

# Professional Faculty Leadership Association

[oregonstate.edu/pfla](http://oregonstate.edu/pfla)

## Professional Faculty Leadership Association Election Results — 2015-16 Executive Board

President: Deb Weitzman, OSU Conference Services  
 President Elect: Gretchen Cuevas, College of Agricultural Sciences  
 Secretary: Jayne Parker, Agricultural and Marine Sciences Business Center  
 Treasurer: Edith Birky, Office of Human Resources  
 Professional Development Director: Leigh Larkin, Office of Human Resources  
 Marketing Director: Debbie Delmore, Research Office  
 Membership Director: Shirley Chow, Research Office  
 Web Director: Tracy Elmshaeuser, Research Office

The term for PFLA officers is September 1 through August 31. New officers will be asked to attend a leadership retreat prior to September 1, 2015. Deb Weitzman will be sending out information regarding planning the leadership retreat.

## THANK YOU 😊

A HUGE THANK YOU to Shelly Signs for remaining active for more than the standard President three year commitment! We greatly appreciate your leadership and recognize your success in growing the Professional Faculty Leadership Association.

THANK YOU to Susan Atkisson for staying the course, and in collaboration with Jayne Parker, putting together three successful Professional Development programs for PFLA in 2014-15. We appreciate the time you shared with the Professional Faculty Leadership Association and wish you the best in retirement!

THANK YOU to Karren Cholewinski for providing fantastic leadership as PFLA President! We appreciate your professional leadership!

### 2014-2015 Executive Board

#### President

Karren Cholewinski  
Budget & Fiscal Planning

#### President Elect

Deb Weitzman  
OSU Conference Services

#### Past President

Shelly Signs  
University Events

#### Treasurer

Dwane Howard  
Liberal Arts

#### Secretary

Gretchen Cuevas  
Agricultural Sciences

#### Marketing Director

Debbie Delmore  
Research Office

#### Membership Director

Shirley Chow  
Research Office

#### Web Services Director

Tracy Elmshaeuser  
Research Office

#### Professional Development

#### Co-Directors

-Susan Atkisson  
Environmental and Molecular  
Toxicology

-Jayne Parker  
Agricultural and Marine  
Sciences Business Center

#### Member-at-large

-Michelle Mahana  
Public Health and Human  
Sciences

-Melissa Elmore  
Business

## **“Unconscious Bias” by Figure 8 Consulting**

The Professional Faculty Leadership Association held its third and final professional development workshop for this academic year, on May 7. Carol French and April Lewis of Figure 8 Consulting were our guests and gave a very informative presentation regarding the exploration of “Unconscious Bias”. The presentation contained powerful and emotional slides and videos, and they were delivered in a very thoughtful, provoking way. Carol and April were especially adept at including humor into their examples without taking away from the message. The audience participation was enthusiastic and quite a few attendees were interested in bringing Figure 8 Consulting back to campus to present to their individual departments. On the flip side, Carol and April remarked several times that they were hearing new thoughts and insights from the OSU attendees and included in an email received afterwards, Carol French stated, “April and I were a little taken aback... We had a great time that day—it was one of the more interesting discussions of the issues that we’ve had, and we really enjoyed our debrief with your folks.”

## **PFLA Spring Celebration—A Tasting Event**

Nearly forty people attended the 2nd annual PFLA Spring Celebration on May 14. The event was held under sunny skies on the new Student Experience Center Plaza. OSU Catering presented regional wines paired with local food. The first thirty people registered took home special PFLA logo wine glasses. Look for this wonderful event again in 2016.

## **Austin Hall Tour Presented by PFLA**

A special “behind the scenes tour” of Austin Hall was held on April 8. Attendees enjoyed hors d’ oeuvres with wine prior to and after the tour. One of the highlights of the tour was in-house Market Research Lab where students conduct market research for companies. Austin Hall is a student centric building where students gather, collaborate and learn. Tours leave from the Career Center every day at 1:00 p.m.

## **Conversation with President Ray**

On May 7, President Edward J. Ray met with over twenty members from PFLA, the Association of Office Professionals and the TRIAD faculty club. This annual luncheon provided participants with an update of what’s happening at the University, as well as a chance to ask questions. This year, a new process of submitting questions anonymously for President Ray in advance allowed for complete anonymity. He was great about answering all the questions that were submitted, plus several from the audience. In addition, members from all organizations got an opportunity to visit and gain a better understanding for what each group offers. We thank the Association of Office Professionals for arranging the meeting, and to TRIAD for facilitating the luncheon. Got a question burning in regard to our University? Contact PFLA so that we can help research an answer, or join us for next years combined gathering with President Ray.

## Kay Ann Fischer Named March 2015 PFLA 'Our Hero'

Kay Ann Fischer, laboratory supervisor of the Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory in the College of Veterinary Medicine, has been recognized as the Professional Faculty Leadership Association's March 2015 'Our Hero.'

She was presented with a plaque and an 'Our Hero' mug by PFLA representatives. Nominators say Fischer's ability to balance work while taking care of a seriously ill spouse have shown her remarkable ability to give herself completely to everything she does.

According to her co-workers, Fischer sets the standard for working hard and takes great pride in the high quality output of the lab's day-to-day operations, her nominators say. With her knowledge, background and attention to detail, she is able to communicate seamlessly with veterinary personnel and outside clients who have questions or concerns about the testing that is performed in her lab at VDL.



Shelly Signs presents 'Our Hero' Award  
to Kay Ann Fischer  
Story by Theresa Hogue, photo by Larry Pribyl, Life@OSU

## Lisa Silbernagel Named May 2015 PFLA 'Our Hero'

Lisa Silbernagel, assistant manager of the Office of Post Award Administration, has been recognized as the Professional Faculty Leadership Association's May 2015 'Our Hero.'

She was presented with a plaque and an 'Our Hero' mug by PFLA representatives.

According to co-workers, Silbernagel is not afraid to handle hard challenges or sleuth out and remedy difficult problems. "Lisa is results oriented," her nominators say. "She is detail oriented and always willing to spend her time giving a full explanation over email or over the phone. An example of Silbernagel's dedication is even trouble-shooting a student payment issue while she was on vacation, showing her to be the perfect recipient of an 'Our Hero' award.



Melissa Elmore presents 'Our Hero' Award  
to Lisa Silbernagel  
Story by Theresa Hogue, photo by Larry Pribyl, Life@OSU

## Dana Ainsworth Named June 2015 PFLA 'Our Hero'

Dana Ainsworth, grants and contracts accountant with the School of Civil and Construction Engineering, has been recognized as the Professional Faculty Leadership Association's June 2015 'Our Hero.'

She was presented with a plaque and an 'Our Hero' mug by PFLA representatives.

According to her nominators, Ainsworth masterfully manages the research budgets (and many other things) of 30+ faculty in her school. Whenever faculty have a problem with anything related to research, she immediately fixes the problem.

"I cannot imagine running my research program without her. She is unfailingly positive, generous, enthusiastic, and competent," her nominator wrote. "She makes everything that we do look so much better. She helps us be on time and accurate with our grant reporting; she helps us plan our research activities; she basically helps us, and by extension the university, succeed. She rocks."



Shelly Signs presents 'Our Hero' Award to Dana Ainsworth

Story and Photo by Theresa Hogue, Life@OSU

## PFLA Executive Board Retreat

The PFLA Executive Board will be meeting in July to make plans for an exciting 2015-16 year of activities.

## Thank You ☺

Thank you to the 2014-15 Executive Board and all Professional Faculty Leadership Association members for a fantastic year!

## Save the Date

**Monday, September 21, 2015**  
**University Day**

10:30 a.m. to Noon—LaSells Stewart Center

Keynote presentation by Brandon Busteed, remarks by President Ed Ray, 2015 Faculty and Staff Awards Recognition, 2015 Beaver Champion Award presentation, and prize drawing.

Noon to 2:00 p.m.—University Day Expo at the CH2M Hill Alumni Center

Visit the PFLA booth, and other departments and vendors booths.

Join in the 2015 University Day celebration!

# Professional Faculty Leadership Association

oregonstate.edu/pfla

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Department: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Professional Faculty Membership (\$30)

- New  
 Renewal  
 Associate Membership (\$25)

**Regular Membership** includes all professional and academic faculty under appointing Authority of Oregon State University.

**Associate Membership** includes all staff and interested persons not eligible for regular Membership.

Payment Options:

- Personal check (payable to PFLA)  
 Department Index \_\_\_\_\_

Areas of PFLA I'd like to be involved in:

- Leadership  
 Membership  
 Awards  
 Marketing  
 Professional Development  
 Other

Topics? Suggestions? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Return application with payment to:

Edith Birky  
 Office of Human Resources  
 204 Kerr Administration Building  
 541.737.0736

[oregonstate.edu/pfla/membership/application-form](http://oregonstate.edu/pfla/membership/application-form)

## 2015-2016 Executive Board

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 Conference Services

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 Agricultural Sciences

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