

THE ASSOCIATION OF PROFESSORS: Part II

Ed.'s Note: This is the second and concluding article about collective bargaining in the early years of the Association of Professors.

Questions of Affiliation

When AP: SOC came into existence in 1974, there was great interest in the matter of affiliation. Most simply, the question at hand was this: who could most effectively represent the interests of faculty members to the Oregon State System of Higher Education? Labor organizers from several unions urged faculty to affiliate with them. Primary among these were The American Federation of Teachers (AFT) and the National Education Association's affiliate, the Oregon Education Association (OEA). A few faculty members even favored throwing in with the Teamsters—in the early 1970s no union in the nation had more muscle.

As Rob Carey of English remembers it, initially there was a strong interest in achieving "clout" by bargaining collaboratively with other institutions, the presumption being that strength lay in numbers. The University of Oregon and Oregon State were not interested in unionizing, however, and collaboration never occurred. Western Oregon College and Portland State University's interests diverged from Southern Oregon's, so the College finally cast its lot with OEA. It did so despite some misgivings about how public school teachers and professors differed in attitudes about professionalism and governance

The relationship between the Association of Professors and OEA was not destined to flourish. Cecile Baril vividly remembers one crucial time when Association members went to Salem to lobby legislators and to testify before a legislative subcommittee. (Rob Carey remembers that the Union was represented at hearings by a young labor attorney named Kulongoski). Union members proposed adding language to a bill, and the addition must have struck legislators as surprising. According to Cecile, "We wanted binding arbitration that would come from our being legally unable to strike."

Unhappily, OEA could not understand the Association's position at all and worked behind the scenes to torpedo the

proposed language. Rep. Lenn Hannon, who initially appeared to support the Association's position, absented himself from the subcommittee vote, and the measure failed to obtain enough votes to get on the floor of the House. "It was a great betrayal," says Cecil. And when it became clear that the defeat was orchestrated by OEA, there was an abrupt rupture in affiliation. The Association chose to be non affiliated, and has remained so.

Two Bones of Contention

Dave Hoffman recalls that two issues loomed large when the Association first entered the collective bargaining arena: 1) Evaluation and Improvement of Instruction; and 2) Inclusion of Department Chairs in the Association's membership. According to Dave the Association's desire was to "focus on professional matters during bargaining sessions." In practical terms this meant devising procedures that would measure improvement in the quality of teaching rather than focus on the end product."

Not surprisingly, the Chancellor's Office found this intention heretical, fearing it would lessen the influence and authority of administrators. They would have preferred to focus on issues basic to the standard industrial model of bargaining: working conditions and fringe benefits.

The Association argued that professors themselves were best positioned to provide effective evaluation of their peers. They had the training, knowledge and experience in their discipline and in the classroom. The administrators above them, for the most part, lacked these things. Dave and Cecile co-authored a paper on "A Professional Model of Collective Bargaining" as it could be applied to college and university governance. They presented the paper to "The Society for the Study of Social Problems."

The Chancellor's Office and the Association were also at odds about whether department chairs should be in the bargaining unit. At a hearing before

the Oregon Labor Relations Board, the Chancellor's Office asserted that chairs had substantial administrative powers; the Union countered by saying that the relationship between chairs and colleagues was largely collegial. Chairs effectively had little power but were important in providing liaison between faculty members and the administration. After hearing testimony from chairs and listening to the arguments of the Chancellor's Office, the Board ruled in favor of the Association: chairs were allowed to remain members of the Union.

Thirty Years Later

It may reasonably be asked whether a long and often contentious bargaining process has yielded positive results. Certainly wages did not keep pace with those of comparator institutions, and the Chancellor's Office thwarted most salary and benefit initiatives by arguing that one size must fit all. They asserted that they could not possibly give Southern Oregon more money, or treat it differently than its sister institutions. For many years bargaining was a frustrating process, one too often characterized by confrontation and adversarial posturing.

By the mid 1990s, however, negotiations had become more like those originally envisioned by the Union's founders. Collaborative bargaining became the norm, with the Union and the College's administration working together to achieve the best results for the institution and its faculty. The Chancellor's Office ceased being the "heavy" at the table. Something very much like the Association's model for evaluation and improvement of instruction and professional development of faculty had taken hold on campus. Southern has established its uniqueness and secured recognition of this uniqueness in the public mind and the Oregon University system. As Dave Hoffman concludes, what the Association always wanted was "improvement in the quality of our work and our service to our students. This, I have always thought, was a worthy goal." ▲

LOSSES

Colleagues and friends were saddened to learn of the loss of Emeritus Professors **Julian Battaile** (Chemistry) on August 24, 2005 and **Jose Ferrer** (History) on September 24, 2005. (Fuller obituary notices are available on the Emeritus Website: <http://emeritus.sou.edu>).

Julain Battaile

Born in 1925, Julian was a native of Louisiana. He did PhD work in biochemistry at Oregon State University under Dave Loomis. While at Oregon State he met Connie Hopkins and they married in 1958. He joined the SOU chemistry department in 1962 and retired in 1987. Over the years he did post-doctoral research at UC Davis, ETH in Zurich, Switzerland, and the University of Hawaii.

Julian was a gifted teacher. In 1966 he was one of ten campus recipients of the Oregon Legislature's Mosser award for excellence in teaching, the only year it was awarded. A lifelong piano player, he hosted a small weekly jazz combo for over 20 years. After retiring he began writing short stories and hosted a writers' group from 1988 until his death, recently completing the score and lyrics for a musical. He had a strong interest in plants; he gardened actively and he and Connie performed field surveys for the Oregon Flora Project starting in 2000. They took responsibility for an ongoing botanical inventory of a 620 square mile area of southwestern Klamath County, where they collected and identified 670 species of plants.

Julian, who never smoked, died from progressive lung failure following treatment for lung cancer. He is survived by his wife, Connie, and sons Bennett of Portland and Gordon of Beaverton. Memorial contributions may be made to the SOU Chemistry Scholarship Fund. A memorial service was held Saturday, September 17, 2005 at the Ashland Community Center.

Jose Ferrer

Jose was born in Bahia Blanca, Buenos Aires, Argentina and raised on the family dairy. A precocious student, Jose was awarded a scholarship, enabling him to attend high school. Following graduation from high school he went to Spain.

In August of 1939 he began his university studies at Barcelona, where conditions were difficult because of the recently concluded Civil War. In 1940 he moved to Italy to continue his studies. Conditions there were also trying, but he persisted, earning a BA, MA, and PhD in Classical Languages and Literature and teaching these subjects until 1951, when he immigrated to the United States.

Jose and his wife, Betty, met in 1955 and were married shortly thereafter. He maintained that that's when his life really began. During this period he learned yet another language, English, and earned both Master's and Doctor's degrees in Latin American History at the University

About Translating...continued from one

We're both looking for works that are uniquely Chinese (that is, works that we think—because of setting, background, and content—could not have been written elsewhere), that are likely to enhance western readers' understanding of today's China, that (we hope) have some enduring literary value, and that will translate well into English. All of this means that we set aside some works that Chinese readers and critics have praised highly. We sometimes also stumble into translating writers whose works do not meet all of our criteria.

Once we've decided that a piece meets our criteria, we seek the writer's permission for translating and publishing. After we've received that permission, I translate the piece on the computer, interspersing the translated paragraphs with the Chinese original, so that Zeping can check the translation against the original. Once I'm satisfied that I've done my best, I e-mail it to Zeping. He translates my English back into the Chinese (in his head), and catches errors. Using MS Word's "comment" function, he suggests revisions and sends it back to me. His revisions often include English that is more idiomatic than mine. (Don't ask me how that happens!) Then I read through his suggested revisions, and incorporate almost all of them. At this stage, we may also e-mail back and forth to work out the wording of a particular line or passage.

Finally, I send the polished dual language version back to Zeping, and occasional-

ly he revises a bit more. If there's time, I let the translation sit for a few weeks, then return to it and make more stylistic changes, format it, and send it off to whatever publication I think is more or less likely to accept it.

Following his retirement in 1987 Jose and Betty moved to California to be near their daughters, grandchildren, and great grandchildren. A private memorial service will be held in the near future. Remembrances may be made to Hinds Hospice, c/o Bev Robinson, 1616 W. Shaw Suite C-1, Fresno, CA 93711. E-mail: bev@hindshospice.com. ▲

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The Challenges of Translating

The challenges are numerous. (That's one of the reasons I enjoy translating so much; I joke about it, but there's more than a grain of truth in my telling people that I do this partly as an Alzheimer's prophylactic.) Sometimes, a writer's sentence structure is so unconventional that it defeats my best efforts; Zeping pries sense out of such sentences. Allusions to the classics are fairly common in Chinese writing; I usually need help with those, as well as with the opposite—current street slang. Sometimes, dialogue is hard for me; again, if it is, Zeping fixes it. Sometimes cultural content escapes me (sigh—even *with* my background, even *with* all the time I've spent in China). In short, there's no way I'd try to translate on my own.

Maybe I should add that perhaps the biggest challenge of all is fitting the stories to the outlets. A lot of this is just pure luck. Frank Stewart, *Manoa's* editor, happened to like the first two stories I sent him (two by Alai) and that seems to have predisposed him to look at more of our work. Alai, some of whose poetry has been translated by Herbert Batt, told Batt of our work; Batt, in turn, asked us to contribute to *Manoa's* postmodern volume, which he was guest editing. ▲



Conferences/Senior Programs
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TOWN HALL MEETING TO FOLLOW Free Fall Term Luncheon

Associated Press writer Charles Beggs recently reported that "Former Governor Kitzhaber . . . scolded Oregon's politicians, saying that both Democrats and Republicans are 'skillfully evading the real questions of the day.' Officeholders are avoiding risk-taking and boldness, he said, and worrying mostly about the next election and the interest groups from which they will seek money."

If you're interested in learning whether Sen. Alan Bates (D-Ashland), Rep. Peter Buckley (D-Ashland), and a yet-to-be-named Republican agree with Kitzhaber's assessment, you should plan to attend the annual Emeritus Fall Luncheon Friday, Nov. 4, in the Rogue River Room, Stevenson Union. A social half hour begins at 11:30 a.m., followed by the luncheon at noon and the Town Hall meeting after lunch.

Acting on the presumption that non election year politics may be freer of partisanship, and less marked by posturing, the Emeritus Council has asked participants to speak briefly about the successes and failures of this past year's legislative session, with an emphasis on legislative processes. They have also agreed to answer several questions prepared for them in advance and posed by moderator Don Laws. During the final part of the meeting emeriti and partners in the audience will have an oppor-

tunity to ask questions of their own. So if you're not happy with the direction Oregon is going and have a yen to ask a tough question of a local politician, this is your chance.

The Issue of Partisanship

The Council's desire was to have representation from both the Republican and Democratic parties. To that end, invitations were tendered to Rep. Dennis Richardson (R-Central Point) and Sen. Jason Atkinson (R-Jacksonville). Unfortunately, Richardson has a competing obligation, while Atkinson, contemplating a run for the governor-ship, has been something of a will-o-the-wisp. Repeated calls to him have not been returned. So at press time we are still searching for a Republican.

The meeting should be a lively enlightening one. Please join us. ▲

Please Join Us For
The Annual Emeritus Fall Luncheon

Rogue River Room, Stevenson Union
Social Half Hour 11:30, Luncheon Noon

To be Followed by a
Town Hall Meeting

Featuring Peter Buckley, Alan Bates,
and a "Mystery" Republican
Moderated by Don Laws

To make reservations for yourself and your spouse,
Or a guest, please respond by Monday, Oct. 31
E-mail (preferred): stallman@sou.edu
Or telephone Jeanne at (541) 552-6699
Or use the Update and Reservation Form on the
Emeritus Web Site: <http://emeritus.sou.edu>

EMERITI ABROAD

Harold and Loretta Otness left in early October for a month-long stay in Taiwan. Loretta has family there, and Harold will be presenting a paper at an academic conference. His paper, bibliographic and historical in nature, stems from his long time interest in the influence of 19th century westerners on Taiwanese culture, particularly in the southern part of the island. He is particularly interested in cultural gaps resulting from the appearance of technology among indigenous people.

Bob Bleasdel recently returned to the Bahia region of eastern Brazil. He spends several months at a time there doing volunteer work in an orphanage. ▲

SOUTHERN OREGON UNIVERSITY
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The End of All That Jazz

During their careers many Emeritus faculty members knit strong ties with colleagues in other disciplines. These developed on the courts of McNeil Auditorium in “rat ball” games and on the links at Oak Knoll, as well as during the running of marathons, discussions of fiction in book groups, and eating of potluck dinners. Several bridge groups have a forty year history of play and sociability. Some poker games have an institution life as long as the faculty senate. One group not generally known to emeritus faculty was a “no-name” band consisting of Julian Battaile, Glenn Mathews, Bill Purdom, and Ken Larson.

With the deaths this past year of Julian and Glenn, the sounds of big band jazz that once filled the Battaile’s home every Monday evening have ceased. The group met at the Battaile’s because Julian had the piano. Glenn played the clarinet, Bill the trumpet, and Ken the saxophone.

Connie Battaile recalls the sessions fondly. “The gathered here to play as long as Bill’s lip lasted. (He is a truly extraordinary trumpet player.) After putting their instruments away they would settle around the table for a beer, crackers, cheese and wildly varied conversation.”

According to Ken Larson, the group played jazz of the old-fashioned kind. Bill Purdom wryly noted at the “Celebration of Julian’s Life” that if the band had had

a name, it would have been “the bad band.” They had no aspiration to play gigs beyond an occasional departmental party or potluck. Glenn tried to get his fellow musicians to perform at Mountain Meadows Retirement Center, but they politely declined.

Ken, Bill, and Julian even met during the course of Julian’s treatment for lung cancer, switching to pasteurized beer for Julian’s sake. They hoped to get together to play again, but Julian’s sudden decline made it impossible.

Good fellowship and the sheer pleasure of making music together and engaging in good conversation kept the group going for more than twenty years. “It’s sad that it is over,” Connie said. ▲

ON TRANSLATING by Karen Gernant

Editor Jim Dean’s Note: learning that Karen Gernant has enjoyed much success in publishing translations of contemporary Chinese literature, I asked her for a list of publications. The list, from 1999-2005 includes, has twenty-six entries (twenty-two published, four forthcoming). Subsequently I asked her to comment on the writers she and collaborator Chen Zeping have translated and tell us something about the process of translating itself. An abridged version of Karen’s response follows:

Some emeriti and current faculty will remember my friend and translation collaborator Chen Zeping, for he taught Chinese language and history at SOU in 1988-89, 1991-92, and the spring of 1995. He is professor of Chinese linguistics at Fujian Teachers’ University; his grounding in linguistics and in Chinese classical literature, as well as his excellent command of English, makes him an ideal co-translator. That we are friends is important to the process, too: I respect him and his depth of knowledge of both languages, and generally can readily see that his revisions improve my translations. We are both aiming for polished translations that capture the original texts’ content and tone in idiomatic, readable English.

The writers we’re translating are all highly respected in China, and some are also well-known in the west. Can Xue [a post modernist whose works are sometimes compared to Kafka’s; her “The Land of Peach Blossoms appeared in *Manoa* in 2003, while “*Scenes Inside the Ruined Walls*” appeared in *Conjunctions*, Fall of 2004] is an exception here: she is rarely reviewed in China. Alai is Tibetan (luckily he writes in Chinese)—not as prolific as some of the others, but what he writes is invariably good. [His “A Swarm of Bees Fluttering” and “The Yeren” both appeared in *Manoa* in 2001.]

Su Tong, two of whose short stories we’ve translated and published [“Death Without a Burial Place” and “That Sort of Person”] wrote the novella on which the movie “Raise the Red Lantern” was based. At least one of Bei Cun’s works has been adapted as a movie in China (also screened in the U.S.). [Karen and Zeping translated “A Long Day,

appearing in *turnrow*] He is also a screenwriter. Zhang Kangkang’s works [translations of “Zhima” and “Yanni’s Secret,” appeared in *Manoa*], always extremely well-received in China, are often rooted in her Cultural Revolution experience.

Zhu Wenying and Wei Wei belong to the younger generation of writers; one literary critic regards these two women as the best writers age 35 or younger. Our translations of one story by each [“Ephemeral Life” and “Old Zheng’s Woman”] are probably the first of their works to have appeared in English.

A Process That Works

Ultimately, of course, we are aiming for publication and audiences. We’ve come up with a process that appears to work. First, I read widely in Chinese literary magazines (usually monthly anthologies of stories chosen from dozens of established literary journals) and in both single-writer collections and book anthologies. I also read a lot of contemporary novels. Sometimes, Zeping suggests works that he has either read or seen reviews of, and I read those, too.

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