Message from the President

Greetings to all as we approach the winter months ahead of us. If COVID fatigue has not set in with you, I applaud you. I must say, 2020 has been anything from normal—the pandemic, loss of lives, and a historic Presidential election. The year still isn’t gone, but I can tell you 2021 can’t get here fast enough for me.

As I write this short note to you, I thought about the following: Attitude makes all the difference. Bad attitudes have a powerful smell and can be contagious. Scripture encourages us repeatedly to choose the attitude of Christ. If we did or when we do, I think we can have one mind and one voice that will glorify God. Can I brag on you for a minute? I love the EFA family attitude I see and hear and sense. We came together as a group to help our students with our donation of $2,500 to the Foundation, we continue to check on each other to assist them through surgeries and losses, and we are truly a group that walks that extra mile to be there for one another. Our servant leadership traits are contagious, and it is such a blessing to walk through this pandemic with each of you. We are STRONG! While there are still so many unknowns about the future, we can take comfort in serving a God who loves us and remains faithful through every situation and circumstance.

For those of you who were able to join us for our Picnic in the Park, thank you. We had about 50 members and guests. It was so nice to see all of you and to catch up. Thank you to Sue Lynn Sasser for getting this arranged, to Jan Tuepker for collecting our food orders and to everyone else who helped with the set-up and clean-up. It was a beautiful day in the park (in spite of the OK winds)! In addition, thank you to Sue Lynn and Jan for keeping us entertained with the weekly EFA emails.

We will be watching the COVID cases in OK and will keep you informed via email about future activities when the time is right for our group to meet again. Also, we have a new Facebook page that was created by new member Steven Akins. If you are on Facebook, look for our Emeritus Faculty Association page. Sue Lynn, Steven and I will be posting updates, news of EFA and events you might want to attend in the Edmond and OKC Metro area.

I wish you a great holiday season and 2021. I look forward to seeing you again in the near future. If you have EFA news about any of our retirees, please ensure that we know so we can reach out to them.

The other night, I heard an elementary teacher in my class comment in a discussion how she addressed her students today—her in-classroom students were her “Roomies” and her online students were her “Zoomies.” So, thank you to the Executive Board of EFA for all they do for the organization. It is an honor to work with each of you, my colleagues and Zoomies!

Gayle A. Kearns-Buie

Membership Dues: Go to https://blogs.uco.edu/uco-efa/efa-membership/ for the forms to pay your membership dues for 2021. If you are not sure if your membership has expired, contact Fred Grosz (fgrosz@uco.edu).
What We’re Doing in Retirement - Pandemic Project

Gerry Pinkston has been very busy while “sheltering at home” during the pandemic. She has used plastic building blocks that are much smaller than Legos to build Pistol Pete, Boone Pickens Stadium, Gaylord Stadium, Fenway Park, an OU helmet, and Texas A&M Football Stadium. Gerry spent about 3 hours a day for a month to do a football stadium.

If you are interested in building one of these models, go to FOCO.com, click on the menu and then click on arenas and stadiums.

EFA Book Club is Back (submitted by Diane Jackson)

The EFA Book Club met via Zoom on October 12, and 10 members enjoyed a lively discussion of the book Educated by Tara Westover. We suspended in-person meetings due to Covid-19, and meeting via Zoom was a new experience for some. However, all went well and a bonus is that we did not have to travel, find parking, etc. Lemonade out of lemons, anyone? We plan to continue meeting via Zoom for the foreseeable future. An email blast will be sent prior to each meeting with the Zoom information for you to join in the discussion. Hope to see you then!

EFA Fall Picnic in the Park

- Almost 50 members and guests attended the picnic at Hafer Park on Oct. 22, 2020. After time for visiting and eating, Gayle Kearns-Buie, EFA president, asked new members to introduce themselves.
- Anne Holzberlein brought UCO face masks for everyone and told the group that she would be glad to see us back in Evans Hall for Kaffeeklatsch when it is safe for large groups to meet indoors. She shared that she plans to retire next summer and will join EFA in July.
- Gayle thanked Sue Lynn Sasser for organizing the picnic and for her weekly entertainment emails. She also thanked Jan Tuepker for sharing her cheerful emails.
- Musical entertainment was provided by Karen Carter who brought a stuffed bear that sang “Zip-a-Dee-Doo-Dah.”
- Sue Lynn presented the Hall Duncan Inspiration Award to Jan Tuepker.
- During a mini business meeting, Tim Bridges gave a treasurer’s report. We have approximately $7,100 in our operating budget and $29,000 in our scholarship fund, of which $2,755 is spendable. Gayle added that in 2021 we plan to begin raising funds for another EFA scholarship.
Examples of EFA Activities
In the past few years, EFA has gained quite a few new members. The following pictures and brief descriptions give you an idea of the kind of activities we have enjoyed in the past and hope to enjoy in a few months. Perhaps they will serve as an incentive for others to join EFA.

Braum’s farm tour
Tai Chi demonstration by Dave Ford

Lunch at Museum Café and tour of OKC Museum of Art
Visit to alpaca farm in Newcastle
Lunch at Vast and tour of Crystal Bridge at Myriad Gardens

Galapagos Islands presentation by Larry and Leah Westmoreland
Creative writing presentation by Sheldon Russell
**Important Note**

Even though EFA is not holding in-person activities during the pandemic, emails are being sent to members on a regular basis. If you are an EFA member and are not receiving these emails, please contact Jan Tuepker at jtuepker@cox.net.

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**In Memoriam**

**Cal Guthrie** (April 28, 1935-Sept. 4, 2020) was born in Moore, OK. Cal taught math at UCO for 41 years and served in the Faculty Senate. **Janice L. Ford** (March 26, 1951-Sept. 4, 2020). Before she retired in 2014, Janice served as an administrative assistant for Broadway Tonight. **Judy Diane Wallar** (June 28, 1944-Sept. 21, 2020) was born in Okla. City. She served as the executive office assistant to the VP of Administration during her time at UCO, retiring in 2007. **Carol Parker** (Dec. 15, 1940-Sept. 24, 2020) taught in the community health program (KHS Dept.) from 1970 to 2000. **Ellen McKowan** (Oct. 23, 2020) taught finance and was an assistant dean in the College of Business.