



RFPSA

RETIRED FACULTY &
PROFESSIONAL STAFF
ASSOCIATION

Newsletter

June 2018

Editor: Edward G. Thomas

President's Message

During the 2017-2018 academic year, the Retired Faculty and Professional Staff Association (RFPSA) hosted our usual varied program of presentations, tours and social gatherings. Mid-season, the association also revised its communication matrix, abandoning “snail mail” (except upon request and for semi-annual newsletter mailings) in favor of program announcements and follow-up messages sent solely by email. Happily for all, this change had no appreciable effect on attendance and produced minimal negative feedback from RFPSA members.

Our initial gathering in September gave us the opportunity to visit institutions in the 44103 zip code neighborhoods on Cleveland's near east side. Activities included lunch at Cafe 55 on East 55th Street and a Lolly the Trolley tour with stops at League Park and the Baseball Heritage Museum and at Chateau Hough Vineyards and Bioceller. We also drove past new housing options in Hough and visited the Morgan Conservatory (with its papermaking workshop, gallery, garden and shop).



For our October meeting, we made a visit to the Galleries at CSU, where we saw an exhibition entitled “Focus on Sculpture.”

In November, Dr. Jianping Zhu, provost and senior vice resident for academic affairs, spoke about the current state of the University, updating members on the presidential search process and recently-initiated academic programs and responding to general questions about life at CSU.

In mid-December, members attended—and participated in—the annual “Messiah Sing” at Trinity Cathedral followed by a convivial lunch at Elements in the close-by CSU administration center.

Mark Souther, author and professor of United States history at CSU, accepted our invitation to speak with RFPSA members in February to discuss his latest book, *Believing in Cleveland: Managing Decline in "The Best Location in the Nation"*. For many of us in attendance, the era covered by his presentation was a familiar one, yet his insights provided some surprising “behind the scenes” revelations of which we were unaware at the time.

Our March program took us on a visit to the new Campus International School located at East 22nd Street and Payne Avenue. We were hosted by Dr. Ron Abate, associate professor of teacher education (educational computing and technology) at CSU and professor-in-residence at the International School, for his presentation and facility tour.

Professor Emerita Susan J. Becker was our featured speaker in April for a presentation on “Free Speech in Turbulent Times,” an area in which she has had extensive experience and expertise working as general counsel with the American Civil Liberties Union of Ohio.

The annual dinner in May was planned and hosted by Vice President Maggie Jackson. Once again, the site was the attractive clubhouse at Acacia Reservation, the 155-acre nature preserve which is one of the true jewels in the Cleveland Metroparks’ “Emerald Necklace.” Maggie assumes the RFPSA presidency on July 1.

As my term as RFPSA president draws to a close, I want to take the opportunity to thank all the members of the Board for their help and support, especially Maggie Jackson, who shepherded several events to fruition, and the indispensable Ed Thomas, communications coordinator, who so ably photographs our monthly events and produces our semi-annual newsletter. And, of course, none of this would have been even remotely possible without the support of the Executive Board and the administrative coordinator, Violet Lunder. Vi knows everything about the RFPSA and does an amazing job managing the association's organizational and communication activities which, taken together, makes everything happen.

Lee A. Makela
President, 2017-18

RFPSA Officers, Executive Board Members, and Staff

Academic Year 2016-2017

Executive Board

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

Representatives to Faculty Senate:

David Larson
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Mickey Barnard
Elizabeth Cagan
Jeff Ford
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Violet Lunder, Administrative Coordinator

A Message from the Editor

A couple of issues concerning RFPSA communications have arisen recently, so President Lee Makela has asked me to let you know about them and ask for your help in resolving them.

1. Violet Lunder, our administrative coordinator, has remarked that AOL email addresses no longer seem to be working - messages bounce back to her when sent out. **So, if you have an AOL email address and have not been receiving email notifications about RFPSA gatherings, please contact Violet with either a working email address or a request for "snail mail" communications.** Violet's phone number is 216-687-9250; her email address is v.lunder@csuohio.edu.

2. Heidi Makela and other spouses associated with RFPSA members have indicated an interest in receiving direct RFPSA email messages themselves (since they often keep the calendar and occasionally miss meeting dates otherwise). **So, if you are a spouse or significant other of an RFPSA member and wish to be placed on the RFPSA email list, please contact Violet Lunder with a usable email address (see contact information above).**

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 14 retirees, including one in this issue. Since we don't have a backlog of such articles for the Fall 2018 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.

New Emeriti Faculty*

Susan Bazyk, Professor, Occupational Therapy
 Janet H. Bessas, Clinical Associate Professor, Nursing
 Cheryl L. Delgado, Associate Professor, Nursing
 Larry W. Foster, Professor, Social Work
 Andrew C. Gross, Professor, Marketing
 Patricia A. Kan, Associate College Lecturer, Mathematics
 Antoinette M. Marquard, Associate College Lecturer, Mathematics
 Taysir H. Nayfeh, Professor, Mechanical Engineering
 Peter J. Poznanski, Professor, Accounting
 George B. Ray, Professor, Communications
 Linda E. Wolf, Associate Professor, Nursing
 Eric E. Ziolk, Professor, Music

New Associates of the University*

Lynn Duchez Bycko, Manager, Special Collections, Michael Schwartz Library
 Rosemarie Cutler, Office Coordinator, Urban Studies
 Betty Gump, Assistant Registrar, Registrar's Office
 Joseph Jaketic, Coordinator, Athletics Administration
 Abubakar "Abu" Nasara, Director, Center for Educ. Tech.
 Carolee Pichler, Administrative Coordinator, BGES

Retired/Retiring Faculty*

James D'Orazio, Associate College Lecturer, Marketing (May 17, 2018)
 Rajshekhar Javalgi, Professor, Marketing (July 1, 2018)
 Joyce M. Mastboom, Assoc. Prof., History (July 1, 2018)
 Joseph Mazzola, Professor, Operations & Supply Chain Management (May 17, 2018)
 Chung-Yi Suen, Professor, Mathematics (May 17, 2018)
 Brian Woodside, Associate College Lecturer, Psychology, (May 17, 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.

In Memoriam*

Faculty

James N. Hanson, Professor, Computer & Information Science, December 17, 2017
 George Kramerich, Professor Emeritus, Electrical Engineering, December 2017
 Theofil Lant, Professor Emeritus, Modern Languages, January 1, 2018
 Allan Peskin, Professor Emeritus, History, January 19, 2018
 Samuel A. Richmond, Professor Emeritus, Philosophy and Comparative Religion, February 2, 2018
 Michael A. Pechura, Associate Professor, Computer & Information Science, February 5, 2018
 Maureen Pruitt, College Lecturer, World Languages (March 19, 2018)
 John A. Domonkos, Associate Professor Emeritus, Finance, March 23, 2018
 Ralph A. Gardner-Chavis, Associate Professor Emeritus, Chemistry, March 27, 2018
 James D. Schoeffler, Professor Emeritus, Computer & Information Science, May 12, 2018
 Pamela K. Rutar, Assoc. Prof. & Associate Dean of Research and Collaborative Partnerships for the School of Nursing, May 22, 2018

Staff

Dianne Oloff, Student Services Specialist, College of Graduate Studies, January 22, 2018
 Mary Joyce Coffee, Administrative Assistant, Department of Accounting, February 15, 2018

Retired/Retiring Staff*

Rose Carrabine, Admin. Coord., COSHP Dean's Office (7/1/18)
 Dennis Decoulo, Inst. Media Spec., IS&T (6/30/18)
 Henry Eisenberg, Dir., Health & Wellness Serv. (8/16/18)
 Michael Hayes, Manager of Database, IS&T (12/1/17)
 Charles Latsa, Applications Mgr., IS&T (8/24/17)
 Diane Lightfoot, System Security Admin., IS&T (1/1/18)
 Robert Shields, Coordinator, Veteran's Center (5/12/18)
 Paul Snowball, Counselor, Counseling Center (8/16/17)
 Stephanie Triplett, Acad. Advisor, CLASS (3/1/18)
 Ivana Yuko, Coord., Dean's Office COB (2/15/18)

February 15, 2018 Program: “*Believing in Cleveland*”

Dr. Mark J. Souther, Professor of History



Our speaker on Thursday, February 15, 2018, was Dr. J. Mark Souther, professor of history and director of the Center for Public History + Digital Humanities at Cleveland State University. Dr. Souther specializes in 20th-century U.S., urban, and public history. A native of Gainesville, Georgia, Dr.

Souther joined CSU in 2003 after completing his Ph.D. at Tulane University in 2002.

In his talk to the RFPSA group, Professor Souther discussed the research that went into his recent book, *Believing in Cleveland: Managing Decline in “The Best Location in the Nation.”* The book, which was published in 2017 by Temple University Press, chronicles how city leaders used imagery and rhetoric over the years to combat and, at times, accommodate urban and economic decline.

Professor Souther began his presentation with an explanation of how the “Best Location in the Nation” slogan has been used over the years, beginning with its “birth” in 1944 when the Cleveland Electric Illuminating Company used the phrase in its advertising in hopes of attracting new industries to Cleveland. The slogan was soon picked up by the city’s leaders and the media and has been widely used over the years. Dr. Souther also referenced some more recent slogans, such of the “Believeland” campaign of the past few years.

In his talk, Professor Souther explained that Cleveland seems to have reached its peak as a city in the late 1940s and early 1950s. Then, like many other “Rust Belt” cities, it began to decline as the shift of population to the suburbs began and, in Cleveland’s case, as city leaders were unable to craft and execute a plan to adequately combat the problems.

Most of Dr. Souther’s talk concentrated on the revitalization efforts that took place in the “downtown” area in the post-WWII era (1950s), the Carl Stokes

years (1968-1971), and the George Voinovich years (1980-1989). Throughout the talk, which was illustrated with a PowerPoint slide program, Professor Souther detailed a number of revitalization plans that city leaders proposed, beginning with a 1919 plan for building a subway under downtown Cleveland, which was an idea that lingered on in the public agenda until the late 1950s when voters twice rejected funding proposals for a subway system. Dr. Souther stated his opinion that the defeat of the subway plans was largely due to the opposition of County Engineer Albert S. Porter, who was a “freeway man,” more interested in building highways than in supporting mass transit.

In 1960, the City of Cleveland announced plans for an Erievue project, a large economic development effort in downtown Cleveland that would use federal urban-renewal funds to upgrade an area of about 125 acres in the district from E. 6th Street to E. 17th Street and from Chester Avenue to the lakefront. The idea was to integrate multiple aspects of public, commercial, and residential uses. Although a few new buildings were built, the project moved much more slowly than anticipated and many aspects of the project never materialized, especially the development of residential areas. At about the same time, there were plans for economic development projects in University Circle and in Hough, but, again, the results were far short of the expectations.

During the Stokes administration of the late 1960s and early 1970s, a “Cleveland Now” program of development resulted in some new buildings and the renovation of some existing buildings in the eastside neighborhoods. However, the initial momentum of this private-public partnership fundraising program was essentially lost when the “Glenville Riots” occurred in 1968.

Due to time constraints, Professor Souther was able to give only a quick overview of the story of the re-birth of Playhouse Square and of the “New Cleveland Campaign” of the Voinovich administration. As usual, the program ended with a spirited question-answer period.

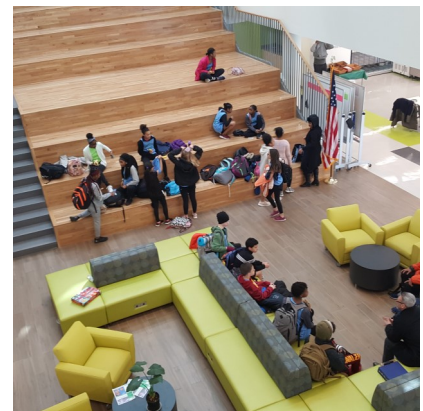
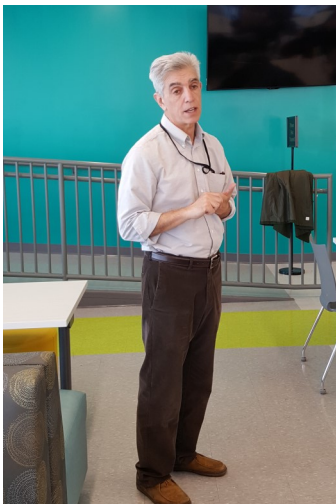
March 22, 2018 Program: Tour of the Campus International School

On Thursday, March 22, 2018, RFPSA members and guests visited the new home of the Campus International School, which is located on the southeast corner of E. 22nd Street and Payne Avenue. Known as Campus International School South Campus, the newly constructed building opened in September of 2017 and serves grades K-8. The school's other campus, known as Campus International School Upper Campus, houses the Campus International High School and is located on the CSU campus in the former Cole Center at 3100 Chester Avenue.

Campus International School (CIS) is the result of a collaborative effort between CSU and the Cleveland Metropolitan School District (CMSD). Dr. Ron Abate, associate professor of teacher education at CSU, serves as a liaison between CSU and the Campus International School in his role as professor-in-residence at the Campus International School. Professor Abate led the tour of the school for the RFPSA visit.

CIS prepares students to be global citizens by emphasizing student inquiry and a global perspective. It offers two authorized International Baccalaureate programs that set high standards for students' academic and personal achievements. One feature of the program is that students begin taking Mandarin Chinese classes during kindergarten.

This view of the new Campus International School building is actually the rear (or south facing) side of the building. Note the playground equipment in the fenced in area.



Dr. Ron Abate began the tour by giving some basic facts and figures about the school and its new building.

The tour orientation was held in the school's cafeteria.

The building features an atrium lobby with casual seating for students, faculty, and staff members.

March 22, 2018 Program (Continued)



This is a view of one of the art classes.



Bulletin boards are used throughout the school to display student work.



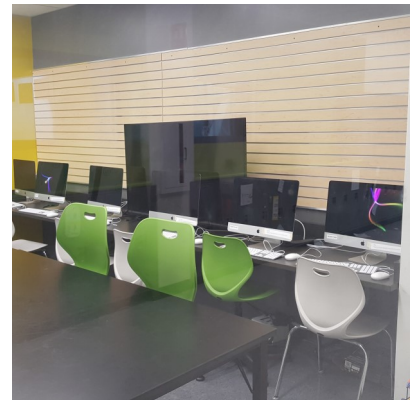
A view of another part of the art instruction area.



Students fill the hallways during a class change.



Students practice on their violins in the music practice room as RFPSA members look on.



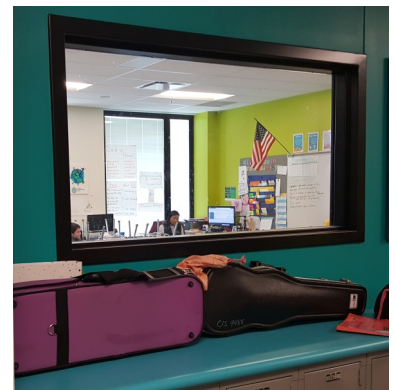
This is a view of the computer design lab.



The building has an indoor gym ...



... and an outdoor playground.



Most classrooms have a window onto the hallway, giving the school an open feel.

April 22, 2018 Program: “Free Speech in Turbulent Times”

Susan J. Becker, Professor Emerita, Law, and General Counsel, ACLU of Ohio



Professor Susan J. Becker (at left) with Vicki Plata and Lloyd Snyder

Susan J. Becker retired as a professor in the Cleveland-Marshall College of Law in 2014. Her pro bono practice and her academic scholarship centered primarily on attorney ethics and professionalism, and on the many forms of discrimination that lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender individuals commonly experience. She is now a volunteer board member and general counsel of the ACLU of Ohio, where she has served two terms as board president.

Professor Becker began her presentation to the RFPSA members and guests by mentioning a number of ongoing

free speech controversies, including spontaneous and scheduled protests, the proliferation of social media, and the specific issues of “fake news,” “hate speech,” and campus speech. Then she provided a short refresher course on the Bill of Rights and the free speech guarantees of the First Amendment to the Constitution. With respect to free speech, the First Amendment says, “Congress shall make no law . . . abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.”

Although the First Amendment guarantees have been a part of the law of the land since the Bill of Rights was ratified by Congress in 1791, Professor Becker pointed out that, in fact, many people in the United States have been punished over the years for expressing themselves on a number of issues. Sedition laws in the American Colonies and elsewhere in the country through the mid-1900s outlawed criticism of government. Espionage acts targeted WWI opponents. Suffragists were prosecuted with every law possible. McCarthyism featured the “loyalty pledge” and “witch hunts.” And in the Pre-Civil-War South, state laws criminalized anti-slavery speech. Contributing to these examples of suppression of free speech was the fact that the First Amendment was not held as being applicable to state and local governments until 1925.

So, it is apparent that the free speech issue is complicated, but why? Professor Becker explained that it is because the First Amendment text: (1) is broad and vague; (2) contains no express exceptions; and (3) offers no guidance for resolving conflicting interests and rights. Thus, it has been up to the courts, particularly the Supreme Court, to further define what was intended by the guarantee of free speech.

Said Professor Becker, “The Supreme Court has long employed an expansive reading of ‘speech,’ extending

protection not only to oral utterances but to the written word as well — whether printed in a newspaper, held aloft on a sign, sewn onto a jacket, or transmitted through cyberspace. Protected ‘speech’ likewise includes marching and parading, demonstrating and picketing, pamphleteering and proselytizing. It extends beyond books and newsprint to radio and television, photos and films, music and art. Even further, the freedom of ‘speech’ extends to nonverbal symbolic expression, such as flag-burning and cross-burning, tree-sitting and shanty-building, armbands and sit-ins.”

Professor Becker next explained that the First Amendment only applies when the *government* regulates or criminalizes speech, meaning a “state actor” (i.e., a person acting on behalf of a governmental body) is involved. Absent a state actor, the First Amendment does not apply. Thus, federal, state, and local legislative bodies and officials are always state actors, as are elected and appointed government officials and public schools and universities. Likewise, some quasi-public entities might be held to be state actors if they are in turn acting under the direction of state actors. Classified as “non-state actors” are wholly private individuals and entities, including private schools and universities and private businesses and organizations.

While First Amendment rights protect individuals from government action, such rights may be waived through contracts and agreements between an individual and a governmental entity. Professor Becker also noted that not all speech is protected. Among the forms of unprotected speech are obscenities, words advocating imminent lawless action, “fighting words,” and true threats.

In the remainder of her presentation, Professor Becker touched on a number of modern-day free speech issues, including “hate speech,” protests, and controversial campus speech issues. With respect to “hate speech,” Professor Becker noted that the Supreme Court has not recognized it as a distinct, defined category. Based on content and circumstances, it could be deemed to be fighting words or a true threat or a call to lawless action and thus criminalized. Or it could be deemed to be core political speech and thus given the highest protection. Professor Becker also covered the issues concerning funeral protests carried out by members of the Westboro Baptist Church of Topeka, Kansas, and free speech controversies at the University of Cincinnati, Fresno State University, and the University of South Carolina.

Professor Becker closed her talk by referring to Justice Louis Brandeis, who noted that the cure for speech with which we disagree is “more speech, not enforced silence.”

May 17, 2018 Program: "Annual Dinner at Acacia Reservation"

On Thursday, May 17, members of the RFPSA and their guests attended the Annual Dinner at Acacia Reservation. The weather was delightful, and the attendees enjoyed time on the patio before assembling in the dining room for the meal. In the photos below, all captions name the attendees from left to right.



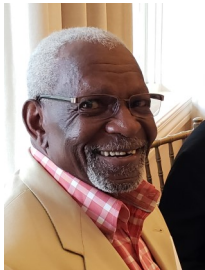
Lynne & Jeff Ford



Anant Ghatage, Paul Doerder, & Pratibha Ghatage



Delia Galvan-Sanchez & Leo Jeffres



Ed Briskey



Violet Lunder



Maggie Jackson



Rasul Khan



Debra Hubbard



Lou Brownlowe



Ed Thoams in an accidental selfie



Pictured at left are Margaret Terry, Jack Plata, Vicki Plata, & Lloyd Snyder; at right is Peter Phillips.



Lee & Heidi Makela



Marie Rehmar



Marjorie Placek, Vida Lock, & Jim Lock

May 17, 2018 Program: "Annual Dinner at Acacia Reservation" (Continued)



Roger & Anne Manning



Doug & Judy Steward



Dawn & Tom Frew



Barbara Green



Janice & Lew Patterson



Kerstin & Leonard Trawick



Mickey Barnard & Maria Codinach



Mike Hugill & David Larson



Ron & Wendy Reminick



Stephen & Dianne Steinglass



William Atherton & Carol Stolarski



Valerie & Stewart Robinson

Retirement: Not the End of the Road but a New Beginning

By Ron Reminick, Professor Emeritus, Anthropology



“When my anthropology colleagues asked how my research was going, my wife Wendy sent this photo.” - Ron Reminick

I never thought I would retire during my 45-year tenure at CSU, but around 2013 a confluence of events and situations changed my direction. First, STRS was going to cut our pension by 23 percent. Second, my Anthropology Department was to merge with Sociology/Criminology, and I was saddened by the loss of Anthropology’s independent identity. Third,

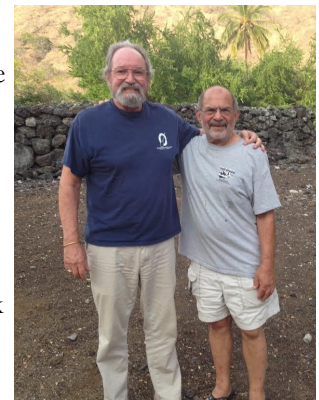
my large and richly decorated office and the adjacent Center for Healing Across Cultures, home to my Meditation Gatherings, was to be demolished along with the Chester Building to make way for the new College of Engineering Building. I felt a deep sense of loss for my symbolically meaningful spaces. It was the death of an era.

Then, a new research trajectory appeared. After years of studying about and researching in Ethiopia (since 1966), I became interested in deepening my understanding of the spiritual world with an emphasis on shamanism. Besides the years of teaching about shamanism in my anthropology courses, as well as guiding the meditation exercises at the Center, my wife Wendy and I had the opportunity to study shamanic journey work with Hank Wesselman, renowned paleoanthropologist and shamanic healer/teacher. His book, *Bowl of Light*, about the last great Kahuna, Hale Makua, sparked an interest in Hawaiian cosmology, spirituality, and healing methods. (Hank’s workshops and many books have created a world-wide following. See his site, www.sharedwisdom.com.) After gathering funds from a generous CSU Initiation Grant, and a community fundraiser, I embarked on my last sabbatical before retiring, spending four months on the Big Island of Hawai’i.

Our arrival was greeted with a warm welcome by the Volcano Goddess Pele who opened the Pu’u O’s

vent, pouring out lava and threatening to cut off our town of Pahoa, and the whole of Puna District, from the rest of the island. News reports of this had friends and colleagues, even my department head, Maggie Jackson, imploring us to come home to safety. However, a number of us “Punatik’s” decided to remain, holding meetings on how we could establish a self-sustaining community with the adoption of horse-drawn wagons, maximizing food cultivation, and even considering creating fuel from coconut oil. When the flow subsided for the second time, the meetings sort of evaporated.

Our daily life involved doing interviews with healers and Kahuna specialists, attending ceremonies and rituals, visiting sacred sites, and learning about Hawaiian ecology, both ancient and modern. We lived in a treehouse in the jungle. It was fifty meters up the mountain to a box with a hole in it; seventy-five meters down the mountain to the platform that served as a kitchen with a propane hotplate. Nearby was tubing that led from a catchment on top of the mountain to a shower head below. Each night a rat would leave its teeth marks in a cake of soap sitting in the shower space. We carried a machete with us along the trail to whack away the cane grass that had fallen the night before. Cane grass has serrated edges that can cut the skin, leaving an opening for a staph infection. This work yielded some dramatic results that cemented my interest in and fascination with the indigenous traditions of Hawai’i.



This is Ron (at right) with his shamanic teacher and friend, Hank Wesselman.

I formally retired in 2015.

A surprise retirement party, held in our Anthropology lab, was, for me, rather overwhelming. I did get a hint of what was happening when many decorations were hung in the hall. One memorable aspect stands out: The eloquent and moving speech Dean Gregory Sadlek gave in my honor.

“Retirement” by Ron Reminick (Continued)

Now retired, I spent eleven months undertaking two projects that had been shelved for a number of years. One project was a book on the Afar people of the Danakil Desert—a people that *National Geographic*, in the 1970’s, billed as “the most ferocious people on earth.” In the mid-90’s, during my two-year Fulbright tenure, I had two of my Addis Ababa University master’s degree students undertake the ethnographic study of the Afar. One student studied the pastoral people in the desert (we made a deal with the elders to safeguard his life), and the other student studied in a relocation region where the Afar became cultivators because of drought, famine and disease in their native desert region. This book is still in process because it needs to be brought up to date.

The other project undertaken was my memoir, focused specifically on my fieldwork experience in Ethiopia. The initial draft ran to 661 pages. Hamilton Publishers was interested but wanted me to cut it to 250 pages max. I very painfully cut the manuscript to 317 pages and sent it, stating “take it or leave it.” They left it. So now I am searching for a publisher. Not many publishers are interested in memoirs; but, of course, this one is spectacularly special (no bias here!).

Our five-and-a-half-week excursion to Hawai’i during the 2017-2018 semester intercession continued our study of spiritual healing through making contact with our healer friends, including the lomi-lomi Kahuna, Harry Uhane Jim. (Lomi-lomi is a form of massage.) This (unfunded) visit was more relaxed, and we spent some time on black sand beaches. We especially like Kahene black sand beach (clothing optional) where one has to descend down a treacherous cliff of volcanic rock to get to the beach and the crashing surf. Another activity was trekking to the live lava flow. It too was an exhausting and treacherous undertaking. We also visited sacred sites like the great temples of ancient kings and the prehistoric petroglyphs.

A rather scary moment occurred on a Saturday, 13 January, at 8:07 a.m., the day we were to fly to O’ahu. Everyone’s cell phone began screeching an alert signal that said: “Emergency Alert! Ballistic missile threat inbound to Hawai’i. Seek immediate shelter! This is not a drill.” We were having our papaya with a group of women who had just finished their “clearing” with

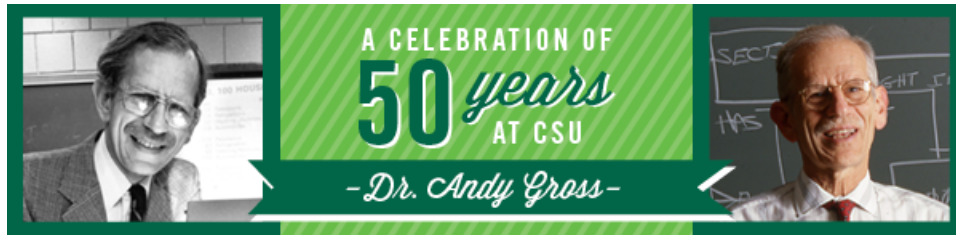
our healer friend, Angela. We were stunned by the news. What could we do? There was nowhere to hide, nowhere to go. There are no basements in Hawai’i houses because four inches past the grass and earth is ten miles of rock. Wendy gathered her senses and called her librarian daughter Jessica in Kent, Ohio. In a moment, Jessica learned that the alert was a mistake. But, it was forty minutes later that the populace of Hawai’ learned about it. On the Big Island people are laid back, relaxed, and easy-going. We simply continued eating our papaya. But on O’ahu there was widespread panic, car crashes and mobs of people not knowing what to do. News sources said that one man began putting his children down a manhole.



Ron with his healer and channeler friends
Angela and Benjamin

It took a couple of days at home to get back to routines and meet my Ethiopia class, but the analysis of the data and writing continues. My involvement with shamanic ritual, opening portals that access realms of existence beyond normal perception, leading meditation groups and participating in drumming circles, my yoga practice, and developing my work on indigenous Hawaiian cosmology; these pursuits should carry me well into the perceivable future.

As Professor Emeritus I continue my love of teaching with some very special students. I say that because I believe anthropology attracts a special kind of student, looking beyond the practical considerations of job training to the challenges of broadening one’s perspectives and boundaries of the mind; learning about humanity in all its diversity and about one’s self in the process.



Many of you know that Professor Andy Gross retired from CSU at the end of the spring semester of 2018 after having served the university for 50 years. The Spring/Summer 2018 issue of *Cleveland State Magazine* carried an article in which Andy reminisced about his career at CSU. On May 3, 2018, a special celebration of Andy's 50 years at CSU was hosted by the Monte Abuja College of Business in the Student Center Ballroom. At that event, many colleagues and former students gave testimonials. Among those making comments was Denise Ivan-Antus, the Department of Marketing's administrative assistant. Denise's presentation, accompanied by slides and supported by considerable research on Andy's early life, gave a unique personal perspective on the honoree. What follows are some excerpts from Denise's remarks and some photos she shared.

A Look Back in Time
By Denise Ivan-Antus

I have come to know Professor Gross quite well over the last 14 years. But I know him not as a professor, scholarly researcher, or peer, but rather as the (friendly) guy who passes by my desk each morning when he arrives on campus, offering a cheery hello and a wave; the (helpful) coworker who frequently offers to check mail for me or watch the front desk for me if I have to step away; the (thoughtful) man who supplies me with the latest issue of the *Scene Magazine*, the *Cauldron* or the *Cleveland Stater* or a copy of an article he found interesting or a funny comic strip. He often surprises me with a souvenir from his latest travels or a treat from his visits to the West Side Market or his favorite Hungarian bakery. A regular fixture in our department break room, Andy can be found most afternoons at the table with a sandwich in one hand and the *Wall Street Journal* in the other, and he frequently makes time for a chat even though I suspect he'd rather be reading the paper. This is the Andy Gross whom I know.

From the start of our acquaintance, I felt an affinity for Andy due to our common roots stretching back to Central Europe. My parents were born in Czechoslovakia, Hungary's neighbor to the north. Andy and I joked once that we are the perfect model of what Slovak-Hungarian political relations should be.

The path that took Andy from his native land to Cleveland, Ohio, is a long and winding one, and I'd like to share with you a little of his story. As you may know, we "admins" are a resourceful bunch and, with a little outside help, I was able to unearth a very special photo of our honoree.



Baby Andy, Budapest, 1936

This little boy was born Andrasz Karoly Gross in Budapest, Hungary on April 24, 1935, on the eve of the Second World War. It was a dark time for humanity and for Andy's family and millions more across Europe and elsewhere: a time when governments betrayed their own people, and citizenship was revoked as a tool for depriving individuals, families

and entire communities of life, liberty and property. Although he witnessed first-hand the worst of human nature, which robbed him of much, his young life was also shaped by examples of man's capacity for good. The righteous actions of a courageous man named Wallenberg, a Swedish national and diplomat, helped Andy's family and thousands of others survive the Holocaust.

In 1950, six years before Soviet tanks rolled into Budapest, Andy's stepfather Laci Polgar, managed, after many attempts, to obtain exit visas from the new regime in Hungary. And the family—including 15-year-old Andy, his mother, Antonia, and half-brother, Leslie—immigrated to Montreal, Canada, where Andy finished high school, learning English and French along the way. Sadly Mr. Polgar was unable to enjoy the new life of freedom he had secured for his family, passing away shortly after their arrival in Canada. But his loved ones persevered and went on to thrive. After two years at McGill University, Andy moved to Cleveland in 1955 to join his family who had recently relocated to Northeast Ohio.

Andy completed his bachelor's in electrical engineering at Case Institute of Technology in 1957 and spent a few years working for Ohio Edison. Following in his mom's footsteps, he sought an advanced degree, returning to what was then Western Reserve University for an MBA. While he was there, a lecturer encouraged him to apply for a new fellowship being offered by The Ohio State University, which he landed, leading to a Ph.D. in economics and marketing, which he earned in 1968.

While working on his dissertation, Andy taught economics at Lehigh University in Pennsylvania; but he was eventually lured back to Ohio in 1968, and to a young public university with a pioneering spirit called Cleveland State University.

“A Look Back in Time” (Continued)

Over the past 50 years, Andy’s presence at CSU has been keenly felt. He is one of those rare breeds: a person willing to speak up when he sees that the Emperor isn’t wearing any clothes. As such, it’s a good thing that he enjoys tenure. He is not the type to go along in order to get along or get ahead. And while he’s not opposed to demanding accountability when things go wrong, he would much rather spend his time and effort offering constructive criticism before a decision is reached, an action taken, or a plan implemented. If Professor Gross raises an objection, chances are the question bears further scrutiny. Though, like anyone, he is not without his blind spots. On the rare occasion he has gone left when he should have gone right, I have never known him to withhold an apology or, for that matter, to hold a grudge. What more can we ask of a coworker, a loved one, or a friend. And he is motivated not by ego but, rather, by a deeply held belief, forged in the crucible of his childhood, that there is power even in a single voice and that each of us has a duty to use our voice to affect positive change and to try to make our workplace, our community, our country, and the world a better place.

Professor Gross is a giver, not a taker, and throughout his life he has given freely of his fine intellect, his knowledge, and his wisdom, of his time and of his labor, and his resources—whether in the service of his academic and scholarly pursuits or in his interactions with colleagues, coworkers and friends—whom he treats like family—and who are scattered throughout the world—in northeast Ohio, across the U.S. and Canada, in Hungary, Australia, and many other places, wherever life’s journey has taken him and his dearest ones.

Andy’s finest qualities are mirrored in the person of Lois Wertheim Gross, the woman he’s had the good fortune of calling his wife and partner for the last 58 years, who softens his edges and has kept him in line all these years. Theirs is a marriage of true minds, and a relationship built on mutual love and respect and commitment, which began with a phone call, which led to a blind date at a local square dance in 1957, and eventually to a happy wedding day in 1960. And that happiness endures to this day. Here’s wishing you many more wonderful journeys and adventures together around the bend.



Andy and Lois having fun in Europe, June 2015.

Meet CSU’s New President

Harland M. Sands assumed the presidency of Cleveland State University on June 1, 2018. He came to CSU from The Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania, where he served as Vice Dean of Finance and Administration, Chief Financial Officer and Chief Administrative Officer. Among his responsibilities were overseeing and administering divisions of finance/administration, budget, human resources, information technology, communications/marketing, internal audit/compliance, facilities and research data services.

Previously, President Sands was at the University of Louisville, where he served as Senior Vice President of Finance and Administration, Chief Financial Officer and Chief Operating Officer. Before that, Mr. Sands served seven-plus years at the University of Alabama at Birmingham where he was Vice Provost for Administration and Quality Improvement. Mr. Sands also previously held several positions at Florida International University

Prior to his career in higher education, Mr. Sands practiced law as an assistant public defender in Miami, where he litigated over 50 state and county court trials representing indigent clients. He also served on active duty for more than a decade in the U.S. Navy, including service as a surface warfare officer on the USS Guam and several tours of duty as an intelligence officer.

President Sands holds a B.S. in Economics (Finance) from The Wharton School, an MBA with a major in Finance from George Washington University and a J.D. from George Mason University.

Source: CSU Website at <https://www.csuohio.edu/president/president-harlan-m-sands>



OCHER Report for 2017-18**By Jeff Ford**

OCHER, the Ohio Council of Higher Education Retirees, is sponsored by STRS and is composed of delegates from the retired faculty associations at each of the Ohio public universities. Technically, each of the participating institutions is entitled to two delegates; however, our RFPSA has been appointing four OCHER delegates to try to ensure our representation at the Council meetings. Our current OCHER representatives are Mickey Barnard, Beth Cagan, Jeff Ford, and Glending Olson. The Council typically meets four times each academic year at the STRS offices in Columbus.

The Council provides a forum for both STRS and OPERS to communicate information to retirees about prospects for and changes in the pension plans and to receive their feedback. For the past several years, the principal topics of concern have been changes in the plans necessitated by the need to meet State requirements for funding brought about primarily by changes in the method of projecting the costs of future pension obligations and by reduced income from investments in the years following the 2008 recession. As STRS participants are aware, this has entailed changes in the plan primarily affecting new and currently active STRS enrollees, and increased uncertainties about the future of medical benefits for STRS retirees. In response to the decision to discontinue the allotment of 1% of the employer contributions to funding health care, to declines in investment income, and to rising medical costs, medical premiums for retired participants have risen and the subsidy for Medicare enrollees to offset Medicare premiums is being phased out over a three-year period.

The current academic year has generally been uneventful, and the last meeting of the year provided good news, at least for the short term. Thanks to medical costs coming in below what was projected and improved income from investments, monthly premiums for Medicare enrollees in the STRS Aetna Medicare Advantage and Medical Mutual Basic plans will be unchanged in 2018-2019. The subsidy for Basic Plan, non-Medicare enrollees with at least 30 years of service will also remain unchanged for the coming year. Furthermore, the current academic year is the third in the three-year phasing out of the subsidy for Medicare premiums. Because of these positive changes, the subsidy will be continued for one more year at the current amount of \$29.90 monthly. Currently, there is no proposal to restore the COLA that was suspended two years ago, and, in view of the multiple financial and legislative uncertainties, no assurance that these positive prospects will continue beyond next year.

RFPSA Election Nominees

The following RFPSA members have been identified by the Nominating Committee for Board positions and will be subject to an election to be conducted by mail:

Vicki Plata—Vice President (and President-Elect)

Carol Stolarski—Secretary (two-year term)

A nominee for a two-year position as Representative to Faculty Senate is yet to be named. As was stated in the President's Letter on page 1, on July 1, Maggie Jackson will become president of RFPSA for 2018-19. Lee Makela will remain on the Board as past president, and Judith Richards will serve the second year of her two-year term as Treasurer. At its first meeting of the new year, the Executive Board will appoint a communications coordinator and four representatives to OCHER.

Faculty Senate Report for 2017-18

By David Larson and Douglas Stewart

As was the case in 2016-17, during 2017-18, most issues at Faculty Senate were decided without much debate. The University Curriculum Committee, University Faculty Affairs Committee, and Admissions and Standards Committee all worked diligently behind the scenes to craft motions that were accepted with minimal dissent. The one curricular issue that had prompted significant debate the previous year—responding to the State’s mandate that low enrolling programs that are duplicated by near-by state universities be cut, merged, or offered jointly with another university—was resolved without the loss of valuable programs. Three matters did provoke significant discussion at Senate this past year: parking, the search for a new CSU president, and budgetary shortfalls.

The CSU administration announced last fall that it had sought bids for a private firm to manage CSU parking and that it had selected three finalists. The administration has decided that a private operator will bring in more revenue than the current system does while relieving the University of the responsibility of maintaining its parking facilities. Though the administration announced in September, 2017 its plans to select a private operator for parking in time for that firm to take over by Fall Semester, 2018, no further mention of this was made during the academic year. Consequently, the current status of this plan is unclear. There is no way of knowing what costs to students, faculty, and retired faculty outsourcing of parking will bring if it takes place.

There is also little to report on the search for a new CSU president beyond the fact that, as has been announced, it resulted in the hiring of Harlan M. Sands as CSU’s new president. The search committee, which included several faculty members, operated under the strictest secrecy. When Bernie Moreno, the trustee who served as chair of the Presidential Search Committee, reported last fall to Faculty Senate, he assured the Senate that there were many outstanding applicants and that the faculty members on the search committee had been instrumental in choosing strong candidates. He also informed the Senate that, as was the case with the previous presidential search, the finalists would not be presented to the CSU community for feedback before the trustees made their final decision. He also stated that non-academics would be considered for the post, a statement that provoked some concern among the senators. As it happens, the chosen candidate does possess a J.D. and several years of experience in university administration, most of them as a financial officer.

The most serious issues facing CSU currently and in the foreseeable future are projected budgetary shortfalls. For the 2017-18 academic year, the shortfall was \$1.8 million. This gap was closed by stopping incomplete faculty searches in midstream, laying off five staff members, and making unspecified administrative cuts. For 2018-19, the projected shortfall is \$2.1 million. To address this issue, the administration created an ad hoc “Structural Solutions Committee,” consisting of both faculty and administrators, which presented proposals to President Berkman for reorganizing the university to save money. Although no details of the Committee’s proposals were released, the Senate was assured that most of next year’s savings would come from administrative reorganization and that no direct cuts are being made to the colleges next year. President Berkman accepted the Committee’s recommendations, and these changes are expected to cover next year’s projected shortfall.

Budgetary issues are projected to become more severe over the next five years because international student enrollment continues to drop, especially in graduate programs, and the state continues to freeze tuition while declining to increase state universities’ subsidy. The state subsidy now pays for only 25% of the cost of a student’s education at CSU. Without changes the projected long term annual budget shortfall is \$5.2 million.

CSU is taking steps to deal with projected deficits besides restructuring the university. First-year student retention has increased significantly in the last few years, and the Provost intends to ensure that it continues to rise. CSU has adopted a tuition freeze program, ensuring that incoming first-year students will pay the same tuition for four years. This will allow a 6% tuition increase for first-year students next fall. The administration also intends to cut summer session instructional costs by reducing lecturers’ summer salaries. Although it has declined to increase the subsidy, the state has awarded CSU \$15 million in capital funds over the next biennium, money that will be used to renovate some classrooms and complete the renovation of the Rhodes Tower elevators.

Finally, the Senate has been thrust into a controversy over posted flyers that attacked LGBT students. Although the anonymous, unapproved posting of these flyers was clearly in violation of current university policy, they frightened some LGBT students and led to campus forums on the tension between protecting students’ need to feel safe on a university campus and the necessity of guaranteeing free speech, even for unpopular positions. In response, the Senate is in the process of drafting a statement on free speech principles that attempts to thread this needle.

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 _____

Street Address _____

City State Zip Code

Phone (____) _____ Email _____

Please help the Association by responding to the following questions.

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

I would be interested in helping with special projects: Yes____ No____

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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