Thanks – Giving

By Nancy Wardwell

Because of the pandemic, we have just celebrated a most unusual Thanksgiving Day! It has been 399 years since that first thanksgiving feast in the “New World.” In 1621, after a brutal winter, thanks to the wisdom and generosity of the Native Americans, the colonists had a much needed, successful harvest. Their Governor organized a celebratory feast and invited their Native American allies. Thereafter, it became a regular affair in New England. In 1789 George Washington declared Thanksgiving to be the first national holiday.

The date varied until 1939 when FDR signed a proclamation that the holiday would thereafter be held the 4th Thursday of every November.

In 2020 we have been through a particularly brutal pandemic – and we are still battling to protect ourselves and our neighbors, while we await a vaccine. Compared to many others, Ohio State retirees have weathered the storm quite well. Thanks to the benefits negotiated many years ago, we have enjoyed a steady income, good healthcare and insurance.

That realization has had a profound effect on my household and many others. This has been a real Thanksgiving – and a thanks – Giving!

OSURA members have always been generous with the Bucks for Charity campaign, and they will happily accept retiree contributions to any of the many local agencies. The list of agencies where we can help is amazing – check through the booklet!

“Food Insecurity” has become a reality in our community, and more students than ever have been affected. OSURA continues to develop an Endowment (#316596 ) and many are also contributing directly to Buckeye Food Alliance, 1800 Cannon Drive, (614) 688-2508.

We found another safe, satisfying project an individual can do to help dispel the sense of isolation and loneliness and actually help our neighbors! The numbers of homeless in our community have grown dramatically during the pandemic. Many communities of faith and others coordinate programs in which people pack simple bag lunches in their homes, then take them to a collection site. The lunches are then distributed to the homeless and others in need of some good, simple food.

Go online – try “bag lunches for homeless – Columbus” for ideas.

There have been some good things these last months – among them are that we see our neighbors more often because families are out walking – we have conquered electronic devices we thought we’d never want or need – and we have found the pleasure of sending notes and cards and calling family and old friends.

It seems that there is a light at the end of this awful tunnel. May the sense of generosity and care for our neighbors never leave us.

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FROM: The President

Dear Friends:

The pandemic has been imposing upon us since March. 2020 will be a year that many of you will have stories to relate to your children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. You can only do that if you stay SAFE. This isn’t the time to meet and greet new friends or enemies. OSURA has taken this opportunity to find a cause that we can all find reason to support. OSURA created an endowment that would assist students, who are on the edge of survival, defeat hunger.

The Fund is called the Buckeye Food Alliance. Please find ways to assist in this worthy cause.

Be SAFE – stay well and give.

Jerry Dare
President of OSURA

Membership Renewal Drive Nears Completion

Rejoin as an Annual Member to keep in touch with fellow Buckeyes through the OSURA Newsletter and other creative programming, whether online or in person. Renew by December 31 to keep the door open to numerous social, cultural and education sessions.

Dues (paid as a donation to the OSURA Membership Support Fund #315499) are still only $25. Easy payment options include:

- Go to OSURA.osu.edu and hit “Renew your membership” to make your $25 annual donation to Fund #315499 via credit card.
- Give Engagement Services your credit card information at (614) 292-2281 or (800) 762-5646. Tell them it is for Fund #315499.
- Send checks payable to The Ohio State University Foundation to 1480 W. Lane Ave., Columbus, OH 43221 (note OSURA Fund #315499 in the memo line).

If you have questions, email osuramembership@gmail.com or call Sandy Bell, Membership Co-Chair, at 740-625-9716.
Welcome New Retirees

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Organization/Department</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jacquelyn W. R. Bailey</td>
<td>OSUE County Operations</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vijay M. Bhatt</td>
<td>Financial Services Admin</td>
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<tr>
<td>Anson Curtis Carpenter</td>
<td>FAES IT</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lisa J. Chiong</td>
<td>University Libraries</td>
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<td>Marissa Dawn Christoff-Snyder</td>
<td>Lima Campus</td>
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<td>Cynthia Lynn Coles</td>
<td>Internal Medicine</td>
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<td>Timothy James Cooper</td>
<td>University Police</td>
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<tr>
<td>Victoria L. Cordonnier</td>
<td>OSUE County Operations</td>
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<tr>
<td>Steven R. Davidson</td>
<td>Environmental Health &amp; Safety</td>
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<td>Barbara M. Eastman</td>
<td>University Hospitals</td>
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<td>Laurie Eileen Erickson</td>
<td>Shared Services</td>
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<td>Kelli Leann Fox</td>
<td>University Hospitals</td>
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<td>Donald Scott Gibb</td>
<td>Eng Technology Services</td>
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<td>Lisa Marie Gibson</td>
<td>OSUE County Operations</td>
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<td>Douglas Ellison Graf</td>
<td>Knowlton Schl of Architecture</td>
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<td>Abby Marjory Haggard</td>
<td>Ross Heart Hospital</td>
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<td>Sarah Ann Hoffman</td>
<td>Cancer Hosp &amp; Research Inst</td>
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<td>Jerome Matthew Iles</td>
<td>OSUE County Operations</td>
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<td>Pablo Samuel Jourdan</td>
<td>Horticultural &amp; Crop Sciences</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mary Catherine Maloney</td>
<td>Horticultural &amp; Crop Sciences</td>
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<td>Brenda J. McComb</td>
<td>Ross Heart Hospital</td>
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<td>James Dean Miller</td>
<td>University Development</td>
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<td>Janice Marie Ramsdell</td>
<td>Cancer Hosp &amp; Research Inst</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vickie Sue Ritchey</td>
<td>Cancer Hosp &amp; Research Inst</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nora K. Ross</td>
<td>Athletics</td>
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<tr>
<td>Yvonne Satterwhite</td>
<td>University Hospitals</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cindy Lea Styer</td>
<td>OSUE County Operations</td>
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Members Urged to Give to Bucks for Charity

By David Crawford

As of mid-November, OSURA members have contributed $52,465 toward the University's annual Bucks for Charity drive. This is truly a significant amount when one considers the challenges we face due to the pandemic and lack this year of a full-scale fundraising drive. The University is very appreciative for the support from OSURA members.

OSURA members can still donate to Bucks for Charity and help achieve our goal of $57,720. If you received a Bucks for Charity pledge form last month in the mail please consider returning the form before the end of the year. If you did not receive a form, request one by emailing bucksforcharity@osu.edu or calling 614-292-9924.

The need for services by non-profits supported by Bucks for Charity has not diminished, but most likely grown due to clients grappling with this public health crisis. Donations are vitally needed.

To encourage more charitable giving in 2020 among individuals, and to help charitable organizations recover from the economic impact of the pandemic, the CARES Act provides additional tax relief for donors on their 2020 tax return.

Hunger at OSU Continues During Pandemic

By Meg Teaford

In 2019, OSURA created an endowment fund to help eliminate food insecurity among OSU students. This fund is OSURA's gift to the University community to celebrate the University's 150th anniversary.

The Buckeye Food Alliance, OSU's student food pantry, has continued to operate during the spring shutdown and now through the autumn semester. Nick Fowler, the student services coordinator, reports that the demand for assistance has increased especially this fall. It has recently jumped about three-fold in part due to cutbacks in traditional student on-campus and off-campus employment. The pantry is open four days a week at staggered hours in Lincoln Tower (the St. Stephens Church site is closed because the church has not been open).

In December, OSURA is making a big push to increase the endowment fund in order to support the Buckeye Food Alliance. Tax deductible contributions may be made to Fund # 316596 by calling (614) 292-2141.
Calendar of Events

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

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

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

MONTHLY ACTIVITIES

December 14 (Monday)
Holiday Cheer – VIRTUAL
Zoom into a day filled with holiday cheer where there will be plenty of fun and surprises. Watch for more information and the invitation online.
Time: 11:30 a.m.
Contact Person: Elenore R. Zeller (Social Committee)

December 19 (Saturday)
Walking/Hiking Group
Challenge Level 2-4
Weather permitting, we will meet at the Nature Center and walk the trails at Highbanks. Wear a mask and join us.
Time/Place: 10:30 a.m., Highbanks Metro Park, 9466 Columbus Pike, Lewis Center
Arranger: Hallan Noltimier (Walking/Hiking SIG)

Photo Society
We will not meet in December.
Arranger: Nancy Verber (Photographic Society SIG)

Book Club
We will not meet in December. Our January book is *The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek* by Kim Michele Richardson. It tells of Eleanor Roosevelt's W.P.A. program that hired female traveling librarians to bring the outside world via books to the Kentucky "hollers" during the Depression. The travel to mountainous isolated settlements was the least of the problems they faced. The rampant prejudices they faced were more. Cuss Mary Carter succeeded—this book describes how she did.
Arranger: Lee Hill (Book Club SIG)

SPECIAL EVENTS

2021

January 29 (Friday)
2020 Income Tax Seminar – VIRTUAL
Truepoint Wealth Counsel of Cincinnati will discuss Federal and State income tax issues for 2020. Registration is required to receive link to the OSUAA sponsored webinar.
Time/Place: 1 – 2 p.m
Arranger: Hallan Noltimier (Benefits Committee)

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.
Your personal Central Park awaits...
Friendship Village near Westerville is a beautiful, 23-acre campus off the beaten path.

You’re invited to attend free events and receive gifts!

What Is Life Care & Why Should I Care?
10am • Thursday, December 10

Friendship Village Flavors
10am • Tuesday, December 15

Holiday Tour & Treats
December 3–15

RSVP and learn about our nonprofit Life Care community at ExploreFriendshipVillage.org or (614) 924-9904.

Upcoming... Columbus Metropolitan Club LIVESTREAM FORUMS at Noon on Wednesdays

December 2 – Built Environments Embrace Green Space, Harrison "Bill" Smith Legacy Forum Featuring Tim Moloney, Executive Director, Metro Parks and host Amy Taylor, COO, Columbus Downtown Development Corporation, additional panelists to be announced.

Save the Date for:
December 9 – Robot Revolution with Mark Kvamme; additional panelists to be announced
December 16 – Can’t Stop Columbus with Jordan Davis; additional panelists to be announced
January 6, 2021 – Annual Blue Chip Forum; panelists to be announced
January 13 – Digital Divide; panelists to be announced
February 10 – The Ohio State University President, Kristina Johnson

Questions?
Contact Montra Moody, CMC Director of Events for help registering: montra@columbusmetroclub.org
In Memoriam

Donna Bandy  
October 12  |  Dental School, 82

Emily Jean (Rhodes) Barger  
October 4  |  OSU Library, 88

William Brown  
October 11  |  Communications, 91

Narilyn Cohen  
October 29  |  OSUMC, 84

Richard L. Francis  
October 4  |  Industrial and System Engineering, 82

Robert Hamood  
October 18  |  OSU Lima – Marketing, 87

James L. Hartzler  
October 7  |  Social and Economic Geography, 74

James G. Helgeson  
July 11  |  Military History, 83

Robert Lewis Livitin  
October 6  |  Student Health Center, 80

John Meadors  
October 5  |  Electrical Engineering, 82

Charles V. Meckstroth  
October 11  |  OSUMC, 96

Christy Nereen  
October 15  |  OSUMC, 71

Betty O’Farrell  
October 21  |  Print Center, 91

Joan Smith  
October 4  |  Education, 98

Charles W. Solt  
October 7  |  Dental School, 85

Anthony R. Volpe  
October 8  |  Dentistry, 87

Lawrence W. Walquist  
October 5  |  Landscape Architecture, 91

A Reminder Not to Share Medicare Numbers

By Meg Teaford

Mid-October through early December are the months for Medicare plan renewals and thus you may be receiving phone calls encouraging you to change your coverage or plans. Unfortunately, this is also a time to be wary of Medicare scams. If you receive a phone call from someone who claims to be from Medicare, remember that Medicare will never ask you for your Medicare number over the phone. Do not give out this information because it can be used improperly by others for health care services and prescriptions.

If you do happen to give out the information, Medicare has a hot line that you can use to report suspicious phone calls and charges on your monthly statement. The number is 1-800-633-4227. Those on Medicare Advantage Plans should call 1-877-772-3379.

Here is the information you should have when you call and report fraud:

✓ Your name and Medicare Number
✓ The provider’s name and any identifying information you may have
✓ The service or item you’re questioning and when it was supposedly given or delivered
✓ The payment amount approved and paid by Medicare
✓ The date on your Medicare Summary Notice or claim

The OSURA Fall Conference Planning Committee is looking forward to the 2021 Conference!

THE DATE IS SET: SEPTEMBER 22

If you are interested in joining this dynamic group, contact: Sally Dellinger (dellinger.1@osu.edu)

The entire 2020 Conference is available on the OSURA website by selecting “View All News”

osura.osu.edu
MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: Paula G. Hook

After 23 years of service in five counties in the Indiana Extension Service, Paula moved to The Ohio State University in 1989 to pursue another degree. She worked part-time as a graduate assistant as well as several full-time efforts in four different colleges across campus.

Paula grew up in an Indianapolis suburb, earned a B.S. degree at Ball State and an M.S. at the University of St. Francis in Ft. Wayne, both degrees in Home Economics Education. In 1976, she also earned a private pilot’s license and later flew in several air races.

Retiring in 2007, as an academic advisor in Exploration (Academic Services), Paula has enjoyed leadership roles in many groups, traveling, reading for two book groups, sewing and doing various crafts, coloring with two groups, attending music concerts and museum exhibits and community theaters. In her spare time, she does pet and house sitting.

Paula admits to being detail oriented, which comes in handy when one serves as treasurer of many professional and local groups. She also has written several sets of by-laws.

After her OSU retirement, she joined OSURA immediately and attended various day tours, a few meetings of the craft group, conferences, and anniversary celebrations. Paula reads for the book group and checks in members when they attend any Social Committee events.

Since Paula likes to GO, she has had to develop special coping strategies during this pandemic. She attends weekly doctor appointments, picks up meals at drive-throughs or eats at open diners every two or three days. Early in the process her car was alone on the streets, but at least she was OUT. She has assembled four picture puzzles, has worked many Sudoku puzzles, has finished some reading, and colored pictures. Luckily there is no annoying computer and the phone goes unanswered (mainly fund-raising). The quiet is bliss. Only a tiny bit of cleaning and recycling has been accomplished – maybe later.

Due to her need to GO, some of her staff used to call her the “Blond Gypsy.”

Paula considers her participation with OSURA as part of her lifelong learning efforts. She has reconnected with many campus friends as well as developing new friendships. Paula thanks OSURA for celebrating another birthday month with this article.

FROM: The Benefits Committee

STRS News

The September STRS Board meeting was the annual investment seminar, postponed from last March due to the pandemic. STRS assumes a rate of return on investments of 7.45%, which was about average for public pension funds a few years ago but now is above average, as pension funds across the country are lowering their expected returns. For STRS to try to achieve 7.45%, managers are forced to take more risk (i.e., put more investments in the stock market). If the board lowers the expected return to bring it more in line with peers, the decreased expected future income from investment (which is the largest source of income to pay pensions) will make the finances of the pension fund look worse. Luckily the sharp drop in the stock market last March was quickly reversed, but until the finances of the STRS pension fund improve significantly, it is hard to see STRS returning to the COLAs we used to achieve. Retirees participating in the STRS health care should receive a $250 rebate in their December pension payments, thanks to recent lower utilization of health care. Two Board members (Bob Stein and Rita Walter) elected by retirees see their terms end next summer and both plan to seek re-election this coming spring.

Legislative News

Since 2009, 40 states increased the required employee contributions to their public pension systems. A few states have started requiring employees to pay at least half of the cost of what consultants calculate would be needed to pay for the expected pension. A growing number of public employees now participate in plans combining parts of defined benefit and defined contribution plans, which transfers some of the risk to employees. Back when government bonds were paying over 8% interest, pension systems could easily invest their money safely with confidence the return would be plenty to meet pension obligations, but those days seem long gone.

Public pension fund assets in the U.S. reached $4.65 trillion at the end of June 2020, an all-time quarterly high and up 4.0% from a year earlier.
Program 60 is a noncredit, non-degree program that allows Ohioans age 60 and older to take Ohio State courses on a space-available basis, with instructor permission.

Connect with the university community and explore your interests at the undergraduate or graduate level.

Online Information Session  
December 15, 2020

First-time Participant Registration  
December 1, 2020 - January 4, 2021

Spring 2021 Enrollment  
December 21, 2020 - January 22, 2021

Eligibility Requirements

• Ohio resident for one calendar year or more
• Age 60 or older during the term for which you register and enroll

OSURA HEALTH AND WELLNESS EVENT

By Meg Teaford

Dr. Patrick Lloyd, dean of the OSU College of Dentistry, presented information on the MYTHS AND MISCONCEPTIONS OF ORAL HEALTH of seniors in an OSURA webinar on October 24, 2020. The five myths were:

1. Dry mouth is expected as we age.

2. There is less reason to focus on healthy teeth as we age.

3. The use of fluoride in preventing tooth decay is among the young.

4. Dental implants are less successful in older adults.

5. Medicare covers dental treatments.

Dr. Lloyd discussed in detail why these points are not accurate and that good oral health is possible and important as we age. For more information on these points, be sure to go to the OSURA website where the recorded session will be available for viewing. (osura.alumni.osu.edu)