



Newsletter

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December 2006

Season's Greetings

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Last month we offered a brief description of the State Teachers Retirement System. This month we are describing the other retirement system to which many of our OSURA members belong. The Ohio Public Employees Retirement System (OPERS) has provided retirement benefits for state employees since 1935. Today the System provides retirement, disability, and survivor benefit programs for public employees throughout the state who are not covered by another state or local retirement system. Ohio PERS serves more than 670,000 members and almost 152,000 retirees and surviving beneficiaries who receive monthly benefits. The System currently services more than 3,700 public employers and has assets exceeding \$69.7 billion.

OPERS is governed by a retirement board that is responsible for its administration and management. The 11-member Board is composed of representatives of state employees, *non-teaching college and university employees*, county employees, municipal employees, miscellaneous employees (such as librarians), two *retiree representatives*, and three investment expert members appointed by the Governor, the Treasurer of State, and jointly by the Speaker of the Ohio House of Representatives and the President of the Ohio Senate. The Director of the Department of Administrative Services for the State of Ohio is a statutory member. Board members serve without compensation except for necessary expenses. Internally, OPERS is managed by a professional staff consisting of an Executive Director and Directors of Investments, Finance, Benefits, Health Care, Information Technology, an Internal Auditor. The System employs 550 associates.

OPERS investment professionals manage the investment of member and employer contributions for those participating in the Traditional Pension Plan. Members participating in the Member-Directed Plan direct the investment of their member and employer contributions into professionally-managed OPERS Investment Options. For those in the Combined Plan, OPERS investment professionals manage the investment of their employer contribution and the members direct the investment of their member contributions into professionally managed OPERS Investment Options.

OPERS is the 10th largest institutional investor in the United States. At the end of 2005, the \$69.7 billion OPERS total fund consisted of a pension fund (defined benefit) and a health care fund. Studies show that 90 percent of a fund's earnings are determined by its asset allocation, so this set of investment decisions is crucial to the health of the System. Details of OPERS assets (stocks or bonds, for example) are provided on the OPERS Web site at www.opers.org/member/traditional/investments/index.shtml, or a link may be found from the OSURA Web site at www.hr.osu.edu/osura.

OPERS manages approximately 61 percent of its investments internally through a staff of 51 investment professionals, with the balance managed by external money managers in Ohio and throughout the world. At the end of 2005, the defined benefit fund returned 9.25 percent and totaled \$57.7 billion. The health care

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OSURA News

Executive Board

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Communications Secretary

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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-
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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

FROM THE EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING – November 14, 2006

The audit report for the year ending June 30, 2006, was accepted.

The Program Committee presented for Board approval changing the name of the Program Committee to Program Coordinating Committee and converting its three subcommittees (Cultural Arts, Social, Travel) to full committee status. This was referred to the Bylaws Committee for Bylaw changes and membership (Annual Meeting) votes required.

The Communications Committee and office manager will begin compiling the data needed to determine the feasibility of offering the OSURA newsletter via e-mail to those members who request receiving it that way.

The Membership Committee is exploring contact/recruitment strategies. An e-mail reminder to the one-year complimentary members is being considered.

BUCKS FOR CHARITY

The mailing of the letter to retirees concerning this Campus Community Drive was delayed, but you should have it by now. OSURA members are encouraged to be generous with their pledges. The drive closes December 8.

The retirees' goal is \$60,000, with a total campaign goal of \$1.25 million.

DOES OSURA HAVE YOUR ADDRESS?

Please remember to notify the OSURA office when you change either your postal service or e-mail address (or any other information, for that matter). This will assure that you receive the Association's communications on time and save on expenses for the Association and OSU.

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

2006 INCOME TAX DEDUCTION POSSIBILITY

The **OSURA Endowment** fund earnings provide support to balance the OSURA annual budget. For example, the Endowment provides funds to cover some of the costs of events such as Coping with Change and the Annual Meeting to keep the charge for attendance as low as possible in the interest of affordability for all. Monies are available – although they are rarely requested – for emergency assistance to OSU retirees (at this time a \$200 maximum).

Make your check payable to The OSU Foundation and indicate its intended use (OSURA Fund #605420) in the lower left corner of the check. Then mail it to:

OSU Foundation
1480 West Lane Avenue
Columbus, OH 43221-3939

OSURA CARES

Let the Friendship Committee know when you learn that an OSU retiree is ill, has died, or is in need of assistance. They will follow up as appropriate.

Calendar

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

- 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 12..... Executive Board Meeting, Longaberger Alumni House, 2200 Olentangy River Road, 9:00 a.m.
- Dec 13..... Holiday Buffet, Antrim Park Shelter House, 5800 Olentangy River Road, 11:00 a.m. – REGISTRATION REQUESTED
- Dec 13..... Bridge Group, Friendship Village, Dublin, 1:00 p.m.
- Dec 14..... Photo Society, 5:15 p.m., cocktails; 6:00 p.m., dinner; 7:00 p.m., program at the Faculty Club
- Dec 20..... Book Club, 1:30 p.m., Carriage Hill Party House, Lafayette Drive, Upper Arlington
- Jan 10..... Edgar Degas, The Last Landscapes, Columbus Museum of Art, depart 9:30 a.m. from Fawcett Center – REGISTRATION REQUIRED
- Jan 26..... Income Tax Seminar, Fawcett Center, 1:30 p.m.
- Feb 9..... *Rendezvous at the Riffe*, BalletMet Senior 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 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
- Apr 3..... Andrew Wyeth and Spring in Cincinnati, leave from Fawcett Center, 7:30 a.m. – 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.

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 December**.
- **Tertulia Breakfast** will not be held.

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.

OSURA News

WELCOME NEW RETIREES

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

Martha L. **Anderson**, Accounting and Management Information Systems * Melvon L. **Ankeny**, University Libraries * Michael S. **Beattie**, Neuroscience * Anne L. **Bower**, Marion Campus * Richard N. **Boyd**, Physics * Jacqueline C. **Bresnahan**, Neuroscience * Sharron A. **Coplin**, Human Nutrition * Martha I. **Cull**, Food Services * Charles R. **Curtis**, Plant Pathology * David H. **Elliot**, Earth Sciences * Eugene **Ely**, University Hospitals * Robert S. **Everitt**, University Development * Raymond F. **Fetters**, Harding Hospital * James R. **Finley**, Facilities Operations and Development * Ricky D. **Gildow**, Engineering * Leslie A. **Godby**, University Hospitals * Danold W. **Golightly**, Civil and Environmental Engineering and Geodetic Science * Elva R. **Griffith**, University Libraries * Julie B. **Hall**, Information Technology * Ninel **Kushner**, University Hospitals East * David E. **Maynard**, Facilities Operations and Development * Betty J. **Moran**, Education * Marianne S. **Murphree**, Ophthalmology * Michael J. **Parsons**, Art Education * Paulette D. **Pierce**, Africian-American and African Studies * Jeannine C. **Roediger**, Extension * Russ **Rogers**, Athletics * Nancy D. **Schucker**, Veterinary Hospital * Charles S. **Selvanayagam**, Pathology * Mark E. **Springer**, Allied Medical Professions * R. V. **Steffel**, Marion Campus * Margaret J. **Steffel**, Marion Campus * Deanna L. **Tribe**, Extension * Deborah **Weinandy**, University Hospitals * Donna J. **Wolf**, 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.

IN MEMORIAM

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

BELKNAP, David J., September 17, Athletics, age 40
CHAMBERS, Ellis O., November 14, OSURA, age 84
CURRY, Elsie, October 24, Hospitals-Nursing, age 86
FENTON, Alice E., September 2, OSURA, age 72
HANG, Richard I., October 2,
Engineering & Computer Science, age 84
HAHN, Thelma McNabb, September 28, age 98
HODAPP, June, October 1, age 81
LONG, Terry L., September 24,
Newark Campus-Humanities, age 70
MEYER, Betty Jane, October 25, Libraries, age 88
SMITH, Frances H., October 13,
Veterinary Medicine, age 96
STAUCH, Donna D., November 5,
Hospitals-Nursing, age 75
THOMAS, Betty J., October 15,
Psychiatric Nursing, age 83
TROYAN, Margaret C., October 11,
Allied Medicine and OSURA, age 75

When you know of the death of an OSU retiree or employee or spouse of an OSU retiree/employee, please contact the OSURA office – 614-292-2916.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

(Continued from Page 1)

fund returned 8 percent and totaled \$11.8 billion. Overall, the System achieved a 9.3 percent return on investments during 2005, easily surpassing its actuarial target rate of 8 percent. In the past 10 years, net assets grew annually except for drops from 2000 through 2002 when the stock market suffered a serious setback. By the end of 2003 with careful management, the fund had recovered, surpassing all previous highs. It has had positive returns for the past three consecutive years (25.3 percent in 2003, 12.5 percent in 2004, and 9.0 percent in 2005). The fund has one of the best solvency rates in the country with 88 cents of every one dollar owed in benefits covered. OPERS distributes \$3.7 billion annually in pension and health benefits to almost 152,000 retirees.

OPERS members on the Traditional Pension plan have a retirement account with one of the best pension systems in the country and can be assured that their contributions are invested wisely. The next time you receive an OPERS ballot to vote for your retiree representative to the Board, study each candidate carefully and VOTE.

Our thanks to Fern Hunt who attends OPERS Board meetings and monitors the System's activities on behalf of OSURA members.

-- Virginia N. Gordon, President

Coping with Change IX

HERBS AND DIETARY SUPPLEMENTS: DO THEY REALLY WORK?

Bella H. Mahta, Pharm.D., R.PH. Clinical Assistant Professor, OSU College of Pharmacy

One of the most important messages pointed out was that before you purchase any herbal medicine or supplement over the counter you must check with both your personal physician and your pharmacist on the interaction with drugs that you are taking. Also you should find a reputable manufacturer and one regulated by the FDA. Three approved manufacturers are: NSF, USP, and CL.

Today 54-62 percent of people currently use natural medicines. Four billion dollars is spent annually on herbs/supplements, but it was noted that insurance does not pay. Of the top 15 herbs most used today Ginseng, Gingko Biloba, Garlic, Glucosamine, St. John's Wart, and Fish Oils were discussed.

Not all ginseng is the same. Panax ginseng and American ginseng can be used to lower fasting blood glucose. Adverse effects were discussed. Do not take ginseng if you are on blood thinners, taking diabetes medicines, or are on antidepressant agents. Ginseng biloba is used for dementia, claudication, and improvement in memory. It can delay, but not prevent, dementia. Gingo seeds are preferred over leaf extract.

Garlic is used for high blood pressure, high cholesterol, various cancers and treating foot fungus. The active ingredient in garlic is allilin. As with other supplements there are adverse effects against blood thinners. Breath and body odor are two common adverse effects.

Glucosamine is the most prescribed herbal supplement and Glucosamine Sulfate it the most beneficial type. If you have a reaction to shellfish, check with your doctor first.

St. John's Wart is used more often than Prozac for treatment of depression and anxiety. When using this supplement one should stay out of the sun. Interactions can be severe.

Fish Oils (Omega 3 fatty acids) are used to treat high triglycerides, obesity, asthma, and some cancers They are not without their adverse effects such as fish aftertaste, diarrhea, belching. If people are on blood thinners or blood pressure medications, etc. they should not take this supplement.

Somebody asked if cinnamon could be used to lower blood sugar? Two capsules/day of Cassia cinnamon is best. Another question, is 81 mg aspirin was considered a blood thinner? No, it must be over 325 mg.

-- Gwyenna Lifer, Recorder

SAFE DRIVING FOR SENIORS

Denis Driscoll, State Coordinator, AARP Driver Safety Program

Mr. Driscoll gave a quick overview of the material that is normally presented in an eight-hour AARP course. For information concerning the many times and places of offerings of this course, call Evelyn Cooperider, 614-839-0280. The course has a \$10 fee.

Although we older drivers are much less likely to speed, drive recklessly or under the influence of alcohol, or forget to use our seat belts, we are more likely to have physical disabilities resulting in longer reaction times, vision problems, or hearing problems. Prescription and over-the-counter drugs can affect our driving ability. Education can minimize the hazards to our health and safety -- and to that of others -- caused by these age-related problems. It can also help to change bad driving habits developed over the years and to bring us up to date on developments in automobiles, roads, and traffic laws since we were taught to drive.

Some older drivers take simple steps such as minimizing driving at night, on interstate highways, during bad weather, or during rush hour. In addition, common sense practices can be learned. For example, keep three seconds of travel time between your car and the car ahead of you. On a multi-lane highway, avoid driving immediately adjacent to another vehicle for extended periods of time and, in general, keep as much free space around your car as possible. Avoid distractions such as the use of a cell phone, eating and drinking, changing CDs.

Eventually, some older persons will have to stop driving when they become dangerous to themselves or to others. The American Automobile Association (AAA) offers a CD-ROM, "Roadwise Review: A Tool to Help Seniors Drive Safely Longer," which helps evaluate drivers in eight different areas by assessing physical and mental functional abilities. AARP offers a booklet, "We Need to Talk," for those who need to discuss these matters with an older driver. The decision as to whether to continue to drive or not should be based on mental and physical abilities, not on chronological age.

-- Tom Sweeney, Recorder

Coping with Change IX

RELAXATION AND MEDITATION THROUGH YOGA

Robbin Blackburn, Certified Yoga Instructor

Instructor Robbin Blackburn had relaxing music playing as we entered the room. After a brief introduction she had us on our mats doing relaxation exercises. By focusing on relaxing each body part as she named them, we were increasingly able to relax.

Her verbal guidance and the relaxing music led us through a series of stretching exercises before we started actual yoga postures. Robbin clearly identified that beginning any of the postures at an elementary level is necessary to avoid straining muscles. She demonstrated beginning and more advanced yoga postures.

Participants felt more centered, and became relaxed from the session. She provided a list of classes she is currently teaching at three Columbus locations.

-- Ruth Conone, Recorder

FUNERAL PRE-PLANNING: WHAT SHOULD YOU KNOW?

Stephen Gehlert, Executive Director, Ohio Funeral Directors Association

There are two phases of funeral pre-planning: "pre-arrangement" refers to selecting desired products and services, while "pre-funding" means paying for the selected products and services in advance. There is no charge for pre-arranging with a specific funeral director to get one's wishes detailed on paper.

Any funeral home in Ohio must provide a general price list (GPL) and may not sell a funeral more costly than its current GPL. If desired, the pre-arranged funeral can be prepaid through a purchased or assigned insurance policy (state insurance laws apply) or by cash payment. By Ohio law, the funeral director must put 100 percent of the payment into a trust with a financial institution. Consumers need to thoroughly discuss the pre-payment contract provisions with a specific funeral director including how and where their payment is invested, security of the funds, transferability to a funeral home in another town and/or state, whether revocable (irrevocable contract doesn't count as asset for Medicaid), guarantee of equal products should selected items be unavailable, and what happens if funeral home goes out of business or decides to change the trust in which funds are deposited. Consumer information is available from the Ohio Funeral Directors Association at www.OFDAonline.org.

-- Carolyn McKinney, Recorder

AT-HOME CARE – WHAT ASSISTANCE IS AVAILABLE?

Toni T. Dodge, Director of Health at Home, Life Care Alliance

Ms. Dodge made an effective presentation on the topic as described in the program. She has been with Life Care Alliance for ten years and also heads up Meals on Wheels.

The core programs include L.C.A. (Life Care Alliance) in the Home; L.C.A. in the Community, and the newest area, In the Home and Community. With each new area a purpose statement was given followed by identifying services provided; e.g., Help at Home includes homemaker services (light housekeeping, taking out the trash, changing bed sheets, etc.); Home Health Aide Services includes assistance with activities of daily living (bathing, shaving, skin care, etc.) and Falls Assessment, which is self-explanatory. Additional services include home repairs (\$1,000 limit), free cell phones, Meals on Wheels. Demographics were available in each major topic, e.g., 91 percent of clients are at least 60 years of age; 82.5 percent are female; 31 percent, African American; 65 percent, Caucasian. Therefore, a typical client would be: Caucasian female over age 70 with annual household income less than \$20,000.

Other major areas included were Meals on Wheels, Visiting Nurse Association, Achieving a Higher Level of "Successful Aging"; Community Wellness Center; Columbus Cancer Center; Project Open Hand (nourishing those with HIV/AIDS).

A variety of funding is utilized for these programs – from United Way (one million dollars a year) to grant funding, individual gifts, and Franklin County Senior Options, to name a few.

There is no flat fee, but there is a walk-in service and a sliding scale for some services. No person is turned away. This is a "not-for-profit" organization. Ms. Dodge can be reached at 614-437-2857 for further information. We are fortunate to have such services available in the Franklin County area.

-- Isabel Miller, Recorder

INTEGRATIVE MEDICINE ON WEB SITE

Dr. Glen Aukerman's Coping with Change IX presentation on integrative medicine is posted on the OSURA web site (hr.osu.edu/osura). Microsoft Power Point is required to review the presentation. Please note that you may have problems viewing the file if you have an older computer.

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.

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.

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

Challenge Level 1

Wrap a treasure from your attic and bring it to the party for a White Elephant Gift Exchange. 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 to 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 Subcommittee*)

DECEMBER 13 (WEDNESDAY)

BRIDGE GROUP

This group needs new members! At the present time there are three or four tables per month. 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. 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*)

DECEMBER 14 (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*)

DECEMBER 20 (WEDNESDAY)**BOOK CLUB**

Challenge Level 1

This month's book is a mystery moving from Japan to California in an entertaining way. It should provoke a lively discussion. Title: *The Flower Master* by Sujata Massey. As always: MEETINGS ARE ENTIRELY NONTHREATENING AND ARE JUST FUN, FOOD, AND BOOK GOSSIP.

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*)

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. See Page 2.

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 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*)

APRIL 3 (TUESDAY) *

ANDREW WYETH AND SPRING IN CINCINNATI

Visit the Argosy Riverboat followed by a splendid buffet luncheon in Lawrenceburg, Indiana. Return to Cincinnati for a tour of the Spring Flower Show at the KROHN Conservatory, then to the CINCINNATI ART MUSEUM with their exhibit of Andrew Wyeth watercolors and drawings (docent-led). Selections from the Marynuma Art Park Collection and Japan (more than 100 pieces by the artist) and its permanent collection of art in the Cincinnati Wing. On the way home, stop at Jungle Jim's International Market – four plus acres of holiday grocery/wines and more shopping.

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 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

Mary Stuart is Friedrich Schiller's thrilling account of the extra-ordinary relationship between England's Elizabeth I and Mary, Queen of Scots. While Mary is held captive awaiting news of her trial for treason, Elizabeth is in turmoil considering the correct course of action for her and her country. 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*)

OSU PROGRAMS

- Faculty and Guest Recital Series: Caroline Hong, piano, and Charles Wetherbee, violin, Monday, December 4, 8:00 p.m., Weigel Auditorium, 1866 College Road. Hong and Wetherbee opened the complete cycle of Beethoven's Piano and Violin Sonatas in September. Tickets at the door or call 614-292-0789.
- Jewish Music East and West Series: Phillip Silver, piano, Thursday, January 25, 8:00 p.m., Weigel Auditorium. Thwarted Voices: music by composers driven into exile or killed by the Nazis. Phillip Silver's recital will include music by Eric Zeisl, Friedrich Hollaender, Gideon Klein, Paul Ben-Haim and Viktor Ullmann. Call 614-292-0789.
- OSU Contemporary Music Festival: Chamber Music of Gunther Schuller, Wednesday, January 31, Weigel Auditorium. Program will include Ohio River Reflections, Paradigm Exchanges, Quartet for Double Basses, Fourth String Quartet performed by OSU School of Music faculty, members of the Columbus Symphony Orchestra, and the Carpe Diem String Quartet. Call 614-292-0789 weekdays 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. or tickets available at the door.
- 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. It will remain 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 Art of Hope and Healing" exhibit in LeFevre Hall, Ohio State Newark, through December 15.
- International Scholar Research Exposition, Bricker Hall, through December 29 (except for University holidays). The exposition will showcase some of the world-class research being undertaken by a few of the almost 900 international visiting scholars currently at Ohio State.

UNIVERSITY NEWS

(From *OSU Today*)

An international executive search firm has been selected to help recruit the 14th president of Ohio State. Heidrick & Struggles was unanimously selected by the 24-member Presidential Search Committee based on committee interviews evaluating firms on criteria including recent success in hiring university presidents, national reputation for excellence, and experienced leaders on staff.

Ohio State's Board of Trustees approved the appointment of Richard Hollingsworth as vice president for student affairs for a term ending in December 2007.

Benefits

FROM THE BENEFITS COMMITTEE MEETING – November 7, 2006

The Staff Compensation and Benefits Committee (SCBC) has started preparing its 2006-2007 report to the University president. Long-Term Care (LTC) will be prominent among those items planned. The staff e-mail benefit is still pending.

At the Faculty Compensation and Benefits Committee (FCBC) meeting discussion included how to increase its impact on the University's fiscal policies and outcomes, with regard to: (a) its Annual Report to the Senate, (b) use of the 9 bench-mark institutional comparisons, (c) the University's decentralized budgeting vs. the more traditional centralized model, (d) the current balance between compensation vs. benefits, and (e) opinions/options for the future (*e.g.*, "phased retirement" . . .)

Two changes have been made to the Board of the State Teachers Retirement System of Ohio: the appointment of Thomas W. Johnson by the Governor and the departure of Geoffrey Meyers. Aetna is phasing out its Long-Term Care (LTC) Insurance. There are 1,112 employers presently contributing to STRS-OH. Enhanced preventive services are now being offered in the basic health care plan. STRS-OH has had a net actuarial gain - \$958 million, resulting in improvements in the system's funding period (now 47.2 vs. 55.5 years last July 1) and funding ratio (now 76.1 vs. 74 percent last year).

The Ohio Retired Teachers Association (ORTA) has planned a Legislative Day at the Statehouse on April 24, 2007. Ray Troxtell is the new president-elect.

Federal legislation: *Social Security* - (a) Early signals for a 3.3 percent increase in benefits checks for 2007; (b) The GPO/WEP Discharge Petition: A "futile" outcome; (c) A court challenge (in Illinois) to repeal the GPO/WEP was appraised as insufficient to show that the act was "irrational"; and *Health Care Savings Accounts* - A bill seeks to raise the caps to \$2,700 for an individual and to \$5,450 for a family.