The Innovation District

By Nancy Wardwell

Last fall, from Kenny Road, it looked like The Invasion of the Mantids – looking west of campus from the Martha Morehouse Center. There were at least nine massive construction cranes in view. Most of the cranes are gone by now as the massive project begins to take shape.

We know by now that it is all about the burgeoning Innovation District, a 270-acre “mixed environment that will bring together researchers, faculty, and students from across the College of Engineering and University, as well as industry partners to work together, share ideas and develop solutions for complex challenges.” The first building to emerge is an Innovation District anchor, the Interdisciplinary Research Facility.

Located just off of Kenny Road, south of Lane Avenue, the almost ethereal structure is a five-story, 305,000 square foot laboratory building that will provide shared space to enable researchers to collaborate on relevant projects.

Last November ground was broken for the “co-located” Energy Advancement and Innovation Center. It will be a 52,600-square-foot facility that will house faculty, researchers, students, and private partners who will work together on the next generation of smart energy systems, renewable energy, and green mobility solutions. This project is seen as the cornerstone of the University’s public-private partnership with Ohio State Energy.

A third building, the Wexner Medical Center Outpatient Care West Campus, is under construction. Its focus will be cancer research and treatment and it will be the first facility in central Ohio to house a proton therapy treatment center, in collaboration with Nationwide Children’s Hospital.

It is the mission of the Innovative District to bring transformative ideas to life – and the impact will be far-reaching into the local community and the State of Ohio as a whole. In February, the University announced a $100 million strategic partnership with JobsOhio. Together, the strategic partnership with JobsOhio, Ohio State, Nationwide Children’s Hospital, and others will work to grow the STEM talent pool and educate a new generation of students who will continue to thrive in our growing economy.

Ohio State has pledged to increase the number of STEM programs, particularly in the health sciences and computer sciences programs, to 22,500 graduates over the next 15 years.

In her first State of the University address, President Kristina M. Johnson said “We can converge across disciplines, colleges and industries around the most pressing and most interesting problems; become a force for equity, justice and the American dream; educate young leaders more than ready to take over for us in building a better world; and redefine what it means to be a great land-grant university in the 21st century, in service to the common good.”

May it be so!

continued on page 2...
FROM: The President

Hello,

In my family, March means The Birthdays. As of the last count, there were something near a dozen Pisces. Those of us in Cincinnati gather to celebrate with a Buskins cake covered with names. Inevitably, no one remembers to bring candles and ‘Happy Birthday’ sounds like an orchestra warming up, as each singer chooses their own order of names.

My children and I are among the March crowd. My son and I share a birthday, while my daughter was born two days before. As they grew, it became clear that there was no way I could be coy about my age. One year, while getting a birthday haircut, son Drew blurted out, “My mom is 35.” The barber seemed embarrassed. I was just resigned.

I have never cared about how many years I’ve seen. I’m only glad to creak my way out of bed in the morning. As the Bible tells us, “This is the day the Lord has made, let us rejoice in it.” Or as a friend says when people complain about aging, “Consider the alternative.”

I’m happy to be heading down I-71 once again, craving Buskin cake and the company of 20 or so kin, a number of them Pisces. It certainly will be a time to rejoice.

Did you notice that OSURA members also have chances to mix and mingle? The Craft group is determining its next projects. The Dinner Series has lined up experts to shine the light on current events, while Tertulia attendees can solve world problems during lunch. Speaking of which, the Lunch Bunch will be back in action, too, on March 17. Check the Calendar for details on these and other events.

OSURA needs you! The Nominating Committee is putting together the slate of candidates for this year’s election. You can put your hat in the ring for vice president (president elect), secretary, or the three at-large board members. Contact Steve D’Ambrosio (steven.deambrosio@gmail.com), Rai Goerler (Goerler.1@osu.edu), Rose Hart, Elenore Zeller (614-529-5420), or Lynne Bonenberger (lynne.bonenberger@gmail.com).

Each OSURA News contain reports on OPERS from Darrian Torrance and on STRS from Jerry Newsom. They each put in hours translating dense documents into information we all can understand. Check them out.

Stay well!

Gemma McLuckie
President of OSURA

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There are more that 80 Innovation Districts worldwide.

The first is in Barcelona, Spain launched in 2000.

Since the 1950s “entrepreneurial clusters” have been formed (such as Silicon Valley, California; Silicon Alley, New York; Shoreditch in London) but the first designated “Innovation District” in the U.S. is in Boston. It started with the renovation of the South Boston Waterfront and included the Big Dig. It is still growing and has stimulated significant economic growth in the city. There are other successful Innovation Districts in cities such as Cambridge, Philadelphia, Seattle, St. Louis, and Detroit.

For further information you might start with Brookings.edu, The Rise of Innovation Districts
Welcome New Retirees

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Organization</th>
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<tr>
<td>Felicia Olufunke Adegboye</td>
<td>University Hospital</td>
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<td>Emmanuel A. Adegboye</td>
<td>University Hospital</td>
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<td>Philip George Armbruster</td>
<td>Ross Heart Hospital</td>
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<td>Margaret L. Atkinson</td>
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<td>Caroline Anna Breitenberger</td>
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<td>Angela M. Moss</td>
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<td>Sandra Lynn Odrumsky</td>
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<td>Regni Sharma Pahouja</td>
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<td>Dale Eugene Ricker</td>
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<td>Dana Marie Rogers</td>
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<td>Amanda Alice Simcox</td>
<td>Natural and Mathematical Sciences</td>
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<td>Jo Ann Slade</td>
<td>Student Academic Success</td>
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<td>Ellen Marie Smith</td>
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<td>Amy Marie Svoboda</td>
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<td>Molecular Genetics</td>
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<td>Health System-Shared Services</td>
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<td>Rama Krishna Yedavalli</td>
<td>Electrical and Computer Engineering</td>
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Be on the lookout for an invite to the OSURA Survey coming to your inbox in March. We would like to know how you feel about what OSURA is currently doing, what we could do better, what you would like to see in the future, and where you might help with guiding us going forward. The survey will run for two weeks beginning around March 14th. Please take a few minutes to complete the survey and help us as we plan for our future. If you do not receive an email with an invite to the survey, please contact osura.membership@gmail.com.
March 10 (Thursday)  
**Photo Society**

*Program: Portrait Photography—In the Eye of the Beholder* by Charlotte Parsons (via Zoom). Members will receive the link; others contact Nancy Verber.

**Member Theme:** Members are invited to submit up to two portraits you have photographed along with statement about your work. Your brief written statement may include any thoughts or details you would like to share, and please include the reason each portrait is meaningful to you.

**Time/Place:** 5:15 p.m. reception, 6 p.m. dinner, 7 p.m. lecture; OSU Faculty Club

**Cost:** $35 (service charge included)

**Registration Deadline:** Register at osura.alumni.osu.edu or call 614-292-2281 by March 21.

**Arranger:** Carol Newcomb (newcomb.28@osu.edu – Dinner Series SIG)

March 19 (Saturday)  
**Walking/Hiking Group**

**Challenge Level 2-4**

Everyone welcome. Walk with us at Highbanks Metro Park, 9466 Columbus Pike (U.S. 23), Lewis Center.

**Time/Place:** 10:30 a.m., we’ll meet at the Nature Center.

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

March 24 (Thursday)  
**Dinner Series**

Universities and industries have different roles, responsibilities and success metrics making partnerships challenging. OSU is very active in industry-funded research. David B. Williams, Professor of Material Science and Engineering, will focus on examples of how OSU developed industry-friendly research facilities and education programs.

**Time/Place:** 5:15 p.m. reception, 6 p.m. dinner, 7 p.m. lecture; OSU Faculty Club

**Cost:** $35 (service charge included)

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

April 8 (Friday)  
**BalletMet – Cinderella**

**Challenge Level 2**  
**REGISTRATION REQUIRED**

The race is on against the clock in Edward Liang’s enchanting production of *Cinderella*. Set to Prokofiev’s jubilant and lush score, this classic fairytale will captivate all ages.

**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., Ohio Theater, 39 E. State 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:** $26.50 (admission ticket) includes extra fees

**Registration/Refund Deadline:** Register at osura.alumni.osu.edu or call 614-292-2281 by March 31. Credit card preferred. Tickets will be held at Will Call.

**Arranger:** Marilyn Blackwell (blackwell.4@osu.edu – Cultural Arts 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.
   Your registration is not complete until payment is made, so have your credit card ready. Checks are no longer being accepted.

2. **Registrations NOT requiring payment:** Registrations will be made through the Arranger’s email provided in the description of the event.

**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.
Meet Mary Jo Fresch, Academy Professor and Professor Emerita from the College of Education and Human Ecology!

I grew up in Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio. After finishing my BS in Elementary Education at the University of Akron, I started my career as a third-grade teacher in Kent, Ohio. I obtained a Masters Degree as a reading specialist. My husband’s (Hank) job moved us from Akron to Lincoln, NE where I taught in teacher education at the University of Nebraska. We moved to Columbus where I had my first experience at Ohio State as a doctoral student. I graduated with a PhD in Language, Literature, and Culture from the College of Education.

Hank’s job took our family of four to Melbourne, Australia in 1992. I taught literacy methods courses in teacher education at The Royal Melbourne Institute and Deakin University. Our children were in 6th and 8th grade at the time, so this was a great three-year adventure for our family.

We returned to Columbus in 1995. The OSU Marion Campus was searching for an Assistant Professor in literacy education, and I got the job! I worked my way to become a tenured Associate Professor, then on to Full Professor. I retired in 2015.

In 2016, Vice Provost Randy Smith asked me to be one of three faculty members to launch the Senate approved University Institute for Teaching and Learning. I developed a mentoring program for “new to Ohio State” faculty. Small groups of faculty from across the university were assigned to a professor mentor known for their teaching. I loved that we were telling new faculty that teaching is important at our Research 1 institution.

At the same time, I was accepted into the Emeritus Academy, where I was elected to the Steering Committee for 3 years, serving as Chair for one year. The Academy, like OSURA, is a wonderful opportunity to meet retired people from all areas of the university. (I highly recommend perusing the Academy lectures at https://oaa.osu.edu/emeritus-academy-lecture-series).

I’ve enjoyed my involvement in OSURA. I presented a lunchtime virtual talk about our Antarctica trip (including a video of our Polar Plunge into the Southern Ocean!), am a member of the book club, and serve as a member of the conference committee. I’m currently active in the Muirfield Village Garden Club (Dublin, OH) and am the incoming president.

Retirement saw an uptick in the professional development workshops I offer to schools around the country. My book, Strategies for Effective Balanced Literacy, is being used by hundreds of teachers. With the pandemic, many workshops became virtual. With less travel, I had time to create my webpage (https://maryjofresch.com) and write two books for Scholastic (bringing my total instructional books for teachers to 22)! During the pandemic we played BINGO by Zoom every Sunday night with our married children and five grandchildren.

Fun fact… Hank and I have traveled to all 7 continents. An African Serengeti safari and a trip to Antarctica are our favorites…although we will never forget the wonder of seeing Easter Island and the Galapagos Islands. We look forward to more travel in 2022!

from The Membership Committee

COVID HAS MADE a significant impact on all OSURA activities over the past two years. The Membership Committee has worked hard at maintaining and building our membership by reaching out to OSU retirees to promote OSURA and all that we offer. During calendar year 2020 there were 324 new retirees resulting in 30 new members. During 2021 there were 398 new retirees and 49 new OSURA members. As we move back to in-person meetings and events, the Membership Committee could use your help in recruiting new members. We challenge each member to reach out to someone you know who has retired and invite them to one of our functions. It could be Lunch Bunch, Virtual Coffee Hour, Dinner Series, Book Club, or Walking/Hiking Group to name a few. All activities are listed in the Calendar of Events section in the newsletter and on the OSURA website (www.osura.osu.edu).

This is the right time to show former colleagues the advantages of OSURA membership. Among them are friendship, learning and just plain fun.

Questions? Contact the Membership Committee at osura.membership@gmail.com.
In Memoriam

Gary Walter Bauer  
January 10 | OSU Extension and OSURA, 78

Richard H. Bohning  
January 20 | Biological Sciences, 102

John Michael Botkins  
January 11 | OSUMC, 65

Holly Castle  
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Roger D. Deehake  
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Susan Annette Ezzone  
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Ivy Louise Faithful  
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Gary Michael Fiasco  
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Margo Floyd  
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Marilyn Glenn  
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Nolan Joseph Rindfleisch  
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Laura Kay Walden  
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Thomas M. York  
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Student Food Insecurity Fund

We are getting very close and we need your help to top $100,000 in the Student Food Insecurity Fund. If you have been watching our thermometer in the newsletter each month, you know we have made wonderful progress since Thanksgiving. Now, if we reach that goal by March 31, 2022 (the end of this month), we can start distributing the income from the fund annually to our student Food Pantry this year. At the end of January, we had over $88,000 in the fund so we need only $12,000 more to reach our goal!

Update from Buckeye Food Alliance: “This past year (2021) was an excellent year for Buckeye Food Alliance. In total, we were able to service 5,036 visits and welcome 449 new students to the pantry. We were also able to forge new partnerships throughout the year. One such partnership was with the Student Farm, bringing in thousands of pounds of locally-grown, fresh produce for us to distribute to the students that utilize our services. In total, we collected nearly 55,000 pounds of food donations from partners all over to help feed our community. We could not do the work that we do without the support of folks like you.”

Ohio State will have a Day of Giving on March 22, 2022. Any gift you make between now and then will help us reach our goal by the end of the month. Remember, this is our gift to the University to mark its 150th anniversary. It is also a way to help today’s students right now with their very basic needs.

Ways to give: The following are several ways to give:

▼ In your browser enter: give.osu.edu/osura. Follow the directions to make a gift.

▼ 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.

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Donations received as of
January 31, 2022
FROM: The Benefits Committee

STRS News
By Jerry Newsom

It’s almost spring, and that means another election for a retiree to be on the STRS Board, filling out the remaining years on the seat to which Bob Stein was elected last spring. The two candidates who came in third and fourth last spring (Rita Walters and Elizabeth Jones) are likely to be the leading candidates. My take on it is that Walters is part of the current majority of the Board, representing the position of the Ohio Education Association (OEA). Jones challenges the current Board policies, close to the Ohio Federation of Teachers (OFT). Walters is likely to favor a one-time 2% COLA, but with further increases for pensions awaiting agreement by actuarial consultants that such a move is fiscally sound. Jones is more likely to support an annual 2% COLA. It’s not always that the differences between candidates are so clear cut.

On the subject of COLAs, some retirees have been emphasizing to the STRS Board (in no uncertain terms) how much they need the extra money, as if the Board would reinstate the COLA if they just realized how much people want it. This doesn’t tell the Board anything they aren’t already very well aware of. Board members would love to resume COLAs, but most feel they have no choice, given the legislative requirements that STRS be on track to be 100% funded within 30 years. In 2012, the funded period was infinite (i.e., the financial condition was headed for a death spiral), and now it’s projected to be 10.9 years by June 2022. A 2% COLA would push that very close to 30 years, leaving little cushion for a financial downturn and providing no relief to active teachers who have had their contributions increased. Averaged over the four years ending in 2012, the ratio of assets to liabilities was 56.0% (that’s not good), and by last June the ratio was 87.8%. So the pain of increased contributions by active teachers and loss of COLAs by retirees is having the desired effect of greatly strengthening the financial condition of our retirement system.

OPERS News
By Darian Torrance

OPERS Board of Trustees did not meet in January, 2022. So, there are no updates from the Board this month.

OPERS Webinars: OPERS announced webinars that were offered during the month of February to provide information about using the Health Reimbursement Arrangement (HRA). Two different webinars for retirees – for those under 65 and for Medicare-eligible retirees were provided by OPERS and Via Benefits. To register for other informative OPERS webinars, go to this link: https://www.opers.org/retirees/education/index.shtml.

If you missed viewing one of the HRA webinars, Via Benefits has prepared a Getting Reimbursed Guide that can be viewed at this link: https://www.opers.org/retirees/education/index.shtml.

2022 OPERS Health Care Program Guide – provides detailed information about the OPERS health care program, Via Benefits, the Health Care Reimbursement Arrangement (HRA), re-employment and the HRA, etc. For more details and helpful information about healthcare coverage, click on the link below to read this booklet: https://www.opers.org/pubs-archive/healthcare/coverage-guide/2022-Health-Care-Coverage-Guide.pdf

Via Benefits Mobile Application: Members with smartphones can download the Via Benefits.

When a Retiree Passes Away: The retiree’s family, beneficiary or care giver must notify both OPERS and Via Benefits. This notification will prevent deposits to the member’s HRA and prevent any overpayments. If there is an available balance in the deceased member’s HRA, eligible dependents can submit reimbursement for claims from that available balance. After 24 months, any remaining amount in the HRA will be returned to OPERS. See this guide for more details: https://www.opers.org/pubs-archive/education/webinar-handouts/webinar-handout-hra-guide-for-caregivers.pdf.

OPERS Facebook Group: A review of comments posted on the Ohio PERS Facebook group page (https://www.facebook.com/OhioPERS/?ref=page_internal) xhttps://perspective.opers.org/index.php/2022/01/27/tips-for-re-employment/?fbclid=IwAR3sAZGhn8JvNKfTjoxSqbtzakANVzhiTqFj3NQoxAZSDBbJqlMLpQ

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.
OSURA 2022 Annual Fall Conference
Wednesday, September 21, 2022

WE ARE PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE:

OSU President Kristina M. Johnson will
be present to make opening remarks.
Provost Melissa L. Gilliam will follow
with the keynote address.

SO PLAN TO JOIN US AS WE LISTEN
AND LEARN ABOUT OUR UNIVERSITY –

Firm Friendship

OSURA Elections are Coming in May
Send your suggestions for nominations to lynnebonenberger@gmail.com.