

OSURA NEWS & VIEWS

Ed Ray Interview

In a recent interview for the OSURA newsletter, President Ed Ray talked with Carol Kronstad and Terri Tower about his years as Oregon State's president, what he hopes will be his lasting legacy, and his plans for the future. The interview was conducted prior to the COVID-19 pandemic in the United States.

If you've ever doubted the Peanuts cartoon saying, "Happiness is a Warm Puppy," talk to Ed Ray, outgoing Oregon State president. The smile on his face will give you the answer. As Ed steps away from 17 years as OSU's president, he'll have a poodle puppy named Chuck [aka Charlemagne] walking with him.

We can't say that President Ray is actually retiring. He doesn't use that word. For him this is a change in direction, a departure from administrative responsibilities and a reconnection to his earlier academic endeavors of teaching, writing and research when he assumes an Economics faculty position in Oregon State's School of Public Policy. From full-time to full-time, a short walk across campus, a long walk from where he first started.

Ed grew up in New York City, attending schools mostly within a few miles of where he lived with his parents and two older brothers on the 6th floor of an apartment building in Queens. At the time he graduated from Queens College/CUNY and left for Stanford, he had never been farther west than Philadelphia. He earned his masters and doctorate at Stanford, followed by a notable 33 years at Ohio State University prior to his appointment as OSU's president in 2003, landing on another 6th floor some distance from the Flushing NY neighborhood where he grew up.



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.

"I went to Queen's College, City University of New York, which was probably a mile and a half from where I lived. So I had this strange reality that we lived in this apartment building, and if it hadn't been for an obstructed view, you could see the elementary school I went to for fifth and sixth grade, the middle school I went to for seventh through ninth. You couldn't see the high school, but you could see the college that I went to, and I had this sinking sense that my whole life was going to be lived within a two or three mile radius of where we lived."

[Ed Ray, Oral History Interviews, 2015, Special Collections and Archives, Oregon State University Libraries.]

While at Stanford he met first-year law student Beth Phelps. They married in 1969, raised three children, and spent 44 years together prior to her death in 2014. A former academic counselor and long-time advocate for student success, Beth is the namesake for the Beth Ray Center for Academic Support on the OSU campus. Two of Ed and Beth's children live in Ohio, along with three grandchildren, and one daughter lives in Tennessee.

When we asked Ed what's next up for him - besides raising a busy puppy - he talked about getting back into teaching, developing curriculum and course syllabuses, maybe doing some writing. He's very curious about current economic trends and how they don't always match traditional economic theory and what's being taught in classrooms.

An avid reader since childhood, Ed's definitely looking forward to more reading time. Waiting stacks of books on his office window sill include biographies of

Alexander Hamilton, George Washington and George H.W. Bush; Letters to Andrew Carnegie; Coddling of the American Mind; non-fiction books on leadership, higher education and teaching; and fiction titles One Amazing Thing and The Overstory.

President Ray acknowledges his good fortune in having been able to visit many parts of the world,

often related to his work, and he doesn't have a long list of places still to see. However, he does hope to take his 12-year-old granddaughter on a trip to East Africa later this year.

Another post-presidential activity he'll dig into - raising vegetables in his garden plot at home. He acknowledges that Beth was always the "master" gardener of their household, but he'll keep at it, challenging his favorite squash plants to produce more.

When asked to reflect upon his time at Oregon State and what he hopes will be his lasting legacy, Ed framed his comments in the context of "what's important, what's really important and what's really really important."

He has tried to focus his efforts on the last of these, things that will withstand the test of time, always giving credit to the numerous faculty, staff, donors, alumni, community members and others who have played key roles in these inter-related accomplishments. In this group of "really-really important," Ed includes the Campaign for OSU, strategic planning, enrollment growth and diversification, and OSU-Cascades.





Campaign for OSU. Ed targeted the need for a broad-based fund-raising campaign if OSU was going to flourish and grow, especially in light of decreased funding through the State of Oregon. The Campaign for OSU officially started in 2007 with a goal of raising \$625 million. By the time it concluded in 2014 the campaign had raised \$1.12 billion from over 106,000 households to fund scholarships, endowments and facilities.

One of the most important unintended consequences of the Campaign, Ed noted, was the emergence of a “humble pride” throughout the University, getting the message out to others that OSU was “pretty damn good at what we do.”

Strategic Planning. Instead of following an earlier strategic plan focused on cost-cutting, Ed emphasized the importance of developing a common direction and alignment, closely evaluating the mission and programs most important for OSU’s growth and vitality.

While other universities were hunkering down during the 2008 recession, President Ray saw this as a crucial pivot point, a time to go forward, to “hit the accelerator” and take advantage of increased numbers of people going back to school during slow economic times.

Enrollment Growth. Within this framework, he pushed for an expansion of student enrollment, both on the Corvallis and Bend campuses, as well as on-line. He viewed this as an opportunity to diversify enrollment, look out of state and out of country for new students. Enrollment growth meant the need for more faculty, facilities, programs, and student aid, all of which worked in tandem with the Campaign for OSU.

OSU Cascades. When President Ray assumed his duties in 2003, the Bend program had been in place for two years, “pieced together” in leased facilities on the Central Oregon Community College campus and serving under 500 students in upper division classes. His goal was to move it forward, to become a viable regional branch of the University. Now OSU-Cascades has its own 10-acre campus, has expanded to four-year academic programs, and serves over 1100 students.



Ed’s list of “other good things happening at the University” goes on and on. Cultural centers; a brick and mortar home for Linus Pauling Institute; growth in research dollars; the expansion of the Hatfield Marine Science Center in Newport; extensive new facilities and renovations on the Corvallis campus; getting the chicken wire off Education Hall; increases in student aid; and support for excellent faculty, who Ed calls the “heart of the university.” He specifically mentions OSU’s highly rated on-line E-campus programs as the 21st century version of the land-grant mission, taking education to where people are.

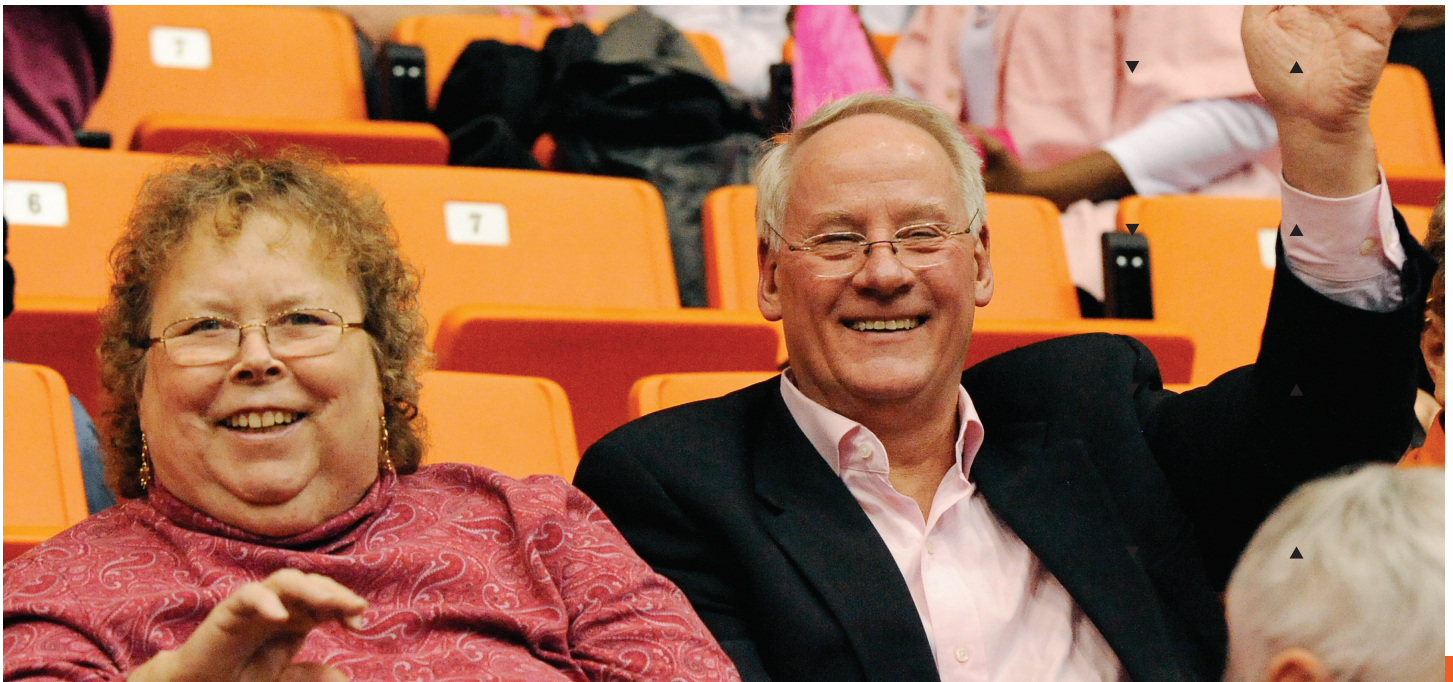
If you ask him about some of his favorite buildings on campus, not surprisingly his top choice is the Beth Ray Center. After that, he goes with Kearney Hall and its wall windows that illustrate elements of building construction. Then his list keeps moving across campus, building after building after building, project after project after project.

Ed’s recollection of numbers and names is truly encyclopedic, and he is always quick to recognize the individuals who were important mentors for him, as well as those who were instrumental as leaders and contributors to the success of various University initiatives.

Ed recounted a walk around campus a year ago, to get the look and feel of the place once again. He asked himself, “Did we just make it bigger, or did we enhance the whole and make it better?” Although others might have different answers to this question, President Ray hopes that future students, faculty, administrative leaders, community members, and friends of OSU will look back in retrospect and say that during his time as president, Ed Ray was a good guardian, part of a group that took a special place and made it better.

“The idea of being in school forever, which in fact it turns out I’ve been, was always very congenial to me. Being around people who were smart and learning and interested in things and could introduce me to new things. I mean, how good is that?”

[Ed Ray, Oral History Interviews, 2015, Special Collections and Archives, Oregon State University Libraries.]



Report on the Past-President's Get-together

Contributed by Mike Schuyler



Nearly all the past presidents of OSURA, plus the current one and the next one, met for lunch on March 10, 2020 at the New China Buffet in Corvallis. A good time was had by all. After the current president reviewed the year's activities (tours, workshops, Travel Share talks, volunteering for OSU events), we agreed that this has been a busy year. A few upcoming events were promised, albeit with a wary eye to the emerging COVID-19 threat to cause delays and cancellations, if necessary. Past president Chris Mathews introduced the incoming president, Carol Kronstad.

The group had a prolonged discussion on longer term issues, such as recruitment of recent retirees as well as general efforts to grow the membership. Comparing OSURA with similar organizations at other universities brought up concern about membership size and support by the administration. Many good ideas were offered, and these will be dealt with in upcoming board meetings.

The enthusiasm and encouragement of the past presidents for our mission was awesome to see. A glimmer of that enthusiasm can be seen in the accompanying photo.



President's Message

By Mike Schuyler, OSURA President



OSURA has been busy this academic year. We have offered several tours, talks, and workshops each term, and members have volunteered at a number of OSU-related events on campus. In addition Jim Kreuger's Travel Share has offered great talks on some international travel, and Carroll DeKock and Tom Plant have funneled energy into the Member Services committee, arranging for two pre-retirement sessions as well as an excellent presentation by Dr. Robert Poole on healthy aging. This coming term the committee has in mind a workshop on staying safe on the internet. Most of these activities are described in various editions of this newsletter.

On March 10 we held our yearly get-together of past and soon-to-be-past OSURA presidents, this time at the New China Buffet. Our president-to-be, Carol Kronstad, was introduced to the group, although it wasn't really necessary since she has been involved with OSURA for many years. This year's meeting was organized by past-president Chris Mathews, and it was well attended. Chris and I reviewed the year's activities and shared thoughts on how to keep OSURA membership stable and get new blood (younger old folks) into leadership. Happily, many of these ex-leaders are still active in OSURA, and we see them at many of our events. The discussion on recruiting and other matters was lively and detailed.

My term as president ends at our annual meeting, scheduled for the afternoon of May 15. I learned a great deal, especially since I had not been involved with any OSURA committees or offices before. I had attended events and participated in volunteering now and then, but the full scope of what this very active organization does for the campus community was lost to me.



OSURA Tours John L. Fryer Aquatic Animal Health Laboratory

Contributed by Tony Amandi



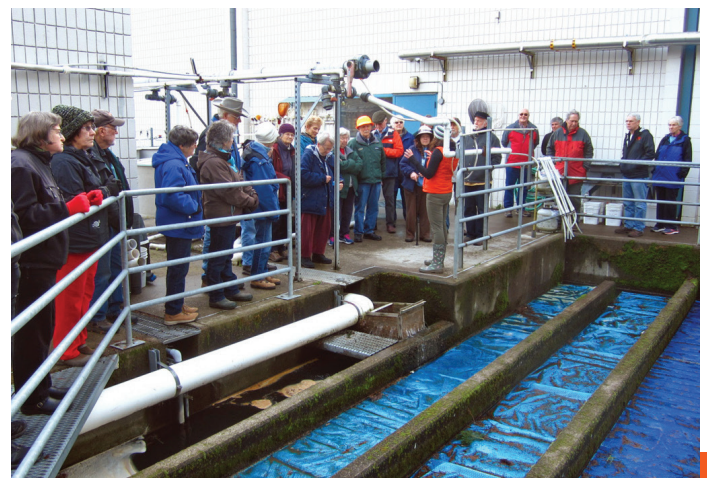
On January 9, thirty members of OSURA were able to tour the Aquatic Animal Health (AAHL) and Fish Performance (FPL) laboratories located on Oregon State University's Smith Farm property. Members were given summaries of the work performed at these facilities and also given a walking tour of each of the facilities. The AAHL is part of the Department of Microbiology, Colleges of Science and Agriculture and its director is Dr. Jerri Bartholomew, Chair of the Department of Microbiology. The FPL is part of the Fisheries and Wildlife Department, College of Agriculture and until recently directed by Dr. Carl Schreck who recently retired from his position with the United States Geological Survey.

The tour began at the AAHL by splitting the attendees into two groups. One half of the members attended a presentation by Drs. Sascha Hallett and Rich Holt of the Department of Microbiology and the other half received a walking tour of the facility by Ruth Milston-Clemens, the facility manager.

Dr. Holt gave a brief summary of the fish health lab, which preceded the AAHL. This lab was located in the Fairplay area on land owned by the University with wells that were shared by Microbiology as well as the Fisheries and Wildlife departments. Reduced flows and size of the laboratory led to discussions with the Bonneville Power administration and a proposal to build the AAHL in its current location. Dr. Holt also discussed the large number of Masters and Doctorate students that used these facilities. A large number

of these students then went on to engage in fish health careers with federal, state, tribal and private employers. He also mentioned the large number of international students and faculty that use the AAHL.

Dr. Hallett gave a review of two important fish pathogens of salmonids. One, the causative agent of Whirling Disease (*Myxobolus cerebralis*), which is widespread in areas where these fish exist in the wild or are reared for food production. The other, (*Ceratomyxa shasta*), the causative agent of Ceratomyxosis in salmonids is primarily present in California, Oregon and Washington. She covered some of the work that led to the discover of multiple hosts involved in the life cycle of both pathogens and the work currently being performed with *C. Shasta* in the Klamath River in southern Oregon and northern California.



OSURA Tours John L. Fryer Aquatic Animal Health Laboratory

Continued from page 7

While the presentations were ongoing, Ruth gave a tour of the facility, describing the variety of experiments being conducted on several species, which included salmonids, dragonflies and zebra fish. The work is being supported by various entities including NASA. She discussed how the facility runs by pointing out the state of the art equipment that allows experiments to be conducted at a variety of water temperatures. She showed the members a solar array that had been obtained with a grant that allows the lab to run on solar power.

In addition she pointed out the large backup generator, which turns on automatically in case of power failure. At the end of the tour, Ruth discussed the need to disinfect the water leaving the facility so as to not release pathogens being tested into the Willamette River. The water is treated with chlorine and tested automatically to ensure proper levels are being introduced. She also discussed the serpentine contact tank that allows sufficient time for the chlorine to kill organisms and also discussed the heat recovery system that was installed to remove heat from the water in the contact time and reduce the impact that it could have on receiving waters.

Both groups joined at this time and moved across the parking lot where we met Rob Chitwood, who had retired from the Fisheries and Wildlife Department. He graciously agreed to give the tour of the facility to the OSURA members.



He mentioned the history of the facility and how the property had been obtained from the previous owners and a bit about how close previous Willamette River floods had come. Rob discussed the current work being done with support from the Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) regarding the rearing of Chinook salmon fingerlings in tanks that closely approximate those that rear naturally in the streams. He explained the systems that are being used in the tanks so that fish grow in conditions that more closely mimic those found in natural areas. These fish are used in a variety of tests by researchers under contract with the USACE. At the time of the tour, fry were being taken from incubators where eggs had hatched and being transported to large rearing tanks for the next stage in the process to acclimate them.

The members were fortunate in that Dr. Carl Schreck was able to join us during the tour. He also gave a short summary of the work being done. He proceeded to chat with small groups and individual OSURA members as the group separated to look at the different tanks and activities ongoing at the facility.



Jonathan Katz Talk

Contributed by Dick Clinton



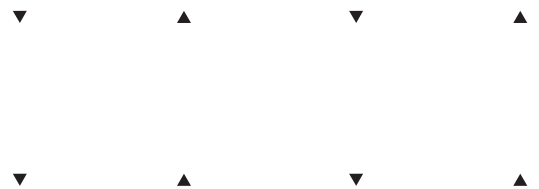
In presenting “The US and Iran: Misfortunes and Missed Opportunities,” Prof. Jonathan Katz, OSU historian, chronicled more than 100 years of interactions notable for overblown suspicion and distrust. OSURA sponsored the lecture on Feb. 4 in the OSU Foundation boardroom and, through OSU Today, invited the OSU community to attend. Program committee member Dick Clinton introduced the speaker.

Katz made the case that throughout this period, Iranians looked on the US fondly, especially in contrast to its perception of Russia and the UK, which conspired against Iran in secret deals. He gave examples of situations where Iranians showed support and friendship for specific Americans. Yet the US role in returning the Shah to power in 1953, conflicts over management of Iranian oil, ineptitude of US politicians of both parties, and the 8-year war between Iran and Iraq (1980-88), among other events, led to lingering distrust.

Michael Schuyler commented on what he learned. “Ever since I read David Fromkin’s book ‘A Peace to End All Peace,’ which dealt with how the European powers carved up the Middle East post-World War I for their own benefits, I have been fascinated with the Middle East’s political problems. Attending Jonathan Katz’s lecture helped me fill in some gaps in my understanding. Katz was a young man living in Iran during the tumultuous late 1970s, a period that culminated in the hostage crisis. He closely observed Iranian dissidents as they pushed the Khomeini regime after the fall of the Shah, who had been supported by the US. Katz described carefully the many steps that resulted in estrangement of the Iran and US governments, to both countries’ loss. So many mistakes and so much bad faith.”

Katz believes that through these many years there have been moments for openings between the two countries that could have been built upon. Most recently, the previous US administration participated in developing a multi-country treaty with Iran. Called the Nuclear Deal, this treaty reduced sanctions that hindered Iran’s international trade and it monitored and provided restrictions on Iranian nuclear developments. However, the current US administration viewed the deal with suspicion and chose to withdraw.

Prof. Katz commented on the many Iranian students who have studied at OSU. It seemed to audience members that there may be some hope, still, for a peaceful resolution between our two countries and most importantly, good relationships between our peoples.



Dr. Robert Poole's Seminar, "How Long Do You Want to Live"

Contributed by Carroll DeKock

Dr. Robert Poole's seminar, "How Long Do You Want to Live", was given to about 40 OSURA members on Thursday, Feb. 13, 2020. Dr. Poole is a retired urologist from the Corvallis Clinic. His wife Susan is a past-president of OSURA.

The central theme of Dr. Poole's presentation is that it is essential to stay active as you age. Some hints he gave were:



- Walk as much as possible
- Take stairs instead of the elevator
- Do your own gardening
- Regular napping is good
- Golf is good exercise
- Rowing is an excellent way to stay in shape
- Test your balance and work to keep good balance

He had a simple home test to see if you were sufficiently strong for daily activities. Stand from a sitting position without using your arms. You should be able to do 10 of these in 20 seconds if you are 75 years old.



At our age cognitive impairment is a big concern. He suggested the following ways to reduce this risk:

- Be physically active
- Eat a healthy diet
- Keep your mind active
- Maintain a healthy heart
- Maintain a healthy blood sugar
- Protect your head from injuries

His talk was well-received with a lot of questions and discussion after the talk. We are grateful that Dr. Poole took the time to come and talk to us. I trust we will all take it to heart and live a healthier life-style.

Coach Rueck Talks Basketball

Contributed by Terri Tower, OSURA Program Committee



Scott Rueck, head coach of OSU's women's basketball team, was introduced by the numbers at OSURA's pre-game dinner on Friday Feb 28. Ten years as OSU's head coach. 10th straight year as the guest speaker for the pre-game OSURA dinner. 7th straight season with 20 or more wins. And, his 500th career coaching win in November. That 500th win was November 30, 2019, exactly 23 years to the date of his first coaching win at George Fox on November 30, 1994.

In his remarks, Scott gave his usual candid rundown on the ups and downs of the season, especially the challenges this year with injuries, position adjustments, and the personal grief experienced by team members with the death of close supporters.

He commented that this year has been like preparing for three different seasons - first the regular pre-season games, second the WNIT and Team USA, and then the regular conference season. In the regular season, it's been one adjustment after another to compensate for player injuries and to adapt to the high level of competition in the Pac-12 conference.

Scott said it's been an exhausting year and he's really proud of the way the players and coaching staff have handled the challenges. He emphasized that playing basketball isn't just about the sport, it's also about character building.

OSURA attendee Bobbi Hall was impressed that "the coach admitted that the season had been a tough one for the team, but stressed how pleased he was to be working with such fine players, and getting to know their families. I like that he didn't hide problems but enjoyed talking with people [OSURA members] who he thinks of as good friends and supporters."

OSURA members and guests maxed out the space for the dinner at LaSells Stewart Center with 64 people attending. Dinner was a Mexican-style buffet, followed by the Beavers' winning game against the University of Washington. Each attendee - and all of the players and coaches - received orange and black Mardi Gras beads to add to the Beaver Spirit, compliments of the OSURA Program Committee.



Volunteerism

One of the purposes of the Oregon State University Retirement Association, as stated in its constitution, is “to promote volunteerism in the OSU community.” Thus, the primary focus of OSURA’s volunteer effort is to support OSU programs, activities and events.

OSURA volunteer activities not only provide service to OSU, it provides its members with opportunities to stay in contact with the campus and students, as well as establish and maintain collegial relationships with other retirees. OSURA members volunteer hundreds of hours each year to support various OSU programs.



Do you have an idea for a volunteer activity or do you wish to volunteer? Let us know at osura@oregonstate.edu or contact Kathy Motley at kathymotley@comcast.net.



What's happening? EDITOR'S NOTE.

Spring time typically brings a load of activities from our programming and member services committees. This spring was proving to be just as plentiful with events planned like a Goss Stadium tour, an OSU Historic Walking Tour, New Retiree Workshop and the OSURA Annual Meeting. We hope to reschedule these postponed events for future dates.

Because of COVID-19, the board of OSURA has determined that we will hold our May Annual Meeting virtually. This means that we will set up a Zoom meeting and invite our membership to attend via their electronic devices. Details about how to access the meeting will be sent through our listserv in the next few weeks. We are committed to keeping our members healthy and safe.

For the most up-to-date event information, please visit osura.oregonstate.edu.

OSURA Board Members 2019-2020

President: Michael Schuyler
President-Elect:
Carol Kronstad
Past President: Chris Mathews
Secretary: Tom Plant
Treasurer: Kevin Koong

Members at
Large:
Bill Becker
Judy Burrige
Bobbi Hall
Phyllis Lee

Julie Searcy
Kathy Motley
Bob Smythe
Jack Walstad
Bill Young

Newsletter & Contact Info

Editor: Kathy Motley
Design/Layout: Emma Fabel
Phone: 541-737-4717
Website: osura.oregonstate.edu
Email: osura@oregonstate.edu



**Oregon State
University**