



A newsletter from the Ohio University Emeriti Association



December 16, 2010

MUSIC FOR THE HOLIDAYS
Richard Syracuse, Professor of Piano & Music
Scott Ewing, Baritone

(Introduced by Howard Beebe)



Our own Richard Syracuse, well-known to most of us for his beautiful music over the years, will play background music for our December luncheon and will accompany Scott Ewing, a School of Music junior, as he sings two Gershwin selections.

Syracuse earned his Bachelor and Master of Science in Music degrees at Juilliard, where he studied with the Josef Lhevinne, Frank Damrusch, and John Erskine scholarships. A Fulbright Scholarship enabled him to study further at the Cecilia Academy of Music in Rome. The winner of a number of international awards, he has toured extensively in the United States, Canada, Europe, Africa, and the Middle East as recitalist, guest soloist, and chamber musician. He has collaborated musically with such notables as Arlene Auger, Leonidis Kauakos, Eugene Fodor, Edith Peinemann, Michael Rabin, Claus Adam, Paul Draper, and Victor Borge. Many of us will recall the time that the famed violinist Eugene Fodor came to Athens for an appearance in the Performing Arts Series. After he arrived, the accompanist traveling with him became very ill. We in the audience knew nothing of it until the introductions were made that evening, when it was announced that Richard Syracuse would be accompanying Fodor. Theirs was a thrilling performance after what had to have been very little rehearsal! There wasn't a person in the audience, down to the greenest freshman just off the turnip truck, who did not realize the miracle Syracuse had effected. It was an evening to remember!

Ewing is a baritone majoring in voice. A student of Richard Crist, he is an active performer in OU's Opera Theater and the University Singers. He has been seen on stage in Opera Theater's *Scenes Recitals*, as well as Puccini's *Gianni Schicchi* and Gilbert & Sullivan's *Patience*. Last summer he performed in Ohio Valley Summer Theater's *Into the Woods*. He serves in the music ministry of the First United Methodist Church. After graduation he hopes to enter the field of performance.

Menu

Cucumber Tomato Vinaigrette
Mesclun Salad
Spinach Salad
Seared Tilapia with Artichokes, Olives & Sun-Dried Tomatoes, Olive Oil & Basil
Dijon Chicken
Wild Rice Medley
Roasted Corn & Red Peppers
Rolls & Butter
Assorted Desserts, including Fresh-Cut Fruit
Beverages

EMERITI LUNCHEON

Thursday
DECEMBER 16, 2010
11:30 AM - 1:30 PM

\$14.00



BALLROOM

RESERVATIONS must be made to attend the luncheon. You **MUST** call Ruth Nostrant at 593-5194 by Friday, **December 10**. You may pay by cash or by check made payable to OU Emeriti. You can add your name(s) to the Regular Attendees List and not have to call each month unless you cannot attend.



A Message From The President - GEORGE WECKMAN

"Happy Holidays!" Best wishes to all for a joyful and merry season!

Some people find it too "PC" to avoid "Christmas" in such greetings. They also might criticize "Xmas" although that can be understood as "chi"-mas, that is, the first letter of "Christ" in Greek plus "mass," the liturgical celebration for the day.

Like Easter, however, this festival season is much more basic to human life than its connections with the Christian story. Easter celebrates the revival of life in the Spring, with birth and reproduction symbols like eggs and rabbits (famous for their fecundity). So we approach the cold, short, gray days of late December needing reminders that life goes on through the barrenness of Winter. We bring the trees that retain their green into our homes, and decorate them and our houses with lights. We feast and give gifts to cheer up friends and family during these dark days.

Some people will link these social rites with the story of a special birth and a person who makes everything right in the world (at least eventually). Others can sing about jingling bells, sleds, and snow. Together we can enjoy this time in which people try to be nice to each other and fight the doldrums.

So, again: "Happy Holidays" and best wishes for all of you and yours in this festal season and in the new year!"

George

IS YOUR PENSION SAFE?

Eight newspapers have joined forces to investigate the state's five public pension plans (STRS, OPERS, SERS, Law, Fire) and question whether our retired public servants are living a life of "luxury" (compared to the private sector, that is.). They have suggested that there is an unfunded liability on the part of the pension systems and that it is time for public employees to move from defined benefit plan to defined contribution plans.

Why is there a problem? Basically for two reasons: the downturn in the economy in 2008 and 2009 and we, as retirees, are living longer and thus drawing a larger long-term portion of the funds available to STRS. In addition the steep rise in health costs has endangered the health care assistance fund. Indeed, the challenges to the health fund are significant enough that it may run out of money within the next decade

STRS has proposed a number of changes to the system, such as changing FAS (Final Average Salary) from three years to five years designed to improve financial stability. Only one of the proposed changes would affect you: a change in the COLA (cost of living adjustment) from the current 3% to 2%

Each of the five pension systems have proposed changes to the General Assembly but the Legislature will not take up these until next year.

So, to answer the question raised in the headline above, Yes, your pension is safe... but the health care portion is, at this time, problematic for the longer-term future.

Ed Baum

Notes from the November Emeriti Luncheon Speaker

With the heavy winds and tornado that came through our area a few weeks ago I would have thought that we had quite sufficient wind power to turn the big wind turbines efficiently. That is not quite the case here in Southeast Ohio.

Carol Womeldorf, assistant professor of mechanical engineering, brought us up to date on her research into the feasibility of tapping into wind power in our area. A member of the Wind Energy Assessment and Visualization (WEAV) group she noted that the great area of usable wind is in the Great Plains. Many people thought that the hills of southeast Ohio would not be good sources of wind power. In the U.S. the goal is have at least 20% of our energy from wind power by 2030. Can Southeast Ohio contribute?

Based on her research the answer is Yes. About 1% of our terrain (in an area covering 25 miles from Athens) is viable for wind turbines. This would provide clean renewable energy for 60,000 homes annually

Notes taken by Ed Baum

From the Editor: As you are all aware, we had trouble with the printing and distribution of our November newsletter. Many people received several newsletters sent to their address but for other people. The problem was corrected immediately and a second mailing was sent out. Two unrelated problems occurred with the production and mailing of November's Emeriti newsletter. First, Printing Resources printed the pages out of numerical order. Second, an incorrect Mail List was used to mail the printed newsletters. We are still trying to determine what happened to the November Mail List -- it was either corrupt or damaged to cause the errors. Printing Resources regrets the printing error. We are working to resolve the mailing list issue for December. Thanks for everyone's patience. Thanks, too, to everyone who took the time to call me, email me or send me misaddressed newsletters.

Some Notes From The December 1995 Emeriti Newsletter

(From Chuck Carlson)

The first December Emeriti Luncheon Meeting was held on Thursday, December 14, 1995. It was held at the Ohio University Inn. President Carlson and others were curious why there had never been a meeting held in December. There were many guesses but no definite answer. One good guess, however, was that the third Thursday of the month was too close to Christmas. So President Carlson asked if those in attendance at the November luncheon would approve meeting in December if the meeting was held the second Thursday in December rather than the third. The question was approved in the affirmative by a vote of hands. And a December meeting has been held ever since.

The December 1995 Emeriti Newsletter included *Thanks Go To Our Executive Committee*, written by Ray Skinner, Secretary. "The Ohio University Emeriti Association has become an outstanding organization due to the dedication and hard work of its officers and the rest of the Executive Committee. This is evidenced by the consistently large attendance at our monthly meetings and the high percentage of paid and life memberships. Members of our Executive Committee represent the Emeriti Association on many local, state and international projects and include the Highpointe Retirement Village Board of Trustees, the United Appeal Campaign, the Ohio Council of Higher Education Retirees, and the Emeriti Ph.D. Yucatan Project.

The Executive Committee members have been instrumental in having a New Uniform Policy of Emeritus/Emerita Status approved by the Provost so that Emeritus/Emerita Status may be granted posthumously. We have added the Emeriti Handbook and Directory to our publication of a monthly newsletter, and we hope to publish an Emeriti Speakers Bureau and an Emeriti Annual Report this year. The Emeriti Park Committee has been very active in planning an Emeriti Arboretum and Park and the University Relations Committee has initiated the President's Reception for new Emeriti members and hopes to provide Emeriti pins to all Emeriti members soon.

It is gratifying that Emeriti members are included by the President, the Vice President for University Relations and Development, and the Alumni Association in many functions at the University. Much of this recognition is due to excellent leadership of the Emeriti President."

CURRENT NEWS FROM EMERITI

A Note From VIRGINIA LACY

I really enjoy receiving the Emeriti news - I remember how active Robin was as a member of the committee working on the Emeriti Park back when it was still "something" to be, and am happy to learn that it has become such a beautiful place that everyone can enjoy.

When Rob died, I moved back to California to live with my daughter. She retired from her position with L.A. County and we moved to a beautiful Townhouse in San Diego, overlooking Mission Valley. I am so thankful to have her - my general health is great but arthritis in my back has really slowed me down and her presence and attention is most helpful. I still get around fairly well and we keep busy with friends and traveling. Grand Circle river cruises are our favorites.....this year it was Paris to Honfleur and next year will do their Russian Cruise - St. Petersburg to Moscow - with extras - Helsinki and Kiev - on each end. We also have season tickets to the Old Globe Theater and the San Diego Symphony. Both are within about a 15-minute drive from where we live. There is also a local theater that brings live showings of the Metropolitan Opera every several weeks - and we attend these with some friends — great.

I do miss Robin and all of my fine friends and acquaintances in Athens - you are always in my most favorite memories. A fond HELLO to everyone.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
5 DECEMBER	6	7	8 Emeriti Volunteer <i>Kennedy Museum</i>	9 AFAN Luncheon	10	11
12	13	14	15 Emeriti Volunteer <i>Kennedy Museum</i> OUWC <i>Christmas Luncheon</i>	16 Emeriti Board Meeting EMERITI LUNCH <i>OU Inn</i>	17	18
19	20	21	22 Emeriti Volunteer <i>Kennedy Museum</i>	24	25	26
27	28	29	30 Emeriti Volunteer <i>Kennedy Museum</i>	31	2011	1
						2 JANUARY

**UPCOMING
EMERITI LUNCHEON PROGRAMS**

January 20: Five Plays Simultaneously
Charles Smith, Professor of Theater

February 17: Heartworks and Wellworks
Tom Murray, Director of Heartworks
Kim Valentour, Director of Wellworks

March 17: The Arts & Culture Alliance
Bob Winters, Professor Emeritus of Theater

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARDS

Now is the time to start thinking of members who might deserve to receive the Emeriti Distinguished Service Award next Spring.

Nominations are to be submitted in writing to the Distinguished Service Award Committee no later than March 1. Each nomination must include a detailed description of the reasons for submission and must be co-signed by two additional emeriti.

Distinguished Service Award Committee members are Max Evans, Bob Dakin, Dru Riley Evarts and Al Leep. Nominations may go to any one of these.

ADDITION TO EMERITI BOARD
Art Woolley has agreed to be our Benefits chair.

EMERITI BOARD 2010-2011

President	George Weckman
VP/Program Chair	Dru Riley Evarts
Secretary	Anne McClanahan
Treasurer	Richard & Ruth Nostrant
Newsletter	Edie Russ
Membership	Margaret Thomas
Benefits	Art Woolley
Volunteer Services	Martha Bitters
Emeriti Park	Richard Dean
Elections	Felix Gagliano
Historian	Chuck Carlson
Website	Joe Essman
Past President	Ed Baum

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage Paid
Permit 100
Athens, OH 45701

Edie Russ
P.O. Box 159
Athens, OH 45701

