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Jo Anne Trow**Trivia Question**How many buildings
on the OSU Corvallis
campus are named
for women?Spring 2008
Volume 8, Issue 1OSURA Web Site
oregonstate.edu/osuraGary Tiedeman,
Editor and WriterKate Sanders,
Layout**Ken Hedberg - Retired but still working!***This is the first in an occasional series of profiles of OSU retirees who have made noteworthy achievements subsequent to retirement.*

He almost didn't come back. But now he's a world renowned chemist who refuses to abandon a distinguished scientific career, even at age 88. He's **Ken Hedberg**, and he's a prime example of how neither age nor retirement need to slow down professional success or enjoyment of life.

Ken earned his undergraduate degree right here at OSU, graduating in 1943. He obtained his Ph.D. at Cal Tech and stayed on there as a Research Fellow for several years. While on a fellowship in Norway, he met an attractive fellow scientist named Lise. Lo and behold, a chemical reaction ensued. Ken and Lise were married in 1954, and the Norwegian bride found herself in southern California. Soon, along came a job opportunity at Oregon State. Ken wasn't sure that OSU was the place to establish the career he envisioned, so he declined an offer. But a conversation with another young scientist named **Linus Pauling** caused him to reconsider. Besides, Lise viewed Oregon as a place where "there are trees in the forests and water in the rivers, like it should be – and not like southern California." So Ken Hedberg did come back after all, joining the OSU faculty in 1956 and staying on until his retirement in 1987.

Ken's career-long special interest has been in the structures of individual molecules. By heating molecules to extremely high temperatures, he explains, their diffraction patterns can be analyzed and models depicting their sizes and shapes can be made. This realm of basic research goes by the name of Gas Phase Electron Diffraction. It was in its infancy when Ken started out and is now "very mature," to the point that it probably won't continue for much longer because of new technologies. Ken helped to pioneer the field and has been a major influence in it for decades, publishing over 170 articles in refereed journals and averaging \$100,000 per year in grant funding for the past 42 years. In recognition of



Chemist Ken Hedberg in his OSU office.
Photo courtesy of Gary Tiedeman

his achievements, Ken was awarded, in 2005, the prestigious International Barbara Mez-Starck Prize for structural chemistry.

When asked what has kept him going professionally for so long, Ken cites "the progress of science and the interactions with colleagues and students." He has not found it at all difficult to come up with new problems to study because "every investigation inspires two or three more. There is great intellectual fun in doing something well in a field that can be pretty complex." This explains his single piece of advice to pre-retirees: "Find something to keep you occupied and busy, whatever that may be."

Although Ken still maintains a regular work schedule in his campus office, he finds time for leisurely pursuits as well. These include tennis, travel, and the Friday Discussion Group, where he and about ten fellow retirees discuss topics ranging from chemistry to politics to history. Whenever possible, Ken and Lise also enjoy spending time with their children and their families. Son Erik is employed by Microsoft, while daughter Katrina works as an epidemiologist with the Oregon Health Division in Portland.

He came back. He stayed. He endures. And, most of all, he enjoys!

Dates to Remember

August 24
State Fair Volunteer Day

September 10
OSURA Golf Tournament

September 13
1st Home Football Game
(OSU vs Hawaii)

September 29
Fall Term Classes Begin

November 1
Homecoming
(Football vs. Arizona State)
Reunions Classes of 1963
and 1968

Trivia Answer:

13

President's Message

As I share this President's message with you, the OSURA year is ending. We have had a very successful year, filled with interesting programs and tours. We began with the 4th Annual Golf Tournament, and the planning for the 5th (scheduled for September 10) is well underway. So mark your calendars and plan to attend. The Member Services Committee presented programs to help educate retirees and current employees on several topics of interest. "Estate Planning," "Healthy Active Aging," "PERS: Today and Tomorrow," and "Preparing for Retirement"



Kathy Heath, OSURA President

were very popular and well-attended programs. A survey of retirement transitions was mailed to all OSURA members, and the results were presented at the retirement seminar and

are available on our Web site, along with information of interest concerning other programs. Thanks to the Program Committee, our tour opportunities this year were outstanding. They included: Dixon Recreation Center, the new facilities at Magruder Hall, the Wave Lab, the Linus Pauling Special Collection in the Library and the Fermentation Science facilities. We had our first off-campus tour with a trip to the Hatfield Marine Science Center and a chance to explore the research vessel Wecoma. The Program Committee also organized attendance at women's basketball, gymnastics, and an OSU theatre production. These activities provide us the opportunity to keep in touch with OSU and other retirees and to learn about topics of interest.

The OSURA Board made the decision to participate in "The Campaign for OSU" and made a commitment to endow the OSURA Scholarship. This scholarship was established last year and is awarded to outstanding students who are majoring in a subject that leads to a career in a field that promotes healthy aging. You will hear more about this effort during the coming year.

Volunteering has been a major activity of OSURA since its inception. This year we provided volunteers for a number of events, and another big one is coming up. The State Fair organizers have proposed that OSU have a "Day at the Fair" this

summer. Many units on campus will be involved with activities to promote OSU, and OSURA will provide volunteers to greet the attendees. So try to save Sunday, August 24 for a great volunteer opportunity, and plan to attend the Fair. More information will be available this summer.

Another volunteer activity for OSURA is service on one of our standing committees. Volunteers are needed for the following committees: Program, Membership, Communication, Scholarship, and Member Services. Send a message indicating your interest to Bill Smart, new OSURA president, at billsmart2@comcast.net.

The Retirees Directory will be published again in the fall. If you are listed in the current directory and want to continue to be included, you do not need to do anything. If you are not in the directory and want to be, or if you have changes, contact Shelly Houghtaling, University Events.

You may have noticed that the Board made the decision to raise OSURA dues to \$20. We hope to provide more services to members and also to have a source to help fund the scholarship program. Our fiscal year is from July 1 through June 30. If you have not paid your dues for the 2008-2009 year, please use the form in this newsletter to do so.

Kathy Meddaugh, the last of the original charter members of OSURA, retired from service on the Board this year. We all owe our thanks to Kathy for her long and vital service. The charter members of this organization are to be congratulated for their vision and for establishing the purposes of intellectual growth, social interaction, and service to the University.

I would like to express a thank you to President Ed Ray for all his support. We appreciate his commitment to retirees and for sharing the OSU Story at our annual meeting. We also are very grateful to be an integral part of University Advancement. Vice President Luanne Lawrence meets with the Board regularly and shares insights from this unit with us and with the members at the annual meeting.

Another thank you goes to the members of the Board for their service. It has been a real privilege for me to serve as OSURA President. As OSURA members, let us continue to enjoy the activities of the organization.

— Kathy Heath, President

2008 Annual Meeting Highlights

May 14 marked the occasion of this year's OSURA annual meeting. Highlights included a lecture/slide presentation on OSU campus buildings by University Archivist Larry Landis, remarks by President Ed Ray and Vice President Luanne Lawrence, the announcement of winners of the OSURA scholarship and the Volunteer of the Year Award, and approval of three new board members.

Landis' talk, entitled "The OSU Buildings Backstory, or What's in a Name?", included a treasure trove of campus history. Did you know that Linus Pauling took his chemistry classes – and met Ava Helen – in what is now Education Hall? Did you know that the Women's Building is one of the very few to have never had a name change? Did you know that Waldo Hall was the first structure to be named for a woman, or that Parker Stadium was the first named for a donor? (See this issue's Trivia Question for more about OSU's buildings.)

President Ray and Vice President Lawrence addressed the early success of the ongoing capitol campaign and the accomplishments of OSU's faculty and students. Both were particularly pleased with the recent identification of several programs as among the best in the nation. OSU Wildlife Science now ranks no less than #1, while

Fisheries Science holds #2 position nationally and Zoology stands at #4.



Scholarship winners Monica Juarez-Hernandez and Chelsea Smith with Ron Lovell, Scholarship Committee Chair. Photo courtesy of University Events

Two outstanding young women were this year's recipients of OSURA Scholarships in the amount of \$1,000. Monica Juarez-Hernandez, a native of Mexico, graduates this year with a degree in Human Development and Family Science. She will soon begin studies toward a second degree, in Health Care Administration. She has worked as assistant activity director at the Grace Center for Adult Day Care in Corvallis and as a youth nutritionist intern for the OSU Extension Service. "One of the reasons I decided to study gerontology," she wrote in her application essay, "is to remember that seniors in our society are often those we leave behind."

The other scholarship winner is **Chelsea Smith**, a junior in Pre-Pharmacy whose home is Redding, California. She has

volunteered at the Heartland Humane Society and at an elementary school and a local pharmacy in California. The latter placement showed her how pharmacists and technicians interact with older patients and affect their lives just by helping them understand the medications they are given. "The future of pharmacy should incorporate more aspects of healthier living," she wrote.

Volunteer of the Year recognition went to three particularly active OSURA members. Helen Polensek was acknowledged for her frequency of volunteerism, Al Mukatis for his role in organizing and participating in programs arranged by the Member Services Committee, and Ron Lovell for his two years of chairing the Scholarship Committee, as well as for prior service as board member and editor of the OSURA newsletter.

Approved as new board members were Carol Kronstad (Crop Science; Health and Human Sciences), Jim Krueger (Chemistry), and Susan Poole (Student Health Services). Gary Tiedeman (Sociology), a current board member, was approved for a second term.

In closing the meeting, President Kathy Heath passed the gavel to Bill Smart, who will lead the organization for 2008-09.

OSURA Survey of Retirement - Results

Many readers participated in the recent OSURA Survey of Retirement Transition. Thank you very much for your interest and cooperation! The survey, headed up by Sandra Helmick and graduate student Brandi Hall, provides results which tap a broad span of attitudes and experiences concerning the pleasures and pitfalls of the retirement life.

A complete report of the findings of the survey can be found on the OSURA website. Go to oregonstate.edu/osura and click just above the aerial photograph of the MU quad. As a means of enticing you to take a further look, here are a few highlights.

- 65% believed that their satisfaction with life in general had improved since retirement.
- Almost 20% found health issues to be the area of greatest challenge they have faced in retirement, followed by management of time.
- Aspects of life rated as "most important" were, in order, having good medical services where I live, staying healthy, financial resources, and maintaining relationships with pre-retirement friends.
- When asked about what advice they had for others nearing retirement, 25% cited having financial affairs

under control and another 25% emphasized developing new interests.

One respondent offered a particularly original and refreshing outlook:

"Retirement is like the moving walkway in an airport. While you are working, you are 'walking' along fast and in one direction. When you get to the end of the walkway, there is an unsettling, awkward feeling for several steps. But then it feels good to have the solid ground under your feet . . . and you can go at any speed in any direction!"

Wondering about the status of your membership? Check your mailing label to find out!



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News & Views

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Yes! I/We would like to renew/begin a membership with OSURA. Please enclose the membership fee of \$20 for each person. Donations above \$20 are gladly accepted and may be specified to go to the Scholarship Fund. Please make checks payable to OSURA. Membership year runs from July 1 - June 30.

All OSURA Members will be listed in the 2008-2009 OSU Retirees Directory. Check here if you would prefer your name not be listed:

Name Surviving Spouse:

Department Retirement Date

Spouse/Partner

Department Retirement Date

OSURA Annual Dues: \$20 per member	
Annual Dues:	<input type="text"/>
General Donation:	<input type="text"/>
Scholarship Fund:	<input type="text"/>
Total:	<input type="text"/>

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Please return this form to OSURA, University Events, Oregon State University, 205 Adams Hall Corvallis, OR 97331-2004.
For questions call: (541) 737-0724 or e-mail: osura@oregonstate.edu.