The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at CSU
Awarded a Million Dollar Endowment

Over the past five years many of the leaders of the Society of Senior Scholars and many of its members have been involved with the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Colorado State University. A number of you have taught classes, others have been course participants. Co-Directors Kevin Oltjenbruns and Jean Morgenweck are excited to share that the Bernard Osher Foundation has awarded Colorado State University a million dollar endowment whose interest will help sustain the program over time.

To qualify for such a significant gift, CSU met several goals, including having a variety of high quality course offerings, an active dues-paying membership of at least 500 individuals (we now have 650), designated space for an office and classes (Routt Hall first floor which is shared with Senior Scholars) and an active cohort of volunteers. We wish to offer our sincere thanks to those faculty who continue to share their expertise through teaching short courses to challenge the minds of our aged 50 and better membership and who offer various stand-alone lectures for our Members’ Perk Series (which is jointly sponsored with SSS). If you would like to be considered for a teaching role, please contact us through kevin.oltjenbruns@colostate.edu. Additionally, we hope you will be interested in becoming a member and taking courses. You will find detailed information on our website at: www.learn.colostate.edu/seniorscholars. As a post script, we wanted to share that the Bernard Osher Foundation gave Colorado State yet another million dollar endowment to fund Osher Reentry Scholarships. These $4,000 awards are given to two years of finishing their first Bachelor’s degrees. With this gift, we may now continue this student support over decades to come. For more information, contact Jan Rastall at 491-0415. - Kevin Oltjenbruns

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- Jerry Eckert, Agriculture & Resource Economics
- Harry Edwards, Mechanical Engineering
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- Jacob Hairston, Psychology
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- Grant Shriver, VP-Student Affairs
- Robert Zimdahl, Bioregional Science & Pest Management

Contact Us

- David Lindstrom, President 2010-12
  David.Lindstrom@colostate.edu
  970-491-2031
- Jerry Eckert, Past President 2009-10
  Jerry.Eckert@colostate.edu
- Robert Lawrence, Newsletter Editor
  Blaise@colostate.edu
  970-223-2940
- Kylie Vanderheiden, Coordinator
  kvanderheiden@learn.colostate.edu
- Nicole Olsen, Administrator
  Nicole.Olsen@colostate.edu
  970-419-1129

The Society of Senior Scholars
Enhancing Lives in Retirement for Colorado State’s Faculty

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From the Editor

We are changing the guard at the Society of Senior Scholars. Read about it on page 2. By now, most emeritus faculty have picked up their campus parking stickers which cost the other category of faculty $210. Next year it will be $265. Parking Services has moved to a new office located in the southwest corner of the Lake Street Parking Garage. The new garage is located at 1508 Center Avenue. Non-monetary perks for us are the varied programs offered by the Society of Senior Scholars and the Osher Institute noted elsewhere in this newsletter. All are encouraged to participate in these programs, and to keep active in retirement as suggested by the stories on page 3.

Robert Lawrence
Newsletter Editor

Oral History Project

History is the narrative of people and what they did or did not do. Jim Hansen’s three volumes of institutional history reveal a great deal about what was done and the lives and careers of those involved in the development of our university. Much of the past, however, is contained only in the memories of those who were present and when faculty retire and eventually die, their stories are lost forever.

To ensure the availability of the historical information these stories provide, the CSU Society of Senior Scholars has begun an oral history project to record the activities, accomplishments, and recollections of retired faculty and others who have made significant contributions to CSU. With support from the Library, the project will create a visual and audio record that will be accessible to those interested in researching and studying the people whose lives and achievements have formed CSU’s heritage. - Robert Zimdahl

Upcoming Events

- October 18: “Seeing the Un-seeable: X-Rays, Molecules, Life, and the Universe” Oren Anderson, Chemistry
- November 15: “The Human Costs of Technological and Natural Hazards” Sammy Zahran, Sociology
- December 1: “The Obesity Epidemic: How to Get a Four-Year-Old to Eat a Daikon Radish” Jennifer Anderson, Food Science and Human Nutrition

Colorado State University
Continuing Education

www.learn.colostate.edu/seniorscholars
Since retiring Bob Meroney and his wife Joan have toured to every continent and over 13 countries. In his spare time, Bob enthusiastically rides his tricycle recumbent bike, hikes and plays with his grand children.

Dr. Robert Meroney: After My Years at CSU
Bob Meroney retired in 2004 from the Civil and Environmental Engineering Department after thirty-nine years of service.

Since 2004, he has written 13 journal and conference proceeding papers, attended six international conferences, and taught in six workshops on fires, atmospheric dispersion, and computational methods in wind engineering. He also frequently provides guest lectures in workshops and classes across campus. For the past three years, Meroney has presented talks on "Tiger Stripes and Personality Types" to leadership and self development workshops in Engineering and Wildlife Biology. He has provided consulting advice on fires in buildings and atria, mixing in anaerobic digesters, flow through inclined-plate water treatment facilities, ventilation in airport concourses and large military firing ranges, flow over instrumentation in storm-water drainage pipes, etc.

In 2006, Meroney trained as a Master Naturalist and an aerobic recumbent bike enthusiast. In rest homes on subjects related to wildlife (bats, rattlesnakes, coyotes), native Indian myths, western gunfighters, and local history, including reenactments of Jack Slade: Overland Stage Division Director and bad man of Virginia Dale. He found he enjoys preparing visual presentations on quirky topics, and he now has a total of 31 talks for public presentation.

During 2008-2009 and 2009-2010, Meroney provided 18 evening presentations at the Public Library under the title "Eclectic Nights at the Library." Talk titles ranged from "Old Age Ain't No Place for Sissies," "Aerodynamics of the Golf Ball," and "The B-17: Mighty Flying Fortress" to "The Art of Salvador Dalí". He has also been invited to speak on similar subjects to local service clubs in Windsor, Loveland and Fort Collins. He is an active Rotarian, and has chaired his club's college scholarship program which assists 10 students annually to attend CSU or FRCC.

Robert Zimdahl: A Reflection on a Visit to Iran
I retired in 2005. At the time I was teaching two courses both of which I created. The courses: A/ IE-270: Agricultural ethics and A/ IE-330: Population and Food.

I was invited to give a keynote address to the 11th Congress of the Iranian Crop Science Society held in Tehran from July 24 to 26, 2010. It was one of the highlights of my professional career. Before I left for Tehran, I sought the advice of several friends and colleagues. Most suggested I should not go because “it is dangerous”.

In spite of the advice, I went and had a wonderful time. There were about 500 people who attended the congress, almost all Iranians. I was the only one from the United States. The congress paid all of my expenses, made arrangements for me to stay in the Parsian Kowsar, a first-class hotel, and could not have been more gracious hosts. It was not dangerous. I found it impossible to buy postcards, which I thought meant that not many tourists went to Tehran.

While there I visited the palatial grounds of the palace of the former Shah. I described them as opulent decadence. I also visited the home of the Ayatollah Khomeini, which was not opulent. He is universally respected and regarded as the creator of modern Iran. All Iranians, with whom I had a chance to converse, thought he was a very special man.

In their view, the problem between our countries is related to the opinions and actions of our governments not to the people. I was surprised to learn that so many Iranians, especially the young, learned English and spoke it quite well.