It’s About the Students

By Nancy Wardwell

The members of OSURA have retired from every nook and cranny of the university – staff and faculty touching every part of the institution and its mission: service, research, teaching and learning. From time to time we need to look at our raison d’être: student population.

When Ohio State* opened in 1873 with our first 24 students, two were women and they were from 11 of Ohio’s counties. Tuition was free but they had to find their own room and board.

According to the 2021 Enrollment Report, the total enrollment was 67,772 students.

- First-year retention rose to 94%, and our four- and six-year graduation rates hit 70.8% and 88%, respectively — both record highs.

POINTS OF PRIDE

Ohio State’s first-year retention for the class of 2021 was 94%, well above the national average for four-year colleges and universities. Underrepresented minority students retained at very high levels: 92.7% of African American students returned for a second year as did 90.5% of Latinx students.

The cost of a university education in 2022 is staggering – far from the $50 a quarter in 1958 when you could afford a degree by working at Kresge’s! Undergraduate tuition is $5509 per semester, plus books and fees ($11,541 for non-resident students). If you don’t live at home the rate for a 2-person room is $4,548 per semester – a 4-person room is $3541! Food plans are just too complicated to describe, but suffice it to say that the cost of a plan that includes 14 meals a week is $3541 each semester.

Already in place is the Ohio State Tuition Guarantee, which promises that tuition, housing and dining costs will not increase for each entering class of in-state residents; and textbook affordability programs that have made free and low-cost learning materials widely available in many large courses will remain – but still those expenses are staggering.

A recent EHE article in Inspire stated that continued on page 2...

*Called Ohio Agricultural and Mechanical College until 1878
Hello, All,

Exciting news! Injecting spinal fluid from young mice into old mice improves memory!

This research was reported last month in the New York Times, which immediately droned on about how hard this marvelous find is to actually use on mice. And forget humans. So disappointing because I certainly could use a shot of memory juice.

Recently, I have lost a pair of glasses, the remote control for a ceiling fan, tax documents, and a list of other things I can’t remember. My absent mindedness is nothing new. I’ve spent a lot of time in la-la land, practically since birth. Never trust my directions, dates, or numbers. I have puzzled many receptionists when I arrived at their front desks the month before or after appointments.

But once I got to a certain age, I started to think I need to worry.

My nurse said, “Remember these words: elephant, book, jump.” He later asked me to recite the words. Me, “What words?” Then I remembered! I shouted, “Jump! Jump! Jump!” He said repeating one word three times doesn’t count.

“I’m losing my nouns,” a friend complains. O, so true. I fumble to identify places. My fragile grasp of people’s names has weakened to the point of breaking. I forget things that have happened recently (sometimes very recently).

However, I won’t forget the year I’ve spent as president of OSURA. I so admire the colleagues who keep this organization running, their dedication and willingness to give. The phrase “time and treasure” is so right. There are so many examples. Reaching the $100,000 goal for the OSURA Student Food Insecurity Fund. Forging ahead despite COVID’s determined assault on our association’s traditions. Demonstrating old retirees can definitely learn new tricks (Zoom, anyone?).

I will be around next year, aiding President Hal Noltimier and the OSURA Board in any way I can. If I see you at Lunch Bunch, Dinner Series, or the Conference, give me a break – tell me your name!

Thank you for a wonderful year,

Gemma B. McLuckie
President of OSURA

May our reach be in our grasp!
Welcome New Retirees

Linda G. Jenrette
University Hospital

Sharon L. Link
University Hospital

Randy Ray Nemitz
OCIO

Martele Roberts Biddy
University Hospital

Deborah Marie Ross
Ross Heart Hospital

Gretchen Ann Whitby
James Cancer Hospital

Tamra Lynn Workman
OCIO

Annual Meeting

Celebrate “A Year of Success 2021-22” with fellow members as OSURA returns with an in-person Annual Meeting! Following a business program and installation of new officers, we will introduce the team that led successful efforts to reach the $100,000 goal for the OSURA Student Food Insecurity Fund. A favorite speaker, Barbie Tootle, will ensure the celebration will continue. Barbie has many ties to the University, including membership in OSURA! Also on the agenda, we will honor the OSURA Outstanding Award recipient. Join in the fun!

Date: June 16
Time: 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Place: Longaberger Alumni House Grand Lounge
Registration required: Register at osura.osu.edu
Cost: $22
Contact Person: Gemma McLuckie (mluckiegemma@gmail.com – Executive Board)
COMMITTEE MEETINGS

June 7 (Tuesday)
Benefits Committee
Time/Place: 9:30 a.m., Longaberger Alumni House

June 14 (Tuesday)
Board Meeting
Time/Place: 9:30 a.m., Longaberger Alumni House

June 22 (Wednesday)
Membership Committee
Time/Place: 10 a.m., Longaberger Alumni House

MONTHLY ACTIVITIES

June 23 (Thursday)
Dinner Series
Speaker-Professor Mike Para. Since 2019 there have been over a quarter million scientific publications on COVID-19. This evolving and expanding flood of information has challenged the public, medical and scientific communities. This presentation will discuss what is understood about the virus and how it spreads, review the clinical manifestations and diagnosis and examine approaches for prevention.

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.osu.edu or call 614-292-2281 by June 20
Arranger: Carol Newcomb (newcomb.28@osu.edu – Dinner Series SIG)

Book Club
Having successfully used the You Are There play format to “meet,” and with next year’s books chosen from the over 80 possible titles annotated in our Big Book List (providing a variety of personal reading pleasure), the OSURA Book Club is now on summer hiatus until September. We always welcome new members.

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

SPECIAL EVENTS

June 16 (Thursday)
OSURA Annual Meeting and Celebration
Celebrate “A Year of Success 2021-22!” Following a short business program and the installation of new officers, we will introduce the team that raised $100,000 for the Student Food Insecurity Fund. A favorite speaker, Barbie Tootle, will ensure the celebration will continue and we’ll cap it off by honoring the 2022 OSURA Outstanding Service Award recipient. Don’t miss it!

Time: 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Cost: $22; cost includes brunch
Registration Required: Register at osura.osu.edu
Contact Person: Gemma McLuckie (mcluckiegemma@gmail.com – Executive Board)

July 20 (Wednesday)
Union Terminal and the Great American Ball Park & Museum Tour
Cincinnati, OH
Challenge Level 3
REGISTRATION REQUIRED

We will tour Union Terminal train station, Rotunda and Cat Walk and make it to Eden Park for a box lunch. Our last stop will be a tour of the Great American Ball Park and Museum.

Meet by: 7:15 a.m., Tremont Center (Tremont Road, opposite Upper Arlington Library); bus leaves promptly at 7:30 a.m.
Return: approximately 6:30 p.m.
Cost: $84; cost includes tour fees, box lunch, motor coach transportation, snacks, tips
Registration/Refund Deadline: Register at osura.osu.edu or call 614-292-2281 by July 13.
Arrangers: Jessica Pritchard and Cindy Giles (jjpritch6@gmail.com – Travel 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.

September 21 (Wednesday)
OSURA Annual Conference
See current newsletter issue detailing the sessions.
Meet Elizabeth McPherson, a pharmacist and clinical instructor

My career as a pharmacist and clinical instructor at The Ohio State University started in 1987 on the cancer unit of the medical center. At that time it was basically only the 10th floor of the hospital. Within a couple years I moved with the hematology/oncology patients to the shiny new James Cancer Hospital at the OSU medical center. A couple decades later I moved again to the shinier, newer The Arthur G. James Cancer Hospital and Richard J. Solove Research Institute at The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center. So I experienced “time and change” during my 29.5 years at the university. I had the opportunity to work with some wonderful people and experience vast improvements in cancer therapy—even though they occur as baby steps.

I grew up in Baltic, Ohio, which is on the edge of Amish country in Tuscarawas County. I graduated in a class of 91 students from Garaway High School in Sugarcreek, Ohio. Along with a handful of my classmates I entered OSU feeling like a deer in the headlights (my dormitory had more residents than my home town) but enthusiastic. After graduating with a degree in pharmacy, I chose to stay in Columbus for better career options.

Since retirement, my husband of 30 years, John McFarland ’52, and I have traveled as much as possible (before the pandemic). The most pleasantly surprising city we have visited was Budapest, Hungary and the most exotic excursion was hiking into Komodo Island to see Komodo dragons on their own turf.

We enjoy attending all the home Buckeye football games and one or two away games each year. We volunteer with Charity Newsies twice a week and for Pelotonia on ride weekend. I have also had the eye-opening experience of serving on the board of our condominium association ever since my husband nominated me during a meeting I could not attend.

The COVID issue has kept us at home for the most part, but after being vaccinated and maintaining precautions we are feeling more comfortable to move about, engaging in outdoor activities. Soon after the pandemic was declared, we, along with a friend, purchased equipment and hired a trainer to have three times a week outdoor exercise classes which kept us sane during the lockdown, even though we have to wear thermal underwear under our gym clothes during the winter.

The first OSURA conference I attended, a month after I retired, impressed me with the quality of lectures. I happened to mention this during lunch and a program committee member sharing the table encouraged me to become involved. I have very much enjoyed helping the committee and participating in the many activities offered by OSURA. This organization is packed with interesting members.
**Opening Remarks**
OSU President Kristina M. Johnson

**Keynote**
“An Academic Lifecycle for the 21st Century” – Melissa L. Gilliam, MD, MPH, Executive Vice President & Provost

Provost Gilliam will explain the goals for excellence President Johnson has established to make Ohio State the model land-grant university for the 21st century. The provost will then discuss the academic plan being developed by the Office of Academic Affairs. She will describe how the President’s goals and OAA’s planning efforts inform our thinking about the lifecycle of the university’s faculty, students, and staff, including creating a life course approach to interacting with the institution through technology and digital innovation.

**Breakout Sessions | Group 1**

1. **The James Cancer Diagnostic Center**: Raquel Reinbolt MD (Director), Dareth Gilmore APRN-CNP, Scott Rowley APRN-CNP (AP manager), will discuss the importance of early diagnosis in the treatment of cancer and the role the Diagnostic Center plays in making that happen.

2. **Transforming Central Ohio’s Waste into Resources**: Kyle O’Keefe, Director of Innovation and Programs at SWACO. Creating a robust circular economy may play a pivotal role in addressing key societal issues ranging from supply-chain challenges to climate change. Kyle will discuss some of the efforts Central Ohio is undertaking to reduce waste and increase reuse and recycling efforts in order to create a more resilient community.

3. **The Changing Face of College Athletics**: Gene Smith, Senior Vice President and Wolfe Foundation Endowed Athletic Director, will share why the intercollegiate athletic model that has existed for decades is no longer sustainable. The ecosystem we serve demands change – political interests, legal issues, and changing demographics have changed, making us to get comfortable with the uncomfortable.

4. **Old Bones From A Frozen Continent**: David Elliot, Academy Professor, Earth Sciences, will discuss the digression on OSU Earth Sciences and Antarctic vertebrate fossils. Why is a dinosaur skeleton in Orton Hall?

**Breakout Sessions | Group 2**

5. **The Aging Heart**: Carl V. Leier, MD, Professor Emeritus, Cardiology; Sitaramesh Emani, MD, Associate Professor of Medicine, Cardiology. Aging increases the frequency and/or the severity of most cardiac conditions. These experts will focus on a common condition, diastolic dysfunction heart failure, and a less common, but very interesting Takotsubo (stress-induced) cardiomyopathy.

6. **Adventures in Broadcasting**: Christopher Purdy, Broadcast Manager/On-air host WOSU Public Media/Classical 101, will share the fun and drama of broadcasting through Central Ohio, from concerts presented ‘live’ in Carnegie Hall, the Ohio Theater and local churches and concert halls, to unexpected participation from audience members on and off mic. Trust me, this won’t be dull.

7. **A Deeper Look at Tai Chi for Falls Prevention**: Sifu Mike Grigsby. As Head Instructor for the OSU Kungfu Club for 36 years, Mike has an intimate knowledge of Tai Chi and Kungfu, balance, and body mechanics. He will present some “instant” lessons to improve your balance, to prevent falls, and how to land as safely as possible.

8. **Future of the Waterman Agricultural and Natural Resources Laboratory**: Andrew “Dewey” Mann, Ph.D., Director of Waterman Agricultural and Natural Resources Laboratory, Interim Director of the Chadwick Arboretum, will share the complexity of the Waterman. Waterman serves as a core for teaching, research, and community engagement and a university hub for leading innovative science and public engagement in the food, agricultural, and environmental sciences. It is where our many partners join us to advance knowledge and industry, communicate science, and prepare future leaders. The innovation district, Waterman, the Wetlands, and Chadwick Arboretum all comprise the Columbus-based CFAES system supporting work on the grand challenges facing society.

**Breakout Sessions | Group 3**

9. **Searching for Habitable Worlds and Life with JWST**: Scott Gaudi, OSU Professor of Astronomy. As the James Webb Space Telescope starts sending observations back to Earth, astronomers and the public at large are anxious to see if it will find evidence of life on planets around other stars. Scott will share how astronomers try to find out the latest to answer that question.

**Lunch Program**

**Bold, Beautiful Music**

We will have the pleasure of listening to Ohio State’s exceptional Men’s Glee Club, under the direction of Robert Ward, OSU Director of Choral Activities, and will also learn how 72 voices, each with a distinct timbre, size, and vibrato, are shaped into a formation that best enhances the piece to be sung. Nothing left to chance – every singer must have an assigned spot.
10. Visiting Your Quarry Trails Metro Park: Ryan Mader, Park Manager-Quarry Trails Metro Park, will discuss information on the area, how it all started, the activities available, and the area’s wildlife and fauna. You’ll also learn of its present and future development plans.

11. A Ritchie Boy: One Young Immigrant’s Journey to America... and Back to Europe to Help the Allies Win World War II: Linda Kass, Author, will share the little-known story of the Ritchie Boys, many of them Jewish German-speaking immigrants, who worked in US Army Intelligence and helped the Allies win the Second World War. Her novel, A Ritchie Boy, based on her own father’s early life, conveys the decade-long journey of her young protagonist’s life: of ‘becoming and belonging’ in America—from Vienna to Camp Ritchie to the theater of war and back.

12. Where is Ohio (and American) Politics Going?: Herb Asher, OSU Professor Emeritus of Political Science, will share the current status of Ohio politics which has been very active. He will provide you the opportunity to ask questions that will stimulate the discussion. Be ready, he will be!

Healthcare/Benefits Sessions

H-13 – STRS: This session, presented by Gary Russell, will include any changes to the members’ plans for benefits or health care programs for 2023 and an update on the status of their retirement in general.

H-14 – OPERS Funding: This session, presented by Karen Cacciatore, will include any changes to the members’ plans for benefits or health care programs for 2023 and an update on the status of their retirement in general.
Do you have a **healthy** low back and neck?  

You can help researchers learn how measurements of low back and neck motion can be used to track and treat patients suffering from low back and neck pain.

You may be eligible if you:
- Have never seen a medical provider for low back or neck pain
- Are not currently experiencing significant low back or neck pain
- Are over the age of 18

If you participate in this study, you will complete questionnaires and wear a motion monitor that will assess your back and neck. Each study session will take 40-70 minutes. You will be paid $10 for each visit.

To learn more, contact Sarah Grim at spinstudyinfo@osu.edu or go to go.osu.edu/pheno-osuru to complete a short survey.

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**WELCOME & THANKS**

**Board Officers**

Following the May elections, please join us in welcoming our new board officers and those continuing in different roles.

President: Hallan C. Noltimier  
Immediate past president: Gemma B. McLuckie  
Vice president/president-elect: Sally E. Dellinger  
Secretary: Pamela “PT” Thomas  
Members at large: Mary Jo Fresch, Paula Hook, Darian Torrance

We thank those who are leaving the board for their service.

Immediate past president: Jerome G. Dare  
Secretary: Michele B. Hobbs  
Members at large: Suzanne M. Burge, Shirley M. Flowers