Reflections on a Year as President: Thomas Frew

Serving as President of the RFA during the last year was an enjoyable honor. The group of officers could not have been more cooperative and creative. None of our successes could have been possible without their commitment, flexibility and good humor. The program for the year was filled with a diversity of events. As you read in the synopsis in the last newsletter, President Berkman met with our members in September and gave us a comprehensive view of CSU and all of its many strengths. In October we took a field trip to the Campus International School and were greeted by many happy and intelligent children and then provided with information about the school by Ron Abate and Principal Julie Beers.

Our final meeting of 2011 again changed directions. Mr. Steven Litt, Plain Dealer Art and Architecture Critic, entertained and informed us about new buildings in Cleveland and their social and artistic contributions to the Cleveland area. This meeting was very well attended and many members were actively asking questions and giving their opinions regarding various topics.

Sometimes things just work out for the better. Barbara Green had scheduled a trip to Cuba in February and agreed to share her experiences of this visit. She was able to meet with us just 10 days after her visit and her slide show and comments were informative and entertaining. Cuba, of course, had gained much attention since the Pope visited in March.

Returning in March to the topic of Cleveland, Mr. Joe Marinucci, President and CEO of the Downtown Cleveland Alliance, met with members and talked about downtown Cleveland as a compelling place to live, work, and play.

Bill Martin once again arranged for our annual April visit to the Cleveland Museum of Art, but this time he really did something spectacular. We were treated to the Rembrandt exhibit and 50 members of RFA came out on a Sunday morning to see and learn about these wonderful works of art. I don’t know how he can top this exhibit, but I am sure Bill will continue to surprise us.

The May dinner at the Cleveland Skating Club was attended by the largest group we have ever had and congrats to Ed Thomas for arranging this enjoyable evening. This year we nominated Dr. Allan Waren for an Honorary Degree and he received this award at the May graduation. He was certainly a deserving professional and colleague.

This year we also began work on up-dating the RFA By-Laws and you will see the draft of these changes accompanying this newsletter. I want to thank everyone for all of their hard work, especially those officers who attended the Columbus meetings and kept us apprised of all the happenings with the Ohio House and Senate. Additionally I want to give kudos to Don Ramos for all of his efforts to make the newsletter the great document that it is. Finally, no president could survive without our secretary, Violet Lunder, who just takes care of everything.

It has been such a pleasure serving as President this year. Each year our events grow in size and we also added many new members to the RFA. This is an important organization and one the University is coming to realize has great potential for the future of CSU. Again my thanks to everyone and good luck to Ed Thomas as he assumes the presidency this summer.
In Memorium
Rita Klinger, Prof., Music Education (4/5/12)
Francis C. "Neil" Myer, Assoc. Prof., Finance (8/6/11)
A. Haq Quershi, Prof., Electrical Engineering (7/6/11)
Charles T. Rini, Prof., Finance (2/20/12)
Herbert Schlosser, Assoc. Prof., Physics (2/27/12)
Edric A. Weld, Jr., Assoc. Prof., Urban Studies (9/25/11)

Retirements
Ching-Lung Chang, Prof., Mathematics (5/31/12)
Njeri Nuru-Holm, V.P. for Institutional Diversity (6/30/12)
Richard Hurwitz (HPERD, COEHS)
Alan Reichert, Prof., Finance (12/31/11)
Robert Scherer, Dean, College of Business Administration (6/30/12)
Ravindra Kamath, Prof., Finance (12/31/11)
James "Jay" McLoughlin (Dean COEHS, Professor in Special Education)
Sarah Toman (Counseling, COEHS)

Retired Faculty Association Officers and Executive Board Members
Academic Year 2011-2012
President, Thomas Frew
Vice President and President Elect, Edward Thomas
Secretary, Ann Bell
Treasurer, Joyce Zabor
Past President, Barbara Green

Representatives to Faculty Senate
Glending Olson
Chittaranjan Jain

Representatives to OCHER
Beth Cagan
B. James(Jim) Kweder
Glending Olson
Donald Ramos

Newsletter/Webpage Editor
Donald Ramos

Annual Banquet of the RFA, May 2012
photos posted on web site:
http://academic.csuohio.edu/rfa

The RFA WebSite is Alive and Kicking
Check it out!
http://academic.csuohio.edu/rfa
If you have suggestions, stories or comments, please contact don ramos d.ramos@csuohio.edu

Tom Frew and Ed Thomas: The Changing of the Guard at the Banquet
The most recent OCHER meeting was held on May 15 at the STRS building in Columbus. Beth Cagan, Glending Olson and Don Ramos represented CSU. The primary focus of the meeting was the pending reform of the STRS Pension Plan. This is a process begun in 2009 and failure to effect the proposed changes jeopardizes the future of the entire system. Time is critical here.

Nick Treneff, the new Director of Communications for STRS (he replaced Laura Ecklar who visited CSU last year), presented a report on the most recent iteration of the Pension Reform Plan submitted to the state legislature. Because that proposal has been widely distributed and is available on the STRS web site (https://www.strsoh.org), I will not discuss its details. But if you have not read the proposal, it is important that you do so.

Much of the discussion focused around the somewhat surprising decision by state Senate leaders to move forward with four of the five state pension plan proposals. Senate President Tom Niehaus (R-New Richmond) and Minority Leader Eric Kearney (D-Cincinnati) introduced a bill dealing with the STRS pension reform proposal as Senate Bill 342. There was a feeling that this move was intended to remove the discussion of pension reform or of cuts in benefits from the table on the eve of an election. Perhaps a factor in such thinking is that there are close to 700,000 active members of the five pension plans and a bit over 400,000 plan beneficiaries (the STRS numbers are 177,897 actives and 133,088 beneficiaries) who could constitute an important voting bloc. In that regard, it is important to remember the repeal of SB5. The House appears, at this moment, to be making a different calculation. The legislature had commissioned an independent actuarial report on the five systems. That report is not due to be delivered until July. Apparently there is sentiment in the House to wait on that report.

Normally, I would urge you to “stay tuned”. But at this moment that is not enough. There was general sentiment that is important for us to act...now. That action could take various forms (emails, phone calls, etc.) but the most important is to write your state representative and senator. Legislators need to know the views of the STRS constituency. You have received emails from the Retired Faculty Association with information about informing the state legislators of your wishes. Take the time to review the proposal (https://www.strsoh.org/pdfs/40-305.pdf) and then contact your representative.

Treneff’s report was informative in other ways as well. While the final actuarial report commissioned by the state legislature is not due until July, a preliminary report has already been submitted. In it, the operating assumption was to maintain the current defined benefit program (rather than the defined contribution alternative). This issue has been discussed in earlier Newsletter issues. The report in this regard is very important.

The state mandates that the pension systems maintain a thirty year funding requirement. The current funding period greatly exceeds that; it was 41.2 years before the recession of 2008. The new proposal reduces that period to about 33 years and anticipates getting to the 30 year target within two or three years after the adoption of the proposed reforms. There was a recurring discussion of the funded status of the STRS pension program. Currently that stands at 58.2%, that is, current assets represent 58.2% of liabilities. The current proposal would raise that to about 66% while 85% is considered to be good. The discussion involved the import of these numbers. The general sentiment among those present was that STRS was in good shape. I suspect that we will return to this discussion.

Very significantly, Treneff reported that the STRS Health Care Plan is solvent until 2039. In this discussion it emerged that the STRS staff is assuming a generally lower inflation rate in the future (higher for the next few years and then dropping). This estimate is critical in view of the proposed cut in the COLA (in
various ways depending on one’s retirement status) to 2%. Treneff also noted that the average retirement age for STRS members was 59 years. We need to inform ourselves of the proposed reforms and then we need to act. At this point, you should thank your state senator for taking action and urge your House representative to do the same.

Don Ramos

Some of the models in the painting reveal Rembrandt’s personal life. Among these are Hendrickje Stoffels, Rembrandt’s housekeeper, then his mistress, and still later his common-law wife and stepmother to Rembrandt’s son Titus, and finally his business manager. The painting of Minerva underwent a similar rocky transition. Experts feel the model for Minerva was Stoffels and the painting was attributed to her lover Rembrandt. However the painting was removed from the corpus of Rembrandt’s work only to have his authorship more recently restored. In her discussion of Rembrandt’s personal life, Ms Ashton mentioned the novel Rembrandt’s Whore by Sylvie Matton which is a depiction of the second half of Rembrandt’s life as told by Stoffels.

After the tour, most members of the group adjourned to Nighttown to brunch and to discuss Rembrandt in America. Our thanks go to Bill Martin for organizing another special and very successful outing of the Association.

Don Ramos

Continued from page 11

**Rembrandt in America**

Parking on Campus

We recently received an email message from the University’s Parking Department. It is reprinted here for those who might have missed it.

“However, please note that there are NO CHANGES planned for the Emeritus and Associates of the University parking program this year. The impact on you will simply be that your hangtag will be valid for one month longer than expected.

We anticipate that the new 2012-13 hangtags will be available on June 15th, 2012 and the Parking Department will communicate with you about how to renew your hangtag at that time.”
Our colleague Barbara Green, Professor Emerita of Political Science, reported on her 11-day visit to Cuba in February 2012 as part of a U.S. State Department sanctioned “religious and cultural study” trip. She emphasized that she was not an expert on Cuba. Her presentation included numerous photographs and highlighted several issues. High among these were the steps toward economic liberalization initiated by Raul Castro. These have followed and continued the emphasis on tourism as a necessary element in Cuba’s economic recovery from a desperate period following the withdrawal of support after the collapse of the Soviet Union.

The emphasis on tourism has led to a two-tiered economy. All have access to limited rationed basics available for pesos. But those in tourism or with relatives in the U.S. have access to Cuban convertible currency (CUCs). TVs, washing machines, computers, and baby carriages, for example, are only available for CUCs.

Although most people do not attend church, religious freedom has been increasing since the visit to Cuba of Pope John Paul. It was expected to increase with the visit of Pope Benedict. The group visited churches, synagogues, and santeria centers and had time to speak with religious representatives.

Green contrasted the economic loosening with the continuation of tight political controls, although these too are gradually loosening. Several people, Green said, emphasized that Cuba was now at a crucial turning point.

Green highlighted the great friendliness of the Cuban people who sought to do everything they could to make the visitors welcome. This was evident as they visited markets, stores, restaurants, attended a baseball game, and walked along the streets - streets filled with music. Cuban music is world famous and its infectious rhythm a constant presence.

The trip included a visit to a rural school and a pre-school run by nuns. Schools are viewed by the Cuban government and people as one of the greatest successes of the revolution.

Also clearly evident was the deterioration of urban buildings. The multiple economic crises confronted by Cubans have wrought a heavy toll on the physical infrastructure of the island.

Cuba remains an island of contrasts with the heavy hand of the government juxtaposed with the vitality of Cuban culture and people, physical decadence and human vitality.
RFA Program: Joe Marinucci

Joseph A. Marinucci, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Downtown Cleveland Alliance spoke to the RFA on March 15. The Alliance oversees programs designed to spur investment in downtown Cleveland. Joe works closely with developers and businesses, facilitating those seeking to invest in downtown Cleveland. The Alliance runs advertising campaigns branding Cleveland as a place to be in Crain’s Cleveland Business, Wall Street Journal, and Forbes. It is the ‘go to’ place for Cleveland investors. Mr. Marinucci was introduced by Jim Kweder. Jim mentioned that Joe Marinucci is a 1979 graduate of CSU with a degree in Political Science, and Joe indicated that Jim still looks very good at the front of a classroom.

We could feel the energy as Joe began talking about what he called the breathtaking changes that are occurring in downtown Cleveland. He mentioned the growing downtown neighborhoods, the new East Fourth restaurant district, the sports arenas, and the renovation of Playhouse Square. He said that, except for Chicago, Cleveland has done more historical preservation than any other city in the country. The Old Arcade, Perry Payne, and Calfee Halter are examples.

As he was talking, Joe was showing slides of coming attractions - The Medical Mart and Cleveland Convention Center, The Wolstein Office Tower (Tucker Ellis) and The Aloft Hotel on the east bank of the Flats, the Horseshoe Casino and the Innerbelt Bridge.

Some in the audience who have been around here for a few years asked why Joe thinks this time a Cleveland renaissance is really happening. He said that a key to making downtowns work today is bringing in people. People like to be around other people. Downtowns are not just retail centers anymore, or office centers, or entertainment centers. The environment must be diversified, including downtown residents. Downtown Cleveland is the fastest growing neighborhood in town with 10,000 current residents. More information about downtown living is available in the Alliance publication, Downtown Digs.

The Alliance sponsors several downtown events such as the Sparx City Hop and Winterfest which are designed to show Clevelanders and visitors the many attractions of downtown.

People will come to an area, Joe said, that feels clean and safe. The Alliance fosters that feeling with a team of Clean and Safe Ambassadors whose primary job is acting as concierges for the City. Dozens of Ambassadors in blue and yellow uniforms stroll the inner city streets to provide directions and information about hotels, attractions, restaurants, and parking. The Ambassadors are connected by radio to peace officers and can call for help. The Ambassadors pick up litter, sweep sidewalks, water plants and keep the downtown area beautiful. The program, paid for by Alliance business and property owners, has been tremendously successful, making Downtown a more desirable place to live, work and visit.

Joe closed his presentation with an upbeat new two minute Cleveland Rocks video which is available on Facebook. (14,000 hits to date)

The web address for the Downtown Cleveland Alliance is:

http://www.downtownclevelandalliance.com/home.aspx
Proposed By-Law Revisions

The Executive Board of the RFA is proposing modifications to the By-Laws of the RFA. The proposal follows. Please read them carefully. They will be voted upon at an early Fall meeting. Please note that the lined out portions are proposed to be removed and the highlighted portions are to be added if approved.

CLEVELAND STATE UNIVERSITY
RETIREd FACULTY AND PROFESSIONAL STAFF ASSOCIATION
BYLAWS

ARTICLE I – NAME

The Name of this nonprofit organization is the Cleveland State University Retired Faculty and Professional Staff Association.

ARTICLE II – PURPOSE

The purpose of the Association is to provide an opportunity for former full-time members of the Cleveland State University faculty and professional staff to continue their involvement in the cultural and educational activities of the University, to promote the interests of these retired faculty, and to engage in such other activities as may be appropriate.

ARTICLE III – MEMBERSHIP

Membership shall be open to all retired Cleveland State University faculty, Associates of the University, professional staff, librarians, and others who have had significant involvement in instruction at CSU, regardless of their retirement status. In doubtful cases, eligibility for membership shall be determined by the Executive Board. Spouses and domestic partners shall be welcomed as non-voting members.

ARTICLE IV – GOVERNANCE OF THE ASSOCIATION

Section I – Executive Board (hereafter referred to as the “Board”)
The Board is composed of four elected officers; and the immediate Past President; and the appointed Communications Coordinator.

Section 2 – Officers and Duties
The President presides over all meetings of the Association and the Board, serves as a member of the Recognition Committee of the CSU Board of Trustees, and performs duties as usually pertain to the office.

The Vice President, who is also President Elect, serves in the absence of the President and is responsible for organizing the annual dinner.

The Secretary keeps minutes of all meetings of the Association and the Board and performs such duties as generally relate to the Office.
The Treasurer maintains the accounts of the Association, receives and disburses all monies, and prepares an annual summary of all income and expenditures.

The Communications Coordinator is responsible for the publication of the Association newsletter and for maintaining the Association website. This individual shall be appointed by the Board.

The President and the Vice President serve one-year terms; the Secretary, Treasurer and Communications Coordinator serve two-year terms.

Section 3 - The duties of the Board are:
(a) to hold regular meetings (the President being empowered to call special meetings);
(b) to receive and review secretarial and financial reports;
(c) to develop policies for the planning and promotion of programs and activities;
(d) to have general supervision of the affairs between general meetings of the Association, to fix the hour and place of meetings, to make recommendations, and to perform such duties as are authorized by the Association. No action of the Board shall conflict with actions taken by a general meeting of the Association.
(e) to elect a successor to any member of the Board who is unable to serve;
(f) to nominate retirees for the granting of an honorary degree.

Section 4 - Terms of Office
The business year of the Association starts on July 1.
The President and the Vice President serve for a one-year term.
The Secretary and the Treasurer are elected for two-year terms. The representatives to Faculty Senate are elected for staggered two-year terms.

Section 43 - Representatives to Faculty Senate
The Association shall elect two members as corresponding non-voting representatives to members of the Faculty Senate and non-voting representatives to the Board representing the Retired Faculty Association shall be elected annually. Those elected take office on July 1 and serve staggered two-year terms. Members elected take office on September 1.

Section 5 - Representatives to the Ohio Council of Higher Education Retirees (OCHER)
The Board shall appoint annually no fewer than two members of CSU RFA the Association to serve as representatives to the Ohio Council of Higher Education Retirees (OCHER). All such appointed members shall be designated as non-voting members of the Board.

Section 65 - Elections
The Nominating Committee, appointed by the President with the approval of the Board, shall solicit names from the membership for all elective positions and representatives to Faculty Senate, and will prepare a ballot having secured consent of the nominees. Nominations from the membership and the Nominating Committee shall be placed on a ballot and mailed to the membership. Two weeks after mailing the ballot to the membership, the
returns shall be tabulated by a committee of three tellers appointed by the President. Any nominee receiving a plurality of the votes from the returned ballots is elected. The election process shall begin by April 15.

Section 76 – Committees
All committees as needed are appointed by the President, with the approval of the Board.

ARTICLE V – DUES
In March, annual dues may be set by the Board as needed. Mail ballots shall be sent out only to members who have paid their annual dues.

ARTICLE VI – MEETINGS
There shall be regular meetings of the membership as determined by the President and the Board. Ten members shall constitute a quorum to vote on all matters unless a mail ballot is called for by at least three (3) members or directed by the Executive Board.

ARTICLE VII – AMENDMENTS
These Bylaws may be amended at any meeting of the membership by a majority vote of the members present and voting, provided that the proposed amendment has been submitted at a preceding meeting or in a notice mailed to all members not less than one month prior to the vote.

Previously amended: May 21, 2009
Proposed amended Bylaws approved by RFA Board: April 12, 2012
If approved, amendments to the Bylaws will take effect immediately.

Spring Elections 2012-2013
At the May RFA banquet the results of the spring election were announced. Officers for the coming year are:
President – Edward Thomas (current Vice President)
Vice President and President Elect – Michael Wells (newly elected)
Treasurer – Joyce Zabor (continuing)
Secretary – Ann Bell (re-elected)
Representatives to Faculty Senate – Anita Stoll (newly elected) and Chittaranjan Jain (continuing)
Allan Waren was awarded an honorary degree of Doctor of Humane Letters at the May 12, 2012 Commencement ceremony. In his letter of nomination, Dr. Edward Thomas, in-coming president of RFA, noted that “In his more than 40 years of service to this institution, Dr. Waren has performed in a variety of roles with distinction and has represented the university with honor.”

As his resume documents, Dr. Waren has excelled as a scholar, having authored or co-authored 3 books, 8 book chapters, 37 refereed journal articles, 2 case studies (which have been reprinted in numerous textbooks), and more than 40 conference papers, 12 of which were presented in the refereed proceedings of the conferences. He also was the principal investigator or consultant on a half dozen funded research projects. As an expert in linear and non-linear programming, optimization techniques, and engineering design, Dr. Waren and his associates have developed a number of commercially viable software packages that have helped solve problems faced by manufacturing firms and other organizations.

In his teaching role, Dr. Waren has also distinguished himself. Over the years, he has taught more than 20 different computer science courses, many of which he also designed and developed. His reputation as a classroom teacher is that he is “tough but fair,” and he receives high marks from his students. Since retiring from the University in 1993, Professor Waren has continued to teach regularly as a part-time faculty member.

In his service role, he was involved in numerous departmental, college, and university committees, often taking a leadership position. Several times he served on search committees for key personnel, and his advice was often sought by university administrators.

Even though his academic career was a distinguished one, his service as an administrator was equally successful. He served as chair of the Department of Computer and Information Science from 1971 until 1975 at a time when the department was in its infancy. Under his leadership, the department grew rapidly, and he oversaw the development of many of the programs, major tracks, and courses that would put it on a firm footing for the future. Later, he served as interim dean in the James J. Nance College of Business Administration (now the Monte Ahuja College of Business), not once but twice, first in 1991-92 and again in 1998-2000. In both cases, he took over at critical times and provided the leadership necessary to keep the college moving forward.

Dr. Waren has distinguished himself through his contributions as a scholar, teacher, and software developer. He has excelled not only in his role as a faculty member, but also as an academic administrator. His research and publications have had a positive impact not only on theories in his field but also on practical applications in the business world.

For his many contributions to students, the college, the university, and the business world Professor Allan D. Waren is a worthy recipient of the Distinguished Emeritus Faculty Honorary Degree.

We congratulate our colleague, Dr. Allan Waren.
On Sunday, April 22 a group of about fifty members of the RFA and family members met at the Cleveland Museum of Art for a guided tour, organized by Bill Martin, of the Rembrandt in America exhibition. Attendance was a record and necessitated the use of two guides. My wife and I joined the group led by Pat Ashton, enticed by the guide who had led us through the Caravaggio tour last year and by the availability of an automated sound system (which worked splendidly). Ashton, as she had last year, provided an excellent and highly personalized vision of the exhibit filled with accounts of the personal life of Rembrandt van Rijn, the famed Dutch painter of the 17th century.

The exhibit proved to be a sharp departure from traditional exhibitions. It focused on issues related to connoisseurship, specifically matters of authenticity and attribution. Attribution is a complicated and fascinating world of nuance – the use of space, brush strokes, shape of hands and heads, shades of paint, interiority, intensity, and the use of shadows to assign authorship. That is evident on entering the first exhibit room where we were confronted with a large visual description of the seven levels of attribution from works by Rembrandt himself to those by his followers. The exhibition functions on several levels and Ms. Ashton did an excellent job of describing the levels as applied to specific works. The exhibit contained some fifty works, including thirty attributed to Rembrandt.

All the works were imported into the U.S. in the late 19th century or later as newly rich Americans sought to demonstrate their cultural awareness and economic prowess. Many of their works would bear the signature of the master artist. But many of these works, including some bearing Rembrandt’s signature, later turned out not to be by the artist himself, including some which made their way to Cleveland. Rembrandt’s workshop involved some fifty apprentices who sought to copy the master. And that sets up the mystery. What do we know and how do we know it? It is a fascinating who-done-it complete with forensics. And the story is filled with plot twists. For example, Rembrandt as a Young Man, painted circa 1630-1635, was initially attributed to Rembrandt but then later attributed to a 17th century follower of Rembrandt and then in 2007 attributed to someone from his inner circle. Or the Portrait of a Man and the Portrait of a Woman, works purchased by an American nouveau riche have also gone through several stages. Originally attributed to Rembrandt, these matching paintings now have a more complicated attribution: the Portrait of a Man is attributed to Rembrandt but that of the Woman is attributed in large measure to someone else.

The Portrait of a Woman, 1665, was the first Rembrandt purchased by a Clevelander and Ms Ashton’s treatment brought me back to the Museum for a second visit. In a smaller room is a detailed analysis of the work subjected to various types of light sources including infra-red, ultraviolet, x-ray and raking light to reveal modifications to the original.

Continued on page 4
Cleveland State University Retired Faculty Association
Membership Form
Please complete and return this form with your check for dues payable to CSU RFA. Dues are $10 a year or $125 for lifetime membership. Mail to Violet Lunder, Main Classroom 320, CSU, Cleveland, Ohio 44115

Name__________________________________________________________

Address_______________________________________________________
   Street                     City                  State           Zip Code

Phone (____)__________________    email address ____________________________

Please help the Association by answering the following questions.
   I would be interested in serving as an officer of the Association: Yes____ No____
   I would be interesting in helping with special projects: Yes____ No____
   I suggest the following programs and/or speakers for future events: ___________
   _____________________________________________________________________

   Also, I would be interested in giving a presentation on the following topic:
   _____________________________________________________________________