



# Newsletter

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## January 2007

### PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

OCHER, ORTA, PERI, ORHCC, ORSC, IUC – If I told you that these acronyms (and about 30 others) represent an alphabet soup of organizations that are extremely important to you as a retiree, would you know what they represent? If you are not familiar with these organizations, you need to be. That is because they represent higher education, state, federal, and other organizations that are actively involved in monitoring your benefits and health care as a retiree. Fortunately for us, OSURA has a Benefits Committee (a panel of dedicated volunteers) that is charged with keeping us informed about retiree issues. The Committee cultivates relations with other retiree associations and coalitions that have retiree interests in common. Benefits Committee members actively take part in some of these organizations and others monitor state and federal legislation that could affect us in a variety of ways. I asked Lou DiOrio, the chair of our Benefits Committee, to prepare a list of organizations and their main functions so we can become more informed about those that have the most direct impact on our pensions and health care. He listed over 30 organizations! It is impossible to describe them all in this brief column, so I have chosen the ones affecting OSURA members most directly.

- **OCHER – Ohio Council of Higher Education Retirees.** OCHER is a coalition of retiree associations of Ohio public universities. These include Akron, Bowling Green, Cincinnati, Cleveland State, Kent, Miami, Northeast College of Medicine, Ohio State, Ohio U., Toledo, Shawnee State, Wright State, and Youngstown State Universities. OCHER serves as a forum that takes positions on benefit issues and other matters concerned with the welfare of retirees of Ohio public institutions of higher education.
- **ORTA – Ohio Retired Teachers Association.** Members of ORTA are 33,000 retired teachers and higher education faculty who have a common interest in STRS. There are 90 chapters in the state, including at least one in each of the 88 counties.
- **HCA – Health Care Advocates.** HCA-STRS is a coalition of active and retired teachers’ associations working with STRS to insure its fiscal viability for health care in the future.
- **PERI – Public Employees Retirees, Incorporated.** PERI is a watchdog association of retirees who receive their monthly pension checks and health care from the Ohio Public Employees Retirement System. PERI is to OPERS what ORTA is to STRS. Its purpose is to protect and enhance our pension fund benefits. The 11-member PERI Board oversees the organization of over 50,000 members with chapters in almost all of Ohio’s 88 counties.
- **FCBC – Faculty Compensation and Benefits Committee.** FCBC reviews, on an ongoing basis, The Ohio State University’s competitive position on faculty compensation, using as comparisons many bench-mark universities (i.e., institutions at a similar research level) across the country. Compensation advances for active faculty correspondingly increase the 24 percent monthly contribution levels from both the University and the faculty member to STRS, hence adding directly to its assets.
- **SCBC – Staff Compensation and Benefits Committee.** This is a subcommittee of the University Staff Advisory Committee. SCBC serves a function for Ohio State staff members similar to that of FCBC representing faculty members. SCBC surveys staff every year for recommendations on how to improve workplace efficiency and how to maintain an attractive work environment.

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# OSURA News

## Executive Board

### President

Virginia N. Gordon

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J. Robert Warmbrod

### Secretary

Richard M. Hill

### Treasurer

C. Thomas Ridenour

### Communications Secretary

Carlene Hamilton

### Past President

William J. Studer

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Francis R. Allaire  
Shirley A. Chase  
Jules B. LaPidus  
Joan R. Leitzel  
Penelope F. O'Neil  
John A. Stottlemeyer

### Standing Committee Chairs

Benefits-  
Louis P. DiOrio  
Budget and Finance-  
Charles H. Corbato  
Bylaws-  
Thomas L. Sweeney  
Communications-  
Carlene Hamilton  
Endowment-  
Don E. Cook  
Friendship-  
Nancy S. Wardwell  
Membership-  
John A. Stottlemeyer  
Program-  
Ruth M. Conone

### Representatives

Campus Campaign and  
Community Charitable Drive-  
George P. Crepeau

Faculty Compensation and  
Benefits Committee-  
Richard M. Hill

Ohio Council of Higher Education  
Retirees-

Louis P. DiOrio and  
Virginia N. Gordon

Staff Compensation and  
Benefits Committee-  
Eleanor C. Conlon

### Historian

Fern E. Hunt

### Office Manager

Judith A. McMahon

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

(Continued from Page 1)

- **IUC – Inter-University Council of Ohio.** IUC is a research and lobbying arm for the state's 14 public universities. It lobbies the legislature and governor's office for higher education funding and for other issues of interest to the universities.
- **ORSC – Ohio Retirement Study Council.** The ORSC is an oversight council of Ohio's pension systems composed primarily of legislators and systems' executive directors.
- **ORHCC – Ohio Retiree Health Care Coalition.** This group, along with the Health Care Advocates (HCA), is concerned with the health systems of the Ohio public retirement systems.
- **CPRS – Coalition to Preserve Retirement Security.** CPRS is a national coalition composed of many state retiree associations. Its members coordinate and exchange information about retirement policies and practices.

Other acronyms or terms that are not related to organizations but have relevance for retirees are:

- **PBM – Pharmacy Benefits Manager.** A pharmacy management company that serves as an administrator for the pharmacy plan of an organization. STRS and OPERS are currently exploring the advantages of using a common manager.
- **Defined Benefits –** A contractual agreement for pension benefits that are defined upon retirement.
- **Defined Contributions –** Retirees contribute a certain amount along with their employer to the retiree's pension account. The retiree may elect how to invest these funds. Upon retirement, the retiree receives the holdings plus whatever earnings or interest is in the account.
- **GPO/WEP – Government Pension Offset/Windfall Elimination Provision.** The GPO is the offset or deduction of Social Security funds of Ohio's pension payments. The WEP is the attempt to eliminate the offset so those Social Security recipients can receive the full amount from the accounts they paid in to.

If you are not familiar with all the activity associated with retirees at the state and federal levels, you are not alone. It is important, however, to understand how we retirees are represented by various constituencies and their purposes. We are grateful to the following OSURA members who are on the front-lines representing us in many of these organizations:

Lou DiOrio represents us at STRS, STRS-HCA, OCHER and ORTA among others.

Dick Hill represents us at FCBC, OCHER and STRS.

Fern Hunt represents us at OPERS.

Ellie Conlon represents us at SCBC.

Arthur Bartfay represents us at PERI.

If you have questions or concerns about STRS or OPERS, it is important to contact them directly. If you have questions or are interested in taking an active part in the organizations described above, contact the OSURA representative listed.

**REMINDER:** Don't forget our annual Income Tax Seminar to be held January 26, 1:30 p.m. at the Fawcett Center. There is no cost or pre-registration required.

Virginia N. Gordon, President

*(Editor's Suggestion: Tear off this page and file the information for future reference.)*

## Calendar

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

- Jan 9 ..... Executive Board Meeting, Longaberger Alumni House, 2200 Olentangy River Road, 9:00 a.m.  
Jan 10 ..... Edgar Degas, The Last Landscapes, Columbus Museum of Art, depart 9:30 a.m. from Fawcett Center – REGISTRATION REQUIRED  
Jan 11 ..... Photo Society, 5:15 p.m., cocktails; 6:00 p.m., dinner; 7:15 p.m., program at the Faculty Club  
Jan 17 ..... Book Club, 1:30 p.m., Carriage Hill Party House, Lafayette Drive, Upper Arlington  
Jan 18 ..... Lunch Bunch, 11:30 a.m., OSU Golf Course Club House  
Jan 23 ..... Tertulia Breakfast, 8:00 a.m., Faculty Club  
Jan 24 ..... Bridge Group, 1:00 p.m., Friendship Village, Dublin  
Jan 26 ..... Income Tax Seminar, Fawcett Center, 1:30 p.m.  
**Jan 28..... Columbus Symphony Orchestra, 3:00 p.m., Ohio Theatre, 55 East State Street, Columbus**  
Feb 9 ..... *Rendezvous at the Riffe*, BalletMet Dress Rehearsal, depart 10:00 a.m. from Fawcett Center – REGISTRATION REQUIRED  
**Feb 20..... Glenn and Wexner Centers, (Campus Treasures) carpool from Fawcett Center at 10:30 a.m. –REGISTRATION REQUIRED**  
Feb 22 ..... *Our Town*, OSU Theatre, Drake Union, 7:00 p.m. – REGISTRATION REQUIRED  
Mar 8..... *Whodunit?* WORLD PREMIERE, BalletMet Senior Dress Rehearsal, leave from Fawcett Center, 10:00 a.m. – REGISTRATION REQUIRED  
Mar 13-22 ..... Discover Sicily, depart early afternoon March 13 from Columbus International Airport, REGISTRATION REQUIRED  
**Mar 20 ..... Ohio Stadium Tour (Campus Treasure), 10:00 a.m., Stadium Rotunda (carpool from Fawcett Center at 9:45 a.m.) – REGISTRATION REQUIRED**  
Apr 3 ..... Andrew Wyeth and Spring in Cincinnati, leave from Fawcett Center, 7:30 a.m. – REGISTRATION REQUIRED  
**Apr 17..... Olentangy Wetland Research Park, depart 9:45 a.m. from Fawcett Center – REGISTRATION REQUIRED**  
Apr 26 ..... *The Sleeping Beauty*, BalletMet Senior Dress Rehearsal, leave from Fawcett Center, 10:00 a.m. – REGISTRATION REQUIRED  
May 17..... *Mary Stuart*, Thurber Theatre, Drake Union, 7:00 p.m. – 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.

### MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- **Columbus Symphony Orchestra Sunday Concerts:** February 25, March 4, and May 13; single tickets are available through OSURA for \$20 each.

Best wishes for the new year!

# University News

## Autumn Commencement

Roy R. Romer, former governor of Colorado and recently retired superintendent of the Los Angeles Unified School District, delivered Ohio State's autumn quarter commencement address on December 10 and received the honorary Doctor of Public Service. Approximately 2,000 degrees were awarded at the ceremony.

Honorary doctorates were presented also to T. R. Lakshmanan, professor of geography and environment at Boston University and 1965 graduate of Ohio State; Douglas D. Osheroff, professor of physics at Stanford University and a co-recipient of the 1996 Nobel Prize for Physics; and Pedro A. Sanchez of the Earth Institute of Columbia University.

The Distinguished Service Award was presented to Vera Blaine, professor and chair emerita of the OSU Department of Dance; and Edward Ray, president of Oregon State University and former executive vice president and provost at Ohio State.

## Board of Trustees

At their meeting on December 8, The Ohio State University Board of Trustees established two new academic centers: the Center for Microbial Interface Biology and the Newark Earthworks Center.

The Center for Microbial Interface Biology in the College of Medicine will promote and coordinate interdisciplinary research in the fields of infectious diseases and microbial pathogenesis with the intention of positioning Ohio State as an international scientific leader in infectious disease research. The center will develop training opportunities for students and will seek new diagnostic tools, therapies and vaccines for infectious diseases, including diseases caused by microbes targeted as agents of bioterrorism.

Native American history from ancient to contemporary times will be the focus of the Newark Earthworks Center at Ohio State's Newark Campus, which is located near the earthworks. It will be the first interdisciplinary center to be located at an Ohio State regional campus and the first university-based center in Ohio to concentrate on Native American issues. The center is intended to be a forum where productive and open dialog, research and educational programming from many different perspectives will occur.

## ***IN MEMORIAM***

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

**BISHOP**, Marjorie M., November 2,  
Law College, age 84

**BUMPER**, Blake E., November 27,  
Student Loan Services, age 25

**GROVESTEE**n, Ann E., December 2,  
Controller's Office, age 73

**HENDERSON**, Floyd, November 6, OSU Extension,  
OSURA, age 100

**KAYE**, Patricia J., November 25, Speech, age 76

**KLEIN**, Russell D., November 26,  
Nutrition and Cancer Chemoprevention

**PILLOW**, Walter E., November 7, age 79

**PUTZ**, Carl F., Jr., November 26,  
Math and Civil Engineering, age 86

**ROBINSON**, Lucille A., November 11,  
Housekeeping, age 84

**SMART**, Patricia L., November 8,  
Surgery/Nursing, age 77

**TAYLOR**, Janice, November 5, Commerce, age 78

**TAYLOR**, Reed, November 17,  
Agricultural Economics, age 72

**VOGEL**, Mary Frances, November 13, age 86

**WOOD**, Shannon M., November 22,  
Athletics/Cheerleading, age 35

*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.*

## Office of Economic Access

An Office of Economic Access was established this fall to seek out and implement ways to encourage low-income students to not only consider the possibility of higher education, but also become aware of ways to achieve that goal. New initiatives in the Office include working with Ohio State University Extension to get the word out about accessibility to rural and urban areas throughout the state. Other efforts will showcase faculty and staff who were the first in their families to go to college, and will connect current students with younger children to talk about the college experience.

The University will be closed Mondays, January 1 and January 15, to observe holidays.

## OSURA News

### FROM THE EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

**December 12**

The Bylaws Committee will propose changing the name of the Program Committee to Program Coordinating Committee. Ramifications of such a change (e.g., the status of the current subcommittees of Cultural Arts, Social, Travel; membership on the Executive Board) will be considered at the January Board meeting.

There were many favorable contacts made at the University's Hidden Benefits Fair on December 6.

Participation in the OSU Musical Celebration Concert was very successful; 24 people participated in Best of Chicago program; and the Social Subcommittee is exploring another Lunch Bunch venue, more suitable for incorporating a speaker.

OSURA and Human Resources representatives met on November 29 concerning the life/death benefit. Objectives were defined in clearer detail, and a cost-neutral model for achieving those goals is now being researched by OHR.

### WELCOME NEW RETIREES

*We congratulate our colleagues who retired from The Ohio State University in November 2006.*

Rose M. **Bonetzky**, University Hospitals \* Ronda L. **Bucy**, Mathematics \* Vicki A. **Elgin**, Dentistry \* Geraldine K. **Evans**, Environmental Health and Safety \* Arthur L. **Grant**, James Cancer Hospital and Solove Research Institute \* Ernest B. **Gresh**, Health Sciences \* Elizabeth J. **Hauswirth**, Comprehensive Cancer Center \* Wanda C. **Hay**, University Hospitals \* Douglas C. **Karnap**, Student Affairs Facilities Planning and Support \* Hazel G. **Lescalleet**, James Cancer Hospital and Solove Research Institute \* Samuel V. **Martin**, University Hospitals \* Esther D. **McMillion**, Nisonger Center \* Alicia S. **Miller**, University Hospitals \* Stephen I. **Miller**, Information Technology \* James **Morgan**, Facilities Operations and Development \* Jane S. **Pierce**, Comprehensive Cancer Center \* Sheri L. **Powell**, University Hospitals \* Agnes R. **Qualls**, Facilities Operations and Development \* Virginia A. **Reynolds**, University Libraries \* Sue E. **Sharb**, Extension \* Martha F. **Sturgeon**, Student Health Service \* Barbara A. **Tzagournis**, Medicine \* Diane S. **Whitbeck**, Student Affairs Facilities Planning and Support \* Joseph M. **Zag**, Facilities Operations and Development

### FROM THE BENEFITS COMMITTEE MEETING

**December 5**

Note was made that staff e-mail acquisition is still under discussion by Development and Human Resources.

The Faculty and Staff Benefits Committee (FCBC) will meet with the president and the provost to discuss their responses to FCBC's Report to the University Senate this past June. Of retiree interest is the "top priority" benefit recommendation for a "phased retirement" program to be developed.

At the November 15, 2006, OPERS Board meeting, it was noted: (a) that about 800 disability applications are currently pending, 600 of which continue to be on the payroll (processing time is 90 to 120 days); (b) that the Employer Contribution Mitigation Rate to compensate for individuals not joining the traditional plan will remain at the current 4.5 percent level; and (c) that raising the retirement age minimum (for full benefits) to e.g., 67 years old, is being considered.

A speaker at the annual meeting of PERI (Public Employees Retirees Inc.) said the average retirement age of an OPERS member is 61 years old, with a life expectancy of 25 years beyond; also, that the fund's current assets are \$73 billion. A District 6 (central 8 Ohio counties) representative is still being sought. The next local PERI chapter meeting will be held at 1:00 p.m. on January 4 in the Upper Arlington Library, with Tom Sherman (Government Relations) speaking on 2007 legislative challenges.

STRS Ohio will be introducing "add-backs" removed from H.B. 272 this past year, which include clearer definitions of "Defined Benefit, Defined Contribution, and Combined Plans," as well as other pension rules.

Two major legislative issues facing the 110<sup>th</sup> Congress are mandatory Social Security and Health Care.

### GET INVOLVED WITH OSURA

The OSU Retirees Association arranges many events for its members to get together. See the Calendar and the Description of Events in each issue of the newsletter.

Come alone or with a spouse, partner, or friend. You will meet others with similar interests as well as spend time with some "old friends."

## Description of Events

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

- **Procedure for Reservations:** See Page 3 of this newsletter.
- **Challenge Levels:**
  - 1 – Minimal walking/standing, may include a few stairs
  - 2 – Moderate walking/standing, could include a few sets of stairs
  - 3 – Moderate walking/standing, includes climbing many stairs and/or uneven terrain
  - 4 – Lots of walking/standing, includes climbing stairs or hilly walkways and/or extended weather exposure

Note: Most trips will allow travelers to remain on the bus, if desired. Disabled persons should refer to Page 10 in the OSURA Directory for information on assistance.
- **Events Marked with \*:** Participants must sign Disclaimer on Event Roster on the day of the event.
- **Registration closes:** This is the deadline for reservations because it is the date vendors must be paid in full for the event.
- **Refund Deadline:** Reservations must be cancelled by this date to receive a refund of payment/deposit; cancellations after this date will be reviewed by the arranger and the OSURA office for refund decisions.

### JANUARY 10 (WEDNESDAY) \*

#### EDGAR DEGAS: THE LAST LANDSCAPES (COLUMBUS MUSEUM OF ART)

*Challenge Level 1*

Presentation of landscapes of French impressionist  
Edgar Degas; freedom to view other art.

Depart: 9:30 a.m. from Fawcett Center  
Return: 12:30 p.m.  
Cost: \$16 for Museum members; \$20,  
non-members (transportation, entry,  
docent tour)

Refund Deadline: **January 3**

Arrangers: Bob Rapp and Ruth Conone  
(*Cultural Arts Subcommittee*)

### JANUARY 11 (THURSDAY)

#### PHOTO SOCIETY

Speaker and sharing of prints/slides by members. Call  
the Club for dinner reservations (614-292-2262).

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

Cost: Dinner on your own  
Arranger: Carlin Weimer (*Photographic Society  
SIG*)

### JANUARY 17 (WEDNESDAY)

#### BOOK CLUB

*Challenge Level 1*

This month's book is a rather weighty one, but sure to  
give rise to fascinating discussion: *The Greater Good*,  
by Claire Gaudiani. In spite of the weighty subject, as  
always, meetings are entirely non-threatening and are  
occasions for food and enlightening discussion and  
book gossip. You do not have to have read the book  
nor do you have to make a report!

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

Arranger: Marajean Huling (*Book Club SIG*)

### JANUARY 18 (THURSDAY)

#### LUNCH BUNCH

Start the new year with food and conversation with  
other OSURA members. Come alone or bring a  
spouse, partner, or friend.

Time and Place: 11:30 a.m., OSU Golf Course Club  
House  
Cost: \$10.75, full buffet; \$9.50, soup and  
salad, including tip  
Arrangers: Tom Sweeney, Tom Willke, Ellie  
Conlon (*Lunch Ad Hoc Committee*)

### JANUARY 23 (TUESDAY)

#### TERTULIA BREAKFAST

Enjoy good food and stimulating conversation with  
other OSURA members.

Time and Place: 8:00 a.m., Faculty Club  
Cost: On your own  
Arranger: Frank Himes (*Tertulia Breakfast SIG*)

### JANUARY 24 (WEDNESDAY)

#### BRIDGE GROUP

There is no membership fee and it costs only 25 cents  
for the prizes the day you play. You will enjoy the  
fellowship and have fun playing a good game.

Time and Place: 1:00 p.m., Friendship Village Dublin,  
North CR  
Arrangers: Sherry Detillian and Marianne Naber  
(*Bridge Group SIG*)

### JANUARY 26 (FRIDAY)

#### INCOME TAX SEMINAR

Experienced instructors and practitioners in the field of  
Federal and State income tax will present changes for  
the 2006 tax year and answer your questions.

Time and Place: 1:30 p.m., Fawcett Center (doors  
open at 1:00 p.m.)  
Cost: None  
Arranger: Tom Sweeney (*Benefits Committee*)

**JANUARY 28 (SUNDAY)  
COLUMBUS SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA**

Enjoy Debussy's pastoral rhapsody and Stravinsky's homage to the music of Tchaikovsky. Gershwin's images of fast-paced New York of the 1920s are brimming with youthful energy, beautiful flowing melodies, fascinating rhythms, originality, and a sense of musical exploration (from "Art & Entertainment in Harmony," CSO)

Time and Place: 3:00 p.m., Ohio Theatre, 55 East State Street, Columbus  
Cost: For those not holding season tickets, \$20 (ticket through OSURA Office)  
Arranger: Jules LaPidus (*Cultural Arts Subcommittee*)

**FEBRUARY 9 (FRIDAY) \*  
RENDEZVOUS AT THE RIFFE  
(BALLETMET SENIOR DRESS REHEARSAL)**

*Challenge Level 1*  
A program sure to sweep your sweetie off his/her feet. Featuring new works as well as some seductive old favorites. The performance will be in the Capitol Theatre, Riffe Center at 11:00 a.m.

Depart: 10:00 a.m. from Fawcett Center  
Return: 1:30 p.m.  
Cost: \$18 (bus transportation and ticket)  
Refund Deadline: February 2  
Arranger: Bob Rapp (*Cultural Arts Subcommittee*)

**FEBRUARY 20 (TUESDAY)  
GLENN SCHOOL OF PUBLIC ARTS AND  
WEXNER CENTER FOR THE ARTS  
(CAMPUS TREASURES)**

Tour the Glenn School of Public Affairs on the 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary of John Glenn's orbital flight, with discussion of his career. Then tour the Wexner Center for the Arts, internationally known for its architecture and cutting edge presentations, followed by lunch at the Wexner Café.

Depart: Car pool from Fawcett Center at 10:30 a.m.  
Cost: No fees; lunch on your own  
Arranger: Odette Blum (*Cultural Arts Subcommittee*)

**FEBRUARY 22 (THURSDAY)  
OUR TOWN (OSU THEATRE)**

*Challenge Level 1*  
First produced in 1938, the Pulitzer-Prize winning *Our Town* has become an American stage treasure and is Thornton Wilder's most renowned and frequently performed play. Set at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the play reveals the ordinary lives of people in a small NH town. No transportation for this event; there is open parking near the theater.

Time and Place: 7:00 p.m., Roy Bowen Theatre, Drake Union, 1849 Cannon Drive  
Cost: \$9 (ticket)  
Refund Deadline: February 15  
Arranger: Bob Rapp (*Cultural Arts Subcommittee*)

**MARCH 8 (THURSDAY) \*  
WHODUNIT? (WORLD PREMIERE)  
(BALLETMET SENIOR DRESS REHEARSAL)**

*Challenge Level 1*  
This interactive mystery set to dance will not only captivate audiences, but will offer them the opportunity to solve Whodunit?  
Depart: 10:00 a.m. from Fawcett Center  
Return: 1:30 p.m.  
Cost: \$18 (bus transportation, ticket)  
Refund Deadline: March 1  
Arranger: Bob Rapp (*Cultural Arts Subcommittee*)

**MARCH 13-22 \*  
DISCOVER SICILY**

*Challenge Level 3*  
See previous newsletters for description; full itinerary available from the OSURA office.  
Depart: Early afternoon March 13 from Columbus International Airport  
Return: Evening of March 22  
Cost: \$2,295, double occupancy (airfare, lodging, meals, sightseeing, ...) \$370 deposit due one week after registration; **final payment due January 10**  
Arrangers: Mary Hoffman and Carol Baker (*Expanded Travel SIG/Travel Subcommittee*)

**MARCH 20 (TUESDAY)  
OHIO STADIUM TOUR (CAMPUS TREASURE)**

*Challenge Level 4*  
Car pool from Fawcett (to accommodate those interested in sharing a ride or those without EM faculty permits). Tour begins at 10:00 a.m. at North Rotunda of Ohio Stadium (Woody Hayes side of stadium) and would take about 1.5 hours, including visit of the Band Room. Catered box lunch in an elevated lounge (plan about 30-60 minutes).  
Depart: 9:45 a.m. – carpool from Fawcett Center  
Return: 12:30 p.m.  
Cost: \$13 (tour and box lunch) or \$4 (tour only)  
Refund Deadline: March 9  
Arranger: Frank Allaire (*Cultural Arts Subcommittee*)

### **APRIL 3 (TUESDAY) \***

#### **ANDREW WYETH AND SPRING IN CINCINNATI**

Included are the Argosy Riverboat, a splendid buffet luncheon in Lawrenceburg (Indiana), the [Spring Flower Show](#) at the KROHN Conservatory in Cincinnati, and a docent-led tour of the exhibit of Andrew Wyeth watercolors and drawings (selections from the Marvnuma Art Park Collection and Japan) at the CINCINNATI ART MUSEUM.

Depart: 7:30 a.m. from Fawcett Center  
Return: 7:00 p.m.  
Cost: \$38 (deluxe motorcoach, admissions, luncheon, snacks, lucky coin, and ?)

Refund Deadline: March 25  
Arrangers: Donna Bitzel and Jim Portman  
(*Social and Travel Subcommittees*)

### **APRIL 17 (TUESDAY)**

#### **OLENTANGY WETLAND RESEARCH PARK**

*Challenge Level 2*

Walking and guided tour of the wetland research park

Depart: 9:45 a.m. from Fawcett Center  
Return: 12:01 p.m.  
Cost: None, although registration required

Cancel Deadline: April 10  
Arranger: Frank Allaire (*Cultural Arts Subcommittee*)

### **APRIL 26 (THURSDAY) \***

#### **THE SLEEPING BEAUTY**

#### **(BALLETMET SENIOR DRESS REHEARSAL)**

*Challenge Level 1*

Set to Tchaikovsky's famously moving score, this fantasy tells the story of the beautiful yet curse-ridden Princess Aurora whose 100-year slumber can only be broken by the kiss of a handsome prince.

Depart: 10:00 a.m. from Fawcett Center  
Return: 1:30 p.m.  
Cost: \$18 (bus transportation, ticket)

Refund Deadline: April 20  
Arranger: Bob Rapp (*Cultural Arts Subcommittee*)

### **MAY 17 (THURSDAY)**

#### **MARY STUART, OSU THEATRE**

*Challenge Level 1*

See Friedrich Schiller's thrilling account of the extraordinary relationship between England's Elizabeth I and Mary, Queen of Scots. [Self drive, open parking near theatre.](#)

Time and Place: 7:00 p.m., Thurber Theatre, Drake Union, 1849 Cannon Drive

Cost: \$9 (ticket)  
Refund Deadline: May 10  
Arranger: Bob Rapp (*Cultural Arts Subcommittee*)

### **OTHER EVENTS OF INTEREST**

*These events are listed for the first time, but some which were listed in previous newsletters are still going on. Previous issues can be viewed on the OSURA web site, [hr.osu.edu/osura](http://hr.osu.edu/osura).*

- Young Jean Lee, Songs of the Dragons Flying to Heaven. Named one of "New York's finest emerging playwrights" by the *Village Voice*, Young Jean Lee has created a breakthrough work with this extremely funny and delightfully rude tour de force. January 26, 27, 8:00 pm; January 28, 7:00 pm. Wexner Center for the Arts, 1871 North High Street. Call 614-292-3535. Public ticket sales begin January 2.
- Women's Glee Club. Weigel Auditorium, 1866 College Road. Sunday, January 28, 3:00 pm. Call 614-292-0789.
- Listen to and discuss famous and not-so-famous compositions and recordings with Jules LaPidus at the Old Worthington Library from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. on Thursday, January 11, The library is located at 820 High Street, Worthington.

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### **HERE'S TO GOOD HEALTH!**

In September 2004, David L. Bickelhaupt shared his hospital experience. A follow-up colonoscopy exam found two sessile polyps in the cecum and the biopsies were benign, but because these were of a kind that sometimes develops cancer, he had surgery in March 2006.

"The surgery took only an hour and a half. It was done with a "laparoscopic" incision, only a little longer than an inch. I was in the hospital for four and one-half days and had some stomach pain for a few days; I only took a half-dozen pain pills while in the hospital and one a day for a few days after getting home.

"Colon surgery, I think, has become one of the more popular (I guess, "common" would be a much better word here) surgical procedures today. I'm told that this may be because Medicare only started to pay for the "look-see" colonoscopy exam a few years ago. Thus, problems are being discovered earlier, and more surgery is being done. If you haven't ever had a colonoscopy exam, it is now recommended for everyone reaching 50 years old, and earlier if you have a family history of colon problems. After the first exam, doctors suggest follow-ups on a schedule of two to ten years. It's really not as bad as you may expect – embarrassing perhaps, but not usually very painful. The cost is not cheap, \$3,000, but Medicare and other insurance you may have will probably pay for all but a few hundred dollars."

He hopes that this report encourages at least one person (you?) to get a needed colonoscopy exam.

# Death Benefits

## DOES YOUR FAMILY KNOW?

You may have a death benefit from The Ohio State University as well as the State Teachers Retirement System Ohio or the Ohio Public Employees Retirees Association. The following material is taken from Post-Retirement Information and Resources for Ohio State Retirees (Retirement Handbook) and the STRS Ohio and OPERS web sites.

### OSU

#### Post-Retirement Death Benefit

The board of trustees provides a post-retirement death benefit for faculty/staff members who have at least 10 years of regular continuous Ohio State service at the time of retirement and who have not elected to participate in The Ohio State University Group Life Plan. You also are eligible for this benefit if you have reached age 70 and are no longer eligible to continue in The Ohio State University Group Life Plan.

The benefits received from the trustees' plan are based on length of service and are provided at no cost to participants. The benefit ranges from \$1,000 to \$2,500, depending on the years of service. For further information contact the Office of Human Resources.

10 –14 years - \$1,000	20 – 24 years - \$2,000
15 –19 years - \$1,500	25+ years - \$2,500

#### Life Insurance

If you are under age 70 and have 10 or more years of regular continuous university service at the time of retirement, you are eligible to elect to continue The Ohio State University Group Life Insurance Plan. If you qualify for this coverage, you should have received notification from the Office of Human Resources. The life insurance benefit is 2.5 times your last regular annual salary, subject to the age reduction formula.

This term insurance can be continued until you reach age 70, when it automatically terminates, unless converted to some type of individual insurance coverage within 31 calendar days of termination of coverage under group policy. If you were not eligible to continue your group life insurance at retirement or upon reaching age 70, you may elect to convert The Ohio State University Group Life Insurance to a whole life plan provided by the university life insurance carrier.

You may also convert your Dependent Group Life Insurance Plan to an individual university life insurance carrier whole life policy at the point of retirement.

### Ohio PERS

Following the death of a recipient receiving an age and service or disability benefit, a lump sum payment based on years of service is made to the designated beneficiary. If there is no designated beneficiary, OPERS may approve payment to a benefit recipient's spouse, children share and share alike, parents share and share alike, the person responsible for the burial, or to the estate.

The benefit schedule for those whose service credit is less than 10 years would be \$500; for service credit of 10 but less than 15 years, \$1,000; \$1,500 for service credit of 15 but less than 20 years; \$2,000 for 20 but less than 25 years of service; and the maximum would be \$2,500 for 25 or more years of service credit.

### STRS Ohio

All STRS Ohio service retirement and disability benefit recipients enrolled in the STRS Ohio Defined Benefit Plan are covered by an automatic death benefit funded by STRS Ohio. Upon the death of the STRS Ohio service retirement or disability benefit recipient, STRS Ohio pays \$1,000 tax-free death benefit to a designated or qualified beneficiary. You may purchase an additional \$1,000 or \$2,000 death benefit at retirement, or at age 65, through a deduction from the monthly benefit if the monthly benefit equals at least \$25 after the monthly death benefit deduction has been made. Disability recipients are subject to a six-month waiting period for the optional retiree-funded death benefit.

To obtain the additional retiree-funded death benefit, you must complete the appropriate section of your Service Retirement Application or Disability Information for Payment of Benefit form. The deduction amount for the retiree-funded death benefit is based on your age as of the effective date of the retiree-funded death benefit, the amount of retiree-funded death benefit you obtain, and whether you receive a service retirement benefit or a disability benefit.

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If you have questions about these benefits contact:

- OSU -- Office of Human Resources, Suite 300, 1590 N. High Street, Columbus, OH 43201-2190, 614-292-1050, or refer to the Retirement Handbook, Post-Retirement Information and Resources for Ohio State Retirees
- Ohio PERS – 277 East Town Street, Columbus, OH 43215, 1-800-222-7377
- STRS Ohio – 275 East Broad Street, Columbus, OH 43215, 1-888-227-7877

Keep this information among your important papers and be sure your executor is aware of these benefits.

# **INCOME TAX SEMINAR**

**January 26, 2007  
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 2006 tax year and answer your questions.

No pre-registration  
No cost