



# Newsletter

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## January 2009

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

This month, two disparate topics: Volunteers and STRS-OH "bonuses."

At our Annual Meeting last spring, President Gee looked to OSURA to provide retiree volunteers to assist the University with their time and talent. There are two kinds of volunteer work. One uses a volunteer's special talents or mature perspective. The other is simply giving time and a helping hand, for instance, to stand behind a table and pass out name tags. Both are useful contributions.

So, how can OSURA manage to provide volunteers? There are two problems. First we have to know when volunteers are needed. Second we have to find them. To address the first problem the University should let us know when volunteers are needed, but we can't be passive. Therefore, we call upon, you, the members, to use your knowledge of your former units and your connections to be alert and search for opportunities. Be especially alert for annual or repetitive events. If you have a suggestion, e-mail Nancy Wardwell, president-elect (wardwell.2@osu.com), or call the office, 614-292-2916.

The second problem is to notify the membership when an opportunity arises, and better still, have available a pool of willing and able members. We will be working on that, but at the least we will be using e-mail to notify you of opportunities. You will hear more.

The other item has received some publicity, mostly bad at this writing: It is STRS-OH's policy which awards its staff pension fund's portfolio managers seemingly large Performance Based Incentives (PBIs), often misnamed "bonuses," in these bad times. The media message echoed the attacks of a few, and these attacks were a half truth. In fairness, here is the other half for your information.

STRS-OH has an internal staff of portfolio managers, called Investment Associates, who manage about 80 percent of its fund investments. That is good only if the internal staff performs relatively well, that is, better than external managers would do. The key word here is "performance," and STRS-OH measures performance relative to the market. To illustrate, suppose, a manager's portfolio is small cap stocks and there is a market index that measures overall market performance for small caps. If that index goes up 10 percent and if his portfolio goes up 11 percent, he's done well, but if his goes up only 9 percent, he's done poorly. He's done well if the index goes down 20 percent and his portfolio only 18 percent, and poorly if his goes down 22 percent. Of course the PBI contracts are more complicated than that and take into account both short and longer term performance as well as the performance of the whole fund. Salesmen or saleswomen on commission and employees on piece work get paid for how much they produce. STRS-OH's portfolio managers are paid similarly under contracts that specify their PBIs.

The PBIs in question were for the 2007-2008 fiscal year. That year the net amount which these managers and the few external managers exceeded the indices was 24 basis points, or \$215 million. That's net after deducting all direct investment costs. Thus, those

*Continued on Page 2*

#### IN THIS ISSUE:

President's Message.....	1
OSURA News.....	2
Calendar.....	3
So You Can Plan Ahead.....	3
University News.....	4
Income Tax Seminar.....	5
Research Studies Seeking Participants....	5
Welcome New Retirees.....	5
Benefits.....	6
Long-term Care Insurance.....	7
Description of Events.....	8
In Memoriam.....	9

# OSURA News

## Officers

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### Budget and Finance-

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### Communications-

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### Friendship-

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### Program Coordinating-

William J. Studer

### Cultural Arts-

Odette Blum

### Social-

Penelope F. O'Neil

### Travel-

Betty A. Maynard

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### 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

Thomas A. Willke

### Staff Compensation and

### Benefits Committee-

Eleanor C. Conlon

## Historian

Fern E. Hunt

## Office Manager

Kathi Hess

## FROM THE EXECUTIVE BOARD, December 9

The OSURA web site over the past seven months has had a median of 95 hits per week (discounts and news sections are among the most popular); although 155 members receive the newsletter, by e-mail only, they don't seem to appear in these counts. Most access the site via Google.

The Endowment and Friendship Committees are discussing a proposal for a "Stop-Gap Emergency Fund" for OSURA members.

The Bucks for Charity Campaign is now well underway. Approximately half of its \$60,000 retiree goal has already been met.

The Campus Campaign time period is February 1 to April 30.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*(Continued from Page 1)*

PBIs seem like a good investment, and we pensioners should be thankful to these men and women. Moreover those contracts should be honored. OPERS does about 60 percent of its portfolio management with its own staff; I don't know the details but their PBIs and results may be similar.

Lastly, a question is why their contracts are so seemingly generous to begin with. Beside being a good return on investment, they are dictated by the job market. Generally to get the best people you have to pay them enough. Better to have highly paid people who make money than save money on pay for lesser talented people who lose more because of their performance. In any event, its PBI contract system is under review by STRS-OH.

- Tom Willke

## INTRODUCING KATHI HESS, OFFICE MANAGER, OSURA

New to HR Admin, Kathi Hess has been at OSU close to 10 years. Most of that time was spent in the Dean's office of the College of Mathematical & Physical Sciences, now known as the College of Biological, Mathematical & Physical Sciences. She worked with Deans Bob Gold, Richard Freeman, and Matthew Platz. While there, she assisted the director of communications as well as the MAPS development officers and the dean with stewardship, special events, publications, workshops, data collection, letters, press releases, etc.

Previously, Kathi has worked at: the Columbus Metropolitan Library (where she managed the Interlibrary Loan office) for nearly fifteen years; the University of Alabama at Birmingham in the College of Optometry's Student Affairs office; and Nationwide Insurance, in Employee Benefits.

Kathi is a central Ohio native, having grown up in Gahanna. She attended Miami University, the Columbus College of Art & Design, and California Institute of the Arts, and has a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree. She continues to enjoy an interest in the arts and creativity-related activities and organizations, a large variety of world music, beadwork (she shows under the name Beading by Design), and several garden clubs. Kathi is also an advocate of BalletMet and the Columbus Literacy Council.

Kathi was married to her husband Michael, a native Californian whom she met at CCAD, for just short of 35 years until his death in 2007. She is devoted to her three cats: Simon Sez, Phoebe, and Renny de La Roche.

## E-MAIL TO OSURA OFFICE

The change in office managers means Judi McMahon's e-mail addresses will be invalid (mcmahon.4@osu.edu or jmcmahon@hr.osu.edu), so delete those addresses from your address book and add Kathi Hess – hess.152@osu.edu.

# OSURA Calendar

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

- Jan 8.....Photo Society, 5:15 p.m., cocktails; 6:00 p.m., dinner; 7:00, program at Faculty Club  
Jan 13.....Board Meeting, 9:00 a.m., Longaberger Alumni House  
Jan 15.....Lunch Bunch, 11:30 a.m., Damon's – REGISTRATION REQUIRED  
Jan 21.....Book Club, 1:30 p.m., Carriage Hill Party House  
Jan 23.....Income Tax Seminar, 1:30 p.m. (doors open at 1:00 p.m.), Clinton Room, Fawcett Center  
Jan 27.....Tertulia Breakfast, 8:00 a.m., Faculty Club  
Jan 28.....Bridge Group, 1:00 p.m., Friendship Village, Dublin  
Feb 18..... *Turandot*, Opera Columbus Student/Senior Dress Rehearsal, carpool from Fawcett Center 6:00 p.m. –  
REGISTRATION REQUIRED  
Mar 6 ..... *Alice in Wonderland*, BalletMet Senior Dress Rehearsal, carpool from Fawcett Center, 9:30 a.m. –  
REGISTRATION REQUIRED  
**Mar 25 ..... Toledo Museum's Glass Collection, depart from Fawcett Center, 9:00 a.m. – REGISTRATION  
REQUIRED**  
**Apr 23 ..... *The Great Gatsby*, BalletMet Senior Dress Rehearsal, carpool from Fawcett Center, 9:30 a.m. –  
REGISTRATION REQUIRED**  
Apr 23-May 4...France Magnifique, departure TBA – REGISTRATION CLOSED

## 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; 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.**

## SO YOU CAN PLAN AHEAD

The following events are in the planning stages – preparations are not far enough along to accept reservations, but they are listed here so you can pencil them in your calendar. When all details are in place (cost, times, content, ...), they will be listed in the OSURA Calendar of the newsletter; until then, if you want information, contact the arranger.

- April 2, Estate Planning Seminar (Fern Hunt, Arranger)
- June 9, Annual Meeting (Tom Willke, Arranger)
- September 24, Coping with Change XII (Nancy Wardwell, Arranger)

## UNIVERSITY HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

The University will be closed on Thursday, January 1, and on Monday, January 19, to observe New Year's Day and Martin Luther King Day, respectively.

## JANUARY 20: MARCHING BAND IN PRESIDENTIAL INAUGURAL PARADE

The "Pride of the Buckeyes" will march in the parade as part of the inauguration of the Barack Obama as president of the United States. The Ohio State band is the largest all-brass and percussion band in the world and has marched on Inaugural Day for Presidents Herbert Hoover, Richard Nixon, George H. W. Bush, and George W. Bush.

# University News

*University News is taken from OSU Today and University news releases*

Ohio is among the Top 10 in the nation for the number of undergraduate students studying abroad and the number of international students studying at its colleges and universities, according to the "Open Doors" report published annually by the Institute of International Education. Ohio had 19,373 foreign students in 2007-08 (up four percent from 2006-07), and estimated their expenditures in the state at \$429.5 million. In addition, the University System of Ohio is working to encourage international students to stay in Ohio once they have their degrees.

Ohio State's new Blueprint: College program will double in size in the spring, thanks to a \$108,000 grant from TG's Public Benefit Grant Program, the philanthropic arm of TG, a Texas-based, non-profit corporation. Blueprint: College assists elementary school families from Columbus City Schools to create "blueprint plans" to help set the right path toward academic and college success. The grant will expand the program from 5 to 11 underserved schools, and benefit more than 100 new families and 250 elementary school students.

OSU dentistry professors Stephen Rosenstiel and Henry Fields recently conducted a research study featured in dentistry's premier publication, the *Journal of the American Dental Association*. Using an innovative computer-based survey method, they studied the essential factors in an "esthetic" or attractive smile, and their research documents new information about survey participants' perceptions of the characteristics that make up a truly "perfect" smile. The findings will help clinicians to refine their treatment methods.

Ohio State's ATECH program was recognized recently by the Ohio House of Representatives for its innovative and significant contribution to the growth of Ohio's economy. The commendation was presented by State Representative Jim Hughes (22nd House District). The ATECH program connects the commercial interests of OSU's College of Food, Agricultural and Environmental Sciences to industry and industry to the College. The knowledge, discoveries, inventions, and expertise within the College have tremendous commercial value which can be a major launching pad for new Ohio businesses.

The Arts Initiative at Ohio State - the new endeavor charged with advancing the arts and impacting our communities, both local and global - has a new blog: <http://osuartsinitiative.blogspot.com>.

## Awards and Recognitions

- Michael D. Lairmore associate director for basic sciences at the OSU Comprehensive Cancer Center and a veterinarian in the College of Veterinary Medicine, has been elected vice president/president-elect of the American College of Veterinary Pathologists.
- Steven Gordon, director and the Ralph Regula School of Computational Science, an initiative of the Ohio Supercomputer Center, received the 2008 Undergraduate Computational Engineering and Sciences award from the Krell Institute for its innovative baccalaureate minor program.
- Clara Bloomfield, an international authority on leukemia and lymphoma at the OSU Comprehensive Cancer Center - James Cancer Hospital and Solove Research Institute, received the prestigious Henry M. Stratton Medal Award during the 50th annual meeting of the American Society of Hematology. Carlo Croce, director of human cancer genetics at Ohio State, received the award last year.
- Adrienne Dixson, assistant professor in the School of Teaching and Learning, is the latest recipient of funding from the Kirwan Institute Small Grants Program. Dixson will conduct a study, "Do You Know What It Means to Miss New Orleans?: Rebuilding Public Education in Post-Katrina New Orleans," that involves on-site research in New Orleans.
- Elena Irwin, associate professor in the Department of Agricultural, Environmental and Development Economics, was presented the Geoffrey J.D. Hewings Award at the annual North American Conference of the Regional Science Association International. The award is presented by the North American Regional Science Council, an international scholarly organization, and recognizes distinguished contributions to regional science research. Irwin was recognized for her outstanding work in land-use modeling, ecological-economic modeling, and applied spatial econometrics.
- Stan Ahalt, executive director of the Ohio Supercomputer Center and professor of electrical and computer engineering, has been appointed chair of the Coalition for Academic Scientific Computation for 2009. An advocacy group for accelerating scientific discovery through computing technology, CASC represents 60 of the nation's top research universities and computing centers.
- Cheryl Achterberg, dean of the College of Education and Human Ecology, is one of only 13 experts who will advise the U.S. Departments of Agriculture and Health and Human Services about proper nutrition Americans need to stay healthy and fit.

## INCOME TAX SEMINAR

Friday, January 23, 2009

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 2008 tax year and answer your questions.

No preregistration – No cost

### RESEARCH STUDIES SEEKING PARTICIPANTS

*OSURA is committed to helping the University. This month, the call is for participants in two research studies. Please consider offering your time and experience to one or both.*

#### BONE METABOLISM

The Division of Endocrinology, Diabetes and Metabolism at Ohio State is looking for participants for a new bone metabolism research study to evaluate the investigational use of ACTOS<sup>®</sup>.

*You may be eligible if you:*

- have elevated fasting blood sugar (borderline or pre-diabetes)
- are a woman who has been post menopausal for 5 years
- are willing to take a Vitamin D and calcium supplement

Financial compensation for time will be provided upon successful completion of the program.

If you are interested please call Jan Varga-Spangler 800-678-6156.

#### HOW WE MAKE DECISIONS

Scott Mullins, a Ph.D. candidate in education at Ohio State, is seeking 40 members of OSURA--20 retired faculty and 20 retired staff--to be participants in a research study investigating whether people see listening to and following their feelings in making decisions as something that helps them negotiate life as happily as they can. It is also trying to find a way to tell the difference between human verbal responses that come from a mental origin, from those that come from a proposed feeling nature of who we are.

Two face-to-face interviews and two follow-up meetings will be conducted with each participant. Each interview will last 60-90 minutes and each follow-up meeting, 45 minutes and will take place in the Columbus area. The total amount of time each participant will be involved in the study is 4½-5½ hours over roughly 3½ months, beginning as soon as possible. If you are interested in participating, and/or want to learn more about participating, call Scott Mullins, 614-843-0496.

## WELCOME NEW RETIREES

*We congratulate our colleagues who retired from The Ohio State University in November 2008.*

Rkia **Arioui**, Drake Performance and Event Center; Raymond C. **Bertram**, Department Of Astronomy; Mary A. **Borne**, Office of Academic Affairs Administration; Karen L. **Bubalo**, University Hospitals; Nanci R. **Edgington**, Department of Internal Medicine; Sheila G. **Knapper**, University Hospitals; Bettie J. **Mathews**, University Hospitals; Eileen M. **Pritchett**, University Registrar; Leslie A. **Rhoades**, Richard J. Solove Cancer Hospital and Research Institute; Ronald W. **Sharpe**, Office Of Business and Finance; Deborah S. **Stafford**, University Hospitals; Patricia L. **Strohl**, John Glenn School of Public Affairs; Nancy L. **Tomei**, College of Biological Sciences Administration; Gerald L. **Tron**, Transportation and Parking Services; Melinda S. **Vasila**, University Hospitals; Francis L. **Warner**, University Hospitals East

*They will be members of OSURA for at least one year. Call those you know, encourage them to return their OSURA membership application, and invite them to attend an OSURA event with you.*

# Benefits

## FROM THE BENEFITS COMMITTEE MEETING December 2

For a long time, OSURA has recognized the need and its responsibility for communication between retirees and the current faculty and staff at the University. Toward this end, Tony Mughan, chair of the Faculty Compensation and Benefits Committee (FCBC), met with the OSURA Benefits Committee. He provided an overview of the OSU Senate's Faculty Compensation and Benefits Committee charge and activities: (a) Compensation – low liquidity limits what the University can do in this area for the near term future (3.5 percent per year over the next five years is the strategic plan projection); and (b) Benefits – seem easier to achieve in this present economic environment, and could reach a wide range of faculty (*e.g.*, a phased retirement plan and the containment of health care costs are top agenda interests).

At the OPERS's Board meeting of November 15, the mitigation rate was discussed. Ohio law requires that in a Defined Contribution Plan "a portion of the employer's contribution rate must be used to offset any negative financial impact due to establishment of new plans (*e.g.*, Member-Directed Plan and Combined Plan)." The portion is the percent of earnable salary of members for whom the contributions are made and is determined by an actuary from an annual actuarial study to see whether changes in the percent transferred should be changed. Changes are made at the first of the year following conclusion of the study. The "negative financial impact" is affected by the number of people who enroll in one of the plans other than the Traditional Plan. Note: With this option, the Board needs to seek legislative change to allow the Board to set the rate.

OCHER (Ohio Council of Higher Education Retirees) plans a conference in May, to which the University of Illinois will be invited, for a review of STRS-type systems and their future. The University of Illinois retirement system is similar to that of Ohio State.

STRS-OH is reviewing the Performance Based Incentive (PBI) Program in which eligible investment associates are able to receive "bonuses" depending on both total investment fund performance and their individual goals over the previous fiscal year. The Board assigned a detailed review of the PBI Program to its Staff Benefits Committee which will explore compensation options and develop recommendations for the Board's consideration.

Medical Mutual had sent letters to STRS-OH Health Care Program enrollees regarding two data disks that were lost in the U.S. Postal Service. STRS-OH enrollees were offered identity theft protection. In the future, Medical Mutual will transmit data to STRS-OH Ohio electronically through encrypted information.

Two retiree positions on the STRS-OH Board are open. OSURA encourages its members to recommend candidates. Information is in the STRS-OH member newsletter and on the web site ([www.strsoh.org](http://www.strsoh.org), which is linked to the OSURA web site, [hr.osu.edu/osura](http://hr.osu.edu/osura)).

The Ohio Council of Higher Education Retirees (OCHER) monitors issues of concern to retired employees of universities, particularly in Ohio. According to their November 18 report:

- Medicare Advantage (MA)  
Some progress has been made in reducing the subsidy for MA plans, but we will still not have financial neutrality between these plans and original Medicare. It is extremely important to continue the focus on the privatization issue and to reverse legislation that has promoted it. The Advocacy Committee will continue monitoring this issue.
- H.B. 315, STRS-OH Health Care  
Rep. Oelslager has continued meetings of interested parties; opposition presence continues. Most recently, emphasis has been focused on having the opposition clarify their specific concerns.
- SERS Retirement Model  
The School Employees Retirement (SERS) Model is now in effect. It raises the minimum eligible age and service year requirements for SERS retirement benefits. OCHER is monitoring progress and possible implications for the other state retirement systems, in particular STRS-OH- and OPERS.
- 403(B)s  
New rules will come into effect in 2009, which will alter management of these and related tax-deferred investments.

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Express Scripts, OPERS pharmacy benefits manager, works with OPERS to ensure that prescription coverage remains affordable. As part of this effort, Express Scripts categorizes some medications based on effectiveness and cost (Step Therapy) and will only cover certain uses and quantities of some medications (Prior Authorization). These categories of medications are noted on the member's formulary list by either [ST] for Step Therapy or [PA] for Prior Authorization.

## Long-term Care Insurance – LTCI Some Basics and Caveats for OSURAnS

*This is the second of a two-part review of basic elements of Long-term Care Insurance (LTCI) and some basic caveats in purchasing such policies. The first appeared in the December issue of the OSURA newsletter.*

### *B. Some Caveats for Prospective Buyers of LTCI*

1. Never trust verbal sales pitches – always read the policy carefully and with a discriminating friend or legal adviser. Be aware that commissions for insurance agents in this field average over 45 percent of first-year premiums as opposed to auto policies of about 10 percent. This can lead to selling pressure.
2. Be honest about your responses to health questions at application, especially for any pre-existing condition, such as heart problems, Alzheimer's. If not sure, refer to your physician. Rather than be definitive, state that "you can't recall." Visits to physicians about memory problems can lead to denial of coverage.
3. Always get inflation protection, if possible, using compound interest. While cost-of-living inflation might be three percent, medical care inflation will likely be six percent or higher. Nursing home care costs are expected to double in 12 years.
4. Be careful about adding benefits to an existing policy. These will be made at current premium rates and not at the rates when the original policy was purchased.
5. Avoid purchasing LTCI policies too early (e.g., at age 45, poor investment) or too late (e.g., at age 75) when premiums will be excessive.
6. Consider your ability to afford the premiums 20 years from now.
7. Make sure ADLs (activities of daily living) are clearly specified.
8. Choose carefully the years that benefits will be made. Data suggest that while 50 percent of those over 65 will need long-term care, the duration of this care will depend upon several factors. Most males will stay less than a year in a nursing home; females will stay much longer. Durations are affected by other factors, such as medical innovation, family history of long-term care use, lifestyle, health, and longevity.
9. Choose an elimination period (number of days benefits will begin after a claim is approved) consistent with your financial condition. Longer elimination periods mean lower premiums.
10. Determine how benefits will be distributed. Some policies pay benefits to the insured; others pay benefits directly to the care provider.

### *C. Common Pitfalls*

1. Failure to account for inflation.
2. Non-forfeiture of Benefits means the insurance company will pay some benefits even if the policy

is cancelled due to non-payment of premiums.

This benefit is usually not significant.

3. Gate-keepers limit claims under specified conditions. Some shameful practices that are used to minimize claims include:
  - a. requiring the loss of three ADLs instead of two.
  - b. having a reduced number of ADLs from which a loss might be determined. For example, some policies exclude bathing as an ADL, which is one of the most common activities where assistance is needed.
  - c. requiring hospitalization before claims are allowed.
  - d. requiring an acute medical condition before a claim is approved.
  - e. limiting benefits to skilled care.
  - f. having the insurance company define ADL loss.
  - g. requiring only nursing homes certified by Medicare, and
  - h. vaguely defining an ADL.
4. Assuming LTCI will protect all your assets.
5. Added death benefits (when you die before care is needed) are never free and need scrutiny.
6. Not covering home care. This is important since there is a trend to home health care.
7. Assuming premiums are fixed through the life of the policy. Your premiums can become higher if the insurance company can justify them to state insurance agencies.
8. Tax-certified policies are the rule, but this only means that premiums can be added to medical expenses in Schedule A in your tax form. As yet, there are no provisions to let one deduct premiums from your total tax.

### *D. Conclusion*

The above material is not to suggest one should avoid LTCI; rather, one should make decisions carefully. Older persons, often alone and in poor health, can be victims of high-pressure sales pitches. Decisions also depend upon your financial estate, fiscal obligations, and your family history of long-term care needs. If you have limited resources, Medicaid will likely be the source of your future skilled care needs. However, this will require signing over many of your assets to the state or care center.

LTCI policies are evolving. Now shared policies for husband and wife are available. Experts agree that LTCI policies are complicated instruments requiring care in selection.

## Description of Events

See Pages 12 and 13 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 12 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 8 (THURSDAY) PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

Mary Beth Fontana will present "The Land of OZ (Australia)." Members' image theme is "whimsical". Submissions for the Annual Photo Contest are due no later than the January 8 meeting – up to four prints (8"x10" or 11"x14") photographed in 2008.

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

Note: cocktails and dinner will be in the third floor rooms ABC rather than the Colleagues Room.

Arranger: Ted Houston (*Photographic Society*)

### JANUARY 15 (THURSDAY) LUNCH BUNCH

OSURA member Shirley Brooks-Jones will speak about her experiences on September 11, 2001, when she and 4,200 other airline passengers were forced to land in Newfoundland since all U.S. airspace was closed. She will share stories about the generosity of the people of little Newfoundland towns, including Lewisporte where she stayed. She will talk about her continued contacts with the townspeople over the past seven years and the college scholarships that the grateful passengers have established.

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

Cost: Order from the menu

Arrangers: OSURA Social Committee

### JANUARY 21 (WEDNESDAY) BOOK CLUB

The book to discuss is *The Zookeeper's Wife* by Diane Ackerman which describes the way the zoo-keeper and his wife saved people from the Nazis by hiding them in cages, describes the hiding of endangered people labeled as animals and the animals as people with human names. An interesting, fun discussion and goodies!!!

Time and Place: 1:30 p.m., Carriage Hill Party House, Lafayette Drive (Contact Lee Hill, 614-459-4743, for directions.)

Arranger: Marajeau Huling (*Book Club SIG*)

### JANUARY 23 (FRIDAY) INCOME TAX SEMINAR

Challenge Level 1

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 2008 tax year and answer your questions. Preregistration is not necessary.

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

Cost: None

Arranger: Tom Sweeney (*Benefits Committee*)

### JANUARY 27 (TUESDAY) TERTULIA BREAKFAST

A group meets on the fourth Tuesday of every month for breakfast and conversation. Why not join them?

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

Cost: Breakfast on your own

Arranger: William Riley (*Tertulia Breakfast SIG*)

### JANUARY 28 (WEDNESDAY) BRIDGE GROUP

You are cordially welcome to join this group for a good game of Bridge.

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

Arrangers: Sherry Detillian and Marianne Naber (*Bridge Group SIG*)

### FEBRUARY 18 \* TURANDOT, OPERA COLUMBUS STUDENT/ SENIOR DRESS REHEARSAL

Challenge Level 1

Puccini's last opera has great arias, grand choruses, and spectacular sets and costumes. Many men have died at hand of icy princess Turandot. Every suitor who cannot answer her three riddles is executed. Calaf falls in love, is urged not to proceed, but will not listen.

Depart: 6:00 p.m. from Fawcett Center (carpool) – meet at Fawcett Center in right-hand lobby just beyond the front desk for tickets, name tags, and driver assignments.

Return: Opera should end at approximately 9:30; back at Fawcett Center by 10:15.

Cost: \$12 for ticket; would be appropriate for passengers to offer drivers small sum to help with parking and gasoline.

Refund Deadline: February 11

Arranger: Don Cooper (*Cultural Arts Committee*)

### **MARCH 6 (FRIDAY) \***

#### **ALICE IN WONDERLAND, BALLETMET SENIOR DRESS REHEARSAL**

*Challenge Level 1*

Follow Alice down the rabbit hole where the Mad Hatter, croquet with the Queen, and square dancing with lobsters is par for the course. You'll find logic is no match for madness among the delirious denizens of Wonderland.

Time and Place: 9:30 a.m. from Fawcett Center (carpool); meet in lobby just beyond Service Desk to sign in.

Return: Approximately 1:00 p.m. departure from Riffe Center

Cost: \$11 (ticket); it would be appropriate for passengers to offer a small sum to drivers for gasoline and parking.

Refund Deadline: February 27

Arranger: Don Cooper (*Cultural Arts Committee*)

### **MARCH 25 (WEDNESDAY) \***

#### **TOLEDO MUSEUM'S GLASS COLLECTION (TOLEDO MUSEUM OF ART)**

*Challenge Level 2*

The Toledo Museum of Art's world-renowned glass collection features more than 5,000 works of art from ancient to contemporary times. It is housed in the recently opened Glass Pavilion which has received a design award for "Best Museum." The Glass Pavilion offers visitors the unique opportunity to appreciate the history of glass as an artistic medium, as well as witness its creation in the glassmaking studio, both within an architectural marvel of glass.

Depart: 9:00 a.m. from Fawcett Center

Return: Approximately 7:00 p.m.

Cost: \$45 (bus transportation, docent fee, box lunch, snacks, driver's tip)

Registration Closes: March 4 (early date due to docent scheduling)

Refund Deadline: March 11

Arranger: Odette Blum (*Cultural Arts Committee*)

### **APRIL 23 (THURSDAY) \***

#### **THE GREAT GATSBY, BALLETMET SENIOR DRESS REHEARSAL**

*Challenge Level 1*

This classic novel of extravagance, deception, and despair during the height of Prohibition is exquisitely portrayed through expressive dance and elaborate sets

in this world premier production. Travel back to the Jazz Age, and into the entangled lives of debonair Jay Gatsby, pragmatic Nick Carraway, and the charming Daisy Buchanan. Their indiscretions, fueled by forbidden passion and financed by bootlegged dollars, are sure to leave a lasting impression on all who embark on this emotional journey.

Time and Place: 9:30 a.m. from Fawcett Center (carpool); meet in lobby just beyond Service Desk to sign in.

Return: Depart Riffe Center approximately 1:00 p.m.

Cost: \$11 (ticket); it would be appropriate for passengers to offer a small sum to drivers for gasoline and parking.

Refund Deadline: April 2

Arranger: Don Cooper (*Cultural Arts Committee*)

### **APRIL 23-MAY 4 \***

#### **FRANCE MAGNIFIQUE**

*Challenge Level 3*

REGISTRATION CLOSED

Depart: TBA April 23

Return: TBA May 4

Arrangers: Betty Maynard and Barb Preston (*Travel Committee*)

#### **IN MEMORIAM**

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

**Alexander**, Nettie Ann, November 22, age 76

**Baker**, Mary, November 30, Education, age 93

**Benner**, Ida Mae, November 18, Interior Design, age 81

**Bowers**, Jean S., November 29, Family Resource Management and OSURA, age 90

**Rollins**, Arline M., November 11, University Libraries and OSURA, age 84

**Sanzi**, John G., November 17, Stores, age 61

**Shipman**, Morgan E., December 3, Law, age 75

**Thompson**, Beverly Ann, November 12, age 74

**Valentine**, Mary Lee, December 2, University Hospital, age 76

**Watts**, Eugene, November 11, History and OSURA, age 66

**Wellbaum**, William Paul, November 24, Radiology and OSURA, age 50

*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.*



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JANUARY 2009 NEWSLETTER

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## More University News

In an e-mail to faculty, President Gee addressed the "current economic conditions and the University's fiscal health and well-being," stating, "Although these are admittedly very challenging times, I believe that Ohio State is in a strong position." He relayed some anticipatory steps the University has taken and noted the strong support of Governor Strickland and the Ohio General Assembly. "I believe that although these are challenging days, they also present us with great opportunities – to think differently, to collaborate more fully, to reconfigure ourselves for the long-term benefit of our students and our state. We have now the opportunity and the responsibility to make sophisticated choices about our future, and I look forward to working in partnership with you as we move ahead."

Joseph A. Alutto, executive vice president and provost, discussed the academic priorities in the autumn issue of "keyNotes" including faculty and staff recruitment and retention; ensuring that the Ohio State student experience is full immersion learning—academically, culturally, socially, personally; a focus on inter-

disciplinarity in resource allocation; the ongoing development of the University System of Ohio; the University infrastructure, especially enhancing the learning technologies available to our faculty and students; Programming ("For example, task forces have been created to examine how most effectively to coordinate the many life sciences and environmental and earth sciences programs across the University."); calendar conversion process to review and plan for moving away from the quarter system; and a new approach to capital planning.

The November issue of *Connect* reported on the new Ohio Union, stating that when it is done in 2010, "it will have a posh wing for student organizations, a 24-hour diner, and a media suite with digital editing capabilities. It will be a one-stop shop where students can eat, get tickets for University events, meet up with friends and classmates, and participate in extracurricular activities." *Connect* goes on, "The revamped gathering place wouldn't be possible without donations from alumni."