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OSURA Website:  
<http://oregonstate.edu/retirees/osura>

This newsletter has also been distributed to OSURA members via email.

Gale Hazel, *Editor*  
Ron Lovell, *Writer*

## Tim White to Address OSURA at May 14 Annual Meeting

OSU President Tim White will discuss the state of the university and the OSU 2007 Plan when he addresses the annual meeting of the Oregon State University Retirement Association on Wednesday, May 14 to be held from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. in the board room of the OSU Foundation building at 850 S.W. 35<sup>th</sup> Street in Corvallis. OSURA was founded two years ago as a way for retired staff and faculty to continue collegial ties and serve the university.

"OSU retirees represent men and women who have made this institution one of the world's most distinguished and respected universities," wrote Leslie G. Dunnington, OSURA president, in his letter of invitation. "There are real benefits to be derived by both retirees and the university if these long standing collegial connections can be maintained."

"I couldn't agree more with your statement that ... 'It is critical that we foster continued affiliation with this body of retired community members,'" wrote White in his reply. "The search for the president, nor the strategic planning process known as OSU 2007, will not affect our ability or desire to further develop and strengthen our relationship and partnership with retirees ...."

OSURA was started over a year ago by a group of retired faculty and staff which saw the unique role they could play on campus if they were organized to do so. "Retirees from the university are increasing rapidly," says Bill Wilkins, dean emeritus of the

College of Liberal arts and an OSURA board member. "They mostly live in Corvallis or nearby. There was no way in the past to keep retirees connected to the university—no mechanism to do it."

Another problem emerged with the fact that, except for faculty with emeritus status, the university has no way to track retired classified and management service staff, according to Wilkins. "All of these people represent a tremendous and growing asset to OSU."

Research conducted by Kathy Meddaugh, another board member and the recently retired employee records and information manager, showed that OSU was the only major university without such an organization. "If you look up OSURA on your computer search engine," laughs Wilkins, "you get Ohio State University. All the universities we compete with—like the U of O and PSU—have these groups. We were out of step."

Meddaugh contacted George Keller, vice provost emeritus of research, with her discovery. He got in touch with Wilkins, a steering committee was set up, and the organizing began. The group then reached out to Les Risser, wife of former OSU president Paul Risser. She added the imprimatur of the President's Office and paved the way for the administration's recognition of the new group as an arm of the university. "She was a tremendous asset," says Wilkins. OSURA was granted affiliate status ap-



President Tim White

proval with the OSU Foundation on December 19, 2001.

From its kickoff meeting in January 2002, OSURA has grown to 140 active members. In addition to its programs and volunteer activities, the organization also initiated and then spun off the Academy for Lifelong Learning. ALL provides educational experiences and intellectual stimulus by offering a series of courses throughout the year.

To date, the growing number of OSURA members have participated in many programs throughout the academic year: Behind the Scenes with OSU Athletics, Behind the Scene with OSU Theatre and the Art and Science of Enology that included a tour of the wine lab, research on Drug Issues Facing Seniors, and a tour of the Linus Pauling Collection in the Valley Library. Members volunteered during last Fall's New Student Orientation to assist at the President's Barbecue and Move-in Day for new students, and the student Career Fair in Winter Term.

At the annual meeting, Starr McMullen, professor of economics and a champion fiddler, will perform. A business meeting and refreshments will wind out the afternoon. The public is invited, especially OSU retirees.

**Board Members**

Les Dunnington,  
*President*

Jean Peters,  
*President-Elect*

Gale Hazel,  
*Secretary*

Bill Wilkins,  
*Treasurer*

Bill Brennan

Irma Delson

David Eiseman

George Keller

Kathy Meddaugh

Marilyn Sarff

**President's Message**

It has been a busy year since our first annual OSURA meeting in May 2002. Promoting fellowship among OSU retirees and maintaining their connection with the university is our principle objective. During the year, members joined us for programs such as Behind the Scenes with OSU Athletics, Behind the Scenes with OSU Theatre, the Art and Science of Enology (grape culture and tour of wine lab), research on Drugs from the Sea, Drug Issues Facing Seniors and the Linus Pauling Collection. Members volunteered during last fall's New Student Orientation and this winter's Career Fair. Interaction with students, staff and other volunteers gave retirees a renewed sense of connectedness with the university. Many members achieved the OSURA objective of continuing intellectual stimulation by participation in Academy of Lifelong Learning (ALL) courses. (Please note: ALL is having its Appreciation Day, May 16, 2:00 p.m., at the OSU Foundation.)

We hope to expand program and volunteer op-

portunities and increase membership during the coming year. We encourage members to renew. If you are not yet a member, please join us and encourage others to do so. The membership application form is on the back of this newsletter. Please fill it out and bring it to the annual meeting or mail it to the address on the renewal form.

Becoming involved with OSURA has been an exciting adventure for us. We have enjoyed working with the people on the OSURA Board, renewing friendships with former colleagues and meeting OSU retirees we had not encountered before. We hope you will become involved with suggestions for activities or participation on one of our committees to help make things happen. We would love to hear from you. Help us to make OSURA a significant force for the benefit of OSU retirees and the university community. We hope to see you May 14th for what promises to be an informative and entertaining annual meeting program.

—Les Dunnington, *President and Jean Peters, President-elect*

**STAFF PROFILE**

**Meddaugh: A Fondness for Music and People**

In a career marked by years of interpreting often tedious and contradictory rules for the benefit of OSU faculty and staff, Kathy Meddaugh has found relief in her participation in a choir. Meddaugh, who retired February 28 as employee records and information manager in the Office of Human Resources, has toured USSR, and England, Scotland, and Wales with the Corvallis Presbyterian Church choir.

"I guess music is a way to connect to my spiritual side," she says. For me, music is reaching into my soul. We are blessed at OSU and in Corvallis with so much musical talent around."

The native Oregonian attended the University of Oregon before joining the OSU staff in 1974 in the Office of Business Affairs. She moved to budgets and planning, and then personnel services before joining the Office of Academic Affairs as a personnel officer in 1986.

In that job, she worked with the late David Nicodemus, then dean of faculty. She considers this association a high point of her professional life. "He was like my surrogate father," she says. "And I picked up from him a love for OSU."

In her present job, which she entered in 1998, Meddaugh has carried that philosophy in everything she has done: "I make sure people understand what makes a campus. What would the faculty do if there were no physical plant people to turn on the lights and the heat. Look at the grounds all sculptured and beautiful. And there are all the clerical people who get the grades in and process adds and drops and run the computers. OSU is not just faculty and students."

Her strong feelings on the subject led her to become one of the founding members of OSURA. "I like the fact that it welcomes members from all parts of OSU, not just faculty," she says. "I think it is a good way to stay connected to people who have a shared interest in OSU. I always want OSU to be a constant in my life."



*Kathy Meddaugh*

Meddaugh hopes to return to voice lessons and have more time to spend with her husband, Gary, also a choir member. He retired several years ago as a systems analyst for the Oregon University System.

She credits Gary with helping her get over her fear of flying so she could make the trips abroad with the choir, which have become so important to her life. "Considering how fearful I was of flying, I had no idea how I was going to make that first trip to the Soviet Union in 1991," she recalls. "If I could tell the pilot to slow down, look to the right, etc., I'd probably be okay. Who was I kidding? I prayed about the trip, let it go, and had one of the most wonderful experiences of my life. Taking off and landing thirteen times pretty much cured me of my fear of flying. I realized that I couldn't have total control over anything. I had to depend on someone else to take care of things—the pilots."

Too bad she didn't talk to Bill Wilkins.

## Wilkins: A Love of Flying and Oregon State

Bill Wilkins took his first flying lesson when he was 14 and growing up in Texas. Soon after, however, the minimum age to solo changed to 16 and, in a huff, he switched his interest to motorcycles. At 19, he joined the Air Force and got his wings two years later. He has flown regularly since, first as an Air Force navigator during and after the Korean War and, beginning in 1970, as a member of the OSU Flying Club. Since 2000, he has been a member and chair of the Oregon State Aviation Board.

"Flying is part of my life," says the dean emeritus of the College of Liberal Arts (CLA). "It is a huge pleasure for me. When I am at the controls, everything else goes away. This is not true while driving a car. In a plane, you are totally focussed on what you are doing. You don't think about anything else."

Wilkins was in constant motion in his twelve years as dean, with a one year stint as acting provost and vice president for academic affairs. He has been equally busy since through various activities on campus and the aviation board.

Setting up OSURA has been an important goal for the past two years. "We were out of step with universities of our sort in not having this organization," he says. "But we still need to reach out to people we've missed who are part of the OSU family. We need their help and want to be of service to them ... but we have to find them first."

The Oregon State Aviation Board oversees the Oregon Department of Aviation, sets policy for the 28 state owned airports, and seeks to advance aviation throughout Oregon. "When you mention aviation to most Oregonians," Wilkins says, "they think of Portland International and maybe the Eugene Airport. But there are about 100 public use and 300 private use airports in the state and a small, but exciting aviation manufacturing industry. There is great potential for development." Wilkins spends 50 hours a month on board work, a task for which he is not paid.

The interest in flying runs in the family. His son, CW3 Brian Wilkins, is an instructor/pilot

with the 1042<sup>nd</sup> Medical Company (Air Ambulance) of the Oregon Army National Guard. He returned to the U.S. from a lengthy assignment in Afghanistan in early March. "Brian used to sit in his mother's lap for takeoffs and landings in the two seated airplanes when he was young," he laughs. *Bill Wilkins* "He has flown all his life."



Caroline Wilkins, Bill's wife, has had a long involvement in public affairs as an original member of the Oregon State Ethics Commission (appointed by Governor Tom McCall), Director of the Consumer Affairs Division (appointed by Governor Bob Straub), chair of the Democratic Party of Oregon, and vice-chair of the Democratic National Committee.

During his term as dean of CLA, college enrollment soared and new programs like Peace Studies and graduate programs in specific subjects came into existence. He established one of the first development offices in an OSU college and one of the first alumni advisory councils. Also, CLA set up an organization for its emeritus faculty. Under his deanship, the Pauling Lecture for World Peace, the Governor Tom McCall Lecture in Public Affairs, and OSU's Martin Luther King, Jr. celebration were instituted.

While on leaves from OSU, Wilkins taught and did research in Mexico, served as staff economist to the Ways and Means Committee of the U.S. House of Representatives, and worked as an associate administrator at the Federal Aviation Administration.

Wilkins joined the OSU faculty in 1961 as an assistant professor of economics. He holds a PhD degree in that subject from the University of Texas at Austin and MS and BBA degrees from Texas A & I University in Kingsville.

"Like many of my colleagues, I have devoted much of my life to Oregon State University, he says. "I have gained so much during my years at OSU, it's easy to devote time to serving it now."

### Fall Term 2003

#### Showcasing the College of Veterinary Medicine

**October 8, 2003, 10:00 a.m.**

A tour of the hospital and clinics at the College of Veterinary Medicine will mark the first event of the term. While OSU has offered a Doctorate of Veterinary Medicine in conjunction with Washington State University and the University of Idaho, the State Board of Higher Education approved a four-year DVM program in Oregon beginning in July 2002. The legislature then authorized \$8 million to construct a new small animals clinic on the OSU campus.

#### Showcasing the School of Education

**November 19, 2003, 2:00 p.m.**

On February 15, 2002, the State Board of Higher Education approved the re-establishment of the School of Education as a separate academic unit at OSU. This follows a decade where it was a part of the College of Home Economics and Education. The school has new programs to prepare teachers, counselors, and education leaders, along with a College Student Services Administrative degree and one in 4-H Youth Development. OSURA members will tour facilities and hear about this newly reconstituted school.

#### Helping With New Student Orientation

Like Fall Term 2002, OSURA members will assist New Student Programs by volunteering at the President's Barbecue, student Move-in Day, and the first day of classes.

Anyone interested in participating in the Odyssey courses for freshmen, which involves mentoring and small groups, should contact Jackie Balzer, director of the Student Orientation and Retention Program, 737-2382

## OSURA Volunteers Find Fun and Fame, No Fortune

Thus far during the 2002/03 academic year, 68 OSURA members have found fame and fun, but no fortune as volunteers for several university programs to benefit students, according to Bill Brennan, the OSURA board member who coordinates volunteer activities. Fall Term began with 49 OSURA volunteers, greeting, serving, cleaning up and answering questions during New Student Week and the first two days of classes.

For the first time this fall teams of two and/or

three OSURA members were stationed at the Alumni Center and Memorial Union to help direct students and answer a myriad of questions ranging from the ridiculous to the sublime.

In November, 6 OSURA volunteers assisted the International Programs Office by helping at the annual Study Abroad Fair in the Memorial Union Ballroom. Most recently, 14 OSURA members helped at the Career Services Office's Career Fair at the Alumni Center.

# Yes!

**I/We would like to renew/begin a membership with OSURA. Enclosed is the yearly membership fee of \$10 (or more, donations are gladly accepted) for each member. Please made checks payable to OSURA.**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse/Partner's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Street City State Zip

Summer/Winter Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Street City State Zip

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email (please print legibly) \_\_\_\_\_

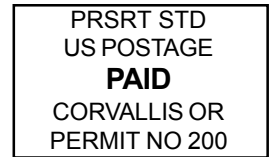
Are you an OSU retiree?  Yes  No Is your spouse/partner an OSU retiree?  Yes  No

If No, please list your university affiliation \_\_\_\_\_

Please return this form to Gale Hazel, OSURA, University Special Events, Oregon State University, 524 Kerr Administration Bldg. Corvallis, OR 97331-2126. For questions contact Gale Hazel, (541) 737-0724, gale.hazel@orst.edu or, Marilyn Sarff, (541) 757-6664, 470 NW Maxine Ave., Corvallis, OR 97330, sarffm@proaxis.com.



*(Please remove form from the newsletter and mail.)*



## The Beaver Log

University Special Events  
Oregon State University  
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