



RFPSA

RETIRED FACULTY &
PROFESSIONAL STAFF
ASSOCIATION

Newsletter

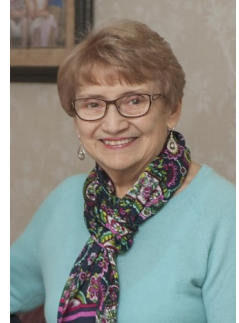
June 2017

Editor: Edward G. Thomas

President's Message

The 2016-2017 year for the Retired Faculty and Professional Staff Association (RFPSA) has been one of varied presentations, finely focused tours and enjoyable gatherings. It has also been a year of growth for the association. Attendance at the meetings and outings has continued to increase and that growth has had the benefit of eliciting greater feedback from members and suggestions for future programs.

Reflecting back on the year, the fall semester programs featured matters in the city, on campus and near campus. Our guest speaker in September was Joe Roman, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Greater Cleveland Partnership (GCP) and former Vice President of the Host Committee for the Republican National Convention. Joe assessed the convention's value and future benefits for the city. In October, Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs, Dr. Jianping Zhu, spoke to members regarding new programs, organizational changes, and instructional facilities associated with the health professions. Then, in November, members toured the new Center for Innovation in Medical Professions where Dr. Vida Lock, Special Assistant to the Provost for Health Professions, discussed the innovative nature of the Interprofessional Education model introduced at the new facility. The holiday program in December again had members attending—and participating in—the annual “Messiah Sing” at Trinity Cathedral and then gathering for lunch at Elements.



Mickey Barnard

The spring semester programs featured history and the arts. In February, we were guests of Robert Thurmer, Director of the Art Galleries at CSU. One of the three exhibitions there featured encaustic geometric abstractions, and the artist, Susan Squires, discussed the process of encaustic painting. March's guest, Ohio historian John Dailey, presented an illustrated narration about the Ohio canal system, detailing how the canal system opened the new frontier state of Ohio and led to its growth in population, finance, and politics. The April tour at the Cleveland Museum of Art took members to the exhibition, *Black in America*, CMA's photographic installation honoring the fiftieth anniversary of the city's election of Mayor Carl Stokes, and to the exhibition, *African Master Carvers*, a stellar group of carvings from West, Central, and Southern Africa. Member Alice Smith, who has studied the carvers and collects examples of the art, provided the narration for that exhibition. Also in April, continuing RFPSA involvement in the educational activities of the University, the association assisted the “Friends of the Library” in sponsoring an essay contest for students in the Honors College. Members Glending Olson and Judith Richards were readers for the contest and participated in the award ceremony. The annual dinner in May was planned and hosted by Vice President and President-elect, Lee Makela. The venue was the new clubhouse of the Acacia Reservation, the 155-acre nature preserve which is the latest jewel in the Cleveland Metroparks' “Emerald Necklace.” Lee will assume leadership of the RFPSA on July 1.

As my term ends, I must acknowledge with gratitude the assistance and support of the many members of the Executive Board and of the Association who have helped me during the year; abiding thanks to the efficient Administrative Coordinator, Violet Lunder, who does an amazing job, *pro bono*, for the RFPSA. Endless thanks go to Jeff Ford, Immediate Past President, for his cheerful mentoring and to the indispensable Ed Thomas, Communications Coordinator, for his tireless work photographing all the events, for editing and producing the newsletter, and for providing sage counsel.

Mildred (Mickey) Barnard
President, 2016-2017

New Emeriti Faculty*

Nancy Meyer-Emerick, Associate Professor Emerita, Urban Studies (Spring 2017)
 Carol Phillips-Bey, Associate Professor Emerita, Mathematics (Spring 2017)
 Sheldon H. Stein, Associate Professor Emeritus, Economics (Spring 2017)

New Associates of the University*

Annette M. Chernosky, Manager, Athletic Facilities
 Sandra Ganz, Asst. Director, Fiscal Operations
 Mark Gefert, Coordinator, Athletic Advising
 Orysia P. Markovic, Scheduling Specialist, CLASS & COS Deans' Offices
 Jan Niblock, Financial Aid Program Administrator
 Peter R. Phillips, Director, Applications and Integrations, IS&T

Other Retired/Retiring Faculty*

Robert I. Abelman, Professor, Communication (May 2017)
 Clifford Bennett, Professor, Teacher Education (May 2017)
 Eileen Berlin Ray, Professor, Women's Studies Director., Communication (June 2017)
 Wentworth "Pete" Clapham, Professor, BGES (May 2017)
 Delia Galvan-Sanchez, Associate Professor, World Languages (May 2017)
 Michael A. Gates, Prof. & Assoc. Dean, BGES (July 2017)
 Lisa Gaynier, Dir., Diversity Management & Adjunct Faculty, Psychology (July 2017)
 Glenn Goodman, Professor, Health Sciences (May 2017)
 Mounir Ibrahim, Prof., Mechanical Engineering (May 2017)
 Lolita Buckner Inniss, Professor, Law (May 2017)
 Vida B. Lock, Special Assistant to Provost for Health Professions, NEOMED (July 2017)
 Stuart Mendel, Assistant Dean, Urban Affairs (July 2017)
 John F. Oprea, Professor, Mathematics (May 2017)
 Richard Reed, Professor, Management, & Interim Dean, Business College (July 2017)
 Mohan Sundaram, Visiting Instructor, Operations & Supply Chain Management (May 2017)

Other Professional Staff Retirements*

James W. Barker, Electronic Specialist, Engineering College (April 1, 2017)
 Barbara Benevento, Event/Space Coord., Urban Affairs (July 2017)

Other Professional Staff Retirements (Cont'd)*

Renee Boyd, Sr. Data Base Admin., IS&T (March 2017)
 Dale Csuri, Printing Machine Operator 3, IS&T (June 2017)
 Brenda Darkovich, Administrative Coordinator, President's Office (April 28, 2017)
 Constantin Draganoiu, Mgr., Utilities & Energy (June 2017)
 Richelle Emery, Oper. & Fiscal Coord, Chemistry (July 2017)
 Nancy Erhardt, Coord., Career Planning, Law (July 2017)
 Beverly Freeman, Senior Accountant, Sponsored Programs & Research Services (May 2017)
 Randall Frye, Enterprise Network Spec., IS&T (April 2017)
 Joel Gorski, Business Analyst, IS&T (January 2017)
 Kathryn Hexter, Dir., Center for Planning, Urban (July 2017)
 Carla Howard, Dir., Advancement Services (February 2017)
 Harold B. Jackson, Word Processing Specialist 3, Law (February 2017)
 John Parry, Director, Intercollegiate Athletics (July 2017)
 Rita Pawlik, Administrative Secretary, Law (May 2017)
 Gary Waters, Head Basketball Coach (March 17, 2017)
 Jeane H. White, Dir., Budget & Admin., Law (July 2017)

In Memoriam*

Stephen J. Adams, Term Instructor, Information Systems (November 19, 2016)
 Richard H. Black, Associate Professor Emeritus, Math (December 19, 2016)
 Gary D. Engle, Associate Professor, English (April 5, 2017)
 Thomas S. Heines, Professor Emeritus, Information Systems (April 21, 2017)
 Charleyse S. Pratt, Assistant V. P., Inclusion & Multicultural Engagement (March 9, 2017)
 David A. Santoro, Associate Professor Emeritus, CASAL (January 29, 2017)
 David Wilder, Lecturer, Art (March 25, 2017)

*** Lists from Board of Trustees and HRD**

Note from the Newsletter Editor

Please direct comments, questions, and article ideas to Edward G. Thomas, Newsletter Editor, at the following email address: e.thomas@csuohio.edu.

February 16, 2017 Program: Visit to the Galleries at CSU

On Thursday, February 16, 2017, members of the Retired Faculty & Professional Staff Association and their guests visited the Galleries at CSU, 1307 Euclid Avenue. Robert Thurmer, director and chief curator of the Galleries, welcomed the group and gave an overview of the four exhibits that were on display at the time: *Riparazioni* by Anne Kmieck—an installation of eleven embroidered dresses and other works; *Ghosts and Strangers* by Miriam Norris Omura—dyed stencil weavings; *From There to Here* by Susan Squires—encaustic geometric abstractions; and *Paper Shadows*—a film by Robert Banks. Then Susan Squires led a tour of her works, explaining her artistic process and where she gets her inspiration.



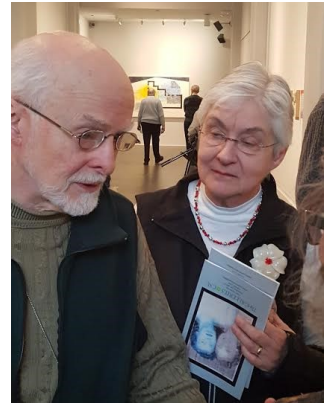
Jim Kweder



Robert Thurmer



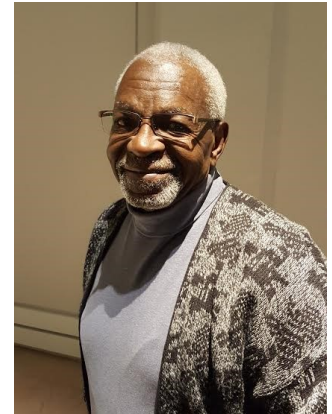
Riparazioni by Anne Kmieck



David & Sharon Richardson



Mary James



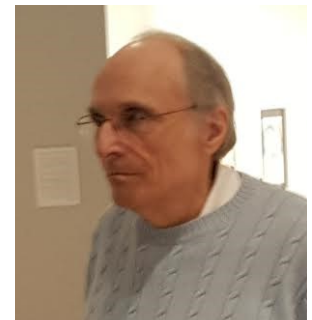
Ed Briskey



Woman in Blue by Miriam Norris Omura



Ann Bell (left) & Carol Stolarski



Sheldon Stein

February 16, 2017 Program: Visit to Galleries at CSU (Continued)



Mickey Barnard



Energy Field/Descartes by Susan Squires



Carol Phillips-Bey



Maggie Jackson (left) and Elizabeth Unis Chesko



Artist Susan Squires



Heidi Makela



Tom Frew and Jane Zaharias



Violet Lunder



Mittie Davis Jones



Lee Larkin



Glending Olson (left) and Jeff Ford



Lee Makela

March 16, 2017 Program: “The Ohio Canal Systems”

John E. Dailey, Professional Surveyor (Retired)



Despite the threat of a late-winter snow-storm, more than 40 RFPSA members and guests turned out for the presentation on “The Ohio Canal Systems” on March 16, 2017. John E. Dailey, the speaker, is a professional land surveyor who retired on June 30, 2004, after 51 years in the surveying profession. His vast experience includes boundary surveys, property line determination, topo-

graphic surveys, construction and engineering surveys, and land title surveys. He has provided expert testimony in boundary dispute trials. Mr. Dailey is a past president of the Professional Land Surveyors of Ohio.

Apparently, as he traveled around the state conducting surveys, Mr. Dailey became aware of the routes and histories of the canals and has conducted research on the canals since his retirement. According to Mr. Dailey, awareness of the possibilities of a water transportation system between Lake Erie and the Ohio River goes back many years. In fact, as early as 1787, future Presidents George Washington and Thomas Jefferson discussed the viability of such a venture. They understood that, in order for the region, which would not become a state until 1803, to grow and prosper, the farmers and business owners would need quick and easy access to both the Ohio River and Lake Erie.

In 1822, the Ohio Legislature, realizing the importance of water transportation to the economy of the state, created an Ohio Canal Commission. The Commission hired James Geddes, an engineer who had worked on the Erie Canal in New York, to determine the best possible routes for connecting the river

and the lake. Mr. Geddes proposed three routes: (1) a western route that would run along the Miami and Maumee Rivers; (2) a central route using the Scioto and Sandusky Rivers; and (3) an eastern route following the Muskingum and Cuyahoga Rivers. Eventually, it was decided that two canals would be built: (1) the western Miami and Erie Canal; and (2) the eastern Ohio and Erie Canal, which combined parts of the eastern and central routes previously outlined.



To finance the canals, the Ohio Legislature arranged to borrow money from bankers and businessmen on the East Coast. While the original cost for the two canals was forecast as just over \$5 million, by the time the canals were completed (the Ohio & Erie in 1833 and the Miami & Erie in 1845), the cost had risen to \$41 million, including \$25 million in interest on the loans.

Construction on the two canals began in 1825. The design of the canals called for a channel that was some 40 feet wide on the surface and 30 feet wide on the bottom, with a standard depth of 4 feet. The construction went fairly quickly. At the peak of construction, more than four thousand workers were building the canals. The workers were paid approximately thirty cents per day plus room and board. Even at that rate, there were many workers willing to labor on these jobs from sunrise to sunset, including recent immigrants.

March 16, 2017 Program: "The Ohio Canal Systems" (Continued)



The canals were built largely through the physical labor of men willing to work for low wages plus room and board.

Once the canals were in operation, their economic impact was quickly felt. The cost to ship goods from the East Coast to Ohio and vice versa declined from \$125 per ton to \$25 per ton. The price for passengers on the canal boats was \$1.70 per person.

Unfortunately for those depending on the canal boats for a living, by the 1850s, the canals were losing business to the railroads, which had many advantages over the canals. While railroads cost more for the transportation of people and goods, they were much faster than the canal boats. Railroads were not limited by needing a water source, and they could operate year round, while canal boats could not move when canals were frozen over in the winter. Railroads could be constructed almost anywhere, and they could cross over canyons and go uphill, which was an impossibility for the canals.



A canal boat on the Ohio & Erie Canal.

Canal-generated revenue in Ohio reached its peak in 1855. However, the canal system covered almost 1,000 miles, and the cost to maintain the ditches was growing faster than the revenue generated by them.

While the growth of railroads caused a slow but inevitable decline in canal revenue, a natural disaster in 1913 effectively put an end to the canals as anything more than a nostalgic memory. A record 1912-13 winter snowfall followed by heavy spring rains caused massive flooding in several states, including Ohio. The Great Flood of late March 1913, caused major damage to the raised canal banks and locks and essentially signaled the end of Ohio's canal systems.

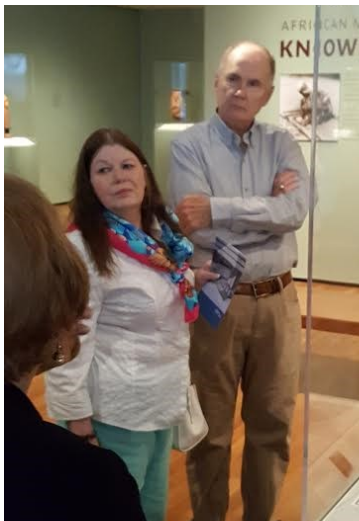


Two horses pull the St. Helena III canal boat along the Ohio & Erie Canal in Canal Fulton, Ohio.

History buffs can still experience some of the feel of the canal boat era by visiting Canal Fulton, Ohio, a small Stark County city that grew up to take advantage of the fact that it was located on the Tuscarawas River, which was used as part of the Ohio & Erie Canal route. Rides are available on the mule-drawn St. Helena III canal boat, which operates from May to October each year. Boarding is at St. Helena Heritage Park in Canal Fulton.

April 23, 2017 Program: "Visit to Cleveland Museum of Art"

RFPSA members and guests visited the Cleveland Museum of Art on Sunday, April 23, 2017, to see two exhibits. Because the Museum notified RFPSA on short notice that no docent would be available for the group, Alice Reviere Smith, retired librarian, art collector, and RFPSA member, stepped up and did an admirable job of explaining her understanding of the artwork and the artists featured in the two exhibitions. The group first toured "African Master Carvers: Known and Famous," an exhibition of carved art pieces by a select group of well-known master carvers in West, Central, and Southern Africa. The second exhibition was "Black in America: Louis Draper and Leonard Freed," a photo exhibit presented by the Museum as part of the community-wide commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the election of Carl Stokes as mayor of Cleveland.



Mary and Ken Mayer



Alice Smith acts as a docent for the group tour.



Carol and Ronald Phillips-Bey



Helmet Mask carved by Bamgoye circa 1920 out of a single piece of wood



Jim and Lynne Kweder



Louise Boston (right) and her sister, Kathy Horchy

April 23, 2017 Program: "Visit to Cleveland Museum of Art" (Continued)



Two carved figures



Lee Larkin (far right) with her daughter Lauren and sister Georgia (at left).



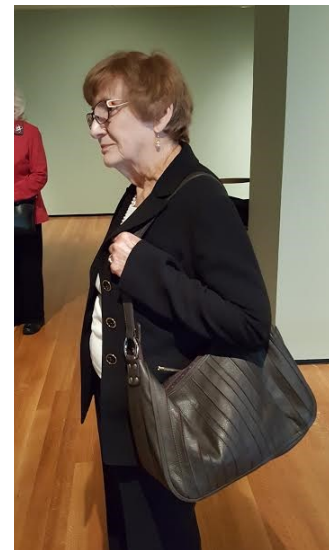
Barbara Green



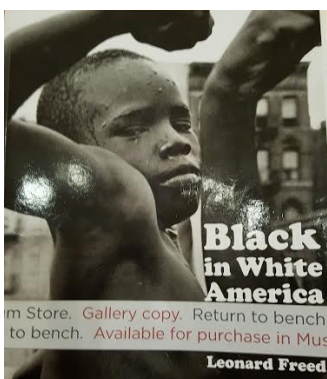
Ed Briskey and Alice Smith



Mask by master carver Yacouba Bondé of Burkina Faso



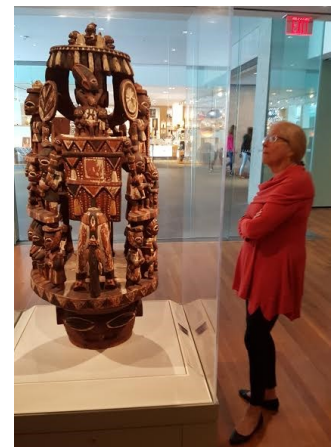
Mickey Barnard



Exhibition catalog for the photography exhibition. Photos were not allowed in this exhibit.



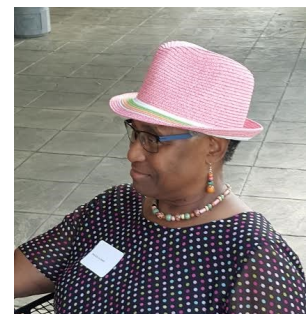
Vicki Plata (left) and her friend, Catherine Dahlem, admire Georgia O'Keefe's *White Pansy* painting in an adjoining gallery.



Hester Lewellen contemplates the helmet mask.

May 18, 2017: Annual RFPSA Dinner at Acacia Reservation

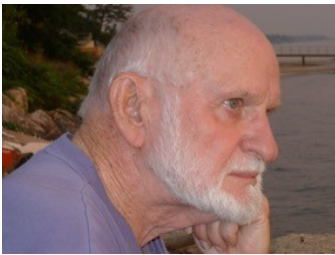
RFPSA held its annual dinner on Thursday, May 18, at the Acacia Reservation in Beachwood. Acacia Reservation, formerly the Acacia Country Club, is now part of the Cleveland Metroparks System, and the grounds are being returned to their natural state. The clubhouse has been retained for meetings and other events, and some 55 RFPSA members and guests attended the dinner, which was catered by Dino's Catering. Included below are photos of the grounds and of the attendees. How many of the attendees do you recognize?



May 18, 2017: Annual RFPSA Dinner at Acacia Reservation (Continued)



My Life After Retirement by Dr. James E. Royster



Jim Royster

In my case, life after retirement has been far from sedentary. I retired from 27 years of teaching in the Department of Religious Studies and First College in 1998 (including four years part-time in the latter). I wouldn't have left teaching

even then if I hadn't wanted to join my wife on her annual trips to Australia to visit our son, his wife, and three daughters. Given the extraordinary advantage in the conversion rate at the time, we bought a condo there (believe it or not, right on the Pacific shore) and lived in it for six months of each year for ten years. When the cost of living there became extremely high and the conversion rate was ideal for selling, we did so and benefited enough to buy a comfortable home in The Villages in Florida, where we now live.



The condo in Australia was in this building

In 2002, we sold the 44-acre farm in Ashtabula County where we had lived since coming to CSU, and we bought a small cottage on Lake Erie in Geneva-on-the-Lake. I had taken up sailing in the meantime and this seemed more fitting than to continue gentleman farming, especially since my teenage sons had left home for their higher education. That much acreage, five out-buildings, and a nine-room farmhouse became too much. Downsizing was required: from my campus office with about 8,000 books to a small room in the



The Ashtabula County farmhouse

farmhouse, then further reduction to about 1,000 in the cottage, and later down to about 400 in our present home.

I started writing a book on world religions in 1987, hoping to finish it soon enough to use in my classes. That didn't happen. *Have This Mind: Supreme Happiness, Ultimate Realization, and the Four Great Religions—An Integral Adventure* was published in 2014. House moving, traveling, and new interests gave rise to postponement, along with some serious questioning—do I really want to finish it?. Since I was no longer teaching, I tried to make the content of the book more fitting for a general audience. That didn't happen. I was mistaken in giving the book to a popular press. Feedback from readers and now my own realization indicate that it is clearly a textbook. I hope to do a modest edit and get it published by an academic press.

For two months in 2010, my wife and I joined our daughter in South India where she had rented a small apartment next to the ashram of Ramana Maharshi, a foremost Hindu sage/saint of the last century. I learned about him when living in India in the early '60s. Over the years, I've drawn a lot from his life and teaching, which I've conveyed in both my teaching and writing. Among other things, on this recent visit I made the customary circumambulation (about 8 miles) around Arunachala, the sacred mountain to which Ramana came at 17, and never left until his death in 1950. With its rich religio-philosophical heritage, the culture of India has remained a favorite.



Typical shrine encountered while circumambulating Arunachala

With no thought of teaching in 2011 when my wife and I first visited The Villages and bought a house, lots of opportunities have arisen. I've taught classes based on two different books, one on *The Gospel of Thomas* (a non-canonical text containing the earliest teaching of Jesus, which is devoid of creeds and doctrines) and the other on *Have This Mind*. Currently, there are two sections of *HTM* with 20 to 25 students in each. Classes in The Villages (open only to residents) are offered as clubs through the Recreation Department. My classes for those outside The Villages are given in a nearby Unity Church. Since ages extend from the 60s into the 90s, class members have lifetimes of experience. There

My Life After Retirement by Dr. James E. Royster—Continued

is often so much discussion we don't get to the book at all (I started the first *HTM* class at the beginning of 2015 and we're about one-third of the way through it at this writing).

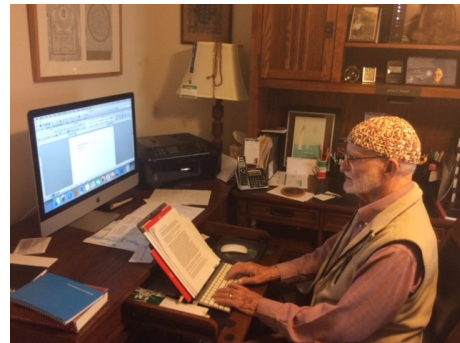
I started another book a little over a year ago, recently finished the writing, and am now editing it. Two friends with appropriate skill have volunteered to edit it also. For this I am really pleased. The new book title is *Undoing: Freeing Yourself from Yourself* and is a study in identity formation, how we become who we are by means of attachment, and mature progressively by means of detachment, repeating the process to our dying day. Though writing was a real ordeal for me while at CSU, it has now become enjoyable. I guess I'm a slow learner.

This retirement community is a mecca for golfers, offers every imaginable athletic activity, has three movie theaters, dozens of assembly halls for performances, and over 2,200 different interest clubs. I participate in none of this, though I do spend an hour or more almost every day exercising at a fitness center. I also join two small men's groups each week, one for breakfast with a focus on academics and politics, the other for coffee and discussion of spiritual texts.



The Royster home in The Villages

My life feels fulfilled by my activities, which also includes my family and many new friends (the motto of The Villages is "Florida's Friendliest Hometown"). Occasionally I miss CSU and my life in Northeast Ohio—but not for long.



Jim Royster working in his home office

Editor's Note: Jim has now finished his new book and is looking for a publisher.

RFPSA Officers, Executive Board Members, and Staff

Academic Year 2016-2017

- Mildred Barnard, President
- Lee Makela, Vice President
- Carol Stolarski, Secretary
- Judith Richards, Treasurer
- Jeff Ford, Past President
- Edward G. Thomas, Communications Coordinator
- Representatives to Faculty Senate:
 - Elizabeth Unis Chesko
 - David Larson
- Representatives to OCHER:
 - Elizabeth Cagan
 - Jeff Ford
 - Glending Olson
 - Donald Ramos
- Violet Lunder, Administrative Coordinator

Election Results

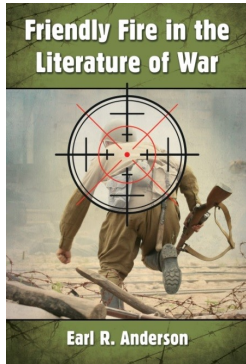
The following RFPSA members were elected to offices in the recent election:

- Maggie Jackson—Vice President (and President-Elect)
- Judith Richards—Treasurer (two-year term)
- Doug Stewart—Representative to Faculty Senate (two-year term)

Recent Books by CSU Retirees

Friendly Fire in the Literature of War

by Earl R. Anderson



Friendly Fire in the Literature of War was released by McFarland Publishers, Jefferson, NC, in May 2017; it is available in paperback (\$35) and e-book; 225 pages including notes, bibliography, and index. Earl Anderson served as a professor of English at CSU from 1970 to 2005, and also as a department chair, associate dean in the College of Graduate Studies, and interim dean in the College of Arts &

Sciences and in the College of Liberal Arts & Social Sciences.

This book differs from others in its field by focusing on friendly fire as a *literary* trope from ancient times to the present. The organization is thematic rather than chronological, but the book offers the first systematic survey of friendly fire in classical Greek and Roman sources, and juxtaposes these with medieval and modern sources. The book treats friendly fire as it appears in major authors who have never been discussed from this perspective, viz.: Montaigne, Tolstoy, Bierce, De Forest, Crane (in short stories and sketches), Dos Passos, Faulkner, Hemingway, Solzhenitsyn, the Estonian author Jaan Kross, and the Israeli author Abraham Yehoshua.

“Friendly fire” was a non-lexicalized, covert semantic category until 1976, when C.D.B. Bryan published *Friendly Fire*, an exposé of an administrative cover-up after the accidental death of Private Michael Mullen by misplaced artillery in 1970. The term progressed to a household word in April 1979, when 64 million viewers watched *Friendly Fire*, an ABC-televised movie starring Carol Burnett as Peg Mullen, Michael’s mother, who investigated the cover-up and became an anti-war activist.

Often a friendly-fire episode (or its disclosure) is a fulcrum-event in narrative—the motivating event from which everything else follows. This is the case in the *Iliad*, in Aeschylus’s *Persians*, in *Chanson de Roland*, and in any number of novels including Crane’s *Red Badge of Courage*, Faulkner’s *Soldier’s Pay*, O’Brien’s *Going After Cacciato* and *In the Lake of the Woods*, Kovic’s *Born on the Fourth of July*, Heinemann’s *Paco’s Story*, Kross’s *The Czar’s Madman*, and Yehoshua’s *Friendly Fire*. Only in the latter work does “friendly fire” have a name.

Even in texts where friendly fire is secondary it might have symbolic force. In Thucydides’s *Peloponnesian War*, Tolstoy’s *War and Peace*, Bierce’s Civil War stories, Solzhenitsyn’s *August 1914*, Gwin’s *Baptism*, and Marlantes’s *Matterhorn*, diverse episodes of friendly fire signify—by their recurrence—that something is fundamentally wrong; that the course of events is beyond human control. Friendly-fire episodes recur to quite different ends in Livy’s *History of Rome* and in Procopius’s *Wars of Justinian*. For Livy, the worst thing one can say about a commander is that he left the outcome of a battle to chance. A friendly-fire disaster would be an indicator of that. Procopius’s friendly-fire episodes usually result from the corruption of senior officers—a problem that General Belisarius could not resolve when his officers had personal connections with Justinian or Theodora—and so, at times, Procopius reads like a non-comic *Catch-22*. Then there are narratives in which events propel the characters into a friendly-fire catastrophe, as in Thomas Taylor’s *A Piece of this Country* and Oliver Stone’s *Platoon*. Contact information: earlranderson@yahoo.com.

Arch C. Klumph—Rotary’s Renaissance Man
by Edward G. Thomas

Ed Thomas, Professor Emeritus of marketing, has published a biography of Cleveland Rotarian Arch C. Klumph. Best known to Rotarians throughout the world as the founder of The Rotary Foundation, Arch Klumph was also a past president of the Rotary Club of Cleveland (1913-14) and of Rotary International (1916-17). Arch served Rotary for many years as chair of The Rotary Foundation Board of Trustees and as chair of the RI Extension Committee, which was charged with establishing new Rotary clubs around the world.

Entitled *Arch C. Klumph—Rotary’s Renaissance Man*, the book covers Arch’s life from his early boyhood in Conneautville, PA, through his life in Cleveland as a successful business man, a military enthusiast, an aspiring musician, a civic leader, an iconic Rotarian, and a dedicated family man. The book includes numerous photographs showing Arch at various stages of his life. Many of the photographs were provided by family members and have never been published before. Copies of the book are available at www.rotarydistrict6630.org.



Ed Thomas (at right) presents a copy of his book to Rotary District Governor Jim McKee.

Annual Faculty Senate Report by David Larson

Returning as an observer to the Faculty Senate after several years of absence, one thing struck me forcibly—the general harmony of the proceedings. A great many things were accomplished with minimal debate.

That was especially apparent in the reception of proposals from Senate committees. Major revisions to existing programs, the elimination of some programs, and the addition of a new School of Film, Television, and International Media were approved with little discussion. Perhaps the extremely thorough reports Senate committees supplied precluded the need for debate.

Looming large this year, budgetary issues did prompt questions. The next State biennium budget will probably not include an increase in subsidy; plus subsidy will now be based on class-completion rates and six-year-graduation rates, disadvantaging urban universities. Also, CSU's enrollment for Spring Semester has fallen short of projections; there are fears the current political climate will discourage enrollment from international students; and Ohio's tax revenues are coming in below expectations. Consequently, a hiring freeze is in place at CSU, ending some faculty searches before completion. According to the Provost, the academic budget will be reduced 4.43% in fiscal 2018. Colleges with low enrollment will be cut more than those with increasing enrollment. However, in a change from past practice, the Provost reported that the administrative side was cut 5% in fiscal 2017 and that it will be trimmed another 5% in fiscal 2018. The President pointed out that CSU's budget woes are less severe than those at Akron, Wright State, and Bowling Green.

The State of Ohio is also inserting itself directly into higher education. Under a mandate from the legislature and OBOR, the Ohio Department of Education instructed the four universities in Northeast Ohio to review all programs offered at two or more universities and to report which are essential and which should be dropped or offered jointly.

At CSU, a committee of six (three appointed by the Faculty Senate and three by the Provost) reviewed duplicative programs, using enrollment and centrality to the university as its criteria. Forty-five programs were found to be essential. Of the eleven programs requiring further examination, six have already been suspended through the program prioritization process, leaving five to be examined more closely. This preliminary report was approved by CSU's Trustees and sent to Columbus. The review of programs in the second category is to be completed and the results submitted to Columbus by December 31, 2017. Although this report prompted some negative feedback, most senators seemed to accept the unpleasant necessity of fulfilling the State's mandate.

The state-mandated review of duplicative programs may be just the beginning of Ohio's attempts to micromanage higher education. A proposal to cap textbook costs for students was successfully fought this year, but there are proposals in the legislature to either institute post-tenure review or to end tenure at state-supported universities. Already, community colleges are being authorized to offer some four-year degrees, and the state is examining competency-based course work as a substitute for traditional classes.

On campus, there are several developments. A full renovation of the Rhodes Tower elevators is scheduled to begin this summer; there are plans to demolish and replace the Wolstein Arena; and the CSU Trustees have decided to maintain the "no guns on campus" policy. In the vein of "the more things change the more they stay the same," faculty report significant problems with the new "Magnus Mart" online purchasing system, and there is talk of improving or replacing it.

All in all, the past year at Cleveland State has been both harmonious and productive, but outside forces are threatening the independence and quality of higher education in Ohio.

Annual OCHER Report by Jim Kweder

RFPSA has four representatives to the Ohio Council of Higher Education Retirees (OCHER). This year, our representatives were Beth Cagan, Jim Kweder, Glending Olson, and Don Ramos. Jim Kweder stepped down from this position at the end of December 2016, and Jeff Ford was appointed to fill the remainder of Jim's term. Nevertheless, Jim Kweder provided this report on behalf of the group.

A year ago, OCHER concluded a process of reviewing its role in issue advocacy, a major function as defined in its by-laws, by identifying a list of issues to be monitored during the 2016-17 academic year. Two at the top of the list were "Fundamental Ongoing Retirement Issues" of central purpose to the organization:

- Monitor Ohio and Federal legislation, and ORSC, STRS and OPERS actions affecting the pensions and health care benefits of higher education retirees.
- Monitor attempts to replace defined benefit plans with defined contribution plans for STRS and OPERS members.

Another seven issues were targeted for monitoring in anticipation of actions and developments in the U.S. Congress and the Ohio General Assembly which would play out during 2016-17. Several of these are recurring:

- Move STRS and OPERS retirees under mandatory Social Security.
- Impose inappropriate and burdensome federal mandates and steep penalties for noncompliance on the way state pension systems keep records and report activity.
- Prohibit Ohio pension funds from investing funds in companies doing business in Iran, Sudan, Syria and Cuba.
- Change the way the mitigating rate for the Alternative Retirement Plan is calculated.

None of these created a great stir. Congress remains distracted for the time being with other things, and issues with Ohio Legislators, for the most part, were worked out.

An issue that faded from the radar screen but which might re-emerge in Congress eventually was the Secure Annuities for Employees Retirement (SAFE) proposal which would substitute annuities (defined contribution plans) instead of defined benefit plans for government employees. This is a proposal which would directly threaten the defined benefit plans of all of the Ohio government pension systems. Its appeal, at least in part, lies in its similarity to changes which have overwhelmingly happened in the private sector.

Finally, the U.S. Department of Labor under President Obama proposed that brokers, sales persons, financial advisers, etc. be required to meet the legal and ethical standards of fiduciary status. Congressional Republicans refused to support the measure and Obama issued an Executive Order directing the Labor Department to move ahead with the requirement. President Trump rescinded President Obama's Executive Order with one of his own. Requiring fiduciary status for those selling and managing retirement funds would offer additional security to STRS and OPERS members who will probably need to supplement their government pensions.

STRS and OPERS are wrestling with the status of their pensions and health care benefits. Retirees are living longer, collecting benefits longer, and requiring more and more-expensive health care as they age. OPERS has made its major adjustment on how it would offer health care benefits. STRS has stopped diverting pension funds to pay for health care but now faces major challenges to keeping the pension fund solvent.

More changes are probably coming, and OCHER should continue to be a useful source of information and interpretation about those changes.

Cleveland State University
Retired Faculty and Professional Staff Association
Membership Form

Please complete and return this form with your check for dues payable to CSU RFPSA. Dues are \$10 a year or \$125 for lifetime membership. Mail to Violet Lunder, Main Classroom 320, Cleveland State University, Cleveland, Ohio 44115

Name _____

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Please help the Association by responding to the following questions.

I would be interested in serving as an officer of the Association: Yes____ No____

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I suggest the following programs and/or speakers for future events: _____

I would be interested in giving a presentation on the following topic: _____

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