December 20, 2012

HOLIDAY MUSIC FOR ALL

SATB Chorus with Metra Peterson

(Presented by Bob Smith)

“ ‘Twas the Night Before Christmas,” as arranged by Harry Simeone, will be the highlight of the SATB Chorus when it entertains us under the direction of Metra Smith Peterson at our December 20th luncheon. It is illustrated here in a drawing done for a poster about a December 13th concert at which SATB is singing at Arts/West at 7 PM to benefit the PassionWorks Studio. (Feel free to go for a preview.)

SATB (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) is a community chorus that provides an opportunity to sing little-known music and to perform in fund-raising concerts for local nonprofit agencies. Its mission statement is “to create powerful and inspiring music in partnership with social justice organizations to bring support and awareness to their cause.” Their dynamic choral music collected from around the world is recognized as celebrating diversity and humanity.

Members of SATB are Pam Callahan, Kimi Laulusa, Nellie Werger, Rebecca Fradin, Nancy Pierce, Cassandra Dunn, Nica Van Doran, Tracy Laulusa, Melissa Wales, Alan Boyd, Steven Steward, Don Shamblin, David Laulusa, Bob Williams, and Peterson herself.

Metra, the daughter of our own Bob Smith, graduated from Athens High School and Ohio University, where she majored in music education. She is presently teaching in the Meigs Local Middle School. She and her dad are faithful weed-pullers in Emeriti Park during the summers. She and her good friend, Nellie Werger, established SATB three years ago when they realized that Athens needed a chorus that was able to perform all types of choral music – sacred, secular, popular, jazz, folk, and old warhorses. They especially like the ideas of doing themed concerts and helping nonprofit organizations in the community.
A Message From The President -
GEORGE WECKMAN

Spouses and partners are welcome at Emeriti Association luncheons and other events. I was told that some people did not know that. There is a confused history of defining membership in our association. On top of that we have expanded and changed our idea of participation as we changed to electronic newsletters. All this should enhance and expand involvement, not limit it. So let me explain this in terms as clear as possible.

It used to be that our association included only some of the hundreds of Ohio University emeriti. Members were only those who paid dues, either for lifetime memberships or annually. Now we have declared that all emeriti are members of our association, whether they have paid anything or not, so that they will receive the electronic newsletter (as long as we have email addresses for them). They are all welcome to our luncheons, for which there will be a modest charge at the door, and other events.

Paper newsletters, however, have costs for printing and mailing. If any emeriti want a paper copy of the newsletter sent to them, we ask that they pay $15 each year if they are not lifetime members. Those who contributed at least $125 to the Emeriti Endowment with the Ohio University Foundation are considered lifetime members, so they may have paper copies mailed to them without further payment, if they so request.

Now comes the unclear part: understanding the position of non-emeriti who participate in our activities. There are two groups of non-emeriti members of our association: one is “friends” and the other is spouses or partners of emeriti.

Friends may be people who have moved to Athens after having been granted emeritus/a status at another institution; they may simply apply to have that status transferred here. They also may be local people with an interest in our programs, volunteer work, or other activities, who apply for membership so they may join us in them. In both cases, these memberships are approved by the Board. Friends will automatically receive the newsletter electronically or may have paper copies of it mailed to them by paying $15 each year or making a $125 donation to the Emeriti Endowment of the OU Foundation. ($150 to have a spouse or partner included.)

Spouses and partners of those granted emeriti status by the University have been included in our association, clearly if they were specified in a gift to the Ohio University Foundation Emeriti Endowment of at least $150. These people remain members of the association even when their emeritus/a spouse or partner dies.

However, what happens to widowed spouses when couples paid an annual dual membership ($20) in previous years? We want to continue to include all who have been associated with us in the past, so these people are considered to be current members, too. They can always confirm their support of, and inclusion in, the Emeriti Association with a lifetime membership contribution to our endowment account with the OU Foundation.

Be assured that emeriti, their families, and our friends are welcome to participate in and enjoy our Association. If you wish to confirm your status, update your contact information, or report other changes, you can contact Becky Caesar; she records all these data for us. Phone 593-4220, email caesar@ohio.edu or U.S. mail: Becky Caesar, Administrative Associate, University Advancement - Operations, 164 West Union Street, Athens.

George
NOTES FROM THE BENEFITS CHAIR

STRS has reminded us not to contract for any other Advantage insurance than the one STRS provides. If you do, your entire STRS health insurance contract will be void.

Several members have indicated their concerns about a letter received from Aetna with an indication their hospitalization insurance has been affected by the out-of-network status of O’Bleness Hospital. In fact this letter has erroneous information as far as hospital deductibles are concerned. No change from 2012 to 2013 in deductible calculations has been effected. The $500 deductible for the Aetna Medicare plan remains in effect in 2013 and is applicable to hospital charges. Aetna was supposed to send out a retraction letter the week of November 26. O’Bleness’ network status is irrelevant, the deductible being the same in either case, in or out of network. However, network status will be relevant to doctors’ billings in 2013 with an office visit for out-of-network doctors to be $40, twice the $20 charge for a visit to an in-network doctor.

I would like to learn how many emeriti on our mailing list are PERS members. If you are, please email me a short note to that effect at woolley@ohio.edu.

Art Woolley, Benefits Chair

PARKING

Interoffice Communication, November 9, 2012 (ver batim)

Dear Prof. Weckman:

This memo is in response to your e-mail from October 4, 2012, in which you ask the Transportation & Parking Committee to revisit the fee structure for recent and ongoing Emeriti honorees.

First I want to remind you that after lengthy and in depth deliberation the committee put forward a recommendation on Nov. 28, 2011 to VPFA Golding, which includes

1. The privilege of free parking enjoyed by Emeriti past and present remains as is.

2. Future Emeriti be not exempt from the fee.

This recommendation was accepted by VPFA Golding and acted upon. Thus, the recommendation is now part of the university policy. The composition of the Transportation & Parking Committee remained essentially unchanged. Considering the extent and depth of the discussions the members conducted over the last year, the committee does not feel that it is necessary to pick up the discussion again, since the conclusions will remain unchanged.

As far as your specific concern about ‘Emeriti without a faculty parking tag being excluded from ‘priority’ lots near campus lecture and arts venues in evenings and weekends’, I would like to remind you that every Emeritus has the privilege to purchase a one-day parking tag for $5, which has the same validity as a faculty/staff tag and can be used after hours and on weekends in the lots currently labeled ‘priority’, and thus can be considered as nominal fee for parking.

Furthermore, I should point out that within the current status of flux in the designation of parking space due to the massive construction projects at Ohio University, the concept of ‘priority’ lots is also in flux, and can not carry weight for changing the existing policy.

For the Transportation & Parking Committee
Charlotte Elster, Chair

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UPCOMING EMERITI LUNCHEON PROGRAMS

January 17: Pam Benoit, Provost & Executive Vice President

February 21: Kathy Krendl Otterbein College President

Keith Hawkins has another great achievement

Our monthly luncheon group will remember fondly Keith Hawkins, an Honors Tutorial College student who was our featured speaker last January. Keith is an amazing astrophysics student with his eyes on the stars. This interest began in junior high school, and he has pursued any opportunity through high school and here in his college courses. He has made a wise selection of research opportunities at every chance he has gotten. The power point photos he showed us were amazing, and his accounting of research that can be done by an undergraduate astonishing! He was only a sophomore when he talked last year.

You may have seen a story in the November 20 Post and thought that the student gazing into the telescope looked familiar. There was Keith again, this time winning the prestigious Marshall Award, the first such award won by one of our students since 2004. Some universities, of course, never have such a winner. Keith is going to use the scholarship that comes with this award to study at Cambridge in the United Kingdom after considering using his scholarship there or in the U.S. It covers tuition, living expenses, books, research materials, travel allowances, and trips back to his home.

We have had very few student speakers who carried the entire program (none other in recent memory). But it looks like when we choose one, we know what we’re doing. Thanks again to Joe Berman, a member of last year’s Program Committee, for suggesting Keith and introducing him at the luncheon.