

EMERITI NEWS

OHIO UNIVERSITY

PROGRAMS AND SPEAKERS

November's speaker, Dr. Amrit Singh, Langston Hughes Professor of English, spoke on the partition of India and the heartbreak, bloodshed and turmoil it caused. He opened our eyes to how devastating establishment of arbitrary boundaries perpetrated by outside forces can be, causing far more problems than they solve.

December's program will feature Melissa Brobeck, a singer-actress-musician based in Athens. She performs jazz, musical theatre, pop/rock, and opera. A graduate of the Eastman School of Music, Melissa sings with a nuanced expressivity and emotional authenticity. She has performed in big and small venues across the U.S. and in Europe. Melissa invites you to connect with her on Instagram and Twitter at @melissabrobeck. You can visit her online at melissabrobeck.com.

Next year's schedule will feature Ed Pauley, Director of the Kennedy Museum of Art, and Sally Delgado, the museum's Education Director, discussing "Current Activities and the Collection in **January**". Mark Seckinger, Chief Executive of Ohio Health – O'Bleness Hospital, will talk about "Current Activities and Programs at the Hospital" in **February**. In **March**, Athens County Prosecuting Attorney Keller Blackburn will give us insights into "The Crime Scene in Athens County". Ohio University Provost Dr. David Descutner will talk on "Development at Ohio University in **April**". In **May** Dr. Richard Vedder will ask the very important question, "Are We Providing for Our Children?" And to close out the academic year in **June**, Dr. Sara Hartman from the Patton College of Education, one of the founders of the Ohio Valley Museum of Discovery, will discuss "Using Community Resources to enrich Students' Learning".

A NOTE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

In the October 9, 2017, edition of the *New Yorker Magazine* I read an article, entitled "The Takeover, How Senior Citizens Could Be Getting Conned," which I want to bring to your attention. The article describes how, under the guise of a legal system of guardianship, people

in Las Vegas, NV, have been removed from their homes, had their assets taken over and their possessions sold. Professional “guardians” appointed by a court set up companies that arrive unexpectedly at someone’s door and announce that the residents need to pack their bags because they are being moved to an assisted-living facility. In the process, people lose their civil rights and become legal wards of the court, and, over a period of time, their assets are eaten up to cover the guardians’ expenses and fees. Children are closed out of the proceedings on the grounds they may have covetous interests in their parents’ things. I consulted by phone with Debbie Gibson, a representative of the Athens Probate Court, which has jurisdiction over the appointment of senior guardians in Athens. She said that most requests for guardians for senior citizens in Athens come from hospitals and senior citizen homes whose professional staff feel a person has become incompetent. A court evaluation is conducted and family members are notified. Usually, a guardian is a family member or close friend whom the “ward” trusts. An annual evaluation is made to determine continuing need for a guardian and any expenses are charged to the ward’s account. A guardian is reimbursed for expenses and is paid a small fee. Ms Gibson said that under current law the guardian must consider what the ward wants before charges are paid.

Nevada law is in the process of being changed, so, we can hope the situations described in the article will no longer occur. We need to be sensitive to the possibility of our own future need for such a service by alerting relatives and friends. Under Ohio law we can designate our own guardian. No court decision is needed. **ALAN BOYD**

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EMERITI LUNCHEON, OHIO UNIVERSITY INN

December 21, 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Menu

Green Salad
Beef Tips and Noodles
Roasted Salmon
Twice Baked Potatoes
Roasted Broccoli and Cauliflower
Apple Pie

WHAT DO YOU DO AFTER YOU RETIRE?

Robert DeMott, Edwin and Ruth Kennedy Distinguished Professor Emeritus of English

Robert DeMott started his stint at Ohio University in 1969, retired from full-time teaching in 2007, then continued in phased retirement till 2013. He serves on the board of directors of *Quarter After Eight*, the graduate-student-run publication from OU's English Department and Creative Writing group. He has very active in his specialty area of John Steinbeck, serving on the editorial board of the *Steinbeck Review* from Penn State University. He has published in a variety of journals and spoken at universities and institutes across the country. This winter he will speak on *The Grapes of Wrath* at Columbus State and at an NEH seminar in California in July. Meanwhile, he is, in his words "pecking away at a book called *Steinbeck's Imaginarium*".

But his *real* retirement, his major interest these days is his life-long passion for fly fishing, which started early in his native Connecticut. He takes pride in his election as a member of Angler's Club of New York, ranking in its 110th year as one of the oldest fly-fishing clubs in the U.S. From his "more or less secret angling life" he had published *Astream: American Writers on Fly Fishing* (2012) and *Angling Days: A Fly Fisher's Journals* (2016). The Federation of Fly Fishers International recognizes him as a certified fly casting instructor. He has started part-time guiding at Elk Springs Resort and Fly Shop in Monterville, WV, where he works especially with beginners and seniors. He has done readings and book signings of *Angling Days* in Montana, Michigan, California, Ohio, West Virginia, Kentucky and New York.

Now, let us know what YOU have been doing since you retired or alert me to an emeritus friend who is into something interesting. Send me an email at

PLHB222@hotmail.com.

UNLIKELY THINGS I HEARD ABOUT THAT ACTUALLY WORKED

I had seen catalog mention of yellow-lensed glasses to be worn at night to cut down on glare and I pooh-poohed the idea for years. Well, age catching up with me and all, I found night driving, particularly on rainy nights, was increasingly unpleasant. So I asked at the glasses place in Walmart if they had ever heard of such a thing. They had but didn't sell them and directed me to the jewelry counter (You'll have to figure the logic of that on your own. I'm still baffled). The jewelry lady didn't bat an eye at my inquiry and fetched out the glasses. Bottom line – the yellow lenses DO cut down on the glare. They also make things a tad dark (not as much as regular sunglasses and they cut the glare better). So there it is for what it's worth.

CONUNDRUMS

If we say of people that they “redoubled their efforts”, does that mean that they tried twice as hard as the first time or *four times* harder?

Why do we say “Butter wouldn't melt in her mouth” when we mean someone is just too, too sweet?

KEEPING YOUR INFORMATION CURRENT IN THE EMERITI DIRECTORY

OU makes a real effort to keep current information such as deaths, changes of address, emails, phone numbers, etc. This is a challenge since the OU web page is updated only twice a year. So, please help us. Look over the directory and send any necessary changes you notice to Sally Wilson, University Advancement, wilsons@ohio.edu or call her at 740-593-9745.

RECEIVING THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER BY MAIL

The emeriti newsletter is issued 10 months of the year with the first one coming out in September. You can read the current issue (and nine years of old issues) online anytime. Just type <https://www.ohio.edu/emeri> and choose the Newsletter link. Some people prefer to get a printed copy and signed up for it some time ago. If you didn't sign up and want monthly copies, please contact Margaret Thomas at thomasm@ohio.edu and she will arrange for that to happen. (There is no charge!)

RECEIVING EMERITI INFORMATION BY EMAIL

Here is another Emeriti perk! If you give us your email address, we will send you the newsletter by email AND/OR we will send you special announcements of interest to Emeriti. Let Ed Baum know your preference -- 1) Newsletter and/or 2) interesting up-to-date info. Send your email address to baum@ohio.edu and then watch your Inbox.

OBITUARY

Charles Overby

Dr. Charles Overby, 91, professor emeritus of industrial and systems engineering, died in West Chester, PA, on September 18, 2017. He is survived by Ruth, his wife of 64 years; daughters Solveg, Kim and Heidi; four grandchildren, and one great grandchild.

Charles earned a bachelor's degree at the University of Minnesota, where he met Ruth. He earned a master's degree and doctorate at the University of Wisconsin, Madison. He spent the bulk of his professional career at Ohio University where he stressed to his students the broader environmental and social impact of technological innovation and resource utilization. In 1977-78 he spent a sabbatical year with the U.S. Congress, Office of Technology Assessment and in 1980, in recognition of his work in green technology and engineering policy he was named the first faculty-in-residence for the national Washington Internships for Students of Engineering (WISE) which focuses on engaging engineering students in public policy.

Charles was fond of poetry and often read his work when the Athens Poetry Group had open mic nights. Following is an example of his work:

Unfetteredness

Eagles soaring on winds swept up treeless hills
Of brown summer grass or, climbing in thermal drafts,
Over broiling prairies – To be one with the wind,
Freed from tugs of earth to wheel and swing
In wild abandon with exuberant spontaneity
Through mansions of air – eyes of a 10-year-old
Childhood dreams of eagles' views of death.