



Newsletter

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March 2008

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Information of Importance to Retired Staff and Faculty

OSURA's Bylaws mandate that a major purpose of the Association is to provide "information of importance" to retirees. We accomplish that goal through the monthly newsletter, annual Coping With Change conferences, yearly Income Tax seminars, and guest speaker presentations at the Annual Meeting each June. It is important that retirees keep up to date about important policy issues pertaining to the two public pension systems in which OSU retirees are members – OPERS or STRS. Questions about public pension systems currently receiving a great deal of attention include an assessment of defined-benefit pension plans compared to defined-contribution personal retirement accounts; merging public pension systems into Social Security; mandatory divestiture of public pension funds invested in certain targeted investments; and funding of health insurance plans provided by pension systems.

In addition to information provided by OSURA, retirees have a number of sources for information about important policy questions affecting public pension systems. First, there are the two public pension systems from which we receive pension and health care benefits: the **Ohio Public Employees Retirement System – OPERS** (www.opers.org) and the **State Teachers Retirement System of Ohio – STRS** (www.strsoh.org). These retirement systems, established by the Ohio General Assembly, mandate public pension plans for retired state employees (including non-teaching university staff) and public school teachers and college and university professors. The Ohio Revised Code authorizes, but does not require, both retirement systems to provide comprehensive medical insurance for retired members and their families. The predominant retirement plan provided by both OPERS and STRS is a defined-benefit plan. Both retirement systems were created in lieu of Social Security coverage for Ohio's public employees and public school teachers and professors.

It is crucial for retirees to recognize that policy pertaining to retirement systems in Ohio is determined, first, by the Ohio General Assembly, and second by the governing boards of OPERS and STRS. Both systems have 11-member governing boards – seven members, including two retirees, elected by active (contributing) members or retirees (benefit recipients) and four investment experts appointed by the Ohio General Assembly or by elected state government officials. Viewing the OPERS and STRS web sites and reading each system's quarterly newsletter provide up-to-date information about current and proposed legislation that affects public pension systems. OSURA members regularly attend and monitor monthly meetings of the OPERS and STRS governing boards, resulting in prompt communication with OSURA members via the newsletter.

A first-rate source of information about Ohio's public retirement plans, including proposed legislation, is the **Ohio Retirement Study Council – ORSC** (www.orsc.org). The Council, established by the Ohio General Assembly, is required by statute to review all current and proposed laws governing Ohio's public retirement systems and make recommendations to the Ohio Legislature. Also the Council is charged with providing oversight for the retirement systems' pension funds. Analyses of proposed legislation, including ORSC's recommendations, as well as reports by the Council pertaining to OPERS and STRS are posted on the ORSC web site.

Two advocacy organizations for retirees are excellent sources of information about Ohio's public retirement systems, particularly information about proposed legislation. The **Ohio Retired Teachers Association – ORTA** (www.orta.org) is an organization of retired public school teachers and college and university professors who receive a

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OSURA News

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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. Stottlmyer

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

The Executive Board Meeting scheduled for February 12 was cancelled because of the very wintry weather. So no report from that group this month.

FROM THE BENEFITS COMMITTEE MEETING, February 5

Long-term Care: State guidelines for long-term care continue to be updated. Main concerns include inflation effects and high cost of premiums, causing people to drop out before they really need long-term care.

ORTA: Tom Sweeney will follow the developments of ORTA (Ohio Retired Teachers Association) for OSURA over 2008.

HCA: HB 315 is still in the FIRES Committee – status is unclear, but letters of support continue to be needed.

Express Scripts: The new prescription benefit is now in place for STRS and is proceeding well. OPERS members are to receive coverage information in March.

STRS: Defined Contribution and Combined Plan members in STRS must make final retirement plan choices at their five-year point.

HB 270 will introduce staggered retiree member terms on the STRS Board.

OPERS: The Disability Program Report at the OPERS Board Meeting noted 17 percent of OPERS recipients are in this category, accounting for 33 percent of the health care costs. Guiding principles for program changes are in discussion.

Medicare D cost concerns (greater than anticipated) are being monitored.

Celebrate OSURA's 25th Anniversary

Sunday, April 13
4:00 p.m.

The Blackwell Inn
2110 Tuttle Park Place
Columbus
(on main campus)

Enjoy friends, memories of the University and the Association, entertainment, and food.

Invitations and reservation materials are in the mail.

403(b) Progress Report: A preliminary document has been prepared following a meeting with OSU Human Relations personnel. After a detailed review of the points contained, the consensus of the Benefits Committee was for the Task Force to take this document forward for the next stage of discussions/suggestions with HR, as Human Resources develops its new 403(b) guidelines. When this phase is completed, the working group was asked to return to a further examination (and recommendations) relating to retirees currently holding 403b's.

Tip: Make sure your billing code is correct when taking your annual physical examination, or you may be billed for it yourself.

Calendar

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

- Mar 7** ***Alladin*, BalletMet Senior Dress Rehearsal, depart 10:00 a.m. from Fawcett Center – REGISTRATION REQUIRED**
- Mar 11 Executive Board Meeting, 9:00 a.m., Drinko Room, Longaberger Alumni House, 2200 Olentangy River Road
- Mar 13 Photographic Society, 5:15 p.m., cocktails; 6:00 p.m., dinner; 7:30 p.m., program, at the Faculty Club
- Mar 16 Cantilena Concerts, 2:00 p.m., The Columbus Museum of Art, 480 East Broad Street
- Mar 19 Book Club, 1:30 p.m., Carriage Hill Party House, Lafayette Drive, Upper Arlington
- Mar 20 Lunch Bunch, 11:30 a.m., Damon's OSU, 3025 Olentangy River Road – REGISTRATION REQUIRED
- Mar 25 Tertulia Breakfast, 8:00 a.m., Faculty Club
- Mar 26 Bridge Group, 1:00 p.m., Friendship Village, Dublin
- Apr 13**..... **OSURA 25th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION, 4:00 p.m., Blackwell Inn – REGISTRATION REQUIRED**
- Apr 16 The Museum of the United States Air Force, Fairborn, Ohio, depart at 8:30 a.m. from Fawcett Center – REGISTRATION REQUIRED
- Apr 17-26..... British Landscapes, depart from Columbus International Airport – EVENT CLOSED
- Apr 24 Olentangy Wetlands Research Park, form carpools at Fawcett Center at 9:45 a.m. – REGISTRATION REQUIRED
- Apr 30-May 1.. Frank Lloyd Wright and American Art, depart 9:00 a.m. from Fawcett Center – REGISTRATION REQUIRED**
- May 1**..... ***Romeo and Juliet*, BalletMet Senior Dress Rehearsal, depart 9:30 a.m. from Fawcett Center – REGISTRATION REQUIRED**
- May 3**..... **OSU Dance Downtown, depart 1:00 p.m. from Fawcett Center – REGISTRATION REQUIRED**
- May 5-10..... Southern Hospitality: Charleston, SC, and Savannah, GA, depart from Fawcett Center at 7:00 a.m. – REGISTRATION REQUIRED
- Jun 17 Glenn Miller Orchestra at Bearcreek Farms, depart at 8:30 a.m. from Fawcett Center – REGISTRATION REQUIRED
- Oct 24-Nov 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 AND WATCH FOR MORE INFORMATION AS IT BECOMES AVAILABLE!

June 12, Annual Meeting, Faculty Club * September 25, Coping with Change XI, Fawcett Center *
December 1-5, Branson, Missouri (Christmas Shows)

University News



Spotlight on: Nationwide and Ohio Farm Bureau 4-H Center

The new Nationwide and Ohio Farm Bureau 4-H Center has opened, with two dozen faculty, staff, and student workers in new offices. Two-thirds of the new building is composed of conference facilities which can host meetings of 20 to 300 people. The official ribbon-cutting ceremony and building dedication is set for 3:00 p.m. on April 4. It is located at 2201 Fred Taylor Drive, across from the Schottenstein Center.

The center was built to the specifications of the national LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) program and is the first "green" building on the campus of The Ohio State University. The building's green features include:

- A geothermal heating and cooling system. Underneath the center's parking lot, builders drilled 72 holes – 285 feet deep and 5 inches in diameter. Water flowing through the closed-loop system remains consistent at approximately 55 degrees to help heat the building in the winter and cool in warmer weather.
- The roofing material is a thick (60-mil) highly reflective white membrane. Sunlight bounces off the material, making it easier to cool the building.
- The building and its windows are oriented to allow natural light into the building. Nearly 90 percent of the occupied space will have natural sunlight.
- The walls have a full 6 inches of insulation.
- The windows on the south and west sides of the building are double-paned with a stationary "mini blind" between the panes. These will block much of the heat from the sunlight in the summer and allow more light and heat in the building in the winter.
- Many of the materials in the interior are recycled or otherwise environmentally friendly: gray brick veneer in the multipurpose area containing some recycled plastic; walls of composite boards containing sunflower seed husks; recycled carpeting; and paint, carpet, and carpeting glue with low levels of volatile organic compounds.
- There is a bicycle storage area and a shower to encourage people to ride bikes to work and designated parking spaces encourage car pools.
- Approximately 89 percent of the construction debris was recycled.

This is the first stand-alone 4-H center on a university campus. Nationally, 106 land-grant universities deliver 4-H youth development programming through statewide Extension services.

Martha Filipic, Technical Editor, University Extension

WELCOME NEW RETIREES

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

Alvarez-Breckenridge, Carmen, Multicultural Center * **Arwood**, Linda D, OARDC-Facilities Service * **Baker**, Neil R, Microbiology * **Barnhart**, Lloyd A, Materials Science and Engineering * **Barrett**, Linda S, Optometry * **Bissell**, Donald L, WOSU Stations * **Brown**, Richard A, University Libraries * **Bryant**, Linda C, Geography * **Capek**, Cheryl L, Environment and Natural Resources * **Cegala**, Donald J, Communication * **Coleman**, Richard L, Ross Heart Hospital * **Cornett**, Suzanne Z, University Hospitals * **Esswein**, Eric T, Facilities Roads and Grounds * **Federspiel**, Howard M, Newark Campus * **Forgey**, Maurice E, OARDC * **Gladman**, Barbara E, Business * **Gortner**, Roger D, OARDC * **Graham**, Gregory L, Veterinary Clinical Sciences * **Havenar**, Linda P, Obstetrics and Gynecology * **Hills**, Stephen M, Business * **Hinrichs**, Lois, University Libraries * **Jackson**, Dorothy W, Psychology * **Jamison**, Martin P, University Libraries * **Kaminsky**, John P, Newark Campus * **Kennedy**, Charles S, University Health Systems * **Laughlin**, Laura J, Internal Medicine * **Lentz**, Regina C, Human Resource Research * **Long**, Alice F, Housing, Food Service, and Event Centers * **Marlatt**, Martha R, Computer Science and Engineering * **Mattison**, David M, Facilities Maintenance * **Maul**, Gary P, Industrial, Welding, and Systems Engineering * **McElligott**, Renee F, University Hospitals * **Meng**, Suqin, Materials Science and Engineering * **Miller**, Georgia E, OARDC-Research Operations * **Miller**, E R, OARDC * **Mitsak**, Richard A, Counseling and Consultation Service * **Newcomb**, Lawrence H, Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences * **Newell**, Jeri J, University Hospitals * **Newton**, Brady A, Stores * **Pinsky**, Stephen S, Physics * **Rallis**, Stephen J, Mathematics * **Reader**, Alfred W, Endodontics * **Rhoton**, Patricia A, Human Resource Research * **Robertson**, James T, Veterinary Clinical Sciences * **Rogers**, Penelope S, Internal Medicine * **Rogers**, Amalia M, University Hospitals East * **Schmohe**, Cynthia D, Harding Hospital * **Shaw**, Carole L, University Hospitals * **Smith**, Teresa A, Extension, County Operations * **Stein**, Roy A, Evolution, Ecology, and Organismal Biology * **Taylor**, Dorothy F, University Hospitals East * **Toth**, Michael A, University Libraries * **Turner**, Wayne E, University Hospitals East * **Waits**, Ellen D, Social Work * **Weaver**, William J, Advising and Academic Services * **Wellbaum**, William P, Radiology * **Woodruff**, Hannah J, Extension, County Operations * **Yang**, Weilian, Pathology

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.

Audrey Pitt Enarson, widow of Harold L. Enarson who was president of The Ohio State University, died January 26, in Port Townsend, Washington.



Retirees Association

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

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

March 1, 2008

Dear OSURA Member,

We hope you have been enjoying over the years, the many benefits OSURA provides its members. These include, as a few examples:

- The "Coping With Change" Conferences*** (September, annually);
- The OSURA Tax Seminar*** (January, annually); and
- The OSURA Annual Meeting*** (June, each year).

These and several other benefits keep us informed in vital areas - but they all share one further thing in common: *Each depends on subsidy-assistance from our OSURA Endowment Fund.* It is the annual interest from this fund that makes continuance of these benefits possible at a reasonable cost.

But costs rise, and our Fund must grow to keep pace. A direct way you can assist is to designate your gift to the **Campus Campaign** this year to **Fund #605420** (The OSURA Endowment Fund). It is a very effective way to see your money at 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 2008 Campus Campaign,

Robert Warmbrod
OSURA President

Don Cook
Endowment Chair

Richard Hill
Campus Campaign Council

* 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**

Income Tax Update

This article summarizes the OSURA Income Tax Seminar held on January 25 conducted by Warren F. Lee and David P. Miller, emeritus faculty, Department of Agricultural, Environmental, and Development Economics, The Ohio State University.

The major theme for this year's seminar was retirement plan distributions. Congress has created a growing number of tax-deferred plans to encourage long-term savings for retirement. The rules for withdrawing funds from tax-deferred retirement accounts are complex. Withdrawing funds too early or failing to make required minimum distributions can result in unnecessary taxes and penalties. Failure to carefully identify beneficiaries may require them to pay taxes on lump sum or on large distributions over short periods. Owners also need to be aware of options for transferring funds between the various types of accounts.

With some exceptions, the general rules for **distributions to owners** are: All distributions over and above any basis in the accounts are taxable income, taxed at ordinary tax rates. Any distributions before age 59 ½ are subject to an additional 10 percent penalty (excise tax). No distributions are required for owners ages 59 ½ to 70 ½. After age 70 ½, the Required Beginning Date (**RBD**), owners must make Required Minimum Distributions (**RMDs**) based on life expectancy tables published by the IRS. Failure to make RMDs results in a 50 percent excise tax over and above any ordinary income taxes due. For multiple, non-Roth IRAs, the total of the RMDs can be taken from one account or divided among them.

When the owner dies there are various rules for RMDs for **designated beneficiaries**. If the owner dies before the RBD, no distribution is required for the year of death. Death after the RBD requires beneficiaries to take any remaining amounts of RMDs for that year. Subsequent RMDs for beneficiaries depend upon their legal status and their relationship to the decedent.

If the designated beneficiary is the **surviving spouse**, he or she has three options: 1) elect to become the owner of the IRA, 2) roll it over to an existing account or 3) keep it as the decedent's account and remain as the beneficiary. Option 3 is recommended for surviving spouses under age 59 ½ who want to take penalty-free distributions. Options 1 and 2 provide flexibility and allow additional tax-deferred growth or contributions.

If the designated beneficiary is **not the surviving spouse** and the death occurs before the RBD the

beneficiary uses the Single Life Expectancy table to calculate his or her RMDs. If the death occurs after the RBD, RMDs for non-spouse beneficiaries are based on the longer of the beneficiary's single life expectancy or a period based on the owner's age in the year of death.

Failure to name specific individuals as designated beneficiaries greatly reduces their choices for taking distributions. For example, if the IRA owner dies before the RBD and the beneficiaries are listed as the "spouse and our son and daughter," the distributions are all based on the spouse's age. If the beneficiary is simply listed as "all my children," the age of the oldest is used to determine the RMD.

Simply listing the "estate" or "trust" as the beneficiary may have similar consequences. If the owner dies before the RBD, all funds may have to be withdrawn within 5 years. After the RBD, the distribution period is based on the owner's age at time of death. Multiple beneficiaries cannot use their own ages to extend the distribution periods. The 5-year rule also applies to beneficiaries that are not individuals, for example a charity.

Owners of tax-deferred retirement accounts may want to transfer funds to another account to improve investment performance or provide more distribution options. In a **trustee-to-trustee** transfer between IRAs, a trustee always has possession of the funds, so there is no taxable income, tax withholding or reporting. When moving funds from an employer plan to an IRA, a **direct rollover** makes the transfer without the money ever being in the worker's possession. This transaction is treated as a distribution and rollover so it is reportable on the tax return, but there is no tax or withholding.

In a tax-free **rollover**, the owner actually takes possession of the funds and this distribution is subject to 20 percent withholding. The owner then has 60 days to contribute the funds to another eligible account. The amount withheld must be replaced by funds from another source. If the rollover is not completed within 60 days, the distribution becomes taxable. So, beware, rollovers can inadvertently result in taxable income.

The foregoing discussion highlights general rules. There are many exceptions and possibilities for waivers of taxes and penalties. Consult IRS Publication 590, "Individual Retirement Arrangements" for additional information.

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.

MARCH 7 (FRIDAY) *

ALADDIN, BALLEMET SENIOR DRESS REHEARSAL

Challenge Level 1

Take a magical journey in this world-premier work: the story of Alladin, a young boy who discovers a world of wonder. More than amazing dance, production includes spectacular flying effects and narration.

Depart: 10:00 a.m. from Fawcett Center (carpool)

Return: Depart from Riffe Center at 1:00 p.m.

Cost: \$12 (ticket and compensation to drivers with three or more passengers for gas and parking)

Refund Deadline: March 3

Arranger: Don Cooper (*Cultural Arts Committee*)

MARCH 13 (THURSDAY)

PHOTO SOCIETY

Dr. Richard M. Hill will present "Photo-trip to Sicily: An Opportunity and a Strategy." Members may submit three to six photos with theme "islands" to John Houston by e-mail (jhouston1@columbus.rr.com) or at the meeting. Call 614-292-2262 for dinner reservations and entree choice.

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

Cost: On your own

Arranger: John Houston (*Photographic Society*)

MARCH 16 (SUNDAY)

CANTILENA CONCERTS

Challenge Level 1

Cantilena Concerts presents David Radzynski, violin, with Yael Manor, piano, playing works of Brahms, Debussy, Tartini, Wieniawski and Jan Radzynski.

Either meet at Fawcett Center for ticket, carpool or drive on your own. Call Eileen Davis 614-268-2779 to pick up tickets at door or receive by mail.

Time and Place: 2:00 p.m., The Columbus Museum of Art, 480 East Broad Street

Cost: \$10 (ticket, parking token, 10 percent discount on lunch – on your own)

Arranger: Don Cooper (*Cultural Arts Committee*)

MARCH 19 (WEDNESDAY)

BOOK CLUB

The book for discussion is *The Memory Keeper's Daughter* by Kim Edwards. A choice made in the past ripples into the future with regret and/or compassion. There will be no meeting in April due to member travels. In May, we will discuss *The Innocent Man* by John Grisham.

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

Cost: None

Arranger: Marajean Huling (*Book Club SIG*)

MARCH 20 (THURSDAY)

LUNCH BUNCH

Dr. Alam Payind, director of the Ohio State Middle East Studies Center, will share his research and observations on post-September 11 developments in Afghanistan and Iraq. He is a native of Afghanistan and a faculty member at Kabul University as well as Ohio State. To reserve a space, answer the e-mail from Penny O'Neil or leave a message at the OSURA office, 614-292-2916.

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

Cost: Order from the menu

Arrangers: OSURA Social Committee

MARCH 25 (TUESDAY)

TERTULIA BREAKFAST

Join OSURA for breakfast and conversation.

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

Cost: Breakfast on your own

Arranger: William Riley (*Tertulia Breakfast SIG*)

MARCH 26 (WEDNESDAY)

BRIDGE GROUP

Please come and enjoy a good game of bridge. New members are cordially welcome.

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

Arrangers: Sherry Detillian and Marianne Naber

APRIL 13 (SUNDAY)

CELEBRATE OSURA's 25th ANNIVERSARY

Join us in celebrating OSURA's 25 years with a reception, dinner, and exciting program. Invitations and registration materials are being mailed to OSURA members. Join your colleagues to reminisce about the "good ol' days," recall the many accomplishments of OSURA, and enjoy good food and entertainment.

Time and Place: 4:00 p.m., The Blackwell Inn

Cost: \$27 per person (dinner)

Registration Closes: March 28

Arrangers: 25th Anniversary Ad Hoc Committee

APRIL 16 (WEDNESDAY) *

THE MUSEUM OF THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE, FAIRBORN (DAYTON), OHIO

Challenge Level 2

History comes alive with a tour of the Museum of the United States Air Force and the I-Max Theater. Lunch will be at the Hope Hotel at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Dayton, Ohio.

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

Return: 6:00 p.m.

Cost: \$50 (transportation, museum tour, I-Max Theater, lunch)

Refund Deadline: April 1

Arrangers: Richard and JoAnn Rueger (*Travel 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*)

APRIL 24 (THURSDAY) *

OLENTANGY WETLANDS RESEARCH PARK

Challenge Level 2

Walking and guided tour of the Wetlands Research Park

Depart: 9:45 a.m. from Fawcett Center (carpool)

Return: 12:01 p.m.

Cost: None, although registration required

Arrangers: Don Cooper and Tom Sweeney (*Cultural Arts Committee*)

APRIL 30-MAY 1 *

FRANK LLOYD WRIGHT AND AMERICAN ART

Challenge Level 3 (considerable walking and numerous steps)

Tour two acclaimed masterpieces by the great American architect Frank Lloyd Wright (Fallingwater

and Kentuck Knob homes) and visit the Westmoreland Museum of American Art. Stay overnight at the lovely Mountain View Inn with its beautiful gardens and gazebo, live music, Vertigo, in its "33rd St" tavern, 9:00 p.m. to midnight. Conclude with dinner at the historic Stone House Inn (1822), which has a March 15 deadline; if registration numbers are insufficient by then, dinner will be elsewhere, so register ASAP.

Depart: 9:00 a.m. April 30 from Fawcett Center

Return: Approximately 10:30 or 11:00 p.m. May 1

Cost: \$247 single; \$204 double; \$193 triple; \$185 quadruple (coach transportation, tickets and guided tours to three museums, lodging, welcome reception, breakfast, two dinners, snacks)

Refund Deadline: April 14 by 11.30 a.m.

Arranger: Odette Blum (*Cultural Arts Committee*)

MAY 1 (THURSDAY) *

ROMEO AND JULIET

BALLETMET SENIOR DRESS REHEARSAL

Challenge Level 1

The tale of two star-crossed lovers is considered one of the most archetypal love stories ever written. Ballet offers expressive dancing, stunning sets and consumes, and unforgettable music.

Depart: 9:30 a.m. from Fawcett Center (carpool)

Return: 1:00 p.m. from Ohio Theatre

Cost: \$12 (ticket and compensation for drivers with three or more passengers)

Refund Deadline: April 25

Arranger: Don Cooper (*Cultural Arts Committee*)

MAY 3 (SATURDAY) *

OSU DANCE DOWNTOWN

Challenge Level 1

A thought-provoking program by four very different choreographers, with a pre-performance talk by Dr. Candace Feck, Department of Dance. "Steps of Silence" (1968) is an anti-war dance by the pioneering Anna Sokolow, (1910-2000) whose works continue to be performed internationally (will be staged from the dance score by Valarie Mockabee, Dance faculty). Three contemporary choreographers whose works are still in process and not yet named are included: Tania Isaacs, from the Caribbean, has many cultural references gently woven into a narrative about desire; Ming-Lung Yang, from Taiwan, incorporates elements of Chinese opera into his dance on roller skates; and Amy Raymond, with a ballet background, lives and works in Europe and is on the "cutting edge" of the field.

Depart: 1:00 p.m. from Fawcett Center (carpool)

Return: Approximately 5:30 p.m.

Cost: \$10

Refund Deadline: April 28

Arranger: Odette Blum (*Cultural Arts 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, 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 Deen.

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

Return: TBA May 10

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

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

JUNE 17 (TUESDAY) *

GLENN MILLER ORCHESTRA AT BEARCREEK FARMS (BRYANT, INDIANA)

Challenge Level 1

Join OSURA for a delicious lunch and a show featuring the Glenn Miller Orchestra playing songs from the 30's and 40's. Revive those memories of times past.

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

Return: 6:30 p.m.

Cost: \$63 (lunch, bus transportation, show, snacks)

Refund Deadline: June 1

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

OCTOBER 24-NOVEMBER 2 *

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, (Frida 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: \$2,695, double occupancy; \$350 single supplement (round trip air fare from Columbus, lodging, admission fees, 22 meals, ...) Deposit of \$800 per person; final payment due August 22

Registration Closes: June 15

Arranger: Vivian B. Harvey and Carol Baker (*Travel Committee*)

IN MEMORIAM

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

Cunningham, Charles D., January 17,
Physical Facilities, 64

Enarson, Audrey Pitt, January 26

Fuller, Lora L., January 7,
University Hospitals, 86

Grove, Dorance R., January 29,
Transportation and OSURA, 83

Haberman, Jaydeen M., January 28,
University Hospitals/Nursing, 41

Harris, Minerva A., January 19, Dentistry, 78

Kelly, Bette Ann, January 14, Faculty Club, 87

Kenney, John R., January 20,
University Hospitals, 49

Koncelik, Anastasia, OSURA

Miller, Maxine K., January 14, Food Service, 85

Shaw, John H., January 21, Physics and OSURA

Sidle, Betty Jane, January 20, Medicine, 83

Stahl, Dorothy M., January 23,
Medicine and OSURA, 81

Stevens, Helen, January 26, Physical Activity, 85

Watts, Carlton, January 5,
University Hospitals, 59

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.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (Continued from Page 1)
benefit check from STRS. Retirees who receive pension benefits from OPERS may be members of **Public Employee Retirees, Inc. – PERI** (www.operi.org). ORTA and PERI give high priority to providing information about current and proposed legislation related to pension and health care benefits. The web sites and quarterly newsletters of both organizations are helpful resources for the well-informed retiree.

J. Robert Warmbrod, President

(All web sites can be accessed through OSURA's web site: hr.osu.edu/osura then click "links.")

SOME OSU EVENTS OF INTEREST

- Faculty Recital Series: Kia-Hui Tan, violin; Cathy Carroll, viola; William Conable, cello; Edward Bak, piano. March 3, 8:00 p.m., Weigel Auditorium. Tickets at the door or call 614-292-0789.
- Symphony Orchestra. March 5, 8:00 p.m., Weigel Auditorium. Tickets at the door. (614-292-0789)
- Graduate Dance Concert: MFA Dance candidates Noelle Chun and Yen-Fang Yu. March 29, 8:00 p.m., Studios 1 and 3, Sullivant Hall. Tickets at the door. (614-292-7977)



RETIREES ASSOCIATION
OSURA

MARCH 2008 NEWSLETTER
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GETTING TOGETHER

From the beginning and continuing to the present, OSURA has brought OSU retirees together for social and recreational activities as well as to promote their health and wellbeing.

Outcomes of the meeting on July 19, 1983, to gauge the interest of members in social activities were bridge and book groups and short trips. A Geology Walk was held on October 18 (it rained a bit); the bridge group held its first session on November 15 at Friendship Village, Dublin; a two-hour "behind the scenes visit to the airport facilities" was scheduled for December 9 (participants were picked up at Fawcett Center); a lunch meeting "for a bit of talk and a change of scenery" set for December 12; and a group was formed for members "who would like to share the problems of making adjustments" in personal relationships.

The Geology Walk and Behind the Scenes Visit to the Airport Facilities were precursors to events such as trips to the Olentangy Wetlands Research Park, the Wooster Light Opera, senior dress rehearsals of BalletMet, the Museum of the United States Air Force, as well as out-of-state and out-of-country.

The Bridge Group continues to meet at Friendship Village; the Book Club, Tertulia Breakfast, and Photo Society have been added. In the early years, there was a group discussing "Money Matters" and another group reading plays. A summer picnic and holiday buffet are now regular socials, but in the meantime there have been holiday mixers and other get-togethers. And in the "we've been there before" category are luncheons: At first they were monthly events, then summer only, and now regular third Thursday happenings.

To promote retirees' health and wellbeing, OSURA sponsors annual Coping with Change and Income Tax meetings. There have been programs on such issues as end-of-life decisions. The Friendship Committee offers personal assistance "so no OSURA member is forgotten." The Litter Pickers contribute to their own physical fitness as well as improvement of the environment.