

OSURA News & Views

Winter 2017

OSURA Enjoys a Night with Steve Amen at the Fall Start Up



Steve Amen and Tony Van Vliet

Steve showed scenes of many places in Oregon and discussed filming and producing the highly acclaimed Oregon Field Guide. Nationally, it is one of the longest running public broadcasting shows and has received numerous awards. Although Steve is retiring in the next year, he plans to continue to stay active through part-time university teaching – he has taught courses in documentary film-making at Lewis and Clark College and Portland State University. Since Steve kept his formal remarks relatively short -- there was plenty of time for questions from the audience -- a lively interaction ensued and we were all treated to a great “behind the scenes” look at Oregon Field Guide. 🎥



OSURA members welcome Steve Amen.

This Fall Start-Up was the largest event for OSURA in recent years. About 90 OSURA members and guests filled two rooms at the LaSells Stewart Center for a fantastic dinner featuring salmon and beef before hearing Oregon Public Broadcasting’s Steve Amen. Steve was introduced by OSURA member Tony Van Vliet, who became friends with Steve while they served on the OPB Board. Tony mentioned the large role Oregon Field Guide has played for OPB through the years under Steve’s direction.

OSURA Member Profile: Charlie and Freda Vars

So, how did a young man from Westerly, Rhode Island and a young woman from Chehalis, Washington meet, get married and come to spend the rest of their lives in Corvallis? They met right here in Corvallis in May 1968. Charlie had joined the OSU Economics faculty in 1966, after graduate school in Economics at the University of California, Berkeley. Freda was teaching in the Department of Family Resource Management, after receiving her Master’s degree here at OSU. Their “matchmaker,” as they put it, was Charlotte Harter, a faculty member in Home Economics and the wife of Lafe Harter, who was chairman of the Economics Department at that time. The introduction clicked, as Charlie and Freda were wed in December 1968, less than a year after that fateful introduction in May.

Continue on page 3



Charlie and Freda Vars

OSURA Board Members 2016-2017

President: Jack Walstad
President-elect: Tom Plant
Past President: Gordon Reistad
Secretary: Sue Borden
Treasurer: Kelvin Koong

Bill Becker
Dick Clinton
Jack Drexler
Kelvin Koong
Phyllis Lee

Cheryl Lyons
Chris Mathews
Betty Miner
Kathy Motley
Tony Van Vliet

Newsletter & Contact Info

Editor Kathy Motley
Layout Elsa Curtis
Phone 541-737-4717

Website osura.oregonstate.edu

Oregon State
UNIVERSITY



President's Message

Jim Krueger arranged another Travel Share program, this one featuring a recent trip to Spain by Gordon & Kathleen Reistad and Bill & Joyce Becker. The event was well attended, including many who recounted their own experiences in Spain!

Kathy Motley enlisted many OSURA volunteers to help with several OSU functions ranging from Student Move-In Day to the Fall Career Fair. Jack Walstad and Gordon Reistad manned the OSURA Booth at the OSU Employee Benefit Fair. So, it's been a busy fall for OSURA service opportunities.

OSURA finally managed to get the 50% parking discount for Emeritus Faculty reinstated! Gordon Reistad was instrumental in launching this initiative two years ago, and he was ably assisted by Kelvin Koong, Dick Clinton, and Jack Walstad during the past several months. We also secured access to ONID Accounts for all faculty and staff with 25 years or more of service to OSU. We're trying to expand eligibility for these services to other deserving faculty, staff, widows, and widowers. Meanwhile, we're indebted to OSU Administrators Ron Adams, Steve Clark, and Lois Brooks for their efforts on our behalf.

We've put a premium on increasing the membership of OSURA. We're now up to 230 members, but there's still plenty of room for growth. Please encourage your colleagues to consider joining OSURA as they retire. There are several interesting programs coming up this spring. And we can always use lots of volunteers to participate in our service activities. 🦫

GO BEAVERS!

Jack Walstad, OSURA President, 2016-2017
BEAVER NATION

Dear OSURA members,

There's been the customary flurry of OSURA activities this fall. We began the season with our Fall Start-Up Event featuring Steve Amen, the Executive Producer of Oregon Field Guide, along with a delicious dinner prepared by Valley Catering. Gordon Reistad, with help from Sue Borden, Shari Brumbach, Dave Chilcote, Gerry Olson, Tony Van Vliet, and Jack Walstad organized the program. Over 90 people attended and it was a major success!

Betty Miner and the Program Committee arranged three special events for our members: Emeritus Professor Ron Lovell talked about his experience as an author of mystery novels, providing an interesting evening at the Corvallis-Benton County Library; a tour of the Horner Collection at the Benton County Museum, providing a rare opportunity to view this historical collection; and a tour of the Asian & Pacific Cultural Center on the OSU Campus, providing information about this important cultural home for students.

Kelvin Koong and the Member Services Committee arranged for Jock Mills, OSU's Director of Government Relations, to give an overview of issues facing voters on November 8, plus a preview of the 2017 State Legislature and priorities for OSU. It was an informative session.

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. 🦫

Are you an OSURA member?

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 and membership status can also be found on our website at: oregonstate.edu/osura.

OSURA Member Profile

Continued from Page 1

Both have gone on to become highly visible and productive contributors to public life in our city. Charlie was a member of the OSU Economics Department from 1966 through 1996, where he served as policy analyst for several Federal and State agencies, including NOAA, NASA, U.S. Departments of the Army and Interior, and the Oregon governor's commissions on School Finance Reform and Hospital Rate Regulation. On the local level, Charlie began his civic career in 1976 when Mayor Alan Berg invited him to serve on the Corvallis Budget Commission. He then ran for elective office, and served two terms on the City Council. Charlie served as Council President, chaired the City Budget Commission, and then was elected mayor of Corvallis from 1987 to 1995. He discovered that his economic, teaching, research and political activities complemented one another. When asked to identify his most significant accomplishment, Charlie – rather modestly -- mentioned the hiring of two highly successful City Managers.

Freda has been very active in OSU Folk Club, serving as President of that organization in 1987-88 and Chair of

OSU Folk Club's Thrift Shop in 1991-92. She has been involved, with enthusiasm and commitment, with the public library, at the local and state level. Freda coordinated the successful campaign to fund the expansion of the library building through a bond measure. She took the lead in the successful effort to create a Library Service District, to fund the county's share of library expenses. Most recently, Freda has been involved in the Library Foundation campaign to "Complete the Block," culminating in the purchase of the last portion of the city block where the Public Library stands. Freda currently gives tours of the Library's art collection; she invites you to contact her for individual or group tours.

Charlie and Freda have three sons: Ray, a fund manager, in Montclair, New Jersey, Fred, a Professor at the University of Alabama Law School in Birmingham and John, an organic farmer in Pescadero, Calif. Their three sons, with some help from their wives, provided Freda and Charlie with seven grandchildren, ranging in age from two to twenty. The two oldest grandsons, Ray's boys, are students at Yale University.

Since Charlie's retirement, the Vars have been traveling near and far. They frequently visit their families, while also finding time to travel to more exotic locales. Charlie and Freda have visited over 50 countries, including Turkey, India, Easter Island, Egypt, and French Polynesia. mostly with Road Scholar. They have traveled on the Amazon River and the "Road to Mandalay" on the Irrawaddy River in Myanmar. 🏠

OSURA Group Tours Museum Collections



OSURA Program Committee member Roberta Hall takes a closer look at Bruce the Moose in the Taxidermy Room.

The Collections. It's an unassuming name, not lending itself to hyperbole. The Collections Center, perhaps an unassuming place for the unassuming collections.

If this was the expectation of any of OSURA's 20+ members who signed up for the October tour of the Benton County Historical Society's museum collections, we were in for a BIG surprise. Big as in 13,000 square feet of a state-of-the-art, climate-controlled facility built specifically for the handling and storage of museum artifacts. Big as in the 10,000 square foot "collections vault" with 20-foot ceilings and rows upon rows of 12-foot high industrial shelving units, walls of mobile compact shelving, and specialized large drawer units. Big as in Bruce the Moose, lovingly stabled with other stuffed creatures in the self-contained taxidermy room within the main vault. Big as in the impressive 120,000 artifacts now cataloged, preserved and stored as "the collections."

By the end of our two-hour tour, OSURA participants had used words like impressive, wow, amazing, astounding, outstanding, vast, and overwhelming to describe their impressions of the collections and the facility. Unassuming? Not

in the lexicon.

Several volunteer docents divided us into smaller groups to show us through the facility, which includes an exhibition preparation room, a receiving area, a collections work room, and the large collections vault. As the docents guided us through the collections vault, they pointed out unique parts of the collections and explained the individualized types of storage used for certain types of artifacts – the walls of hat bins, the drawers full of quilts, shelves of furniture, wire walls holding framed paintings and artwork, rollers of rugs, drawers of old toys, and the special taxidermy room where 100-year-old Bruce was having his antlers and hooves restored. Shrink-wrapped pallets piled high with unopened boxes dotted some of the aisles, containing more artifacts and papers yet to be sorted in the Philomath center.

The artifacts that have been brought together in this unique facility came primarily from OSU's well-known Horner Museum collection, previously housed in the basement of Gill Coliseum, and from the original Benton County museum collections. Opened in 2008, the Collections Center facility was made possible by a generous contribution from Peter and Rosalie Johnson, for whom the building is named.

How You Can Help

As OSU retirees, we are part of the area's local history. Benton County and Corvallis would not be the same without us. For OSURA members who would like to make more specific contributions toward preserving local history through the Benton County Historical Society (BCHS) and Museum, here's how you can help. More information is available on the BCHS website: www.benton-countymuseum.org.

Volunteer at the BCHS and Museum.

Volunteers are needed right now to help with data entry and com-

Continue on page 4

OSURA Tours the Asian & Pacific Cultural Center



The beautifully landscaped cultural center located on OSU's campus.

On Nov. 18th, 17 members of OSURA met at the Asian and Pacific Cultural Center for a tour led by Assistant Director Reagan Le and student leader Rose Nguyen. The center is one of seven planned for campus. Four Centers have been designed by one architect and built in the last several years. The Asian and Pacific Cultural Center is in its 25th year and was formerly housed in a

building further from the heart of campus. Members learned that about 3,000 OSU students have Asian and Pacific Island cultural heritage so the Center can serve as a home away from home for them. At the Center, there is room for study and computer use and also a kitchen, a lounge, and a large meeting room for social and cultural events of various kinds.

The design and even the location of the new Center was chosen with the consultation of students who participate in activities there. We had a chance to ask questions and after hearing about the history of the Center, OSURA members took a close look at the art and the various work spaces, and talked with students who were studying that afternoon. Two large murals were designed specifically for the center — a large piece consisting of 144 clay pieces representing the Pacific Ocean and its life forms, and a mural consisting of painted items that represent debris that pollutes the ocean. The interior space is light, with many windows, and is airy as the ceiling of the large meeting room is elevated. Our hosts told us we are welcome anytime to stop by and look around. The Center opens at 10 a.m. on weekdays. 🏡



Student leader, Rose Nguyen, explains the "Ocean Mural" to the tour group.

Museum Collections tour

Continued from Page 3



Museum docent and OSURA Member, Jo Anne Trow, describes the quilt collection to OSURA members.

puter cataloging for the comprehensive website that will bring the collections on-line for public access. Mary Gallagher, Collections Manager, anticipates the on-line data base to be completed later in 2017, and says she could use responsible, detail-oriented volunteers now. Training is provided. In addition, volunteers are needed for packaging artifacts for storage.

Contribute artifacts, papers, documents.

Check with BCBS for items that might be accepted.

Share your expertise.

If you have extensive knowledge in a particular area of art, history, artifacts, etc., BCBS can use your help with research and information for accurate cataloging.

Make a monetary contribution.

The capital campaign for the planned Corvallis Museum is entering its final stages, and organizers hope to break ground for the new facility this spring. According to Ann Smart, the museum's capital campaign co-chair and long-time OSURA member, they have received a \$500,000 matching grant from an anonymous donor, which must be matched by March 31, 2017. Donating to this ambitious project is an immediate way for OSURA members to show support and interest in our area's history. The new museum will be located at the corner of SW 2nd and Adams. 🏡



OSURA Members Gordon Reistad and Helen Polensek at the Charitable Fund Drive Reception.

OSURA IMPACT

The Charitable Fund Drive Reception with President Ray recognized donors to the OSU Foundation, who have helped raise more than \$25 million over the last decade. Thank you to our colleagues in OSURA who helped make this drive successful. We hope OSURA will continue to contribute and connect to the OSU community monetarily as well as with our time. 🏛️

OSU150

Oregon State University will celebrate its 150th Anniversary starting August 2017, and running through October 2018. For upcoming event information or to sign up to receive news about this exciting year of celebrations visit oregonstate.edu/150.

Did you know? In 1950 Gill Coliseum opened as the largest building in the state with no internal structural supports to hinder spectator views. At the time OSU's enrollment was 5,887. 🏛️

Upcoming Events & Opportunities

OSU Winter Career Fair Volunteer Opportunity

Feb. 15-16 at The LaSells Stewart Center, CH2M-Hill Alumni Center and Reser Stadium Loge Level
Career Fairs are OSURA's biggest volunteer events with many members needed for check-in assistance for our students. This is a fun and easy event to try if you have never volunteered before. Contact kathymotley@comcast.net to volunteer.

OSU Women's Basketball vs. Stanford

Feb. 24, 8:00 PM

Dinner at The LaSells Stewart Center in the Ag Science Room at 6:30 PM, followed by the game.

OSU Gymnastics vs. University of Illinois, Chicago

March 11, 2:00 PM

Salad Buffet Lunch at The LaSells Stewart Center in the Ag Science Room at 12:30 PM, followed by the meet.

Connect with us!

For upcoming events, volunteer opportunities and more visit the OSURA website at osura.oregonstate.edu.