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Presentation by Thomas H. Baughman on February 1 **“Antarctica, Past and Present”**

Having traveled to Antarctica as a tourist, Thomas Baughman developed a special interest in this continent at the bottom of the world. Perhaps it is fitting that he will deliver his Torch paper, “Antarctica, Past and Present,” in the middle of winter on February 1.

As a result of his visit and his research, Tom will discuss Antarctica’s geography, geology, flora and fauna. He will report on the continent’s discovery and exploration and the Antarctica Treaty that governs human activity on the continent. He’ll touch on polar science, including snowfall and ice melt, the South magnetic pole, and the impact of ozone.

Biography of Thomas Baughman

With an interest in possibly attending medical school, Thomas Baughman earned a B.S. degree with a major in anatomy from Ohio State in 1965. Uncertain about a medical career path, Tom pursued a master’s degree in history for a year before deciding to attend law school at Western Reserve University, receiving his J.D. degree in 1969.

Tom practiced law for seven years at a medium-large corporate law firm. He found the practice of law was different from the study of law, so he took refresher courses in biology and chemistry in the evenings and early mornings. He left the law firm to serve as an assistant U.S. attorney for the Northern District of Ohio. After two years in that position, he entered Ohio State’s medical college.

Thomas earned his M.D. in 1982, served a residency in internal medicine at Riverside Hospital from 1982 to 1984, and then had a solo practice of general medicine near German Village for 16 years. He and his wife, Lee Ann, have two children and two grandchildren. In retirement, they have taken many courses through Ohio State’s Program 60, have learned Spanish by immersion with Costa Rican and Guatemalan families and schools, and have traveled widely.



Tom Baughman

President's Message: Torch has two goals in advance of centennial

With stability at the senior leadership level of International Torch, we all need to look to the future. The most notable milestone that is approaching is the 100th anniversary of Torch on June 18, 2024, just six years away. Two related goals for that milestone are to add about 25 clubs to the existing 70 and to reach a total membership of 5,000, up from about 2,500. Both are clearly ambitious. During the Great Recession, Torch lost 16 percent of its membership and two clubs (Portland, Maine, and Grand Rapids, Michigan), presumably due to financial pressures.



Rich Davis

The average club has about 35 members, while we are just a few members short of our typical 90. That allows us to remain the largest club, which gives us great financial stability and depth. Some of the smaller clubs actually have to rely on guest speakers to present “Torch” papers. A lot of our success can be credited to our indefatigable membership chair, Dorothy Driskell. However, we all have our own responsibilities to identify potential new members and, equally important, to interact with and welcome guests and new members. Having 90 members is great, but it can be intimidating to assimilate into a very large longstanding club. We succeed though good food, good fellowship and sharing knowledge. If there is anything the board or I can do to improve the Torch experience, please let us know.

P.S. I built up expectations for the January meal in last month’s newsletter, but I heard some negative comments after it was consumed. I apologize for both the meal and the buildup. The Faculty Club chef was very limited in what he could order from their supplier, as we were the only meal being served that week (the club was closed). We plan to do better in February.

Member's Moment – Donald W. Larson

Presented by Richard L. Meyer on January 4, 2018

Don was born in 1940 on a family farm near Avoca, a rural metropolis of about 300 people in south-western Minnesota. His parents considered it an “enlightening” experience because on that same day the cooperative Rural Electric Association turned on electric power to their farm for the first time. He had two brothers and two sisters. The farm was settled under the U.S. Homestead Act by his maternal grandfather, an immigrant from Sweden. Minnesota recognized it as a centennial farm in 1978, and it is now in the third generation of continuous family ownership.

Don attended a one-room country school where grades one through seven had a total of about 20 students. For all seven years, he had the same teacher for all subjects. Today that might be called an alternative informal classroom plan. In addition to academic work, the students’ responsibilities included carrying drinking water from the outside well, fetching coal or wood for the stove, cleaning blackboards, and sweeping the floors.

Don attended grades 8 through 12 in a big-time high school in Slayton, Minn., (population 2,000) where each grade had about 70 students. After graduating from high school, he earned a B.S. degree from South Dakota State University and M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in agricultural economics from Michigan State University. Don joined Ohio State’s Department of Agricultural, Environmental, and Development Economics in 1970. He retired as professor emeritus in 2006 after 36 years of service and retired a second time at the end of a research contract in 2013.

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Member's Moment – Donald W. Larson

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Don's teaching and research career has focused mainly on agribusiness marketing, price policy, and rural financial markets in the U.S. and developing countries. He studied these topics for over six years while residing in the Latin American countries of Brazil and Colombia. For the first year in Brazil and two years in Colombia, he worked on U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) contracts with Michigan State on food marketing research projects. His first three years at Ohio State were spent working on the university's USAID contracts to develop agricultural graduate programs in the School of Agriculture of the University of Sao Paulo in Piracicaba, Sao Paulo, Brazil, which was one of the first to offer such graduate programs in Brazil.

After returning to Columbus in 1974, Don taught undergraduate and graduate courses, advised graduate students, and conducted research. He also was associate chair for undergraduate programs in the department from 1987 to 1998 and served on many college committees. From 2006 to 2013, he was co-principal investigator of the OSU/USAID/University of Nebraska research contract to study market development for improving incomes and productivity of sorghum and millet farmers in Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia. A year ago, he presented to the Torch Club the principal research results, which included the production of African sorghum beer. Unfortunately, he did not provide us with tasting samples of the beer.

Don has studied and provided technical assistance in his specialty areas in many short-term assignments with international agencies including the Inter-American Development Bank, World Bank, USAID, and several consulting companies in more than 50 countries of Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America, and the Caribbean. He has advised over 50 graduate students, one of whom won the Outstanding Master's Thesis Award of the American Agricultural Economics Association. He also has published over 100 papers, journal articles, and book chapters.

Don joined the Torch Club in 2012. He was also selected for membership in Alpha Zeta, Phi Beta Delta, Phi Kappa Phi and Gamma Sigma Delta honoraries. In 1989, he shared with five other faculty members the "Distinguished Policy Contribution Award" granted to Ohio State's International Rural Finance group by the American Agricultural Economics Association for rural financial market policy research.

Don has been married to Karen, his high school sweetheart, for 55 years. They have a son, Michael, born in Colombia, a daughter, Andrea, born in Brazil, and a daughter, Kristina, born in Columbus. They all graduated from Ohio colleges, two live in Columbus, and one in the Chicago area. All three and their seven grandchildren are fervent Buckeye fans. The Larsons have attended bowl games, and last week, one daughter and her family attended the Cotton Bowl.

Since retiring, Don and Karen have provided leadership in their activities in the Ohio State University Retirees Association, the Scandinavian Club of Columbus, and Holy Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church. They also have enjoyed visiting several countries including Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Germany, France, Australia, New Zealand and South Africa.

In summary, Don has come a long way since he helped light the first light bulb on the family farm and starred in the one room school in Avoca. But, alas, Avoca has not done so well. Its population has fallen to about 150.



Richard Meyer (left) and Don Larson

Responding to the Evite from Secretary Seelbach

Club secretary Thom Seelbach has sent you via electronic mail an Evite to attend the Torch Club meeting on February 1. Respond promptly to the Evite so he will have an accurate count of meals needed. You also may respond to him at tseelbach@gmail.com or (614) 457-5103.

The directions for responding to the Evite are:

1. After you click on the email from Evite, it will bring up a new window on the Evite website. You must click your response in this new window for Evite to register your response.
2. The guest count is the actual number of attendees. If only you are attending, the count will be 1. The cost for a guest to attend the meeting and dinner is \$30.

Schedule of Torch Club speakers and their papers for 2017-18

Thursday, October 5, 2017

"History of the OSU College of Optometry" by Robert Newcomb

Thursday, November 2, 2017

"Cuba Then and Now: A Contemporary Perspective" by Tricia Herban

Thursday, December 7, 2017

Chamber Music Connection String Quartet

Thursday, January 4, 2018

"Sicily: So Much More" by Christina Atzberger

Thursday, February 1, 2018

"Antarctica, Past and Present" by Thomas Baughman

Thursday, March 1, 2018

"Identifying Bottlenecks in Manufacturing Systems and Emergency Departments to Reduce Waiting Times" by Gordon Clark

Thursday, April 5, 2018

"The Evolution of Italian and English Gardens" by Nancy Verber

Thursday, May 3, 2018

"A Few of My Favorite Things: A Piano Recital" by Thomas Seelbach and the Faculty Club's Steinway

Torch Club's monthly meeting agenda

4:30-5:30 p.m. Board of Directors meeting

5:30-6:15 p.m. Cocktails and conversation

6:15-6:35 p.m. Business matters

6:35-7:30 p.m. Speaker presents Torch paper

7:30-8:45 p.m. Dinner and table discussion

Meetings are conducted in The Ohio State University Faculty Club, 181 S. Oval Drive; (614) 292-2262.

Board of Directors of Torch Club of Columbus, Ohio, for 2017-18

President – Rich Davis

President-elect – Tom Costantiello

Immediate Past President – Jeff Caswell

Secretary – Thom Seelbach

Assistant Secretary – Susan W. Smith

Treasurer – Howard Gauthier

Assistant Treasurer – Susan Tilgner

Fellowship Chair – Violet Meek

Membership Chair – Dorothy Driskell

Nominating Chair – Jeff Caswell

Newsletter Editor – Steve Sterrett

Director-at-Large Violet Meek (2018)

Director-at-Large Deborah Stevens (2018)

Director-at-Large Dorothy Driskell (2019)

Director-at-Large Richard Meyer (2019)