



# Retirees Association

Fall Newsletter 2012

## FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK / *Jerry Insley*

Unlike the South Ashland Interchange, construction on the SOU campus, at both Churchill Hall and the new housing and dining complex, is said to be ahead of schedule. Similarly our retiree's association is moving along well. As you will discover in this newsletter, we have finally obtained the bulk of the benefits we have sought for our members. Former staff, who have joined our association, will have identification cards which will avail them the benefit package; those retired faculty, whose ID cards have either been lost or worn out, can also apply for one of the new variety. These cards do not include a photograph; therefore, we who use them may age without notice.

Carol McNair, ([kcmcnair@mind.net](mailto:kcmcnair@mind.net)) our distinguished newsletter editor, would appreciate any news items, anecdotes, memories, or other items members wish to supply. Many of us continue to communicate with former associates as well as former students. It is always nice to hear what some of our graduates have accomplished. Many have done well in fields ranging from the arts and education to business, government and the military. Many have had multifaceted lives as well. It is also intriguing to

discover how successful some have become in areas far removed from their primary concentration while on campus. We'd all like to reflect on the growth of the university, but even more on those who were in our charge as former students. After all, that is why we were here.

We have engaged speakers for both the fall and winter luncheon:

1. The guest speaker for the fall luncheon will be Ann Pierotti of the Ashland Film Festival. She will present both background and current information about the festival.
2. On February twenty-second, John Rachor, will relate how he entered the search and rescue function and some of the details of the missions he has accomplished. John has received national acclaim for his work and presents his material in both serious and humorous fashion.

The SOU retiree's board meetings are scheduled at 9:00 AM on the third Wednesday of each month. Any retiree is welcome to sit in on these meetings. If any of you should have suggestions to improve our association, we'd be happy to hear from you. After all, it is your association and we hope to see you for our fall meeting. ▲

## *The Retirees Association Fall Luncheon*

GUEST SPEAKER: Ann Pierotti, Ashland Film Festival / October 26, 11:30–1:30, Rogue River Room

RSVP: Sally Klein by October 19, 2012 / Email (preferred): [KleinS@sou.edu](mailto:KleinS@sou.edu) or Telephone: 541-552-6049

## RETIREES BENEFITS / Agreement Between SOU and the SOU Retirees Association

As it is in the continued best interest of Southern Oregon University and the Retirees Association to maintain strong and cordial ties with one another, we enter into this agreement. It enumerates and clarifies the privilege enjoyed by those who have retired from the institution, or who have worked at the University and desire to have a continuing relationship with it, or those who have retired from other institutions of higher education but desire to have a relationship with SOU. Members of the Association not currently possessing an SOU Identification Card will be issued one; the cost of producing the ID will be borne by the Association. Creation and distribution of the cards will be the responsibility of the staff liaison between the University and the Association.

SOU Retirees Association members will be accorded the following privileges:

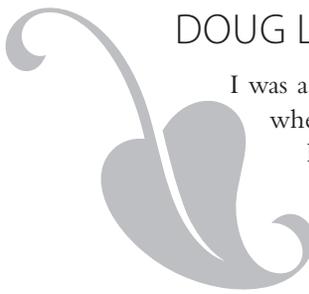
- a) 10% discount at the University Bookstore, or same discount afforded SOU employees.
- b) Hannon library borrowing privilege for all faculty and staff retirees. Association members who did not retire from SOU will not be accorded this privilege.
- c) The same reduced ticket prices offered to SOU employees for SOU events and performances (to include music, theatre performances and athletic events.)
- d) Receipt of the SOU coupon book made available to SOU employees and students

for discounts with local businesses.

- e) Use of University recreation facilities currently available (some on a fee basis) to all University employees. Retirees will be assessed at the same rate as employees.
- f) Continued use of University email accounts by retirees now possessing them, subject to annual renewal. The University's IT area is reviewing current policy (Policy FAD.037) and will soon recommend to the University's administration whether policies should change.

This agreement will be reviewed and endorsed annually.

*Signed by Jerry Insley, Jim Dean, Mary Cullinan, Craig Morris* ▲



## DOUG LEGG / *Claude Curran*

---

I was a young, new hire in September, 1964, when, one noon while I was in my office having my sack lunch, Doug walked by, stopped, backed up, stuck his head in my office and kindly chided me for the unprofessional look of my feet propped on my desk.

Doug was very professional. He was an ex-Navy man who understood discipline and the value of it. It served him well in his long tenure at SOU. Doug was a superb lecturer, a skill that has fallen into a certain amount of disfavor in the contemporary world. That might not have happened if everyone had the knowledge base and skill that Doug possessed and the dynamics for presentation that were captivating. Many times I saw colleagues tarry at his classroom door to listen to his lecture. Students wandering the halls would do the same thing. Doug's unique teaching ability was recognized in the Spring term of 1966 when he was one of eleven faculty members on campus to receive the Mosser Award of \$1,000 for excellence in teaching.

The respect his colleagues had for him was demonstrated when President Jim Sours selected him to be ombudsman. As far as I know he was the first person and also the last to hold that title. My guess is that he was a great help to President Sours acting as a liaison between the president and the faculty.

Doug never completed his dissertation and taught his entire career ABD. It is my understanding that it wasn't a committee member who derailed him; it was Doug himself! He set the bar extremely high for his research and despite repeated trips to London he never achieved the lofty goal he had set for himself.

Doug was a very happy and pleasant man. Always, always, a treat to engage in conversation. I firmly believe that if some time in the future the "DNA" of SOU is unlocked it will be found that Doug Legg, the unassuming, talented teacher and consummate professional, was an important building block in what hopefully, one day becomes recognized as a great institution of higher education; the "Harvard on the Hill" as envisioned by President Elmo Stevenson in the decades of the 40's, 50's and 60's! ▲

## RON TAYLOR / *Claude Curran*

---

I got to know Ron very well during our once a week journey to Klamath Falls and OTI to teach extension courses. Ron had gone to college at Central Washington which caused me to believe he might be able to capably handle icy and snowy road conditions on our treks over the Cascade Range. Ron drove over and I drove back. That seemed fine until....until one snowy and icy trip we went into the downhill S curves, this side of Keno, a little west of the Klamath River, at about 30 miles an hour. The posted speed limit was 25 mph on dry pavement! Oh, no! Here came a pickup up hill and we were sliding out of control into that lane. As many of you know Ron was a large man and when he was behind the steering wheel everything shifted up a bit. So here he was with his head perched atop his viscera and me whiter than the snow surrounding us and somehow—somehow—we "slood" around the vehicle without colliding. Ron took his eyes off the road for a split second, looked directly at me and said, "Scare ya, scare ya?" Your damn right it did! I was to suggest an alternate plan for the future. I would drive over and Ron would drive the return trip so I could

watch for headlights from on-coming vehicles and properly ready myself for a spot in eternity!

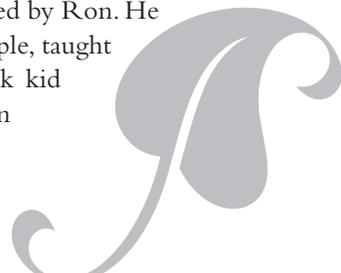
Ron confided in me about the trials of having a small child with spina bifida and all the pain that he, Nancy and the rest of their family suffered along with little Peter. They had no extra money after providing for a large family but they managed to pay a few dollars every month on monstrous medical and hospital bills.

Oh, yes, there was the incident when he was teaching teen agers in the Tri Cities in Washington State. They were greatly disadvantaged kids and he was having difficulty making any head way with them. On one occasion a young man leaped to his feet and shouted at Ron, "I'm gonna cut you man! I'm gonna cut you five ways: I'm gonna cut you north, I'm gonna cut you south, I'm gonna cut you east, I'm gonna cut you west an, I'M GONNA CUT YOU OFTEN!" Ron was convulsed with laughter and that was the ice breaker; he had no more trouble with the class.

I had to take the standardized Princeton Language examination as part of my Ph. D.

requirements and I had to go to Portland State for the exam. I was grousing about that and Ron said, "I can obtain the exam and administer it here." Yes, he did and it saved me a lot of time and money. When he and Nancy purchased a lot in the Ashland Hills upon which to build a home I arrived one Saturday, at his request, with my chain saw and cut down the trees that had to be removed—payback!

My guess is there are a large number of SOU graduates whose perceptions of life were honed by Ron. He also, by example, taught a young, punk kid riding shotgun for him, not to "fear the Dean!" ▲



## THE ALCOHOL REPORT / Ken Bartlett

**D**uties of the Chemistry Department Chair at times deviate from the expected routine. As an example, one might receive notification that a handicapped student in class is unable to endure fluorescent lights and a lawsuit will be filed unless she is furnished private laboratory workspace with incandescent lights and personal faculty assistance. Problems like this can usually be handled, though, and life goes on smoothly.

One day I received a letter that caused a greater degree of concern; the sender was the Federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, commonly known as ATF. The tone of the letter was quite unfriendly with references to federal offenses and punishments for lack of compliance. Needless to say, I called the San Francisco office of ATF; the ensuing conversation went something like this:

“Can I help you?”

“I hope so. I received a letter from ATF and have no idea what you’re talking about.”

“It’s the alcohol report you submitted. You’ve greatly exceeded the permitted use.”

“But I haven’t sent the report; in fact, I haven’t even received the form yet this year.”

“Well, I have it right in front of me.”

“You do? Would you tell me who signed it?”

“Let’s see: It’s M-A-R-Y-T-H-.”

“Oh, my gosh; she’s the director of the Student Union.”

“Why did she submit it?”

“That’s a good question. I assume the form was forwarded to her by mistake, but it surprises me that she didn’t pick up the phone to seek a little advice. At any rate, this can be resolved quickly if you send another form, but I suggest you send it directly to me rather than through our Business Office.”

“I’ll do that today.”

The report concerns alcohol available tax-free for laboratory use only. For those who may not know but may be interested, the concentration of an alcoholic beverage is generally expressed either as per cent (by volume) or proof. By definition the term 100 proof refers to a solution containing 50% alcohol; no, I’m not going to explain this archaic term that originated in England! Although a quantity of alcohol could be expressed in pounds, quarts, kilograms, or a host of other units, ATF chooses to use proof gallons, a term not familiar to the average individual. One gallon of 50% alcohol (i.e., 100 proof alcohol) is one proof gallon. It follows that a gallon of 100% alcohol (such as purchased for laboratory use) is two proof gallons whereas a gallon of 5% beer is only one-tenth of a proof gallon.

The ATF report form for that year had mistakenly landed in the hands of an individual who would have no reason to understand it. Evidently she was not aware that all taxes have

*Continued page 4*

## The AARP Tax Aide Program / Darlene Steffani

### FOR 28 YEARS THE AARP TAX-AIDE PROGRAM IN JACKSON COUNTY HAS OFFERED FREE TAX ASSISTANCE.

The program assists any taxpayer of any age with income up to \$90,000 who does not have rentals. There are sites in Medford, White City, Sandy Cove, Ashland, Talent, and Phoenix. Our tax preparation begins on February 1 and ends, usually, on April 15.

We do the complete tax return, filling in all information that pertains to each one. We start with the basics and finish the return to the end by going down the 1040 tax form asking the client if there is anything that needs to be added, such as interest, dividends, tax exempt interest—just every line on the front and back. The schedules we complete are: 1040, A, B, C, and D. All returns are audited by a second counselor, who goes through the whole return again. The return is then printed in full, given to the taxpayer who is asked to go over the printed return again. We strive for perfection.

At the end of the day’s sessions, all returns are checked to see if there are any red check marks, meaning something was omitted, and then all returns completed that day are e-filed. After returning home for the day, I, as the e-filer, will then check to see if the returns have been accepted or rejected for some reason. If a return is rejected I immediately find out what is wrong or missing—sometimes I have to call the taxpayer—correct the error and re-efile the return. Once everything is accepted we have finished with that day’s returns.

In Jackson County we have 64 volunteers and we are constantly looking for new ones. Each counselor-preparer is asked to work at least two shifts each week in any of the sites. New volunteers are asked to attend a training session, usually for three days in November; the training for all volunteers is held the first three weeks in January. Counselors are asked to study the text and pass the test, which consists of five different parts.

Several SOU emeritus, George Converse, John Engelhardt, Lee Hill and Darlene Steffani, have volunteered their time to this program. We are amazed at how thankful our clients are. The pay we receive is their appreciation, thanks, sparkling eyes when their returns are finished and sometimes donuts and candy. Anyone interested in volunteering or who would like more information may call Darlene at 541-488-6434 or David at 541-776-2216.

Conferences/Senior Programs  
Southern Oregon University  
1250 Siskiyou Blvd.  
Ashland, Oregon 97520

---

## BLOOMSBURY / *Karen Chapman*

BLOOMSBURY BOOKS was born on a dark and stormy November night in 1979 when four women, Sheila Burns, Nancy Peterson, Denise Harnley, and Karen Chapman, met to discuss the possibility of acting on a dream we shared of starting a bookstore. We all had the same vision of a bookstore with a browsing atmosphere and a store full of the best in new and classic literature. We discussed at length the strengths we each had, the financial risks, and the pros and cons of a partnership. After all these issues were addressed, along with our lack of experience of owning a business, we decided we all loved books enough that we could make it work.

We had just the right location for this dream in the EV Carter House which was just being renovated. Our next step was to settle on a name. We threw around names such as Bookcover, Bookmark, and combinations of our names, but in the end we agreed our store should have a name that would reflect a place for the search of new ideas and stimulating conversation which brought together the Bloomsbury group who met at Bloomsbury Square in London from 1900 to 1930. The name Bloomsbury Books was a good fit.

After five years of success in the EV Carter House, we had growing pains and decided to move to Main Street. We doubled our space on the 200 block of Main. During this time Denise moved to Seattle, so then we were three. After six years of growth in this new location, an opportunity arose when the old Hallmark Store was available. We had it totally renovated making this our dream location with a coffeehouse and space to have author events. With much help from friends and family we made this move by closing for only one day.

In the fall of 1997 we lost Nancy to cancer. I met Nancy when Reider was hired in the math department in 1975. Reider and my husband, Wes, went way back to their undergraduate days as roommates at Arizona State in Flagstaff. What a surprise to see them pop up here in Ashland. Never did we dream that Nancy

and I would be partners in this wonderful adventure called Bloomsbury. Throughout these 32 years we have had some pretty amazing staff who have made Bloomsbury what we are today with their knowledge of books and their many strengths. Some have been with us for over 20 years.

Now Sheila and I are meeting new challenges in this century of Amazon and electronic books. At one time we were afraid of what the big box stores such as Barnes & Nobles would do to the independents, but now we hope for their survival. The Amazon conglomerate is having more say in the publishing world and will have even more influence if Barnes & Nobles and independents disappear. We are grateful that we are in Ashland and have such wonderful support of the community. Sheila and I know that the BOOK will never die and the small independent will have a place in the future. ▲

---

## **ALCOHOL,** *Continued from page 3*

previously been paid on the alcohol in commercial beverages; clearly, a form reporting usage of tax-free alcohol should have triggered a few questions. Also, terms such as proof gallons surely were not in the regular vocabulary of the individual. A revised report was quickly submitted and we remained on good terms with ATF.

Another episode, a truly unexpected one, concerns interaction with the Drug Enforcement Administration, but the wisdom of old age tells me this story should just remain dormant. ▲

*Inside every old person there is a young person wondering what the heck happened.*