Kelly Burns has performed in opera, concert, musical theater, and recital throughout the eastern United States and Germany with repertoire spanning over 400 years. He has performed with companies such as Opera Roanoke, Chautauqua Opera, the Charleston Chamber Opera, Opera Project Columbus, Mississippi Opera, the Little Orchestra Society of New York, and the symphony orchestras of Memphis, Mississippi, Roanoke, and Tupelo, among others. Upcoming performances include *Carmina Burana* and Kurt Weill’s *Seven Deadly Sins*. Recent engagements have included performance of Mozart’s *The Abduction from the Seraglio* and Bach’s *Magnificat*. Kelly’s operatic and musical theater credits include leading and character roles such as Tamino, Ferrando, Don Ottavio, Belmonte, Pedrillo, Nemorino, Frederic, the Witch, Der Steuermann, Le théiére (Ravel’s *L’enfant et les sortiléges*), Remendado, the Beadle, and Mr. Snow. Concert credits include tenor solos in Beethoven’s Symphony No. 9, Bernstein’s *Chichester Psalms*, Mozart’s *Requiem*, *Coronation Mass*, and *Mass in C*, Handel’s *Messiah*, Adolphus Hailstork’s *I Will Lift Up Mine Eyes*, and Orff’s *Carmina Burana*.

Burns holds a BM in voice performance and an MM in voice performance and choral conducting from the University of Mississippi. He is currently completing the DMA in Voice at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. He serves on the OU voice faculty where he teaches applied voice lessons and courses in vocal pedagogy. He is married to Kyle Berkley, and has two “daughters”—his dog Bella Barktok and his cat Miss Cleo.
The holidays, especially Christmas, are almost upon us, or at least many of the TV advertisers would like us to think so. I am looking forward to the coming celebrations with mixed feelings. On one hand, there is a sameness about the holidays—putting up the same decorations, trying to decide appropriate gifts, hearing the same old recordings at the shopping centers. On the other hand, there is the prospect of beautiful performances at churches, delicious meals, and happy get-togethers with old friends and relatives.

Petrarch said, “Sameness is the mother of disgust. Variety is the cure.” I have searched for variety by recalling some of the most memorable holidays of my past. I remember vividly the thumping sound of the artificial tree being dragged downstairs by my father after my sibs and I had gone to bed on Christmas Eve. He wanted to surprise us on Christmas morning with a decorated tree and gifts. No one was surprised, but it was fun anyway.

And I remember the wonderful Christmas we spent in Sedona, Arizona, when it began to snow on the red-rock mountains. It was a splendorous sight. Even long-term residents couldn’t remember when it had snowed on Christmas.

So, I guess it is the possibility of variety that makes each new holiday special. Regardless of our beliefs, we can each seek out something that is new and different and so wipe out the effect of the sameness of the events of the season. For me, what is really special about the holidays is getting the opportunity to perform some of the wonderful music that is performed only at this time of the year in concerts and services. I realize not everyone can perform, but we all can enjoy the music as audience members. It is the music which helps me to enjoy this season, even when I have heard it before. In spite of the sameness of much of this season, I will always enjoy the music. I hope that everyone can too.  

Alan

PARKING HANGTAGS
Emeriti renewing their parking hangtags may do so this month by going into the Parking Services office.

Notes on November’s Luncheon Presentation by Jane Forrest Redfern
“The DAIRY BARN: PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE”

Built in 1914 to make the mental hospital more sustainable, the old dairy barn was rescued from demolition in 1978 by the efforts of Harriet and Ora Anderson, the Hocking Valley Arts Council, and artists from throughout the region. It was designated a cultural arts center with exhibits, presentations, and educational activities.

As it enters its second century the Dairy Barn has embarked on a "Second Century" campaign which will raise funds to expand the footprint of the barn. This will include a new multi-purpose room, expanded art classrooms, an arts trail, and a larger gift shop. The gift shop will be located in a barn donated from Meigs County attached to the Dairy Barn itself. The Dairy Barn Arts Center is working to raise $1.5 million for this enhanced arts presence in southeast Ohio. 

Ed Baum
IN MEMORIAM

David L. Hostetler passed away on November 18. Hostetler was an eminent and much-beloved sculptor, painter, printmaker and teacher whose works are featured in prominent galleries and private collections worldwide. He was 88 and lived in Athens and Nantucket, Massachusetts.

A wood carver and bronze sculptor of works capturing the female form, David was also a professor at Ohio University. His art career, spanning almost 70 years, progressed from folk images to stylized forms. His work appeared in over 25 museums and galleries, including the Boston Museum of Fine Arts, the Milwaukee Museum, and the Butler Institute of American Art in Youngstown, Ohio.

David is survived by his wife, Susan Crehan-Hostetler; his son, Jay Hostetler and his partner, Cherri Hendrick; two daughters; and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Jeanne L. Wells, 88, passed away unexpectedly on November 19, at Riverside Methodist Hospital in Columbus. Jeanne graduated from Michigan State University with a music. She married her high school sweetheart, Arvin (because he was the smartest boy in class), on Aug. 29, 1949. They moved to Athens in 1954 in order for Arvin to begin his 43-year teaching career as an English professor at Ohio University.

In lieu of a traditional career in Athens, Jeanne devoted her time and efforts volunteering at numerous meaningful organizations, charities and important causes. She gave countless hours and her energetic personality to every cause she strongly believed and participated in.

She is survived by her husband of 66 years, Arvin Wells of Athens; her daughter, Leslie, and son, Douglas; four grandchildren; her sister; and many other relatives and dear friends.

PREVIEW: The January Lunch Speaker

Brooke Hallowell, executive director of the Ohio University Collaborative on Aging and professor of Communication Sciences and Disorders.

BENEFITS UPDATE

Karen and I attended the OCHERS meeting in Columbus on Nov. 17. School representatives reported on their activities. Two things struck me. First, Ohio University is in much better shape than some other schools. Toledo faces an $11 million shortfall and Akron is in disarray. Things seem better at other schools. Second, the University of Cincinnati is pursuing two ideas that might be worth consideration at OU. First, they are exploring the creation of an Emeritus College or Emeritus Academy, where emeriti faculty make presentations open to the general public on topics of expertise. Second, they are very actively exploring the idea of a retirement community in the campus area. They are working closely with Kendall, the sponsor of highly regarded communities in Oberlin and Granville.

The news regarding STRS is relatively unpleasant. We are nearing the point where the number of retirees exceeds the number of active teachers. The retirement fund fell by $4 billion in the first quarter of this fiscal year—a negative rate of return on investment, putting the system precariously close to not meeting its obligation to be able to fully fund the system in 30 years. It increasingly looks like the System will not meet its long term goal of a 7.75 percent return on its investments this year. This could have implications for us longer term. PERS is in much better shape, but is worried about the so-called Cadillac tax on health care plans under the Affordable Care Act.

Politically, the big battle is over the so-called mitigation rate—the amount that the state contributes to STRS's defined benefit plan based on the earnings of now active employees in the alternative defined contribution system. STRS says a large subsidy is necessary to make the defined benefit system sound, while there are growing efforts to either eliminate or reduce the subsidy.

Rich Vedder

Charles Lewis Scott (Chuck), 91, died November 20, at his home in Athens. He was Professor Emeritus and co-founder of the internationally recognized School of Visual Communication within the Scripps College of Communication at Ohio University. He was recruited to Ohio University for the first time in 1969 to expand the visual education program in the School of Journalism. He earned a master’s degree in journalism in 1970 before taking a picture editor’s position at the Chicago Tribune in 1974. He returned to Ohio University in 1976 and in 1978 co-founded the Institute of Visual Communication with his son-in-law, Terry Eiler. In 1986 the institute became the stand-alone School of Visual Communication.

Chuck was preceded in death by his first spouse, Jane Turner Scott, and one brother. He is survived by his spouse, Martha McDonald; his children, Lyntha and Tom; Martha’s four children; 10 grandchildren; and another brother.

Hubert G. H. Wilhelm, 84, passed away on November 20, from complications of Parkinson’s disease. Born in lower Silesia, he emigrated to the U.S. in 1954. He graduated from the University of Illinois with a Bachelor of Science degree in Geography in 1958. He received his doctorate from Louisiana State University in 1968. Hugh joined the faculty of Ohio University’s Department of Geography and Geology in 1963 and remained at Ohio University until his retirement 35 years later. His career was marked with local and national recognition for his service, teaching, and creative endeavors, including twice receiving the “University Professor” designation.

Hugh was preceded in death by his wife, Constance, and is survived by three children, David, Diana, and Suzanne; seven grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; and a younger brother in Germany.

Jeanne graduated from Michigan State University with a music. She married her high school sweetheart, Arvin (because he was the smartest boy in class), on Aug. 29, 1949. They moved to Athens in 1954 in order for Arvin to begin his 43-year teaching career as an English professor at Ohio University.

In lieu of a traditional career in Athens, Jeanne devoted her time and efforts volunteering at numerous meaningful organizations, charities and important causes. She gave countless hours and her energetic personality to every cause she strongly believed and participated in.

She is survived by her husband of 66 years, Arvin Wells of Athens; her daughter, Leslie, and son, Douglas; four grandchildren; her sister; and many other relatives and dear friends.
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**PHOTOS OF JANE FORREST REDFERN SPEAKING ON NOVEMBER 19**