Above the Clouds

By Nancy Wardwell

It is true that the COVID clouds were gathering long before we were aware of the magnitude and the effect on each individual. Not one of us has gone unaffected, some more drastically than others.

Two things we know for sure: First, whether in months or years, this will pass – there really is blue above those clouds; and second, corny as it may sound, there are silver linings to these clouds!

We see our neighbors more often as we are out walking. Family and old friends are checking with each other. Some families have sort of reassembled as older kids have come home. I was horrified when I learned that two very opinionated and independent granddaughters had to leave college campuses and return to the home where their parents were already working. Six months later they are still amazed that their parents are kind, interesting people, and the girls have discovered that they are quite fond of each other! The kitchen is the central meeting place and they are cooking in many languages!

Aren’t we all? Scratch cooking has returned – in the market you can’t find yeast or bread flour – and we are trying new recipes and foods – to the extent that someone was reported being tired of eating “groceries”!

Burpees had its biggest seed sale this spring as more people planted gardens. DIY projects have Home Depot and Lowe’s selling more lumber and hand tools as we discover we have skills we never knew we had. Craft stores are doing a booming business.

Bird feeders and food are selling out and there is a great new site on Facebook for Backyard Birdwatchers.

We are reading more, and some have had the time to binge-watch programs they may have missed. The entertainment industry has stepped up and provided some great concerts, new series, and the chance to watch Hamilton - enough times to understand all the words!

The description “business casual” dress has descended to include shorts and sweatpants – Zoom meetings do require dressing up a bit on the top half.

Speaking of Zoom, we have all stepped into the 21st century with new technology. With so much becoming “virtual”, we have conquered new iPads, smartphones, and laptops. OSURA’s Annual Meeting is August 7, via Zoom, and our Fall Conference will be virtual. Check our Calendar for other virtual events!

Many who are working from home are actually looking for ways to continue after the pandemic. Business is finding that good work is not necessarily site dependent. Our pets love having us home and we have time for yoga and meditation, and a new sense of freedom from the clock.

Of course, those seriously dark clouds are still there, but we are all better served by looking for the good, the happy, the positive – the ways to find the light – and be refreshed.
Dear Friends:

In 1962, the UCSF Medical Center informed me that I would need to establish a new educational portfolio at another institution, a policy maintained for total products of the UC system. I considered Sloan Kettering Memorial Institution in NYC as a possible relocation. However, the OSU Department of Radiology also offered me a position and I opted for OSU.

As the word circulated among the UCSF staff, I received calls of support from OSU alumni. One person in the UCSF Department of Pathology, a classmate of Jack Nicklaus, called to say I made the right choice and that I would love Columbus. The UCSF Chair of Surgery, Dr. Leon Goldman, called likewise to wish me well. He pointed out that he was one of eleven surgery chairmen around the country who had trained at OSU. How could I miss? OSU was the right decision and I have never looked back.

Jerry Dare
President of OSURA

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FROM: The President

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Upcoming Event...

■ Annual OSURA Fall Conference – VIRTUAL
Beginning September 23 and will continue on three consecutive Wednesdays (September 30, October 7, October 14)

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Pandemic doesn’t stop the Lunch Bunch! Zoom for lunch in July!
### Welcome New Retirees

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position/Institution</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Peggy Sue Barnes</td>
<td>University Hospitals</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bharat Bhushan</td>
<td>Mechanical &amp; Aerospace Engr</td>
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<tr>
<td>Richard J. Brilli</td>
<td>Pediatrics</td>
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<tr>
<td>Donald Neal Capps</td>
<td>Facilities Operations</td>
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<tr>
<td>Karen Sue Copeland</td>
<td>University Hospitals</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mary Coady Davis</td>
<td>Academic Affairs Admin</td>
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<td>Elizabeth B. Davis</td>
<td>Spanish and Portugese</td>
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<td>Stephanie Ann Denig</td>
<td>Cancer Hosp &amp; Research Inst</td>
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<td>Kathy T. Douglas</td>
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<td>Kelly June Gonyer</td>
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<td>Elizabeth Marie Jennings</td>
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<td>Lori Ann Lane</td>
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<td>Elizabeth Anne Liming</td>
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<td>Sarah L. Mabins</td>
<td>Shared Services</td>
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<td>Gretchen Avette Mackowiak</td>
<td>Surgery</td>
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<td>Richard Dwight Miller</td>
<td>Wooster Campus Facilities</td>
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<td>Henri Moscovici</td>
<td>Mathematics</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brenda Kaye Palmer</td>
<td>University Hospitals East</td>
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<td>Keith D. Parnell</td>
<td>Facilities Operations</td>
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<td>Diana Lynn Pettengill</td>
<td>University Hospitals</td>
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<td>Carson Robert Reider</td>
<td>Neurological Institute</td>
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<td>Linda Joyce Roberts</td>
<td>FAES Human Resources</td>
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<tr>
<td>Krishnaswamy Srinivasan</td>
<td>Mechanical &amp; Aerospace Engr</td>
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<tr>
<td>Beth Sutton-Ramspeck</td>
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<td>Doug Sutton-Ramspeck</td>
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<td>Paul Gregory Walsh</td>
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**By Shari Lorbach**

**MEMBER SPOTLIGHT:**

**Chris Burton**

Maintaining her ties to The Ohio State University is important to Chris Burton, and OSURA helps to ensure that she can: "I have participated in several OSURA field trips. Two of my favorite experiences were a field trip to Don Scott Airport and visiting the OSU fashion collection in the College of Education and Human Ecology.” She also recalls attending OSURA tailgate parties and homecoming games: "I really enjoyed those parties and sitting in the stands with other retirees, including some of the people I had worked with at OSU. We all had a great time.”

Also active in the University Women’s Club (UWC), Chris enjoys the organization's many interesting presentations and getting together with other women associated with the University (the UWC is on hiatus during the pandemic).

Chris began working at Ohio State in the autumn of 1968 when she was a freshman: “As a student, I needed a little spending money, so I took a job as a Library Assistant in the Periodicals Room at the OSU Library. It was a great place to work! When I wasn't busy putting away the materials and helping patrons, I could read the New York Times, other newspapers, and various magazines. Since I love to read, it was the perfect job for me.”

Chris graduated with a degree in Social Studies, specializing in sociology, psychology, and political science. After working off-campus for a period of time, she returned to OSU, where she worked in International Studies, International Affairs, and the Department of History. She says, “I worked at OSU for a total of 44 years, and I enjoyed every minute of it.”

Right now, during the Covid-19 pandemic, Chris says she is mostly staying at home, reading, keeping a journal, cooking, and visiting with friends and relatives on the phone and on-line. She and her husband Bruce play golf with the Dublin Seniors Citizens: “We usually play at Safari Golf Club, which is across the street from the Columbus Zoo. As a Zoo member for many years, I hope to visit the Zoo soon to see the animals, especially the baby polar bears and gorillas. I spent one summer working in the reptile house where I made salads for the turtles and salamanders.” (Yes, they eat salads like we do!)

Chris says, “My OSURA membership enables me to maintain a connection with OSU and enjoy its wide variety of activities. I look forward to getting together with other retirees when the coronavirus pandemic is over.”
Calendar of Events

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

August 4 – VIRTUAL
Benefits Committee
Time: 9:30 a.m.

August 11 – VIRTUAL
Board Meeting
Time: 9:30 a.m.

MONTHLY ACTIVITIES

Tertulia Gathering
Contact Jerry regarding plans for August.
Organizer: Jerry Dare (dare.1@twc.com)

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
*The Pioneers* by David McCullough begins our reading year. This is a well-researched intimate portrayal of the founders of Marietta, Ohio. They were infused with the values set forth in the 1787 Northwest Ordinance: Public education, freedom of religion, and no slavery. Our first meeting is on September 16, 2020.
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 (Litter Pickers 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)

SPECIAL EVENTS

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

August 18 – CANCELLED
Tour Marietta and the Ohio River by Riverboat

September 15 – CANCELLED
Amish Adventure

October 8 – CANCELLED
Union Terminal and Cincinnati Reds Stadium Tours

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.
University Policy Limits OSURA Trips, Events

IT’S A VIRTUAL WORLD TODAY. The impact of the coronavirus means curtailing some of our favorite OSURA events, such as day trips and special interest groups.

A recent memo from Acting President Bruce McPherson makes it clear that The Ohio State University only rarely allows activities where people attend in person. Those rare events also must follow university, local and state mandates.

For safety, health and wellness, OSURA will follow the University and Alumni Association guidelines. As alumni societies director Craig Little notes, no social occasion seems worth taking the risk. And face it, we are among the riskiest age group.

The Travel Committee has been valiantly trying to adjust to fluctuating conditions. Its members realize cancellations and postponements disappoint members who are eager to gather with friends. However, we believe events will be ever so much fun when we are safer.

In the meantime, please register for the Zoom meetings – the Member Appreciation on August 7 and the Annual Conference sessions September 30 and October 7 and 14. Other enjoyable dates are in the works.

Yours in continued health and safety,
Gemma McLuckie, vice president

FROM: The Benefits Committee

STRS
By Jerry Newsom

The new Executive Director of STRS is Bill Neville; he currently is the chief legal officer for STRS, responsible for managing the Legal and Governmental Relations departments. As often happens, after a national search STRS promoted from within, guaranteeing new leadership is already very familiar with STRS. Neville joined STRS in 2004 and is a former assistant attorney general of Ohio. We wish him well in his new role.

The STRS Board adopted the FY 2021 budget and health insurance policies at the virtual June meeting. Health-insurance premiums for the great majority of Medicare participants with at least 30 years of service will barely change. Retirees in the Aetna Medicare Advantage plan with 30 years of service and STRS together will pay only 1% more than at present, well below long-term expectations. This frees up extra funds to increase the subsidy for retirees below age 65 (and hence not Medicare-eligible).

The STRS subsidy of $29.90 to Medicare participants in the STRS health insurance program was due to expire in December. The Healthcare and Pension Advocates (HPA, a “users forum” of interested parties, at which OSURA is represented through the Ohio Council of Higher Education Retirees) recommended that the $29.90 be made permanent (meaning it would automatically continue each year until the Board decides otherwise). HPA also supported extending this subsidy to non-Medicare participants in the STRS health insurance program. The Board adopted both HPA recommendations. Premiums for dental and vision insurance will have slight decreases next year. In such chaotic times, the stability of the STRS health insurance is remarkable.

As income has dropped for many Ohioans in recent months, state income tax revenues decreased, but retirees with defined benefit plans have maintained their pension income. Income taxes from these retirees thus provide some stability to the state budget in a difficult economy.

New Season for Book Club

The OSURA Book Club • Indulge Yourself With Us • We’re Easy!

✓ No dues—we’re cheap!
✓ No book reports—thank goodness!
✓ Probably won’t read or finish the book? – join the crowd!

No more Excuses! Join today!
Contact Lee Hill (SIG leader)
Phone: (614) 459-4743
e-mail: hill.30@osu.edu
SEPTEMBER 23, 2020

10:00 a.m. LIVE  Welcome – Jerry Dare, OSURA President

10:05 a.m. LIVE  KEYNOTE: “Celebrating Centenarians: The Ohio State University’s Evidence-based Secret Sauce to Leading a Long Healthy Life” – Bernadette Mazurek Melnyk, Associate Vice President for Health Promotion, University Chief Wellness Officer, and Professor and Dean of the College of Nursing, Professor College of Medicine, PhD, APRN-CNP, FAANP, FNAP, FAAN will open the conference with a presentation that will show what is done on campus to support Buckeyes to lead long healthy lives.  
Sponsor: The Wexner Medical Center at The Ohio State University

10:50 a.m. LIVE  Welcome – Molly Ranz Calhoun, new OSU Alumni Association President/CEO

11:00 a.m. LIVE/RECORDED  The Heart of the Matter – Robert Bode, Visiting Professor & Associate Director of Choral Studies, Jordan Saul, Lecturer, Choral Music Education, and Robert Ward, Associate Professor and Area Head of Voice, Conducting, and Ensembles will explore highlights of the 2019-20 choral season at Ohio State and will feature performances by the Men’s Glee Club, Women’s Glee Club, and the Ohio State Chorale. For each piece there will be discussion of its poetry and construction, followed by the singing. The presentation will end with a question-and-answer period, followed by the singing of Carmen Ohio. We hope that you will want to join in! 
Sponsor: Friendship Village of Dublin

SEPTEMBER 30, 2020

10:00 a.m. LIVE  Here and Now of Global Climate Change – Ellen Mosley-Thompson, Distinguished University Professor, Geography (Atmospheric Sciences) and Lonnie G. Thompson, Distinguished University Professor, Earth Sciences. As difficult as it may be to accept, our greatest challenge in the 21st century is dealing with unprecedented global-scale climate and environmental issues—issues that affect every aspect of our existence. This session will review the global evidence as well as familiarize you with research at the Byrd Center and internationally, and it’s very likely you will agree that the time for action is now! 
Sponsor: Friendship Village of Dublin

10:55 a.m. LIVE  Break

11:00 a.m. LIVE  Healthcare and Benefits – STRS – This session will include any changes to the members’ plans for benefits or health care programs for 2021 and an update on the status of their retirement in general.

FEATURED RECORDINGS FOR THIS DATE:

- Aging Creatively: Kate Quickel, Host of Broad & High on WOSU-TV, will take a look at the ways in which people continue their creative growth into retirement and how to stay artistically active as we age. Sponsor: First Community Village

- Nutrition & Brain Fitness: Lisa Wolfe, RD, LD, Executive Director of Dining & Nutrition Services at the Wesley Communities, will have you discover the relationship between overall nutrition and brain health. Sponsor: First Community Village

- Gardening as We Age: Margaret H. Teaford, Associate Professor Emerita, School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences and Laura Akgerman, Disability Services Coordinator for Ohio AgrAbility, say just because we are older that doesn’t mean we can’t enjoy our gardens and gardening. Come learn about ways we can adapt ourselves and our tools to make gardening easier, more efficient, and fun. Sponsor: Kendal At Home


OCTOBER 7, 2020

10:00 a.m. LIVE  “Listening” and Exposure to Political Difference – William Eveland, Professor, School of Communication and Department of Political Science, will strive to have us embrace our different experiences, and engage in real listening to one another to better understand both our similarities and our differences. Sponsor: Friendship Village Columbus

10:55 a.m. LIVE  Break

11:00 a.m. LIVE  Healthcare and Benefits – OPERS – This session will address those under 65 regarding any changes to the members’ plans for benefits or health care programs for 2021 and an update on the status of their retirement in general.

FEATURED RECORDINGS FOR THIS DATE:

- The Thurber House – History and Opportunities for Current and Future Writers: Laurie Latham, Executive Director and Anne Touvell, Deputy Director Thurber House & Museum, will provide a brief history of James Thurber, his house and how it serves as a museum and educational site for young writers. Many workshops are given each year, including online workshops for adults, youth, schools and libraries. Part of their mission is to encourage and prepare future writers. Sponsor: Transitioning Through Life

- Research and Education at Stone Laboratory Today and for the Future: Christopher J. Winslow, Director – Ohio Sea Grant College Program, F.T. Stone Lab, Center for Lake Erie Area Research, will explore the current research and hands-on education of Stone Lab,
which focuses on critical issues facing Lake Erie in collaboration with a wide range of partners. As their website states, “The summer research program for undergraduate science majors ensures that the next generation of Lake Erie scientists are well prepared for anything the future may throw at them.” Sponsors: Ohio Living/Westminster Thurber and Program 60

**Senior Scams:** Danielle Murphy, Consumer Educator, Ohio Attorney General’s Office, Consumer Protection Section. Seniors (age 60 and up) are particularly vulnerable to fraud and scams; however many incidents likely go unreported. Learn about the latest scams targeting our senior population, and find out how to protect yourself and your loved ones. Sponsors: Luebbe Hearing and Vawter Financial

**TOUR:** Waterman Agricultural and Natural Resources Laboratory

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**OCTOBER 14, 2020**

**10:00 a.m. LIVE**

*Everything You Wanted To Know About Memory Loss But Forgot To Ask:* Douglas Scharre, MD, CMD, FAAN Professor of Clinical Neurology and Psychiatry Director, Division of Cognitive and Memory Disorders; The Ohio State University Medical Center and his team are researching memory loss and treatments to help those who have been diagnosed with this. He will explain the SAGE test, which will help a person know if they have symptoms. *Sponsors: The Wexner Medical Center at The Ohio State University and AARP Ohio*

**10:55 a.m. LIVE**

Break

**11:00 a.m. LIVE**

*Healthcare and Benefit – OPERS – This session will address those 65 and over regarding any changes to the members’ plans for benefits or health care programs for 2021 and an update on the status of their retirement in general.*

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**FEATURED RECORDINGS FOR THIS DATE:**

*Preventing and Curing Cancer—You’ve Had It In You All This Time:* Zihai Li, MD, PhD Professor Internal Medicine, Klotch Chair in Cancer Research, Founding Director, OSUCCC Pelotonia Institute for Immuno-Oncology, will provide us a look at a comprehensive bench-to-clinical-trial research initiative. In other words, rather than sit in Columbus and wait for others to make discoveries, the OSU Pelotonia Institute for Immuno-Oncology will be on the front line of making major discoveries and translating them to clinical practice. *Sponsor: Danbury Senior Living*

**Prepare to Care:** Deborah Hall, AARP. How many of us are truly prepared to step into the caregiving role? And often, we must do it rather quickly. In this session you will learn more about how to prepare and be ready if you are called upon to be a caregiver. *Sponsor: AARP Ohio*

**TOUR:** Orton Hall Museum

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**In Memoriam**

**Johanna Joby Abernathy**
June 16 | Psychology and History, 74

**Edwin Thomas Cornelius III**
June 12 | Psychology, 74

**F. Joe Crosswhite**
June 21 | Mathematics, 90

**James Eblin**
June 24 | Chemistry, 79

**Alan Engle**
May 16 | English 98

**Harrison Gardner**
June 16 | Veterinary Medicine, 94

**Garry Gibbons**
April 25 | OSUE County Operations, 75

**Rhonda Sue Moody Graham**
April 25 | Spanish – Mansfield, 54

**James "Jim" Holyfield**
June 6 | Education, 90

**William "Bill" M. Lasko, Jr.**
June 5 | 64

**Jerry Elwood Lowder**
June 3 | Music Education and OSURA, 87

**Fred E. McNash**
July 2 | Physical Facilities, 85

**Irma Melsop**
June 23 | OSUMC, 83

**Earnest O’Farrell**
June 11 | Veterinary Hospital, 93

**Peggy O’Neil**
June 10 | Dentistry, 82

**Josephine “Jo” Grace Paterson**
June 11 | Nursing, 95

**Russell H. Riley**
June 12 | Education, 90

**Thomas Stephens**
June 18 | Psychology, 89

**Richard Swanson**
May 3 | Accounting, 87

**Rosemary Tanner**
June 26 | OSU Library-Marion, 95

**Barbara Thompson**
June 23 | 85

**Lawrence "Larry" D. Vitt**
March 15 | Business Administration and OSURA, 87

**Eric Walton**
June 25 | Electrical Engineering, 76

**Thomas French Whayne, Jr.**
June 19 | Medicine, 82

**Chad Wright**
June 21 | Athletics, 77
Thank You
Thank You
Essential Workers

We deeply appreciate your good works that are getting us through these times!

Neighbors who work in:
  Food and Agriculture
  Emergency Services
  Transportation and Warehouses
  Health Care
  Community Services
  Residential Communities
  Water and Sewer Service
  Communications and IT
  Banks and Financial Services
  Critical Manufactures

All who are keeping us safe, well, and comfortable as possible during this challenging time!

OSU Retirees Association Fall Conference
Registration begins August 26
Go to osura.alumni.osu.edu or call 614-292-2281 to register and obtain more information.

We Want to Thank
Heritage Pointe of Ohio Living – Westminster-Thurber
Sponsor of the 2020 OSURA Annual Meeting