

KAREN SHAFER

Recollections: The Speech and Theater Departments

I learned early in my career at SOC that cohesive groups work AND play together. About the second week of class in the fall of 1968 I heard a commotion out in the hall of Winburn, the condemned former dormitory which was once the Ashland Hospital and now the home of the speech and theatre department. Looking down the hall I saw Jerry Sword and John Anderson moving furniture out of Richard Kaough's office. Shortly, before 2:00, Kaough came across the parking lot from Taylor with an entourage of students from his 1:00 speech class. They came up the stairs to his second floor office and waited for Richard to unlock his door.

I couldn't see Kaough's face from my doorway but I heard the laughter. He had opened his office to find his black AT&T telephone sitting on the floor in the middle of the room—that was all there was! I don't know what the students thought of this august speech instructor, but surely they knew we were a jovial bunch.

I believe it was Dorothy Stolp who told me about the time Dean of Students Al Fellers and the Ashland Police came to the parking lot between Taylor and Windburn. Someone had noticed that a male student was sitting in the driver's seat of a car talking to himself and fondling a gun. When the officials approached and asked the student if something was wrong, he just replied, "No, I'm just practicing my speech. I have to give it in a half an hour."

Ed Fitzpatrick, theatre colleague during the 1970's, indicated that Dr. Taylor used to raise the ire of Elmo Stevenson by

talking loudly to anyone except President Stevenson when walking down the hall in Churchill. He would say loudly, "I wonder if Elmo knows that?!" Taylor never would disclose the secret—probably because there wasn't one.

When the Speech and Theatre department moved to the basement of Central Hall, I noticed that colleagues, Tom Pyle, Richard Kaough, Jerry Merchant and Tim Williams were dedicated campus planners. From time to time-- especially on nice sunny winter afternoons--each instructor would place a note on his door stating that he had a curriculum meeting and would be gone for the rest of the day. Later that spring I learned that the meetings took place on Mount Ashland. I always wondered why the four had rosy faces the next time I saw any of them.

Someone should ask Ernie Ettlich about the time his speech student demonstrated wok cooking. The demonstration scorched the tile floor in Central 026 and set off the fire alarm. Fortunately, it was a nice day for a fire drill.▲

The Retirees Association's Spring Term Luncheon

FREE LUNCH*

May 11, 2009

11:30 am-1:30 pm

Rogue River Room

**With SOU President Mary Cullinan
& Provost Jim Klein**

The New SOU: Handling the Present and
Planning for the Future

RSVP to Sally Klein by Monday

May 4, 2009

Email (preferred): kleins@sou.edu

Or Telephone: 541-552-6049

* scholarship fund donations welcome

HOW FRIENDS HELP THE UNIVERSITY

By Jim Dean and Herman Schmeling

During difficult fiscal times retirees are sometimes moved to wonder how they can help the University. One worthy possibility: support the Hannon Library by becoming a member of Friends of Hannon Library. While it is something of an overstatement to suggest that a university is simply a library surrounded by other buildings, a library is indispensably at the heart of what a university is all about.

Oregon's current economic difficulties have been, and are, adversely affecting the operation of the Library. According to Connie Anderson-Cohon, Reference Services Coordinator, the Library's budget has gone down continuously for the last five years, and during two of those years there was no money at all for books. Support by the Friends enables the library to purchase badly needed books, especially costly reference books that enhance the general collection. Connie reminds us that money from the Friends also supports the growth of special collections like the Margery Bailey collection of Shakespeare material.

Despite the famous admonition found in Ecclesiastes 12:12: ("And further, by these, my son be admonished: of making many books there is no end, and much study is a weariness of the flesh.") many retired faculty members cheerfully confess that they have studied much and are lovers of books, and by extension, of libraries. Translating that love into support at this time is one concrete way of demonstrating a continuing commitment to education.

Even those who leave the University with a jaundiced view of academic life often retain an affection for the libraries they have nearly lived in, and helped to build. While interdepartmental bickering, fiscal folly, and bureaucratic bumbling can wear away the spirit over decades, librar-

ies have a way of reminding us of what really matters in education. One of the most important perks given to retiring faculty members is continued use of the Library.

Friends of the Library arose out of discussions among University librarians, faculty members, and area citizens in 1974. Its purpose is threefold: to foster beneficial relations between the Southern Oregon University Library and residents of the region it serves; to assist in the growth and development of the Library's resources and services; and to provide for all interested persons an active forum for the discussion of books and ideas.

Over the years the University Community and those to whom the life of the mind remains a vital concern have benefited from hearing outstanding speakers. The Friends' lecture series is the longest running program series on campus and has featured such luminaries as Mark Hatfield, Angus Bowmer, and John Frohmayer. A January 2009 program was the William Stafford Poetry Event, during which local poets helped celebrate Stafford's contribution to poetry writing as well as reading original work of their own. The Annual Friends Benefit Event, on May 18, 2009 will highlight Claudia Alick, the director of the Green Show at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival.▲

For information about Membership go to www.library@sou.edu and click on "Become a Friend." You can also call the Library's Administrative Assistant for further information: (541) 552-6835

A Word From Your Next Newsletter Editor!

By Carol McNair

I volunteered to be the new editor of our newsletter because I knew that many of you were doing interesting things and would be willing to tell others about them. Some of you already know you can write and others of you only need to have it pointed out to you. And I have your names and email addresses and phone numbers, so I can point it out to you!

Here are some suggestions for topics:

- The Most Interesting/Worthiest/Silliest/Funniest/(insert appropriate adjective here) Thing I Have Done Since I Retired
- A Good Book I Would Like to Recommend
- My Favorite Charity
- An Interesting Anecdote from a Trip

You get the idea: anything that might be of interest to others in the retiree's association.

We always told students that the length of the paper should be dictated by the subject and then they always asked, but how long do you want it, really. So think in terms of anything from a one-liner to a couple of sentences to at most a page or two double spaced.

The important thing is to get your contribution in early, before I start calling up and assigning subjects! Starting now, you have through the summer before the next newsletter in the fall. You can send your submissions to kcmcnair@mind.net.

Thank You!

Losses

Robert (Bob) Alston Memorial Art Show

Earlier this year we lost an important member of the artist community here in the Rogue Valley with the passing of Robert Alston. In celebration of his life the Schneider Museum of Art will be mounting an installation of his artwork along with thoughts and stories of his life by Emeritus and Current Art Faculty. This exhibition, "Robert Alston Remembered," will open April 16th (reception 5-7 PM) along with two other exhibitions: "The Southern Oregon University Art Faculty Show" and "40 Years Our Sister: Selections from the Universidad de Guanajuato." The exhibition will run from April 16 to June 20, 2009.



Remembering D'Anne Rilea Ghea

By Bev Delazerda

My first job at Southern Oregon College of Education was with the Music Department. Since this was my major, it fit right into what I wanted to be when I grew up! Good choice on my part.

One of the duties of the position I held at that time was to deliver mail to the mail room. I learned from those around me this would be the least favorite of any of the multiple tasks assigned to this position. No one wanted to go to the mail room due to the person in charge - D'Anne Rilea. She was said to be cantankerous and yelled at all who entered her domain! As can be understandable, I was very apprehensive about approaching the mail room. When I first entered the mail room, I encountered a very gruff voice demanding to know what it was I wanted and to be quick about it.

I introduced myself to D'Anne and explained my problem to her and that I had no clue as to how to perform mail duty and could she help me. I

really didn't know what to expect. What I found was not the ogre I was told to expect, but a very helpful, caring person. She showed me how to accomplish my task, what she needed, and when she would need it in order to be on time. After that first encounter, D'Anne and I established a wonderful friendship lasting until she passed away on January 3 of this year.

I found most people were turned off by her no nonsense approach to her job - which she took extremely seriously. She also had the rules and regulations of the Post Office to consider. Most people were turned off by this approach. She also rode a motorcycle to work which did not help her image.

We found we both had a love of reading books, and it was a race to see who had the most books from a particular author. I must admit she usually won! We would trade or loan books of interest to each other. D'Anne also introduced me several kitchen gadgets to help make my life easier.

We supported each other through thick and thin during some difficult times for both us. I was very excited and happy for D'Anne when she met her husband, Herman Ghea, and moved to Grants Pass. My only problem with this move was she insisted on still riding her motorcycle to and from work in order to save a few dollars. After a near tragic accident in the snow, she finally agreed to drive a car to work although she felt it was a defeat to do so!

Through the years, D'Anne suffered from cancer but was able to bounce back and enjoy life with her husband until he passed away a couple of years ago. I know they are together now and having a great time. I will miss her here on earth but take solace in the fact she is happy and probably back to reading books and riding her cherished motorcycle!▲

UPDATE ON ENDOWMENT SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS

By Ernie Ettlich

For the past seven months, the retirees' association has tried to get an accurate accounting of the scholarship endowment funds established to honor retired SOU faculty and staff. We all knew of a number of attempts to establish such endowment funds and we wanted to find out what was happening with those funds. We thought many would be too small to support granting a scholarship and thought that perhaps their purpose could be realized by consolidating the small endowments into the larger scholarship endowment we have established as the Retirees Association Scholarship Fund.

All but just a small handful of these attempts over the years raised just a few hundred dollars, a few raising as much as one or two thousand dollars--much less than the \$15,000 to \$25,000 needed to fund an ongoing annual scholarship of \$500 to \$1,000. We found that the foundation did not actually establish an endowment unless a minimum contribution of about \$5,000 was received. The smaller funds were made available to departments for one-time scholarships or other related academic purposes and fully spent out.

The association has determined that the few existing endowments are awarding scholarships on a yearly basis or as sufficient earnings accumulate. As a result the association will not be exploring with donors the consolidation of existing small scholarship endowments into our general scholarship endowment. We will continue to work on enlarging that endowment from other sources, including our quarterly contributions at the retirees' luncheons.▲

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From Your President

Dear Retirees,

Thanks to those of you who have provided current information for our website Member Directory. If you haven't done so yet and would like to have retirees be able to locate you through the directory, just send along the demographics. We will do our best to keep information current.

Our council nominating committee is currently soliciting faculty to serve on the council. We have five positions available each year, with a balance of faculty and staff. If you have an interest in serving, please contact Ralph Fidler, Ernie Ettlich, Thom Jones or Bev De La Zerda. We intend to have a slate of candidates ready for your approval at the spring luncheon.

We had a solid turnout at our winter luncheon, with positive comments about the program and the food! Our spring luncheon will feature SOU President Mary Cullinan and Provost Jim Klein. Given the climate we are in, both academically and globally, the presentation will focus on planning processes in the midst of significant economic challenges. Sobering as this may be, it should be of interest to all of us.

Remember to donate to the scholarship fund when you sign in. We continue to build the Retirees Association Scholarship corpus, with donations at each luncheon totaling approximately \$600.

Regards,

John Engelhardt

Were You On Campus During The 60s and 70s?

Retirees who remember the College during the decades of the 60's and 70's may be interested in Dr. Vaughn Bornet's perspective and recollections of those years. His recent minibook, *Leaders and Issues at SOU, 1963-80*, will certainly bring back memories of colleagues, personalities, and events of the time. Available at the SOU Bookstore.▲

The Retiree's Scholarship fund is growing! Consider making a ten dollar (or more!) contribution at the May 11 luncheon. If you can't attend scholarship contributions are always welcome at the SOU foundation.▲