

SOLIR Receives Grant, Includes Emeritus

In a strong statement of support for SOU's adult education for older students, the Bernard Osher Foundation announced a \$100,000 grant to the SOLIR (Southern Oregon Learning In Retirement) program in March.

SOLIR began in 1993 when Kevin Talbert, then Dean of Continuing Education, attended a "Students of the Third Age" presentation at a conference. Inspired by the concept of a program managed and taught entirely by its older adult students, Kevin worked with Barbara Scott and Phil Campbell to assemble 15 local retired leaders (including SOU emeritus faculty

member Mary Christlieb), inviting them to build a Learning In Retirement program on the SOU campus.

The SOLIR program quickly skipped past the initial projection of 75 members, growing to more than 100 members in the first year of operation. Since then SOLIR has become the largest "learning in retirement" program in the Pacific Northwest, currently with 660 members. Classes are taught entirely by volunteers, most of whom are members. Program administration is handled by a Council elected by the membership and assisted by part-time coordinator Sally Klein.

The future of SOLIR looks even brighter with the addition of Osher funds. Most of the money will go toward supporting the volunteer instructors with additional classroom spaces and improved technology. Increased hours for Klein will allow her to provide more support for instructors and assistance to members.

Of interest to SOU's emeritus faculty members is a provision calling for a closer alignment between SOLIR and emeriti.

Because the Osher Foundation encourages the involvement of emeriti in lifelong

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Retirees Invited to President's Spring Reception

All members of the Retirees' Association are cordially invited to the President's Spring Reception. This year it is scheduled for the Meese Room of the Hannon Library, from 5 to 6:30 p.m., Friday, June 1, 2007. There is an elevator which can take you from the first to the third floor. Retirees who have not yet met President Cullinan will have an opportunity to do so.

After brief words of welcome from the President, there will be a very brief business meeting devoted to the election of new members to the Association's Council. Those willing to serve thus far are John Englehardt, Lodi Belford, Marge Bulkley, Bev DeLaZerda, Ralph Fidler, and Thom Jones. ▲

The President's Spring Reception

For University Retirees

Friday, June 1, 2007

5-6:30 pm

The Meese Room, Hannon Library

To make reservations:

Email: 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 28, 2007

Helping the University

By Jim Dean

It was April 10, 2007, and the Retirees Association Council was meeting. Outside the April weather was its remarkably changeable self. It gusted, it rained, it hailed, the sun suddenly flooded across the lawn, then cloud shadows raced across campus, and it rained again, harder. Then President Cullinan walked into the room, shaking her umbrella. "My, what interesting weather you have in Oregon," she said, settling into a chair to begin a conversation with Council members about how the Retirees Association might help the University during difficult fiscal times.

The impetus for the "brain-storming session" was Lawson Inada's talk to emeriti and staff at the March 17 Winter Term Luncheon. Lawson told us that given our vast experience with and knowledge of the University, its students, and its operations, we were in a position to provide valuable service to the institution.

President Cullinan began the conversation by saying that recruiting and retention issues have been much on her mind lately. Substantial thought and effort by Vice-president of Student Affairs Jonathan Eldridge and his staff have led to creation of a feature called "Raider-Reachout" on the University's web page. She encouraged Retirees to visit the site, see what processes are now in place, and join in the effort to reach new students and keep current students connected to the University, and join in the effort. The goal of "Raider-Reachout" is to involve the whole campus community. You can visit the website at <http://www.sou.edu/admissions/raider-reachout>.

Cullinan also called attention to the streamlining of enrollment processes so students have only "one-stop" to make rather than having to wander the campus looking for the registrar's office, the financial aid office, and the business office.

Soon Council members were asking questions and suggesting ideas of their own. One suggested that given

the importance of mentoring students, emeritus faculty members could be put in contact with students, perhaps in advising and tutorial capacities.

Asked about scholarships available to students, Cullinan said that she has asked the Foundation to step up its effort to raise money. The cost of attending SOU has grown so much that students are often able to attend private schools (especially those having generous financial aid packages) for less than they pay for attending SOU. "It is absolutely crucial that the University find ways to increase scholarship aid," she concluded.

Discussion turned to the dearth of lectures and forums on campus. A Council member stated that many emeriti still maintain informal networks with colleagues from other institutions or professional organizations. Some of these people might be happy to come on campus to speak or participate in forums, at minimal cost. Another Council member suggested that the Southern Oregon Learning In Retirement (SOLIR) program has many talented professional people whose expertise might be tapped, with the ancillary benefit of involving them more closely in University life.

There was also discussion about how the high turn-over of personnel in the Alumni Office has hindered efforts to create a strong alumni base. This area obviously needs shoring-up.

Additional questions articulated were these:

1. Would it be possible to have beleaguered faculty and their departments identify areas where they could use help?
2. Would it be possible to establish a pool of guest lecturers from among emeriti? They could provide service during a faculty member's occasional absence from campus.

3. Would it be useful to have faculty and retirees meet with Resident Assistants and dorm students, as was done at one point in the past?

4. Might the Association help by creating a database with the names and addresses of retired staff and management employee retirees and thus keep in touch with them and encourage continued connection to the University?

As the meeting closed the fickle sun once again lighted the room and President Cullinan hurried away to a meeting in Medford. There was general agreement that the exchange of information and ideas was a useful starting place. What remains to be done is focus on a few things and begin acting upon them. The Council welcomes your thoughts about helping the University and will keep you informed about progress on this front. ▲

Nan Siebert's Tale Of a Heroic Dog

By Herman Schmeling

Editor's Note: *The following story is a modified version of a longer one being co-authored for publication by Nan Siebert, retired from the Registrar's Office, and Herman Schmeling, retired from English.*

During the course of our friendship Nan Siebert and I discovered that we both like dogs, and during the course of our conversations Nan told me a story about one dog in World War II who benefited friend and foe alike.

Nan met Klaus, her future husband in Wurzburg, Bavaria, in 1953. She was an elementary school teacher on an American military base from 1952 to

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Recent Losses

With sadness we record the following losses (full obituary notices may be viewed on the Emeritus website: emeritus.sou.edu).

Lloyd Pennington died March 6, 2007 in Ashland. Born in Portland, Oregon April 4, 1917, he attended Reed College for his undergraduate degree, where he majored in chemistry. While at Reed he met Hazel, his future wife. They graduated from Reed in 1939 and were married in 1942. Lloyd went on to earn his PhD at Oregon State University in 1955.

Lloyd and Hazel moved to Ashland in 1946 when Lloyd was hired to teach chemistry at Southern Oregon College of Education. He began what was to be a career of developing a first-class chemistry department. For thirty years he recruited and led a faculty that built a regionally recognized program, sending department majors on to medical schools, graduate programs, and industry. Lloyd served as chair until he assumed the directorship of the science division, a position he held until his retirement in 1979.

During his tenure Lloyd helped design and supervise the construction of the campus's two science buildings, in 1959 and 1968. He became an influential spokesman for the College's faculty, serving on the Faculty Council in the 1960s. Following the disbanding of the Council, he served on a newly created Faculty Senate as its first chairman and oversaw the creation of the Faculty Constitution. In 1975-76 he led the institution in its Self-study process, leading to re-accreditation by the Northwest Association of Universities and Colleges.

Donations can be sent to the Southern Oregon University Foundation, marked for the Lloyd and Hazel Pennington Memorial Chemistry Scholarship.

Mollie M. Bennett, wife of Bob Bennett, died February 21, 2007 at the age of 81. She was born April 29, 1925 in Portland, Oregon to Robert and Ruth McBride. She graduated from Lincoln High School

in Portland. In 1946 she graduated from Oregon State University School of Pharmacy where she was a member of Kappa Kappa Gamma. As a registered pharmacist she worked at various hospitals and retail pharmacies in the Portland and Southern Oregon areas.

In the early 1950s she moved to Ashland where she was a member of the Chapter BN P. E. O., and will be remembered for her smiling face and bright personality. She also was well traveled, enjoying visits abroad with Bob. In retirement they faithfully attended emeriti functions.

Those who wish may make memorial contributions to the Robert J. and Mollie M. Bennett SOU Rotary Scholarship, c/o Ashland Rotary Foundation, P. O. Box 510, Ashland OR 97520.

Victor Sims After a very short illness, Dr. Vic Sims died on April 27, 2007. Vic joined the University's Department of Criminology in 1994 and retired in 2006. He had extensive experience in service and leadership positions, serving as a Company Commander in the U. S. Army Military Police Corps, a police officer in Berkeley, Phoenix, and Anchorage. In Nome, Alaska he served as chief of police.

He received his PhD from the University of Southern Mississippi in 1982 and taught at Stephen F. Austin State University, at the University of Southern Mississippi, and Lamar State University before coming to SOU as Associate Professor of Criminology.

Vic's scholarship included research on rural and small town policing. He helped the department connect with regional law enforcement agencies and brought a chapter of Alpha Phi Sigma (the Criminal Justice Honor Society) to SOU. He received an Elmo award for his leadership in motivating students to come to the University. During his life he was also a commercial pilot, a marathon runner and triathlete. President Cullinan reminds us that Vic was a great gift to the University, one who will be greatly missed.

David Allen Russell David, 72, of Medford, Oregon, died on April 30 2007 at Hearthstone Nursing Facility after a long illness.

David was born August 15, 1934 in Wichita, Kansas, to Eleanor and Melvin Russell. David spent his childhood years in Wichita, Kansas, Des Moines, Iowa, St. Joseph, Mo., and Flint, Mich., graduating from Northern High School in 1952 in Flint. David graduated from Graceland College in Lamoni, Iowa in 1954. He served in the Armed Forces from 1956-1958. Following military service he enrolled at the University of Michigan, earning degrees in education and library science, and received his PhD in library science from the University of Iowa in 1984. At Southern Oregon University he was a professor of Library Science from 1983 until he retired as Professor Emeritus in 1996.

David was active in the community, participating in the Jackson County ACLU, the Jackson County Democratic Committee, and the Southern Oregon Lambda Association. He was also a long time member of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Rogue Valley, where he served on a number of committees.

Memorial services will be announced at a later date. ▲

SOLIR Receives Grants

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learning, SOLIR Coordinator Sally Klein will play an increasingly active role with the Emeritus/Retirees Association in the year ahead.

In return for the generous grant, the Osher Foundation requires only one thing: that SOLIR change its name to become The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Southern Oregon University. Watch for more news of the newly-renamed "OLLI-SOU" in the months ahead, as it uses Osher funds to improve the current program and reach out to the community. ▲

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1250 Siskiyou Blvd.
Ashland, Oregon 97520*

Tale of a Heroic Dog

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1954. Klaus was working for the base travel office when they met. A courtship ensued, and they were married in the Spring of 1954.

Sometime during their courtship, Klaus told her about his brief tenure as a German soldier during the last months of the war. Shortly after he turned 17 on November 27, 1944, he was inducted into the army, whether as a Hitler youth volunteer—all youths his age were Hitler youths—or as a result of a desperate Hitler's sweep of most German males, young and old, into the military as the allies closed in, Nan is not sure. In any case, after basic training at Grafenwher, Klaus found himself on the western front, in Germany, in winter, early 1945, where his unit, like all others, was constantly engaged in "advancing to the rear."

Both the very young and veteran soldiers admired their unit dog. A large, strong German Shepherd male, it had been trained to rescue the wounded. He wore a large leather collar around his neck and

would approach a wounded soldier on the battlefield and stand over him. The German, or American—the dog didn't know the difference—if conscious, would grab hold of the collar. The dog, astride the soldier's body, would drag him back to the German line where he would be quickly taken to a field hospital for medical treatment. The dog was trained to tip over an unconscious soldier lying face down to bring his face out of the dirt, then grab him by the jacket collar before dragging him back. He recognized death and left dead soldiers on the battlefield.

The dog endeared himself to all unit soldiers. He became to them a symbol of selfless behavior in their selfish war. Understandably, they were demoralized when, one night, a shell exploded between the lines and blew him up. They had become hardened to human death, but the death of this creature, which indiscriminately saved Germans and Americans, was too much to bear.

Shortly after the dog was killed, a shell exploded close to Klaus, knocking him unconscious. He was taken to a German field hospital. When he awoke three days later, it was an American hospital. His

unit has departed, once again advancing to the rear.

After fully recovering, he was sent to a prison camp in Marseilles for a year. After release from the camp he went to school for a while and eventually went to work for the Americans. Enter Nan.

Nan and Klaus had four children, three of whom live in the Portland area, one in Montana. Klaus died in 1976. Nan moved to Portland recently, to be near her six grandchildren.

Nan worked for many years in the Registrar's office and is remembered affectionately. Phyliss Newton, her immediate supervisor, says that "students loved her." Not surprisingly, Nan specialized in helping veterans who needed her aid to get the money owed them. Conney Alexander recalls that "My staff and I often worked with Nan in her capacity in the Registrar's office. Not only was she intelligent and caring, but she had a great sense of humor in resolving problems. Her refreshing point of view was, 'Let's solve this, but not take it too seriously.'" Her best buddy, Pat Wolfe, says: "Amen to that." ▲