



Emeriti Association
OHIO
UNIVERSITY

[Emeriti website](#)
April 2022

==> *Luncheon meeting & Zoom* <==

The Emeriti Association has scheduled an in-person and Zoom hybrid meeting for April

Location: Ohio University Inn

Date & Time: Thursday, April 21, 11:30 AM

Luncheon Menu: TBA, Food will be plated, served for you at your table

Cost: \$18 per person. Please have exact dollar amount at the door or a check made payable to the *OU Emeriti Association*

Reservations: Reservation deadline is noon on Monday, April 18. Send an email to Tom Franz <franz@ohio.edu> If a vegetarian plate is requested, please let Tom know that when making your reservation.



Vice President Scott Moody announced that the speaker for March will be **Dr. Gillian Ice**. Dr. Ice, professor of social medicine at the Heritage College of Osteopathic Medicine, has served as the special assistant to the president for public health operations at Ohio University. In that role, Ice has overseen non-clinical case management, has coordinated the University's response to positive COVID-19 cases, and acted as a point of contact for sharing information about public health initiatives with the University community. In addition, Ice also monitored public health data in the counties where Ohio University has campuses and other business operations and acted as a liaison to regional campus teams.

Ice teaches in a number of areas including research methods and evidence-based medicine, epidemiology, geriatrics, cultural competence, and global health. She is currently working on several health systems strengthening projects in Rwanda, Ethiopia, and Botswana that includes research training and capacity building. She was PI and director of the Fulbright Junior Faculty Development Program in Public Health called Egypt @OHIO. More information on Dr. Ice [can be found at this link](#).

From: Emeriti President Rosemary Rossiter

The University has asked the Emeriti Association to share this information about the memorial service for Dr. Charles Ping.

A program honoring the life and service of Ohio University President Emeritus Charles J. Ping is scheduled for Friday, April 1, 2022 at 3 p.m. ET (doors open at 2:30 p.m.; light fare reception will follow)

Location: **Walter Hall Rotunda**

Hosted by Ohio University

Obituary available at <https://www.jagersfuneralhome.com/obituary/charles-ping>

NOTE: [The University has set up a new website honoring President Emeritus Ping -- On the site we encourage your remembrances and reflections, <https://www.ohio.edu/ping-memorial/>](https://www.ohio.edu/ping-memorial/)

Link to the Program:

[<https://www.ohio.edu/ping-memorial/service.html>](https://www.ohio.edu/ping-memorial/service.html)

Board Member Elections 2022-23

At the March 17th meeting, **John Howell, Nominations Chair**, presented a partial slate of candidates for the Emeriti Association Board. Except for three positions, all current board members have agreed to serve for another year. Candidates are sought for the positions of:

Emeriti Park committee chair

Benefits chair & OCHER representative

Communication chair & Newsletter editor

The current board membership [can be found on the Emeriti Website at this link](#).

As noted by Howell last month, even if you don't want to chair a committee and serve on the Board, if you are interested in serving on any of these committees, please let him know. As Howell noted, *"Given the now routine technology of Zoom and the like, participation doesn't have to be limited to emeriti living in the Athens area"*.

Howell can be contacted for more information at [<jhowell45701@gmail.com>](mailto:jhowell45701@gmail.com)

The election of board members for next year is scheduled for the April meeting.

Notes from the March 17 Emeriti Meeting



Corinne Colbert, former Editor of the Athens News, highlighted the state of newspaper publishing and especially the coverage of local news in her presentation to the Emeriti. Colbert noted that the US now has only as many newspapers as it did in 1835 when the country had a much smaller population.

She noted that her firing as editor of the Athens News is emblematic of the current issues happening to newspapers in America today. The current impact of consolidation on local Athens coverage is the reduction of staff to very minimal levels at minimal expense. For the Athens News, that amounted to one editor and one reporter to cover all of Athens County, down from a staff of about eight including three free-lancers at the time the paper was purchased by its current owner, Adams Publishing Group (APG), as one of its 170 newspapers. APG also owns the Athens Messenger.

Colbert reviewed the impact of the consolidation of newspapers to large chain ownership as started by E.W. Scripps in 1894. By 1935, chains controlled about half of American daily newspapers, using central editing and syndicated information for a larger proportion of the content. By 1995, chain ownership was about 80% of newspapers. Today, the vast majority of daily newspapers are owned by three major companies, two of which are hedge funds. The shift to advertising on the internet has also heavily impacted newspapers.

Colbert said journalism's first responsibility is to the truth, and its first loyalty is to the readers. The loss of or reduction in local newspapers has led to lower voter turnout, fewer candidates running for local office, increased government corruption, and increased partisanship, all of which are exacerbating an erosion in our democracy.

Colbert received a round of applause on announcing that she and some of her colleagues are starting their own local newspaper, *The Athens County Independent*.

NOTE: [{\[Contributions to this new non-profit on-line newspaper have thus far exceeded \\$18,000\]}](#)