May 19, 2016

REPORT ON THE UNIVERSITY
BY THE PROVOST
Pamela Benoit
Executive Vice President and Provost

Introduction by Dru Riley Evarts

Pam Benoit joined Ohio University on July 1, 2009, as Executive Vice President and Provost. Dr. Benoit brought to Ohio University 20 years of experience as an educator, a scholar of communication, and an administrator charged with improving quality and accessibility.

Dr. Benoit earned an M.A. in Communication from Central Michigan University and a Ph.D. in Communication from Wayne State University. She began her work as an academic administrator by serving as the director of undergraduate studies in the Department of Communication at the University of Missouri. Subsequently she was the chair of her department, the associate/assistant dean of the Graduate School, the interim dean of the Graduate School, and from 2006 the vice provost for advanced studies and dean of the Graduate School.

As chief academic officer at Ohio University, Dr. Benoit seeks to ensure that Ohio University will continue to prosper as a premier public research university by building on its heritage as a place of promise where students are transformed academically and personally through their interactions with outstanding faculty and participation in a vibrant, inclusive campus community.

She also plays a key role in assisting the president and the Board of Trustees with shaping strategic priorities and advancing the overall vision of the University. Members of the Ohio University community have noted her strong communication skills, ability to connect with students, and keen grasp of issues critical to the University's future.
When the president announced that he will resign as of July, 2017, I began to think about transitions. The resignation of the president and the appointment of a new one will mark a momentous transition for the university. It will include a celebration of President McDavis’ twelve years of service to the university and a period of excited anticipation as a new president is selected and introduced to the Ohio University community.

Transitions can be happy or sad markers in our lives. We have all lived through many of them, although we don’t always recognize their significance. Events have occurred, some planned, some unexpected. As we look back upon our lives, I am sure we can point to a number of them. Elections have been held, we got married, became parents, went through graduations, and experienced the death of someone significant. And, if we look forward, I bet there will be some more transitions which will be important. We should mark these occasions and, in many cases, celebrate them. They are the stuff of life, even though they may happen without much immediate notice.

I know that in the grand scheme of things, our existence is miniscule. We are each a dot in a schemata that is a dot in a universe, which is a dot in the rest of creation. We should not place too much importance on any event, except as it may change each of us. Life goes on, and we are witnesses and participants in it. Thinking about this has made me feel humble and appreciate what is happening around me. What will be the next transition?

Alan

THE EMERITI BOARD FOR 2016-17

President: Alan Boyd
Vice-President/Programs: Don Jordan
Secretary: Doug Baxter
Treasurer: Edward Baum
Membership: Margaret Thomas
Newsletter: Anita James
Benefits: Karen & Richard Vedder

Volunteer Services: Phyllis Baxter & Betty Larson
Emeriti Park: Richard Dean
Historian: Joanne Prisley
Website: Joseph Essman
Nominations:
Past-President: Dru Riley Evarts

AN AFTERNOON FOR THE EMERITI

Ohio University Emeriti faculty and staff are invited to the Zenner House, 41 Utah Place in Athens, for a reception on Sunday, June 5, at 4:00 p.m. (to 6:00 p.m.). Richard Vedder will speak about famous people he has met. Refreshments will be served.

Parking is available at the Children Services parking area at the end of Jacobs Street. For special disability access to the Zenner house call David Stevenson 740-818-2773.

Special thanks to Jeff Chaddock for making this event possible.

If attending, please RSVP to George Weckman at weckman@ohio.edu or 740-592-4382.

Notes on April’s Luncheon Presentation by Susan Matters

“Poetry Devices Seen Through the Eyes of Fourth Grade Students”

During the class time devoted to poetry, Matters’ fourth grade students are exposed to ten structural devices in poetry such as alliteration, metaphor, simile, free verse, imagery, and rhyme. Each student must write ten poems using each of the devices and then “publish” their poems in their own poetry book. For example, students have created poems such as, “Bubble gum, bubble gum, in the dish. How many pieces do you wish?” Other examples were shared with the emeriti present.

Ed Baum
THE MAY LUNCHEON SPEAKER
The speaker for our luncheon on June 16 is Executive Dean Kenneth Johnson, Heritage College of Osteopathic Medicine.

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.

TWO OPPORTUNITIES FOR ENGAGEMENT
1) I am seeking persons age 60+ to be paired with students in my Fall 2016 service-learning gerontology course at OU. This interaction allows the students an opportunity to better understand the aging experience and combat notions of ageism. This is a 20 hour commitment, which averages about 2 hours a week, schedule permitting. It could include activities such as meeting for lunch and going to the farmers’ market.

2) Also, I am seeking persons age 60+ who are willing to be interviewed about how they have played over the years, from childhood to current day. If you are interested in volunteering for this study or would like to learn more, please contact me. Any information you provide will be kept completely confidential.

Dr. Julie Brown, Assistant Professor of Gerontology. brownj14@ohio.edu or 740-597-2665.

IN MEMORIAM
William W. (Bill) Wood, Jr., 94, professor emeritus of anthropology at Ohio University, died peacefully at Kimes Rehabilitation Center in Athens, Ohio, on April 12, 2016. Bill was from Davidson, North Carolina, and was born August 18, 1921, to William Woodhall Wood and Sally Price Wood.

He attended Davidson College, and served in the south Pacific during WWII as a second lieutenant in the Army. He received his M.A. and Ph.D. at the University of North Carolina. Prior to being on the faculty at Ohio University, he taught at Austin College in Sherman, Texas, and Davis & Elkins College in Elkins, West Virginia. He conducted research in Indonesia, with a focus on Balinese agricultural systems. He was a member of the First Presbyterian Church in Athens.

He is survived by his wife of 64 years, Emilie Robinson Wood of Athens, two daughters and one son, seven grandchildren, and other family members. In addition to his parents, Bill was preceded in death by two brothers.

The OHIO Alumni Association invites you to join us for our 2016 On the Green Weekend! Here is a sampling of this year’s events. For a complete schedule, please visit https://www.ohio.edu/alumni/onthegreen/.

On the Green Weekend BBQ Celebration (Saturday, May 21, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m., at Pepsi Tailgreat Park)
Join alumni and fellow Emeriti Association members for a BBQ Celebration during On the Green Weekend! This is your opportunity to mix and mingle with colleagues and former students. The Emeriti Association will have special reserved seating at this event, which is free to attend for Emeriti Association members and their guests. If attending, please RSVP with guest names to Casey Arnold at arnoldc2@ohio.edu.

Alumni College (Thursday, May 19 and Friday, May 20, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., at Baker University Center)
Alumni College participants go back to the classroom to explore topics and issues—but with no term papers or tests! Enjoy courses on environmental health, the 1980s, 3D printing, and more. The lecture series will take place during On The Green Weekend on Thursday, May 19, and Friday, May 20, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. This year’s edition of Alumni College will feature a wide variety of classes for Bobcats to attend as well as luncheons with Alumni College presenters and fellow attendees. To see a complete list of courses, please visit https://www.ohio.edu/alumni/onthegreen/college.cfm.

Jazz and Desserts on College Green (Thursday, May 19, 7-8:30 p.m., on College Green)
Join us on College Green as we hear music from the College of Fine Arts. We will have a jazz trio perform, and desserts will be served immediately following the welcome reception. The concert will be performed on the West Portico of Memorial Auditorium.
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Susan Matters at the emeriti luncheon on April 21, 2016