June 16, 2016

THE GROUNDS OF OHIO UNIVERSITY
Rudiger (Rudy) Baumgartel
Upper Campus Grounds Supervisor

Introduction by Richard Dean

Rudy is an Athens County native. He studied horticulture at Lower Saxony Teaching and Research Facility for Horticulture in Oldenburg, Germany, and at the Ohio State University. He served in the Air Force/Air National Guard, and is a veteran of the first Gulf War (1990-1991). He owned The Albany Nursery Company, a local landscape firm. In 2013, he joined Ohio University as the supervisor of the Upper/Main Campus Grounds Area.

He is married to Molly, and they have two children, Max and Olivia.

EMERITI BOARD 2015-2016

President: Alan Boyd
VP/Program Chair: George Weckman
& Don Jordan
Secretary: Doug Baxter
Treasurer: Ed Baum
Membership: Margaret Thomas
Newsletter: Anita James
Benefits: Karen & Richard Vedder
Volunteer Services: Sue Foster & Phyllis Baxter
Emeriti Park: Richard Dean
Historian: Joanne Prisley
Nominations: Luther Haseley
Website: Joe Essman
Past President: Dru Riley Evarts

RESERVATIONS must be made to attend the luncheon. If you are not on the “ALWAYS” list of regular attendees, you MUST call or email Betty Larson at (740) 593-4847 or llarson3@columbus.rr.com by Friday, June 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.

EMERITI LUNCHEON
Thursday
June 16, 2016
11:30 AM - 1:00 PM

BALLROOM

MENU
Garden Salad
Pasta Salad
Rotini Primavera in Balsamic Vegetable Au Jus
Swiss Steak w/Tomato Mushroom Gravy
California Blend Vegetables
Wild Rice Medley
Assorted Desserts & Fresh Cut Fruit

$15.00
How often have you complimented your dog on how smart he or she is? I know we have. Recently, there has been an increased interest in the intelligence of animals. Articles in newspapers and magazines describe the behavior of pets; travelers talk about what they have seen while traveling in exotic places. Most of these references are anecdotal, including our own. I am sure we all have stories to tell about our own pets.

A recent column by the editor of *The Week* magazine described the sad look on his dog’s face after a misunderstanding. In the column, he refers to a new publication entitled *Are We Smart Enough to Know How Smart Animals Are?* by Frans De Waal, a psychologist and ethologist. In this book, Dr. De Waal talks about more than personal anecdotes, referring to a number of scientific studies of the social and communicative activities of fish, insects, mammals—including humans—bats and birds. He discusses the tendency of most of us to attribute animal behavior to instinct or imitative motivations. He says we think only humans are self aware, only humans care about others, only humans take vacations. We use the word “aping” to mean mimicking. He calls this “human exceptionalism.” The book’s main point is that every specie has acquired a variety of skills to adapt to its own environment, each special to that specie, many resembling human activities.

If humans have adopted similar behaviors, it is for our own survival, not necessarily because we have some characteristic similar to another specie. We have been too often motivated by a sense of the superiority of the human specie and have not been willing to recognize the intelligence of others. So the next time you tell your pet that he/she is very smart, keep in mind that what he/she is doing is natural to him/herself. In the final analysis it is a matter of survival. This is an interesting discussion, which I hope will continue to the enlightenment of us all and to the benefit of other creatures.

*Alan*

---

**THE EMERITI BOARD FOR 2016-17**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>President: Alan Boyd</th>
<th>Volunteer Services: Phyllis Baxter &amp; Betty Larson</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Vice-President/Programs: Don Jordan</td>
<td>Emeriti Park: Richard Dean</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secretary: Doug Baxter</td>
<td>Historian: Joanne Prisley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treasurer: Edward Baum</td>
<td>Website: Joseph Essman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Membership: Margaret Thomas</td>
<td>Nominations:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Newsletter: Anita James</td>
<td>Past-President: Dru Riley Evarts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Benefits: Karen &amp; Richard Vedder</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Notes on May’s Luncheon Presentation by Pam Benoit

“Report on the University by the Provost”

Great things are happening under our 20th university president, Roderick McDavis. These include completion of a successful eight-year fund drive which raised over $500 million, a program of four-year level tuition for incoming students, and new residence halls which combine living and learning. Among recent collaborative research efforts are osteoporosis identification and prevention, an innovative media initiative, research on new uses of shale, and an academic innovation accelerator program.

*Ed Baum*
3 WAYS TO KEEP UP WITH THE EMERITI!

We get calls or emails from our members who want to know “What’s going on at the Emeriti luncheons?” “Have I missed a special program?” “Do you have my correct information?” Our answers to any of these questions are easy:

1) Check the Emeriti website at www.ohio.edu/emeriti for monthly Newsletters, members data, and other facts about the Emeriti.

2) Join the Ohio University Emeriti LISTSERV where we send notices and special announcements by way of an Ohio University database (it is secure and only for Emeriti)—to join, just write to baum@ohio.edu; he will put you on the list.

3) Contact the Emeriti Membership Chair who will find answers your specific question if she can. Email or call Margaret Thomas at thomasm@ohio.edu or 740-593-8765.

OCHER REPORT FOR MAY 2016

On May 17, Alan Boyd, Karen Vedder, and I attended the quarterly OCHER Board meeting in Columbus. As usual of late, most of the news was not particularly pleasant for those retirees receiving STRS benefits. With respect to health care, there is only $3 billion in the STRS health care fund, and no new funds being deposited (PERS, by contrast has $8 billion). STRS is announcing about a dozen cost reducing measures taking almost immediate effect, most of which are extremely minor, but may be material for those with unusual medical situations. One health care expert at the meeting opined that young people should probably try to save several hundred thousand dollars over a lifetime just to meet post-retirement health care needs. STRS support for our health care for even 15 years out looks a bit iffy.

The news with regards to pensions is not quite so downbeat, but not good. So far this fiscal year, the retirement fund’s assets have fallen by four billion dollars. The plan to move from about 70 percent (only moderately good) funding of liabilities to about 80 percent (pretty solid) funding over a decade is not being realized, and the assumption of a 7.75 percent annual return on investments is probably too high—the sister SERS system just lowered their assumption to 7.5 percent. I suspect STRS will do something similar soon.

Pensions are in zero imminent danger of being cut, but some reductions in benefits over time could happen (such as reduced inflation adjustments). Any hope for increased subsidization from younger retirees on defined contribution plans is unrealistic at least in the short run. On a brighter note, listening to fellow retirees at other schools, I sense Ohio University in general is doing at least as well, and probably better, than many of our sister state universities.

Rich Vedder

IN MEMORIAM

Carolyn T. Murphree, 91, died May 13 at the home of her daughter, Kathryn, in Waynesville, N.C. Born in Washington, Arkansas, she earned an AB degree at Louisiana State University and an MA at Columbia University. She moved to Athens County in 1951 when her husband, the late Dr. Idus L. Murphree, joined the faculty of Ohio University. Later, she also joined the faculty, teaching writing courses—first in the English Department, and later in the Management Department. She retired as an emerita assistant professor in 1989.

She was active on the boards of Shelters Arms Foundation, O'Bleness Hospital, League of Women Voters, Athens County Historical Society, and the Near Eastside Neighborhood Association. She found particularly rewarding her time as a CASA/GAL (court appointed special advocate, guardian ad litem) and her years at the Church of the Good Shepherd.

She is survived by her children, Kathryn, Emily, and Robert, as well as seven grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Distinguished Professor Guido H. Stempel III, 87, died on May 31. Born in Bloomington, Indiana, he grew up in Pittsburgh, later returning to Bloomington to earn his bachelor's and master's degrees at Indiana. Stempel became the first doctoral candidate in mass communication at the University of Wisconsin, Madison.

Stempel joined the Ohio University School of Journalism faculty in 1965. He became a major figure in the school's graduate program while also teaching such undergraduate courses as Communication Law and Editing. His advanced research courses became the backbones of the graduate research of many master's and Ph.D. students. His contributions to his discipline are many and legendary.

In addition to his wife, Anne, he is survived by two sons, Ralph and Carl; one daughter, Jane Stempel Arata; and three grandchildren.

SUPPORT THE TANTRUM THEATER

In March, our lunch speakers were Merri Biechler and Shelly Delaney discussing Biechler’s latest play, Tammy Faye’s Final Audition, in which Delaney starred. Many of our members asked when they might be able to see it—and the answer is soon. The play will be performed at the new Tantrum Theater in Dublin, Ohio, from July 5-July 16. Here is what the theater’s website (tantrumtheater.org) says about the play:

Tammy Faye Baker was the sweetheart of Christian television in the 1980s until fraud and sex scandals brought her world crashing down. In this fevered dream at the end of her life, Tammy Faye enlists the men she loved to get back on TV and tape one last media extravaganza. Merri Biechler’s new play wipes clean the mascara and tears to make known the naked truth, and to ask ...
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sunday</th>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>Friday</th>
<th>Saturday</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Emeriti Function at the Zenner House, 4-6 p.m.</td>
<td>Emeriti Volunteer Dairy Barn</td>
<td>Emeriti Volunteer Emeriti Park-9 a.m.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>05</td>
<td>06</td>
<td>07</td>
<td>08</td>
<td>09</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Emeriti Volunteer Dairy Barn</td>
<td>Emeriti Volunteer Dairy Barn</td>
<td>Emeriti Volunteer Dairy Barn</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Emeriti Volunteer Kennedy Museum</td>
<td>Emeriti Volunteer Kennedy Museum</td>
<td>Emeriti Volunteer Kennedy Museum</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Emeriti Volunteer Dairy Barn</td>
<td>Emeriti Volunteer Dairy Barn</td>
<td>Emeriti Volunteer Dairy Barn</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>30</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Emeriti Volunteer Dairy Barn</td>
<td>Emeriti Volunteer Dairy Barn</td>
<td>Emeriti Volunteer Dairy Barn</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**JUNE**

**JULY**

Photos of Pam Benoit