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How eloquent and delightful was Charles Smith’s talk at our January luncheon! It is surprisingly wonderful that he stays with OU despite his international reputation. How informative and helpful was Lisa Rudy’s message for us! Everyone will be migrated to the new IT system by the ides of this month and she will be available to help with laptops and mobile devices after our February meeting.

February is an interesting month for an historian of religions. The name means “purification,” perhaps an early form of “spring cleaning.” It might also indicate a blessing of the inevitable, in that pre-modern households were pretty bare of food and supplies by this time of winter. It is a good time for dieting and decluttering.

Groundhog Day on the second of the month is observed in parts of America, reported by news media if it’s a slow news day. This “holiday” is a folk adaptation of Candlemas when churches bless their candle supply for the year. Readings appointed for that day include Luke’s story of the child Jesus taken to the temple where an old man says that he will be a “light” to the nations. So the rodent is expected to use the intensity of daylight to predict the rest of the season’s weather. In a similarly quaint preservation of ancient customs, promoted by the flower and card industries, an obscure Roman saint is celebrated as a god of love on the fourteenth. Previous ages thought that one’s future spouse would be the first (single) person seen that day or the person whose name was drawn out of a hat. Contemporary people do not depend on happenstance or lottery, but send Valentines as a matter of choice and often to many people, probably not intending to marry all of them.

I hope it relieves the cabin fever of winter to celebrate light and love this month. May we all have much of both this season and throughout our lives.

George

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Notes from the January Emeriti Luncheon

In introducing Professor Smith, Bob Winters noted that Mark Twain said that there are three infallible ways of pleasing an author; 1-- tell him you have read one of his books and you gain his respect; 2-- tell him you have read all of his books and you are admitted to his admiration; and 3-- ask him to let you read the manuscript of his forthcoming book and you are carried into his heart.

In a fascinating presentation Charles Smith, distinguished professor of theater and prolific playwright, described aspects of having five plays running in the same year. The play with direct ties to Ohio University, Free Man of Color, was commissioned by then-President Robert Glidden for OU’s bicentennial and brings together the founding of Ohio University with the story of John Newton Templeton, first black man to graduate from the university. He also discussed aspects of his other plays.

The response from the emeriti at the lunch to Prof. Smith’s remarks shows that we are all awaiting his next presentation.

Ed Baum
**HONORARY DOCTORATE NOMINATION HOW-TO**

Every year Ohio University bestows three to five honorary doctorate degrees upon individuals who have achieved distinction in scholarship, creative activities, professional pursuits, business or civic affairs with particular service to the university. Outstanding benefactors of the university or distinguished alumni are given special attention.

A Faculty Senate committee reviews nominations submitted by the university community. After screening nominees, the committee recommends candidates to President Roderick McDavis, who then forwards a final list to the Board of Trustees for ratification.

Nominations should be in the committee’s hands by March 1 in order for the degree to be granted the following school year. Most years, the total number of recommended recipients is between three and five, but there is neither an obligation to grant a degree nor a necessary maximum of five. If a candidate is not included in the final list approved by the Trustees, nominations may be resubmitted to the committee.

Recent recipients include Helen Thomas, White House reporter, and Peter King, senior writer for *Sports Illustrated*. Nomination forms are available at [www ohio.edu/facultysenate/standingcommitteesHonoraryDegreeCommittee-page.cfm](http://www ohio.edu/facultysenate/standingcommitteesHonoraryDegreeCommittee-page.cfm). Return completed forms to Michael Carrera in 578 Glidden Hall.

**OHIO UNIVERSITY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION NOMINATIONS**

As a reminder, the Ohio University Alumni Association annually seeks nominations for both its Board membership and Alumni Awards recognitions. Deadlines for both those nominations are Dec 31 of each year. For more information on how to nominate a candidate for either board or Alumni Awards, visit [www ohioalumni.org/nominations](http://www ohioalumni.org/nominations).

**EMERITIOGRAM**

**What are the notches and lines for the February Newsletter?** I have been looking over the minutes of the *Faculty Research Club of Ohio University*. I didn’t know that such a club had been created, but as an historian became interested in when, why and how. On October 4, 1935, members of the Ohio University faculty met at the Men’s Faculty Club to plan the organization of a research club. The purpose of the club was to present research which had been carried out at Ohio University. The presentation of the results of individual research to members of the club was to serve a two-fold use: (1) to help the person presenting the research work to clarify the results so that the research could be better understood by those not “focused” in that particular field, and (2) to help develop an awareness on the part of the faculty for the research being pursued in various parts of the university. Dr. J.B. Heidler, acting temporary chair, appointed 18 members of the committee; one being a woman faculty member, to formulate an organization for the club.

I also found January a personally rewarding history month. I was invited to speak to the Athens Rotary Club on Monday, January 17 and to the Newark Rotary Club on Tuesday, January 18. My subject was, *Ephemerality: Saving An Historic Moment*. I was introduced as an Ohio University Professor Emeritus and I began my presentation with the words spoken in 1863 by Martin Luther King, Jr., “*I have a dream*,” to help call attention to and help celebrate the national holiday in his honor.

*C.V. Carlson, Historian*

**IN MEMORIAM**

**HOWARD BEEBE**

Howard Louis Beebe, 79, of Athens, passed away on December 30 after an extended battle with cancer. Born in Buffalo, NY, he grew up in Winfield, KS, and Milwaukee, WI. While in elementary school he began the study of the violin. This eventually led to his acceptance into the Julliard School of Music in New York City. During the Korean War he served in the band at West Point while continuing his studies through the Julliard School.

After receiving his master’s degree in 1960, he accepted his first teaching assignment in Corpus Christi, at UCC as well as serving as concertmaster of the Corpus Christi Symphony. In 1962 he moved to Ohio Wesleyan University, and in 1970 came to Athens as a professor in the Ohio University School of Music, where he remained until his retirement in 2001.

Howard is survived by 2 sons, 1 daughter and 6 grandchildren.

**PAUL VAN DER VEUR**

Paul Van der Veur, 89, emeritus professor of political science at OU, died January 20 in Canton, OH. Born of Dutch parents in Indonesia (then the Netherlands East Indies), he attended high school in Surabaya, Java. He fought the Japanese in WWII, was captured and imprisoned in Singapore, later taken to Japan and made to work in a Japanese shipyard. After the war he was returned to Indonesia. He obtained a scholarship to Swarthmore College, then received a master’s degree from the University of Minnesota and a PhD in political science from Cornell University.

He taught at Yale University, the University of Hawaii, the Australian National University and Northern Illinois University before coming to Ohio University in 1967, where he was the founding director of the Southeast Asia Program.

Paul is survived by 2 sons, 2 daughters, several grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

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**MARCH**
UPCOMING EMERITI LUNCHEON PROGRAMS

March 17: The Arts & Culture Alliance  
Bob Winters, Professor Emeritus of Theater

April 21: Student Research & Work at the Voinovich School  
Mark Weinberg, Director of the Voinovich School

May 19: State of the University & New Emeriti Induction  
Roderick McDavis, President, Ohio University

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARDS

Less than one month remains for members to submit nominations for Distinguished Service Awards.

Nominations are to 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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