



LIVING FULLY AFTER RETIREMENT

The Society's Executive Committee: Who Are We?

The Society's Executive Committee consists of 10-12 faculty and administrative professional retirees from CSU's various colleges and divisions. Committee members are volunteers who generally meet four times a year, usually in the provost office conference room.

The Society of Faculty/AP Retirees operates with a small budget from the provost's office, which is represented at our meetings by Dan Bush, the Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs. Barbara Gibbens, administrative assistant in the provost's office, provides staff assistance, arranging meetings, overseeing mailings, and helping to edit our newsletter.

For a number of years, two members of the Executive Committee have assumed major responsibilities for our activities. We introduce them here.

OREN ANDERSON Tracing Retiree Benefits

Oren Anderson, Emeritus Professor from the Department of Chemistry, has represented CSU faculty and administrative professional retirees on the University Benefits Committee (UBC) since 2014. He has also represented us on the Library Council. Oren and Jennifer Anderson travel frequently to England, where they maintain contact with Jennifer's family.

Early in his time on the UBC, input from concerned fellow retirees convinced Oren that there were significant issues with respect to CSU's approach to subsidizing retiree healthcare. Despite the university's longstanding tradition of providing such support to retirees with appropriate length of service, the present complex mix of retirement possibilities has, over time, resulted in a situation in which improvement of coverage has lagged and equitable treatment of DCP and PERA retirees is now difficult to demonstrate. Oren worked with other members of the UBC (active faculty and AP staff) to develop recommendations that, if implemented, would provide a common and equitable basis for calculating an appropriate level of CSU healthcare subsidy for all long-serving retirees (early retirees without Medicare, PERA retirees, and DCP retirees), both now and in the future. Those recommendations were approved unanimously by the UBC membership in 2017 and forwarded to the central administration, as well as to the Faculty Council and the Administrative Professional Council. Other budget priorities led to a decision by the administration not to approve the UBC recommendations at that time. Oren is currently working with other members of the UBC to develop a plan that would allow progress toward the goals of the overarching plan put forward earlier, perhaps in a more incremental manner that would achieve equity and appropriate levels of support within a reasonable timeframe.



Oren and Jennifer Anderson in England

ROBERT MERONEY

Building Community with Retirees



Bob Meroney is an Emeritus Professor, Senior Research Scientist and Scholar in Civil and Environmental Engineering at CSU. He was formerly the Director of the Colorado State Fluid Mechanics and Wind Engineering Program and Wind Tunnel Laboratory.

He has served as a consultant to major engineering firms and government agencies on atmospheric dynamics and simulation and provided expert witness testimony in a variety of legal cases.

Since his retirement in 2004, Bob has been active as a member of the Society. He represented retirees on the CSU Benefits Committee from 2010 to 2015,

edited the semi-annual Society Newsletter from 2011 to 2017, organized the Society Speaker Series from 2015 to 2020, and is currently the Secretary. In organizing the speaker series, Bob has been responsible for contacting both active and retired faculty and other individuals with expertise of potential interest to our retiree community. Many of these lectures serve the OLLI (Osher) program as part of their Perk series, which means that Bob has had to organize speakers and topics many months in advance so they can be publicized in the OLLI program. Bob also regularly provides lectures for the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute program at CSU. In retirement, he has been a Master Naturalist for the Fort Collins Natural Areas Department, a Trail Host for the Larimer County Open Space Program, and a weekly Volunteer Receptionist at the UC Harmony Medical Center.



Bob and Joan Meroney in Alaska

NEW IDEAS

The Society of Faculty and AP Retirees includes many people who use their “new lives” to pursue issues with broad public policy implications. Earlier examples in our newsletters include Howard Nornes’s concern about early childhood education, Bob Lawrence’s efforts in U.S.-China relations, and last fall, Bob Hoffert’s focus on the meaning of conservatism.

ROBERT L. ZIMDAHL

Weed Scientist, Agricultural Ethicist, and Peasant Farmer



Bob Zimdahl has spent much of the fifteen years since his retirement from the Department of Bioagricultural Sciences and Pest Management challenging conventional scientific thought about agriculture. Trained as a weed scientist with a specialty in herbicides, Bob gradually shifted his interests to ethical concerns about modern agricultural practices. Since his retirement from CSU in 2005, he has traveled to Iran, Pakistan, Lebanon, Japan, the Philippines, Canada, Thailand, and Turkey (three times) to share with other international experts his concerns about agricultural technology. Despite

the international invitations to address his ethical concerns, he claims agricultural scientists in the United States have been largely unresponsive to his arguments.

Over the course of his career, Bob Zimdahl became aware of the growing environmental concern about the use of herbicides that make possible modern weed control and food production. He was also aware that among the general population there is little knowledge of how food is produced despite public debates highlighting issues of pollution, pesticides, genetic modification (GMO) – and the environment more generally. Many of these issues were addressed in a course that Zimdahl initiated and team taught with two philosophy professors. Shortly after he retired, the course was cancelled.

“When I asked my agricultural colleagues about pesticides, GMOs or other agricultural technology they unanimously affirmed how important, essential, and safe agricultural technology has been and



*Bob Zimdahl and Jim Boyd
(Co-founders of the Society) at Bob's farm*

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NEW IDEAS | ZIMDAHL

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will continue to be. The agricultural community has loudly and continually argued that pesticides – when used according to label directions – would not contaminate the environment, nitrates from fertilizer would never be in groundwater excess of certain minimal levels, and the agrochemical industry assured the public that when pesticides were used properly they would not contaminate our food. We were wrong on all counts and the public is becoming increasingly unwilling to trust us and the food we produce.”

According to Bob, the dominant view among American agricultural scientists is that the primary task and the objective of agricultural research is to feed the world’s growing population. It is a morally worthy objective, he argues, but there are few questions raised within the agricultural community about the sustainability of the capital, chemical, and energy agricultural system and the technology it requires. The objective is rational, but we need to recognize the problems that have been created and ask what could go wrong.

There is increasing concern that the risks and short- and long-term consequences of agricultural technology – including the use of water, fertilizer, pesticides, and the practice of genetic modification – are borne by the general public, not just those who manufacture and use the technology. Agriculture’s practitioners and ethicists should engage in a dialog that leads to social consensus about risks. The challenge is to bridge the divides between researchers, practitioners, philosophers, and opinion leaders.

OLLI (A.K.A. OSHER) ON THE MOVE



Pat Gannon

In mid-2019, Pat Gannon became the new director of the CSU Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI). For many years, most of us knew this program as “Osher”, which is the name retained in the program’s website (www.osher.colostate.edu). Pat brings a diverse background and enthusiasm for expanding and strengthening OLLI’s opportunities.

Pat has a history of engagement in the Fort Collins arts community for many years, school administration, and data management. She was a program developer for the Continuing Education adult learning program at Front Range Community College. She comments: “My entire career has been focused on blending learning and technology, first as a special education teacher, building principal and K-12 school district administrator before becoming focused on higher education and adult learning. I have a strong commitment to using the tools of technology to enhance opportunities for adult learners.”

Under Pat’s leadership, OLLI has seen continued strong growth in membership while maintaining an ongoing commitment to providing a diverse menu of high quality, engaging classes, lectures and special programs each term. She aims to increase OLLI’s visibility in Northern Colorado through further expansion of CSU and community partnerships. Admitting to being “blessed” in her career(s), Pat is enthusiastic about the OLLI program, saying, “I am a life-long learner.”

SPRING 2020 | SPEAKER SERIES

1. **January 27 | Diane France**
Murder, Mystery and Mayhem: Forensic Anthropology
2. **February 17 | Brian Carroll**
Odyssey of a Civil War Sabre
3. **March 16 | Robert Meroney**
The Life and Paintings of Norman Rockwell: "The Rembrandt of Punkin' Creek"
4. **April 20 | Sonia Kreidenweis**
Chameleon Clouds of the Arctic
5. **May 18 | Camille Dungy**
Environmental Writing Today: Views from a Contemporary Prose and Poetry Writer

All presentations on Monday afternoons from 3 to 4:30 p.m. at the First Presbyterian Church, 531 S. College Avenue, Fort Collins. Talks are open and free to Society members.



OFFICE OF THE PROVOST AND
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT
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Please contact us with questions and suggestions!

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