Well-Prepared in So Many Ways

By Nancy Wardwell

What do you know about lacrosse? It is the oldest organized sport in North America. It was a tribal game played by the indigenous people in the Eastern Woodlands. Players still use the head of a stick to carry, catch, pass, and shoot a nasty little hard ball past defenders into a very small net, and a player just may run up to 7 miles during a match!

As you might expect, the women’s game differs a bit from that of the men. There is to be no physical contact – and the only protective equipment is a mouth guard and an eye-guard. Their sticks may not have a pocket or loose net – a fact that is officially checked before each game!

Our new president played lacrosse during her undergraduate days at Stanford. It seems that lacrosse is intentionally difficult, the rules are unique to the game, and played at full speed with few real protections!

These seem most appropriate in the preparation for presiding over the third largest public university during an unprecedented time.

Kristina M. Johnson, PhD was appointed the 16th President of The Ohio State University and was to begin her tenure September 1, 2020 but she had to hit the ground running in August. Dealing with her first Campus Move-In was complicated by the complexities of bringing the campus back to life after months of the COVID 19 pandemic. Added to the ongoing issues of academics, research, and our world-class medical center was what was really on the minds of the Buckeye Faithful – FOOTBALL!

Dr. Johnson earned her BS, MS, and PhD in electrical engineering at Stanford University. In her more than 30 years of experience and leadership in academe and business, she has published more than 150 refereed papers and proceedings and she holds more than 100 U.S. and international patents. She founded and served as CEO of several successful science and technology companies, served as undersecretary of energy at the U.S. Department of Energy, and has held academic leadership positions at institutions such as Johns Hopkins University, Duke University, and the University of Colorado at Boulder.

Immediately before coming to Ohio State, Dr. Johnson served as Chancellor of the vast SUNY system, comprised of 64 public colleges and universities, including four health centers and five hospitals, and a DOE Lab. An interesting Ohio State connection is that Dr. Johnson followed, as Chancellor of SUNY, Ohioan Dr. Nancy Zimpher, one-time Dean of OSU College of Education, also a highly respected academic leader.

Welcome, Dr. Johnson, from the retirees of The Ohio State University. We feel like we have helped make this institution great and we wish you the very best!

For details of Dr. Johnson’s rich career, go to “About the President” online, from the Office of the President.
Responding to current events, your OSURA Board appointed a group to examine our practices and develop a statement clarifying our position on Racism. The committee included Gabby Reissland, Shirley Flowers, Raimund Goerler, Marjorie Ward, and Jerry Dare.

In its meeting September 14, 2020 the OSURA Board unanimously accepted the following:

**OSURA’S STATEMENT ON DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION**

We are part of a society where the lives of Black, Indigenous, and other People of Color continue to be devastated by structural racism, lack of opportunity, health disparities, and direct violence. The differential valuing of life, achievements, opportunities and the concealing of intellectual and cultural contributions of anyone or any group of people is manifestly unjust. We strive to end discrimination experienced by marginalized people. In alignment with our mission to enrich the lives of our members and benefit the university and the greater community, we need to commit to be accountable for our actions, words, and deeds and examine our own practices that lead to and maintain racial and other forms of inequity.

OSURA believes that this is not the time to be complacent or complicit. We must be thoughtful about our influence not only in our own local community but through our members throughout the country and world. We need to review our collective practices, policies, presentations and actions and become the catalyst for change to expand opportunities for growth, leadership, and power in an inclusive supportive and safe environment. Within our framework, we need to make a conscious effort to educate our members and raise their awareness in the hopes of removing the barriers. People of Color face and address these issues with sustained action. As such, with deliberate intentions, we commit to take actions that promote diversity and inclusion in all that we do.

The following are recommended actions:

- **Anti-racism should be infused in all that we do.** Engage membership with opportunities to learn by infusing anti-racism initiatives in what we do:
  - Newsletter articles with specific guests featuring trending topics
  - Guest lecturers
  - Special events and trips
  - Book club
  - Photos
  - Recruitment
  - Dinner series
  - Lunch bunch
  - Tertulia breakfast

- **Our Board will have diverse representation and promote opportunities for People of Color for them to serve.** Build initiatives to encourage a more inclusive membership pool, therefore increasing the opportunity for a diverse Board.

- **In an effort to share OSURA values, we will collaborate with the university-wide taskforce on racism and racial inequities to seek opportunities to share our strengths and expertise that advance social justice and address racial inequality.**

OSURA is committed to be a part of the solution. We are continuing our efforts to become a better organization. As part of an intellectual community committed to learning and seeking truth, we must reflect on our own failures and address inequities, and know we must do better. Together, we will help make the difference we want to see in the world.
## Welcome New Retirees

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Department/Unit</th>
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<tr>
<td>Glenna Louise Bartram</td>
<td>Ross Heart Hospital</td>
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<td>James Casey Battista</td>
<td>University Hospitals</td>
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<td>Perry Lee Beidleman</td>
<td>Facilities Operations</td>
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<td>Richard Bisciotti</td>
<td>SL Bldg &amp; Mech Services</td>
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<td>Vanessa Darlene Bolyard</td>
<td>Dentistry General Operations</td>
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<td>Dennis Michael Carlson</td>
<td>Harding Hospital</td>
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<td>Cynthia J. Chabot</td>
<td>Geography</td>
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<td>Peter Smith Curtis</td>
<td>School of Earth Sciences</td>
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<td>Matthew J. Deaterla</td>
<td>Cancer Hosp &amp; Research Inst</td>
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<td>Ron Emoff</td>
<td>Anthropology</td>
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<td>Anita Marie Gibson</td>
<td>EHE Teaching &amp; Learning</td>
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<td>Scott J. Hines</td>
<td>CAPS</td>
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<td>Mark Carlton Huff</td>
<td>SL Bldg &amp; Mech Services</td>
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<td>Nancy P. Jevnikar</td>
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<td>Raymond Eugene Johnson</td>
<td>Shared Services</td>
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<td>Kenneth David Knapp</td>
<td>Mansfield Campus</td>
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<td>Kenneth Joseph Kulka</td>
<td>OCIO Operations</td>
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<td>Ozzie Leon</td>
<td>Surgery</td>
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<td>Rory Lewandowski</td>
<td>OSUE County Operations</td>
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<td>Donna Jean Lewis</td>
<td>Budget &amp; Planning</td>
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<td>Jerry L. Lewis</td>
<td>Stu Life Environmental Svcs</td>
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<td>Jacques Stephen Logan</td>
<td>Strategic Enrollment Planning</td>
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<td>Jacquelyn S. McClure</td>
<td>FCOB Mgmt Sciences</td>
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<td>Karen Beth McDougall</td>
<td>OSUE County Operations</td>
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<td>Leonard Robert Mehman</td>
<td>Facilities Operations</td>
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<td>John Charles Mumaw</td>
<td>University Libraries</td>
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<td>Gerald Rae Notsthine</td>
<td>Mansfield Campus</td>
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<td>Alexander Tio Pobi</td>
<td>Chief Information Officer</td>
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<td>Patricia Ann Purtee</td>
<td>Design Construction</td>
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<td>Deborah Anne Rudy</td>
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<td>Robert Hugh Sorton</td>
<td>School of Music</td>
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<td>James T. Todd</td>
<td>Adv Computing Ctr/Art &amp; Des</td>
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<td>Elizabeth Anne Wigle</td>
<td>Ross Heart Hospital</td>
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<td>Sandra Jean Workmaster</td>
<td>Optometry</td>
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<td>Shane Zornes</td>
<td>University Hospitals East</td>
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**The Ohio State University Alumni Association proudly recognizes OSURA As an Outstanding Alumni Society 2020**

Given in recognition for achieving Scarlet Level.
**COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

**October 6 – VIRTUAL**
**Benefits Committee**
Time: 9:30 a.m.

**October 13 – VIRTUAL**
**Board Meeting**
Time: 9:30 a.m.

**MONTHLY ACTIVITIES**

**October 8 (Thursday)**
**Photo Society – VIRTUAL**
Program: The Best Camera is the One You Have with You: Demystifying Smartphone Photography presented by Daniel Claman
Members’ Theme: Three smartphone images you wish were better.
Time/Place: 7 p.m. via ZOOM
Arranger: Nancy Verber (Photographic Society SIG)

**October 17 (Saturday)**
**Walking/Hiking Group**
Challenge Level 2-4
We’ll welcome Fall at Inniswood Metro Gardens. Wear a mask and join us.
Time/Place: 11 a.m., Inniswood Metro Gardens, 940 South Hempstead Road, Westerville
Arranger: Hallan Noltimier (Walking/Hiking SIG)

**Book Club**
Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the Book Club will again stage a virtual “You Are There” meeting about *The Secrets We Kept* by Lara Prescott. Famously banned and smuggled out of the USSR for publication in the West, Boris Pasternak’s *Dr. Zhivago* revealed the ugly truths of life under Communism. Prescott’s book, highly fictionalized, reimagines a CIA typing pool (before computers) copying it to smuggle it out. A case of “hacking” by “onion skins”!
Arranger: Lee Hill (Book Club SIG)

**SPECIAL EVENTS**

**Annual OSURA Fall Conference VIRTUAL**
October 7 and October 14

**October 24 (Saturday)**
**Health & Wellness: Lecture Series – VIRTUAL**
REGISTRATION REQUIRED
Title: *Myths and Misconceptions about Oral Health of Seniors*; presented by Patrick M. Lloyd, DDS, MS; Dean and Professor in the College of Dentistry
Time: Lecture begins at 9 a.m.
Registration: Register at osura.osu.edu or call 614-292-2281 in time to receive link.
Arrangers: Rod Tomczak and Meg Teaford

**October 29 (Thursday)**
**Lunch Bunch – VIRTUAL**
Zoom in to another Lunch Bunch meeting with a Halloween theme. Wear a costume if you wish and be prepared for trick and treat. There may be a couple of fun tricks and the treat will be a talk by Steven D’Ambrosio about his trip to Africa where he was up close and personal with the huge silverback gorillas of Rwanda. Be watching for more information and the invitation online.
Time: 11:30 a.m.
Contact Person: Elenore R. Zeller (Social Committee)

**November 21 (Saturday)**
**Health & Wellness: Lecture Series – VIRTUAL**
REGISTRATION REQUIRED
Title: *The Power of Pets* presented by Dean Rustin Moore from the OSU College of Veterinary Medicine
Time: TBA
Registration: Register at osura.osu.edu or call 614-292-2281 in time to receive link.
Arrangers: Rod Tomczak and Meg Teaford

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**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.

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**Stay Involved**

Want to receive notices and reminders of OSURA LIVE or VIRTUAL programs being offered by the lunch bunch and the dinner series, or events being offered by the travel and cultural committee?

Then subscribe to OSURA Listservs by sending an e-mail message to Rai Goerler (goerler.1@osu.edu).
OSURA Fall Conference

Coming To A Theater Near You
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.

11:00 a.m. LIVE Healthcare and Benefit – 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:

• 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.”

• 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.

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.

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.

FEATURED RECORDINGS FOR THIS DATE:

• Preventing and Curing Cancer—You’ve Had It In You All This Time: Kevin Weller, Associate Director, Immune Monitoring & Discovery Platform (IMDP), 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.

• 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.

REGISTRATION IS STILL OPEN
Go to osura.alumni.osu.edu or call 614-292-2281 to register.

Contact us for a FREE no obligation, 1 hr. consultation!
614-204-0683
www.transitioningthroughlife.com
info@transitioningthroughlife.com
OSURA News

FROM: The Benefits Committee

STRS News

Many OSURA members recently received a letter from a group claiming to work to defend defined benefits pension plans, such as STRS. The OSURA Board considered this group three years ago and approved the statement, “The OSURA Board does not recognize POP-5.”

The year-to-date total return on STRS investments was down about 10% in the third week of March, but the stock market had a “remarkable” recovery, the fastest of a bear market in history. STRS ended the fiscal year with a total return of +3.14%, well below the 7.45% the Board expects each year but much better than anyone anticipated in March. The recovery added $10 billion to STRS assets from the March low.

Considering how STRS investment returns generally are well above average, one member of the STRS Board has suggested allowing private employers and individuals (stay-at-home parents, community volunteers, family caregivers, etc.) to set up retirement accounts with STRS. It would allow investment overhead, already fairly low, to drop further as the amount of assets increased. If the suggestion ever gets much traction, expect companies selling 401(k) and IRA plans to oppose the idea of such competition.

The coronavirus pandemic affects STRS finances in four ways: 1) increased mortality (especially among retirees), 2) more retirements, 3) less payroll growth among teachers, and 4) investment returns. The first two are expected to have a very small effect on STRS. Payroll growth is expected to slow among the higher ed community as more teaching goes online. The main uncertainty that COVID-19 has on STRS is likely to be investment returns. The assumed 7.45% looks optimistic at this point, but consultants will report more to the Board in September.

STRS staff would like the funded ratio (the ratio of assets plus income these assets are expected to generate divided by promised benefits) to be at least 100%, and the funding period (how long it will be until the funded ratio reaches 100%) be zero years. Like most public pension funds, they are well below those goals. Both numbers depend strongly on investment returns and if the Board reduces the assumed rate of return, both numbers would get worse. The funded ratio and funding period are considerably better now than they were a few years ago, but I’d be surprised if a traditional COLA were resumed in the next couple of years.

Legislative News

Although the recession hurt pension funds in general, the biggest threat to their financial well-being continues to be governments not making their required contributions (not a problem in Ohio). A few local governments are resorting to unorthodox methods to make their pension payments and avoid steep penalties. The cost of interest on municipal bonds is well below penalties for late payment to some pension funds, so some localities are using the sale of bonds to raise money to pay overdue pension payments.

A less important factor for most public pension plans is weak payroll growth across all sectors of public employment; as of August, 1.2 million state and local government jobs had been cut and Moody’s Analytics researchers estimate that, without more federal help, 2.8 million more jobs would be lost. The drop in state revenues that triggered the layoffs ranged from a low of 4% as a percentage of state revenue (Iowa) to a high of 33.1% (Alaska, with loss of revenue from taxes on oil extraction). Ohio stood at 12.4%.

In Memoriam

Mary June Creek
August 28 | University Hospitals East, 84

Marilyn Miller
August 22 | OSU Library, 71

Martha Peck
August 16 | Athletics, 76

Marsha Graham Shortland
April 11 | School of Nursing, 70

Charles Stock
August 6 | Ag Tech, 80

Nicholas J. Teteris
August 31 | OSU Medical Center, 91

Mary T. Thompson
July 31 | OSU Medical Center, 91

Lauren Werling
August 11 | Art Department, 75

Vera Martha Wutz
June 5 | OSU Library, 96

By Jerry Newsom

Legislative News

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MEMBER SPOTLIGHT:
Steve Miller

Although I was born in the state up north, my parents wisely moved to Ohio when I was one. When I was around 5 or 6 years old, my grandfather took my brother and me to Briggs (Tiger) Stadium. We got there early enough to see batting practice. As Kaline was coming in, I shouted “Hi, Al!” He called back “Hiya, Kid!” I’ll never forget it.

Despite living in the Grafton area through the fourth grade, I consider Fostoria as my hometown. While I was never big enough to play high school sports, I like to think I was a terror on the sandlots. My baseball glove was a fixture on my handlebars. And I was fast, as in really fast, in touch football. We had only two seasons, baseball and football. In high school I did the usual things: president of student council, choir, National Honor Society, and so on. Likely the most important thing was the debate team, and we had a good one.

I graduated from Bowling Green State University with a Bachelor of Liberal Studies (double major in economics and political science) and a B.S.Ed. in social studies education. A few significant things there:
• Debate team, and we had a good one
• BGSU student government
• I married Coleen

We taught school on Cleveland’s west side suburbs before heading for Columbus.

I came to OSU as a graduate student in social studies education in 1975. During my doctoral program, my other areas of concentration were economics and research design and statistics. My adviser was the great Bob Jewett, with my mentor Gene Gilliom and Don Anderson on my dissertation committee.

It happened that as I was nearing the end of my Ph.D. program, the College of Education was opening the Center for Economic Education. I became the founding director in 1978. During my 15-year service as director I also joined the social studies faculty.

My OSU career was deeply involved in economic education and global education, an area of study and teaching of which Gene Gilliom is considered a creator. I began teaching in international civic and economic education programs with the Education for Democratic Citizenship in Poland program (1990-5) and continued with projects in Lithuania and Bulgaria from 1993-5. I was one of the American faculty in the Council on Economic Education’s premier Training of Trainers program (from 1996 to its conclusion in 2011) and served for seven years as its chief pedagogue. In all, I taught or conducted 63 programs in 23 countries.

On one of our trips, I and my American colleagues were followed by the KGB in Minsk in 2003. Yes, Lukashenko was president then and always has been. Belarus is the only former Soviet republic that didn’t have the decency to change KGB to something else, like FSB!

I retired in the spring of 2009. We like to travel, usually with friends of ours. Within the US, I guess I would really recommend the five national parks in Utah. And do not miss Antelope Canyon, Dead Horse Point, Goblin Valley, and (while you’re in the area) Monument Valley. I also play at golf and a little bridge. Buckeye sports, of course. I enjoy reading, but somehow don’t find the time as much as I thought I would. As with most of us, I like a meal with friends—for example, a weekly lunch with some retired Education faculty.

Most important is serving as Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA), volunteer guardian ad litem. It is fulfilling, vital, and important work. (Shameless plug: please go to the CASA of Franklin County site and then consider volunteering.)

In the current pandemic, our experience during the lockdown period was different, and likely better, than for most. My daughter and son-in-law tried working from home in Chicago watching Simon (then, soon to be three) when their daycare closed. That did not work. So, they headed for home... Westerville (they are North grads). Coleen and I got grand-teacher duties for seven weeks. Exhausting, but wonderful, and never would have happened without the disease.

Otherwise, we have substituted lesser alternatives. We miss seeing friends at the gym but have some weights at home and walk every day. One lunch group connects weekly via Zoom. C and I have Friday evening bourbon with friends using Duo. Our homeowner association book club meets outdoors (BYOB), respecting social distancing. Luminar 4 is a piece of software that would horrify the OSURA photography group, but I have started using it to clean up some of my pictures that I didn’t have either the time or expertise to tackle before. Cut cable; get Roku, Netflix, and YouTube TV.

OSURA has been important for enjoying retirement. I had no idea when I retired that there was such a dynamic organization serving retired OSU staff and faculty. I identified at least three important aspects of our organization. The first is the most evident: providing a wonderful array of activities for our members, some of which are things that we might otherwise never consider or might not even be able to accomplish. I have in mind the tour of Franklinton. Another aspect is the opportunity to continue to serve others. All of us did that in some sense in our respective jobs at the University, and some of us continue to fill that void with other organizations. But for some, OSURA provides the chance to scratch the itch of wanting to help. For me, that is the role as convener of the bridge group. Not a big deal (heh, heh), but someone must do it. Number three, fellowship is inherent in the first two, and perhaps the major reason we are members.
Welcome NEW RETIREES

Beverly A. Cochran
Christopher M. Culley
Carol R. DeLong
Lloyd Stanley Durkin
Stephen S. Fink
Donna Green
Julie B. Hall
Jacqueline S. Hartzell
Cherie L. Kipp
David A. Lincove
Nancy J. Miller
Corso Padova
Jodi M. Pilatowski
Diana W. Pollock
Patricia H. Randolph
Rita A. Rosselet
Debra S. Stewart
Mary L. Treon
John D. Wanzer
Jeffrey E. Weiland

To Your Health

Get Your Flu Shots!

From the CDC:

Getting a flu vaccine is more important than ever during 2020-2021 to protect yourself and the people around you from flu, and to help reduce the strain on the healthcare systems responding to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Get Your Flu Vaccine Today!