

EMERITI NEWS



OHIO
UNIVERSITY

A newsletter from the Ohio University Emeriti Association



October 16, 2014

ENVIRONMENT AND SECURITY: FROM THREAT TO OPPORTUNITY

Geoff Dabelko

*Professor and Director of Environmental Studies,
Ohio University*

Introduction by David Dabelko

Geoff Dabelko is professor and director of environmental studies at the George V. Voinovich School of Leadership and Public Affairs at Ohio University. He teaches and conducts applied research on natural resources, conflict, and peacebuilding; global environmental politics; climate change and security; and global sustainability. He is currently focusing on the conflict and peacebuilding potential of climate change responses as well as transboundary water cooperation and conflict. His presentation will highlight the evolution of environment and security linkages and policy responses to those contested connections.

He continues to work actively in international environment policy forums building off the 20+ years he spent in the Washington, D.C., think tank community. From 1997 to 2012, he served as director of the Environmental Change and Security Program, a nonpartisan policy forum on environment, population, and security issues at the Woodrow Wilson Center in Washington. He also serves as a senior advisor to the Wilson Center and worked previously at *Foreign Policy* and the Council on Foreign Relations.

Geoff is a member of the United Nations Environment Programme's Expert Advisory Group on Environment, Conflict, and Peacebuilding. He has a Ph.D. in government and politics from the University of Maryland and an AB in political science from Duke University.

EMERITI BOARD 2014-2015

President	Dru Riley Evarts
VP/Program Chair	Alan Boyd & Don Jordan
Secretary	Doug Baxter
Treasurer	Ed Baum
Membership	Margaret Thomas
Newsletter	Anita James
Benefits	Art Woolley
Volunteer Services	Sue Foster & Phyllis Baxter
Emeriti Park	Richard Dean
Historian	Joanne Prisley
Nominations	Luther Haseley



EMERITI LUNCHEON

**Thursday
October 16, 2014
11:30 AM - 1:00 PM**



BALLROOM

MENU

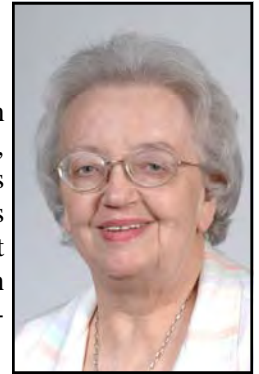
*Cole Slaw
Fresh Garden Salad
Meatloaf
Pasta Marinara
Caramel Glazed Carrots
Roasted Red Potatoes
Rolls & Butter
Assorted Seasonal Cakes & Pies
Beverages*

\$15.00

RESERVATIONS must be made to attend the luncheon. If you are not on the "ALWAYS" list of regular attendees, you **MUST** call or email Ruth Nostrant at 593-5194 or nostrant@ohio.edu by **Friday, October 10**. 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 - Dru Riley Evarts



I would like to use this space this month to acquaint you with a little-known ritual that has been going on for about four years now after life was breathed back into it by my predecessor, George Weckman. It involves twice or thrice yearly meetings of key Emeriti Board members with the university president (a position filled by Roderick McDavis when this meeting was restored and continues happily to this day). The present administration did not invent this. It had previously gone on between Emeriti officers and the sitting president. Weckman asked in one of our Board meetings, “Why don’t we do this?” Since his house is right next to the presidential mansion, it was not hard to arrange.

Our meeting this semester was on Monday, Sept. 22. It was also attended by Joseph Lalley, senior associate vice president for information technology and administrative services, and by President McDavis’ go-to person, Jennifer Kirksey. The president began last year bringing associates who are involved in our particular interests, as well as Kirksey, who expedites whatever we agree to or at least gets it in line for action. Here are the key points:

Handrails connecting the College Green to the surrounding sidewalk: George Weckman and I have been battling for several years to have these installed to insure safety of pedestrians entering or leaving the green. Last spring we felt victorious because we were assured this would be included in an overall remodeling of the green, which was scheduled to be completed over the summer. That work is under way now, so the handrails are delayed, but Lalley assured us that they will be installed as the green remodeling is completed.

Revival of the University Directory: Our membership chair, Margaret Thomas, brought this up eons ago (well, okay, a couple of years ago), and we were told by McDavis that the online information about all aspects of the university includes all the information that would be in a directory (plus much, much more), so no separate directory would be forthcoming. Now both he and Executive Vice President and Provost Pam Benoit are in favor of a directory including information on faculty, staff, and university offices, and they both favor a printed directory. Hooray!

Emeriti Privileges: Our benefits chair, Art Woolley, brought out the fact that there seems to be no consistent policy on how emeriti are treated when they ask for IT support, particularly in the area of software. Lalley noted the examples cited and said he would investigate and get back to us. I brought up (again) the issue of parking and the fact that only those emeriti who retired by 2012 or earlier have free parking, but those retiring after 2012 do not. McDavis responded that everybody (except the early retirees cited above) now pays for parking; even he pays for it at the presidential mansion since it is university property.

Emeriti Park: Our park chair, Richard Dean, reported on the Park’s dredging over the summer and progress on other plans still to be carried out, including restoration of the fountains and installation of better lighting. No precise date was set for the completion of these Park details, but McDavis specified that the funding to finish is assured. Dean also showed photos of the replaced plaque at the west entrance of the park; it clarifies that one is entering the Emeriti Park by way of the Bob King Walkway.

These were the main discussions brought up at the most recent meeting with the president. If you have other issues that you would like to have discussed at one of these meetings, just tell any Board member or, better yet, give that person a note about it. It might make our next agenda.

Dru

Notes on George Weckman’s extemporaneous remarks in place of President McDavis who was called to Washington.

WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A PRESIDENT

What does it mean to be a president? It means that you are responsible for taking care. Taking care ranges from the mundane (electricity, buildings) to the central purpose of a university: education. Presidents are held responsible for everything—the lights in the buildings, outsiders, university business writ large. In short, presidents take care of the productivity and creativity of the academic enterprise known as a university. In this President McDavis has been an inspiration for these past ten years.

Ed Baum

FIVE AWARDS GIVEN AT JUNE LUNCHEON

Attendees at the June luncheon witnessed the giving of five awards and recognitions to acknowledge the creativity and hard work of members.

Both Jean Drevenstedt and Edie Russ received the Emeriti Association's highest honor, the Distinguished Service Award. Jean was recognized for her many years of service to the Emeriti Park Committee, both in its formative years, when she worked closely with Margaret



Jean and Ed



Edie and Ed

Deppen in creating a base on which to establish the park and assure its future, as well as in modern times as she continues as a Park Committee member. Edie was honored for her six years as *Emeriti News* editor, a post she was leaving in June. Distinguished Service awards are determined annually by a panel of Distinguished Service Award recipients. That group is presently headed by Ed Baum.

Last year, the Executive Board decided to honor individuals who had served the Emeriti Association in significant ways over a number of years. Richard and Ruth Nostrant, who have won the Distinguished Service Award twice before in recognition of many, many years (finally 34) as joint treasurer, were given a gift certificate for a dinner out in recognition of continuing to take reservations after their treasury job came to an end. A dinner out certificate was given to Edie and Ed Russ for her six years of editing the *Emeriti News* and his putting up with its taking over their house during publication days. Honorary membership as a Friend of the Emeriti Association was given to Jan Miller-Fox for her eight years as university liaison to the Emeriti Association, a term that will end this year as the university reorganizes some assignments.



Ruth, Dick, and Dru



Jan and Dru

Photos by Kayla Hoffman

RENEW 2012 PARKING PERMITS IN NOVEMBER

If you got your parking permit in 2012, you must go to the Parking Office to renew it this fall. That office prefers that you wait until November to renew because staff members are still very busy with permits for students, contractors, and other special needs that come with the beginning of an academic year. Our permits do not expire until Dec. 31, so you have time. Help the staff out by waiting until November to renew.

IN MEMORIAM

Charles (Chuck) Carlson, associate professor emeritus of Communication Studies, passed away on September 2. According to the obituary in *The Athens Messenger*, "Chuck was a husband, a father, a grandfather, a lifelong learner and always a teacher and mentor with a passion for life, history and a desire to leave the world a better place." Chuck was instrumental in fundraising for the creation of the Emeriti Park and it retained a special place in his thoughts and actions. Chuck would often be seen at OU athletic events, cheering for his Bobcats. Over the years, Chuck received many honors, including the Emeriti Association Distinguished Service award. He was preceded in death by his wife of 54 years, Harriett and is survived by two daughters and a son, five grandchildren, and two brothers.



BENEFITS REPORT

Pensions: The STRS pension fund did very well in 2013-14 earning 16% interest and ending with a total of \$74 billion. The actuarial expected rate of interest is 7.75%, so the investment department doubled that.

Of the \$5B spent by STRS on pension checks to retired members, \$2B is covered by contributions from employees and employers. The other \$3B is paid for through investment returns. Under current legislation the Social Security Fund in 2030 will run out of income and assets to fully pay its legislated benefits and will only be able to pay at a 75% rate. That pressure, if unchanged, increases chances that pension funds will eventually be taken over by the federal government.

Of the new hires in higher education in Ohio public universities, 62% chose to use STRS while 38% chose to use an Alternative Retirement Program.

Health: If you haven't already, be sure to get a flu shot. No special STRS card is available this year, but the doctor's office visit for a flu shot only should be free as a preventive care action.

The STRS public meeting describing the health care programs and costs for 2015 will be at the Athens Community Center on East State Street on Nov. 19. Final day to sign up for or make changes in your 2015 health care plans is Nov. 25.

Costs to STRS for specialty drugs (Tier IV) are going up precipitously. What cost \$20 million in 2012 now costs \$68 million. The prescription drug deductible for 2015 will rise to \$200.

If you wish more information online, you can contact: www.strsoh.org/contactus.html

Art Woolley

If you have not yet done so, please send your emeriti renewal form to Marg Thomas. You received the form in the mail last month. The association needs the information for the directory and newsletter. Thank you.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28	29 Emeriti Volunteer Kennedy Museum <i>Note the change of day</i>	30 Emeriti Volunteer Dairy Barn	1 Emeriti Volunteer Emeriti Park-9AM OCT	2	3	4
5	6 Emeriti Volunteer Kennedy Museum	7 Emeriti Volunteer Dairy Barn	8 Emeriti Volunteer Emeriti Park-9AM	9	10	11
12	13 Emeriti Volunteer Kennedy Museum	14 Emeriti Volunteer Dairy Barn	15	16 Emeriti Board Meeting EMERITI LUNCH OU Inn	17	18
19	20 Emeriti Volunteer Kennedy Museum	21 Emeriti Volunteer Dairy Barn	22	23	24	25
26	27 Emeriti Volunteer Kennedy Museum	28 Emeriti Volunteer Dairy Barn	29	30	31	1 NOV



EMERITI PARK/BOB KING PLAQUE

Dick Dean has been working for more than a year to have the brass plate on the large boulder at the park changed to show that the park is named Emeriti Park but that particular walkway where the boulder is located is the part dedicated to Bob King. Finally the new plaque approved by the committee and the family became a reality in mid-September.

Pictured L-R: Don Shamblin, Sue Foster, Dru Evarts, Bob Smith, Kathy Schumacher, and Dick Dean. Several regular workers are not pictured: Alan and Sue Boyd, Gary Schumacher, and Joe and Jan Tucker.

Photo by Susan Calhoun

JULY WINE & CHEESE RECEPTION



Photos by Kayla Hoffman and Ed Baum

Antia James, Editor
P.O. Box 157
Athens, OH 45701

