Coming very soon, WOSU Public Media will operate and broadcast from a brand-new, state-of-the-art home located at the corner of 14th Avenue and Pearl Alley. The five-story, $29 million building is part of the 15+High Project. It all began almost 100 years ago in Robinson Hall Electrical Engineering Lab as wireless code research. “8XI” was the first call and meant that Ohio State was considered an experimental station for the development of radio communications. The faculty and a genius freshman student named Bob Higgy had created a transmitter to air phonograph records. The headline in the March 8, 1920 Lantern stated, “Latest New York Jazz Records are Heard Over Frosh’s Wireless.” Instead of hearing the usual dots and dashes of Morse Code, Columbusites could hear Higgy’s 78 records of Paul Whiteman and Dixieland Jazz.

By 1922 the experimental 8XI was replaced with official call letters from federal radio authorities – WEAO! The AM transmitter increased to 100 watts, making it the first radio station in Columbus, and one of the earliest educational radio stations in America. A contest was held to brand the meaning of the call letters as Willing. Energetic, Athletic, Ohio! Yep, from the beginning, WEAO worked closely with OSU Athletics to broadcast football from the newly-christened Ohio Stadium.

In September 1933 a station request went out to change the call letters to WOSU to represent the commitment of The Ohio State University. The tower and transmitter were moved from near Woodruff Road on campus, to the OSU Golf Course grounds in 1938.

In the ‘40s Agriculture Dean Alfred Vivian brought his personal collections of 78 records to WOSU and hosted classical music programs! WWII held up the unveiling of the new band called Frequency Modulation or FM. Finally, President Howard Bevis recommended to the Board of Trustees that they proceed with the application, and WOSU-FM went on the air in December of 1949. Many still miss “In the Book Stall,” hosted by Gene Gerrard.

In 1956, WOSU-TV had humble beginnings in the modest little building at North Star and Lane. The antenna was in a corn field! The 10-kilowatt signal could only be received within a 42-mile radius – and viewers had to have a UHF converter to receive the mostly educational programming.

continued on page 3...
FROM: The President

Dear Friends:

A new year is upon us, which started with an upbeat spark of light. There were two and possibly three vaccinations which could turn the tide of the pandemic. But just how can we put a brunt in the spread of COVID-19? Many of you might have received the injections. Hopefully, we will all be inoculated.

This gives us reasons to get upbeat and celebrate. This month of February will have a special day for cheering in which you would be joined by the majority population in the world. New Years on the Chinese Lunar calendar is February 12, 2021, on the Gregorian calendar. This day is held sacred by China and other nations in Asia, Vietnam, Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, Mauritius, etc. and any country with a significant Sino-population like London, Sydney, Rio de Janeiro and Lima.

Jerry Dare
President of OSURA
## Welcome New Retirees

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Department/Position</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jennifer Lynn Barnhouse</td>
<td>OSUE County Operations</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kathleen L. Bielek</td>
<td>CFAES Ag Operations - Admin</td>
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<tr>
<td>Susan deNyse Bush</td>
<td>OSURF - Administration</td>
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<tr>
<td>Donna M. Cooper</td>
<td>University Hospitals East</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kristina S. Dombeyer</td>
<td>University Hospitals</td>
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<tr>
<td>David James Drake</td>
<td>OARDC Auxiliary Services</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ramon Pijo Durano</td>
<td>University Hospitals East</td>
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<tr>
<td>Peter William Eichel</td>
<td>Speech and Hearing</td>
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<tr>
<td>Clinnard Fisgerald Gammon</td>
<td>Athletics</td>
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<tr>
<td>Patricia Huckabee Gardner</td>
<td>Dental Hygiene</td>
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<tr>
<td>Douglas Charles Gill</td>
<td>Newark - Cost Shared</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Julie M. Gunn</td>
<td>Obstetrics &amp; Gynecology</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bette Jean Hartschuh</td>
<td>OSURF - Administration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monica A. Jones</td>
<td>OSUE County Operations</td>
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<tr>
<td>John Scott Kearns</td>
<td>Facilities Operations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jacqueline M. Krieger</td>
<td>OSUE County Operations</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ginger F. LeMaster</td>
<td>University Hospitals East</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rand McGlaughlin</td>
<td>University Registrar</td>
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<tr>
<td>Donna Charlene McMahon</td>
<td>Specialty Care Network</td>
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<tr>
<td>Laurie Jeanne Nelson</td>
<td>Harding Hospital</td>
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<tr>
<td>Margaret Beth Nienkark</td>
<td>Dining Services</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cristal Lynn Penn</td>
<td>Purchasing</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kathleen Grace Pfendler</td>
<td>Cancer Hosp &amp; Research Inst</td>
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<tr>
<td>Robert T. Pilarski</td>
<td>Internal Medicine</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tina Marie Purglove</td>
<td>Cancer Hosp &amp; Research Inst</td>
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<tr>
<td>Julie Anne Reeves</td>
<td>EHE Teaching &amp; Learning</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jo Ann Roy</td>
<td>Shared Services</td>
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<tr>
<td>Louise Williams</td>
<td>Cancer Hosp &amp; Research Inst</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elissa R. Williams</td>
<td>Shared Services</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jerry J. Zeltner</td>
<td>CFAES Ag Ops Outlying ARS Admin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shirley Renee Zimnes</td>
<td>University Hospitals</td>
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## Help Keep OSURA Membership Numbers Up!

Data show that membership in OSURA is gradually dropping each year. As of now, OSURA has 2,395 paid life, annual and associate members for 2021. This is 3 percent fewer than this time last year.

The Membership Committee, led by Sandy Bell and Deb Zang, encouraged renewals through a letter mailed to homes, a general email reminder, notices in OSURA News, and personal emails and phone calls. The committee’s hard work resulted in a robust response even during this pandemic.

However, numbers were not as high as expected. The committee suspects that lower totals are the result of several factors. The main one is the forced cutback on in-person events. OSURA committees offered Zoom alternatives, such as the fabulous Fall Conference, the Annual Membership meeting, Lunch Bunch, and Health and Wellness programs. Participation has grown; however, members may be reluctant to try the new technology or simply may not have access to the internet. They may feel that they will wait to pay dues when the association can offer a full range of programming. Every committee chair is waiting eagerly for that day, too!

The next need is to get new retirees and lapsed members to sign on. The Membership Committee is asking for your help in recruitment. Please reach out to former colleagues and friends whose names you find on the New Retirees list in OSURA News. Tell friends who retired a while ago that the association offers so much to improve their quality of life. Look to see who has fallen off the membership rolls. Remind them how much they will receive for $25 in dues/donations.

Your help is vital to keeping OSURA healthy and vibrant.

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**WSU's New Headquarters** | continued from page 1

In 1970 WOSU AM and FM moved from their studio in an old WWI hanger on campus to the new Fawcett Center, and by ’72 WOSU-TV also moved to the Fawcett Center and started to broadcast in color.

From its beginning almost 100 years ago, and through the decades of achievement and public service, WOSU Public Media today serves over 2 million citizens with radio, television and digital distribution of a variety of noncommercial programming, along with educational learning services from pre-school to senior citizens.

400 words just begin to tell the fascinating story of WOSU. Start your own research at wosu.org/about/history.
When is it Time to get a Hearing Test?

By Nancy Wardwell

OK, this is getting personal. Apparently, not only have I inherited my father’s nose – I got his ears too – and I am tired of the question “Mom, when are you going to do something about your hearing?”!

Generally, people 60 and older should have a baseline hearing test, and get rechecked every few years. Well, it’s a little late for that – but there are signs that we need a hearing test. Ask yourself:

• Do you have a problem hearing over the phone?
• Do you have difficulty following a conversation when people are talking at the same time?
• Do people complain that you want the TV turned up too high?
• Do you strain to understand a conversation?
• Do you find it is difficult to hear in a noisy background?

• Do you find yourself asking people to repeat themselves?
• Do you misunderstand what people are saying?

Some of us just don’t want to admit we are getting “hard of hearing” and all of us are concerned with costs. Most insurance, including Medicare, cover hearing tests – as long as it has been referred by a primary care provider. There are free hearing tests, but keep in mind that there’s a difference between an audiologist — a trained health care professional with at least a master’s degree — and a hearing aid or hearing instrument dispenser, who does hearing tests primarily for the purpose of selling hearing aids. OK – I’ll tell my kids I’ll have my hearing evaluated – after I get my second COVID vaccine shot!!
On College Drive South, nestled behind The Wexner Art Center and Mershon Auditorium, the $161.6 million buildings to house music, theater, film, and media arts are finally taking shape. Music facilities are scheduled to open first and the entire, world-class project should be completed by 2023.

The vision for the Arts District is part of the vision to open Ohio State’s front door to the University District and the nearby 15+High project led by Campus Partners. The new WOSU Headquarters will open soon, anchoring the south end of that corridor.
Now is a Great Time to Give to the Student Food Insecurity Endowment

Thanks to an anonymous donor, we have a chance to double our donations to the Student Food Insecurity Endowment between now and Dec. 31, 2021. All donations will be matched up to $10,000.

With students returning to campus, the demand will again increase. Please consider a gift to the fund (#316596) by calling (614) 292-2141.

Thank you!

Use New, Temporary Address for OSU Foundation

Because so many are working at home, the OSU Foundation has set up a lock box that is checked regularly. To contribute to OSURA Food Insecurity Fund – or any other Fund of membership gift –

USE:

The Ohio State University Foundation
PO Box 710811
Columbus, OH 43271-0811

Hopefully, the new Advancement Building at 15th and High will be open by fall and there will be a brand-new, permanent address.

In Memoriam

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MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: Donna Cavell

Donna grew up in Cleveland and landed in Columbus after graduating from Ohio University. She worked in medical student affairs and as coordinator of financial aid and, after 30 years at The Ohio State University College of Medicine, Donna retired in 1999.

For Donna, retirement was a chance to get active in various organizations, enjoy the Columbus arts community, travel and meet new people. Soon after retiring she joined the University Women’s Club, served on the board over the years in various positions and remains active in the group. Inspired by fellow travelers on a trip to Chautauqua with the Columbus Symphony, she joined Friends of the Columbus Symphony and serves on their board. A few years ago, she got interested in the ProMusica Chamber Orchestra and now is an at-large member on the ProMusica Sustaining Board. She is also a member of Impresarios of Opera Columbus.

Donna takes advantage of the arts by enjoying the Columbus Symphony, ProMusica, Opera Columbus, Opera Project, BalletMet, the Columbus Jazz Orchestra, Carpe Diem, the Columbus Art Museum (and their wonderful Art Escapes trips), Ohio Light Opera, Live from the Met and Live from the Bolshoi in HD at movie theatres.

Where does OSURA fit in? In 2000 Donna joined OSURA on a trip to Santa Fe and has been hooked on OSURA activities since then. She regularly attends the Dinner Series, Lunch Bunch at MCL and has been on more day trips than she can count. Memorable overnight trips include Fallingwater and Shaker Village. The Cultural Arts and Travel committees offer so much. She served on the Dinner Series program committee one year and on the Fall Conference Committee in 2013 and 2014. “OSURA is a jewel.”

What has Donna done to navigate through COVID-times? The pandemic presents challenges and, as she says in a rhyme, “Times have changed, and we find life deranged.” How she misses the arts, movies, dinners out with friends and more. But the creativity and ingenuity of organizations that stream entertainment provided opportunities to hear the Metropolitan Opera, attend Chautauqua’s summer season virtually, and listen to her beloved Columbus Symphony and ProMusica. Both groups offered concerts outdoors this summer and attending in person was divine. She’s discovered shows on Netflix and Amazon Prime and found herself binge-watching new favorites. Reading is always in the mix of things to do.

Walking with friends – Donna refers to it as walk and talk – is a frequent activity. Favorite haunts include Thompson Park, Antrim Park, Franklin Park Conservatory, Green Lawn Cemetery, Schiller Park, Old Beechwold, Rush Creek Village, and the Marble Cliff area.

COVID prevented travel but her joy was being on FaceTime with her 18-month-old great-niece, by far the cutest child on the planet. Zooming for board meetings and groups like book club and wine tasting provide contact with friends and it fills the desire not only to see people but to actually talk with them. Most people are in a cleaning, purging, baking frenzy, but Donna admits to cleaning out only one drawer! Even though baking muffins only three times, she does cook dinner every day.

“My hope is for a time when hugs are safe, and we can gather in person as joy and laughter abound.”

Retirees Help Lift Bucks for Charity

By David Crawford

Ohio State University retirees contributed $75,625 to the 2020 Bucks for Charity fund drive to help nonprofit organizations across the state. The total contributed by retirees in 2020 slightly exceeds the 2019 donation total and comes at a critical time when Covid-19 has disrupted the ability of many Ohio nonprofit organizations to provide needed services in their communities.

The total amount raised by the campaign was $1.3M, a significant amount in a year when total giving was predicted to be impacted by the pandemic. For the 2020 campaign, the University set a goal of $1 million, lower than previous years.

Of the 30 donor groups that comprise the campaign, OSU retirees contributed the third highest amount behind Wexner Medical Center ($333,060) and the College of Arts and Sciences ($80,340).

The University and the 1,000 nonprofits supported by the Bucks for Charity campaign are truly appreciative of OSURA and University retirees for their continuing support.
FROM: The Benefits Committee

STRS News

I would like to compare 1980, 2000 and 2020. In 1980, new STRS retirees with 35 years of service received a pension of 70% of their Final Average Salary (FAS), with a 3% cost of living adjustment (COLA) and an extra “13th check” each year, while active teachers paid 8.5% of salary into the system. The 1980s and 1990s saw very good investment returns, leading public pension plans across the country to increase benefits.

By 2000, beginning STRS pensions for someone with 35 years of service were 88.5% of salary with a 3% COLA, and actives paid 9.3% of salary to STRS. The ratio of STRS assets to liabilities (the “funded ratio”) was 97.9% with $4.5 billion of unfunded liabilities. Based on assumptions for investment returns, retirements, and mortality rates, the future for defined-benefit plans was bright.

A new retiree in 2020 with 35 years of service had it much worse, with a pension reduced to 77% of FAS, with FAS based on 5 years instead of 3. The 13th check was a distant memory and COLAs were suspended. Active teachers paid 14% of salary into their pension fund. The funded ratio was 75.5% and the unfunded liability had ballooned to $33.4 billion.

If the assumptions of 2000 (which must have looked very reasonable at the time) had held, this would not have happened. As one Board member asked at a recent meeting, what went wrong? How could unfunded liability go from $4.5 billion to $33.4 billion in 20 years, even though active teachers were paying much more?

The biggest factor was investment returns. The expected return averaged about 7.8% over the 20 years, but the actual return was 6%; the difference contributed $13.9 billion to the unfunded liability. (Two major recessions will do that.) Note that the 7.8% was still way below the average STRS return on investments in the ‘80s and ‘90s. Changes in retirements added $6.2 billion to the liability, and revised mortality tables added another $3.1 billion. Since the assumed rate of return was so far above the actual return, the Board (prudently) has lowered their expected return in the future to 7.45%. This lower return adds another $10.2 billion in unfunded liability. (Less money coming in means a bigger projected shortfall.)

Even this 7.45% seems optimistic and unless the recent high returns continue (STRS investments returned 12.4% from July through November of 2020), the 7.45% is likely to be reduced further. This would make the unfunded liability grow even more, while the state wants STRS to be on track to pay it off. The STRS Board does not have much room to maneuver.