



A newsletter from the Ohio University Emeriti Association

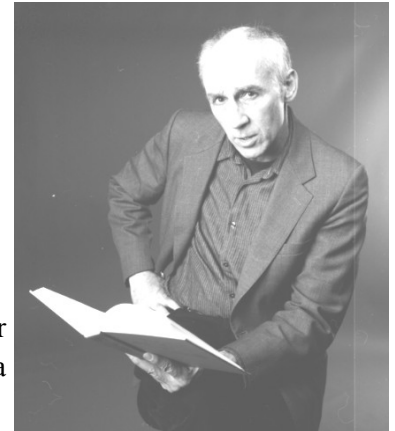
**October 18, 2012**

**EDITING POETRY FOR PUBLICATION**

**Mark Halliday**

Distinguished Professor of English

*(Presented by Art Woolley)*



Ohio University's newest Distinguished Professor, poet Mark Halliday, will be our next guest speaker. This marks the first time in anyone's memory that we have had a poet as our featured speaker.

Halliday's first poetry collection, *Little Star* (William Morrow), published in 1987, was selected for the National Poetry Series. His next collection, *Tasker Street* (University of Massachusetts, 1992) won the Juniper Prize. He also published *Selfwolf* (University of Chicago, 1999), *Jab* (University of Chicago, 2002) and *Keep This Forever* (Tupelo Press, 2008).

His critical studies include one of Wallace Stevens, with *Stevens and the Interpersonal* (Princeton University Press, 1991) and a book on poetics, *The Sighted Singer* (Johns Hopkins University Press, 1992, co-authored by Allen Grossman).

Having earned his BA and MA from Brown University, Halliday went on to Brandeis University for his PhD. He taught at both Indiana University and Western Michigan University before joining the English faculty here. He has won the Rome Fellowship in Literature from the American Academy of Arts and Letters, a Lila Wallace/Reader's Digest Foundation Writer's Award, and a Guggenheim Fellowship.

Halliday has been praised by critics for his "disarmingly open and humorous poems" and his image as "Whitman of the supermarket, who does not take himself very seriously."

**EMERITI  
LUNCHEON**

**\$14.00**



**GALBREATH ROOM**

**Thursday,  
October 18, 2012  
11:30 AM - 1:30 PM**

**MENU**

*Fresh Garden Salad with  
Assorted Dressings*  
*Soup of the Day*  
*Butternut Squash Salad with Feta Cheese  
& Green Onion Vinaigrette*  
*Chicken Marsala*  
*Pot Roast with Assorted Bread  
for Sandwiches*  
*Country Corn*  
*Assorted Mini Halloween Desserts &  
Fresh Fruit*  
*Beverages*

**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, **October 12**. 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.



## A Message From The President - GEORGE WECKMAN

These words are virtual. They have no concrete reality. They are not on paper, until copied for those who have requested that. They are not spoken, unless or until someone reads them aloud (I do not). They are real in a very subtle way, an electronic way, or perhaps we could call it a “metaphysical” way.

This might seem new, but it isn't. Words themselves have always been only virtual realities compared to the message they are supposed to convey. We have always been the hardware in which word programs yield meaning. Sounds and designs do not communicate by themselves, as we know when we encounter foreign languages. They have to be processed by our brains into ideas and mental pictures. Even those mental programs are not quite physical, compared to the gray matter that handles them. So we have always lived in a virtual world, but we notice it more now because we have machines that somewhat duplicate human computing and processing.

What fun! Robots can make things for us, and they can also think for us and speak for us. Of course we want to remain in charge. I often reject my computer's “corrections” of my grammar and spelling, but I am grateful for its attention to typos. Like a good friend, it offers suggestions and assistance, but I do not accept them like an automaton, which it is. Unlike a good friend, it has no affection for me and my purposes. Thus it is not virtuous, only virtual; it has no morality or emotion. I sometimes get mad at it, silly me, but it has never reacted similarly. Still, it's fun to have a robot “thinker” to do some of my work.

Academics are called eggheads and worse because we live so much in the virtual world. Compared to farmers, plumbers, carpenters, and cooks, our work has no immediate manifestation. Ideas grow, leak, support, or feed only metaphorically. That's why some of us enjoy creating real things in our spare time, or struggle to put our virtual worlds of theory and structure into books, pictures, and sounds.

In our mobile lives even friends and family lose their physical presence, but they can be with us virtually -- not quite as good but much better than complete separation. And they can remain with us long after their physical bodies (their hardware) disintegrate. This month we masquerade those virtual people who can still scare us, on the eve of the celebration of the hallowed virtuous. Observe Halloween with me as a celebration of the virtual.

## *George*

### **African Studies at Ohio University: Past, Present, and Future, with Steve Howard, September 20, 2012**

African Studies is an interdisciplinary program. The African Studies Center brings together people across the campus interested in that continent. The program involves 45 faculty and many students.

Interest in African Studies began in the late 1950s with Ohio University's involvement in several education programs beginning with Nigeria and then expanding to Botswana, Lesotho, and elsewhere on the continent. The Center was created in 1964 (and thus will be celebrating its 50th anniversary in 2014) with Alan Booth as its first director. Other directors have included Ed Baum, Ed Charle, and Gifford Doxsee. Steve Howard has been director since the early '90s.

Ohio University has been a recipient of several National Center grants over the years. Currently there are 10 such national centers, which include Harvard, Indiana, and Florida. Half of the money goes to students. At Ohio there is a focus on the horn of Africa, drawing on the large number of Somalis living in the Columbus area. We are one of the few universities to offer courses in Somali.

The Institute for the African Child was founded in 1999 and is the only research centered on African children. In addition there is a program on African health and another on African Art.

Several study-abroad programs make it possible for students to experience Africa, including a journalism program in Zambia, the study of rain forests in Ghana, and teaching in Swaziland. Currently there are 40 undergraduate and 30 graduate majors in African studies. More than 3,000 students per year take African-related courses.

*Ed Baum*

**NOMINATE A BOBCAT  
BY DECEMBER 1**

The Ohio University Alumni Association 2013 Alumni Awards nomination deadline is Dec. 1, 2012. The Association has been honoring alumni for more than 70 years for individual excellence in their fields or support of the university.

For more information, visit  
[www.ohioalumni.org/nominations](http://www.ohioalumni.org/nominations).

Thank you!

**OUCU/EMERITI TRIP**

**December 16: Oglebay Festival of Lights**

Enjoy 75 larger-than-life displays. The amazing “Cinderella” display took 2 years to complete. The breath-taking “Polyhedron Star” with more than 2,000 lights stands on the highest hill in the park. The “Poinsettia Wreath and Candles” stands nearly 60 feet tall and 50 feet wide. It’s a beautiful part of the Christmas season. We’ll have time for shopping at the Carriage House Glass Shop, the Gourmet in the Garden Shop, and the Resort Shop before our dinner at Wilson Lodge.

Leave E. State St. Credit Union at 1 PM. Rest break on the way (not included). Arrive at park at 4 PM. Dinner at 6 PM. Return home about 11:30 PM. Cost is \$75 (includes transportation, dinner, park tour and guide). We need 25 people by November 1.

**Call Bill Coffey at 597-2845**

**IN MEMORIAM**



**RICHARD McFARLAND**, 83, of Athens, died September 3. Born in Cleveland, he earned his BS in Mathematics at Ohio University. While attending graduate school at Purdue University, he was called to active duty in Korea. He completed a master’s degree and PhD in electrical engineering at Ohio State University. He taught at OSU before coming in 1962 to Ohio University, where he taught for 48 years before retiring in 2010.

He was the founder and director of the Avionics Engineering Center at OU and was a renowned researcher and pilot who made significant contributions to the field of aviation safety.

He is survived by his wife, Norma, 1 son, 2 daughters and their spouses, and 4 grandchildren.

**HOWARD I. SHULL**, 95, died September 13 in Weimar, TX. He earned a BS in Industrial Arts and Education Administration, and a master’s degree from OSU. His PhD was from the University of Maryland. He started teaching at Ohio University in 1956 and retired in 1982.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Mary. Howard is survived by his daughter, Marie, 2 grandchildren, and 2 great-grandchildren.



**WILLIAM D. BAASEL**, 80, of Athens, died September 26 at Regency Hospital in Columbus.

Born in Chicago, he received his BS and MS in Chemical Engineering at Northwestern University, and his PhD at Cornell University. He taught at Clemson College before coming to Ohio University in 1962. Bill retired in 1993. He served on the Emeriti Board for several years.

He is survived by his wife, Arlene, a son, a daughter, and a stepson.

| Sunday                                     | Monday | Tuesday  | Wednesday   | Thursday   | Friday | Saturday |
|--|--------|--|---|--|--------|----------|
| 7  | 8      | 9 Emeriti Volunteer<br><i>Dairy Barn</i>   | 10 Emeriti Volunteer<br><i>Kennedy Museum</i>   | 11 AFAN Meeting  | 12     | 13       |
| 14 Concert Series<br><i>Mountain Stage</i> | 15     | 16 Emeriti Volunteer<br><i>Dairy Barn</i>  | 17 Emeriti Volunteer<br><i>Kennedy Museum</i>   | 18 Emeriti Board Meeting<br><b>EMERITI LUNCH</b><br><i>OU Inn</i>        | 19     | 20       |
| 21   | 22     | 23 Emeriti Volunteer<br><i>Dairy Barn</i><br>Concert Series<br><i>Andy Grammer</i> | 24 Emeriti Volunteer<br><i>Kennedy Museum</i><br>Performing Arts<br><i>Project Trio</i> | 25 Performing Arts Special<br>(Stuart’s Opera House)<br><i>Tinariwen</i> | 26     | 27       |
| 28   | 29     | 30 Emeriti Volunteer<br><i>Dairy Barn</i>  | 31 Emeriti Volunteer<br><i>Kennedy Museum</i>   | 1  | 2      | 3        |

### UPCOMING EMERITI LUNCHEON PROGRAMS

**November 13 (TUESDAY): What's New in Health Research?**  
*Randy Leite, Dean of the College of Health Services and Professions*

**December 20: A Holiday Choral Gift**

#### EMERITI BOARD 2012-2013

|                    |                                 |
|--------------------|---------------------------------|
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| VP/Program Chair   | Dru Riley Evarts &<br>Alan Boyd |
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| Historian          |                                 |
| Website            | Joe Essman                      |

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