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**Spotlight on New Member: Kevin Gerfen**

**Retired Personnel, College of Education, Health, and Aviation**

Kevin graduated from Cushing High School in 1973. He was drum major of the band, sang in the Choraliers, and performed in three plays including the male lead in *Barefoot in the Park*. He is an Eagle Scout.



(1993-1994) and President and Mrs. George H. W. Bush (1991-1993) during State Dinners, White House dinners, receptions, and other ceremonies and events. After that, he was Command Targets Officer for the Pacific Air Force in Hawaii (1994-1997).

While attending OSU in the 1970s, he became an intern in Senator Henry Bellmon's Washington office in summer 1975. He earned a Private Pilot Certificate in 1976.

His last Air Force duty was Commandant of Cadets at OSU's Air Force ROTC (1997-2000). He retired from the USAF in January 2001 at the rank of major.

Serving in the Air Force from 1977 to 1981, he achieved staff sergeant while flying 1,100 hours as boom operator on the KC-135 aerial tanker plane, performing daytime and nighttime in-flight refueling of bomber, fighter, cargo, and reconnaissance planes over the U.S., Europe, Arctic, and Pacific.

He was Assistant Director/Scholarships at OSU from 2001 to 2006 when he became an academic advisor to aviation, health promotion, therapeutic recreation, and recreation management students until retiring in June 2018.

Kevin earned a B.S. from OSU in 1984 and was commissioned a second lieutenant through AFROTC, earning Distinguished Graduate honors from ROTC. He was an intelligence officer and targets officer in Nebraska, South Korea, Washington DC, and Hawaii.

In retirement, he teaches History of Aviation and Theory of Flight courses for OSU's Aviation and Space program.

The Air Force chose him for the Post-Graduate Intelligence Program at the Defense Intelligence Agency in Washington where he earned a M.S. of Strategic Intelligence in 1994.

He is married to Priscilla Warner of Shawnee, who holds the B.S. and M.S. degrees from OSU. They have lived in Stillwater since 1997.

Kevin was selected for special duty as a White House Social Aide, working inside the White House as an assistant to President and Mrs. Bill Clinton

Kevin sings in the choir and is soloist and cantor at Salem Lutheran where he serves on the church council. He has been on the board of Town & Gown Theatre, Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Stillwater, OSU Friends of Music, and OSU Friends of the Library. He has performed in 14 productions at Town & Gown.

## **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**

*Cathy Shuffield*

### **Web Site**

*Zane Quible*

## ***Spotlight on Long-Time Member: Faye Ann Presnal***

### ***Instructor/Early Childhood Specialist***

Faye Ann Presnal was a teacher, supervisor, and early childhood specialist throughout her 40-year career. Beginning as a first grade teacher in Kansas City, KS, Faye Ann taught at Dunbar Elementary, helping the school district to implement desegregation policies in a disadvantaged area. This position helped broaden her world perspective, increase self-confidence, and prepare for future career possibilities.



married in Manhattan and have raised three children.

After moving to Stillwater, Faye Ann became an instructor and Early Childhood Specialist at Oklahoma State University, completing 21 years of service. During her tenure in the College of Human Sciences, she taught ECE classes, worked in the Child Development Labs as a supervisor and curriculum specialist, and served as assistant director of the CDL.

Faye Ann was co-recipient of a Star Schools grant to provide satellite-based professional training to teachers nation wide. With another faculty member, she developed international ECE study tours to Europe. Before retirement, she became director of off-campus ECE Student Teaching, placing and supervising ECE students in public schools.

Faye Ann later accepted a teaching position in Camden, NJ, as part of a United Methodist Church sponsored community reformulation project. She spent three years living in North Camden while participating in this project.

Faye Ann returned to Oklahoma State University to pursue an advanced degree in Early Childhood Education (ECE). Following graduation, she went to Kansas State University, teaching eight years and supervising off-campus student teaching sites in Manhattan, Topeka, and Kansas City.

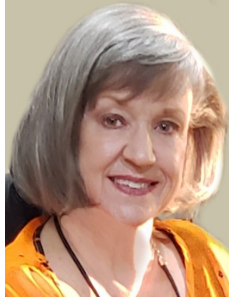
Faye Ann served on state and community boards that focus on early childhood issues. She has made numerous presentations to local, state, and national groups and written curriculum for a variety of projects. Faye Ann was a long-time board member of the Early Childhood Association of Oklahoma, serving as president and receiving its Distinguished Service Award. She was Oklahoma's representative to the National Association for the Education of Young Children affiliate training in Washington, DC.

Faye Ann was awarded the University Undergraduate Teaching Award in 1977. She worked with the KSU administration to establish the Stone House Center designed for full-day childcare and early childhood research. Faye Ann and Glade met and were

## *A Retirement Activity: Horses Building Futures at Turning Point Ranch*

*Natalea Watkins, Retired Associate Vice President of Communications*

Retirement” came early for me after a car accident in 2000 left me paralyzed from the chest down. I first learned about therapeutic riding in a hospital bed at the Jim Thorpe Rehabilitation Hospital. At that time, my husband and I owned a 160-acre quarter horse ranch west of Stillwater so the chance to keep horses in my life and possibly regain movement through equine therapy sounded GREAT!



Then I saw an *O’Colly* story about a Therapeutic Riding program called “Turning Point” forming in Stillwater. Believe me, I was front and center for that first meeting. The program was focused on children, so I pitched in with marketing and joined the Board.

As boarders at Starr Valley Stables, Turning Point became Oklahoma’s first Premier Accredited Center under the Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship, PATH International. The Stillwater Public Schools began sending students from the Middle School, Junior High and High School special education classes as therapeutic recreation. That contract continues today.

“It’s hard to explain the magic of horses with people who face challenges: The rider with Aspergers who tried to teach me to walk again. “Its ok if you can’t do it today,” he said. “I believe in you; and if you focus, you can do it.” Don’t you know he’s been told that by countless teachers and therapists? I’ve seen a highly involved child calmed, competent and confident enough to ride a 1200-pound horse through a Special Olympics trail course. I watch parents who cheer with tears in their eyes as their son or daughter speaks or walks without assistance after riding.”

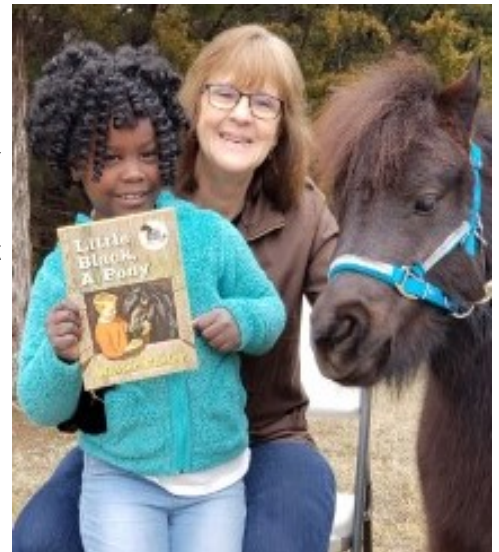
—Natalea Watkins

Today, classes are underway; and thanks to a grant from the Masonic Foundation, Turning Point is expanding programming into the community with mini horses. Pilots are underway at Wings of Hope

domestic violence center and at the Life Adult Day Care. We are talking with additional memory care units after a successful event at Primrose. Turning Point Executive Director Rachel Royston has experience with a dementia program at her former center in Indiana where research showed significant improvement in spontaneous communication and mobility with dementia clients using mini horses in equine assisted activities, EAA.

You are likely to see our mini’s almost anywhere in Stillwater: the bank, the Mill, the Student Union, Belks. That’s especially true of Baxter Black now known as Bullet’s sidekick, BB. He does a gig with the Pistol Pete Partner at home games and has stunned us with his acceptance of the entire Marching Band, the Paddle People, and a crowd of 55,000 people.

Fortunately, he’s just as good at his “day jobs” including inspiring first graders to read at Highland Park, a Title One school in Stillwater. He brings Walter Farley’s *Little Black, A Pony* to the kids in February, and they come out to read to him in an activity-packed field day in April. He “prefers” to ride in the backseat of Rachel Royston’s pick up but is forced to join Rosie, his mini colleague, in a specially configured mini-horse trailer for trips to the Life Center, schools and Wings of Hope.



I obviously love what Turning Point accomplishes but am willing to share. I think the Emeriti Association should plan a daytrip to Turning Point and participate in some equine assisted activities.

## *A Retirement Trip: Odyssey Down Under—New Zealand and Australia*

*Charles MacAllister, Professor Emeritus  
Carolynn MacAllister, Associate Professor Emeritus  
Department of Veterinary Sciences*

We have been on several organized tour trips, but this Road Scholar Trip was incredible. We were hesitant initially because 30 days is a long time to travel and because of the 17-hour long plane ride. Honestly, it is impossible to even touch on the highlights of this remarkable trip, so I have included the stops in our trip itinerary. Both of these island countries are geographically isolated, have distinctive indigenous native heritage, and are home to extraordinary and unique wildlife and diverse ecosystems.

It was delightful to watch and (even touch) such animals as kangaroos and koalas that roam abundantly in Australia. Also, it was astounding,



as a veterinarian, to observe species we had only seen in pictures, such as the kiwi birds and platypus. Another unique experience - while enjoying a barbeque in the open air with a musician playing native ballads - a wallaby hopped in to join us.

Both countries treasure their native cultures - the Maori and Aborigines. We were stunningly surprised at how serious and committed the citizens and governments are to protect and sustain the health of the environment. That was especially apparent in the conservation efforts and research at the Phillip Island Nature Park. It was also apparent with the saving of the habitat of the tiny Blue Penguin, preservation efforts of the



aboriginal Uluru Ayers Rock, and the extensive support of the spectacular, but delicate, living Great Barrier Reef near Cairns.

We highly recommend this trip that was packed with an abundant amount of adventure and beauty.

### **New Zealand and Australia Trip Itinerary**

- \*Auckland Yacht Excursion and War Memorial Beachside Exploration North Shore
- \*Waitome Glowworm Caves
- \*Waimangu Volcanic Valley, Maori Performance
- \*Nat. Kiwi Hatchery; Christchurch History Walk
- \*Banks Peninsula, Akaroa Harbour Nature Cruise
- \*International Antarctic Centre
- \*Milford Sound Cruise
- \*Lake Wakatipu Cruise & Working Sheep Station
- \*NZ Political System-Parliament/Supreme Court
- \*Zealandia Urban Eco-Sanctuary, Cable Car Ride
- \*Explore Wellington's Wild Coastline w/ naturalist

### **Australia**

- \*Sydney's Colonial History - Cruising Sydney Harbor & Coastline; Australian History
- \*Bondi Beach, Stunning Coastline Hike
- \*Taronga Zoo, Sydney Opera tour w/performance
- \*Melbourne - Shrine of Remembrance, Skydeck
- \*Melbourne city tour w/ Queen Victoria Market
- \*Phillip Island Conservation- Blue Penguin parade
- \*National Gallery of Victoria, Australian Art
- \*School of the Air, BBQ - Australian Ballads and Southern Stars Viewing
- \*Desert Wildlife, Flying Doctors, Aboriginal Bush Cuisine, Alice Springs
- \*Uluru-Kata Tjuta Nat. Park, Ayers Rock sunset
- \*Cairns, Great Barrier Reef Cruise/Snorkel with Marine Biologist
- \*Rainforest Skyrail, Aboriginal-music, dance & games