



Ohio University Emeriti Association

October 17, 2024 Luncheon

Prior to our main speaker, Michael Williford, our representative to OCHER, provided a brief summary of the ongoing events surrounding STRS and OPERS. Mike cautioned against overreacting to media accounts of disputes involving STRS and its Board members, suggesting that STRS had a need to better communicate directly and effectively with its members. Recent happenings have included the resignation of top-level management of the pension fund and the Board's consideration of a no confidence vote of STRS staff (that subsequently failed). However, despite all the public controversy, the performance of STRS has been found to be strong by various independent bodies and the target of 7% return on investments has been met for several years. Nevertheless, STRS along with OPERS are seeking an increase in employer contribution.

This month's featured speaker was Dr. Matthew Ando, Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. He was formerly associate dean at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. He indicated his decision to join Ohio University was influenced by his perception of the campus and Athens as a "magical place." He praised the institution's "distinctive culture," through which students are allowed to "become the person they want to be." Talking specifically about the College of Arts and Sciences, he emphasized the centrality of its role to provide liberal arts general education to students in all fields across the university. Finally, Dean Ando enumerated key areas of globally impactful institutional strengths that his college intends to foreground which align with the Dynamic Strategies university strategic plan. Among these were ones such as health and well-being, environmental stewardship, and international scholarship and engagement.

In closing, President Martin Tuck reminded members that no luncheon is planned for November, due to the Thanksgiving holidays, and the December luncheon will feature student performances from the Ohio University Musical Theater program. The luncheon will be held on the second Thursday of the month, December 12th in the Ohio University Inn second floor ballroom.

Reported by Emeriti Association Secretary Drew McDaniel

Photos below courtesy of Chalisa McDaniel

Dr. Matthew Ando, Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences



