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Michael Lorenz

President-Elect:
To Be Announced

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Faye Ann Presnal

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Sharon Nivens

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- Doug Aichele
- Gladeen Allred
- Rick Beier
- Francis Epplin
- James Halligan
- Barbara Miller
- Tana Rutan
- Gary Sherrer
- Bob Wettemann

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Spotlight on New Members: Gary and Joyce Sherrer

Both are Retired Personnel

Division of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources

The Sherrers have been Emeriti members since September, 2019. Both are retirees of the Division of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources (DASNR) at OSU.

Joyce, who received a B.S. and M.S. in Home Economics from OSU, retired from the Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service (OCES) after 43 years of dedicated service. She began her service to our great state in 1976 as a Home Economist in Craig County and later extended into Nowata and Ottawa Counties. The three-county assignment was necessary as funding for the OCES suffered because of a state revenue shortfall, which also happened several other years.

As a true servant to the people of Oklahoma, Joyce never wavered on her commitment to the principles of the OCES through good funding years or lean ones. She worked long hours to make sure the people of the three counties were well served and had access to all OCES programs.

Joyce was rewarded for her accomplishments in 1981 when she was named a County Director (CED). She was one of the first females to break the sex barrier by becoming a CED.

In 2001, Joyce was asked to fill an important and vital need at the state office in Stillwater. The new position title was Director of Staff and Program Development. The assignment was to train all new employees who entered the OCES throughout the state.

Joyce finished her employment years as a science teacher at the Coyle Public



School System. At the end of the school year, Joyce commented, "It was a challenging but rewarding year. A teacher has an awesome responsibility and a great deal of influence in helping shape a young person's future. I took that challenge very seriously!"

Gary, who attended OSU for two years and later received a B.A. in Speech with a minor in Journalism from Southeastern Oklahoma State, retired after 13 years of working in the Dean's office in DASNR. He had a successful career as Assistant Vice President of External Affairs working to secure funding from the state legislature for OSU.

Other positions held by Gary over almost 50 years of service were:

- *Four terms in the Oklahoma House of Representatives.
- *Oklahoma's first Secretary of Agriculture and Commissioner of Agriculture.
- *Oklahoma Secretary of the Environment twice under two Governors.
- *Proudly served as a Combat Medic in Vietnam.
- *Was a co-founder of the First Trinity Life Insurance Company, headquartered in Tulsa. The company was started in 2004, with investors in all 77 counties, and has grown to over \$1 billion in assets and expanded into 36 states and three other countries.

Before retiring and especially since, Joyce and Gary have enjoyed traveling to places such as, Italy, France, England, Switzerland, St Thomas, St Johns, Belize, Costa Rica and Mexico.

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

Kay Keys (chair)/
Priscilla Gerfen

Membership

Becky Schlais

Name Tags

Russell/Betty Wright

Nominations

Sharon Nivens

Technology Group

Glade Presnal

Tours and Travel

Cathy Shuffield

Web Site

Zane Quible

Spotlight on Long-Time Member: Sharon Nivens

Retired Personnel, Global Studies and Partnerships

Sharon grew up on a cattle/wheat farm on a big bend on the Cimarron River between Coyle and Guthrie, OK. She attended the first eight years of school in a one-room schoolhouse in their rural community. Upon graduation from the eighth grade, she moved on to attend high school in Coyle, OK, graduating in 1959. That fall, she began school at Oklahoma State University.



She completed a bachelor's degree in marketing from the College of Business Administration in 1984 and a master's degree in Adult Education from the College of Education in 1996 – a somewhat extended path to educational achievement. Following the initial year at OSU (1959-1960), she opted to marry and began full-time employment in the State 4-H Office while her husband completed his schooling. In the ensuing years, time was spent in Duncan, OK; Lawton, OK; Fayetteville, NC; and Perkins, OK. In 1975, she returned to OSU to work in the newly formed University Extension Office.

She was fortunate enough to have accepted employment in an office that fully supported continuing/adult education, enabling her to work full time while attending OSU classes during early morning, noon, and evening hours until completing the bachelor's degree. The same pattern was followed until she completed the master's degree. Following her return to OSU in

1975, she spent 35 years working in the same OSU organization, although several versions of that organization did occur over the years. Her responsibilities also changed over time to include serving as associate director of International Education and Outreach and director of Independent Study.

She was active on many campus committees and activities including Instruction Council, Outreach Council, Sponsored Programs Committee, Off-Campus Course Committee, and others. She was also active in the University Continuing Education Association (UCEA), a national organization of higher education units offering continuing education/extension/outreach programs. She also served on the Board of the National Universities Degree Consortium (NUDC) as secretary, vice-president, and president. In addition, she was part of the Council on the CEU (Continuing Education Unit) that developed guidelines for continuing education units across the country to measure noncredit learning in order to provide participants credentialing for noncredit learning.

Sharon retired in 2009 and lives on five acres west of Stillwater. She spends her time on yard work and other activities. In 2011, she joined the OSU Emeriti Association and served six years as membership chair and two years as president.

A Retirement Activity: Writing As a Second Language

Frances Griffin, Retired Personnel

Department of Management

In my graduate program for an M.A. in English/TESL (Teaching English as a Second Language), my major professor pointed out that while all normal children learn to speak by just “picking it up,” no one just “picks up” writing skills; such skills must be taught. Why is writing English a “second language” when one speaks English effortlessly?



Part of the answer lies in the differences between spoken and written language. What do the two modes share? Only one thing: words. Spoken language includes paralanguage (tone, volume, inflection, rhythm, etc.) and (in person-to-person communication), body language. Written language must convey all the nuances of paralanguage and body language through punctuation, word/sentence order, and typographical features such as size of the letters, boldface, and placement on the page. Learning to use these features skillfully to communicate one’s intended meaning to one’s particular audience requires practice.

Much of my experience in teaching writing came in teaching Written Business Communication in the Spears School of Business. Because many of my students had very negative opinions of “English classes,” I always emphasized that it was NOT an English class; it was a communications class. And it was not a theory or content-based class; it was a skill-building class. And developing a skill requires practice. That part, they did not want to hear!

While I was teaching, I also did some freelance editing/proofreading, mostly for graduate students writing theses and dissertations; and since retiring eight years ago, I have con-

tinued editing academic work. While I personally do not enjoy writing, I’m fascinated by the challenges of crafting, organizing, and pruning written communication to make it as “communicative” as possible.

Many of my clients are not native speakers of English—I have clients from Thailand, South Korea, Taiwan, China, and Iran—some of whom are back in their home countries and others who are teaching in U.S. universities. Their writing poses challenges that are somewhat different from those of native speakers of English because of the variety of native languages that influence their written English. For example, many other languages do not have the English articles “a/an” and “the.” Because these articles add meaning to the words they precede, when they are missing, it can be a challenge for me to suggest the correct one to insert.

Some languages lack plural forms; and even when the writers understand plural forms, some words with similar meanings can be plural (e.g., suitcase or bag) and some cannot (e.g., luggage and baggage). Connotations of words can also pose problems; a recent manuscript included the following phrase: “allow firms to more easily imbibe [something] into the organization.” Imbibe? Did the writer mean “include”? or “incorporate”?

The complexities of English, the influences of other languages, the wide variety of topics on which my clients write, and the unique audiences for which they write make my editing endlessly interesting. I can truthfully say that almost every manuscript teaches me something new. Talk about a “continuing education”!

A Retirement Trip: Wandering West

Scott Turner, Emeritus Faculty, Department of Management Science and Information Systems, and Dorcas Turner, Emeriti Association Member

Over the years, we have had many wonderful travel adventures. When we were younger, most were camping trips with the kids, often exploring our magnificent national parks. In retirement we have had fun trips, but perhaps the most memorable retirement trip for us was the one we took immediately after that last work day, Westward Ho, leaving - as soon as Scott cleared out his office and returning – sometime in the future.



cafes. Still moving north, we crossed into Oregon, winding our way up the Oregon coast, stopping at all the lighthouses along the way, watching for sea lions, taking pictures of the haystack rocks, ‘fog bathing’ on the beaches, arriving at last in Portland, the Rose City, the city of bridges, the city beneath towering Mt. Hood, and the home of our daughters, Michele and Mary Beth.

We left Stillwater a day in June and headed to New Mexico. Our first ‘real’ stop was Santa Fe where we stayed in the historic La Fonda right on the square, had cocktails in its rooftop bar, watched the sunsets, ate dinner at The Shed—northern New Mexican food at its finest—and toured the gift shops and art galleries.

From Santa Fe, we drove to Flagstaff, AZ, where we visited the Lowell Observatory, established in 1894 and the location of the discovery of the planet/dwarf planet Pluto. Flagstaff is the gateway to the Grand Canyon, our next stop. We checked in to the El Tovar, which like so many national park lodges, is old and oddly arranged, but we had a peek of the canyon from our room. We hiked, mostly along the rim, observing the sunsets and sunrises, and we had wonderful breakfasts in the El Tovar dining room.

Los Angeles was our next stop, to visit family and to revisit the Getty Museum, Newport Beach, and the Santa Monica Pier. Then, we moved north to the Napa Valley where we made the obligatory wine country tour and ate crab cakes on the Santa Barbara pier. Next, San Francisco – we ate sourdough bread, rode cable cars, and dined at little sidewalk



Caption: Oregon Coastline

We had a long family visit, but it was time to go east. We were on to Idaho and Montana, where we traveled the ‘Going to the Sun’ road for our first view of spectacular Glacier National Park. Two other highlights of this leg were the Museum of the Rockies and the site of the Battle of the Little Bighorn.

Finally, we turned south and headed home – maybe 6 weeks on the road, maybe 7. Ah! Retirement Freedom! All the time in the world!