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**Spotlight on a New Member: Helen (Peeler) Clements**

**Professor Emeritus, Edmond Low Library**

Helen (Peeler) Clements is a second-generation OSU alumna from Elk City. Her father, Edward Everette Peeler, attended OAMC and worked in the Library in the 1930s. During Helen's years at Elk City High, Mrs. Irene Howard recruited her to work in the school library.



this time, Helen was a graduate assistant in the Benson Latin American Collection, continuing her library career at the Texas Public Utility Commission from 1989-2000.

In 2000, Helen returned to Stillwater, happy to become a social sciences reference librarian in Edmon Low Library. She was promoted to associate professor in 2006 and to professor in 2017. Teaching a library skills class, serving as a departmental library liaison, and authoring several articles and many reviews, Helen has been active in campus diversity groups and in several state and national organizations. She received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Oklahoma Library Association and served as the Chair of the Anthropology and Sociology Section, Association of College and Research Libraries.

Helen earned a B.A. in English from 1962-1966 at Oklahoma State, was a student assistant in the Library, and minored in library science.

Helen attended the University of Illinois, earning the M.S. in library science in 1968. She served as a librarian at the University of Oklahoma from 1968-1971. She later earned a M.A. in cultural anthropology at Texas Tech in 1980 and was a librarian at the Southwest Collection Archives until 1982.

From Lubbock, Helen moved to Austin to complete a Ph.D. in cultural anthropology (1994). Her dissertation research involved historical contexts of indigenous hand-weaving villages in Oaxaca (wa-HA-ca), Mexico. During

Helen says, "I have had a wonderful career at OSU! I've worked with dedicated and supportive colleagues in every part of the Library and the campus! I will stay active in campus life."

**OSU Emeriti Association Members Honored**

**James Halligan** was recently named a Tau Beta Pi Distinguished Alumnus at the 2018 convention in Denver. Tau Beta Pi is an engineering honor society.

**John Thornton** won two awards at the Rocky Mountain Outdoor Writers and Photographers annual conference: Second place for his image of a monarch butterfly and honorable mention for his photo of a prothonotary warbler published in the March, 2017, issue of *Birds and Blooms* magazine.

**Bernice Mitchell** was recently recognized as the recipient of a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Oklahoma Commission on the Status of Women and was also recently named one of 100 Trailblazers by the Oklahoma League of Women Voters.

## 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

Vacant

### 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: Russell Wright

### Professor Emeritus, Entomology and Plant Pathology

Russell Wright grew up on farms in Eastern Iowa and Western Illinois and graduated from high school in Muscatine, Iowa. He is the eldest of eight, and he and his wife Betty have three children and three grandchildren.



Russell received a B.S. in zoology (1963) and his M.S. (1966) in entomology from Iowa State University. He received his Ph.D. in entomology from the University of Wisconsin in 1969. His specialty area is medical/veterinary entomology.

Russell began his professional career in August, 1969, as an assistant professor at the University of Guelph in Guelph, Ontario, Canada in the Department of Environmental Science. He taught several courses and conducted research on insect pests of livestock, mosquitoes, and blackflies.

In August, 1976, Russell joined the Department of Entomology at OSU as an associate professor. He had a research/teaching appointment to do research on arthropod pests of livestock and to teach medical/veterinary entomology and other courses.

Russell served as the head of the Department of Entomology and Plant Pathology from 1992 until retirement in October 2004 after 28+ years of service to OSU. He served on many committees in

DASNR, including the CASNR Faculty Council. He also served on several OSU committees, including the OSU Faculty Council for three years where he was on the Faculty Committee, serving as the chair for two years. Russell directed the Oklahoma research in a five-state USDA sponsored Fire Ant Suppression of Fire Ants in Pastures study from 2000-2008.

Russell was active in five professional societies and has served on many provincial, state, regional and national committees. He was in leadership roles in all the societies including president of three. Russell was awarded the Ta-Que-Ne Whap Award for Distinguished Leadership and Service from the Southwestern Branch of the Entomological Society of America.

Russell has 60 refereed publications, many extension/public information publications, and has made over 90 oral presentations.

Russell served on the OSU Emeriti Association Council from 2005-2008, as president-elect in 2008, president in 2009 and again as president in 2015. He served as the program chair from 2016-2018, as the chair of the Emeriti Ambassadors from 2015 to present, and he and his wife have maintained the name tag directory since 2015.

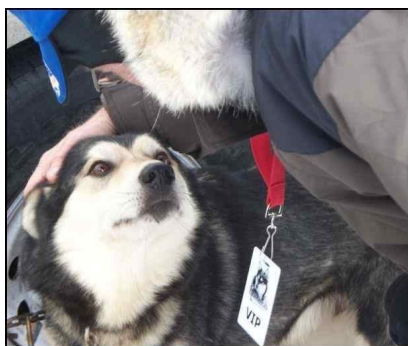
## *A Retirement Activity: Sled Dog Tales!*

*Doug Aichele, Professor Emeritus, Mathematics Department*

Retirement,: What's that about? While I no longer maintain a daily work schedule in the Mathematics Department, I continue to serve as the faculty associate for Stout Hall (Honor's residence hall), which is a position I have maintained annually since the program began almost 30 years ago. I also continue to serve on the Emeriti Faculty Council. My wife, Kathryn Castle Aichele, recently retired; and, together, we served OSU as tenure-track faculty members for 84 years.

One of our sons, Clint Aichele, is an OSU professor of Chemical Engineering; they have four boys who are close to us. Our other son, Adam Aichele, is a special agent with the Department of Justice in Tulsa. In addition to enjoying close family activities, we enjoy our times in Hawaii (Kauai is our favorite island for annual visits), Colorado (summers near Pitkin at our remote cabin hand-built in 1975), and Alaska (summers near Juneau is a favorite place where Kathryn taught several times).

During the last several years, my mathematical interests have resided in research related to sled dogs. So, from here on ... It's all about the dogs! In 2009, I was handling dogs at the Iditarod for a good friend of mine from Canada. I met one dog, Gumbie, there. He was very shy and rarely got close to people. He had just finished racing the 1,000-mile Yukon Quest race (he was selected the Pin and Patch Dog that



Whoa, what did this mean? His human mother



was nearby and saw this. She said, "He just picked you!"

By that summer, handsome Gumbie had moved to our home. Gumbie became a star, and people loved him and hearing his sled dog "tails." One of our favorite venues was Westwood Elementary

School in Stillwater during the Iditarod each year.

Gumbie was also a father to a litter of Alaskan Huskies whose names all began with the letter "V." As time has moved forward, two of his "kids" joined him – Vulcan and Vixen. They, too, had racing careers and continued the legacy begun by their father.

Last winter, I took several OSU folks on a sled dog adventure through Outdoor Adventure to Gunnison, CO, where they learned about sled dog care and mushing.



Gumbie passed away last June; he lived a great life of more than 15 years. Like Gumbie, Vulcan and Vixen travel widely sharing their sled "dawg tails". You can see them at the OLLI Town Hall Talk on March 5, 2019.



## *Our Year-Long Travel Experience: Navigating the Great Loop*

*Stan Grogg, OSU-CHS Professor Emeritus, and Barbara Grogg*

In 2012, my wife and I bought a 38-foot boat with two 350-horsepower Volvo engines. We had not had any experience navigating a motorized water vehicle in the past but had read the book, *Honey, Let's Get a Boat*. We were able to find a boat captain to help give us lessons for five days, and we were off on our own.



there, we traversed through the Keys with many dolphins crossing in front of and behind our boat. We stopped in Miami and then passed Cape Canaveral. Another beautiful stop was St. Augustine.

Once into the Great Lakes systems, we needed to pass through the

We started in Norfolk, Virginia, and traveled 5,500 miles during a 367-day period. The boat had a master bedroom and area for my office and all the electrical gadgets needed for cooking, living, and cruising. Our first adventure was going up the Hudson River and entering into the New York canal system. With a little help from other boaters, we were able to pass through more than 100 locks on the Great Loop.

Wellington Canal from Lake Ontario into Lake Erie. This required hiring another person knowledgeable in both the lock and ship navigation. We found such an individual, Dino, who successfully got Grogger through the largest of the lock systems in the Great Lakes area.



There were many memorable experiences on the trip. We stopped in Manhattan and could see the Statue of Liberty from our marina. We passed West Point on the Hudson, cruised the Erie Canal, saw the sights of Buffalo, Erie, Cleveland, and navigated up the Detroit River into Lake Saint Clair to Mackinaw Island and into Lake Michigan. We were able to follow the fall

We passed through Buffalo, New York, Pennsylvania and stopped to visit friends in Cleveland, Ohio. From there, we went across Lake Erie into the Detroit River and into Lake St. Clair. We had some engine problems in Lake St. Clair, which gave us a chance to visit many parts of Michigan by utilizing our friend's car. Once we got the engine repaired, we headed up toward the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. By now, the trees were changing, and we were able to obtain a pickup truck for touring parts of the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. After having our engines repaired again, we were ready to start heading south.

color changes of the trees down the Mississippi River, up the Ohio River to the Cumberland River into the Tennessee River, and down the Tennessee-Tom Canal into Mobile, Alabama. We crossed the panhandle of Florida and ate oysters for several meals in Appalachia Cola, Florida.

On day 366, we had crossed our beginnings. On day 367, we took Grogger up to Baltimore to sell. What a year we had!

We crossed the Gulf to Tampa and proceeded to Key West for New Years with our family. From

### References:

1. *Honey, Let's Get a Boat. . . A Cruising Adventure of America's Great Loop* by Ron and Eva Stob, Published by Raven Cove Publishing, 2003.