



Newsletter

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October 2008

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

ATTENTION: Those of you who own 403(b)s (the voluntary supplementary payroll deduction for retirement) purchased through OSU or elsewhere should be aware that the new rules for 403(b)s starting January 1, 2009, will seriously restrict your investment flexibility. For example, if you want to roll them over to IRAs or change your custodial account manager, it best be done quickly. Now is the time to examine your custodial account's fees. Switching to a low-cost one could save you many, many thousands of dollars. For a clear and concise treatment of this issue read *Consumers Reports*, March 2008, pages 12 and 13. Copies are available in your local library and perhaps on line. For more details try www.403bwise.com, and click on "Wise Moves: How to Transfer 403b Money." Bill Rives, the presenter of the investing session at "Coping With Change," is willing to give a special session later on coping with 403(b)s. Stay tuned for details as they become available.

Lou DiOrio, a past president, and I attended the 17th Annual Big 10 Retirees Association Conference at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Campaign the weekend of August 15. Representatives from all of the Big 10 universities except Minnesota and Northwestern attended. We heard several presentations including one by Stanley Ikenberry, president for many years of the University of Illinois, on "Universities in the 21st Century." We were wined, dined, and entertained quite well. The Urbana Campus is impressive with consistent architecture throughout from the central Quad to the outer fringes.

The "Show and Tell" session was the best. In it representatives told us about their organizations. I had been told that OSURA was far the most active, and I found that true by any measure. One representative even asked me, "How do you do that?"

What is it about OSURA that works so well? First, of course, the generous support and cooperation by The Ohio State University's Office of Human Resources makes it possible. Second, OSURA's founding fathers' decision to form the association for both staff and faculty was wise. Our mix of members with varying experiences and skills makes it vital and interesting. Moreover, we constantly turn over positions and responsibilities to new persons. Some of the representatives from other universities have held their offices for many years. In contrast, most OSURA officers, at-large Board members, committee chairs and members come and go. Some positions, such as the Treasurer, must have continuity to work, but otherwise OSURA benefits from constantly bringing in new persons with fresh enthusiasm and ideas.

Finally, although it sounds hackneyed, it must be the people. Because they find it worthwhile, members encourage others to join. Because of their enthusiasm, OSURA's critical mass of members who are active on committees, SIGs, etc., (currently about 80) attract others to join and even to become active as they are.

And so, the commercial: Become involved. You will probably like it. At first I didn't want to become involved because I was enjoying the uninvolved life of a retiree. However, a good friend twisted my arm to serve on the Cultural Arts Committee. She said, try it, you'll like it, and I did. I enjoyed the stimulation of associating with friendly and interesting people and the feeling of doing something good, and that experience led to others. Here is the moral: If you are not yet involved, try it, you may like it. If you are already involved, twist somebody's arm.

- Thomas A. Willke, President

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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

Judith A. McMahan

FROM THE EXECUTIVE BOARD, September 9

Due to economic conditions, the OSURA Endowment fund's market value dropped slightly this past month, but there were 70 contributors giving \$3,505.

In addition to the usual reports and discussions, two items of new business were introduced:

- Volunteers – Tom Willke noted that President Gee has envisioned OSURA members as active volunteers in the University's many programs. Two initial steps would appear to be: 1) to identify where our participation might be; and 2) to be prepared to respond in a timely way. While this "volunteer corps" may eventually take the form of a designated SIG, an Ad Hoc sub-committee will first be appointed and charged with studying the scope and nature of this venture. OSURA President Willke issued a call for anyone interested in serving on this exploratory group (please contact him at: willke.2@osu.edu).
- Campus Program for Welcoming/Orienting New Faculty – Our interest in participating in an orientation program for new faculty will be explored, with more specifics first being sought from the program's administrator in the Office of Academic Affairs.

ANNUAL INCOME TAX SEMINAR

Once again OSURA members have the opportunity to hear the latest on income tax rules and procedures. So mark your calendar for **Friday afternoon, January 23**.

Details will be forthcoming – probably in the December newsletter.

OSURA DIRECTORY

The 2008-2009 OSURA directory will be mailed to members soon. Watch for it.

It's much bigger – the listing of 1,933 members compared to 1,765 in 2007-2008 increased the number of pages. We also added other information (the Communications Policy and the Outstanding Service Award), expanded the history of the Association and descriptions of other aspects of OSURA.

And remember!!! When any of your information changes, be sure to let the OSURA office know.

DID YOU KNOW?

- Monies are available for emergency assistance to OSU retirees through the OSURA Endowment (at this time a \$200 maximum).
- The OSURA member may invite one guest when they register together for the Association's trips or events.
- The spouse/partner of a retiree member is automatically a member of OSURA and may vote and hold office. Surviving spouses/partners of non-member OSU retirees are eligible to join OSURA.
- The OSURA web site (hr.osu.edu/osura) has links to the University, OPERS, STRS-Ohio, and other sites of interest to OSU retirees.
- The Friendship Committee sends cards to members who are ill or confined to home. Contact them when you know of someone who meets these qualifications.

HELP WANTED

The OSURA Cultural Arts Committee is in need of members if their programs are to continue at the present level. Contact the Odette Blum, chair of the Cultural Arts Committee.

Calendar

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

- Oct 8 Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad and Stan Hywet Hall and Gardens, depart 6:00 a.m. from Fawcett Center – EVENT FULL; CLOSED
- Oct 9 Photographic Society, 5:15 p.m., cocktails; 6:00 p.m., dinner; 7:30 p.m., program, Faculty Club
- Oct 10 *Dracula*, BalletMet Senior Dress Rehearsal – carpool from Fawcett Center at 9:30 a.m. – REGISTRATION REQUIRED
- Oct 14 Board Meeting, 9:00 a.m., Longaberger Alumni House
- Oct 15 Book Club, 1:30 p.m., Carriage Hill Party House, Lafayette Drive
- Oct 16 Lunch Bunch, 11:30 a.m., Damon's OSU, 3025 Olentangy River Road – REGISTRATION REQUIRED
- Oct 22 Holmes County Amish Brown Egg Tour, depart from Fawcett Center, 7:30 a.m. – CLOSED; WAIT LIST
- Oct 22 Bridge Group, 1:00 p.m., Friendship Village, Dublin
- Oct 24-Nov 2 Celebrations in Mexico, depart from Columbus International Airport – EVENT CLOSED
- Oct 28 Tertulia Breakfast, 8:00 a.m., Faculty Club
- Oct 30 Columbus Cultural Arts Tour, carpool from Fawcett Center, 11:00 a.m. – REGISTRATION REQUIRED
- Nov 12 Winter Festival of Lights (Oglebay, West Virginia), depart from Fawcett Center, 9:00 a.m. – REGISTRATION REQUIRED
- Nov 13 Photographic Society, 5:15 p.m., cocktails; 6:00 p.m., dinner; 7:30 p.m., program, Faculty Club
- Nov 19 Objects of Wonder from The Ohio State University (Columbus Museum of Art), carpool from Fawcett Center, 11:30 a.m. – REGISTRATION REQUIRED
- Nov 30-Dec 6 Branson Christmas, depart 7:00 a.m. from Fawcett Center – REGISTRATION REQUIRED
- Dec 10 Holiday Buffet, 11:30 a.m., Antrim Park Shelter House, 5800 Olentangy River Road**
- Dec 12 La Comedia Dinner Theatre (Springboro, Ohio), depart from Fawcett Center, 8:45 a.m. – REGISTRATION REQUIRED
- Apr 23-May 4 France Magnifique, departure TBA – 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.**

University News

WELCOME NEW RETIREES

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

Allen, Dina S., OSUE County Operations * **Arkes**, Hal R., Psychology * **Bird-Conliff**, Suzan O., Treasurer * **Boldizar**, Michael J., Business and Finance * **Ellis**, Mark C., Mansfield Campus * **Ennemoser**, Jacqueline S., Student Affairs Fiscal * **Goldman**, Ernesto, Anesthesiology * **Greenberg**, Barbara M., Law Library * **Herrera**, Raul, Civil and Environmental Engineering and Geodetic Science * **Hudson**, Stephanie B., Pathology * **Kuch**, Barbara J., Cancer Hospital and Research Institute * **Lands**, Thelma J., OSUE County Operations * **Litton**, Susan J., Controller's Office * **Mascarello**, Mary-Ann, Endodontics * **Moody**, Carol M., Food, Agricultural and Biological Engineering * **Opeka**, Susan E., Newark Campus * **Preston**, Timothy W., University Libraries * **Robertson**, G. N., Mathematics * **Scott-Tibbs**, Gloria, Optometry * **Stone**, James W., Athletics * **Sze**, Cedric K., Industrial, Welding and Systems Engineering * **VanHouten**, Steven A., University Health Systems * **VandenEynden**, Gretchen, Food Services * **Vazquez**, Jose A., Information Technology * **Hohenberger**, Thomas L., University Hospitals * **Hall**, Shirley M., Chemistry * **Oakley**, Christine E., Molecular Genetics * **Wickliffe**, Sue Z., Purchasing * **Williams**, Linda C., Student Health Services

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.

(From OSU Today and the OSU web site)

The Research Communications' blog, "On Research," is designed to broaden explanations of what goes on in the research process, and to place research in a larger context. Recent posts include, When data makes you blue, Art vs. Science, and Gonzo Science. View the latest postings at researchnews.osu.edu/blog/. While you're at it, click on the Research News on Facebook and YouTube links under the Social Media heading.

President E. Gordon Gee joined OSU's College of Dentistry for a back- to-school celebration on August 28 at the Weinland Park Elementary School. The event celebrates a recent donation of \$450,000 from the Delta Dental Foundation of Michigan, Ohio, and Indiana to the College's mobile dental clinic, which provides free dental care for underserved children throughout the state. Staffed by OSU's dental faculty and students, the mobile clinic visits schools in the Columbus area, providing dental care and procedures to children in need.

The Corporation for Public Broadcasting has announced that WOSU Public Media is among the recipients of a Local Service Initiative grant, which will lead to the creation of more University-based programming on WOSU television. LSI grants provide seed money to stations for the development of public media initiatives that strengthen a station's role in its community and increase the public's awareness of the value of its service to the community. The \$600,000 grant will support the creation of University Place, an educational project created by WOSU in partnership with public stations at Penn State and Wisconsin.

Human Resources developed a background check policy that took effect September 1. The new policy requires appointees and final candidates for president, provost, vice president, vice provost, dean, senior fiscal officer, senior human resource professional, and all President's Council members to undergo a background check by HireRight, an international company used by other Big Ten schools. The policy will promote fair and consistent methods for how background checks are conducted and used.

With more than 13 tons of recyclables collected in Ohio Stadium during the 2008 football home opener vs. Youngstown State, Ohio State's Scarlet, Gray & Green sustainability campaign has totaled more than 132 tons in the span of just nine home games the last two seasons. The program exceeded expectations in its inaugural year in 2007 by amassing 119 tons, including 81 tons inside Ohio Stadium.

In the early hours of September 10, Ohio State physicists joined other physicists around the world to watch as the Large Hadron Collider in Geneva, Switzerland, was turned on and the first beam was successfully steered around the 17-mile loop of underground tunnel in the world's most powerful particle accelerator. The \$8 billion LHC will allow physicists to study the smallest-known particles in the universe. OSU physicists are collaborating on the three largest experiments, ALICE, ATLAS, and CMS. The ALICE group is headed by professors Thomas Humanic and Michael Lisa; the ATLAS, by professors K. K. Gan, Richard Kass and Harris Kagan; the CMS group, by professors Stanley Durkin, T.Y. Ling, Richard Hughes, and Brian Winer.

More University News

A host of new programs, trends, events, and facilities accompanied the start of Ohio State University's 2008 academic year. Among them:

- Its best and brightest freshman class for the 14th consecutive year.
- Eighty-nine percent more international freshmen expected on campus.
- A new web site, using the entire screen and filled with fun new things and many more opportunities for people to interact with Ohio State via the web.
- The nation's first master's degree in lean business management. As organizations face mounting operating costs, Ohio State's Fisher College of Business has developed a new master's degree program in lean enterprise and continuous improvement to help managers in today's turbulent economic climate.
- Ohio State is participating with eight other Ohio universities and colleges to offer a multi-campus, virtual computation science minor through the Ralph Regula School of Computational Science - a statewide, virtual school focused on computational science.
- New courses:
 - Economics offers "Sex, Drugs, and the Underground Economy." The class will take students to the underground to find an economy that is vast and growing. It includes the drug trade and the 'war on drugs,' the arms trade with its illicit networks and money flows, and the sex trade's profitable transnational sex trafficking networks. Students will emerge from the underground with an understanding of the issues surrounding this market and their implications.
 - The College of Pharmacy has established collaboration with Ohio University to offer a teleconferenced "Introduction to Pharmacy" course in Athens.
- Facilities:
 - Student Services Academic Building/Lane Avenue Parking Garage will offer a 1,400-space parking garage and offices for student academic services including financial aid and the university registrar.
 - William Oxley Thompson Memorial Library – Renovation will be completed by autumn 2009; exterior work on the renovation is complete.
 - The new Ohio Union -- The new Ohio Union will open in 2010.
 - The Ohio Union Garage – The facility is being renovated and expanded with a new addition that which will have 800 spaces and should open sometime early 2009.
 - Lincoln Tower – Renovation began over the summer to meet increasing demand for residence hall space.
 - Deconstruction: Wrecking ball demolition is no longer the normal method. The new method for clearing sites, which benefits the environment and can yield economic benefits, is known as "deconstruction." The process salvages the most readily available components and extracts additional materials for reuse. Brown and Lord Halls will go through this process late this year before demolition.
 - In Newark, the new Warner Library and Student Center combining a state-of-the-art library with the student center is nearly complete.
 - In Mansfield, students return to renovated Ovalwood Hall.

Awards and Recognitions

- Laurence V. Madden, professor and associate chair of the Department of Plant Pathology, received the 2008 Jakob Eriksson Prize for Plant Pathology at the ninth International Congress of Plant Pathology in Torino, Italy. The prestigious prize is awarded every five years.
- The Ohio Valley Chapter of the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences recently awarded WOSU Public Media with six Emmy Awards (from 14 nominations).
- Parwinder Grewal, a professor of entomology with the Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center in Wooster, has been elected president of the Society of Nematologists.

Statement of Ohio State University President E. Gordon Gee in response to Governor Strickland's budget revisions:

"The University appreciates the leadership that Governor Strickland has demonstrated in this period of financial stress. We share his conviction and that of legislative leaders that Ohio's public colleges and universities must help lead the way to the economic revival of the state. Because the state is meeting its commitment to us, we will be able to continue meeting our commitment to freeze resident undergraduate tuition, while continuing to improve our academic programs and support the needs of the people of Ohio."

Benefits

FROM THE BENEFITS COMMITTEE, September 3

The Health Care Advocates met with Ohio House Representative Scot Oelslager August 19. Larry Lewellen, OSU associate vice president for human resources, referred to the Ohio Board of Regents Strategic Plan for Higher Education, which demonstrated the projected enrollment for the 2017 target date. For example, the current post-secondary enrollment is about 473,000 while in 2017 it is projected to be about 703,000. The implications for faculty and their compensation packages (including pensions and health care - a package) have far reaching meaning in recruiting and retaining quality faculty for Ohio's public universities and community colleges.

STRS-Ohio is encouraging paper check recipients to move to direct deposit.

Iran sanctions continue. Congress does not mandate divestment, but does support efforts of state and local governments to divest.

Value of defined benefit plans were discussed by the U.S. Senate Joint Economic Committee. Those participating in the hearing noted that: 1) defined benefit plans have earned more money for retirees, 2) created more jobs, and 3) provided more liquidity in various sectors than the defined contributions plan many companies have recently adopted.

The Benefits Committee continues to work with the Office of Human Resources to include retirees in discounts offered by vendors to OSU faculty and staff.

HEALTH CARE OPEN ENROLLMENT DATES

OPERS – October 1-31

STRS-Ohio – November 1-25

Both systems will provide currently enrolled benefit recipients with information on their coverage and the opportunity to make changes if desired.

Representatives presented the 2009 coverage at OSURA's annual Coping with Change Conference on September 25. For those who missed this meeting, both STRS-Ohio and OPERS offer open enrollment seminars throughout the state. For dates, places, and registration requirements, contact the appropriate system:

OPERS – 1-800-222-7377

STRS-Ohio – 1-888-227-7877

IN MEMORIAM

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

BROWN, Carl H., September 4, Campus Ministry, age 82

BUCKLEY, J. F., September 6, Mansfield-English, age 62

BURROWS, Patricia, August 31, Alumni Association, age 81

CULLMAN, Roberta R., August 28, Athletics, age 91

DANIELS, Thelma L., University Hospitals, age 75

DENNEY, Joseph, September 3, Medical Center and OSURA, age 57

DOWNEY, C. Michael, August 10, Medicine, age 67

ELLSON, Gary W., August 24, Admissions, Printing and Copyright Acquisition, age 56

ENGLISH, Todd M., July 10, English, age 44

HURD, Brooks H., Pathology, age 91

JOHNSON, Hanna, August 26, age 88

JONES, Eric, August 24, age 65

KUHN, Helen E., September 4, Alumni Association, age 92

LYNN, Robert J., August 15, Law, age 88

MOORE, Sharon D., August 15, Social Work

NORDSTROM, Robert J., Law, age 84

PARRY, Fern L., August 26, Employment Office, age 93

PETTIT, George M., August 9

PHILLIPS, Edward P., August 28, Dentistry and Anatomy, age 89

PINNEY, Marcia W., August 11, age 97

POTE, Lawrence R., August 28, Continuing Business Education and OSURA, age 87

QUALMAN, Stephen J., September 3,

Pathology and Pediatric Oncology and OSURA

SCALABRIN, Joseph J., August 19, Architect's Office

STREETER, Charles, August 27, Maintenance Department, age 90

WATKINS, Beth, August 30, Hospitals-Neurology, age 89

WINK, Susan W., August 29, Dentistry, age 76

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 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.

OCTOBER 8 (WEDNESDAY) * **CUYAHOGA VALLEY SCENIC RAILROAD AND STAN HYWET HALL AND GARDENS**

Challenge Level 2

EVENT FULL – CLOSED

Depart: 6:00 a.m. from the Fawcett Center

Return: 6:00 p.m.

Refund Deadline: **September 8**

Arrangers: Hazel Benson, Sylvia Jackson, Linda Price
(*Travel Committee*)

OCTOBER 9 (THURSDAY) **PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY**

Presentations by members of images from 2008, no limit. Submit digital images to Ted Houston at jhouston1@columbus.rr.com or bring images to the meeting.

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

Arranger: Ted Houston (*Photographic Society*)

OCTOBER 10 (FRIDAY) * **DRACULA, BALLEMET SENIOR DRESS REHEARSAL**

Challenge Level 1

Unable to live, unwilling to die, Dracula dwells between two realms, cloaked in contradiction. A story of forbidden passion, immortal beings, and love that transcends time is beautifully brought to the stage in this BalletMet favorite.

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

Return: 1:00 p.m.

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

Refund Deadline: **October 3**

Arranger: Don Cooper (*Cultural Arts Committee*)

OCTOBER 15 (WEDNESDAY) **BOOK CLUB**

Book Club October meeting will concern *Faust In Copenhagen* by Gino Segre. The time is 1932, the year of the discovery of the neutron, the rapid development of quantum mechanics, and the rise of

Adolph Hitler. It was the last annual meeting of the world's top physicists – when they could confer freely with one another. The annual skit put on by the younger members of the group was FAUST by Goethe. How prescient! Come discuss with us -- not necessarily physics, but the art of mentoring as practiced by Niels Bohr. Very good and tasty snacks will be provided for refreshment with the physics, so come and munch even if you have not read the book!
Time and Place: 1:30 p.m., Carriage Hill Party House, Lafayette Drive (Contact Lee Hill, 614-459-4743, for directions.)

Arranger: Marajeane Huling (*Book Club SIG*)

OCTOBER 16 (THURSDAY) **LUNCH BUNCH**

The speaker will be Professor Lucy Caswell, curator of the OSU Cartoon Research Library which has the largest collection of original cartoon art in the world. Professor Caswell will show examples of the wide variety of cartoons in the collection (e.g., editorial, sports, magazine, comic strips, and books) and discuss the development of this unique library since it opened in 1977.

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

Cost: Order from the menu

Arrangers: OSURA Social Committee

OCTOBER 22 (WEDNESDAY) * **HOLMES COUNTY AMISH BROWN EGG TOUR**

Challenge Level 3

EVENT FULL

Depart: 7:30 a.m. from Fawcett Center

Return: 6:00 p.m.

Refund Deadline: **Noon October 15**

Arranger: Jim Portman (*Social Committee*)

OCTOBER 22 (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*)

**OCTOBER 24-NOVEMBER 2 *
CELEBRATIONS IN MEXICO**

Challenge Level 3

EVENT CLOSED

Depart: TBA October 24 from Columbus International Airport

Return: TBA November 2

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

**OCTOBER 28 (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*)

**OCTOBER 30 (THURSDAY) *
COLUMBUS CULTURAL ARTS TOUR**

Challenge Level 1

Join a weekly event, Conversations and Coffee where several Cultural Arts faculty will discuss their work. Box lunches will be served, followed by a tour of the classes which will give you an overview of the Cultural Arts Center and its classes which are available to any, from beginners to advanced.

Depart: 11:00 a.m. carpool from Fawcett Center

Return: 2:30 p.m.

Cost: \$9 (members carpool, free admission, box lunch)

Arrangers: Tom Hubbard and Tom Sweeney (*Cultural Arts Committee*)

**NOVEMBER 12 (WEDNESDAY) *
WINTER FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS
(OGLEBAY, WEST VIRGINIA)**

Challenge Level 2

A step-on-guide will explain the highlights and history of Oglebay as we explore the beautiful lights dancing to your favorite Christmas carols. Have a delicious buffet meal at Wilson Lodge. Enjoy the miniature train and laser light show at the winter fantasy, with time to browse in Oglebay's famous specialty shops. Note: This trip is not repeated yearly. Space is still available so sign up if you are interested.

Depart: 9:00 a.m. from Fawcett Center ← **NOTE**
Return: approximately 11:00 p.m. **TIMES**

Cost: \$78 (round trip deluxe motorcoach; tour of Oglebay Institutes Mansion Museum, the Glass Museum and Artisan Center; admission to Winter

Fantasy at the Good Zoo; guided tour of the Festival of Lights; dinner buffet)

Refund Deadline: **October 12**

Arrangers: Barbara Preston and Ruth Conone
(*Travel Committee*)

**NOVEMBER 13 (THURSDAY)
PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY**

Dick Hill will present "Three addresses in Vienna - The Imperial Palace, the Emperor's Gold Room; Herrengasse 9, The Esperanto Archives; Berggasse 19, Sigmund Freud's Consulting Rooms." Members' theme is "doors" (as where an address is found), limit three images. Submit digital images to Ted Houston at jhouston1@columbus.rr.com or bring images to the meeting.

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

Arranger: Ted Houston (*Photographic Society*)

**NOVEMBER 19 (WEDNESDAY) *
OBJECTS OF WONDER FROM THE OHIO STATE
UNIVERSITY (COLUMBUS MUSEUM OF ART)**

Challenge Level 2

Objects of Wonder takes its cue from the age-old cabinet of curiosities, which displayed an astonishing range of objects from the scientific to the artistic. The exhibition brings to light the surprising treasures held in the University's vast collections, ranging from matchboxes to Marilyn, pigeons to paintings, cartoons to costumes. Every artifact in this show tells a unique story. Experienced together, these objects inspire unexpected connections.

Depart: 11:30 a.m., carpool from Fawcett Center

Return: 4:00 p.m.

Cost: \$27 (admission, docent fees, box lunch)

Registration Deadline: **October 10** (early deadline because of docent scheduling)

Refund Deadline: November 5

Arranger: Odette Blum (*Cultural Arts Committee*)

**NOVEMBER 30-DECEMBER 6 *
BRANSON CHRISTMAS**

Challenge Level 2

Start the Christmas season in Branson, Missouri, with their wonderful Christmas shows: See nine shows, *Yakov Smirnoff, Mickey Gilley, Dalena Ditto, The Platters, Jim Stafford, Shoji Tabuchi, Roy Rogers with Dusty Rogers, Tony Orlando & the Lennon Sisters, and the Branson Belle*. Eat great meals. Find time for shopping.

Depart: 7:00 a.m. November 30 from Fawcett Center
Return: 6:00 p.m., December 6

Cost: \$954, double occupancy; \$1152, single (bus transportation, lodging, 5 breakfasts, 4 dinners, 9 shows, tips, travel insurance) Refund (less \$55 insurance fee) will only be given for illness.

Registration closes: **October 7 – SPACES STILL AVAILABLE**

Arrangers: Richard and JoAnn Rueger and Rose Yonka (*Travel Committee*)

DECEMBER 10 (WEDNESDAY) HOLIDAY BUFFET

Challenge Level 1

Join new and old friends for the Holiday Buffet. Bring a favorite dish (with serving utensil) to share and your own table service. Beverages will be provided. Call the OSURA office (614-292-2916) to let the committee know you are coming.

Time and Place: 11:30 a.m., Antrim Park Shelter House, 5800 Olentangy River Road

Cost: Bring a dish to share

Arranger: Penny O'Neil (*Social Committee*)

DECEMBER 12 (FRIDAY) * LA COMEDIA DINNER THEATRE

Challenge Level 2

Treat yourself to a delicious buffet lunch at La Comedia Dinner Theatre in Springboro, Ohio. Then enjoy a touching musical version of the story of the real Santa Claus, *Miracle on 34th Street*.

Depart: 8:45 a.m. from Fawcett Center

Return: 5:30 p.m.

Cost: \$58 (motorcoach transportation, buffet lunch, theatre ticket)

Registration Closes: **October 17**

Refund Deadline: **October 17**

Arrangers: Betty Maynard and Gladys Murray (*Travel Committee*)

APRIL 23-MAY 4, 2009 * FRANCE MAGNIFIQUE

Challenge Level 3

Bask in the rich culture and romance of fascinating France. On this special tour you will explore captivating Paris, picturesque Provence, and the fun-filled French Riviera. Highlights of this 12-day tour include Paris, Seine River Cruise, Parisian Cabaret Dinner, Omaha Beach, Amboise, Winery Tour, TGV Train, Avignon, Aix-en-Provence, Nice, and Monaco. Full itinerary available from the OSURA office.

Depart: TBA April 23

Return: TBA May 4

Cost: \$4,029, double; \$4,829 single; \$3,999 triple

Note: Rate change - due to surcharge increase (round trip air from Columbus, 10 breakfasts, 7 dinners, lodging, sightseeing per itinerary, cancellation waiver and insurance) \$450 deposit with confirmation; final payment February 1

Registration closes: **October 16**

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

SO YOU CAN PLAN AHEAD

The following events are in the planning stages – preparations are not far enough along to accept reservations, but they are listed here so you can pencil them in your calendar. When all details are in place (cost, times, content, ...), they will be listed in the OSURA Calendar on Page 3 of the newsletter; until then, if you want information, contact the arranger.

- January 23, Annual Income Tax Seminar (Tom Sweeney, Arranger)
 - April 2, Estate Planning Seminar (Fern Hunt, Arranger)
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MORE UNIVERSITY NEWS

Personnel Appointments

- Gregory N. Washington, professor in the Department of Mechanical Engineering, has been named interim dean of Engineering. He will replace W.A. "Bud" Baeslack, who is leaving the university to become the executive vice president and provost at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland.
- Executive Vice President and Provost Joseph Alutto has announced the appointment of a search committee for the executive dean and vice provost of the Arts and Sciences. The members are: Committee chair Steven Gabbe, senior vice president for Health Sciences and CEO, OSU Medical Center; Leslie Alexander, associate professor of History; Heather Allen, associate professor of Chemistry and chair, University Senate Steering Committee; Laura Bockbrader, undergraduate student, Music; Wayne Carlson, professor and chair, Industrial, Interior and Visual Communication Design; Russell Fazio, professor of Psychology; Eric Herbst, Distinguished University professor, Physics; Brian McHale, professor of English; Kathy Royer, office administrative associate, Center for Life Sciences Education; Robert Sarama, graduate student, Economics; Allison Snow, professor of Evolution, Ecology and Organismal Biology and director, Undergraduate Research; and Sandra Stroot, senior associate dean, Education and Human Ecology. The search committee will begin its work immediately, with the goal of having the executive dean and vice provost in place by August 1, 2009. Academic Affairs will assist the committee. Vice Provost W. Randy Smith and Assistant Provost Melinda Nelson will serve in ex officio roles and provide staff support.
- Caroline C. Whitacre has been named vice president for research.
- Rep. Joyce Beatty will become senior vice president for outreach and engagement in January following the completion of her final term as a state representative.



RETIREES ASSOCIATION
OSURA

OCTOBER 2008
NEWSLETTER

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LEGISLATION TO WATCH

Ohio HB 360 was introduced and will seek to increase the cost of common types of purchasable service credit with OPERS to 100 percent of the liability created by the purchase. The bill does not change the cost calculation for restoration of previously withdrawn service or credit purchased for military service. The bill also restricts the ability of a survivor to purchase credit following a member's death. If passed as proposed, the changes would be effective January 1, 2010. Members would be able to initiate a payroll deduction before January 1, 2010.

The Medicare Improvements For Patients and Providers Act of 2008, U.S. HB 6331, became law on July 15 when the Senate and the House voted to override President's Bush's veto of the bill. The primary goal of the bill was to block a scheduled cut in fees paid to doctors. However the new law also encourages doctors to write electronic prescriptions. There were other changes that directly affect Medicare beneficiaries: reduced out-of-pocket payments for mental health services; additional coverage for certain anti-anxiety and sleep drugs; additional coverage for rehabilitation for pulmonary problems; and new restrictions on Medicare Advantage private fee-for-service plans.

U.S. HB 6382 was passed by the U.S. House to fix the crediting of governmental interest rates. The original Pension Protection Act created an age discrimination violation when interest credit in a defined benefit plan exceeded a "market rate of return." A "market rate" was defined in proposed regulation as an index, 3 percent or 4 percent fixed rate, or a true variable rate with no floor. Public pension proponents of the "fix" argued that in governmental plans, where benefit protections and plan designs are quite different, application of crediting rate caps could actually cut employee benefits, conflict with state and local benefit guarantees, and undermine efforts to preserve primary defined benefit features. A modification to the interest rate calculation with respect to the market rate of return requirements for certain governmental plans is included. It essentially would allow governmental plans to establish interest-crediting rates by or in accordance with state or local laws.