



Emeriti Association
OHIO
UNIVERSITY

[Emeriti website](#)
January 2023

Emeriti Meeting - January 2023

The Emeriti Association has scheduled an in-person luncheon meeting for January.

Location: Athens Country Club, 7606 Country Club Rd, Athens, OH 45701

Date & Time: Thursday, January 19, 11:30 AM

Luncheon will be Buffet style, menu TBA

Cost: \$23 per person. Please have exact dollar amount at the door or a check made payable to the *OU Emeriti Association*.

Luncheon reservations are required: Reservation deadline is noon on Tuesday, January 17. Early reservations are encouraged. RSVP by sending an email to Tom Franz <franz@ohio.edu> confirming your reservation(s).



Vice President Scott Moody announced that the speaker will be **Dr. Robert DeMott**, the Edwin and Ruth Kennedy Distinguished Professor of English Emeritus. He was a founding member of the original *Steinbeck Quarterly* and has been a long-standing member on the editorial boards of *The Steinbeck Newsletter* and *Steinbeck Review*. A former acting director of San Jose State University's Steinbeck Research Center (1984-1985), he was awarded the National Steinbeck Center's Trustees Award for significant contributions to Steinbeck Studies in 2006. DeMott is the author of *Steinbeck's Reading: A Catalogue of Books Owned and Borrowed* and *Steinbeck's Typewriter: Essays on His Art*. He is also the editor of *Working Days: The Journals of The Grapes of Wrath* and the Library of America's four-volume edition of Steinbeck's works.

DeMott's most recent book, published in November 2022, is *Steinbeck's Imaginarium; Essays on Writing, Fishing, and Other Critical Matters* where he delves into the imaginative, creative, and sometimes neglected aspects of John Steinbeck's writing. He sees Steinbeck as a prophetic voice for today as much as he was for the Depression-era 1930s as the essays explore the often unknown or unacknowledged elements of Steinbeck's artistic career that deserve closer attention. He writes about the determining scientific influences, such as quantum physics and ecology. DeMott concludes that Steinbeck's monumental works of fiction all comprise important statements on his creative process and his theory of fiction writing. More on DeMott's recent books can be found on Amazon.

(Description adapted from The University of New Mexico Press information)



Highlights from the December 15 meeting

Emeriti Secretary Allyn Reilly introduced Associate Professor Sean Parsons. Parsons reviewed his own odyssey as a Jazz Musician and highlighted his views on teaching, music composition, knowing the music and history of Jazz through the lens of the experiences of the musicians, and the origin of the term "Jazz". He noted that Jazz is a uniquely American art form and provides an opportunity for creativity and exploration. Parsons' music and commentary brought both laughter and rounds of applause from the audience. His Jazz selections were Duke Ellington's "Take the A-Train" and John Coltrane's "Moment's Notice" for which he also explained the origin of the titles.



100 (and 1) Years Ago
Washington DC Blizzard January 1922



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