Welcome Molly Ranz Calhoun – President and CEO of OSU Alumni Association

By Nancy Wardwell

On May 1 Molly Ranz Calhoun ’86 was named the 12th leader of our Alumni Association. We couldn’t be in better hands, as her Buckeye roots run deep – and wide. “My parents fell in love at Ohio State and between them, my siblings and me, and our children, we have 14 degrees – and two more on the way.”

Molly’s service to the University began early. As an undergraduate student in industrial design she answered an ad for an internship in the Office of Student Life. Its project was to renovate the stadium scholarship dormitory – her father had lived there when HE was a student!

When she graduated, the Office of Student Life offered her a full-time job – and the rest is history! She comes to AA from her position as Senior Associate Vice President in the Office of Student Life. In her 30-year career with Student Life, working with students, staff, law enforcement officials and alumni volunteers, she has had some amazing projects, such as leading the University’s largest-ever residential construction project: The North District Transformation. She helped coordinate the annual move-in logistics planning for 10,500 students and their families. She also launched the development of the Off-Campus Housing Excellence Program – and championed the Ohio State co-curricular esports programming, including the construction of a 90-player esports arena that opened last fall on the 2nd floor of Lincoln Tower!

OSU’s first graduating class was in 1878. The six men returned the next year to hold the first-ever Alumni Day. Later Alumni Day was held in the Armory where the returning alums heard speeches and enjoyed a formal dinner. It is said that Ralph D. Mershon, class of 1890, (yes, that Mershon) organized the Alumni Association in 1910. H.S. Dave Warwick was the first to head the group (1911-14). His title, and that of several to follow, was Alumni Secretary. In the intervening 109 years there have been but 11 people to lead the organization – two women during WWI – but Molly Ranz is the first woman in over one hundred years!

She wrote in April, “I am simply overjoyed for the opportunity to work in service to our 570,000 alumni around the world. I am also mindful of the very difficult time facing our University, medical center, nation, and globe. I want Buckeyes near and far to know that we are doing all we can to promote the health, safety and continued education of all.”

The Ohio State University Retirees Association has been active providing information and activities to University retirees for almost 40 years. We have only been a part of the Alumni Association for 4 years, but we have profited from the connection in many ways. We join the alumni in welcoming Molly and wish her even greater success as she joins our song of alma mater praise.
Dear Friends:

When I arrived on the Ohio State University campus, the medical sector was but a few buildings. My office at the University Hospital was newly opened. The entire OSU campus had a special, open appearance. We could drive up Neil Avenue, past the Quad and Thompson Library to the Engineering Complex. In the spring, bed racing performed by fraternities and sororities would occur on the Oval. Parking fees would be $10, but football tickets were $15. As time advances, we have opted for progress, so University Hall had to be rebuilt. All of the above disappeared. Most perplexing, the price of a seat in the stadium has risen to about $700.

Fortuitously, some active OSU faculty and staff members in the early ‘80s looking down the tube went to the administration. In 1983, the Ohio State University Retirees Association was initiated. OSURA has provided arts and culture, fun activities and travels to those who have and would like to move on after careers. If you haven’t joined OSURA and would want to, let us know.

Jerry Dare
President of OSURA

THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY RETIREES ASSOCIATION
Member Appreciation & Annual Meeting

August 7, 2020 | 11 a.m. | via ZOOM

Please join us for our 2020 Annual Meeting on Friday August 7. This year, in order to keep all of us safe and healthy, we are going to be meeting via ZOOM. This is our yearly event to thank you, our members, and to celebrate OSURA together. Although the format may be new, the content will be very familiar, as you can see below.

- Annual Business Meeting and Presentation of Proposed Changes to By-laws
- Remarks by Joe Blundo, columnist for The Columbus Dispatch
- Presentation of the 2020 Outstanding Service Award

REGISTRATION: No cost, but we do need you to register so we can send you the log-in information. Registration will open on July 1, 2020. To register either go to osura.osu.edu or call (614) 292-2281 or 1 (800) 762-5646.

“See” you there on August 7 at 11 a.m.!
MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: Ron Shaull

When he retired in 2018, Ron Shaull began a new chapter in his involvement with the University. Free time allowed him to take courses in Roman history and the early history of Christianity through Program 60. “That period of late antiquity has always fascinated me, but these courses weren’t practical for me to take in my previous degree programs. So, I’m glad to now be able to take them, 40 years later! My next plan was to take an intro chemistry class since I think I’m the only adult on earth who hasn’t taken a chemistry class in my life! Bummer that everything on campus is so much up in the air right now.”

Ron also serves on the Medicine and the Arts Board, and he has been a juror for the Alumni Association’s scholarship program. His varied interests led him to join OSURA, he explains, “because it offers many opportunities to stay connected and develop a camaraderie with new people. I’m always intrigued by OSURA’s many great offerings, especially the hikes and bus trips. I attended the 2019 annual member appreciation lunch and enjoyed seeing many former colleagues who are also OSURA members.”

Moreover, Ron points out that “there is a wealth of knowledge in OSURA, an organization that plans many wonderful activities for whatever level of participation a person wants, from easy get-togethers and conversations to all-inclusive tours of interesting places in Ohio.”

Ron earned a B.A. in an Arts & Sciences Personalized Study program that combined marketing and journalism courses and an M.A. in journalism from Ohio State. He started his career as an advertising copywriter, then as a promotion manager for WOSU-TV and editor of AirFare magazine. He left OSU to become publications manager at Riverside Methodist Hospital for about five years.

Returning to the University, he joined the Wexner Medical Center where he held a number of communications and marketing leadership positions. He retired as the Senior Director of Content and Creative Services, managing the writing, graphic design, photography and video production teams at the medical center. One of the highlights of his OSU career was serving as one of President Gordon Gee’s culture change facilitators, 2010-2014. He remarks, “I worked a total of 30.01 years at Ohio State, just enough for the OPERS ‘golden ticket.’”

For more than 30 years, Thurber House has benefitted from Ron’s volunteer work. He served on the Thurber board and is a reader and juror for the annual Thurber Prize for American Humor. He also finds time to do freelance writing and editing for a small group of clients and is an amateur poet, papermaker, and book artist. More importantly, he is a first-time grandfather to granddaughter Clara. “My family and all of these activities,” he says, “keep me very busy and eager to greet every new day.”

Ron adds that he’s an avid Ohio State sports fan and has been a season ticket-holder for football and men’s basketball for decades: “I love Ohio State. Go Bucks!” Looks like OSURA will also benefit from Ron’s enthusiasm, experience, and eager participation!
Calendar of Events

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

July 14 – VIRTUAL Board Meeting
Time: 9:30 a.m.

Benefits Committee
No meeting

MONTHLY ACTIVITIES

July 28 (Tuesday) VIRTUAL Tertulia Breakfast
Time: 9 a.m.
The 9 a.m. start will give you time to fix a scrumptious breakfast and to join OSURA members and friends for a ZOOM gathering at home. Contact Jerry Dare for connection.
Organizer: Jerry Dare (dare.1@twc.com)

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.

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
While we are on summer hiatus until September 16th, we are reading The Pioneers by David McCullough. This is a factual, but novel-like, portrayal of the individual gutsy pioneers who settled Marietta, Ohio on the cheap, fertile, lightly populated lands created by the 1787 Northwest Ordinance.
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: Eileen R. Zeller (Social Committee)

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 7 – VIRTUAL Annual Meeting
Time: 11 a.m.
Speaker: Joe Blundo

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

OSUAA
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.
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.  
Arrangers: Jessica Pritchard – jjpritch6@gmail.com and Margaret Hickle-Grimm (Travel Committee)  

September 15 (Tuesday) – UPDATE  
Amish Adventure  
Dennison, Sugarcreek, Millersburg  
Challenge Level 2  
REGISTRATION REQUIRED  
We’ll have a guided tour of the Dennison Railroad Museum (dennisondepot.org), lunch at the Dutch Valley Market (dutchvalleymarket.com) and visit the Guggisberg Cheese Factory (babyswiss.com).  
Meet by: 7:30 a.m., Tremont Center (Tremont Road, opposite Upper Arlington Library)  
Return: approximately 5:30 p.m.  
Cost: $64; Cost includes museum admission, guided tour, lunch, motor coach transportation, snacks, tips.  
Registration/Refund Deadline: Register at osura.osu.edu or call 614-292-2281 by September 8.  
Arrangers: Cindy Giles and Alabelle Zghoul (Travel Committee)  

October 8 (Thursday) – UPDATE  
Union Terminal and Cincinnati Reds Stadium Tours  
Cincinnati  
Challenge Level 2  
REGISTRATION REQUIRED  
We will be touring and have a guided tour of the historic Union Station, enjoy a box lunch and proceed to The Great American Ball Park and Hall of Fame museum for a guided tour.  
Meet by: 7:45 a.m., Tremont Center (Tremont Road, opposite Upper Arlington Library)  
Return: approximately 6:30 p.m.  
Cost: $84; Cost includes admissions, lunch, motor coach transportation, snacks, tips.  
Registration/Refund Deadline: Register at osura.osu.edu or call 614-292-2281 by September 24.  
Arrangers: Jessica Pritchard and Norma Harper (Travel Committee)
A Hearty Thanks

A hearty thanks to **MICHAEL V. DRAKE, MD**, who is stepping away from his post as President of The Ohio State University on June 30, 2020. He has served since June, 2014 and we are delighted that he will remain on campus as a faculty member.

A Warm Welcome

A warm welcome to **KRISTINA M. JOHNSON, PHD** who will begin her tenure as the next President of Ohio State on September 1, 2020. Most recently she has served as Chancellor of the SUNY system. She brings more than 30 years of experience as an academic, business, and policy leader.

FROM: The Benefits Committee

**OPERS**  
By Michelle Hobbs

**Pension**

Net Position increased by $10.8 billion from approximately $82.9 billion in 2018 to $93.7 billion as of December 31, 2019 • Net income from investing activity totaled $13.9 billion in 2019, compared to a net loss from investing activity of $2.6 billion in 2018 • Member and employer contributions increased from $3.5 billion in 2018 to $3.6 billion in 2019, or 4.1% • Traditional Pension Plan benefits increased from $6.1 billion in 2018 to $6.3 billion in 2019, or 3.4%.

A motion was made to approve the proposed 2020 Operating and Capital budget changes as submitted by staff. The budget changes are as follows: 2020 Operating budget decrease of $1,108,000; Capital budget new project $4,031,000; Capital budget transfer from other project $994,000. Total capital budget $5,025,000.

**Summary** — the main objectives of the valuation process are to measure the financial position of the Retirement System and assist the Board in establishing employer and employee contribution rates • As of the December 31, 2019 valuation, based upon the funding value of assets, the funded ratio of the defined benefit portion of OPERS is 80% and the number of years needed to amortize the unfunded actuarial accrued liability is 23 years.

**Summary** — Favorable investment return on a market value basis during the 2019 calendar year, 17.08%, offset the unfavorable return during the 2018 calendar year, -2.97% • Experience since December 31, 2019 is not reflected in any of the results.

**STRS**  
By Gerry Newsom

After two months without a regular meeting, the STRS Board had a virtual meeting in May. In view of the sharp drop in the stock market in March, the big question was how their investments were doing, and so far they’ve recovered pretty well. If there are no major changes in the last 1.5 months of the fiscal year, they expect to end with a loss of about 2% to 3%. A Columbus Dispatch article on June 4 was titled “Are public pensions doomed because of the coronavirus pandemic? State, local budgets feel pain.” In common with many reports on public pension funds, it treats all state funds the same way, although different states have their funds structured very differently. In some states, a drop in pension assets triggers an increase in contributions from state and local governments, which is a problem when government revenues are declining. But Ohio does not operate that way; employer contributions to STRS are fixed at 14% of salary. Much of the Dispatch article is just not relevant for Ohio.

Members of Congress opposed to state defined-benefit pension plans are trying to make sure that any federal bailout money going to states is not used to help troubled state-run pension plans, although Ohio is not among the truly troubled plans. Efforts in Congress to make it legal for states to declare bankruptcy seem targeted in part to allow states to cut pension payments, but this also would not affect Ohio public retirees unless conditions change drastically.

News for STRS health insurance continues to be good. For the sixth year in a row, member premiums may not go up next year for those in the core Aetna Medicare plan. There’s even hope the monthly $29.90 subsidy STRS grants to current retirees in their Medicare health plan may continue indefinitely.
FROM: The Benefits Committee continued...

From PERI newsletter, May 2020

Below is information for Medicare recipients related to the COVID19 crisis.

• Medicare covers the lab test for COVID19 when ordered by your doctor or health care provider. You pay no out-of-pocket costs.

• Medicare covers all medically necessary hospitalization. This includes if you are diagnosed with COVID19 and might otherwise have been discharged from the hospital after an inpatient stay, but instead you need to stay in the hospital under quarantine.

• As part of an effort to address the urgent need to increase capacity to care for patients, hospitals can now provide hospital services in other healthcare facilities and sites that aren’t currently considered part of a healthcare facility. This includes off-site screenings.

• Medicare is waiving the three-midnight rule for an inpatient hospital stay.

• Medicare is waiving certain Skilled Nursing requirements such as some people may be able to get renewed SNF coverage without first having to start a new benefit period.

• If you’re not able to be in your home during the COVID19 pandemic or are otherwise affected by the pandemic, you can get SNF care without a qualifying hospital stay.

• At this time, there is no vaccine for COVID19. However, if one becomes available, it will be covered by all Medicare Part D Plans.

• Medicare has temporarily expanded its coverage of telehealth services to help you have access from more places (including your home) with a wider range of communication tools (including smartphones) to interact with a range of providers (such as doctors, nurse practitioners, clinical psychologists, and licensed clinical social workers).

• If you have a Medicare Advantage Plan, you have access to these same benefits. Medicare allows these plans to waive cost-sharing for COVID19 lab tests. Many plans offer additional telehealth benefits beyond the ones described above. Check with your plan about your coverage and costs.
Each year we thank our retiring OSURA Board members for their service. Our Board members devote countless hours to our organization. They serve on at least one (and often two) committees as well as meeting monthly as a Board. And in this difficult year, they have shown great flexibility by stepping up to learn new technology while keeping a sense of humor and good will.

Thanks, and best wishes to:

- **two past presidents**, [Hal Noltimier](#), who has chaired the Benefits Committee, and [Rai Goerler](#), the chair of Cultural Arts, for their many years of leadership.
- **Marge Ward** and **Betty Hriesik** who have served as members-at-large as well as members of Travel and Membership committees and faithful Litter Pickers.
- **Mary Cull**, another member-at-large who coordinated our Special Interest Groups, who is leaving us because she has taken on a full-time job.
- **Steven D’Ambrosio** who served as vice-president, president and past-president in the past three years for his leadership.
- **Shirley Flowers**, who has served as secretary for the past two years and kept us on track. Shirley will be replacing Mary Cull as a member-at-large.
- **Diane Selby** and **Gemma McLuckie**, co-chairs of the Membership Committee. Gemma will be remaining with us as vice-president/president elect starting July 1.