OSURA News

June 2024

OSURA members were disappointed in February when the Dinner Series had to be cancelled. The speaker was to be Jay Kasey, Senior Vice President of Administration and Planning. It should not be a surprise that retirees are very interested in the planning for the future of Ohio State.

It may seem that in the past our campus just grew - without planning – “spoils to the loudest and richest.” But, in 2010, 2017, and now 2024 a systematic process has been developed, with input from all interested parties. It is called Framework 3.0 and was shaped by the Buckeye community through listening sessions, online surveys, workshops, and open houses, and it was approved by the Board of Trustees on August 17, 2023. Do read it in its entirety at pare.osu.edu

The process has defined campus districts. The districts are Core North, River and Midwest, Carmenton, Health Sciences and Medical Center, Core South, and Student life.

In the March issue of the Ohio State Alumni Magazine, Jenny Applegate and Matt Stoessner shared seven of the potential building changes resulting from Framework 3.0. None of these have been approved by the Board of Trustees but they fall in the category of “good guesses” and “hoped for by some.”

1. Expansion of Ross Heart Hospital
2. Replacement of Meiling, Graves and Atwell halls
3. Replacement of Evans Lab
4. New classroom building in the core campus designed for active learning and collaborative education rather than traditional lecture halls.
5. New classroom (in River/Woody Hayes corridor)
6. “Very long-term possibility” has been the threat to phase out St. John Arena. The issue brings up the long-held preference of fans and the basketball teams to play in that arena rather than the Schott (still a great venue for concerts and monster trucks).
7. Another “very long-term possibility” is to steer students from Lincoln and Morrill towers to the Core North and South housing. This suggestion was made in 1990 by Gordon Gee’s young daughter!
8. It is heartening to learn that time and changes to our campus have wide-ranging purposes – including attracting students to the many types of research for which we are famous.

And, with other OSURA members, we hope that some day soon we will get to hear from Vice President Kasey, from his informed and wide-ranging perspective.
FROM: The President

June is here and this will be my last letter for you. I could talk about what Sadie is planning to do this summer, but I have another idea. Instead, I’ve been thinking I should tell you about your next president, Sandy Bell. She is something else. If you haven’t met her yet, you are in for a treat. All this year she has been going to the various OSURA-sponsored events and committees in an attempt to know them better and get to know YOU better. She has reported that she still has a couple more to reach.

Just a little of her back story—Sandy is an OSU alumna, has worked at the University in the business and fiscal areas, and retired in 2018 as a Fiscal Officer in the Office of the Chief Information Officer. She joined OSURA at that time and became immediately involved with the Membership Committee, then became chair, which meant she became a member of the OSURA Board, and she then took on the leadership of the Walking & Hiking Group. Sadie wants you to know that Sandy couldn’t do the hiking group without her two dogs. AND…Sadie sure hopes they get the proper number of special treats for this extra duty.

Sandy lives in Centerburg, which is 40 miles from Columbus, but she makes it to every meeting with a smile and a glint her eyes. Oh, I need to mention that she plays one heck of a volleyball game….of course, there are five others on the team who assist at times.

Sandy, let me say….Good Luck….but you won’t need any of that. But I will say…Enjoy this new experience. Sadie wishes Colby and Gibson the best in their new roles as first dogs.

Sally Dellinger
President of OSURA
Welcome New Retirees

Allen Wayne Auck  
FAES – 4-H

Paula M. Baker  
History

Thomas James Bastian  
Health System Shared Services

Clifford James Beall  
Dentistry – Biosciences

Sylvia Antoinette Bellinger  
Ross Heart Hospital

Jaron Marc Bernstein  
Admin and Planning – DPS University Police

Tracy Lee Blackstone  
FAES – Noble County

Lori Sarafin Blum  
Health Sciences – Government Resource Center

Stephen Lindsey Boyles  
FAES – Animal Sciences

Kandie Leigh Brantley  
Ross Heart Hospital

Denise Hartman Clark  
Mathematics

Cynthia Sue Coy  
FAES – Animal Sciences

Brenda Marie Dann  
University Hospital

Susan Marie Gause  
University Hospital

Marni Elizabeth Grevenow  
University Hospital

Robert W. Grover  
The James

Rebecca Lynn Harrah  
Music

Betty S. Horton  
The James

Michael Scott Husch  
The James

Jeffrey Joseph Hustak  
Administration and Planning

Claudnette Ann Jones  
University Hospital

Rae Ann Kerlin  
University Hospital

Susan Gail Kestner  
Dentistry – Academic Affairs

Sharon Kay Lake  
University Hospital

How Wai Luk  
Earth Sciences

Kenneth Bradley Luke  
Veterinary Medical Center

Ross Edward McClain  
Administration and Planning – FOD

Ruth E. Miller  
Administration and Planning – FOD

Lori Jean Moff  
FAES – Mahoning County

Homer Elwood Musser  
Administration and Planning – FOD

Rebecca Collins Nesbitt  
FAES – OSUE

Cheryl Ann Perret  
University Hospital

Mary Rathke  
Administration and Planning – WOSU

Barbara L. Roeser  
University Hospital

Jaron Lee Shook  
Center for Human Resource Research

Karel Louise Smith  
Nisonger Center

Vickie Irene Snyder  
FAES – Extension Operations

Arpad Somogyi  
ERIK

Leslie Ann Southern  
Engineering

Cathy Jean Sowers  
East Hospital

Megan Elizabeth Strother  
FAES – Center for Food Animal Health

Julie Helen Tate  
Medicine

Leslie Ann Tilton  
Student Life

Cathleen Ann Vawter  
Dentistry

Sandra Gayle Velleman  
FAES – Animal Sciences

Elizabeth Jane Wingerter  
FAES – Montgomery County

Yuchan Yi  
Earth Sciences

A YEAR OF SUCCESS 2023-2024 is the theme of our OSURA Annual Meeting

A very special speaker this year will be Linda Shetina Logan, CEO & President of the Greater Columbus Sports Commission, who has served in this position since its inception in June 2002. A trailblazer in the sports tourism industry, Linda has led the Sports Commission to book close to 600 new sporting events that have generated more than $625 million in visitor spending, establishing Columbus as a top sports destination. Linda will share what it takes to put on a world-class athletic event in a Columbus venue.

Join us as we celebrate “A Year of Success 2023-2024” Annual Meeting! We will begin with lunch followed by our speaker and then a business program with the installation of new officers and the announcement of the OSURA Outstanding Service Award recipient.

Contact Person: Sally Dellinger (dellinger.1@osu.edu – Executive Board)

2024 OSURA Annual Meeting

Date: June 26  
Time: 11:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.  
Place: Longaberger Alumni House, Sanders Grand Lounge

Registration required:  
Register at osura.osu.edu

Cost: $25
**Calendar of Events**

### COMMITTEE MEETINGS

**June 4 (Tuesday)**  
*Benefits Committee*  
**Time/Place:** 9:15 a.m., Longaberger Alumni House  

**June 11 (Tuesday)**  
*Board Meeting*  
**Time/Place:** 9:30 a.m., Longaberger Alumni House  

### MONTHLY ACTIVITIES

**June 7 (Friday)**  
*Walking/Hiking Group – Park of Roses*  
**Challenge Level 2**  
Join the OSURA Hiking/Walking group for an easy pet friendly walk around the rose gardens at Whetstone Park. And, of course, there will be extra socializing somewhere afterwards. Questions? Contact Sandy Bell...info below.  
**Time/Place:** 11 a.m., 3901 N High St, meet in the large parking lot at the bottom of the hill.  
**Arranger:** Sandy Bell (sib9716@outlook.com /cell 740-833-6374 – Walking/Hiking SIG)

**June 27 (Thursday)**  
*Dinner Series*  
Rich Nagle, OSU Chief Information and Security Officer, will be updating us on best practices and current threats of technology and digital information.  
**Time/Place:** 5:15 p.m. reception, 6 p.m. dinner, 7 p.m. lecture; OSU Faculty Club  
**Cost:** $43 (service charge included)  
**Registration Deadline:** Register at osura.osu.edu or call 614-292-2281 by June 24.  
**Arranger:** Carol Newcomb (clhotak@gmail.com – Dinner Series SIG)

**Lunch Bunch**  
No gathering this month, so everyone can attend the Annual Meeting on June 26.  
**Arranger:** Elenore Zeller

**Photo Society**  
See you in September; but in the interim visit our exhibit in the Faculty Club gallery and see what our members have created.  
**Arranger:** Nancy Verber (nwverber@gmail.com – Photographic Society SIG)

### Book Club

Having successfully used the You Are There Play format to “meet,” and with next year’s books chosen from over 50 possible titles annotated in The Big Book List (providing a variety of personal reading pleasure), the “curtain” is coming down on our virtual theater, and it will go up again in September after a summer hiatus.  
**Contact:** Lee Hill (rmhlmh@att.net – Book Club SIG)

### Craft Group

Our group has a varied schedule. If you’re interested in obtaining more information contact Mary Cull at marycull.4@gmail.com.  
**Contact:** Mary Cull (marycull.4@gmail.com – Craft Group SIG)

### SPECIAL EVENTS

**July 19 (Friday)**  
*Wright Patterson Air Force Museum and Hawthorn Hill*  
**Challenge Level 3**  
Enjoy a self-guided tour of the National Air Force Museum in Dayton, with the option of a guided tour at 10 a.m. Continue on to lunch at nearby Packy’s Restaurant. Then travel to Hawthorn Hill (home of the Wright Brothers).  
**Meet by:** 7:30 a.m., Tremont Center  
**Return:** 7 p.m.  
**Cost:** $138; cost includes admissions, lunch, transportation, snacks, and tips.  
**Registration:** Register at osura.osu.edu or call 614-292-2281 by July 15.  
**Refund Deadline:** July 15  
**Arrangers:** Alabelle Zghoul and Betty Hriesik (alabelle.zghoul@gmail.com - Travel/Cultural Arts)

### August 15 (Thursday)**  
*Rock & Roll Hall of Fame and Christmas Story House/Museum*  
Cleveland, OH  
**Challenge Level 2**  
**REGISTRATION REQUIRED**  
Learn history of the best known and influential artists, engineers, producers and other notable figures who have major influence on the development of rock and roll. See the original props, costumes and memorabilia from the film Christmas Story as well as hundreds of rare behind-the-scenes photos.  
**Meet by:** 7:30 a.m., Tremont Center (Tremont Road, opposite Upper Arlington Library)  
**Return:** 7 p.m.  
**Cost:** $138; cost includes admissions, lunch, transportation, snacks, and tips.  
**Registration:** Register at osura.osu.edu or call 614-292-2281 by July 15.  
**Refund Deadline:** July 15  
**Arrangers:** Alabelle Zghoul and Betty Hriesik (alabelle.zghoul@gmail.com - Travel/Cultural Arts)

### September 18 (Wednesday)**  
*OSURA Fall Conference*  
Fawcett Event Center  
**Cost:** $35  
See current newsletter issue detailing the sessions.

### 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.
FROM: The Benefits Committee

OPERs Report

By Darian Torrance

The OPERS Board met on March 19-20, 2024 to discuss and approve the following:

- Selection of Meketa Investment Group to provide investment Consulting Services to the OPERS Board, subject to successful contract negotiations. Meketa will replace NEPC as the Investment Consultant. NEPC’s contract ended on April 30, 2024.
- Transfer of $766,507,782 to the Health Care Rate Stabilization Fund from the Health Care Core Fund. The Core Fund earned a return of 14.2% in 2023 which exceeded the target of 4%. The excess amount, less the deficient employer contributions of 2%, is the amount transferred to the Health Care Rate Stabilization Fund.
- Authorization to implement a periodic increase to the Health Reimbursement Arrangement allowance as presented by OPERS Staff.
- Recommendations regarding implementation of the Investments Division Incentive Compensation Plan that were developed by McLagan (Compensation and Data Analytics) and OPERS staff.

Discussion items included:

- Review of 2023 Investment Returns and a Market Update. The Defined Benefit (DB) Fund returned 11.26% (net of fees) for the year ending December 31, 2023. Market value at year-end 2023 for the DB fund was $98.96 billion. The Health Care (HC) 115 Fund returned 13.97% (net of fees) at year-end 2023. Market value for the HC Fund at year-end 2023 was $12.76 billion.
- OPERS staff presented an investment asset class update and overview of cash and securities lending. The department actively manages almost $20 billion in cash, with the objective of zero loss, while seeking a competitive return. Approximately 80% of the portfolio matures within two months.
- Karen Carraher, OPERS Executive Director, provided an update on the status of OPERS’ assessment of services that could be provided to the Ohio Deferred Compensation (ODC) Board. OPERS and ODC signed a Memorandum of Understanding in February 2024 for OPERS to provide human resources services to ODC, to be billed for actual hours worked.
- OPERS External Relations provided an update regarding the progress in pursuing an increase to the employer contribution rate statutory maximum. If future rate increases are approved by the Ohio Legislature, additional revenue received by employer contribution rate increases would be used to pay down unfunded pension liabilities. OPERS has not had an increase in the maximum statutory rate for almost 50 years. OPERS is also seeking the authority to raise its Law Enforcement Division employer contribution rate to equal that of the Ohio Police and Fire Fund’s (OP&F) police employer rate.

STRS Report

By Jerry Newsom

Seven of the eleven members of the STRS Board are elected by active and retired teachers, with the other four appointed by various state agencies. Gov. DeWine re-appointed Wade Steen to the Board for a term expiring in September 2024 but replaced him last May. It was a significant move, since Steen was allied with critics of the Board and had he stayed on the Board, the critics would gain a 6-5 majority when a newly elected Board member took his seat. Steen sued DeWine, claiming the governor had no authority to remove him, and halfway through the April meeting of the STRS Board, the court announced its decision upholding Steen’s right to serve out his term. That gave the critics their majority. The Board Chair then adjourned the meeting before they could act on important issues scheduled for the afternoon, causing quite an uproar, ending when an assistant attorney general announced the meeting was over. The governor wants the court decision to be appealed (it likely applies to many other governor’s appointees), but absent such action the critics now control the STRS Board. Critics have put forward a variety of changes they would implement, including restoring COLAs, putting domestic stock investments into index funds (and without an investment staff to manage the stocks, STRS would save on salaries and bonuses of investment staff), and making STRS transactions more transparent. But promising and delivering are very different things. The legislature allows STRS to restore a COLA only if an actuary selected by the state agrees it would not “materially impair the fiscal integrity” of the system, and the actuary has been adamant he will not approve any significant annual COLA now. The Board can authorize selling individual stocks and putting the funds in an index funds, but that should have little impact on STRS finances. It’s not clear what the promise of increased transparency will mean. The May STRS Board meeting could be pretty contentious.
Keynote
Melissa S. Shivers,
Senior Vice President for Student Life

Buckeyes Serving Buckeyes: Introducing the Monda Student Resource Center

Did you know that 70% of Ohio State students say they feel stressed about their finances? Or that 38% of Buckeyes report that they would not be able to come up with $400 in an emergency, and 27% experience food insecurity? Ohio State offers a variety of support and services for students who need extra help, but it can be a bit unwieldy to navigate the various places, spaces and units that exist across campus and in the community. We want students to be able to spend their time focusing on academics and professional development, rather than searching for assistance. That’s why with the generous support from Keith Monda and Veronica Brady, the Office of Student Life is creating the Monda Student Resource Center. The center will offer a one-stop-shop where students can find support, from the Buckeye Food Alliance Food Pantry and the Career Closet, to safety devices, information about emergency grants and space to meet with service providers. This presentation will share the history that led to the creation of the center, provide behind-the-scenes information and images of how the center will operate and look, and offer perspectives from Student Life team members working on the project, as well as students who have been involved along the way.

Breakout Sessions

1. Discovering Public Art in the Ohio Judicial Center – Richard W. Burry, retired neuroscientist and an architectural photographer, will lead a visual tour of the building completed in 1933 with abundant Art Deco works and share anecdotes of Ohio’s history and backstories of contributing artists and artisans.

2. Sound Innovations: A Glimpse into Modern Hearing Solutions – Jodi Baxter, AuD, OSU Clinical Associate Professor, Department of Speech and Hearing Science, will delve into the dynamic world of technological advancements in hearing loss management and share how groundbreaking technologies are transforming the field of hearing health and our listening experiences.

3. The Life of an OSU Cheerleader – Mike Fresch, President, Deck Masters and a 2004 OSU graduate, will discuss his path to becoming an OSU cheerleader. Learn about the try-outs, events, games, get some Brutus “inside info,” and be ready to cheer!

4. Driving as We Age – Emily Haffner and Nick Bell, OSU Rehabilitation Assistive Technology, will explain the signs that it’s time to get help with our driving and how using technology can gauge and resolve issues. Dennis Kucler, AARP, will highlight the Smart Driver Online Course which shows how driving has changed.

5. The Sports and Society Initiative: ASC program leads in sports research, programming, career readiness – Nicole Kraft, director of the Sports and Society Initiative at Ohio State, and Associate Professor in Journalism, will provide information about Ohio State’s cross-discipline, collaborative endeavor that spans the university community and beyond. Its goal is deepening an understanding of society through its intersection with sports.

6. The Next Big Thing for Columbus: A New Iconic Home for the Columbus Symphony – Betty Hill, Director of Capital Campaign at the Columbus Symphony, realizing Columbus stands out among large cities as lacking an acoustically calibrated hall for live music. She will share what’s being proposed for downtown Columbus as the new home for the Columbus Symphony and endless possibilities for education and other arts groups.

7. Indoor Gardening: A Hobby for All Seasons – Laura Deeter, Director of the Chadwick Arboretum, will provide an entrance into the world of cultivated greenspaces. Living with beautiful plants around you brings joy, but it can also relieve stress and increase feelings of well-being.

8. Feeling Good by Doing Good: Engaging in Acts of Kindness to Reduce Depression and Anxiety – Jennifer Cheavens, OSU Professor and Director of Clinical Training in the Department of Psychology, will discuss recent research showing that participants who engaged in acts of kindness reported reduced symptoms of depression and anxiety, increased feelings of social connection and improved satisfaction with life as opposed to others. Come discuss how these findings might be used to improve one’s mental health and well-being. Find out about the Kindness Initiative at OSU See: www.todayshow.kindness.osu.

9. Redistricting Reform in Ohio: Where Did It Go Wrong? And How Will the Citizens’, Not Politicians’, Initiative Fix It? – Richard Gunther, OSU Professor Emeritus, Department of Political Science, will analyze gerrymandering and how it has damaged the quality of democracy in Ohio, discuss how the constitutional reforms of 2015 and 2018 were thwarted, and describe how the reforms to be decided by Ohio voters in November will attempt to establish fair and competitive districts in the future.

10. Linking Plant Phytochemicals to Human Health – Jessica Cooperstone, Associate Professor, Department of Food Science and Technology, will discuss how diets rich in...
In Memoriam

Barbara Ann Brahm
April 24 | Home Economics, 73

Robert Jeffrey Caswell
May 1 | Public Health and OSURA, 80

Phyllis Coles
April 24 | Data Entry, 69

Phyllis Dolan
April 7 | Astronomy, 84

Patrick Foley
April 27 | History, 93

Barbara Galvin
April 20 | Dentistry, 70

Susan C. Gessel
April 5 | OSUMC, 66

Joseph Frederick Stout
April 28 | OSU Golf Course, 85

Sue Tipton
April 8 | Agricultural Research & Development – Wooster, 82

Joseph Woods
April 27 | HVAC Engineer, 69

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fruits and vegetables are linked to better health and less disease, though the precise compounds responsible for this effect are largely unknown. A framework will be discussed for linking what we eat with our health, with examples from work with tomatoes.

11. The STEAM Factory at Ohio State – Charlene S. Brenner, JD, Program Director, The STEAM Factory at OSU; will describe A Community of Practice where belonging, interdisciplinarity and possibility thrive. As Ohio State’s grassroots community for academic innovation and interdisciplinary collaboration, the “Factory” creates and nourishes space for self-organizing, convergent research, creative expression and engagement around complex problems that matter.

12. A Glimpse of OSU through Photos – Jo McCulty, retired University Photographer, will share captured images displaying the essence of OSU for nearly 40 years, but not a lot of football.

13. OPERS – An OPERS representative will provide financial and statistical information for 2024. Things to keep your eye on.

14. STRS: How Did We Get Here – Dale Price, Past Chair and 14-year Member of the STRS Board, will review how STRS got into financial problems early this century and efforts by the STRS Board to recover. After a brief PowerPoint, the focus will be on a Question and Answer session.

15. The Next Frontier of Radiation Therapy: Proton Therapy and FLASH – Dominic DiCostanzo, Assistant Professor, Executive Administrative Director of the OSU Proton Therapy Center will discuss how proton therapy differs from traditional radiation therapy, and what the future may hold with FLASH (ultra-high dose rate radiation therapy). https://alumnimagazine.osu.edu/story/proton-therapy-new-hope

16. The Ethics of Artificial Intelligence – Bryan Weaver, OSU Senior Lecturer, Department of Computer Science and Engineering; Member, Center for Ethics and Human Values Steering Committee, will discuss the extent of AI in our lives, the history, development and implementation of AI systems, and its impact on our value system and how it can be more aligned with what we value.

Lunch Musical Event | 120 Years of Jazz
It’s been 120 years since jazz entered the music scene in our country. The Ohio State student jazz ensemble, directed by Jazz Studies Coordinator Michael Smith, will help us hear and understand the similarities and differences between early jazz and today’s versions.

Registration begins in August

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✓ Driving Simulator Laboratory
✓ Department of Theatre and Film, and Media Arts
I started working in the College of Medicine in 1972 as a clerk typist. Over the years, I worked with students and faculty in two different, innovative programs in the College of Medicine. These programs replaced the traditional lecture type learning, and I helped prepare learning, testing and evaluation materials.

I first worked in the Independent Study Program, and later, in the Problem Based Learning Pathway. I really loved the work, and I became lifelong friends with some of the faculty and staff and medical students. My supervisor and the Director of the ISP and I have been going to lunch every Wednesday for the last 40 years!

One of the things I enjoyed the most about working at OSU was taking classes. I took classes whenever I could fit them in—during my lunch hour, after work, and in the evenings. I took so many classes that ten years later, I had earned a degree in Social and Behavioral Sciences—a degree I helped design myself.

I have lived with my husband in German Village since 1982, where we raised our two sons. It’s a wonderful place to live with lots of places to walk and lots of nearby restaurants. When I take a walk around Schiller Park, I usually end up talking to someone I know, or to someone I just met.

I enjoy “puttering” in our house and yard and garden. I like to read. I love to spend time with my family. I like to travel. In addition to that, exercising has become a big part of my life. Since I live about four minutes from a beautiful gym, I go there for classes six days a week for my health, and also a bit of socializing!

Because I was so happy working, I never thought I would be happy retiring, but it turns out I was wrong. Retirement has been wonderful. I joined OSURA in 2012, and it has been a great way to stay connected with OSU, and to travel and take short trips. I am very grateful for all my experiences with OSU.