

SOUTHERN OREGON UNIVERSITY
Emeritus NEWSLETTER

Spring 2006

EMERITI NEWS NOTES

Richard and Susan Kaough and Ralph and Marilyn Fidler spent mid-February to mid March traveling through the Southwest in their motor homes. Their stops included Palm Springs for golf, Phoenix (where they met up with Tom and Amanda Pyle) for spring training baseball games, Lake Havasu, Sedona and the Grand Canyon. They were held up by snow in Reno and again north of Lake Shasta, but finally made it back to Oregon. The Kaoughs now live at Eagle Crest, near Redmond.

Don and Phyllis Reynolds are riding their bicycles as often as possible in preparation for a ten day bike tour this summer in northeastern Poland.

Lawson and Janet Inada were in the news recently, Janet because of the beautiful Heritage Roses she cultivates, and Lawson because Governor Ted Kulongoski has named him Oregon's Poet Laureate for a two year term. He was recently featured in *The Monterey County Herald* for his work as Chair of the National Steinbeck Center since October, 2005.

Gene and Janice Stringer are in China, traveling to a province in the west by boat.

Ron and Marilyn Bolstad left in late April to spend a holiday in Italy.

Phil and Carol Campbell recently returned from travels in Italy. They met life-long friends in Rome and spent two weeks sight-seeing in southern Italy: Their itinerary included Rome, the ruins of Pompeii, the Isle of Capri, the Amalfi Coast, the town of Sassi and the rock-hewn churches, and Brindisi and Bari on the Adriatic Sea

Rob Carey's newest book of nonfiction, *Upstream*, has just been released by Oregon State University Press.

Flora MacCracken has just returned from Egypt and is now setting out for China.

Steve Flynn, now living in Philomath, ran in his 30th consecutive Pear Blossom

10K Run. Steve is one of only six runners who has run in all the races since the Pear Blossom's inception in 1976. ▲

THE PRESIDENT'S
Spring Reception
For Emeritus Faculty, Spouses,
And Significant Others

You are cordially invited to a reception
Hosted by President Elizabeth Zinser

In the Redford Lounge of
Stevenson Union Building
Friday, May 19
5:00–6:30 p.m.

To make reservations:

E-mail (preferred):
stallman@sou.edu

Telephone:
541-552-6699

Or use the Emeritus
Information Feature on the
Emeritus Faculty Website:
<http://emeritus.sou.edu>

Reservation Deadline:

Monday, May 15, 2006

There will be a brief business meeting
To elect new Council members

CATCHING UP WITH MARYTHEA GREBNER

When retired faculty members find themselves socializing with friends and colleagues from their University days, they often wonder about those they have lost track of. A case in point is Marythea Grebner, who has led an adventurous life after leaving Ashland in 1983.

After browsing the Emeritus website, she decided to hazard a note to the *Newsletter*. An exchange of e-mails revealed that indeed there is life after SOSC. Many emeriti will remember that Marythea left the College after serving in the administration of President Natale Sicurro. Her first stop was at the University of Idaho, where she worked for five years.

She soon discovered that "community colleges paid MUCH better, so I went to Central Washington as a Dean of Arts and Sciences. Five years later I moved to another community college as Dean and Provost. Expanding into new campuses proved too daunting for some of the 'old Guard,' and while the new satellite campuses are now a reality, there was 'fire and brimstone' before I exited to the world of finance (there's money there too!)."

Marythea remarried, this time to a retired Air Force man. For seven years they lived on the hot, humid Texas coast while she sold stocks and bonds, invested the money of retired plan workers, and traveled. At present they live near Phoenix but summer in Northern Idaho, where they are near her daughter and three grandchildren.

Both she and her husband have had to deal with cancer, which she cheerfully characterizes as "the equal opportunity disease." They drive through Ashland each summer on their way to Idaho and would welcome the opportunity to see some "old timers." ▲

THE FACULTY REVOLT OF 1965: SOME HIGHLIGHTS

By Jim Dean

Editor's Note—The more than 60 new faculty members who came to Southern Oregon College in 1966 quickly learned that during the previous academic year, 1965-66, the College had been riven by controversy and discontent. What lay behind such a traumatic year was never entirely clear to us. What follows is one person's attempt to finally make sense of that tumultuous year. There are two parts: The first, below, looks at the revolt of the Faculty Council. The second will appear in the Fall Newsletter issue and treat the "Adamian case." A more detailed account of both parts is accessible on the emeritus Faculty Web-site: emeritus.sou.edu. Click on Emeritus News.

— Jim Dean.

The Revolt of the Faculty Council

Hal Cloer, in a 2004 memoir written for President Zinser and Provost Potter, "The End of the 'College of Education Era,'" observes that in 1965-66 there was increasing rebellion on the part of faculty. They had become disenchanted with "the paternalistic and authoritarian structure of the College."

According to Art Kreisman, in *Remembering: A History of Southern Oregon University*, the Faculty Council, a precursor to today's Faculty Senate, was established in 1956 and grew from 7 to 13 members by 1965. President Elmo Stevenson's management style was ap-

parently better suited to the school SOC once was than to the one it had become, and he seemed unaware that the faculty was becoming restive. Elmo reported to the State Board in 1965 that "faculty spirit is good." Vaughn Bornet remembers that this "spirit" varied by department and division.

Elmo's characterization was dramatically disproved on April 13, 1966 when the entire Faculty Council resigned, including several faculty who were perceived as being close to the administration. The Council consisted of Edward Fitzpatrick, Ken Bartlett, Beverly Bennett, Phyllis Butler, Richard Byrnes, Jim Doerter, John McCollum, Lloyd Pennington, Sheldon Rio, Fred Rosentreter, Frank Sturges, Arnold Wolfe, and Marshall Woodell. News of their resignations ran in *The Siskiyou* and appeared in all news media in the area. The event caused a stir not only on campus but also throughout the State.

As reported in *The Ashland Daily Tidings*, the Council addressed a letter to all faculty members, saying the following: "the Faculty Council has been unable to carry out its proper functions because of apparent lack of respect and confidence on the part of the Administration. Without explanation or justification, the Administration has repeatedly ignored

Faculty Council recommendations (even when these had been requested by the Administration), has failed to communicate decisions affecting the Faculty, has misrepresented actions of the Council to individuals and groups of the Faculty, and has, in general, nullified the efforts of the Council. . . . the Faculty Council has been rendered ineffectual as spokesman for the faculty."

Vaughn Bornet, in his *An Independent Scholar in Twentieth Century America*, says that President Stevenson "ignored five of their [personnel] recommendations on individuals." Vaughn also confirms that the Council was frustrated because they were excluded from all meaningful administrative actions--actions carried out by the deans and directors, to whom Elmo did listen. In reality, none of the Faculty Council members had dealt with budgets, hired new faculty, or would be firing any one. Elmo did not see Council members as part of his management team.

Jim Doerter recalls that the President called a meeting of the Council a day after the resignations. He entered the room visibly agitated and told startled Council members that he had heard that they wanted to run the place. Then he strode out in high dudgeon, only to return ten minutes later and conduct the meeting as if there had been no outburst.

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To: All Members of the Emeritus Faculty Association

From: Gerald Insley, President of the Emeritus Council

Subject: Revision of the Association's Guidelines to be more inclusive of the Retired university community

For the past year the council has considered the possibility of being more inclusive of those who have faithfully served Southern Oregon University, yet have no organization of retirees with which to affiliate. Neil Kunze researched organizations, similar to ours, who have included staff as well as retired faculty and discovered the following: The associations in the Washington system of higher education, as well as those in the state of Arizona, include in their membership all university retirees. In Oregon, Oregon State and Portland State likewise include all former university employees.

It was the belief that the concept of diversity on campus was certainly something that should logically extend into affiliated associations. Aside from a philosophical standpoint, our mission of teaching and research has always relied heavily on the support of those loyal staff members who, through their efforts, have made our professional lives productive and meaningful. It would be impossible for the university to function without such dedicated people. One final consideration was a practical one, that being the broadening of the base of our organization and, possibly, our effectiveness in future endeavors related to the growing university community.

After obtaining the approval of the council, a committee was appointed to

draft a new set of guidelines for the proposed revamped association. The committee consisted of Ron Bolstad, Ernie Ettlich, Herman Schmeling and Neil Kunze. Their proposed guidelines, included in the newsletter, closely approximate the existing ones under which we function with adjustments made when necessary.

At the winter meeting the proposed guidelines were submitted to the council, discussed, and accepted unanimously. We wish to emphasize that in no way do these guidelines affect the present or future status of "Emeritus Faculty." It is hoped that the general membership of our Emeritus Association will consider the concept of reconfiguring our organization to be more inclusive and carefully review the guidelines. Presently we are in conversations with the Administration about the terms of the partnership between the University and the Emeritus Association. We hope to have a formal agreement in place during Fall Term. I ask that over the summer you review and consider the Guidelines as presently drafted. We would welcome any comments you might make.

Respectfully Submitted,
Gerald S. Insley
President, Emeritus Council ▲

SOUTHERN OREGON UNIVERSITY RETIREES ASSOCIATION

GUIDELINES

I Name:

The name of this organization shall be the "Southern Oregon University Retirees Association."

II Purposes:

To provide a campus "home" to serve as a point of contact at the University for retirees.

To promote social interaction among all retirees through events, council representation, a newsletter, and a website.

To provide campus events to encourage a continuing relationship between SOU and association membership and to promote ongoing intellectual stimulation and activities.

To provide opportunities for the University to use the talents of retired faculty and staff to the benefit of the University and retirees, including knowledgeable advocacy.

III Membership:

Membership shall be open to all SOU retired faculty and staff and to their spouses and surviving spouses. Members should have been employed for five years of active, full-time service. Retirees from other universities and colleges may be enrolled with the approval of the Council.

IV Retirees Council

The Retirees Council is established to administer the affairs of the association. The fifteen members of the Council shall be elected during spring by a vote of the general membership for a term of three years. One-third of the Council shall be elected annually. At least eight members shall be SOU Emeritus faculty. Meeting of the Council shall be open to all members.

V Officers

The officers of the Association shall be a President, a Vice President, a Past President, a Treasurer, and a Secretary. With the exception of the Past President, all the officers shall be elected annually by the Retirees Council from among its members. All officers shall be elected for a one-year term but may be re-elected.

VI Annual Meetings and Elections

There shall be an annual meeting in the spring, to be determined by the Retirees Council, to elect members of the Council. The Council shall appoint a nominating committee of at least four persons, at least two of whom are Emeritus faculty. The members of the Council shall be elected by members in attendance at the annual meeting. Election shall be by a plurality of votes cast. Following the annual spring meeting and election of the Council members, the Retirees Council will then elect the officers for the coming year.

VII Dues

The Retirees Council may assess dues as needed.

VIII Amendments to Guidelines

These guidelines may be amended at the annual spring meeting of the Association. Proposed amendments must be circulated by the membership in writing at least twenty days prior to the meeting. For purposes of amendments a quorum shall consist of those active members in attendance. ▲

SOC STUDENTS REACT TO THE KILLINGS AT KENT STATE: FIVE TENSE DAYS, APRIL 1970

By Michael Smith

Editor's note: I invited Michael T. Smith, Student Body President of the Associated Students of SOC in 1969-70, to write an account of campus events surrounding the Kent State shootings in May of 1970. What follows is an abridgement. The full text of Michael's piece can be seen on the Emeritus Web Site, "emeritus.sou.edu." Click on Emuritus News. – Jim Dean

The school year 1969-1970, during which I served as ASSOC President, looms in retrospect as a tipping point in the nature and intensity of anti-war activity in America, especially on its campuses, and while the activity at SOC and the protest in Ashland, never reached the extremes it did in places such as Madison, Wisconsin, or even Eugene, things at SOC got turbulent enough, as the tenor of discourse went from polite oratory in the much-debated one-day Vietnam War Moratorium in October to the "strident and abrasive" measures that occurred in May.

In 1970 we had precious little information about what was happening in the rest of the country with regard to anti-war protest. Our print sources of news were limited to the *Mail Tribune* and *The Daily Tidings*, our television coverage to the two local network affiliates, one of which, KMED, gave ready access to an impromptu ultra right-wing student group to portray anti-war protest on the SOC campus as violent.

As far as radio went, the Valley's stations were roughly divided into music formats: mostly country, a couple of top-40 rock stations, some easy listening. What talk radio there was confined itself to Joe Pine, a famous venom spewer of the day. There was no NPR.

Brief Background Nationwide there was a student strike, in the aftermath of the Kent State killings. Nearly five million students took part in some form of protest. On May 9, over 150,000 protesters, most of them students, converged on Washington, where President Nixon effectively barricaded himself in the White House surrounded by troops armed with machine guns. In Ashland we heard that I-5 in Seattle had been blocked by protesters. But I think we were largely in the dark about the extent of protest else-

where. It was enough to know it was happening, that momentum was shifting in our direction, and that we had our own roles to play.

On April 30, President Nixon announced... that he had authorized American forces to make incursions into Cambodia in pursuit of enemy combatants. This admission, and its implication of widening the war by incursion into an unaligned sovereign nation, inflamed anti-war groups. And if the invasion of Cambodia had inflamed student outrage, the Kent State killings threw napalm on the fire, and campuses nationwide erupted overnight at what seemed like the government openly declaring military war on student protest.

I had just returned to my office after a Student Senate meeting when I received a call from someone at the National Student Association, informing me of what had happened at Kent State, and advising me of the whirlwind of protest that would follow. The tenor of that call was something like this: the days of trying to stir up anti-war feeling were very likely behind us; what was coming was likely to take on a life of its own, and where the local student leaders didn't take prompt action to shape the events of the following weeks, those events, powered by unprecedented anger, fear and distrust, could very well turn very ugly.

The Strike One measure suggested was an immediate student strike, i.e., encouraging students to boycott classes for at least one day, starting the next day, Tuesday. I put the word out as quickly as I could, and whatever grapevine we employed worked rapidly in those days before e-mail. "Boycott classes tomorrow." This was not a day set aside for debate; this was a day when academic were to take a back seat to our expression of out-

rage that our government was making war on us, its own citizens.

Many of us spent Monday night on the lawn in front of Churchill Hall. Tuesday, we didn't interfere with those who wished to attend classes; we just stayed away in droves. I spent the mornings of that week trying to defuse suggestions of those who had visions of "guerilla theater" and other manifestations of protest that seemed like simultaneous opportunities for grandstanding, confrontation, and malicious mischief.

As it turned out, the two manifestations of protest that student support crystallized around were pretty mild. First was the lowering of the flag to half-staff in recognition of the deaths at Kent State; second was a peace march on Friday evening from the Plaza to campus.

As for the flagpole, there was a problem: President Sours was attending a conference, and the senior administrator in his absence, Dean of Faculty Dr. McGill, didn't feel comfortable authorizing the lowering of the flag, an issue that became, in the space of two days, amazingly controversial and polarizing.

By the time Dr. Sours returned there were threats from "members of the community" that if the flag didn't go to the top of the staff on Thursday morning at six a.m., they would cut the flagpole down with a chainsaw. To his credit, Dr. Sours okayed the half-staffing of the flag.

Early Thursday morning I set up a card table by the flagpole and had Scotty's, the all-night diner just across Siskiyou Boulevard, deliver a huge 36-cup pot of coffee to serve any community members who might show up for the raising of the flag. When the worker whose duties included raising the flag arrived, no

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

FACULTY REVOLT

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On the day of the Council's resignation students circulated petitions backing the Council's action. They collected about 200 signatures on their petitions.

Inmates and Asylums

Ed Roundtree, President of *The Tidings*, wrote an editorial defending Stevenson and singling out unnamed teachers in the English Department for raising foolish issues about heavy teaching loads, lack of money for library books, and lack of academic freedom. "Dr Stevenson, who has been in education 37 years . . . is not a man to let the inmates run the asylum," said Roundtree.

The upshot of the revolt, according to Kreisman, was an "awakening of the Administration." A Faculty Constitution, modeled on one at the University of Oregon empowering a Faculty Senate, was drafted and subsequently approved by 82 percent of faculty and by the Administration. ▲

SOC STUDENTS REACT

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one from the community had yet shown. He held out his hand, allowed that he might just have felt a raindrop, and citing flag etiquette forbidding flying it on rainy days, tucked it back under his arm and returned inside.

This is not to imply that community members were not active around campus. One coed was hit by a brick thrown from a passing vehicle. Asked to describe the vehicle, she responded that it was a pick-up truck with a rifle rack in the rear window. That information probably eliminated about half the vehicles registered in Jackson County.

Friday's peace march threatened the possibility of violent confrontation. Personally, returning to my office that Friday after student teaching and before heading to the Plaza, I found a little yellow "while you were out" form on my desk, a phone message taken down by Chris Fisher, ASSOC Secretary, reading as close as I can remember: "Caller wouldn't leave his name, but said if you take part in the march tonight, he'll blow your f--- head off. Have a nice day, (Happy Face) Chris."

The planning and execution of the march were models of liberal respectability. We had signals at which everyone was trained to hit the pavement, exposing anyone infiltrating the march and thereafter pulling a weapon, or just as a way of minimizing and exposure to fire from passing vehicles. But most heartening of all, we had real "community members," adults faculty members, elderly people (not necessarily the same thing). It wasn't us against the world. The tide was beginning to turn. The march was, from the standpoint of threats followed through on, uneventful, though Siskiyou Boulevard seemed clogged with pickups sporting rifle racks. ▲