



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

PAUL ADAMIAN AND OREGON'S LOYALTY OATH

...continued from five

of the Republican-controlled legislature" and leader of the previous year's unsuccessful attempt to change the oath by legislative action.

After consulting with Branchfield, Hal helped form a "war council" composed of six faculty members who were either sympathetic to the issues or were ACLU members. The council laid out a strategy in three parts: "1) try to get the oath thrown out in the courts, 2) help Adamian keep his job during the testing in the courts, [and] 3) keep the college and state system of higher education from getting in trouble with the public over the issue."

Early-on the "war council" concluded that its best chance for achieving a successful resolution was to "keep the matter an 'abstract issue' rather than merely a 'personal issue' . . . ; as much as possible, Adamian's role was to merely be a name of a faculty member . . . used to test the legality of the oath."

The "war council" had help from unlikely allies. Though the chancellor's office, and the attorney-general's office were required to enforce the law, they privately believed it to be a bad one. Thus they quietly "cooperated with us in an effort to keep it from becoming a public issue" while the legality of the oath was determined in the courts. Ed Branchfield believed that "in light of recent U. S. Supreme Court rulings . . . the oath would not withstand a testing in the courts."

Hal recalls that President Stevenson and Dean McGill were unsophisticated about the weakness of the State's position, thus were "always endangering the course of events through bald threats and warnings directly to Adamian. We would then have to work to keep matters on an impersonal level and re-impress on McGill and Stevenson that they had no case as it was only a matter of time until this would be established—and that it was up to them

to be cooperative and helpful (e.g., not, as they had threatened, to bar Adamian from the campus)."

An Anticlimactic End

The attorney-general finally pushed for an expedited hearing. The hearing was closed, and heard in a Eugene court. The oath was quietly declared unconstitutional. The issue ended with a whimper rather than a bang. Hal takes satisfaction in how the case was resolved: "I feel that our success in getting the law struck down without the public even knowing it was being tested over a period of several months, our success in seeing that Adamian's job was not lost in the process (and his back pay came through as anticipated), etc., was largely due to my efforts and foresight." ▲

Fall 2006

PRESIDENT CULLINAN TO SPEAK AT FALL LUNCHEON

Southern Oregon University's new president, Mary Cullinan, will be the featured speaker at the Fall Term's annual Emeritus Luncheon. This will be an excellent opportunity for retired faculty and associate members to hear what she has to say about her vision for the University and her initial impressions of SOU.

The luncheon, free as always, will be held November 10th (Friday) at 12:00 noon in the Rogue River Room, Stevenson Union. Mark it on your calendars and plan to come. RSVPs should reach Jean Stallman by Nov. 6 (Monday) at the latest. You may contact her by e-mail (preferred): stallman@sou.edu or by calling (541) 552 6699. You may also use the Emeritus Information Feature on the Emeritus Faculty Website: <http://emeritus.sou.edu>.

There will be a very brief business meeting during which ballots will be distributed and a vote taken on Revision of the Association's Guidelines (see the middle pages of this Newsletter for details). ▲

EMERITUS NEWS

Neil and Judy Kunze have chosen to leave Ashland and move to McMinville. Their roots are in the Portland area, and they wish to be closer to their children and relatives.

Of interest to many Emeriti will be a book by Dennis Powers, recently retired from the School of Business where he taught Business Law. The book, *The Treasure Ship*, treats the tragic 1865 sinking of the ship "S. S. Brother Jonathan" off the Crescent City, California coast and subsequent salvage efforts.

In winter of 2007 Connie Alexander and husband Richard will be visiting several countries in Southeast Asia.

John Whitesitt, new Emeritus Council President, and wife Sandi recently traveled cross country to visit relatives in Maine. ▲

THE PRESIDENT'S *Fall Luncheon*

For retired faculty and
associate members

You are cordially invited
to a luncheon Hosted by
President Mary Cullinan

In the Redford Lounge of
Stevenson Union Building
Friday, November 10 at noon

To make reservations:

E-mail (preferred):
stallman@sou.edu

Telephone: 541-552-6699

Or use the Emeritus
Information Feature on the
Emeritus Faculty Website:
<http://emeritus.sou.edu>

Reservation Deadline:

November 6, 2006

A Deluxe Elderhostel: A Week In the Greek Islands

By Ed Hungerford

Editor's Note: Many retirees take great pleasure in world travel, so from time to time we will feature brief essays about travel.

Sheila and I are fans of the Elderhostel program and have seen several parts of the US with Elderhostel, but the overseas Elderhostel programs are also great values. We decided on a cruise of the Greek Islands this past March, this one confined to the Cyclades island group, and it turned out to be a first-class adventure.

Consulting the Oracle The group of 38 persons assembled in a four-star hotel, the Titania in Athens, for a few days at the beginning. We saw the sights of Athens and made a one-day trip by bus to Delphi to consult the oracle and see the spectacular natural site with its temples sacred to Apollo. Then we headed to the port of Piraeus to board our ship, a two-year old vessel newly equipped to hold just 40 passengers. Since there were 38 enrolled in our group, the Elderhostelers were the only passengers. Seeing the Mediterranean on such a small craft, with all the luxuries of fine dining aboard, was part of the fun for us. We found that we could get to know our class members on this intimate cruise.

The usual Cyclades islands visit includes such sites as Paros, Mykonos, Delos, Santorini, and others. We did visit all those, and several other islands as well. (In all, we stopped, sometimes only briefly, at nine islands.) Typically, we would travel by sea at night and tie up to a dock in the early morning hours. Usually, on the larger islands, we would travel on the island by bus, for part of the day. Our first island was Sifnos, one of the

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A DELUXE ELDERHOSTEL: A WEEK IN THE GREEK ISLANDS

By Ed Hungerford

less visited. Since holiday celebrations for Greek Independence Day turned out great crowds in local villages, we witnessed parades and the marching bands of school children. (No military stuff for these island marching groups.)

Ashore in Small Boats We next went to Santorini, where the ship must tie up at anchor while passengers are taken off to shore in small boats. As many travelers already know, the harbor at very touristy Santorini consists of the watery crater made from an explosion of a volcano at least as large as Oregon's Mount Mazama which created Crater Lake. When this happened, about 1500 B.C., it destroyed the Minoan settlements not only on Santorini, but also the resulting tsunami wiped out palaces and settlements on Crete, the center of Minoan civilization.

Tourists now take a funicular up the high cliffs to Fira, the main island town, and a walking tour begins there. Nearly all buildings have white surfaces, with

bright blue trim, or roofs. The effect is all of bright sunlight. We happened to arrive on a Sunday morning, so not many shops were open until mid-morning. Then we were bussed to a lower spot on the island for a gourmet lunch with wine.

From Santorini, the ship took us to three close-together islands, Mykonos, Paros, and Delos. Mykonos used to be, and still is (we are told) full of night life, discos and restaurants; but more recently the island of Paros has taken the 20 to 35-year-old set by storm. While those who frequent the nightlife spots, in the villages of Parikia and Naoussa on Paros, our "class" of 38 persons arrived about 8:00 a.m. when all the celebrators were sound asleep and the shops were not even yet open. There are marble quarries on Paros, which we saw from our tour bus (the famed Parian marble of temples on the Acropolis in Athens come from here).

The highlight of the trip, if you think in terms of ancient Greece and its famed

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ruins, was the holy island of Delos, the birthplace of Apollo. Being sacred to Apollo makes for restrictions—no deaths or births can take place there now, and no travelers are allowed to stay overnight. The only permanent occupants are a few caretakers for ruined temples and a small number of museum attendants. The ruins are very extensive, spread over perhaps several hundreds of acres, with lots of walking for the tourist. Fields and fields of colorful wildflowers were in bloom. Since there are no residences, nor any villages, you feel somewhat awed by the natural scene itself—great purity and nobility of landscape.

With brief visits to Syros and Kea on the way home to Piraeus and Athens, the ship docked for our final evening, with a gala dinner, dancing and entertainment on ship-board. Even the captain and some of the crew danced. In all, this was a most memorable and enjoyable trip.▲

LOSSES

With sadness we record the recent deaths of six members of the campus community. Full obituary notices are posted under "News" on the Emeritus web-site: emeritus.sou.edu.

Ron Green (Theatre Arts). Ron died May 15, 2006, in Williamsburg, Virginia. He earned his Ph D from Wayne State University and at SOSC served as Theatre Arts' first department chair from 1979-86. He specialized in creating education programs for the U. S. Army, in which he served for 32 years.

Chet Squire (Education). Chet died May 26, 2006 at the age of 95. Following service in the Army Air Corp in WWII, Chet became principal of Briscoe School. Upon completing of a doctorate at the University of Oregon in 1962 he became a professor in the School of Education at SOC. He retired from the College in 1976 but remained active in education for 10 more years.

Ann Thomas (Journalism) Ann died July 6, 2006 at the age of 73. Working as a journalist most of her life, she served as SOSC's News Services Director and taught journalism courses. While in Ashland she was also Arts and Entertainment editor for the Ashland Daily Tidings (1986-90). While working for the Springfield News she was named Oregon Press Women's Communicator of Achievement in 1998.

Emily Hexter (Center for Shakespeare Studies) Emily, a 15 year resident of Ashland, died July 9, 2006 at the age of 72. A life-long learner and a lover of all the arts, but particularly of theater and literature, she was retired from her position as assistant to the director of Shakespeare Studies at SOU. While at the University she was indispensable in forging positive ties with the Oregon Shakespeare Festival as well as being a remarkable ambassador of good will for the University.

Barbara Rosentreter (English) Barbara died August 6, 2006 at the age of 82. With husband Fred (History) Barbara came to SOC in 1961. While at the College she taught for the English department, both in Ashland and in Klamath Falls (extension courses). Twice she and Fred served as exchange professors at Dankook University in Seoul, Korea. They also traveled extensively throughout Asia, Europe, Central America, and the former Soviet Union. She was highly esteemed by friends and colleagues.

Karen Merchant (PE) Karen Merchant, 63, of Grants Pass, Oregon died September 16, 2006. Wife of Emeritus Professor Jerrold Merchant (Communication), Karen earned a Masters degree from USC, and from 1969 until 1979 she worked for SOSC as an instructor in Physical Education and dance. From 1981 until 1991 she worked for Lutheran Brotherhood Financial Services in Grants Pass. ▲

New Scholarships Established

Two new scholarships have recently been established, the first funded by Ashland's Rotary Club and the second created by the children of Peggy and Ron Nitsos.

The Rotarians are honoring Bob and Mollie Bennett by naming a scholarship after them in recognition of the Bennett's long-time support of International students. An annual award will go to an upper division student pursuing International Studies at SOU.

Peggy Nitsos' children, Robert and Athene, have pledged \$25,000 over five years to fund an endowed scholarship in Peggy's memory. They are actively soliciting support for the scholarship and would welcome help. One of Peggy's dreams was to have at her disposal a fund to help students in need. The scholarship will go to a student who demonstrates need, worthiness and a potential to succeed. ▲

PAUL ADAMIAN AND OREGON'S LOYALTY OATH

This is the second of two articles I wrote examining the turmoil at Southern Oregon College in 1965-66. A longer version of both articles, entitled "The Faculty Revolt of 1965," is posted on the Emeritus Website: emeritus.sou.edu., under "Emeritus News" The sources to which I am indebted are also listed there. —Jim Dean, Editor

When Paul Adamian arrived at SOC in 1965 as an assistant professor of English, he seemed a positive addition to the Faculty. As Bob DeVoe remembers, "He was personally an attractive and vivacious man, obviously intelligent and socially adept." Initially Bob was an Adamian supporter, admiring him for his principled refusal to sign the State's mandated loyalty oath. (Any teacher in the state system not signing would not be paid his salary). Bob's opinion of Adamian gradually changed as the turmoil surrounding him intensified and he was perceived as being a loose cannon—someone who thrived on confrontation and discord.

Hal Cloer recalls that three faculty members refused to sign the oath, but apparently two reconsidered. Adamian did not, and when President Stevenson and Dean McGill pressured him to sign, he resisted. He also antagonized the Administration by his strident opposition to the Mosser teaching awards and by agreeing to serve as faculty advisor for a new student group, the Committee for Social Action.

Vaughan Bornet remembers one incident in Churchill Hall, when Elmo threatened Adamian. "I'm going to punch you in the nose," he yelled." However, Adamian was not easily cowed. He complained to the state chairman of the American Association of University Professors that his academic freedom was being abridged. This act led to a notice of termination from the Administration. Predictably, he appealed his firing to the AAUP. After considering his request, the AAUP forwarded his letter to the American Civil Liberties Union. The ACLU recommended that the services of the ACLU of Oregon be made available to him, though he accepted a position as lecturer at the University of Nevada, Reno before a hearing could be held.

Remembering a Mess

Art Kreisman had just returned from a sabbatical leave in January of 1966 when he found "the Adamian mess in my Bailiwick." At first Art was sympathetic to Adamian, believing that the loyalty oath was a bad piece of public policy. He arranged a meeting between Stevenson and Adamian, and at the meeting's conclusion the President agreed to withdraw the termination if Adamian would agree not to complain to "off-campus organizations such as ACLU and AAUP." The two shook hands. "A week later, Adamian violated the agreement by going to the ACLU again. Stevenson reinstated the dismissal, and I could only concur with him."

An Investigative Committee and a Termination

At one point, on campus, Larry Butler, head of the local chapter of AAUP (about 30 strong), attempted to assemble a committee to ascertain facts about the "touchy" relationship between Adamian and the Administration. Apparently Butler had difficulty finding people to serve. When it became clear that no one in the Social Sciences would serve, Vaughan Bornet said, "If nobody else will do it, I will." Vaughan did not know Adamian personally, but thought he deserved a hearing. He was not aware that the "radical" Adamian was despised by Dean of Faculty McGill and had lost the support of Kreisman.

Vaughan's willingness to serve apparently did not make him popular with the Administration, and in late June he himself received a letter of termination. He does not speculate about whether his willingness to serve on a board of inquiry lay behind his dismissal, but it seems reasonable to assume that it was a contributing factor. Sixteen weeks later he finally took his grievance to the Chancellor's office, testifying to the unfairness of his dismissal. He subsequently received an abject apology from Stevenson, saying that he had reconsidered his earlier termination letter. "I see no 'grounds nor reason to adhere to the provisions of my letter to you dated June 28, 1966. . . . I wish to ask your forgiveness for the emotional disturbances and disrupted relationships which have inconvenienced and plagued you."

Behind the Scenes

Hal Cloer was perhaps more aware than any faculty member of the connections between Adamian, the ACLU, and the demise of the loyalty oath. Adamian approached Hal and asked if he would be willing to contact the ACLU of Oregon (Hal was a member) and see if it would help him keep his job. ACLU's Board met and decided to take on the case. Hal himself sought counsel from Eric Allen, editor of the Medford Mail Tribune. Allen suggested that he contact Ed Branchfield, an influential local attorney, as well as "head

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