



Newsletter

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

One of the advantages of being an OSURA member is that I have learned a great deal about the intricacies of the Retirement System that handles my retirement money and the importance of keeping up with current and pending state and federal legislation directed at retirees. In a conversation with several OSURA members recently about how our systems operate, it occurred to me that many retirees are not always aware of the way our two retirement systems – STRS and OPERS – are organized, who represents us on the Boards, how the professional staff invests our money, and how the people involved are accountable to us. This month I have gleaned some interesting information from the STRS Website (www.strsoh.org) as well as from Dick Hill and Lou DiOrio who attend STRS Board Meetings and generally monitor what transpires there on our behalf. Next month I will review the same type of information for the Ohio Public Employees Retirement System (OPERS).

State Teachers Retirement System of Ohio (STRS)

STRS Ohio's primary purpose is to provide monthly benefits in retirement for Ohio's public educators. Currently, STRS Ohio serves more than 108,000 benefit recipients and pays out more than \$3 billion annually in benefits. Benefit recipients include service retirees, disability benefit recipients, and survivors of deceased members.

STRS Ohio is governed by a Retirement Board consisting of five elected contributing teacher members; *two elected retired teacher members*; an investment expert appointed by the governor; an investment expert appointed jointly by the Speaker of the House and the Senate President; an investment expert designated by the treasurer of state; and the superintendent of public instruction or her designated investment expert. Teacher members are elected to a four-year term representing those retirees receiving benefits from STRS Ohio. Board members serve without compensation other than actual, necessary expenses.

A participation survey of Board elections over the years from 2001 to 2006 revealed that when retiree seats were to be decided (and for which *only retirees* can vote), the participation turnouts were 59 percent (in 2001) and 45 percent (in 2005). On the six years where contributing seats were open (for which only *active* teachers can vote), the range of "participation turnout" ran 10.6 to 15.3 percent. Clearly, retirees are concerned about who represents them on the STRS Board, but both voting populations could do better.

Internally, STRS Ohio is managed by an executive director, three deputy executive directors, and seven senior staff members, and employs about 615 associates.

STRS Ohio is funded through investments and contributions made by members and their employers. Members contribute 10 percent of gross earnings and employers contribute an additional 14 percent of members' annual salary into the Employers' Trust Fund. There are approximately 1,061 employers who contribute to STRS Ohio, including city and local school districts, county educational service centers, exempted village districts, vocational and technical schools, colleges

Continued on Page 6

President's Message.....	1
Bucks for Charity Drive.....	2
Calendar	3
University News	4
Welcome New Retirees	6
OSU Programs.....	6
Description of Events	7
In Memorium.....	9
Coping with Change IX Coverage:	
OSU Master Plan.....	2
Integrative Medicine	4
OPERS Health Care Options.....	5
STRS Health Care Options.....	10
(Concurrent Sessions will be reported in December)	

Coping with Change IX

Executive Board

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Richard M. Hill

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Communications Secretary

Carlene Hamilton

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John A. Stottlemeyer

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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

TOMORROW AT OSU-A LOOK AT THE MASTER PLAN

*Laura Shinn, Director of Planning, and
Bernard Constantino, Associate
University Architect*

This presentation was scheduled as a General Session in the morning as the planners rightfully assumed it would be of interest to all OSURA members. The presenters, who are staff members of the University Architect's Office, provided a well-illustrated and engaging lecture which was well received by the audience. The following comments are highlights of the talk.

The Master Plan was approved by the Board of Trustees in 1995. The previous plan was accepted in 1962. The plan governs all development on campus. The plan is for urban design and is not a capital plan. It focuses on creating campus spaces and framing them with buildings. It envisions a pedestrian campus in the core area. It provides building sites, not specific areas. The long range concept plan is subdivided into district plans, sub-district plans, feasibility studies, and then project level plans.

One of the emerging issues in the plan is strengthening linkages with the community. It envisions three major green space reserves which are the Oval/Mirror Lake, the River, and Waterman Farm.

The major challenge for the plan, at this juncture, is the south campus Health Sciences area. The 1995 plan had no idea of the magnitude of growth in that area. Some of the projects there include a focal point which is the new Health Sciences Quadrangle. This replaces a surface parking area south of the entrance to University Hospital. During the next five years 780 million dollars in new projects are currently planned. These include a new Cancer facility, a more attractive Cannon Drive, better east-west access by elimination of one

parking garage in the central area, and new buildings in the Polo fields.

Some of the current projects in other areas include new Physics and Mechanical Engineering buildings on the North Campus. These are designed to assist north-south pedestrian flow by providing more space between buildings and easy ground-level flow through the buildings. The renovation of the Thompson Library also provides easier flow through the building. The Library eliminates the road and its on-street parking between the Library and Mirror Lake. Neil Avenue will be relocated as a semi-circle in that area to round out the Oval while the new Psychology building and the Rec Center will help form a quadrangle area west of the Thompson Library.

Some "green" buildings are in the offing. These are energy efficient and environmentally friendly. The Nationwide and Ohio Farm Bureau 4-H Center located where the Poultry Science Building stood is underway. The new Ohio Union is also having this design.

The audience left the lecture with a feeling of excitement and pride in what OSU will look like tomorrow.

Rodney Harrison, Recorder

BUCKS FOR CHARITY DRIVE

The annual Bucks for Charity Drive is underway. This drive supports central Ohio environmental, health, human and social service agencies. The goal for retirees this year is \$60,000 toward the \$1,250,000 overall goal.

In addition to your direct pledge, you can support the drive by purchasing Entertainment coupon books. A portion of the price will be donated to Bucks for Charity if they are ordered through entertainment.com/support or wofford.1@osu.edu. Books can be purchased for sites throughout the United States. The code is 532263.

Calendar

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

- Nov 3..... Campus Treasures: Renovation and Redesign of Library, 9:00 a.m., Faculty Club
(Meet at Fawcett Center at 8:30 a.m. to car pool to Faculty Club) – REGISTRATION
REQUIRED
- Nov 5..... Columbus Symphony Orchestra, 3:00 p.m., Ohio Theatre, 55 East State Street, Columbus
- Nov 6..... Litter Pickers, meet at Bethel and Olentangy River Roads at 8:30 a.m.
- Nov 8..... Bridge Group, Friendship Village, Dublin, 1:00 p.m.
- Nov 9..... Photo Society, 5:15 p.m., cocktails; 6:00 p.m., dinner; 7:00 p.m., program at the
Faculty Club
- Nov 14..... Executive Board Meeting, Longaberger Alumni House, 2200 Olentangy River Road, 9:00 a.m.
- Nov 15..... La Comedia Dinner Theatre, Springboro, Ohio, leave from Fawcett Center, 8:30 a.m. –
EVENT FULL – WAIT LIST
- Nov 15..... Book Club, 1:30 p.m., Carriage Hill Party House, Lafayette Drive, Upper Arlington
- Nov 16..... Lunch Bunch, OSU Golf Course, Tremont Road, Columbus, 11:30 a.m.
- Nov 28..... Tertulia Breakfast, Faculty Club, 181 South Oval Mall, 8:00 a.m.
- Dec 1..... OSU Musical Celebration Concert, voluntary car pool from Fawcett Center to
Mershon Theatre, 7:00 p.m. – REGISTRATION REQUIRED
- Dec 5-7..... The Best of Chicago, depart 8:00 a.m. December 5 from Fawcett Center – REGISTRATION
REQUIRED
- Dec 6..... Holiday in Cincinnati, leave from Fawcett Center, 7:30 a.m. – REGISTRATION REQUIRED
- Dec 13 Holiday Buffet, Antrim Park Shelter House, 11:30 a.m. – REGISTRATION REQUESTED**
- Jan 10 Edgar Degas, The Last Landscapes, Columbus Museum of Art, depart 9:30 a.m. from
Fawcett Center – REGISTRATION REQUIRED
- Jan 27..... Income Tax Seminar, Fawcett Center, 1:30 p.m.**
- Feb 9..... Rendezvous at the Riffe, BalletMet Dress Rehearsal, depart 10:00 a.m. from Fawcett
Center – REGISTRATION REQUIRED**
- Feb 22..... Our Town, OSU Theatre, Drake Union, 7:00 p.m. – REGISTRATION REQUIRED**
- Mar 13-22 Discover Sicily, depart early afternoon March 13 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.

CHANGES TO ACCOMMODATE THE HOLIDAYS

- **Lunch Bunch** will not meet in December – the third Thursday is the 21st, very close to Christmas Day.
- **Bridge Group** will meet on the **second Wednesday in November and December**.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- **Columbus Symphony Orchestra Sunday Concerts:** January 28, February 25, March 4, and May 13; single tickets are available through OSURA for \$20 each.
- **BalletMet Senior Dress Rehearsals:** March 8, April 26
- **OSU Theater Productions:** May 17, *Mary Stuart*

Coping with Change IX

INTEGRATIVE MEDICINE – ALTERNATIVE APPROACHES TO MEDICINE TO LIVING WELL BEYOND 100 YEARS OF AGE

Dr. Glen Aukerman, Medical Director, with help from Laura Kunze, Program Director, OSU Center for Integrative Medicine

This was a thought- and discussion-stimulating presentation. Dr. Aukerman calls his program Complementary and Alternative Medicine (CAM). A 2000 study found 88 percent of respondents 65 and older used CAM: dietary supplements, 65 percent and chiropractic, 46 percent. Men use CAM less than women.

Forty-one to 75 percent of older rural adults use CAM; 85 percent, prayer; 83 percent, vitamins; and 64 percent, exercise. Use of CAM by urban older adults was 64 percent.

Over the past century, 30 years were added to the average U.S. life expectancy. You can expect life expectancy to reach 100 this century. Understanding healthy aging requires interdisciplinary work on nutrition, genetics, and inflammation. A good source of information on nutrition is the *Clinical Nutrition Journal*.

Evidence suggests early nutrition affects key risk factors for osteoporosis and cardiovascular disease. Aging is an actively regulated metabolic process. It is possible to increase life span by environmental modification, such as restricted calorie intake.

Genetic variation can influence the tendency to have coronary artery disease and rheumatoid arthritis.

Chronic illnesses and diet-related health problems are the most serious threat to public health:

- 65 percent of U.S. adults over 20 years old are overweight or obese. There are 280,184 deaths per year due to obesity.
- 64 million Americans have cardiovascular disease which causes 38.5 percent of deaths (the leading cause of death in the U.S.); 50 million hypertensive, 11 million type 2 diabetes; and 37 million have high risk cholesterol (>240 mg/dl).
- Of postmenopausal women over 50, 7 percent have osteoporosis and 40 percent, osteopenia.
- Cancer is the second leading cause of death in the U.S., accounting for 25 percent.

Between 1950 and 1999 nutrients in garden crops decreased for protein, calcium, phosphorus, Riboflavin and Vitamin C. Dry eye syndrome in women increases

when omega 6 intake is more than 6 times omega 3. Latex exposure comes from inhaled auto tires, but immune system is depressed by eating foods laden with naturally occurring latex. Nutrient changes needed as we age are to avoid latex in food, decrease gluten and omega 6, and replace nutrients not in the food supply.

Western diets have a net acid load causing metabolic acidosis that worsens with age as kidney functions decline. Western diets are also low in B-vitamin and Thiamine.

Helpful nutrients: Centrum Silver reverses cataracts, omega 3 fish oil reverses dry eye syndrome, and 80 mg. of zinc oxide lowers mortality.

Western diets contain excess saturated and trans fatty acids. After 3.5 years taking 850 mg/day omega 3, subjects with pre-existing cardiovascular disease reported a 20 percent reduction in mortality, a 45 percent reduction in sudden death, and prevented many inflammatory and autoimmune diseases.

The latex chemical problem has increased because latex is trapped in the plant when picked green to ship, then latex becomes injury protein when plant or fruit is treated with ethylene gas as is done in all grocery warehouses. Symptoms are stiffness, fatigue, aches, redness on chin, cheeks, ears, and forehead and burning eyes. Dried, frozen, and canned foods have less latex.

Dr. Aukerman gave a summary "nutrient replacement list," but says "check with your doctor before trying any of these."

Sources of information are www.naturalstandard.com for CAM, www.nutritionaldata.com/facts for individual food choices and <http://efaeducation.nih.gov> for daily diet analysis.

Byron Nolte, Recorder

STATE ISSUE 3

The University's Board of Trustees issued a statement relating to State Issue 3, also known as the Learn and Earn Amendment to the Ohio Constitution, that proposes to use proceeds from expanded gambling in the state of Ohio to fund college grants and scholarships at in-state colleges and universities. The Learn and Earn Amendment falls far short of addressing Ohio's higher education funding issues, the board's statement reads, and passage would create bad public policy.

Coping with Change IX

UPDATE ON HEALTH CARE OPTIONS AND ISSUES FOR 2007

OHIO PUBLIC EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT SYSTEM (OPERS)

Douglas Foust, Assistant Director, Health Care, OPERS, and Jason Davis, Health Care Benefits Counselor

Mr. Foust reviewed the 2007 Health Care Plans for medical/pharmacy coverage and explained the new enrollment procedure. Also he discussed some current health care issues and OPERS initiatives as well as answered questions from the audience.

A major change in the health care plan for 2007 is the choice among three levels of medical/pharmacy coverage through either Aetna or Medical Mutual: the *enhanced* plan, the *intermediate* plan, and the *basic* plan. For the retiree, the enhanced plan offers the lowest annual deductibles (\$250/single) and co-pays, but the highest monthly premium (\$308.09). The basic plan offers the highest annual deductible (\$900) and highest co-pays but the lowest monthly premium per member (\$184.85). A very fit, healthy, non-accident-prone person might be OK on the basic plan.

Another new feature of the health care plan is the *health care premium allowance*, which is equal to the premium for the enhanced level (\$308.09) and is provided for each member. If either the intermediate or the basic option is chosen, the difference between that premium and the allowance of \$308.09 for the enhanced plan premium may be applied to premiums for vision and dental coverage. Details of the plans with worksheets for members and covered spouses and dependents are presented in the *Ohio PERS Health Care Open Enrollment Guide, 2007* which was mailed to every OPERS retiree near the first of October.

If no change in coverage is requested for 2007 (i.e., if OPERS does not receive a request), a current recipient will be on the enhanced plan by default. The enhanced plan extends for one year. Choice of the intermediate and basic options is locked in for two years (exceptions: change in covered recipients, as in marriage, divorce, birth, or adoption).

Mr. Foust emphasized that the term *allowance*, which applies to premiums, should not be confused with *benefits claims*.

Other changes in the 2007 health care plan include:

- physical exam benefits will be increased from \$50 to \$100
- bone density screenings will be free
- hearing aid allowance will be discontinued
- co-pay for prescriptions at retail versus mail will be the same, no matter which delivery system is used;

that is, \$5 for a 30-day supply; \$15, for a 90-day supply.

Answers to questions:

- Spouses/dependents must be in the same plan as the OPERS retiree.
- OPERS pays benefits for whoever is the recipient of the OPERS pension (e.g., widow).
- Social Security, Part B: Everyone qualifies, but must sign up for coverage as soon as eligible (age 65). Sign up with the Social Security office before reaching age 65.
- Social Security, Part D: Members do not sign up with Social Security for coverage. Social Security pays OPERS to administer for OPERS retirees. (Exception: people with very low incomes may receive better deal on this by signing up directly with Social Security. Check with OPERS about it.)
- Hospital co-pay: Emergency Room co-pay fee is waived if the patient is subsequently admitted at the time to the hospital.
- OPERS health care insurance plan follows recipients when they are outside the U.S.; Medicare does not.
- Suggestion from audience re discontinuation of hearing aid benefit: OPERS consider offering plan for hearing aids similar to vision and dental plans.

The OPERS health care fund currently is \$12 billion. Annual expenditures for health care benefits amount to \$1 billion. In the last year, \$400 million of that went for drugs alone. With the Health Care Preservation Plan in operation, the OPERS health care program is expected to be solvent until at least 2024. Occasional adjustments in benefits and costs to retirees may be necessary in order to serve current and future retirees as well as possible.

Among OPERS new initiatives to help reduce health care costs are health and wellness programs for weight reduction, smoking cessation, LifeMasters health condition management, wellness, financial incentives for participation in health improvement programs, focus groups on issues.

A new health care card is to be issued without the Social Security number.

For further information, consult the Open Enrollment Guide, 2007 or www.opers.org or call 1-800-222-7377.

Fern Hunt, Recorder

OSURA News

WELCOME NEW RETIREES

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

Larry **Autenrieth**, University Hospitals * Valerie **Avery**, University Hospitals * William **Bach**, Business and Finance * Stephen **Bertsch**, Academic Affairs * Donna **Boggs-May**, Arts * Patricia **Carlton**, Student Affairs * Thea **Cesner**, Food, Agricultural and Environmental Sciences * Karen **Chavis**, Veterinary Medicine * Bonnie **Chavis**, Medicine * John **Chidley**, Medicine * Kathleen **Claprod**, University Hospitals * Joseph **Damico**, Academic Affairs * Elizabeth **Dickson**, University Hospitals * Barbara **Dole**, Engineering * Jerry **Downhower**, Biological Sciences * Pamela **Edwards-Harris**, University Hospitals * Cecilia **Emanuel**, Business and Finance * Sharon **Faini**, Veterinary Medicine * Frank **Felske**, University Hospitals * Lori **Ford**, University Hospitals * Karolyn **Frasure**, Marion Campus * Margie **Graham**, Academic Affairs * Judith **Hart**, Medicine * Sylvia **Joab**, University Hospitals * Mari **Jones**, Social and Behavioral Sciences * Viva **McNeely**, University Hospitals * Lawrence **Mull**, Health Sciences * Charles **Nickelson**, Student Affairs * Arlene **Palenshus**, Business and Finance * Stephen **Pentak**, Arts * Conny **Pope**, University Hospitals * Janet **Porterfield-Keen**, University Hospitals * Ruey **Rodman**, Health Sciences * Margarita **Rokhlin**, Mathematical and Physical Sciences * Syed **Saiduddin**, Veterinary Medicine * Edward **Schlechty**, Mathematical and Physical Sciences * Lana **Sears**, University Hospitals * Daniel **Smith**, Dentistry * Ralph **Smith**, University Hospitals * Mary **Sprague**, University Hospitals * Carol **Stearns**, Undergraduate Studies * Connie **Stockwell**, Academic Affairs * Gail **Talbert**, University Hospitals * Michael **Tippie**, Academic Affairs * Johanna **Ventola**, Business and Finance * Madeline **Weisz**, Academic Affairs * Joyce **Young**, University Hospitals

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

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (Continued from Page 1) and universities, county boards of mental retardation and developmental disabilities, as well as the state of Ohio. These contributions combined with service credit purchased by employers through retirement incentive plans, totaled \$1.34 billion. During this same period STRS Ohio experienced a net investment income of \$6.5 billion.

With dependence on investments growing yearly in order to meet benefits obligations to retirees, now and in the future, performance of the System's internal investments staff that manages the System's \$66 billion dollars is becoming increasingly important to its fiscal health. Over this past year, the internal managers of STRS added 1.47 percent more to the System's investment earnings for a Total Fund Return of 13.73 percent.

The Table below offers some perspective about investment returns from 2000 and beyond and how the System has recovered from "the difficult years."

<u>Fiscal</u>	<u>Market Return</u>
2006	13.73%
2005	12.25%
2004	17.10%
2003	2.32%
2002	8.13%
2001	6.33%
2000	10.44%

It is obviously important for all of us to pay attention to the Systems that handle our retirement money, especially now that our benefits are tied so closely to investment earnings. The next time you receive a ballot from STRS to vote for the Board members who represent you, do the required research to become familiar with the candidates and vote. We should do better than 45 percent for such an important choice!

Virginia N. Gordon, President

OSU PROGRAMS

- Art Exhibition "Shiny," Wexner Center for the Arts, through December 31. Exhibit includes "Shiny" as in shiny objects, mirror, glossy paint, etc.
- A "Peanuts"-related exhibit has opened in OSU's Cartoon Research Library, remaining until January 5. The show focuses on girls in "Peanuts," including girls from the past as well as contemporaries. The Cartoon Research Library is located in the Wexner Center for the Arts (614-292-0538).
- The Role Pop Art and Celebrities Play in America's Social Identities and Cultural History, Wexner Center for the Arts, November 8, 4:30 p.m. (614-292-3535)
- Operatic Excerpts, November 21, 8.00 p.m. Roy Bowen theatre. Peter Kozma, the new director of opera and musical theater in the School of Music, will showcase the talents of more than 30 Ohio State singers.

Description of Events

Please refer to Pages 10 and 11 in the OSURA Directory 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.

NOVEMBER 3 (FRIDAY)

CAMPUS TREASURES:

HISTORIC RENOVATION AND

REDESIGN OF THE WILLIAM

OXLEY THOMPSON MEMORIAL LIBRARY

Challenge Level 1

Joe Branin, Director of Libraries, will provide an update on the \$105 million renovation of and exciting new design plans for the Thompson Library, including the efforts to ensure that faculty and students continue to have access to the library collections. Refreshments will be served. **Registration required.** (When registering, please indicate whether you have an E hangtag for parking on campus and, if so, if you would be willing to transport others who do not.)

Time and Place: 8:30 a.m., Meet in the Fawcett Center Lobby to car pool to the Faculty Club (program begins at 9:00 a.m. in the Faculty Club)

Arranger: William Studer (*Cultural Arts Subcommittee*)

NOVEMBER 5 (SUNDAY)

COLUMBUS SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Junichi Hirokama will conduct Respighi, Prokofiev, and Brahms/Schoenberg. Alon Goldstein is guest pianist.

Time and Place: 3:00 p.m., Ohio Theatre
Cost: For those not holding season tickets, \$20 through OSURA Office

Arranger: Jules LaPidus (*Cultural Arts Subcommittee*)

NOVEMBER 6 (MONDAY)

LITTER PICKERS

Join OSURA members in some civic and environmental work. Call Carol Baker (614-488-3007) for more information.

Time and Place: 8:30 a.m. – meet at Bethel and Olentangy River Roads

Arranger: Carol Baker (*Litter Pickers SIG*)

NOVEMBER 8 (WEDNESDAY)

BRIDGE GROUP

New members are cordially welcome to play Bridge.

Note change of date to avoid holiday events.

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

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

NOVEMBER 9 (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 (*Photo Society SIG*)

NOVEMBER 15 (WEDNESDAY) *

LA COMEDIA DINNER THEATRE

Challenge Level 1

EVENT FULL – WAIT LIST

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

Return: 5:00 p.m.

Refund Deadline: October 1

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

NOVEMBER 15 (WEDNESDAY)

BOOK CLUB

Challenge Level 1

This month's discussion: *Eat, Pray, Love*, a sequence followed by a divorce and subsequent travels.

MEETINGS ARE ENTIRELY UNTHREATENING AND JUST FUN, GOSSIP, AND FOOD.

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

Arranger: Marajeau Huling (*Book Club SIG*)

NOVEMBER 16 (THURSDAY)**LUNCH BUNCH**

Come alone or bring a spouse, partner, or friend.
There is no program other than good conversation and good food.

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*)

NOVEMBER 28 (TUESDAY)**TERTULIA BREAKFAST**

Good food and stimulating conversation abound.

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

Cost: On your own

Arranger: Frank Himes (*Tertulia Breakfast SIG*)

DECEMBER 1 (FRIDAY)**OSU MUSICAL CELEBRATION CONCERT**

Challenge Level 1

Popular, annual musical extravaganza celebrates the season and showcases the School's many performing groups, from the OSU Symphony Orchestra to its Jazz Ensemble, Glee Clubs, Percussion Ensemble and much more! [Meet at the Fawcett Center to voluntary car pool to Mershon Theatre.](#)

Time and Place: 7:00 p.m., Mershon Theatre, 1871 North High Street

Cost: \$5 (ticket)

Refund Deadline: November 24

Arranger: Bob Rapp (*Cultural Arts Subcommittee*)

DECEMBER 5-7 ***THE BEST OF CHICAGO**

Challenge Level 2

See the Tut Exhibit in Chicago (one of four stops), tour Frank Lloyd Wright's home and studio, as well as see his other works in the Oakpark; also re-live the prohibition era in an "Untouchables" tour, and have dinners at the Palmer House and Tommy Guns Dinner Theater. Stay and enjoy breakfasts at the historic Palmer House Hotel with easy access to Chicago's Art Institute and Miracle Mile's shopping during your free time. Lunches on your own.

Depart: 8:00 a.m. December 5 from Fawcett Center

Return: About 9:00 p.m. December 7

Cost: \$599 double occupancy (motorcoach transportation, lodging, sightseeing per itinerary, 2 breakfasts, 2 dinners)

Arrangers: Carol Baker and Betty Maynard (*Travel Subcommittee*)

DECEMBER 6 (WEDNESDAY) ***HOLIDAY IN CINCINNATI**

Challenge Level 2

Visit ARGOSY Riverboat Casino, TAFT MUSEUM OF ART, KROHN Conservatory, JUNGLE JIM's and have a luncheon buffet in Lawrenceburg, Indiana. The TAFT MUSEUM exhibits include Henry Forney and Michael Scott, Western Views, antique small paintings, TAFT permanent collection, and holiday décor. At the KROHN Conservatory view their holiday presentation in the greenhouses and park. Do some holiday grocery/wine shopping at JUNGLE JIM's International Market.

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

Return: 7:00 p.m.

Cost: \$36 (motorcoach, admissions, buffet luncheon, door prizes, snacks)

Refund Deadline: November 28

Arrangers: Donna Bitzel and Jim Portman (*Social/Travel Subcommittees*)

DECEMBER 13 (WEDNESDAY)**HOLIDAY BUFFET**

Join new and old friends for the Holiday Buffet at Antrim Park. Bring a favorite dish (with serving utensil) to share and your own table service. Beverages will be provided. Lunch will be served at noon. 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

Cost: Bring a dish to share

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

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 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. No preregistration nor fee required.

Time and Place: 1:30 p.m., Fawcett Center

Cost: None

Arranger: Tom Sweeney (*Benefits Committee*)

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 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 20th 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 13-22 *
DISCOVER SICILY

Challenge Level 3

Walk in the footsteps of Greek History on the largest Mediterranean island. Visit the slopes of Mount Etna and view the spectacular Greek theater in Taormina. Feast on traditional local foods and wine and enjoy the comfort of one hotel on the seacoast of Giardina Naxos (www.hotel-hellenia.it). Full itinerary available from the OSURA office. **Reservations will be accepted if space is available.**

Depart: Early afternoon March 13 from Columbus International Airport
Return: Evening of March 22
Cost: \$2,295, double occupancy (round trip airfare, lodging, transfers, many meals, sightseeing per itinerary, luggage handling, cancellation waiver, and insurance) \$370 deposit due one week after registration; final payment due January 10
Arrangers: Mary Hoffman and Carol Baker (*Travel Subcommittee*)

OTHER EVENTS OF INTEREST

• **RECORDED CLASSICAL MUSIC GROUP:**

Listen to and discuss famous and not-so-famous compositions and recordings with Jules LaPidus, OSURA member, November 9, 7:00 p.m. Old Worthington Library, 820 High Street, Worthington.

• **FACULTY AND STAFF RECOGNITION**

LUNCHEON honoring those who completed 25, 30, 35, 40, or 45 years of regular service to The Ohio State University in the calendar year of 2006, December 14. Contact Special Events in the Office of Human Resources, 614-292-0641

IN MEMORIAM

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

BAKER, John L., September 23, OSURA, 70

CARLOCK, Evelyn M. (Fleming), September 9, University Hospitals, 97

FULTON, Thomas R., September 19, University Hospitals, 58

GAINES, Hazel Poindexter, September 24, 60

GARRETT-MALASKA, Paula Maria (Philpott), September 17, University Hospitals, 50

GRIFFIN, Marlene E., September 7, University Hospitals, 72

HAMRICK, Dorothy R., September 3, OSURA, 81

HANG, Richard Irvin, October 2, Engineering and Computer Science, 84

HODAPP, June, October 1, Athletic Ticket Office, 81

LIESENFELD, Mary Rooth (McNulty), August 26, University Hospitals-East, 58

LONG, Terry L., September 24, Newark-Humanities, 70

LUX, Donald Gregory, September 28, Education Theory and Practice and OSURA, 82

MASSUROS, Gene Elizabeth, September 25, Medicine, 76

MOORE, William, September 14, Education Policy and Leadership, 78

MOORE, Elizabeth "Ann", September 16, University Hospitals, 55

PATACCA, Ernesto, October 3, Landscaping, 87

SAWAYA, George Anthony, September 12, University Hospitals, 70

SHARP, Joan L., September 22, Allied Medical Professions/Medical Center and OSURA

SIMS, Loretha, September 17, Food Services, 83

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.

Coping with Change IX

UPDATE ON HEALTH CARE OPTIONS AND ISSUES FOR 2007

STATE TEACHERS RETIREMENT SYSTEM OHIO (STRS)

Gregory R. Nickell, Director of Health Care Services, STRS

Status of the STRS Ohio Health Care Program. Changes in premiums, plan design, and enrollment eligibility have been implemented to extend the life of the health care fund. There is no dedicated revenue stream for health care. Health care is currently funded through premiums, 1 percent of employer contributions, and investment earnings on the health care fund. The prediction is that the STRS Ohio health care fund will run out of money about 2021. The STRS Retirement Board has unanimously approved a funding initiative to strengthen pension solvency and shore up the health care program. The proposal, if approved by the Ohio Legislature, will allow STRS to increase active members' contributions by 2.5 percent and their employers' contributions by 2.5 percent of teacher payroll to create a dedicated revenue stream for STRS Ohio health care. The increases to contributions would be phased in over a five-year period in .5% increases.

Health Care Program for 2007. Open enrollment for the 2007 STRS health care plans is October 9-November 22, 2006. This time period is also open enrollment for dental and vision plans. Changes to the Plus and Basic Plans are designed to accomplish two objectives: (1) Attract and retain healthy enrollees, and (2) Make STRS Ohio's health care plans more price competitive in the market place. Specific changes in the Basic and Plus plans, medical coverage, retail and mail-service Prescription Drug Programs, and Medicare Part B base premiums reimbursed by STRS were described. These provisions and changes are described in the October 2006 *STRS Ohio News* (Newsletter for Benefit Recipients) that OSURA members received by mail. Personalized Health Care Plan materials will be mailed to benefit recipients in October 2006. Questions about all health care plans can be directed to STRS Ohio at 1-888-227-7877 (toll-free).

J. Robert Warmbrod, Recorder