

OSURA

News



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

March 2023

2200 Olentangy River Road, Columbus, OH 43210 | P.O. Box 14433, Columbus, OH 43214
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MAGIC – *After All!*

By Nancy Wardwell

Computers and cell phones may be on your list of great inventions of the 20th century but what heads my list is the 4-wheeled suitcase. It rolls beside you and carries carry-on stuff. It only stalls out at curbs and those bumpy mats at crosswalks!



Yep, we did it. We flew down to Orlando to check out The Mouse at 50. But first, we made the annual drive to Merritt Island Wildlife Refuge to check on the decidedly Not-Ohio world of alligators and beautiful big birds.

For our visit with the Mouse we carefully chose a weekday, but so did thousands of other people of all ages and hues – along with fleets of strollers, wagons, and gericarts – and herds of cheerleaders (now athletes), down from everywhere for “nationals.”

For me it was a chance to celebrate magic and memories – I could remember when my granddaughter first spotted Eeyore and again wonder at the imagination and technology that animates it all – and it is all there, and more – from the practical inventions of the Swiss Family Robinson – to Star Wars and Tron! We did it all, from Pirates of the Caribbean to the newly refurbished It’s a Small World.



Above: Among the thousands at The Magic Kingdom. Top left: A resident of Merritt Island Refuge. Left: Spoonbills

Corny as it may sound, that was where the most powerful and meaningful message was – after all! Just for a day, to be able to leave behind political wrangling and power struggles and join with families and their kids – and grandparents, and clearly ignore the daily warnings of inflation. Every once in a while, everyone deserves to have a day of magic. It really is a Small World – after all!

Fall Conference—2

New Retirees—3

Online Directory—3

Calendar of Events—4

Benefits Committee—6

OSURA Spotlight—7

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Nancy S. Wardwell

OSU Foundation
OSURA Endowment Fund
Number – 605419
OSURA Fund to Combat Student
Food Insecurity – 316596
osura.osu.edu

FROM: The President

Greetings to my OSURA colleagues. While February's letter was very positive, my March letter contains both concerning and positive comments. On February 3rd, a Norfolk Southern train derailed in East Palestine, Ohio. Of the 50 rail cars off the track, 10 carried hazardous chemicals. The village was evacuated, 3,500 fish died in village streams, the residents remain concerned.

On February 6th, a pair of serious earthquakes rocked southeast Turkey and northwest Syria. By mid-February, over 43,000 deaths were recorded. Turkey is being squeezed west into the eastern Mediterranean Sea by regional plate tectonics. And over the last several decades, to our west in Utah, the Great Salt Lake has become the Great Toxic Lake. Eight hundred square miles are now exposed lakebed and exposure grows annually due to the regional western drought. Exposed lakebed sediment contains hazardous mercury, arsenic, and selenium. Most is of geological origin, but some is from human contamination. Residents along the Wasatch Front, from Salt Lake City south, are experiencing foggy, dusty air pollution.

On February 14th our Executive Board had an excellent positive meeting at the Whetstone Branch of the Columbus Metropolitan Library. Craig Little, of OSUAA, presented a useful discussion on involvement and increasing membership in OSURA.

Enough! Stay well.

Hallan C. Noltimier
President of OSURA



2023 FALL CONFERENCE

**Wednesday,
September 20, 2023**



We are Pleased to Announce the Keynote Speaker

Dr. Melissa Shivers is the Senior Vice President for Student Life where she provides leadership and oversight on matters facing our OSU student community.

Students will share in the presentation, so this is something you won't want to miss.

Plan on joining us!

Welcome New Retirees

John Edward Andreas
Vet Clinical Sciences

Camilla Curren
Health Sciences

Kelly Jane Dodd
Comprehensive Cancer Center

Henry Fischbach
Dentistry

Kathy Jane Florence
James Cancer Hospital

Tony Myer Fravel
University Hospital

Stephen Ingemar Jones
Wexner Center for the Arts

Lung Fei Lee
Social and Behavioral Sciences

David Mark McDonald
Business and Finance

John Christopher Moses
Student Life

Mark Cassimer Moziejko
University Libraries

Beth Ann NeCamp
Health System – Shared Services

Susan L. Rose
Ambulatory Services Hospital

Susan Elizabeth Young
OSU Extension

Guojuan Zhang
James Cancer Hospital

In Memoriam

Betty Marie Binder
December 30, 2022 | Spanish, 101

Virginia Busby
December 18, 2022 | OSUMC, 84

Judy Nell Buster
December 28, 2022 | Residential
Housing, 80

Ron R. Cline
February 2 | Usher, 77

Roy Donnerberg
January 19 | Medicine and
OSURA, 95

Roderick Lee Fuller
January 15 | Medicine, 86

Iona Johnson
January 8 | OSU East, 91

Donald R. Larson
December 6, 2022 |
Spanish Literature, 87

Joseph Levey
January 26 | Music, 97

Barbara A. Nelson
January 10 | School of Health, PE,
and Recreation and OSURA, 91

Sara R. Petznick
January 21 | 80

Richard Reuning
January 21 | Pharmacy and
OSURA, 82

Richard (Dick) F. Totter
January 8 | OSU East, 67

Richard S. Webster
January 16 | Fisher College and
OSURA, 88

John L. White
January 8 | 74

Roger Allen Yeary
December 1, 2022 | Veterinary
Medicine, 90

Need Help with the Online Directory



Bring your laptop for a workshop on Friday, April 14, at 1 p.m. at the Whetstone Library. Assistance will be provided to help you to log in, change your privacy settings, and find information on other OSURA members.

So that we have an idea of how many are coming, please RSVP with an email to osura.membership@gmail.com.

Questions? Send an email to osura.membership@gmail.com, call Sandy Bell at 740-833-6374 or contact Marie Taris via email at mtaris4@att.net or phone 614-537-1162.

Calendar of Events

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

March 7 (Tuesday) Benefits Committee

Time/Place: 9:30 a.m.

March 14 (Tuesday) Board Meeting

Time/Place: 9:30 a.m.

March 22 (Wednesday) Membership Meeting

Time/Place: 10 a.m.

MONTHLY ACTIVITIES

March 3 (Friday) Walking/Hiking Group

Challenge Level 2-4

Everyone welcome. Bring your "binocs" in search of great birds.

Time/Place: 1 p.m.– Pickerington Ponds, Wood Duck Picnic Area Parking on Bowen Rd, Pickerington

Arranger: Sandy Bell (sib9716@outlook.com/ cell 740-833-6374 – Walking/Hiking SIG)

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.

March 15 (Wednesday) Lunch Bunch – *Heard any Good Marches Lately?* (part 2)

Dr. Paul Droste presented Part 1 *Heard any Good Marches Lately?* in October 2022. Paul will now present Part 2. Dr. Paul Droste was Director of the OSU Marching Band from 1970 through 1983, and Director of the OSU Alumni Marching Band 2007-2014.

Time/Place: 11:15 a.m., MCL Cafeteria, Kingsdale

Cost: On your own, order through cafeteria line starting at 11:15 a.m., program at approximately 12 noon.

Contact Person: Steven D'Ambrosia (steven.dambros@gmail.com) & Elenore Zeller – Social Committee

March 21 (Tuesday) Craft Group

Bring your own craft of choice as well as your ideas, or just join us to socialize and see the talents of other retirees. Please RSVP to marycull.4@gmail.com

Time/Place: 2-4 p.m., Massey's Pizza, 152 Graceland Blvd (Graceland Shopping Center)

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

March 23 (Thursday) Dinner Series – *Looking to the Skies*

Professor John Horack will speak on the OSU relation with Voyager Space and

OSU as the leading academic institution partner in the areas of engineering, agriculture, biological/physical sciences and human health. The Starlab-GWCS analog facility will be at OSU Aerospace Campus at Don Scott Airport.

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 March 20.
Arranger: Carol Newcomb (newcomb.28@osu.edu – Dinner Series SIG)

March Book Club

Featuring in our Virtual Theatre is *The Plot* by Jean Hanff Korelitz. A struggling writer, in the throes of "writer's block," steals a plot from his student and suddenly becomes the toast of the literary community. But somebody knows what he did—and wants revenge. This novel asks: Who really owns a story, and can stealing a plot really be called plagiarism?

Contact: Lee Hill (rmhlmh@att.net – Book Club SIG)

March Photo Society

No program this month. See you Thursday, April 13.

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

OSURA Dinner Series

The January Dinner Series was honored to have a most distinguished and informative speaker, OSU Vice President for Health Promotion, University Chief Wellness Officer, and Dean and Professor, College of Nursing, Bernadette Mazurek Melynk who spoke of factors that predict longevity.



Bernadette Mazurek Melynk

SPECIAL EVENTS

March 10 (Friday)
**BalletMet – A Celebration
of New Works****Challenge Level 2**
REGISTRATION REQUIRED

Three world premieres by gifted choreographers Leiland Charles, Dana Genschaft, and Amy Seiwert. Each of these artists continues to push the boundaries of classical ballet choreography.

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.

Cost: \$23.10 (admission ticket)

Registration/Refund Deadline: Register at osura.alumni.osu.edu or call 614-292-2281 by March 2. Credit card preferred. Tickets will be held at Will Call.

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

March 30 (Thursday)
Fuel for the Future

NEW

REGISTRATION REQUIRED

Join OSU Extension Educator and Registered Dietitian Jenny Lobb to celebrate National Nutrition Month and its theme “Fuel for the Future.” The session will include a cooking demonstration and tasting – yum.

Time/Place: 12:45 p.m., Kunz-Brundige Franklin County Extension Building, 2548 Carmack Road. Enter Waterman Farms from Kenny Road, first building on the left enter through the double doors, park in the gravel lot unless accessible location is needed.

Cost: No cost

Registration Deadline: Register at go.osu.edu/OSURA by March 30 or email OSURA.membership@gmail.com by March 27

Arranger: Sandy Bell (sib9716@outlook.com)

April 8 (Saturday)
**Franklin Park Conservatory
& Columbus Cherry
Blossom Festival****Challenge Level 3**
REGISTRATION REQUIRED

Celebrate Nature Clothed in Kaleidoscope Spring Splendor inside & outside FPC. Experience colorful Chihuly Glass Art Exhibit and demo. Cherry trees are in full bloom in Franklin Park for the spectacular Columbus Cherry Blossom Festival! Exotic music, dances, gifts, food, more...

Meet by: 8:30 a.m., at Franklin Park Conservatory front entrance

Return: 5 p.m.

Cost: \$35 Non-Members of FPC, \$20 FPC Members; cost includes admission fee, lunch, and docent fee.

Registration: Register at osura.osu.edu or call 614-292-2281 by March 1.

Refund Deadline: March 15

Arrangers: Alabelle Zghoul and Marlinda Iyer (Marlindaiyer@yahoo.com – Travel/Cultural Arts Committee)

April 28 (Friday)
BalletMet – Swan Lake

NEW

Challenge Level 2
REGISTRATION REQUIRED

Experience the swan maidens, the delicate creatures of water and air in arguably the most famous ballet ever to be created.

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.

Cost: \$25.20 (admission ticket)

Registration/Refund Deadline: Register at osura.alumni.osu.edu or call 614-292-2281 by April 20. Credit card preferred. Tickets will be held at Will Call.

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

Lunch Bunch

The Lunch Bunch met on the new day (the Third Wednesday) and heard a very important message about Avoiding Falls – and personal safety in general. The speaker was Jane Acri of the Central Ohio Area Agency on Aging. She left us with Steps to Fall Prevention. In the discussion that followed OSURA members shared some of their experiences – and the importance of Personal Emergency Response Devices (look online). Blue Cross/Blue Shield Medicare is even providing the devices without cost to its members.



Jane Acri

Upcoming Events

Lunch Bunch

April 19 – Senior Scams presented by the Ohio Attorney General Office

May 17 – Glaciers and the Environment presented by Professor Lonnie Thompson

Here is a link to our events: <https://osura.alumni.osu.edu/events/>

FROM: The Benefits Committee

OPERS Report

By Darian Torrance

The OPERS Board met in January to review recommendations and approve the following:

- A proposed asset allocation for the Defined Benefit (DB) Fund, which included small changes to the allocation of Public Fixed Income and decreases Risk Parity. NEPC and Staff also recommended increasing the allocation to alternatives.
- A new target asset allocation for the Health Care Fund that changes the percentages for Public Equity (+1%), and decreases Opportunistic Alternatives (-1%). Public Fixed Income percentages for Core Bonds will be decreased by 1%, while Investment Grade Credit will be increased by 2%, and EM Debt will decrease by 1%. According to NEPC investment advisors, the Health Care Fund maintains a very high liquidity profile and with no allocations for private Real Estate or Private Equity.

OPERS staff and consultants presented economic outlook reports and financial

updates. Highlights from these presentations included the following:

- Nick Kotsonis, OPERS' Sr. Investment Analyst, presented an economic outlook that predicted a recession and job losses in the coming year. He expects fixed income assets to have better returns in the coming year.
- David Wang, Chief China Economist at Credit Suisse, gave a report on China's Economic outlook. He reported that the biggest challenge that China faces right now is how to get more productivity from a shrinking labor force. He cited three ways to boost labor productivity:
 - Increase capital-labor ratio
 - Better education
 - Innovation – increase the speed of technology progress
- OPERS' Chief Investment Officer, Paul Greff, reported that "staff produced a -12% return for the Defined Benefit Fund, below the 6.9% target return. The results were similar for the Health Care Fund, which returned -15%, falling below

OPERS Fact

Approximately
87% of stock
market assets are
held by **10%** of U.S.
households.

its target return of 6.0%. As of December 31, 2022, net assets of the Defined Benefit Fund and the Health Care Fund were \$93 billion and \$12 billion, respectively, behind the asset growth targets for both funds."

- Karen Carraher, OPERS' Executive Director, reported that "The Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2023 (HR 2617) included legislation (SECURE 2.0) that will increase the Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) age to 75 by 2033, in two tiers:
 - Individuals who turn age 72 on or after January 1, 2023, and age 73 on or before December 31, 2023 will see their RMD age increased to age 73.
 - Individuals who turn age 74 on or after January 1, 2033, who will see their RMD age increase to age 75.



STRS Report

By Jerry Newsom

One seat is up for this spring's election to the STRS Board. The candidate must be an active teacher. Most OSURA members are not listed as active teachers, so few will be eligible to vote, but whoever wins the vote could have a major impact on STRS. For this reason, the OSURA Board sent important questions to each candidate, then carefully considered the responses of the two leading candidates. Our Board voted unanimously to endorse the incumbent, **Arthur Lard**.

There were two reasons driving the selection. At present, once the STRS Board has voted on what fraction of investments should be in each asset class (stocks, bonds, real estate, etc.), investment professionals manage the investments. This has led STRS to have among the best returns of all public pension funds in the country. There has been concern that in the future the STRS Board might start micromanaging STRS investments. Lard favors keeping the current role of investment staff, while the challenger, Pat Davidson, does not. Davidson proposes changing the investment strategy, while Lard favors keeping the policies that have worked so well. The Board felt the choice was clear; to keep STRS moving in the right direction, we endorse **Arthur Lard** for reelection.



OSURA Spotlight

Meet Bernie and Linda Erven!

Bernie and Linda grew up on farms in Henry County near Napoleon in Northwestern Ohio. In 1956, they graduated from neighboring small rural high schools. Their two high school classes were strikingly homogeneous, of modest means, all white, politically agreed, religiously mixed, and scandal free. Linda and Bernie enjoyed the small school environment, community atmosphere and many opportunities their small schools provided. No tryouts; just jump in and contribute as you can.

Academically, course selection was limited, most teachers had grown up locally and there were few elective courses. Nevertheless, the teachers were mostly enthusiastic, exceptionally encouraging, and effective in helping their students understand the many advantages of continuing education after high school.

By high school graduation, Bernie and Linda thought they had their careers pretty well planned. Neither imagined ever being associated in any way with Ohio State. Linda went off to Valparaiso University to major in Elementary Education where she graduated in 1960 and started her teaching career as a first-grade teacher. In 1992, she earned a Master of Science degree at Ohio State specializing in teaching English as a Second Language. She loved her rewarding and successful elementary teaching career in Columbus and Porto Alegre, Brazil and then English as a Second Language at the elementary, middle school, and high school levels. She was also an enthusiastic church volunteer and active in League of Women Voters.

Following high school, Bernie enrolled at Bowling Green State University to major in accounting. During his first year at Bowling Green, a business management professor shocked him with words he clearly remembers to this day. The professor asked, "Bernie, why don't you get the hell out of here and down to Ohio State where you belong? We need people like you in agriculture." An encouraging and first-ever visit to the Columbus campus soon followed and he transferred to Ohio State as a sophomore in 1957.

Bernie graduated in 1960 with a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture majoring in Agriculture Education. In 1960-61, he was a 4-H International Farm Youth Exchange Delegate to Jericho, Jordan where he worked at an orphanage, school, and farm for 125 Arab refugee boys. He returned to Ohio State to earn a Master of Science in Agricultural Economics graduating in 1963. Next, he earned a Ph.D. in Agricultural



Bernie and Linda Erven

Economics at the University of Wisconsin. He and Linda then spent 3 ½ years in southern Brazil where Bernie worked on a University of Wisconsin Alliance for Progress project helping the University of Rio Grande do Sul establish graduate programs in agricultural sciences. He joined the Ohio State faculty in 1969 and continued there until retirement in 2004 except for a one-year sabbatical at Cornell University.

Linda and Bernie married in 1961 and lived in Columbus where Linda continued teaching elementary school and Bernie did his master's at Ohio State. Their first two children were born in

1962 in Columbus. In 1963, Bernie started graduate school in Wisconsin and two years later, they moved to Porto Alegre, Brazil. He finished his dissertation research in 1963 and joined the Wisconsin faculty as an assistant professor.

Their third child was born in Brazil and thus had dual citizenship. International work brings many delightful and some unexpected experiences. One for Bernie was spending Christmas Eve in Bethlehem, Jordan. Another was waiting in a very long and slow-moving line at the Federal Brazilian Revenue Service to obtain a document stating that his five-month-old daughter owed no income tax. Such a document was necessary for any Brazilian citizen leaving the country, even if she were an American citizen traveling with her parents and holder of both Brazilian and American passports.

Bernie joined the Ohio State faculty in 1969 as an assistant professor in agricultural economics. His 34-year career at Ohio State included teaching, research and outreach with Ohio State Extension, Interim Department Chair, Associate Department Chair and service on several department, college and university academic affairs committees, search committees and University Senate. For Bernie, teaching was the highlight of his career. He twice received an Ohio State University Alumni Award for Distinguished Teaching.

Bernie and Linda's family has now grown from five children to include in-laws along with 13 grandchildren. None of their children or grandchildren live in Ohio but two have chosen to do their undergraduate work at Ohio State much to the delight of their grandparents.

Family time, volunteering and travel have been Linda and Bernie's most important retirement activities. They have visited all 50 states and over 40 foreign countries.

Bernie and Linda are lifetime OSURA members. They have enjoyed a variety of OSURA opportunities for travel throughout Ohio and two times to Canada for Stratford Shakespeare festivals. Campus gatherings of retirees, especially the annual fall conference, have been particularly enjoyable and rewarding. Family, good health, volunteer work, retiree activities along with OSURA and church groups continue to reinforce for Linda and Bernie that they have been richly blessed.

**The Ohio State University Retirees Assn.
Customer Service**
Longaberger Alumni House
2200 Olentangy River Road
Columbus, Ohio 43210

Service Award Nominations

The OSURA Service Award recognizes our members who have contributed greatly to the mission of OSURA and betterment of OSU Retirees. It is awarded at the Annual Meeting (Mark your calendar – it is June 14 this year). Be thinking of the nominee for this year. Nomination Forms are available on line (osura.osu.edu).

Below is a list of most recent recipients, and it looks like they all continue to contribute to our organization!

Recent Service Award Recipients

- 2022.....Margaret “Meg” Teaford
- 2021.....Sally Dellinger
- 2020.....Gerald Newson
- 2019.....Raimund E. Goerler
- 2018.....Nancy Wardwell
- 2017.....Marie Taris
- 2016.....Thomas Sweeney
- 2015.....Howard Gauthier
- 2014.....Michele Bondurant

