

EMERITI NEWS



A newsletter from the Ohio University Emeriti Association

October 17, 2013

AMMONIA AND UREA ELECTROLYSIS: The Beginning of the GreenBox

Dr. Gerardine Botte

*Russ Professor of Chemical & Biomolecular Engineering
Director, Center for Electrochemical Engineering Research*

(Introduced by Don Jordan)



Dr. Geraldine Botte and another Ohio faculty member with whom we are familiar (Dr. John Kopchik) were honored nationally in the fall of 2012 by their peers when they were named as two charter fellows by the National Academy of Inventors. A PhD in Chemical Engineering, Dr. Botte came to Ohio University in 2002 after graduate studies at the University of South Carolina, and undergraduate work in her native country, Venezuela. We are fortunate, indeed, to have some of her abilities here in Athens, a place so attuned to sustainable energy sources and green science.

She is founder and director of the Center for Electrochemical Engineering Research at our Russ College of Engineering and Technology. Dr Botte enjoys teaching and is the advisor for the Chemical Engineering Car or ChemE Car team. Her research group is working on projects in the areas of electrochemical engineering, power sources (such as lithium batteries), sensors, and electro-catalysis. More specifically, Gerri's research focuses on advanced battery systems utilizing coal and especially ammonia from urea/urine which is certainly a renewable resource. She has been nominated for the World Technology Awards in the category of environment.

\$15.00

MENU

*Fresh Garden Salad with
Assorted Dressing
Pasta Salad
Roasted Beet Salad with
Orange & Sage Vinaigrette
Grilled Peppered Flank Steak
Oven-roasted Chicken with
Signature Steak Oil
Country Corn
Assorted Mini Halloween Desserts
Fresh Fruit
Beverages*

EMERITI LUNCHEON

**Thursday
October 17, 2013
11:30 AM - 1:30 PM**



GALBREATH ROOM

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 11. You may pay by cash or by check made payable to OU Emeriti.

RESERVATIONS

If you do not wish to call for a reservation each month, you may add your name to our **list of regular attendees**. If you are on this list, you need call only when you can **NOT** attend. A new list is formed every year. Names cannot be carried over. Let Ruth know if you wish to be on this year's list of regulars.

A Message From The President - Dru Riley Evarts



As promised last month, I will continue the salute to Board members who are faithfully laboring in your behalf throughout the year, both when we are meeting (September through June) and during the rest of the summer as well. The order of these salutes has no meaning at all. Since we couldn't run the entire Board in one issue because of space restrictions, I chose to make last month's group up of those Board members who enjoy the help of other association members to do their work (tending to the Emeriti Park, running desks at the Dairy Barn and the Kennedy Museum, etc.). This month, I will feature Board members who toil basically alone, although there is always the possibility of some special call for input or help from members.

Ed Baum, treasurer, took over his current job in the middle of the term last year when Dick Nostrant became ill. Ed has held many Emeriti offices, among which were vice president/program chair followed by president. He received our distinguished service award last year. The treasurer's duties for a nonprofit organization are manifold, and Ed does all of them well. He also acts as parliamentarian and as a goldmine of institutional memory and procedure.

Doug Baxter, secretary, volunteered from the luncheon audience last spring to fill the secretary position, which had been vacated before the end of the academic year. All Board members appreciated his willingness to step in and do the job. A secretary's job is one of the most difficult and time-consuming on the Board. Others in the meeting room listen and participate in the Board deliberations, but the secretary has to get it all down accurately, write fast but clearly so he can read his own handwriting later, keyboard all that he has, and get it to everyone well before the next meeting. There also may be correspondence to expedite. All of this amounts to a large assignment.

Edie Russ, newsletter editor, has another big job. She needs to have both the equipment and the know-how needed to turn out a newsletter, to begin with. Then she has to rely on others to get their news and announcements to her. Then she has to edit and design at the same time. It is a monthly adventure that she has done for many years, and we hope she will continue for many more.

Joe Essman, webmaster, has served our Board in other positions, but has been the webmaster almost since the web was invented. He keeps up with our lists, minutes, newsletters, and other features that you can find on our website. He is very willing to consider other ideas that members might want to suggest. You can find his and other Board members' e-mail addresses on our website. Make a suggestion if you like.

George Weckman, past president, will continue on the Board this year and next because our Constitution calls for the past president to stick around for two years. It's a very good idea and certainly helps with continuity. George is always a welcome addition because of his sound ideas and great memory for detail. As you remember from his presidency years, he also has a unique sense of humor.

Board members saluted last month included **Alan Boyd and Don Jordan**, co-vice presidents and program chairs; **Margaret Thomas**, membership chair; **Dick Dean**, Emeriti Park chair; **Joanne Prisley**, archivist-historian; **Art Woolley**, benefits chair; and **Sue Foster and Joann Fokes**, co-volunteer service chairs.

We are fortunate to have so many good members on our Board.

Dru

Notes on The University Update September's Luncheon Presentation by Pam Benoit

Ohio University has the best transformational learning experience in the United States. It is guided by "smart growth" which has led, among other things, to the highest enrollment in the university's history.

A smart growth approach builds upon:

- A. Recruiting a new generation of faculty, including salary needs.
- B. New academic programs, such as new 2+2 programs.
- C. Affordability, such as the new steady tuition program.
- D. A six-year facilities renewal program.

Among questions asked were:

1. The future of married student housing? Sufficient options exist in the community now.
2. Graduate enrollment? Has increased and become more diversified.
3. Retention rates? Higher than the state average but can be improved.
4. Teaching on-line? Providing workshops and hiring faculty with e-learning experience.
5. Impact of high-visibility athletic programs on recruitment? Hard to assess.
6. Morale? Good and improving.
7. Ratio of tenured and non tenured faculty? We are above other Ohio universities.
8. What keeps me up at night? Personnel matters (e.g. promotion, tenure issues).

Ed Baum

BENEFITS NEWS:

Pensions: The investment results for the STRS fiscal year (ended Sep. 30) ended up with a 13.7% return, considerably better than the 7.75% set as the new norm.

As of 2015, school districts will have to report pension liabilities according to stricter accounting rules that will require larger financial reserves, thus significantly increasing budgetary expenses for the districts.

As of Jan 1, 2014, members purchasing years of service credits, e.g., military service, private teaching service, will have to pay closer to 100% of the cost to STRS.

Health Care: If the return on investments maintains at least a 6.5% average, then the health-care program is solvent to 2060. The annual increase in health care cost (currently 9.3% for those younger than 65 and 7.3% for those over 65) is expected to slowly decline until it reaches 5% in 2021.

Medicare premiums will go up approximately 5% for 2014.

Emergency room copayments for most Medicare members will increase in 2014 from \$50 to \$65. For non-Medicare patients (and Medical Mutual Medicare) it will go from \$50 to \$150. Maximum Express Scripts out-of-pocket costs will decrease to \$4550 for Medicare and non-Medicare accounts. STRS insurance now covers transportation costs to hospital for required treatments instead of paying for 911 ambulance charges. See Evidence of Coverage document mailed to you by your insurer.

In 2014, a couple with one person on Aetna Medicare and one non-Medicare will be able to have two separate accounts instead of both paying non-Medicare costs.

With Obamacare requiring “minimum essential coverage” for nearly everyone, those on the STRS Medicare plans will be unaffected by the Affordable Care mandate to have insurance, i.e., they will have the required insurance. Non-Medicare enrollees can use the Exchanges starting Oct 1 to see if they can get a better deal, including a subsidy for those with low income, through another source. All STRS plans are designed to at least provide the “minimum essential coverage.”

Flu cards, received from Aetna in the mail recently, are for convenience since they can be used at a pharmacy like a debit card to cover the charge. But the total charge for a flu shot is covered as a preventive medicine procedure whether you use the card or not.

Art Woolley

1804 Fund Challenge

Larry and Sheila McHale have offered to match all the money given to the 1804 Fund endowment during the current academic year, up to \$25,000. Sheila is an alumna of the University ('68) and her husband, Larry is currently the chair of the Advancement Committee on the OU Foundation Board of Trustees.

This Fund has supported research across the university since 1980. More than 600 projects have been funded. The extent to which the university is enhanced by this fund cannot be overestimated.

The matching funds challenge provides an opportunity to double your gift to this worthwhile feature of our university. Give what you can, but only gifts up to \$2,500 will be matched. The McHales want to match many gifts so they limit their match to \$2,500 from each person, then at least 10 people can be involved in the project.

Please make checks payable to “The Ohio University Foundation” and designate the “1804 Fund – McHale Matching Challenge” on the memo line. Send it to Box 869, Athens

George Weckman

IN MEMORIAM

OWEN J. WILKINSON, of Wilmington, NC died July 5 in St. Petersburg, FL.

He was Professor Emeritus, Health & Sport Sciences, and was hired at Ohio University prior to 1969.



RICHARD R. SELLECK, 97, died recently in Florida. He graduated from Ohio University in 1938. After WWII he returned to OU for a master’s degree and became a professor of electrical engineering, retiring in 1976.

He was preceded in death by his wife of 59 years, Helen-Louise. Survivors include 3 daughters and a son, 7 grandchildren and 7 great-grandchildren.

JAMES HERBERT (Herb) GRAFFIUS, 85,



died at The Laurels in Athens on September 2. In 1952 he enrolled in the University of Pittsburgh to study pharmacy, but later transferred to the School of Education, majoring in biological sciences and history, graduating in 1954. He continued at the University of Pittsburgh, receiving an MS degree in 1958 in biological sciences. In 1963 he received his PhD at Michigan State University. He joined Ohio University in 1962, retiring in 1996.

Herb is survived by his wife of 45 years, Judith, a son and a daughter.

OSIE T. COLLINS, 98, passed away September



20 in Athens. She and her late husband, Professor Ernest “Rip” Collins moved to Athens in 1947. Osie became active in the Athens and university community, serving as president of the Faculty Wives Club, helping organize The Athens Friends for International Students. She was recipient of the International Understanding Honor Society and for 22 years served as chairperson of the Athens Holiday Candle Lighting Project.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Ernest, in 2002. Survivors include a daughter, a son, 7 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren.

LAURETTA W. KLOCK, 90, passed away



peacefully September 14 in Indianapolis, IN. She graduated from Northwestern University in 1953 with a degree in journalism. She married Harold Klock in 1955. They moved to Cleveland, where he became a professor at Case Western Reserve. In 1966 they moved to Athens, where he taught electrical engineering until retiring in 1994.

Laretta was on the board of the Athens County Public Libraries for 21 years. She was a member of the OU Women’s Club for 44 years and volunteered for many other local organizations.

She is survived by her husband of 58 years, Hal Klock, and 3 daughters.

UPCOMING EMERITI LUNCHEON PROGRAMS

November 21: Krista McCallum Beatty
Director of International Student & Faculty Services

December 19: Dr. Charles J. Ping
President Emeritus, Ohio University

January 16: Scott Titsworth
Dean, Scripps College of Communication

EMERITI BOARD 2013-2014

President	Dru Riley Everts
VP/Program Chair	Alan Boyd & Don Jordan
Secretary	Doug Baxter
Treasurer	Ed Baum
Membership	Margaret Thomas
Newsletter	Edie Russ
Benefits	Art Woolley
Emeriti Park	Richard Dean
Volunteer Services	Sue Foster & Joann Fokes
Elections	
Historian	Joanne Prislej
Website	Joe Essman

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
6 OCTOBER	7	8 Emeriti Volunteer <i>Dairy Barn</i> Break of Reality <i>Add-On</i>	9 Emeriti Volunteer <i>Kennedy Museum</i> <i>Emeriti Park-9AM</i>	10 Craig Robinson <i>Concert Series</i>	11	12
13	14	15 Emeriti Volunteer <i>Dairy Barn</i>	16 Emeriti Volunteer <i>Kennedy Museum</i> <i>Emeriti Park-9AM</i> Blues Brothers <i>Concert Series</i>	17 Emeriti Board Meeting EMERITI LUNCH <i>OU Inn</i>	18	19 Sara Bareilles <i>Concert Series</i>
20	21	22 Emeriti Volunteer <i>Dairy Barn</i>	23 Emeriti Volunteer <i>Kennedy Museum</i>	24	25	26
27	28	29 Emeriti Volunteer <i>Dairy Barn</i>	30 Emeriti Volunteer <i>Kennedy Museum</i>	31	1 NOVEMBER	2
3	4	5 Emeriti Volunteer <i>Dairy Barn</i>	6 Emeriti Volunteer <i>Kennedy Museum</i>	7	8	9

Edie Russ, Editor
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