



RFPSA

RETIRED FACULTY &
PROFESSIONAL STAFF
ASSOCIATION

Newsletter

December 2018

Editor: Edward G. Thomas

President's Message

Greetings to All!

This fall semester has gone quickly. We owe thanks to Edward Thomas for capturing our programs through photos and words. As you read this issue of the RFPSA Newsletter, be aware that Ed made this possible. If you have enjoyed reading and being informed through the newsletter, email a note of appreciation to Ed at e.thomas@csuohio.edu.

In September, the beginning of the fall semester, we were privileged to have a tour of the new CSU School of Film & Media Arts. The director, Frederic Lahey, led the tour and discussion. Walking in this space was a treat for all participants, and seeing the many possibilities for students choosing to prepare for future careers was truly inspiring. Ed Thomas organized this event for us.

President Harlan Sands met the RFPSA in October. Thanks to all in attendance, we had a wonderful exchange with President Sands. He answered questions from members and shared information regarding Cleveland State University. Maggie Jackson was assigned the responsibility to arrange details for this event.

The November meeting was a lecture by Professor Bill Kosteas, chair of the Economics Department. The primary focus was minimum wage laws. This topic was of interest due to the current debate on \$15 as the preferred minimum wage. Douglas Stewart arranged this meeting and we are thankful for his leadership.

We ended the fall semester by attending the Messiah Sing at Trinity Cathedral and having lunch afterwards at Elements. This is becoming an annual event as it is enjoyed by all those in attendance. Mickey Barnard, past president of RFPSA, arranged all details for this event.

We are already planning programs for the spring semester, and we hope you will be able to join us for all our events. These will include a tour of the public art in the Cleveland-Marshall College of Law, a presentation by a representative from the Cleveland Metroparks, and a tour of the College of Engineering's new Washkewicz Hall. We will end the year with our Annual Banquet at Acacia Reservation.

We hope your plans will allow you to attend as many of these events as you are able. We also invite you to share ideas you might have for potential programs. We would like for these programs to reflect your wishes. This is your organization and your voice is needed for the full development of RFPSA.

Maggie Jackson

President, 2018-2019



New Emeriti Faculty*

Charles K. Alexander, Professor, Electrical Engineering and Computer Sciences
 Ronald M. Berkman, President Emeritus and Trustees' Professor
 Rajshekhar Javalgi, Professor, Marketing
 Joyce M. Mastboom, Associate Professor, History
 Victor M. Matos, Professor, Information Systems
 Chung-Yi Suen, Professor, Mathematics

New Associates of the University*

Rose M. Carrabine, Administrative Coordinator, COSHP Dean's Office
 O. Lauren Felder, Website Specialist, Michael Schwartz Library
 Jean McCafferty, Dir. of Compensation, HR Dept.
 George Wally Morton, Head Coach, Men's Swimming, Athletics

Retired/Retiring Faculty & Staff*

Faculty

Mary Wilson Hrivnak, Associate Professor, Management, Dec. 31, 2018

Staff

Shehadeh Abdelkarim, Director, Facilities Management, Nov. 30, 2018
 Cassandra Baker, Library Associate 1, Law Library, Dec. 31, 2018
 Christopher D. Barrow, Coordinator, Mailing/Receiving Department, July 31, 2018
 Anne Ciganko, Academic Advisor, Education Student Service Center, Oct. 15, 2018
 Julian Earls, Special Advisor to the President, Dec. 31, 2018
 Gary Emond, Help Desk Spec., IS&T, Aug. 24, 2018
 Barbara Gauthier, Library Fiscal Agent, Michael Schwarz Library, Jan. 31, 2019
 Priscilla Green, Admin. Secretary 1, Course Scheduler, Urban Studies, Dec. 31, 2018
 Valerie Hicks, Sec 2, Urban Studies, Jan. 31, 2019
 Edgar Jackson, Executive in Residence, COSHP, Dec. 31, 2018
 Timothy Knapp, Assistant Director, Art Gallery, Sept. 18, 2018
 William Shepard, Director, Operations & Technical Support, IS&T, Dec. 31, 2018
 Glenda Thornton, Director, Michael Schwartz Library, Jan. 31, 2019

RFPSA Officers, Executive Board Members, and Staff

Academic Year 2018-2019

Executive Board

Maggie Jackson, President
 Vicki Plata, Vice President
 Carol Stolarski, Secretary
 Judith Richards, Treasurer
 Lee Makela, Past President
 Edward G. Thomas, Communications Coordinator

Representatives to Faculty Senate

Doug Stewart
 TBD

Representatives to OCHER

Mickey Barnard
 Elizabeth Cagan
 Jeff Ford
 David Larson

Violet Lunder, Administrative Coordinator

In Memoriam*

Faculty

John Masnovi, Professor, Chemistry, September 10, 2018
 Robert H. MacNaughton, Professor Emeritus, Curriculum/Foundations, October 13, 2018
 Lillian R. Hinds, Associate Professor Emerita, Teacher Education, October 12, 2018

Staff

Christopher L. Knott, Assistant Dean, College of Business Administration, October 12, 2018

*** 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.

September 20, 2018 Program: Tour of School of Film & Media Arts

Frederic Lahey, Founding Director

Frederic Lahey, founding director of CSU's new School of Film & Media Arts, hosted RFPSA members and guests for a tour of the new school on Thursday, September 20, 2018. Professor Lahey began the program with comments about how and why the school was established. He also discussed some of the challenges that the new school has faced in renovating the space on the 6th Floor of the Idea Center Building at 1375 Euclid Avenue. Then Professor Lahey led the group on a tour of the facilities, including classrooms, studios, and other specially dedicated space.



We began our visit in one of the classrooms.



Frederic Lahey



Professor Lahey led us on a tour of the facilities.



Students check out needed equipment from this room.



Students working in the computer lab



Studio A



Studio B

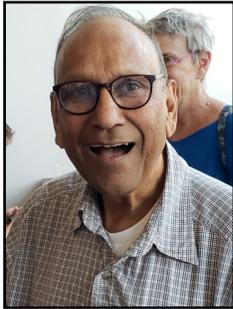


Students working on a project



Seminar/Collaborative Space

September 20, 2018 Program: Tour of School of Film & Media Arts (Continued)



Chet Jain



Maria Codinach (left) & Delia Galvan-Sanchez



Andy Gross



Carol Phillips-Bey & Ron Reminick



Maggie Jackson



Heidi & Lee Makela



George Ray



Joyce Mastboom & Glending Olson



Vicki Plata & Leo Jeffres



Violet Lunder



Judy & Pete Richards



Jeff & Lynne Ford



Carol Stolarski (left) and niece Melissa

October 18, 2018 Program: President Harlan M. Sands

On Thursday, October 18, 2018, RFPSA members and guests met with Harlan M. Sands, who became CSU's seventh president on June 1, 2018. He previously held administrative positions at several universities, including the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania, the University of Louisville, the University of Alabama at Birmingham, and Florida International University. More details about President Sands' background can be found on the President's Page of the CSU website.

In his meeting with the RFPSA, President Sands stated that he always enjoys talking with "active retirees" because they know a lot about the institution, and, because they are already retired, they are willing to be brutally honest since they don't fear retaliation. Then, saying, "I know what I don't know," President Sands opened the floor for comments and questions from the attendees. The following is an attempt to distill the ensuing discussion in a question/comment-response format.

What is the most frequently mentioned problem? President Sands quickly answered, "Parking." He then went on to say that parking seems to be a problem at virtually every urban campus, so it is not surprising that it comes up so frequently at CSU. In a more serious vein, President Sands noted that, in his talks with faculty, staff, and students, he doesn't sense that people have complaints but rather concerns. The message that comes across is "Help us help you." That said, among the most frequently mentioned concerns is the lack of sufficient resources in light of diminishing state support and state-mandated restrictions on tuition increases. He said further that he hopes to avoid the "budget cut mentality" that seems to prevail at many institutions.

What is the most immediate problem for students? President Sands said it is how we can fulfill our social contract to get students graduated within a reasonable time. The answer, he feels, is to seek ways to increase support services, perhaps by restructuring the university's advising system. We must insure that students are on the right pathway to success. That may mean that the best path is to attend a community college first and CSU second. President Sands said he has had discussions with local community college presidents about how we can better work together.

Why did you want to come to CSU? President Sands said that he needed to disclose that he had worked for former President Ronald Berkman at Florida International University, so he knew a bit about CSU already. But most importantly, President

Sands said, "This [type of institution] is who I am. CSU's mission is to make a 'transformational difference' for students. Our education is a 'game changer.' This is a mission I really love." He went on to say that the school's location and connection to the city were important factors in his decision. He also said that the people at CSU and in the city of Cleveland "were welcoming." He noted that his predecessors have done a good job of transforming the institution to have a more residential "feel." He concluded by saying, "I know I can sell this product."



Have you noticed a change in the general perception of the public in the value of higher education? Indicating that he had noticed this change, President Sands said, "We have to do a better job in making the case that four-year colleges can make a difference. We have not done a good job of meeting market needs, and we need to be more nimble in responding to the needs of potential employers."

Will you emphasize building relationships with internal stakeholders? President Sands said, "I have spent a lot of time listening to internal stakeholders. In fact, that's how I came up with the One Thing Campaign." This is the President's program that asks, "What is the one thing we can do to make CSU better?" President Sands came up with the idea after asking Nedra Haymon, who works in the Michael Schwartz Library, what could he do to make her job better. She responded by saying, "Replace the missing Rhodes West sign. People are always stopping in the Michael Schwartz Library, asking how to get to Rhodes West. A new sign would really help." The new sign was soon installed, and the "One Thing Campaign" was born. As President Sands indicated, some of the "things" can be large, but many are small.

Will you work to build relationships with external stakeholders? President Sands noted that we need to build our brand "out there" among external publics. He said he takes his role as brand advocate seriously.

 October 18, 2018 Program: President Harlan M. Sands (Continued)

There has been a “hollowing out” of CLASS (the College of Liberal Arts & Social Sciences) in recent years. There are fewer full-time faculty members and little support for scholarship. What can you do about this? President Sands responded by saying that there are 180 or so major programs at CSU. Part of his job is to figure out where to invest internally. In his opinion, deans and department chairs need to be incentivized to increase enrollment, thereby increasing the resources available. “You can’t cut your way to prosperity,” he said.

Student debt is a real problem. Is a possible solution to increase student involvement in internships and co-op placements? President Sands said that more emphasis on the co-op program is a core strategic thrust for the university, not just for business and engineering students, but also for those in the liberal arts and other disciplines. He has talked with the CEOs of local companies to encourage them to provide more co-op and internship assignments for CSU students.

In the early 1970s, there was a huge demand for evening classes, but that seems to have gone away as many jobs have disappeared from downtown Cleveland. What can be done about this? President Sands noted that many of the jobs (and people) are coming back as more companies open facilities in downtown Cleveland and as some major new residential developments come online.

We need to reach out to high school students. Can’t you require faculty and staff to give speeches at local high schools? President Sands noted that high school outreach is very important but that requiring faculty and staff to do this may not be the best approach. He noted that he has presentations scheduled in the near future at three local high schools. He hopes to eventually form a “coalition of the willing” who will volunteer to make such presentations. He said that he will ask the deans to promote the idea of making high school visits among faculty and staff.

How important are institutional rankings to CSU? President Sands responded that rankings don’t matter much to local students because they often come to CSU due to its proximity to their homes and

CSU’s relatively low cost compared to other institutions. However, he went on to say that CSU can become a “beacon” institution, attracting more out-of-state and international students. Institutional rankings matter more in these cases as the students are less likely to know other information about CSU.

Don’t we need to get better (and more positive) coverage from local media, especially the *Plain Dealer*? President Sands stated that he is meeting with the *Plain Dealer* in the near future. He said that he and other administrators need to emphasize CSU’s strengths in our meetings with media representatives.

There is no reward structure for faculty members who coordinate internships within the various colleges. What can be done about this? President Sands said that we need to create more incentives in general to move the institution forward. He noted that the budget at CSU is more centralized than at some institutions. He thinks we need a mixed budgeting model that rewards cost centers for achieving mutually agreed upon goals.

Where does student life fit in, especially with our new residential base? President Sands stated that student life is near the top in terms of priorities. He said we need to grow the residential population, but we cannot lose sight of our commuters. In terms of attracting more students, we have several advantages. We have a highly competitive price point, especially for out-of-state students. We have fantastic cultural amenities available to students. We have a real connection to the city—it truly is our campus. President Sands also noted that parents are asking new kinds of questions about potential colleges for their children, such as what is the ROI (return on investment)? At CSU, the ROI is good.

To conclude the session, President Sands asked a question of the attendees. **What do you think we should do to get the CSU brand better known?** Among the answers offered were the following: Get more media attention, perhaps with better performance of our sports teams. Get more high school students on campus to see what we are all about. Use public transportation better in appealing to students. Make visits to both large and small companies and take students with you.

November 15, 2018 Program: “What Are They Fighting For? The \$15 Minimum Wage Movement”

Dr. Bill Kosteas, Chair, Department of Economics

A native of Framingham, Massachusetts, Dr. Bill D. Kosteas joined CSU’s Department of Economics in 2004. He is currently chair and associate professor in the department. He holds an M.A. and Ph.D. in economics from The Ohio State University and a B.A. in economics from Holy Cross College, Worcester, Massachusetts. When not spending time with his young family and his research, Dr. Kosteas may be found teaching labor economics, international economics, and economic data analysis techniques.

Dr. Kosteas began his presentation to the RFPSA members and guests with some background on the \$15 minimum wage movement. The issue came into prominence in the run-up to the 2016 presidential election when Senator Bernie Sanders called for the federal government to mandate that businesses pay employees at least \$15 per hour. Three times in the past four years, Senator Sanders and other Senate Democrats have sponsored bills to establish a minimum wage of \$15 per hour. However, to date, none have been successful.

Under federal law, states and local governments may pass legislation calling for minimum pay levels that exceed federal guidelines. California, for example, has passed legislation that will take the minimum wage to \$15 per hour by January 1, 2022, for businesses employing more than 25 employees and to \$15 per hour for all employers by January 1, 2023.

Illustrating that the issue is still of interest, this year alone saw two states pass legislation to raise the minimum wage. Massachusetts has enacted a law to increase the minimum wage to \$15 over a five-year period. Delaware’s minimum wage will increase to \$9.25 per hour on October 1, 2019. In two other states, voters passed statewide referendums to raise minimum wage levels—to \$11 in Arkansas by 2021 and to \$12 in Missouri by 2023.

Several cities, including Seattle, San Francisco, and San Jose, have passed legislation to raise the minimum wage to \$15. Dr. Kosteas noted that local minimum wage increases may have different effects than federal and state increases, due in large part to the degree of mobility of local employers. If an employer can avoid paying the increased minimum wage by moving

operations to the suburbs, then the effect of the wage change can be lessened.

Dr. Kosteas then turned to a consideration of what the proponents of the \$15 minimum wage are hoping to accomplish. According to the 15 Now organization, those in support of the issue feel it will create jobs, lift people out of poverty, and boost the overall economy. They also view it as a women’s rights and racial justice issue. The Fight for 15 organization sees the issue as a struggle between low-wage workers and greedy multi-billion corporations that have taken advantage of their workers.

Next Dr. Kosteas described the characteristics of the workers who are at or below the federal minimum wage level. In 2016, there were some 2.15 million workers in the category, and they accounted for about 2.7 percent of hourly workers and 1.7 percent of all workers. A majority of these low-wage workers were in service jobs. About two-thirds of the minimum wage workers were in the 16-24 age group and over half were part-time workers.

Dr. Kosteas then gave an overview of some of the empirical research that has been done to determine the effects of minimum wage increases. Not surprisingly, since the issue is quite complicated and there are all sorts of methodological problems, research results are largely inconclusive.

At the end of his talk, Dr. Kosteas offered the following final thoughts: (1) In order to assess the success of minimum wage laws, we need to focus on clear policy goals (e.g., poverty reduction). (2) Finding the right policy tools for achieving the goals requires an honest assessment of why wages remain low for these individuals. (3) If we care about the working poor, we need to consider other, more direct solutions, such as job training programs, creation of a better climate for job creation, and the provision of child-care services for low-income working parents.



December 12, 2018 Program: "Messiah Sing and Lunch at Elements"

On Wednesday, December 12, members of the RFPSA and their guests attended the Annual Messiah Sing at Trinity Cathedral. This was the fourth consecutive year that we have participated in this meaningful program. As usual, Todd Wilson led the Trinity Chamber Orchestra and the attendees were the massed choir. Afterwards, the RFPSA members and guests gathered for lunch at Elements Bistro on the CSU campus.



Members of the Trinity Chamber Orchestra



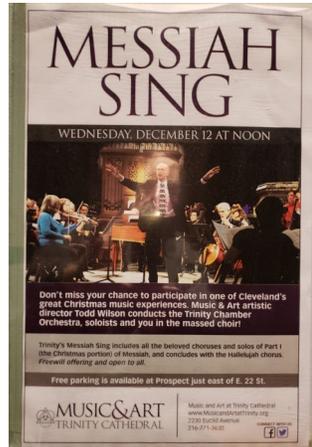
Todd Wilson speaks to the audience



A cello player tunes up



Mike Hugill (left) and David Larson



Program poster



Benoy and Sue Joseph



Jeff and Lynne Ford



Vicki Plata



Peter and Sandra Phillips

December 12, 2018 Program: "Messiah Sing and Lunch at Elements" (Continued)



Elements Bistro is located at 2300 Euclid Avenue.



The dining room at Elements Bistro



Elements manager Steve Adams



Ed Briskey



Delia Galvan-Sanchez and Leo Jeffres



Mickey Barnard



Violet Lunder



Lee and Heidi Makela



At left are Maria Codinach and George Ray.
At right are Ed McKinney and Alice Reviere Smith.



Retirement: The Third Time Is the Charm

By Robert F. Scherer, Dean Emeritus, Monte Ahuja College of Business

According to the *Merriam-Webster* online dictionary, the saying “The third time is the charm” is “used to say that two efforts at something have already failed but perhaps the third will be successful.” My focus here will be on my three “charms”—the professional projects and the institutions that I have had the pleasure to serve after retiring from Cleveland State University.

I retired from CSU’s Monte Ahuja College of Business at the end of June 2012. Currently, I am very much enjoying the third “charm” of my retirement career...serving as Dean, School of Business, Trinity University, San Antonio, Texas. I assumed this role July 2018 after serving as interim dean of the business school since June 2017. Trinity University is a small liberal arts and sciences university (primarily undergraduate - the only graduate program in the b-school is an MS in Accounting). Founded in 1869, Trinity University’s current vision includes “...defining the new liberal arts experience.” In 2018 the University was ranked #1 in the west (for the 26th consecutive year) and as a “Best Business School” by *U.S. News and World Report*.

Business programs have existed at Trinity University since the institution’s founding, but the School of Business has been in existence only since 2013, celebrating the fifth anniversary this year. With approximately 650 undergraduate students and 25 faculty members, the business school is known for small classes, strong and positive interaction among faculty and students, and a highly experiential curriculum in all majors and academic programs. The business school has four endowed professorships.

When I was appointed interim dean in 2017, I was the third person to serve in this role during the five years since the business school’s founding. As you can imagine there were many challenges and opportunities for the School of Business. These challenges included preparing for the AACSB International’s re-accreditation visit in the fall semester 2017, conducting four faculty

searches, participating in the university’s SACS-COC regional re-accreditation process, and building the Business Advisory Council (a group similar to the college Visiting Committees at CSU). All of the outcomes for these challenges were successful and our attention has now turned to the renovation of the historic building (Chapman Center) that is home to the School of Business, development work, and supporting the primarily early-career faculty in the b-school (in the Fall 2018 semester, over 50% of our business school faculty had less than seven years experience as faculty members).

For me, collaborating with a highly dedicated and focused faculty and staff, a supportive President and Vice President for Academic Affairs, collegial faculty colleagues, motivated students, and active alumni has been both productive and rewarding.

My first and second “charms” after “retirement” from CSU were also opportunities to serve as dean and professor of management at two other business schools.

One month after I completed my service at CSU, I was appointed Dean of the College of Business, University of Dallas, Irving, Texas. At the time, I was the school’s fifth b-school dean in five years. Thus, there were many challenges. The first was completing the AACSB International initial accreditation process (which included completing the self-evaluation report, assembling all supporting documents, and preparing for the peer review team campus visit).

The next challenge seemed monumental, but my faculty and staff colleagues and I treated this challenge as an opportunity. Our graduate business program enrollment was declining rapidly in a crowded MBA marketplace in the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex. We addressed this challenge head-on by revising the MBA curriculum to make it congruent with the needs of our graduate students and their organizations, reducing the number of MS degree programs, and bringing the curricula of the remaining programs up to date.



“Retirement” by Robert F. Scherer (Continued)

Our efforts paid dividends as we achieved AACSB International accreditation and increased headcount and student credit hour production in our graduate programs while also growing the undergraduate program. At the graduate level, our headcount increased from approximately 675 students to approximately 1,100 students over a two-year period. At the time, we were listed in the *Dallas Business Journal* as the second largest graduate business program in the DFW Metroplex. We also raised the funds to name the business school the Satish and Yasmin Gupta College of



SB Hall—Home of the Satish and Yasmin Gupta College of Business

Business in recognition of the couple’s \$12 million gift to the university, built a new b-school building, and designed and implemented the first and still only Doctorate in Business Administration degree program in an AACSB-accredited business school in the State of Texas.

After “retiring” from the University of Dallas, I was appointed as the Interim Dean of the College of Business Administration at the University of Alabama in Huntsville in October 2015. Having attended the University of Mississippi for my doctoral degree, this seemed to be a great opportunity to re-connect with this part of the country. Once again, there were many challenges and opportunities. We started the AACSB International re-accreditation process, expanded our online degree programming, and increased recruiting, undergraduate retention, development, and enrollment management efforts. This was a wonderful and rewarding experience from which I gained many new colleagues and friends.

Well, there is more to “retirement” than just serving as a business school administrator. Over the years, I have continued to sustain and cultivate a research agenda. I continue to collaborate with my long-time colleague, friend, and recent CSU retiree, Dr. Raj Javalgi (who was recently appointed as Dean, Deville School of Business, Walsh University, Canton, Ohio).

Together with our former CSU doctoral student and Baldwin Wallace University marketing professor, Dr. Lori Radulovich, we continue to publish our research in peer-reviewed journals, most recently in the *Journal of World Business* and the *International Marketing Review*. I continue to serve as an Executive Editor for the *Journal of Social Psychology*, and I am currently co-editing a special issue titled “Millennials In and Out of the Workplace” with my co-editor and friend from the University of Alabama in Huntsville, Dr. Ivey MacKenzie. At the end of 2018 I will retire as an Executive Editor for the journal after more than 20 years of service on the Editorial Board.

I continue to travel widely, flying over 200K miles last year (I am now a 1 Million Miler on United Airlines). Much of my travel is for volunteer work with our business school accrediting agency, AACSB International, as initial accreditation mentor or peer review team member or chair for initial and re-accreditation site-visits. Since I left CSU, I have been very fortunate to do accreditation work in the Persian Gulf region (visits to b-schools in rural Qassim and metropolitan Riyadh, Saudi Arabia; and Doha, Qatar), in Canada (visits to b-schools in the provinces of St. John’s-Labrador, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba), in South America (visits to b-schools in Lima, Perú; Montevideo, Uruguay; and Bogotá, Colombia), in Europe (Newcastle, United Kingdom, where my son Evan is a Roman Frontier Archaeology doctoral student; Ljubljana, Slovenia; Lyon, France; and Brussels, Belgium) and in the United States. I am always trying to build in extra time to visit friends and colleagues as well as see new places and meet new friends while I am on the road.



Bob and Evan Scherer at Bamburgh Castle in Northern England

The saying “The third time is the charm” has guided me on the road after completing my service at CSU. I am very fortunate to have had the opportunities that were afforded to me at the diverse institutions I have served, including CSU, where I am always in contact with many faculty colleagues and RFPSA friends.

Life After Retirement

By Lily Ng, Professor Emerita, Department of Chemistry

January 1, 2019 will be the 10th anniversary of my retirement from Cleveland State. Time has truly flown! Throughout these years, I have eagerly read all the newsletters from RFPSA with a lot of nostalgia and, maybe, a little jealousy. I enjoyed reading about the social activities and the good times my retired colleagues are having. I sorely miss all my connections in Cleveland. But, I am now in Minneapolis, Minnesota, so it is kind of difficult to join in the fun!

When I decided to move to Minneapolis in 2011, friends asked “Why do you want to move to such a cold place?” The ready answer was that I wanted to live close to one of my two daughters. Yvonne is living in Minneapolis while Celeste is in Boston. I had visited Boston often and decided that I would not be able to survive the winding, narrow Boston streets and the fast driving styles of the residents there. So, Minneapolis it was, with its wide, straight streets, pleasant residents, and the “Minnesota Nice” attitude. So what if it is snowy and icy in the winter? I would just not go out. I knew about the pleasant springs and autumns, although I had heard that summers can have a few days of ninety-degree temperatures and high humidity. Obviously, I did not take into account global warming, as we have had three continuous weeks of days in the nineties this year!

In 2011, I moved into Becketwood, a senior housing cooperative for independent living and fell in love with it. I was welcomed by my fellow members of the cooperative although I am one of only two Asian-Americans living here. Becketwood is a Tudor-style “castle” on a 1-acre wooded campus sitting on the Mississippi bluffs (www.becketwood.com). The mighty Mississippi literally flows by our campus, and the Minnehaha Falls Regional Park (made famous by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow’s “Song of Hiawatha”) is a 10-minute walk along the bank of the Mississippi. The crowning joy in living in Minneapolis is to be able to help care for my younger grandson, Kai (Yvonne’s son). Kai is now 6 years old and a mischievous “dragon” (he was born in the Year of the Dragon). And we have a lot of fun when he visits Poh-Poh (his nickname for me) in my housing unit.

The thing that initially attracted me to Becketwood, apart from the friendliness of the members, was the numerous activities/programs they offer, all organized by volunteers. It is uncanny how the governance of Becketwood is similar to that of a university.

There is a board of directors to advise the manager and a system of standing committees, subcommittees, ad hoc committees, and member activity committees to deal with issues like buildings and grounds, food service, safety, and independent living. It is joked among the members that for any issue that comes up, the response is “Let’s set up a committee for it.” We actually also have a big, thick “Green Book,” the Policy Manual.

I joined four committees in my first year: Environment (which I chaired in 2013), Excursion (I was the secretary), Library (I was the new books selector) and Website (in which I analyzed data of visits to the site). I promptly became known as the “computer expert” and was asked to solve members’ computer problems/glitches and to supply audio/visual help for all programs. I did not tell them that, at CSU, my graduate students were the technology experts in the lab! In 2014, I was elected to the board of directors. After a year of serving as the vice president/ombudsperson (see how our governance reflects that of a university?), I was elected to be the president by my fellow directors. This is my fourth year as president. Being a board president with no real decision-making power is an interesting life. But I am happy to be of service to the community as Becketwood is now home. I think being of service keeps my body healthy and my brain active.

On the professional side, I continue to serve on the National Council of Iota Sigma Pi, the National Honor Society for Women in Chemistry. I was initiated



Lily Ng (center) met with former CSU graduate students at a reunion in Boston in April 2018. They are Dr. Xiaoxia Wang (left), who was visiting from Shanghai, and Dr. Yan Zhou (right), who lives in Boston.

Life After Retirement by Lily Ng (Continued)

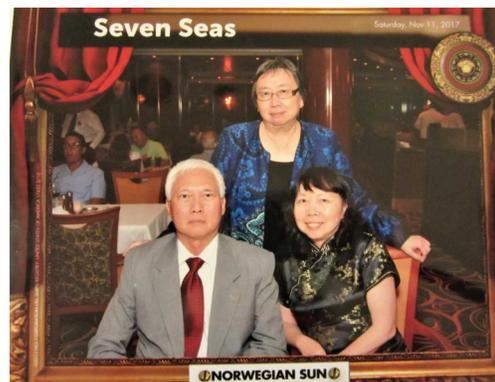
into Iota Sigma Pi in 1993, and I have served as its national president. Having just finished a three-year appointment as the national director of professional awards, I am presently the national historian for 2017-2023. My plan for the six years in this position is to digitize the 24 boxes containing the society's more recent archives. Iota Sigma Pi is now 116 years old and it's time to bring its rich history from the struggles of women into the chemical world in the early 1900s (Marie Curie was our first honorary member) to the modern era.

I felt very grateful to read an article about Celeste's debut novel, *Everything I Never Told You*, in the June 2015 RFPSA newsletter. Colleagues in the English Department might remember that, as a high school student, Celeste spent some time doing her senior project in the English Department. Celeste's second book, *Little Fires Everywhere*, came out in September 2017. The story took place in Shaker Heights. *Everything I Never Told You* has been translated into 24 languages and *Little Fires Everywhere* is being translated in 26 countries. I guess I can now stop worrying about how she can make a living as a writer.

Not to let her younger sister outdo her, Yvonne, the engineer, started writing STEM stories and designing STEM toys for the younger generation (i.e., preschoolers and primary school students). The second edition

of her illustrated book for parents of would-be engineers, *Engineering for the Uninitiated: Discover If Engineering Is Right for Your Child*, just came out. In 2012, Yvonne started an online business called Engineer's Playground that advocates for and promotes engineering education for young students through posted blogs, web seminars, and in-service training for teachers and professionals in schools, museums, and university education departments. Yvonne's paying job is as a business analyst at RBC Wealth Management.

Life is good after retirement! I would be delighted to hear from all of you. My email address is as follows: lilymsng@gmail.com.



Lily Ng (standing) poses with her sister, Helen Chow, and her brother-in-law, Benson Chow, on a cruise to the Panama Canal on the Norwegian Sun.

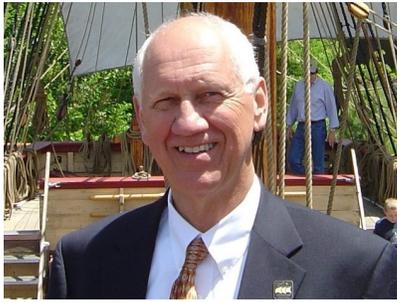
Call for "Life After Retirement" Articles

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 16 retirees, including two in this issue. Since we don't have a backlog of such articles for the Spring 2019 issue, 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.

Contributions may be submitted to me at the following email address: e.thomas@csuohio.edu. If you prefer to use "snail mail," please send a letter (and photos, if any) to: Edward G. Thomas, 363 Northbridge Ct., Brunswick, OH 44212. We look forward to hearing from you.

CSU Retiree Tim Runyan Honored by National Maritime Historical Society



Dr. Timothy J. Runyan, professor emeritus of both Cleveland State University and East Carolina University, was presented the David A. O'Neil Sheet Anchor Award by the National Maritime Historical Society at an awards dinner on October 25, 2018, at the New York Yacht Club. The award recognized Professor Runyan for his years of dedicated service as a trustee for the National Maritime Historical Society and for his advocacy of maritime heritage preservation in the United States. "I am very flattered and so very surprised to learn that I was selected for this prestigious award," said Professor Runyan.

According to Wendy Paggiotta, vice president of the NMHS, "Dr. Runyan is being recognized for his extraordinary leadership in building the strength and outreach of the Society. Every organization that has received a National Maritime Heritage Grant has Dr. Runyan to thank as he spearheaded the effort to restore funding for the grants program in his role as chair of the National Maritime Alliance. To that end, he has served as the co-chairman of the National Maritime Awards Dinner, bringing advocacy to our nation's capital. As founder and organizer of the Maritime Heritage Conferences, he has helped to bring together scholars, leaders in the field, and others in every discipline of the maritime heritage community to exchange knowledge and experience."

Dr. Runyan was a faculty member at CSU from 1969 until 1997. He served as chair of the History Department, as assistant dean of the College of Arts & Sciences for three years, as acting chair of the Art Department and the Department of Modern Languages, and as director of the Classical and Medieval Studies Program. For about ten years, Professor Runyan and the

late Professor William Martin of the Music Department, operated a study program to England based at Royal Holloway College—University of London that involved over 200 students over the years and included study stops at sites in England, Wales, and Ireland.

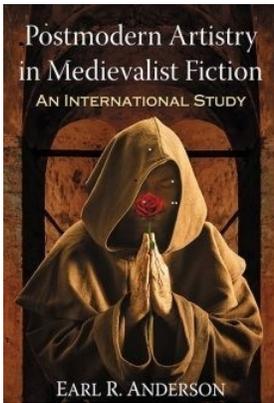
Professor Runyan helped save the historic 1925-built SS *William G. Mather* and place her on the lakefront as a floating museum (now part of the Great Lakes Science Center). He was president for 10 years of the Great Lakes Historical Society (now moved from Vermilion to Toledo as the National Museum of the Great Lakes), and he was a founder and trustee (now Emeritus) of the Great Lakes Science Center.

In 1997, Dr. Runyan accepted an appointment at East Carolina University in Greenville, NC, as director of the graduate program in Maritime History and Underwater Archaeology. During his career, he has been involved in diving on historic shipwrecks from the Caribbean to Alaska, and he has participated in numerous maritime heritage projects. From 2007-2011, Professor Runyan was acting director of the Maritime Heritage Program, US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Office of National Marine Sanctuaries at Silver Spring, MD. He then returned to ECU and helped create a new Honors College. He retired from ECU in 2018 and is now a professor emeritus from two institutions.



The David A. O'Neil Sheet Anchor Award was presented to Dr. Runyan (left) by Ray Ashley, president and CEO of the Maritime Museum of San Diego.

Recent Book by CSU Retiree Earl R. Anderson



In June 2018, McFarland Publishers (Jefferson, NC) released a book by Earl Anderson entitled *Postmodern Artistry in Medievalist Fiction: An International Study*. Dr. Anderson was a professor in the English department from 1970 to 2005, and served tours of duty as department chair, associate dean in the Graduate College, and dean in the College of

(then) newly-formed College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences. The review of the book below is from a news release provided by Dr. Anderson.

“Medievalism” in this study includes contemporary fiction set in the Middle Ages (like Umberto Eco’s *Name of the Rose*), and medieval-modern hybrids in which the setting alternates between modern and medieval times (like José Saramago’s *History of the Siege of Lisbon*, Carlos Fuentes’s *Terra Nostra*, and Alan Moore’s *Jerusalem*). In the first ten chapters, Professor Anderson discusses storytelling options and rhetorical tropes such as genre-plurality, narrative conceits, post-modern negation, equillopence and skepticism, and a “rhetoric of disappointment” that he calls (reviving a Renaissance term) “hypallage.”

In his analysis of rhetoric, Dr. Anderson emphasizes “medievalizing” tropes that profile the “medieval temper” in high resolution. He defines “postmodernism” as negation followed by positive assertions, and the “medieval temper” as a dissonance of conformist and rebellious responses to authority and hierarchy in medieval world orders in Europe, Mesoamerica, the Middle East, and central Asia.

A period “temper” or *Zeitgeist* is a modernist notion if there ever was one. And while Professor Anderson’s topic is “postmodern” artistry, his method is modernist. He writes in his preface: “I do all the things that poststructuralists say not to. I apply *explication de texte* to characterization, setting, narrative

structure, genre, and sources, in a spirit of humility before the object of art, because art is for art’s sake and the essence of literature is good stories, not right-thinking doctrines.”

Medievalist fiction got its “postmodern” start with Italo Calvino, Carlos Fuentes, Alejo Carpentier, and Umberto Eco. Its momentum increased in every decade from the 1990s. Other “canonical” authors are singled out for extended review: Julia Kristeva, Paulo Coelho, Homero Aridjis, Amin Maalouf, and Tariq Ali. He gives equal attention to authors whose medievalism has been ignored in academic criticism, among them Laura Esquivel, Matthew Pearl, Matilde Asensi, Ildelfonso Falcones, Andrew Davidson, Donna Woolfolk Cross, Ariana Franklin, Nicole Griffith, Levi Grossman, Conn Iggulden, Edward Rutherford, Javier Sierra, and Brenda Vantrease for her trilogy of “Lollard” novels.

In the last four chapters, Anderson posits four “hard problems” in medievalist fiction, on analogy to the difficultà cultivated by Renaissance artists. These are problematized subjectivity; intentional semiotics; steganography and steganalysis (the art of concealing signs and finding them); and representations of “the end of the Middle Ages.” Here, chronology fails. The decline of chivalry, crudely conventional, lends itself to parody. A more nuanced approach is possible in comparisons of medieval and Renaissance art, exemplified in Tariq Ali, Amin Maalouf, Dan Brown, and with probative force in the fiction of Fuentes, Kristeva, and Sierra.

In a concluding “postscript,” Professor Anderson notes that most of his authors receive few citations, or none, in the *MLA International Bibliography*. He provides an analysis of the “Pareto effect” on criticism, and challenges readers to wonder why so many authors—as artistically talented as any other—receive little or no attention in academic criticism.

Dr. Anderson’s book may be purchased at mcfarland-books.com, amazon.com, and other online retailers.

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

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