OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY RETIREES ASSOCIATION

2025 Ballot



Members at Large (Select no more than 3)

Bennet Givens

Bennet began at Ohio State in 1991 in the Department of Psychology, earning promotion to Associate Professor in 1997. As a behavioral neuroscientist, he led a research laboratory and contributed to the undergraduate, graduate, and broader neuroscience community at Ohio State through research and teaching. Ben held administrative positions of vice-chair of the department, chair of the Faculty Council, and secretary of the University Senate. He helped make the Senate more inclusive by adding staff senators to the voting membership. Since retiring in 2024, Ben has enjoyed spending time with his wife, Susan, and their dog, Beau. They love traveling to visit their sons and spending time at their cabin in Virginia. Ben also stays active as an ice hockey official and looks forward to fostering connections among fellow Buckeyes through OSURA.

■ Jo McCulty

Jo served as a University Photographer for 37 years. She produced documentary, portraiture, illustration, feature, news and landscape photography for partners across all campuses and provided images for a range of publications, including Ohio State Alumni Magazine. She earned numerous awards for her work, including a Distinguished Staff Award. Jo holds a BA in journalism with a minor in photography and an MA in education from Ohio State. She retired

To use an on-line ballot, you should look for an email around May 15. That email will have a link to the electronic ballot. The electronic ballots will be accepted until May 24, 2025. If you choose the paper ballot, please make your selections on this ballot and return it by U.S. postal mail to: OSURA, P.O. Box 14533, Columbus, OH 43214. Please mail your ballot no later than May 22, 2025.

in 2022 and enjoys classes at the YMCA, learning Spanish and meeting friends for art and outdoor activities. She volunteers for University Archives and does dog portraits to promote shelter adoptions. Jo would be honored to serve on the OSURA board. She has enjoyed Annual Conference sessions, tours and the opportunity to lead a photography session in 2024.

Susan Tilgner

Susan received her MS in Preventive Medicine and BS in Allied Medical Professions from Ohio State. She was a Registered Dietitian at the OSU Wilce Student Health Center while she worked on her graduate degree. After graduation, she served as an Epidemiologist with Columbus Public Health and then as the Marion City Health Commissioner. In 1999 she was hired as the first woman Health Commissioner in Franklin County. Susan officially retired in 2016 but continues as a public health consultant. She has served on many Boards and is currently the Board Chair of SWACO, which oversees the Franklin County Landfill and recycling initiatives. Susan enjoys quilting and likes being a lifelong learner. She very much enjoyed the OSURA trip to Washington DC last spring and would welcome the opportunity to serve on the OSURA Board.

Vice President/President-Elect

Mary Jo Fresch

Mary Jo received her B.S. in Elementary Education and M.S. in Reading Supervision from the University of Akron. After teaching 3rd grade, she became an instructor of pre-service teachers at the University of Nebraska. In 1988 Mary Jo completed her Ph.D. in Language, Literature, and Culture at Ohio State. She spent three years teaching literacy courses at Deakin University and Melbourne Institute of Technology in Melbourne, Australia. Mary Jo returned to Columbus in 1995, securing a position in the College of Education and Human Ecology at Ohio State-Marion. She retired as Full Professor in 2015. Mary Jo is a literacy consultant to schools and just finished writing her 23rd book for teachers. She has served on the OSURA Executive Board as a Member at Large and currently is liaison for the Emeritus Academy and serving her third year on the conference committee. Mary Jo likes snuggling up with a good book and enjoys walking, traveling, and going to her five grandchildren's sporting events with her husband, Hank.

Treasurer

□ Catherine P. Montalto

Catherine retired as Associate Professor Emeritus in Consumer Sciences in the College of Human Ecology in 2022 after 35 years of service to Ohio State. Her teaching and research focus on college student financial wellness. Catherine served as a Faculty Fellow in the Office of Academic Affairs and co-chaired the General Education Review Coordinating Committee in 2017. From 2018-2020 she served as director of First Year Experience supporting students as they transition to Ohio State, and through their first year. She is a member of Ohio Staters, Inc., a 501(c)(3) organization and served as Faculty Treasurer for 20 years. Catherine received her PhD from Cornell University and her master's and bachelor's degrees from Ohio State. In retirement, Catherine enjoys continued involvement in research and professional organizations, and she chairs the Mortar Board Alumni Scholarship Committee. In her free time, she enjoys reading, walking, and time with family, especially her grandson who turned one in February!