

DON LEWIS AND MARY CHRISTLIEB—BROTHER AND SISTER TEAM

By Ed Hungerford

Important to the working team under Elmo Stevenson during his 23-year term of office as President of SOC and SOSC, from 1946 on, were the brother and sister deans, Don Lewis, Dean of Administration, and Mary Christlieb, who eventually became Dean of Women and later Dean of Students. We imagine that the rather unusual feature of a brother-sister act in colleges and universities occurs rarely, but it is a fact in the early life of SOU. By a historian's estimate, surely Don Lewis contributed essential knowledge and competence to the working of the Stevenson administration, as well as to that of President James Sours from 1969 to 1978. Natale Sicuro was President at the time Don retired, in 1982.

When Stevenson went to the legislature, where he argued for and received authority to build buildings and was given his budget in the Oregon state system, he frequently rode with Don Lewis on the way; but Lewis as Dean of Administration—the earlier title was Business Manager—saw the orders carried out, dealt with the contractors and held the reins as the financial watchdog who got things done on time. Under Don Lewis, 27 buildings were built on the campus. Only two academic structures existed in 1947 when he arrived as an instructor of business.

Mary Lewis Christlieb was employed at Southern a few months earlier than Don. She came originally as a secretary to the business manager before Don was on the faculty. She then left for a few years to teach business subjects at Ashland high school and to start a family. She returned when

Stevenson asked her to teach typing, shorthand, and other subjects in the business department at what was then Southern Oregon College of Education. She stayed for a career of 26 years, becoming Dean of Women, and then Dean of Students. In this position, she supervised dormitory programs, the Student Union and student activities, academic advising services, the Student Health Center, and a dozen other areas of campus life.

A Sea Change in Students

As mentioned in an article about her retirement in the Ashland Tidings, students of the '50s were conformists. The college operated on a system with dorm closing hours, dress codes, proms and strict rules regarding many forms of behavior. The system was known as "in loco parentis," using the authority of the college to replace parental authority. This was replaced in the 1960s by a period of rapid change involving much of American society--influenced by the civil rights movement, and with Viet Nam as a catalyst for occasional student demonstrations. Students demanded more say in college governance.

And they eventually evolved more democratic ways of governance with greatly increased freedoms.

The late 60s and early 70s set the stage for a memorable confrontation between students and Administration, with marches and demonstrations. During the "Kent State killings," when campuses across the country erupted, SOSC students pitched tents on the lawn and requested that the flag be flown at half-mast. President James Sours, diplomatically, negotiated with the students for some hours before---

Mary recalls this--a large, authoritative janitor came out and efficiently ran the flag down for the night and walked away. Nobody seemed to be ready for this, and the crowd gradually dispersed.

Mary also recalls that on the earlier student-faculty march from the Plaza downtown up Siskiyou Boulevard, while Dean of Men Bob Bennett and a few professors marched with the students, she drove her white station wagon alongside, for protection. So-called rednecks also drove by in their pickups with guns mounted conspicuously inside the cab. The feelings were tense, and intense.

During the 36 years that Don served at SOC, SOCE, and SOSC, he guided the financial affairs of the school. Mary Christlieb, for many of the same years, oversaw many student services other than the strictly academic.

Pres. Stevenson, A Mentor

As Don says, Stevenson was a guide and mentor to him. Don liked working with Elmo because Elmo was a "people person," always in the midst of and effective with other people in the community. He feels also similar admiration for James Sours but admits he did not always enjoy working with President Natale Sicuro. Mary agrees with Don about working for Stevenson and Sours--has very pleasant memories.

Don thinks that college presidents have many of the same talents as politicians. On the other hand, a business and financial administrator has different talents--but (I would argue) such talents are equally important for

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A DREAM LONG DEFERRED— A UNIVERSITY ARBORETUM

Frank Lang, Emeritus Professor of Biology and author of *Nature Notes*, has learned that “Patience” is the primary virtue needed during a long campaign to create an arboretum on Southern’s campus. Back in the late 1960s, he and Ray Godfrey, a plant-loving student, conceived the idea of having a college native plant collection to complement the native trees and shrubs that Dr Irene Hollenbeck had planted around Science Unit I. Frank also credits Ron Nitsos for strong and unwavering support for the idea following his arrival at SOC. Now, more than thirty-five years later, both are heartened by recent activity that seems destined, finally, to bring an early dream to fruition.

Arboretum grading and contouring are finally taking place on four acres owned by the University in Roca Canyon above the Science building. Plans call for ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) accessible trails through the property leading to collections of trees and shrubs that characterize the rich flora of the State of Jefferson.

The collections will be organized around the major soil types found in the region: serpentine (characteristic of the Kalmiopsis Wilderness), granodiorite (Mt. Ashland) and soils derived from volcanic and other sedimentary rocks

(Cascades, Dutchman Butte). The existing natives like the large redwood, Douglas fir, and incense cedars will remain.

University President Elisabeth Zinser, a proponent of the arboretum who helped create arboreta at the Universities of Idaho and Kentucky, envisions the arboretum developing in phases: planning, site preparation, trails, planting and eventually a building. Planning of the first phases is nearly complete. Some recontouring, planting, and weed and junk removal has been completed. The next major activity will be trail construction this summer. An entry plaza with memorial bricks is being considered, as are memorial benches and sitting areas. Eventually a modest arboretum building with an office, meeting room and workspace will be constructed.

Frank admits that the project has had more than its share of starts and stops as university plans waxed and waned. First, there was the perimeter road with its chilling plant in Roca Canyon. That didn’t happen, but the Roca Canyon Property was purchased in the 60s. Retirees with long institutional memories may recall the 40-acre plot in the hills south of campus (the “Perozzi” property) that provided a field study area for biology students and was the

de facto University arboretum. This use ended when the property became a liability as more and more private homes were built around it.

The university agreed to help finance the Roca Canyon site as an outdoor study area and arboretum when Perozzi acres sold. It did for \$800,000. \$500,000 went to the new library, \$250,000 to build the arboretum.

A presidential committee oversees arboretum development. Members include Stewart Janes (chair), Frank Lang (convener), Steve Jessup, Ron Nitsos, Blair Moody (Foundation), Karen Stone, Joe Graf, John Roden, Bruce Moats, David West, Michael Parker, Eric Dittmer, Skip King, several students, most notably Lucetta Nelson (EE) and Greg Covey, our landscape architect.

Frank hopes that the arboretum will not only be an asset to biology and other departments but will also serve the entire campus and the community of Ashland as a quiet refuge for study and contemplation. The view of Grizzly and the Cascades across the Bear Creek valley is a sight to behold. And just in case you are interested, an account has been established with the SOU foundation for arboretum supporters. The \$250,000 will just get it started. ▲

MEMBERSHIP CHANGES AHEAD?

At the behest of the Emeritus Council, Neil Kunze, Ron Bolstad, and Ernie Ettlich have been studying the issue of expanding the Association’s membership. Prompting their work is knowledge that many other Northwest retirement associations grant membership to all retired faculty and staff.

After discussing issues raised at its January meeting, council members asked Ron, Neil, Ernie, and Herman Schmeling to prepare recommendations. These will be presented for a vote of the Association’s members at the Spring Presidential Reception. Questions to be answered will likely be these:

1. How many years of full-time service at the University should be required for membership?
2. Should membership be extended to retirees of other colleges and universities?
3. Has the time come to levy modest membership dues to defray costs of supporting the Association’s activities.

Proposed changes to the Association’s By-Laws will be posted on the Emeritus Web Site and distributed to members prior to the Spring Reception. ▲

Christlieb *cont. from page 1*

getting the work of education done. The academic side of the enterprise is more frequently recognized, but the business-financial side has to provide a stable foundation for the faculty to function effectively.

A Building Boom

When the college expanded very rapidly, from the 56-student low in 1946 to 500 and then to 2000 in a short period of 10 or 11 years, new buildings were needed immediately. The central part of the campus emerged in the 40s and the 50s: 1948, Susanne Homes Hall; 1949, Central Hall, classrooms and library; 1952, Susanne Homes Addition; 1955, New Gymnasium (McNeil Pavilion); 1955 Central Heating Plant and campus-wide tunnels; 1958 Science Building; 1958, Siskiyou Hall; and 1958, Siskiyou Commons.

The next set of buildings would take the campus from 2500 to 4,000 students almost as rapidly: in the 1960s and early 1970s --the nine-building Cascade Dormitory complex; Taylor Hall (before 1965), new Library Building, Theatre Building, Music Building, Education Building, Stevenson Union, Health Center, and four units of the Greensprings Dormitories.

All these buildings had to be first approved by the State Board of Higher Education, including those actually financed from student fees, such as the dormitories. (No state funds are used to build dorms; generally the dollars come from sale of bonds, which are paid off by student rental of the dormitory rooms.) Then somebody, in this case Don Lewis, had to follow up by employing architects, getting bids, and following the construction on a day-to-day basis. The present campus is, with exception of the Hannon Library, the Schneider Museum of Art, the Computer Services Buildings, and the new Center for the Visual Arts, the result of Don Lewis' supervision. ▲

ASKING YOUR ADVICE

The Emeritus Council is looking into the possibility of establishing an informal resource center, or "support group," to serve retirees who sometimes find themselves in need of assistance. Our beginning point is to seek advice from those who best know the challenges many seniors face: Emeriti faculty and partners.

We plan not to duplicate services already provided by Senior Services. Rather we are interested in identifying areas where gaps may exist. Services provided could be such things as the following: visiting colleagues in nursing homes and hospitals; maintaining a list of yard caretakers, house keepers, and handymen

willing to work for those whose health no longer permits strenuous activity; providing information about county-wide resources available to retirees; calling colleagues on a regular basis, to check on their well being; and providing transportation to activities and medical appointments for those no longer able to drive.

Thom Jones (e-mail: Tjones@sou.edu; Telephone: (541) 482-4604) and Jim Dean (e-mail: deanjld@charter.net; Telephone: (541) 482-9356) have volunteered to collect suggestions and bring recommendations to the Emeritus Council. ▲



LOSSES

With sadness we note the deaths of three long-time emeritus faculty members: Rod Stevens, Frank Bedogne, and Oscar Bjorle.

Rod died November 2, 2005 at the age of 75. Prior to becoming director of the physical plant in 1976, he served in the U. S. Army Corps of engineers for 20 years.

Frank Bedogne, emeritus professor of art, passed away on January 23, 2006 at the age of 82. Prior to coming to SOC in 1964 he taught in public schools in Colorado, California, and Pennsylvania and at the university level in Illinois, Michigan, and Oregon. At SOC he taught art until his retirement in 1986.

Oscar Bjorle, emeritus professor of music, died January 24, 2006, having reached his 93rd year. Oscar began at SOC in 1949. In addition to teaching music theory and music appreciation, he served as choral director for the department of music. He also played cello in the Rogue Valley Symphony and tuba in Ashland's City Band.

Full obituary notices have been posted on the Emeritus Web-site: <http://www.emeritus.sou.edu>. ▲



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Ashland, Oregon 97520

WINTER LUNCHEON SET FOR MARCH 3

The Emeritus Association is pleased to have Professor Greg Jones of the geography department as featured speaker for Winter Term's Emeritus Luncheon. The event will be held March 3, 2006 in the Rogue River Room, Stevenson Union. There will be a brief social time, beginning at 11:30 a.m., with lunch following at 11:45.

Professor Jones, whose speech is entitled "The History and Future of the Southern Oregon Wine Industry," is much in demand as a speaker. His talk to emeriti and partners is one of seven he is scheduled to present in March.

Greg is a research climatologist with expertise in how climate change and variability affect natural ecosystems and agriculture. His Ph D is from the University of Virginia in Environmental Sciences, with a concentration in the Atmospheric Sciences. His dissertation was on the climatology of viticulture in Bordeaux, France with a focus on the spatial differences in grapevine phenology, grape composition and yield, and the resulting wine quality.

He conducts applied research for the grape and wine industry in Oregon and has given hundreds of international,

national, and regional presentations on wine related research. He has also written numerous book chapters, reports, and articles on climate change, wine economics, grapevine phenology, and site assessment methods for viticulture.

Cost of the luncheon is \$10 per person. Reservations for the event need to reach Jeanne Stallman by Feb 27. E-mail (preferred) stallman@sou.edu; Telephone (541) 552-6699; or use the Update and Reservation Form on the Emeritus Web Site: <http://emeritus.sou.edu>. ▲

You Are Invited To
The Emeritus Winter Term Luncheon
Featuring **Professor Greg Jones**,
Speaking On
*"The History and Future of
the Southern Oregon Wine Industry"*

11:30 a.m. March 3, 2006
Rogue River Room, Stevenson Union
\$10 per person

RSVP to Jeanne Stallman by Feb. 27

E-mail (preferred): stallman@sou.edu
Telephone: (541) 552-6699

Or use the Update and Reservation Form on the
Emeritus Web Site: <http://emeritus.sou.edu>

BREIF NEWS NOTES

Neil Kunze has been named Chair-Elect of Ashland Community Hospital's Board of Directors. His two year term of office will begin July 2007.

Herman and Sylvia Schmeling escaped the Rogue Valley's late January and early February's rain and fog by spending two sunny weeks in Hawaii.

Wes and Karen Chapman recently spent two weeks in London visiting their daughter and son-in-law, Kelly and David Aaron, and grandson Nicholas. The Aarons will be in England for two years.

In late October, Michael Smith, Student Body President of SOC in the late 60s, showed his appreciation of some of his former professors by treating them to a nice dinner in Ashland. Joining Michael were Doug Legg, Don Reynolds, Bob Casebeer, and Ron Taylor.