



**Officers**

**President:**  
Sharon Nivens

**President-Elect:**  
Michael Lorenz

**Vice-President  
for Activities:**  
Faye Ann Presnal

**Secretary:**  
Kay Keys

**Treasurer:**  
Ron Elliott

**Past President:**  
Anne Matoy

**Councilors**

Doug Aichele  
Gladeen Allred  
Jack Dillwith  
James Halligan  
Barbara Miller  
Tana Rutan  
Bob Wettemann  
Dolores Willett  
Althea Wright

**Contact  
Information**

**Phone**  
405-744-5263

**E-Mail**  
emeriti@okstate.edu

**Web Site**  
emeriti.okstate.edu

**Mailing Address**  
Emeriti Association  
ConocoPhillips  
Alumni Center  
Room 107  
Stillwater, OK 74078

**Spotlight on New Member: Rick Beier**

**Professor Emeritus, Division of Engineering Technology**

After 18 years of service at OSU, Rick retired on June 1, 2018, as a professor in the Division of Engineering Technology within CEAT. Throughout his OSU career, he taught courses in the Mechanical Engineering Technology program.



more applied program. This experience provided specific real-world examples to demonstrate the relevance of technical concepts.

In 2015, Rick received a Regents Distinguished Teaching Award.

Rick received a Ph.D. from the University of California, Berkeley, as well as B.S. and M.S. degrees from Kansas State University, all in mechanical engineering.

Prior to coming to OSU in 2000, Rick acquired 18 years of industrial experience with Conoco Inc., the DuPont Company, and Factory Mutual Research at locations in Oklahoma, Delaware, New Mexico, Texas, and Massachusetts.

While at Conoco, he worked as a reservoir engineer in research, technical service, and operational positions. Much of his work focused on describing the flow of oil and natural gas through heterogeneous rocks. As a member of DuPont's process engineering group, Rick designed a wide variety of heat transfer equipment for chemical processing plants. His contributions at Factory Mutual Research were in the area of fire research.

Rick's industrial background enhanced his teaching within mechanical engineering technology, which is a

Rick's research at OSU focused on ground source heat pumps, which are often coupled to the ground with boreholes as heat exchangers. These systems heat and cool buildings efficiently with low-maintenance costs.

Over his career, he performed research and published papers in the areas of petroleum reservoir engineering, radiation heat transfer, convection heat transfer, fire research, combustion, ground-source heat pumps, building cooling loads, and fractals to describe heterogeneity in rocks. Rick is coauthor of the book *Fractals in Reservoir Engineering*, which is published by World Scientific.

**Did you know that . . .**  
According to State of Oklahoma Statutes, the beneficiary of a retired OTRS member will receive a \$5,000 death benefit following the OTRS member's death? To report the member's death, call the OTRS office (1-877-738-6365) to request the necessary paperwork to obtain the death benefit.

## **Committees and Groups**

### **Ambassador and Alumni Relations**

Russell Wright(chair)/  
Judy Lewis

### **Archive /Historian**

Barbara Miller

### **Benefits**

Anne Matoy

### **Catering and Reserva- tions**

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 Re- tirement**

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 Long-Time Member: Ron Beer**

### **Retired Personnel, Division of Student Affairs**

Ron earned a B.A. in teacher education in 1958 at Illinois State University; an M.S. in counseling and guidance from Michigan State University in 1959; and a Ph.D. in administration in higher education in 1969 from Kent State University.



At Kent State, Ron served as an assistant dean of men, acting dean of men, research assistant to the president, director of alumni relations, and executive assistant to the president from 1960 to 1972. In 1972, he accepted the position of vice chancellor for educational and student services at the University of Nebraska – Omaha and was selected as the vice president for student services at OSU in 1980, serving for 20 years before retiring in 2000. Ron was tenured in the College of Education and periodically taught doctoral-level classes.

Among the awards Ron received are four-time recipient of the Dean McFarland "Outstanding Administrator" award, the Big Eight Martin Luther King Jr. award presented by the Black Student Council, NASPA Pillar of the Profession award, President's Distinguished Service award, and Rotary Citizen of the Year award. He was a member of Phi Kappa Phi, Omicron Delta Kappa, Mortar Board, and Blue Key.

Ron's service on committees and boards included, among others, Editor of Students Rights and Responsibilities document; member of university/city joint committee to assess drug issues in the community; YMCA Board of Directors,

serving as president for two years; and a member of Board of Directors (BOD) of United Way, serving as president for one year. He was also on the City Charter Review Committee; member of City of Stillwater Long-Range Development

Committee; member of BOD of Stillwater Habitat for Humanity, serving as president for two years; member of Founding BOD for Our Daily Bread; chair of the BOD for The Ranch, a continuing care retirement community; and national education officer for Phi Gamma Delta Fraternity. He served for three years as a member of National Association of State Universities and Land Grant Colleges Board of Directors; and held various officer positions at regional and national levels in National Association of Student Personnel Administrators.

Ron was appointed to the BOD of the OSU Emeriti Association, serving as president for two years. He also helped develop the idea and created a committee to establish a Stillwater Life Long Learning Academy, which functioned for one year as the precursor of OLLI, and appointed a committee to create a continuing care retirement community chaired by Dr. Esther Winterfeldt. This committee successfully organized as a 501-c-3, non-profit organization with the name White Woods Retirement Campus. An eleven-person BOD was appointed, and Ron served as vice chair. In 2010, the WWRC was acquired by Epworth Villa in OKC and transitioned into a private, non-profit, 501-c-3 known as The Ranch, of which he serves as chair of the BOD.

## *A Retirement Activity: The Formation of OLLI@OSU*

*Ed Arquitt, Professor Emeritus, Department of Sociology*

Since retiring 13 years ago, my life has been as busy as before. While I have pursued many interests, I have spent much of my time working toward the continuing success of our Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at OSU.



Some 15 years ago, as a member of an Emeriti Association committee charged with developing an educational program at OSU for older adults and with the invaluable leadership of Mona Long, we established the Stillwater Academy for Lifelong Learning (SALL). We were offering courses on a regular basis. Soon after SALL was developed, we were made aware of the Bernard Osher Foundation and its goal of establishing at least one lifelong learning program in each of the fifty states.

It was decided that we should write a proposal to the Bernard Osher Foundation in pursuit of a grant from it to dramatically enhance SALL. I was appointed as the chair of a committee charged with the goal of writing a proposal to the Bernard Osher Foundation to help us establish our OLLI. I was able to put my many years developing the Oklahoma Elderhostel Program as the state director during the 1980s and 1990s to work in creating an educational program at OSU that would meet the requirements of the Bernard Osher Foundation.

I contacted a friend of mine who was a part of the administration of the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute and with whom I had worked in the National Elderhostel organization to determine how we could best go about writing a proposal to receive an OLLI grant. Initially, she told me that Stillwater was probably not a large enough city to develop the size of OLLI program needed to meet the goals of the Bernard Osher Foundation. Based on that information, we decided to write a proposal anyway. Our proposal was that we would develop an OLLI@OSU that was a multi-campus OLLI. Within the first three years

we would develop programs in Stillwater, Tulsa and Oklahoma City because we had campuses in each of those locations; and, over time, we would develop programs in other parts of the state as well. We were successful and have now been a part of Osher for over 10 years.

We have received over \$2.5 million in grants from the Osher Foundation.

During that time, I have served on the OLLI@OSU Board as the representative of the Emeriti Association, am serving as the curriculum chair for the Stillwater OLLI program, and taught several courses over the years, including a course on our national parks and courses focusing on several of the presidents of the U.S. during the 20th Century.

Bernard Osher, an American billionaire, established the Bernard Osher Foundation many years ago to provide resources to improve health care in both the U.S. and Sweden and to establish educational programs for older adults throughout the U.S. Through his foundation, his goal has been successfully accomplished. There are now over 125 Osher Lifelong Learning Institutes at universities throughout the U.S. We have two in Oklahoma, one at OSU and the other at OU.



Baker Bokorney (left), Dennis Bertholf (center), and Sarah Kimball (right) discuss the upcoming OLLI Course Schedule.



## *Our Favorite Cruise: A 64-Day Cruise Around the Mediterranean*

*Glade Presnal, Ed.D., Retired, ITLE, and*

*Faye Ann Presnal, M.S., Retired, Early Childhood Education*

When I retired from OSU in 2004, the Advisory Board of the Institute for Telecommunications gave Faye Ann and me a cruise to Alaska as a retirement gift. We had such a great time that we resolved to take at least one cruise a year, which we have been lucky enough to do.



When Zane asked me to write an article about our favorite cruise, I had trouble deciding “favorite” but no trouble deciding “most informative.” That would have been our 64-day cruise around the Mediterranean in 2013.

We learned so much, and I will pick just one country as an example--Egypt. The Pyramids are much bigger than we had thought, and the Sphinx is much smaller. When you see the pictures of the Sphinx, the Pyramids are in the background; and it was interesting to see the actual size of each. Also, I had assumed they were out in the middle of the desert since every picture of them seems as though that is the case. Actually, they are on the outskirts of Cairo; and, in fact, we were in bumper-to-bumper city traffic when we first saw them.

We learned so much about politics, economics, and history on our excursions. As we were on the bus going to Cairo, we passed miles and

miles of apartment buildings under construction with rebar sticking up on the top floors and the first floor or two appearing to be occupied.

When our guide asked us why we thought that was, the most common answer was that we assumed they had halted construction due to the revolution and the “Arab Spring.” Our guide said, “No,” and explained as follows: The reason is that Egyptians have no safe place to put their savings. The banks often fail, stocks are too risky; and if they hang onto cash, inflation will erode its value. Only real estate increases so they put their savings into apartment buildings. And they are left uncompleted because Egyptian law says there is no property tax on a building until it is completed. So the extended family lives in the building under construction, which, he said, often extends for generations!

The most surprising thing on our cruise? One of the guest lecturers was a retired professor from the University of Oklahoma. We became acquainted when he saw my Eskimo Joe’s T-shirt; and we became good friends.

I created and maintained a blog about this cruise. If you wish to view it, you can do so by entering <[gladepresnal.blogspot.com](http://gladepresnal.blogspot.com)> in your browser.

