

Spring 2021

Greetings SOU Retirees!

We all know this past year has been difficult for all - especially by not being able to meet with friends and colleagues! We are, again, having to **cancel** our **May 7, 2021**, luncheon due to the Covid-19 virus. But there is hope for the future! At this time, the school is planning on reopening for fall term! Our luncheon schedule has already been set for the coming year. The dates are as follows: Fall luncheon - Friday, October 15, 2021; Winter luncheon - Friday, February 11, 2022; and Spring luncheon - Friday, May 20, 2022. Times will be as usual - 11:30 am - social hour; approximately 12:15 pm - program; finish approximately 1:00 pm. Something to look forward to at last!

The Leadership Council welcomes the addition of Tom Pyle to the Council. It is a pleasure to have Tom with us. He has already made timely suggestions that will help us move forward in the future. He will be a great asset to the Council and the Association. Welcome, Tom.

One of Tom's suggestions was to up-date and further improve the website. John Engelhardt has done a tremendous job in maintaining the website through the years, however, he has been unable (due to time constraints) to stay on top of current events for the association. Ralph Fidler has agreed to undertake the responsibility to keep the website current (with some help from John) and has done a great job in upgrading the website. It is now easier to access and easier to browse through the information. Ralph is trying to keep the site current, but will need all of your help in doing so. Please let him know when changes are made to your current status, including address, email address changes, etc. You can access the account by using: SOU Retirees Association.com

Ralph is setting up another feature of the website where the membership can send in articles (300 words or less) you feel would be of interest to the membership. If you have such an article, please send it to Ralph Fidler at: ralphfidler@gmail.com for

inclusion in the website. This will be a great feature for the website.

We would not be able to accomplish all the new improvements to the website without the upkeep and maintenance of the website during the years by John Engelhardt . It was a tremendous task and he deserves our thanks for a job well done!

As stated in the Winter newsletter, the recipient for the SOU Retirees Association Scholarship Award this year was Sarah Ross. Sarah wrote us a thank note which reads as follows:

Dear SOU Retirees Association Scholarship Committee,

I am appreciative to be selected as the recipient of the SOU Retirees Association Scholarship. As a first generation student I feel grateful for the opportunity to pursue Higher Education. I plan to graduate in the Spring of 2028 with an Environmental Science major, AMS double major in Spanish and Outdoor Adventure Leadership. All areas I am passionate about, and after graduation I aspire to be an Environmental Biologist who is more than capable to perform intensive outdoor field research. Learning Spanish will also allow me to travel and help the environment in Spanish speaking countries as well.

I am thankful for your association to help support students like me in their Education endeavors, Thank you for your confidence and generosity in helping me ease my financial burden, as well as helping me achieve my professional goals.

Sincerely,

Sarah Ross

Our scholarship fund as of December 31, 2020, is \$55,410. This should allow us to be able to offer another scholarship of \$1,200 for next year.

For our Fall 2021 newsletter, The Leadership Council is asking if your home or other property was heavily damaged by the Alameda fire last September, or if you know of other retirees hit hard by the fire. If so, would you please contact Tom Pyle at amatom2@charter.net. Tom is planning to write a story for the next fall's newsletter having to do with the impact on retirees in September and how they are doing approximately a year later. A list of those affected would serve as a good starting point for the project so please contact Tom if you can help. We hope all affected by this tragedy are doing well and, hopefully, getting back on their feet.

Until we can meet again in the fall, please take care, stay safe, stay healthy, and have a wonderful summer. Can't wait to see everyone in the FALL!

Bev De La Zerda

Leadership Council Volunteer