Spotlight: Emery Castle

[This is the second in an occasional series profiling OSU retirees who have made noteworthy achievements subsequent to retirement.]

Side by side in the middle of Washington, D.C., sit two facilities which symbolize some of the proudest elements of a distinguished career. One is the headquarters building of the highly regarded think tank, Resources For the Future (RFF), which blossomed during the period 1975–85 under the leadership of Emery Castle. Directly in front of the RFF building is to be found a beautiful courtyard which features the Emery N. Castle Rose Garden. Asked to identify his proudest professional achievement, Emery cites the years with RFF. Asked what gives him greatest pleasure, he immediately replies, “my roses.” Such choices must be difficult, for Dr. Castle has accomplished a great deal while becoming one of the nation’s most highly regarded agricultural economists.

Emery Castle was born and raised amidst the oil fields and on rented farms in south central Kansas during the drought and depression years of the 1930s, the third born of four sons. He regards his Midwestern origins as critical to the development of the attitudes and practices he still values. He stayed in-state for BS and MS degrees from Kansas State, and then moved to Iowa State for his PhD. Until the Iowa State years, he had no designs upon becoming a scholar or researcher; he had always loved economics, but he longed for practice in the community, not for the academic life. He began his employment career with two years at the Federal Reserve Bank in Kansas City, where he worked more with bankers than with farmers but discovered that the best farmers were more adept at economic decision making than the best bankers. The appeal of scholarship was still growing, but this experience led him to search for a position where he could do both scholarship and applied practice in the community.

That position turned out to be at none other than Oregon State University, where the young Dr. Castle began, in 1954, as Assistant Professor of Agricultural Economics. He was given early, important responsibilities here, including the development of a graduate program and a program in natural resources. In the context of work on integrating ecology and economics, he soon began what became a personal trademark: the crossing of disciplinary lines. He was one of the first, for example, to produce work on the non-market dimensions of natural resources. He soon became Vice-Chair of the Faculty Senate. Then, while poised to interview for a chairmanship at Washington State, he was asked by OSU’s then-President Jensen to step in as Dean of Faculty.

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The OSURA year is coming to a close with the Annual Meeting set for May 12. It has been a productive and worthwhile year for OSURA, and I hope each of you has taken advantage of the many opportunities OSURA offers. Informative programs presented by the Member Services Committee and the entertaining events planned by the Program Committee have been the highlights of the year. One of the most interesting events was the field trip to Stahlbush Island Farm to view their varied activities. Volunteering at Career Days, University Day and Commencement were opportunities to assist the University with these important events. The fellowship at the dinners before the gymnastics meet and the women’s basketball game afforded members the chance to socialize as well as see exciting OSU basketball and gymnastics.

The planning committees for these activities can always use additional members, and I invite you to participate if you can. Any ideas you have for future programs are always welcome, as well. We want OSURA to be an organization for its members, and we welcome your contributions.

OSURA is very proud to provide scholarships to students whose careers will lead to ways to encourage healthy aging. Part of your dues goes to funding these scholarships. You can make additional contributions through the OSU Foundation to the scholarship fund. We hope the scholarship winners for the coming year will join us for the Annual Meeting.

It has been a worthwhile and enjoyable year to serve as the president of OSURA; the Board is a lively group who has made a great contribution to the progress of the organization. We are particularly grateful to Kate Sanders for her support in seeing that our programs and activities are accomplished. Her knowledge of the University and contacts with the administration make our work very easy. And OSURA continues to owe great thanks to Luanne Lawrence for her unfailing support and encouragement. We are fortunate to have the University behind us; we could not be the vital organization we are, nor contribute as we do to the University, without them.

I look forward to seeing you at the Annual Meeting and at future OSURA events.
Jo Anne Trow, 2009-10 OSURA President.
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In making the switch to cogen, production efficiency increases from 33% to 90% and emission of pollutants like sulfur dioxides, particulates, oxides of nitrogen, volatile organic compounds, and greenhouse gases is dramatically reduced. Hence, environmental groups such as the Sierra Club provide some of the most vocal endorsements.

In OSU’s particular case, a new facility was long overdue, so much so that the Board of Higher Education made the Energy Center its top priority project for legislative funding in the 2003-2005 budget. Built in 1923, at a time when harmful emissions were of little concern, only three of the five boilers in the old heat plant still functioned. Furthermore, the plant was seismically unsound. Plant failures for any number of reasons could have proven catastrophic for the campus. Safety was an issue, and there were occasional mechanical failures causing disruptions in campus heating, which are probably well remembered by many a reader.

Whereas the old plant generated no electrical power whatsoever, the new Energy Center is expected to meet half of OSU’s electricity demand, yielding an annual cost saving of $600,000. It will reduce carbon dioxide emissions by 38 percent. In addition to its production capabilities, it will also serve as a teaching center for numerous OSU programs pertaining to engineering and environmental sciences. Hence, the Center is poised to achieve a combination of economic, ecological, efficiency, and educational gains as the institution strives to become a model on yet another important front.

**What's Happening?**

**May 12 Annual Meeting**
OSU Foundation Board Room
2:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
RSVP@oregonstate.edu
541-737-4717
Parking is Free

**May 20 Oregon Garden Tour**
Meet at the OSU Foundation Building at 9:15 a.m. and returning by 3:30 p.m.
Stephaniejorgensen@cmug.com
541-753-4682

**June 12 Commencement**
Would you like to volunteer?
Call 541-737-6439 or e-mail sierra.whitlow@oregonstate.edu

**August 6 “MacBeth”**
Save the date for Shakespeare in the Quad, “Macbeth.”

**September 15**
7th Annual Golf Outing
See below for more information.

**Annual Meeting!**

Block out the afternoon of **Wednesday, May 12** on your calendars. That’s the date for the OSURA Annual Meeting, to be held once again in the Board Room of the OSU Foundation headquarters, located at the intersection of 35th and Western Boulevard.

Activities will begin at 2:30 p.m. with registration and the opportunity to socialize and sample a tasty array of refreshments. In order to expedite the process of paying annual dues at the meeting, please locate the dues form on the back of this issue, fill it out ahead of time, and bring it with you to the annual meeting, together with your check or cash.

The business meeting will commence at 3:00 with a welcome from outgoing President **Jo Anne Trow**, followed by the Treasurer’s report and the election of new board members. Those who have been nominated for the three available board positions are: **Carroll DeKock**, **Tom McClintock**, and **Geraldine (Gerry) Olson**. Next will be the presentation of the Volunteer of the Year Award, as well as introduction of the winners of the 2010 OSURA Scholarships. Finally, retiring board members and committee chairs will be recognized.

The program will continue with remarks by **Luanne Lawrence**, Vice President for University Advancement, on the topic “Powered By Orange.” OSU President **Edward Ray** will follow with his perspective on the current economy, particularly as it intersects with the Campaign for OSU. There will be opportunity for further interaction with fellow retirees after adjournment, expected to occur at approximately 4:45.

OSURA board officers for 2010-2011 will be: **Susan Poole**, President; **Terri Tower**, President-elect; **Jim Krueger**, Secretary; and **Carol Kronstad**, Treasurer. We wish them a wonderful year ahead, and we all thank Jo Anne Trow for providing an outstanding year of OSURA leadership.

**Golf Again!**

**7th Annual OSURA Golf Outing**
September 15, 2010
Golf Scramble with a "shotgun" start at 3:00 p.m.
Social for golfers and non-golfers at 5:30 p.m.

**Save the Date!**
Are you a Member?

Oregon State University Retirement Association (OSURA) is in its seventh year, and we are proud of our growth in members, service to OSU and breadth of our programs. OSURA is affiliated with University Advancement and receives staff support and modest funding from the University. Why should you become a member of OSURA?

• Develop and attend programs of interest to retirees
• Enjoy social activities with former colleagues and new OSURA friends
• Hear presentations on the state of OSU, as well as on topics of interest to OSU retirees
• Enjoy contact with students and OSU staff while volunteering for university-related service projects
• Strengthen and promote your ties to the university and OSURA retirees
• Advocate through OSURA for OSU retiree privileges at the university
• Participate in OSURA discussions of state government retiree benefits
• Take part in educational outings within the university and in the community
• Assist in creating an endowed scholarship, OSURA’s legacy to the field of healthy aging

Social: Dinner prior to an athletic event, dessert and discussion before a University Theater play, the Annual Golf Tournament and Party at Trysting Tree Golf Course.

Presentations: Pre-retirement presentations and discussions; programs related to topics such as healthy aging, identity theft, dealing with death, estate planning, social media for novices and retirees.

Volunteering: Fall and Spring Career Fairs, University Day, Convocation, Graduation, CONNECT Week assistance to new students, OSU flu clinic, campus blood drives, START programs for incoming students and their parents.

Scholarships: OSURA offers two $1,000 scholarships to undergraduate students pursuing a career that supports healthy aging. The association is working to create a scholarship endowment in the near future.

As a member you would also be entitled to:
• Annual Retiree Directory
• E-mail alerts about upcoming events or volunteer opportunities
• The OSURA newsletter
• Terra, the OSU Research Magazine
• Web site: oregonstate.edu/osura

Program Committee: plans campus and other tours, attendance at cultural activities such as theatre or concerts and group attendance at athletic events.

Membership Committee: tracks and recruits members and helps members stay connected with OSU.

Communication Committee: helps develop the Newsletter, publicizes OSURA events, monitors the Web site and keeps the display board current.

Scholarship Committee: includes all activities related to awarding the OSURA scholarship.

Member Services Committee: provides information and programs on retirement issues, including pensions, medical benefits and investment plans; advocates for access to campus facilities and services; provides information and programs on wellness and health care and financial issues.

E-mail: OSURA@oregonstate.edu to sign up.

Trivia Answer:
Chad Ochocinco, who starred on the football field as a spectacular pass receiver for OSU using his former name, Chad Johnson.
In With the New, In With the Old

OSU’s new Cogen Energy Center, located at 35th and Jefferson, could be described as “old wine in a new bottle.” “Cogen” is short for “cogeneration,” a term which describes the simultaneous production of both power and heat, utilizing one primary fuel (natural gas, in OSU’s case) to obtain those dual products. Roughly speaking, the idea resembles the way in which gasoline powers an automobile engine to produce both mechanical and electrical energy for operating, heating, and cooling your car. But what sounds like a very high-tech, modern idea turns out not to be so new after all. In fact, the first commercial power plant in the U.S. was the Pearl Street Station, a cogen plant designed and built by Thomas Edison in New York City in 1882. Less efficient (and less environmentally friendly) power production systems have dominated the national scene over the past century. But the current combined conditions of economy and ecology have become a driving force in a gradual repopularization of cogen (also known as CHP, for “combined heat and power”). Although the majority of cogen plants are to be found in manufacturing facilities, another growing application has been in colleges, hospitals, and office buildings. At the heart of OSU’s new Energy Center stands a 5.5 megawatt combustion turbine generator, fired by natural gas. A heat recovery steam generator and two auxiliary boilers for generating electricity complete the central equipment assembly.

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Emery accepted the invitation, but just for one year. During that year, he began to envision his future as limited to still higher administrative positions, which he found a starkly depressing prospect. Hence, he moved to his “real desire” and happily spent the next six years as Head of Agricultural Economics. He was next enticed by Vice President Roy Young to become Dean of the Graduate School (1972-75). Then came one of Castle’s proudest achievements: ten years with Resources For the Future, first as VP, then as President (1979-85). Upon his return to OSU, he oversaw the University Graduate Faculty of Economics until his retirement in 1993, at age 70.

Since retirement, Emery has taken on a series of special assignments for OSU. These include assistance in reorganizing the Extension Service, working to establish a National Rural Studies Committee with the aid of a Kellogg Foundation grant, and continuing his department ties, especially with graduate programs. He has also continued to publish and looks forward to the projected July 2010 publication of his new book, Reflections of a Pragmatic Economist: My Intellectual Journey (OSU Press). The book contains a very special Appendix pertaining to victims of Alzheimer’s Disease and their caregivers. It derives from Emery’s thirteen years of caregiving for Merab, his wife of fifty-three years, who died in 1999 after a decade of what Castle calls “absolutely my most difficult experience ever.”

Emery identified two items as his proudest professional accomplishments: (1) the experience with Resources For the Future, including helping RFF become financially self-sufficient; and (2) being able to witness the achievements of young colleagues and graduate students with whom he has been associated. He also takes understandable pride in the recognition now given to OSU Agricultural Economics, regarded as one of the top ten programs in the nation (“I would like to think I had something to do with it!”) and in the establishment, five years ago, of the Emery Castle Professorship in Agricultural Economics at OSU. His biggest surprise about retirement: “How much I like it!” What he likes best about retirement: “The freedom.” His advice to others who are contemplating or beginning retirement: “I don’t like to give advice. Situations vary so much. I would rather just describe my own experiences, for people to utilize as may be applicable for them.”

Emery has one daughter, Cheryl, a CPA in Portland, with whom he stays in close contact. His wife, Betty, provides the couple with three more children, five grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren. Emery and Betty have enjoyed traveling to several Elderhostel programs together. And finally, of course, there are the beloved roses, Emery’s fondest and principal hobby through the years. He is very active with the Corvallis Rose Society (of which he is currently President) and provides leadership of a project to make the Corvallis Rose Garden in Avery Park more accessible to handicapped people, especially those in wheelchairs. Fittingly for an outstanding OSU retiree such as Emery, the roses began many decades ago in the person of another well-known OSU dignitary, Curtis Mumford. Curtis visited Emery soon after the young couple’s arrival in Corvallis and remarked, “What your new place needs is some rose bushes.” Emery replied, “I can’t even afford the furniture we need for the inside, let alone rose bushes!” As many readers remember, Curtis had a way of making connections and getting things done. He was back to Emery’s office a day or two later to query, “Would thirty-five cents a bush be too much?” The rest is history. ☟
I/We would like to renew/begin a membership with OSURA. Please enclose the membership fee of $20 for each person. Donations above $20 are gladly accepted and may be specified to go to the Scholarship Fund. Please make checks payable to OSURA. Membership year runs from July 1 – June 30.

OSURA Annual Dues: $20 per member

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All OSURA members will be listed in the OSU Retirees Directory.
☐ Check here if you would prefer your name not be listed.

Are you a spouse/partner of a deceased OSU employee? ☐ Yes

Department

Retirement Date

Spouse/Partner

Department (if the spouse/partner is an OSU employee only)  Retirement Date

Address:

Street  City  State  Zip

Phone Number:  E-mail The BEST way to receive notices and event announcements!

Please return this form to OSURA, 205 Adams Hall Corvallis, OR 97331 For questions call: (541) 737-4717 or E-mail: osura@oregonstate.edu.