



A newsletter from the Ohio University Emeriti Association



**March 15, 2012**

**THE CUTLER SCHOLARS**

**Dr. Charles J. Ping,**  
*President Emeritus, Ohio University*

*(Presented by Richard Vedder)*

Charles Ping, Ohio University's 18<sup>th</sup> president, is fondly remembered by Emeriti members who were teaching here between 1975 and 1994. In addition, he is highly regarded by those and others because of his continued involvement, directorship, and teaching. Actually, he is three emeriti in one: university president emeritus, professor emeritus of philosophy and education, and director emeritus of the Cutler Scholars Program. His conversation with us at the March Emeriti luncheon will focus on the

last-mentioned of these. It has been the center of his attention since his retirement from the presidency, followed by a one-year sabbatical. He is the only long-term president emeritus of modern times who remained connected in a teaching capacity after retiring from the presidency.

Educated at Rhodes College, Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary, and Duke University, he came to Ohio from the position of provost at the University of Michigan. He had already had presidential experience as an acting president of Tusculum College, 1968-69. He arrived in Athens when OU was in a severe enrollment decline (initiated largely by the anti-Vietnam War demonstrations here after the 1970 Kent State disaster). This malaise was accompanied by a critical financial situation. In 19 years as president (one of the longest terms in OU's history), he led the university to its highest enrollment (25,000), brought the budget to \$240 million, and oversaw both the 1804 campaign raising \$22.6 million and the Third Century campaign (more than \$132 million). Many accomplishments (the Tier program, the doubling of the size of the campus through the acquisition of the former Mental Health Center, the increase in published scholarship, and many others) are credited to his presidency.

The Cutler Scholars program was officially launched with the selection of its first scholars in the 1996-97 academic year. The idea for the program began years earlier among OU alumni and supporters who wanted to attract world-class students here to study in a program patterned after the Rhodes Fellowship and Morehead Scholars programs. It emphasizes leadership potential and is designed to reinforce an ethic of civic responsibility. Devoted to development of world citizens, the program is designed to produce the visionary and trustworthy leaders of tomorrow. Dr. Ping will be accompanied by two students, each of whom will take a few minutes to explain his Cutler Scholars experience. Both are J. Warren McClure and Stephen H. Fuller — Cutler Scholars: Matt Denhart for 2010 and Jackson Lavelle for 2014.

## EMERITI LUNCHEON

**Thursday,**  
**March 15, 2012**  
**11:30 AM - 1:30 PM**



**BALLROOM**

**\$14.00**

### Menu

*Garden Salad*  
*Marinated Vegetable Salad*  
*Colcannon Mashed Potato*  
*Braised Cabbage*  
*Corned Beef with Assorted Bread for Sandwiches*  
*Assorted Cakes & Fresh Fruit*  
*Beverages*

**RESERVATIONS** must be made to attend the luncheon. You **MUST** call Ruth Nostrant at 593-5194 by Friday, **March 9**. You may pay by cash or by check made payable to OU Emeriti.

You may 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 - GEORGE WECKMAN

The golden mean, the happy medium, compromise — all good in my book. But we seem to be surrounded these days by polar people — that is, people who like to be very clearly on the extreme of one side or another. Is there nobility or purity in unyielding ideology? If so, I want to be brave enough to promote the dirty mix of the middle, the blend of ideas, the messy stew of life.

One of the first lessons in growing up is that one cannot get one's way all the time. No matter how right we are, others think otherwise. No matter how much we want something, others want it too or change the choice. The only way to live with other people is in compromise. "Compromise" consists of "promise" and the prefix that means "with." If you make a commitment to live and work with other people, you must find a middle ground between or among those minds and hearts. Of course, you can be or can try to be a tyrant and dictate the roles and acts of the rest, if you can get away with it.

You can also try to sell others on your way or join with folk of like mind. So we end up in a society full of uncompromising groups. Partisans reinforce one another's stolidity, praising repudiation and demonizing alternatives. "Our way or the highway" is their motto. How sad! Our country was founded by people who took "the highway" from intolerant regimes to establish a new way in a new land. But they often formed their own totalitarian communities here. I am proud of my birthplace heritage of diversity and welcome: Pennsylvania. It was one of the few American colonies that had no state church or ideological establishment

Americans are supposed to be pragmatic. Where is the practicality in insisting on only one way? Even libertarians need to compromise. In politics and in other associations, let's find a middle ground, a golden mean if possible, but I'll settle for silver, brass, or tin. Just some way of going forward, taking the usual chancy steps to the future, together.

## George

### Notes on the February Luncheon Speaker: Dr. Roderick J. McDavis

There is good news to share. A special committee has recommended \$22.4 million for Ohio University on deferred maintenance. The Board of Trustees has also authorized \$46.6 million in bonds. This will allow us to move forward on much-needed maintenance.

Our capital campaign has already raised \$380 million with a goal of \$450 million by 2015. We will surpass our goal. This includes the \$108 million for the Heritage College of Medicine.

Among notable achievements: collegiate photographer of the year (5 of the last 6 years), a top producer of Fulbright scholarships (student), Marching 110 hit viral on Youtube with over 6 million hits, two faculty awards for major films, an endowed chair, 140 students in this year's HCOM freshman class, undergraduate enrollment targets being met with a significant increase in applications over the past year.

Internationally, President McDavis will be traveling to Ghana, Leipzig, and Japan over the next few months.

#### *In response to questions:*

We have developed a sustainability plan that includes a phase-out of the Lausche heating plant and the movement to adopting LEED standards at the university.

State funding continues to be problem with a decline over the past decade or so from 43% to 25%. We have to be more efficient internally.

The grant from the Heritage Osteopathic Foundation of \$108 million will permit the establishment of a campus in Dublin. They will have 50 students with a focus on primary-care physicians. The Cleveland Clinic has also approached us about a possible partnership.

STRS and PERS are encouraging the legislature to move forward rapidly to solve problems. This will allow the maintenance of a defined benefit program. We need an elected official to step up into a leadership role on this.

*Ed Baum*

**PROPOSED CHANGES**

The Emeriti Association board proposes the following changes to the finances and scope of our organization. We will be asking our membership for an OK to these changes at the next luncheon, March 15. These adjustments have been provoked by the increasing cost of paper newsletters and the trend toward electronic transmission of information for many organizations. If you have comments or suggestions contact me or other members of the board. It is our conclusion that these changes will help us include all emeriti in our association activities. We also intend to continue the inclusion of spouses and friends of the association.

- We will cease the mass mailing of newsletters by October 2012.
- We will send all newsletters electronically to all emeriti for whom we have an email address.
- Lifetime members will receive paper copies of the newsletter if they request.
- Emeriti who are not lifetime members may pay \$15 a year to have paper newsletters.
- All emeriti are encouraged to donate \$125 to the Emeriti Endowment to become lifetime members
- Dues for 2012-13 will be \$0.

*George Weckman*

**IN MEMORIAM**



**RONALD P. SOCCARELLI**, age 79, died February 2, 2012. He attended the Navy School of Music and served 4 years in the Navy. He received his bachelor's degree from Ithaca College. He completed his master's degree and did post-graduate work at the University of Michigan.

After serving as director of bands at Northern Illinois University, he came to Ohio University, where from 1973 until 1992 he conducted the marching band, the concert band, the wind symphony, and the university-community band.

He is survived by his wife, Cherry, 3 daughters, and 6 grand-daughters.

**OUCU/EMERITI TRIPS**

**May 16: LaComedia Dinner Theatre**

Wednesday, May 16 will be a "Happy Day" when we travel to LaComedia to view their presentation of "Happy Days, the Musical." It was fun on TV to see Richie, Potsie, Ralph Malph, the Fonz, and the lovable Cunningham family. Adding music will be a delight!

We will depart Athens at 7:30 AM, from the OUCU East State Street Office. There will be stop on the way (not included) and we will arrive at LaComedia at 11 AM. The show is at 1 PM and we will arrive back in Athens by 7 PM. Cost is \$75 for transportation, the show and the buffet.

**We must have 25 people by April 1.  
Please call Bill Coffey at 597-2845.**

**July 19: Heroes.- Real or Imagined**

**Real:** *Astronaut/Senator/Colonel/Fighter Pilot Ace/Nice Guy*

**Imagined:** *Creator of heroes on horseback in the old West.*

We will travel to the National Road/Zane Gray Museum and the John and Annie Glenn museum Muskingum County. It will an interesting one day trip.

Leave East State Street OUCU Office at 9:30 am  
Forum Restaurant in Cambridge at 11:30 am  
*(Order from the menu, not included)*

John and Annie Glenn Museum at 12:45 pm  
National Road/Zane Grey Museum at 2:15 pm  
Leave for home at 3:30 pm - Arrive at 6:00 pm

Cost is \$43.00 for transportation and admission to the museums.

**We need 25 persons by June 18.  
Call Bill Coffey at 597-2845**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
4 <b>MARCH</b>	5	6 Emeriti Volunteer <i>Dairy Barn Performing Arts Soweto Gospel Choir</i>	7 Emeriti Volunteer <i>Kennedy Museum</i>	8 AFAN Meeting	9	10
11	12	13 Emeriti Volunteer <i>Dairy Barn</i>	14 Emeriti Volunteer <i>Kennedy Museum</i>	15 Emeriti Board Meeting <b>EMERITI LUNCH</b> <i>OU Inn</i>	16	17
18	19	20 Emeriti Volunteer <i>Dairy Barn</i>	21 Emeriti Volunteer <i>Kennedy Museum</i>	22 The Athens Village <i>Brown Bag Lunch</i>	23	24
25	26	27 Emeriti Volunteer <i>Dairy Barn</i>	28 Emeriti Volunteer <i>Kennedy Museum OUWC Dinner</i>	29	30	31
1 <b>APRIL</b>	2	3 Emeriti Volunteer <i>Dairy Barn</i>	4 Emeriti Volunteer <i>Kennedy Museum Performing Arts Sean Curran Company</i>	5	6	7

## UPCOMING EMERITI LUNCHEON PROGRAMS

**April 19: Pioneering in Online Education**

*Dr. Ruth Ann Althaus*

**May 17: What You Should Be Demanding of Technology**

*William Beale*

### EMERITI BOARD 2011-2012

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