

Poet Laureate Inada to Speak at Winter Term Luncheon

Winter Term's no-host Retirees Association Luncheon, to be held March 16 in the Rogue River Room, Stevenson Union, will feature retired SOU professor and Oregon Poet Laureate Lawson Inada as speaker.

Following his retirement from the Department of English, where he taught creative writing for more than 30 years, Lawson was appointed to a two year term as Laureate by Governor Ted Kulongoski in 2005. He was nominated for the honor by Ed Batistella, former Dean of the School of Arts and Letters.

Widely known as an engaging, amusing and animated speaker, Lawson will look back with a poet's eyes on the College he found in 1966, when he came to Ashland, and share his views about its development since then.

A new twist has been added to the no-host affair this Winter. Ordinarily, association members and guests pay ten dollars each for a first-rate lunch. However, this time the Siskiyou Center will absorb the cost of the lunch, with the proviso that attendees donate an equivalent amount (\$10) to the Emeritus Scholarship Fund. Thus, retirees will both eat well and have the satisfaction of knowing they have contributed to a scholarship benefiting students.

Luncheon activities will begin at 11:45 with refreshments and socializing. Lunch will follow at 12 p.m. To make your reservations please contact Jeanne Stallman by Monday, March 12. Her e-mail (preferred) is stallman@sou.edu. You may also reserve a spot by calling her at 541-552-6699 or by utilizing the Emeritus Information Feature on the Emeritus Faculty Website: www.emeritus.sou.edu. ▲

INVITATIONS SENT TO UNIVERSITY RETIREES

Responding to a new provision in the Association of Retirees Guidelines that encourages nonfaculty members of the University community to join the Retirees Association and participate in its activities, Council President John Whitesitt has sent a letter inviting them to future Association activities. During a Fall term luncheon and business meeting, Association members voted unanimously for the idea of making membership more inclusive.

By going in this direction, SOU resembles most other west coast universities in

not limiting membership to emeritus faculty members. At least 50 people will receive John's initial letter. More will likely be added to the list as other names are suggested and their whereabouts determined.

Membership is open to administrators and staff who retired from SOU with at least five years service. "Staff" includes classified employees. "Administration" includes non teaching faculty (aka as administrative faculty) and people who at one point were called management service or administrative professionals. ▲

WINTER TERM

Luncheon

For Retired Faculty and Associate Members

**SPEAKER: LAWSON INADA,
Oregon's Poet Laureate**

In the Rogue River Room of
Stevenson Union Building

\$10 Donation to the Emeritus Scholarship Fund

Friday, March 16

To make reservations
E-mail: 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, March 12, 2007

ETTLICH TO SERVE ON ETHICS COMMISSION

The Oregon State Senate recently confirmed the appointment of Ernie Ettlich, former Dean of Academic Affairs and retired professor of communication, to a four-year term on Oregon's Commission on Judicial Fitness and Disabilities. The appointment followed his nomination by Governor Ted Kulongoski.

Ernie joins three judges appointed by the Supreme Court, three attorneys appointed by the Oregon State Bar, and two other citizen members.

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Retiree News Notes

In September and October Sue Burkholder and her sister spent three weeks in China. Their itinerary included Beijing, Shanghai, the Great Wall, Xian and its terra cotta soldiers, a cruise on the Yangtze River, as well as less well known places in the southwest, including Guilin, Dali, Yanshou, and Lijiang.

In April Don and Phyllis Reynolds will add another country to their increasing list of places visited. This time it will be Peru, with visits to Cuzco, Machu Pichu, and the Moche ruins on the northwest coast.

During the Fall Flora MacCracken visited her daughter Susan and grandchildren

in Shanghai. Susan works for IBM there, and her grandchildren are in the third and fifth grades at Shanghai Community International School. Flora plans another visit in the Spring.

Frank Lang, Claude Curran and two of their friends (a professor from USC and an employee at Crater Lake National Park) are in the midst of a six week exploration of Patagonia.

At a November meeting of the Gallimauphy Society, John Alexander used his expertise in astronomy, physics, and mathematics to convincingly argue how unlikely it is that earth's human beings will ever come into contact with space aliens. ▲

SOU TAKES DOUBLE BLOWS

The following account is primarily intended to let retirees living outside the region know about serious fiscal difficulties faced by SOU. It will also serve as a reminder to those who have followed local news. Most material is drawn from The Medford "Mail Tribune," the "Ashland Daily Tidings" and "The President's Page" posted on the University's web site: www.sou.edu.

— Jim Dean, Editor.

Facing a four million dollar shortfall due to declining enrollment and inadequate state support, Southern Oregon University's administrators, faculty, and students are experiencing the agonies of reductions to faculty, staff, and programs. Long habituated to doing more with less, the University must now do less with less.

The first of two days of bad news was delivered Jan. 8, 2007 at an all campus meeting. Reductions in administrative areas, primarily in Student Services, will result in the loss of 25 positions (17 to be eliminated and 8 currently vacant). Savings will also accrue from savings in energy use and diminished travel budgets. Savings in these administrative areas will result in savings of 2.6 million dollars.

The second round of bad news came Jan. 22, 2007 in the form of a "provisional plan" announced by President Cullinan. This plan calls for the reduction of 24 faculty positions and elimination of majors in German, Geology, and Geography, as well as the cessation of the Honors

Program. Program reductions are proposed for environmental studies, biology, chemistry, computer sciences, math, art, English, communication, music, history, criminology, economics, women's studies, health and physical education, political science, international studies, and library. Total savings proposed are 1.6 million dollars.

Additionally, three of the University's schools: Arts and Letters, Social Science, and Science will be reconstituted and become a single College of Arts and Sciences, resulting in administrative savings in the schools.

A comment period was set for the period Jan. 22 to Feb. 19. The University's formal plan will be announced March 12 and posted on the President's Page www.sou.edu.

President Cullinan has had the unenviable task of declaring a state of financial exigency, as provided for in the collective bargaining agreement between the University and its faculty. The Association of Professors: Southern Oregon University had asked that Cullinan not declare exigency, but she believed that she had no other option. "I am as torn as anyone could be about these [reductions]," she said, "but we have to face budget realities."

Declaration of exigency allows the administration to eliminate programs and majors rather than simply making across-the-board cuts, reducing programs and

selecting targets of opportunity (retirements, resignations, continuing vacancies, one year appointments).

Provost Earl Potter noted that "everything on campus was closely evaluated according to how they fit into the University's strategic plan, enrollment trends, class sizes, grants and gifts generated, effect on other programs, and quality and effectiveness. The smallest programs were most closely examined, for cuts in these would be the least damaging."

Potter gravely observed that "We are at the point in this University's life where we have to cut things that are wonderful. These are very fine programs. It's not because these programs failed. The solution you are being presented is the least bad."

President Cullinan feels that the reconfiguration of schools into a college will "enable us to make reductions while preserving the integrity of our programs, the quality of our teaching, and the commitment to our students. It will enable students to have a clear path to graduation and will include majors and programs that meet their areas of interest and respond to regional needs." She also stated that there will be new opportunities for interdisciplinary work and a continuing commitment to liberal arts instruction. ▲

Student Retention at SOU, Past and Present

By Herman Schmeling

Once again SOU is faced with budgetary problems and the consequent need to make painful cuts. And once again, because the budget is based on enrollment, it is looking for ways to improve the retention rate of the students it attracts. While retention is everybody's business on campus, it is of special interest to the new Vice-President of for Student Affairs, Jonathan Eldridge. Eldridge, who on February 15 completed his first year at SOU, comes to us from Lewis and Clark, where he was Dean of Students. He notes that while the enrollment went up a little this fall, from 4,977 to 5,022, full-time equivalent (FTE) actually dropped 2 % because of the increase in non-admitted students who do not take a full load.

Eldridge knows a lot about the make-up of the student body. Seventy percent of them range in age from 18-22. Of these slightly less than 50% come directly from high school. Of students 22 and older, 15% are 30 and over, 3% over 50. The rest fall somewhere in between.

Emeriti, he thought, might be interested in comparing the student body of thirty years ago with the present one. Some things have not changed much. For example, the economic background of our students over that thirty-year span is still mainly lower middle and middle class. A fairly large percentage of our students continue to be eligible for Pell grants.

Most of our students continue to come from Oregon, particularly Jackson County, with a fairly good-sized portion (585) from the Portland area. Of out-of-state students, California provides the most, now that it is part of the western

undergraduate exchange (with a tuition rate 1 ½ time higher than the University's in-state rate, this amount is considerably less than full out-of-state tuition).

There has been a significant increase in the total of minority students. Eighty-five students (2.18% of 3,818 students in 1976; 591 (11.3%) of 5,002 today: almost seven times the earlier total.

Numbers of the various minorities are as follows:

	1976	2006
American Indian	26	105
African American	19	68
Asian/Pacific Islander	21	189
Hispanic	19	229

Eldridge notes that there is better retention of students of color (as compared to other students) except for Hispanics, who have dropped 2%. He suspects that there are cultural factors at play in this drop that we don't understand.

He is pleased to note that SOU athletes graduate at a higher rate than the general student body—which speaks well for their retention.

There is a whole range of reasons—financial, family, personal—why about 50% of freshmen drop out by their junior year (and have, over the years). But there is also success, Eldridge emphasizes, for many of these dropouts complete their general education before transferring to universities to enroll in professional programs we do not offer.

Eldridge thinks that retention might be improved by consolidating the offices that serve students at registration and other times. In a draft proposal of December 18, 2006, he has proposed an Enrollment Services Center that "will include the existing offices of the Registrar, Business Services, and Financial Aid, and will be located adjacent to the Admissions Office. The staff and functions of these offices will not retain their identities as members of one of these particular offices; instead, they will become employees of the Enrollment Services Center with job responsibilities that may extend beyond the traditional lines between these functional areas."

The mission of the Center will be "to provide outstanding enrollment services to prospective and current students of Southern Oregon University. We will enhance our services and increase their accessibility through the most effective and efficient use of our human and technological resources. We will adopt best practices and implement them for the benefit of SOU students.

Eldridge emphasizes that while we are doing our best to retain students, we need to show them strong resources for staying on. ▲

ETTLICH TO SERVE

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As an administrator at SOU, he was active in several activities in which ethical issues were significant, including evaluation of the performance of faculty and administrators. He was responsible for conducting hearings, and for assessing the merit of complaints.

After leaving Academic Affairs he was instrumental in helping to develop an honors curriculum focusing on ethical issues. "I have always had a strong interest in academic ethics," Ernie said. ▲

Tired of Hotels? Try Renting in Europe

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inconveniences are sure to pop up. Our apartment in London was situated such that we had to go out the living room door to a public hallway and then enter a second door every time we went across to the bedroom, which we then had to unlock.) This got a little tedious. But wait. . . the bedroom consisted of three, single student beds, three desks, three closets. Clearly it was set up for a group of university students (of whom there are many in the area). It was a big dorm room. Heigh ho! We made the best of it.

In Venice, we were guaranteed a washer and dryer, but no dryer existed—so it was touch-and-go as to whether our second pair of pants would dry in time to wear the next day.

But as I look back, these seem small prices to pay in exchange for traveling within our budget and being able to stay in roomy, kitchen-equipped apartments. Most of all, in renting, we could affect a continental air as we sat in our local café and pretended to ourselves that we were, indeed, residents. ▲

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

Tired of Hotels? Try Renting in Europe

By Conney Alexander

With the value of the dollar dropping against the Euro, you may want to explore alternative housing accommodations when traveling in Europe. Last Fall my husband, Richard, and I did this while making a 16 day trip to visit London and Venice. Rather than book hotel rooms, we decided to rent an apartment in each place.

Why an apartment? First off, like many a married couple, we function on different time clocks—he is a night owl while I rise with the dawn. We wanted to have a space where there could be a separate bedroom and living room. Secondly, we wanted to be able to cook. I knew from a trip to London two years earlier that even a humble restaurant meal ran to thirty dollars per person, and besides, what's the fun of being on vacation if you can't enjoy an early morning cup of coffee while lounging in your jammies. We also had to stick to our modest budget.

I began two paths of inquiry to find suitable apartments—I used the internet and I talked to friends and their friends. From the first method I found our

London apartment (sam@regentsuites.com). Working with their agent, Sam, we arranged for a one bedroom apartment between Bloomsbury Square and Russell Square. It was considered a "middle range" apartment in terms of luxury and was \$125 per night. (This at a time when very plain hotel rooms commonly run \$200 per night). Before I settled on Regent Suites I talked with or emailed a number of agencies. I recommend asking a lot of questions—one agent even expected us to thoroughly clean the apartment before departing. I didn't go to Europe to clean the oven!

Also, it helps if you have studied up on, or know, the areas of the city where you will be staying. I was familiar with, and loved, the Russell Square/Bloomsbury Square neighborhood. It lies close to the British Museum, is roiling with history dear to Victorian hearts (such as mine) and is a 40 minute walk to west end theaters and tourist sights. (A side note here to say that at a time when one "tube" ride costs \$4, it pays to have good walking shoes and build in time to walk most places.) I got a far better sense of the

city this visit, through walking than I did two years before when I jumped on the tube every day.)

Our Venetian apartment came through a local friend's recommendation. It also helped that Swiss friends, who were coming from Geneva to join us, knew Venice very well and helped make the choice. We agreed on a two bedroom apartment in the Canareggio district, out of the noise and bustle of the main tourist areas. Near our apartment was the Jewish Museum and 17th century synagogue. We enjoyed this quiet neighborhood with its many little squares, cafes, winding streets and alleys. The cost here was \$125 for each couple (\$250 total), the same as our London cost per night. The website for this agency: veniceapartment.com. The agent in Venice coordinated with our flight time and was waiting for us when the vaporetto stopped at Ponte Guglia in "our neighborhood," to lead us safely to our temporary home.

My third piece of advice on apartment renting: realize you are not going to get everything you asked for. Little

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