Ohio University’s newest distinguished professor will be our guest speaker at the January Emeriti lunch. Charles Smith is the most productive playwright we have had in OU’s history. During the current theater season, in fact, he has had five plays being performed simultaneously around the country.

Head of the Professional Playwriting program in our School of Theater, Smith has built a national reputation. He is a member of two Tony Award-winning groups—the Victory Gardens Theater in Chicago and the New Dramatists in New York. He is a recipient of the 2008 Ohio Arts Council Individual Excellence Award, and his plays have been produced in off-Broadway and other prominent theaters coast to coast. His work has also been produced for the HBO New Writers project, the International Children’s Theater in Seattle, and the North Carolina Black Arts Festival.

_Free Man of Color_, Smith’s play about Ohio University’s first black graduate, was featured here in 2004 as a major attraction to celebrate OU’s bicentennial. Many of us probably saw his work at that time. It has recently premiered in Australia after having been awarded a Joseph Jefferson Award and John W. Schmid Award. He has written 13 other stage plays and two Emmy Award-winning teleplays. A graduate of the Playwrights Workshop, he has received commissions to write six plays for specific purposes or celebrations. His most recent play, _The Gospel According to James_, which received the Joyce Award, will be produced by Indiana Rep in March and by the Victory Gardens Theatre in May.

**Menu**

- Fresh Garden Salad with Assorted Dressings
- Pasta Salad
- Spinach Salad
- Sliced Roast Beef
- Pasta Alfredo
- Garlic Mashed Potatoes
- Broccoli & Cauliflower
- Rolls & Butter
- Assorted Desserts, including Fresh-Cut Fruit
- Beverages

**EMERITI LUNCHEON**

Thursday
JANUARY 20, 2011
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, **January 14**. 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.
We had a "White Christmas" concert, just a little too much snow for many of you to make it to the Inn. If you were not among the brave (or foolish) thirty-nine who made it, I can assure you that you missed a heart-warming program of seasonal favorites, played by our own Richard Syracuse, with two Gershwin songs sung by Scott Ewing, a voice student at OU. Kudos especially to Richard for his many years of delighting Athenians! He has not reserved his talents to the classical idiom or the Recital Hall, but has graced many a venue with his music, including the Inn's dining room. Unlike the image of the temperamental genius, he is a sweet person, a joy to know.

Bad weather is a problem, however. Your board agreed that our luncheons will be canceled if the sheriff declares a Level 2 or 3 Snow Emergency before 9:30 a.m. the day of our meeting. After that time the Inn will be preparing for us, so we will not cancel and we will hope that some people can walk or drive safely as a few did on December 16.

The hills and dales of Southeast Ohio are beautiful — part of the special appeal of our town. But they are also dangerous in ice and snow. We who have been here for quite a few decades are wise to be cautious, both because we have learned the risks of winter travel and because we are less nimble and resilient than we once were. Even a household fall can be devastating as Peg Cohn's recent accident demonstrates. All of us, young and old, are more fragile and vulnerable than we would like to be.

One of the pleasures of our Emeriti meetings is their display of the continued vitality of retirees. Let us resolve in this new year to be appropriately cautious, yet daring to live as fully as we can.

George

Notes from the December Emeriti Luncheon

Thirty-nine hardy and hearty emeriti made it to the December luncheon in spite of the snow and cold weather. The program was a treat of seasonal music with Richard Syracuse, pianist, and Scott Ewing, baritone. Rich, an emeriti member, came to Ohio University in 1966 and is well known for his piano virtuosity. Among the pieces he played were Walking in a Winter Wonderland, Roasting Chestnuts by an Open Fire, Silver Bells, White Christmas, Sleigh Ride, The Drummer Boy, and Frosty the Snowman.

Scott Ewing, baritone, a performing arts major at Ohio University, sang two George Gershwin songs: They Can’t Take That Away From Me and Our Love Is Here to Stay.

Ed Baum
**IN MEMORIAM**

### Richard Walker

Richard Walker, 92, of Athens, passed away December 9 in Marietta. Born in Pueblo, CO, he was a graduate of Taft High School in Taft, CA. He earned a BS in public health, an MS in public health and a PhD in microbiology, all at the University of California at Berkeley. He served as a pharmacist’s mate in the US Navy during WWII. He retired as a professor of microbiology from the Department of Zoology at the OU College of Osteopathic Medicine.

He was a past president of the Athens Motorcycle Club, an active member of the Athens Model Railroad Club, and was a self-taught musician of accordion, organ, piano, harmonica and guitar.

His wife, Neva, preceded him in death. Richard is survived by 2 daughters, a son, and 6 grandchildren.

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### Mary Ann Sympson

Mary Ann Sympson, 76, of Athens, passed away at home on December 10. Born in St. Louis, MO, she lived in numerous small communities in southern Illinois where her father served as pastor of the Methodist Church. After graduating from high school in Metropolis, IL, she enrolled at the University of Illinois, where she met Robert Sympson and they were married in 1953. They moved to Athens in 1954 when Robert joined the chemistry faculty at OU.

Mary Ann was a member of the Athens Garden Club and the Athens Music Club. She volunteered for the Red Cross for 30 years and for Good Works. Until her illness, she helped cook for the free Monday Lunch at her church. She loved choral music and sang in her church choir and with the Choral Union at the OU School of Music.

She is survived by her husband, a son, 3 daughters and 7 grandchildren.

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### C. B. Stephenson

C. B. (Steve) Stephenson, 88, of Athens, passed away December 11 at Lindley Inn, following a short illness. Born in Covington, KY, he attended Washington & Lee University until his appointment to the US Naval Academy, from which he graduated in 1945. After the war, he had flight training and served for more than 10 years as a naval aviator. He earned an MS in accounting and an MBA at George Washington University while serving in a Navy intelligence unit. His final deployment was as an instructor at the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, CA.

In 1964 he joined the OU accounting faculty, where he remained until his retirement. He was an avid golfer, reader and investor.

His wife, June, whom he married in 1947, preceded him in death in 2006. Steve is survived by 2 sons, a daughter, 6 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren.

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**From The Historian, C. V. Carlson**

**Minutes: The Ohio University Professors Emeriti**

**Thursday, December 9, 1971** The meeting was held at the Baker Center Conference Room at 11:45. Fifteen were present. Dr. Anderson presided. Minutes of the November meeting were read and approved. One communication from D. L.C. Staats was read. Miss Noss also read a communication from Frederick Kreeckeer. The treasurer reported disbursements of $2.40 for stamps for Christmas cards for the out-town members. Receipts of $44.00 (Morton and Mutchler) for a total on hand of $92.47. J. E. Thackrey, Secretary

**Thursday, January 20, 1972** The Ohio University Professors Emeriti met for lunch at Baker Center at 11:45 A.M. Thursday, January 20, 1972, President Anderson presided. There were fourteen in attendance. The minutes of the meeting for December 9 were read. The treasurer reported $96.47 on hand. One new member, Dr. John Cady was welcomed to the club. Letters from Dr. John C. Baker, Dean E.J. Taylor and Professors George and Mrs. LeBoutiller, Jim Rice, W.C. Stehr, and Neil D. Thomas were read. After the luncheon President Anderson introduced Dr. Stanley Fisher from the Geology Department who gave us an interesting and informative illustrated lecture on the Drifting of the Continents. The treasurer now reports $1.41 paid for lunch for Dr. Fisher leaving a balance in the treasury of $95.06. I would also like to report that a letter was written to Dr. Baker giving the dates of our planned meetings and offering to attempt to arrange a meeting at any time when he might be in town and inviting him to meet with us. J.E. Thackrey, Secretary

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**JANUARY**

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**FEBRUARY**
UPCOMING EMERITI LUNCHEON PROGRAMS

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

April 21: International Work of Voinovich Students  
Mark Weinberg, Professor of Political Science

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARDS

Less than two months remain for members to submit nominations for Distinguished Service Awards.

Each nomination must be submitted in writing to the Distinguished Service Award Committee no later than March 1. This must include a detailed description of the reasons for submission and must be co-signed by 2 additional emeriti.

Distinguished Service Award Committee members are Max Evans, Bob Dakin, Dru Riley Evarts and Al Leep.

EMERITI BOARD 2010-2011

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>President</td>
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