

OSURA News & Views

Fall 2017

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Annual Meeting and Member Social

Contributed by Terri Tower and Jack Walstad

The Annual Meeting and Member Social was called to order by President Jack Walstad on May 11, 2017, in The Board Room of the OSU Foundation.

Jack welcomed members and guests including Sastry Pantula, dean of the College of Science; Ed Ray, president of Oregon State; Bill Wilkins, charter member of OSURA; retired dean of the College of Liberal Arts and provost emeritus, Roy Arnold; and Jo Anne Walstad, OSURA'S first lady.

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Jim Harper: 100+ Years and Still Beaver Strong

Contributed by Terri Tower and Jack Walstad

Jim Harper is no spring chicken. Or in Jim's case, perhaps we should say turkey.

At 101 years old, this venerable emeritus professor of poultry science brings a wealth of personal experiences and knowledge of Oregon State to any conversation. His research and teaching in turkey breeding during his 40-year career at the university earned him international recognition for his pioneering work.

Jim's road to turkey breeding started in Cornwall, England, where his father was a tin miner. When the mines closed in the early 1900s, his parents relocated to the mining community of Delamar, Idaho, near Silver City. It was here that Jim was born on Nov. 11, 1916, one of four children. When he was four years old, his family moved to St. Helens, Oregon.

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OSURA Board Members 2017-2018

President: Tom Plant
President-Elect: Chris Matthews
Past President: Jack Walstad
Secretary: Betty Miner
Treasurer: Kelvin Koong

Members at Large: Judy Burrige
Carol Kronstad
Phyllis Lee
Cheryl Lyons
Gordon Reistad
Tony Van Vliet

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Oregon State
University

Annual Meeting

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Walstad presented highlights for OSURA in 2016-2017 including:

- **Increased membership**
- **The Fall Startup featuring OPB producer, Steve Amen**
- **Improved OSURA newsletter and added feature articles on members**
- **Liaison with Academy for Lifelong Learning**
- **Volunteer support for many activities**
- **Closer ties with academic deans**
- **Nine special events and tours for our members**
- **Travel Share programs on Myanmar and Spain**
- **Six scholarship awards**
- **Money raised for OSU's Charitable Fund Drive**
- **Discounted parking fees and ONID accounts for OSU 25 Year Club members**

He reported that the OSURA Board was also considering:

- **A fundraising activity for the OSURA Scholarship Endowment fund**
- **Electronic distribution of the newsletter and the Retiree Directory**

Walstad closed by acknowledging the outstanding leadership and support provided by the OSURA Board, committees and University Events.

Tom Plant, new OSURA president, introduced President Ed Ray, who spoke about the state of the university. Ray thanked OSURA for its service and updated the group on Oregon State's demographics and standings:

- **Overall enrollment is 31,000 students**
- **Ecampus ranked eighth in the nation by US News & World Report**
- **47 percent of entering freshmen are high achievers, defined as a GPA of 3.75 or better**
- **\$336 million in external grant funding**
- **OSU150 celebration runs August 2017 through October 2018**
- **The new logo tells the story of Oregon State and its mission**
- **The Student Success Initiative has a \$150 million goal**
- **An Arts and Education Complex is planned for 2022**
- **Top enrollment for Corvallis campus is 28,000 and 3,000 to 5,000 in Bend**

Tony VanVliet, Scholarship Committee chair presented six scholarship recipients. Raven Waldron and Jessica Roland were present to receive their awards. Other recipients are Dang Duong, Trevor Nash, Nadjalisse Reynolds-Lallement and Elise Whisler.

Treasurer Kelvin Koong presented a written report on our finances. The organization is in good financial health.

Sue Borden, reporting for the Nominating Committee, identified these members for the OSURA Board of Directors: Jack Walstad (re-election for a second three-year term), Kathy Motley (election for a three-year term), Judy BurrIDGE (election for a three-year term) and Carol Kronstad (election for a three-year term). A unanimous voice vote elected the nominees.

Walstad recognized the past OSURA presidents who were present and the officers for 2017-18: Tom Plant, president; Chris Mathews, president-elect; Betty Miner, secretary; Kelvin Koong, treasurer; and Kathy Motley, newsletter and website coordinator. We recognized retiring board members and committee chairs: Sue Borden, Tony VanVliet and Betty Miner.

Kathy Motley, volunteers chair, presented the 2017 Volunteer of the Year Award to co-recipients Julie and Jim Searcy. They have been active OSURA volunteers, particularly at career fairs.



"Volunteers of the Year" - Jim and Julie Searcy

The meeting closed by singing the OSU Alma Mater.

Jim Harper

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Jim grew up during the Great Depression and worked as a grocery store clerk while going to high school. Following the National Recovery Act (1933), his wages jumped from 15 cents to a whopping 30 cents per hour. When he started working at a feed store in St. Helens, Jim met many farm and dairy customers, which led to his interest in poultry and other agricultural operations. He eventually saved enough of his earnings (\$400) to enroll at Oregon State College in 1936, when tuition was \$22 per quarter. He graduated in 1940 with a degree in poultry science.

Upon graduation, Penn State University offered him a teaching assistantship in its poultry program, where he earned a master's degree two years later. He planned to pursue a PhD there, but a fire in the Oregon State poultry brood house disrupted his studies and prompted his return to Corvallis. The university then offered him a teaching position to fill in for faculty who were mobilized for World War II.

Jim's two years in Pennsylvania resulted in more than his master's degree. While he was a graduate student there, he met the love of his life, Mariellen McCracken. Jim persuaded Mariellen to visit him in Oregon shortly after he returned to Corvallis in 1942, and they were married in September. Her visit was originally scheduled for one month but lasted 69 years.

Jim's career focused primarily on turkey breeding and genetic improvement. During his 40-year tenure with the Poultry Science Department — now the Department of Animal and Rangeland Sciences — Jim was involved in developing the turkey culture program at the Agricultural Research Station in Hermiston and in 1945, was assigned responsibility for developing a new 50-acre turkey research facility on Harrison Boulevard in Corvallis for an Agricultural Research Station. About 3,000



turkeys per year were raised at this facility, with about 600 brooding hens. When Jim started his studies in the 1930s, turkey hens weighed about 15 pounds, and by the end of his working career, weighed up to 80 pounds. He wears a permanent scar on his arm where one of the big ones nailed him. Jim published over

100 papers on his work while teaching courses in poultry marketing, breeding and genetics. He retired in 1982 but continued to help graduate students with their projects.

Jim received many awards and recognitions for his extensive work in turkey culture, with numerous certificates and plaques displayed in his home office. However, the trophies and awards taking pride of place in his display case are not for his work with turkeys, but for his roses. A champion breeder, Jim claimed first prize at the Portland Rose Show in 1960 for his "Show Girl." He was a charter member of the Corvallis Rose Society and received the American Rose Society Bronze Medal in recognition of service to the local and national societies. He still has about 150 cultivars planted around his home. In addition, the Harper Family Trust has helped fund the Avery Park Rose Garden and the Good Samaritan Regional Medical Hospital Healing Garden.

Jim has been involved in many professional and community organizations. He is a charter member of the OSU 25-Year Club formed by President James Jensen in 1967 and a founding member of OSU Federal Credit Union, where he served on the board and other committees. His community affiliations include the Corvallis Country Club, the Timberhill Athletic Club, Corvallis Elks and the Episcopal Church of the Good Samaritan.

Upon retirement, Jim and Mariellen traveled widely, visiting places like Europe, Australia and New Zealand. (Jim even has a pet dog named Taz, based on his fondness for Tasmania.) Their favorite place was always their log cabin on Ten Mile Creek near Yachats. They also enjoyed swimming, dancing and spending time with family and friends.

Jim makes a concerted effort to stay mentally and physically active. As much as he is able, he uses the treadmill, rowing machine and bicycle in his solarium exercise room but jokes that the hula hoop hanging from the family room fireplace doesn't get much use. He is an avid reader, especially scientific magazines and journals. A longtime Beaver Believer, Jim enjoys watching Oregon State sports. He stills buys season tickets, then has fun giving them away since it's difficult for him to attend the events himself.

When asked what his advice would be for other Oregon State retirees, Jim says, "Do what you can to stay healthy. Stay active and avoid heavy lifting."

Both of Jim and Mariellen's children were born in Corvallis. Their son, Dr. James D. Harper, lives in Fort Worth, Texas, and their daughter, Margaret Norrander, lives in Bainbridge Island, Washington. Jim and Mariellen, who passed away in 2012, have six grandchildren and four great grandchildren.



President's Message

By Tom Plant

Dear OSURA Members:

It is my pleasure to serve as your president for the 2017-2018 year. I have been an OSURA member since retiring from EECS in 2012 and have served on the Member Services and Membership Committees for several years.

I enjoy volunteering at University Day and Career Days, attending the excellent programs and tours arranged by our Program Committee and supporting our six scholarship recipients who are studying in fields related to healthy aging.

Since spring, we have enjoyed a tour of the Oregon State Research Forest and the newly remodeled Robotics Laboratory in Graf Hall, learned about the "Oregon PERS problem" from Jim Nesbitt and helped show visitors around campus during the big eclipse celebration in August.

We were saddened to learn of the passing of Dave Chilcote. Dave served on the OSURA Board from 2011 to 2017 and was quite a barbershop quartet performer! His cheerful, helpful presence will be greatly missed.

Our big Fall Kick-Off will be on Wednesday, Oct. 18 in the MU Horizon Room with a delicious catered dinner of salmon or chicken with dessert and a program on the 150-year history of Oregon State by Shelly Signs and Larry Landis. Mark your calendars and watch for the signup information coming soon. This is an opportunity to invite your retired friends who will enjoy the evening and might become OSURA members in the future.

One of our goals for this year is to finish meeting with the deans of education and science to educate them about OSURA and to reach nonacademic units also. We will continue to push for ONID accounts for all OSURA members and work on discounted (or free) daily parking passes for OSURA volunteer activities. We want to grow our membership and continue arranging interesting programs for the members.

I want to thank our hardworking OSURA board members for their dedicated service and their willingness to pitch in when needs arise. We welcome new board members Kathy Motley, Judy Burrige and Carol Kronstad to new three-year terms and Jack Walstad to his second three-year term. I look forward to an exciting year ahead.

Tom Plant
OSURA President
2017-2018



Renew your membership!

Being an OSURA member is a great way to stay connected to OSU and friends at the university.

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.

OSU Robotics Tour

A large and enthusiastic group toured the Oregon State Robotics Lab in Graf Hall last May. Professor Bill Smart — not to be confused with our own Bill Smart, who was in attendance — introduced us to the history and mission of the lab. Smart has been with the lab for five years and is a native of Scotland. He discussed his views on the future and direction of the lab.

There are 12 faculty working in collaboration with students on several aspects of robotics. The pride of the program is Cassie, the lab's first commercially available robot. Cassie was built as part of Jonathan Hurst's research — he also helped with the construction of the

Atrias robot, the first bipedal robot that mimicked human movement and is now used as a research platform at Carnegie Mellon University.

We toured several areas in the lab where students are currently working on various robotics capabilities. We saw robots developed for underwater research and rescue, as well as software for controlling robots used in collaboration with Go Baby Go (a program at Oregon State that provides miniature cars to toddlers with mobility issues).

The last area we toured was the Personal Robotics lab, which conducts research into the interaction of robots and humans. We saw surgical robots, personal assistance robots and



robots that will mimic the social interactions between humans.

Everyone asked great questions and we all learned a great deal about robotics.



OSU Research Forest

Contributed by Terri Tower

Wagons Ho! Thirty-three intrepid OSURA travelers set out in three Motor Pool vans on a sunny June day for a tour of Oregon State's Research Forest in nearby McDonald Dunn Forest north of Corvallis.

The caravan was led by Steve Fitzgerald, director of the research forest, who guided us to four different tour stops. We started at Oregon State's Forestry Cabin for an overview of the forest's operations, then moved on to three other sites to learn about thinning, ice damage and levels of forest growth. As if on cue, two horseback riders and several hikers wandered by us at our final stop at Lewisburg Saddle as Steve talked about recreational users. Over 145,000 user visits are logged each year.

The McDonald Dunn and Cameron Forests north of Corvallis have approximately 11,500 combined acres. Oregon State has another 3,062 acres of research forest that it manages in other parts of the state. Despite the size of the area we were touring, we were treated to a cameo appearance of native wildlife when a mother turkey and her brood

of chicks scuttled along the roadside.

Although the Research Forest may feel like a public park, it actually is a living laboratory dedicated to teaching, research and demonstration. College of Forestry students and faculty use the forest areas to study and develop new ways of sustainably managing and growing Oregon forests for conservation, business, education and recreation. Because of the slow-growing nature of trees, some research projects are passed along from student to student over the years. According to Steve, many students return years later to see what's happened at their research site.

Thanks to our other "Wagons Ho" van drivers, Tom Plant and Jack Walstad, and to the OSURA Program Committee for organizing the outing.



The OSU Retirement Association invites you to the OSURA Fall Start-Up!

OSU150: Understanding the past, differentiating the present and transforming the future

Oct. 18, 2017
5:30 p.m. Dinner
6:45 p.m. Program

Memorial Union Horizon Room
\$25 per person

Speakers: Shelly Signs, executive director of OSU150, and Larry Landis, director of Special Collections & Archives Research Center

RSVP at rsvp@oregonstate.edu or 541-737-4717. Please indicate your meal preference (chicken, salmon or vegetarian) and any dietary restrictions with your reply.

Shuttle Service

For those needing assistance, a shuttle van will pick up on the corner of the 26th Street exit of the Reser Stadium parking lot (across from The LaSells Stewart Center). The shuttle will run from 4:30 to 5:15 p.m. and 8 to 8:30 p.m.

Accommodations for disabilities may be made with your reply.

**What's Happening?
SAVE THESE DATES:**

Fall Start-Up
October 18
MU Horizon Room

Fall Career Expo
October 18-19
Travelshare

Visit our website for more information on all our upcoming events, osura.oregonstate.edu.



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.