



***Officers***

***President:***  
Michael Lorenz

***President-Elect:***  
To Be Announced

***Vice-President  
for Activities:***  
Faye Ann Presnal

***Secretary:***  
Kay Keys

***Treasurer:***  
Ron Elliott

***Past President:***  
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 a New Member: Priscilla Gerfen***

***Retired Personnel, University College***

Priscilla earned a B.S. in Clothing, Textiles and Merchandising and an M.S. in Applied Behavioral Studies from OSU. While attending OSU, Priscilla served as a vice president of the Residence Halls Association and board member of the Allied Arts Committee, leading to her selection as a Big Woman on Campus. Priscilla served as assistant head resident of Willard Hall before graduating and heading to Ball State University to be a residence hall director for two years.



Since moving back to Stillwater in 1997, Priscilla has sought to stay involved with OSU, serving on the Friends of Music group (president for two years) and was also recruited to be a member of the committee to recommend the eventually selected architecture and engineering/construction

firms to remodel the Student Union (work completed in 2012).

Priscilla retired from the IRS after 33 years of service, but flunked retirement, joining OSU after just 8 months and working with the staff of University College (formerly University Academic Services and LASSO). During 6 years in UC, Priscilla was an academic advisor, providing guidance to new students and athletes with undeclared majors. Her position in University College included teaching freshman orientation classes as well as weekend courses in teamwork. Priscilla created the University College Student Council, serving as the advisor for three years before finally retiring in 2017 (permanently this time).

Priscilla manages to keep busy in retirement by being active in Salem Lutheran Church and Friends of the Stillwater Library. For fun, Priscilla quilts and donates her quilts to fund-raising activities for various organizations in Stillwater.

## 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

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 Long-Time Member: Jim Key

### Professor Emeritus; Department of Agricultural Education, Communications, and Leadership

Jim grew up on a diversified dairy farm in Paris, TN; and following high school graduation, he pursued the B.S. in Agricultural Education at the University of Tennessee. After five years of active duty in the Air Force as a transport pilot, he taught agriculture a couple of years in Virginia and earned a master's degree in Vocational Education from Virginia Polytechnic Institute. During this time, he continued to fly transport aircraft for the West Virginia Air National Guard.



He earned the Ed.D from North Carolina State University in Occupational Education in 1969. During the 1969 summer, Jim taught the research design class for the Agricultural Education Department at OSU before he was hired as an assistant professor in the fall. He began teaching the research design class via distance learning in 1970 and has continued to teach that class 50 years, currently teaching it online in retirement. Jim progressed through the academic ranks, achieving the rank of professor. Early in his career, he was chosen editor for three years for the *Agricultural Education Magazine*, the journal for high school agriculture teachers and higher education agricultural educators.

Jim was assigned a 15 percent Cooperative Extension appointment as evaluation specialist later in his career. Also, he was a consultant for state and local extension personnel and presented evaluation workshops.

Later, Jim, served as graduate coordinator for the Agricultural Education Department. Throughout his career, he advised numerous mast-

ers and doctoral students. He was able to get approval from the Regents of Higher Education for a Ph.D. program to replace the Ed.D. program the department currently had. This was needed to attract more international graduate students.

Jim worked with three universities in Thailand, advising them about graduate programs and vocational programs. He worked with numerous students from Thailand and was on the graduate committee of one student at a university in Thailand. In Kenya, he helped establish an Aviation Education program for Moy University at Eldoret.

Although Jim retired in the spring of 1998, in the fall, he returned three-quarter time as distance education coordinator for the College of Agriculture and teaching his research design class. He returned to only teaching the research design class until 2009 when he became interim department head half time. In the fall of 2010, he re-retired to teaching the research design class online, which he has now taught continuously for 50 years.

Over the years, Jim has received a number of awards and honors including the following: Co-Outstanding Court Appointed Special Advocate for Children in Oklahoma (2014); Outstanding Agricultural Educator, American Association for Agricultural Education (2011); Outstanding Volunteer at Davis Correctional Facility in Holdenville (2005); VIP Award National FFA Association (1998); Co-author of the Year *Journal of Agricultural Education* (1989) and Outstanding Service Citation National Vocational Agriculture Teachers Association (1985).

## *A Retirement Activity: Stillwater, OK, USA and Kameoka, Kyoto— A Sister Cities' Affiliation*

*Larry Jones, Professor Emeritus, Engineering Technology*

Not long after arriving in Japan for the first time, I thought to myself, "I think I'm going to like this place," which proved to be true. I liked it then, I've liked it through the years, and I still like it.

I have tried to maintain some kind of contact with the island nation by visiting there often, by staying in contact with my wife Kayo's family, and by being a part of Stillwater's Sister Cities Council from the very beginning.

Being a part of the Sister Cities Council has been a great long-term activity and a wonderful way to stay in touch with Japan and all things Japanese. Through the years, I've had many opportunities to increase my understanding and appreciation for Japan; its people, their culture and customs; and its history, geography, and other aspects of the island nation.

We've engaged in numerous educational and cultural exchanges, activities, and projects through the Sister Cities' relationship during the years, some of which have been life changing. Two, in particular, are very special to me.

First was the OSU-K program that came about as a direct result of our sister cities relationship. Kameoka's mayor initiated talks that eventually led to establishment of a branch campus of OSU in Kameoka where OSU faculty, including myself, taught freshmen and sophomore general education classes before around 500 Japanese students transferred to OSU-Stillwater. Many of their lives were significantly changed. For example, Ikuko came from a mountain village literally at the end of



Replica of Old Central



the road, arrived on campus with an old manual typewriter, and refused to use the computers on campus until her final semester at OSU-K. After taking one computer class, she took to computers like a duck takes to water. Today, she is a computer systems analyst for a Silicon Valley company. She and her husband, a Stillwater High School graduate, live in San Jose.

Tomohito, who lived with his parents in Osaka, had given up on going to college until seeing an ad about OSU-K. He did very well at OSU-K and at OSU-Stillwater. Upon graduation, he was accepted into the College of Vet Medicine and became the first international student in the college. Today, he's on the Vet Medicine faculty at Purdue.

Second is the Japanese garden at the Stillwater Community Center that was constructed by land-



Japanese Garden at Stillwater Community Center

scape gardeners from Kameoka as a gift from the citizens of Kameoka to the citizens of Stillwater. There's much I'd like to write about the garden, but I'm limited by space.

The sister cities program has impacted the lives of many people through the years, particularly young people. But it's had a significant impact on my life as well. As I've traveled throughout Japan enjoying the beauty of the country, the hospitality and kindness of the people and experienced many aspects of their culture and customs, it's enriched my life more than I can put into words and provided me with the desire and motivation to share these experiences via a weekly article I've written for the *Stillwater News Press* for more than 25 years. It has been and continues to be a significant part of my life in retirement.

## *A Retirement Trip: Borneo, Malaysia*

*Patsy Stafford, Emeritus Faculty, Edmond Low Library*

The “Search for Orang-Utans” tour was an exciting and enjoyable wildlife ecological trip with Borneo Tour Specialists. We stayed in small, eco-friendly lodges with lots of short hikes and small boat cruising, looking for wildlife and birds. We flew into Kota Kinabalu with our first stop at Sepilok Nature Resort in Sandakan—a tropical paradise with flowers and birds everywhere.

Our education about Borneo started at an orang-utan rescue center where baby orangs are given the same kind of care as human babies. Juveniles are moved to a large cage outdoors and allowed to roam. Given the same food every day – bananas and sugar cane – the hope is they will grow tired of the food, forage for their own food and become independent. Two orangs showed up for the morning feeding, along with 20 to 30 pigtail macaques - mothers with infants, juveniles and big males.

We also saw a spotted green tree python and a giant black squirrel. On a Canopy Walk, the plant discovery garden showcased more than 250 species of native orchids, gingers, pitcher plants, cacti, aquatic plants, and economic crops. Birds were abundant. On the trip, I logged over 60 new species (but I won't list them all). Hornbills were a favorite!

On our way up the Kinabatangan River, we saw a few little fishing villages that were accessible only by boat. After primary schools in the villages, students must commute to Sandakan.

Sukau Rainforest Lodge is an eco-friendly lodge built in traditional Malaysian style – on stilts. Rainwater is collected but must be boiled before drinking as we learned the hard way.

The Kinabatangan Wildlife Sanctuary is inhabited by 10 species of primates, 4 endemic to Borneo and is known for its butterflies, over 200 species of birds. Twenty-seven species of bats roost in the nearby Gomantong Caves with 4 species of swiftlets (2 species produce the coveted edible nests, which are made out of their saliva).

A naturalist from Sanktuari Hidupan Lia Kinabatangan escorted us to their orang preserve. We



planted two of the orang's favorite trees—a dyospyros, and a kerodong. Borneo specialists work with 14 US zoos and the US fish and Game Commission to improve orang survival chances.

For our trek through the jungle, we wore leech protection gear. Orang build 4 kinds of nests – practice (juveniles learning), bad weather, birth, and night sleeping. They use palm leaves to make umbrellas (and hats) when it rains because they do not like to get wet.

Late one afternoon, as we cruised along Sabah's longest river (it meanders through a flood plain with numerous ox-bow lakes), we saw an orangutan in the wild—and pygmy elephants tearing up brush for their dinner. At our dinner, we met an Australian family whose teenage boy knows about Kevin Durant and is a Thunder fan.

Since we were feeling queasy that morning, breakfast was dry toast and papaya (not drinking the water includes not using it to brush teeth.) The road from Lahad Datu to Tabin was 30 kilometers of paved road and 30 of unpaved, bumpy mountain road.

The Borneo Rain Forest Resort was a very plush riverside lodge. We were greeted with pandan leaf leis, lemongrass tea and rain. We saw Assassin bug, spine turtle, golden orb web spider, greater mouse deer, brown wood owl, samba deer, common civet, flying fox, crested serpent eagle, leopard cats, small bat, fireflies, tree monitor lizard and birds (including a wrinkled hornbill through the guide's scope-WOW).

On our journey back over the mountain road Lahad Datu, we saw a palm oil plantation. While the plantations are money makers, they are bad for preservation of wildlife habitat. Between the road and palm oil trees, moats are dug to discourage elephants from eating the trees. Unfortunately, the elephants often break a leg attempting to cross the moat.

Back to Lahad Datu, we boarded our plane for Kota Kinabalu, Singapore, and then home. It was the end of a wonderful “once in a lifetime” trip.