Fred Wayne Fox, 88, passed away Monday afternoon, December 3, 2007, at Ball Memorial Hospital in Muncie, Indiana following a brief illness.

Fred Fox was a much-loved, well-respected professor at Oregon State University, receiving the Distinguished Service to Science Education Award. The Fred W. Fox Scholarship in the Department of Science and Mathematics Education was established in his name by a former student.

Fred was born Oct. 16, 1919, in Union Township, Ohio, the son of the Rev. Dr. Peter and Ila (Davidson) Fox. He earned his B.A. in science education from Miami University (Ohio) before being drafted into the military. He served in United States Air Force intelligence during World War II and continued in the Reserves for several years. After returning from the war Fred continued his education, earning an M.S. in science education from Miami University, and later his Ph.D. in science education from the Ohio State University. He taught for 11 years at the McGuffey School (within Miami University) before accepting a science education professor position at Oregon State University in 1957. Dr. Fox and his family moved to Corvallis, where he remained until 2006.

He retired in 1982 to care for his wife, Leona, prior to her death that same year. In 1984, Fred married Helen Richardson, whom he had known since his years at Miami University. They lived where they were able to enjoy their families, part of the year in Corvallis near Fred’s grandchildren and the other part of the year in Muncie, Ind., near Helen’s family. They split their time between the two cities until 2006 when Fred sold the Corvallis home.

In his younger years, Fred thrived on being an outdoorsman and tackling craftsman challenges, such as building his houses in town and at the farm, and fine woodworking projects. In his later years, he enjoyed being “Grandpa Fred,” entertaining his grandchildren and great-grandchildren, and introducing them to science, astronomy and the great outdoors. “We will miss Fred’s intellectual curiosity and respect for nature, as well as his passion for the environment, politics and causes that support people in need.”

Survivors include his wife of 23 years, Helen (Richardson) Fox; one daughter, Martha Fox (partner Rachelle Turner) of St. Paul, Minn.; two stepsons, Alan Richardson (wife Roberta) of Muncie and Neil Richardson of Madison, Wis.; one stepson-in-law, Stanley Selinger; one stepdaughter-in-law, Jane Richardson; two brothers, Carl and Joe Fox; one sister, Helen Hall; three grandchildren, Flint Fox (wife Marguerita), Kraig Fox (wife Meagan), and Amber Fox; six step grandchildren, Tara Renner (husband Paul), Sarah Koppelman (husband Alex), David Richardson (wife Michelle), Amy Richardson, Joseph Selinger and Leah Selinger; five great-grandchildren, Harrison and Miles Renner, Ceredwyn and Xavier Richardson and Rosalie Koppelman; and several nieces and nephews.

Memorials can be made to the Fred W. Fox Scholarship fund at Oregon State University, Habitat for Humanity, or the Muncie Mission.
Lincoln Middle School Collaboration

The Department of Science and Mathematics Education (SMED) at Oregon State University and the Corvallis School District (509J) entered into a partnership for the 2007-2008 school years. The partnership will be reviewed annually. The partnership agreement stipulates that SMED will provide a faculty member (Janice Rosenberg) to teach half-time at Lincoln School in the middle school program. In exchange, 509J will provide a teacher (Carole Beedlow) at half-time to teach classes to pre-service teachers through SMED and perform duties related to the student-teaching practicum. This partnership will also establish Lincoln K-8 School as a lab school for SMED pre-service teachers and also for the College of Education Double Degree students in the Elementary Science Methods courses.

Due to construction at Lincoln, the middle school classes were temporarily held on the OSU campus, allowing educators the use of tools and demonstration devices to which they wouldn’t normally have access. Not only is the university providing classrooms with tools and materials needed for science classes, but Janice Rosenberg also lined up tours of OSU research labs and visits with scientists.

OSU physics instructor, Jim Ketter, gave a demonstration of the physics of waves, showing how they move through gases and other materials. Later in the week, a geology professor scheduled a seminar and conducted a demonstration.

Department Ranked 9th in the Nation

A new ranking of graduate programs at research universities around the country shows Oregon State University faculty are exceptionally productive, ranking among the top 10 U.S. universities in eight of the disciplines measured.

OSU earned a top national ranking in Wildlife Science and ranked second in Fisheries Science. The university also ranked fourth in Zoology, fifth in both Plant Pathology and Forest Resources/Forestry, seventh in both Pharmacy and Agricultural Economics and ninth in Science Education. OSU placed in the top 10 in more categories than any other Oregon institution.

The rankings, published in the Nov. 16 edition of The Chronicle of Higher Education, further cement OSU’s reputation as a leading research university, coming on the heels of other listings earlier this year that ranked OSU tops in North America in Forestry and no. 1 in the United States in both agricultural sciences and in conservation biology, the field most closely associated with the study of climate change.

The new rankings, covering 173 disciplines, are produced by Academic Analytics, a private company owned in part by the State University of New York. This is the third-consecutive year it has undertaken the “Faculty Scholarly Productivity Index,” which takes into account published research, the number of times other faculty cite that research in their own publications, grants earned by each faculty member and multiple other factors.

Several new factors considered in this year’s index have helped to create a more comprehensive picture of productivity. For instance, grant data from such federal agencies as the National Institutes of Health and the National Science Foundation has been included, as have 22,000 scholarly honors and awards and information on 64,000 books purchased by university libraries.

The resulting rankings illustrate the competitiveness of OSU faculty in myriad disciplines. In earning the no. 1 ranking in Wildlife Science, for instance, OSU scored better than many much larger institutions, such as Texas A&M, the University of Minnesota and the University of Florida. In Pharmacy, OSU finished ahead of the University of Texas-Austin and the University of Washington.

The index is available online at: http://chronicle.com/stats/productivity/

The faculty’s scholarly productivity in each program is expressed as a z-score, a statistical measure (in standard deviation units) that reveals how far and in what direction a value is from the mean. The z-score allows the performance of programs to be compared across disciplines. A z-score of zero indicates that the program is at the national mean for the discipline; a z-score of 1 indicates that the program is one standard deviation unit higher than the national mean.

Max’s Maxims

Max is the Science and Mathematics Education department Mascot. Max’s owner is Dr. Rebekah Elliott. Max often-times receives sage advice and wisdom from his friends that he would like to share with you today.

“All truths are easy to understand once they are discovered; the point is to discover them.” – Galileo Galilei

“The great aim of education is not knowledge, but action.” – Herbert Spencer

Photograph by Casey Campbell, Gazette Times

Jim Ketter, an instructor of physics at Oregon State University, uses a long spring to demonstrate different types of waves to Lincoln middle school students on Wednesday in Weniger Hall.
Turtle Haste graduated in June, 2001 with a Masters of Science and an Oregon Professional Teaching License. Turtle attended the OSU homecoming in late October this year and decided to contact her former major professor (Maggie Niess) to let her know that she would be in the area. In the course of that correspondence, we discovered that Turtle has led an adventurous career, thus far.

A few years ago she read an article in NSTA about taking charge of your own professional development and using it as an opportunity to enhance not only your professional abilities, but yourself as well. Working in a Laguna Pueblo’s middle school for five years allowed her to gain a unique perspective on the issues facing a remote community. In developing a curriculum to meet New Mexico’s and national science standards for students without textbooks, she sought resources and experiential learning opportunities that would enhance not only students’ understanding, but promote scientific learning within the unique cultural and community context. The population at Laguna faced many challenges including, English language competency, high numbers of students with needs and poverty issues. Through her experience with Laguna, she learned to be inclusive of all learners and developed an interdisciplinary language and scientific literacy curriculum. Turtle applied for almost anything that appealed to her, regardless if it directly applied to the classroom. “My reasoning was, well, I might learn something interesting,” she was quoted as saying. “As a result, my own growth has been exponential, allowing me to seek for connections in everything I do. I taught in an experimental school in Xian, China; earned TOFEL certification; assisted in research at Kitt Peak National Observatory; became a Project Astro partner; studied oceanography to become a Maury Project Peer Trainer; served as a new teacher mentor; participated in the Japan Fulbright Memorial Fund program; visited Ghana with a Fulbright-Hayes program to compare styles, ownership and operation of horno ovens; earned National Board certification; and most recently served as a NOAA Teacher at Sea.” Turtle’s logs can be found at http://teacheratsea.noaa.gov/2007/haste/index.html.

Turtle changed schools two years ago to work in a large urban public school to add more depth to her teaching experience. Last year students won a national Youth Service America award for their work on a project self-authoring and publishing elementary-level science books to send to communities in Ghana, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Japan, and Chile.

It doesn’t stop there! For the past three summers she has been on the Johns Hopkins Center for Talented Youth’s summer program staff teaching earth sciences. “I teach for JHU at Stanford Universities campus – how cool is that?” The curriculum she developed for this class and the direct involvement of researchers with student learning has earned an opportunity to present a poster at the American Geophysical Union’s fall meeting.

“What is my advice to new teachers?” she asks:

1. **TRY EVERYTHING!** It isn’t all about students and your classroom! You may not immediately see the application of a particular topic into your classroom, however, the excitement you get from learning something new translates to your students. You are a lifelong learner. Sometimes the best classes are the ones you take for yourself because your own motivation, confidence and interest in what you teach is just as important.

2. **Make friends, make lots of friends and don’t forget them.** Building connections within a larger community of educators will help you find people who will mentor and support you throughout your career. I continue to communicate with peers I met in workshops although they live in different states. We helped each other through board certification and TOFEL classes. We continue to find ways to meet at workshops and on-line communities.

3. **Get on e-lists, lots of them.** I hear about some of the best opportunities because I’m on someone’s list. I have established a partnership between several of my students and researchers in Antarctica this year all because I attended a lecture I learned about through a list. We get to use the EarthKam on the International Space Station to take remote earth-focused images because I’m on someone’s list. I also went to Ghana, free, because I’m on someone’s list.
For information on how to make contributions to the programs and students in the Department of Science and Mathematics Education, please contact:

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You can also find information on giving at:  
OSU Foundation website  
http://osufoundation.org/