

FYI Emeriti - Notes for February 2020

Lunch reservations for February 20, 2020

Reservations must be received before noon on Friday, February 14, but don't wait until **Valentine's Day**. Email [Tom Franz <franz@ohio.edu>](mailto:franz@ohio.edu) for reservations. The price of the luncheon will be \$17. Checks made payable to the OU Emeriti Association will avoid the problem of having to bring exact change payment for the luncheon.

The menu for the February Luncheon is

- Caesar Salad
- Zucchini, squash & red onion salad
- Meat lasagna
- Vegetable lasagna
- Garlic bread
- Cannolis & Lemon cake

Vice President Scott Moody reports that the Emeriti Association program for February 20 will be by **Matthew R. Shaftel**, Dean of the College of Fine Arts.



Dr. Shaftel has focused on helping Ohio to share and develop its distinctive role in the Arts and community transformation in the region, state, and well beyond. He has previously served as Dean of the Westminster College of the Arts at Rider University and the administrator of the Princeton campus, which included the Grammy award winning Westminster Choir College. Shaftel also served as Associate Vice President of Academic Affairs at Florida State University, where he led the development of a signature general-education program, *Liberal Studies for the 21st Century*. He received three degrees from Yale University.

Highly active as a teacher, scholar, and musician, he has won three university-wide teaching awards and was a quarter finalist for two national awards. Dr. Shaftel has published numerous articles and books, including a textbook published by Oxford University Press. His award-winning volume on

Cole Porter, coedited with Susan Weiss and Don Randel, was released in 2016 by the University of Illinois Press, and a volume on opera is forthcoming from Oxford University Press.

More information on Dean Shaftel can be found at [this link <https://www.ohio.edu/fine-arts/shaftel>](https://www.ohio.edu/fine-arts/shaftel)

“Finding Manasseh Cutler” - Ann Fidler's presentation for the Emeriti in January



OCHER and Retirement System update, reported by Rosemary Rossiter

OPERS and STRS Report

January 16, 2020

The last OCHER meeting was in November 2019 and the next meeting will be in March 2020. The following comments are from materials posted on the STRS website.

OPERS:

Consistent with what was reported at the November OCHER meeting, OPERS has requested a 2-yr freeze on COLA's. Unlike the procedure at STRS, this request to freeze COLA's must be approved by the Ohio legislature. Also OPERS will cut allowances for Medicare-eligible retirees and make non-eligible retirees go to the ACA marketplace.

STRS:

2020 will mark the 100-yr anniversary of the establishment of STRS, which was the country's first public pension of its type.

On Jan 15 and 16 there will be closed meetings of the executive director search committee. The current executive director will retire at the end of June 2020.

An audit of 2019 financial reporting gave STRS a clean opinion. It was also noted that 5-yr returns put STRS among the top 25 public funds. Another consultant reported that investment costs for STRS (payments for managing the fund) are the 2nd lowest about 17 peers, primarily due to 70% of activity being managed in-house.

Annual nominal returns for 2019 was 7.13%, which is below the 7.45% assumed return and below 2018 returns. Returns by asset class are as follows:

Domestic equities 8.74%

International equities 2.85%

Bonds 7.65%

Real estate 7.6%

Alternative investments 8.3%

Announcements of **community events** by Emeriti of possible interest to other Emeriti

The following events are reported by Emeriti Association Past President **George Weckman**,

Music events:

Organ Recital by Scott Dettra, 4:00 Sunday Feb 9 at Christ Lutheran, Mill St.

Opera from the Met stage coming up are, 12:55 at Athena theater on Court St.
Feb 29 "Agrippina" by Handel and Mar 14 "Flying Dutchman" by Wagner.

about 150 years ago.
Victorian era Valentines' Day card (circa 1870 ± 10)
public domain image courtesy of the Museum of London



In Memoriam

Patricia Black compiled and edited the following summary of obituary notices

Sandra Geiger

Sandra Geiger died in Athens on September 1, 2019. She had served nearly 30 years in the Ohio University Office of Institutional Research.

Sandy's love of music and literature was reflected in her attendance at shows and musical performances. She hosted the wives of the OU Board of Trustees and enjoyed sharing with them the beauty and culture of Southeastern Ohio.

She is survived by Alan, her husband of 60 years; a daughter; a son, and several grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Friends who wish to can make memorial contributions to the Sandra Geiger Scholarship Fund, the Ohio University Foundation (P. O. Box 69, Athens, Ohio 45701), or the OhioHealth O'Bleness Hospital Guild, O'Bleness Hospital, 55 Hospital Drive, Athens, Ohio 45701.

A more detailed obituary is available in *The Athens Messenger* archives.

Lilian Mitchell

Lilian Mitchell died in Athens on September 2, 2019. She was born in Glasgow, Scotland, and attended the College of Speech Therapists in that city. She went on to a graduate program at the University of Reading. Following a short period as a speech therapist in Canada she moved to Ohio University to complete an MS and a PhD in the Department of Speech Pathology and Audiology.

Lilian served for a time as the director of the Southeastern Ohio Speech and Hearing Clinic in Nelsonville, Ohio. She then enrolled in the OU Department of Psychology to earn an MS in School Psychology, which led to a position as school psychologist in the Alexander School System in Albany, Ohio.

She is survived by her husband John, a daughter, and two grandchildren.

Memorial donations may be made to the Alzheimer's Research Foundation,

<http://alzheimersprevention.org/donate>.

A more detailed obituary can be found in *The Athens Messenger* archives.

Homer Bradshaw

Homer L. Bradshaw died in mid-September in Kalamazoo, Michigan. Born in Pomeroy, Ohio, Homer was raised in Howland, Ohio. He served with the 1878th Aviation Battalion during the Second World War, after which he enrolled at Ohio University on the G.I. Bill. He earned a BS degree, summa cum laude, then went on to the Ohio State University for MS and PhD degrees in psychology. He returned to OU where he served in the Department of Psychology. Among his many activities at OU and in Athens, he pioneered the program in educational psychology. He retired in 1955.

A more detailed history of his life in Athens and at OU can be found in the archives of *The Athens Messenger*.

Douglas Adie

Douglas K. Adie died in September in Indianapolis, Indiana. Canadian-born, Douglas earned a BS degree from McMasters University and a PhD in economics from the University of Chicago. He is survived by his wife, a daughter, two sons, and nine grandchildren.

A more detailed obituary is available from hughesmoquinfuneralhome.com.

“Jimmy” Tong

James Ying-Peh Tong died in September in Athens. Born in Shanghai, China, he came to the United States to earn BS and MS degrees in chemistry at the University of California Berkeley. His PhD in chemistry was from the University of Wisconsin. Joining the OU faculty he began a long, very active career advocating strongly for women in the sciences. He started the Women in Science and Engineering (WISE) among the many efforts he made to mentor students.

He is survived by three daughters and four grandchildren.

A more detailed obituary is available from hughesmoquinfuneralhome.com.

Bruce Ergood

Bruce Ergood died in September in Rochester, New York, on his way home from a YMCA conference. He graduated from Colgate and from Yale Divinity School and earned his PhD in Latin American Studies from the University of Florida. He spent his life deeply involved in civil rights and advocacy for Latin American issues.

A much more detailed obituary is available from the archives of *The Athens Messenger*.