



## News notes from us, about us, for us...

**Connie Alexander** traveled to London in mid April to do research on the Victorian Murder Mystery she's writing.

**Ken Bartlett** reports he is now 79 years old, and still moving.

**Julian and Connie Battaile** have helped the Oregon Natural Desert Association do wilderness inventories. The Association is working to protect remote and fragile environments in Oregon's "empty quarter." Julian also reports that his two sons are living in Portland where they work as software engineers.

In March **Vaughan and Beth Bernet** went on a 14-day Holland America cruise of the Caribbean, returning in time to host friends from Britain.

**Steve Cross** still has a small space in the Science Building and is doing research on bats. His plans for the future include fishing.

**Art and Sandi Clemons**, who have been involved in folk dancing for at least thirty years, recently participated in an International Dance Festival. They have a new grand child to enjoy.

A few months ago **Monte Eliot** was featured in *The Ashland Daily Tidings* for a lecture focussing on the Geology of Southern Oregon. He is most recently helping a friend rebuild a sailboat on the Coast.

**Betty Gee** is now living at Mountain View Retirement Home in Ashland.

Some Emeritus Faculty will remember **Dorothea Von Huene**, a member of the Department of English in the 1960s. She is now teaching at Pace University, Pleasantville, N. Y., and sent former SOU colleagues news of a conference, "The Brontes and Their World," which she helped organize.

**Ed and Sheila Hungerford** will travel to London in June. While Ed attends

and delivers a paper at the meetings of the International Virginia Woolf Society, Sheila will take in London theatre.

That **Senora Chela Kocks** is as busy as ever will come as no surprise to those who know her. She is a very active volunteer teaching language skills to students going to Guanajuato, Mexico, and to those from Guanajuato who attend school in Ashland.

**Don Laws** tells us he's busy trying not to be an old fogey on the Ashland City Council; he's also involved in "generational" issues: helping Sharon's mother move into assisted living and hosting grandchildren.

**John Mairs** submits the following news: He, **Claude Curran, Frank Lang, Larry Nollenberger, and Bob Harvey** traveled through Baja California Norte and Sur. During a 17-day road trip they took in fascinating terrestrial and marine environments of the peninsula's protected areas and national parks. Plants, birds, mountains, arroyos, beaches and a coral reef were all field subjects for the travelers. They took plenty of photos, ate fine food, and enjoyed rich Mexican culture. No one was jailed.

**John Miller** continues to travel to Germany several times a year. In the summer of 2003 he was a guest lecturer on German Literature at the free University of Berlin. Before February of 2004 he was busy brushing upon his French in preparation for a trip to Paris.

**Bill Meuleman's** new editor/agent is sure she can find a publisher for his book on the "Irish Troubles," and he's pleased with the editorial help she's provided.

**Dave Oas** has narrowed his private clinical practice to mediating divorce problems, to gain time for sharpening and arranging distribution of his movie, *Raspberry Heaven*.

**Jim Robertson** recently returned from an Elderhostel that took him from Lisbon to Madrid and Barcelona. He also toyed with the idea of running for Congress, but decided against it.

**Don and Phyllis Reynolds** found the weather dreadful but the Zinfandels wonderful as they spent a week touring through the Sonoma and Napa Valleys in early Spring.

**Herman and Sylvia Schmeling** planned a week visit to San Diego, but dreary weather there and remarkably good weather on the Oregon Coast occasioned a quick change of plans. ♦

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## LOSSES

In February we were diminished by the deaths of Keith Carney and Georgia McFarland. Details about their deaths and contributions to SOU and the community appeared earlier on the Website: <http://emeritus.sou.edu/>

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## Library Remodel

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- A long corridor-like area, in the West building, contains new reading tables and the entire Reference Collection in low stacks, including map cases. Circulation and check-out services are now in temporary space near the East building, awaiting the finishing of the tower. When the tower is finished, the floors opening from the Rotunda will have more lounge space, plus three fireplaces—one for each floor. On all three floors new paintings by Jim Lavadour will hang on lounge walls. The art is funded by the State's One Per Cent for Art program.

- Dedication of the finished building is scheduled for May of 2005. ♦

## THE SOURS: A Turkish Prelude to SOC *by Don Reynolds*

The path leading Jim and Alice Sours to SOC started on a badminton court in Iowa when Alice and friend Patty Murray were hitting the shuttlecock. Patty's husband, Jim, was chair of the University of Iowa's Political Science Department and initiator of an Iowa-Turkey exchange. He was about to ask Jim Sours to consider representing Iowa on a year's appointment in Istanbul. However, Patty took the initiative, asking Alice if her Jim would like to go to Turkey. Alice, ever astute, said she would have to ask him. In short order, Jim, Alice and children Jan and David were seeking housing near the University of Istanbul, where Jim would join the faculty of Political Science as an honorary Fulbright scholar.

Thus began a year-long series of adventures which culminated in Jim being offered the presidency at SOC. Emeritus faculty members who have known the Sours since 1969 will enjoy hearing about the momentous year preceding their arrival in Ashland. How they responded illustrates their adaptability, good humor, resilience in the face of difficulty, and commitment to international education.

Prior to the Turkish appointment Jim had completed a three-year stint as executive vice-president of the American College Testing Company, developing an interest in international students during a period as Dean of Students.

But wait! Our Jim Sours a Dean of Students? It turns out that Harry Corbin, President of Wichita State, was a friend of Jim's from Navy days. Jim came to Wichita after completing his doctorate at Harvard. During Jim's early years (before becoming Chair of the Political Science Department and, later, Dean of Arts and Sciences, Corbin, apparently in a spot and knowing Jim's ability to successfully tack many tasks, gave Jim a choice: head of the financial office or Dean

of Students. As Dean of students Jim became involved with the problems and the enterprising nature of international students.

In late summer 1968 the Sours arrived in Istanbul ready to occupy an eighty-year old, cramped, and decrepit house they had sublet. They had exchanged a number of letters with the landlord, and these letters were honest; if anything, the picture painted was worse than the reality. The house leaked; the plumbing was irritable; heating was by fireplace. Alice recalls that when she saw the house she cried.

But workmen were ingenious—once when a tap refused to shut, the plumber came and asked for what Alice thought was an "old shoe." And he had indeed asked for an old shoe. One was found. From it he cut out the tongue, fashioned a gasket, and fixed the tap.

Leaks were a problem. During a reception awaiting the results of a national election, guests mingled in the library. The rains came. The ceiling had plastic tacked up, buckets caught the water, and guests stepped adroitly about the obstacles.

The fireplaces burned coal, and when it was delivered, basket by basket by a number of men, Jim paid the foreman, but each man thought he also should be paid. Jim, concerned that he might be contravening local custom, asked his neighbor for advice. He was told to say in Turkish the equivalent of "That's it! Work it out yourselves," (it worked). Some encounters with workmen were helpful. Once three young men dropped off some washing machine parts, and while there taught the Sours how to make fresh peanut butter and how to attach the propane. If the valve did not work, they said, take a wrench and hit the connection—and demonstrated how. As the Sours prepared to leave Istanbul, Alice wrote a letter to the next

tenant explaining that the cans in the right corner of the room should not be moved, for they were holding up the bookcase.

Years later one of Jim's Turkish colleagues at Istanbul visited Ashland with her husband. One evening the husband asked Jim what he knew of the owner of the house. Jim said, "Only that he was stingy with repairs and upkeep." The visitor smiled wryly, and admitted he was the owner. (The visit remained cordial, even after the truth telling.)

During the Turkish year Jim was immersed in teaching public administration (local government) and theory of political science. He had two undergraduate classes and a graduate seminar. University students were politically active (this was, after all, 1968-69). One day while Jim was escorting a visiting lecturer to campus, they found themselves barred by the army. It had closed the university as a result of student protests. Because of the closure, his seminar met only three times.

As the academic year neared an end, Jim learned that three friends, independently, had nominated him to be President of SOC. So it came to pass that the Sours came from Istanbul to Ashland. ♦

### On the Web

You'll find these recent additions to the Emeritus Website (<http://emeritus.sou.edu>):

- A mystery photo provided by Don Lewis
- Additional News Notes about emeritus faculty members
- More information in "Losses" about Keith Carney and Georgia McFarland
- Harold Otness' informal history of his years at the University, 1966-99
- Photos of Winter Term's International Luncheon
- An expanded version of "Library Highlights" by Ed Hungerford



Conferences/Senior Programs  
Southern Oregon University  
1250 Siskiyou Blvd.  
Ashland, Oregon 97520

## The Multiplication of Giving: BOB ALSTON'S EXAMPLE

by Jim Dean

Helen went with me when I called on Bob and Mary Ann Alston in Grants Pass. A friend of Bob's had provided me a tidbit of information about Bob's past generosity to students, and I had arranged to talk to him and Mary Ann to flesh out the story.

"Well Bob," I said, "Tell me why you decided to sell so much of your art for the benefit of students." And the story poured out, sometimes helped along by Mary Ann and Helen, who made certain their hard-of-hearing husbands understood one another.

Bob first provided facts and figures, then turned to the whys behind them.

- In 2001, at a show entitled "A Lifetime of Paintings," Bob sold 130 of his paintings at a discount of 90 percent. Thirteen other paintings had gone to friends and family before the show. The paintings were displayed in all the galleries of the new Center for the Visual Arts. The sale netted \$10,000; the money was placed with the SOU Foundation. The interest on the \$10,000 comes to about \$500 a year and benefits deserving fine art students who need help buying materials for their classes.
- Any Art faculty member aware of a student's need can recommend to the Department chair that the

student receive help. The chair decides on the allocation.

- The money is treated as a loan, not a scholarship, and students repay it on an honor system. There is no bureaucracy to contend with.
- Southern Oregon Fine Arts Students (SOFAS) prepared the show, with help from Steve Frazier of the Schneider Museum. During the show Bob was amused to see several of his painting hung upside down. He righted them, to great applause.
- The show was advertised by SOFAS, Miles Inada designed a beautiful poster for it, and there was a ribbon cutting ceremony at 5 p.m. Prospective buyers chose the paintings they desired. By 6:30 p.m. all paintings were sold. "I had a great time during the show," Bob said.
- Canvasses with values between \$300 and \$3,000, and worth \$100,000 in total, went for fire-sale prices during the festive hour occasion.

Which brings us to the Whys. What had prompted Bob to divest himself of most of a lifetime's paintings? His answers were refreshingly direct. He noted that the department of Art had provided scholarship help to students over the years—he was just helping them in a different way. He noted

with pride the creation of a "Hearth" in the new CVA, a place where fine arts students are made to feel at home.

Bob admitted he had been thinking about his paintings in storage. He has seen other artists become so possessive of their work that it amounts to a kind of sickness. Far better, he thought, to get art out into the world than to wait for it to appreciate in value. Art needs to be seen and enjoyed. If getting art out can also help students, what could be more satisfying?

He and Mary Ann recalled early years at SOC when they lived on the edge. Happily Don Lewis, then Business Manager, oversaw a short term loan fund, its purpose to help faculty members who found themselves short. The Alstons got loans, and paid them back as they were able. They appreciated the help from an institution which showed it cared.

As Helen and I were leaving, I realized that the Alstons had engaged in a multiplication of giving; the sale of the paintings had benefited students; it also benefited Bob, who saw his work eagerly purchased by many who could not have afforded it otherwise; and those buying the paintings were beneficiaries of art which will continue to provide inspiration and pleasure. ♦

## LIBRARY REMODEL HIGHLIGHTS

by Ed Hungerford

Have you walked on campus lately to see the progress of the SOU Library remodel? The new brick exterior of the Lenn and Dixie Hannon central library has been virtually completed, and work continues on the all-new entrance rotunda, a spectacular cylinder design. Another year of interior work lies ahead before the entire complex is finished.

- The Expansion and Enhancement project, costing over \$20 million, will double the amount of floor space. The old building is sound and contained within the new design. When you walk past the building now, an entirely different exterior presents itself: all-brick, with towers dividing the spaces of the new exterior. The towers are part of a retrofit to upgrade and provide new seismic protection.
- The new East wing will have many uses, several of which are new. On the first floor, ground level, will be a coffee shop next to the Rotunda entrance. Beyond that will be two computer lab rooms, also librarians' offices and the documents collection.
- The East wing's second floor will contain the Special Collections: the Margery Bailey Collection of Elizabethan studies and other rare books; a new humidity controlled room for the most valuable books; and librarian's offices and book stacks.
- On the third floor, East, will be a large, 80-seat meeting room and a new conference room. Also, of course, more book stacks, and the Library Director's office. Third floor work will continue during summer. The book collection will be moved twice during this process. Work will begin in February 2005 to open the second floor for public use.
- The western side of the main building ("the old library") has an added glassed-in lounge area, now completed and in use. Two-story windows face uphill toward the Science building. New furniture and art work have been installed.
- In this older part of the library the present stairway will be renovated, but the existing entrance has been closed. The only entrance and exit for the public will be from the new Rotunda. In addition to the present elevator, a new elevator near the Rotunda will be available.

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## Winter Luncheon a Success

by Gene Stringer

A Winter Term luncheon brought together 50 emeritus faculty and 20 international students. Every one seemed enthusiastic about the international dishes, the fashion show with students in traditional costume, the panel discussion, and the conversations with students seated at tables with emeriti. Special thanks go to Jen Yockey, International Student Advisor, for helping to organize the event, and to Meredith Reynolds, who made the panel discussion an informative and lively affair. Emeriti were impressed by the poise, intelligence, and articulateness of the students and hope the event will be repeated in the future.

The response of the students to some panel questions was very moving as they reminisced about home and responded to questions about things they wished Americans knew about their homelands.

The colorful costumes worn by the students and a few emeriti added to the atmosphere. Esther Halverson-Hill won the emeritus faculty prize (unofficial) with a spectacular Mongolian outfit.

A photo of the students in costume can be seen on <http://emeritus.sou.edu>. ♦

## President's Spring Reception Slated

President Zinser will host the annual Spring emeritus faculty reception at the President's home on 610 Elkader Street, May 21, 5-7 p.m. Weather will dictate whether we will be inside or outside. The affair is primarily social, with no more than a message of greeting and a few announcements scheduled. Plan to join old colleagues and friends for refreshments and conversation. Spouses and partners welcome. ♦

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

### Spring Emeritus Faculty Reception

May 21, 2004, 5-7 pm  
610 Elkader Street, Ashland

To Make Reservations:  
Email (preferred): [stallman@sou.edu](mailto:stallman@sou.edu)  
Telephone: 541-552-6699  
Use the Reservation Form on  
<http://emeritus.sou.edu/>

**Reservation Deadline: May 17, 2004**