



CSURA

Cleveland State University
Retirees Association

Newsletter
October 2023
Edward G. Thomas
Editor

President's Message



Greetings, CSU Retirees! I want to begin with a brief account of the CSU Retired Faculty and Professional Staff Association's vicissitudes over the past few years. First, the pandemic forced the group to cancel all of its activities. Next, Vi Lunder, who for many years sent out our newsletters and other communications with members and arranged rooms for our events, retired from Cleveland State University. Consequently, the organization essentially ceased to function. The association was revived last year through the unceasing efforts of its immediate Past President, Vicki Plata, and Lloyd Snyder, its President for 2022-2023.

The organization now has a new name, the CSU Retirees Association (CSURA), a new basis—it is now open to all CSU retirees—and a new home, the CSU Office of Alumni Affairs. Matt Knickman, Director of Alumni Relations & Corporate Engagement, works with the Executive Committee to plan and schedule events.

Besides the new name and the wider basis of membership, there have been a few other changes. This newsletter is now electronic; our members are now invited to selected events sponsored by the Office of Alumni Affairs; and dues have been temporarily suspended. (At some point we will have to reinstate them, but we do not see the need right now.)

Last Spring, the CSURA leadership did schedule two events exclusively for CSU retirees and guests. One was a tour of the Cleveland Public Library conducted by John Skrtic, Chief of Special Projects and Collections. It received rave reviews from those of us who attended. The other event was our Annual Spring Social, held this year at Mather Mansion. It also was a success. There were more than forty attendees, who enjoyed visiting with colleagues, many of whom they had not seen since before the pandemic. The food was also quite good, something I must admit surprised and pleased me. (Photos and articles about both events are included elsewhere in this newsletter.)

Ed Thomas, who continues as our Communications Coordinator, has included a list of current officers in this newsletter. You will notice that most of the names are people who have served previously in one capacity or another. That is the result of a very slim response to our call for volunteers. So, please! Attend our events and volunteer for some light duties with the organization if possible. We want this reborn organization to thrive.

Dave Larson
President, 2023-2024

CSURA People Page

*New Emeriti Faculty**

Antonie van den Bogert, Professor, Mechanical Eng.
Cheryl Bracken, Professor, Communication
David F. (Ted) Lardner, Professor, English
Joel Lieske, Professor, Political Science
Allyson Robichaud, Associate Professor, Philosophy
Robert Shelton, Associate Professor, History
Qingshan Tan, Professor, Political Science

*New Emeritus Librarian**

William Barrow, Librarian, Michael Schwartz Library

*New Associates of the University**

Maribeth Kralik, Graduate College
Joseph Mundell, Chemistry Department
Mary Therese Simone, Business Affairs

* Lists from Board of Trustees, Faculty Senate, 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.

2023-2024 CSURA Officers, Executive Board Members, and Staff

Executive Board

David Larson, President
Kimberly Neuendorf, Vice President & President-Elect
Lloyd Snyder, Past President & Secretary
Vicki Plata, Treasurer
Edward G. Thomas, Communications Coordinator

Representatives to Faculty Senate

Catherine Hansman (2023-2025)
Kimberly Neuendorf (2022-2024)

Representatives to OCHER

Jeremy Genovese
Rodger M. Govea

Matthew Knickman, Director, Alumni Relations & Corporate Engagement

*In Memoriam**

Faculty

Frank A. Johns, Professor Emeritus, Curriculum & Foundations (April 16, 2023)

Todd A. Morgan, Assistant Professor, Management (April 19, 2023)

Lizabeth A. Moody, Former Professor & Interim Dean, Law (May 19, 2023)

David W. Adams, Professor Emeritus, Curriculum & Foundations (August 8, 2023)

Jandhyala Sharma, Professor Emeritus, Finance (August 1, 2023)

Kenneth J. Nevadomi, Professor Emeritus, Art (September 8, 2023)

Staff

Mildred K. "Mickey" Barnard, Associate Director, Affirmative Action (May 11, 2023)

Winifred F. Dean, Librarian (October 17, 2019) (*Not previously listed.*)

May 4, 2023 Program: "Tour of Cleveland Public Library"

By Edward G. Thomas, Communications Coordinator

On Thursday, May 4, members of the CSU Retirees Association and their guests toured several special areas of the Cleveland Public Library (CPL). John Skrtic, chief of Special Projects and Collections for the CPL, was our host and tour guide. John is a double alumnus of Cleveland State University, having earned a B.A. degree in English and a Master of Public Administration degree.



John Skrtic

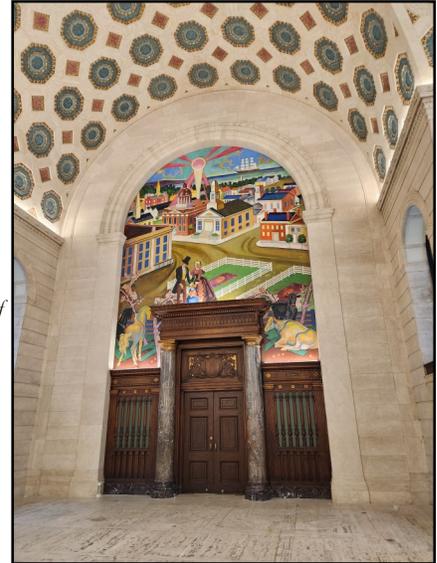
The tour began in the historic Main Library Building, which was built in 1925 and renovated in 1999. After a few opening words, Mr. Skrtic took the group to Brett Memorial Hall, which was named after William Howard Brett, the third director of the CPL (1884-1918). Although Brett Memorial Hall was used as the library's main reading room for many years, it is now utilized as an exhibition space. Mr. Skrtic pointed out that the room has a marble ceiling, a Travertine marble floor, and large murals over the entry doors. He also revealed that the "wooden" door surrounds and window frames were actually made of stone and painted to look like wood. It turns out that no wood was used in the original building in an effort to help prevent fires.

Brett Hall is highly ornamented, featuring a marbleized ceiling with coffered painted using rose, blue, and gold.



The tour began in the historic Main Library Building, which was built in 1925 and renovated in 1999. After a few opening words, Mr. Skrtic took the group to Brett Memorial Hall, which was named after William Howard Brett, the third director of the CPL (1884-1918). Although Brett Memorial Hall was used as the library's main reading room

The north wall of Brett Hall is the site of a mural called "The City in 1833," which was done by artist William Sommer in 1934 as part of the Public Works of Art Project.



Our next stop was the Ohio Center for the Book, which is part of a national program initiated by the Library of Congress in 1977 to "highlight each state's literary heritage." Located on the Main Building's second floor, the Center was moved from its original home at the State Library of Ohio in Columbus to the CPL in 2003. According to the CPL's website, the Center "maintains a growing circulating collection of fiction and non-fiction books written by Ohio authors." Because Ohio is the "birthplace" of Superman and the state has been the home to other notable creators of comic books, the Center "adopts as one of its primary charges the promotion and advocacy of comics as an important and unique medium of expression."



Members of the CSU Retirees Association and their guest listen to an explanation of the mission and operations of the Ohio Center for the Book.

"Tour of Cleveland Public Library" (Continued)



These murals on the second floor illustrate that the CPL has embraced its role as a promoter of comic books as a valid and important means of expression.

The CPL's Special Collections are housed on the third floor of the Main Building. A high point of the tour of this area was the John G. White Chess Collection. Mr. White was the president of the Cleveland Public Library Board of Trustees from 1884-1886 and from 1913-1928. In his leadership role, he helped the CPL to acquire rare books and other materials that could not be purchased with public funds. In addition to the numerous special sets of chess and checkers pieces, the Special Collections include rare books and manuscripts; a Folklore, Roma Culture, and Orientalia Collection; a Miniature Books Collection; a Tobacco Collection; and the Schweinfurth Collection of rare architectural publications.



This case in the Special Collections Department contains several unique modern chess sets.

On the fourth floor of the Main Building, the group visited the Foreign Literature Department, which holds one of the largest collections of its kind in the nation. It serves the ethnic community of Cleveland and the surrounding area. Fiction and non-fiction books, periodicals, language-training recordings, and other materials are available in more than forty-five languages.



This photo shows part of the Foreign Language Department holdings. Consisting of some 450,000 items, the collection, which is the largest in the region, serves the needs of the large ethnic community of the Cleveland area.

Next up was a short visit to the 25-year-old Louis Stokes Wing of the Library, which is a modern 10-story annex that was completed in 1997. This library addition was named for Cleveland native Louis Stokes, who was the first African-American from Ohio to be elected to the U. S. Congress, where he served in the House of Representatives for 15 terms from 1968 to 1998.

The Louis Stokes Wing was needed in order to provide expanded services and collections for the library's patrons. Among the facilities is TechCentral, which is equipped with computers and an area that supports 3D printing and scanning and music, audio, and video production facilities.



This is the entrance to TechCentral in the Stokes Wing of the CPL.

"Tour of Cleveland Public Library" (Continued)

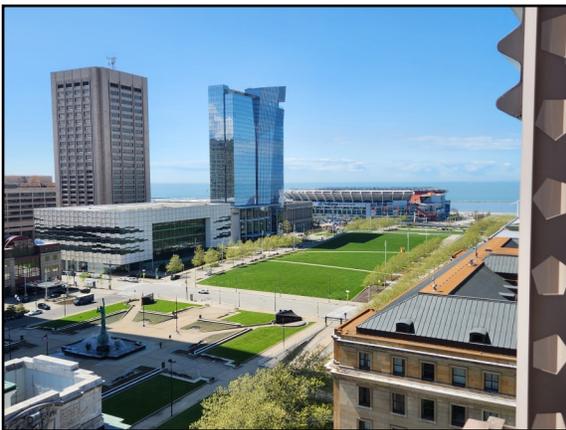


The lobby of the Stokes Building features a display of flags from around the world.

The group made a visit to the balcony on the 10th floor of the Stokes Building, where there are magnificent views of Downtown Cleveland.

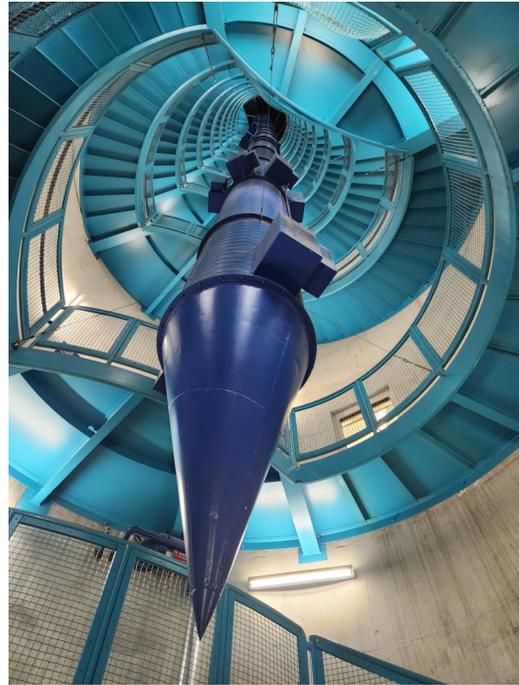


This is the view toward Public Square from the Stokes Wing balcony.



This is the view toward Lake Erie from the Stokes Wing balcony.

A section of the Stokes Wing resembles a silo, and its stairwell serves as part of the fire escape system (note the spiral stairs in the photo below). The blue pendulum-shaped structure in the middle contains ventilation ductwork.



For those who want to visit the Cleveland Public Library on their own, the CPL provides a "Self-Guided Tour" brochure, which covers both the Main Library building and the Louis Stokes Wing. Also available is a "Special Collections" brochure that provides details about the John G. White Collections (i.e., Chess and Checkers; Folklore, Roma Culture & Orientalia), the John Puskas Miniature Book Collection, the Robert Hays Gries Tobacco Collection, and the Anna M. Schweinfurth Collection of architectural materials.

Since the CSU Retirees Association toured the CPL in May, the library has opened a new exhibit in Brett Memorial Hall. Entitled *The Archive*, this work by British artist Rebecca Louise Law opened to the public on Saturday, June 10. According to the CPL website, "*The Archive* is a breathtaking installation composed of thousands of delicate flowers suspended in a display that celebrates the beauty of life." *The Archive* will be on display through Spring 2024.

June 5, 2023 Program: "CSU Retirees Association Social"

By Edward G. Thomas, Communications Coordinator

On Monday, June 5, members of the CSU Retirees Association and guests gathered at Mather Mansion to hear an update from the Alumni Office and to re-connect with their fellow retirees. This event, termed a "Social," is intended to be scheduled annually in the Spring. Many of the attendees are shown in the photos below (we apologize if we missed you). In the photo captions, attendees are named from left to right.



Members and guests were greeted by Matt Knickman, Director of Alumni Relations and Corporate Engagement, and Anne-Marie Connors, Associate Vice President, Alumni Relations and Corporate Engagement and Executive Director, CSU Alumni Association.



Margaret Terry and Lloyd Snyder, CSURA President for 2022-2023



Jack Plata and Vicki Plata, CSURA Past President



Monica Wharton, Floyetine Roberts, and Karen Locker



Jeremy Genovese, Tom Turner, George Burke, and Barbara Turner

On display at right are drawings of some of the mascots for Fenn College and Cleveland State University sports teams.



June 5, 2023 Program: "CSU Retirees Association Social" (Continued)



Judy and Pete Richards



Lois and Andy Gross



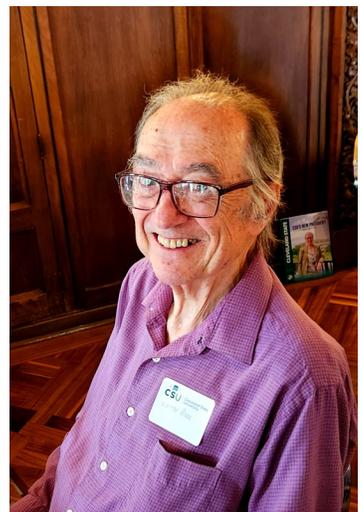
Ruth Bonner



Chet and Nisha Jain



Deborah Dey and Mittie Davis Jones



Walter Rom



Catherine Hansman (at left)



Catherine and Mike Wells

Amy Nelson (at right)



June 5, 2023 Program: "CSU Retirees Association Social" (Continued)



Kathryn Speigner



Ed and Cathy Thomas



Maria Codinach



Patricia Sokolowski and Elaine Morison



Magnus is the current mascot for CSU sports teams.



F. Eugenio and Patricia Villaseca



More than 40 CSURA members and guests attended the social, which featured a buffet dinner and a cash bar.

Got Program Ideas?

We are always looking for program ideas, so let us know if you have suggestions about programs that might appeal to our audience of CSU retirees. To help stimulate your thinking, we have listed below some of the speakers, tours, and other activities that the organization has scheduled in the past few years. When you want to propose a program topic, contact Ed Thomas, Communications Coordinator, at e.thomas@csuohio.edu.

February 20, 2020	“Yoga as We Age,” Joshua Holder, Registered Yoga Teacher
December 19, 2019	Messiah Sing and Lunch at Elements
November 21, 2019	Tour of Severance Hall
October 3, 2019	“The Athletic Director’s Briefing,” Scott Garrett, Athletic Director, CSU
September 19, 2019	“Inez Moore v. East Cleveland: Her Crime Was Sharing Her Home with Her Children and Grandchildren,” Lloyd B. Snyder, Professor Emeritus, Law, CSU
April 18, 2019	Tour of Washkewicz College of Engineering
March 21, 2019	“History of the Cleveland Metroparks,” Doug Kusak, Cleveland Metroparks
February 21, 2019	Tour of College of Law Art Collection, Patti Falk, Professor of Law, CSU
November 15, 2018	“What Are They Fighting For? The \$15 Minimum Wage Movement,” Bill Kosteas, Chair, Department of Economics, CSU
October 18, 2018	President Harlan M. Sands, CSU
September 20, 2018	Tour of School of Film & Media Arts, Fredeic Lahey, Founding Director, CSU
April 22, 2018	“Free Speech in Turbulent Times,” Susan J. Becker, Professor Emerita, Law, CSU
March 22, 2018	Tour of the Campus International School
February 15, 2018	“Believing in Cleveland,” Mark J. Southern, Professor of History, CSU
November 9, 2017	“The Current State of the University,” Jianping Zhu, Provost, CSU
October 12, 2017	“Focus on Sculpture” (Special exhibition at the Galleries at CSU)
September 21, 2017	Tour of the ‘Gems of 103’, (Visits to Goldhorn Brewery, League Park and the Baseball Heritage Museum, the Vineyards of Chateau Hough, and the Morgan Art of Papermaking Conservatory, all in Zip Code Area 44103)
April 23, 2017	Tour to Cleveland Museum of Art
March 16, 2017	“The Ohio Canal System,” John E. Dailey, Professional Surveyor
February 16, 2017	Visit to the Galleries at CSU

Call for “Life After Retirement” and “I Remember...” Articles

In past issues of this newsletter, one of our most popular features has been the “Life After Retirement” articles submitted by our retirees. Since the spring of 2011, we have published letters and photos on this subject from 19 retirees. Since we don’t have a backlog of such articles, now is the time to send in YOUR contribution.

We want to know where you are living and what you are doing in retirement. Are you still active in your professional life? Are you engaged in community service activities? What hobbies do you now have time to pursue? Where have your travels taken you? What new adventures have you had? In short, what have you been up to since you retired? Please also send publishable photographs of yourself and your activities. If you wish, you can tell your former colleagues how they can get in touch with you.

The December 2019 issue of the Newsletter carried a new kind of article written by a CSU retiree. John Hunter, former chairperson of the Department of Art and former Associate Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences, suggested that fellow retirees might want to share their memories of CSU. I invited him to inaugurate this feature, and his submission, “I Remember...Walter Leedy,” appeared in December 2019. So, if you have memories to share of people, places, or events that stand out in your mind from your years at CSU, please share them with your fellow retirees through the Newsletter. Articles in the 900-1,200-word range are preferred. Contributions may be submitted to me at the following email address: e.thomas@csuohio.edu. We look forward to hearing from you.

Edward G. Thomas
Communications Coordinator