THAT WAS THEN...

Before OSURA was founded almost 50 years ago, there was no designated individual or office on campus to assist with the transition and ongoing needs of university retirees. In the early years of OSURA, pension and other information was incorporated into lunch and other meetings.

John T. Mount, Vice President of Student Services and Dean of University Colleges, retired in 1983 and, according to Fern Hunt, immediately became Chairman of OSURA Benefits Committee. He began scheduling afternoon get-togethers centered around STRS and OPERS and other topics of interest to retirees.

Fern Hunt started the OSURA Newsletter – and served as the editor for many years. She reports that Tom Rockwell did a study to find what OSURA members really wanted and needed. Information was the clear response. Fern was charged to first develop the proposal for the first Fall Conference. The first all-day conference was held in 1998 and it was so successful that Fern served as Conference Coordinator for many of the next “Coping With Change” conferences. The “Coping” title remained for the next 14 such fall conferences!

In 2012 it occurred to someone that “Coping With Change” made retirement sound a little ominous, so we had the first of several “Embracing Retirement” meetings. One was sub-titled “Back to the Future.” The Keynote Speaker for that one was no less than the first OSU President Edward Orton (aka Ronald St. Pierre).

Our conferences have always included pension and health benefits updates from representatives of STRS and OPERS – with the rest of the day packed with a huge variety of other topics. Our conferences have not gone without activity – Tai Chi, lei Qigong, Yoga, and even dance. Our Finances have been featured with Estate Planning and sessions on legal matters, insurance and “outliving your money.”

Health and health care have been much-appreciated programs with topics ranging from stress, falling, heart disease, and vaccines (just do it!) to home health care and how to get the most from visits with your physician. And we have enjoyed features from around campus such as Chadwick Arboretum and Mirror Lake – to the Arts – modern dance, the OSU Marching Band – and glee clubs.

The Fall Conferences have always been rich with useful (and entertaining) information. The future will be no different in that regard – but it will be different.

THIS IS NOW!

During this pandemic, to keep us well, and with the amazing technical help from the Alumni Association, our 2020 Fall Conference will be coming directly to our homes! You can wear anything – bring your own coffee – and you can participate from anywhere in the world!

WE HAVE GONE VIRTUAL!

We’ll be on tablets, computers, and if your eyesight is good enough – on your phone! You have seen the Conference Program spelled out in the last two Newsletters– and in this edition on page 5 you will find the schedule of the 2020 program – four consecutive Wednesdays: September 23, September 30, October 7, and October 14.

This year the conference is free, we won’t have to fight Tuscan Salad – but we must register.

Registration is simple and starts August 26.
Go online: osura.alumni.osu.edu or call 614-292-2281.
Dear Friends:

The presence of Ohioans is to be found in all corners of the world. I still haven’t forgotten running into my around-the-corner neighbor, a Professor from the Electrical Engineering Department, at the old Hong Kong Kai-Tuck Airport. He was on his way to Singapore to do a presentation. I was just returning after a teaching assignment in Shanghai at the Shanghai 2nd Medical University, where the chair of Radiology was a graduate trainee and fellow with the University of Cincinnati.

My story begins when I was undertaking coursework at the Donner Laboratory of UC Berkeley in an Atom-for-Peace Program initiated by Ernest Orlando Lawrence, Nobel Laureate and his brother, Dr. John H. Lawrence. The faculty at the Donner Lab were individuals from many scientific disciplines but all had participated in the testings at Alamogordo, NM and the Bikinis. John Lawrence was the director at Donner Lab. I signed up for a course in Radiation Biology, taught by Professor Robert Mortimer. Dr. Mortimer was also the concertmaster of the UCB university symphony. A five-hour with 3 lectures and three 3-hour labs.

The lab assistant for this course was the real focus in this diatribe. She had a hearty staccato cackle laugh and quick zany wit to boot. Yes, of course, she was from Ohio. She had a retort to any comment or question that anyone would pose to her. Aah, she was light-hearted and effervescent. She elaborated on Fang and her many kids. Through her, I enjoyed the course enough to take its sequel, Radiation Biology II. In 1955, the faculty, staff and students coaxed her to appear at The Purple Onion in San Francisco. All of us occupied the first three rows of seating to witness the Debut of, THE ONE AND ONLY, Phyllis Diller, from Lima, Ohio.

This is not the end yet. All of you have seen the two buildings sitting on top of the levee, immediately west of the parking lot of The Ohio Stadium. They currently carry the labels as the storage and workshop of the Department of Theater. In earlier years, the North building housed an accelerator, a Cyclotron designed by E. O. Lawrence. The South building was the control room from where an operator would run the system. These structures were identified and commissioned by Dr. John H. Lawrence in 1940 and dubbed it as the “World’s 1st Medical Cyclotron.” My old lab director gets around. Just another little bit of OSU history.

Jerry Dare
President of OSURA

FROM: The President
By Shari Lorbach

Welcome New Retirees

Troy Stephen Aldrich  
OARDC Hort & Crop Sciences

Marilyn D. Baehr  
Introductory Biology

Mary Beth Beguin  
Comprehensive Cancer Center RU

Pamela Bivens  
University Libraries

Nora Lynn Bolon  
Academic Affairs Admin

Peggy J. Christman  
OARDC Food, Agric & Bio Eng

Carolyn Yvonne Cook  
Dining Services

Elizabeth Ann Eastlake  
Cancer Hosp & Research Instit

Jana M. Fletcher  
 Vet Teaching Hospital

Karen J. Gaynor  
 Ctr/Human Resource Rsch

Rosemarie Gobeli  
 University Hospitals East

Nancy Ann Goodall  
 Cancer Hosp & Research Instit

Susan Bryan Hadley  
 Dance

Susan Marie Hines  
 Cancer Hosp & Research Instit

Dawn E. Hutta  
 Shared Services

Beena E. Jameson  
 Cancer Hosp & Research Instit

Denise Mihalko Johnson  
 OSUE-Agr & Natural Resources

Lee Ann Johnson  
 OSUE County Operations

Nora Latimer  
 University Hospitals

Linda Joan Locke  
 Shared Services

Karen Martin  
 Internal Medicine

Maria Mazon  
 History

Keith Edward Mullins  
 Shared Services

Elizabeth Ann Nini  
 University Hospitals

Ralph Ray Orr  
 Mechanical & Aerospace Engr

Richard C. Payne  
 Facilities Operations

Robert James Perry  
 Physics

Victoria Gale Peters  
 Shared Services

Karen Leigh Rose  
 University Hospitals East

Brendan Michael Saup  
 SBS-Physiology & Cell Biology

Randy Martin Sefchick  
 Athletics

Thomas Andrew Teeter  
 Trans & Traffic Mgmt

Peter John Tender  
 School of Music

Donna Lynn Thimdit  
 Shared Services

Betty M. Toland–Lyles  
 Shared Services

Robert James VanDyne  
 Strategic Enrollment Planning

Jimmie William Waddell  
 University Hospitals East

Dorothee Wernicke–Jameson  
 Comprehensive Cancer Center RU

Henry Leon Wilson  
 John Glenn Coll Public Affairs

Linda Kay Wood  
 Ross Heart Hospital

By Shari Lorbach

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT:  
Steve Sterrett

Many OSU retirees will remember OnCampus, the faculty-staff newspaper that featured topics of interest, recognized research and awards, and included campus events. Steve Sterrett became editor of that bi-monthly publication when he came to Ohio State in 1978. By the mid-1980s he was named director of the news services office where he and his staff dealt with the news media and the public each day.

Due to his experience with the university and, having lived in the University District since 1973, Steve was the obvious choice to be named community relations director when Campus Partners was formed in 1995. An initiative to revitalize distressed neighborhoods in the University District that involved OSU and the city of Columbus, the partnership thrived. Steve notes, “I enjoyed working with university colleagues, neighbors, students and city officials to improve the quality of life in the neighborhoods around the campus.”

After retiring in 2010, Steve continued to work until 2019 with the Weinland Park Collaborative (WPC) supported by a Columbus Foundation grant. The purpose of WPC is to improve the quality of life and involve residents in its future. Weinland Park is located slightly southeast of Ohio State and north of downtown Columbus. Steve explained that “the Collaborative was composed of more than a dozen agencies and institutions, including Ohio State, that transformed the Weinland Park neighborhood.”

A Toledo native, Steve says, “I had a wonderful career at Ohio State. I was very fortunate that my work in University Communications and Campus Partners permitted me to meet people from across the university, from the president and trustees to faculty and staff at all levels, as well as civic leaders and neighbors.”

His OSURA membership, Steve remarks, “permits me to maintain my ties to a great university and affirm my friendships with colleagues, whom I have known for years. OSURA reflects the breadth of Ohio State itself and offers an amazing variety of social, educational and service activities for its members.” He adds, “I am convinced, too, that Ohio State benefits enormously from the active retirees in OSURA whose connections to the institution are never broken.”

Steve and his wife Karen especially enjoyed OSURA’s monthly dinner series which combined an opportunity to hear an interesting speaker with meeting fellow members over a good meal in a pleasant atmosphere at the Faculty Club. He appreciates being able to engage with the organization’s creative and energetic retirees.

Three grandchildren, who live in Columbus, keep Steve and Karen busy, albeit less so during the pandemic. Steve is co-chair of the 50th reunion of his college class (Heidelberg College, now University) which has been postponed until 2021. Personal writing projects related to family history and fictional stories for the grandkids help to fill his days, and he is eager to resume his new hobby of lampworking—making glass beads for jewelry and decoration—when Columbus recreation centers reopen.

Steve laughs, “After 32 years in the same house, my basement was finally full of the accumulation of a lifetime. The only consolation of the pandemic is my dedicating several weeks to cleaning out and reorganizing the basement!”
Calendar of Events

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

September 1 – VIRTUAL
Benefits Committee
Time: 9:30 a.m.

September 8 – VIRTUAL
Board Meeting
Time: 9:30 a.m.

MONTHLY ACTIVITIES

September 10 (Thursday)
Photo Society VIRTUAL
Program: Members’ Theme Presentations—Recent Best 8 Images, some of which represent your personal observations and experience with the coronavirus pandemic. Be prepared to discuss technical aspects of your images.
Time/Place: 7 p.m. via ZOOM
Arranger: Nancy Verber (Photographic Society SIG)

September 19 (Saturday)
Walking/Hiking Group
Challenge Level 2-4
We will begin the autumn series of walks at Blendon Woods. With masks on, we will meet at the Nature Center as usual. (Here’s hoping the weather cooperates.)
Time/Place: 11 a.m., Blendon Woods Metro Park, 4265 E. Dublin-Granville Rd, Westerville
Arranger: Hallan Noltimier (Walking/Hiking SIG)

Book Club
With our in-person September meeting cancelled due to COVID-19, the Book Club is pioneering a new exciting format called “You Are There” for discussing The Pioneers using e-mail to include all 100+ members. A triggering imagined “You Are There” meeting (from opening treat to end of discussion) will be sent out and the evoked discussion points will be published anonymously for all to enjoy.
Arranger: Lee Hill (Book Club SIG)

If you have questions regarding your group’s future plans, please contact the arranger.

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

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

September 15 (Tuesday)
Amish Adventure
CANCELLED

October 8 (Thursday)
Union Terminal and Cincinnati Reds Stadium Tours
CANCELLED

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

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.
Coming To A Theater Near You
OSURA Fall Conference

Live on stage September 23, 30, October 7, and 14. The main performances will begin each of these days at 10 a.m. The complete Playbill can be found in the August Newsletter. Remember, there is no admission fee, parking worries, or dress requirements. Here’s your chance to sit in the first row of the theater of your choosing. Neither Disney+ nor Netflix can beat this experience. Join the OSURA madding crowd!

Update: The tours that were planned for the OSURA Fall Conference are being postponed until we can all visit these sites in-person together.

Registration has begun. Go to osura.alumni.osu.edu or call 614-292-2281 to register.

OVERVIEW | OSU Retirees Fall Conference Program 2020 | Theme: Celebrate the Future

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
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.

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
11:00 a.m. LIVE Healthcare and Benefits – STRS – Greg Nickell

FEATURED RECORDINGS FOR THIS DATE:
• Aging Creatively: Kate Quickel, Host of Broad & High on WOSU-TV
• Nutrition & Brain Fitness: Lisa Wolfe, RD, LD, Executive Director of Dining & Nutrition Services at the Wesley Communities
• Gardening as We Age: Margaret H. Teaford, Associate Professor Emerita, School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences and Laura Akgerman, Disability Services Coordinator for Ohio AgriAbility

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
11:00 a.m. LIVE Healthcare and Benefit – OPERS – under 65

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
• 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
• Senior Scams: Danielle Murphy, Consumer Educator, Ohio Attorney General’s Office, Consumer Protection Section

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
11:00 a.m. LIVE Healthcare and Benefit – OPERS – 65 and over

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
• Prepare to Care: Deborah Hall, AARP
Outstanding Service Award for Gerald Newsom  
August 7, 2020

The Outstanding Service Award of the OSU Retirees Association “honors a member who contributed to the betterment of University retirees through leadership and service to retirement causes. The contribution may be in any area related to retirees and retirement, such as administration or legislation, but will be measured by how these efforts enrich retirees’ quality of life now and in the future.” Those so honored receive a handsome award to adorn a bookshelf or display case and have their name inscribed on a plaque that hangs in Longaberger House.

Each spring, the OSURA newsletter requests nominations for this award. The president of OSURA designates a committee of past awardees to review nominations. This year that committee consisted of me, Tom Sweeney, and Michelle Bondurant.

I am delighted to report that the committee agreed enthusiastically that we have someone who is genuinely a super star in the constellation that is OSURA. He is a very active member. You will have seen him at Tertulia breakfast, the dinner series, hikes, lunch bunch, litter pickers, and the many events and trips organized by OSURA. I am referring, of course, to retired professor of Astronomy, Jerry Newsom.

Jerry’s contributions to the mission of OSURA in the betterment of University retirees are many, significant, and continuing. Some shining examples are:

- When elected to the Board in 2014, Jerry stepped in to serve as Vice President/President elect after Jed Dertinger passed away;

- As president in 2015/16, he guided OSURA in its many meetings with the OSU Alumni Association in transitioning from OSU’s Office of Human Resources;

- As a member of the Benefits Committee, he has represented OSURA to the State Teachers Retirement System for a number of years. His reports, which appear in the newsletter, are significant sources of reliable information about the status of STRS and our retirement benefits;

- Jerry serves as chair of the Finance Committee and monitors the status of our budget and financial resources;

- As a member of the Membership Committee, Jerry compiles the monthly statistics that track how many members we have;

- Finally, Jerry takes an active role in the Social Committee in planning lunch bunches and special events and in organizing the annual conferences in the fall.

Everyone who has met Gerald Newsom can agree that Jerry is always friendly, interested, and helpful. The committee is delighted to honor him and his service with OSURA’s Outstanding Service Award of 2020.

– Raimund E. Goerler
Chair of Outstanding Service Award Committee
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**In Memoriam**

- **Charles Edward Angus**
  August 2 | Maintenance, 76

- **Robert Bason**
  July 29 | Preventative Medicine, 85

- **Larry J. Black**
  July 26 | Athletics, 75

- **Bruce Cordell Casto**
  July 18 | Public Health, 86

- **Christine Mae Cook**
  July 12 | OSU Extension-Marion Co, 102

- **Myla F. Cullen**
  August 3 | Student Housing, 93

- **Dominic DiGiacomo, Jr.**
  July 22 | Dentistry, 91

- **Jenny (Anna) Thomas Forman**
  July 28 | 94

- **Margaret Inez Green**
  July 23 | OSU Extension-Summit Co, 84

- **Robert George Heuser**
  July 17 | Medicine, 84

- **Robert E. Hoskey Jr.**
  August 2 | 84

- **Cathy Sue Hoyt**
  July 11 | OSU Medical Center, 67

- **John S. Hsia**
  July 22 | Mathematics and OSURA, 81

- **Theodore "Ted" R. Huter**
  July 22 | Dentistry, 86

- **Timothy W. Kahri**
  August 5 | English-Mansfield Campus, 82

- **Richard Kocher**
  July 27 | Athletics, 82

- **Melvin Keith Krill**
  July 24 | OSU Extension and OSURA, 89

- **Don McVay**
  July 30 | Athletics, 92

- **W. Raymond “Ray” Mills**
  July 23 | City and Regional Planning, 94

- **Jana R. Murphy**
  July 23 | OSU Library, 62

- **Dennis A. Parker**
  July 30 | Theatre, 78

- **Abdul Rahaman, Jr.**
  July 29 | 80

- **William F. Saam**
  July 18 | Physics, 78

- **Berlie Louis Schmidt**
  August 3 | Agronomy, 87

- **Irene Metersky Vertikoff**
  July 16 | OSU Library, 88

- **Janine Haloostock Vivien**
  July 26 | French, 84

- **Ann Stoneman Vorys**
  July 26 | Medicine, 65

- **William Rae Wallace**
  July 15 | Dentistry, 87

- **Marcile "Marcy" Woelfel**
  August 3 | International Education and OSURA, 93
The 2020 OSURA Annual Meeting was held virtually, August 7. It was well planned and presented – a real success. Jerry Dare and Meg Teaford led us, Marie Taris presented the revised By-Laws and Joe Blundo was wonderful, sharing his special perspectives on Columbus. The Annual Report was presented – and is expected to be available on the website soon.

The Lunch Bunch had a special zoom meeting. They discussed future meetings!