

The Society of Senior Scholars

Enhancing Lives in Retirement
for Colorado State's Faculty

Volume 1, Number 2

Colorado State University
Continuing Education

www.learn.colostate.edu/seniorscholars

From the Editor

Welcome to the second edition of the newsletter of the Society of Senior Scholars. You will read articles in this edition by primary contributors to the operation of the Society of Senior Scholars. Here, let me introduce you to other valued members of the group who are working to make the organization a success.

Central to everything of an administrative nature is Nicole Olsen. She is unusually adept at moving matters through the Colorado State University bureaucracy. Further, she works harmoniously with professors from the various disciplines that are spread across campus. She is ably assisted in doing the layout for this newsletter by Caitlin Shenk.

Jack Hautaluoma, Psychology, organized fall tours to the New Belgium Brewing Company; National Center for Genetic Resources; Annual Floral Gardens; and the Avenir Museum at the University Center for the Arts. This late spring or early summer, Jack is organizing a tour

of the Phantom Canyon Nature Preserve. Members will be notified when arrangements have been completed.

Harry Edwards, Mechanical Engineering, donates his special technical skills to serve as the Society's webmaster. Visit our website soon to see the improvements and new design Harry has contributed.

Robert Meroney, Civil Engineering, is the Society's representative to the University's Benefits Committee.

Finally, David Lindstrom, English, assembled the lecture series jointly offered by the Society and OSHER. He is now working to secure equally interesting and entertaining speakers for next fall.

Thank you to everyone who contributes to the Society and the successes we have seen to date.

Robert Lawrence
Newsletter Editor

Upcoming Events

Speaker Series:

The Speaker Series this fall and spring is being offered jointly with the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute. Our exciting program is listed below. Note that we now meet at 3:00-4:30 p.m., at a new location, the Colorado Welcome Center, corner of Prospect Road and I-25.

Jan. 25, 2010: "Taking Care of Other People and Not Just Yourself: Lessons Learned from Family Caregiving Research," Christine Fruhauf, Dept. of Human Development and Family Studies

Feb. 22, 2010: "Exploration of Music Therapy," Michael Thaut, Dept. of Music

Mar. 22, 2010: "Accelerating Hope: Cancer Research Initiatives at CSU and the Supercluster Strategy," Stephen Withrow, CSU Animal Cancer Center

Apr. 26: "Q & A on the State of the University," Interim CSU Provost Rick Miranda

From the President

Recent months have produced quite a bit of good news regarding your Society. One of the most significant developments was the adoption of a new set of By-Laws governing the organization. As I mentioned in the last newsletter, our program offerings and general emphasis have evolved significantly over the last half year. Our original "Constitution," dating from the early 1990s, no longer reflected the Society well. Further, its wording and details constrained our future growth and expansion. By unanimous vote the Executive Committee replaced this earlier document with a more flexible and empowering set of By-Laws on December 1, 2009. The mission statement in this new governing document captures succinctly what your revitalized Society is all about at this juncture. I quote:

The Society exists to enhance life in retirement for faculty members of Colorado State University. The Society provides a range of intellectual, artistic and cultural programs of interest to active individuals during their retirement years. It further nurtures opportunities for retired faculty to continue, as desired, their contributions to the teaching, research and outreach components of the CSU mission. The Society negotiates benefits for retired faculty. Assistance with retirement planning is offered through workshops, guidelines and brochures. Finally the Society advocates for improved policies affecting retired faculty as a class within the CSU community.

Origin of CSU's Society of Senior Scholars

As Jerry noted, CSU's Society of Senior Scholars is now on a firm institutional foundation. It has not always been this way.

The Society began with conversations between Bob Zimdahl and Jim Boyd in 1995 and they continued for a several years. Conversations emphasized the creation of an organization that would allow and encourage continued intellectual activity and involvement with university programs for retired faculty who desired to stay involved. Bob and Jim looked at several similar organizations at other universities to see what Colorado State could offer. One example was the Society of Senior Scholars at Columbia University, whom CSU's borrowed, with permission, from was especially appealing.

In late 1998 the Society requested Faculty Council approval for the creation of CSU's Society of Senior Scholars. A voluntary committee consisted of James Boyd, Philosophy; Henry Cross, Psychology; Janet Fritz, Human Development and Family Studies; William Griswold, History; Donald Lybecker, Agricultural and Natural Resource Economics;

We have been experimenting with a closer relationship between the Society of Senior Scholars and the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute's program. In particular, the Society's seminar series has been offered as a joint SSS-Osher venture. The results have been pleasing with attendance at these events expanding nicely. At its December meeting, the Executive Committee chose to continue this collaboration.

Unplanned, but perhaps a natural evolution, the Society's offerings have diversified away from the strict lecture presentation of science or current events. A strong artistic component emerged, highlighted by an intimate afternoon with CSU's Casavant organ led and performed by Dr. Joel Bacon. A tour of the Avenir Museum of Design and Merchandizing highlighted their collection of rare fabrics. Finally, our Excursion Series offers exciting off-campus visits to unique local resources. This past semester was highlighted by a tour of the New Belgium brewery which highlighted its cutting edge programs of community contributions and green technology.



Jerry Eckert
President

William Marquardt, Biology; William Cook, Natural Sciences; William Runyan, Music, Theatre, and Dance; Bruce Wunder, Biology; and chaired by Robert Zimdahl, Bioagricultural Sciences drafted the request, approved in December 1998. For several years there were no officers and Robert Zimdahl, with frequent guidance from colleagues, directed the Society's progress.

Approval by Faculty Council established the formative committee as the advisory group to the Society, which was an official CSU entity. After a few years, due to lack of leadership, the Society was dormant. However, the desire to resuscitate the Society was still felt and in 2005 Bob Zimdahl and Jim Boyd successfully reconvened the advisory committee to start anew, received a small funding amount from the Provost Office and administrative assistance from Nicole Olsen in the Division of Continuing Education. The Society now rests on a firm administrative foundation with a President and Vice-Presidents as well as a modest annual funding support from the Provost's Office and some office and meeting space in Routt Hall.

Living Fully in Retirement: Educators Afloat

This space in each edition of the newsletter will feature the continuing adventures of “retired” faculty members.

There was a time when to “work your way around the world on a ship” meant slogging away at hard, dirty, strenuous tasks on a freighter, and sleeping well below deck. The equivalent for professors is the Semester at Sea (SAS) academic experience, currently affiliated with the University of Virginia. In spring 2010, three CSU retirees and one nearly retired, will be traveling and teaching their way around the world from San Diego to Fort Lauderdale, visiting eleven ports in eight countries outside the U.S.. The pay won’t be great, but the work will definitely be better than the drudgery one might expect working on a freighter—and we’ll sleep above the water line!

Loren Crabtree retired from CSU after having been a professor of history, Dean of the College of Liberal Arts, and Provost. He subsequently became Chancellor of the University of Tennessee in Knoxville and has long served on the Board for the Institute for Shipboard Education, which runs the SAS program. Loren will be the Executive Dean of the Spring 2010 voyage, a position that makes him “head honcho” (except for the captain of the ship).

Loren will be joined by three friends and colleagues of many years. Jim Boyd, who team-taught Asian Civilization with Loren wa-a-ay back in the 1970s, will be teaching religious studies. Jim, who retired

from CSU a couple of years ago as Emeritus Professor of Philosophy and University Distinguished Teaching Scholar, will be back teaching undergraduates. He’s actually never left teaching; for example, in fall 2009 he taught his third Osher course, which focused on the Silk Road. In this course Jim shared duties with Loren Crabtree and Bill Griswold, another retired history professor.

Jim will share a cabin with Sue Ellen Charlton, who will finish her transitional appointment in the Department of Political Science at the end of 2010. Sue Ellen will be teaching a course on gender and international development—a “natural” course for an academic program that visits so many countries that wrestle with development issues. But this course will not be as great a challenge as the course that she and Jim will (try to) teach together: “Religion and Politics.” She recalls that her father told her that these were two topics never discussed in polite company. It took Sue Ellen and Jim nine months just to agree on the syllabus, so stay tuned...

Bob Hoffert was formally a professor in the departments of philosophy and political science, and former Dean of the College of Liberal Arts. He’ll complete the “gang of four,” teaching three courses in politics and political theory. Actually Bob is only semi-retired, as he is currently the Executive Director of the Colorado Partnership for Educational Renewal. Part of Bob’s pedigree is a M.Div. from Yale University, so one wonders if maybe he should be the one teaching about religion and politics around the world.

Loren served twice before as Executive Dean on Semester at Sea, and both Jim and Sue Ellen taught for the program in the 1980s and 1990s. This will be Bob’s maiden SAS voyage, however. Leaving from San Diego in mid-January, the group will administer (Loren) and teach their way from Hawai’i to Japan (two ports), then China (two ports), Vietnam, India (two ports), Mauritius, South Africa, Ghana, and Brazil, before returning to Florida in May. It all sounds pretty exciting, but before you rush to sign up remember that we will be living and teaching on a floating dormitory with 600-700 undergraduate students. They, of course, will have cabins in the bowels of the ship—or so we’re told.



The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at CSU

As we shared in the last newsletter, the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute is excited to be working with the Society of Senior Scholars along a number of different dimensions, including co-sponsoring a joint lecture series, capitalizing on SSS faculty expertise to teach some of our courses, and more! We have included a list of our spring 2010 courses, hoping to whet your appetite in regard to our upcoming program offerings. You can find full descriptions of these courses, specific date and time information, and short biographical information on instructors in our printed catalog or on our website at <http://www.learn.colostate.edu/osher>. If you need a catalog, please call 491-5288 to request a copy.

We hope you will want to become an Osher member so you can access our wide range of classes. As you review our spring courses, you will see a number of your retired colleagues are involved in teaching. If you would like to consider submitting a proposal for an upcoming Osher course, please contact Kevin.oltjenbruns@colostate.edu.

If you would like to hear more about Osher, please join us on Tuesday, January 12, from 4–6 p.m. at the Drake Center (802 West Drake Road) for a reception to launch the spring 2010 session. Learn about and sign up for spring classes, meet Osher instructors and volunteers, network with others in the Osher community, and help us qualify for a \$1 million dollar endowment from the Osher Foundation. Please RSVP by January 8 by sending an e-mail to RSVPOSSHER@learn.colostate.edu or by calling 491-7753.

If you would like any additional information about Osher, please call 491-7753. We hope to see you this spring!

Quick Glance of Courses - Spring 2010

Mondays

- Understanding World Religions: Hinduism, Buddhism, Confucianism, Daoism, Shintoism (1/25 - 3/1)
- Musical Curiosities (3/8 - 3/29)
- Wildlife Icons in Colorado (3/15 - 4/26)

Tuesdays

- National Security Policy in the Age of Terrorism and Nuclear Weapons (1/26 - 3/2)
- World Population and Food - The Effect on You (1/26 - 2/11)
- Appreciation of Opera (2/2 - 2/23)
- Modern Science a la Carte: Energy and Matter (2/9 - 3/2)
- Renaissance Europe (1350-1550) (2/9 - 4/13)
- Shaping U.S. Foreign Policy - Kenya and R2P (Right to Protect) (3/9 - 4/27)

Wednesdays

- Digital Discovery - Introduction to Digital Photography and Image Processing (1/27 - 2/24)
- Global Environmental Change (2/3 - 2/24)
- Retirement Income Planning (2/3 - 3/3)
- Intermediate Digital Photography and Image Processing (3/3 - 4/7)
- IRAs Demystified (3/10 - 4/7)

Thursdays

- Geology of Selected National Parks, Monuments, and Seashores (1/28 - 3/4)
- What Makes the Economy Tick? (1/28 - 3/4)
- Alternative Pathways to Health (2/11 - 3/4)
- Relationships, Transition, and Aging (3/11 - 4/8)
- Ancient and Modern Egypt (3/11 - 4/15)

Fridays

- Introduction to Genealogy (2/5, 2/19)
- Cinema "Du Jour" Movie Series (2/5 - 3/5)
- Dreaming of Spring Gardening (3/12)
- Garden Photography in Focus (3/26)

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