Throughout this entire academic year the University will be celebrating its sesquicentennial – looking at our past – and looking forward to our future.

It can (and should) be said that OSURA is made up of the staff and faculty who have helped make this institution great – so let us start this celebration by looking at the evolution of OSURA.

1981. Some of the things that happened in 1981 included the first time the word “internet” was used, the launch of the first Space Shuttle, Reagan was inaugurated, and Sandra Day O’Connor was named to the Supreme Court. Also, that year a group of OSU professors came up with the notion that something should be done for retirees! They met with President Ed Jennings, got his support, and from the beginning agreed that the organization should include both staff and faculty.

They sent out a questionnaire, looked at what other universities were doing, and set down some guidelines. By the spring of 1983 they called the first organizational meeting – and 150 retirees showed up! Ransom Whitney (Statistics) was elected president and by the following spring 307 retirees had paid the $5 dues. An office was set up in Archer House with the help of Madison Scott, then Vice President for Personnel Services. The first newsletter was sent out in June 1983. That fall the initial Annual Meeting was held and the speaker was from STRS. The first event was held that fall – a geology walk – and the Bridge Group was formed at Friendship Village.

OSURA did not shy away from advocacy issues. They urged members to educate the public about the seriousness of State Tax issues – and they even took on the Medical Center about billing procedures!

“Personnel Services” became Human Resources and continued to provide some clerical assistance and an “office person” (later known as office manager).

After 35 years of support, the work of Human Resources changed, a Task Force was formed and on July 1, 2016 we signed a Charter with the OSU Alumni Association. At our Annual Meeting on August 17, 2016 a new OSURA Constitution and revised Bylaws were adopted.

Quite possibly the most noticeable change has been in how we register for trips and activities. We no longer have the luxury of an Office manager but now we can register online (osura.osu.edu) or by calling Customer Service at 614-292-2281, and now the preferred method of payment is by credit card.

Another most agreeable change is access to beautiful meeting rooms and available parking at the Longaberger Alumni House.

Thirty-eight years after our inception we have grown to over 2500 paying members who participated in at least 105 activities last year, and time has NOT changed our original purpose – to inform and engage retirees of The Ohio State University!
Dear OSURA members:

THANK YOU!

Let me begin with thanks to three committees. The first THANK YOU is to our Annual Conference Committee co-chaired by Rachel Turner and Sally Dellinger. What a great conference we had on September 11, starting with Presidents Orton and Drake and ending with terrific tours of the campus. They worked all year to find sponsors, select speakers, make arrangements with the Fawcett Center, check menus, and so much more. It all went smoothly from nametags to evaluations because of their attention to detail. I know I appreciate all of their efforts. We’ll have photos and summaries in the November newsletter.

The second THANK YOU is to our Social Committee headed by Elenore Zeller. She and her committee put together the June 2019 Annual Meeting in only three months. We had over 125 members attend. The OSU Alumni Association recognized their work by naming OSURA’s 2019 Annual Meeting the Alumni Association’s Program of the Year at its Leadership luncheon in early September.

The new OSURA membership directory is available and for that we must give a big THANK YOU to the Membership Committee chaired by Gemma McLuckie and Diane Selby. They have been working since January to pull together a complete list of our life and annual members. Perhaps you received a letter (or two) from the committee asking you to verify your name, address, telephone number, or e-mail. Maybe they called you once (or even twice) to be sure our information was correct. Again, the attention to detail and the willingness to check and re-check has paid off!

Speaking of OSURA activities, World Kindness Day will be celebrated on Tuesday October 29 at Ohio State. OSURA members will meet at French Field House from 5 to 8 p.m. to join fellow Buckeyes in putting together food packages. More details to follow!

Finally, it is not too early to think about the upcoming elections. The last day to register is October 7 for the November 5, 2019 election. You may start voting absentee, in person, on October 8 on weekdays. Or you may ask for a mail-in absentee ballot at your board of elections, by going to www.sos.state.oh.us or by calling 1-877-767-6446. According to the U. S. Census Bureau, our age group has the highest rate of participation in voting—about 70%. But that still means that not everyone over 60 votes! Next year, we will celebrate the centennial of the 19th Amendment giving women the right to vote. Let’s not let our grandmothers down by failing to cast our own ballots 99 years later!

Margaret H. Teaford
President of OSURA

FROM: The President

Trivia!

Tamar Chute and Rai Goerler wrote a wonderful little book: The Ohio State University Trivia Book. They have given us permission to use selected gems from time to time!

1. Which OSU buildings are associated with ghost stories?
2. What building stood on the site now occupied by the Wexner Center?
3. How many miles of tunnels are under campus?
4. What building was originally built to house the Ohio Historical Society?
5. Which was the first building built entirely with private money?
STRS Report

By Jerry Newsom

The financial condition of STRS depends heavily on the return they get on investments, since it’s the earnings that pay so much of the pensions for retirees. For the fiscal year ending June 2019, the return was 7.13%, a bit below the 7.45% rate used for long-term planning, but not bad considering the year-to-date return was 3.3% at the end of May. A key measure of how well those managing the investments are doing is how they compared to a benchmark of comparable funds. Last fiscal year they were 0.17% below the benchmark, but for the last five years they have averaged 0.22% above. Other retirement funds that generally do worse than the benchmark would like to hire away the managers from STRS, which explains why the STRS Board has not been sympathetic to demands at public comment sessions that STRS employees not be given raises until COLAs are restored for retirees.

Two years from now STRS will have an assets-to-liabilities study, which will have a strong influence on future Board policies.

Elsewhere

Some other states have much greater financial challenges in their retirement systems. Kentucky finally had a positive cash flow last year, thanks to an astounding high employer contribution rate of 83% of salary (scheduled to go to 89% next year). Illinois offered a buy-out for retirees in return for no COLAs or a lump sum payment; it was expected to save more than $400 million but only saved $13 million. New Mexico’s pension fund warned the legislature it may not be able to sustain pension payouts for the next decade. California’s CalPERS lowered its assumed return on investment to 6.1%. The governor of Kansas vetoed a bill to add $51 million to the state’s public pension system but the legislature overrode the veto. The Michigan Supreme Court ruled that public retirees are not guaranteed health-care benefits.

South Dakota’s state retirement system claims to be doing well, partly because its COLA is adjusted up or down depending on investment return, and it even reduces benefits, if needed, to keep 100% funded.

POST-RETIREMENT DEATH BENEFIT

Some years ago, OSURA negotiated with the University to provide a post-retirement death benefit for faculty and staff who have at least 10 years of regular continuous Ohio State service at the time of retirement and who have not elected to continue in the Employee Group Life Plan. You are also eligible for the benefit if you have reached the age of 70 and are no longer eligible to continue in the Employee Group Term Life Insurance Plan.

The amount of the benefit is based on length of regular continuous service and is provided at no cost:

- 10-14 years – $2,000
- 15-19 years – $3,000
- 20-24 years – $4,000
- 25 + years – $5,000

To receive this benefit, a surviving family member must apply through the Office of Human Services. For more information contact 614-292-1050. The OSURA Friendship Committee continues to inform families of deceased retirees.

OPERS Report

By Michelle Hobbs

The Ohio Public Employees Retirement System Board of Trustees continued its discussion about the future of retiree health care by reviewing five options for pre-Medicare and Medicare coverage.

As stated in previous issues of the Board Report, due to the needs of the pension fund, there currently is no additional funding being contributed to the health care trust. Projections indicate OPERS will not be able to provide such funding to the health care trust for at least 15 years. As a result, the Board has been discussing possible health care changes since last year.

The changes described in each of five proposals center on eligibility, allowances and grandfathering of current retirees. Also discussed were provisions for disability benefit recipients and those who might be eligible for low-income subsidies.

While they made no decisions at the August meeting, the trustees centered on a package of changes that would impact all OPERS members in some way. But, importantly, it would retain access to health care for all members and retirees.

Highlights of this package include:

- Requiring high years-of-service levels to receive an allowance for those retiring at an early age (under age 65)
- Keeping current eligibility requirements of age 65 with 20 years of service for Medicare coverage
- Maintaining grandfathered population eligibility but with reduced allowances
- Reducing the base allowance for both the Medicare and non-Medicare plans
- Eliminating the group plan for non-Medicare and replacing it with an open-market model

Many more details will be available in coming months as the trustees near a decision. OPERS is currently conducting regional seminars on this topic. Go to the Education section on the OPERS website to sign up. These changes would not take effect before 2022.
October 10 (Thursday)
Dinner Series:
*Ethics in End of Life Care: On the Power and Limits of Medicine*

Ryan Nash MD, MA, Director of The Ohio State University Center for Bioethics and Director of Division of Bioethics, Department of Biomedical Education and Anatomy will be the speaker.

**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 October 7.
**Arranger:** Carol Newcomb (Dinner Series SIG)

October 15 (Tuesday)
Board Meeting
**Time/Place:** 9:30 a.m., Longaberger

October 23 (Wednesday)
Membership Committee
**Time/Place:** 10 a.m., Longaberger

October 10 (Thursday)
Photo Society
**Program:** *Focus Stacking* - a method of extending the depth of field and is useful for both macro and landscape photography, presented by Ron Laymon
**Member Theme:** Macro (close-up) or wide-angle landscape. Limit images to three. Send digital files in a Power Point file (alternately in .jpg 96 or 72 dot/inch format) to jhuston1@columbus.rr.com or mail files on a new CD to arrive 3 days before the meeting (J. Huston, 4095 Fenwick Rd., Columbus OH 43220); 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 October 7.
**Cost:** on your own; ranges from $10-15
**Arranger:** Nancy Verber (Photographic Society SIG)

October 16 (Wednesday)
Book Club
*Clock Dance*, Anne Tyler. Widow Willa, 61, bored, at loose ends, is “sleep walking” through life as she always has. A begging-for-help phone call from Baltimore “awakens” her, and she sets forth into the unknown to find new friends and activities. Would you have answered that call?

**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)

October 17 (Thursday)
Lunch Bunch
**REGISTRATION NOT REQUIRED**

The topic of our program will be the 2020 national election presented by Herb Asher, Professor Emeritus, Political Science. He will share with us some insight on current events and the importance of voting.

**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)

October 19 (Saturday)
Walking/Hiking Group
Challenge Level 2-4

Everyone welcome. Join us on the trails at Blendon Woods Metro Park, 4265 E. Dublin-Granville Road, Westerville.

**Time/Place:** 11 a.m.
**Arranger:** Hallan Noltimier (Walking/Hiking SIG)

October 22 (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)

October 23 (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)

SPECIAL EVENTS

October 3 (Thursday)
National Veterans Memorial and Museum – Guided Tour
**REGISTRATION CLOSED**

Meet by: 10:15 a.m., 300 W. Broad St.
**Return:** approximately 11:30 a.m.
**Arrangers:** Ron Currin (Cultural Arts Committee)

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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.
October 12 (Saturday)
Health & Wellness:
Lecture Series
REGISTRATION NOT REQUIRED
A two-hour lecture will address both male and female Genitourinary System changes that occur with aging.
Time/Place: Check-in and coffee/muffins at 8:30 a.m.; lecture begins at 9 a.m., Morehouse Auditorium, 2050 Kenny Road.
Cost: No cost
Arranger: Rod Tomczak and Carl Leier (Health & Wellness SIG)

October 21 (Monday)
Planetarium Show, Apollo 11
5033 Smith Lab, campus
REGISTRATION REQUIRED
Look back at the Apollo 11 landing on the moon and events leading up to it in the modern Arne Slettebak Planetarium on OSU’s campus. planetarium.osu.edu/
Meet by: 4:45 p.m.
Cost: No charge
Registration Deadline: Register at http://go.osu.edu/osura-planetarium-tix or call 614-292-1773 by October 18
Arranger: Jerry Newsom (Cultural Arts Committee)

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 10 (Sunday)
Play—Heisenberg: The Uncertainty Principle
Civic Theater
Challenge Level 1
REGISTRATION REQUIRED
Romance and science collide in this play. “Heisenberg is a portrait of a couple acting and reacting to each other, registering the changes that occur with each encounter, each revelation, each word spoken.”(Ben Brantley NYT’S Critic’s Pick).
Meet by: 1:45 p.m. Civic Theater, 3837 Indianola Ave
Return: 4 p.m.
Cost: $15 at the theater; admission
Registration/Refund Deadline: Register at OSURA.CulturalArts.Travel@gmail.com by November 1
Arrangers: Marilyn Blackwell (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 flying 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: $34.75; 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)

December 15 (Sunday)
Gallery Players-Jewish Center
Challenge Level 1
REGISTRATION REQUIRED
This 2014 Tony Award winner for best new musical is a comedy about murder and ambition. Monty Navarro is ninth in line to be Earl of Highhurst, sets about bumping off the eight ahead of him, with affections by two ladies. Mature content, appropriate for teens and up. https://columbusjcc.org/cultural-arts/gallery-players/
Meet by: 2:15 p.m. Jewish Center, 1125 College Ave
Return: 4:30 p.m.
Cost: $15; admission
Registration/Refund Deadline: Register at osura.alumni.osu.edu or call 614-292-2281 by November 29
Arrangers: Anca Galron (Cultural Committee)

December 18 (Wednesday)
La Comedia Dinner Theater—Elf, The Musical
Springboro, OH
Challenge Level 2
REGISTRATION REQUIRED
A buffet luncheon followed by the play Elf, The Musical Iacomedia.com
Meet by: 8:45 a.m. Tremont Center (Tremont Road, opposite Upper Arlington Library)
Return: 5:30 p.m.
Cost: $74.50; includes buffet lunch, show admission, motor coach transportation, snacks, and tips
Registration/Refund Deadline: Register at osura.alumni.osu.edu or call 614-292-2281 by November 15
Arrangers: Alabelle Zghoul, Deb Zang, and Jessica Pritchard (Travel Committee)
Keep the Support Coming

Welcome New Retirees

- Kimberly Louise Auer
  University Hospitals East
- Betsy Lee Blankenship
  Marion Campus
- Richard Wendell Bradbury
  OSURF - Administration
- Mary E. Burkley
  Cancer Hosp & Research Inst
- Leah J. Carleton
  Shared Services
- Cathy Ann Chapman
  Ambulatory Services
- David Warren Claborn
  Marion Campus
- Sharon L. Croskey
  OARDC Hort & Crop Sciences
- Robin Dobler
  23 North
- Denise Flynn
  OSUE County Operations
- Linda Kaye Gresser
  University Hospitals
- Jannine L. Herbert
  Shared Services
- Deborah D. Markey
  Surgery
- Robert N. McDonald
  Facilities Operations
- Dawn Nolen
  Arts & Sciences Advising
- Mary L. Prince
  University Hospitals East
- P. Thomas Sale
  OCIO Operations
- John Stuart Sharpe
  Environmental Health & Safety
- Cornelia Lee Smart
  Shared Services
- Deborah Lynette Smurda
  University Hospitals
- Susan Marie Timmerman
  University Hospitals East
- Mary L. Treon
  Surgery
- Phyllis Annette Upperman
  A&P Shared Services
- Belinda C. Webber
  University Hospitals East
- Franklin Harold Welker
  Veterinary Preventive Med
- Mark A. Whitmer
  Biomedical Education & Anatomy

A note from the MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE –

It’s true. The OSURA bylaws specify that the spouse or partner of a regular (or an associate) member is automatically a regular (or associate) member of OSURA. Your spouse/partner enjoys all the privileges of membership – even if he or she is not yet retired!

Mark Your Calendar!

Holiday Potluck Buffet
December 12 at the Barn in Upper Arlington
Always the best food and the best fun!

Congratulations
to Rachael Turner and Sally Dellinger and the excellent committee who planned and presented the 22nd OSURA Fall Conference.

Thanks to a team of volunteer reporters, the November issue of the OSURA Newsletter will contain a summary of each of the sessions.

Trivia Answers...
1. Denney Hall, Hayes Hall, Hopkins Hall, Orton Hall, Oxley Hall, and Pomerene Hall.
2. The Armory
3. Approximately two miles
4. Sullivant Hall
5. Ohio Stadium
MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: Elenore Zeller

If you have attended Lunch Bunch at MCL in the last five years, then you know Elenore Zeller. Energetic and friendly, Elenore describes herself this way: “I have always been the ‘Cock-eyed Optimist’. I try to enjoy everything I do and make the best of whatever the situation might be.”

As chair of the Social Committee, she has hosted speakers at Lunch Bunch each month. In addition, she and the committee organize special events, such as the holiday party in December. Most recently, it was her idea to have a membership appreciation lunch and business meeting in June.

Born in Ohio, Elenore graduated from Washington High School in Massillon. She attended several colleges and universities. These included Kent State University, the University of Illinois, and Antelope College in California, where she earned a BA degree in English.

She studied with the National Association of Parliamentarians and worked as a professional parliamentarian for more than 20 years. Although retired, she still helps organizations with parliamentary procedures. As a member of OSURA’s bylaws committee, she contributed her expertise in rewriting the constitution and bylaws.

Most people do not know that Elenore studied dancing and was a professional dancer from the age of fourteen to almost thirty. To this day, she still enjoys ballroom dancing.

As a mother, Elenore raised three boys. “I have always been proud of the fact that I am the mother of three wonderful sons who have always been very productive members of society.”

Before coming to OSU, she worked for Columbus Public Schools in its Communications Department. At OSU, Elenore served OSU’s Wexner Center for the Arts, until her retirement.

In retirement, Elenore stays active: “I have gone on many day trips with the Cultural Arts Committee, attended a lot of the Dinner Series dinners, always go to the annual conference and participate in many things sponsored by OSURA.”

Aside from OSURA, she also takes part in the service activities of the Hilliard Kiwanis Club and is a member of the Board of Managers in her condominium association.

Volunteering is especially important to her. “I get a great deal of satisfaction from being part of the group. It is important to me to feel needed and appreciated for what I do and I get that response from my fellow OSURA volunteers. Even though we do not necessarily always agree, we work together as a team to accomplish our goal and I enjoy being part of the team. I am sure there will be a day when I can no longer volunteer and when that happens I will definitely miss it very much.”

Elenore has a lively sense of humor. Asked if she had any fun facts to share, Elenore answered: “My most exciting and fun facts are most definitely not for publication. So, you can use your imagination for that!”

In Memoriam

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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Karin Andres</td>
<td>August 25</td>
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<td>Stuart Brand</td>
<td>August 13</td>
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<td>Guerino Carano</td>
<td>August 24</td>
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<td>Edward Jennings</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ruth Ann Williams</td>
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The OSU Alumni Association selected our 2019 Annual Meeting and Member Appreciation Luncheon as Program of the Year! It was awarded at the Alumni Club and Society Leadership Symposium September 6, 2019.

Congratulations and thanks to Elenore Zeller and the committee who planned the wonderful event.