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Contact Information

Phone
405-744-5263

E-Mail
emeriti@okstate.edu

Web Site
emeriti.okstate.edu

Mailing Address
Emeriti Association
ConocoPhillips
Alumni Center
Room 107
Stillwater, OK 74078

Spotlight on New Member: Francis Epplin

Professor Emeritus, Agricultural Economics

Francis was raised on a farm in Perry County, Illinois. He earned a B.S. in agricultural education from Southern Illinois University (SIU), was drafted into the army, and served a tour in Vietnam. Afterwards, he completed a M.S. degree at SIU and secured a position as an instructor at Western Illinois University.



students. Most of his research was collaborative with these students and multidisciplinary with faculty across academic departments. His journal article co-authors included many graduate students

and department colleagues as well as more than 40 scientists from other departments.

By chance, while at Western, he met Iowa State University (ISU) Professor Earl Heady. Heady's contributions to science are evidenced by Heady Hall, the ISU building that bears his name. Heady offered a "job" with his research center. Francis accepted and eventually earned a Ph.D. in agricultural economics. He accepted a position as an assistant professor in the OSU Department of Agricultural Economics in 1979.

He asserts that because of his good fortune of association with brilliant collaborating scientists who supported multidisciplinary team efforts, he received several recognitions including the Regents Distinguished Research Award; Western Agricultural Economics Association Distinguished Scholar Award; Southern Agricultural Economics Association Lifetime Achievement Award; and Regents Professor. He retired in 2017.

Francis met Maryellen at ISU. After their marriage, she delayed doctoral studies until their children were born. She earned a Ph.D. in finance from OSU, became a CFA charterholder, and is a University of Central Oklahoma Emeritus Professor.

Francis was extremely fortunate to be a member of a department with a tradition of excellence. In addition to classroom teaching, he advised at all levels, including incoming freshmen and Ph.D. students. Grants, endowed professorship, and chair funds enabled the department to recruit talented graduate students. He served as major advisor to 17 M.S. and 22 Ph.D.

TIAA Virtual Webinars

Through its virtual environment, TIAA offers a number of Webinars covering a variety of topics, with some specifically designed for retirees. These Webinars are first offered in TIAA's Live Webinar Lounge found at https://vshow.on24.com/vshow/TIAACREF_VE/exhibit/LiveWebinarLounge?!=en

To attend a live Webinar, one has to register. Live Webinars are subsequently available for the next 30 days.

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Russell Wright(chair)/
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Archive /Historian

Barbara Miller

Benefits

Anne Matoy

Catering and Reservations

Clem Ward

Communications

Zane Quible

Courtesy

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Directory

Zane Quible

Facilities

Althea Wright

Faculty Council

Barbara Miller

Finance

Ron Elliott(chair)/
Sharon Nivens

Investment Club

Ron Miller

Making the Most of Retirement

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 a Long-Time Member: Kay Murphy **Professor Emeritus** **Family Relations and Child Development**

It's a different world today for women than was true when Kay was choosing a life path. Careers were not expected; and if employment was chosen, only certain areas were approved: teaching and nursing. Given that context, this is Kay's life path.



Kay was born on a dairy farm outside Buffalo, NY. Her undergraduate work was at State University College at Buffalo in Home Economics Education with a specialty semester in family and child studies at Merrill Palmer Institute in Detroit. Kay was lured to OSU in 1967 when she was awarded a General Foods Fellowship.

She completed a M.S. in Family Relations and Child Development in 1968. Offered a position as an instructor, she began full time and then moved to part-time teaching for 14 years. Tenure was granted in 1984. A lifelong learner, she kept taking coursework part time toward a doctorate. With the completion of a Ph.D. in 1984, she was promoted to assistant professor.

Teaching a full load of 12 credits and advising were Kay's responsibilities. She assumed responsibility for the undergraduate curriculum program for pre-professional and family services students. There was also advising of senior thesis students.

As a home economist, involvement in the community was im-

portant and included working to develop the concept of the Family Support Service Center, a part of Home Economics Extension. One result was the establishment of an Adolescent Mothers group in Stillwater. Corollary to that was service on the O.S. Department of Health Family Planning Advisory Council and Stillwater Advisory Board on Adolescent Pregnancy. Kay is also a founding member of the Oklahoma Family Resource Coalition, supporting child and parenting specialists.

Kay represented her college on the Student Affairs Committee of the Faculty Council, the Student Conduct Committee, Committee for Rape Prevention and Awareness, General Education Council (1984 to 1991) and the Sexual Harassment Advisory Panel.

Joining the Emeriti Association at retirement, she has attended Council meetings and was the historian, keeping records for the OSU Special Collections. She is now a full-time volunteer in the community.

Free Medical Breakthroughs Newsletters

To receive a free weekly e-mail on medical breakthroughs from Ivanhoe, sign up at the following:
<http://www.ivanhoe.com/ftk>

My Retired Life as an Outdoor Photographer

John Thornton, Retired Professor, Department of Zoology

Digital cameras became available in about 1995, the year I retired. Unlike film cameras, they provide immediate feedback; and the photographs can be cheaply processed, saved, and shared using a computer. Digitals, thankfully, also avoid the need for a dark-room and noxious developing chemicals. I was immediately hooked on this exciting retirement activity.



continuing feedback that has proven to be extremely helpful in improving my photography. The Association holds an annual competition in which I always participate.

Last year, my photo of a Monarch Butterfly was selected as second place in the Member's Choice Category, and my photo of a Prothonotary Warbler won honorable mention in the Published Category.

Because I am attracted to the outdoors and the creatures with which we share this planet, most of my photographs are of birds, mammals, butterflies, flowers, and interesting landscapes. I use a Nikon D7000 camera, often with a Sigma DC 150-500 mm telephoto lens attached, and a tripod.

I spend considerable time photographing in and around the gardens at our home, located



Tom Ulrich served as my mentor, guide, and friend, teaching me much of what I now know about photography. He built a home near Glacier National Park and lived there each summer. During winters, he toured the country, including annual stops at OSU, making presentations of his work.

on the edge of the Cross Timbers Biome east of Stillwater. I am deeply indebted to my wife Beth for her maintenance of the flower beds, which serve as wonderful wildlife attractors.

On one of Tom's visits to Stillwater, he suggested that I attend the Outdoor Photography Workshop, which is held annually in Rocky Mountain National Park. I followed his advice, and the workshop proved to be a marvelous learning experience. Subsequently, I joined the Rocky Mountain Outdoor Writers and Photographers Association <<http://rmowp.org>>, which sponsors the workshop. And now I attend its conferences, held each year at some marvelous location in the Rocky Mountains. This organization's members provide me with

Another benefit of my photography is that it provides an "excuse" for my wife and me to travel, searching for subjects to photograph. These travels have included trips to Australia, New Zealand, the Galapagos Islands, Ecuador, Costa Rica, and Europe as well as to many national parks and other scenic places in the U.S.

I share my photographs with family and friends online and via greeting cards and calendars. I also compose and present slide shows and upload some of my work to the Internet for the world to view. Following is the link to this material: <<https://www.facebook.com/john.thornton.3152/videos/1911497785534759/>>.



A Retirement Trip: Sicily: Off Season

Andrea Arquitt, Emeritus Faculty; Department of Nutritional Sciences

Ed and I have had many memorable trips, but our trip to Sicily stands out because of the depth of culture, the artifacts, and the food. In all our travels, I have not had more flavorful food made with the freshest ingredients possible. The tomatoes were exquisite as were the oranges, and then there were the freshly made cannoli; most days we had freshly made ricotta for a breakfast spread as well.

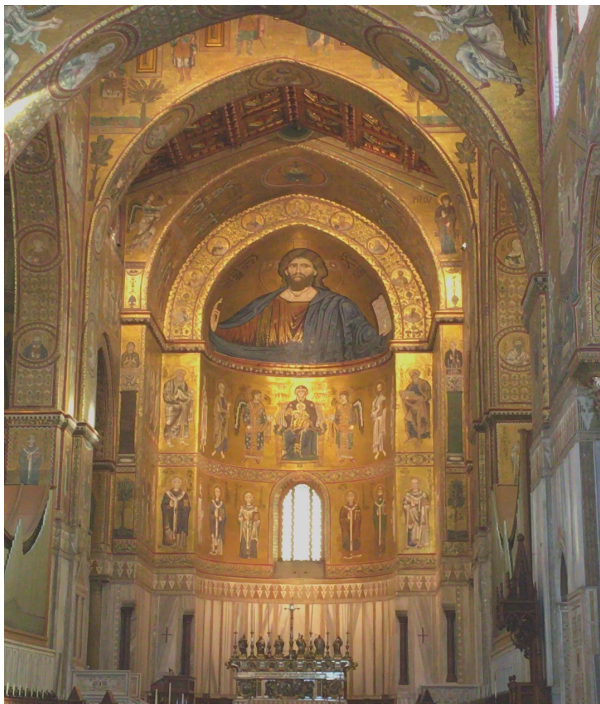


the central apse. Other mosaics were seen near Ragusa – the Villa Romana del Casale (UNESCO listed). The villa is thought to be the remains of the country retreat of Marcus Aurelius Maximus (280-305 CE) co-emperor of Rome in the Diocletian period. Four buildings in the large complex are filled with original frescos and mosaics. The sense of place is much greater here than in Pompeii.

Going in the off season had several advantages: the weather was pleasant without the heat of summer, there were relatively few tourists, and costs were lower. Sicily has a long history; it has been occupied by Phoenicians, Carthaginians, Romans, Greeks, Normans, Spaniards and Bourbons as well as the Italians; all left their imprint. Many ancient sites were left intact by the next wave of occupiers who simply repurposed them. Montreale (near Palermo) is known for its cathedral mosaics.

The salt flats near Trapani gave us a sense of sea salt harvesting. Some say Sicilian salt is the best in the world; I'm not sure I am a good judge of that, but I found Sicilian salt available in grocery stores here (McCormick gourmet Sicilian sea salt).

The cathedral, built in 1172 and considered to be Sicily's finest Norman architecture, is filled with gold mosaics. The large mosaic dominates



The Valley of Temples (a UNESCO world heritage site near Agrigento) is considered the best preserved site of Doric Temples outside of Greece. It was founded in 581 BCE by settlers from Gela and Rhodes. This valley is outside the city so many temple ruins are easily seen without the intrusion of a modern city. Between the 5th and 3rd centuries BCE, Agrigento changed from Greek to Carthaginian to Roman rule; and these sites were repurposed without destruction.

This description is only a pinch of the delights found on the island. I would be excited to go again!