



Winter 2020

Dear Retirees,

In my many years of membership in the Retirees Association, I do not recall that we ever managed to have a program and luncheon on Valentine's Day. But that changes this February 14 (a Friday) when we meet to socialize, have lunch, and listen to SOU faculty member Chelsea Rose tell us about Jackson County's 19<sup>th</sup> century population of Chinese, as revealed by historical accounts and archaeological investigations.

It's safe to say that seventy-six years ago, in 4<sup>th</sup> Grade, I and classmates at Belknap Elementary School had no clear understanding of what constituted "Love." Nevertheless, there was a lot of silliness and giggling as we dutifully handed out and got generic valentines and ate home-made and home-decorated heart-shaped cookies. As a group, we retirees are a little too ancient to renew this childhood practice, but your leadership council has arranged to provide everyone with a piece of Valentine's Day cake to celebrate our long-enduring friendships and collegiality. And we can pretend to feel young.

As usual, there will be pre-luncheon socializing beginning at 11:30 in the Rogue River Room in the Student Union Building. The food services staff will offer a special meal of spaghetti and meatballs, salad, and bread, for less than 10 dollars. For those not enamored of spaghetti, soups, salads, and sandwiches will be available. While we can provide no wet bar, there will be water, tea, and coffee.

A few reminders: 1) If you are a retired faculty member and have not yet requested a virtual parking permit, please call Jessica in the SOU Parking Office, 541-552-

**SOUTHERN OREGON UNIVERSITY RETIREES ASSOCIATION**

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6666 and secure one. 2) If you have problems with mobility, help in getting your food from the food service area to the Rogue River Room will be available. 3) If you have not yet paid a modest 20 dollar donation to the Association to help cover this year's operating expenses, please consider doing so. And we always welcome further contributions to the Association's Scholarship fund, which now stands at more than \$50,000. 4) Our Spring luncheon will be held Friday, May 8. President Schott will be our featured speaker.

A little more about Our February Speaker and Program: Chelsea Rose earned her MA at Sonoma State University and is a Historical Archaeologist in the Department of Sociology and Anthropology. One of her interests is the presence of Chinese immigrants in Oregon during both gold rush times (beginning in the 1850s) and subsequent years when they entered other professions. In 1882 Congress passed The Chinese Exclusion Act, which effectively ended immigration of Chinese to the United States until the 1940s. The Chinese in southwestern Oregon did leave evidence of their stay in a new land, however, and the story of their sojourn is being reconstructed by archaeologists and historians. At a time when the Nation is sharply divided about matters of immigration, knowing what happened in the past can help us understand the significance of current events.

We hope you will join us Friday, February 14. Feel free to invite a former colleague or friend.

Cordially,

Jim Dean

For the Leadership Council

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