



Shelley Delaney

March 17, 2016

**TAMMY FAYE'S FINAL AUDITION**  
**Merri Biechler & Shelley Delaney**  
**Brick Monkey Theater Ensemble**

Introduction by Sam Crowl



Merri Biechler

**Merri Biechler** is a playwright, actor, educator, and the Managing Director of Brick Monkey Theater Ensemble, a professional theater company located in Southeast Ohio. She is the recipient of a 2014 Boomerang Fund for Artists award. Her plays include *Tammy Faye's Final Audition*, *An Appalachian Christmas Carol*, and *Confessions of a Reluctant Caregiver* which received grants totaling \$40,000 to use the play as a teaching tool for medical students. Merri received her MFA in playwriting from Ohio University. As an actor, Merri spent 18 months with the original Off-Broadway cast of *Tony'n Tina's Wedding*, appeared in the films *He Said, She Said*; *The Thing Called Love*; and *Pieces of April*; and guest-starred on episodes of *Judging Amy*, *E.R.*, and *Murphy Brown*.

**Shelley Delaney** heads the performance program in The Ohio University Division of Theater, is a founding member of Brick Monkey Theater Ensemble, and a member of the performing arts unions: Actors' Equity Association and SAG/AFTRA. Regional theater acting credits include The McCarter Theatre, Bay Street, Cincinnati Playhouse, Victory Gardens (Joseph Jefferson nomination for *Free Man of Color*), GeVa, Cleveland Playhouse, Capital Rep, Delaware Theatre Company, Virginia Stage, Pittsburgh Irish and Classical Theatre, Two River, Dorset Theatre Festival, and Florida Rep. New York theaters include La Mama, the Ohio, EST, HERE, Circle Rep Lab, and many others. Shelley directs regularly on the OU main stage, and directed *An Appalachian Christmas Carol* at Stuart's Opera House for two consecutive years.

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**EMERITI  
LUNCHEON**  
 Thursday  
 March 17, 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 (740-593-5194) or email Ruth Nostrant ([nostrant@ohio.edu](mailto:nostrant@ohio.edu)) by **Friday, March 11**. You may pay by cash or by check made payable to 'OU Emeriti'.

You can add your name to the Regular Attendees List and not have to call each month unless you cannot attend.

**MENU****\$15.00**

Potato Salad  
 Spinach Salad w/Hard-boiled Egg, Sunflower  
 Seeds, & Red Onion  
 Chicken Pot Pie  
 Meatloaf  
 Green Beans  
 Mashed Potatoes  
 Assorted Cheese Cake

## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT - Alan Boyd



Tom O'Grady, the Executive Director of the Athens Historical Society and Museum and speaker at the February Emeriti luncheon, gave an inspiring presentation on the history of canals in Ohio. I was particularly struck by the wonderful photos he showed of the many towns and villages in Ohio that once had working canals, many of which still have canal remnants. It became clear that there are a lot of historical locations here in Ohio which are available to be visited and seen if we will just get out and visit them. Too often, when we take vacations, we go to far away and exotic places.

Why don't we explore what is right here in our own backyard? It was obvious that Tom O'Grady has taken many interesting trips to towns in Ohio. Some I have never heard of. These places are available to all of us, if we will spend some of our time exploring them. There is a lot to be learned about the history of our state, its industries, old means of transportation, and products that once were very important to the economy of Ohio. It is not necessary to book a flight or arrange an expensive hotel; there is much to be discovered here in Ohio. We don't have to go far to have some great experiences.

The next time you take an excursion in Ohio I recommend that you visit the Athens County Historical Society and Museum and get some background information. It will make your trip a lot more interesting. Besides, you may need to get some directions to the places you want to visit. Bon Voyage!

*Alan*

### ON THE GREEN WEEKEND IS EARLIER THIS YEAR!

Join your Ohio University Alumni Association for a spring Homecoming featuring academics and the arts **May 18-22, 2016**. The weekend will feature activities for the entire OHIO community, alumni and their families, and those celebrating class milestones and special reunions.

**Wednesday (May 18):** Early birds kick off the weekend with registration, campus tours sponsored by the Student Alumni Board, and a Scenic Railroad Tour in Nelsonville.

**Thursday (May 19):** Join us for a welcome reception and the Film Festival. Go back to the classroom for Alumni College courses on 3D printing, environmental health, popular culture icons, and more. Finally, join the Athens community for a Concert Under the Elms on College Green.

**Friday (May 20):** Start the morning with college-hosted breakfasts and more Alumni College courses. Stroll the bricks or the bike path and shop Uptown. In the evening, the Film Fest will continue and there will be Karaoke Uptown.

**Saturday (May 21):** The weekend shifts into high gear. Lace up your sneakers for the Bobcat Dash 5k. Head to the Convo to admire classic cars during the Cruise-In, then join us for the signature On The Green BBQ.

**Sunday (May 22):** Grab your sweetheart for the "OH, I dO" vow renewal ceremony. Cap off the weekend by stopping by the farewell brunch. [Information from the On The Green Home website.]

### Notes on February's Luncheon Presentation by Tom O'Grady "THE STORY OF THE OHIO CANALS"

The completion of the Erie Canal, connecting New York City to Lake Erie in 1825, led Ohio to follow New York's lead. Governor Clinton broke ground for the Ohio canal system in July 1825. The first leg, the Ohio and Erie Canal system, 309 miles long, was completed in 1832. The system strengthened trade to New York on the east and south to New Orleans. It was extended to Nelsonville in 1840 and reached Athens in 1843. The development of an extensive railroad system toward the end of the 19th century doomed the canal system. In 1940, the portion of the canal through Nelsonville was filled in and is now known as Canal St.

*Ed Baum*

## PREVIEW OF THE LUNCH SPEAKERS

The speaker for our luncheon on April 21 is Susan Matters, fourth grade English Language Arts and Science teacher at West Elementary School. Her talk will be "Poetic Devices Seen Through the Eyes of Fourth Grade Students" in honor of April as Poetry Month.

The May luncheon will have Provost Pam Benoit as the speaker.

The June luncheon will have Executive Dean Kenneth Johnson of the Heritage College of Osteopathic Medicine.

## DO WE HAVE YOUR INFORMATION?

In late summer you received a letter from the Membership Committee asking that you update your information. Even if nothing has changed, please locate the card, provide the requested information, and return it as soon as possible. If you cannot locate the card, please contact Margaret Thomas ([thomasm@ohio.edu](mailto:thomasm@ohio.edu) or (740) 593-8765) and ask how best to provide the information.

## OU DOMESTIC TOUR OPPORTUNITIES

Casey Arnold, our Alumni Association liaison, has provided information on tours available through the Alumni Association but open to anyone. The website where you can find information about the various tour offerings is: <https://www.ohio.edu/alumni/invest/partnerships/travel.cfm>.

Some of the domestic tours this year include:

### American Empress—Passage of Lewis & Clark: May 7-15, 2016

Trace the fabled path of Lewis and Clark on this epic voyage that highlights the natural grandeur of the Pacific Northwest. From Clarkston to Portland, cruise the Columbia and Snake Rivers aboard the elegant American Empress, stopping at Sacajawea State Park, The Dalles, Stevenson, and Astoria. From \$2,699, *Go Next* [the company handling tour]

### Coastal Maine & New Brunswick: July 6-13, 2016

Discover the rustic glamour of Bar Harbor, Campobello Island, and St. Andrews by-the-Sea. Enjoy first-class accommodations in Bar Harbor and St. Andrews and an exclusive experience staying in authentic turn-of-the-century cottages on Campobello Island. This program also includes excursions, educational programs to provide unique insight into the regions, and an extensive meal plan featuring wine at dinner. \$3,795 + air, *AHI*

### Oceania Cruise -Alaska Passages: July 25-August 4, 2016

Experience Alaska's rugged beauty while sailing aboard Oceania Cruises' graceful Regatta. From Seattle, sail north to the picturesque Alaskan ports of Ketchikan, Wrangell, Juneau, Skagway, and Sitka, marvel at the magnificent Hubbard Glacier, and explore lovely Victoria, B.C., before returning to Seattle. From \$3,499 includes air from select cities, *Go Next*

### North America's Majestic Great Lakes, August 22-31, 2016

Picture yourself surrounded by pristine islands draped in verdant wilderness and rocky shores caressed by sparkling blue waters. From Chicago to Montreal, cruise all 5 Great Lakes and the scenic St. Lawrence River aboard the new 210-guest MS Saint Laurent. From \$4,499, *Go Next*

## IN MEMORIAM

Eugene Jennings, 92, passed away on February 1, at his home in Falls Church, VA. Gene was born in the small Kansas farming town of Arnold and grew up the youngest of three boys during the Depression. Blessed with perfect pitch, Gene showed a talent through childhood for the piano. When he left for Kansas University in 1941 it was to get a degree in music.



World War II interrupted Gene's studies at KU. His 1946 junior piano recital was, coincidentally, attended by John Baker, then the president of Ohio University. On the spot Baker offered him a professorship at OU, once Gene finished his degree.

After graduating Gene moved to Athens in 1949. In 1959 Gene earned a Ph.D. in piano at FSU. There he met a young harpist named Lucile High. They married after a whirlwind courtship that summer. He brought her back to Athens and they settled permanently, raising a family while both teaching at OU's School of Music. Gene retired in 1994.

Gene was preceded in death by Lucille and a son, Eric. He is survived by his sons Chris and Tom and their families.

## WHEN THE WEATHER IS BAD ...

If it a **level 2 or 3** snow advisory, the lunch is cancelled.

If it a **level 1**, lunch will be held as usual ... but drive carefully.

If you cannot get out of your driveway, even at level 1 (some of our fellow emeriti have steep driveways) call the O.U. Inn (740-593-6661) and ask them to let the Emeriti and Catering know so that the numbers may be adjusted.

If you want to know about snow information and other local emergencies, you can sign-up for telephone, mobile phone, email, or text messages from Alert Athens County. Click on this address (<https://member.everbridge.net/index/1772417038942516#/login>) to create an account. It's a fast and convenient way to know what's happening in the county.

TOURS, continued:

### Southern Charm: October 23-29, 2016

Experience true southern hospitality and charm in South Carolina and Georgia. Begin in beautiful antebellum Charleston, then travel south along the coast to historic Savannah and Georgia's Jekyll Island, the winter retreat of prominent gilded age families. Travel farther south and visit the United States' oldest city, St. Augustine, FL. From \$2,299, *Collette*

### Spotlight on San Antonio: December 1 - 5, 2016

Create wonderful holiday memories touring historic San Antonio, meeting the people, listening to the music, and sampling the cuisine. Highlights include Fiesta de las Luminarias, Mission San Jose, The Alamo, Bandera, LBJ Ranch, and Sandy Oaks Olive Orchard. From \$1,899, includes air from Columbus, OH, *Collette*



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		01 Emeriti Volunteer <i>Dairy Barn</i> <div>MAR</div>	02	03 Emeriti Volunteer <i>Kennedy Museum</i>	04	05
06	07	08 Emeriti Volunteer <i>Dairy Barn</i>	09	10 Emeriti Volunteer <i>Kennedy Museum</i>	11	12
13	14	15 Emeriti Volunteer <i>Kennedy Museum</i>	16	17 Emeriti Board Meeting  EMERITI LUNCH <i>OU Inn</i> <i>St. Patrick's Day</i>	18	19
20  <i>Palm Sunday</i>	21	22	23	24 Emeriti Volunteer <i>Kennedy Museum</i>  <i>Purim</i>	25  <i>Good Friday</i>	26
27  <i>Easter</i>	28	29	30	31	<div>APR</div>	

PHOTOS FROM TOM O'GRADY'S PRESENTATION

