

OCTOBER 2025

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President's Message

We had a great program at our October Monday Night Dinner. Tracy Caine told us all about the Oral History Program and the type of interviews that are accessible online. There is a wide selection of categories that promise to be exceptionally interesting. We also had a large attendance, and we welcomed five new members. Additionally, I took a point of personal privilege to recognize Sue and Joe Williams for coordinating our "social time" prior to each meeting. Their hospitality sets the perfect tone for our group. Please remember to tell them how much you appreciate their efforts!

Mike Woods and I have been working as the Nominating Committee and are very close to having the slate completed. Joyce Sheerar will take the reins as President in 2026. Those whom we have slated are Gary Clark – President Elect; Gladeen Allred – VP of Activities; and Mike Lorenz and Bob Graalman for another term on the Council. All other current council members and officers will remain the same, except we will be filling Bob LeValley's position. Bob has served as Catering Chair for 2025 and has done an excellent job. However, he wants to take a little break this coming year. So we will be filling Bob's position with Cara Beer, who will assume the duties of Catering Chair starting in 2026. We are blessed to have such great leadership in our organization!

The November meeting will have sort of a "military" flair since Veterans Day is in November. Our speakers will be from the OSU Army ROTC and OSU Air Force ROTC programs. Additionally, we will get to meet our scholarship recipients!

A shout out to Bob Graalman, who will be inducted into the Oklahoma Higher Education Hall of Fame (which is the same evening as our November meeting) so a few of our members will be at that event to cheer Bob on!!! Congratulations, Bob!!!

As I close, two things are on my mind--can we get some cooler temperatures, and can we please win a football game? I have great faith that at least one of these will happen!

Best & Go Pokes!

Carolyn

Emeriti Association's Upcoming Programs

Gary Clark, Vice President--Activities, has confirmed several programs for the remainder of 2025 and early 2026, including the following:

- November 3 LTC Kyle Ferguson, Army ROTC—*ROTC Program at OSU*
Nicholas Ramierz, Air Force ROTC Cadet—*AFROTC Cadet Experiences*
- December 1 Stillwater High School Choir—*Holiday Program*
- February 2 Bob Burke (noted Oklahoma Attorney and Author)—*One Lucky Cowboy—Behind the Scenes*, followed by book signing by Burns Hargis
- March 2 Dr. Jim Hess, President, Oklahoma State University—*OSU Update*

Welcome to the Association's Newest Members

Jean Van derlinder Brad Rickelman David Perrin Ann Perrin
Denise Weaver David Pitt

Meet the Emeriti Association's Secretary – Becky Schlais

Becky Schlais, the Emeriti Association's Secretary, is about to close out year 2 of a 3-year term. Becky worked at OSU in the research administration area for over 32 years. During those years, Becky worked with many University and College committees and served as President of Staff Advisory Council. Becky retired in 2019 and started her encore career. It is a dream come true to work with a nonprofit company using her OSU skills with grantsmanship to work with Native American communities across the state.

Becky met her husband, Tim, on vacation before she started at LSU. It was love at first sight for both of them. Tim was from Oklahoma, so they had a long-distance relationship for a couple of years. During that time, Tim invited Becky to an OSU Football Bowl game in Houston. OSU was playing FSU, and it was Becky's first exposure to OSU and had no clue that OSU would have such an impact on their lives.

Tim and Becky were married soon after and moved to Pawnee, OK. They both traveled to Stillwater daily to finish their undergraduate degrees and then decided that OSU would be a great place to work. Becky was able to earn her master's degrees while working at OSU.

So, that first exposure to OSU was impactful; and she had no idea the journey she would have with OSU from the encounter of a farm boy from Oklahoma and his love of OSU.

Content Recently Added to Emeriti Web Page

August [Minutes](#)

Sussane Rose [Obituary](#)

Congratulations to our 2025-2026 Emeriti Association Scholarship Recipients



Savannah Wooten received the OSU Emeriti Association Scholarship for 2025-2026. She is a senior, a political science major, and is from Bartlesville. She chose to attend OSU because of its strong academic programs, a welcoming campus community, and a positive sense about the opportunities it offers. She values both education and personal growth, and OSU stood out in fulfilling both. Savannah also values OSU academic excellence and the

Furthermore, fellow students exhibit a sense of pride in being a Cowboy. Savannah was drawn to the University's commitment to leadership, service, and inclusion, all of which aligned with her goals of being involved in meaningful work and making a difference. Finally, she values the variety of student organizations, the amazing faculty, and the beautiful campus.



Michaela Tucker received the McCollom Emeriti Scholarship for the 2025-2026 school year. She is a junior from Catoosa and is an Aerospace Administration and Operations – Aviation Management major. She chose to attend OSU because it “felt like home.” The campus is energetic and friendly, and the professors in the aviation program bring knowledge from their backgrounds and apply it to their classes. This allows students to gain a better understanding of their chosen industry. Furthermore, the traditions of the school help round out her college experience. Her educational goals are to maintain a 4.0 GPA.

Eventually, she would like to pursue a master's degree in a space-related field. Michaela aspires to work in the aerospace industry and has wanted to be an astronaut since she was five.

News From University Human Resources

OSU Benefits anticipates mailing open enrollment materials on or around October 9, 2025, and changes to your enrollment can be made between October 13 and November 7. Changes made during this time will become effective January 1, 2026. There will not be any vendor changes; health and prescription drug insurance remain with BlueCross BlueShield of Oklahoma; vision with Vision Service Plan (VSP); and dental with Delta Dental of Oklahoma. Rates for 2026 have been finalized and will soon be updated online. Retiree benefit information is online at <https://hr.okstate.edu/benefits/retiree-benefits.html>.

OSU Benefits will be changing retiree billing from Chard Snyder to PlanSource, which is OSU's new benefits administrator for enrollments; and to streamline processes and vendors, we will be changing retiree billing. Additional information about this change will come after open enrollment.