

SHARON JOHNSON TO SPEAK ABOUT "THE HEALING POWER OF LAUGHTER"

Popular Medford Mail Tribune columnist of "Healthy Aging" and Oregon State University Assistant Professor Sharon Johnson will be the featured speaker at the free Fall Term Retirees Association luncheon, Friday, October 19, 2007. Professor Johnson works out of the OSU Southern Oregon Research and Extension Center as a member of the Department of Human Development and Family Science. The topic of her speech, "The Healing Power of Laughter," should be of special interest to retirees obliged to cope with an

increasing number of medical maladies as they age.

Professor Johnson earned an MS in Rehabilitation Counseling at Minnesota State University. Prior to her appointment at OSU in May 2000 she was a recipient of a Bush Foundation Leadership Fellowship in the Executive Development Program, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York. She is currently responsible for developing community-empowering instructional programs in Jackson and Josephine Counties. From 1993-1999 she was Deputy Director for the Department

of Public Health, Seattle/King County, Washington where she had operational responsibility for countrywide public Health programs and initiatives.

The presentation should be lively and informative. We hope to see you in the Rogue River Room at the Student Union Friday, Oct. 19. Doors will open at 11:45, with lunch served at noon. RSVP by Monday, Oct. 15 to Sally Klein: kleins@sou.edu (preferred), or you may call 552-6049. You may also use the Emeritus Information Feature on the Emeritus Faculty Website: <http://emeritus.sou.edu>. ▲

Perks for Retirees: A Reminder

Retired faculty and staff members of SOU qualify for several perks, and the beginning of the Academic year seems a good time to remind retirees about them. Most are for faculty, but there are also some for staff retirees.

"Honors and privileges" for emeriti faculty listed in the Faculty Senate's Bylaws include these: listing in the University catalog; a mailing address at the University; an office (if available and requested); library privileges; participation in University functions; courtesy parking privileges (a second permit is available for \$17); admission privilege to scheduled events; and participation or membership on faculty committees.

Staff who retire with at least 10 years service are eligible for free parking privileges.

There are also some unofficial privileges. Both retired faculty and staff are welcome to use Cascade Dining (the student food

continued on page four...

Fall Term Luncheon

For Retirement Association Members

Friday, October 19, 2007

In the Rogue River Room of
Stevenson Union Building

To make reservations:

Email: kleins@sou.edu (preferred)

Telephone: 541 552-6049

Or Use the Emeritus Information Feature

On the Emeritus Faculty Website:

<http://emeritus.sou.edu>

Reservation Deadline:

Monday, October 15, 2007

Visiting With Emeriti Profs Bulkley, Bornet And Kreisman

By Jim Dean

They differ markedly, these three long enduring emeriti: Dan Bulkley, Vaughn Bornet, and Art Kreisman, now beginning their ninth decade, or about to. When I arrived at Southern Oregon College they were the old guard. Now they might be called Grand Old Men, or Elders of the Tribe.

When I visited each to interview them, I wasn't after a comprehensive account of the lives and achievements (these are manifold and ably documented elsewhere); I merely wanted a "snapshot" of them at this moment—wanted to learn what they most care about, best remember, find pleasure in. I forbore asking them the secret to their longevity, though Vaughn has delved into that subject in his *How I Have Clung to Health in Old Age: An Essay for Intimates*.

I discovered more common ground between them than I expected to.

Each greeted me with a strong handshake.

Each had enlisted in the military and served in World War II. Dan, in the OSS, was poised to parachute behind Japanese lines in Thailand (he grew up there, in a missionary family) to help organize a guerilla insurgency. Happily, the Japanese surrendered the day before the scheduled to jump. Vaughn entered the Navy as a yeoman first class assigned to Naval Intelligence; subsequently he was commissioned as an ensign and rose to the rank of lieutenant. He spent much of the war as Barracks Officer at the Alameda Naval Air Station, responsible for providing ever increasing numbers of barracks and other necessities for sailors headed to the south Pacific, and for those returning from there. Art enlisted in the Army, serving as a meteorologist in northern Canada, beyond Hudson Bay on Melville Island. At one time he was detached from his unit and took part in a top-secret operation in the European theater.

I discovered that all three had excelled in some area of athletics. Vaughn was a champion weight-lifter and while in the service set a unit record in the obstacle course. Art was a sprinter, football player, and boxer (he boxed at 155 lbs., winning the twelve bouts he fought and earning \$25 for each, a sum which enabled him to pay for College expenses

while at Brigham Young University). Dan was a tennis player, track star, and all-conference end in football at Pomona College (he weighed 135 lbs. then, and still weighs it).

All enjoy sustaining relationships with their wives. Dan is pleased by the enthusiastic support Marjorie has given him during his athletic competitions. And she is happy to be able to travel with him to local, national, and international competitions. Art credits Mamie with saving his life after his second major heart attack this past summer. She rushed him to a hospital and resisted all attempts to put him in a nursing facility, preferring to care for him herself upon his release. His recovery from the attack has been remarkable. Vaughn proudly showed me a picture of Beth as a beautiful young woman, then told me how unhappy she had initially been at the prospect of coming to Ashland, believing it would be like returning to Susanville, California, her hometown.

All three impressed me by their enthusiasm. Dan was understatedly modest about his athletic prowess (he began competing in Masters Track and Field events at age 70), but it was soon clear that his love of sports is profound. It was equally clear that Vaughn saw the books in his study as cherished friends. If he has become forgetful in recent years, I saw no sign of it. He has a prodigious and accurate memory and is frank in expressing his beliefs, as befits an "independent scholar." Art is the most ebullient and optimistic of the three, hardly surprising given his embrace of Emersonian Transcendentalism (he is proud of the pivotal role he played in forming the first Unitarian/Universalist Fellowship in the Rogue Valley).

But enough of likenesses. Each man is unique, and it's time to look at their uniqueness.

I was surprised to learn that Dan's success in athletics enabled him to overcome a painful shyness. Also revealing was a comment about his willingness to do grunt labor: each year he joins Reider Peterson to clear brush from Nordic skiing trails at Diamond Lake, in preparation for winter skiing competition. Not many ninety year olds take to the woods with brush loppers in hand.

Dan is a regular competitor in track and field at the world Games, and observed matter-of-factly that in twenty years he has not been beaten in the steeplechase. He not only relishes competition but also enjoys the comradeship of good friends; he admits that the number of competitors in his age group (90- 95) has shrunk, but this has not lessened his resolve to compete. In October he will travel to Cedar City, Utah for the National Masters. He is looking forward to being the first 90 year old ever to run the low hurdles, an event he began running in College and one in which he has never been beaten.

continued on page three...

A NEW FACE, A NEW NAME

Jeanne Stallman, liaison to the Retirees' Association for the last several years, has been persuaded by the Administration to become Interim Director, Extended Campus Programs, replacing a retiring Barbara Scott. Jeanne's new duties mean that she will not be as closely involved in Association business as in the past. But a very able replacement, Sally Klein, is stepping into the role.

Sally's background is in human resources (she worked for Sun Diamond Growers of California before relocating to Ashland and joining SOU a year ago). She has been serving as an adjunct teacher in the School of Business and will teach in the Winter 2008 term. Her strong customer service orientation and experience in executive management will serve her well in overseeing the activities of the Retirees' Association and the development of the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI), formerly called Southern Oregon Learning in Retirement (SOLIR).

Several months ago SOLIR submitted a proposal for a grant from the Bernard Osher Foundation. In March 2007 the grant was approved for SOU's learning in retirement program. It provides \$1000,000 a year for up to three years to assist SOU in program development for its lifelong learning program. The University joins

continued on page three...

Visiting With Emeriti Profs

...continued from two

Vaughn has never avoided controversy, and some of our conversation touched upon prickly relationships with several townspeople, faculty members and administrators at SOC, especially during the Elmo Stevenson years. He candidly admitted that he ruined his reputation among the Social Science faculty through "sheer stupidity." He declared himself a Nixon man at a time when Nixon was anathema to the faculty he headed. Amusingly, local Rotarians believed him to be a "commie" because of his advocacy of responsible environmentalism.

Vaughn remains an active scholar and keen observer of contemporary life. He has just had published an on-line essay, "How Race Relations Touched Me During a Long Lifetime," in George Mason University's *History News Network* (<http://hnn.us>). The essay is his first publication in an electronic medium, and he is pleased that it is viewable to 30,000 network subscribers and allows readers to send comments to the author.

As one interested in the historical development of colleges and universities, he has recently been refining an incisive and thorough essay entitled "Southern Oregon University Some Time Ago." It clearly details *how* the work of SOC got

done in the 1960s and 70s, *who* did it, and to *what* effect. If he chooses to publish the essay, it will be an essential supplement to Art Kreisman's gracefully written but more general recording of this era in *Remembering: A History of Southern Oregon University*.

My final impression of Vaughn's study was that there the "life of the mind" was still being intensely and productively lived.

Art Kreisman, the youngest of the three at a mere 89, served longest at the institution, beginning in 1946 and continuing through 1981. Still in demand as a speaker, particularly at the Unitarian Church, he has given five or six presentations in the last couple of years. Until recently he was an active emeritus member of the Ashland Community Hospital Foundation. He is proud to have been instrumental in establishing the Hospital in its current locale. But he is equally proud of having created a curriculum for the Department of English, as well as establishing a program in philosophy and course-work in comparative religion.

Art is a master story-teller. His account of eating nothing but Spam for two weeks was especially amusing. While he was stationed on Melville Island,

bad weather kept supply planes from delivering food to the meteorological station, so two 25 pound cans of Spam provided the detachment its only meals. Every way Spam could be prepared and eaten, it was.

As we were about to wrap-up the interview, I asked Art, "Did you ever suffer a grave disappointment while at the University?" Without hesitation he said "yes." To this day he does not understand the motives behind President James Sours' "Saturday Night Massacre," when he (Dean of Arts and Sciences), Esby McGill (Dean of Faculty), and Bill Sampson (Director of Education) were summarily released from their positions. Art evinced no bitterness about Sours' action—just puzzlement.

If this accounts ends abruptly, it's because I find it hard to sum up such disparate facts and observations in a paragraph. So I simply close by quoting a phrase Vaughn showed me on his computer screen: "Never Give Up." It's a fitting motto for him, and for Dan and Art too. ▲

A New Face, A New Name

...continued from two

112 other colleges and universities whose lifelong learning missions are supported by the Osher Foundation. At the end of three years SOU will be eligible for an endowment of \$1,000,000 if the program meets its goals.

This year's grant will permit the addition of more classes (demand is very strong) and classrooms, as well as the purchase of state-of-the-art equipment for instruction. A program now enrolling 710 members looks to grow to 1000 in three years. As always, retired SOU professors are encouraged to put their talents to use by offering classes through OLLI. Hopes are for a closer relationship between members of the Retirees Association and members of OLLI.

Sally is eager to get to meet retirees at the Fall Term Luncheon. She would also be happy to see any of you in her office in Campbell Hall, 655 Francis Lane. ▲

BEV DE LA ZERDA TO HEAD RETIREES ASSOCIATION

New Board member, Beverly De La Zerda has agreed to serve as president for the coming academic year. Her selection bespeaks the Association's desire to be more inclusive in its membership. From 1972 to 1992 Bev was a staff member in several "mostly pleasant" capacities. Beginning as an Accounts Payable Clerk for Stevenson Union, she became Executive Assistant to the Director of Auxiliaries (Phil Campbell) and finally served as Executive Assistant to the Vice President of Student Affairs. She greatly enjoyed working with and helping students, staff, and faculty during her tenure at SOU.

Bev says it is an honor to have been elected as president and looks forward to a busy and exciting year. She is especially interested in continuing the work begun by the Board last year in identifying ways the members of the Association might help the University during difficult times. She also wishes to encourage all retirees to suggest projects or activities they would like the Council to consider. Such requests may be addressed to any Board member or to Sally Klein and will quickly find a place on the Board's agenda.

The Council hopes to locate staff retirees eligible to join the Association, so if you know anyone who is qualified to join, please give their names to Sally Klein or Jeanne Stallman. ▲

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*Conferences/Senior Programs
Southern Oregon University
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Ashland, Oregon 97520*

LOSSES...

Gene Bowman, retired from the Department of Mathematics, died August 10, 2007, in Ashland, at age 97. He had been residing in Sunnyvale, California, where his son lives.

Gene earned bachelor's and master's degrees from University of Idaho and a doctor's degree from University of Oregon. He enlisted in the Navy as an officer in February 1943, and was honorably discharged in January of 1946 with the rank of lieutenant commander. He remained in the Naval Reserves until 1970.

In 1938 Gene married Ida Jones in Spokane, Washington. She preceded him in death in 1995. They had two children, Virginian Ann (deceased) and Eugene William (Bill) Bowman, Jr.

During his career Gene worked for the Veterans Administration, taught school, and served as principal and superintendent of schools, as well as teaching mathematics at SOU for 27 years.

He was an avid traveler, taking his family to live in Europe and South America. In Quito, Ecuador he worked for two years in the US AID Education program. After his retirement he and Ida took a 100 day trip around the world.

Gene was buried next to his wife, Ida, at the Veteran's Cemetery in Eagle Point, Oregon. A memorial service was held in Ashland at the Trinity Episcopal Church. ▲

Perks for Retirees

...continued from one

center) at the faculty/staff rate. Just stop by the housing office in Cox Hall to purchase meal points.

Retired staff and faculty may secure two free general admission passes for home events by contacting Ronda Bergh in McNeal Hall (call 552-6772). Raider Club news can be viewed at <http://www.sousports.com>

The University bookstore offers a discount on purchases.

Retirees Association directors are looking into expanding the perks available for both staff and faculty. Sue Burkholder has asked Library Director Teresa Montgomery to see if library privileges might be extended to retired staff. And Thom Jones has asked new Athletic Director Dennis Francois if retirees might be able to use a newly equipped fitness center for a modest rate of \$45 a term, a bargain in the fitness world. ▲