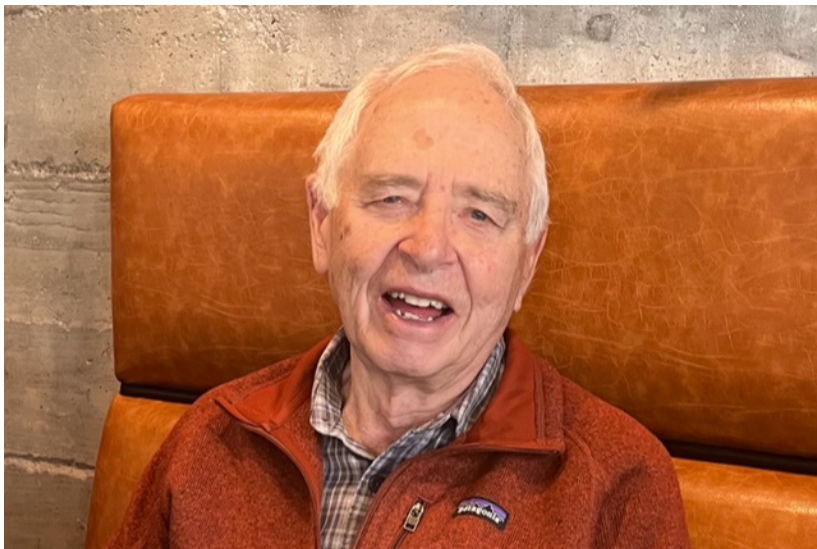




OSURA News & Views

Oregon State University Retirement Association | Fall 2023

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



by Carroll DeKock | OSURA President

As we begin a new academic year, I can confidently report that OSURA is healthy. We have a full board of 15, which is a first during my time on the Board. I appreciate the strength of this Board and would not have volunteered to be your President without this support. Our membership is strong as well. We currently have 293 members for 2023-24.

2023-2024 OSURA Executive Committee

Carroll DeKock President

Mary Burke, President-Elect

Robert Smythe, Immediate Past President

Bill Young, Treasurer

Michael Burke, Secretary

Members-at-Large and Committee Chairs

Kevin Ahern, Member-at-Large

Tony Amandi, Programs Co-Chair

Gary Beach, Member-at-Large

Carroll DeKock, Member Services Chair

Jaga Giebultowicz, Member-at-Large

Rose Kenneke, Member-at-Large

Kathy Motley, Volunteer Chair

Larry Pribyl, Programs Co-Chair

Indira Rajagopal, Member-at-Large

Michael Schuyler, Scholarship Chair

Julie Searcy, Member-at-Large

Robert Smythe, Membership Chair

Elizabeth Webb, Newsletter Editor & Website Coordinator

The Program Committee, composed of Larry Pribyl and Tony Amandi, were especially active last year.

The year started with an informative and challenging exposure to pickle ball. I managed to sprain an ankle and Tony pulled a calf muscle! It is apparently true that pickle ball keeps the medical establishment busy. Watch for new programs coming this year as they have a number of interesting programs planned.

The Travel Share program, led by Rose Kenneke, has been especially active this year. There have been programs on Tanzania and Kenya, Greece, and Machu Picchu and the Galapagos Islands. The great advantage of these programs is that one learns first-hand not only about the area but also the particular travel agency that was used.

OSURA is fortunate to have the support of the OSU administration. During this past year we lost the good services of Mealoha McFadden who had served OSURA for many years. I want to take this opportunity to thank Mealoha for her good work for OSURA. During the time she was gone and before a replacement was hired, Shelly Signs took on added duties to provide OSURA support. In March 2023, Teri Braun was hired as Mealoha's replacement. Teri has been a superb fit and OSURA is fortunate to have her. She comes to us from the Event Planning Office at Arizona State University where she worked for eight years. Most recently she oversaw special events for the Boys and Girls Club of Salem. She tells me that she likes to read a good book, cook tasty food and go on nature walks with her dog. Welcome Teri, we are so happy to have you as our support person!

At our last Board Meeting, June 2, 2023, the Board passed a motion to increase dues to \$25 for an individual and \$40 for a household effective July 1, 2024. Although no one wants a dues increase, inflation requires an increase to keep the organization solvent.

At our Fall Start up on September 11, Provost Feser kindly consented to provide us with his perspective on the current status of the University. We enjoyed time with fellow OSU retirees, and learned about current and new programs at OSU from Provost Feser.

OSURA FALL STARTUP DINNER

by Carroll DeKock

Thirty five members were present for our fall startup event. After the initial visiting with each other and a Mexican dinner, we were pleased to have Provost Edward Feser join us as our guest speaker. Provost Feser is the Chief Academic Officer at OSU and oversees 11 academic colleges, as well as other units related to academics.



In his opening remarks he discussed the unfortunate state of the PAC-12 now reduced to the PAC-2, Oregon State University and Washington State University. He indicated that OSU and WSU had brought suit to keep the PAC-12 valuable assets in the possession of the schools that had not left, that is OSU and WSU. He indicated that considerable time and effort by President Murthy and OSU leadership has gone into trying to determine the best course of action going forward.

He then moved on to more academic matters. OSU expects to have 30,000 students by 2030. We are sought after by students and this year the admissions date for new students was closed by May 15, 2023. This positive enrollment allows OSU to be more selective. One of the tenets of the new long-range plan is that OSU will strive to graduate 100% of students admitted. In response to a question regarding this graduation rate, the Provost admitted this is not possible but that OSU should not admit students that were not qualified to graduate.

New faculty hires are now 50% women. Graduation rates for women are 75% and for men are 65%. Also in answer to a question, he indicated that the Legislature had given OSU a billion dollars for this year. Research funding is currently at 480 million dollars per year.

If this brief summary of the Provost's remarks piques your interest, you can find the entire program on line on the OSURA web page or at <https://beav.es/qwY> Teri Braun recorded the event and posted it to our website.



2023/2024 OSURA BOARD MEMBERS



Top: Indira Rajagopal and Kevin Ahern teleconferencing from Crete.

Left to right: Liz Webb, Mike Schuyler, Bill Young, Gary Beach, Jadwiga Giebultowicz, Carroll DeKock, Mary Burke, Rose Kenneke, Mike Burke.

Absent were Tony Amandi, Larry Pribyl, Julie Searcy and Bob Smythe.

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, see lists (<https://beav.es/5ST>)

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.

Enjoy a 50% discount on annual parking permits at OSU

In 2019, OSU Transportation Service implemented new criteria for discounted parking permits for retirees. They have notified OSURA that discounted parking permits are only available to emeritus faculty or retirees who reached 25+ years of service prior to retirement and who are also members of the OSU Retirement Association (OSURA).

If you meet the above criteria, you **MUST** contact Transportation Services at transportation@oregonstate.edu, or by calling 541-737-2583 during business hours (Mon-Fri, 7:30 AM to 1 PM). They will email a special invitation to claim a virtual permit for their zone at 50% off the regular rate. **DO NOT** purchase a permit directly from the Transportation Services website or you will not receive this discount and may not be eligible for a 50% refund.

OSURA rates will be as follows:

- Zone A (1, 2, or 3) -\$319
- Zone B (1, 2, or 3) -\$216
- Zone C -\$67.50

More information about permits for 2023-24 can be found here - <https://transportation.oregonstate.edu/parking/permit-types>

OSURA ANNUAL MEETING

MAY 8TH, 2023 by Mike Burke

There was good attendance for this meeting, held at the OSU Foundation in their excellent meeting facility.



President Jayathi Murthy described OSU through her first 9 months of leadership as “a high access university defined more by those we include than by those we exclude.” She indicated that the draft OSU Strategic Plan will be out in June and will be a blueprint to take OSU forward through the 2030’s. <https://beav.es/qwM> “So much can be built upon OSU’s foundation”. The plan has four pillars: First, student success and graduation rate are of utmost importance. Currently OSU has a 6-year graduation rate of 72%. That must be increased to closer to top universities like the University of Washington or University of Wisconsin at 86%. The average net costs of attending OSU are at \$13K to \$14K/year and are high relative to the mean income for Oregonians (\$67K). Increasing student support through financial aid and state support is imperative. Second, OSU is a fine research university with research awards last year totaling \$472 million. This has increased 20% in each of the past two years and doubling is possible. Third, we need to rethink the Land Grant mission in modern terms of resilience, changing climate, and sustainability reflecting the economic realities of a state like Oregon. Fourth is inclusion. OSU must be inclusive, but with excellence.

President Murthy reported that OSU is at record enrollment with a waitlist of 1,000 students. The bottleneck in Corvallis is student housing. Reser Stadium is near completion, and the Arts and Entertainment Building will be finished in 2024. OSU Cascades Campus is growing with a new health center.

She asked that OSURA be fully supportive of OSU and its students particularly, at this time, with the state legislature. Oregonians need to know of the positive story and potential of a fine university and its students.

Questions from the members: Bill Young pointed out that Oregon ranks poorly (45th among states) in per capita support of higher education. President Murthy: we should strive to follow the example of Washington’s government, industry and constituents which rank 10th. Mike Unsworth asked about the emerging field of artificial intelligence, “AI”. President Murthy shared personal stories about “AI” and said “AI” is inevitable, it must be in our control, it will bring short term disruptions, but that we will adapt.

Carroll DeKock asked about the growing online e-campus over the next 25 years. President Murthy: OSU has over 12,000 online students, both off campus and on campus. It is likely to grow, OSU is likely to be a nationwide leader, and the e-campus could give OSU a national footprint.

Jack Walstad asked about the future student athlete in the NIL (name, image, likeness) environment. President Murthy: NIL will affect some OSU athletes and have an impact on OSU’s intercollegiate athletics. Along these lines, Susan Poole asked about championing women’s athletics at OSU. President Murthy told a personal story of how woman’s athletics has changed over her lifetime starting in India and how it will continue to change. She noted that this is the 50th anniversary of Title IX, that OSU woman athletes have a GPA of 3.45 and an 82% graduation rate. This is well above average. Jim Krueger asked about UCLA, the Big 10 and PAC 12. What does this mean for OSU? President Murthy: OSU is in very good company in the PAC 12, the PAC 12 gives OSU good recognition nationally, and it is extraordinary marketing. OSU must remain important in the PAC 12.

Bob Smythe asked if there were any surprises in the first months at OSU. President Murthy indicated the biggest surprise was the depth of OSU’s Land Grant culture and identity.

OSURA SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

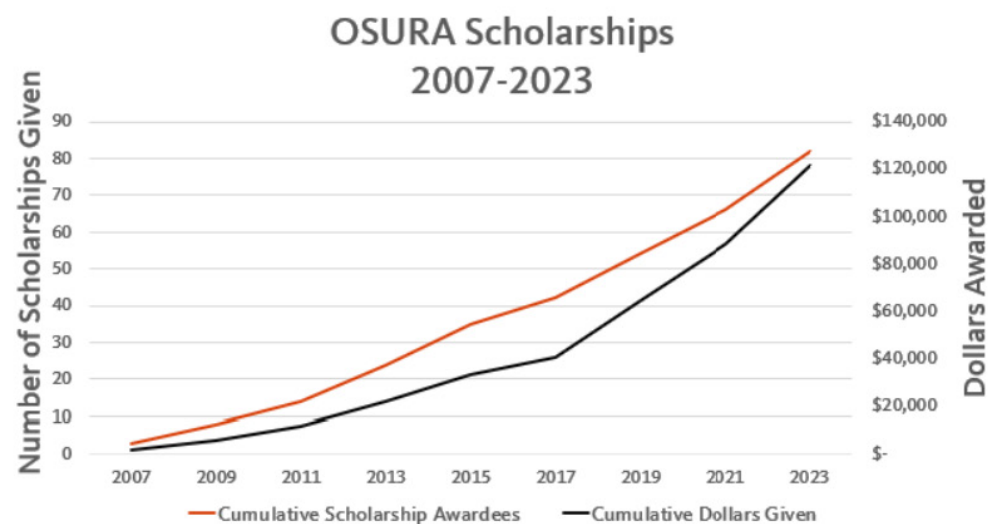
What is the OSURA Scholarship?

The OSU Retirement Association 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 at least one year of study remaining towards their first bachelor's (B.A. or B.S.) degree are encouraged to apply.



Oregon State University
Retirement Association



Since 2007, OSURA has awarded \$121,300 in scholarships to 82 students.

OSURA 2023 Annual Meeting. Graph Provided by Bill Young, Treasurer

These scholarships are funded entirely by the generous contributions of OSURA members. Please consider a donation to our OSURA scholarship fund.

The scholarship amount may be up to \$2,400 per person and will be awarded at the OSURA annual meeting in May 2024. Funds will be distributed into student accounts for the 2024-2025 academic year.

To apply or for more information, visit osura.oregonstate.edu/osura-scholarship

OSURA SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

OSURA received more than 40 applicants for undergraduate scholarships in 2023. The scholarship committee was able to select the following seven outstanding students from a strong set of applicants. OSURA is proud to provide support to these students.



Anusha Vasudevan

Anusha, from Corvallis, is a junior with plans to graduate in 2024. She is majoring in Bio Health Sciences with a Pre-Med Option. She has a career goal of becoming a primary care physician.

She has an excellent academic record as well as commendable activities of leadership and volunteering to benefit OSU and the community. Her thesis research is in the laboratory of Emily Ho.

Anusha feels that as a primary care physician she will be able to help her patients achieve optimal physical health and also contribute to their emotional wellbeing – both so important to healthy aging. Through her volunteer work, particularly in managing the Community Outreach Clinic for the past two years as well as Albany InReach Services last year, she is illustrating her passion for helping patients receive quality and equitable care to lead healthy lives. Anusha serves as the president of PERIOD@OSU, planning and leading outreach services for the campus and community. Her letters of support are outstanding. She was awarded an OSURA scholarship last year.



Olivia Hulbert

Olivia is a junior from Eugene, with a major in Public Health/option in Health Promotion and Health Behavior and a minor in Spanish with a career goal to become a physical therapist and athletic trainer. She is an advocate for marginalized communities to receive proper health care. By becoming fluent in Spanish, she will work with immigrant populations to achieve an equitable healthcare system.

Through her work with a community engagement and leadership program, she led a student group to work with elders and others in improving shelter, addressing food insecurity and health issues. Among the tasks was building ramps for homes of elders in the Yakima Nation Reservation. Her work in this field extended to San Francisco and Ashland.

One of her references indicated Olivia “... aspires to build more equitable communities so that all members of society might experience healthier and fuller lives mentally, emotionally, physically, socially, and spiritually, thus promoting healthy aging.” Her letters of support are very enthusiastic. Olivia believes that a healthy aging process needs to begin early, and she has demonstrated that in her work and goal setting. She was awarded an OSURA scholarship last year.



Denna Nour Alnasser

Denna, from Mill City, Oregon, is a major in Public Health, focusing on Health Promotion and Health Behavior, Pre-Dietetics with a minor in Psychology. She has excellent grades, is fluent in Arabic, and earned excellent letters of recommendation. She plans to be a dietician to guide elders in kinds of food they should eat to be a healthier person and also wants to work in public health to implement programs that include prevention and treatment of diseases.

She has worked for the OSU-Oregon Health Authority Surge Bench for the past three years where she investigates COVID-19 cases, enters data and is a vaccine navigator. During high school she had an unpaid Oregon Connections Academy internship providing in-home care for an elderly patient. She has many other volunteer activities. She is a member of several Public Health related associations and is Vice-President of the OSU Student Public Health Association. She was awarded an OSURA scholarship last year.



Emily Bourne

Emily is a sophomore from Corvallis, majoring in Kinesiology at Oregon State University. While compiling an exceptionally strong academic record, Emily also has engaged in a number of service activities. This diverse range of activities include volunteering at the Vina Moses Center, serving on and chairing the Student Athlete Advisory Committee at OSU, and volunteering at Camp Attitude (a program for special needs individuals).

Emily's letters of recommendation are highly supportive of her candidacy for this award. They remark on both her academic abilities and her character; she displays an infectious enthusiasm and a drive to succeed. Emily's career goal is to become an occupational therapist and, in her own words, "to educate individuals who are aging with the knowledge of how to keep themselves safe and their bodies healthy."



Adeline Rang

Adeline is an OSU major in both Agricultural Sciences and International Studies from Sumner, Washington, with expected graduation in 2024. Her goal is to become a teacher of agriculture. She believes that working to improve the environment will make an impact on the health of people as they age. To this end she has performed service in the Future Farmers of America and in many other agricultural service organizations. Her list of work is diverse. It includes maintaining her own beehives and working at OSU's Honeybee lab, plus summer work as a farm hand in Kent and in Auburn, Washington over the past four years. She has served in the ASOSU Legislature, the Greek Council, and the Collegiate Farm Bureau.

The depth of Adeline's interest and commitment to learning is attested by her reference letters. One is from

the Lab Manager at the Honeybee Lab and the other from her adviser in the College of Agricultural Sciences, who wrote: "I feel very privileged to have been connected with Adie through the Leadership Academy -- I feel I get just as much as I give in our relationship." This reference also pointed out that Adie has a business of her own. Another letter added to the end of an enthusiastic recommendation that Adie is also a very good farm truck driver. Adeline was awarded an OSURA scholarship last year.

Duc (Bill) Hoy Le



Duc is a junior major in the College of Business, with a major specialty in Supply Chain and Logistics Management. This is an unusual major for an applicant for a scholarship awarded from OSURA.

However, Duc is an unusual applicant in that his first language is Vietnamese, and he is also a strong speaker and writer in English. His career has included international travel and studies. His goal is to apply to work with the United Nations World Food Program where he will volunteer “... in a foreign country to deliver food assistance, logistics, information technology, administration, and finance.” He believes the WFP will allow him to experience challenges in an environment that is different from what he is accustomed to. In his application he mentioned that he has had years of study abroad and he has a desire to improve the quality of life for “as many individuals as possible.” His fluency with Vietnamese and with English should help him reach his goals.

Skylar Anne Diteman

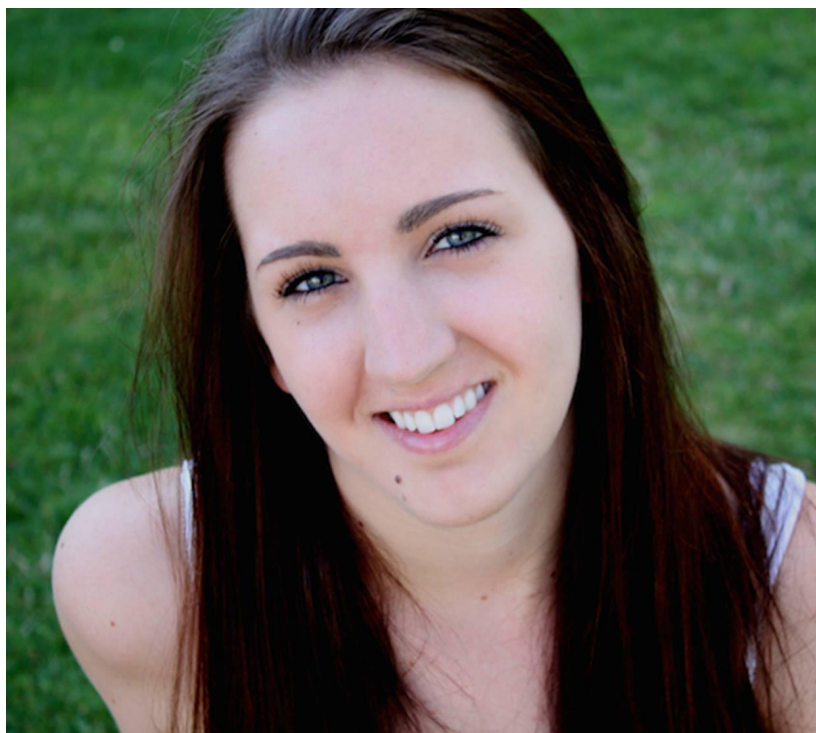


Skylar is a Nutrition major in the College of Public Health and Human Science with an option in Dietetics and a minor in Public Health. She has maintained a perfect GPA while taking difficult classes in math, chemistry and biology. She plans to obtain a Master’s degree and take the Registered Dietician exam. She hopes to improve people’s health through diet leading to healthy aging.

In addition to excelling academically, she has been involved in volunteer work such as working in a food pantry and leading small groups of participants on grocery tours to help them choose more healthful foods. As a member of Kappa Alpha Theta, she has worked in CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates). She is the Public Relations Officer for the Nutrition and Dietetics Club at OSU. Skylar worked for several years taking a couple of courses a term at community colleges before starting at OSU. She maintained a perfect GPA at these institutions also.

OSURA SCHOLARS WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

OSURA contacts former recipients of our student scholarships and asks them if they would be willing to answer a few questions about their current situations and how OSU and OSURA's scholarship support played a role in their careers. In our spring 2023 newsletter, we posted replies from David Shumway, Ben Kong, and Lizzy Ragan. Here is one more from



Claire Ostertag-Hill. They continue to trickle in...

Claire Ostertag-Hill

What is your current occupation? I am currently a pediatric surgery research fellow at Boston Children's Hospital/Harvard University.

Have you furthered your education after graduating from OSU? Yes, following graduation from OSU with three Honors Bachelor degrees, I pursued an MD from the Oregon Health & Science University. After graduation, I matched into general surgery residency at Rhode Island Hospital/Brown University and have completed the first two of five years of residency. I am currently pursuing a 3-year pediatric surgery research

fellowship at Boston Children's Hospital/Harvard University, and upon completion of this fellowship, I will be returning to Rhode Island Hospital/Brown University to finish my general surgery residency.

How well did OSU prepare you for your future?

My education at OSU, including my exposure to basic science research and work as a teaching assistant, was instrumental in laying a strong foundation in science and research and to my successes during medical school, residency, and now my research fellowship. I have been able to further build on the valuable skills I gained at OSU to become a strong surgical resident, author of multiple peer-reviewed publications and book chapters, and presenter at multiple international surgical conferences.

What are your future plans? After completion of my pediatric surgery research fellowship and general surgery residency, I hope to pursue a pediatric surgery fellowship and ultimately aspire to become a pediatric surgeon at an academic hospital.

Is there anything else you would like to tell us?

I am beyond grateful for the support OSURA and its members provided during my education at OSU. Through your support, I was able to focus on my education, research, volunteering, and teaching position, allowing me to prepare myself for medical school, residency, and ultimately my career.

Would you like to make a contribution to help a student?

Donate online to the OSURA Scholarship Program.
Oregon State University Foundation

give.fororegonstate.org

On the webform type in "**OSURA (OSU Retirement Association) Scholarship Fund**" under I want to give to

Thank you, your support makes a difference

OSURA SPOTLIGHT

MARY AND MIKE BURKE

Mike and I were both born in Chicago and attended Blackburn College in central Illinois. I was a year behind Mike and met him on my second day there. Blackburn is an inexpensive school with a work program and tuition was set at the maximum paid by the Illinois State Scholarship Fund. Mike graduated in Chemistry with minors in Math and Biology. I graduated in Biology. I finished in 3 years, so we graduated together. We were married at the end of the summer (now almost 60 years ago) and took off to Graduate School at Iowa State University. Mike was in Biophysics and his Ph.D. thesis was on “Cross β Protein Fibrils” (now known to be related to structure of brain amyloids). I was in Bacteriology and my Ph.D. thesis was “Histidine Biosynthesis in *Staphylococcus aureus*”.

We moved to the University of Minnesota where Mike was a Post-doc in Theoretical Chemistry/Chemical Physics learning quantum mechanics and doing molecular orbital calculations on the pigments, Phytochrome and Rhodopsin. Mike’s work was mostly theoretical but his limited laboratory experiments had to be done at low temperatures usually at or above -196°C (temperature of liquid nitrogen). He got to be quite proficient working at these temperatures, which proved helpful later. I taught in the very large UM General Biology course (1000 students/quarter and supervising 40 GTA’s) and was appointed to the Botany Department. It was a good experience with a large, televised course where the students’ primary human contact was with the Graduate Teaching Assistants who taught all the lab sections. This involved coordinating lots of laboratories, lots of supplies and lots of Graduate Teaching Assistances. For research, I was now studying the distribution of red photosynthetic bacteria in Minnesota bogs until our daughter Mara was born.

Mike decided by then he was not going to be a theoretician, and with a child on the way, moved

temporarily to the Horticulture Department where he studied under Bud Weiser on winter hardiness in plants. Mike explained to Bud that he never had a course in botany, plant science or any area of agriculture. Bud thought it might be good because “you will have to find cooperators.” Mike and his cooperators initially worked on northern forest (Boreal Forest) trees and shrubs that were frost sensitive in summer but survived -196°C in winter. Using pulse NMR (nuclear magnetic resonance), calorimetry, microscopy, and various other techniques they were able to characterize the freezing process quite well. They found that during freezing, ice growth was restricted to extracellular air spaces with the living cells undergoing extreme dehydration. The air spaces accommodated the ice, and the cells survived the low temperature dehydration and sometimes formed aqueous solution glasses. Less hardy and summer plants did this less well with cells not surviving dehydration or with ice occurring within the cells (always lethal). When extending these studies in winter to trees of the Eastern Deciduous Forest (most of the forest in the Eastern USA and Southeast Canada including most oaks, maples, hickories, etc., along with apple, pear, cherry, etc.) or the trees of the high Rocky Mountains, they found a second freezing point always between -35°C and -45°C . This freezing was always lethal to the plants and was due to freezing of deep supercooled cell solutions at their lower limit, the homogeneous ice nucleation temperature, usually about -41°C . An implication of this finding was that those plants did not survive in regions subjected to -40°C at least once a year and these regions are big and include much of Canada, Alaska, and Northern Eurasia or at timberlines of high mountains like the Central Rocky Mountains. Fortunately, almost no part of Oregon is subjected to -40°C !

Mike et.al., also paid attention to two other threshold temperatures which caused considerable plant damage, $+10^{\circ}\text{C}$ to $+15^{\circ}\text{C}$ and -1°C to -3°C . At $+15^{\circ}\text{C}$, plants like tomatoes, bananas and many others suffer chilling injury caused by membrane structural changes (probably membrane phase separations). At or near -1°C , very good ice nucleators (later found to be ice

nucleation active bacteria) initiate ice formation in crops like maize causing frost damage. These same bacteria cause ice nucleation in clouds and come down from clouds in snowflakes and rain drops. That's how they get on the maize. Well, Mike published a lot of papers and in the process, he learned on the job, and later even taught horticulture! We were in Minnesota for 7 years in hybrid Chemistry/Horticulture/Botany positions and it was a wonderful time.

We moved to Colorado State University for 3 years in Fort Collins where Mike was an Associate Professor continuing cold hardiness studies at timberline and later seed development and survival. Some seeds are like very hardy plants in that the cells survive extreme dehydration. Their cell solutions become very viscous stopping most chemistry and perhaps even forming aqueous glasses stable at room temperature.

We then moved to the University of Florida in Gainesville for 5 years where Mike became department head in the Fruit Crops Department. For the first time I got a job teaching Microbiology including teaching large courses! Our son John was born soon before we left.

We then moved to Oregon State University in 1984 and have been here ever since. Our attractions besides a great University were mountains and sailing. Mike was an Associate Dean of Agriculture with an academic appointment in Horticulture. I have taught just about every undergraduate course offered in Microbiology but mainly the General Microbiology course and lab taught for majors and pre-meds. I taught approximately 400 to 450 students/year for 23 years. I was lucky to receive the Loyd Carter Award for undergraduate teaching in Science, the Olaf Boedtker award for advising in Science, the University Dar Reese Excellence in Advising Award, plus numerous student awards. I thought I had the best job in the university! Mike retired 4 years before I did and was able to sail for 19 years before we sold the boat. His adventures were mainly sailing the Oregon, Washington, and British Columbia coasts and the inland waters from the San

Juan Islands to the tip of Vancouver Island. He sailed around Vancouver Island 4 times. Most of this single handed. His brother and various friends would join him for a week to a month every year and I would join him for about 6 weeks/year. It was a great adventure. We also managed to visit various parts of Europe during the 5 years John was at the University of Cambridge. We enjoy spending time with our five grandchildren. Mike does a lot of hiking (sometimes with me). I do exercise classes and volunteer work. We have both enjoyed being in OSURA. Mike is a superb secretary, and I am President-elect.



Our Minnesota years, a small family in a small boat in 1973.



In our Oregon years, the boat grew,



and the family grew too!

OSURA PROGRAMS: MINI GOLF TOURNAMENT

Contributed by Larry Pribyl

OSURA's first annual mini-golf tournament was held on July 24 at the Lake Shore Lanes in Albany under clear skies and cool morning temperatures. The winds were calm but many golf balls were blown off course by the enthusiastic golfers chattering away. There were 12 golfers with variety of skills and tactics to make the game of mini-golf so much fun and challenging. The group was divided into 3 teams. Everyone made it around the 18-hole course and amazingly enough, no one lost their golf ball. However, Jack Walstad's golf ball got stuck in an artificial hollow log trap. On his hands and knees Jack was able to knock the ball out using his billiard's skills. There were 3 players who had a hole-in-one. The low score and winner of the OSURA first annual mini-golf tournament was Ray Brooks. Ray received a free round of mini golf at Lake Shore Lanes.

By popular demand, a second mini-golf tournament was scheduled for October 11.



(L to R) Tony and Betty Amandi, JoAnne and Jack Walstad, Greta and Ray Brooks, Carol and Bill Young, Sue and Jerry Borden, Kristy Pribyl and Larry Pribyl capturing the photo



Ray Brooks (Beaver Believer) eyeing his ball while Bill Young, Carol Young and Greta Brooks look on



Jerry Borden with a Hole-in-one



The mysterious log trap that Jack Walstad found very challenging.



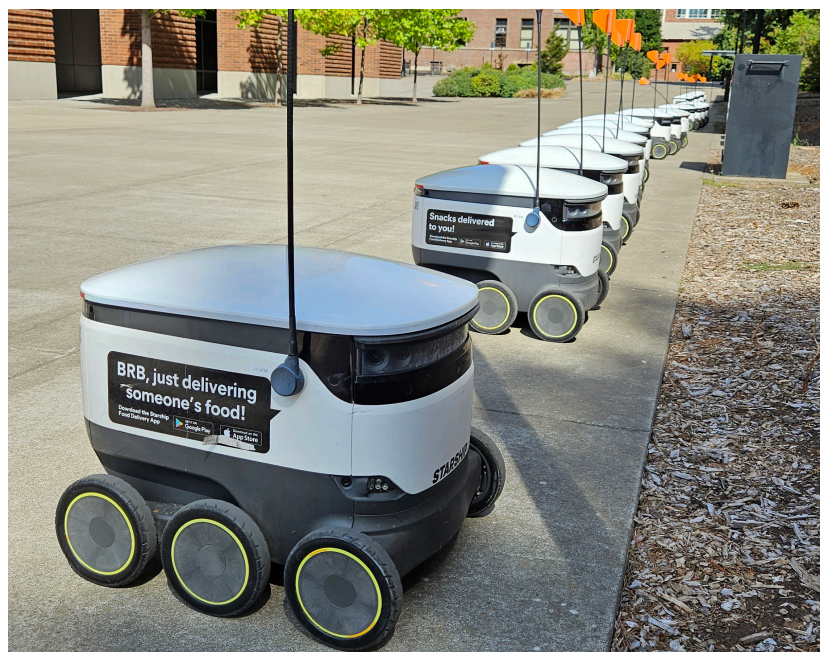
Larry Pribyl, photographer



Tony Amandi, photographer

OSURA PROGRAMS: STARSHIP ROBOTS

Contributed by Larry Pribyl



Robots providing food delivery through mobile ordering to the OSU campus



L to R Scott McKirdy & Kerry Paterson

On September 15, 2023, Kerry Paterson, Director of Campus Dining and Catering and Starship's Scott McKirdy, Operations Site Lead, explained to OSURA members the reasons why Oregon State introduced autonomous robotic food delivery to campus. They also presented a high level understanding around how the Starship robotic program works.



OSURA Members L to R Scott McKirdy & Kerry Paterson

Starship is located at over 50 college campuses around the United States delivering food and beverages. The company which was founded in 2014 has its headquarters in Estonia with the main engineering center located in the United Kingdom.

The robots were not brought to OSU because of the Covid-19 epidemic. In early 2020 campus discussions began about the possibilities of delivering meals by robots to students, faculty and campus staff. Then Covid-19 hit. Campus life was put on a temporary hold. Food services still continued but in a much different way. Dining Services needed an on-line ordering and delivery system so the Starship partnership continued. The pandemic shutdown allowed the Starship team to learn and navigate the campus community with the robots before the campus population and traffic returned.

In mid-October of 2020 the robot service began. The robots were very successful. The students love the robots. Most of the community loves them. So it was a good test using the robots during the pandemic. The robots have cameras, radar sensors all around them and 99% of the time are driving a pre-mapped lane that has been programmed for them.



Dining Services operates the dining centers, cafes and grocery stores on campus. 90% of the food and beverage offerings can be ordered through Starship. Robots operate 7:30 am to 11:30 pm on one single charge inside the campus map. They are reaching new customers who previously did not use dining services. Oregon State student, staff, faculty and campus visitors can order food from the campus restaurants to be delivered to any outdoor location on campus via robot delivery.

For more information about this topic:

Link to the OSURA video presentation:

https://media.oregonstate.edu/media/t/1_qazlcbgr

News release titled, “Robots provide food delivery to Corvallis campus: <https://today.oregonstate.edu/news/robots-provide-food-delivery-corvallis-campus>

Link to Starship Food Delivery app,

<https://food.oregonstate.edu/robot-delivery-mobile-ordering>

6 simple steps in mobile ordering.

1. Download the app
2. Set your location
3. Place your order
4. Select delivery
5. Enter your payment method
6. Go meet your robot when it arrives

OSURA PROGRAMS: VOLUNTEERS

Kathy Motley reported that 10 OSURA members provided volunteer service at University Day in September. It was a lot of fun and the first time it was held in the LINC building

TRAVEL SHARE CANADIAN ROCKIES BY TRAIN

Photos and adventures narrated by Joe Nibler | Story by Rose Kenneke

Highly worthwhile photos and stories were captured on video from Joe's PowerPoint presentation:

<https://beav.es/qwA>

On October 2, 2023, OSURA members climbed aboard for a virtual seven-day train trip through the Canadian Rockies with presenter Joe Nibler. Carroll DeKock, part of their group of ten travelers, introduced Joe saying that he and Joe were from OSU's Chemistry Department and had been friends for 56 years.

Both men were avid skiers, who along with other skiers, had been on various short skiing trips. But, in 2000-2001 the group decided to take a longer trip to Kalispell, Montana. When temperatures in Kalispell plummeted to - 20 degrees they decided to change their location to a less frigid area in Fernie, British Columbia, Canada.

In Fernie, their luck changed. They were treated to higher temperatures and 18 inches of fresh snow. According to Joe, it was the "finest powder on earth." Their ski group returned to this location often in the ensuing years. They preferred Canada's ski areas because the lodges were at lower elevations; they were less expensive; and they were friendlier.

In 2019, the men decided to abandon their skis and travel by train with their wives through some of their former ski areas. They booked all their travel needs through a travel agency for the following year, 2020. Because of the pandemic, the trip they booked in 2019 became a reality in 2022.

For the first six days of the trip, they spent the daylight hours on the train, the Rocky Mountaineer, and nights in local hotels, usually elegant railway hotels of a past era. Their first day began at 7:30 at Vancouver, B.C. with Kamloops as their destination. The train wound its way through urban areas, desert-like terrain and the Fraser River. The river was named by Simon Fraser, an early surveyor. At one point the river ran through a chasm so narrow it caused the waters to flow at a speed of four million cubic feet per second. The force of the water traveling at that speed prohibited salmon from swimming upstream. The channel was subsequently widened.

On the next leg of the journey from Kamloops to Banff, passengers enjoyed magnificent views of towering peaks and rock formations reminiscent of medieval cathedrals. As the train travelled through Roger's Pass, riders learned that in 1910 an avalanche occurred, taking the lives of 60 workers. Later, to avoid future disasters, a tunnel was constructed. But most endearingly, on their way to Banff, passengers caught sight of a Canadian woman standing along the train tracks outside her home. Every morning at 9:30 for five years this woman had come out to wave at passengers and crew as the train went speeding past. Her daily routine became a highlight of the trip, one that riders had come to anticipate. Alas, one day the woman did not appear as expected. Nor was she seen standing at her usual post the second day. Everyone became concerned and decided to investigate. They discovered she had been in the hospital but would return home soon. They also learned that this woman had never ridden on a train. Consequently, passengers and crew purchased a ticket for her. On the same route, as the train approached her house, she could see a large group standing in front of her house waving to her.

In Banff the group bid farewell to the tourist train, cherishing the memories of good food, friendly service and camaraderie they had enjoyed during their journey.

For the next four hours they embarked on a four-hour bus trip to Jasper. Along the way passengers marveled at the sight of the beautiful turquoise waters of Lake Louise, Glacier National Park and the Columbia Ice Fields. At the Continental Divide, visitors learned that drops of rain falling on one side of the divide could ultimately end up in the Arctic Ocean while drops landing on the opposite side might reach the Atlantic Ocean.

While in Jasper, the group took a boat ride on Maligne Lake, once thought to be an evil place. Fortunately, the superstition did not hold true. Rather, passengers were treated to an unobstructed view of 11,000-foot Mt. Unwin.

Throughout the trip, passengers caught glimpses of wildlife in their native habitat. On one of the piers of a tall railroad bridge an osprey's nest was sighted. Another time an elk with an impressive rack of antlers came into view. Also, passengers saw the shadowy image of a black bear's head and the distinct outline of one pointy black ear as the animal passed through a dense thicket.

On their last night in Jasper, the ten travelers gathered at the Raven Bistro, deciding to celebrate their successful trip by ordering a \$200 bottle of wine. They wanted to include their excellent server and offered her a glass of wine, but she refused repeatedly. Finally, when the last few drops remained, she relented, took the bottle and drank it dry, as the crowd cheered.

The next day the group boarded a Canadian National train complete with sleeping cars, and ended their journey in Vancouver at 8:00 am.

