RESERVATIONS must be made to attend the luncheon. If you are not on the list of regular attendees, you MUST call Ruth Nostrant at 593-5194 by Friday, April 11. 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.
Your Emeriti News’s April edition is coming out a little earlier than usual this month (at the end of the preceding month instead of at the beginning of the month of our next luncheon meeting). The reason for this (if you have recovered from your shock by now) is that our annual meeting also open to the public is on April 3rd. Its basic structure was described in my column last month, but we wanted to get this issue out so everyone will realize that this wonderful opportunity to see the future will happen just a few days after you get this issue. Plan to be there (see story on page 3), and let your friends, neighbors, students, and others know of this chance to see Schoonover Center (so far) and learn more about what the campus will look like in five or 10 years. All are welcome until (and even after) we run out of seats.

Thinking about campus changes brings back many memories for me. I came as a freshman in 1947, along with the biggest influx of WWII vets about to take advantage of the GI Bill. That September the enrollment rose from 1,500 to 5,500 overnight. Whereas students had been mostly women during the war, it was suddenly nine men to every woman. It was a gal’s duty to go out constantly (and, of course, be in by 10 p.m. on weekdays and midnight Friday and Saturday nights).

Memorial Auditorium was the largest building on campus. Located between its west portico and the present campus gate at Union and College streets was a huge Quonset hut that we called our “Rec Hall,” more or less the first attempt at a university “Center.” (The original Baker Center where Schoonover now stands, was not built until 1952.) Chubb Hall was the library. The oldest women’s dorm (Boyd) stood alongside the Women’s Gym near the east end of Park Place. Both were later demolished to build Alden Library. The other two women’s dorms were Lindley (where I lived) - now being remodeled again for faculty offices and various programs - and Howard, now a park at the corner of Union and College streets. Bryan Hall was not built until 1950, the beginning of my senior year. All the bricks from Cutler Hall were lying on the ground around it when I had first arrived. It looked like a disaster area until one noticed that the bricks had been carefully numbered and laid out so this first permanent campus building could still be old but “as good as new” after inside repairs had been made and the original look recaptured.

There was no East Green. That area (we called it Hog Island) was full of surplus Army barracks to house male students. The first permanent building (and still the smallest) there was Johnson Hall, built in 1951. Of course, neither West nor South Green existed until much later. Find out what else has happened and will be happening in the future by coming to our public program 10-11:30 a.m., April 3, in Schoonover Center.

Notes on March’s Luncheon Presentation

PERCUSSION AROUND THE WORLD by Roger Braun

As I settled back to hear about percussion around the world I kept hearing in my mind the start of the old Cole Porter song, “Like the beat beat beat of the tom-tom...” This was augmented by a thoroughly fascinating discussion of percussion instruments, which fall into two broad categories — mallet and drums. Mallet instruments include a wide variety of types, from small kalimba (thumb pianos) to very large marimbas. Drums are primarily membrane covered frames.

You cannot do justice to this presentation in the written word. Rather I invite you to go to Youtube and listen to N’traned — Roger Braun (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=575xYIYxJk).

A unique instrument, the boombakini, could be heard when Roger performed with his group, Baikuye, in South Africa, again on Youtube: Baikuye in South Korea #3: (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BePYubdJ2uQ).

Certainly not like the “beat beat beat of the tom-tom”.

Ed Baum

PROPOSED SLATE of EMERITI OFFICERS/CHAIRS for 2014-2015

President
Dru Riley Evarts

Vice President/Program
Alan Boyd & Don Jordan

Secretary
Doug Baxter

Treasurer
Ed Baum

Membership
Margaret Thomas

Communications
Anita James

Benefits
Art Woolley

Volunteer Services
Sur Foster & Phyllis Field

Historian
Joanne Prisley

Emeriti Park
Richard Dean

Nominations
Luther Haseley

Website
Joe Essman

Past President
George Weckman

Nominations from the floor will be asked for, and we will vote when nominations are complete.
What will the campus look like in 5 or 10 years?

The campus of the future - at least the near future - will be described and illustrated when President Roderick McDavis leads a panel in an event sponsored by the Emeriti Association and open to all - current faculty and staff, other retirees, students, and townpeople. The program will be from 10 to 11:30 a.m. on Thursday, April 3, in the lobby of Schoonover Center.

The president will be accompanied by three staff members who are dealing with the planning and executing of the changes taking place at various parts of the campus. One primary example will be the very building in which we will be meeting, Schoonover Center. Its makeover into the home of the College of Communication is not yet complete, but a guided tour of the areas now operating will be available after our meeting with the president and his staff.

Accompanying the president to elaborate on his points and answer audience members' questions will be Joe Lalley, senior associate vice president for information technologies and administrative services; Harry Wyatt, associate vice president for architecture, design, and construction; and Shawna Bolin, director of university planning and space management. Bolin has put together the power point presentation we will be seeing to help us visualize the plans being made and the stages of carrying them out.

BENEFITS REPORT - Notes from OCHER (Ohio Council of Higher Education Retirees) March 25 meeting in Columbus:

1. The STRS pension fund, following the January discovery of an actuarial calculating error, was at a current funding period of 40.2 years instead of the legally mandated 30 years. On March 21, the ST"RS Board announced it would take the 1% now allocated to the health fund of the 14% of salary contributed by employers to STRS and keep it in the pension fund. (The “1%” is 1/14th of the 14%, i.e. about 7% of the 14%). That deduction of income to the pension fund will reduce the period the health fund is solvent to only 20 years (i.e., the year 2034). However, the STRS Board can reinstate the 1% contribution once the pension program achieves the prescribed 30-year funding period. COLA for current retirees is unchanged. The pension fund’s investment is returning 11.6% after eight months of fiscal 2014. Over an 11-year period, STRS active membership is down from 180,000 to 170,000 and its retired membership is up from 108,000 to 149,000. Active membership payroll instead of increasing at the projected 3.5% is, for the last four years, decreasing, currently at a 1.6% rate. Salaries of active members in 2013 averaged $53,653, slightly declining. Contributions from active members totaled $2,491 billion while disbursements totaled $6.4 billion.

2. The health program is healthy and, using conservative GAAP accounting formulas, is now 74% funded. It has reduced an unfunded liability of $8.4 billion in 2010 to an unfunded liability of $1.2 billion in 2013.

3. In the next few years, the difference in cost (e.g., deductible, co-pays) to the STRS members for network as against out-of-network services will become sharper. A major motive for this is to encourage use of preventive medicine measures, an alleged commitment of network, and thus reduce total costs to be covered.

4. Currently most lab costs are subject to a 4% co-pay for in-network clients and subject to deductible costs for out-of-network clients. Director Greg Nickell promised to look into the availability of in-network services in Athens County. If you want to check your billing, charges and credits, the best way, I was told, is to use the insurance company’s website and your account therein.

5. Some couples with one spouse in STRS and the other in PERS have been able to negotiate a waiver process (re which system’s terms will govern the couple’s health costs) to provide a more advantageous formula. This will probably cease in 2015 because, though the PERS pension system is more affluent than the STRS system, its health fund is in a seriously precarious state. Medicare grades health insurance programs, especially Medicare Advantage.

Art Woolley, Benefits Chair

IN MEMORIAM

YIN-MIN WEI, 91, passed away at home on March 4. Born in China, he emigrated to the U.S. in 1952, and attended graduate school at Purdue University and The University of Iowa. He retired from Ohio University in 1993 as Professor Emeritus in Computer Science.

He is survived by his wife, Eileen Sun Wei, 2 daughters, 1 son, and 4 grandchildren.

CONSTANCE WILHELM, 79, passed away from complications related to Alzheimer’s disease on March 7 in Cincinnati. Connie and her husband, Hubert, moved to Athens in 1963 where he had been hired to teach geography at Ohio University.

She is survived by her husband, Hubert Wilhelm, 2 daughters, 1 son, 7 grandchildren, and 1 great-grandchild.

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

Each year members of the Emeriti Association who have distinguished themselves in service to the association or in pursuit of activities which further the goals of the association are recognized by the Distinguished Service Award.

If you wish to nominate someone, please submit your nomination in writing to Ed Baum (baum@ohio.edu), chair of the Distinguished Service Award Committee, no later than April 5. It should contain a description of reasons for submission and be co-signed by two additional emeriti.

Ed Baum

TECHNOLOGY WORKSHOP(S)

After the March luncheon a group of emeriti met to discuss ways of enhancing their technology skills. It was decided that a hands-on workshop or (if needed) workshops scheduled in late May or early June would be most helpful. Suggested dates, times, and venues will be listed in the May newsletter. Interested emeriti who were not at the March post-luncheon meeting may contact Margaret Thomas, 593-8765, or Luther Haseley, 592-3680, for further information.

Luther Haseley

PROMISE - GIFT SPECIFICS

When you respond to “The Promise Within” campaign with a gift to the Ohio University Foundation, you can specify the area you wish to support. If an endowment is designated, the interest from that gift will be available yearly for appropriation use. If you wish your gift to be used more quickly, you can write “Spending Account” with the name of the area. For example, gifts can be made to the “Emeriti Association Fund” or to the “Emeriti Park Endowment Fund.” To support current projects, however, you can specify their spending accounts.

George Weckman
UPCOMING EMERITI LUNCHEON PROGRAMS

May 15: Roderick McDavis, President, Ohio University & New Emeriti Induction

June 19: Becky & Kip Rondy, Green Edge Gardens

SAVE THESE DATES
May 30, May 31, June 1

Join us for the Emeriti portion of the ON THE GREEN WEEKEND
(You should have received a postcard about this.)

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