Migrations of The Ohio State School of Music

By Nancy Wardwell

This page was going to be about our fabulous Women’s and Men’s Glee Clubs. The evolution of the School of Music itself began to beckon. It is a unit that measures its evolution, not so much by noted directors or program development – but by the number of buildings in which it has been housed!

Of course, Old University Hall was the first home – because it held all the offices, classrooms – and dorm rooms (for men). It also housed the “Chapel” and auditorium where programs and assemblies were held. Among the first music groups formed were the Men’s Glee Club in 1875, the Mandolin and Guitar Club, and a drum corps. The next spring, the first campus band was brought together.

The Armory was built in 1897 for ROTC drill and band rehearsals – and from the first day, classes were held in the gymnasium for both men and women. The first music classes were held in 1908 in the College of Education and in 1925 the Department of Music was established.

Page Hall was built across the street from the Armory. It housed the Music Library and faculty offices. For decades – into the 1950s, the formal OSU Marching Band photo was taken on the steps of Page Hall.

The Old Athletic House began its life housing coaches’ offices and provided showers and lockers for the athletes that played on Ohio Field (located near where Arps Hall is now). After the dedication of Ohio Stadium in 1922 the Athletic House became the Music Annex, home of vocal and piano music. It was a rickety building and care had to be taken in placing pianos, as there was fear that the floor might collapse!

A former stock barn and livestock judging arena, the Judging Pavilion, became home to instrumental music. Renamed Rehearsal Hall, it became rehearsal space for concert and marching bands and ensembles.

In the online History of The School of Music, there is a great story about how the Marching Band got their uniforms. All male students were required to participate in ROTC and marching band was part of that program. In the beginning the ROTC uniforms were dark blue and students rented them from shops along High Street. When ROTC changed to olive drab uniforms the shop keepers were stuck with inventories of blue uniforms. Professor Weigel rushed up to High Street, retrieving the...

continued on next page
FROM: The President

Hello, All,

I was newly married, waiting tables at a lunch place for executives. The businessmen (there were no businesswomen) were talking about some guy named Woody. The discussion got heated. I eyed the table. Should I get the manager?

Hey, I grew up in Cincinnati, a basketball town if there ever was one. And I had just moved from Athens, where OU was stunned to be having its best football season ever. Woody Hayes had simply never crossed my radar. Little did I know that I was having my first encounter with Buckeye Nation. That was 50 years ago!

As of this writing, OSU is climbing the ladder and the Cincinnati Bearcats also are taking aim at staying in the top four! Many in OSURA are paying attention to post-season bowl games – location and opponents.

But first, we have a fun look at past and present with sports analyst Jeff Logan during an online Lunch Bunch Wednesday, Dec. 2. A former player and scholar athlete, he has kept close tabs on the Buckeyes while he pursued an outstanding career in radio and television. Information on registering to participate in the Zoom session is in OSURA News and at osura.osu.edu.

So much else is happening! The Dinner Series has begun a new season of distinguished guest speakers, starting with Rick Herman’s review of the Middle East situation. Our travelers have been to Marietta, Amish country and in Europe. The hikers hit the trail. Committees are reserving spots for meetings and events. Come join in.

Stay well,

Gemma McLuckie
President of OSURA

continued | Migrations of The Ohio State School of Music

I count at least 10 venues for the School of Music, and we didn’t even mention the probability of some Quonset huts during WWII – but there is one more spectacular move on the horizon: the $165.1 million Arts District Project is being built between 15th and 18th Avenue along College Road. The Timasheff Family Music Building nestles up to the renovated Weigel Hall and expansion of new facilities for the School of Music which is scheduled to open March 2022. Soon after, immediately to the north, the new Department of Theater, Film, and Media Arts Building will open.

After almost 150 years, after many campus homes, the 300 undergraduate students, 90 graduate students and the talented faculty of so many music disciplines, not to mention the hundreds of non-majors who join the 250 annual musical events are about to move into a facility beyond the wildest dreams of the earlier OSU musicians.
Welcome New Retirees

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<th>Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>Lora Mary Ambroza</td>
<td>Ambulatory Services</td>
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<td>Sabrina A. Broomfield</td>
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<td>Lynette Katherine Brown</td>
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<td>Jeffrey M. Fowler</td>
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<td>Randy Evan James</td>
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<td>Joyce A. Johnson</td>
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<td>Kenneth Ray Jones</td>
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<td>Kevin Kee</td>
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<td>Linda Mary Lobao</td>
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<td>Joanne Lynn</td>
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<td>Larry Armen Manter</td>
<td>Facilities Operations and Development</td>
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<td>Donald Gene Nicholson</td>
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<td>Christina A. Rideout</td>
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<td>Jayne Marie Roth</td>
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<td>Joan C. Sachs</td>
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<td>Mohammad Samimy</td>
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<td>Toni Y. Semos</td>
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<td>Larry William Warnock</td>
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<td>Asia Winterstein</td>
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MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: Karen Keenan

I’m one of those fortunate people who retired at age 52 with 30 years of service! Thank you, Ohio State and OPERS!

I grew up in Marion County and went K-12 at the same school, with a lot of the same people all the way to graduation. From OSU, I received an undergraduate degree in Mass Media Communications.

At OSU, I started working as a student in the library when I was a freshman at the Marion campus. When I transferred to the main campus my sophomore year, I was a student worker in the main library on campus. My love of a variety of music led me to work at the student-run radio station (WOSR). I was an “on-air personality” and was the general manager of the station for a time.

In my senior year, I noticed there were “real” staff who worked part-time and earned more than I did as a student worker. I went to HR and got a “real” part-time job as Clerk 2 in the Registrar’s Office in Lincoln Tower. As soon as I graduated, I transferred into a full-time position with the Medical Center’s Inpatient Business Office. In time, I became Director of Ambulatory Services for Family Medicine. For those who remember the MedOhio Urgent Care Centers, I oversaw those offices when they existed. I then assumed responsibility for all of the OSU Family Medicine offices around Columbus.

I retired in 2012. (My husband, Barry, who was a professor at Denison University, retired after I did.)

I have volunteered with Cozy Cat Cottage in Powell, Ohio for 20+ years. Currently, I care for kitties that we adopt out through the PetSmart on Sawmill Road. I also coordinate restaurant fundraisers for Cozy Cat and help with special events such as “Pet Photos with Santa.” Prior to the pandemic, I volunteered weekly in our church office. I like to cook and bake and am part of a team that provides lunches for the senior members of our congregation.

OSURA has been important to enjoying retirement. I wanted to stay connected with OSU because I had a wonderful education and a very fulfilling and rewarding career at OSU. First, I joined the OSURA book club, and I’ve read so many books that I wouldn’t have normally picked up on my own. In addition, my husband and I have appreciated the Dinner Series at the Faculty Club and we also thoroughly enjoyed the trip to Stratford, Ontario a few years ago. I’ve attended a few of the day trip outings; Barry and I most recently took part in the day trip to Marietta.

I am thankful to be retired throughout this pandemic. I immediately got a Zoom account and have had regular weekly Zoom gatherings with friends and family since March 2020. My relationships with friends have grown even closer due to these regular talks. I’ve also found it enjoyable to spend time at home, and outside if the weather is good. I’ve been able to enjoy nature, especially in the Metro Parks, in a way that I had forgotten to do in the busy pre-Covid world.
**COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

**December 7**

**Benefits Committee**

*Time:* 9:30 a.m.

*Place:* Longaberger

**December 14**

**Board Meeting**

*Time:* 9:30 a.m.

*Place:* Longaberger

**MONTHLY ACTIVITIES**

**December 2 (Thursday)**

**Lunch Bunch**

Join us via Zoom for a *Football Rally OSURA Style* when Jeff Logan, former Co-Captain of the OSU Buckeyes and TV sports color analyst will present a spirited commentary about football immediately before the play-offs. Look for a bit of Holiday Cheer thrown in.

*Time:* 11:30 a.m.

*Registration:* Go to https://osura.alumni.osu.edu/event/lunch-bunch-football-rally/

*Contacts:* Steven D’Ambrosio (Steven.dambros@gmail.com) & Elenore R. Zeller (zellerej@prodigy.net – Social Committee)

**December 8 (Wednesday)**

**Craft Group**

Bring your own craft/ideas, or just attend to eat, socialize and see the creativity of other retirees.

*Time/Place:* 12-4 p.m., Massey’s Pizza, 152 Graceland Blvd (Graceland Shopping Center) Columbus 43214. During this meeting, attendees will coordinate their calendars and select the next meeting date with preference to Wednesdays, Thursdays, or Fridays. Please RSVP to marycull.4@gmail.com so we can secure enough seats and add you to the email distribution list.

*Arranger:* Mary Cull (marycull.4@gmail.com – Craft Group SIG)

**December 9 (Thursday)**

**Photo Society**

*Program:* *Photographic Cataloging* presented by Dr. Bob Rasid

*Time/Place:* 5:30 p.m. dinner; 7 p.m. program; OSU Faculty Club. You MUST make reservations for dinner by calling 614-292-2262 by December 6.

*Cost:* on your own

*Arranger:* Nancy Verber (nwverber@gmail.com – Photographic Society SIG)

**December 18 (Saturday)**

**Walking/Hiking Group**

*Challenge Level 2-4*

Everyone welcome. Join us on our walk through Inniswood Metro Gardens, 940 S Hempstead Rd., Westerville.

*Time/Place:* 11:00 a.m. – west side parking area

*Arranger:* Hallan Noltimier (noltimier.2@osu.edu – Walking/Hiking SIG)

**Book Club**

We are taking a break for the holidays. On our return, in January, we will be discussing *The Vanishing Half* by Brit Bennett. This is a tale of race and identity featuring twin sisters whose lives, once diverged by one “passing”, re-intersect through their children’s lives.

*Arranger:* Lee Hill (hill.30@osu.edu – Book Club SIG)

**December 10 (Friday)**

**La Comedia – A Christmas Story**

765 West Central – Springboro, OH

REGISTRATION CLOSED

A buffet luncheon followed by the classic play *A Christmas Story* (www.lacomedia.com)

*Meet by:* 9 a.m., Tremont Center (Tremont Road, opposite Upper Arlington Library)

*Return:* approximately 5:30 p.m.

*Arrangers:* Jessica Pritchard and Alabelle Zghoul (alabelle.zghoul@gmail.com – Travel Committee)

**January 2021 Income Tax Seminar**

Look for specifics in the January Newsletter.

*Arranger:* Hallan Noltimier (noltimier.2@osu.edu – Benefits Committee)

**February 11 (Friday)**

**BalletMet – Giselle**

765 West Central – Springboro, OH

REGISTRATION REQUIRED

Witness a love story that has captivated hearts for centuries. This timeless ballet features classical elements as it tells the haunting tale of a peasant girl’s quest for love. Edward Liang’s *Giselle* reimagines features classical elements as it tells the haunting tale of a peasant girl’s quest for love. Edward Liang’s *Giselle* reimagines a tale of race and identity featuring twin sisters whose lives, once diverged by one “passing”, re-intersect through their children’s lives.

*Time/Place:* Box office opens at 9:30 a.m. Seating is general, so plan to arrive early for best seats. Performance begins at 11 a.m., Davidson Theater, 77 S. High St. *PLEASE NOTE:* CAPA policy: “Ticket holders 12 years of age and older will be required to provide proof of vaccination or a negative COVID-19 test along with a valid ID before attending a performance.”

*Cost:* $22.50 (admission ticket)

*Registration/Refund Deadline:* Register at osura.alumni.osu.edu or call 614-292-2281 by February 3. Credit card preferred. Tickets will be held at Will Call.

*Arranger:* Marilyn Blackwell (blackwell.4@osu.edu – Cultural Arts Committee)

**UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS**
Craft Group

The Craft Group is again meeting in person after a long break due to the pandemic. Several members are shown here at their holiday gathering in 2019, one of the last times they met face-to-face until November 2021.

Leader Mary Cull said the group’s activities include personal crafts as well as community service projects such as creating blankets for children in foster care and writing supportive letters to newly-diagnosed cancer patients.

Attendees are welcome to bring their craft of choice or craft ideas, or they may choose simply to eat, socialize, and enjoy seeing the creativity of other retirees.

The next meeting will be on Wednesday, December 8, at 2 p.m. at Massey’s Pizza in Graceland Shopping Center. Each meeting date is determined at the previous month’s gathering; meetings generally are held on Wednesdays or Thursdays.

To be added to the group’s contact list, send your name, phone number(s), and email address to marycull.4@gmail.com, or call 614-267-4048.

FROM BENEFITS COMMITTEE | ELDER CARE

By Meg Teaford

This is a good time of year to think about home safety. I found a kitchen safety checklist from AARP.

Kitchen Safety Checklist

1. Is there good lighting over the sink, stove and countertop work areas?
   If the answer is no: Increase task lighting at the sink, stove and in work areas. Use the highest wattage bulb allowed by the fixture.

2. Are cabinets and cupboards easy to open?
   If the answer is no: Install C or D-type handles on cabinets and cupboards.

3. Are the stove controls safely reached, so your hand doesn’t come close to the flame or electric coils?
   If the answer is no: If there are no young children in the house, consider purchasing a stove that has the controls at the front. Add touch and color-contrasted controls for people who have low vision.

4. Is a fire extinguisher within easy reach of the stove?
   If the answer is no: Mount an ABC-rated fire extinguisher in an easy to reach location near the stove. Also be sure you keep dish towels away from hot surfaces.

5. Do you have a sturdy step stool with handrails?
   If the answer is no: Use a step stool that has non-slip steps and grip handrails.

6. Are objects on shelves or in drawers easily accessible?
   If the answer is no: Install adjustable shelving to increase access to upper cabinets. Install pull-out shelves and corner lazy Susan turntables under counters and in corner cabinets.

7. Does the sink faucet have an anti-scald device?
   If the answer is no: Install a pressure-balanced, temperature regulated faucet and keep it at 120° or less.

8. Are the countertops and sink easy to use when you’re seated?
   If the answer is no: Create a workspace that has knee clearance by installing pull-out cabinetry or by removing cabinet doors and shelves so you can work while seated.

9. Do you use wax on your floors?
   If the answer is no: Avoid using floor wax and don’t walk on a just-cleaned floor until it has completely dried.

I’d add the following:

- Have a first-aid kit available for any injuries or cuts.
- Post 9-1-1 information and a current medication list by the phone.
FROM: The Benefits Committee

STRS News

By Jerry Newsom

The “forensic investigation” commissioned by the Ohio Retired Teachers Association (ORTA) was highly critical of STRS and its investments. The study’s author claimed the external consultants who rate STRS’s investments as well above average among public pension funds produce misleading reports, in order to please the people who hired them (STRS and the Ohio Retirement Study Council, composed of legislators and governor’s appointees). The ORTA report caused enough people to complain to Ohio Auditor Keith Faber that he decided to conduct an in-house investigation. Maybe by next summer the accusations will be either validated or discredited, although at least a few of the claims in the ORTA report were incorrect.

The two basic metrics used to rate the financial condition of the STRS pension fund are the funded ratio (the ratio of assets to calculated liabilities) and the funding period (length of time it will take for this ratio to reach 100%). Both of these numbers depend on several assumptions, especially the annual return on STRS investments. The strong investment returns last fiscal year caused the funded ratio to increase from 75.5% to 87.8% and the funding period to drop from 14.9 years to 14.0 (the legislature expects STRS to keep the funding period below 30 years). Members of the STRS Board have been commenting for many months about the need to provide relief for active teachers and retirees, and in light of the improved finances over the last year, consultants predicted the effect on STRS finances of possible changes. For instance, cutting active member contributions from 14% of salary to 13% would add a year to the funding period, the same as giving retirees a 2% one-time increase in their pensions. Such small adjustments could happen next year, but any small increase in benefits also creates a small increase in the chances that, should the economy have a severe downturn, STRS might have to take back part of COLAs that were awarded in the past. That is unlikely to happen but no one can be sure.
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 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 PO Box 710811, Columbus, OH 43271 (note OSURA Fund #315499 in the memo line). Be sure to mail your check by December 15 to allow time for receiving and processing before December 31.

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

OSURA ENDOWMENT FUND

No Buckeye Goes Hungry

At least 15% of students are food insecure, often unable to afford enough food to adequately feed themselves or their families. Since 2016, Buckeye Food Alliance has been providing food and toiletries for students at locations on the OSU campus.

In 2019 OSURA created the Food Insecurity Fund. Once we reach $100,000, the fund will become an endowment, whose earnings will provide support in perpetuity for Buckeye Food Alliance to combat food insecurity for OSU students. To date, we have raised over $60,000 toward the goal of $100,000, and we greatly appreciate the support of so many OSURA members.

Last spring we made a concerned effort to encourage donations, raising over $12,000, which combined with matching funds brought in over $24,000. A similar push now will get us close to the goal.

Special 2021 year-end OSURA Challenge: Thanks to generous individuals, all donations made to the fund through December 31 will be matched up to $10,000. Note that this year, you can deduct up to $600 of charitable donations even if you take the standard deduction on your federal taxes.

The following are several ways to give:

- In your browser enter: give.osu.edu/osura
- Go to the OSURA webpage https://osura.alumni.osu.edu, on the left column click on “Make A Gift”, and on the next page click on the second red “Make a Gift” OSURA Endowment Fund to Combat Student Food Insecurity, #316596. This will take you to the OSU Gift Website for “The Ohio State University Retirees Association Fund to Combat Student Food Insecurity | Fund Number: 316596” to make you donation.
- If you still have Required Minimum Distributions (RMD) to make from your IRA, contact your financial institution on how to send a “Qualified Charitable Distribution” (QCD) directly from your IRA to the fund.
- Use the QR Code (point your smart phone camera) below to make a gift directly to the Fund.
The Ohio State University Retirees Assn.
Customer Service
Longaberger Alumni House
2200 Olentangy River Road
Columbus, Ohio 43210

Address Service Requested

HAVE
Happy Holidays
AND A
Healthy New Year

From
Your Board and Committee Chairs