

EMERITI NEWS



OHIO
UNIVERSITY

A newsletter from the Ohio University Emeriti Association



February 20, 2014

DIONYSUS MEETS HADES IN TOLEDO (OH)

Thomas H. Carpenter
Chair, Classics and World Religions

(Introduced by George Weckman)

Thomas H. Carpenter is the Ohio University Charles J. Ping professor of humanities, professor of classics, and director of the Ping Institute for the Teaching of the Humanities. Dr. Carpenter, who joined the Department of Classics and World Religions in 1997, specializes in ancient Greek religion and iconography.

Holding degrees in both theology (M.T.S., Harvard) and classical archaeology (D.Phil., Oxford), he is the author of numerous books on Greek mythology and religion. His *Art and Myth in Ancient Greece* (Thames and Hudson, 1991), has been translated into six languages. He is also the author of *Dionysian Imagery in Fifth Century Athens* (Oxford University Press, 1997) and the co-editor of the forthcoming book, *The Italic People of Apulia: New Evidence from Pottery for Workshops, Markets and Customs* (Cambridge University Press) that addresses the reception and worship of Dionysus by the native people in South Italy.

Professor Carpenter has recently been named the recipient of the Joukowsky Lectureship by the Archaeological Institute of America and during 2014-15, he will travel throughout the United States to present public lectures. His presentation on February 20 will be "Dionysus Meets Hades in Toledo (OH)."

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BALLROOM

**EMERITI
LUNCHEON**
\$15.00

Thursday
February 20, 2014
11:30 AM - 1:30 PM

RESERVATIONS must be made to attend the luncheon. If you are not on the list of regular attendees, you **MUST** call Ruth Nostrant at 593-5194 by Friday, **February 14**. 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.

MENU

Fresh Garden Salad with Assorted Dressings
Ham & Pea Salad with Macaroni Pasta
Roasted Broccoli with Cheddar Vinaigrette
Chicken Salad Wrap
Roast Beef & Pepper Wrap
Grilled Vegetable Wrap
Assorted Cookies, Brownies & Fresh Fruit
Beverages

A Message From The President - DRU RILEY EVARTS



Your Executive Board has agreed to sponsoring two public events during the coming spring, and we want you to know about them well in advance, even though details are far from complete. The date of the second event has already been set by the Alumni Office, main sponsor of the first (and what personnel there hope will be the annual) On the Green Weekend, which will be over the last weekend in May (May 30, 31, and June 1). (This does not interfere with Memorial Day, which is the weekend before). The first of our public events will probably be in mid- to late March, but it will happen in one afternoon, and the Board will let you know as soon as the date is established. It is dependent on the schedules of the speakers.

During George Weckman's first year as president (2010-11), he convinced the Board that we should have a once-a-year public event, apart from our monthly membership luncheons, so that we could share an Emeriti-sponsored program with anyone who would like to come. The first of these (spring 2011) was a discussion of the university's history and at what point the Emeriti came into it; the second was a salute to the OU Press; and the third (last spring) was a visit with NPR's Gwen Ifill, whom the School of Journalism generously shared with us while she was here to receive its Carr Van Anda Award.

This year the Board has voted to sponsor a public meeting at which people can learn more about how the university will look in five or 10 years. We brought up this idea during our first-semester meeting with President Roderick McDavis, and he readily agreed to head a panel on this subject. We asked to meet with him early in the second semester specifically to get the ball rolling on planning and scheduling this program. The president will have on the panel with him some Facilities personnel to give us the fine points, including the "dressing up" they plan, including the main campus green this summer. (Incidentally, the handrails for which we have advocated strongly, will be installed at all entrances to the campus green as a part of the coming summer's work.)

The On the Green Weekend., already scheduled for the last weekend of May, is being planned and promoted by the Alumni Association, which has invited our participation. We have a good deal of latitude on exactly HOW to participate, but it was apparent at the January Board meeting at which this invitation was first discussed that the Board is enthusiastic about the prospect of being able to be with returning alumni and faculty whom we knew during our teaching and administrative staff years. The Alumni College will also be part of this weekend. There will be much more about this in future newsletters. You will have all the details well before either of these occasions comes up.

Dru

Notes on January's Luncheon Presentation

"DIGITAL, SOCIAL AND MOBILE" by Scott Titsworth, Dean, Scripps College of Communication

As I listened to Scott Titsworth describe *The Changing Landscape of Communication Pedagogy*, which was the subtitle of his presentation, I kept thinking of Bob Dylan who sang, "For the times they are a-changin'!"

The digital revolution has brought about more rapid change in communication pedagogy in the last ten years than at any period before. Today's students consume knowledge through iPads and iPhones rather than the traditional media: books, newspapers, television.

Colleges are incorporating the variety of ways people use digital media today. Six trends are affecting higher education:

- 1 – increasing mobility of information including just-in-time learning,
- 2 – increasing use of cloud-based storage systems,
- 3 – an increase in collaboration among students,
- 4 – our changing role as educators (e.g., the Kahn Academy),
- 5 – the educational environment is increasingly a hybrid (e.g., MOOCs, massive open on-line courses, and,
- 6 – student expectations about what higher education is changing.

The structure of the new Schoonover Center for Communication (the old Baker Center) reflects these changes. Take a tour to see for yourself.

Ed Baum

BENEFITS REPORT

Primary Care Doctor Letter. Aetna sent out a letter strongly advising clients to specify a Primary Care Doctor. The letter caused some confusion (since most people for practical purposes already have one). The confusion caused Aetna to create a recorded greeting when calling their information phone number explaining, as the letter stated, that there is no requirement that one pick a primary care doctor. The letter apparently was a way for Aetna to encourage clients to switch to a network doctor, which indeed reduces ordinary office visit costs compared to using an out-of-network doctor.

Funding Period Miscalculation. STRS distributed, via their regular emailed eUpdate, available to any member on request, the news that the STRS actuarial consultant, Segal Corporation, had miscalculated future contributions by active STRS members. The result did not affect the present valuation of assets and liabilities for the pension fund but did raise the funding period, the amount of time it would take, should STRS cease operations, to pay off all pension liabilities. The law requires the funding period to be 30 years or less. Segal's original November 2013 report showed the funding period to have been reduced from infinity at the height of the post-2008 financial crisis to 36 years, close enough to the required 30 to be in sight. The revised calculation puts the funding period at 40 years. Some STRS members, who have been critical of STRS management in the past, e.g., Dennis Leone, have predicted that STRS, faced in the future (probably 2018) with a financial crisis, would have to cancel the Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) totally for everyone. These critics are calling for a reduction in the size of the highest present pension benefits (in terms of percent of final average salary) from 88% to 77% in order to retain the annual COLA for the future. It is hard to tell what credence to put into these criticisms and calculations.

Art Woolley, Benefits Chair

EMERITI PARK COMMITTEE



The 2013-14 Emeriti Park Committee is hard at work making great plans. From left to right, they are Max Evans, Billie Handa, Jean Drevenstedt, Steve Grimes, Alan Boyd, Richard Dean, chair for his third year; and John Kotoski, associate vice president of Facilities emeritus, the most recent addition to the committee. Billie Handa is the development officer for Facilities.

IN MEMORIAM



ROBERT FREDERICK SYMPSON, 86, of Athens, passed away January 3, 2014. Bob served in the Navy during WWII, after which he earned his BS in chemistry at Monmouth College. He received his PhD in chemistry in 1954 from the University of Illinois.

He and his wife, Mary Ann, moved to Athens in 1954 when he joined the chemistry faculty at Ohio University, serving twice as department chairman before retiring in 1992.

Mary Ann preceded him in death in 2010. Bob is survived by 3 daughters and 1 son, 7 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren.

Ready for some fun? Volunteer at the Kennedy Museum or The Dairy Barn and see all the exhibits, and you may even get selected for the free Emeriti Lunch if your name is drawn from the list of volunteers.

Over the past several years the Ohio University Emeriti Association has been providing support for those very important programs. Our task is to provide coverage for the reception desks at the two centers under the direction of Lori Spencer at The Kennedy Museum, and Claire White at The Dairy Barn. At each Emeriti luncheon meeting Joann Fokes and I, as the volunteer coordinators for the association, provide signup sheets so that Emeriti members can select the date and time that they will provide that coverage. We then call members to fill in those times not selected.

There are a lot of newly appointed members of the Emeriti Association and many who may not know about the volunteer program or have not been asked to join in. If you would like to help out and have not signed up yet, look for the clipboards being handed around at the luncheons or call Sue Foster at 593-5258. And we may just begin calling a few of our new members to be sure they know there are perks to volunteering. Hope you can help.

Sue Foster

UPCOMING EMERITI LUNCHEON PROGRAMS

March 20: Dr. Roger Braun
Professor of Percussion

April 17: Jennifer Simon
Director of OU Innovation Center

**May 15: Roderick McDavis, President, Ohio University
& New Emeriti Induction**

CONSTITUTION VOTE

The Emeriti Constitution requires that it be reviewed by the Executive Board every five years, revised as deemed necessary, and submitted to the membership for a vote. You should have received an e-mail copy of the most recent revision in January, preparatory to voting at the February luncheon. If you did not receive it or need another copy, call 740-592-1231 or e-mail evarts@ohio.edu.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
9 FEBRUARY	10	11 Emeriti Volunteer <i>Kennedy Museum</i>	12	13 Emeriti Volunteer <i>Kennedy Museum</i>	14 	15
16	17 LA Theatre Works THE GRADUATE <i>Performing Arts</i>	18 Emeriti Volunteer <i>Dairy Barn Kennedy Museum</i>	19	20 Emeriti Board Meeting EMERITI LUNCH <i>OU Inn</i>	21	22
23	24	25 Emeriti Volunteer <i>Dairy Barn Kennedy Museum</i>	26	23 Emeriti Volunteer <i>Kennedy Museum</i>	28	1 MARCH
2	3	4 Emeriti Volunteer <i>Dairy Barn Kennedy Museum</i>	5	6 Emeriti Volunteer <i>Kennedy Museum</i>	7	8

*Edie Russ, Editor
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