OSURA Members watch Beaver Women Clinch PAC-12 Title!

OSURA members were treated to a triple win on Friday, February 24, 2017. The evening began with another stimulating pre-game talk (his seventh!) by Coach Scott Rueck at the conclusion of our dinner at The LaSells Stewart Center, catered by Valley Catering. Then, along with 9,604 other boisterous fans (a Gill Coliseum record), we witnessed an amazing contest between the two top teams in the Pac-12—OSU and Stanford. The game was in the balance the entire time, but OSU prevailed in the final seconds, 50-47. What a thriller! And to cap it off, the Beavers won the Pac-12 Regular Season Title! So we were three-for-three that evening!

The Beaver women’s basketball team is one of only 2 teams to “3-peat” in the Pac-12. As you might expect, Stanford is the other. Indeed, Stanford Coach Tara VanDerveer was recognized for having won over 1,000 games during her coaching career. It was a nice tribute to her by “Beaver Nation.”

Coach Rueck has done a superlative job with his team this year—again. Although coming off a Final Four appearance last year, the Beavers were ranked only 5th in the Pac-12 at the beginning of the season—primarily because they had graduated several stars from the previous year. But they've sure turned a lot of

OSURA Member Profile: Jean Peters

Jean Peters packs a lot of punch in a small package.

Jean's varied and colorful life has its beginnings in British Columbia, attending local schools in Vancouver and the University of British Columbia (UBC). She studied dietetics in UBC's school of home economics, where she landed after being told that medicine and food science were “not for girls,” and received her bachelor’s degree in 1950.

The daughter of a Scottish sea captain, Jean fondly recalls her father, Skipper McLeod, as “a very large man with a delightful Scottish accent,” who taught her sailing and Highland dancing, instilled in her an enthusiasm for life, and inspired her to succeed.

Among Jean's more adventurous summer college work experiences was as the “gas girl” at a marine gas station at Dawson's Landing off Queen Charlotte Sound, where she kept the books and fueled boats for 1,000 fishermen and loggers coming in for fuel and supplies. She opened the fuel tanks for refilling by climbing across the catwalk - but only at night when she couldn't see how far down the ground was.

Her initial career focus was hospital dietetics, and her first professional job was at the Prince Rupert General Hospital. While working there, she joined the Royal Canadian

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OSURA Board Members 2016-2017

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OSURA Member Profile

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Naval Reserve as a member of the Women’s Royal Naval Service [WRNS, aka “Wrens”]. Jean was commissioned as a Naval Reserve lieutenant a few years later.

After Prince Rupert, Jean worked for several hospitals in the Fraser Valley and became a Messing Officer for the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) in Ottawa, Ontario. She returned to Vancouver in 1955 as a lecturer in food chemistry and nutrition at UBC. In a four year time span, Jean had managed to span the 3,000 mile breadth of Canada.

Jean was “hell bent on a career gal life,” and a visit from OSU professor Clara Storvick opened another door for her. Oregon State afforded her the opportunity to pursue her graduate degree and to work closer to home, offering her a combined teaching and graduate study position. That’s how Jean McLeod landed in Corvallis in 1958, never suspecting that Corvallis would become her home for the next 59 years.

Jean married Allen “Pete” Peters in July 1959, and their two children Kathy (1960) and Steve (1963) were born in Corvallis. Jean’s third child - her hard-sought masters degree - was awarded the year after Steve was born.

At OSU Jean has much fame to claim in her 33 years prior to retirement in 1991. Her teaching was stellar – just ask her former students who still seek her out. Of her many awards and recognitions, the one Jean values the most - the Elizabeth Ritchie Teaching Excellence Award - was presented to her in 1981 based on student support. Jean primarily taught large classes of 150+ students, yet her reach was to every one of those students, remembering that each was unique. She was well known as being “tough but fair,” a reputation which she carries to this day.

She was often “Jean at the ready” in other OSU roles, as well. In the early 1970’s Acting President Roy Young asked her to chair the President’s Commission on Human Rights & Responsibilities, putting Jean in the middle of heated discussions on discrimination. In the 1980’s she chaired the Baccalaureate Core committee – anyone up for herding cats? In addition, Jean’s research contributions ranged from the analysis of vitamin B-6 for the benefit of humans to the composition and nutrient content of elephant milk - a must for zoos pursuing an elephant breeding program.

For those of you familiar with the myriad of Jean’s community service activities, it will come as no surprise that she was awarded her school’s “Good Citizen” medal when she was in 8th grade (1940). Fifty-five years (1995) later she received the Corvallis Senior Citizen Award in recognition of her extensive community involvements and years of volunteer service.

Jean is one of the founding members of OSURA and ALL (Academy for Lifelong Learning) and has served as presidents for both organizations.

Her role as a teacher has never stopped. She’s the go-to woman when questions arise about nutrients and diets at the ‘round table’ following her early-morning exercise class, and her knowledge and enthusiasm for nutrition and dietetics continues to this day.

By Gerry Olson and Terri Tower

Scholarship Announcement

The OSURA Scholarship Committee will award $1,000 scholarships to each of six outstanding OSU undergraduate students. These students were selected from many competitive applicants in fields leading to careers that promote healthy aging. This now marks the fifth year in a row that one of the scholarships is completely funded by earnings from the OSURA endowment established in June 2012.

Beaver Women’s Basketball

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heads since, ending up in the top 10 in the country as they head into the Pac-12 tournament and NCAA play. What a ride they’ve given us! 

Coach Rueck talks with OSURA members at the pre-game meal.

BEAVERS END SEASON IN SWEET 16

The Beavers ended an impressive season after losing to a strong Florida State team, 66-53, on Saturday, March 25. This was the second-best season in the program’s history with 31 wins and only 5 losses.
Dear OSURA members,

As I complete my final month in office, it’s time to pause and reflect on what an eventful year it’s been! Previous Newsletters have recounted the manifold accomplishments of OSURA, so I won’t dwell on them here. But please recall some of the major highlights like:

- Hearing Steve Amen of Oregon Field Guide at our Fall Start-Up event
- Securing parking discounts and ONID account access for Emeritus Faculty and all 25-Year Club Members (faculty & staff)
- Enjoying tours of the Horner Collection and the Asian & Pacific Cultural Center
- Attending exciting OSU athletics events like Women’s Basketball and Gymnastics
- Continuing our series of Travel Share programs featuring foreign travel to Spain & Myanmar

All of these activities—and several others—were organized by the energetic and enterprising members of our OSURA Board and their committees. So hats off to all of them for their efforts on our behalf!

We also continued a steady stream of service activities ranging from Student Career Days to Employee Benefits Fairs. OSURA was one of the sponsors of OSU's Charitable Fund Drive. And we began preparation of another issue of the OSU Retiree Directory. To cap it all off, we allocated $6,000 in scholarship support to deserving students. So our organization continues to serve the University in many ways.

We also launched a few initiatives over the past year or so to further strengthen OSURA. Foremost among them was an effort to raise our profile within the academy. We primarily did this by meeting with several deans and their staffs to underscore the importance of OSURA to the welfare of their units and retirees. We believe this will further enhance our membership in OSURA which has already grown from 230 to 315 members over the past year.

We revised our By-Laws to create a Newsletter & Website Coordinator to help streamline communications. And we have begun efforts to further strengthen the financial base of OSURA. These and other efforts underway will help ensure steady growth and long-term stability of OSURA.

Looking forward to the Spring and Summer, you can count on OSURA maintaining a high profile in the OSU community. We’ll have our Annual Meeting on May 11, and President Ed Ray will be the keynote speaker, once again. We’ll also enlist a new Board at that time to be ably led by President-Elect Tom Plant. And we’ll introduce the scholarship recipients for 2017-18. Meanwhile, my grateful thanks to the current Board and other OSURA members who have helped make the past year so successful. I’m confident our organization will continue to thrive as events unfold!

GO BEAVERS!!!

Jack Walstad, OSURA President, 2016-17

It’s time to renew your OSURA membership!

Our membership runs on a fiscal year basis of July 1 to June 30. It is now time to renew for the 2017-18 year. A renewal form is enclosed.

Memberships are $20 individual/$30 household and checks can be made out to OSURA/OSU Foundation. Membership forms can also be found on our website at: osura.oregonstate.edu.
Raising OSURA’s Profile

One of the ways to strengthen our organization—currently at 315 members—is to attract new members. We’ve been doing this for several years through individual contacts, volunteering at important OSU functions, publicizing various OSURA events, and otherwise raising our profile within the OSU community.

Last year under Gordon Reistad’s leadership, we began meeting with the deans of academic units around the campus. The purpose of these visits is to increase their awareness about OSURA so prospective retirees will consider joining OSURA when the time comes. Providing free membership for the first year makes the opportunity even more attractive. We’ve also encouraged the academic units to tap into OSURA if special needs arise (e.g., mentoring, counseling, scholarship support, etc.). Thus far, we’ve visited the colleges of Agricultural Sciences, Business, Engineering, Forestry, Liberal Arts, Pharmacy, Public Health & Human Sciences, and Science. We’ve also visited the OSU Extension Service. In several instances, the deans have included their executive staff in these discussions. We still have a few more units to go, but the reception to date has been very encouraging. We’ve enlisted an OSURA member to serve as a liaison to these units so we can maintain connections. Hopefully, this will lead to more new members and a more vibrant OSURA.

Myanmar Travelogue

Jim Krueger arranged another Travel Share program on March 16 that featured a travelogue by Freda & Charlie Vars covering their recent trip to Myanmar (Burma). Freda gave an enlightening overview of this exotic country, illustrated with a colorful collection of slides. Charlie chimed in with helpful anecdotes and supporting information. They also displayed many maps and artifacts from their trip, sponsored by Road Scholar. About 30 people attended this well-received program.

OSURA members meet student leaders at one of the seven cultural centers on OSU’s campus.

OSURA members meet student leaders at one of the seven cultural centers on OSU’s campus.

OSURA Travel Share participants admire the Myanmar exhibits.
OSU Gymnastics Meet with Stanford

On March 11 approximately 35 OSURA members and guests enjoyed the annual women’s gymnastics event—the meet, preceded by an excellent meal in LaSells Stewart Center. In line with a 2017 schedule change from evening to daytime meets, the pre-meet meal was a salad lunch instead of dinner.

Another change involved the after-meal speakers. Instead of an assistant coach, we were treated to appearances by two recent members of the OSU gymnastics program—Katelyn Ohrich and Stephanie McGregor. Both women are enjoying careers as engineers in the Portland area. They gave us a different perspective on life in the gymnastics program and what it had done to propel their personal and career development. Thanks to Kathy Heath for arranging an excellent program.

During the Q&A the gymnasts were asked about motivation to perform at top level. In particular, it was noted that the forthcoming meet was against a clearly noncompetitive opponent, with a losing record from a second-echelon program. Both gymnasts explained that the nature of the competition is irrelevant; the key motivating factor is improving team score, for seeding at post-season meets—regional and national. To underscore what the gymnasts told us, we were treated to a meet in which the Beavers scored 197.475, the fifth highest in team history. The meet featured a perfect 10.0 score on uneven parallel bars by gymnast Kaytianna MacMillan. Truly a memorable afternoon.

OSURA Past Presidents Meet and Provide Input

Past Presidents of the OSURA Board met in March with current OSURA President Jack Walstad and President-Elect Tom Plant. The annual lunch meeting, initiated five years ago, provides a regular occasion for the exchange of ideas and suggestions between the current Board and Past Presidents. The meeting is very well supported by the Past Presidents, with routinely very good turnout and participation; this year thirteen of the fourteen total OSURA Past Presidents attended.

Jack Walstad gave a short report highlighting OSURA 2016-17 Board activities, initiatives and issues, and requested input from the group. A good discussion occurred with the primary topics being scholarships (annual awards and the endowment account balance), suggestions for program ideas (for our usual programs and/or for our Fall Start-Up Event), OSURA membership, and getting more volunteers to commit to leadership roles. The OSURA Past Presidents in chronological order are Les Dunnington, Jean Peters, Bill Brennan, David Eiseman, Ken Krane, Kathy Heath, Bill Smart, JoAnne Trow, Susan Poole, Terri Tower, Jim Krueger, Tom Savage, Gerry Olson and Gordon Reistad. David Eiseman was travelling and unable to attend.

Oregon Budget Talk

On March 23 a talk on “PERS and the 2017/18 Oregon Budget” was given by Tim Nesbitt, a former union leader, adviser to former Gov. John Kitzhaber, consultant on PERS issues to the Oregon Business Council, and columnist for The Oregonian/OregonLive. Tim explained the PERS funding dilemma facing the current legislative session and presented a few ideas on possible ways to reduce future impact without harming those already retired.
OSU Retirement Association

Oregon State University
205 Adams Hall
Corvallis, OR 97330

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.

What’s Happening?

SAVE THESE DATES:

Spring Career Fair
Wednesday, April 26 | 10:30 a.m. - 3 p.m.
The LaSells Stewart Center
Volunteer Opportunities Available!

Pre-Retirement Seminar
May TBD - More info coming soon!

Robotics Lab Tour
Friday, May 5 | 4 p.m.
Graf Hall

OSURA Annual Meeting
Thursday, May 11 | 1:30 - 4:30 p.m.
OSU Foundation Board Room

OSU Forest Research Tour
Wednesday, June 14 | 1 - 4 p.m.
Meet at the OSU Foundation

Solar Eclipse Viewing Party
Monday, August 21 | 10 a.m.
OSU’s Corvallis Campus

15th OSURA Annual Meeting and Member Social Agenda
May 11, 2017 | 1:30 - 4:30 p.m. | OSU Foundation Board Room

1:30 p.m. Registration and Refreshments
          Dues renewal and Scholarship donations accepted

1:50 p.m. Welcome remarks & OSURA Accomplishments
          Jack Walstad

2:15 p.m. University Update with guest speaker, OSU President Edward J. Ray

2:45 p.m. OSURA Scholarship Awards
          Tony Van Vliet

3:15 p.m. Break, light refreshements

3:30 p.m. Business Meeting
          Treasurer’s Report
          Kelvin Koong
          Election of New Board Members
          Sue Borden
          Introduction of New Board Officers
          Jack Walstad
          Recognition of Retiring Board Members & Committee Chairs
          Tom Plant
          Volunteer-of-the-Year Award
          Kathy Motley

4:15 p.m. Closing with Alma Mater
          Sue Borden

4:30 p.m. Meeting adjourns