those that leave the system will have incentives to freeze current pensions, and current employees will be transferred to a 401(k)-style plan. There’s not much good news here. The situation in Illinois isn’t much better, with a $134 billion “unfunded pension liability”. The state offered buyouts for retirees willing to give up their cost of living adjustments and for retirees who elect to receive 60% of their pension value as a lump-sum payment. The plan was expected to save more than $400 million in its first year, but it actually saved only about $13 million. Meanwhile, the New Mexico pension fund for city and state workers is warning the legislature that they may not be able to sustain payouts in the next decade.

South Dakota’s state retirement system claims to be one of the nations best-funded public pension systems. It credits its success in part to a “contrarian” investment approach (doing the opposite of what most investment managers do, such as bailing out of stocks towards the end of the dot.com bubble; presently it’s much more invested in cash than most funds). It presently assumes a low 6.5% return on investments. Cost of living adjustments vary in South Dakota, being reduced in leaner years, and they will cut benefits if needed to keep 100% funded. Meanwhile, CalPERS (California Public Employees’ Retirement System) lowered its expected return for the next decade to 6.1%, down from the 7% it set in late 2016.

OPERS Report

By Michael Pramik

OPERS’ CAFR focuses on working together to preserve our system

July 17, 2019 – OPERS has released its 2018 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report, a yearly look at our financial, investment, actuarial and demographic measurements.

This year’s theme is “Working Together: Responsible actions take us forward.” It focuses on the change that often must take place to ensure sustainability of a pension system: “Only with responsible change can OPERS continue to provide the financial security enjoyed by current retirees and to be enjoyed by the retirees of the future.”

OPERS employees work daily to make sure each step we take propels the organization forward to achieve five main goals:

• Provide a stable pension for all OPERS retirees.
• Continue to provide a meaningful retirement health care program.
• Minimize drastic plan design changes.
• Be financially positioned to react to market volatility.
• Maintain intergenerational equity.

Here are some of the facts you’ll discover about OPERS in the 2018 CAFR:

• OPERS had a net position of $94.1 billion at the end of 2018.
• The system’s funded status at year end was 78 percent.
• We are able to pay off our unfunded liabilities within 27 years, within the 30-year period mandated by Ohio law.
• Health care expenses in 2018 were $0.9 billion, down from $1.0 billion a year earlier.
• The OPERS-defined benefit investment portfolio returned a loss of 2.99 percent for the year; the health care portfolio lost 5.76 percent; the defined contribution portfolio had a loss of 6.65 percent.
• In 2018, member and employer contributions in all our pension plans totaled $3.5 billion.
• Of the 303,920 active members in our system, 94 percent have chosen the defined benefit plan, 3.5 percent the defined contribution plan and 2.5 percent the hybrid plan.
• Our new retirees’ average pension was $2,281.
• Of the 212,937 retirees in OPERS, 89.3 percent remained Ohio residents as of Dec. 31, 2018.
• OPERS made $5.5 billion in pension benefit payments last year to Ohio residents.
### September 12 (Thursday)  
**Photo Society**  
**Program:** Members’ Theme Presentations—Recent Best 8 Images. Limit images to 8. Send digital files in a PowerPoint file (alternately in .jpg 96 or 72 dot/inch format) to Larry Kennedy at kennedy.15@osu.edu or snail mail files on a new CD to arrive 3 days prior to the meeting (Larry Kennedy, 6720 Birchtown CT, Dublin, OH 43017) or bring prints (at least 8”x10”) to the meeting. New members welcome.  
**Dues:** $10 is due at this time; 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; 7:00 p.m., program; OSU Faculty Club. You MUST make reservations for dinner by calling 614-292-2262 by September 9.  
**Cost:** on your own; ranges from $10-15  
**Arranger:** Nancy Verber (Photographic Society SIG)

### September 17 (Tuesday)  
**Craft Group**  
Bring your own craft of choice or just join us to eat, socialize and see the creativity of other retirees. Some will be working on holiday crafts. Please email marycull.4@gmail.com if you plan to attend.  
**Time/Place:** 2-4 p.m., Panera Bread (Community Room) 4519 N. High Street  
**Arranger:** Mary Cull (Craft Group SIG)

### September 18 (Wednesday)  
**Book Club**  
Come explore with us Leadership: In Turbulent Times, by Doris Kearns Goodwin, to find the qualities of leadership shown by Lincoln, Theodore Roosevelt, F.D.R. and Lyndon B. Johnson as each faced crises. How would you score their leadership?  
**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)

### September 21 (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)

### September 24 (Tuesday)  
**Tertulia Breakfast**  
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)

### September 25 (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)
October 25 (Friday)
BalletMet – "be Moved"
Senior Dress Rehearsal
Challenge Level 1
REGISTRATION REQUIRED
“be Moved” is a mixed-rep ballet—several unrelated short ballets with intermissions, similar to a collection of short stories. This performance features three ballets by three choreographers and live music (electric violin and string quartet).
Time/Place: performance begins at 11 a.m. Davidson Theatre, Riffe Center, 77 S. High St. Doors open at 10:15 a.m.; general admission.
Cost: $20.93 (group discount ticket)
Registration/Refund Deadline: Register at osura.alumni.osu.edu or call 614-292-2281 by October 18
Arranger: Raimund Goerler (Cultural Arts Committee)

November 14 (Thursday)
Visit The Ohio State University Airport (Don Scott)
Challenge Level 1
REGISTRATION REQUIRED
Learn about the inner workings of the OSU Airport and the Center of Aviation Studies at Ohio State. Afterwards, walk to a nearby hangar where various planes will be on view and members of the International Org. of Women Pilots will talk about private piloting and the history of women in aviation.
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 Nov. 8
Arranger: Susan Berntson (Cultural Arts Committee)

December 5 (Thursday)
Castle Noel & Stan Hywet Tour
Medina and Akron
Challenge Level 2
REGISTRATION REQUIRED
We’ll visit Castle Noel, America’s largest year-round indoor Christmas Entertainment attraction. After lunch, we’ll proceed to Stan Hywet Hall for their annual Deck the Hall. The theme this year is Classic Comic Hero Christmas.
Meet by: 10 a.m., Tremont Center (Tremont Road, opposite Upper Arlington Library)
Return: approximately 9:30 p.m.
Cost: $84.75; cost includes lunch, admissions, motor coach transportation, snacks, tips
Registration/Refund Deadline: Register at osura.osu.edu or call 614-292-2281 by November 18.
Arrangers: Alabelle Zghoul and Betty Hriesik (Travel Committee)
Welcome New Retirees

Suellen M. Ault
Emergency Mgmt & Fire Prev
Deborah Jane Black
Internal Medicine
Lisa Marie Borelli
OSU Health Plan Inc
James Clapsaddle
Stu Life Environmental Svcs
Teresa Hagerman Daniels
FCOB Administration
Mehry Delnavaz
University Hospitals
Diane V. Goubeaux
Purchasing
Timothy E. Gregory
History
Judy L. Hawksworth
Internal Medicine
Linda L. Hicks
Facilities Operations
Douglas M. Levin
Internal Medicine
Edwin Alonzo McGlumphy
Restorative/Prosthetic Dentist
Jane Murphy
Adv Computing Ctr/Art & Des
Deborah Ann Murry
University Hospitals
Susan Bowers O’Keeffe
Philosophy
Maryellen H. Orsinelli
Ross Heart Hospital
Georgia Toumazou Paletta
COM Education Administration
Shelley Eileen Palmer
Physics
Joanna Alice Pickrell
Child Care Program
Jill Elaine Richards
OSURF - Administration
P. Sadayappan
Computer Science & Engineering
Paul Joseph Schopis
OARnet
Fawn E. Thompson
Shared Services
James Lance Tufano
OCIO Operations
Philoomena O. Udeani
University Hospitals East
Libby Jo Woodfork
Cancer Hosp & Research Inst

In Memoriam

Priscilla Bunny Alexander
July 14 | Social Work, 92

Myrna Caruso
July 4 | 81

L. Jay Clevenger
July 9 | OSU/ATI Wooster, 88

Mary L. Decker Fenwick
June 30 | Astronomy, 91

Thomas F. Ferris
July 19 | Medicine, 88

John A. Klamar
July 15 | College of Medicine, 82

Kathleen Kush
July 26 | Education, 89

Karen S. Lake
July 23 | OSU Extension, 73

Kenneth Lee
July 15 | Architecture, 80

Gail Mason
July 18 | OSU Lima, 78

Mary Dell Nisbet
July 13 | Medical Center, 89

Martha Passe
July 21 | English, 92

George Paulson
July 25 | Neurology, 88

Forrest Woody Shoemaker
July 16 | Stores, 69

Marcella Stewart
July 15 | Medical Center, 83

Richard Wink
July 19 | Music- Mansfield, 88

Christian Zacher
July 4 | English, 78

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Left: Six Litter Pickers had fun getting exercise and doing community service. Thanks to Mary for organizing and sharing this photo. Right: Wonderful trip to Stone Lab on Lake Erie, August 21, 2019
MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: Debra Henrichs

Asked if there was anything unusual about her background, Debra Henrichs had an eye-opener: “My first job after graduating with my BA from WSU (Wayne State University) was as Executive Secretary for the Michigan Eye Bank. I was surprised to find out that one of my responsibilities would be to remove eyes from cadavers, and I became the first person certified in the state of Michigan to remove eyes (for corneal transplants) who was not a licensed physician. I went on to train several hundred people (including the ophthalmology residents at WSU) which allowed the Michigan Eye Bank to become one of the largest in the USA.”

Debra grew up in the suburbs of Detroit, Michigan and when grown, “to the horror of my parents, lived in downtown Detroit and loved it.” She earned a BA and MBA at Wayne State University in Detroit and then worked in various administrative capacities for 27 years at WSU before coming to Columbus. In 2001, she started her career at OSU as the Administrative Director for the Department of Internal Medicine, working with the Chair Michael Grever, MD. Internal Medicine is a mammoth department, larger than 19 colleges at the University. After 7 years, she moved to the Department of Clinical Sciences in the Veterinary College and worked with Dr. Rustin Moore (who is now Dean of the College) to build the department: “It was a fascinating job. I did not realize that almost every specialty that exists in human medicine also exists in veterinary medicine.” Debra retired in 2015.

Like many retirees, Debra Henrichs likes to travel: “My husband and I have made a goal in retirement to travel internationally. To date, we have visited: India, Galapagos Islands, Costa Rica, Vietnam, Egypt and this fall Greece/Aegean Sea/Turkey. We have traveled extensively in the United States and continue to do so as both our hobbies take us to several US destinations. My husband is an official for sports car racing (he starts and finishes the races) and I am a pilot.”

Debra enjoys being a pilot: “I have been a pilot for more than 40 years and am fortunate to have owned my own plane for the last 12 years. I fly myself to Detroit often to visit family and friends, take my husband to his races, and have taken at least one long cross country trip each year with a fellow flyer. We have flown to almost every state east of the Rockies. The furthest points being: northeast - Eastport, MA; southeast - West Palm Beach, FL; northwest - Billings, MT and southwest - the LBJ Ranch in Fredericksburg, TX. You have never seen how beautiful this country is till you see it at 3,000 ft.”

Debra supports and encourages other women as pilots in the International Organization of Women Pilots, also known as “the 99s.” “Over the past two years I was co-chair for the Annual International Conference and Career Expo for the Ninety-Nines (The International Organization of Women Pilots) which just concluded in Dayton, Ohio on July 21, 2019. It was a massive undertaking to coordinate tours, educational seminars, banquets/receptions for more than 300 women flyers from around the world. It was a great experience, but one I would not want to repeat.”

When she is not piloting, Debra stays active in other ways: “I love being active and take various exercise classes at Prairie Township Community Center, participate in ‘Hoofit’ at the Columbus Zoo, and the Landmark Arts Walks. I also usher for CAPA at the Ohio, Palace, Southern, Lincoln, McCoy and Davidson theaters which can be quite the workout if you are sitting in the balcony.”

OSURA keeps Debra busy also. She serves on the Benefits Committee as the representative for the Alternative Retirement Program (ARP). “I love attending Lunch Bunch and think that the day tours are wonderful and I attend as many as possible.” In fact, she participated with Paula Rumbaugh as a speaker for the OSU Airport tour on April 10, a tour so popular that it will be repeated on November 14.

Debra says “OSURA provides great opportunities to continue to learn and meet old friends and make new.” So, if you have not met Debra yet, say “hello” when you see her on a day trip or at Lunch Bunch.
From its very beginning, Kendal at Granville has enjoyed a close connection with OSU. Opportunities to contribute and collaborate in enriching intergenerational experiences abound—plus you’ll always be connected to the people and places you love!

The outdoor drama Tecumseh worked its magic for OSURA members.