



# Newsletter

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## February 2009

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

#### **This Month: A Faculty Club Bargain, Volunteers, and a Workshop**

Some of us met with Jeffrey White, executive director, and Cheryl Valentine, of the Faculty Club, to find ways to increase OSURA's use of the Club for the mutual benefit of both organizations. One significant outcome so far is a change in Faculty Club dues charges for some OSURA members. In the past, retirees got the reduced rate for membership, currently \$21 per month, instead of the full rate of \$34 per month, only if they had been a member of the Club for 10 years prior to retirement. In the future OSURA members (whether faculty or staff when employed) will get the reduced rate even if they were never a member of the Faculty Club. For more information contact Cheryl Valentine, Member Relations, Faculty Club, 614-688-8584.

I mentioned in my last message that retirees should use their experience with their offices, colleges, departments, and elsewhere to locate opportunities for OSURA members to volunteer to help in the University's mission. Think students, special events, faculty projects, or whatever else you know about. Call the OSURA office, 614-292-2916, or email Nancy Wardwell directly ([wardwell.2@osu.edu](mailto:wardwell.2@osu.edu)) with suggestions. OSURA cannot provide its members with volunteer opportunities unless we know when volunteers are needed, and that is where you come in.

I apologize for dwelling so much in these letters on financial matters, but given the financial crises in this country, our thoughts turn to how that will affect us. The rest of this letter will be of interest to those of you who have 403(b) investments in the University's optional defined contribution plan. The special 403(b) workshop on December 16, given by Bill Rives, from the Fisher College of Business, drew about 60 people. It was another opportunity to get free valuable advice from your expert colleagues, a benefit brought to you by OSURA. A measure of this workshop's success was that the questions during and after the formal session stretched on for a full hour extra. As part of the advice and information given in that workshop, Bill stressed the need to know the fees charged by your vendor because they can be quite high for some vendors and cost you big bucks, even in retirement years. For our younger colleagues still working and still in the accumulation stage, high fees can cost really big bucks by retirement time.

The problem has been that it can be very difficult, if not almost impossible, to find out what the fees are for some of the vendors. The OSURA Executive Board and the Benefits Committee have been discussing with the Office of Human Resources ways to remedy this and other problems with the current system. Under the new IRS regulations to be phased in by the end of 2009 the University will have a greater responsibility for the optional 403(b) faculty and staff program. We expect good things will happen because of that, especially full disclosure of fees and a better choice of low-cost vendors.

Just days after the workshop there was some good news from the Feds for those over 70½ holding 403(b)s. Bill Rives reported to me to pass on to you that on December 17, having passed both houses of Congress, The Worker, Retiree and Employer Recovery Act of 2008 (H.R.7327) was submitted to President Bush for his signature and since then he has signed it. That act suspends for those over 70½, all the minimum required distribution rules for the 2009 calendar year for 403(b)s, 457s and Traditional IRAs among others. Thus, in 2009, those over 70½ won't have to withdraw funds from those investments and pay the resulting income tax. Note also that this is temporary for 2009 only. For details check with your plan vendor, advisor or the tax booklets.

- Tom Willke

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# OSURA News

## Officers

### President

Thomas A. Willke

### Vice President/President Elect

Nancy S. Wardwell

### Secretary

Richard M. Hill

### Treasurer

C. Thomas Ridenour

### Communications Secretary

Carlene Hamilton

### Past President

J. Robert Warmbrod

## Executive Board Members at Large

Shirley A. Chase

Clarence J. Cunningham

Joseph A. Lipsky

Penelope F. O'Neil

Joyce A. Smith

Marie T. Taris

## Committee Chairs

### Benefits-

Louis P. DiOrio

### Budget and Finance-

Charles E. Corbato

### Bylaws-

Thomas L. Sweeney

### Communications-

Carlene Hamilton

### Endowment-

Shirley A. Chase

### Friendship-

Mary Anne Herbst

### Membership-

Donald W. Larson

### Program Coordinating-

William J. Studer

### Cultural Arts-

Odette Blum

### Social-

Penelope F. O'Neil

### Travel-

Betty A. Maynard

## 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

Thomas A. Willke

### Staff Compensation and

### Benefits Committee-

Eleanor C. Conlon

## Historian

Fern E. Hunt

## Office Manager

Kathi Hess

## FROM THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

### January 13

The Membership Committee is reviewing the membership application form to better accommodate households with two OSURA eligible members.

The total membership of 3,191 is 240 greater than this time one year ago.

Cultural Arts events are down – not because of lack of membership interest, but due to a shortage of event leaders.

The Human Resources office has indicated that discount eligibility will be added automatically for retired faculty and staff wherever active faculty and staff are participants.

The Faculty Club has eliminated the "10 year" rule and OSURA members (whether retired as faculty or staff) are now eligible for membership; meeting space (without setups) is now free to OSURA groups and events just for OSURA are welcomed and encouraged. Parking accommodations for staff are being studied.

In a recent meeting with Larry Lewellen OSURA President Tom Willke learned that President Gee strongly favors OSURA participation, and that staff adjustments, once in place, will help facilitate this mission.

## FACULTY CLUB AND OSURA

The Faculty Club has approved these benefits for OSURA members effective January 1, 2009:

- Members of OSURA (whether faculty or staff when employed at OSU) will be eligible for membership in the Faculty Club even if they were not members of the Club as employees (\$21 monthly fee).
- OSURA meetings can be held at the Faculty Club without charge, but there will be no set-ups.
- The Faculty Club may plan some events exclusively for OSURA members.

## NEW LIFE MEMBERS

2008

Linda Heyl and Lester Barnhart \* John C. Belland \* Catherine and Albert Bianco \* Marjorie and Orville Brock \* Robert and Sally Brown \* Gerald and Suzanne Chubb \* David and Jane Clark \* Jane N. Pletcher and Jack Cooley \* David and Joanne Frantz \* David and Aida Hansen \* J Karovics and Dennis Knepley \* Diane Dolan and Ken Kowaleski \* Pamela LeMar-Neidhardt and David Neidhardt \* William and Gail Loadman \* Lorraine A. Maghes \* Barbara J. Miller \* Daniel and Joyce Mullet \* Maynard G. Muntzing \* Saad and Jane Nagi \* John and Judith Neuhardt \* Richard and Sharon Schrock \* Linda K. Sexton \* Cheryl and Charles Speer \* Gergory and Carol Steele \* Ellen D. Waits \* Beverly L. Williamson \* Barbara E. Gladman

## HIGHLIGHTING

### THE BRIDGE GROUP

Evelyn Baker was involved in starting "Bridge and Games" including the board games group in the early months after OSURA was formed 26 years ago. Evelyn chaired and provided snacks for the group continuously until 2005 when Marianne Naber and Sherry Detillian became co-chairs. Sometime during those years, games other than bridge were no longer played.

The group has met monthly at Friendship Village of Dublin for all 26 years with no charge: Evelyn said in a letter that this made the group meetings possible. Prizes are awarded to the winners from twenty-five cents collected from each player. No inflation has taken place in this small fee since the group's inception.

During its peak years of membership as many as 12 tables, or 48 participants, were involved. The number of members has declined considerably and new members are needed. The group meets on the fourth Wednesday of each month at 1:00 p.m. at Friendship Village of Dublin North Convocation Room. Please join them for a good game of bridge, fellowship, and conversation.

# OSURA Calendar

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

- Feb 10.....Board Meeting, 9:00 a.m., Longaberger Alumni House
- Feb 12.....Photo Society, 5:15 p.m., cocktails; 6:00 p.m., dinner; 7:00, program at Faculty Club
- Feb 18.....Book Club, 1:00 p.m., Carriage Hill Party House
- Feb 18..... *Turandot*, Opera Columbus Student/Senior Dress Rehearsal, carpool from Fawcett Center, 6:00 p.m. –  
REGISTRATION REQUIRED
- Feb 19.....Lunch Bunch, 11:30 a.m., Damon's – REGISTRATION REQUIRED
- Feb 24.....Tertulia Breakfast, 8:00 a.m., Faculty Club
- Feb 25.....Bridge Group, 1:00 p.m., Friendship Village, Dublin
- 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 Pavilion collection; depart from Fawcett Center, 9:00 a.m. – REGISTRATION  
REQUIRED
- Apr 2 ..... Estate Planning Seminar, 1:30 p.m., Ohio 4-H Center, 2201 Fred Taylor Drive –  
REGISTRATION REQUIRED**
- Apr 15 ..... Castles & Caverns, West Liberty and Bellefontaine, depart Fawcett Center, 8:30 a.m. –  
REGISTRATION REQUIRED**
- Apr 24..... *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 a 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, etc.), they will be listed in the OSURA Calendar of the newsletter; until then, if you want information, contact the arranger.

- June 3, Kingwood Center and Malabar Farms (William Studer and Carol Baker, Arrangers)
- June 9, Annual Meeting (Tom Willke, Arranger)
- June 30, Tour of Ohio 4-H Center and Chadwick Arboretum (Don Cooper, Arranger)
- September 24, Coping with Change XII (Nancy Wardwell, Arranger)

## OSURA OUTSTANDING SERVICE AWARD

**April 15 is the deadline** for nominations for the OSURA Outstanding Service Award established last year. The award recognizes individuals who have contributed to the betterment of The Ohio State University retirees through leadership and service to retirement causes. The contributions of this individual may be in any area related to retirees and retirement, such as administration or legislation, but will be measured on how these efforts enrich retirees' quality of life now and in the future. Nomination forms and other information are available from the OSURA Office (614-292-2916) or on the OSURA web site, [hr.osu.edu/osura](http://hr.osu.edu/osura).

## University News

*University News is taken from OSU Today, the OSU web page and other University communication vehicles*

A renewed Students First commitment at Ohio State includes additional financial aid, emergency loans, and tuition assurances designed to help students and their families who face increased economic hardship as a result of the recession and covers all currently enrolled students and those admitted for fall 2009. Elements of the Students First plan include:

- Guarantee that financial aid will increase proportionally if tuition increases for the 2009-2010 academic year.
- Assurance that student financial aid will be protected through any budget difficulties.
- Reaffirmation of the University's pledge of no mid-year tuition increases.
- More than doubling the University's existing \$850,000 short-term emergency loan fund with an additional \$1 million through a transfer from the University's rainy day fund.
- Assistance at any time during the year in securing additional financial aid (loans, grants, scholarships) for students whose economic condition changes due to job loss by either the student or their parent(s).
- Personal contact with all first-year students who did not re-enroll for winter quarter to make sure that financial hardships are not an obstacle in continuing their education.
- Fundraising emphasis on donations for student financial aid, both loans and scholarships.

The January 2009 issue of *SmartMoney* magazine ranks Ohio State 11th in the nation in a study that measures the long-term value of a college education. In what it called a "twist on traditional college rankings," the magazine examined the relationship between tuition costs and graduates' earning power to measure which schools deliver the best return on tuition investment.

The official papers of Congresswoman Deborah Pryce and Congressman Ralph Regula, both retiring from the United States Congress in January 2009, will be donated to Ohio State and will become part of the Ohio Congressional Archives administered by University Libraries.

University experts from across the United States, including those from OSU Extension, have compiled a new section on [www.extension.org](http://www.extension.org) with free, easy-to-access financial management information to help Americans who are becoming increasingly concerned with losing their retirement funds, investments, jobs and even the roofs over their heads.

A special Ohio economic development supplement that is featured in *Forbes* magazine, "Ohio: The State of Perfect Balance," includes the significant economic impacts of Ohio State and its affiliated health centers such as the Food Industries Center, the Center for Advanced Functional Food Research and Entrepreneurship, Ohio BioProducts Innovation Center, the Center for Personalized Health Care, and Ohio State's key cancer partners, the Ohio State Comprehensive Cancer Center and the James Cancer Hospital and Solove Research Institute.

Personnel changes include:

- Darrell Johnson, the dean of Extended University Programs at Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo, Michigan, became director of the Office of Continuing Education at Ohio State effective January 26 .
- Brian Winer, OSU professor of physics, has joined the University Honors & Scholars Center as director of the Honors Collegium, a program for purposeful undergraduates who expect to distinguish themselves beyond the baccalaureate degree.

## WELCOME NEW RETIREES

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

**Aswath**, Usha, Internal Medicine \* **Bradley**, Roscoe A., University Laboratory Animal Resources \* **Cadden**, Kevin W., University Hospitals \* **Casperson**, Teresa A., Athletics \* **Catalino**, Raymond W., School of Communication \* **Erle**, Kathleen A., Veterinary Hospital \* **Givler**, Kevin R., Business Administration \* **Hinkle**, Elaine J., University Hospitals \* **Hurd**, Theresa D., Food Services \* **Jenne**, Barbara J., Veterinary Hospital \* **Lafontaine**, Kenneth R., OSU Extension County Operations \* **Landrum**, Lorraine, RIO Operations Headquarters \* **McCoy**, Linda M., Solove Cancer Hospital & Research Institute \* **Miller**, Thomas P., University Hospitals \* **Myers**, Elmer L., Animal Sciences \* **Pass**, Ann L., Harding Hospital \* **Schaefer**, John Joel, Emergency Management & Fire Prevention \* **Talmadge**, Linda L., University Libraries \* **Tatman**, Eileen E., University Hospitals.

*Help welcome our colleagues to retirement and OSURA. Call those you know, encourage them to return their OSURA membership application and invite them to attend an OSURA event with you.*



Office of Human Resources  
Suite 300  
1590 North High Street  
Columbus, OH 43201-2190

Phone (614) 292-2916  
Fax (614) 292-4424

To Strengthen Our

## **OSURA Endowment**

Watch your Mid-February Mail for a  
**CAMPUS CAMPAIGN**  
Gift/Pledge Card and Envelope

February 1, 2009

Dear OSURA Member,

It's always satisfying to see your money at work for both yourself and others. OSURA's Endowment Fund offers a great way to do this since it contributes to a wide range of our programs, including;

- The "Coping With Change" Conferences*** (September, annually)
- The OSURA Tax Seminar*** (January, annually)
- The OSURA Annual Meeting*** (June, each year)
- The Estate Planning Seminar*** (April, new this year)

Costs rise annually however and our Fund must grow to keep pace. A direct way you can assist is to designate your **Campus Campaign** gift this year to **Fund #605420** (The OSURA Endowment Fund). It is a very effective way to see your money work for you and for your organization. The additional (69) designation, as below\*, assures that it will be counted as a retiree gift to OSURA.

With thanks for supporting those OSURA benefits we all enjoy through your gift to the 2009 Campus Campaign,

**Tom Willke**

Shirley Chase

Dick Hill

Tom Willke  
OSURA President

Shirley Chase  
Endowment Chair

Dick Hill  
Campus Campaign Council

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\* To make your OSURA Endowment gift:

- (1) designate your check to: ***The OSU Foundation***
- (2) note on your check memo: ***For #605420 / (69)***
- (3) address your envelope to: ***OSU Campus Campaign  
1480 W. Lane Avenue, Rm. 217  
Columbus, OH 43221***

## More OSURA News

### **SPECIAL OSURA SEMINAR ON MANAGING 403(B) AND IRA ACCOUNTS IN RETIREMENT**

On December 16, 2008, Dr. Bill Rives, senior lecturer in the Department of Finance in the Fisher College of Business, presented a special seminar on managing 403(b) and IRA accounts in retirement. Dr. Rives is a specialist in retirement income planning and retirement asset management, and teaches financial planning at Fisher. The seminar was created in response to numerous requests from OSURA members. Turnout was excellent; participants filled a large classroom in Gerlach Hall, home to Fisher's MBA program.

Dr. Rives discussed the components of retirement income and the reasons that people open 403(b) accounts. He then explained how 403(b) plans work. His presentation was interrupted frequently with questions that he seemed more than happy to answer. He said after the seminar that he was pleased that so many participants had questions, a clear sign that members are quite interested in learning more about these plans.

Dr. Rives devoted more than half of his presentation to four areas of particular interest to OSURA members:

- (1) Minimum distribution requirements
- (2) Rollovers and conversions
- (3) Income tax considerations
- (4) Federal regulatory changes affecting supplemental retirement plans.

Dr. Rives concluded his presentation with several recommendations for participants to consider, including:

- (1) Roll a 403(b) into a Traditional IRA for greater financial flexibility
- (2) Convert a 403(b) or Traditional IRA into a Roth IRA for longer-term tax benefits
- (3) Develop a financial plan for using minimum distribution payments.

Dr. Rives regularly advises OSU faculty, staff and students on financial planning issues and invited OSURA members with questions about their retirement finances to contact him at [rives.4@osu.edu](mailto:rives.4@osu.edu).

*Editors Note:* A few copies of the eleven-page presentation by Dr. Rives are available from the OSURA office; call 614-292-2916 if you want one (until the supply is exhausted).

### **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, when 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.

# Benefits

## FROM THE BENEFITS COMMITTEE

### January 6

At its meeting December 17, the OPERS Board reviewed its 2009 operating budget (\$94.7 billion, a 4.61 percent increase over 2008) – this is the administrative support budget for the \$3.1 billion in pensions and \$1.3 billion in health care paid out annually.

The Board has reached all but 3.6 percent on its re-employment health care requirement. PBI (Performance-based Initiatives) and staff wage freeze issues are under study. The Health Care Stabilization Fund (HCSF) is now down to \$2.8 billion from \$4 billion about one year ago. Unlike the pension fund, the HCSF has a much shorter time horizon, which complicates the ability to recoup previous market losses. *(See State Legislation below.)*

## STATE LEGISLATION

With the end of the year, two bills of importance to beneficiaries in the public retirement systems have “died” and would need to be re-introduced (with new bill numbers) in future legislative sessions if they are to be considered:

- HB 315 was designed and introduced to provide dedicated funds to the Health Care Stabilization Fund (HCSF). This would have stabilized the HCSF over a period of time and would have provided a 30-year unfunded liability. Health care premiums are subsidized for benefit recipients who qualify and enroll in one of the STRS health care plans. The subsidy funds come from the HCSF. Therefore the HCSF is diminished because of the subsidies, the loss of investment earnings to the fund, and the cost that is paid out for medical expenses and drugs for STRS to be a self-insured program. STRS is working on a strategic plan for the Health Care Program. The four factors that can affect the solvency of the HCSF are funding, eligibility, premium subsidies, and benefits. Without a significant increase in funding through additional member and/or employer contributions (H.B. 315), fundamental changes will need to be made to sustain the health care program for the long term.
- H.B. 645 would have required all five state retirement systems to participate in defined contribution (DC) plans. The five retirement system directors have sent a joint letter to the House leadership stating their opposition to the bill.

HB 315 is seen as favorable to the systems, while HB 645 dictates a position the systems do not see as favorable.

## IN MEMORIAM

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

- Allen**, Wynanda M., December 7, age 84  
**Arter**, Lillie, January 4, Food Service, age 87  
**Billings**, Lillian, December 4,  
University Hospitals, age 89  
**Bone**, Samuel Wesley, January 3,  
Agronomy, age 85  
**Chrzyszczuk**, Donald Leo, December 27,  
Facilities Operation & Development, age 56  
**Dafney**, Jr, Lewis, January 1, age 67  
**Dascenzo**, Anthony, December 17,  
Optometry, age 94  
**Day**, Henry Hugh, December 23,  
Food Service, age 77  
**Deal**, N. Dianne, January 9,  
University Hospitals & OSURA, age 64  
**Ferguson**, Diana, December 5,  
University Hospitals, age 67  
**Gray**, Douglas Wylie, December 23,  
University Systems, age 73  
**Greene**, Polly Rogers, County Extension, December  
**Haynes**, Beverly Kay, March 5, CETE, age 73  
**Hill**, John W., December 8,  
University Hospitals, age 64  
**Hunter**, Lelia, December 10, age 63  
**James**, Clarence R., December 13,  
Engineering, age 88  
**Lynch**, Joseph Howard, December 27,  
History, age 65  
**McCabe**, John Matthew, December 11,  
Entomology, age 81  
**Orwig**, Marilyn Louise, January 4,  
Police Department & OSURA, age 86  
**Salyer**, Raymond L., December 13,  
I&R Computer Center, age 64  
**Thompson-Knight**, Martha Ann,  
January 6, University Hospitals  
**Warren**, Claude E., January 10,  
Computer Engineering  
**Woodin**, Olive H., December 22,  
OSURA, age 101

*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.*

## 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.

### FEBRUARY 12 (THURSDAY)

#### PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

Sweetheart Valentine Banquet - Special guests welcome. Call for reservations 614-292-2262 by Monday, February 9. Announcement of the photograph contest winners will be followed by Speaker Rich Prebig, National Geographic photographer, "Traveling with Jack Hanna." No member theme images.

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*)

### FEBRUARY 18 (WEDNESDAY)

#### BOOK CLUB

Our book, *What the Dead Know* by Laura Lippman, is an award-winning mystery. The story begins with two sisters vanishing from a shopping mall. No trace of them is ever found. Decades later a clearly disoriented woman claims to be one of them. Is she, or isn't she? Come share in the lively discussion.

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*)

### FEBRUARY 18 \*

#### TURANDOT, OPERA COLUMBUS STUDENT/ SENIOR DRESS REHEARSAL

*Challenge Level 1*

Puccini's last opera has great arias (Nessun Dorma), grand choruses and spectacular sets and costumes. Many men have died at the hand of icy princess Turandot. Every suitor who cannot answer her three riddles is executed. The young man Calaf falls in love and is urged not to proceed but will not listen. Turandot features the debut of Othalie Graham, one of the most exciting young sopranos in the opera world, in the title role.

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*)

### FEBRUARY 19 (THURSDAY)

#### LUNCH BUNCH

Amid worldwide fanfare on September 10, 2008, the first circulating proton beam was injected into the Large Hadron Collider (LHC) at the CERN Laboratory in Geneva, Switzerland. Our February speaker, Dr. Stan Durkin, professor of physics, will discuss "Probing the Fundamental Nature of the Universe" and discuss Ohio State's role in this amazing project. The Large Hadron Collider is designed to revolutionize our understanding of the universe and help scientists study the smallest known particles - the fundamental building blocks of all things.

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

Cost: Order from the menu

Arrangers: OSURA Social Committee

### FEBRUARY 24 (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*)

### FEBRUARY 25 (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*)

**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. 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 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 2 (THURSDAY)**  
**ESTATE PLANNING SEMINAR**

Russell N. Cunningham, attorney and certified specialist in estate planning, trust, and probate law, and James C. Skeeles, Extension educator, Agriculture and Natural Resources Community Development, The Ohio State University, will present aspects of estate planning and will answer your questions – so come prepared with those you hope to have answered. Parking will be available in the baseball stadium lot across Fred Taylor Drive.

Time and Place: 1:30 p.m. (doors open at 1:00 p.m.), Multipurpose Room A, Ohio 4-H Center, 2201 Fred Taylor Drive

Arrangers: Diane Selby and Fern Hunt (*Benefits Committee*)

**APRIL 15 (WEDNESDAY) \***  
**CASTLES & CAVERNS (WEST LIBERTY AND BELLEFONTAINE)**

*Challenge Level 3*

Spring is here! It is time to discover OHIO. At the first stop, discover Piatt Castles, Mac-A-Chee and Mac-A-Cheek. These Victorian-era Castles were built in 1864 by two brothers. Lunch will be an old-fashioned farm lunch at an Amish home. The cooking is done by the lady of the house and her daughter. We will eat in her very large kitchen/dining room. After lunch, go "underground" to discover Zane Shawnee Caverns and then tour the American Indian Museum. For those who want to stay above ground, you can visit the Museum that includes a scale model of an early Shawnee village. Come take this opportunity to discover a bit of OHIO.

Depart: 8:30 a.m. from Fawcett Center

Return: Approximately 6:00 p.m.

Cost: \$75 (bus transportation, tours of two castles, lunch, all tips)

Cancel and Refund Date: March 24

Arrangers: JoAnn Rueger and Gladys Murray (*Travel 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 premiere 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*)



RETIREES ASSOCIATION  
OSURA

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## **ESTATE PLANNING SEMINAR**

**Thursday, April 2, 2009**

1:30-3:30 p.m. (Doors open at 1:00 p.m.)

**Ohio 4-H Center, 2201 Fred Taylor Drive (Multipurpose Room A)**

(Free parking in baseball stadium lot across Fred Taylor Drive)

**Russell N. Cunningham**

and

**James C. Skeeles, Ph.D.**

Attorney and Ohio State Bar Association  
Certified Specialist in Estate Planning, Trust and  
Probate Law, Barrett, Easterday, Cunningham,  
and Eselgroth L.L.P.

Extension Educator, Agriculture and Natural  
Resources Community Development  
The Ohio State University

### Sampling of Topics

*What is estate planning? Is a will really necessary? Who needs an attorney?*

*Who are your heirs and how can they be contacted?*

*Do you have a list of your important assets and papers? Where are they and the list?*

*How costly is it to settle an estate? Are there ways to minimize costs?*

*What is a trust? How does the new Ohio Trust Code impact your plans?*

*How can charitable giving be included?*

*What to do about Medicare, Medigap, Medicaid, long-term care insurance, and nursing homes?*

**Preregistration required (call the OSURA office, 614-292-2916)**

**No registration fee**