



Newsletter

Suite 300, 1590 N. High Street, Columbus, OH 43201-2190 • Telephone: 614-292-2916 • Fax: 614-292-4424 • E-mail: osura@hr.osu.edu • Web Site: hr.osu.edu/osura

January 2008

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

OSURA's Educational, Cultural, and Travel Events

From December 2006 to December 2007, more than 1,100 OSURA retirees, spouses/partners, and guests participated in one or more of 28 educational, cultural, and travel programs sponsored by OSURA. Two committees – Travel and Cultural Arts – plan and conduct events designed to enhance the quality of life of retired faculty and staff.

During the past year, the **Travel Committee** provided 12 educational and travel programs in which 560 persons participated.

TRAVEL EVENTS

Ohio

Longaberger Basket Making
Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad
Warther Carving Museum – Zane Grey Museum
Holmes County Amish Brown Egg Tour*
Holiday in Cincinnati*
Andrew Wyeth and Spring in Cincinnati
La Comedia Dinner Theater

U.S. Beyond Ohio

The Best of Chicago
Western Kentucky in May
Carl Hurley at Bearcreek Farm (Indiana)

International

Discover Sicily
Europe's Christmas Markets

*Planned and conducted jointly with the Social Committee

Likewise, the **Cultural Arts** Committee provided 16 opportunities for 580 OSURA members and guests to refresh and expand their lives through the cultural arts by attending musical and dramatic performances or visiting museums.

CULTURAL ARTS EVENTS

OSU Tours

Glenn School for Public Policy – Wexner Art Center
Ohio Stadium
Olentangy Wetland Research Park

Music

OSU Musical Celebration Concert
Cantilean Concerts (Columbus Museum of Art)

BalletMet – Columbus

Rendezvous at the Riffe
Sleeping Beauty
Whodunit?
Sports Spectacular

Theater

Our Town (OSU Theater)
Mary Stuart (OSU Theater)
Shaw Festival (Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario)
Shakespeare Festival (Stratford, Ontario)

Opera

Bluebeard, Ohio Light Opera (College of Wooster)

Museum Tours

Edgar Degas – The Last Landscapes (Columbus)
The Roman World: Religion and Everyday Life (Dayton)

Fifty-three percent of the persons participating in Travel and Cultural Arts events during the past year were OSURA retirees, 25 percent were spouses/partners, and 22 percent were guests. Ruth Conone chairs the Travel Committee; Betty Maynard is Vice Chair. Chair of the Cultural Arts Committee is Odette Blum; Don Cooper is Vice Chair. Check the "Description of Events" section of each issue of the newsletter to plan your travel and cultural arts activities for 2008.

J. Robert Warmbrod, President

IN THIS ISSUE:

President's Message	1
OSURA News	2
Calendar	3
University News	4
In Memoriam	5
Benefits	6
Description of Events	7
Death Benefits	9
OSURA's 25 th Anniversary	10
Welcome New Retirees will return next month.	

OSURA News

Officers

President

J. Robert Warmbrod

Vice President/President Elect

Thomas A. Willke

Secretary

Richard M. Hill

Treasurer

C. Thomas Ridenour

Communications Secretary

Carlene Hamilton

Past President

Virginia N. Gordon

Executive Board

Members at Large

Shirley A. Chase

Joseph A. Lipsky

Penelope F. O'Neil

John A. Stottlemeyer

Marie T. Paris

Committee Chairs

Benefits-

Louis P. DiOrio

Budget and Finance-

Charles E. Corbato

Bylaws-

Thomas L. Sweeney

Communications-

Carlene Hamilton

Endowment-

Don E. Cook

Friendship-

Nancy S. Wardwell

Membership-

John A. Stottlemeyer

Program Coordinating-

William J. Studer

Cultural Arts-

Odette Blum

Social-

Penelope F. O'Neil

Travel-

Ruth M. Conone

Representatives

Campus Campaign-

Richard M. Hill

Bucks for Charity-

Penelope F. O'Neil

Faculty Compensation and

Benefits Committee-

Richard M. Hill

Ohio Council of Higher Education

Retirees-

Louis P. DiOrio and

J. Robert Warmbrod

Staff Compensation and

Benefits Committee-

Eleanor C. Conlon

Historian

Fern E. Hunt

Office Manager

Judith A. McMahon

GEOFFREY KELLER

Geoffrey Keller who served as OSURA president in 1995-1996, died on December 12 at age 89. He retired from Astronomy in 1986.

FRANCIS R. ALLAIRE

Frank Allaire died November 27 during his term as Member-at-large on the OSURA Board of Directors. Frank retired from The Ohio State University in 2002 after 37 years of service.

FROM THE EXECUTIVE BOARD, December 11

Resolutions in Memoriam of Francis R. Allaire and Jules B. LaPibus were passed unanimously. Allaire was serving on the OSURA Board of Directors at the time of his death in November. LaPibus had served as a member of the Board from 2005 to 2007.

A "Communications Policy" draft was reviewed. The Board indicated by consensus that this draft should go forward and, with remaining refinements, be returned for adoption by a formal motion.

Participation of the Membership Committee at the SCBC Hidden Benefits Fair was very worthwhile, and successful for contacting soon-to-be retirees.

Nearly \$1 million of the Bucks for Charity Campaign's \$1.2 million goal has now been met (retirees accounted for ~\$41,000, with 147 donors).

Emeriti and Retirees (E&R) from July 1, 2007, through November 30, 2007, have given for this 2008 Campus Campaign year: \$668,008 (cash) + \$147,172 (deferred) = \$815,180 (total) out of all campaign receipts (all sources) to date of \$1,749,445. E&R gifts represent, then, 46.5 percent of the campaign total to date, and 727/6,354 of its donors (11.5 percent).

Good progress has been made on arranging OSURA's 25th Anniversary Celebration. The Blackwell will be the event's site on April 13, 2008. Provost Joe Alutto will be the Administration's representative.

President Warmbrod announced appointment of an ad hoc committee to research a proposal that all retirees be made members of OSURA, and to report their findings and recommendations to the Board on a future date (not later than April 2008, to allow for action at the 2008 Annual meeting, if advised).

To accommodate President Gee's schedule, the date for the OSURA Annual Meeting has been changed to Thursday, June 12, 2008, at the Faculty Club. President Gee will be the featured speaker.

Our Endowment Fund
helps subsidize the OSURA

ANNUAL MEETING

Your **2008 Campus Campaign** gift
to the
OSURA Endowment Fund (#605420)
continues to make this benefit possible.

OSURA MEMBERSHIP UP

Membership in OSURA increased by seven percent from December 2006 (2,730 members) to December 2007 (2,917 members). The largest increase was in the annual paid memberships, but the number of life and complimentary memberships increased, also.

CONCERT CANCELLED

The Cantilena Concert (The Cosmos Trio) scheduled for January 20 has been cancelled. One of the players broke her arm.

Calendar

See "Description of Events" later in this newsletter for details.

- Jan 8 Executive Board Meeting, 9:00 a.m., Drinko Room, Longaberger Alumni House, 2200 Olentangy River Road
- Jan 10 Photographic Society, 5:15 p.m., cocktails; 6:00 p.m., dinner; 7:30 p.m., program, at the Faculty Club
- Jan 16 Book Club, 1:30 p.m., Carriage Hill Party House, Lafayette Drive, Upper Arlington
- Jan 17 Lunch Bunch, 11:30 a.m., Damon's OSU, 3025 Olentangy River Road
- Jan 20 ~~Cantilena Concerts, 2:00 p.m., Columbus Museum of Art, 480 East Broad Street – EVENT CANCELLED~~
- Jan 22 Tertulia Breakfast, 8:00 a.m., Faculty Club
- Jan 23 Bridge Group, 1:00 p.m., Friendship Village, Dublin
- Jan 25..... Income Tax Seminar, 1:30 p.m., Fawcett Center (doors open at 1:00)
- Feb 8 *Lovestruck*: Ravel to Sinatra, Balletmet Senior Dress Rehearsal, form carpools at Fawcett Center at 9:45 a.m. – REGISTRATION REQUIRED
- Apr 17-26..... British Landscapes, depart from Columbus International Airport – EVENT CLOSED
- May 5-10 Southern Hospitality: Charleston, SC, and Savannah, GA, depart from Fawcett Center, 7:00 a.m. – REGISTRATION REQUIRED**
- Oct 24-Dec 2 Celebrations in Mexico, depart from Columbus International Airport – REGISTRATION REQUIRED

Notes:

- Bold font indicates that the event is new and listed for the first time.
- Arrive at the Fawcett Center 15 minutes earlier than the time of departure listed.
- Call the OSURA office if interested in an event for which registration is closed to see if space is available.

RESERVATIONS:

For those events marked "Registration Required":

- Call OSURA office (614-292-2916) and leave detailed message for Judi McMahon; you will receive a return call regarding your reservation request/status.
- PAYMENT is due in the office ONE WEEK after CONFIRMATION to keep reservation.
- Make check payable to OSURA (please write event date(s) and name(s) on check).
- Mail to Suite 300, 1590 North High Street, Columbus, OH 43201-2190.

MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS AS SOON AS YOU KNOW YOU ARE INTERESTED IN AN EVENT!
Some fill quickly and you may be closed out if you delay.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

- April 13 – OSURA 25th Anniversary Celebration
- June 12 – Annual Meeting, Faculty Club – **Note change of date**
- September 25 – Coping with Change XI, Fawcett Center

Watch for more information as details become available.

The Ohio State University will be closed Tuesday, January 1, and Monday, January 21, to observe holidays.

University News

ACTIONS AT RECENT BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETINGS

(from The Ohio State University Web Site)

Trustees congratulated Jessica Hanzlik of Pickerington on being named a 2008 Rhodes Scholar. Hanzlik, who is majoring in physics and French, is one of 32 students nationwide chosen for the scholarship based on their superior academic ability, leadership, and potential. She is only the fifth Ohio State student and the first female from Ohio State to be selected as a Rhodes Scholar. She will continue her studies at Oxford University in high energy physics.

The Board approved the establishment of a Master of Professional Communication degree in the School of Communication, which will eliminate the non-thesis option of the Communication M.A. program, the Journalism M.A. program and the thesis option of the Journalism and Communication M.A. program.

The Board also approved the establishment of a Master in Environment and Natural Resources degree in the School of Environment and Natural Resources. The new degree is an applied professional degree for practicing professionals and others who want to enhance their professional competency in environment and natural resource science and management. Both degrees will be effective upon approval of the Ohio Board of Regents.

The Board authorized a one-time separation incentive program for the College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences to assist the College in addressing short-term financial demands and provide a speedier transition process toward achieving sustainable levels of employees and programs.

Trustees designated and appointed the associate vice president for human resources as the University's appointing authority for all personnel issues related to the University's classified civil service staff and law enforcement officers, including any and all collective bargaining agreements.

Trustees agreed to new guidelines for the structure of their meetings as well as a "Statement of Expectations." In the past two years, the size of the Board has increased from nine to 15 members, and the actions are aimed at improving the way the Board provides governance and works on strategic issues. The "Statement of Expectations" outlines how Board members intend to operate with each other, the University, and the president. Concurrently, the Board is altering its structure of committees and meetings.

Beginning in 2008, the Board will meet six times per year instead of nine. Each of the six meetings will last for two days; the first day will be committee meetings; the second will include an executive session and full Board meeting. There will be six standing committees – Academic and Student Affairs, Fiscal Affairs, Audit and Compliance, Medical Affairs, Development and Investment, Trusteeship and Agricultural Affairs – that will discuss issues and make recommendations to the full Board.

Trustees approved a waiver to name the new football complex at the Woody Hayes Athletic Center as the Les Wexner Football Complex in honor of alumnus and current University trustee Leslie H. Wexner. Wexner has made valuable contributions to the University over several decades, including service on the Board of Trustees, the University Foundation Board, the Wexner Center Foundation Board, and the Fisher College of Business Dean's Advisory Council, and has generously supported the renovation of the Woody Hayes Athletic Center.

Trustees approved naming the clubhouse at Hawk's Nest golf course at The Ohio State University Agricultural Technical Institute (ATI) as the Betty J. Hawkins Clubhouse. The name honors Mrs. Hawkins, who worked on the design, construction, and operation of the nationally ranked Hawk's Nest course prior to and after its opening in 1993 and was instrumental in the donation of the course to ATI. The gift is the largest donation to date to ATI and will serve the educational and research interests of ATI's faculty and students.

Gov. Ted Strickland has appointed Ron Ratner to the Ohio State Board of Trustees. Ratner, who currently serves as an executive vice president and director of Forest City Enterprises, Inc., also is the president and CEO of Forest City Residential Group. Ratner fills the board vacancy created by the resignation of Thekla Shackelford.

Ohio State is ranked 10th among the nation's research institutions with 1,858 students studying abroad and 12th among all U.S. universities in hosting international students, with a total of 4,345 students representing 113 nations. These findings were issued as part of the *Open Doors 2007* report, an annual survey published by the Institute of International Education. It is the first time that Ohio's State's Study Abroad program has made the top 10 list.

Other Items of Interest

INCOME TAX SEMINAR
Friday, January 25, 2008
Fawcett Center, Clinton Room, 2400 Olentangy River Road
1:30 p.m. (doors open at 1:00 p.m.)

Warren F. Lee and David P. Miller, emeritus faculty, Department of Agricultural, Environmental, and Development Economics will discuss federal and state income tax for the 2007 tax year and answer your questions.

No pre-registration - No cost

MORE UNIVERSITY NEWS

(from OSU Today)

The work of the OSU Department of Public Safety, Police Division in management of OSU football game day activities is cited as an example of a best practice in a newly released publication by U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Community Oriented Policing.

The Mershon Center for International Security Studies and the Department of History have selected Col. Peter R. Mansoor as the next Raymond E. Mason Jr. Chair of Military History. Mansoor, currently executive officer to Gen. David Petraeus in Iraq, will begin his duties at Ohio State in September 2008. He was one of the major authors of the report on the situation in Iraq, delivered by Petraeus to Congress in September. He also served on the Council of Colonels that assisted the Joint Chiefs of Staff in reassessing Iraq War strategy and devising the surge strategy currently being employed. Mansoor is also the founding director of the U.S. Army/Marine Corps Counterinsurgency Center at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas.

The 13th Wexner Prize will be awarded to groundbreaking filmmaker Spike Lee, who will visit Columbus in February to accept the award. The \$50,000 prize is presented to a contemporary artist in any field who has been consistently original, influential, and challenging to convention, with artists nominated by the Wexner Center's International Arts Advisory Council. This marks the first award in Lee's career from a multidisciplinary arts center.

Ohio State engineering students competed in the Challenge X Winter Workshop in Los Angeles. The team joined other Challenge X teams from around the country on a tour of the famed garage of late-night talk show host and auto-enthusiast Jay Leno who took OSU's hybrid Chevy Equinox SUV for a spin. The four-year competition challenges student teams to develop and explore advanced vehicle technologies that address important energy and environmental issues.

IN MEMORIAM

We honor and thank our colleagues for their service and the many contributions that made our university a finer place.

- ALLAIRE**, Francis "Frank" R., November 27, Dairy Science and OSURA, age 70
CRAWFORD, John Giles, November 9, age 60
DeLONG, Richard Braden, November 26, Engineering, age 73
DIGGS, Jahue Rupert, November 27, age 67
FUNKHOUSER, Ronald Allen, December 5, Power Plant, age 63
GEORGES, Robert "Bob" Eugene, November 18, Commerce and Administration and OSURA, age 86
GROSS, Virginia M., December 2, age 90
KELLER, Geoffrey, December 12, Astronomy and OSURA, age 89
KNOX, William "Henry", November 24, age 51
LaPIDUS, Jules B., December 3, Pharmacy, Research, and OSURA, age 76
LIVINGSTON, Herbert S., November 29, Music History, age 91
PARKER, Odis, November 9, age 81
PLETZ, Arthur, November 10, OSU RA
PROVOST, James A., October 22, Education and OSURA, age 83
REINHARDT, Mildred Carrie, December 3, Medical Center, age 80
THOMPSON, Jr. David D., November 28, Police Department, age 72
TIBERI, Doris L Compton, November 19, OSU Hospital East, age 74
TUCKER, Eleanor, November 23, age 74
VOSS, Jerrold Richard, November 20, Architecture and OSURA, age 75
WHISLER, June Hyatt, December 6, Extension, age 91

When you know of the death of an OSU retiree or employee or spouse of an OSU retiree/employee, please contact the OSURA office - 614-292-2916.

Benefits

FROM THE BENEFITS COMMITTEE December 4

There were no responses from members to a recent newsletter request for Long-term Care experiences. Note was made of related offerings through ORTA, and that hybrid policies and opportunities for "upgrades" now appear in the press. These are among the areas being monitored.

The STRS Reemployment Rule will take effect January 1, 2009, wherein STRS becomes the secondary health care coverer for reemployed retirees.

The State Teachers Retirement System ranked at the top in returns among its peers for the past 1-, 3-, and 5-year periods. The average increase in pension benefits over the past 10 years was 9.6.

Hal Moellering presented an overview of 403b concerns relating to both active and retired faculty. Three follow-up steps were identified: (1) Moellering will arrange to meet with the OHR 403b staff person to discuss expansion of certified vendors in this area and regarding input to new rules formation; (2) Development of an overview document is to be considered, its objective being to provide retirees with a better awareness of options for managing their 403b plans; and (3) To consider further educational programs for updating retirees in the management of their assets (current and estates), e.g., at future Coping With Change conferences. A recommended web-site for staying current on this topic is: www.403bwise.com.

Legislative Update

Ohio: (a) The House Financial Institution, Real Estate, and Securities Committee (FIRES) recommended H.B. 270 (a retiree would forfeit the employer portion of a pension if return to work is within 180 days post-retirement); (b) H.B. 315 – personal notes to legislators encouraging their support are needed.

National: (a) GPO / WEP – There are still some background discussions on their repeal. (b) The GAO has found public pension systems to be in general " ... on solid footing."



REMINDER: The death benefit provided by The Ohio State University doubles January 1, 2008 (See the November newsletter). Be sure your executor and family are aware of this and other benefits. To find out about or change your beneficiary for this benefit, call Human Resources Benefits, 614-292-1050.

Do you have a Health Care or Retirement Benefits Question?

Get the right answer in THREE EASY STEPS:

1. Define your question (write it out clearly and concisely, preferably in one sentence).
2. Determine your best source for the answer:
 - a. Check for information in your copy of the *Post-Retirement Information and Resources for Ohio State Retirees* handbook (call 614-292-2916 if you need a new copy);
 - b. Phone your pension fund Call Center. Most questions can be answered here:
STRS-OH: 1-888-227-7877
OPERS: 1-800-222-7377
 - c. Consult other relevant sources (such as Social Security, Medicare, OSU/Office of Human Resources/Benefits Services, AARP). The phone number of each is listed in the above handbook.
3. Take notes and review them. If more information is needed or if your question is complex, call for an appointment with a retirement counselor:
STRS-OH: 1-800-365-3469 or
1-614-227-4090
OPERS: 1-800-222-7377

Note: The Call Centers and counselors are available throughout the working day. Web sites are also available at both retirement systems and can be reached through links on the OSURA web site or accessed directly:

STRS-OH: www.strsoh.org
OPERS: www.opers.org

OCHER ADVOCACY ISSUES

The Ohio Council of Higher Education Retirees has identified seven top concerns: Medicare Advantage (Meeting with STRS-Ohio and OPERS staff members is planned for March 18); H.B. 315, Health Care (The Health Care Champions are being trained to help educate legislators and the public on its long-term merits); H.B. 151, Iran Divestment (This appears to no longer be a critical issue for STRS); H.B. 152, ARP (Ohio Retirement Study Council recommended against passage of this bill; communication with legislators is recommended; Higher Education Support (OCHER continues to monitor this issue); GPO/WEB, Mandatory Social Security (A hearing on November 6 in the U.S. Senate Finance Subcommittee on Social Security, Pensions, and Family Policy was deemed positive; OCHER will continue to monitor); Fordham Report (The STRS Deputy Executive Director, Member Benefits, has been invited to discuss this at the March 18 OCHER meeting).

Description of Events

See Pages 10 and 11 in the OSURA Directory or the OSURA web site for "Travel and Event Policies and Procedures."

- **Procedure for Reservations:** See Page 3 of this newsletter.
- **Challenge Levels:**
 - 1 – Minimal walking/standing, may include a few stairs
 - 2 – Moderate walking/standing, could include a few sets of stairs
 - 3 – Moderate walking/standing, includes climbing many stairs and/or uneven terrain
 - 4 – Lots of walking/standing, includes climbing stairs or hilly walkways and/or extended weather exposure
- Note: Most trips will allow travelers to remain on the bus, if desired. Disabled persons should refer to Page 10 in the OSURA Directory for information on assistance.
- **Events Marked with *:** Participants must sign Disclaimer on Event Roster on the day of the event.
- **Registration Closes:** This is the deadline for reservations because it is the date vendors must be paid in full for the event.
- **Refund Deadline:** Reservations must be cancelled by this date to receive a refund of payment/deposit; cancellations after this date will be reviewed by the arranger and the OSURA office for refund decisions.

JANUARY 10 (THURSDAY)

PHOTO SOCIETY

Winner of the 2007 Photo Contest, Robert Mauck, will present images of "Tanzania." Members interested in submitting images for the photo contest should do so at the January meeting as 8"x10" or 11"x14" prints (see November announcement for details.) Call 614-292-2262 for dinner reservation and entree choice.

Time and Place: 5:15 p.m. cocktails; 6:00 p.m. dinner; 7:30 p.m. program at the Faculty Club.

Arranger: John Houston (Photographic Society)

Time and Place: 11:30 a.m., Damon's OSU, 3025 Olentangy River Road

Cost: Order from the menu

Arrangers: OSURA Social Committee

JANUARY 22 (TUESDAY)

TERTULIA BREAKFAST

Start the new year with breakfast and conversation with OSURA members.

Time and Place: 8:00 a.m., Faculty Club

Cost: Breakfast on your own

Arranger: William Riley (*Tertulia Breakfast SIG*)

JANUARY 16 (WEDNESDAY)

BOOK CLUB

The book to be discussed at the January meeting is *The Reluctant Fundamentalist*, by Mohsin Hamid. This book explores the "shadowy, unexpected connections between the political and personal" in the wake of 9/11. Please join the group for great discussion and tasty goodies.

Time and Place: 1:30 p.m., Carriage Hill Party House, Lafayette Drive

Arranger: Marajean Huling (*Book Club SIG*)

JANUARY 23 (WEDNESDAY)

BRIDGE GROUP

Please come and enjoy a good game of bridge. New members are cordially welcome to join us. Please call Sherry Detillian (614-486-7302) or Marianne Naber (614-761-7735).

Time and Place: 1:00 p.m., Friendship Village Dublin, North CR

Arrangers: Sherry Detillian and Marianne Naber

JANUARY 17 (THURSDAY)

LUNCH BUNCH

Al Kuhn, former Ohio State Provost and English Professor, will speak on "OSU IN MY DAY... Recollections, Visions, and Revisions on Time and Change." He writes that, "Most of my retirement for the last couple decades I've spent reading (much re-reading), some writing, gardening, and traveling. My writing has been on things of most personal interest to me in life and literature. Each one of us, inevitably, has a big subject to dwell on, the past. I will briefly touch on some 'issues' - as we say now - in remembrance of things past." To reserve a space, answer the e-mail from Penny O'Neil or leave her a message at 614-889-9055.

JANUARY 25 (FRIDAY)

INCOME TAX SEMINAR

Warren Lee and David P. Miller, emeritus faculty, Department of Agricultural, Environmental, and Development Economics will discuss federal and state income tax for the 2007 tax year and answer your questions.

Time and Place: 1:30 p.m., Fawcett Center (doors open at 1:00 p.m.)

Arranger: Tom Sweeney (*Benefits Committee*)

FEBRUARY 8 (FRIDAY) *

LOVESTRUCK: RAVEL TO SINATRA

BALLETMET SENIOR DRESS REHEARSAL

Challenge Level 1

A perfect Valentine's Day event. Includes *Sinatra Suite*, a nostalgic tribute to Ol' Blue Eyes by the celebrated

Twyla Tharp; Heinz Poll's *Bolero*, set to the mesmerizing music of Ravel; and *A Different Drummer* set to the percussive sounds of Steve Reich.

Time and Place: Arrive at the Fawcett Center by 9:45 a.m. to allow ample time to organize carpools. If you can drive, please notify Don Cooper, 614-798-1016.

Return: 1:30 p.m.

Cost: \$12 (ticket and funds to reimburse drivers)

Refund Deadline: February 1

Arranger: Don Cooper (*Cultural Arts Committee*)

APRIL 17-26 *

BRITISH LANDSCAPES:

ENGLAND, SCOTLAND, AND WALES

Challenge Level 3

EVENT CLOSED

Depart: TBA April 17, from Columbus International Airport

Return: TBA April 26

Arrangers: Betty Maynard and Ruth Conone (*Travel Committee*)

MAY 5-10 *

SOUTHERN HOSPITALITY: CHARLESTON, SC AND SAVANNAH, GA

Challenge Level 2

There are many exciting, historical places in Charleston and Savannah to visit. There will be tours of both cities as well as a plantation and antebellum mansion, a harbor cruise, tours of the *USS Yorktown* and the *USS Hundley*, and dinner at the Lady and Sons Restaurant, owned and operated by Paula Dean.

Depart: 7:00 a.m. May 5 from Fawcett Center

Return: TBA

Cost: \$813 double; \$899 single (transportation, 5 nights lodging, 5 breakfasts, 5 full course dinners, all tours, and snacks.)

Arrangers: Bud and JoAnn Rueger (*Travel Committee*)

OCTOBER 24-NOVEMBER 2, 2008 *

CELEBRATIONS IN MEXICO

Challenge Level 3

A study tour to Mexico at the most exciting time of the year, Days of the Dead. Visit two studio homes, (Friday Kahlo and Diego Rivera), the Saturday Bazaar, and cultural and historic sites in Mexico City. Oaxaca is the center of a large indigenous area, and home to museums and archeological ruins. Also visit small villages, each known for its distinctive art or craft. Tour the mountain-top archeological site of Monte Alban and observe Days of the Dead cemetery and family home celebrations.

Depart: TBA October 24 from Columbus International Airport

Return: TBA November 2

Cost: To be determined after January 1

Arranger: Vivian B. Harvey (*Travel Committee*)

BRANSON

The Travel Committee is planning a trip to Branson, Missouri, December 1-5 for the Christmas Shows.

CULTURAL ARTS COMMITTEE SEEKS NEW MEMBERS

The committee members arrange the cultural events in art, music, dance, theatre, campus treasures, etc. that you see listed in the OSURA newsletter. Due to unforeseen circumstances the committee has lost three members so we would like to encourage anyone with an interest in the Arts to consider serving on this committee. Meetings are held every two months. The next meeting will be on the first Tuesday in February.

The term of office is three years. During the first you may volunteer to co-escort events thus becoming familiar with how an event is arranged, then later you can choose to arrange a trip to an event that interests you. The OSURA office deals with registration and moneys, etc. There are written guidelines and procedures and committee discussions, that make the process simpler than you may think.

If you are interested or would like to discuss it, please call the Committee Chair, Odette Blum (614-262-1541) or e-mail: blum.1@osu.edu.

Our Endowment Fund
helps subsidize the OSURA

ANNUAL TAX SEMINAR

Your **2008 Campus Campaign** gift to the OSURA Endowment Fund (#605420) continues to make this benefit possible.

KEEP OSURA INFORMED!

Whenever a member has a change in name, address, telephone number, e-mail address, marital status, notify OSURA by phone (614-292-2916); e-mail (osura@hr.osu.edu); or mail (OSURA, Suite 300, 1590 North High Street, Columbus, Ohio 43201-2190).

It is particularly critical that U.S. mail address changes be reported 4-6 weeks before the change occurs so that members receive their mail on time and OSURA avoids postage charges for returned and forwarded mail.

The newsletter is posted on the OSURA web site (hr.osu.edu/osura) by the first of each month.

Death Benefits

We recommend that you detach this page and file it with your personal papers so your family and executors are aware of these benefits provided by The Ohio State University and the retirement systems.

OSU

The Ohio State University provides a Post-Retirement Death Benefit payable to designated beneficiaries for all retirees with 10 or more years of eligible service who have (1) not elected at retirement to continue Group Term Life Insurance, or (2) have elected Group Term Life Insurance coverage, but have reached age 70 (when Group Term Life Insurance ends). Effective January 1, 2008, this benefit is \$2,000 for retirees with 10-14 years of service; \$3,000, 15-19 years of service; \$4,000, 20-24 years; \$5,000 for retirees with 25 or more years of service.

At the time of retirement, OSU employees may elect to continue their Group Life Insurance and pay a premium. This group insurance ends when the retiree reaches age 70. Your beneficiaries would be entitled to these benefits if you elected to continue the Group Life Insurance and are under age 70 at the time of your death.

STRS-Ohio (from STRS-Ohio web site – <http://www.strsoh.org/retirees/combined/3b.html>)

Service retirement benefit recipients may purchase a death benefit of \$1,000 or \$2,000. This taxable benefit is optional and is funded by the benefit recipient through deductions from the regular monthly STRS Ohio pension. Your beneficiaries would be entitled to this benefit if you purchased it.

SOCIAL SECURITY

If you worked long enough under Social Security to qualify for benefits, some of your family members might be eligible to receive Social Security benefits, including a one-time payment to your surviving spouse. A family member should contact the Social Security Administration to find out if any benefits are available. Information regarding death/survivor benefits are available online, www.ssa.gov.

OPERS (from OPERS web site –

<https://www.opers.org/retirees/programs/death-benefit.shtml>)

Upon the death of an age and service retiree or a disability benefit recipient who participated in the Traditional Pension or Combined Plan, a lump sum death benefit, based on years of service, is paid to one of the following:

- The designated beneficiary on an approved Designation of Beneficiary for Lump Sum Death Benefit form
- An approved retirement application
- The first qualified beneficiary under automatic succession
- The person responsible for burial or the estate of the recipient.

This death benefit for members with less than 10 years service credit is \$500; at least 10, but less than 15 years, \$1,000; at least 15, but less than 20, \$1,500; at least 20, but less than 25, \$2,000; 25 or more years of service, \$2,500.

For members participating in the Member-Directed Plan, a death benefit is not available through OPERS. In the event of the member's death, the vested portion of the member's defined contribution account that has not been distributed is available to the member's beneficiaries.

NOTE: For specific information regarding your benefits, contact the appropriate agency:

OSU – 614-292-1050

STRS-OH – 888-227-7877

OPERS - 800-222-7377

Social Security – See local phone book

Our Endowment Fund
helps subsidize the OSURA

“COPING WITH CHANGE” CONFERENCES

Your **2008 Campus Campaign** gift to the
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continues to make this benefit possible



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OSURA

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THE EARLY VISION

In his remarks at the organizational meeting of The Ohio State University Retirees Association on May 25, 1983, I. Keith Tyler explained the goals of the association. Dr. Tyler said:

"1. Providing for social and recreational activities. Too often retired persons suddenly find themselves with time on their hands, and/or cut off from former associations, and become aware of their need to develop new interests and contacts. It is expected that OSURA will develop varied interest groups and arrange opportunities for many types of rewarding activities.

"2. Promoting the economic welfare and interest of its members. In our society with its many competing groups and pressures, it is important that retirees have visibility and a voice to express their needs and concerns.

"3. Promoting the health and wellbeing of its members. As individuals grow older, health problems multiply and the importance of maintaining a vigorous physical condition increases. The association, with its many contacts and relationships, should be extremely helpful in this area.

"4. Providing opportunities for continuing service to the University. Since my own retirement, I have become increasingly impressed with the tremendous contribution made to worthy causes through volunteerism. Needless to say, The Ohio State University could benefit greatly from volunteer services of former employees. This association is needed in order to develop appropriate means and channels for such services.

"5. Providing information to a surviving spouse and/or family in the event of the death of a retiree. This service would supplement that rendered by the Office of Retirement by personalizing the delivery of such information and assistance to the bereaved."