

# EMERITI NEWSLETTER

OHIO UNIVERSITY



## September Speaker

Dr. M. Duane Nellis, the 21<sup>st</sup> president of Ohio University, came to us from Texas Tech University just over a year ago. This will be his second visit with the Emeriti Association and he will share an update on the state of affairs at Ohio University.

## EMERITI LUNCHEON

September 20, 2018 11:30 a.m. The Ohio University Inn

### SEPTEMBER MENU

Mixed Green Salad

Seared Cod

Oven Roasted Chicken

Roasted Red Potatoes

Brussels Sprouts

Assorted Desserts

### Things to Remember about the Luncheon

1. It costs \$15 (exact change helps)
2. Notify Tom Franz (740 593-5347; [franz@ohio.edu](mailto:franz@ohio.edu))  
by September 13 if you will attend on September 20.
3. If you are signed up as “always attends” but can’t make  
it on September 20, notify Tom Franz (740 593-5347;  
[franz@ohio.edu](mailto:franz@ohio.edu)) by September 13.
4. Don’t wait till the end of your meal to pick up dessert.

## **The 2018-19 Emeriti Board Nominations**

President – George Weckman

VP/Program Chair – Arthur Marinelli

Secretary – Anne Braxton

Treasurer – Leslie Flemming

Benefits – Karen and Richard Vedder

Membership – Scott and Marjorie Malcolm

Volunteer Services – Jed Butcher

Emeriti Park – Richard Dean

Historian/Archivist – Margaret Thomas

Website – To be filled

Nominations – John Howell

Newsletter editor – Patricia Black

(PLHB222@hotmail.com)

Past President – Alan Boyd

## **From the Emeriti President**

Here I am again, serving as your association president. This was not my idea, but the nominating committee seemed desperate. So my theme as we start a new year is: We must continue to help the Emeriti association as well as the many worthwhile organizations in Athens and the university as well as a service for our friends, colleagues, and neighbors. Retirement has its proper business as do other times of life.

Think about the role you can play in this and the next year. Sign up at the next luncheon to host at the Kennedy Museum or the Dairy Barn. Encourage other emeriti to join us at the monthly luncheons. Invite friends and neighbors to be your guests at our luncheons when the speaker or program is of interest to them.

Our association is beneficial in a vital retirement life. It is good to hear about current activities as we have less direct involvement with the university. New faculty and administrators, new programs and research, are all worth knowing about. Our meeting speakers can help us keep in touch with the university and the Athens community.

Take advantage of your emeriti status in the coming year. Keep in touch with former colleagues, hear about university developments, enjoy lunch with friends.

## **What I Did after Retiring, Danny Moates, Dept. of Psychology**

Deciding what to do was easy. Two colleagues and I had founded the Institute for the Empirical Study of Language three years earlier. I was director, so I could now give more time to growing the institute. We drew together people interested in doing research on language, how a language is acquired, what is happening when you talk to someone? What is happening when you listen to someone? The first step was learning how to talk with one another. Each member came from a specialized background, and we each had to learn enough to work collaboratively. It worked, and IESL is now in its 22<sup>nd</sup> year. I've learned that linguists have conferences in neat places – Sydney, Hong Kong, Glasgow...

A second area was health. I had been a runner for 20-odd years, but my back was beginning to let me down. WellWorks has some pretty good programs so I joined and tried (sometimes successfully) to create a regular schedule for working out. Something went right, because I am still going.

When word seeps out that you are about to retire, you will hear from some of the 200 or so nonprofits in town: Will you volunteer? serve on our board? etc. All are good causes and deserve support. Start with just one. The opportunities are many and absorbing, with a whole new set of interesting friends. I joined Habitat for Humanity during its real growth phase. I am no good with a hammer but fund-raising can be pretty engaging. It has been exciting to be part of Habitat.

I need a cultural side as well and that was choral music. I had sung in church choirs, glee clubs, and community choruses since early high school. I very much wanted to join OU's Choral Union and take part in their large, grand pieces, mostly from the classical literature. But I didn't have the time until I retired. In my first term in Choral Union, we joined the OU Symphony to perform the fourth movement of Beethoven's Ninth Symphony, the Ode to Joy. It is about 15 minutes of very enthusiastic singing, and it rides kind of high for the tenors. We finished physically fatigued but emotionally exhilarated, and I knew that I had to continue with this group.

## **OBITUARIES**

Because the Emeriti Newsletter is not printed in July and August, this September issue contains a startling number of obituaries. In order to fit them all in, I've used very abbreviated obituaries here. When the information was available, I've added information so readers can see the original entries.

### **Heffelfinger**

Elsa J. Heffelfinger, wife of the late football coach Clifford C. Heffelfinger, died in late August at Mt. Carmel East Hospital in Columbus. She taught Spanish at Athens High School for 25 years. She is survived by two daughters, a son, and several grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

A more detailed obituary is available if you search the archives of Jagers & Sons Funeral Home, Athens.

### **Witkowski**

Paul Witkowski died in June at his home in Port Clinton, OH. He retired from the position of Associate Director of Telecommunications at Ohio University in 2002. He is survived by his wife, a son and three grandchildren, all of whom, along with his many friends, will remember him as a jokester, a story teller, a motorcycle fan, a karaoke singer. He spent four years in the U.S. Navy and kept in touch with shipmates for all the years after he left in 1961. He was buried in Arlington National Cemetery.

A more detailed obituary is available if you search the archives of Gerner-Wolf-Walker Funeral Home and Crematorium, Port Clinton, Ohio.

### **Marks**

Lester Marks died at home in late May in Athens. He is survived by his wife and two daughters, twin grandsons, a granddaughter and a great-granddaughter. Lester was a professor of English literature at Ohio University from 1959 to 1999. He also served the university at its first Ombudsman in 1970 and a second term in 1977. Though he meant his stay in Athens to be temporary he was captivated by the area, his stimulating colleagues in the English Department and the lively Athens community and spent his career here. He had a strong interest in things Scandinavian, particularly Sweden, where one of his daughters lives.

A more detailed obituary is available if you search the archives of Jagers & Sons Funeral Home, Athens.

### **Sarno**

Edward F. Sarno died in April at his winter home in Florida. He had served Ohio University for 28 years, starting as an instructor in speech and progressing through an assistant deanship to associate professor at Ohio University -Lancaster. He retired in 1993 as assistant dean at OU-Lancaster. He is survived by his wife, a daughter and step-daughter, a son and step-son, and six grandchildren. He was very active in the Boy Scouts of America, United Way, mental health and many other like-minded organizations.

**Westfall**

Patricia Ann Westfall died in Athens in April. She spent more than two decades on the faculty of the School of Journalism and retired in 2009 as a professor of journalism. She had many published works to her credit and in later years had entered enthusiastically into the world of the visual arts, leaning towards painting and drawing.

A more detailed obituary is available if you search the archives of Jagers & Sons Funeral Home, Athens.

**Essman**

Joseph Essman died in mid-August at his home in The Plains. He is survived by his wife, three daughters, two sons, nineteen grandchildren, and twelve great-grandchildren. He was associate dean and professor of engineering at Ohio University where he created programs for women and minorities in engineering. He promoted engineering for young people. He was a member of the Society for Electrical Engineers, the Institution of Electrical and Electronics Engineers and a wide variety of other professional groups and civic societies.

A more detailed obituary is available if you search the archives of Jagers & Sons Funeral Home, Athens.

