May 15, 2014

OUR BUCKET LIST: WORKING ON SUSTAINABLE HEALTH AND DEVELOPMENT IN HONDURAS

Bruce and Jane Ergood

(Introduced by Alan Boyd)

Bruce Ergood is a retired professor of sociology with two Fulbright awards in Argentina, a graduate of Yale Divinity School and a fluent speaker of Spanish. Jane Ergood is a clinical psychologist with a master's degree in nursing. Since the early 1950s they have been traveling, teaching and working in Latin America, principally in Honduras. They have been sponsored by SAMS, the former South American Missionary Society of the Episcopal Church as well as individuals, other churches and the Episcopal Diocese of Southern Ohio.

Their program is providing sustainable health care to rural Hondurans through training local volunteers in nutrition, sanitation, childhood and chronic diseases and treatment of medical emergencies. Cooperatively, they and the people in the villages have built chicken coops in order to provide chickens and eggs as a relatively cheap source of protein to supplement the daily diet of beans and rice. Eggs can also be bartered at the neighborhood market.
A Message From The President - DRU RILEY EVARTS

First, let me thank all who cooperated so well and supported our Emeriti Day special program, “What Will the Campus Look Like in 5 or 10 Years?” on April 3rd. The Schoonover Center was the perfect setting for the discussion ably led by President Roderick McDavis, who also had arranged for three of his top planning and space management people to show and tell what remodeling and building are likely to take place: Joe Lalley, Harry Wyatt, and Shawna Bolin (who also put the accompanying PowerPoint presentation together).

Just as important was the audience (you and other University colleagues and students, as well townspeople, including Mayor Paul Wiehl). The attention was rapt and the questions were very good, as were the answers. About 82 listeners were there, many of whom went on a tour to see the other Schoonover Center parts that were finished by that time. Many, many thanks to our members who brought cookies along to go with the coffee served.

Second, let’s turn our attention to maximizing our participation in the first On the Green Weekend, at which the Alumni Office has asked us to take a major role. The entire weekend is May 30-June 1, with our biggest parts being on Saturday, May 31. We will have a reception 10:30 a.m. to 12 noon in Latitude 39 on the ground floor of Baker Center. Enticing Baker Center Catering food and refreshing drinks will be served, and Emeriti Park tours (or just simple walks to the park) will be included, weather permitting. Please put your thinking caps on now to come up with a list of emeriti, other colleagues, former students, and friends whom you would like to have come to this and the barbecue that follows at noon on the campus green. Send them a note or give a call to round up a gaggle. At the barbecue, we will have an Emeriti Tent, to which you should invite anyone you want to drop by. If you did not already get a full schedule for the On the Green Weekend, call the Alumni Office. Its staff will be glad to mail one to you. Let’s have a good showing, both of ourselves and people we have invited.

Third, a salute to Board members who are leaving us after June. Edie Russ has edited the Emeriti Newsletter for six years, and has done a great job. She wants to pursue other interests now, and she certainly deserves our best wishes for success in anything she wants to do. Joann Fokes has served only a year as co-chair of the Volunteer Services Committee, but she did it with verve, and we are sorry to see her go. On the good side, we have two very capable people coming onto the Board, supposedly beginning July 1 but being counted on even before that. Anita James will take over as Communication chair, Phyllis Field Baxter will join Sue Foster as co-chair of Volunteer Services. Our ship is in good shape.

Dru

Notes on April’s Luncheon Presentation by Jennifer Simon

THE INNOVATION CENTER: BUILDING ENTREPRENEURIAL CULTURE IN APPALACHIAN OHIO

Jennifer Simon has been involved in economic development since grad school, first with the Institute for Local Government and Rural Development (ILGARD), then the Governor’s Office on Appalachia, Athens Economic Development Council, and now as director of the OU Innovation Center. Her work has ranged from going to Columbus to get companies to come here to keeping Dynastic Hybrids in Athens.

In the early 1980s Will Konneker and then-OU president Charles Ping were instrumental in the development of the Innovation Center and Edison Biotech. These endeavors help provide all levels of employment in our area.

Now she focuses on start-ups. How do you get start-ups to grow? By providing expertise, mentors, networking, training, and help in obtaining capital. An example is Angel Investors, which provides seed capital. It also celebrates entrepreneurs’ accomplishments through public relations.

Ed Baum
COMING JUST TO LISTEN

You may attend an Emeriti Luncheon just to hear the speaker without being involved in having the lunch or paying for it. This has been cleared with the OU Inn. Lunch begins at 11:30, and the catering staff is fine with your coming in at 12 noon and finding an empty seat for the talk. If you don’t see a chair ask a staff member or a person at the speaker’s table, and someone will help you.

A word of caution: We must be fair to the Inn. Both desserts and coffee are always left over at the ends of these luncheons, but please hold back from having either.

A CHANGE OF PLANS THIS MONTH

Traditionally, the new emeriti nominated throughout the university have been confirmed by the OU Board of Trustees at its April meeting and inducted into our organization at our May meeting. The university president also came to greet the new retirees who had attained emerita or emeritus standing, and also to be our May speaker. We were informed after our April meeting that this arrangement has now changed, therefore creating changes for us.

Because the change from quarters to semesters has also created an early end of the academic year, it has become more difficult for schools and departments to nominate their potential emeriti and, thus, for the nominations to get through all the levels required in time for the Board to act in April, that body has moved this business to its June meeting. And because our first meeting after that time is in September, that will be our new induction time. McDavis will be on hand to congratulate the new inductees and to talk with us about the university’s purview for the coming academic year.

For the last many years, the provost has helped us launch our programs with a view of what is planned and the president has spoken in May to give us a posting from his point of view. He will now be speaking in September and we hope to wind up our years with the provost, but we cannot be definite yet about her 2015 date. That will be announced in our first fall newsletter.

Alan Boyd and Don Jordan, co-vice presidents and program chairs, have arranged for Bruce and Jane Ergood to appear at our May luncheon (see the page 1 article about this). We are thankful to the Ergoods for coming on for this rearrangement. They have had many adventures that will be interesting to hear.

Dru Riley Evarts

IN MEMORIAM

SHIRLEY WHAN, 96, passed away in Columbus on April 1. She was a graduate of Eastern Michigan University. She married Edgar Whan in 1941 and taught science in the public schools of Mt. Clemens, MI while he was in the Navy during WWII. The Whans settled in Athens in 1955 when he joined the English Department at OU. She was a dedicated volunteer for a number of civic organizations, and was a founder of Careline and of The Gathering Place.

Edgar died in 2013. Shirley is survived by 2 sons, 1 daughter, 3 grandchildren and 1 great-grandchild.

BENEFITS REPORT

OCHER website — At the March meeting of OCHER (Ohio Council of Higher Education Retirees), President Wardwell announced that OCHER would have a website to be constructed and maintained gratis by Bowling Green State University. Forthcoming.

STRS eUpdate — The 3-page April 25 issue reported the latest plan to achieve Health Care Program solvency of 65 years by 2025. The plan emphasizes Medicare, in-network providers and generic drugs to keep costs down. Changes to the present program include the already announced reduction of health care cost subsidy from 2.3% per service year to 2.2% per year. The subsidy for an STRS retiree with 30+ years of service would be reduced from 69% of program costs per individual in 2014 to 66% in 2015. Program costs are calculated annually based on the year’s total costs experience.

For Aetna Medicare plan participants, the in-network deductible for 2015 will be reduced (good) to $300 from $500, a primary care doctor’s office visit will be reduced from $20 to $15, and a specialist’s office visit will increase from $20 to $25. For out-of-network coverage, the out-of-pocket limit will increase 33% to $2000, the co-pay per visit will increase $10 to $50, and the coinsurance will increase from 4% to 6%. Gradual increases in cost to retirees on Medical Mutual and Basic plans and to Express Scripts drug costs are detailed in the eUpdate.

You should be receiving the STRS eUpdate by email. If not, you can go online to <strsoh.org> and log in or register in the upper right corner and make sure STRS has your email address in your personal account profile. Click on “Receiving Benefits” for info for retirees.

Art Woolley, Benefits Chair

UPCOMING EMERITI LUNCHEON PROGRAM

June 19: Becky & Kip Rondy, Green Edge Gardens

SPECIAL EVENT

July 2: Emeriti Social - Wine & Cheese Reception
EMAIL UPDATE INFO AT MAY LUNCHEON

If you are on the university email and calendaring system, you undoubtedly received a notice recently that it is to be upgraded this summer as it is changed away from Outlook. Lisa Rudy has offered to drop in at the May luncheon to tell us about this change and offer later help to any individuals or small groups that want further instruction on how to handle it. She will also take a few minutes to answer questions and make arrangements for any further help we need.

TECHNOLOGY SESSIONS

Lessons on getting more out of your iPad will be given on May 12 and 27 from 12:10 to 12:40 in Room 242 of Baker University Center. These are identical sessions, so you need only one unless you want to come on the 12th and return to reinforce the lesson on the 27th. Making this available to emeriti is a part of the program being arranged by Luther Haseley and Margaret Thomas to help emeriti with a number of technology learning curves. These particular twin sessions are open to all, according to Doug Grammer, application support specialist, and our emeriti are very welcome to participate. It is wise to bring your own iPad. Other programs geared to sharpen our technology abilities will be offered in the near future. These iPad sessions are free.

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<td>15 Emeriti Board Meeting</td>
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ON THE GREEN WEEKEND
Emeriti Reception 10:30 AM Latitude 39 BBQ
Campus Green at 12 Noon Emeriti Tent