

# OSURA News



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

May 2020

2200 Olentangy River Road, Columbus, Ohio 43210  
614-292-2281 • 1-800-762-5646 • osura@osu.edu • osura.osu.edu

## A Hero in our Neighborhood

By Nancy Wardwell

As we work our way through this COVID-19 pandemic we are finding that heroes come in many types and sizes – and that face masks are vital to us all – whether we are frontline medical workers or a bunch of retired university employees. We also have discovered that millions more masks are required than ever imagined.

Masks of many patterns and styles are being turned out by home sewing heroes – and we are getting used to wearing them when we leave home. Elastic is in as short supply as toilet paper! The masks required by medical workers are quite another matter!

N95 respirators and surgical masks (face masks) are examples of personal protective equipment that is used to protect the wearer from airborne particles and from liquid contaminating the face. The pressing issue for healthcare workers as they battle coronavirus is the shortage of personal protective equipment (PPE) to avoid contamination.

The N95 mask provides much more protection than the loose-fitting surgical masks. As demand increased, they became a scarce commodity – and supply became a real issue as their manufacture wasn't keeping up, and uneven distribution and price gouging became unsavory issues.

Enter a Big Hero – our good neighbor just south of campus: Battelle Memorial Institute.

Battelle was founded in 1923 in Columbus with an endowment from the estate of iron and steel magnet, Gordon Battelle. Originally it focused on contract research, largely practical applications for the iron and steel industries. By 2020 the private, nonprofit charitable trust has more than 29,000 employees with major labs in Richmond, VA, Seattle, WA and Geneva, Switzerland. It also staffs a hundred smaller



**BATTELLE'S NEXT HEROIC CONTRIBUTION IS THE DEVELOPMENT OF A NEW TEST WITH RESULTS WITHIN AS FEW AS 5 HOURS.**

facilities, and Battelle collaborates with a number of universities in addition to The Ohio State University.

Battelle has had an important role in many types of research, from commercial to military applications. Well known are armor for tanks, the Manhattan Project, fuel for nuclear subs, Xerox, the bar code system, cruise control for cars, and even "white-out." Battelle has made numerous medical advances

including a tubing to prevent blood clots during surgery and the development of a reusable insulin injection pen – but they already had developed the system that is making a heroic difference in the global fight against COVID-19.

Battelle had recently developed and was using a machine called the "Critical Care Decontamination System," which uses pressure and vaporized hydrogen peroxide to disinfect N95 respirator masks.

Just weeks ago an OhioHealth physician was talking at dinner with her Battelle engineer husband about the growing crisis in the supply of PPEs. He thought of Battelle's decontamination system – and as they say, "The rest is history!"

Battelle's machine, built out of empty metal shipping containers, can clean 80,000 of the N95 masks per day and make them safe for re-use as many as 20 times, according to the company – and by now, machines have been distributed around the US and globally.

Testing for the coronavirus has been slow – but is key to success in the battle. Battelle's next heroic contribution is the development of a new test with results in as few as 5 hours.

Ohio's response to the pandemic has been spot on – and the citizens have been heroes in their own right – and as never before – **IT'S GREAT TO BE A BUCKEYE!**

From the President—2

New Retirees—3

OSURA Spotlight—3

Calendar of Events—4

Event Memories—6

OSU Women's Place—7

**Officers**

**President**

Margaret H. Teaford

**Vice President/President-Elect**

Jerome G. Dare

**Secretary**

Shirley M. Flowers

**Treasurer**

Edward J. Schlecty

**Immediate Past President**

Steven M. D'Ambrosio

**Members at Large**

Mary J. Cull

Betty Hriesik

Shari L. Lorbach

Beverly J. Maselli

Marjorie E. Ward

Debra Zang

**Committee Chairs**

**Benefits**

Hallan C. Noltmier

**Budget/Finance**

Gerald H. Newsom

**Bylaws**

Marie T. Taris

**Communications**

Nancy S. Wardwell

**Conference**

Sally E. Dellinger

**Event Planning**

Cultural Arts – Raimund E. Goerler

Social – Elenore R. Zeller and

Phyllis J. Carroll

Travel – Alabelle Zghoul

**Friendship**

Sally E. Dellinger

**Membership**

Diane M. Selby and

Gemma B. McLuckie

**Representatives**

**Bucks for Charity Drive**

David Crawford

**Campus Campaign**

Thomas L. Sweeney

**Faculty Compensation and**

**Benefits Committee**

Harold J. Moellering

**Ohio Council of Higher**

**Education Retirees**

Nancy Wardwell and

Gerald H. Newsom

**Ohio Public Employees**

**Retirement System**

Michele B. Hobbs

**State Teachers**

**Retirement System**

Gerald H. Newsom

**Historians**

Thomas L. Sweeney

**Emeritus Academy**

William I. Ausich

**Newsletter Editor**

Nancy S. Wardwell

**OSU Foundation**

OSURA Endowment Fund

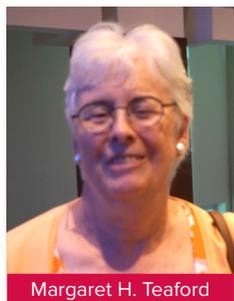
Number – 605419

OSURA Fund to Combat Student

Food Insecurity – 316596

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

## FROM: The President



Margaret H. Teaford

Dear Friends:

I hope you are staying healthy and not too tired of the four walls of your homes. To say that our routines and even our worlds are turned upside down is an understatement; this time has certainly made us appreciate all the little things we take so much for granted. And as we always did, we are learning new ways to do things: ordering groceries on-line, doing fitness workouts via Facebook, meetings on ZOOM. Those little grey cells, as Hercule Poirot used to say, are getting a good workout, *n'est-ce pas?*

So here is an update on what our retiree association is doing: First, we have rescheduled our Member Appreciation and Annual Meeting to Friday August 7th at Longaberger Alumni House on Olentangy River Road. We'll have more details later, but you can expect the same fun and fellowship when we all get together. Registration will open on July 1st.

And speaking of *le bon temps*, don't forget to mark your calendars now for our Annual Conference on Wednesday September 23 at the Fawcett Center. Our planning conference has lined up speakers, sponsors, and on-campus tours. I don't want to steal their thunder, but they have some great sessions planned. I know you will not want to miss this.

Likewise, the OSURA Board has been hard at work as well. As one Board member said, "We don't want to waste this valuable time." The committees have been keeping in touch and the Board met on April 14 via ZOOM. We are busy lining up activities and events for this summer and autumn. While others are working to flatten the curve, we are trying to stay ahead of it and be ready for the times we can leave our homes and see each other in person.

I would be remiss if I did not pay tribute to our former colleagues still working at Ohio State. They have done a terrific job during these months: from Dr. Drake, who certainly has not gotten a lighter load as he prepares to step down in July, to the teaching, administrative, and medical center staffs, I have been impressed by their spirit and determination. The focus has always been on students first and making sure they are safe and can move ahead with their studies. From those who have been in the trenches before, a big thank you for all you are doing now! We appreciate all you are doing to keep our great University not just surviving, but thriving! Finally, thanks to the hard-working staff of the OSU Alumni Association for helping out with problems and just being available whenever we need them!

So, all the usual reminders, especially to reach out to our friends and neighbors who are in assisted living and nursing homes. Let them know you are thinking of them! And be assured, I am thinking of each of you, too, and hope to see you soon!

**Margaret H. Teaford**

President of OSURA



## Welcome New Retirees

**Roger Allen Addleman**  
Cancer Hosp & Research Instit

**Patricia Ann Baker**  
Cancer Hosp & Research Instit

**Jan Byles**  
Mansfield Campus

**Robert Andrew Colgan**  
University Hospitals East

**Denise Lucille Deschenes**  
Counseling & Consultation

**David Allen Dugan**  
OSUE County Operations

**Evonne Woods Evans**  
Cancer Hosp & Research Instit

**Elaine Mary Grassbaugh**  
Horticultural & Crop Sciences

**Melinda E. Harper**  
University Hospitals

**Melanie S. Hart**  
OSUE County Operations

**Christine Luanne Hartman**  
University Hospitals

**Marujah P. Hutchins**  
Shared Services

**Claudia Diane Keck**  
University Hospitals

**Deborah Ann Kyser**  
University Hospitals

**Cynthia Jane Maddox**  
Family Medicine

**Daphne Stavros Meimaridis**  
Law Academic

**Frank Albert Ohlemacher**  
Engineering Rsch Operations

**Michael Dennis Santry**  
Design Construction

**Jerrilea Ann Taylor**  
Surgery

**James Lawrence Vent**  
Horticultural & Crop Sciences



## OSURA Spotlight

By Shari Lorbach

### MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: Rod Tomczak

As chair of OSURA's Health and Wellness Committee, Rod Tomczak brings training and experience to the committee's Health & Wellness Lecture Series. His doctorate from Drake University, he says, "has equipped me with some basic principles of adult education that I think have made the series of talks entertaining and useful." He and OSURA member Sandy Cornett, a retired RN, facilitate the series which has featured a variety of topics; for example, sleep patterns in older adults, senior back problems, geriatric medicine, and how aging changes our eyes, ears, nose and throat.

Rod says, "I like asking OSU medical school faculty members if they would like to present to the retirees and always getting a positive response. In fact, the Dean of the Veterinary College has agreed to present a talk on the health benefits of retirees having pets."

Rod has an interesting background, unlike the often-straighter path to academic life. As a high school junior, he attended a German boarding school which was operated by the order of priests that owned Toledo St. Francis de Sales High School, his home school. After graduation, he spent a year in a monastery where he took vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience.

He majored in philosophy and German at Niagara University with the goal of becoming a priest and a surgeon, however there was and still is a prohibition on being both. Rod left the seminary before being ordained to attend podiatry school at Kent State University. After completing his surgical residency



Rod Tomczak

at Rutgers University, he then practiced for a few years in Monroe, MI.

In 1986 Rod accepted a position as an associate professor in the College of Podiatric Medicine at Des Moines University. He then began studying alternative methods of learning in the School of Education at Drake University where he completed a doctorate in adult education in 1991. His dissertation focused on problem-based learning.

In 1995 Rod became the first podiatrist faculty member in Ohio State University's Orthopedic

Department where he co-chaired the medical school's problem-based learning curriculum and its curriculum committee. After 25 years as a surgeon, a respiratory latex allergy ended his surgical career.

At that point Rod attended medical school in Belize. After graduating, he became dean, then went on to start medical schools in Saudi Arabia and Curacao.

Rod recalls that, when he retired the first time at age 52, he didn't join OSURA: "Everyone I knew was still working, and I felt alone without a support group. If I had known, I would have joined OSURA then because it's a tremendous support system."

In the last three years, Rod has had both hips replaced and an extensive spinal fusion, surgeries that were due to years of contact sports. He's active in the Saint Peter Roman Catholic Church as president-elect of the Parish Council, an Extraordinary Eucharistic Minister and Lector. As well, in his semi-retirement, Rod is the medical director of Laser Foot Surgery Centers in the U.S.

Rod shared these fun facts about himself: he got his first pair of clogs in 1977 and hasn't worn socks since; regardless of the temperature, he wears long pants only to formal occasions; and, he grew up eating Original Hungarian Hot Dogs at Tony Packo's! OSURA is full of interesting people, and Rod is certainly one you'll want to meet.

# Calendar of Events

## COMMITTEE MEETINGS

### May 5 – VIRTUAL Benefits Committee

Time: 9:30 a.m.

### May 12 – VIRTUAL Board Meeting

Time: 9:30 a.m.

## MONTHLY ACTIVITIES

All activities previously scheduled between now and July 6 are cancelled. If you have questions regarding your group's future plans, please contact the arranger.

### May 14 (Wednesday) via Zoom Photo Society

Program: *Close and Far*, presented by Jack Naser

Member Theme: Close-Ups

Time: 7 p.m.

Arranger: Nancy Verber (Photographic Society SIG)

## SPECIAL EVENTS

### July 22 (Wednesday) Explore the Underground Railroad in Ripley, OH

Ripley, OH; Maysville, OH

Challenge Level 2

REGISTRATION REQUIRED

We will have a guided tour at John Parker House and John Rankin House (ohiohistory.org/rankin) in Ripley, OH, followed by a catered lunch by Old Baker Farm at the Rankin House. We'll then tour the Kentucky Gateway Museum Center (www.kygmc.org) in Maysville, KY.

**Meet by:** 7:30 a.m., Tremont Center (Tremont Road, opposite Upper Arlington Library)

**Return:** approximately 6 p.m.

**Cost:** \$85; Cost includes admissions, lunch, motor coach transportation, snacks, tips.

**Registration/Refund Deadline:** Register at osura.osu.edu or call 614-292-2281 by July 15.

**Arrangers:** Jessica Pritchard and Betty Hriesik (Travel Committee)

NEW

### August 18 (Tuesday) Tour Marietta and the Ohio River by Riverboat

Marietta, OH; Ohio River

Challenge Level 2

REGISTRATION REQUIRED

We will tour the Ohio Museum, have lunch and ride on the Ohio River on the Valley Gem Riverboat, and tour Marietta (the oldest city in Ohio) by bus, with a step-on guide.

**Meet by:** 7:15 a.m., Tremont Center (Tremont Road, opposite Upper Arlington Library)

**Return:** approximately 5:30 p.m.

**Cost:** \$89; Cost includes museum, riverboat, lunch, motor coach transportation, snacks, tips.

**Registration/Refund Deadline:** Register at osura.osu.edu or call 614-292-2281 by August 11.

**Arrangers:** Jessica Pritchard and Margaret Hickle-Grimm (Travel Committee)

## Upcoming Events

Look for details in future issues.

■ **August 7**  
**Member Appreciation  
and Annual Meeting**  
Speaker: Joe Blundo

■ **September 23**  
**Annual OSURA  
Fall Conference**  
Fawcett Center

## 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](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.

*Memories of our gatherings... this will happen again.*

STAY STRONG, STAY SAFE, STAY WELL.... AT HOME.



## COVID-19 Compared to other Common Conditions

SYMPTOM	COVID-19	COMMON COLD	FLU	ALLERGIES
Fever	Common	Rare	Common	Sometimes
Dry cough	Common	Mild	Common	Sometimes
Shortness of breath	Common	No	No	Common
Headaches	Sometimes	Rare	Common	Sometimes
Aches and pains	Sometimes	Common	Common	No
Sore throat	Sometimes	Common	Common	No
Fatigue	Sometimes	Sometimes	Common	Sometimes
Diarrhea	Rare	No	Sometimes*	No
Runny nose	Rare	Common	Sometimes	Common
Sneezing	No	Common	No	Common

\*Sometimes for children

Sources: CDC, WHO, American College of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology

BUSINESS INSIDER

**People with mild symptoms who are otherwise healthy should self-isolate. Seek medical attention if you have a fever, a cough, and difficulty breathing. Call ahead.**

## Fall Conference Keynoter Announced

**OSURA Fall Conference | Fawcett Center  
September 23, 2020**

**Bernadette Mazurek Melnyk**, PhD, APRN-CNP, FAANP, FNAP, FAAN will open the conference with “Celebrating Centenarians: The Ohio State University’s Evidence-based Secret Sauce to Leading a Long Healthy Life,” a presentation that will finish with a fun interactive activity. She will also share what is done on campus to support Buckeyes to lead long healthy lives.

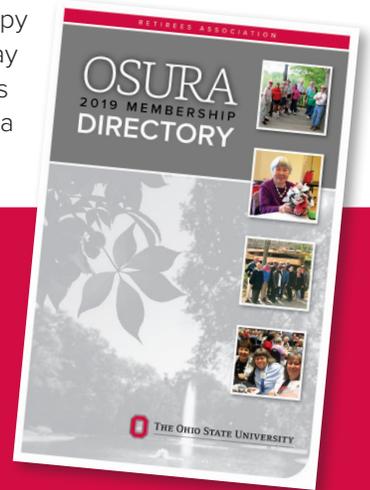
At The Ohio State University Dr. Melnyk is Vice President for Health Promotion, University Chief Wellness Officer, Dean and Professor of the College of Nursing, Professor of Pediatrics & Psychiatry at the College of Medicine and Executive Director of the Helene Fuld Health Trust National Institute for Evidence Based Practice (EBP). She is an internationally respected registered nurse and is the Founder & President of the National Consortium for Building Healthy Academic Communities (BHAC) and Editor of Worldviews on Evidence-based Nursing.

## OSURA 2019 Membership Directory

Thanks to our Membership Committee we now have in our hands the newly revised Directory. Does your contact information need to be changed or added to the Directory? You can request it to be included in an update that can be emailed!

Would you like a PDF copy of the Directory? You may prefer it to paper and it is most helpful if you have a vision problem.

**If you have  
a correction or  
wish a PDF copy,  
contact Membership  
at [OSURA@osu.edu](mailto:OSURA@osu.edu)  
or call  
614-795-7048.**



## FROM: The Benefits Committee

### STRS Report

By Jerry Newsom

I noted in the January 2020 OSURA newsletter that one of the on-going activities at STRS is contingency planning, which includes “preparing for a severe drop in the stock market.” At this stage it’s obviously very hard to know what the long-term effects of the pandemic will be, but to their credit at least dealing with the financial damage is something STRS has been preparing for.

Across the country, part of the income for public pensions comes from employers (who in Ohio pay 14% of an employee’s salary for STRS participants). In some states (NOT Ohio), when state budgets got tight the employers failed to pay the full amount due the pension systems, severely hurting those funds. In the recent bull market, pension funds were expecting employers to be paying down their past debts, but the sharp downturn in economic activity has suddenly made state budgets much tighter. If some state governments again cut their

contribution to their retirement funds, states whose pension funds are in the worst shape (Illinois, Kentucky, New Jersey) could be into a real bind.

A couple months ago the idea that Congress would pass an additional spending bill costing two trillion dollars would have seemed impossible, especially when done quickly. One early draft of the bill proposed paying \$600 per person to those with at least \$2500 of “qualifying income,” which was defined to include income from earnings, Social Security, and pensions for veterans. Public pension advocates quickly pointed out that those retirees (such as most members of OPERS and STRS) with public pensions but no Social Security income could be excluded, so they lobbied to have public pensions count as qualifying income. It illustrates why public pension funds have representatives in Washington.



## ✿ In Memoriam ✿

**Ruth Ellen Bower**

March 24 | Dodd Hall, 95

**Andrew H. Breiner**

March 17 | Physical Education, 90

**Dorothy L. Cameron**

March 2 | English, 87

**Pauline Campanella**March 18 | Marion Yoders Prairie  
Learning Lab, 74**William Cecil**March 14 | Transportation &  
Traffic Mgmt., 73**Sharon Colburn**

April 6 | 79

**Ralph Foster**

March 22 | Pharmacy, 87

**Norton J. Greenberger**

March 21 | Medicine, 87

**Earl Williams Harmer Jr.**

March 12 | Education, 93

**Lamant Jacobs**

March 11 | Dentistry, 82

**William Kearns**

March 12 | Music, 92

**Kenneth Kolson**

March 23 | Public Affairs, 74

**Lawrence E. Peterson**

March 25 | Administration, 77

**Patricia Likert Pohlman**

March 19 | Psychology, 84

**Patricia Ann Schirtzinger**

March 21 | Law, 81

**Mary Elynn Seitz**

April 6 | 66

**Shirley Ann Williams**

March 25 | OSUMC, 78

## MORE ON... OSU Women's Place

<https://womensplace.osu.edu/>

Comments on the April Page 1 article on Women's History Month have been gratifying, especially one from Hazel Morrow-Jones, former Director of Women's Place. She shared a bit more history. Deb Ballam was crucial to getting the office created, and was the driving force behind the Encyclopedia of Path Breaking Women, from which we drew the names of OSURA members recognized for their contributions.

The office continues under the leadership of Andrea Williams, and continues to record change in its annual status reports, to change policy, and to change attitudes. Currently it is part of President Drake's 2020 Vision of Inclusive Experience.

We repeat the following list of current OSURA Members recognized on the Encyclopedia of Path Breaking Women because it was missing in some editions of the April Newsletter.

### We Salute:

Karen Bell  
Linda Bernhard  
Rudine Simms Bishop  
Lucy Caswell  
Francille Firebaugh  
Evelyn Freeman  
Jean E. Girves  
Susan Hartmann  
Joan R. Leitzel  
Hazel Morrow-Jones

Ruth Paulson  
Marquetta Peavy  
Anne Pruitt  
Barbara Rich  
Ronda Rivera  
Nancy Rogers  
Jacqueline Royster  
Nancy M. Rudd  
Sharyn Talbert  
Elsie Williams-Wilson

**Thanks for your contributions to the advancement of women, to Ohio State, and to higher education.**

## OSURA 2020 OUTSTANDING SERVICE AWARD NOMINATIONS

OSURA is such a dynamic organization because of its wonderful volunteers. If you know of someone who has, or is making OSURA the great organization, PLEASE send their name and contributions to:

Rai Goerler (goerler.1@osu.edu)

*The award will be given at our Annual Meeting August 7, 2020.*

**The Ohio State University Retirees Assn.  
Customer Service**

Longaberger Alumni House  
2200 Olentangy River Road  
Columbus, Ohio 43210



**F**riendship at Home is a long-term care plan specifically designed for seniors who wish to age in place, their place! This unique program provides concierge care services under one monthly fee, which remains steady over time, regardless of care needed later, up to full nursing home care.

Not only do the services provided by Friendship at Home address the growing demand for long-term care, but the program's Care Coordinators' remove the burden from loved ones.

Seniors can enjoy retirement without worrying how they will receive necessary care — all in the comfort and familiarity of their own home!

**Call 614-734-2167  
for information.**



## Food Banks are Hurting!



During this time of uncertainty many students are still looking toward Buckeye Food Alliance to help make ends meet.

Buckeye Food Alliance is an on-campus food pantry, run by students for students. It strives to provide access to healthy food for students to alleviate food insecurity at Ohio State. This service is open to all Ohio State students.

At the moment, the best way to support the Buckeye Food Alliance is monetary!

 Use a credit card to donate online by visiting <https://www.giveto.osu.edu/makeagift/OnlineGivingDonation.aspx> and searching “Student Food Pantry Fund.”

To learn more about the Buckeye Food Alliance visit [www.buckeyefoodalliance.org](http://www.buckeyefoodalliance.org) or email Nick Fowler at [fowler.318@osu.edu](mailto:fowler.318@osu.edu) should you have any additional questions.