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Spotlight on New Member: Bruce Ackerson

Professor Emeritus: Department of Physics

The Ackerson Family arrived in Stillwater for the fall term 1977, after leaving Bruce's postdoctoral fellowship at the National Bureau of Standards in Boulder, CO.



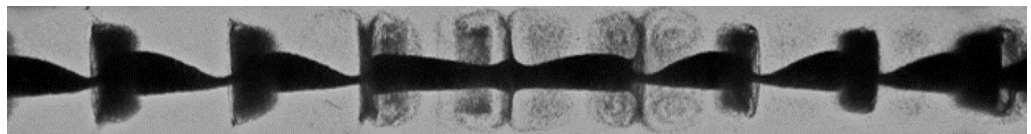
Bruce had earned undergraduate and graduate degrees in physics from the University of Nebraska (1970, Phi Beta Kappa) and Colorado University (1972, 1976), respectively. At the same time, he was commissioned a 2nd Lieutenant in the United States Air Force in 1971 with honorable discharge in 1974.

Bruce's advancement in rank at OSU culminated in an appointment to Regents Professor, which he resigned from after 12 years due to a change in research interests. His research produced over one hundred publications, a book for which he served as editor, research review articles and two pa-

tents. Bruce has also published fiction unrelated to research. Interest in his research lead to an appointment as fellow of the American Physical Society. Some 15 students received advanced degrees under his tutelage.

Sabbatical leave included working for six-month periods at the Sapienza Universita di Roma (Italy), University of Utrecht (Netherlands), Royal Signals and Radar Establishment (England), Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology (Australia), Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (China). He had no intention to retire, until distributions resulted in a raise in pay.

Presently, Bruce is writing several articles for submission to The Physics Teacher and learning how to play guitar.



The pattern above is produced by buoyant glass spheres suspended in a water/glycerol mixture contained in a cylinder which is rotated about the axis of symmetry.

Advance Directive for Health Care

If you haven't signed an advance directive for health care and would like to do so, the Stillwater Medical Center Medical Records Department has copies of a state-compliant form and staff to guide you through its completion. The form enables you to identify your wishes regarding medical treatment should you not be able to inform the medical staff. The form also enables you to name your health-care proxy, who can speak on your behalf if you are unable to do so. SMC will also keep an electronic copy of your signed directive on file.

Committees and Groups

Ambassador and Alumni Relations

*Russell Wright(chair)/
Judy Lewis*

Archive /Historian

Barbara Miller

Benefits

Anne Matoy

Catering and Reservations

Clem Ward

Communications

Zane Quible

Courtesy

Carol Olson

Directory

Zane Quible

Facilities

Althea Wright

Faculty Council

Barbara Miller

Finance

*Ron Elliott(chair)/
Sharon Nivens*

Investment Club

Ron Miller

Making the Most of Retirement

Zane Quible

Meet and Greet

*Althea Wright (chair)/
Kay Keys*

Membership

Michael Lorenz

Name Tags

Russell/Betty Wright

Nominations

Anne Matoy

Technology Group

Glade Presnal

Tours and Travel

Faye Ann Presnal

Web Site

Zane Quible

Spotlight on a Long-Time Member:

Mary Rulifson Frye, Associate Professor Emeritus Department of Health, Physical Education and Recreation

Mary Rulifson earned her bachelor's degree at Hamline University, Saint Paul, MN, with majors in physical education and psychology. Then, it was off to Roseburg, OR, teaching secondary physical education. Roseburg was a little too gloomy, so Mary set off for Gallup, NM, where she was called "Ruffles," taught junior and senior high physical education, a senior psychology course, and initiated a counseling program.



among academics discussing whether to pursue the Title IX effort, which was, in part, intended to provide equal sports opportunities for female and male college athletes.

Mary then took an instructor's position at the University of Nevada, Reno, and pursued a master's degree in psychology. This was interrupted prior to completion of her thesis when she married an "Okie from Muskogee," Captain Edward Moses Frye. They moved to Oklahoma City where three daughters were born and finally to Stillwater in 1962. After earning a master's degree in health, physical education and recreation, she joined the faculty as an assistant professor. She also served as the program coordinator for the new Colvin Recreation Center. Mary completed her Ed.D. at OSU in 1980 and subsequently was named director of campus recreation.

Among her significant committee involvements during this 20-year sojourn were serving on the "Status of Women at OSU" and chairing the Academic Appeals Board for several years.

In 1969, Mary and two other faculty members from OSU attended the National Higher Education meeting in Estes Park, CO. This meeting was one of the original conversations

Mary retired from OSU in 1988. As chair, she led the Emeriti Association in 1993-94. She considers the most significant involvement since retirement as the commitment to develop an all-level care retirement facility in Stillwater. This group, called White Woods, was originally composed of Mary and Milt Morris, Bob Fite and Bob Henrickson, with Esther Winterfeldt, Ron Beer, Ed Arquitt, Laverne Schroeder, Larry Perkins, and others joining the effort later. The White Woods committee received a generous donation of 40 acres of land from Mary White Morris and Milt Morris. Eventually, the location of the senior living complex was relocated to the north side of Stillwater where a continuing-care facility is being completed with projected occupancy prior to the end of this calendar year.

The other "ground floor" Emeriti involvement Mary had the pleasure of continuing with has been the "Osher Lifelong Learning Institute" or OLLI program. It continues to be one of the best learning opportunities in Stillwater and one of OSU's most effective educational outreach programs.

Mary served on the Board of Trustees for Hamline University from 1996-2000 and was inducted into the College of Education Hall of Fame at Oklahoma State in 2006.

A Retirement Activity: The Oklahoma Mesonet

Ron Elliott, Professor Emeritus

Department of Biosystems and Agricultural Engineering

Some have said that I'm flunking retirement; that may be so, but I find my continued involvement with the Oklahoma Mesonet to be stimulating and rewarding. In case you aren't already aware, the Oklahoma Mesonet is our state's automated weather network. It consists of 120 solar-powered environmental monitoring stations with at least one in every Oklahoma county. Each station measures air temperature, relative humidity, pressure, wind, solar radiation, rainfall, soil moisture, and soil temperature. Data are transmitted every 5 minutes to the National Weather Center in Norman, where the data are quality assured and processed into hundreds of information products that are made available in real time through the Mesonet's Web sites, models, and smart phone apps.

The Mesonet is the result of a long-term, highly collaborative partnership between OU and OSU. I've been involved since the beginning (the late 1980's), when scientists from Norman and Stillwater began to brainstorm and explore the possibilities for a statewide weather network. Following several years of planning; and with the support of Governor Henry Bellmon and the two universities, we eventually received funding to design and install the Oklahoma Mesonet. The statewide, comprehensive start of data collection was on January 1, 1994, so 2019 marks the Mesonet's 25th anniversary! Throughout that history, I've served as co-chair of the six-person Mesonet Steering Committee, which is charged with providing management and oversight. We're



blessed to have a very talented and dedicated staff that makes the network go 24 hours per day, 365 days per year.

The Mesonet provides unparalleled support for weather- and climate-related analyses and deci-



sion making. This occurs across a wide range of sectors including emergency management, agriculture, fire management, weather forecasting, the utility industry, recreation and tourism, research, and education (from K-12 through doctoral levels). It's not a case of just collecting and storing numbers; Mesonet data really get used in ways that make a difference for Oklahomans.

Oklahomans should be justifiably proud that our Mesonet is considered to be the premier state weather network in the country. A report from the National Research Council referred to the Oklahoma Mesonet as "the gold standard." The Mesonet has received special awards from both the American Meteorological Society and the National Weather Association. OK-First, the Mesonet's outreach program to emergency managers, was a winner of Harvard University's Innovations in American Government Award. The Mesonet is also recognized internationally, and representatives from numerous countries have traveled to Oklahoma to learn more about what we do here.

To access Mesonet's data and information products, or to learn more about the network itself, check out <http://www.mesonet.org>. There are also great free apps for your iPhone or Android device – just search for "Oklahoma Mesonet."



A Retirement Trip: A Tour of Israel
Daryl Nord, Professor Emeritus
Department of Management Science and Information Systems

A major interest in my life has been the adventure of traveling, and it's been my good fortune to have visited many places around the world. Recently, I was able to fulfill a lifetime desire to visit the Holy Land. On this particular trip, I traveled alone, so I decided to go with a tour group and selected Gate1 Travel for an eight-day tour of Israel, a country about the size of our state of New Jersey.



Masada and the Dead Sea. Masada is a rough stone natural fortress high on a mesa overlooking the Dead Sea and considered to be one of the icons of Jewish resistance and resilience. I also enjoyed floating in the Dead Sea, which is the lowest point on earth that originates from the Jordan River. The Jordan River is also the natural border between Jordan and Israel.

After meeting the group in Tel Aviv, we first traveled to Jaffa, considered the old gateway to Israel, where we took a tour of old Jaffa and visited the centuries old St. Peter's Church. The tour included that first night in Tel Aviv, two nights on the shores of the Sea of Galilee near Tiberias, three nights in Jerusalem, side trips to the Jordan River, Beit She'an, Caesarea, Bethlehem, and a day at Masada and the Dead Sea. It was an introductory but very comprehensive tour of many of the historical sights of the small country of Israel, a country only 290 miles long by 85 miles wide.



Above: Remnants of Masada with the Dead Sea in the background.



Above: Roman theater at Caesarea, Israel.

It seemed that every stop on our travel agenda was another highpoint of the trip. However, one of the spots that piqued my interest included visiting Caesarea, an ancient port city on the Mediterranean. The picturesque remnants included a chariot race course, a Roman Theater, and an extremely old Byzantine church.



Above: At the Dome of the Rock and Wailing Wall.

Another very interesting stop was the day trip to