

# OSURA News & Views

Winter 2019

## OSURA News & Views



### OSURA Distinctive in two ways

Contributed by Chris Mathews

There is nothing like assuming the presidency of an organization to motivate that person to learn what makes the organization function. In the six months since my election as OSURA president, I have learned of two important ways in which we are distinctive.

First, we are an organization of retired faculty and staff. Many university retirement associations are faculty-only. OSURA is a member of AROHE, the Association of Retirement Organizations in Higher Education. As I scanned the list of member associations, many titles implied that they are faculty-only.

Some examples - Association of Retired Faculty (North Carolina State U), Emeritus College (Clemson U, Emory U), Society of Senior Scholars (Colorado State U), Emeritus Council (Stanford).

Thank goodness, the founders of OSURA had the sense to include staff. Retired staff members are our hardest-working members and volunteers, and they give our organization the vitality it needs to keep all of OSU's retirees connected to their university community. We have the founders of OSURA to thank for their good sense.

Second, we thank the founders for making OSURA an integral part of the university community. Critical to the success of the endeavor was the active involvement, in 2001-02, of several senior administrators, including President Paul Risser and his wife, Les; former Dean and Provost Bill Wilkins; former Vice President George Keller; and senior administrator Kathy Meddaugh. These leaders and President Ed Ray ensured that OSURA was central to the life of

the university and, as such, allocated continuing financial support. Many university retirement associations, such as the one at my former institution, the University of Arizona, must raise all of their operating funds through their own efforts.

Presently, the support work for OSURA is carried out by Mealoha McFadden from University Events. It makes our jobs as OSURA leaders more effective to be supported by a professional associate. She helps us in more ways than I can mention in a short article. Some major contributions include the following:

- Event logistical support (room reservations, name badges, menus, invitations, etc.)
- Monitoring state fiscal accounts in conjunction with the OSURA treasurer
- Maintaining OSURA membership program including lists and membership processing
- Maintaining the OSURA website and the OSURA listserv
- Coordinating membership mailings including the Retiree Directory

Thanks to some forward-looking university leaders for building into the OSURA plan some substantial administrative support. For those of you who might be called on in the future to serve on the board or a committee, it should make the prospect less intimidating to know that professional support can be counted on.

### OSURA Board Members 2018-2019

**President:** Chris Mathews  
**President-Elect:** Michael Schuyler  
**Past President:** Tom Plant  
**Secretary:** Tom Plant  
**Treasurer:** Kelvin Koong

**Members at Large:** Kathy Motley  
Gordon Reistad  
Bob Smythe  
Terri Tower  
Jack Walstad  
Bill Young  
Bill Becker  
Judy Burridge  
Bobbi Hall  
Carol Kronstad  
Phyllis Lee  
Julie Searcy

### Newsletter & Contact Info

**Editor:** Kathy Motley  
**Design/Layout:** Brennan Scott  
**Phone:** 541-737-4717  
**Website:** [osura.oregonstate.edu](http://osura.oregonstate.edu)  
**Email:** [osura@oregonstate.edu](mailto:osura@oregonstate.edu)



**Oregon State  
University**

## Getting to know you...getting to know all about you...



**Above:** Mealoha McFadden, Event Coordinator and OSURA Administrative Support, and her family

### **Favorite hobby:**

Crafting – any chance I can get to be creative is fun for me

### **Dogs or cats:**

Dogs – I love my boy Max!

### **Favorite movie(s):**

Princess Bride and Seven Brides for Seven Brothers

### **Favorite quote:**

Those who say it can't be done are usually interrupted by others doing it. ~James A. Baldwin

### **Your first job:**

Gazette-Times newspaper delivery kid when I was in 8th grade

### **Three words to describe you:**

Loyal, loving, compassionate

### **Random fact about you:**

I'm the youngest of 9 siblings.

### **Best part of your job:**

Working with people

### **Favorite thing about OSURA:**

Working with a very engaged board and volunteers who really care about supporting the university using their unique skillsets.

## Travelshare

Contributed by Jim Krueger

The OSURA Travelshare Interest Group met on Thursday, October 25th in the wonderful space provided at the new OSU Foundation building. We enjoyed a very lively and informative presentation from Eve Chambers and Michael Witbeck about their travel adventures in Thailand. Of special interest was their work with Buddhist monks from Tibet and Thailand.

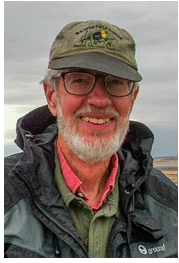
The Travelshare group welcomes all OSURA members and guests and plans to meet again in early spring. It's a great place to get travel ideas and to hear about international travel experiences. We hope you will join us.





## President's Message

By Chris Mathews, OSURA President



As a biochemist I concern myself with the structure and function of biological molecules. Understanding structure is essential to understanding the function of a molecule. In the same sense, to understand the functions of an organization such as OSURA, it is essential to understand its component parts and their responsibilities. I confess that for my first two years on the OSURA Board I knew little about

the component parts of this organization. In my third year I had suddenly become president, so I had a steep learning curve. To help you understand OSURA, I will pass on a bit of what I am learning.

The elected officers—President, President-elect, Secretary, and Treasurer—serve one-year terms.

Normally officers are not re-elected, but at present our excellent Treasurer (actually, Chair of the Board and Finance Committee) has served for several years. At-large Board members serve three-year terms with a possibility of one re-election. Board members may serve as committee chairs or members or they may find special ways to contribute as individuals.

Standing committees include Budget & Finance, Scholarship, Membership, Membership Services, Program, Volunteer, and Newsletter. The Budget & Finance committee is chaired by the Treasurer. The Scholarship Committee selects the annual recipients of OSURA scholarships.

Membership seeks to maintain and expand our membership. Membership Services includes a range of functions, such as organizing pre-retirement workshops and lobbying the OSU administration for reduced-price parking permits. The Program Committee organizes special events such as the Women's Basketball dinners and tours of laboratories and cultural centers. The volunteer committee seeks ways in which OSURA members can serve the university community. At present the chair of the Newsletter Committee also oversees OSURA website content, in conjunction with our administrative support person. Other functions involve single members, not committees. These include Special Interest (such as Travelshare programs) and History.

The Board meets monthly, at 10 a.m. the first Friday of each month, September through June. Meetings are open to all OSURA members, and we invite you to attend a meeting, to learn more about your organization. Board meetings are held in the new OSU Foundation building, 4238 SW Research Way.

## Lifelong Learning Opportunities

Contributed by Judy Ringle

The Academy for Lifelong Learning (ALL), in partnership with OSU, is a self-funded, peer-led membership organization that embraces learning as a lifelong process.

ALL has over 300 members who are OSU retirees and other mature adults from the community and surrounding area. ALL presently offers about 150 classes per year in three 10-week terms that follow the OSU academic calendar.

Classes are divided among five strands: World Cultures, Arts, Science, Humanities, and Issues and Ideas. Cultures featured in the World Cultures strand changes from term to term, with a variety of cultures addressed during spring term.

Instructors/Presenters are members of ALL, staff of OSU and other universities, plus specialists from the community. Annual membership dues are \$100 and covers expenses such as facility rentals, printing and mailing the schedule of classes, and one paid staff, the ALL Program Coordinator.

For further information, and to view ALL's current schedule of classes, visit our web site: [www.academyforlifelonglearning.org](http://www.academyforlifelonglearning.org)

## OSURA Scholarship Opportunity

Contributed by Bill Becker

OSURA provides scholarship support to undergraduate students at Oregon State University who are pursuing a course of study that may lead to a career promoting healthy aging. That term includes all aspects of "health" -- physical, emotional, social or financial. Currently enrolled OSU undergraduate students who have completed at least one academic year at OSU, have a cumulative GPA of 3.4 or above, and have at least one year of study remaining towards their first bachelor's (BA or BS) degree, are encouraged to apply. The scholarship amount may be up to \$2,000 per person and will be awarded at the OSURA Annual Meeting in May. Funds will be distributed into student accounts for the 2019-2020 academic year. The deadline for application is Monday, March 11, 2019. To apply or for more info, visit [osura.oregonstate.edu/osura-scholarship](http://osura.oregonstate.edu/osura-scholarship).

# Taylor Water Treatment Plant Tour Photo Essay

Photos and Notes contributed by Roberta Hall, Jack Walstad and Terri Tower



**Left:** Helen Polensek, Eve Chambers and Michael Witbeck walk through the entrance of the H.D. Taylor Water Treatment Plant for the OSURA tour on November 15. The driveway shows off the area's beautiful fall colors as 20 OSURA members enjoyed a sunny outing in excellent November weather.



**Left:** OSURA group gathers outside Water Treatment Plant for overview of plant's history and operations by our tour guide Chad Marshall [far right front], one of the plant's four operators. The plant is named for H.D. Taylor, an OSU faculty member, who was instrumental in the development of the plant, which opened in 1949. The Taylor plant is located in southwest Corvallis and draws water from the Willamette River.



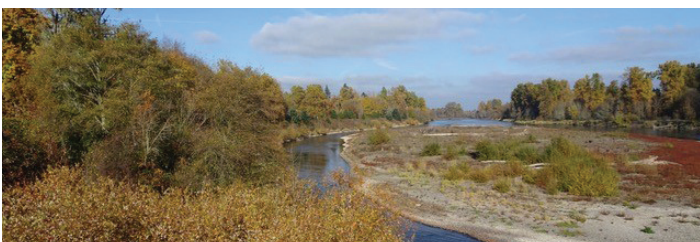
**Left:** Chad describes the water intake and pumping systems as we stand on the intake area platform that juts out over the river. The Taylor plant is considered a "demand plant," one that covers peak water demands and supplements water from the Rock Creek Water Treatment Plant. At the Taylor plant, enough water is produced to meet demand during the day, then operation is shut down until the following morning. During this time of the year, it normally produces 4-6 million gallons a day but during peak summer months 14-16 million gallons are commonly required. Water from both plants is piped to reservoirs on Bald Hill, Chip Ross Park, and other water storage reservoirs that serve the Corvallis area.



Chad pointed out that 2018 has not been a normal water year, in fact the water level on the Willamette this November is lower than it often is in summer. The Rock Creek plant's water supply from the Marys Peak watershed has been so low that the plant was shut down to allow time for treatment system and piping upgrades. Therefore the Taylor plant has been providing more water than it normally does in November. We learned that the drought is becoming a serious concern and that Corvallis is fortunate to have access to Willamette River water.



**Left:** At many stages throughout the treatment process, sophisticated gauges monitor the water's turbidity (a measure of particles in the water), temperature, and pH. Both alum and a small amount of chlorine are added to the water early in the treatment process. Alum sticks to the particles so that they sink and are removed as sludge during the filtration process.



**Left:** View of Willamette River from the intake platform, facing north.

## OSURA Volunteer Spotlight



On December 13th, OSURA members helped clients at the Human Services Resource Center (1030 SW Madison) select food items during their monthly food pantry distribution. The food pantry, affiliated with Linn-Benton Food Share, offers foods — frozen, canned, and fresh — several times each month to individuals and families. Volunteers help clients select items among the food groups available. Each client signs in and is allocated amounts consistent with their household size. The five volunteers first had a short training covering food safety and pantry process, which was given by Erica Mercier, a graduate assistant. OSURA volunteer Brandy Schuyler took this photo of OSURA president Chris Mathews, graduate assistant Erica Mercier, and OSURA volunteers Bobbi Hall, Mary Ann Roberts and Mike Schuyler right after they had completed their training session at 4:00 p.m. They served about 50 clients over the next hour and 45 minutes.

# Renew Your Membership!

Being an OSURA member is a great way to stay connected to OSU and friends at the university. The Oregon State University Retirement Association (OSURA) promotes engagement among OSU retirees and between retirees and the University by providing information, programs, scholarships and volunteer service opportunities that contribute to a rewarding retirement and that support the University's mission.

Full membership in the OSU Retirement Association is open to all retirees from Oregon State University! Becoming a member is a great way to stay involved in the life of the university. Our members make possible many important programs for students and retirees.

Memberships are \$20 individual/\$30 household and checks can be made out to OSURA/OSU Foundation. Membership forms can be found on our website at: [osura.oregonstate.edu](https://osura.oregonstate.edu).

## What's happening? SAVE THESE DATES!

### Monday, January 21

Volunteer Opportunity: 9:30-12:30 p.m. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration Keynote with Sybrina Fulton, mother of Trayvon Martin, author and advocate  
Contact Kathy Motley at [kathymotley@comcast.net](mailto:kathymotley@comcast.net) to volunteer.

### Thursday, January 31

Volunteer Opportunity: 5-7:30 p.m. Provost's Lecture with W. Kamau Bell, Host of CNN docu-series, United Shades of America, and Sociopolitical Comedian  
Contact Kathy Motley at [kathymotley@comcast.net](mailto:kathymotley@comcast.net) to volunteer.

### Friday, February 1

Oregon State University Women's Basketball vs. Colorado  
5-6:30 p.m. Social and Dinner, LaSells Stewart Center  
7 p.m. Women's Basketball Game, Gill Coliseum  
visit <https://beav.es/ZJz>.

### Monday, March 11

OSURA Scholarship application deadline  
More info at [osura.oregonstate.edu/osura-scholarship](https://osura.oregonstate.edu/osura-scholarship)

### Friday, March 15

Oregon State University Women's Gymnastics Meet vs. North Carolina, Seattle Pacific and Iowa  
5-6:30 p.m. Social and Dinner, LaSells Stewart Center  
7 p.m. Meet Start, Gill Coliseum

### Thursday, May 23

1:30-4:30 p.m. OSURA Annual Meeting and Member Social, CH2M HILL Alumni Center Willamette Room (115)

For more information on all our upcoming events visit, [osura.oregonstate.edu](https://osura.oregonstate.edu).



**Oregon State**  
**University**

## OSURA Mission Statement

The Oregon State University Retirement Association (OSURA) promotes engagement among OSU retirees and between retirees and the University by providing information, programs, scholarships and volunteer service opportunities that contribute to a rewarding retirement and that support the University's mission.