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Spring 2024

Erol Kirayoglu—Sigma KDR Innovator

Brother **Erol Kirayoglu, 61-421**, was born in 1942 to Turkish parents in Bulgaria (remnants of the Ottoman Empire). They emigrated to Turkey in 1943 ahead of the communists during World War II. After primary school he went to private American boarding schools. He graduated high school from Robert College in Istanbul. His dormitory headmaster was Grady Hobson, a Sigma KDR. Erol was an academic high achiever. He applied for admission to, and was accepted at several top universities in the US, including OSU. He chose OSU because Grady Hobson had recommended it and made arrangements for him to stay at the KDR house and received a partial scholarship. Erol arrived in the US in September 1960 to attend OSU



and major in mechanical engineering. His earliest memories of KDR were doing kitchen duties and wearing the infamous rook lid on campus. Erol distinguished himself while at the Sigma House and OSU in academics, 3 cushion billiards and ping pong, winning championships in both. He represented OSU at the regional championships at Berkeley. Together with his friend and KDR Ken Tanner they won the ping pong doubles championship at OSU. Erol was practically a straight A student, graduating in 1964 with the highest GPA on campus and a first

Message from Sigma Alumni Association/Sigma Building Corporation President

Hello Brothers,

It is with a heavy heart that I learned of Brother David Hite's passing. He was instrumental in his advice and guidance to the Board for many years. His obituary highlights his professional accomplishments, but it was his friendship and brotherhood that we on the Board valued most.

I hope you will join us in Portland for Founder's Day on May 18 at Country Inn and Suites at 1:00 PM to help guide and plan the future of our Association.

Bill Ott 61-429

Verl Holden, 51-285, OSU Hall of Fame Awardee

At 91 years young, Brother Holden was the most senior member in the room at our 2023 Founder's Day get together in May. Verl gave an interesting description of his goings on since he graduated from OAC. He pioneered many innovations in the plant nursery business. When the economy tanked in 2008 he revitalized his business by changing his plant nursery into a Filbert farm (Verl stated)



Filbert is the tree, hazelnuts are the fruit of the Filbert tree). His influence on the nursery industry in Oregon and the broader Pacific Northwest has earned him an award to the OSU Hall of Fame. Below is the URL to the video OSU made with Verl—enjoy!

https://progress.oregonstate.edu/blog/2023/03/13/leaving-legacies-across-oregon/

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for an engineering student. From OSU, Erol went to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) on a fulltime research assistantship, receiving his master's degree in mechanical engineering in 1966. While at MIT, he met his first wife at a Harvard party and married a year later. They had 3 daughters together.

After graduating MIT Erol returned to Oregon to work at a consulting engineering firm. He left them and joined DuPont in 1967 and worked there until 1980. While at DuPont he had various assignments, progressively moving up in Research & Development and then supervisory and management positions.

At Benger Labs in Waynesboro, VA he helped develop a new process—Orlon. He also developed the first process for spinning hollow fibers for desalination using reverse osmosis. He was transferred to Delaware to corporate HQ where he worked in human resources and received supervisory training.

In 1973 at the Engineering Development Laboratory (EDL) in Wilmington, DE, Erol supervised a group of engineers developing equipment and processes for various DuPont operating departments. He was technical liaison to Berg Electronics near Harrisburg, PA shortly after DuPont bought Berg. Berg made electronic connectors and was heavily involved with Western Electric in AT&T's modular jack and TouchTone programs. For added capacity, Erol proposed new technology, adapting Kevlar processing to electroplating of wire. The new "Wire Line" was designed and built in record time and exceeded all specifications and expectations. Erol joined Berg as an Engineering Manager, responsible for design of all stamping dies, injection molds and assembly machines. He was promoted to Product Engineering Manager, responsible for design and development of all new products as well as support of existing product lines. From 1973 to 1980, sales went from \$23M to \$180M.

Erol and John Galli joined Holmberg Electronics in Inman, SC as VP Engineering and was primarily responsible for transforming them from a metal stamper to a connector manufacturer. In 1984 they left and formed Specialty Electronics in Landrum, SC. First few years were tough: no salary, working as a consultant for another connector company, going through divorce, 70-80 hour weeks. Gallis moved away to PA and became Erol the sole business owner. Erol hired a young lady to be his Office Manager, who later became his second wife. (They have a son together.) Starting with 6 employees Specialty Electronics (SEI) became one of America's fastest growing companies. They grew from \$2M to \$18M in 5 years (1992-1997). SEI was known as an innovative and responsive company. SEI formed a subsidiary in Singapore to support Hard Disk Drive customers. SEI developed a line of very "low-profile" connectors with 1mm pitch as well as many custom connectors that solved customers' problems. SEI became the largest employer in

Sigma Treasurer's Report Financial Account Balances as 4/1/2024	
\$142,421	Umpqua Sweep Account balance (Moved \$9000 from Citizens Bank closed account)
\$2,615	Umpqua Petty Cash Account balance (\$550.33 transferred from Citizens Bank closed account)
\$187	Umpqua Credit Account balance
0	Citizen's Bank balance (acct closed and consolidated into the Umpqua acct)
\$145,314	Grand Total
Recent Expenses: reflected in balances above	
\$ 1000	OSU Foundation for a paver in honor of John McClure (committed in 2023)
MISC. FUND BALANCES (Funds in the Sweep account) (Funds in the Sweep account as of 2018	
\$5,247	Recolonization Fund

Sigma Building Corporation/Alumni Association

Mae Shirtcliff Scholarship

Gene Martin Scholarship

Directors

\$2,300

\$250

Bill Ott, '61-429 - President Chip Carter, '74-578 - Secretary Tom Leslie, '79-630 - Treasurer Dennis Sandoz, '61-423 Dale Rosin, '65-495 Rick Read, '66-499 Jon Dunham, '79-635 Jerry Rinaldi, '81-657 Bob Altman, '81-658 Jerry Neumann, '85-688

Emeritus

Bob Swinney, '55-330 Ben Kirk, '74-571 Randy Saunders, '76-604 (continued from page 2)

osmosis. He was transferred to Delaware to corporate HQ where he worked in human resources and received supervisory training. Landrum and was known as a good place to work. Erol was named Entrepreneur of the Year in SC in 1993 and recognition from the SC House of Representatives for job creation. In 2021 Erol sold to Packard Electric, a division of Delphi, departing two years later.



He joined a group of friends and former business associates who were doing import/ export with China. They bought into commercial hinge factory in China. Erol worked with them

to improve product designs, materials and manufacturing processes as well as worker safety.

They also bought a building and renovated it for clean room manufacturing of certain medical products. He sold his ownership stake in 2009 and retired.

He has since done some consulting and part-time teaching at the local community college.

Erol's family in Turkey survived the recent earthquake because they live in northeastern Turkey, far from the devastation. His father's side of the family lives mostly in Bursa and mother's side in Istanbul. Erol and his wife try to visit Turkey as often as they can. They were there last fall and plan to go again in 2024.

One of his fondest memories of his time at the Sigma house was when Larry Hyder invited him home for Thanksgiving his first year at OSU. It made what would have been a long and lonely weekend into a memory he carries with him to this day. Another was when he and Ken Tanner won the OSU doubles championship in ping pong.

Jon Dunham, '79-635

The Sigma KDR Mother's Club



The Sigma KDR Mother's Club was organized on June 6, 1949. On June 16, 1049 it's president Mrs. John J. Miller from Portland. The Mother's Club was a key pillar of support the Sigma KDR chapter when it existed from 1949 until sometime around May 1979. According to Bill Ott '61-429, the Mothers provided Club portant support to the chapter house by buying furniture for the living room and other

items needed for the undergrads. The minutes also indicate the club was key in supporting House Mother Mae Shirtcliff. The minutes from the Mothers Club show the last entry in the Mothers Club minutes in 1979 was made by Rose Kasnick, mother of **Dennis Kasnick** '74-569.

Jon Dunham '79-635

Special to the Sigma Scoop

Kappa Delta Rho Foundation granted \$95,000 in scholarships to 67 scholars, both graduate and undergraduate, at its annual meeting in August at Atlantic City.

The Scholarship Committee reviewed 122 applications in July, each committeeman rating the candidates on several criteria. These included grade-point average, service to the community, and service to the fraternity. Speaking as one of the committeemen, I tell you truthfully that most of the applicants were truly impressive. While some forms of service were good, such as campus clean-ups, others were outstanding. In the outstanding category fell substantial commitments of time in preparation of meals, delivery of meals, providing transportation to homebound persons, serving as an interpreter for refugees from the Middle East and southern Asia (that one really hit me), and furnishing meaningful leadership to large humanitarian projects.

The capital campaign for Brothers Keeper concluded, falling somewhat short of its goal but still bringing in sufficient donations and pledges to fund an endowment substantial enough to support this important initiative. Brothers' Keeper is a multi-faceted program (continued on page 4)

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intended to develop positive health and mental health behaviors and habits, and also to educate and encourage brothers to reach out for professional help for themselves or a friend when in distress. It was developed in response to a disturbing number of undergraduate suicides over the course of a decade or so.

The foundation is hopeful that the endowment will enable the national fraternity (a separate corporation) to hire a health and wellness officer, making this effort even more effective in the lives of our undergraduates nationwide.

The foundation's educational grants to the national fraternity make up roughly 15% of the national fraternity's operating budget.

Most meetings of the foundation trustees take place throughout the year by Zoom, typically every six weeks or so. Twice a year, the trustees come together in person for an intensive couple of days of receiving in-depth reports, analyzing performance, brainstorming, and problem-solving. In alternate years, the in-person meeting is held in conjunction with the national convention.

Trustee Monroe McBride, Λ '76

Thank You to The Members That Made 2023 Founder's Day a Success

Tom Leslie 79-630, Jerry Rinaldi 81-657, Al Peterson 65-479 and Dale Ronsin . Tom was the primary contact with the Portland Airport Sheraton, Jerry provided a registration and payment system through his company Trumba, Al provided the backup information from our centennial celebration and Dale MCed our Founder's Day event. With their contributions our semi-regular gathering of Sigma KDRs was a great success.

Your Contributions Make the Sigma Scoop Possible

Donations may be made through our secure National portal at:

https://www.kdr.com/donate/sigma-alumni-corporation-fund/

or you may mail a personal check, made out to Sigma Building Corporation, to :

Tom Leslie Sigma Building Corp. Treasurer 11340 SW Ambiance Pl. Tigard, OR 97223

KDR Lambda Chapter Holds Centennial Weekend

On April 12-13 the Cal KDR Chapter celebrated 100 years on the Cal campus. I was invited and attended. The cele



bration included a dinner at the UC Berkeley Faculty Club and a picnic the second day. Sigma and Lambda have been the only KDR chapters on the West Coast beginning in the 1920s. Undergraduates have visit-

ed each other's chapters in earlier years. More recently there have been Sigma/Lambda alumni gatherings at OSU -Cal football games.

There were 53 KDRs at the Centennial Dinner. Lambda re-started their chapter beginning last year. The 13 new KDRs were all at the dinner. Boarders have

been living in the



house for the last few years. Repair and painting is scheduled for this summer. The new KDRs will move into the house in the fall along with others being actively recruited. The new KDRs were recruited by an ELI from KDR National who has been staying in the house along with boarders. More are being recruited by the new KDRs with coaching by the ELI.

OSU will come to play football against Cal on October 26th this year in Berkeley. If there is sufficient interest, I will again organize a joint Lambda-Sigma gathering, likely at the KDR house, before the game. Interested brothers should contact me at allenpeterson@comcast.net.

Al Peterson '65-479



Sigma of Kappa Pelta Kho Fraternity Oregon State University

Chapter Eternal

John R. McClure, '47-222, May 13, 1927 - March 17, 2023, was born at St. Vincent's Hospital in Portland, OR, to John Ernest McClure and Inga Winter McClure. John grew up on a wheat farm in Wasco, Ore. When he was little there was no electricity on the farm and he rode his horse to elementary school. John's father harvested wheat using horses and they sold eggs and milk to make extra money.

The family moved to Portland in 1943 and John graduated from Jefferson High School in 1945 and immediately enlisted in the U.S. Navy for a little over a year. In 1946, John enrolled at Oregon State College in Corvallis and joined the Kappa Delta Rho fraternity. He continued to volunteer for and donate to the fraternity for the rest of his life. While John finished his college education at the University of Oregon, he always considered himself a proud OSU Beaver.

In 1950 John and a friend traveled to New York by Greyhound bus and then flew to Ireland, where they commenced a three-month biking tour of Europe which led them to Scotland, England, Belgium, Switzerland, France and Italy. In November, John began his long career as a CPA with Price Waterhouse before becoming a partner with Coopers & Lybrand. Highlights of his career include traveling to Japan in 1961 to perform an audit of Sony, auditing and working with the staff of the Wah Chang Corporation and working with the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs for many years.

John was active with the Oregon Society of CPAs and was elected President in 1987. The list of organizations John volunteered with and donated to is too large to list, but include serving on the board of trustees at First United Methodist Church in Portland for 21 years and volunteering with the Red Cross and the Boy Scouts of America.

John married Ferol Sprott June 26, 1954 and they had 68 years of happy marriage and three children, Craig, Elise and Kevin. John and Ferol traveled the world visiting relatives in Sweden, taking cruises in Europe and the Caribbean and also visiting a good portion of the U.S. John loved spending time with family and friends at the family vacation home in Sunriver, Ore.

John is survived by his wife, Ferol; children, **Craig McClure '76-602**, Elise, and Kevin (and husband, Kevin Danley); as well as sisters, Jean and Mary Ann; brother, Don; grandchildren, Samantha, John and Lauren; and great-granddaughter, Harper. He will be remembered for his wonderful smile and his ability and desire to meet new people, learn about them and make new friends.

Irving Hill, 51-284, passed away in Glendora, CA.

Joe Wilson Sayre, 52-293, passed away in Ashland, OR.

Donald Lawrence Van Etten 52-305 passed away on February 1,2023 after a long battle with congestive heart failure and dementia. He was 89 years old. Donald was born in China on June 23,1933 to Presbyterian missionaries, The Reverend Albert Henry Van Etten and Florence Kathleen King Van Etten. The fourth of five brothers, Donald and his family moved back to the United States in 1940, following his father's death and during the Japanese invasion of China. Donald graduated from Hood River High School in 1951 and from Oregon State College in 1955. He married Tamara Balenko in 1958, and they just celebrated their 64th Wedding Anniversary. Donald was a lifelong educator. He taught high school students in The Dalles, junior high students in Corte Madera, CA, and spent the bulk of his teaching career at College of the Siskiyous in Weed, CA. Donald was a theatre minor in college and enjoyed acting in many productions

while teaching college and after retiring to McMinnville, OR in 1996, including at the Gallery Theatre. He loved traveling and adventures, was a devoted church member and leader, and will always be remembered for his provocative conversation and colorful storytelling. He will also be remembered as the guy who walked ten miles roundtrip to his work as a docent at the Evergreen Aviation Museum. Donald is survived by his wife, Tamara, his daughter Nina (Larry) Thiel, his son Donald King Van Etten, and three grandchildren, Catherine Elizabeth Thiel, John Joseph Thiel, and Daniel Robert Thiel, as well as his brother, Paul Van Etten and sisterin-law Peng Van Etten. He was preceded in death by his brothers Albert, Upton, and Thomas Van Etten.

Mel Cooper, 58-379, Jan. 10, 1940 - May 28, 2023, a beloved husband, father, grandfather, and friend to many, passed away May 28, 2023. Mel leaves behind a loving wife; four children; and seven grandchildren. Born Jan. 10, 1940, he spent most his life in the Pacific Northwest. Mel was an Army veteran, had a successful Insurance Agency, was active in community service, and loved to travel. His second love, next to family, was Oregon State University where he graduated in 1962 and remained active with his fraternity Kappa Delta Rho until the end. Mel's passing leaves a profound sadness, but his life will be celebrated and remembered for the love and cherished moments we have all shared. Rest in peace.

Edwin L. Gustafson 58-380, It is always difficult saying goodbye to someone we love and cherish. Family and friends must say goodbye to their beloved Edwin Louis Gustafson (Portland, Oregon), who passed away at the age of 85, on May 18, 2023. He was loved and cherished by many people including: his parents, Oscar Gustafson and Ardis Kelly Gustafson; his wife Barbara; his daughter Leanne; his siblings, Alice Anne and Bill (Kathy); and his son Scott Gustafson. He was also cherished by many nieces and nephews.

David Marcel Hite, 58-381, Long-time petroleum geologist David M. Hite passed away recently in Bend, Oregon, where he retired in 2014 after closing his Anchorage office where he worked as a consulting petroleum geologist on oil and gas exploration, prospect evaluation and basin analysis. Dave earned a B.S. in geology from Oregon State University and M.S. and PhD degrees from the University of Madison-Wisconsin.

He began his career with Atlantic Richfield Co. in 1967 with the applied research group. Dave subsequently served as exploration geologist, senior staff geologist, exploration manager, senior exploration adviser and manager of geotechnical services for Atlantic Richfield and ARCO Alaska Inc., per AAPG Memoir 104, published 2013, which also said he had 45 years of experience in oil and gas research, exploration and development, resource evaluation and management.

He worked for ARCO for a total of 24 years, with 15 years in Alaska. Starting in 1992 Dave was a consulting

(continued from page 5) petroleum geologist based in Anchorage. In this capacity he consulted with oil companies such as Exxon, BP, Phillips, ARCO Alaska and Anadarko, as well as numerous smaller independents and utilities, per AAPG Memoir 104.

Memoir 104 also said that Dave consulted for a number of state and federal agencies and Alaska Native corporations.

Dave also served as a member on the National Academy of Sciences Polar Research Board and as a member on the National Resources Council Committee on Cumulative Environmental Effects of Oil and Gas Activities on Alaska's North Slope.

He was also editor of a comprehensive volume on Cook Inlet oil and gas, a member of the State Mapping Board for years, and organizer of two Pacific Section AAPG meetings in Anchorage.

Dave also provided story ideas to Petroleum News and was willing to comment when asked, such as in the July 13, 2008, issue for a story titled "Gull Island buzz: 200 years of oil from Alaska's North Slope?"

The legend of Alaska's Gull Island, a speck of land 4 miles or so offshore the North Slope in the middle of Prudhoe Bay, seems to have an uncanny ability to appear when the United States is facing soaring oil and gasoline prices. As oil prices started climbing in 2006 past \$60 per barrel, sometime Baptist missionary Lindsey Williams told a meeting of the Midwest Concerned Citizens group in Kansas City about how the fabulous Gull Island field could supply the United States with oil for 200 years. Gasoline prices could drop to just \$1.50 per gallon if only the U.S. government and the oil companies were to open the spigots on the vast, undisclosed North Slope oil reserves, he claimed.

Hite briefly sat on the first well, and later told me the so-called "massive discovery" was not in any sense real.

Stuart Brown, 61-418, passed away of a heart attack at his home in Hillsboro Ore. He was born, the first of three sons, in Portland, Ore., to Barton H. and Louise Brown. Stuart was a teacher and a relationship counselor. He loved the outdoors; his passions were fishing, collecting insect specimens and exploring logging trails. He was preceded in death by his parents; his brothers, Steven Brown and Barton H. Brown, Jr. He is survived by cousins, Larry Payne, Ellnora Young, Mary Lynn Hodo and Grace Farenbaugh.

Loren "Lee" Holm, 61-420, of Eugene, Oregon, sadly passed away at home after a brief, but intense battle with cancer. He was born on Aug. 11, 1941, to Larry and Marjorie Holm and he graduated from Glide High School in 1959.

After graduation, Lee established his own drywall business in the Roseburg area, working for nearly fifty years before retiring to spend more time with his family. He was well loved in the community, never turning down someone in need of help. Lee was an avid bow hunter and fisherman. One of his greatest loves was to spend two or three weeks every year with his friends camping in the

(mountains while they hunted for elk. Lee is survived by Denna I. Holm his wife of 41 years, his mother Marjorie Holm, son Shawn Holm, daughter Kari Holm, sister Pam Claybaugh (Jack Claybaugh) and many grandchildren, nieces and nephews. Preceding him in death were his father Loren "Larry" Holm and son Loren Holm. Lee was active in the Seventh Day Adventist Church and his faith in Jesus never wavered over the years or during the last months of his illness. He looked forward to the day when Jesus would return and being reunited with all his friends and family in Christ. A memorial service will be held at a later date.

John William Madison, 63-457, Nov. 19, 1943 - Oct. 7, 2023. He was born Nov. 19, 1943, in McCall, Idaho, to Amelia Jane and Jack Henry Madison. He passed away peacefully in his home surrounded by friends and family Oct. 7, 2023. John lived a full life filled with energy, wisdom, and sharp-witted humor. He graduated from Tillamook High School in 1961 and was that year's Valedictorian. Earning his Bachelor of Science Degree from Oregon State University in 1965, he went on to earn his Master's in Science Education from Oregon State University in 1966. His education led him to a legendary career in the Beaverton School District, both in the classroom as a teacher initially and later in Human Resources, spanning 31 years and impacting countless lives along the way. John loved to travel the world, accumulating precious antiques that filled his home from the many continents he visited with his partner Richard Waldo. John was preceded in death by his parents; and sister, Carol Treece. He is survived by his brothers, Ronald James Madison, and Robert Madison; his nephews, Brent Madison, Kevin Madison, and Scott Treece; and his niece, Penny

Douglas Peterson, 67-511, passed away in Citrus Heights, CA.

Robert Furlow, 69-525, July 18, 1949 - July 10, 2023, of Lebanon passed away Monday, July 10, 2023 at home, with his wife of 31 years by his side. Throughout his illness he was surrounded by his children and other treasured family members and friends. Bob died as he lived with Courage and Kindness. Bob was born on July 18, 1949 to Marvin Henry and Ollie Jean Furlow in Klamath Falls, Oregon. He graduated from Klamath Falls HS in 1967. He earned his Bachelor Degree from Oregon State University in 1971. While serving in the Army he earned his Master's Degree in Healthcare Administration. As a testimony of his passion for education he openly shared his struggles with dyslexia, hoping to encourage others to not allow challenges to limit their belief in their ability to achieve their educational goals and life dreams. Bob was an active member of the LDS church. He served in various roles but his biggest joy came from teaching. He had a special ability to genuinely listen, ask thoughtful questions and demonstrate Christ's love to the people he met. (continued from page 5) Bob married Sandy Greenlee in 1972. They had six daughters and three sons. While raising their family, he served in the United States Army. After 24 years of service and numerous assignments throughout the United States and in Japan he retired as a Lt. Col. He appreciated the opportunities the Army provided him and his family. He credited it for his ability to (continued on page 7)

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serve in Public sector as a Healthcare Administrator in both Utah and Oregon.

In 1990 Bob met his best friend and soul mate, Cheryle Filer. They pursued a life of service together and were blessed with another daughter. Bob continued his career as a Director and later the Administrator of Douglas County Health and Social Services; the Superintendent of a State Hospital, the CFO of the Oregon State Hospital System and the CFO of Jefferson Behavioral Health. Bob enjoyed serving in many organizations including Rotary International for 20 years and on Lebanon City Council for 6 years. Bob loved to read, he enjoyed golf and appreciated time with his extended family. He will be forever remembered with tremendous respect for his unwavering faithfulness; with immense gratefulness for his quiet commitment to prayer and his divine unselfishness; and with heartfelt laughter for a playful sense of humor including endearing nicknames and creative and unique one of a kind sayings.

Bob is survived by his devoted and beloved wife, Cheryle, his son Doug, daughters Linny (Larry), Gretchen (Richard), Monique (Scott), Elizabeth (Remy), Rachel, Micah (Brandon), and Shianna. Grandchildren Analecia, Christopher, Heidi, JR, Mark, Jessica, Nathaniel, Emily, Caitlin, Joshua, Jaron, Skylar, Travis, Adeline, Dalila, Jack, Nova and Noah. Numerous great grandchildren. Brother Otto (Regina), Sister Noretta, Sister-in-Law Charie, Nephews Michael and James, Brother-in-laws Alex and Chad (Bekki) and Niece Lyndsey.

Bob is preceded in death by his parents, Brothers Charles and Donnie, Sons Robert and Eric and Grandson Douglas.