



Emeriti Association
OHIO
UNIVERSITY

[Emeriti website](#)
May 2022

==> *Luncheon meeting & Zoom* <==

The Emeriti Association has scheduled an in-person and Zoom hybrid meeting for May. This will be our last scheduled luncheon meeting of the academic year.

Location: Ohio University Inn

Date & Time: Thursday, May 19, 11:30 AM

Luncheon Menu: TBA, Food will be plated, served for you at your table

Cost: \$18 per person. Please have exact dollar amount at the door or a check made payable to the *OU Emeriti Association*

Reservations: Reservation deadline is noon on Monday, May 16. Send an email to Tom Franz <franz@ohio.edu> If a vegetarian plate is requested, please let Tom know that when making your reservation.



William "Bill" Walker

(Photo credit - Fred Tom)

Vice President Scott Moody announced that the speaker for May will be local lawyer and historian William "Bill" Walker. Bill will discuss his research of the post Civil War African-American Community in the local area including Pomeroy, Meigs County, and Athens.

Charles Ping Memorial Service **Reported by Martin Tuck**

Ohio University celebrated the life and career of President Emeritus Charles J. Ping who passed July 27, 2021 with a Memorial Program on April 1, 2022 in the Walter Hall Rotunda. Vice President Emeritus Mr. Jack Ellis presided over the program which included personal remarks from many who knew and worked with Dr. Ping, including current Ohio University President Dr. Hugh Sherman and Dr. Neil Bucklew and Dr. James Bruning, who both served as Provost of the university while Dr. Ping was president. Dr. Ping was described by Drs Bucklew and Bruning as a valued mentor, colleague and friend.

Distinguished faculty Drs Sam Crawl, Richard Vedder, Tom Carpenter and John Kopchick spoke of Dr. Ping as a visionary, skilled administrator and leader who surrounded himself with highly capable individuals as colleagues to work with him for the betterment of the university. When he began his tenure as the 18th president of Ohio University in 1975, Ping was able to successfully lead the university through serious financial difficulties, a failing reputation and enrollment declines. In addition to being a highly skilled administrator, Ping was also characterized by the faculty presenters as a respected scholar and someone who strongly believed in the value of a quality liberal arts education. Despite his strong and sometimes intimidating presence, Dr. Ping had a kind and gentle personality, and as Dean Emeritus Dora Wilson commented during her interview, had the ability to relax and put one at ease.

Former Ohio University Board of Trustee members Dr. Jeanette Grasselli Brown and the Honorable Charlotte Eufinger commented about the trust Dr. Ping placed in their abilities to influence the university and the positive impact he had on their lives. Ohio University alumni Drs Elliot Ratzman and Heather Baird Tomlinson both commented how as students Dr. Ping provided them with opportunities which instilled confidence and helped them grow as individuals.

The program concluded with remarks made by Dr. Ping's two grandsons, Sam and Steve Venable which were more personal in nature with regards to Dr. Ping's character. Both Ohio University graduates, Sam and Steve described their grandfather as a loving, caring, dedicated family man who always had an interest in their lives and time for them no matter how busy he was.

The service was a fitting memorial to one of the greatest presidents of Ohio University, Charles J. Ping 1930-2021.

A video recording of the memorial service is available. Page down to the Vimeo recording at the following link. <https://www.ohio.edu/ping-memorial/>

Board Member Elections 2022-23

At the April 21 meeting, elections for the Emeriti Association Board were held. Except for three now-vacant positions, current board members were re-elected for another year. The vacant positions are:

Emeriti Park committee chair

Benefits chair & OCHER representative

Newsletter editor

If you are interested in serving in one of these positions, let us know.

Notes from the April 21 Emeriti Meeting



The speaker for April, Dr. Gillian Ice, professor of social medicine at the Heritage College of Osteopathic Medicine, serves as the special assistant to the president for public health operations at Ohio University. She described the wide range of challenges faced, such as sudden changes at the university not used to quick changes, slow CDC guidance, difficulties in shifting to online instruction, varying and shifting perspectives in the approach to the pandemic, dealing with different data systems and software in different offices in the university, communicating with sectors of the university that she never previously needed to communicate with in her 22 years at the university, and the unique difficulties for a primarily residential campus. She mentioned being fortunate for a close relationship with the Health Department and partnership with Ohio Health and described the need for managing several layers of prevention, early detection, contact tracing, vaccination rates and boosters, incident report forms, mask mandates, and quarantining of symptomatic as well as asymptomatic students.

Ice noted that Facilities Management and University Communications have been very helpful. Communication has been especially important through a social media presence, blackboard reminders, and presentations with staff in the various colleges, and also involving student "Bobcat health ambassadors" to provide information to fellow students and listening and reporting their concerns. In the Fall, a grant was received to promote mental health awareness and assist students getting the help they might need through the stresses imposed by the pandemic. She noted that cases are down although still at 15 a day, but we now have a test and treat program. She noted there is increasing pressure to return to normalcy from all areas and is in the process of downsizing the team and going to half-time, but there are continuing concerns over long Covid symptoms and what infrastructure we might need to manage such diseases in the future.

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Goals:

- We provide direct care and support to impacted individuals on behalf of the institution.
- We protect the university community more broadly by ensuring impacted individuals are able to adhere to their quarantine/ isolation expectations safely and easily.

Who:

- Students, faculty, and staff
- Across all OHIO campuses
- Impacted by COVID
 - Possible exposure (including but not limited to 'true' contacts)
 - Symptomatic
 - Positive
 - Travel quarantine/ remain-in-room

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Communication

- Weekly updates
- Regular social media posts
- Regular website updates
- Blackboard updates
- Cross-university meetings
- Bobcat Health Ambassadors
- Direct email/texting

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Challenges faced by IHE

- Balancing safety and ideal environments
- The speed of change is inconsistent with university culture
- Lack of timely research/guidance for decision making
- Barriers to information sharing
- Real financial concerns and constraints
- Navigating different perceptions of risk
- Town-gown tensions
- Variable and shifting perspectives

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Critical elements of OHIO response

- Community reporting form
- Case management approach
- Contact tracing
- Testing
- Communication
- Facilities management
- Vaccines

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What's Next?

From an Epi perspective

- Pandemic vs. endemic
- Current BA.2 wave
- Predicting the unpredictable
 - Likely fall and winter surges
 - Recombinant variants
 - New variants
- Test to treat
- Boosters & second line vaccine

From a university perspective

- Increasing pressure to return "normal"
- Downsizing

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Evolution of COVID management at OHIO 2020-21

2020-21

- Fall 2020
 - University wide planning groups were initiated spring 2020
 - Mid summer decision to phase in fall and maintain a low density
 - Partnership with ACCHD
 - Public Health Operations/COVID Operations
 - Partnership with OhioHealth
 - Surveillance testing
- Spring 2021
 - Pre-arrival testing
 - Increased density
 - Increased testing infrastructure
 - COVID ops -contact tracing
 - Vaccine roll out
 - Wastewater testing

2021-2022

- Fall 2021
 - Close to normal operations
 - Reduced capacity events
 - Pathway Program
 - Continued PH measures
 - On arrival testing
 - Vaccine Requirement
- Spring 2022
 - Increased precautions due to Omicron
 - Reduced events
 - Increased testing
 - Change in Masks
 - Limit eating locations
 - Promote boosters
 - Reduced precautions with decreased Omicron
 - Mask policy in line with new CDC guidance
 - Reduced testing
 - Change in quarantine per ODH guidance