

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

Councilors

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

Contact Information

Phone
405-744-5263

E-Mail
emeriti@okstate.edu

Web Site
emeriti.okstate.edu

Mailing Address
Emeriti Association
ConocoPhillips
Alumni Center
Room 201
Stillwater, OK 74078

Spotlight on New a Member: Grant Rezabek

Retired Personnel, OK Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory

Dr. Grant Bernard Rezabek retired from the Oklahoma Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory, a service component of the College of Veterinary Medicine at Oklahoma State University, following 17 years of service. Dr. Rezabek performed diagnostic pathology service for the laboratory, served as Section Head of Serology Diagnostics, contributed didactic teaching in the College of Veterinary Medicine, and collaborated on a variety of research projects during his tenure at Oklahoma State.



Vegas, NV) and ANTECH Diagnostics (Fountain Valley, CA) prior to returning to Oklahoma State University in 2003.

Grant's research activities at Oklahoma State University have included equine race-track mortality monitoring in Oklahoma, bovine chronic disease surveillance, equine herpes virus research, canine Rocky Mountain Fever monitoring, caprine Johnes Disease diagnostics, and a variety of other projects within the University and with collaborating institutions.

Grant earned his B.S. degree in Science Education, with a minor in chemistry, from the University of Virginia. He then was employed by the Broken Arrow Public School system from 1979-1980 as a physical science teacher. He completed a Master of Public Health degree from the University of Oklahoma, College of Public Health in 1982, helping pilot the original human-diploid cell rabies vaccination series.

During Grant's tenure, he has also been nationally and internationally recognized for service on the American Association of Equine Practitioners (AAEP) Infectious Disease Committee (Chair--2015-2018), American Quarter Horse Association (AQHA) Research Committee (Chair--2011-2014) and being active in membership of the American Association of Veterinary Diagnosticians and United States Animal Health Association.

Dr. Rezabek earned his Doctor of Veterinary Medicine from Oklahoma State University in 1986. Following graduation, Grant was in clinical practice, specializing in horses in Broken Arrow, OK, until 1990. He then completed a residency in veterinary pathology at the Livestock Disease Diagnostic Center, part of the University of Kentucky in Lexington.

Grant has a number of relatives who are OSU graduates: Frankie (Bohanon) Rezabek (mother)—B.S. in Home Economics; Ernest Rezabek (uncle)—Ph.D. in Education; Mary Ann Rezabek (aunt)—M.Ed.; Leon Jelinek (paternal)—B.S. in Architecture; LaNell Bohanon (maternal)—Masters Certificate in Special Education; Kareesa Kennedy (maternal)—B.S. in Accounting and MBA..

Grant's veterinary pathology career included employment with the Illinois State Department of Agriculture (Centralia, IL), APL Laboratories (Las

In retirement, Grant stays busy working on his ranch near Glencoe.

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

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 a Long-Time Member: Gerrit Cuperus

On March 1997, Gerrit Cuperus moved to Washington, DC to work as the USDA Integrated Pest Management Program Co-ordinator. Gerrit was on Interagency Personnel Action



(IPA). USDA paid his salary and paid for his apartment in Washington, DC. The experience in the nation's capitol was professionally exciting. Getting to interact with agency people was personally rewarding as was getting to see the many monuments and getting to meet many people from all over the world. The least enjoyable aspect of DC was the high number of people and constant crowds.

Gerrit's job was to coordinate a major emphasis program (Integrated Pest Management) in the USDA agencies: Cooperative States Research and Education Service (CSREES), Agriculture Research Service (ARS), National Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), Farm Services Agency (FSA), and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Gerrit completed his assignment throughout that calendar year. He worked closely with Mike Fitzner, CSREES, and with Bob Faust, USDA-ARS, in addition to other national program leaders from the USDA agencies.

A highlight of the project was a sizable grant program through the USDA-ARS Areawide IPM grant progress, which integrated USDA agencies and the Land Grant System throughout the United States. The grant program worked

amazingly well, tying together targeted research and implementation of IPM. It positively impacted corn, stored grain, cotton, small grains, apples, and imported red fire ants by reducing pesticide use and improving profitability (Koul, Cuperus, Elliott, *et al.* 2008).

Accomplishments of the stored grain program included the following:

1. Brought together experts and major grain companies from both Oklahoma and Kansas who developed cost-effective methods to evaluate pest problems in grain elevators and make decisions for strategic pest control via targeted fumigation or other methods.
2. Generated several high-quality scientific publications that have been widely used.
3. Resulted in the formation of a specialized consulting company that used throughout Kansas and Oklahoma. The methods developed in this project help grain elevators, cooperatives and similar companies in the Midwest to make integrated pest-management decisions.

All things considered, it was an exciting and rewarding year.

Changes and progress are noted in the following book: *Areawide Pest Management Theory and Implementation*. 2008. O. Koul, G. Cuperus and N. Elliott, Editors. CABI International. Cambridge, MA.

A Retirement Activity: Volunteering at Stillwater Medical Center

*Joyce Steindl, Stillwater Medical Center Volunteer
and Emeriti Association Member*

The Stillwater Medical Center Auxiliary was founded in 1958, its purpose being to enhance excellence in health care in our hospital. Volunteers range in age from 14 to 65 plus.

When we came to Stillwater in 1962, I was an RN at the former Stillwater Hospital. The cheery, cherry pink ladies, Lou Hillier and Eva Bentley, were volunteering then. The importance of their smiles and personal touches as they went their way through the halls with the cheer cart made an impression on me. I vowed that someday I would join their ranks. I put on a maroon smock and started volunteering at our new hospital.

In 1994 when we came back from a sabbatical leave, my first assignment was in the Surgery/ICU Waiting Room. I was able to relay phone messages, keep family and visitors company, and maintain the coffee and ice water availability. Years later, I worked with a team for the Newborn Hearing Screening section, which really helped the busy nursing staff.

There are fourteen service areas where volunteers work at the Stillwater Medical Center, which include the Reception/Host Desk, the Access Desk where wheelchair and other assistance is available, as well as the Gift Shop and Snack Bar. Other volunteers knit baby caps, and each of the 829 babies born in 2019 received one. There is still a cheer cart. Other areas where volunteers can be seen are the Emergency Department, Lifeline, Ortho OK, Surgery Center/West and the new Cardiovascular Center. Still others drive the valet shuttle, bringing visitors in from our parking lots. You will recognize us by our blue jackets now.

Stillwater Medical Center appreciates its volunteers. For example, we receive a 50 percent discount at Total Health/Aquatics. We also re-



ceive discounts in the cafeteria and snack bar, the gift shop, Cimarron Medical, and a free beverage when volunteering. There is a Christmas party, an Awards Banquet, a Summer Salad Luncheon, and a Fall Brunch.

To begin volunteering, the process entails an application, interview, references, flu shot, TB shot, and a commitment of 4 hours weekly. There is then orientation and training.

Volunteers enjoy helping others, knowing each other, and looking forward to coming each week. One interesting dimension is the commitment each feels. For instance getting a substitute volunteer when one cannot be there might involve making five or so calls. Currently, there are 214 volunteers contributing close to 25,000 hours annually. At the approximate minimum wage, this amounts to close to \$200,000.



As has been said, "You have no idea what the smallest word, warm smile and tiniest generosity can cause to be set in motion. Mend the part of the world that is within your reach." This is no secret. Each of the volunteers feels and believes this.

A Retirement Trip: Scotland

*Mike Woods, Professor Emeritus, Department of Agricultural Economics
and Mary Woods, Emeriti Association Member*

In September 2019, Mary and I left for a six-week trip to Scotland after my last day of work for Oklahoma State. We spent the first several days of our two weeks in Edinburg in a bed and breakfast right off the Royal Mile, the city's most historic street and the main thoroughfare for medieval Edinburg. A tour of Edinburg Castle, likely the most well-known castle in a land full of castles, was a highlight. The history and stories related to this icon help in appreciating the story of Scotland. Mary and I are both lifelong Presbyterians, so we went to St. Giles' Cathedral and John Knox's House, both places our denomination has roots. The shops and restaurants, or pubs, on and near the Royal Mile offered unlimited choices.

The second leg of our trip involved driving to the highland region. Our destination was the city of Dingwall, where Tullock Castle is located. Mary is a genealogy expert, and she had learned the Tullock Castle was once owned by her ancestors, the McBains. The castle is now a hotel, so that is where we stayed! We even found the McBain Family Memorial located a few miles outside Inverness and within sight of Loch Ness. Yes, we took a boat ride down the loch looking for the elusive Nessie. No sightings occurred, but the views were gorgeous. We made a stop to tour the Urquhart Castle ruins, where one of Scotland's largest castles once stood guard. No trip to the highlands is complete without a distillery tour, and there were many choices. A favorite was Glen Ord and its scotch.

Our third trip leg took us to the Isle of Skye. We stayed in the Portree Hotel right in the middle of the Isle's largest city. The food and shops in this beautiful harbor town were outstanding, but the highlight was two full-day drives covering the coastline. The natural beauty was amazing. The



driving did involve many one-lane country roads where we had to stop for sheep strolling down the lanes.

We closed our trip out back in Edinburg for a few final days. A day trip to St. Andrews, the home of golf, was a highlight. We took a few tours and re-

traced the steps of the Harry Potter series. We also took a midnight "city of the dead" tour and learned about some of the darker times in Edinburg's history when good money was made delivering dead bodies to the local university for research (some stolen from graves and some a bit fresher). We made a trip to Rosslyn Chapel where parts of the movie *The DaVinci Code* were filmed. We were able to attend a Sunday Service at St. Giles' Cathedral and take communion, which was very meaningful for us.



The trip was all we had hoped. Really, the only negative was the day we returned the rental car in downtown Edinburg and caught the 5 p.m. traffic around the Royal Mile. We would return in a heartbeat to that wonderful country with friendly, welcoming people.