

LEARNING ABOUT LIFELONG LEARNING

During a time when Southern Oregon University has had to retrench and reconfigure itself to survive, one program has grown and prospered. That program is the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI), formerly known as Southern Oregon Learning in Retirement (SOLIR).

At its inception SOLIR had among it teaching staff several retired SOU faculty members who still had a yen to teach, and particularly in a setting where students were mature, eager learners. However, the number of SOU retirees participating in the program has declined even as the number of participants from the community has increased.

Jeanne Stallman, Interim Director of Extended Campus Programs, hopes to increase participation of SOU retirees. To that end, at Winter Term's Association Luncheon, to be held March 7, 2008, from 11:30-1:30 in the Rogue River Room, Jeanne will discuss the benefits of participating in the OLLI program and provide a brief overview of the programs operating under the umbrella of the Siskiyou Center (Elderhostel, Senior Ventures, and OLLI). After her presentation Larry Kellogg, current President Elect of OLLI will briefly tell retirees why he joined OLLI and what it has done for him. Finally Bernie Hartman, who possesses a Ph D in comparative physiology, will present a greatly shortened version (about twenty minutes long) of a class he teaches for OLLI: "Honey Bees and Colony Collapse Disorder." It promises to be a fascinating presentation, and one designed to show what OLLI is all about.

Generally between 35 and 45 OLLI courses are offered each term, with most classes meeting weekly for two to ten weeks. The courses include art, music, literature, science, history, and a variety of miscellaneous classes, from bird-watching to

yoga. One-Shots, which are two-hour presentations on a different topic each week, are also offered at no cost to the general public. In 2008 OLLI began offering mini-courses at Rogue Valley Manor in Medford.

The luncheon, provided by the Siskiyou Center, is free, but the Association does encourage attendees to contribute \$10 to the Association's Scholarship Fund in lieu of what the lunch costs. Checks should be made out to the Southern Oregon University Foundation. On the memo line indicate that the money is to go to the Retiree's Association Scholarship.

If you plan to attend, please RSVP Sally Klein by Tuesday, Feb. 26. ▲

Creating a University History

By Harold Otness

Southern Oregon University has had a major, sometimes pivotal role in the lives of of many people, and not just students. Those of us who spent large chunks of our careers here both helped make it what it has become, and have been impacted by it.

There should be a comprehensive historical record of the institution written from the perspectives of students, faculty, and administrators. Unfortunately, what has been recorded so far is piecemeal. The archival records are spotty and neglected, and there is no oral history project.

Art Kreisman's *Remembering: A History of Southern Oregon University* documents its early years. There have been a few personal reminiscences such as Jim Dean's thoughtful and even-handed recollections of the pyrotechnics of the 1960s, and a brief history of the Biology Department by Marvin Coffey. But much more could be done.

Vaughn Bornet has just completed a substantial and commendable contribution, *Leaders and Issues at Southern Oregon College, 1963-1980*. He chronicles what he saw and experienced during his tenure as Chairman of the Social Science Division. It is available for sale at a modest price in the University Bookstore (as is Kreisman's book) and will also be posted on the Retirees website. Perhaps reading it will stir others to record what we can still, in our dotage, recall of the "college" during our years. ▲

Mark Your Calendars

March 7, 2008
11:30 am-1:30 pm

Rogue River Room
for

**THE RETIREES ASSOCIATION'S
WINTER TERM FREE LUNCHEON**

With Jeanne Stallman
Introducing Retirees to a
SOU Success Story—OLLI
(Osher Lifelong Learning Institute)

Followed By A Presentation of
A Mini OLLI Course

RSVP to Sally Klein by Tuesday
February 26, 2008

Email (preferred): kleins@sou.edu

Or Telephone: 541 552-6049

Visit the University's Website at <http://www.sou.edu> and the Retirees Association Website at <http://emeritus.sou.edu>. On the latter site Dean of Arts and Sciences Josie Williams has posted a letter detailing developments and news of the new school. You will find the letter under "Emeritus News."

CONTINUING TO SERVE: RETIREES AS VOLUNTEERS

Editor's Note: When I asked some members of the Retirees Association for information about their volunteerism, the response was both gratifying and overwhelming. I am certainly aware that many who regularly give of their time and talent will not be named here, though they deserve to be. What follows simply illustrates how and why some retired faculty and staff continue to give so richly of themselves.
— Jim Dean

Old Habits of service are hard to break. While retired faculty and staff do enjoy newfound leisure, stroll golf links, travel to foreign and domestic climes, or cultivate hobbies, most do not bask in Eden on a regular basis. The truth is that once their service to students and the University ends, they find many other ways to serve the Communities to which they belong.

Volunteer activities are as various as the expertise and character of the volunteers themselves:

- Volunteers are members of service clubs (Rotary, Lions, Soroptimists, e.g.)
- They serve on boards and commissions
- They volunteer as ushers, docents and receptionists for arts organizations
- They work as Pink Ladies in the Ashland community Hospital
- They participate in local and national programs designed to help the less fortunate
- They help teach reading to elementary school children
- They distribute food to the aged and needy
- They work to promote better local government and civic engagement
- They help build low cost housing
- They engage in habitat restoration
- They advocate for children's rights and welfare
- They provide counseling and support for families of those dealing with Alzheimer's disease

They are our friends and associates.

Some Examples:

The Ashland Lion's Club is something of a magnet for retirees who wish to combine good works with good fellowship. The Lions participate in "Meals on Wheels" deliveries, support "Dogs for the Deaf," help fund a statewide camp for diabetic kids, contribute to the Ashland Community Hospital, and provide eye examinations and eyeglasses for many citizens of the third world. Jerry Insley, Dan Bulkley, Dick Welton, Herman Schmeling, Ron Nitsos, Marvin Belford, and Bev De La Zerda have all been active, with Bulkley and Welton recognized for long and distinguished service.

Sally Jones imparts equal luster to the work of the Soroptimists.

Wives or husbands of retirees often stake out quite different activities from their spouses. Sheila Ettlich, for example, was a leader in establishing a respite care center (now called The Memory Care Center) for those suffering memory loss, as well as a support structure for those providing care to afflicted loved ones. Ernie Ettlich serves on the Board of Chamber Music Concerts (responsible for bringing world class classical performers to the Valley) and well as on Oregon's Commission on Judicial Fitness and Disabilities, to which he was appointed by Governor Ted Kulongowski.

Darlene Steffani heads a group of volunteers working for the AARP program for tax preparation and is co-leader for sites located in Ashland, Talent, and Phoenix. The program provides free tax preparation help to low and middle income tax payers (including SOU students). Tax returns are filed electronically to insure that recipients of returns get them quickly. Joining Darlene is providing this annual service are Lee Hill (a councilor), wife Paula (a greeter), and George Converse (a counselor). Keith Carney and Sheldon Rio served as counselors in past years.

Both Steffanis (Ron and Darlene) have been involved in "Meals on Wheels" deliveries for several years. Ron annually presents a program in model railroading at the Respite Center in Medford. Pat Sorsoli donates time to the Ashland Food Bank. She also joins Darlene Steffani, Lorinne Skaff-Winger, Carol McNair, Fran and John McCollom, and Mike Baughman in

providing reading assistance to elementary school students through the national SMART reading program.

Over the years Hal Cloer has regularly participated in groups aimed at insuring citizen involvement in democratic processes (The League of Women Voters, e.g) and effective government. From 2004-2007 he was a member of Ashland's Charter Review Committee and recently wrote featured articles in the *Daily Tidings* about the city's "strong mayor" system. In the past he has worked on the City's Comprehensive Plan, its Historic Commission, and its Planning Commission. Ron Bolstad is current president of the 145 member Ashland Rotary Club, a group which supports things as various as these: buying a wrestling mat for high school athletes; sponsoring International

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THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S FREE LUNCH

There is such a thing as a free lunch—well, technically free-- and Dick Moore and Tom Pyle are inviting you to it. Retirees Association members are invited to join Moore and Pyle at their tables at the second annual Southern Oregon Society History Lunch, to be held from 12 to 1 March 20 at the Red Lion in Medford.

While lunch is free, there will be a "very soft" pitch made for pledges to help support SOHS and its programs. The real goal of the event, however, is to increase understanding of what the historical society contributes to Jackson County residents—old and young. Moore and Pyle serve on the SOHS Board of Trustees.

For more information and to make reservations for the lunch, call Dick at 734-2372 or Tom at 535-2449 before the Feb. 28 deadline for reservations. Additional information about SOHS may be found at www.sohs.org ▲

Some Examples:

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Youth Exchanges; contributing to the purchase of prosthetic hands for the maimed in East Africa; and raising money to help provide for 50 new low-cost houses in Guanajuato, Mexico. Ron also served 8 years as a Board member on the Ashland Community Hospital's Foundation, two years as president. Jim Dean joined him on the Board for three years, and Neil Kunze served for two years on the Hospital's Board of Directors. Don Mackin is the current President of the Foundation Board.

Former Education School faculty Mary Curtis Gramley volunteers in Jackson County's Children's Advocacy Center, Dave Hoffman sits on the Board of the Southern Oregon Adolescent Treatment Center, and Bill Danley is involved in habitat restoration for the Nature Conservancy at the Agate Desert, near White City.

Tom Pyle keeps busy as a board member (and past vice-president) of the Mt. Ashland Ski Association; he also sits on the Board of the Southern Oregon Historical Society (as does Dick Moore) and is a member of the Oregon State Bar Association's Disciplinary Board. Bob Casebeer heads up the Talent Historical Society, while Sue Burkholder is a member of the Oregon State Library Board of Trustees, as well as a member of Ashland's Citizen Library Advisory Committee and a volunteer in AARP's Consumer Credit Counseling Service (a bill paying service for low income seniors).

In the Arts arena Jime Matoush works as a docent at the Schneider Museum and helps hang shows for the Rogue Valley Art Gallery. Flora MacCracken continues to volunteer in the Tudor Guild. She has done so since 1961 and is now an "Honored Life Member."

Fae Linn volunteers as a Pink Lady at Ashland's Community Hospital.

Herman and Sylvia Schmeling serve in the Chamber of Commerce's Information booth each summer. Herman also takes his "therapy dog" to a nursing home every Friday to

spend time with residents, serves on the University's Friends of the Library Board, and volunteers in son Max Schmeling's elementary classroom as a reader and a chaperone on field trips.

Why They Serve

Ask 50 volunteers why they volunteer and you'll likely get 50 different answers. One could postulate the following reasons and be mostly right: contribute to the common welfare; redress economic and social inequalities; serve during times of need; sustain a literate citizenry; promote humane values and a sense of the past. And so on.

These, however, are only high-minded abstractions. Better, as a means of concluding, to listen to a few voices of volunteers themselves as they tell why they volunteer:

Lee and Paula Hill: "The AARP tax program allows us to do something we can do to help others. We get to interact with others. We get to see the joy of young families whose tax returns often turn into a big payday. You do not have to work long to see what struggles many people face. Paula and I are amazed at how hard people work for so little return. It makes us appreciate what having a good profession has meant for our lives"

Tom Pyle: "For me, it's a combination of interest in the project or organization itself combined with a desire to work in collaboration with others. Working with Habitat for Humanity in Mexico was something I enjoyed, but would have never done without being part of a compatible and productive group."

Jerry Insley: "I know that my volunteerism stems from my experiences as a youth during the Depression. Neighbors helped neighbors, sometimes individually and sometimes as a group. People acted out of compassion and community spirit. There is, I would think, also a certain amount of ego involvement in that helping others makes one feel more positive about him or herself."

Carol McNair: "I love to read to children. I have been doing it for so many years,

and I ran out of children of my own. It also provides me with amusing stories for my friends, but I would do it if I was sworn to secrecy. It is supposed to help kids learn to read and to make them feel included and special, if that's what they need. These are the goals of the program and I have no objection to them, but they are not my goals. I just like to read to kids." ▲

LOSSES...

Joan Claire Rio, wife of Emeritus Professor Sheldon Rio, died October 23, at the age of 83. She was born March 31, 1924 in Sacramento, California.

After high school in Butte Montana, Joan entered the nursing program at Carroll College in Helena, Montana. She completed her residency training at St. James Hospital in Butte, graduating as a registered nurse in 1945. In 1950, in Spokane, Washington, she met and married Sheldon Rio. They had two children, a daughter, Marjorie (deceased), and a son, Rodger.

Highlights of Joan's nursing career included serving as head nurse at the Shelby Hospital, Shelby, Montana, establishing and directing the first student health center at Pacific University, and serving as Director of Nursing Services at Ashland Community Hospital for 24 years. She closed out her career as a nurse at Southern Oregon Family Practice.

Joan was interested in travel and in opera. Her fondest memories were of trips to Ireland, her heritage homeland, and to Northern Italy. The arts, bridge, reading, and gourmet cooking were her favorite pastimes. She was a Tudor Guild volunteer of the OSF for over 30 years, often serving as a board member and chairing various committees. She also volunteered as a nurse in programs such as immunization projects for migrant workers and Red Cross Blood banks.

Donations may be made in Joan's memory to either the Ashland Community Hospital Hospice program or the Sheldon and Joan Rio Scholarship Fund of the Southern Oregon University Foundation. ▲

SOUTHERN
OREGON
UNIVERSITY

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

January 29, 2008

Dear Retirees,

It is my pleasure to announce the goal of raising \$10,000 for a scholarship fund has been achieved. This was accomplished in four and a-half years instead of the five the Association set for raising these monies! Contributing members of the Association should be extremely proud of this accomplishment!

Although we have been able to reach our goal of \$10,000, your Council feels we can do more. The Council voted to raise the goal to \$20,000 and again set a five year goal. This is one way we can help the University retain students

There are several ways you can help. At the Winter Luncheon, we are asking each of you to donate \$10 which will be earmarked for the scholarship fund. If you wish, you may donate more. You can make a donation directly to the SOU Foundation in the name of the SOU Retirees Association. If you have any other ideas or strategies to add to the scholarship fund, please contact a Council member, or better yet attend a Council meeting and express your ideas yourself.

Congratulations for achieving the goal of \$10,000 before the deadline. Let's all work together to meet the next \$10,000 before the next five year deadline. We have shown we can do it!

I hope to see you on March 7 for the Winter luncheon in the Rogue River Room from 11:30 am to 1:30 pm. If you are a retired staff member or know of a retired staff member, please come to the meeting. It is great fun!

For the Retirees Council,
Bev De La Zerda
President