We – the members of the OSU Emeritus Academy – are familiar with its mission as stated on the web page (https://oaa.osu.edu/emeritus-academy):

“…to recognize and promote the ongoing engagement of emeritus faculty in research and in scholarly and creative activity for the enhanced reputation of the university and for the benefit of society at large.”

Nice words, indeed! Even nicer is to highlight the on-going scholarship of Emeritus Academy members, especially in these days of Covid-19 when it is impossible for us to gather at the Grand Lounge of the Faculty Club for our lecture series.

That is the focus of this inaugural newsletter, and all future newsletters as well, which is to announce the continuing accomplishments of Academy members, and keep everyone up to date on lectures and deadlines for new member applications and small grants.

We hope to publish two issues of the newsletter each semester. Please submit news about your scholarship achievements, from books and journal articles to keynotes and presentation (live or online), awards and whatever else you think might be of other to your fellow Emeritus Academy members.

Ardine Nelson, Emeritus Professor of Art
Chair, Emeritus Academy Steering Committee

Morris Beja – Emeritus Professor of English

My current work both harks back to how my career started and goes in a bit of a new direction. My first book, Epiphany in the Modern Novel, looked at James Joyce’s concept of epiphany and his manuscript epiphanies in the broad context of modernist fiction, with chapters on Joyce, Virginia Woolf, William Faulkner, and Thomas Wolfe. Recently, after I advised a young scholar in Switzerland about his manuscript on Joyce’s epiphanies, and subsequently helped to get it published as a book, he and I and, eventually, two other European scholars, decided to prepare an accurate, annotated edition of the epiphanies. That should keep us busy into next year.

The newer direction is in the form of an essay that questions the traditional image—and self-image—of Joyce as a friendless loner, living by “silence, exile, and cunning.”
Gary Berntson, Professor Emeritus of Psychology

I have been honored to receive the Award for Distinguished Contributions to Psychophysiology (2020) by the Society for Psychophysiological Research. This is their highest career research award. The Society was founded in 1960 and is the premier international association for psychophysiology, which pursues the relations between the mind and the body, including psychosomatic disorders, psychoneuroimmunology, and health psychology in general.

I am an invited Keynote Speaker at the upcoming Online International Congress of Neurosciences: Brain and Behavior in times of COVID-19. UNIVERSID EL BOSQUE Vigilada Mineducacion & Universidad de los Andes, Columbia. http://www.cjvn2020.com. The conference will consider brain and behavioral approaches to dealing with the virus, and will include participants from Argentina, Brazil, Columbia, Italy, the UK, the US as well as a range of other international venues.

Tim M. Berra – Emeritus Professor of Evolution, Ecology, and Organismal Biology

On 1 April 2015 I gave the first Emeritus Academy lecture on my research on nursery fish in the crocodile-rich rivers of northern Australia. The males of this bizarre species carry the egg mass on a hook on their head. I’ve had a 50-year career studying weird Australian fishes. On 6 November 2019, I delivered an in-person Emeritus Academy lecture on my latest book, Bourbon: What the Educated Drinker Should Know. During the COVID-19 inflicted isolation I have combined my interest in fishes and bourbon. I have written a blog published by Moonshine University (Louisville, KY) on 3 June 2020 entitled “Bourbon & Sharks”. How is such a topic even possible? For more information about my work, go to: Bourbon & Sharks.

Joseph F. Donnemeyer – Emeritus Professor of Environment and Natural Resources

Support for my continuing work on the demographic dimensions of the Amish was provided through a grant from the OSU Emeritus Academy. My recent Amish scholarship is centered on two specific activities. On September 9, 2020, the Journal of Plain Anabaptist Studies (JPAC) was launched. JPAC is part of the OSU Libraries Digital Publishing, and is co-sponsored by the Amish & Mennonite Heritage Center (Berlin, Ohio) and the Young Center for Anabaptist and Pietist Studies, Elizabethtown College, Elizabethtown, Pennsylvania. The editorial team includes me and Steve Nolt, Director of the Young Center, and Cynthia Nolt (not related), also of the Young Center, as the managing editor. The first issue focused on the health and well-being of the Amish, based papers presented at a tri-annual conference sponsored
by the Young Center. JPAC itself is a twice yearly double-anonymous peer-reviewed journal related to diverse Plain Anabaptist communities, including the Amish, conservative Mennonites, Amish-Mennonites, Apostolic Christians, Brethren, Bruderhof, and Hutterites.

Nearly completed is a county-based census of the Amish in the United States, funded by the Religious Congregational Membership Study (RCMS) through the Association of Statisticians of American Religious Bodies. RCMS is a decennial report of denominational membership for every county/county equivalent in the United States. The data is used extensively in marketing, religious studies, and various social sciences, including criminology, to examine variations in the cultural and social dimensions of places.

Richard Gunther and Paul Beck, Professors Emeritus of Political Science

An Emeritus Academy Grant helped to fund a survey of the 2020 U.S. Election. It is part of a collaborative with other OSU colleagues to conduct a national post-election survey of the U.S. electorate. This will be the fifth survey of the American electorate since 1992, and will include batteries of questions dealing with the impact of social media (including “fake news”), changes in support for democracy, assessments of the quality of the election, and many other determinants of the vote. This research is conducted under the auspices of the Comparative National Elections Project (see u.osu.edu/cnep), of which Beck and Gunther are international coordinators. The CNEP currently includes 59 national election surveys in 30 countries, using common questions for comparisons. One of our recent publications was covered in two news articles and an op-ed piece in The Washington Post and The New York Times.

Charles Edward Herdendorf, III, Professor Emeritus of Earth Sciences

Even though Covid-19 has delayed travel to Leadville, Colorado for some “geologizing” over the Summer, 2020 was nonetheless a productive year, with four publications. These include:

Bruce Kimball, Professor Emeritus of Educational Studies

In May 2020, Bruce Kimball, with co-author Daniel Coquillette, published *The Intellectual Sword, Harvard Law School, the Second Century* (858 pp.). Published by Harvard University Press, this work is the second in their two-volume history of Harvard Law School. The first volume, *On the Battlefield of Merit* (2015) was awarded the Peter Dobkin Hall History of Philanthropy Prize in 2017. *The Intellectual Sword* situates Harvard Law School within the larger context of American society and higher education and explains how the school struggled to cope with three factors that are quite relevant today. Those three are: the sword-wielding, combative culture of academic exclusivity that became the school's hallmark during the twentieth century; the severe financial constraints imposed by the long-standing syndrome of tuition dependence, which intensified that culture; and the resulting tendency to discourage the enrollment of students and the hiring of faculty who were not white Christian men.

Duane W. Roller, Professor Emeritus of Classics

Duane W. Roller (Classics) has just published his book *Empire of the Black Sea: the Rise and Fall of the Mithridatic World* (Oxford). This is the first complete study in English of one of the important dynasties of the era between Alexander the Great and the rise of Rome. Centered on the southern coast of the Black Sea and eventually expanding to include much of its circuit, the Mithridatic kingdom of Pontos became one of the most powerful entities of its era. Its last king, Mithridates VI the Great, fought for years against Roman expansionism but eventually succumbed, becoming, like Hannibal before him and Cleopatra VII after him, one of the great opponents of the new Roman world. With his death in 63 BC, the kingdom became part of the Roman world. *Empire of the Black Sea* was in part supported by a grant from the Emeritus Academy.
Tod Steussy -- Professor Emeritus of Evolution, Ecology and Organismal Biology, Columbus Campus

I continue research on the evolution, biogeography, and conservation of the plants of the Robinson Crusoe Islands (Juan Fernández Islands), which form one of the national parks of Chile. This archipelago is located in the SE Pacific 667 kms off the western coast of South America. My recent publication is a book with Springer Press entitled “Environmental History of Oceanic Islands: Natural and Human Impacts on the Vegetation of the Juan Fernández (Robinson Crusoe) Archipelago.” The core of the book is an historical analysis of human activities based on reports from more than 70 visitors to the islands from 1574 to the present day.

Allison Snow, Professor Emeritus of Evolution, Ecology and Organismal Biology, Columbus, Campus

I spent the month of June working on the island of Nantucket, Massachusetts, where I am studying the ecology of Lyme disease (while socially isolated, of course). This involved finding appropriate trails in nature preserves where I collected nymphs of blacklegged ticks as part of a long-term monitoring project. I collected more than 2,000 ticks and froze them for DNA analyses. Once the ticks’ DNA is analyzed by my collaborators (partly funded by my OSU Emeritus Academy small grant), we will have data on the prevalence of infection for the pathogens that cause Lyme disease, babesiosis, and anaplasmosis at these study sites. Results from each of three summer field seasons will be used to develop efficient, cost-effective longer-term monitoring procedures that are applicable to other areas as well. Our results will inform the Nantucket Board of Health and the public about the entomological risk for Lyme and other tick-borne diseases on Nantucket and Tuckernuck islands. We expect to provide results that are relevant to public health, the scientific community, conservation organizations, tourism, and residents’ attitudes about spending time in nature.
Welcome new members!

Eighteen new members were approved from the Spring and Autumn rounds of new member applications, including:

Anil K. Agarwal, Emeritus Professor, Department of Clinical Medicine

James Bauer, Emeritus Professor, Department of Evolution, Ecology and Organismal Biology

Bharat Bhushan, Emeritus Professor, Department of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering

David Bloome, Emeritus Professor, Department of Teaching and Learning

John Corrigan, Emeritus Professor, Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation

Ellen E. Deason, Emeritus Professor, Moritz College of Law

Lesley Ferris, Emeritus Professor, Department of Theatre

Lawrence Feth, Emeritus Professor, Department of Speech and Hearing Science

Mary Fristad, Emeritus Professor, Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Health

Susan Hadley, Emeritus Professor, Department of Dance

Charles Hardebeck, Emeritus Professor, Division of Cardiovascular Medicine

Lawrence Krissek, Emeritus Professor, School of Earth Sciences

Lawrence Mathes, Emeritus Professor, College of Veterinary Medicine

Pamela Salsberry, Emeritus Professor, College of Public Health

Daniel Schoenberg, Emeritus Professor, Department of Biological Chemistry and Pharmacology

Mark Shanda, Emeritus Professor, Department of Theatre

Philip J. Smith, Emeritus Professor, Department of Integrated Systems Engineering

Howard Werman, Emeritus Professor, Department of Emergency Medicine
Emeritus Academy Lecture Series

Despite Covid-19 and the switch to a zoom format, the Emeritus Academy Lecture Series is off to a very good start, with excellent presentations already by Philip T.K. Daniel (Educational Studies) and Jean-Michel Guldmann (City and Regional Planning). Below is the full series for this academic year, and we are now assured that other than the absence of those wonderful buckeyes served at the Grand Lounge of the OSU Faculty Club, and the opportunity to converse personally with fellow Emeritus Academy members, nothing has really changed. And, as usual, all lectures begin a 4 PM.

The 2020-2021 lectures series:


✅ Helen Fehervary (Germanic Languages and Literatures), “Peter Lorre and Bertolt Brecht: A Working Relationship and Friendship Beyond Hollywood”, November 4, 2020


Carole Fink (History), “The Unexpected Arrivals: Soviet Jewish Immigration to West Germany, 1973 to 1989,” April 7

Deadlines: Spring Semester

There are four important Emeritus Academy deadlines for the second half of the 2020-2021 academic year. First, a call for new member applications will go out in mid-February, with a deadline of March 31. The Emeritus Academy values diversity of membership in every way possible. Please encourage your colleagues who have recently retired and are still active scholars to consider applying for Academy membership.

Second, in early March will be the call for 5-year membership renewal, with a deadline of March 31. Membership renewal is when we learn how much Emeritus Academy members have accomplished, from published book, journal articles and presentations at professional society meetings to new grants and research activities.

Third, in mid-March will be the call for the Academy’s small grants competition, with a deadline of April 30. These small grants help the research and scholarship of many Academy members, as is evidenced through the number of highlights of Emeritus Academy members whose work was previously supported by small grants.

Fourth, in mid-March there will be the call for the Academy’s 2021-22 lecture series submissions with a deadline of early April. Members who have received EA small grants are especially encouraged to submit a proposal. Given this year’s experience with successful zoom lectures it would be possible to present a lecture via zoom to us at the Faculty Club from anywhere in the world!

And, one more deadline: If you want you scholarship mentioned in this newsletter, please send a brief narrative that can be read and appreciated by all members of the Academy, regardless of disciplinary background, to Joseph F. Donnermeyer (donnermeyer.1@gmail.com) no later than November 30.

For more information on the OSU Emeritus Academy, go to the website at: https://oaa.osu.edu/emeritus-academy