

Winter 2021

Greetings SOU Retirees!

It is that time of year when SOU Retirees begin to think about sharing quality time with our retired colleagues! Unfortunately, our luncheon scheduled for **February 12, 2021 had to be cancelled** due to the Covid-19 virus. We had a good program scheduled for you with our guest speaker President Linda Schott. Since we were not able to meet, President Schott has sent us the following message:

“Dear University Retirees,

I am sure we are all disappointed that circumstances beyond our control – the COVID-19 pandemic – have scuttled plans for this year’s luncheon meeting of the SOU Retirees Association. I will tell you now what I would have told you if we’d been able to meet: SOU would not be the institution that it is today, if not for your combined hundreds of years of service and your ongoing support.

It is safe to say that the pandemic has affected all of us over the past year – some of us more personally than others. It has also left an indelible mark on our university. It may be years if not decades before all of our students, faculty and staff members are able to go about their business of teaching and learning without at least some nagging thoughts of social distancing and mask-wearing.

We are on track to move beyond the virus over the next several months, and certainly we will return to many of the routines we remember as “normal” – in-person classes, extracurricular activities and social interactions that may even include handshakes or hugs. We also will gladly retain some of the adaptations that were forced on us by the pandemic – and which will make us a better university going forward.

Remote operations, both in the classroom and in academic support programs, have opened opportunities for adult learners and others who previously had difficulties accessing our services.

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Our majors, minors and certificate programs have become more focused and nimble. We are collaborating with community partners like never before to ensure that our graduates are ready for the challenges and opportunities that await.

We have adapted and survived over the past 10 months, but we have also prepared our campus to meet the needs of a changing world. We have positioned SOU to truly become Oregon's university for the future."

We thank President Schott for sending us this message and look forward to hearing more from her when (if) we are able to meet in person in May.

In other business:

There was incorrect information in the Fall newsletter regarding parking permits at SOU. If you have a parking permit and need to renew this permit, you may go online to renew your permit at: <https://inside.sou.edu/parking/regulations.html> This is the best way to contact the Parking Department. I apologize for the error.

The recipient for the SOU Retirees Association Scholarship Award this year went to Sarah Ross. We were able to award her \$1,200 for the academic year. She is a sophomore in Environmental Science with a minor in Spanish.

As of December 31, 2020, there is \$55,410 in our scholarship account. We should be able to offer another scholarship of \$1,200 for next year.

Our next meeting is scheduled for **May 7, 2021** at the SOU Rogue River Room beginning with social hour at 11:30 a.m.

We hope to see you there (in person). Until then, take care, stay safe, and stay healthy!

Bev De La Zerda

Leadership Council Volunteer