

OSURA News



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

February 2022

2200 Olentangy River Road, Columbus, Ohio 43210
614-292-2281 • 1-800-762-5646 • osura@osu.edu • osura.osu.edu

Activities, Bargains, Community Service *University Women's Club*

By Nancy Wardwell

The University Women's Club has provided friendship, educational, cultural, and social activities for its members for 127 years! It supports scholarships for OSU students and provides service opportunity and support to the University and the Greater Columbus community. Funds for its many activities come from the famous Buckeye Bargains Thrift Shop (opened in 1966), from member contributions, and from other sponsored fundraisers.

The University Women's Club was founded in 1895 by Flavia Canfield, wife of the fourth president of Ohio State, James Canfield. The founding was set in an interesting period that saw the beginnings of the suffrage movement – and the establishment of many organizations for women – the result of an international effort to organize clubs for women. Flavia organized at least 26 such clubs in Columbus alone! She began with 60 women, the wives of the all-male OSU faculty, and named the group “The Women's Faculty Club.” The women were inspired to advocate for their own advancement – and for the betterment of the community. In 1896 the officers signed a petition against expectorating on Columbus streetcars. They took their concerns to Ohio's Board of Health, ultimately leading to the prohibition of the “injurious habit.” (The streetcars are gone but, sadly, the “habit” seems to have returned!)

For decades, membership was limited to faculty wives. Women's lives and roles have shifted and these days even University affiliation is not a requirement but many still have relationships with OSU. The UWC embraces a policy of inclusivity, welcoming all interested women.



Buckeye Bargains New Location

53 West 11th Avenue
Wednesdays, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

You can visit on Facebook

In addition to its service, scholarship, and fundraising mission the UWC sponsors 24 interest groups, ranging from Active Adventurers and Art to Wine Tasting and Yarn & Stitches. Yes, there is also Bridge, Music, and much more.

AND - they are not alone. In Europe and U.S. many universities have women's clubs and there are reciprocal agreements among them. Closer to home, in the Big Ten, almost every university has an active women's club – and a biennial conference is held – and of course, members from OSU Women's Club participate.

The University Women's Club may have its roots in a much different time, but it has grown with time and has changed with the needs of women. It continues to attract vital women who serve our University – and the greater community.

This article raised a number topics for further research. The UWC has a very thorough history online. It is filled with a who's who in the university community for 127 years. The Progressive Era saw the growth of social, educational, and fraternal organizations. Look online with your computer or tablet.

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OSURA Endowment Fund

Number – 605419

OSURA Fund to Combat Student

Food Insecurity – 316596

osura.osu.edu

FROM: The President



Gemma McLuckie

Hello,

February is the sweetest month. Valentine's Day gifts, whether from a beau or treats you've bought yourself, can give you a lift. Not to mention the fun of various February "2s" such as 2-2-22 or 2-22-22.

There's love everywhere you look. A classic romance is *Giselle*. The Cultural Arts bunch will shed a tear as the young Giselle is rejected by the deceitful nobleman Albrecht. But never fret, Giselle gets her own back in Act III! Register by February 3 to get tickets to the February 11 show (details in the Calendar).

Need to get your blood moving? Try the Dinner Series on February 24, when Herb Asher will give an update on the political landscape. Herb gives a wry view of the foibles of both parties. He'll share updates on the battle to select a new Senator, draw a new campaign map, and who knows what. Registration is open for the Faculty Club event.

Don't forget that mid-winter can be very tough for some of us. One friend cursed February. She hated it as a gloomy, dreary stretch that she had to live through. She hibernated with a lamp that mimicked the sun. It was the first time I had come across seasonal affective disorder (SAD).

Whether you're suffering from SAD, feeling winter blues, or grumbling about another swing in the weather, reach out to friends. Check the online Directory for ways to contact them. If you have not updated your own listing this would be the time! Helpful documents from OSURA.osu.edu/Directory will walk you through it.

Remember, we'll see the world come alive in the next few weeks. Birds back, snowdrops peeking, trees budding. I wish you well until then.

Gemma McLuckie

President of OSURA



Welcome New Retirees

Denise Ruth Allman

Arts and Sciences
Administration

Keith Andre Davis

Facilities Operations and
Development

Kristy Elaine Harner

University Hospital East

Jennifer A. Hess

Education and Human Ecology

Theresa Maria Sauner

James Cancer Hospital

Debra Jean Wells

University Hospital

BuckeyeBar

Our electronic
devices are
fabulous tools –
that can also make
us feel like frustrated fools!



Have you used the BuckeyeBar? It is located on the Neil Avenue level of Thompson Library. It offers one-on-one tech consultation and problems for faculty, students, and staff.

It is available to retirees, too. Get more information at the BuckeyeBar website or by calling **614-688-4357 (HELP)**.

OSURA 25th Annual Fall Conference

Wednesday, September 21, 2022 • Fawcett Event Center

Firm Friendship



The Conference Planning Committee has begun the thoughtful planning for this year's conference. Potential topics and speakers gathered from many sources are being finalized and will have an advocate from the committee. So plan on another outstanding conference...with you in attendance.

Calendar of Events

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

February 1 (Tuesday) – Virtual Benefits Committee

Time: 9:30 a.m.

February 8 (Tuesday) – Virtual Board Meeting

Time: 9:30 a.m.

February 24 (Thursday) – Virtual Membership Committee

Time: 10 – 12 p.m.

MONTHLY ACTIVITIES

February 10 (Thursday) Photo Society

Program: Annual Photographic Society Awards

Time/Place: 5:30 p.m. dinner; 7 p.m. program; OSU Faculty Club. You MUST make reservations for dinner by calling 614-292-2262 by February 7.

Cost: on your own

Arranger: Nancy Verber (nwverber@gmail.com – Photographic Society SIG)

February 19 (Saturday) Walking/Hiking Group

Challenge Level 2-4

Everyone welcome. Join us to walk on the trails through Inniswood Metro Gardens, 940 South Hempstead Road, Westerville.

Time/Place: 11 a.m. – at the parking lot

Arranger: Hallan Noltmier (noltmier.2

@osu.edu – Walking/Hiking SIG)

February 24 (Thursday) Dinner Series

Herbert Asher, Professor Emeritus at OSU, will speak on current legislative politics, and the politics and government of Ohio.

Time/Place: 5:15 p.m. reception, 6 p.m. dinner, 7 p.m. lecture; OSU Faculty Club

Cost: \$35 (service charge included)

Registration Deadline: Register at osura.osu.edu or call 614-292-2281 by February 21.

Arranger: Carol Newcomb (newcomb.28@osu.edu – Dinner Series SIG)

Book Club

In lieu of an in-person meeting, a *You Are There* play will explore *The Splendid and the Vile* by Erik Larson. It portrays Churchill's bold, courageous, and inspiring leadership, the role of family, and the British defiance during the Blitz when Britain stood alone and seemingly on the brink of defeat by Nazi Germany.

Arranger: Lee Hill (hill.30@osu.edu – Book Club SIG)

SPECIAL EVENTS

February 11 (Friday) BalletMet – Giselle

Challenge Level 2
REGISTRATION REQUIRED

Witness a love story that has captivated hearts for centuries. This timeless ballet features classical elements as it tells the haunting tale of a peasant girl's quest for love. Edward Liang's *Giselle* reimagines and reinvigorates this beloved work.

Time/Place: Box office opens at 9:30 a.m. Seating is general, so plan to arrive early for best seats. Performance begins at 11 a.m., Davidson Theater, 77 S. High St. **PLEASE NOTE:** CAPA policy: "Ticket holders 12 years of age and older will be required to provide proof of vaccination or a negative COVID-19 test along with a valid ID before attending a performance."

Cost: \$22.50 (admission ticket) plus \$2 surcharge

Registration/Refund Deadline: Register at osura.alumni.osu.edu or call 614-292-2281 by February 3. Credit card preferred. Tickets will be held at Will Call.

Arranger: Marilyn Blackwell (blackwell.4@osu.edu – Cultural Arts Committee)

UPCOMING EVENTS

Look for more information in future newsletters.

March 24 (Thursday)

Dinner Series – David B. Williams Professor of Materials Science and Engineering

April 8 (Friday)

BalletMet – *Cinderella*

September 21 (Wednesday)

OSURA Annual Conference



Registration Instructions

1. Registrations requiring payment:

Registrations can be made by going on-line to osura.osu.edu or by calling **614-292-2281** or **1-800-762-5646**.

Your registration is not complete until payment is made, so have your credit card ready. Checks are no longer being accepted.

2. Registrations NOT requiring payment:

Registrations will be made through the Arranger's email provided in the description of the event.

CHALLENGE LEVELS

- 1 Light** – may include a few stairs.
- 2 Moderate** – may include a few sets of stairs.
- 3 Moderate +** – may include climbing many stairs and/or uneven terrain.
- 4 High** – may include lots of walking, climbing stairs, hilly walkways and/or extended weather exposure.





OSURA Spotlight

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT:

Gail and Steve Summerhill

We were born and raised, as Mike Myers says with his usual irony, in “the Great White North,” Gail in Montreal and Steve in Toronto. We met in Toronto, were married after undergraduate studies, and moved to the United States to begin graduate studies in Spanish Literature at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. A Ph.D. followed, and Steve started teaching at Purdue. After a couple of years, we came to Ohio State where we stayed for a very long time: 38 years! Gail got her B.A. in Latin American Studies in 1985 and worked for the OSU commemorative program of the Quincentenary of the “Discovery” (really the invasion) of America celebrated in 1992. She later became Assistant to the Chair in the Department of History and worked happily at the University for 24 years.

Steve, too, was happy at Ohio State. Indeed, he still says that because he loved teaching so much, he never worked a day in his life. Over the years, besides his teaching and research, he served in several administrative positions. He was Assistant Dean of Humanities, a member of the Midwest Universities Consortium for International Activities (MUCIA), and Assistant Vice Provost for International Affairs. Later, in the early 1990s, he became chair of the Department of Spanish and Portuguese, and subsequently served a year as Interim Chair of the Department of Slavic and East European Languages and Cultures. Although he is proud of his contributions to all these areas, he is especially proud of promoting and achieving greater student participation in study-abroad programs while at the Office of International Affairs. Study abroad exposes students to the challenge and pleasure of living in a foreign country while expanding their linguistic horizon. The maturity that inevitably comes from immersing oneself in a foreign culture helps us reach our best potential.

Steve and Gail have three children, all of whom graduated from Ohio State. The oldest, Laura Deeter, is a Professor of Horticulture at Ohio State ATI in Wooster, Ohio. She and Steve may be the only father-daughter pair to win the Alumni Distinguished Teaching Award at Ohio State. Our son, Mike, is a successful attorney in Chicago and our youngest, Katie Smith, lives on a boat with her husband Ben, also an OSU alum.



Steve and Gail Summerhill

They moved to St. Augustine several years ago to keep an eye on “the old geezers.”

We retired from Ohio State in 2011 and moved to St. Augustine, Florida in 2014. We admit that we were most attracted to the Spanish heritage of the city even though Florida became part of the U.S. 200 years ago and the city is now a thoroughly American tourist attraction. But certain monuments and other signs of Spain are indelibly stamped onto the city, including two extraordinary stone forts that defended against periodic British attacks on Spanish Florida. Also, the original Spanish town plan dominates the downtown, with long narrow streets that are 450 years old and made invasion difficult. We also have a beautiful main square with

the local cathedral on one side and the government building on another. The main square boasts a large obelisk built to commemorate the Spanish constitution of 1812, which was the most liberal of Spanish history until banned by the king when he usurped power a year or two later. He demanded that all obelisks be destroyed throughout the empire, but the city refused and ours is now said to be the only one left.

After retirement in Columbus, Gail volunteered at the Worthington Food Pantry. Since moving to St. Augustine, we both volunteer at the Research Library of the St. Augustine Historical Society. Gail digitizes old post cards of St. Augustine, and Steve translates Spanish documents from the early history of the city. Steve says that more than the language, the handwriting is the most difficult part of the task. Additionally, in 2019 Gail and her then twelve-year-old granddaughter, Abby Summerhill, published Ducklings on the Run, a sweet little children’s book based on a real story that happened to the two of them. It also has wonderful illustrations by the daughter of a Columbus friend of Gail. In 2020, Steve and a close Cuban friend, Reynaldo Jiménez, published an excellent Spanish version with the title Patitos al Escape.

The OSURA Newsletter is always a welcome arrival in the mail and keeps us informed about events and situations on and off campus. In the early days of retirement, we loved to travel and did so quite a bit. The pandemic put a lid on that, but we hope to resume our travels once the health risks return to normal. In the meantime, we would love to hear from fellow Buckeyes and offer them a little introductory tour of America’s oldest European city. It has great charm and many interesting sites to see.



FROM: The Benefits Committee

STRS News

By Jerry Newsom

In late December the *Dispatch* had another article on the proposed change in how STRS does its investments. A new company called QED Management would partner with STRS in a complex process, with details lacking. In the *Dispatch* article, the founder of QED accused STRS staff of misdeeds and a cover-up, although any evidence was not presented. Healthcare and Pension Advocates for STRS (HPA), with representatives of different constituencies of Ohio public teachers, met with two proponents of the proposed partnership to hear a few more details. Many questions remained unanswered, plus HPA members lack the expertise to evaluate such complex financial transactions anyway, so as expected it declined to endorse the proposal. Several OSURA members have expressed their concern that the proposal threatens the viability of STRS, but considering that a sizable majority of the Board is on record against it and both staff and consultants oppose it, its chances of being adopted appear negligible.

With the strong investment returns STRS has had recently, the STRS Board obviously feels their financial situation is such that they can responsibly provide some relief to both active teachers and retirees. Although a final decision is unlikely to happen until spring, the options presently under consideration mostly involve a 2% one-time increase in STRS pensions. Short of a downturn in the economy in the next few months, we are likely to see such an increase, even if it is significantly less than the rate of inflation.

A final note for participants in a defined contribution (DC) retirement plan (such as the ARP): the contribution that employers make to STRS for these participants (the “mitigating rate”) should drop from 4.47% of salary to 2.91%. This will cost STRS about \$13 million annually (tiny compared to the \$7 billion STRS pays in pensions each year) and will likely increase the amount that goes into the DC plan of active participating teachers.

OPERS News

By Darian Torrance

The OPERS Board did not meet in December, 2021. However, OPERS has sent several PERSpective blogs to members during this time on Facebook and through the OPERS website. Members can subscribe to PERSpective blog messages by going to this web link: <https://perspective.opers.org/index.php/category/ohio-pers/>.

Benefit Schedule Set for 2022

This blog details the benefit schedule for 2022. Payments will usually be made on the first business day of each month, unless that day is a weekend day or holiday. Then, the payment will be sent on the last business day of the previous month. The only exception to this rule is in January, when the payment is issued on the first business day of the month (January 3). The complete schedule for 2022 is available at this link: <https://perspective.opers.org/index.php/2021/12/28/benefit-schedule-set-for-2022/>.

Enrollment, Health Reimbursement Arrangement Issues

For answers about open enrollment, HRA reimbursement, and other health care questions, see this link: <https://perspective.opers.org/index.php/2021/12/07/answers-to-health-care-2022-questions-7/>. The comments section to the blog (at the bottom of the blog) is particularly enlightening. Answers to members' questions in this section provide additional details about the health care enrollment process.

OPERS Rates Highly Among Peers

CEM Benchmarking reports that OPERS is considered a low-to-medium-cost pension administrator with high service levels. Read more about this at: <https://perspective.opers.org/index.php/2022/01/11/opers-rates-highly-among-peers/>.

OPERS also has a Facebook page that members can join (<https://www.facebook.com/OhioPERS>). A review of the comments on this page shows that many pre-Medicare retirees have had a less than satisfactory experience working through the transition from group insurance to the new HRA arrangement and finding individual insurance through Via Benefits or the Insurance Marketplace. Retirees have experienced exceptionally long wait times waiting for help from a Via Benefits representative, and some members report that they have received conflicting information from Via Benefits. Members report confusion, frustration and a lack of understanding of the complex rules surrounding HRAs to help them select the best insurance at a reasonable price.

✿ In Memoriam ✿

Robert (Bob) Eugene Cox

January 4, 2022 | OSU Extension, 81

Edward Michael Crenshaw

December 25 | Sociology, 63

John F. Dix

December 14 | Fisher College
of Business, 80

Thomas Neal Ingersoll

December 19 | History, 73

Frank Irion

December 8 | 85

Aleda Baileen Koffel

December 30 | Athletics, 91

Leavie Edgar Lee Jr.

December 17 | Medicine, 91

Patricia McEown Long

November 20 | OSU Extension, 90

Ruth Longert

December 9 | OSUMC, 83

John Parker

December 8 | Agricultural Research and
Development Center, 96

James Phillip Ross

December 12 | Bindery, 82

Stephen Strauch

December 24 | Veterinary School, 76

George Porter Wilson

December 13 | Veterinary Clinical
Sciences, 82

TO: BENEFITS COMMITTEE

By Meg Teaford

Caregiving Resources

Below is a link to a new program from the Scripps Gerontology Center at Miami University. This program, called "Our Family Our Way," is to help families organize to provide services and support to a family member. I thought that it might be helpful to those who are just starting to provide care. I think it would help prevent burnout for the primary caregiver.

Here is the link: <https://miamioh.edu/cas/academics/centers/scripps/research/ofow/index.html>.

It's that Time –

Time to think of members to nominate to be the next leaders of OSURA!

If you know of someone (yourself maybe) please let an officer know, and they will pass the name on to the Nominating Committee!



Thanks and Congratulations OSU Retirees!

The University reached its goal
of **1.3 million dollars** and generous
Retirees donated a whopping

\$83,890

to Bucks for Charity!



**The Ohio State University Retirees Assn.
Customer Service**

Longaberger Alumni House
2200 Olentangy River Road
Columbus, Ohio 43210

STUDENT FOOD INSECURITY FUND

WE MADE A PUSH IN DECEMBER to get a lot of donations to the student food insecurity fund, and the response exceeded our expectations. Since these donations are being matched, this brings us much closer to the \$100,000 needed to establish an endowment at Ohio State. December contributions of \$10,095, plus \$5,100 matching from donations in previous months, added \$15,195 to the fund. We also now have nearly \$11,000 due from the matching funds. That will bring us to within about \$12,000 of our goal. We greatly appreciate our generous donors who got us here.

Donations received as of December 31, 2021

