

An aerial photograph of a city at sunrise. The sun is low on the horizon, casting a warm, golden glow over the scene. A layer of fog or mist has settled in the valleys and around the buildings, creating a soft, ethereal atmosphere. In the background, a range of mountains is visible under the bright sky. The city below is a mix of residential houses and larger, multi-story buildings, some of which are surrounded by trees with autumn-colored foliage. A prominent road runs vertically through the center of the image.

OSURA

News & Views | Winter 2026

A note from Mary Burke...

I would like to introduce our new OSURA President, Larry Pribyl. (See following story.) Larry took over in February as our previous president, Gary Beach, had to step down for health reasons. Gary is remaining on the Board, and we hope he will be back to full strength soon.

Hello from Larry Pribyl, President of OSURA

Hello OSU Retirees,

I was born and raised in Lincoln, Nebraska. The career path after high school led me to the University of Nebraska, where I received a bachelor's degree in Broadcast Journalism.

My first day at OSU in January 1982 was cold and foggy, and I wondered if Oregon winters were always like this. Everyone I met was very friendly and helpful in my new department, Communication Media Center, part of Academic Affairs. My interest in the career of broadcast communications was to work with a remarkably diverse group of faculty, staff and students to share their stories with others in Oregon and around the world.

I had a wonderful 37-year career at OSU working in instructional media and broadcast media relations. By joining OSURA, it brings me back to the university community to see old friends and make new ones. The wonderful programs and events OSURA has to offer make me feel I am still part of the Oregon State University community. The later years of my career at OSU surprised me the most. In response to growth in student enrollment and research, innovative programs and distance learning were added, new buildings were built, a new branch campus in Bend was created, and our wonderful statewide programs were delivered, reaching more people!

My wife Kristy and I retired and moved to Tangent. We like living in Willamette Valley where we are in the middle of many communities which have unique appeals to us. As for hobbies, I like to do anything outdoors. Camping and traveling with our family, gardening, bike riding and playing my trumpet.

I hope to see you at OSURA events this year!

-Larry



2026 OSU Retirement Association Past President's Luncheon



The Past President's Luncheon, an annual event, took place at China Buffet on March 11th. Larry Pribyl introduced himself and gave a nice rundown of the events and activities of the year. Good conversations and food were enjoyed.

Attendees at OSURA Past President's Luncheon

Front row from left: Bill Smart, Terri Tower, Les Dunnington, Jack Walstad, Jo Anne Trow, Susan Poole, Mary Burke, Bill Young. **Back row from left:** Tom Plant, Mike Schuyler, Larry Pribyl and Gary Beach.

Whale Watching – a little history

Bruce Sorte passed along an interesting exchange he had with Bruce Mate regarding the beginning of the Whale Watch program.

Good morning, Bruce Mate: Did you start Whale Watch? Also, yesterday evening we watched Jurassic World Rebirth. As one of the characters was out on the bowsprit trying to attach a device to an amphibious dinosaur, I thought of the many times you must have been doing something similar yet more difficult! Take care, ~ Bruce Sorte

Good morning, Bruce Sorte: Don Giles and I were both working for Extension Sea Grant when we created Whale Watch Spoken Here. When Sea Grant no longer

wanted to participate in it, I got the state parks folks to be the sponsor. I continued teaching the educational program for the central Oregon (coast) regional volunteers at the Hatfield Marine Science Center until I moved up to Seattle five years ago. State Parks added southern and northern Oregon teaching opportunities for easier volunteer access to training. In just 2 one-week periods, WWSH provided whale information to as many as 30,000 guests visiting the Oregon Coast and sometimes from as many as 40 countries.

Yes, that business about being on a bow extension of a small boat to tag whales was part of my developing satellite monitored radio tags for whales and now is a feature of many tagging organizations throughout the world. ~ Bruce Mate

Memoirs

C.J. “Bud” Weiser Memoir

Chapter 2: My second arrival at OSU 53 years ago

I returned to OSU in 1973 to head the Horticulture Department 12 years after completing my graduate studies here and becoming a faculty member in Horticulture at the University of Minnesota. My job there was to develop a plant hardiness research and teaching program from scratch. My training at OSU prepared me well for that assignment which required generating grant support and developing a research program to study how hardy woody plants respond to environmental signals to develop resistance to stresses like freezing, drought, and heat. After visiting plant stress research programs around the world, I established the Laboratory of Cold Hardiness in the Horticulture Department at the University of Minnesota where I trained and advised 25 graduate students and 8 postdoctoral fellows while publishing 180 research papers with 46 different co-authors. My approach was to recruit people with different areas of expertise, and then encourage them to collaborate, to work hard, play hard and have fun.

The decision to leave this exciting job in Minnesota was difficult, but it was also timely for our three children, and for me and Adrienne, as we were adjusting and healing from the fatal head-on auto collision with a drunken driver the previous year that killed my wife JoAnn and daughter Jacqueline.

During my interview at OSU for the Department Head position the College’s Dean informed me that the former department head had been a fine budget manager, who also handled personnel problems effectively at the departmental level. I thought that this emphasis was significant, and I soon realized that many OSU administrators had served in the military where top-down management is the norm. The Dean also emphasized to me that the Horticulture Department Head position was a full-time administrative job--“so do not plan on doing any research or teaching”. This was a discouraging

reality. It was also discouraging to learn that the Horticulture faculty salaries were the lowest of any department in the College. I wondered if hiring at the lowest possible salaries had been encouraged? The Department Head had often handled the hiring of new faculty members based on phone recommendations from fellow administrators he knew well at other universities.

It was becoming apparent to me that if I was hired here I would need to become an “agent-of-change” within, and perhaps beyond, the Horticulture Department. On the final day of the interview I was surprised when OSU President MacVicar invited me to visit at his office. It turned out that he was quite knowledgeable about Oregon’s very diverse horticultural crops and cropping systems. Because of that complexity, and limited resources, he suggested I confer with WSU and the U of Idaho horticulture heads to explore the possibility of interstate collaboration and trade-offs in our research and extension programs. When hired I did follow-up on his suggestion. We met annually and found numerous ways to cooperate and to agree on trade-offs such as “we will take the lead on pear research and extension, and WSU will take the lead on apples. We modeled the OSU Master Garden Extension Program after WSU’s fine program.

Several things motivated me to accept the Department Head job offer at OSU. These include: 1) The talent and impressive productivity of the faculty at OSU, and the fine facilities available to them. 2) The challenging diversity and high quality and value of horticultural crops produced in Oregon—including tree fruits, berries, wine grapes, nuts, fresh market and processed vegetables, vegetable seeds, turf grass, landscape trees and shrubs, Christmas trees, and flowering bulb crops produced in nurseries, greenhouses and fields. 3) Oregon’s Mediterranean

Continued to next page —————>

climate with long, warm, sunny summer days, cool summer nights and mild wet winters make this a near perfect place to grow many high-quality and high-value horticultural crops.

Our family's plan when I took the job at OSU was that I would work for 20 years and then retire from OSU at age 58 to begin the next phase of our lives. In this new job I was determined to avoid top-down management whenever possible, and to rely on my fellow faculty members as advisors and partners in planning and shaping the future programs and directions of the Department. We fostered collegial relationships by continuing the great departmental traditions like the annual family camping, crabbing, clamming, cooking and eating excursions to the coast, and we started some new traditions like faculty-hosted hair cutting and penny-ante poker parties for brave but shaggy graduate students and faculty members. There were as many as 3 barbers to choose from on a good evening.

One of the Horticulture Department's most ambitious and effective new undertakings, that involved our entire statewide faculty, was creating the 35 member "United Oregon Horticulture" Advisory Board. The UOH Board members were highly respected individuals who were recommended by their peers. They represented statewide horticultural crop production, processing as well as consumers of the crops that Oregon produced and processed. The UOH Board met on campus with our statewide Horticulture faculty on one day each year to learn about our teaching, research, extension and international programs, and to give us, and our College Administrators, their advice.

I met with the 4-member elected executive committee of the UOH Board three additional times each year to regularly seek their advice and keep

them informed. Our two promises to the UOH Board were to welcome and carefully consider their advice, and to explain why we did not take their advice when that was the case. Over the years their thoughtful advice improved our teaching, research and extension programs, and led to five new faculty positions in Horticulture. Over time the Board members also became well informed and effective advocates for broader College of Ag and OSU priorities at the Oregon Legislature and in Washington, DC.

After 18 years as a Department Head, I agreed to become Dean of the College of Agricultural Sciences for the two years before I retired. One important goal for me during that time was to find out if it would be possible for the faculty of this College, and later, of OSU as a whole, to conceive of and adopt a concept of faculty scholarship that is broader and deeper than "conducting research and publishing the results in peer-reviewed journals". The answer was yes! In 1995 the OSU Faculty Senate, the OSU President and the Provost approved and adopted a simple definition of faculty scholarship as "Intellectual work that is validated by peers and communicated."

See the table below for details. Oregon State became the first Carnegie 1 Research University in the US to adopt such a broader concept of scholarship that also recognizes that scholarly work does not only take place at universities or research institutes. There are creative people throughout society doing intellectual work that is validated by peers, widely shared and valued.



The Nature of Scholarship

*Faculty scholarship is creative intellectual work that is validated by peers and communicated.
Forms of scholarship include discovery, development, integration and artistry.*

| Forms | Discovery | Development | Integration | Artistry |
|--|---|-------------|-------------|----------|
| Character of scholarship | Generates, synthesizes, interprets and communicates new knowledge, methods, understandings, technologies, materials, uses, insight, beauty... | | | |
| Audiences for scholarship | Peers, students, users, patrons, publics, ... | | | |
| Means of communicating scholarship | Publications, presentations, exhibits, performances, patents, copyrights, distributions materials or programs... | | | |
| Criteria for validating scholarship | Accuracy, replicability, originality, scope, significance, breadth, depth and duration of influence, impact or public benefit... | | | |
| Means of documenting scholarship | Present evidence that creative intellectual work was validated by peers; communicated to peers and broader audiences; recognized, accepted, cited, adopted or used by others; ...that it made a difference. | | | |

*“...I wonder to what extent OSU’s current faculty members, promotion and tenure committees and administrators understand OSU’s **enlightened** and **non-elitist** view of scholarship...”*

— C.J. “Bud” Weiser

OSURA Member in the Spotlight:

Dr. Charlotte Headrick

Jaga Giebultowicz, Host

“Beavers on Broadway and other legacies of directing OSU theatre for thirty-four years”



Dr. Charlotte Headrick is the Professor Emerita of Theatre Arts at Oregon State University. She distinguished herself as director of numerous productions at OSU as well as premieres and productions of Irish plays all over the United States, particularly those written by women. Scores of former students regard Charlotte as beloved teacher and mentor with whom they stay in touch.

On January 23, Charlotte shared with a well-attended audience the highlights of her rich career. She is an animated speaker, full of humor, so the audience was delighted to spend an afternoon listening to her stories.



[Watch the recording.](#)

(Photo Credits, Jaga Giebultowicz)



Travel Share: Rose Kenneke, Host

A 6,500 Mile Camping Trip Across the United States and Canada

Cheri and Martin Fiske

February 27

Ever wonder what would be the highlight of your trip after traveling 6,500 miles pulling a camping trailer across the United States and Canada? Well, for Cheri and Martin Fisk it was Wind Cave National Park in South Dakota. To discover this landmark, previously unknown to them, they embarked on their transcontinental journey from Corvallis in mid-June, heading for Vermont and Lake Champlain. Upon arrival, they settled into their cabin on the lake and enjoyed an idyllic summer. As summer drew to a close in late August, they retraced their tire tracks and headed westward for a nine-day return trip to Corvallis.



(Photo credits: Larry Pribyl)



[Watch the recording.](#)

Travel Share: Rose Kenneke, Host

No Way Out but Down: 18 Days Rafting the Grand Canyon

Bill and Leslie Boggess

April 10

A large group followed along with Bill and Leslie on their fascinating journey down the Colorado River through nearly 2 billion years of geologic time; thousands of years of human habitation, roughly 250 years of American exploration, exploitation, and ultimately preservation; and to observe the impacts of a massive hydrologic experiment.



[Watch the recording.](#)

Programs/Activities:

Cultural Events

Carolyn Aldwin thought Rossum's Universal Robots on March 15 went well. The Committee has planned 2 Spring cultural events – Gulyak Piano Concert on April 19 (past) and The Presidential Concert on June 15. She is booking 20 seat blocks; details will come in your email.



Elizabeth Webb, Editor
Teri Trujillo, Event Coordinator, University Events

Oregon State University Retirement Association
Oregon State University
100 The LaSells Stewart Center
Corvallis, OR. 97331
541-737-7736
osura.oregonstate.edu



Front Cover: Drone view: Foggy Winter morning looking east toward sunrise along Monroe Street.

Back Cover: Jen-Hsun Huang and Lori Mills Huang Collaboration Innovation Complex under construction along Monroe Street.

Photo Credit: Darryl Lai