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President-Elect:
To be announced

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Kay Keys

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Rick Beier
Francis Epplin
James Halligan
Barbara Miller
Tana Rutan
Gary Sherrer
Bob Wettemann

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Spotlight on New Member: James Huston

Professor Emeritus, Department of History

Jim was raised in Moline, IL, about 160 miles west of Chicago on the Mississippi River and is the proud product of the public school system. In 1969, he graduated with honors from Denison University (Granville, OH) as a history major. After spending a short time teaching eighth grade in Rock Island, IL, he was drafted into the US Army in 1970 and was discharged in 1972.

In the fall of 1972, Jim entered graduate school at the University of Illinois and earned his M.A. and Ph.D. (1980) in history, working with Robert W. Johannsen on the Civil War and Reconstruction era. During his graduate studies, he took some graduate microeconomic and macroeconomic courses. For Jim, 1980 was an eventful year as he also married the princess of Mt Vernon, IL, Kathy Jane Simmons.

Fortunately, Jim obtained a visiting assistant professorship at Oklahoma State. Kathy spent several years teaching at Yale High School. She later became a technical writer, editor, and publications manager while Jim advanced to a tenure-track position in the History Department. In 1989, he became associate professor, next full professor in 1998, and Regents Professor in 2006.



In his career at OSU (1980 to 2019), Jim published six books and over 40 articles and will likely add to the total in the next few years. The short titles of these books are: *The Panic of 1857 and the Coming of the Civil War* (1987); *Securing the Fruits of Labor: The American Concept of Wealth Distribution* (1998); *Calculating the Value of the Union: Property Rights, Slavery, and the Economic Origins of the Civil War* (2003); *Stephen A. Douglas and the Dilemmas of Democratic Equality* (2007); *The British Gentry, the Southern Planter, and the Northern Family Farmer: Agriculture and Sectional Antagonism in North America* (2015); and *The American and British Debate over Equality, 1776-1920* (2017). Three of these books received awards.

Jim has been the director of eleven Ph.D. students (all employed) and seven master's students. Besides becoming a Regents Professor, he also earned the Regents Distinguished Research Award (2010), was twice a finalist for the Regents Teaching Award in the College of Arts and Sciences and twice was a finalist for the Eminent Faculty Award.

Upon retirement in 2019, Jim's wife, who was and is his primary editor, rejoiced that now he could pay attention to house repairs.

Committees and Groups

Ambassador and Alumni Relations

Russell Wright (chair)
Judy Lewis

Archive /Historian

Barbara Miller

Benefits

Bob Wettemann

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)
Michael Lorenz

Investment Club

Ron Miller

Making the Most of Retirement

Zane Quible

Meet and Greet

Priscilla Gerfen

Membership

To Be Announced

Name Tags

Russell/Betty Wright

Nominations

Sharon Nivens

Technology Group

Glade Presnal

Tours and Travel

Cathy Shuffield

Web Site

Zane Quible

Spotlight on a Long-Time Member: Althea Wright

Emeritus Faculty, Department of Human Development and Family Sciences

Amarillo, TX, served as Althea's home for much of her childhood, and she graduated from Amarillo High School in 1953. The fall of that year found Althea headed to Stillwater to attend Oklahoma A&M. Four years flew by, and graduation came in 1957 with a double major in elementary education and family relations and child development in the School of Home Economics.



Waco, TX, became Althea's next home where she taught second grade for two years. Her next assignment was teaching in Amarillo where she taught first grade for five years. During that time, Althea received a master's degree in elementary education from West Texas State University in 1967.

By the time Althea returned to Stillwater in 1968, she had a husband and two elementary-age children. The reason for returning was to attain an Ed.D. in higher education with her teaching field being in family relations and child development. Her mission was accomplished in May, 1970. The greatest honor of her life was being hired as an assistant professor of home economics at OSU to begin her college teaching career in the fall of 1970. Althea's assignment included teaching a number of undergraduate courses. Later, graduate courses were assigned, and the work load increased considerably as a member of the Graduate Faculty. Added responsibilities included supervising master's and doctoral students.

In the later years, Althea was asked to take over classes involving the aging process. During that time, she did post-doctoral study at North Texas State University while on a sabbatical leave from OSU. She was working toward an aging specialist certificate, which involved 18 hours of graduate-level work. For several years in that program, she and others took trips to other countries to study their accommodations and support for older people. Included were Norway, Sweden, Finland, Denmark, China, Japan, South Korea, Greece, Israel, Egypt, and Russia. We subsequently began forming a core of OSU professors to serve on an OSU Gerontology Faculty. We started offering courses related to successful aging and programs available for older people. We offered many programs through the OSU Extension Service.

During her career, Althea was promoted to associate professor. The highlight of her professional career was being chosen at the Outstanding Professor of Home Economics three consecutive years. In 1979-1980, she was included in the selection of *Who's Who in American Education*.

Teaching at OSU is something for which she will always be grateful. There were so many wonderful co-workers, outstanding students, capable leadership and pleasant working conditions. After much thought, she decided to take early retirement in 1990 to do more traveling and to be a "hands-on grandmother."

A Retirement Activity: A Lifelong Hobby of Growing Orchids

Douglas Needham,¹ Retired Vice President, Education

Longwood Gardens, Kennett Square, PA

I'm often asked, "How long have you been growing orchids?", and my response is, "I got bit by the 'orchid bug' when I was in my teens and never recovered!"

I admired my grandmother's orchids, specifically *Cattleyas*, that she grew outdoors in Florida. One summer, probably around 1968, she brought me one of her *Cattleya* orchids. As a passionate, young horticulturist, I read books on orchid culture, joined the American Orchid Society, and grew orchids under fluorescent lights in my parents' basement in Indiana. At that time, orchid nurseries were not as prevalent as they are today, and, of course, there was NO online shopping! My parents and I drove to Black River Orchids in Michigan to discover new orchid species to add to my collection.

By 1975, my orchid collection had outgrown the lighted bench in the basement, and my dad and I built my first greenhouse. It was a 12' diameter redwood greenhouse with single-pane glass walls and fiberglass-reinforced plastic roof. Indiana winters are very cold, often well below zero, and the greenhouse was not well insulated, so it took thousands of cubic feet of natural gas to heat!

Over the past few decades, my wife, Jackie, and I have always had orchids but only what we could fit on windowsills in our home. I had longed to have a greenhouse again; and with retirement, its time had finally come! Through my work at Longwood Gardens, I was privileged to see many beautiful greenhouses and conservatories around the world. I love the architecture of Victorian glasshouses. Thus, they served as my inspiration, and I began designing an energy-efficient greenhouse that would be heat-retentive in winter, heat-reflective in summer, and need minimal carbon input to grow cool, intermediate, and warm-growing orchids.

The 12' × 60' structure is composed of two zones (rooms), formed of thermally-broken extruded aluminum with 1"-thick, argon-filled, low-emissivity glass (0.25 U-value), sitting atop an 8"-thick insulated concrete block wall with brick veneer (0.04 U-value), and heated and cooled by geothermal ground source heat pumps and evaporative coolers. The larger zone, which is kept 75–80°F day/60



–65°F night in the winter, allows me to grow many genera of orchids from lowland tropics, e.g. *Cattleya*, *Oncidium*, and *Stanhopea* from Central and South America, Mexico, and West Indies; *Dendrobium*, *Phalaenopsis*, and *Vanda* from southeast Asia, New Guinea, and Pacific islands; and *Angraecum* from Africa and Madagascar. The smaller zone, which is kept 60–65°F day/45–50°F night in winter, allows me to grow many genera of orchids from upland and high-elevation montane tropics, e.g. *Anguloa*, *Dracula*, *Lycaste*, *Masdevallia*, and *Phragmipedium* from Central and South America and Mexico and *Cymbidium* and *Paphiopedilum* from southeast Asia, southern China, India, and Pacific islands.

That first orchid from my grandmother has grown to a collection of about 300 plants of about 60 different genera, which I enjoy showing to the OSU Greenhouse Management class each fall, speaking about to various tour groups, and occasionally presenting on *Oklahoma Gardening* television. To learn about orchids and their culture, see *Oklahoma Gardening* segments <https://youtu.be/cNFqMtJBZr8> and <https://youtu.be/Z4uWe2Ary7Q> on YouTube, consult the American Orchid Society (www.aos.org), and join a local AOS-affiliated orchid society.



¹Professor of Floriculture, Oklahoma State University 1989–2007, and Vice President, Education, Longwood Gardens 2007–2017. After retiring in July 2017, Doug and Jackie, returned to Stillwater. Doug was recognized by Purdue University in 2017 as Distinguished Agriculture Alumnus, he was awarded the Veitch Memorial Medal by the Royal Horticultural Society in 2018, and he was honored with the Distinguished Service Award by the Department of Horticulture & Landscape Architecture at OSU in 2019.

A Retirement Trip: Siem Reap, Cambodia (Much More Than Angkor Wat)

*Stan Grogg, Emeritus Faculty, OSU Center for Health Sciences
and Barbara Grogg, Emeriti Association Member*

In January, Barbara, my wife, and I led a small group of 13 to visit one of the world's biggest religious monuments, Angkor Wat, outside the city of Siem Reap, Cambodia. The ruins stretch over more than 154 square miles. Like us, many visitors see only a few of the myriad structures. Construction began in the 7th century and ended in the 12th century – 600 years of building. It is one of the UNESCO World Heritage Sites. The sandstone reportedly used to construct the national monument weighed at least five million tons and had to be carried from a quarry 25 miles away. Four primary temples are the most visited places in this area.



Having described the most common reason to visit Cambodia, we ventured off the beaten path to explore the Cambodian countryside. This was by far one of the most interesting day trips we have taken anywhere in the world.

The day began early with a pick-up by 4-person tuk tuks at our hotel. Exchange dollars into Riels started our “market” experience. At the market entrance, we enjoyed a “strong” cup of Cambodia coffee and were tempted with fresh local fare for breakfast at the many stalls. The market included vast numbers of flowers, colorful fruits and vegetables, eggs, spices, all kinds of meats in the open air including pork, beef, fowl, fish, chicken, eels, brain, intestines, snakes and even dog... somewhat distressing. After wandering through the market, we jumped into our tuk tuks and traveled into the countryside to visit local “cottage industries.”

Our first stop was at a Buddhist temple where we were entertained by the chanting of several monks. Next, we came across a talented stone carver. Of course, I bought a small stone elephant. Moving onward, we saw a basket weaver where nimble hands made beautiful baskets. The roadside provided varied scenes including fields with farmers waist-deep in water harvest-

ing rice. There were many tuk tuks, motorcycles, bicycles, oxen and a rare car. Many people were just walking. A friendly wave was common. Chickens and dogs roamed everywhere, and an occasional pig would be snorting along a path. We also enjoyed stops for local foods and beverages, and palm sugar (really good). A highlight of the tour was a visit to a lady famous for “cupping” which is an ancient form of alternative medicine in which special cups are placed on your skin for a few minutes to create suction. People get it for many purposes, including help with pain, inflammation, blood flow, relaxation, and well-being. It is thought to be a type of deep-tissue massage.

Our final stop was at a silk facility. Some of us indulged in tasting silk worms, and others bought handmade silk scarves. Returning to our hotel, the \$10/hour massages readied us for a great traditional Cambodian meal and then the famous night market.

While Angkor Wat is very interesting and usually the primary reason to visit the area, the countryside and all the activity there should not be overlooked.



Reference: General facts of Angkor Wat: <https://www.tripsavvy.com/angkor-wat-facts-1458741>. Reviewed 2/14/2020.