About the OSU Oval

By Nancy Wardwell

In the beginning, there was no Oval! The 11 ½ acres that became the quintessential space for our university actually evolved over a century.

According to John Herrick, the longtime Director of OSU Campus Planning and the researcher behind the five-volume History of Campus Buildings, the early layout of campus was English Manor. Our first building, the original University Hall, opened in 1873, and like a manor house, was built on high ground and set back from the road (High Street). There was a long path from University Hall veering off toward where Page Hall is today.

In the 1890s, as other campus buildings were built, they created a central green space. In 1893 a master plan proposed a “central open space” around which buildings would be arranged.

As buildings were built students began to create their own walking paths. Those paths lead to the current design of sidewalks – including the famous “Long Walk,” measuring 1,275 feet from the front of the Main Library to the curb of College Road.

Many colleges and universities have special open spaces. What is unique about the Ohio State “Oval” is its name! Most are known as a “Quad” or “Quadrangle,” all described as “a central courtyard anchored by a major building.” All are considered to be something of the face of the university that defines the aesthetic and charm of the institution. It should not be surprising that there is a kind of competition among colleges for the most beautiful and impressive Quad.

Campus Rank is a company which is somehow able to identify the 50 best or most beautiful anything collegiate and has ranked the “Most Beautiful College Quads.” We can’t help but mention that Michigan’s famous “Quad” comes in last at 50th, while Santa Clara University ranks Number One. Ohioans can be very proud of Ohio’s first university, because Ohio University is considered the second most beautiful quad in the land! The Oval of The Ohio State University makes the list – in 23rd place. At least Ohio State attorneys considered our oval important and unique enough to apply for exclusive rights to its name and image. You will recall they also tried to license “The”!
FROM: The President

Dear Friends:

Here we are in the wondrous month of May. With the spring flowers all around you, hope you had celebrated May Day by taking a whirl around the pole or two. Years back Niccolo Machiavelli offered each of us a blunt, realistic view of human nature and power. Since you are still here with us, only a meager few followed his directives. Let us take a moment of silence with bowed head for the four students at Kent State. That was a very costly way to end the rioting.

This was the month when the Golden Spike was cast to commemorate the linkage of the railroads from East to West. President Polk wrangled with Mexico in 1846 to get what is now known as Oklahoma, New Mexico, Arizona, Nevada, California, Utah and Colorado. Florence Nightingale, nurse and public health activist, was born during this month. Jamestown, Virginia was established years back. Merriwether Lewis and William Clark left St. Louis to find new territory. The smallpox vaccine was developed by Dr. Edward Jenner. A man whose name Fahrenheit is attached to every thermometer was born. The very first Kentucky Derby horse race took place at Churchill Downs in Louisville, KY. The American Red Cross was founded by Clara Barton. Charles Lindbergh’s 1st solo non-stop flight across the Atlantic took place. Later, Amelia Earhart did likewise. Samuel Morse sent his first message “What Hath God Wrath” via telegraph.

The first Continental Convention met in Philadelphia with seven states to form a quorum. This was the month that I, along with 200,000 other people, crossed the Golden Gate Bridge on the grand opening. Hope all of you have a glorious month of May.

Jerry Dare
President of OSURA

Apologies to any members who were inadvertently on the new retirees list in the past several newsletters. As Ohio State transitioned to their new Workday System, they encountered a few problems that have hopefully been corrected. Thank you for your understanding!
The OSURA Online Directory is Now Available to All Members!

This directory is provided by the Alumni Association and uses the information in the University database. To protect our privacy, members’ contact information is initially set to “private.” Each member will need to log in to his or her account and change those settings before other members will be able to see any contact information.

There are two important steps every OSURA member needs to take to ensure the online directory is useful to other members:

1. **LOG IN TO YOUR ACCOUNT**
   - Select the Directory link that appears on the OSURA website.
   - Follow instructions to reach the login page.
   - You then can choose to log in with either the “Alumni/Friends Login” or “Name.#Login”. This is the same process you use to make reservations for OSURA events.

2. **UPDATE YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION**
   - After you are logged in and on the OSURA Members Directory page, select the link at the top that reads “Update your info.”
   - For any of the contact information on your page that you want to make visible to other members (including address, phone numbers or email) change the settings from “Private” to “Public.”

3. **NOW YOU ARE READY TO LOOK UP OTHER MEMBERS ON THE DIRECTORY**
   - Look up other members by searching by their first or last names, then click “Search” at the bottom of the page.
   - Select the desired person from the list at the bottom and click on the name to see contact information.
   - If you find the listing for another member but no contact information is visible, it most likely means that the settings have not yet been changed (or the individual does not wish to have the information available).

- If you have never previously logged in, you can establish a username and password by selecting the Alumni/Friends or you can use Name.# login.
- If you forgot your password or are having trouble with the login, call the Engagement Center Staff at 614-696-6288 or 800-762-5646 and they will be delighted to help you.
- Save your password to your device!

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Welcome New Retirees

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Department/School</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kimberly Ann Catania</td>
<td>James Cancer Hospital</td>
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<td>James Albert Chatfield</td>
<td>OSU Extension</td>
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<td>Rebecca Ann Coffey</td>
<td>University Hospital</td>
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<td>Stephanie Campbell Cook</td>
<td>Medicine</td>
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<td>Megan Evans Daniels</td>
<td>Engineering</td>
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<td>Joseph Jeremiah Duffy</td>
<td>James Cancer Hospital</td>
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<td>Carole Rohyans Fallon</td>
<td>Business and Finance</td>
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<td>Kathryn Ann Filippelli</td>
<td>Ambulatory Services Hospital</td>
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<td>John Richard Fletcher</td>
<td>Engineering</td>
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<td>Kathleen Marie Graber</td>
<td>James Cancer Hospital</td>
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<td>Andrew R. Hensler</td>
<td>Wexner Center for the Arts</td>
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<td>Rena Elise Hobbs</td>
<td>University Hospital</td>
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<td>Kimberly Ann Kochert</td>
<td>Student Academic Success</td>
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<td>Renne Charles Komula</td>
<td>Veterinary Medicine</td>
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<td>Douglas Alan Lee</td>
<td>University Hospital</td>
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<td>Theresa Diane Lee</td>
<td>University Hospital East</td>
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<td>Deborah Jane Lemley</td>
<td>James Cancer Hospital</td>
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<td>Valerie Mann-Jiles</td>
<td>James Cancer Hospital</td>
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<td>Linda Juanita Miller</td>
<td>Business</td>
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<td>Perry Van Montgomery</td>
<td>Transportation and Traffic Management</td>
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<td>Michael Murray</td>
<td>University Libraries</td>
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<td>Jill Leigh Niese</td>
<td>University Hospital</td>
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<td>Nicole Ann Ritter</td>
<td>University Hospital East</td>
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<td>Tamera Louise Smith</td>
<td>Shared Services</td>
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<td>Kathryn Mary Smith-Ripper</td>
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<td>Mark Louis Splaingard</td>
<td>Medicine</td>
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<td>Cathy M. Tatum</td>
<td>Comprehensive Cancer Center</td>
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<td>Gulzar Wani</td>
<td>Medicine</td>
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<td>Cherie Lee Winter</td>
<td>James Cancer Hospital</td>
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<td>Natalie Sue Wittmann</td>
<td>Human Resources</td>
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<td>Patricia A. Wood</td>
<td>University Hospital East</td>
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<tr>
<td>Daniel Ray Zeigler</td>
<td>Natural and Mathematical Sciences</td>
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FROM: The Benefits Committee

STRS News

By Jerry Newsom

Ballots for STRS Board members must be returned to STRS by May 3. Both retired teachers on the Board, Bob Stein and Rita Walters, are up for re-election this year, with two challengers, Rudy Fichtenbaum and Elizabeth Jones. I hope there’s good participation by OSURA members. There is a popular misconception about the responsibility of Board members; they are “fiduciaries,” required to represent only the interests of all participants (active and inactive teachers and retirees in the system), acting within legislative mandates. Some of the campaign emails for the Board election have accused current Board members of not “fighting for retirees which they were elected to do.” However, the fiduciary duty means they cannot represent any one segment of STRS participants. Another email suggested the Board was trying to find ways “to get out of paying retirees a COLA.” I think there’s no doubt the Board would LOVE to be able to resume paying COLAs (among other things, the retired teachers on the Board aren’t getting COLAs either), but doing so would likely violate their fiduciary duty, plus they have to operate under the legislative oversight of the Ohio Retirement Study Council. The ORSC would certainly intervene should any retirement board adopt policies that consulting actuaries find unreasonable.

Bob Stein recently circulated an email on other misconceptions, noting for instance that “[u]nfunded liabilities are not actually debt. They are projected actuarial imbalances of future assets and liabilities ... Pension systems can’t ‘pay off’ an actuarial imbalance like one would a car loan or a mortgage.” A different assumed rate of return on investments would change the unfunded liabilities, changing the perception of the funding status, but it would not fundamentally change the fiscal condition of the STRS pension fund.

Elder Care

By Meg Teaford

▲ According to recent research, older adults reported less pandemic-related stress, less social isolation, less life change, and lower negative relationship quality than younger persons. The sample of 645 adults ages 18-97 were drawn from the National Survey of Consumers who were asked to report how their lives had changed during the pandemic. Researchers had thought that older adults might be more vulnerable to COVID-19-related stress and social isolation. But results showed that younger adults may be more vulnerable. It may be that based on earlier research, that older adults are better able to regulate their responses to stressful events. Of course, they report fewer life changes and this no doubt is because they have not faced the same financial and employment problems that younger persons did. For older adults, the authors suggest, life looks very much the same if they have been living alone prior to 2020. (K.S. Birditt et. al. (2021). Age Differences in Stress, Life Changes, and Social Ties During the COVID-19 Pandemic: Implications for Psychological Well-Being. The Gerontologist (61, 2, 205-216.)

▲ Families were identified as “essential” care partners during the pandemic (Kemp, The Gerontologist, 61,2, 145-151). The recent lockdown of nursing facilities and assisted living kept family members from visiting residents. Family was perceived as “just visitors.” These family members, however, are very important in assisting staff with hands-on care and for seeing that proper care is delivered by staff. They often notice changes in health status before staff does. They also help to connect residents with each other, facilitate participation in social activities, and of course help to coordinate care with outside providers. They also bring in needed supplies and snacks that the residents prefer. Their contributions have been overlooked during this time. Recent research shows that although staff attempted to fill the gaps in care when families could not visit, they were stretched thin and this may have lead to health problems among staff. Likewise, families were anxious and even depressed during this time and this impacted their well-being. The author pointed to a Dutch study that found that families could visit safely and recommends that this model be followed.
Calendar of Events

**COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

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

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

**MONTHLY ACTIVITIES**

**May 13 (Thursday)**  
**Lunch Bunch – VIRTUAL**  
**Program:** Amazing Antarctica  
Take a virtual tour with us to amazing Antarctica when Professor Emeritus Mary Jo Fresch entrances us with tales of her recent trip there. See pods of whales, plunge into the Southern Sea, play with penguins and enjoy the wonders of this amazing continent all from the comfort of your home.  
**Time:** 11:30 a.m. via ZOOM  
**Registration Required:** Register at osura.osu.edu to receive link.  
**Contact Person:** Elenore R. Zeller (zellerej@prodigy.net – Social Committee)

**May 15 (Saturday)**  
**Walking/Hiking Group**  
**Challenge Level 2-4**  
With masks on, we’ll walk the paths at Highbanks Metro Park, 9466 Columbus Pike, Lewis Center.  
**Time/Place:** 10:30 a.m. at the Nature Center  
**Arranger:** Hallan Noltimier (noltimier.2@osu.edu – Walking/Hiking SIG)

**May 25 (Tuesday)**  
**Tertulia Breakfast – VIRTUAL**  
Zoom link is the same as always...contact Jerry if you need it re-sent.  
**Organizer:** Jerry Dare (dare.1@twc.com)

**Book Club**  
Our May book is *The Silent Patient* by Alex Michaelides. After murdering her photographer husband by shooting him in the face, Alicia (a painter) refuses to speak or paint. Theo Faber, a newly-hired criminal psychotherapist at Alicia’s asylum, although warned not to use her diary in an attempt to get her to speak, does so with terrifying, unintended consequences. The ending is worthy of Agatha Christie. We will again use a You Are There play format to hold our virtual meeting via email.  
**Arranger:** Lee Hill (hill.30@osu.edu – Book Club SIG)

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**September 22 (Wednesday)**  
2021 OSURA Annual Fall Conference  
Stay tuned for more information in future issues.

**October 3 – 17** *(note corrected dates)*  
Exploring Greece and its Islands  
**Arranger:** Alabelle Zghoul (azghoul4660@wowway.com)

Any questions regarding events or meetings, contact the arranger directly or osura@osu.edu

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**OSURA 2021 Outstanding Service Award Nominations**

The past year has been challenging for all of us and many OSURA members have stepped up to be sure that our programs and events kept rolling along. Our wonderful volunteers make all the difference. We are now accepting nominations for the 2021 Outstanding Service Award to be presented at our Annual Meeting.  
Please send your nominations including full name and a brief description of service to OSURA to Meg Teaford (teaford.1@osu.edu) by May 14, 2021.

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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.
MEMBER SPOTLIGHT:  
Faye and Doug Owens

Buckeyes, both plants and people, are in other states as well as Ohio. According to Faye and Doug Owens, who left Ohio to live in Athens, Georgia, buckeyes in their state are a shrub rather than a tree, but they produce “real” Buckeyes. (And as real Buckeyes themselves, the Owenses continue to buy season tickets for Buckeye home football games.)

Faye and Doug Owens grew up together in Atmore, Alabama, a farm town on the Florida state line. Their first remembrance of each other is when Doug was a guest at Faye’s fifth birthday party. In fact, they share memories of the same preschool teacher at church who gave them take-home Bible-story cards. Together, they began first grade in a three-room, six-grade school in the rural community of Robinsonville, settled by and named for Faye’s Robinson ancestors.

With a loan from the National Defense Education Act (NDEA), Doug attended Troy State University in Alabama. By continuing through summers, Doug completed his bachelor’s degree in education in November 1963. Doug and Faye married at the end of Doug’s second year. Faye worked as support staff in Troy State’s Physical Education Department.

Doug’s teaching of high school mathematics began December 1 in Montezuma, Georgia, where he coached junior-high football. Faye was assistant to the vice president in charge of sales with Southern Frozen Foods, Inc., the largest processor of frozen vegetables in the country at that time. Faye and baby travelled with Doug throughout middle and southern Georgia to Friday-night football games as he scouted the opponent for the next varsity game. After the birth of their second daughter, Faye worked for a year as a member of the school office staff.

Finishing that year and four more, and having earned a master’s degree from summers at Auburn University, Doug accepted a full fellowship funded by the US Department of Education for three years of doctoral study in mathematics education at the University of Georgia (UGA) in Athens.

In January of 1993, Doug joined the faculty of the College of Education at OSU. He served his profession at OSU and at UBC as a conference organizer for local teachers or for faculty members in mathematics education. He sometimes chaired small enrollment conferences or organized mathematics education sub-conference sessions at larger national meetings.

Doug’s early career research interest was children’s learning of fractions, especially in decimal form. He, along with colleagues, received a significant grant in 2005 to study classroom communication in mathematics and science in the presence of technology.

After retirement in 2011, Doug from OSU and Faye from a branch of Raymond James Financial, they remained in the Columbus area for four years and were active in OSURA. They participated in potluck picnics, attended tax seminars, and visited the Billy Ireland Cartoon Library & Museum on the OSU campus. In addition, they enjoyed a lunch and production at La Comedia Dinner Theatre in Springboro, as well as many other trips and tours.

Traveling has remained an important part of retirement. They toured Turkey, Israel, and joined one of the first American tours to Cuba. In addition, they have visited some 13 countries in Europe, bringing the total countries they visited to 30 in number, as well as 45 U.S. states and all 10 Canadian Provinces.

Church has always been central to Faye and Doug. Early in life they each made a commitment to follow the Christian way. When they were teenagers, they were involved in starting a new church in their rural community. Doug was drafted to lead hymns, and Faye was a pianist. Those talents and skills were continued through their early years of marriage. Upon moving to Vancouver area, they were in church choir, and Doug organized classes for all ages on Sunday evenings. Faye was employed part time as church office staff during their children’s school years and beyond. She was elected to the Executive Committee that was instrumental in organizing the Canadian Baptist Convention and a seminary. In Ohio, the couple continued to be involved in choir in the congregation that is now The Crossing Community Church in Hilliard. Doug organized Bible study classes for adults at all life stages. For 11 years, Faye directed the English as a Second Language program. Doug led hymns for the traditional worship services. In 2015, when they moved to Athens, the couple joined the choir and sang until interrupted by COVID-19.

The pandemic, however, did not interrupt Doug and Faye’s hobby of gardening and preserving the produce for later use. Faye manages the ornamentals, and Doug assists. They began their vegetable gardening on their 1963 pass through Georgia. When they looked for their current home in Athens, Georgia, a house with a sunny spot for gardening in a treed neighborhood closed the deal. Of course, their property in Georgia has plenty of buckeyes!
Thank You!

Thanks to our wonderful OSURA members during the March 22 OSU Day of Giving, we raised $11,529.40 for the Student Food Insecurity Fund. These funds will be matched dollar for dollar by a generous group of OSURA members. This brings our fund total to over $56,000. We still have $1,500 left in our challenge matching funds so it is not too late to make a gift now. Tax deductible contributions may be made to Fund #316596 by calling 614-292-2141.

Thank you again for your support; this is a great way to support our students!

Donations received as of March 31, 2021
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