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Presentation by Donald W. Larson on January 5 **“Marketing Opportunities to Improve Sorghum Famers’ Incomes in East Africa”**

Don Larson, an international authority on agricultural marketing in developing countries, will deliver on January 5 a Torch paper on a project to increase sorghum farmers’ productivity as a strategy to improve food security and incomes in three African nations.

Don participated in a six-year, multi-disciplinary project to improve sorghum farmers’ productivity and income in Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia. The Ohio State University’s involvement in the project began in 2006 with a market research contract with the University of Nebraska, supported by the U.S. Agency for International Development.

“Sorghum is the second most important cereal crop, after maize, in these countries,” Don explains. “Promoting the transition of small farmers from subsistence agriculture to commercial production is an important development goal and strategy for improving food security and incomes in these countries.

“There is broad-based consensus that smallholder production can be increased through the greater use of improved agricultural technologies. However, farmers have been slow to adopt the technology. Farmers complain that lack of access to reliable markets with attractive prices reduces the incentive to adopt new technology. The OSU research focused on identifying new market opportunities for sorghum farmers and the means to link them directly to markets.”



Don Larson

Biography of Donald W. Larson

Donald W. Larson's career illustrates why The Ohio State University is known around the world for research in agricultural economics. He is a professor emeritus in the university's Department of Agricultural, Environmental, and Development Economics. His main areas of teaching and research interest are agribusiness marketing and marketing and price policy in developing countries.

Don was co-principal investigator of an Ohio State research contract through the University of Nebraska funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID). The project focused on market development to improve incomes and productivity of sorghum farmers in Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia. He has research experience in Kenya, Mozambique, Uganda, South Africa, Tanzania, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.

He has more than three years of experience on a project involving Ohio State, the University of Sao Paulo and USAID to study and teach marketing and price policy in Brazil. He has studied marketing and rural finance on short-term assignments for the Inter-American Development Bank, USAID, the World Bank and several consulting companies in more than 45 countries of Africa, Asia, Europe, South and Central America, and the Caribbean.

Don has advised more than 50 graduate students on various aspects of agribusiness marketing and marketing and price policy in developing countries. He has published over 100 papers, journal articles, and book chapters. He retired in 2006 after 36 years of service to Ohio State. He holds a B.S. degree from South Dakota State University and M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in agricultural economics from Michigan State University.

Don and his wife Karen have been married for 54 years and are the parents of a son born in Cali, Colombia, a daughter born in Piracicaba, Sao Paulo, Brazil, and a Buckeye daughter born in Columbus, Ohio. They have seven grandchildren.

President's message: Happy new year!

I'm writing this column in mid-December, in a season full of holidays (including Milad un Nabi, Hanukkah, Christmas, Kwanzaa, and I'm sure others that I have overlooked).

By the time you read this, we will have completed the celebration of all these, and at least some of you will also have watched the ball drop on New Year's Eve in Times Square.

I hope that you were able to enjoy the holidays in whatever ways are most meaningful to you. For our family, that always includes music, so we were happy to celebrate with The Early Interval at our December Torch meeting.

It seems quite fitting for January that our first Torch paper of the new calendar year focuses on opportunities for improvement. Maybe a New Year's resolution could be to try to find these opportunities, wherever they are.

I look forward to seeing all of you and continuing a great year for Torch!



Jeff Caswell

Columbus Torch Club celebrates its 90th anniversary

At its holiday meeting on December 1, the Torch Club of Columbus, Ohio, celebrated the 90th anniversary of its founding. Dorothy Driskell, club president in 2013-14 and current membership chair, delivered a history of the club. Printed below is the text of her presentation:



The Deshler-Wallick Hotel at the northwest corner of High and Broad streets in 1917. The hotel hosted the club's first meeting in 1926.

Tonight is an extra special event. Not only is it our annual holiday party, we are celebrating our birthday! We are having a "birthday party." On December 16, 2016, the Columbus Torch Club will be 90 years old. We were the ninth offspring of the founding Minneapolis club, which was chartered on July 10, 1924.

The Columbus club can be proud of many firsts:

- Our first president was McIlyar Lichliter, who was the senior pastor of the First Congregational Church in downtown Columbus. He served Torch as president for two years in 1926 and 1927.
- The first meeting location was in the Deshler-Wallick Hotel in Parlor A&B.
- The paper delivered at that first meeting was "The Operation of the City Law Department," given by the City Attorney, Charles A. Leach, who became the 15th president of the Columbus Torch Club in 1944.
- The first meeting in The Ohio State University Faculty Club was in the Private Dining Room and the Wicker Lounge on March 21,

1929, with 28 members present. Since we know the current Faculty Club building did not open until April 24, 1939, the Wicker Lounge had to be in the university's Bricker Hall.

Our Torch Club came over to the current Faculty Club building with the 1923 Steinway piano. We recently gave a donation towards its restoration in honor of George Crepeau. That means that Torch has met in this building longer than any other organization.

Columbus and Torch Conventions

We have a wonderful history with hosting Torch Conventions. The first Torch Convention held in Columbus was in 1928, less than two years after we were chartered. It was held at the Deshler-Wallick Hotel with 61 delegates from 22 clubs. It is of interest to discover that a topic of discussion was the need to recruit more young members. What's new? That was 1928!

The next Torch Convention in Columbus was 25 years later in 1952 with 35 clubs represented. The theme was "World Leadership." For the first time, a special meeting was held for ladies in attendance. The title of the ladies' talk was "Education for Marriage and Family Life." Another special feature of that convention was an airplane trip offered to those interested in observing agriculture practices in

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The Rev. McIlyar Lichliter's portrait hangs in First Congregational Church. He was the first president of the Columbus Torch Club.

Columbus Torch Club celebrates its 90th anniversary

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the area from the air. I'm sure the plane flew out of Don Scott.

Another first at that 1952 convention was the question of women being members. The question came up when a delegate from the Cumberland Valley stated: "We are situated in a town with two women's colleges, with many outstanding women serving on the faculty. Am I correct that the Torch Constitution provides for restriction of membership to men?" The answer back was a very loud yes.

Forty more years passed before Columbus once again held a Torch Convention. The year was 1992. The convention was held at the Columbus Marriott near the airport. The tours were to the Columbus Art Gallery (now the Columbus Museum of Art) to view the Monet Abstract Collection, German Village and Battelle Memorial Institute. Ohio State's bus fleet provided transportation. Many of the names of the planning committee will be very familiar. They were: George Crepeau, Jim Loomis, Don Cherry, Tom Minnick, Henry Hunker and Bob Davis.

Twenty-four more years passed swiftly by and it is 2016. Columbus has just hosted a very successful convention at the downtown Crown Plaza Hotel. The convention co-chairs were Dave Hammond and myself. It was made successful by the hard work of all of you. Thanks so much.

History of women in Columbus Torch

The earliest Columbus Torch record of when women were mentioned was February 20, 1930. It was the Annual Ladies Night. The paper was by attorney Paul Martin on "Culture and Mass Production."

The International Association of Torch Clubs (IATC) in 1957 delegated to the local clubs the question of membership criteria, including the admission of women as members. Columbus Torch, however, appears to have had little interest in admitting women.

From the minutes of the directors' meeting at the IATC Convention in Nashville, Tenn.: On April 28, 1971, Mr. Torbet, chair of the Committee on Constitution and By-Laws, pointed once again to the specific amending procedures required and emphasized that proposals to admit women to membership require a by-laws amendment only, not a constitutional amendment. Sample wording for the by-law change was distributed to all clubs.



The Early Interval performs music from Spain, Portugal and the New World at the club's holiday meeting December 1.

But the wheels of change moved slowly. An article appeared in the Columbus Torch newsletter on
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March 1, 1973, titled "Shall Torch Accept Women Members?" The newsletter notes that the club's secretary is in receipt of a communication from the Roanoke Valley Torch Club urging that consideration be given to changing the IATC Constitution to invite professional women into membership in Torch. The newsletter reported this issue has come before the IATC Convention on two occasions recently.

The question of "Shall women be admitted?" came up again in the Columbus Torch newsletter on January 8, 1976. The newsletter reported that members of Columbus Torch have answered this question in the negative, at least two earlier years, by giving direction to the club's delegates to the IATC annual meeting to answer in the negative to admitting all "persons" who meet membership qualifications.

The April 7, 1977, issue of the Columbus Torch newsletter published an article: "Shall Women Become Torch Persons?" Once again the question of admitting women was before the club. A motion had been passed at the March meeting to bring to the floor the question of revising the by-laws to admit women to membership.

The motion must have been tabled again as it was not until November 5, 1981, that Columbus Torch welcomed its first woman member. She was Sister Mary Andrew Matesich, president of Ohio Dominican College. The next woman who followed shortly was Rev. Jane Mykrantz, associate minister of Worthington Presbyterian Church. Carole Williams, who gave a paper in 1987 on *Business First* newspaper, became the first woman president in 1991. Lou Briggs gave a paper on March 1, 1984 on "What does it mean to be a female in today's politics?" Lou became our second woman president in 1994. How our membership and thinking has changed. Lou Briggs has been followed by six outstanding women presidents.

The Columbus Torch Club has a great and colorful history with much to be proud. At our 2016 IATC convention in Columbus, we were named the outstanding club of the year. We are still the largest and the best. So tonight let us say "happy birthday," keep our Torch burning bright and raise our glasses to another 90 years of Columbus Torch.

Club inducts three new members at December meeting

Patricia L. Herban

A retired fund-raiser, community volunteer and art critic, Tricia Herban has had a varied career. She earned a bachelor's degree with a major in English from Middleburg College. She later earned a Ph.D. While in college, she discovered an interest in art history. Not surprisingly, she married an art historian,

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Torch Club President Jeff Caswell and Membership Chair Dorothy Driskell pose with balloons celebrating the club's 90th anniversary at the meeting December 1.

Club inducts three new members at December meeting

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Mathew Herban, and they moved to Columbus when he joined the faculty of The Ohio State University's Department of Art History.

For several years, Tricia and her late husband co-wrote an art criticism column for the *Columbus Citizen-Journal*. She became a successful fund-raiser, founding Picnic with the Pops for the Columbus Symphony Orchestra and Breakfast with the Bishop for Catholic Social Services.

When the Herbans retired to Annapolis, Md., in 1996, they opened a bed-and-breakfast in an 1860s house in the city's historic district. While in Annapolis, Tricia was president of New Annapolitans, a club much like The Ohio State University Women's Club. After six years in Maryland, they returned to live in Worthington. Tricia refinishes furniture, reads history, and writes occasional essays.



Tricia Herban stands between Dorothy Driskell and Jeff Caswell.

Ellen B. Rudy

Ellen Rudy is retired from the University of Pittsburgh where she was dean of the College of Nursing from 1991 to 2001. She earned a bachelor's degree in nursing from The Ohio State University, master's degree in nursing from the University of Maryland, master's degree in public administration from the University of Dayton, and Ph.D. in nursing from the University of Maryland.

While she was college dean, Ellen created the Cameos of Caring in 1999 to identify nurses who demonstrate excellence in care and are exemplary role models for the profession. She has served as a senior consultant with the National Institutes of Health and as a visiting professor at Ohio State. She received the Living Legend Award from the American Academy of Nursing.



Ted and Ellen Rudy, who are married, stand between their sponsors, David and Betty Lenz.

Ted Rudy

An electro-mechanical test engineer, Ted Rudy has worked in various industries. He led a project to design models, run hypersonic wind tunnels and collect data for scientists at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base. He has performed sound, vibration and other testing of electrical hand tools and air-moving motors for consumer products. He created automated testing devices for measuring air-movement efficiency and for dynamometer testing of motors.

Ted has published a paper describing an ultrasonic method of evaluating in-situ contact between automotive rings and engine cylinders and a paper defining a method of analyzing surgical options in knee reconstruction using a robotic system.

Responding to the Evite from Secretary Seelbach

Club secretary Thom Seelbach will send you via electronic mail an Evite to attend the Torch Club meeting on January 5. 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 2016-17

Thursday, October 6, 2016

“The Gifted, Resiliency, and Brain Plasticity” by Bruce Kline and Elizabeth Short

Thursday, November 3, 2016

“Stevenson’s Dentist – Unsung Hero” by Robert Stevenson

Thursday, December 1, 2016

“Seasonal Music from the Old and New Worlds” performed by the Early Interval

Thursday, January 5, 2017

“Marketing Opportunities to Improve Sorghum Farmers’ Incomes in East Africa” by Don Larson

Thursday, February 2, 2017

“Hey, Bernie! No No!” By Thomas Atzberger

Thursday, March 2, 2017

“The Roots of Audiology” by Paul Niswander

Thursday, April 6, 2017

“Is There Honor in Honor Societies?” by Diane Selby

Thursday, May 4, 2017

“Mr. Lincoln’s News Paper” by Violet Meek

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 2016-17

President – Jeff Caswell

President-Elect – Rich Davis

Past President – Don Dell

Secretary – Thomas M. Seelbach

Assistant Secretary – Susan Warren Smith

Treasurer – Howard Gauthier

Assistant Treasurer – Tom Costantiello

Membership Chair – Dorothy E. Driskell

Fellowship Chair – Violet Meek

Nominating Chair – Don Dell

Newsletter Editor – Stephen A. Sterrett

Director-at-Large – Violet Meek (2018)

Director-at-Large – Pat Smith (2018)

Director-at-Large – Dorothy Driskell (2017)

Director-at-Large – Stephen A. Sterrett (2017)