Former Washington Post ombudsman Andrew Alexander is an award-winning journalist and news-industry leader who has been a reporter, editor, and Washington bureau chief during a career that has spanned 40 years.

He has reported from more than 50 countries and won or shared prizes for distinguished Washington correspondence and investigative journalism.

As a strong open-government advocate, Alexander has written and spoken extensively about the public’s right to know. He helped to launch the Sunshine Week initiative, which each year focuses public attention on freedom of information and the dangers of governmental secrecy. For his work in this area, he has been inducted into the First Amendment Center’s National Freedom of Information Act Hall of Fame.

Before joining the Washington Post, Alexander had spent his entire career with Cox Newspapers, beginning with the Dayton Journal Herald immediately after college and advancing to its Washington bureau, where he became chief, supervising a staff of 25 and directing bureaus in London, Jerusalem, Beijing, Moscow, Mexico City, Baghdad, and the Caribbean. He has served on a number of boards furthering the interests of sound journalism.

Before his professional career in journalism began, Alexander underwent a “baptism of fire” here at Ohio University. An outstanding member of The Post’s staff throughout his college years, he was editor during the very difficult 1969-70 school year, when anti-Vietnam War demonstrations culminated in the Kent State shootings, which resulted in even more demonstrations here and at many other colleges and finally ended with our having to close in early May.

Alexander has been honored many times by his alma mater, including the Hortin Outstanding Alumnus Award of the E.W. Scripps School of Journalism, induction into the Scripps College of Communication Hall of Fame, and the Alumnus of the Year Award (2011) of Ohio University. He currently is a media consultant and the Distinguished Visiting Professional of the E.W. Scripps School of Journalism.
Our program committee, chaired by Dru Riley Evarts, deserves a lot of praise. It is not easy to line up busy people to be third Thursday lunch speakers. We had hoped to have George Voinovich speak this year, but that is not working out. President McDavis has important travel commitments that have changed the month for his annual visit with us. And on it goes as they juggle the schedule.

All of us emeriti know a thing or two about scheduling. After fairly regular duties and daily assignments during our working years, retirement brings new chaos to our lives. We travel more and not only during the summer. We want to visit with family and friends. We participate in many organizations with meetings scattered through the month. We volunteer here and there at various times. And, of course, we have doctors’ appointments. (I used to joke that people had to retire in order to make all those appointments; now I know how sadly true that can be.)

Can any of us live without a daily appointment calendar? I know that I do not have enough memory in my cranial computer to keep track of all these things. However, I am not complaining about having too much to do. These years of relative freedom from employment duties and previous responsibilities are wonderfully open to opportunities for benefitting oneself and one’s society. It just takes some planning and prioritizing.

I hope that your personal calendar has every third Thursday (except July and August) reserved for the Emeriti Association luncheons. Many of us also have some Tuesdays and Wednesdays designated for hosting at the Dairy Barn and Kennedy Museum. And we have the benefits of a university community and a vibrant city with great theater, concerts, sports, film, and lectures. Of course our calendars fill up. That’s fine, worth the work of scheduling.

Notes on the September Luncheon Presentation by Executive Vice President and Provost Dr. Pam Benoit

This is a watershed year for Ohio University. We celebrate the accomplishments of many of our academic programs as evident in several anniversaries: the 125th of the Patton College of Education, the 75th of the College of Fine Arts, the 30th of the Institute for Local Government and Rural Development and the 225th of the Northwest Territory Ordinance.

Dr. Benoit, though, still considers herself an undergraduate, this being her third year at Ohio University and her third presentation to the Emeriti Association. She is still learning and, because of the challenging budgets facing the state of Ohio, has become conservative on some financial decisions.

Nonetheless, she echoed the commitments noted by President McDavis in his address to faculty and staff earlier in September:

We will strive to recruit the next generation of faculty with distinguished records in teaching, academic scholarship, and research and creative activity.

We will invest in the development of new academic programs that are economically viable and will attract the next generation of students.

We will increase both merit-based and need-based scholarships to ensure that Ohio University remains affordable and accessible as we become more tuition-dependent.

We will expand proven student programs and services that assist students in achieving their full academic potentials.

We will increase the care and upkeep of core academic and student residential facilities.

We will expand critical system infrastructure capabilities in support of Ohio University’s academic mission and implementation of our responsibility-centered budgeting model.

We will support community-based outreach programs that align with Ohio University’s efforts to sustain healthy, attractive communities.

In doing this, we need to look at the future and be able to ask “what if” in order to provide our students with a transformational experience.

As we look to the future we note several opportunities and challenges:

The completion of the change from quarters to semesters.

Development of a responsibility-centered budget system.

Examination of the “enterprise university” concept.

Looking at a three-year degree program for some majors.

Integrating the summer session into total-year planning.

Examining different approaches to learning, as noted by the Kahn Academy.

Greater utilization of technology in all that we do as a university.

Thus, this is truly a watershed year for Ohio University.
RESEARCH PROJECT - EFFECTS OF AGING

Our November speaker, Dr. Brian Clark, executive director of the Ohio Musculoskeletal and Neurological Institute (OMNI), needs our help. He didn’t ask that this note be put in the newsletter, but it seems logical for us to help his research since he is helping us by speaking. Most of us have been involved in research projects, so we appreciate the importance of willing subjects who fit the criteria of our plans. OMNI’s present research involves the effects of aging. Participating is easy. You may have heard Fred Kight’s WOUB report on how he did it. It takes about two hours out of your life (one each for two appointments) and you get $50 for being a subject, as well as the satisfaction of having contributed to science from which you (and others) might benefit in the future. Basic requirements include: age 60+, blood pressure less than 160/120, no smoking, and a review of your present medications to ascertain none would interfere with the research. If you are interested in helping (and, incidentally, finding out things about yourself), call Rich Hoffman at 593-2233 or e-mail him at hoffman@oucom.ohiou.edu.

Dru Riley Evarts

OUAA redesigns, simplifies awards nominations

The Ohio University Alumni Association has streamlined its awards nominations process, offering an easy way to nominate deserving alumni and friends of the university. The online form has now been split into five separate forms, one for each award category. Nominators can complete the form in one sitting and will receive immediate confirmation. All nominations are due December 1 for 2012. For more information or to nominate someone, visit www.ohioalumni.org/nominations.

WHOM DO I ASK?

Questions about OU Emeriti & OU Emeriti Association

Our webpage is at http://www.ohio.edu/emeriti.

The Emeriti E-Mail Program (aka listserv)

What is a listserv? A listserv is a way for a member of an organization to send information and announcements to other members who are on the list.

How is the listserv used by the Emeriti Association? For the Emeriti Association, a few announcements are sent each month, pertaining to university news, changes to activities or special events.

How do I review the listserv information? Announcements are sent to registered members when initiated by an administrator, and kept or “archived” so they can be reread later. For example, in July 2011 the archived notices were Highlighting the Green; O.U.s News Update, Compass; the Parking fee; and Reception after Elms.

How do I join (aka subscribe)? For more information about the listserv and to subscribe (or to unsubscribe) go to: http://listserv.ohio.edu/mailman/listinfo/EmeritiAssoc

If you have a question, contact Ed Baum (593-8675 or baum@ohio.edu).

Other questions? Please send to thomasm@ohio.edu to add to our next article.

FOUND AT SEPTEMBER LUNCHEON

Green umbrella

If it’s yours, call Ruth Nostrant, 593-5194.

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OCTOBER

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31 NOVEMBER
UPCOMING EMERITI LUNCHEON PROGRAMS

November 17: Sarcopenia ≠ Dynapeia
Brian Clark, PhD, Executive Director,
Ohio Musculoskeletal & Neurological Institute

December 16: Music for the Soul
Yvonne Crist, Soprano & Harolyn Brient, Piano

THE NUTCRACKER
December 11, 2011
Join us for a matinee of this Christmas Holiday tradition, presented by Columbus Ballet Met. Beautiful costumes, the delightful music of Tchaikovsky and amazing dancers will be a treat for your eyes and ears.

Itinerary
Leave OUCU E. State St. Office at 11:00. Stop for a rest. Arrive at OHIO Theatre at 1:30. Show begins at 2:00. Board bus for Home Town Buffet at 4:00. Arrive back home at 8:00.
COST $89
Covers transportation, show & supper.
Rest stop on your own.

We need 25 ballet lovers by November 9.
Call Bill Coffley, 597-2845.

EMERITI VOLUNTEERS
Thanks to past and first-time volunteers, we have a nearly full schedule of emeriti to cover the welcome/admission desks at the Kennedy Museum and the Dairy Barn. There are still a few slots open for the Dairy Barn (10/18,10/25,11/8, and 11/15). Please phone Alan Boyd at 592-5433 if you are interested in helping with this worthwhile volunteer activity.