



LOSURA

NEWS & VIEWS

S P R I N G



Oregon State
University

EDITORS NOTE: As OSURA continues to look back and celebrate our 20th year, we asked our first president to reflect on his life.

OSURA Member Profile:

Les Dunnington



One of the small ones that did not get away.

I was born in Drexel, Missouri, a small rural community located on the Kansas Missouri border approximately 50 miles south of Kansas City. Not long after my birth we moved to a small farm not far out of town, and it was there where I spent most of my childhood and early teen years. The road past our farm was, at that time, unpaved dirt and during a rainy period was difficult at best. Going to school from our farm home meant walking about a quarter mile down that muddy road to catch the school bus. When it was wet the mud could suck the boots right off the feet of a first and second grade kid. A story my two older sisters loved was how they used to pull their baby brother down that muddy road to our home. At times carrying both muddy barefoot kid and mud caked boots and shoes. My memories aren't nearly as vivid as my sisters' and I'm sure they exaggerated. After the neighbors all got together and graveled the road, travel to town and catching the bus became much easier.

Isolated as we were at times, books became my best friends. The county library had a branch in our small community, and I used it often. One memory I have is going to the library during summer vacation, checking out 5 or 6 books, reading them that same day and asking to return to the library before it closed to return those so I could check out more. Another library memory was checking out a book recommended to me by the librarian who was a minister's wife and good friend of my mother.

As I read the book, I recall blushing a bit and wondering if she had made a mistake in her suggestion. I now realize how appropriate the recommendation was as it helped to poke some holes in a small-town boy's naïveté.

When I was an early teen, we moved back into town. That made it much easier to attend school and to participate in activities such as sports, music, church youth groups and a Boy Scout troop. Our school was in a small, consolidated rural district where many graduates would return to working the land as farmers or as farm wives. My senior class consisted of about 21 members at one of its largest points. I believe there were 17 members in our graduating class which I served as class president. I remained involved in a number of activities throughout my High School experience. I was good enough to reserve a position as bench warmer on the basketball team and played right field on the softball team as batters seldom hit to right field. At times it was difficult to fill the roster on the various teams as it was a limited pool to draw from.

I was heavily invested in music groups. In the band I became first chair trumpet as a junior and senior, sang in choral groups with an occasional solo in assemblies, concerts and other school events. I had the male lead in our Junior and Senior plays and enjoyed having roles in a number of one act plays.

One event that remains indelibly etched in my memory was at a one-act play competition where the woman who was judging commented: It would be better if the male lead -that was me- would relax a little and show more emotion in embracing the female lead. I have taken that recommendation to heart and have worked diligently to correct that deficiency!

I do not remember making a decision to go to college. My parents encouraged higher education and I always knew that I would go. After High School graduation I entered Central Missouri State College (CMSU) which later became Central Missouri State University where I majored in music. It was also there that I met and married my first wife. I taught public school music for 2 years and then returned to CMSU where I received a MS in Education with an emphasis on Counseling and Guidance.

Following completion of my Master's studies, it was an easy decision to continue working for a doctorate at the University of Wyoming in a field that was both fascinating and personally satisfying. I was also fortunate to secure a Graduate Teaching assistantship in the Counseling Center where I taught a class in study skills to entering undergraduates. It was while in Wyoming my first wife died. I will be forever grateful to my friends and professors for helping me during this difficult period. With their support, I was able to continue my program and successfully complete the requirements for the Ph.D.

I spent summers during my college career in the Forest Service in Northern Idaho working in fire control. It was then that I fell in love with the Northwest and the opportunities for outdoor activities and recreation. One highlight of my first marriage was spending our honeymoon on a forest fire tower. That experience brought home to me the importance of the natural beauty in the Northwest and how replenishing it is to experience it directly. So, when I earned my Ph.D. and received the offer of a position in the Counseling Center at Washington State University, I felt very fortunate. When I left WSU after 4 years, I shared a joint appointment in the Counseling Center and Counseling and Guidance Department in the College of Education.

It was also in Pullman, where after a brief marriage to my second wife, I met Diana my current wife and partner of 53 years. It was a difficult decision for us to leave Pullman, but it was time; I was ready to move on. When the position of Assistant Director of the Counseling Center at Oregon State University was offered to me, I was pleased to accept. The University Counseling Center presented the professional challenges I was looking for and it also provided the opportunity to live in a beautiful state where outdoor recreation was abundant. I developed many close relationships both within the Counseling Center and the University Community and in the Corvallis community as well. My involvement in OSURA has enabled me to maintain my connection to OSU which is something I prize.

With my and Diana's retirement and the completion of our children's education and transition to their own independent lives, we have had the time and resources to do some of our favorite activities. We have enjoyed adventures to the Midwest to visit family and friends and to simply explore some of the country we live in. While concentrating on the mainland US, several trips to Hawaii, Canada and Mexico were nice. One excursion that was special for us both was a delightful trip to New Zealand. Seeing how the emigrants both European and South Pacific have adapted to that island nation was enlightening.

While participating as a rubbernecking tourist, it was especially interesting to me to see how the Maori have adapted to their modern world while attempting to maintain some of their own culture. New Zealanders we encountered were, without exception, welcoming and friendly.

For more than 20 years Diana and I have been going up to the high lakes region around Crescent and Odell lakes in Central Oregon. We now spend the summer months from June through August there. We reserve a spot for our 5th wheel camper in our favorite campground resort and fish as much as we are able. While our camp is best described as rustic, my family and friends seem to regard coming to visit and fish with us as a five-star experience. Their visits help to sustain and maintain those connections that to me seem critical to my wellbeing. My family was and will remain a primary focus.



Diana and I with Tasman Lake in the background. the lake is fed by snow and ice melt from Tasman Glacier and its tributary glaciers in New Zealand's South Island



A Maori warrior, my cousin and I.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Contributed by Bill Young, OSURA President

Dear OSURA Members,

As the end of our 2021-22 year rapidly approaches, and my year as your president is soon to be in the rear-view mirror, let me pause and reflect on the year that is about to end.

You will be pleased to know that your board of directors hasn't "missed a beat" all year despite never having met in person due to the OSU Foundation's meeting rooms being shuttered to outside groups using their facility. Although COVID restrictions tried to keep its thumb on us, we have persevered.

We met via Zoom for the first time in April 2020 in the final months of Mike Schuyler's presidency and continued through 2020-21 under Carol Kronstad's reign. There was much hope for a return to "normal" as we started up last fall, only to have those hopes dashed by the Omicron variant. Perhaps Zoom meetings have become the "new" normal, but let's hope not.

As you recall, this was OSURA's 20th anniversary year...a milestone we had hopes of making into much more of a celebration. As it was, we put our energy into gathering reflections from past presidents, and with newsletter editor Kathy Motley's skill wove together a beautiful memoir in our winter newsletter, which was supplemented with many photos.

On October 3, 2021, OSURA hosted an informative webinar with OSU's Dr. Wayne Kradjan, Dean Emeritus and Professor Emeritus, College of Pharmacy. Dr. Kradjan gave an overview of the definitions of the parts of Medicare, enrollment deadlines for Medicare, deferral for people who are still working and have employer health plans, Medigap supplement plans, Advantage Plans, Prescription Drug plans, and HMOs vs PPOs. He also described options available from PERS and other insurance companies and compared various plans.

On January 13, 2022, OSURA hosted a fascinating Zoom presentation by Dr. Bob Mason, Sandy and Elva Sanders Eminent Professor and J.C. Braly Curator of Vertebrates in the Department of Integrative Biology. His talk, "The Garden of Eden Revisited: Snakes, Sex, and Scents," examined the evolution of chemical communication systems in snakes by examining both the diversity of chemical signals and the underlying physiological mechanisms mediating their production, expression, and reception.

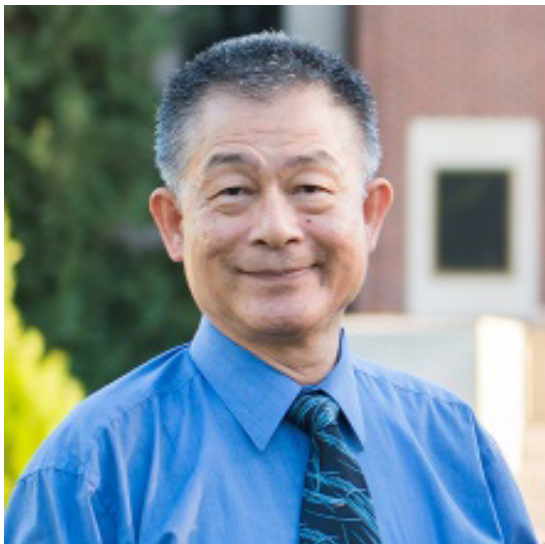
In addition, last fall an OSURA subcommittee met with the leaders of OSU's Triad Club to explore how we might coordinate and support each other's members through shared programming. The Triad Club started in 1926, and for more than 95 years has provided faculty and staff with an opportunity to gather and learn from each other. Since the COVID pandemic they have used Zoom presentations on a monthly schedule. As a result of our discussions, OSURA members are now receiving announcements to participate in Triad's programs... and of course OSURA is reciprocating.

Looking forward to future OSURA programming and activities once we are able to move freely beyond COVID restrictions, your board has chosen to focus on opportunities for us to build and/or strengthen relationships with one another. Ideas that are being discussed include scheduling pickleball and bocce ball courts through Corvallis Parks and Recreation as well as organizing mini-golf tournaments. Perhaps given the absence of in-person gatherings during the last two years, we have a heightened awareness of the benefits relationships play in keeping us happy and healthy.

As I detailed in the winter newsletter, the OSURA endowment has continued to grow, and provide fund earnings (through OSUF) to augment our scholarships. At this year's Annual Meeting on May 19, scholarships will be awarded to nine outstanding students. I hope you will Zoom-in to witness the level of learning we are supporting through your giving.

My term as president ends at our annual meeting. It has been enjoyable for me to serve as your president, and I am grateful to the current Board and other OSURA members who have worked to make the past year successful. Lastly, if you know of someone retiring soon or recently retired from OSU, please tell them about OSURA and invite them to join... and don't forget to renew your membership!





Ask Dr. Chi: The latest on COVID-19

Editor's Note: Since the fall of 2020, Dr. Chunhuei Chi, Director of OSU's Center for Global Health and professor in the Health Management and Policy Program has been a wonderful resource for OSURA members regarding the pandemic and COVID-19. Here is the latest info from Dr. Chi.

1. Should folks over 65 continue to wear masks in public settings? Should we be wearing surgical masks or N95's?

It is not necessary to wear masks in outdoor public settings, except when the setting is very crowded. For indoor settings, if it is not well-ventilated, I recommend wearing a facial mask for those 65 and over until the risk of infection is further reduced; either a surgical mask or N95 (there are also high-quality 3 to 5 layers reusable fabric masks that can also achieve the equivalent filtration to surgical or even N95 masks). For those with immunocompromised conditions or not fully vaccinated, I strongly recommend N95 masks for all indoor public places.

2. What indicators will tell us that the virus is waning enough that life will return to the new normal?

According to the CDC community risk levels guideline, one critical indicator is new COVID-19 admissions per 100,000 population (7-day total) are less than 10. Both CDC and Oregon Health Authority (OHA) regularly publishes data on case-fatality rate (percent of COVID-19 confirmed cases resulting in death). OHA also publishes case-hospitalization rate (percent of COVID-19 confirmed cases resulting in hospitalization). These two are important indicators.

In terms of “return to the new normal”, one benchmark is influenza’s case-fatality rate. In 2019, age-adjusted death rates for influenza and pneumonia were higher among males (14.4 per 100,000) than females (10.7). (<https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/70/wr/mm7012a5.htm>). This case-fatality rate will be a reference point for when we return to new-normal activities. That is, as the case-fatality rate of COVID-19 is approaching that of influenza, that is the time we can live normally. By that time, we may treat COVID-19 the same way we treat influenza. Due to complex factors, it is difficult to calculate the case-fatality rate of the current Omicron variant (and its sub-variants). While we are not there yet, we are gradually approaching that level for influenza

3. If the B.A.2 Omicron sub-variant becomes dominant, will masking go into effect again?

The response to this question is similar to question No. 2. So far, the evidence indicates that while BA. 2 is more contagious than BA.1, we don’t have evidence yet to suggest it is more severe or lethal. Given we have achieved a relatively high level of population immunity (vaccination plus natural immunity from infection), our main concern is not new cases, instead, we should focus on monitoring hospitalizations and deaths caused by COVID-19.

Note that while CDC and state health authorities are not concerned about the total number of cases per se, their perspective is on the whole population; for the elderly and immunocompromised, they still need to watch how cases are rising or declining in that community as an indicator of their risk level.

4. What about a 4th shot? Is the research pointing towards that option for over 65's? Are the current vaccines going to be as effective against B.A.2 or any newer variant coming?

Since the fall of 2021, numerous empirical research studies that have been published show evidence of declining protection from COVID-19 vaccines. Israel was the first nation to implement a 4th shot (Pfizer-BNT second booster) in January of 2022 and has accumulated enough data for evaluation. Its recent publication in the New England Journal of Medicine showed evidence that the protection of severe symptoms after the 4th shot significantly increased and did not decline after 6 weeks (the study's observation period). However, the protection against infection reached a maximum by 4 weeks and then declined quickly. Eight weeks after the 4th shot, the extra protection against infection almost disappeared. That is the limitation of the currently available vaccines; they are relatively effective in protection against severe symptoms or deaths (although such protection declines slowly over time), but not so effective in protection against infection.

In light of such evidence, some experts recommend that people with immunocompromised conditions or who are regularly exposed to a high risk of infection should get their 4th shot (second booster). For the rest of the population, they can wait until either they are about to embark on relatively high-risk activities (such as traveling overseas or a change of jobs and/or risks), or there is a new surge and spread with a more serious variant to get their second booster.

Depending on how long since one's first booster shot was received, the current vaccines are still effective in preventing death or severe symptoms from BA.2 to various degrees because the protection gradually declines. Their protection against infection is weaker. For example, between March and April of 2022, 44% to 47.5% of new confirmed cases in Oregon were breakthrough cases. (Oregon Breakthrough Case Report) As for protection against the future variants, we have no information yet.

5. What is the future of COVID? Will we just learn to live with it as an endemic disease like the flu? Getting a vaccination every year?

The SARS-CoV-2 (the virus that causes COVID-19) will be with us for the foreseeable future as it evolves into a flu-like endemic disease. We may need to get vaccinated annually, just like the flu, with the hope that a more long-lasting protective vaccine will be available soon.

6. Is travel becoming safer? Which modes are safest? Any countries people should stay away from?

Yes, as the lethality and spread of the SARS-CoV-2 declines, travel will gradually become safer. In terms of infection risk, most public transportation has a similar level of risk. While the airplane is safer because it is the only public transportation equipped with HEPA air filters (capable of filtering out viruses), airports may not be as safe.

Countries that people should stay away from are those frequently under lock-downs (you may have a risk of being stranded during travel), those countries with low population vaccination rates, and those countries that lack transparency in terms of their statistics or public policy.

On April 18, a Florida federal judge overturned the CDC mask mandate for planes and other public transportation. As a result, TSA will no longer require passengers to wear facial masks. It has become like OSU's sign "masks are not required, but welcome." Until the pandemic condition is similar to flu, I recommend travelers continue to wear facial masks, especially those who are not fully vaccinated or have immunocompromised conditions.

7. Does the war in Ukraine affect the spread of the virus?

It affects the pandemic control in both Ukraine and Russia. Both nation's vaccination rates are lower than most Western European nations. The war destroyed a large part of Ukraine's health infrastructure and makes it difficult for Ukraine to continue its vaccination and pandemic control efforts. Similarly, because Russia has been mobilized for the war effort, its vaccination and pandemic control efforts were also disrupted.

Further, the influx of several millions of refugees from Ukraine to its neighboring nations has the potential to spread the virus. Depending on those refugee receiving nations vaccination rates and how they monitor Ukraine refugees infection status, the impact will vary.

A research paper using a simulation projected an increase of COVID-19 cases since Russia's invasion of Ukraine.





At the 5th Street Alley before a Eugene Symphony concert for the film, Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets while wearing my Ravenclaw scarf.

Mealoha McFadden: The Woman, The Myth, The Legend

Contributed by Kathy Motley and Phyllis Lee

Who is Mealoha McFadden?

Mealoha has worked for the last five years as support for OSURA through her role at University Events. She supports OSURA's board and committees, events, billing, newsletters, website, scholarship program, membership program, meetings and any ad-hoc requests.

What is the origin of your name?

I'm half-Hawaiian, half-Irish! Hawaiians ask their elders for name suggestions based on ancestors, genealogy and hopefully the temperament of the baby. Mealoha is not a common Hawaiian name, and it means "With Love." I was named after my mom and dad's favorite Hawaiian aunt.

What was your early life like?

Born into a military family, my family moved around every few years. In 1981, my dad retired and my family moved back to his hometown of Corvallis. My Hawaiian mom and my dad married early in his military career in Hawaii. I was 11 and was immediately enrolled in 6th grade at Western View Intermediate School (previously located by Adams Elementary School.)

In high school, I attended a boarding school for students of part-Hawaiian ancestry, the Kamehameha Schools. I returned to study at OSU where I graduated with a BA in Political Science. The McFadden family established itself in the late 1800s with William S. McFadden, the first Circuit Court judge when Benton County reached the California border. His son, Julian N. McFadden, was a State Senator where he helped pass laws allowing horse racing and betting in Oregon. Julian started Pleasure Acres Thoroughbred Farm where the HP campus is currently located. My grandmother, Mary McFadden Goldblatt, carried on the horse business but sold the land to HP and moved the barns and clubhouse to its current location off 2nd Street. Upon retirement, my dad, Col. Julian R. McFadden, took over the farm, primarily focusing on breeding and racing along the west coast. My husband and I have lived in the clubhouse on the farm since 2013. Although the "baby" of nine siblings, there are now only two of us still living in Corvallis. The rest of my family are primarily in Hawaii. Alas, my career and my children have led me to a life in Oregon. I resort to yearly visits to get my "ocean therapy."



In New York's Central Park on an annual sisters trip with siblings #7 and #8, Nahaku and Keahi.

Why PoliSci at OSU for your degree? How has it helped (or hindered) your career?

I'm a 3rd generation Beaver and now my daughter is 4th generation! I started off as a Political Science major, switched majors about six times, only to revert to my original choice! I thought I wanted to go into law or run for office someday. During college, I worked for the Associated Students of OSU as the state affairs task force director. This allowed me to lobby for student needs at the state level. State politics have always interested me, so I interned at the legislature first, then worked on staff for a state senator. I enjoy being involved in laws, rules or regulations that directly affect me and those I love. I learned how to work with the public and with other offices to advance the agendas of the legislators and their constituencies. Learning how to collaborate, even when you don't completely agree with the full agenda, has been key to my work in higher education.

How did you get into event planning? Was it deliberate or providential?

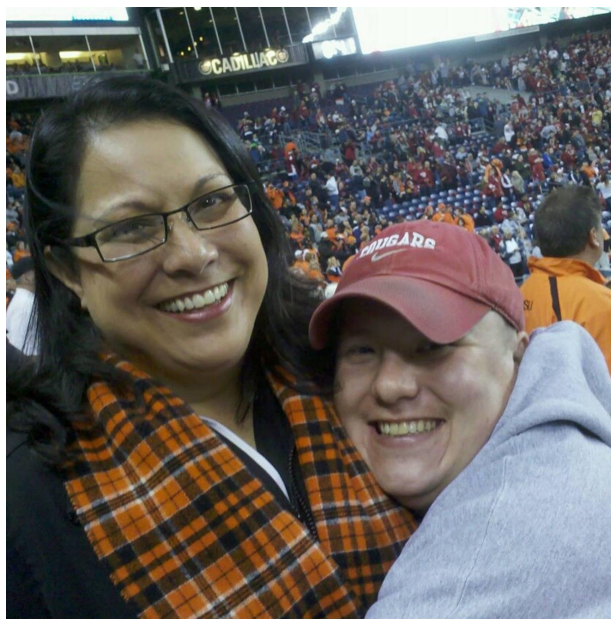
My event planning started at the legislature through town hall planning so it was providential as part of my foray into politics but also deliberate as part of my position in the Senate office. In 2000, I started at the OSU Alumni Association which is where my event planning, marketing and publicity skills started really taking root and growing.

What was the craziest event you had to plan? And did it turn out ok?

The largest event I planned was the pre-game tailgater at the 2001 Tostitos Fiesta Bowl. Planning a private event within a large public event presented its challenges but things really went off without a hitch. I don't know about crazy per se, but it sure was FUN!

Why are you leaving University Events and what's next?

My new position is as the Executive Assistant to the Associate Vice President of Budget and Resource Planning (Sherm Bloomer). I'm reaching almost 25 years of event planning, which is an extremely fast paced, highly stressful occupation. As I transition to the last 15 years or so of my career, I wanted to slow down a bit at OSU. Many aren't aware that I also plan weddings and events on the side. I look forward to enjoying a more predictable workday at OSU with nights and weekends free for my family and my own business pursuits.



A divided household! Mealoha and her WSU loving husband, Derek Dunbar.

Note from Mealoha:

Dear OSURA Board and members,

Supporting the work of OSURA these last five years has been a true blessing. I've developed great relationships and new friendships and learned many new things along the way. The OSURA Board is very hard-working and always looking out for the best interests of its members. I may have been the consistent base over the years for OSURA but my work was always at the direction of a talented group of board members!

I'm going to miss working with you all dearly. I look forward to seeing you at university events that I'll get to enjoy alongside you!

Me ke aloha pumehana a hui hou kokou,
(With all the warmth of my love, until we meet again)

Mealoha McFadden



With my son, Holoakea Husen, with the Hotel Julian in the background. Located on 2nd St., the McFadden family owned many commercial properties in Corvallis.



With my daughter, Kawaiala Husen (and 4th generation Beaver), in front of Delta Gamma, enjoying 2022 Mom's Weekend festivities.

Best Wishes Mealoha!

Because Mealoha has meant a lot to many of us on the OSURA Board, we have gathered a few recollections and anecdotes that showcase the breadth of knowledge that she brought to our work. Whether it was planning an event, working with our budget issues or vetting the OSURA scholarship applicants, she handled it all with grace and good humor.



Bill Young (OSURA President 2021-22):

In my two years chairing the Membership committee, and in my current term as OSURA's President, I cannot sing the praises of Mealoha's any louder. In so many aspects, she is the grease that keeps OSURA's wheels turning... all with only a .1 FTE assignment to us from University Events. She has been invaluable to me in keeping the membership database of new members, members who are renewing and those who are delinquent in their dues. We also collaborated closely to re-work our membership brochure... and her ideas for graphics and layout design were notable. This year, serving as your president, I have found her services invaluable in scheduling Zoom board meetings and committee gatherings... and keeping the board of directors fully engaged with her excellent Staff Reports at our monthly meetings. To sum it up: She will be missed!



Christopher Mathews (OSURA President 2018-19)

During my term as president, I still had an office on campus—in Ag. & Life Sciences. I remember many times walking across campus to visit Mealoha in her office on OSURA business—usually through the rain. Mealoha always greeted me pleasantly and gave me enough help to make it well worth the trip. Particularly memorable was the time when we chose illustrations for the front and back pages of the Retiree Directory. Mealoha had a great collection of photos covering all aspects of life at OSU. It was Memory Lane for both of us poring over those photos. Thanks, Mealoha, for all you did to make my presidency a pleasant experience.



Jack Walstad (OSURA President 2016-2017):

I am pleased to participate in the tribute to Mealoha McFadden, the Liaison for OSURA. During my presidency and my time on the OSURA Board, Mealoha was an invaluable asset for our organization. Her manifold efforts on our behalf helped ensure the ongoing success and vitality of OSURA. She did this while managing an enormous workload involving all sorts of activities for the University Events Office. I honestly don't know how she juggled it all! But she did so with grace, proficiency, and healthy doses of confidence and humor! At one point, she helped me craft a document that outlined the "University Events Office Support for OSURA"--a document that helped ensure that OSURA got timely help on all its major activities. And the help was always provided despite the frenetic workload of her office in the midst of perpetual staff shortages and budget constraints. So, we were blessed to have the support from Mealoha for so long. I wish her the best in her coming career change.



Phyllis Lee (current board member):

Not everyone has the opportunity to see what a graduate accomplishes following graduation. I'm one of the fortunate ones, having known Mealoha since her undergraduate days. Among her professional accomplishments is her work in the Alumni Office and the results of her contributions to ensuring enduring relationships and successful activities and events. Moving into University Events greatly benefited the Oregon State University Retirement Association, enabling us to receive outstanding assistance in every facet of our mission. Her service includes helping us inform and encourage retired faculty and staff to maintain relationships with OSU by publishing our newsletters, expanding membership, and marketing the organization's programs and events. Her advice has had broad impact on each of us, and the University. I'm proud to say, "I knew her when...and look at her now!" Mealoha, mahalo and very best wishes in your new position.



Carol Kronstad (OSURA President 2020-21 and current board member):

I was on another board with Mealoha before OSURA and she is "the best." Always positive, smiling, and helpful. We will miss all her input on OSURA and wish her the best in her new job.



Bob Smythe (Incoming OSURA President, chair of the Membership Committee and current board member):

Mealoha has been the “engine” of the Membership Committee during my time as chair. She manages the process of getting out renewal and recruiting letters and manages to keep on top of what is needed, in spite of a heavy load of other responsibilities. She has been a pleasure to work with and we will miss her cheerful contribution.



Julie Searcy (current board member):

Other than her work with the program committee that I served on briefly, her smile and willingness to help out OSURA stands out in my mind. She always seemed to be on top of our needs.



Kathy Motley (current board member and Editor of OSURA News and Views):

Mealoha, you taught this “old dog” a few new tricks about navigating the world of Newsletters and deadlines. That quality and accuracy are more important than an arbitrary date, that letting folks express themselves without too much rewriting is important and that there will always be another day to work on all those new lessons I learned. And, WOW, do you know a lot of people at this University!





The Garden of Eden Revisited: Snakes, Sex and Scents with Dr. Bob Mason

Contributed by Tony Amandi

Dr. Bob Mason, Sandy and Elva Sanders Eminent Professor and J.C. Braly Curator of Vertebrates, Integrative Biology



Male garter snakes

On January 13, 2021, Dr. Bob Mason shared some of his research work on garter snakes with OSURA members in a very informative webinar titled The Garden of Eden Revisited: Snakes, Sex and Scents. Dr. Mason is a Sandy and Elva Sanders Eminent Professor and the J.C. Braly Curator of Vertebrates in the Oregon State University Department of Integrative Biology. Dr. Mason mentioned his early work on tree and sea snakes. Currently Dr. Mason's and his student's work is centered on snake reproduction, chemical signaling and endocrinology.

His current fieldwork is carried out in the Interlake region of Manitoba, Canada where Dr. Mason and his group study the Garter Snake's behavioral ecology as they emerge from their long winter nap and mate. Dr. Mason described the pheromones exuded by the snakes which affect the behavior of others of the same species. Snakes rely on their chemosensory organs more than any other vertebrates; the vomer nasal system is used to detect these pheromones.

The males of the species arrive first from their underground wintering areas that enable the snakes to survive the harsh winters. They hibernate for seven months and pretty much come out in a short period of time and then await the arrival of the females from the same location. At the beginning of the season there are about 1000 males per female above ground but by the end equal numbers of males and females have surfaced.

The males start searching for the females that arrive over a period of four to five weeks. Once they arrive, the males start searching for chemically attractive females by chin rubbing their backs to detect the pheromones. At times there are anywhere from 10-100 males attempting to mate with a female, but she only raises her tail when ready to accept a male.



Males searching for females.



Top right: Male chin rubs female to detect pheromones. Bottom left: Female accepting her male mate by lifting her tail. Center: Several males attempting to mate with one female.

The males prefer larger females as they will produce more young and can detect the different chemical signals that allow them to recognize size and whether they come from the same den. By extracting lipids from the female's skins and placing those lipids in paper towels they were able to attract males which attempted to mate with the paper towel.



Testing whether extracted lipids from a female would attract males.

By using the extracted lipids they were able to solve the problem of snakes crossing a highway after spawning on their way to the nearby lakes where they feed during the summer. The highway department drilled a pipe under the highway, and they used the pheromones in the pipe to attract the snakes. It worked well in reducing the snake loss from over 15,000 a season. Once the snakes used it the first time, they left their own pheromones in the pipe as an attractant.

Dr. Mason then described the Harderian gland and how it functions and how it affects the feeding behavior of the snakes.

If you were not able to participate in the webinar here is a link where you can watch it in its entirety: https://media.oregonstate.edu/media/t/1_62hrgy4u.

If you have problems, go to <https://osura.oregonstate.edu/>, click on “Events Calendar” and then click on “List of Past OSURA Events.”



OSURA and ALL: Shall Ever the Twain Meet?

Contributed by Chris Mathews

Most OSURA members are aware that OSURA and ALL (Academy for Lifelong Learning) have their origins in a common process, starting in 2002. A group of OSU faculty and administrators met to discuss ways in which OSU retirees could remain connected with their university and with the world we live in. Key members of this group included Vice President George Keller and Les Risser, wife of then-President Paul Risser. Although I retired in 2002, I was unaware of these developments. I was planning to remain active in part-time teaching and research, and activities for retirees were not high on my agenda.

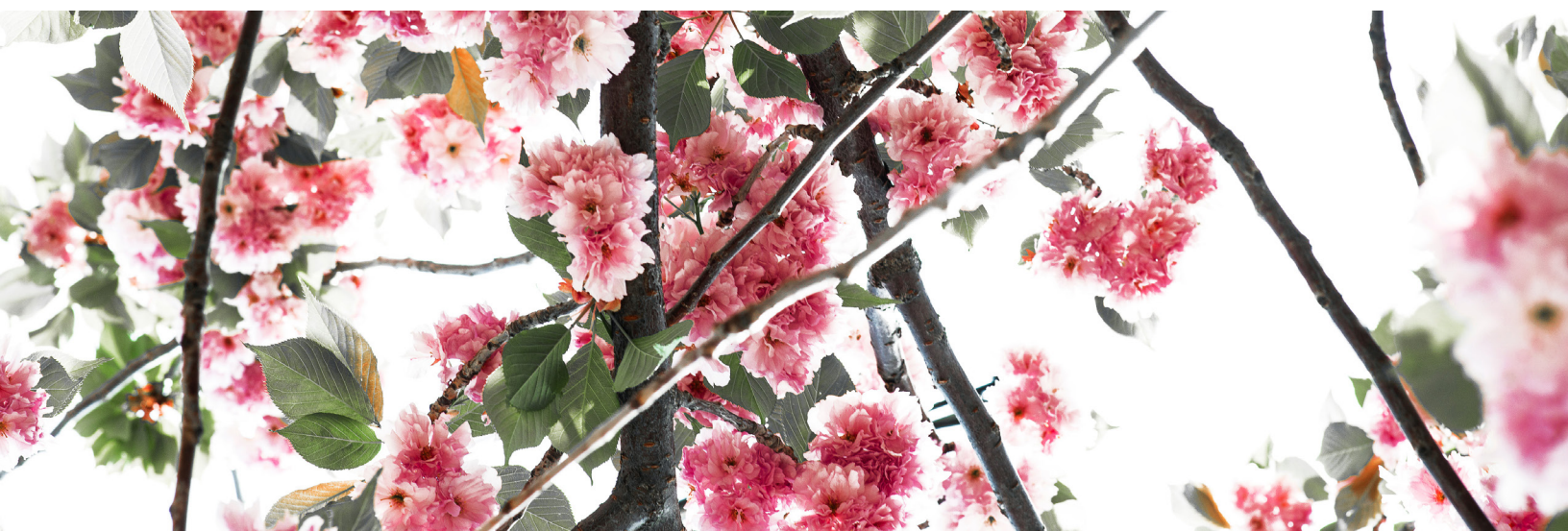
About five years later, my colleague Bob Becker suggested that I join OSURA, and he took Kate and me to an annual meeting. We joined, and our lives have been enriched by meeting new friends and maintaining contacts with old friends and colleagues. Eventually, I was elected to the board and served a year as OSURA president. The OSURA Bylaws call for the president to serve a maximum of three years on the Board, following completion of his/her term in office.

As my three-year service on the OSURA Board moved toward its end, I made myself more aware of ALL and eventually joined. I was remarkably unaware of the origin and nature of ALL, even though in 2005 I had presented a program at ALL—on mitochondrial DNA. The most significant distinction between ALL and OSURA is that membership in ALL is not limited to those with a formal relationship to OSU. Indeed, I believe that most ALL members do not have such a relationship. Because I find my ALL experience to be rewarding and because I believe that many OSURA members are unaware of ALL and its activities, I am taking this opportunity to describe ALL.

ALL features a series of formal and informal presentations—seminars, as it were; with plenty of time for discussion. The programs are organized around five interwound “strands”—Science, Issues and Ideas, Global Topics, Arts, and Humanities. The program is aligned with the OSU academic calendar. During each week of a ten-week quarter each strand has one two-hour time slot in which to present a program. If each strand presents a program in a particular week, a member can experience five programs. Typically, however, two to four programs are offered in a particular week. A typical program involves a one-hour presentation, followed by a short break, with the remaining time free for Q&A. Like a typical seminar.

Kate and I joined ALL in 2019. I joined the Science Strand of the Curriculum Committee and began organizing presentations right away. My first guest was Loren Davis (OSU Anthropology), presenting his studies on the migration routes for prehistoric humans from Asia to North America. Just as I was lining up more presenters, Covid-19 struck, and after a hasty reorganization, we reappeared on Zoom, where we have remained until today.

Information about ALL is available at **www.academyforlifelonglearning.org**. Dues are \$85 per year. Anyone considering membership is entitled to attend two programs free. Contact the program administrator at **541-737-9405** or **admin@academyforlifelonglearning.org** to make the arrangements. Or, feel free to contact me at **mathewsc2@comcast.net**.





OSURA Membership Committee

Contributed by Robert Smythe

Under the OSURA By-Laws, the Membership Committee is one of OSURA's standing committees. The mission of the committee is succinctly stated in the by-laws, "The Membership Committee tracks membership and works to recruit and retain members."

Membership in OSURA is open to retired and actively employed faculty and staff, spouses, surviving spouses, and domestic partners. Retirees from other colleges and universities are also eligible for membership, subject to approval by the OSURA Board. The OSU Retiree Directory, published annually by OSURA, notes those retirees who are OSURA members. Annual dues for OSURA are \$20 for individuals and \$30 for households.

The membership committee works with the OSURA board to track membership numbers and monitor trends in membership - current membership numbers about 290. The committee communicates with members to remind them to renew membership and with new retirees to solicit new members. Personal contacts often prove to be the most useful recruiting technique.

The membership committee, working with the board, seeks ways to publicize the value of OSURA membership and generally to make OSU retirees more aware of OSURA. Our website has a membership form and enumerates some of the many reasons to become a member, including a free first-year membership for new retirees and on-campus parking benefits.

During the pandemic, OSURA has not been able to stage as many "live" events as we would like. In-person events provide opportunities for us to talk with potential members and distribute our brochure touting membership in OSURA. These events help to elevate OSURA's profile with benefits to recruiting and retention of members. As we emerge from the pandemic (fingers crossed!) and resume in-person events, we look forward to the renewed importance of OSURA's role in the lives of OSU retirees.



Become an OSURA member today!

Full membership in the OSU Retirement Association is open to all retirees from Oregon State University for a yearly fee of \$20.00 for an individual and \$30 for a household membership (spouses and partners are considered part of a household membership). All memberships begin on July 1 and run through June 30. Wondering if you are a member? Check the list [here \(PDF\)](#).

Why should you become a member of OSURA?

- Develop and support programs of interest to retirees
- Enhance the lifelong relationship of OSU staff with each other and the University
- Enjoy social connections with former colleagues and new OSURA friends
- Hear presentations on academic research, civic matters, and cultural events
- Help make retirement creative and rewarding through activities and/or volunteering
- Receive information pertinent to OSU and state retirees
- Strengthen and promote ties between retired staff in creative ways
- Support OSURA advocacy for OSU retiree privileges (parking, email, other)
- Support OSURA monitoring of state government retiree benefits.
- Take part in educational outings and interest groups

Since OSURA's inception, members have had an opportunity to tour several university departments and areas of interest, join others in social events, attend presentations, and share their time and talents through volunteering at OSU.



Save the Dates

OSURA is in the planning stages for the following events. Additional info will be emailed to the OSURA listserv and posted on the OSURA events calendar at osura.oregonstate.edu. In the meantime, save the dates on your calendar!

OSURA Annual Meeting

Thursday, May 19 ZOOM

OSU Historical Walking Tour

With Larry Landis, retired director, OSU Special Collections and Archives Research Center

Thursday, June 16 from 2-4 p.m.

Corvallis Knights Baseball game

Thursday, July 7 at 5:30 p.m.

Goss Stadium

Thompson Mill State Heritage Site Tour

Thursday, August 18 at 2 pm



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