

## 2017 Diamond Pioneer Recipients

### **Michael Burke**

Mike began his research in the upper Midwest, which might explain his early interest in the biophysics of freezing processes.

In Minnesota and Colorado, he studied winter injury and the mechanisms that cold-hardy trees and shrubs use to survive. He helped identify what drives distribution of tree species, knowledge used by tree plant breeders in selecting for hardy plants; by scientists preserving plant germplasm at extremely low temperatures; and by orchardists protecting crops from freeze damage.

Mike's interests warmed when he came to OSU in 1984 as Associate Dean of the College of Agricultural Sciences, demonstrating strong support for student development. First, he led the college's academic programs office, where he significantly expanded and strengthened the Ambassador Program, providing students with skills to represent the college at off-campus events and recruiting visits across the state.

Mike was instrumental in establishing the Ag Honors Scholarship program, which attracted many strong academic students to the college; and he led successful fund-raising efforts for these scholarships.

When responsibilities of the CAS associate deans expanded, Mike helped department heads and branch superintendents provide effective leadership and work with stakeholders. As Associate Director of the Oregon Agricultural Experiment Station, Mike brought enthusiasm to his work, as well as support and respect for good science in all fields of study.

Mike retired from OSU in 2003 after 19 years of effective service and leadership. Now, you can often find him at sea, sailing his 11-meter Outer Marker exploring the coast of the Pacific Northwest.

### **Peter Cheeke**

Peter grew up on a small family farm in British Columbia, where he began a lifelong interest in animal nutrition. He earned his PhD at Oregon State University in 1968, under the supervision of Dr. James Oldfield, and soon joined OSU's Department of Animal Science where he made his career.

Part of Peter's research focused on the natural toxicants in feeds and poisonous plants. His research on poisonous tansy ragwort revealed that several animal species demonstrated large differences in susceptibility to pyrrolizidine alkaloid toxicosis linked to tansy ragwort. Cattle and horses, for example were highly susceptible, while sheep, goats, rabbits, and other small herbivores were highly resistant.

His research showed that these differences were a result of differences in liver metabolism. As a result of this research, livestock producers could use sheep, for example, to control the tansy ragwort in their pastures, making it safe for cattle and horses to graze.

Rabbit nutrition was another research focus for Dr. Cheeke, who established the OSU Rabbit Research Center, a global resource. He was responsible for the inclusion of rabbits in the species sections at the American Society of Animal Science annual meetings and he organized several rabbit symposia at the ASAS meetings.

Peter and his wife Karen now live on a small farm, where they breed horses and offer therapeutic riding instruction. Peter continues his life-long interest in the interrelationships of plants and animals, and in the survival and strengthening of the family farm.

### **Wilma Christian**

Wilma became a trained Master Gardener in 2006, at the tender age of 81. Since then, Wilma has volunteered more than 1,000 hours each year, as a mentor to new Master Gardeners and Director the Plant Clinic.

In less than 10 years, Wilma has grown the Plant Clinic from a skeleton crew of just two volunteers to a cadre of over 20 trained Master Gardeners with up-to-date knowledge of plant diseases and diagnoses. She's collected a tremendous amount of resource materials and created a gardening reference library that aids in researching plant-related problems. Her latest effort involves developing an insect collection to help distinguish pests from beneficials.

Wilma thrives on the challenge of providing a great experience to the Master Gardener trainees and veterans who work in the Plant Clinic, as well as providing outstanding service to community members who bring their questions to the clinic. Wilma is always searching for new and helpful materials and attending training and workshops to keep herself as up-to-date with plant problem diagnosis.

Several years ago Wilma organized a group of Master Gardeners to sing at the annual Master Gardener Awards banquet in Josephine County. The tradition continues every year since then. She takes well-known songs such as, Tiny Bubbles, and rewrites it as Tiny Aphids. Her songs and the singing Master Gardeners have been a big hit at the Awards banquets every year.

### **Thayne Dutson**

Thayne was hired in 1987 as Director of the Oregon Agricultural Experiment Station and then served as Dean of the College of Agricultural Sciences and Director of the Oregon Agricultural Experiment Station at Oregon State University from 1993 to 2008. All of Oregon agriculture and natural resource industries served by the college have benefitted from Dean Dutson's leadership.

Thayne oversaw significant expansion of the college's education and research, including establishment of the Food Innovation Center in Portland (with the Oregon Department of Agriculture); expansion of the OSU Seafood Laboratory in Astoria (with the Seafood Consumer Center); and establishing the Coastal Oregon Marine Experiment Station and the Marine Mammal Institute, both at the Hatfield Marine Science Center in Newport. Thayne's leadership also resulted in OSU becoming the Western Regional headquarters for the National Sun Grant program.

To measure the college's performance, Thayne introduced a public reporting system called "Oregon Invests!" to assess economic, social, and environmental impact of its research and extension programs. Oregon Invests became a national model for accountability among colleges of agriculture and natural resources.

Thayne's high standards were reflected in "The Agenda for the College of Agricultural Sciences" which included Principles and Practices for a highly functional, ethical organization. These Principles and Practices are still an important part of the culture of the college.

Thayne worked part-time on several special projects before retiring fully to focus on the cattle breeding operation at Pitchfork T Ranch L in Sisters, where he ranches with his wife Missy Dutson. There he continues to follow the two maxims he learned early and shared often: "Produce as much value as you can with what you have, and always strive for accountability, excellence and balance."

## **William Hagerty**

Bill was born in Tillamook, and the community there has always been at his heart. His commitment toward conservation and land stewardship, and his leadership in the dairy industry, have all made a positive impact in Tillamook and beyond.

In 1969, after a stint as a high climber in the timber industry, Bill and his brother went into farming with their father, Jack Hagerty. They eventually bought out their Dad when he retired and the brothers continued to milk cows for another 33 years.

The Hagerty brothers introduced a number of innovative practices to Tillamook County, including effective technologies for manure management and the region's first wheel-line irrigation system.

Bill has long been a champion for conservation efforts and the dairy industry in Tillamook County, encouraging the agriculture industry to focus on good stewardship. He has worked closely with staff from the USDA-Natural Resource Conservation Service, the Oregon departments of agriculture and forestry, and many other agencies to improve communications and performance of Oregon farms and forests. Over the years he has helped with many successful programs and worked tirelessly as a volunteer public servant for the people in Tillamook County.

Bill served on the Tillamook County Soil and Water District board for 39 years, serving as Vice-Chairman of the board for the last 15 years. Bill followed his father into farming, and followed his father onto the board of the Soil and Water District. In fact, Bill is following his father into the Diamond Pioneer registry. Bill's father, Jack Hagerty, was honored as a Diamond Pioneer several years ago.

## **Norbert Hartmann**

Norbert has touched the lives of many individuals through his involvement both with the livestock industry and with 4H youth development in Polk County.

Norbert served for several years as president of the Polk County Livestock Association, during which he helped organize educational workshops in cooperation with OSU Extension. Under his leadership, the Polk County Livestock Association made significant monetary contributions to OSU's Forage/Livestock Endowment, which funds research in forage-livestock systems.

As a member of the North Valley OSU Extension Beef Advisory Committee, Norbert helped develop the Mid-Willamette Beef Field Day, a one-day education event attracting over 300 participants each year from Oregon and Washington for the 18 years it was held. He was appointed scholarship chairman for the Oregon Cattlemen's Association in 2009 and continues to serve in that role.

In 2005, Norbert was elected as a Trustee of the Oregon 4H Foundation, later serving as President of the organization. This was a time when the 4H Foundation was defining its relationship with the OSU Foundation and building a stable financial future. Norbert provided leadership for a long range planning process that resulted in a summit meeting of all 4H organizations to develop 4-H priorities for the future.

Norbert served on Extension Administration's ECAN committee and on the committee that petitioned the Polk County Commissioners to put the question of an Extension Service District on the ballot, which ultimately passed in 2010. This effort provided long term stable funding to keep an OSU Extension Office active and viable in Polk County.

### **L. J. “Kelvin” Koong**

Kelvin was born in China and grew up in Taiwan. He came to the U.S. to pursue graduate studies in animal biomathematics and became an indispensable part of OSU.

In 1987, Kelvin moved to Corvallis, first as Associate Director of the Oregon Agricultural Experiment Station. Later he was tapped to head the newly formed Department of Animal Sciences. In 1994, Kelvin became one of the two associate deans for the College of Agricultural Sciences. He also served on several national advisory committees, including as president of the Council for Agricultural Science and Technology.

His work with USDA’s Advisory Committee on Foreign Animal Diseases and the FDA’s Advisory Committee for the Center for Veterinary Medicine led to an interim appointment as Dean of OSU’s College of Veterinary Medicine, at the time a 2-year program dependent on Washington State University for degree completion. This proved to be the most challenging assignment of his career. After two years’ effort, with a coalition of industry groups, the veterinary profession, humane society, and others, Kelvin helped secure funding for expansion of OSU’s College of Veterinary Medicine to a full 4-year program.

Soon after, Kelvin returned to the Department of Animal Sciences and became involved in fundraising for a new Animal Science Teaching and Research Pavilion, which was successfully completed in 2013.

Kelvin continued to be the go-to guy. In 2005, he was asked to serve as Interim Dean & Director of the Extension Service. In 2011, he accepted the position of Executive Director of the Agricultural Research Foundation. And in 2016, OSU tapped Kelvin to take faculty leadership of the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee, work that continues today.

### **Bob Martin**

Bob exemplifies a spirit of community service and conservation of agricultural and natural resources.

Growing up in the heart of Oregon wheat country, Bob started early as a 4H beef club member. As an adult, he became a beef club leader, and as a father, he shepherded four more 4H members. Throughout much of the time that his children were in school, Don served on the school board, taking rotations as chairman. As such, he was proud to present his oldest and youngest daughters with their high school diplomas.

Clearly, Bob is invested in mentoring future leaders and ensuring a future for farming and a healthy natural environment. Bob joined the Natural Resource Conservation Service, where he completed several groundbreaking projects designing water and sediment-control basins.

One such project, Buck Hollow, used a suite of management practices—filter strips, rangeland seeding, grassed waterways, and more than 200 sediment basins—to improve hydrologic conditions in croplands.

Since completion of the Buck Hollow project, wildlife are increasing in the watershed, riparian corridors are thick with willows and alders, and rangeland productivity has doubled. Buck Hollow is literally a textbook case of watershed restoration through private/public partnership.

### **John David (J.D.) Rowell**

J. D. has greatly contributed to agricultural businesses and farmers throughout the western United States. Having earned a BS and masters in Agricultural Economics, J.D. focused on marketing agricultural products. Soon he was offered the opportunity to use his skills to address marketing in Brazil, working as an advisor to the agency that would become USAID.

J.D. was hooked. He loved international marketing and international travel. He built an extensive global network with people involved in agricultural markets around the world. Long before the Internet and social media, J.D. was connected and engaged. He often refers to these connections in terms of experiential learning, the very best way to learn.

Early on, J.D. recognized the importance of global agriculture and international markets to the stability and productivity of food supplies. He has shared his experiences with OSU's Agricultural Business Management faculty and students, encouraging others to experience international agriculture and marketing. To that end, J.D. has generously given gifts and supported scholarships and fellowships in Applied Economics. He is currently setting up a fund to support international research and learning for students and faculty in Applied Economics.

### **Don Schellenberg**

Don's contributions to agriculture can be summed up in two words: innovation and foresight.

When he established his own farm in Dallas—a prune orchard—he experimented with an innovative planting pattern that brought more sunlight into the trees and increased productivity. When a labor-related bill supported by Oregon farmers was vetoed, Don foresaw the need for farm mechanization and invested in machinery to harvest his orchard. When he experienced the vagaries of tax law regarding federally owned farm land, Don joined the Farm Bureau as a grassroots leader in the Polk County bureau and later as a staff member at the Oregon Farm Bureau.

Don was instrumental in several key tax policies to help Oregon farmers and ranchers, including the preservation of farm-use assessment rates for property taxes. He staffed the Oregon Farm Bureau Land Use Committee when Oregon's landmark land-use planning system was adopted. He was at the forefront in a statewide campaign to pass Measure 47 to maintain the integrity of Oregon's laws to protect prime farmland.

During his time at the Farm Bureau, Don travelled to Kyrgyzstan to help farmers transition from Soviet-controlled farms to private enterprises. He showed them how to develop an advocacy organization, which is still in operation today.

At home and abroad, Don has demonstrated the power of grass-roots advocacy in creating positive change for the future.

## **Barry Schrumpf**

Barry pioneered the use of remote sensing as a graduate student at OSU, where he studied methods of remote sensing of rangeland and forest resources. After he earned his PhD, he put the technology to use with OSU's Seed Certification program.

The Oregon Seed Certification Service ensures varietal purity and seed quality for cereals, grains, legumes, and some native plants. Oregon is one of the few states in the nation in which the majority of cereal acreage is planted with certified seed. This is due in great part to the exceptional relationship between the Seed Certification Program and major seed producers. And this exceptional relationship is largely due to the efforts of Barry Schrumpf.

Barry put his remote sensing knowledge to work with the program's Aerial Inspection program, developing safety standards and protocols for records during the last 30 years. He developed an employee mentoring program, providing continuity for certification services of high quality and integrity.

Nationally, Barry led the national Pre-Variety GermPlasm Program for the Association of Official Seed Certifying Agencies. He helped develop national standards for producers of native seed and served as Secretary of the Cereals Advisory committee for more than 25 years.

## **Alfred Soeldner**

Al provided 42 years of critically important service to OSU faculty and students as manager of the OSU's Electron Microscope Facility.

This facility, which was housed for many years within the Department of Botany & Plant Pathology, made it possible for scientists to "see" the microscopic structures and chemical properties of a wide range of biological, geological, and material specimens.

Al enjoyed accommodating the steady flow of new faculty, student visitors, and educational tour groups that came through the electron microscope facility. He trained electron microscope facility clients and students in specimen preparation, electron microscope operation, photographic materials processing, and the procedures of electron diffraction and x-ray energy spectrometry. He mentored several apprentices, about half of whom went on to professional careers with analytical instrumentation.

Al was always a willing volunteer for necessary tasks, including oversight of the B&PP inventories of microscopes and the safe clearing of the chemical inventories left by several retired faculty. Following his own retirement, Al continued service to OSU, assisting with planning the electron microscope facility space in the Linus Pauling Science Center.