



**April 15, 2010**  
**ALDEN LIBRARY 40 YEARS PLUS**  
**Scott Seaman, Dean of University Libraries**  
*Presented by Ann Braxton*



Scott H. Seaman became Dean of University Libraries on April 1, 2008. Before coming to Ohio University, he was the Associate Director of Administrative Services at the Norlin Library at the University of Colorado at Boulder.

He has an Ohio background, having received a BA (art/business) in 1982 from Wright State University. In 1986 he received his MA (art history) from Ohio State University. Then in 1987, he was awarded an MLS from Kent State University.

From 1985-1987 he was Head, Research Library/Archive, Online Computer Library Center, Bibliographic Maintenance for the National Center for Research in Vocational Education. From 1988-1991 he was Head of Interlibrary Loan at Ohio State University. In 1991 he became Head of Circulation Services at the University of Colorado in Boulder, before becoming the Acting Associate Director of Administrative Services in 1997. In 1998 he became Associate Director.

**REPORT ON OCHER MEETING AT THE STRS BUILDING  
IN COLUMBUS ON MARCH 16, 2010** *(Ted Foster)*

I had the pleasure of presiding at our March meeting arranged by Vice President Lou DiOrio. The principal speakers, Robert Slater and Gregory Nickell, provided the information for national evaluation of STRS's plans to ensure the viability of our defined benefit retirement system and the health care stabilization fund. Nickell also updated us about the proposed federal changes to health care.

With respect to pension plan changes necessary to ensure STRS viability Slater reported on the changes in STRS funding/payment structure needed to restore the pension fund to long-term solvency. Slater is STRS's Chief Financial Officer, whose title is Deputy Executive Director of Finance. A summary of the changes STRS is proposing can be found on their web site at <https://www.strsoh.org/pdfs/40-304.pdf>. The title of the document is: "Strengthening the Financial Condition of the Retirement System." Slater's presentation emphasized three conclusions. 1. STRS's proposed remedies need to be adopted, the sooner the better, or else other more stressful remedies will be needed. 2. On the brighter side, current retirees are minimally affected by the changes except for the "COLA" which would be reduced from three percent to two percent. Slater said elimination of the "COLA" would come close to returning the system to solvency. 3. Offsetting the brighter view of the pension system for current retirees Slater pointed out is the likely diminution of the number of years of solvency for the health care stabilization fund. Depending on the assumption made about *(Continued on Page 3)*



**Thursday**  
**APRIL 15, 2010**

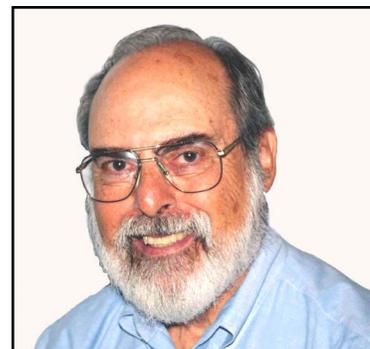
**BALLROOM 11:30 AM - 1:30 PM**

\$13.50

- Fresh Garden Salad with Assorted Dressings
- Spinach Salad
- Coleslaw
- Vegetarian Lasagna
- Chicken Piccata
- Basil Potatoes
- Medley of Carrots, Broccoli & Cauliflower
- Rolls & Butter
- Assorted Desserts, including Fresh Cut Fruit
- Beverages

**RESERVATIONS** must be made to attend the luncheon. You **MUST** call Ruth Nostrant at 593-5194 by **Friday, April 9**. 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 - ED BAUM



Hi,

While most of us no longer teach, we are still aware of the change in Athens when students return after spring break. I noticed this driving back from the airport yesterday evening (Sunday, March. 28) and was one of a string of cars threading through the darkening hills of southeast Ohio. The town is alive again and that, combined with the natural bounce that spring brings, gives added energy to our lives that is greatly appreciated.

Speaking of energy, thanks to the energy of several people, especially Dru Evarts, we have an almost complete slate of candidates for emeriti office for the coming year:

President	George Weckman
Vice President	Dru Evarts
Secretary	Anne McClanahan
Treasurer	Ruth and Dick Nostrant
Membership	Margaret Thomas
Benefits	Ted Foster
Volunteer Services	Martha Bitters
Historian	Charles Carlson
Emeriti Park	to be announced... one person is considering it
Newsletter	Edith Russ
Election	

As you note, there is still one unfilled position. Might you be interested? If so, let me know (593-8675). If you want to run for either the open position or one of the others (yes, we accept nominations from the floor) just give me a call for more information (593-8675).

I hope to see you at the luncheon on April 15.

*Ed*

## NOTES FROM OUR MARCH PROGRAM

Most of us, as emeriti, remember when medical care in Athens was quite limited. Dr. James Riestenberg, chair of the board at O’Bleness Medical Centers, provided us with a picture of health care in Athens today which is a far cry from those early memories.

He started with a brief history of O’Bleness, beginning with a lying-in birthing center in 1921 through the creation of a real hospital, Sheltering Arms, in 1947, to the building of the O’Bleness Memorial Hospital in 1970. This has been followed by specialists and specialties in the Castrop Center, the Cornwell Center, and acquisition of such facilities at the Athens Medical Lab and the Athens Surgery Center. Available centers include cardiology, cancer, wound care, and orthopedics. In addition to O’Bleness the creation of the College of Osteopathic Medicine and the establishment of Holzer Clinic has vastly expanded access to medical care in Athens county.

O’Bleness had some very difficulty years (2006-2008) losing 15 million dollars. Part of the problem was in unreimbursed medical care, largely from taking care of patients without medical insurance. Outside consultants made a number of recommendations ranging from cutting 45 employees to administrative re-organization so that now the hospital is in the black and is working hard to serve our communities. Last year, for example, there were 3,000 admissions, 27,000 emergency visits, 23,000 outpatient treatments.

The hospital has been working with Ohio Health as an affiliate, an association which brings savings in purchasing and assistance in a number of areas.

*(Ed Baum)*



**Quercus robur 'Skymaster'**  
**Given by Professor Joseph and Janice Tucker**  
**A View From The Park Bench**  
*Historian, Chuck Carlson*

If you are on the east side of the Emeriti Park and sit on the Dr. Harry Crewson bench, which I did recently, and you look across the pond you can see an English Skymaster Oak tree also referred to as Quercus robur 'Skymaster'. It was given as a "memorial" by Joseph and Janice Tucker. It was planted about ten years ago just below the Nick and Lillian Dinos Bench. As it grows, its shape is gradually becoming pyramidal. I looked at it in March, without leaves, but getting ready to show signs of life and take on a dark green foliage. (Picture shown is of a full grown tree). The 'Skymaster' as it grows develops a very strong central leader with wide crotch angles, and an excellent lateral branch development which makes it well suited to grow along roadways such as the Oxbow Trail leading to Baker Center. When full grown, in a few years, it will, hopefully, look like the one shown in the picture and be about fifty feet high and twenty five feet wide.

Oak trees are a type of deciduous tree. These are broad-leaved trees that shed all their leaves during one season. The oak tree is a member of the Beech family and its scientific name is *Quercus* or *Lithocarpus*. The best type of soil for a healthy and nutritious growth of deciduous trees is referred to as podzol (also spelled podsol). Oak trees can live 200 or more years.

Joe Tucker was granted the title, Professor Emeritus of Political Science on April 18<sup>th</sup>, 1998. Joe came to Ohio University in 1962 as a member of the Political Science Department. In 1981 he was appointed Associate Vice President of Lifelong Learning from which he retired in 1997. In May 2000 he was elected Vice President of the Emeriti Association and served two years in charge of programs. He was nominated for President in May 2002, was elected, and served two years as President. Joe was also active on the Park Maintenance Committee which worked Thursday mornings in the Park during spring, summer and early fall performing a number of duties, including beautification.

**IN MEMORIAM**

**Helen (Lennie) Conover**, 75, passed away March 24. Born in Graettinger, IA, she completed a BA degree at Grinnell College where she met her future husband, James, who was a professor of theater. Several years and colleges later, Athens became their home. Lennie earned an advanced degree and a faculty position in the School of Hearing and Speech Sciences. The family was very active in OVST. She is survived by her husband of 53 years, James, 2 children and 3 grandchildren.



**Earl A. Kneis**, 71, died March 14 after a 10 year battle with cancer. Born in White Haven, PA, he received a BA from Muhlenberg College in 1958, an MA from Lehigh University in 1960 and a PhD from the University of Illinois in 1964. He began teaching at Ohio University in 1964, specializing in 19th Century English literature with an emphasis on the Victorian novel. He served as chair and graduate chair of the Dept. of English and served on several university and department committees. He is survived by his wife of 50 years, Elizabeth (Betsy), 3 sons and their families.

**Helmut T. Zwahlen**, 71, died suddenly February 28 at O'Bleness Hospital. Born in Thun, Switzerland, he received his diploma in mechanical engineering in 1962 from the Institute of Technology of the State of Berne, an MS degree in industrial and systems engineering in 1968 from Ohio University and a PhD in ISE in 1972 from OSU. In 1971 he joined the Russ College at OU in the ISE Dept. He was Russ Professor emeritus with the ISE Dept, and research professor with the Ohio Research Institute for Transportation and the environment. He was one of the first truly successful researchers in the Russ College. He is survived by his wife of 48 years, Lotti, a daughter and a son.



*(OCHER - Cont'd from Pg 1)*

earnings from the one percent of contributions designated for health care, the fund runs out in 2021 if it earns an annual rate of 5% and in 2024 if it earns 8%. As the health care stabilization fund runs out, the amount retirees must contribute to their Medicare and supplemental insurance policies will increase until when it runs out, they will become solely responsible for all their own Medicare premium costs and Medicare supplement costs.

Nickell, STRS Director of Health Care Services, discussed the effects of federal proposals on health care. The chief effect of proposed federal legislation will be to reduce the money going to Medicare advantage plans and that, in turn, will increase the costs of those plans to STRS members covered by them, but the federal programs should help with medical costs and decision making in a number of ways. It is also the case that if the STRS subsidies for health care paid to those who retire early (before Medicare eligibility) were eliminated, the one percent that goes to the health care stabilization fund would be sufficient to cover current levels of subsidy to those eligible for Medicare and return the stabilization fund to long-term solvency.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
4 <b>APRIL</b>	5	6 Emeriti Volunteer <i>Dairy Barn</i>	7 Emeriti Volunteer <i>Kennedy Museum</i>	8 AFAN Tea <i>Holiday Inn Express</i>	9	10
11	12	13 Emeriti Volunteer <i>Dairy Barn</i> Performing Arts <i>Garrison Keillor</i>	14 Emeriti Volunteer <i>Kennedy Museum</i> OUWC <i>Dairy Barn</i>	15 Emeriti Board  <b>EMERITI LUNCH</b> <b>OU Inn</b>	16	17
18	19	20 Emeriti Volunteer <i>Dairy Barn</i>	21 Emeriti Volunteer <i>Kennedy Museum</i>	22	23	24
25 High Society Jazz Band <i>Abrio's</i>	26	27 Emeriti Volunteer <i>Dairy Barn</i>	28 Emeriti Volunteer <i>Kennedy Museum</i>	29	30	1 <b>MAY</b>
2	3	4 Emeriti Volunteer <i>Dairy Barn</i>	5 Emeriti Volunteer <i>Kennedy Museum</i>	6	7 Performing Arts <i>Voices of Spring</i>	8

The High Society Jazz Association's April Session at Abrio's on April 25, 3:30-6:00, will feature vocalist Emily Burhans. For further info call Pat Light, 593-1317.

**RECOLLECTIONS**

From the Archives of the Department of Incidental Intelligence

One fine day the administration received a request for the loan of a painting that was known to be a part of the university collection. The administration promptly responded that it would review the matter and get back to them. This initiated a frantic search for the painting. After a fruitless search the university wrote an honest response to the request stating that the painting was not available at the time.

Many months later the painting was discovered in Cutler Hall, on the 3rd floor, in the ladies room, next to a practice piano!

*(Ed Russ)*

**EMERITI BOARD 2009-2010**

President	Ed Baum
Vice-President/ Program Chair	Margaret Thomas
Secretary	Dru Riley Everts
Treasurer	Richard & Ruth Nostrant
Newsletter	Edie Russ
Membership	Zinny Bond
Benefits	Ted Foster
Volunteer Services	Jim & Sarah Cox
Emeriti Park	Robert Smith & Joe Tucker
Elections	Catherine Brown
Website	Joe Essman
Historian	Chuck Carlson

**UPCOMING**

**EMERITI LUNCHEON PROGRAMS**

**May 20: Ohio University Vision and  
2010 Induction Ceremony of Faculty and Administrator Emeriti**

*Dr. Roderick J. McDavis  
President*

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Permit 100  
Athens, OH 45701

*Edie Russ  
P.O. Box 159  
Athens, OH 45701*

