



**June 16, 2016**  
**THE GROUNDS OF OHIO UNIVERSITY**  
**Rudiger (Rudy) Baumgartel**  
**Upper Campus Grounds Supervisor**  
*Introduction by Richard Dean*

Rudy is an Athens County native. He studied horticulture at Lower Saxony Teaching and Research Facility for Horticulture in Oldenburg, Germany, and at the Ohio State University. He served in the Air Force/Air National Guard, and is a veteran of the first Gulf War (1990 -1991). He owned The Albany Nursery Company, a local landscape firm. In 2013, he joined Ohio University as the supervisor of the Upper/Main Campus Grounds Area.

He is married to Molly, and they have two children, Max and Olivia.




**EMERITI BOARD 2015-2016**

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## EMERITI LUNCHEON

Thursday  
June 16, 2016  
11:30 AM - 1:00 PM



**BALLROOM**

**RESERVATIONS** must be made to attend the luncheon. If you are not on the "ALWAYS" list of regular attendees, you **MUST** call or email Betty Larson at (740) 593-4847 or [llarson3@columbus.rr.com](mailto:llarson3@columbus.rr.com) by **Friday, June 11**. 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** \$15.00

Garden Salad  
Pasta Salad  
Rotini Primavera in Balsamic Vegetable Au Jus  
Swiss Steak w/Tomato Mushroom Gravy  
California Blend Vegetables  
Wild Rice Medley  
Assorted Desserts & Fresh Cut Fruit

## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT - Alan Boyd



How often have you complimented your dog on how smart he or she is? I know we have. Recently, there has been an increased interest in the intelligence of animals. Articles in newspapers and magazines describe the behavior of pets; travelers talk about what they have seen while traveling in exotic places. Most of these references are anecdotal, including our own. I am sure we all have stories to tell about our own pets.

A recent column by the editor of *The Week* magazine described the sad look on his dog's face after a misunderstanding. In the column, he refers to a new publication entitled *Are We Smart Enough to Know How Smart Animals Are?* by Frans De Waal, a psychologist and ethologist. In this book, Dr. De Waal talks about more than personal anecdotes, referring to a number of scientific studies of the social and communicative activities of fish, insects, mammals—including humans—bats and birds. He discusses the tendency of most of us to attribute animal behavior to instinct or imitative motivations. He says we think only humans are self aware, only humans care about others, only humans take vacations. We use the word “aping” to mean mimicking. He calls this “human exceptionalism.” The book's main point is that every specie has acquired a variety of skills to adapt to its own environment, each special to that specie, many resembling human activities.

If humans have adopted similar behaviors, it is for our own survival, not necessarily because we have some characteristic similar to another specie. We have been too often motivated by a sense of the superiority of the human specie and have not been willing to recognize the intelligence of others. So the next time you tell your pet that he/she is very smart, keep in mind that what he/she is doing is natural to him/herself. In the final analysis it is a matter of survival. This is an interesting discussion, which I hope will continue to the enlightenment of us all and to the benefit of other creatures.

*Alan*

**This is the last newsletter of 2015-16. The next newsletter will be distributed at the beginning of September 2016.**

### THE EMERITI BOARD FOR 2016-17

President: Alan Boyd

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Membership: Margaret Thomas

Newsletter: Anita James

Benefits: Karen & Richard Vedder

Volunteer Services: Phyllis Baxter & Betty Larson

Emeriti Park: Richard Dean

Historian: Joanne Prisley

Website: Joseph Essman

Nominations:

Past-President: Dru Riley Evarts

### Notes on May's Luncheon Presentation by Pam Benoit “Report on the University by the Provost”

Great things are happening under our 20<sup>th</sup> university president, Roderick McDavis. These include completion of a successful eight-year fund drive which raised over \$500 million, a program of four-year level tuition for incoming students, and new residence halls which combine living and learning. Among recent collaborative research efforts are osteoporosis identification and prevention, an innovative media initiative, research on new uses of shale, and an academic innovation accelerator program.

*Ed Baum*

### 3 WAYS TO KEEP UP WITH THE EMERITI!

We get calls or emails from our members who want to know “What’s going on at the Emeriti luncheons?” “Have I missed a special program?” “Do you have my correct information?” Our answers to any of these questions are easy:

- 1) *Check the Emeriti website* at [www.ohio.edu/emeriti](http://www.ohio.edu/emeriti) for monthly Newsletters, members data, and other facts about the Emeriti.
- 2) *Join the Ohio University Emeriti LISTSERV* where we send notices and special announcements by way of an Ohio University database (it is secure and only for Emeriti)—to join, just write to [baum@ohio.edu](mailto:baum@ohio.edu); he will put you on the list.
- 3) *Contact the Emeriti Membership Chair* who will find answers your specific question if she can. Email or call Margaret Thomas at [thomasm@ohio.edu](mailto:thomasm@ohio.edu) or 740-593-8765.

### OCHER REPORT FOR MAY 2016

On May 17, Alan Boyd, Karen Vedder, and I attended the quarterly OCHER Board meeting in Columbus. As usual of late, most of the news was not particularly pleasant for those retirees receiving STRS benefits. With respect to health care, there is only \$3 billion in the STRS health care fund, and no new funds being deposited (PERS, by contrast has \$8 billion). STRS is announcing about a dozen cost reducing measures taking almost immediate effect, most of which are extremely minor, but may be material for those with unusual medical situations. One health care expert at the meeting opined that young people should probably try to save several hundred thousand dollars over a lifetime just to meet post-retirement health care needs. STRS support for our health care for even 15 years out looks a bit iffy.

The news with regards to pensions is not quite so downbeat, but not good. So far this fiscal year, the retirement fund’s assets have fallen by four billion dollars. The plan to move from about 70 percent (only moderately good) funding of liabilities to about 80 percent (pretty solid) funding over a decade is not being realized, and the assumption of a 7.75 percent annual return on investments is probably too high—the sister SERS system just lowered their assumption to 7.5 percent. I suspect STRS will do something similar soon.

Pensions are in zero imminent danger of being cut, but some reductions in benefits over time could happen (such as reduced inflation adjustments). Any hope for increased subsidization from younger retirees on defined contribution plans is unrealistic at least in the short run. On a brighter note, listening to fellow retirees at other schools, I sense Ohio University in general is doing at least as well, and probably better, than many of our sister state universities.

*Rich Vedder*

If you read this in time, don’t forget to contact George Weckman, (740) 592-4382, to R.S.V.P. for the emeriti afternoon at the Zenner home at 41 Utah Ave., **4-6 p.m., Sunday, June 5.** Rich Vedder will speak about famous people he has met and refreshments will be served. Come join the fun!

### IN MEMORIAM

Carolyn T. Murphree, 91, died May 13 at the home of her daughter, Kathryn, in Waynesville, N.C. Born in Washington, Arkansas, she earned an AB degree at Louisiana State University and an MA at Columbia University. She moved to Athens County in 1951 when her husband, the late Dr. Idus L. Murphree, joined the faculty of Ohio University. Later, she also joined the faculty, teaching writing courses—first in the English Department, and later in the Management Department. She retired as an emerita assistant professor in 1989.

She was active on the boards of Sheltering Arms Foundation, O’Bleness Hospital, League of Women Voters, Athens County Historical Society, and the Near Eastside Neighborhood Association. She found particularly rewarding her time as a CASA/GAL (court appointed special advocate, guardian ad litem) and her years at the Church of the Good Shepherd.

She is survived by her children, Kathryn, Emily, and Robert, as well as seven grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Distinguished Professor Guido H. Stempel III, 87, died on May 31. Born in Bloomington, Indiana, he grew up in Pittsburgh, later returning to Bloomington to earn his bachelor’s and master’s degrees at Indiana. Stempel became the first doctoral candidate in mass communication at the University of Wisconsin, Madison.



Stempel joined the Ohio University School of Journalism faculty in 1965. He became a major figure in the school’s graduate program while also teaching such undergraduate courses as Communication Law and Editing. His advanced research courses became the backbones of the graduate research of many master’s and Ph.D. students. His contributions to his discipline are many and legendary.

In addition to his wife, Anne, he is survived by two sons, Ralph and Carl; one daughter, Jane Stempel Arata; and three grandchildren.

### SUPPORT THE TANTRUM THEATER

In March, our lunch speakers were Merri Biechler and Shelley Delaney discussing Biechler’s latest play, *Tammy Faye’s Final Audition*, in which Delaney starred. Many of our members asked when they might be able to see it—and the answer is soon. The play will be performed at the new Tantrum Theater in Dublin, Ohio, from July 5-July 16. Here is what the theater’s website ([tantrumtheater.org](http://tantrumtheater.org)) says about the play: *Tammy Faye Baker was the sweetheart of Christian television in the 1980s until fraud and sex scandals brought her world crashing down. In this fevered dream at the end of her life, Tammy Faye enlists the men she loved to get back on TV and tape one last media extravaganza. Merri Biechler’s new play wipes clean the mascara and tears to make known the naked truth, and to ask ...*



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			01 Emeriti Volunteer <i>Emeriti Park-9 a.m.</i>  JUNE	02	03	04
05 Emeriti Function at the Zenner House, 4-6 p.m.	06	07 Emeriti Volunteer <i>Dairy Barn</i>	08 Emeriti Volunteer <i>Emeriti Park-9 a.m.</i>	09 Emeriti Volunteer <i>Kennedy Museum</i>	10	11
12	13	14 Emeriti Volunteer <i>Kennedy Museum</i>  Emeriti Volunteer <i>Dairy Barn</i>	15 Emeriti Volunteer <i>Emeriti Park-9 a.m.</i>	16 Emeriti Board Meeting  <b>EMERITI LUNCH</b> <i>OU Inn</i>	17	18
19	20	21 Emeriti Volunteer <i>Dairy Barn</i>	22 Emeriti Volunteer <i>Emeriti Park-9 a.m.</i>	23 Emeriti Volunteer <i>Kennedy Museum</i>	24	25
26	27	28 Emeriti Volunteer <i>Dairy Barn</i>	29 Emeriti Volunteer <i>Emeriti Park-9 a.m.</i>	30	<b>JULY</b>	

Photos of Pam Benoit



Antia James, Editor  
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