OSU Athletic Directors

By Nancy Wardwell

The recent passing of beloved former OSU Athletic Director Jim Jones (who just happened to be a Life Member of OSURA) triggered thoughts of other Athletic Directors and their impact on the University and of course, athletics.

From Rai Goerler’s An Illustrated History: In the beginning, campus sports were student-organized games – and sometimes the players weren’t always students.

“Increasingly, faculty and administration grew concerned that athletic competition and its financing would embarrass the University someday.” The Armory that opened in 1889 was not for sport but for physical training and military training for men, and calisthenics for women.

Needless to say, students continued to play football, now on a field between the Armory and Woodruff Avenue. In 1908 a grandstand and bleachers were added and it was named “Ohio Field”. Questions of athlete safety and faculty governance continued. In February of 1912 the OSU faculty and trustees created a new Athletic Board of Control and in May named John R. Richards Athletic Director and head football and track coach. When Richards suddenly resigned the next year the Board of Control hired 25-year-old L.W. St. John as manager of athletics, head coach of baseball and basketball – and assistant head football coach.

Lynn W. St. John presided over OSU athletics for the next 35 years. He brought OSU athletics to national stature and oversaw the building of new facilities. Ohio Stadium is certainly one of his best-know facilities. Basketball got a new home – no, not St. John Arena – but the men’s gymnasium, later known as Larkins Hall, was home to basketball (and wrestling) for many years. The three nearby pools of the Natatorium launched the OSU swimming program. Few know that it was St. John’s vision that brought OSU one of the finest golf facilities. For a long time it was the only 36-hole collegiate course, and the clubhouse was the envy of all.

When St. John retired in 1947, Dick Larkins was the obvious choice to become the next AD. He had played Buckeye football and served as an OSU Physical Education professor. One of his first acts was to hire his old teammate, Wes Fesler, to become the new football coach. He is also remembered as the AD who made the decision to proceed with the historic Snow Bowl against Michigan in 1950. He was also prophetic in 1951 when, in the LA Times, he said that College football is getting out of hand...getting too big for its britches...it’s Frankenstein, a monster! “We’re educational institutions; we’re not the New York Yankees or Chicago Bears!”

In 1951 he also hired then little-known Woody Hayes over former Buckeye coach Paul Brown – that’s a whole ‘nother story!

In fact, there are many stories – some not so pretty, some pretty heroic – and we’ll leave it to you to dig out James Pollard, Ohio State Athletics, Rai Goerler, Illustrated History, Wikipedia, and good old Google. You know there are stories – OSU has gone from 6 sports for men in 1912 to 30 varsity sports for 1038 men and women student athletes. The Ohio Field and The Armory have morphed into a whole campus of its own, with state-of-the-art facilities – and revenue of $205 million!
Dear Friends:

A recent e-mail from an OSURA member to the Cultural Arts Committee sums it up: “Wow. You guys are working so hard for our benefit. Thanks!”

Thank you, thank you, thank you to the busy Cultural Arts Committee and to the OSURA Board! The Cultural Arts Committee has been identifying and sending out information on all sorts of on-line events and activities for our members, from virtual tours of museums to ballet performances to learning more about opera and OSU archives. And in turn, our great OSURA members keep finding more of interest and sending it along.

I want to pay tribute to our Board, too. Most of us had never heard of ZOOM before April; now we are seasoned Zoomites. Our committees and the entire Board have been meeting on ZOOM and carrying on OSURA business as usual. Thanks, too, to the OSU Alumni Association’s wonderful staff who encourage and train us and help us think of new ways to stay connected! I firmly believe that not only are we going to come out of this pandemic with new skills we never imagined, but OSURA will be stronger than ever.

It’s hard to believe that it is a year since I became President, and now my term is coming to an end. I want to thank you again for your membership in OSURA and for the way you give back to Ohio State in so many ways. From your strong commitment to the Buckeyes for Charity, Campus Campaign, and the endowment for the Buckeye Food Alliance, your financial support continues to be so important to the University. You also give back your time; for example, you stepped up for World Kindness Day in November to pack up meals for needy veterans and those impacted by natural disasters. Just today I received the following message from another organization:

“The best gift you could ever give someone is your time because you’re giving something you’ll never get back.”

But I actually disagree with the second part of this sentence because I think in giving your time, you receive so much back by knowing that you have made a difference, even if it is a small one. As I wrote in April, I believe this is the Ohio State way and just continues what we all were doing when we worked for the University. Your example inspires me every day.

I am pleased to hand over the gavel to Jerry Dare, a long-time active member of OSURA who has served with me in the past year. I also welcome some great new board members. Thank you for the privilege of serving you this past year and for the friendship and support you have given me, especially during this difficult time. I look forward to seeing you in person at the Member Appreciation/Annual Meeting luncheon on August 7 and the Annual Conference on September 23. Until then, stay safe and keep smiling—it’s contagious!

Margaret H. Teaford
President of OSURA
**Welcome New Retirees**

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<tr>
<td>Roger Allen Addleman</td>
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<td>Carol Lee Brenner</td>
<td>Advancement Services</td>
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<td>Jo Ann Brown</td>
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<td>Lisa Rachelle Everman</td>
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<td>Donna Lynn Green</td>
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<td>Melinda E. Harper</td>
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<td>Brian Floyd Heskitt</td>
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<td>Donna Mae Miller</td>
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<td>Catherine S. Minor</td>
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<td>Phyllis Jean Rawlings</td>
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<td>David Clarence Rose</td>
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<td>Jean Eileen Sykes</td>
<td>FCOB Administration</td>
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<td>Debra S. Tabor</td>
<td>Mansfield Campus</td>
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<td>Elizabeth Ann Walters Brown</td>
<td>Strategic Enrollment Planning</td>
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<td>Carolyn A. Williams</td>
<td>Ross Heart Hospital</td>
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<td>Kimberly Lynne Wintringham</td>
<td>FAES Communications</td>
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<td>Pamela Wogan</td>
<td>Shared Services</td>
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<td>Joyce Ann Zipperlen</td>
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**OSURA Annual Meeting ZOOMing to you August 7th!**

Given the current restrictions on public gatherings and wanting to keep our members safe and healthy this summer, the OSURA Board has decided to hold the August 7 Annual Meeting via ZOOM. Although the setting will be different, the focus will still be on thanking our members. Joe Blundo will still join us and we will present the 2020 Outstanding Service Award and honor outgoing Board members. All at no charge to you!

Details to follow in the July 2020 newsletter along with directions on how to join the ZOOM meeting on August 7th. We hope to “see” you then!

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**Staying Connected Program**

Are you concerned about staying safe and healthy and connected to the world outside your home? Need to find out about services available to you in your area? The Ohio Department of Aging is offering a free daily phone check-in program for any Ohioan age 60 or older. To register for a telephone call, call 1-833-632-2428 or go to www.Aging.Ohio.gov. You choose the time you’d like to be called.

Each day you’ll receive an automated call. When you answer the phone, you’ll have a chance to confirm that you are okay and be transferred to your local Area Agency on Aging to request services you might need. The program will make three attempts to reach you each day. If you do not respond to the phone call, an emergency contact that you have provided will be called.

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**SPEAKING OF Staying Connected:**

We know there are a few of our members who, for various reasons, are without computer access. Thanks to the coronavirus a whole new medium of communication has developed – “VIRTUAL”. Our wonderful Fall Conference (Sept. 23) will very likely be “virtual” – as will be many of our very interesting, informative and entertaining programs.

Yes, you can access these with a smart phone – but that is like watching a game through a knothole! You know a game is going on – but the details are lost!!

At least get yourself a tablet! You will be able to access so much and you will learn to love it. I call mine Ouji – because I ask it everything!
Calendar of Events

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

June 2 – VIRTUAL
Benefits Committee
Time: 9:30 a.m.

June 9 – VIRTUAL
Board Meeting
Time: 9:30 a.m.

MONTHLY ACTIVITIES

June 23 (Tuesday) VIRTUAL
Tertulia Breakfast
Time: 8:00 a.m.
Join OSURA members and friends for a ZOOM breakfast and conversation at home. Contact Jerry Dare for connection.
Organizer: Jerry Dare (dare.1@twc.com)

Photo Society
No meeting until Thursday, September 10th. If the campus is not yet open, the meeting will be scheduled online.
Arranger: Nancy Verber (Photographic Society SIG)

Book Club
The OSURA Book Club is on summer hiatus until September as per usual. Our planning and calendar for 2020 – 2021 have been completed. We will begin with The Pioneers by David McCullough.
Arranger: Lee Hill (Book Club SIG)

Craft Group
Meetings are cancelled until further notice.
Arranger: Mary Cull (Craft Group SIG)

Litter Picking Team
All collection dates are cancelled until further notice.
Arranger: Mary Cull (Craft Group SIG)

Bridge Group
Arranger: Steve Miller (Bridge Group SIG)

Walking/Hiking Group
Arranger: Hallan Noltimier (Walking/Hiking SIG)

Dinner Series
Arranger: Carol Newcomb (Dinner Series SIG)

Lunch Bunch
Arranger: Elenore R. Zeller (Social Committee)

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.

SOMETHING OLD IS NEW AGAIN!
The first virtual Tertulia breakfast was held on Zoom Tuesday, May 26. Grab a donut and join us June 23rd! Jerry Dare is the organizer. Contact him for details on the Zoom meeting and the number and password. See you there!

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
   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

**July 22 – CANCELLED**

Explore the Underground Railroad in Ripley, OH
Ripley, OH; Maysville, OH
*Will be rescheduled for next year.*
**Arrangers:** Jessica Pritchard and Betty Hriesik (Travel Committee)

**August 18** (Tuesday) – Being re-evaluated for a later date

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)

**Union Terminal and Cincinnati Reds Stadium Tours**

*Rescheduled for October 8, 2020.*
Details to follow.

**The Amish Adventure Trip**

_Previously scheduled for May 7, 2020 will be rescheduled sometime in November 2020._

**The Greece Trip CANCELLED**

*October 11-25, 2020 will be rescheduled for the fall of 2021.* All the deposits and payments already paid will be fully refunded.

**Upcoming Events**

Look for details in future issues.

- **August 7 – VIRTUAL**
  Member Appreciation and Annual Meeting
  Speaker: Joe Blundo

- **September 23 – VIRTUAL**
  Annual OSURA Fall Conference
  Fawcett Center
Keeping a Diary During the COVID19 Crisis?

Are you keeping a diary during this period, noting down the joys and frustrations of daily life as you stay at home? Would you be willing to share some of them with OSU students in the field of aging? We are gathering your reflections and observations as part of an intergenerational student project this fall. If you are interested, please contact OSURA through our e-mail: osura@osu.edu. We’d love to hear from you and hear how it has been going the past few months – and so would the students.

OSURA Spotlight

Carol Ventresca

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: Carol Ventresca

By Shari Lorbach

Retirement can mean many things. To OSURA member Carol Ventresca, it means new ventures, possibility, and opportunity. After retiring from Ohio State, she said, “I was WAY too young to stop growing, learning and contributing to our world.” So she turned her talents to Employment For Seniors (EFS) which links mature adults with employers looking for skilled, experienced workers. As its executive director, she built community partnerships with nearly 100 organizations across Central Ohio to share services and resources to advocate for job seekers in Central Ohio.

Carol often worked with retired clients who were pursuing employment and a paycheck. In fact, at the 2019 OSURA Conference, Carol and co-presenter Marilyn Bury-Rice, director of the Alumni Association’s alumni career management office, offered a workshop on job searching. She recalls that the “workshop drew more than 25 people who participated in discussions ranging from job search tips, resumes for today’s job market, transferable skills, available services and resources, and networking with employers committed to mature job applicants.”

The Winter 2019 issue of Ohio State’s Alumni Magazine ran an article on members of the baby boomer generation living their best years. Along with several other alumni, Carol was featured in that article for her exemplary work on behalf of mature adults seeking new careers.

Carol finds a connection between what Employment for Seniors does and OSURA’s mission: “Retirees are happy, healthy and successful in their new life ‘without work,’ when they continue to be engaged in their community, in their own personal growth, and in maintaining their network.” Moreover, “each of these are available through OSURA programs: continued learning opportunities, volunteerism, and connections for former colleagues and friends.” She adds that “OSU retirees can enhance their retirement years by participating in and supporting OSURA.”

Earning a B.A. from Otterbein University and an M.A. and Ph.D. at The Ohio State University in sociology helped Carolmeld her interests in workforce development, academic and career advising, and life-long learning. In 1987, after five years with the Ohio Bureau of Employment Services, she was named associate director in OSU’s Office of Continuing Education (CED). In CED’s Department of Credit Programs, she enhanced evening, weekend, and distance education courses. In conjunction with the Alumni Association she created the Career Exploration Office to provide alumni and adult students with career services and programming. Then, as a career advisor in the Colleges of the Arts and Sciences Career Services Office, she organized internship opportunities for credit, for example, in government, non-profit, and information technology for undergraduates. She retired in 2009.

During her career at EFS, Carol found time to write for various print media, including U.S. News and World Report, gave presentations to various organizations, and testified in the Ohio House of Representatives. Professional organizations also benefit from her expertise and experience. She also served as president of the Board of Directors of the Ohio Continuing Higher Education Association and the Council on Civic Engagement for the State of Ohio Department of Aging.

One of Carol’s newer ventures is a podcast program she started at EFS. In less than three years the podcast published 125 programs, gained over 5,000 downloads, and won two awards. One thing Carol realized is, “I have a radio voice!”

So, what’s next for Carol? A second “encore” career, for sure. She recently left EFS to begin a job search to focus on program development and resource connections. She said her new career is likely to include more technology and experimenting with various social media and their utilization. And, of course Carol says she’ll continue to enhance her “retirement” years by supporting OSURA!
FROM: The Benefits Committee

STRS Report
By Jerry Newsom

The STRS Board has not met recently, so there is much interest in their remote meeting in May to find out how badly their finances have been hit by the downturn. The search for a new Executive Director has slowed to a near halt, so the current Executive Director may stay on past his expected retirement date. But STRS continues to send out pensions on time.

Public pension funds are in the spotlight in Congress. Many people oppose state and local governments offering defined-benefit plans (such as STRS). The Senate Majority Leader opposes allowing any federal money that helps state and local governments to be used towards paying pension systems’ unfunded liabilities. The argument is that the pension debt has built up due to past negligence by pension management and legislatures and it should not be up to Congress to fix a problem the states are guilty of creating. Some are demanding that states be forced to convert their defined-benefit to defined-contribution plans in order to receive federal funds. In discussion from both sides of the issue, it’s gotten lost that each state is different; a description of “mismanagement” fits some states but not others. Much of the problem comes from states where governments have not made their “required” payments to the pension funds. In Ohio, payments to pension systems continue to be paid in full and, as far as I know, STRS has made no effort to request federal bailout funds.

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2020-2021
ELECTION RESULTS

Congratulations to our newly-elected officers:

**Gemma McLuckie**
Vice President/President Elect

**Michelle Hobbs**
Secretary

**Members at Large:**
Darian Torrance
Beverley Maselli
Jessica Pritchard

The electronic voting this year was a great success – more members voted than ever before.

Thank you Nominating Committee!

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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](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.