

# EMERITI NEWS



OHIO  
UNIVERSITY

A newsletter from the Ohio University Emeriti Association



**December 18, 2014**  
**HOLIDAY MUSIC**  
**Matthew Griffin, tenor**  
**Harolyn Brient, accompanist**

*Introduction by George Weckman*



Matthew Griffin

**Matthew Chester-Griffin** holds a B.G.S. in Musical Theater & Opera Performance and an M.F.A. in Acting, both from Ohio University. During his senior year, Matthew served a student internship with the English National Opera. He has appeared with the Wisconsin Shakespeare Festival, Players Theater of Columbus, Opera Columbus, Columbus Light Opera, The Kenley Players (as Ed Ames' understudy), The Honolulu Theater for Youth, The Pennsylvania Stage Company, The Derby Dinner Playhouse, and The Festival of Southern Theater at Ole Miss. For two seasons he was host of the Medora Musical in Medora, North Dakota.

Matthew has studied with Arthur Lessac and, as an assistant professor of theatre arts at the University of Mississippi, taught courses in Voice & Speech for the Stage, Acting, Musical Theater Performance, and Dialects for the Stage. He has also taught at Olivet College, The Ohio State University, and Ohio University.

**Harolyn Brient** has an extensive music background including 50 years as a private piano instructor and accompanist in the Ohio University School of Music. She has been active in the Ohio Valley Summer Theatre for 45 years, filling roles too numerous to list but including dinner theatre revues, music director and accompanist, and loyal board member. Harolyn was musical director and performed with the Monomoy Summer Theatre (1983-1986) and was a frequent guest artist/musical director at the University of Mississippi (1990-1994).

## EMERITI BOARD 2014-2015

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



## EMERITI LUNCHEON

Thursday  
December 18, 2014  
11:30 AM - 1:00 PM



**BALLROOM**

### MENU

*Antipasto Salad*  
*Caesar Salad*  
*Tossed Salad*  
*Alfredo Penne Pasta w/Assorted Vegetables*  
*Citrus Tilapia w/Shallots*  
*Green Beans Almondine*  
*Roasted Tarragon Potatoes*  
*Rolls & Butter*  
*Assorted Desserts & Sliced Fruit*

**\$15.00**

**RESERVATIONS** must be made to attend the luncheon. If you are not on the "ALWAYS" list of regular attendees, you **MUST** call or email Ruth Nostrant at 593-5194 or nostrant@ohio.edu by **Friday, December 12**. 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.

## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT - Dru Riley Evarts



We are ready to begin serious planning for our one open meeting of the year. It is a time other than our monthly luncheon event that we have a special meeting for ourselves and anyone else who would like to attend (community people, active faculty and staff, students, etc.). George Weckman, who developed this idea during the spring quarter of the first year of his emeriti presidency (2011), has accepted the chairmanship of the committee to organize the open meeting during the late winter or early spring coming up.

Now in the second year of his emeriti board position as past president, George has suggested that we concentrate on the arts this time. The date has not yet been set, but will probably be in March. That gives the rest of us plenty of time to work with George in order to make this a welcoming and interesting experience for ourselves and our guests. Last year's meeting, "What Will the Campus Look Like in 5 or 10 Years?" attended by 86 persons, has had the largest response to date. Subjects in other years were campus memories, a salute to the Ohio University Press, and a chat with PBS's Gwen Ifill.

If you have ideas about arranging an arts-related program, please share them with George ([weckman@ohio.edu](mailto:weckman@ohio.edu)). He welcomes all suggestions and offers of help.

\* \* \*

The Emeriti Association lost two of its great artists this fall – Robert Winters and Richard Syracuse. While I was vice president and program chair, Winters spoke for us about his research on what a lively arts program does for a community economically, and Syracuse played for us whenever he was asked. All of us enjoyed their productions and performances in other venues for many years.

**Put these two dates on your calendar:** 3-6 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 14, at the Ohio University Inn for a reception and celebration of the life of Syracuse; and 6-9 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 14 (Valentine's Day), at the Walter Hall Rotunda, when the Singing Men of Ohio in cooperation with the Ohio Valley Summer Theater will present a program of songs of love and romance, including Winters' favorites from acting, directing, and producing for OVST musicals.

*Dru*

### Notes on November's Luncheon Presentation by Pam Benoit "THE UNIVERSITY UPDATE"

The provost is now in her sixth year and reports that we continue to focus on serving our students. The university is in good health, with improvements in enrollment at all levels. There is also a special focus on first generation college students.

The university's strategic plan looks to emphasize four key areas over the next few decades. These "portfolios," interdisciplinary in character, are:

1. Digitally Connected World, encompassing new communication technologies, digital literacy, and the means by which innovation can create new forms of community.
2. Energy, Environment, and the Economy, looking at society's long-term energy future, energy generation, environmentally responsible technologies, and environmental mediation.
3. Health and Wellness, addressing public health, outreach to underserved populations, the art and science of health care delivery, and emerging and novel technologies.
4. Vibrant Societies and Economies, investigating human capital, arts and culture as forces for economic prosperity, and entrepreneurship and economic development.

*Ed Baum*

**BITS AND PIECES (Repeated)**

**JOIN THE BOBCAT NATION THIS WINTER**

Last winter, a small contingent of emeriti and family members attended an Ohio University basketball game. While a good time was had by all, more emeriti would have made it an even better evening.

Now, you have the opportunity to plan such an evening. Dru is interested in knowing how many emeriti would like to attend another basketball game in January or February. The dates of the Bobcats' home games are:

- 01/07/15 vs. NIU
- 01/14/15 vs. Toledo
- 01/24/15 vs. Buffalo
- 02/04/15 vs. Akron
- 02/07/15 vs. Eastern Michigan
- 02/10/15 vs. Central Michigan
- 02/21/15 vs. Kent State



Please let Dru (evarts@ohio.edu) know which date(s) would work for you.

**WHY COME TO THE MONTHLY LUNCHEON?**

There are six good reasons to come to the monthly luncheons:

- 1) See old friends.
- 2) Make new friends.
- 3) Learn what is happening with issues of importance to emeriti.
- 4) Get out of the house.
- 5) Adds variety to your diet.
- 6) Listen to the day's speaker and learn about university and nonuniversity topics. The next featured speakers are:



December: Matthew Griffin, tenor, accompanied by Harolyn Brient

January: Lorna Jean Edmonds, vice-provost, Global Affairs

February: Kenneth Johnson, executive dean, Heritage College of Osteopathic Medicine

March: Alan Cohen

April: Tracy Kelly, executive director, Big Brothers Big Sisters, Athens Co., and Keith Wilbur, Ohio University Board of Trustees Student Trustee



Happy



Holidays!



**PARKING PERMIT DELAYED UNTIL THIS MONTH**

It's time! Go to the Parking Office **this month** to renew your campus parking permit. When you want to try it, call first (593-1927) to be sure you can be served on the day you have in mind.

**IN MEMORIAM**

Richard Syracuse, 80, died suddenly on Friday, November 21. He received the bachelor and the master of science degrees from the Juilliard School of Music in New York City where he held the Josef Lhevinne, Frank Damrosch, and John Erskine scholarships. After initial music lessons with his father, his early studies were at the Mannes College of Music with Mme. Vera Popova; at Juilliard he studied with two legendary piano teachers — Rosalyn Tureck and Mme. Rosina Lhevinne. A Fulbright Scholarship enabled Richard to study at the St. Cecilia Academy of Music in Rome, Italy, under Carlo Zecchi where he received an Artist Diploma.



Arriving on the campus of Ohio University in 1966, Richard taught applied piano, keyboard literature, and accompanying, in addition to maintaining an active career as a soloist, accompanist, chamber musician, and jazz musician. He was awarded the Professor Emeritus title when he "officially" retired in 2010. He continued to play and teach in various venues and was a local favorite at Cutler's Restaurant in the Ohio University Inn.

He is survived by his wife, Carole K. Cordray-Syracuse, a sister, four nephews, a niece, many great nieces and nephews, as well as a sizable group of extended family, friends, and colleagues.

[excerpted from the *Athens Messenger*, November 27, p. A2]

Dear Fellow Emeriti,

Each month, Ruth Nostrant must give to the O.U. Inn a minimum number of how many emeriti will be at our monthly lunch. This is based on a percentage of the "always" list and those who have let her know they were coming.

In November, a significantly large number of emeriti who had indicated they would be at the lunch never showed up. We still had to pay the O.U. Inn for the minimum number which Ruth had given them. If you were on Ruth's list but did not let her know you would not attend, you may receive a notice from me in December asking you to pay.

Please remember: if you have told Ruth that you would be at the lunch, either as part of the "always" list or letting her know separately, but find that you cannot come, you must let Ruth (nostrant@ohio.edu, 593-5194) know no later than the Monday of the lunch week. (We have enough flexibility with the O.U. Inn to cover the lunch if an emergency happens to you on Tuesday, Wednesday, or even Thursday morning which prevents your attendance.)

Thank you,  
*Ed Baum*  
 (acting in his role as treasurer of the O.U. Emeriti Association and guardian of our monies)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30	01 Emeriti Volunteer <i>Kennedy Museum</i> <b>DEC</b>	02	03	04	05	06
07	08 Emeriti Volunteer <i>Kennedy Museum</i>	09	10	11	12	13
<b>14</b> <b>Celebration of the life of Richard Syracuse , 3-6 p.m., OU Inn</b>	15 Emeriti Volunteer <i>Kennedy Museum</i>	16	17	18 Emeriti Board Meeting <b>EMERITI LUNCH</b> <i>OU Inn</i>	19	20
21	22 Emeriti Volunteer <i>Kennedy Museum</i>	23	24	25	26	27
28	29 Emeriti Volunteer <i>Kennedy Museum</i>	30	31	01 <b>JAN</b>	02	03

Antia James, Editor  
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