

OSURA News



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

August 2023

2200 Olentangy River Road, Columbus, OH 43210 | P.O. Box 14533, Columbus, OH 43214
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Time and Change – *Ohio Agriculture*

By Nancy Wardwell

Agriculture is the #1 contributor to Ohio's economy!

Driving around rural areas this time of year confirms that the leading products are soybeans, corn, and dairy products - in that order. There are about 75,000 farms; surprisingly, nearly 90% are run by families or individuals.

If Ohio's country roads entice you, you will see lots of beans, corn, feeder lots, and dairy farms – and the effects of time and change!

There remain beautiful, tidy family farms – but you also see derelict old barns, abandoned and rotting beside their silos. I have long been fascinated with the silos! Their variety – of construction, shape, and materials – concrete, steel, and even ceramic. I could imagine ambitious salesmen going farm to farm, extolling the virtues of a particular type of silo!

Actually, farm silos are built to either store grain or to produce and store the fermented feed (silage) that keeps animals, especially dairy cattle, well-fed and producing during the winter.

“Silo” is from ancient Greek “siros” meaning “a pit to hold grain.” Remains of ancient Egyptian grain storage pits are still in existence today. Silos for silage are a more recent development, stemming from experimentation in Europe in the 1800s.

Using the same technique used to make sauerkraut, green fodder was used in parts of Germany early in the 19th century and became popular in France. Conditions for dairy farming in the United States suited the use of



green fodder (silage) and it was first adopted by a Maryland farmer in 1876. Research on the important practice even garnered a Nobel Prize in 1945. The technique uses plants such as corn, legumes, and grasses that have been chopped, compacted, often with acid, and

stored in airtight conditions. From this, an important livestock feed is produced by anaerobic fermentation.

More recently, the silos have been replaced by more efficient, easier-to-use trenches, pits, and those long white snakes filled with round bales of fermenting hay. The tall cylinders of blue steel, masonry, or banded concrete stand, often beside deteriorating

barns. New farm equipment has developed to be just too large to fit the old-style barns - and methods of storing crops, making silage, and housing animals have changed.

Time and its changes to our massive food and agriculture industry now contribute \$124 billion annually to Ohio's economy – and besides the corn, beans and cattle, Ohio farmers grow and raise more than 200 products.

All that change is working for us!

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- Secretary**
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Nancy Wardwell and
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- Ohio Public Employees Retirement System**
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- Special Interest Groups**
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- State Teachers Retirement System**
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Emeritus Academy

- William Ausich

Newsletter Editor

- Nancy S. Wardwell

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

FROM: The President



Well, how many times did you say “yes” since last month? You know though, yes, is only part of the conversation. The more important part is what follows. And I think that is saying to the person who said yes... “thank you.” Thinking back on OSURA’s 40 years of existence, there are a LOT of people who should receive those two words, beginning with Lewis C. Branscomb, Chair of AAUP Committee that initiated the founding of OSURA and then OSU President Edward Jennings who gave his approval for its formation. The first president of OSURA was D. Ransom Whitney, who was elected in May of 1983, along with Julia Marine, John Mitchell, Ernest Leggett, Evelyn Baker, Lewis Branscomb, Margaret Fiscarelli, Christen Jonassen, Carl Marshall, and Elliot Whitaker who became the first members of the board. Don’t recognize these names? Neither do I. Therefore — Shame on us all. They created the base in OSURA upon which everything else has been built. In the first newsletter, it was reported that one of the goals of the organization was to keep on top of the benefits and possible changes to those that came from PERS, STRS or the University. OSURA today still strives to do that. So “thank you” to all the early participants in getting us moving ahead. We can’t go back and personally thank them, so I think I’ll name a couple of people in our more recent existence, and say “thank you” to Lou DiOrio and Dick Hill. Both were presidents of OSURA and both received the OSURA Outstanding Service Award (actually in the same year). Each in their own way created an atmosphere of excellence, dedication, and professionalism for all of us new to OSURA. They made you want to say “yes,” so “thank you,” Lou and Dick.

So, say “thank you” today to all those who have encouraged and supported you in your journey in OSURA and elsewhere.

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Is your cell phone or tablet still baffling?

Help is on the way!

Join us at 1 p.m. on September 8th at the Hilliard Public Library to learn tips and tricks for navigating your smartphone or tablet! We will go over how to use certain features encompassing communication, various settings, navigation, and more. We will have videos and a presentation. Come with questions, and bring your smartphone and/or tablet! Watch for more information in the September Newsletter and on the OSURA website.



Welcome New Retirees

Darryl Andrews

Mathematics

Leona W. Ayers

Pathology

Bhavik Ramesh Bakshi

Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering

James Francis Ball

Engineering – Research Administration

Chunsheng Ban

Mathematics

Veronique Anjannette Beckrum

FAES – Plant Pathology

Kathleen M. Craig

OSU Health Plan – Care Management

Rebecca J. Crisp

Plastic Surgery

Kevin Trent Dill

Chemistry and Biochemistry Administration

Susan Kay Dupont

Obstetrics and Gynecology

Robert Allen Fox

Speech Hearing Science

Martin A. Golubitsky

Mathematics

Gary William Graham

FAES – Holmes County

David A. Greenberg

Pediatrics

Karen S. Hart

IM Immunology and Rheumatology

Lynda Joy Hartel

Health Sciences Library

Alan Keith Holbrook

University Hospital

Darryl W. Jordan

OCIO

Barbara Lee Keyfitz

Mathematics

William Henry King

Student Life

Mark Alan King

Health Sciences – Radiology

Julie M. Lang Rowe

Rehabilitation Services – Dodd Hall

Karen L. Leet

The James – SSCBC Surgical

David L. Matthews

Business and Finance

Paula Denise Moore

The James

Daniel Steven O'Connor

Student Life

Robert Scott Osborne

ERIK

Anna T. Petrenko

University Hospital – Respiratory Therapy

Molly O. Pierce

The James

Michelle C. Robison

Education & Human Ecology

Lynda Gail Ross

 Marion – Marketing and
Communications

Lynn R. Schoenfield

Health Sciences – Pathology

Stacy Marie Selvaggio

University Hospital – Clinical Nutrition

Chhaya K. Shah

University Hospital – Toxicology Lab

Stacie Ann Shirko

Business and Finance

Donald James Styer

FAES

Patricia Lin Tinney

Administration and Planning

Patricia Krauser Toothman

Electrical and Computer Engineering

Michael Frank Tweedle

Radiology

Eileen Patricia Vermillion

Ambulatory Services

Michelle Renee Wade

The James

Harrison Goodale Weed

Health Sciences – Internal Medicine

Celia Emily Wills

Nursing – Administration

Kenneth Ray Yeager

Psychiatry



Calendar of Events

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

August 1 (Tuesday) Benefits Committee

Time/Place: 9:15 a.m.,
Longaberger Alumni House

August 8 (Tuesday) Board Meeting

Time/Place: 9:30 a.m.,
Longaberger Alumni House

August 23 (Wednesday) Membership Meeting

Time/Place: 10 a.m.,
Longaberger Alumni House

MONTHLY ACTIVITIES

August 15 (Tuesday) Walking/Hiking Group – Walk Around the OSU Newark Campus & Potluck Picnic

Challenge Level 2-4

Everyone welcome. Kick off the walking/hiking season with a pet-friendly stroll around the beautiful OSU Newark Campus followed by a potluck picnic. Bring your beverage and a dish to share. Plates, napkins, silverware, and cups will be

provided. In addition, a large playground for kids and public pickleball courts are also available.

Time/Place: 11 a.m. Rotary Park, 925 Sharon Valley Rd, Newark.
Arranger: Sandy Bell (sib9716@outlook.com /cell 740-833-6374 – Walking/Hiking SIG)

August 16 (Wednesday) Lunch Bunch – OSURA Photography Club

Club members will present some of their award-winning photography and displays from the Faculty Club.

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 noon.

Arranger: Steven D'Ambrosio (Steven.dambros@gmail.com – Social Committee)

Book Club

The Book Club is on hiatus until September. Upon our return we will be discussing *The Nazi Conspiracy* by Brad Meltzer and Josh Mensch. While it is rated nonfiction, it promises to be an intriguing treat for us die-hard fiction-reader-only people.

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

Registration Instructions

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

CHALLENGE LEVELS

- Light – may include a few stairs.
- Moderate – may include a few sets of stairs.
- Moderate + – may include climbing many stairs and/or uneven terrain.
- High – may include lots of walking, climbing stairs, hilly walkways and/or extended weather exposure.

Upcoming Events

Look for more information in future newsletters.

September 20 (Wednesday) 2023 OSURA Annual Fall Conference

REGISTRATION REQUIRED

Time/Place: 8 a.m. – 3:15 p.m.,
Fawcett Event Center, 2400
Olentangy River Road

Cost: \$35 members – includes continental breakfast and lunch; \$10 extra for optional tours
Registration Opens: August 7
Registration Deadline: September 13 – Register at osura.alumni.osu.edu, or call 614-292-2281 (1-800-762-5646).

Parking: Free

Arranger: Sally Dellinger
(Conference Committee)

September 28 (Thursday) Dinner Series

Featuring Herb Asher

December 8 (Friday) LaComedia Dinner Theater

"Miracle on 34th Street: The Musical"

Arranger: Alabelle Zghoul
(alabelle.zghoul@gmail.com-Travel Committee)



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



OSURA Spotlight

Meet **Karen Bruns!**

I've lived in Ohio my entire life and grew up in rural western Ohio, in Mercer County. We had a big extended family and a community where everyone knew each other, worked hard and supported others. After high school I chose to go to the University of Dayton, which was an excellent choice, followed by Ohio State for graduate work, MS and PhD.

My career at OSU spanned 33 years. I had the opportunity to meet and get to know many faculty and staff across Ohio State. In 1982 I started as an OSU Extension family and consumer sciences educator in Tuscarawas County (New Philadelphia), followed by working in Fairfield County (Lancaster). Beginning in the mid 1990s I took on leadership roles in University Outreach and Engagement and the OSU CARES/OSU Extension program. Through the 14 years I spent in those two initiatives, I worked across the University and with faculty and staff in all colleges. The last four years of my career I returned full time to OSU Extension as assistant director, giving leadership to the family and consumer sciences program. It was a wonderful career spent working with amazing faculty and staff and community members.

Since 2015 I've been retired. Like many retirees, more time with family and friends, traveling, reading,



Karen Bruns

hobbies and volunteering fill my time. After a career of providing leadership to so many events involving hundreds of volunteers over the years, I was hoping to spend my retirement years on the other side of the volunteer table – doing rather than leading. I can't say I've been totally successful at switching roles, but I've had a wonderful time volunteering at one-time events, weekly and monthly opportunities.

One of the things I've really enjoyed in retirement has been road trips to see the uniqueness of small-town America. This has included visiting unique museums and sites and documenting many of Ohio's historical markers. Museums like the Jell-o, Spam, cookie cutter and pencil sharpener give unique glimpses into American history, local communities, and their people.

As a child, I started each summer by visiting the local dime store with my mother and buying some kind of handiwork to make during the summer. That created a lifetime hobby that continues in retirement. Every day I either quilt, knit, sew, or embroider.

My first exposure to OSURA was the newsletter. I read it cover to cover. I attended several events including the hiking group, meeting/tours and the fall conference through the years. For the last two years, I've served on the OSURA Board.

I've enjoyed my involvement with OSURA. After a long career with Ohio State, it gets into your blood. OSURA gives a means to stay connected to the University and learn from many of the OSURA educational opportunities taught by Ohio State faculty and staff.

In Memoriam

Carole Ann Anderson
June 5 | Nursing, 80

Gary E. Barnett
June 23 | Pathology, 83

Henry "Hank" Canello
May 9 | OSURA, 78

Antoinette Eaton
June 23 | Medicine, 92

Victoria "Vickie" Ann Estep
June 2 | James Cancer Hospital, 72

Richard Mather Hill
June 20 | Optometry and OSURA, 88

Ruby Jean McKinnon
June 16 | 82

Donald Frank Perkins
June 24 | 80

Margaret "Molly" E. Rudy
June 30 | OSUMC, 87

Freddie Paul Scott
June 18 | Veterinary Hospital, 88



The Big Ten Retirees Association Conference

The 30th annual conference of The Big Ten Retirees Association met July 26-28 in Madison, Wisconsin. All but one of the Big Ten schools were represented and shared their experiences and successful ideas about membership, leadership, and programs.

Additionally, discussions relative to retirees and attendees were treated to informative papers on higher education, sustainability, and the evolution and expansion of the Morrill Act and the Land-Grant Movement.

The site of the meetings rotates among the Big Ten Schools – AND IT'S OUR TURN in 2024!

Ohio State will host the next conference July 24-26, 2024 – and we intend to make it one of the best!



It's A Tick! > Now What?

By Nancy Wardwell

We've heard that this is a big summer for ticks. We've heard about the various species of ticks – and the several diseases they could bring. But we've gotten little information about just what you are supposed to do when you find one, sucking away on yourself – or someone you love – two- or four-footed!

First, don't panic – you need to carefully remove the ugly intruder. DO NOT use petroleum jelly or a hot match – you may not get the head! Do use tweezers! If you are outdoorsy, you may have a special little tick lifter in your first aid kit – but good old tweezers work very well!

Grasp the tick firmly at the head – as close to skin as you can get – and **firmly pull** until it lets go. Do

not twist or rock – just pull hard and firmly until it lets go!

Now, **wash your hands**, and the site, with soap and water – then swab the area with alcohol, then it was recommended to use an antibiotic



like Neosporin. An ice pack for 15 or 20 minutes might be a good idea.

Just after you flush the tick down the toilet you may wonder if maybe you should have saved the body. If you think of that in time, use something like an old pill bottle.

About seeing a doctor – generally, tick bites are not a cause for concern but if you are unable to remove the head, if a rash develops, or flu symptoms develop, or you think the bite is infected, DO see a health care provider. Monitor the bite site and patient for 36-48 hours.

This information does not carry the weight of the CDC (they do have information online) but you no longer need to juggle an iPad, the tick, and an unhappy patient to get started!

FROM: The Benefits Committee

STRS Report

By Jerry Newsom

For decades, Dick Hill has been a fixture in OSURA. He was my predecessor representing higher education retirees on HPA (Healthcare and Pension Advocates), an advisory group for STRS. His death on June 20 was a great loss for us all.

An unfortunate fact in the modern world is that the most effective way to keep your core supporters energized is to keep them angry. We see that in abundance at STRS Board meetings, whether in the public comment sessions or in the snide comments and laughter made by many people in the audience when someone says something with which they disagree. The issue that causes the greatest anger is the loss of annual 3% COLAs, which they claim were promised for life. When I retired, the STRS brochure simply stated that we would get a 3% COLA, with no statement whether it was or was not guaranteed for life. The 3% just reflected the requirement of the Ohio Revised Code at the time. When the legislature changed 3% to 2% starting in 2013

(adding that new retirees had to have been retired for at least 60 months to receive a COLA), STRS made the required change. However, the legislature added a provision (ORC 3307.67) that STRS could make any COLA only if an external actuary agreed that this would “not materially impart the fiscal integrity” of STRS. The STRS Board has shown they want to “enhance the benefits” of active and retired teachers to the maximum allowed by the actuary; that is what allowed the one-time COLAs last year of 3% and this year of 1%. The anger directed against the STRS Board for not providing “promised” COLAs I think is misdirected; they were just following the requirements of the law.

STRS Fact

In FY 2022, the highest paid investment advisor at STRS managed **\$83 billion in investments** and earned \$714,295 (including bonus). The manager of **Harvard's endowment** (roughly half the size of STRS) earned **\$8.75 million**.



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



**2023
FALL**

**Wednesday,
September 20, 2023**

Conference Registration will begin on August 7 at 10 a.m.

There is something for everyone at this year's conference.... see for yourself by checking out the array of offerings described in the June Newsletter.

Come hear the keynote address given by Melissa S. Shivers, Senior Vice President for Student Life, who will bring along a few students who will share their experiences.

Remember, there are two ways to register:

Go on-line to <https://osura.osu.edu> and find the event registration link –

OR

Contact the Engagement Center at the Alumni Association to register and pay over the phone at either 614-292-2281 or 1-800-762-5646.

Registration is not complete until payment is made, so have your credit card at the ready.

See you on the 20th of September!