

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 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 (Rouff 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/osher. Fall classes unfold gradually, beginning the week after Labor Day.

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 academically strong undergraduates who are within two years of finishing their first Bachelor's degrees. Thanks to the foundation, we have been able to fund 12 scholarships over each of three years. 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 *Agricultural & Resource Economics*
Harry Edwards *Mechanical Engineering*
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The Society of Senior Scholars

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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

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, CollegeAmerica, located at 4601 S. Mason Avenue, just south of Harmony.

September 20: "Traditional Media: Rebirth, or Dead, and Good Riddance!" Jim Landers and Jack Lovelace, Journalism

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 13: "The Obesity Epidemic: How to Get a Four-Year-Old to Eat a Daikon Radish" Jennifer Anderson, Food Science and Human Nutrition

From the President



Welcome Senior Scholars, to another year in the life of the Society. Outgoing president Jerry Eckert has outlined his and the Executive Committee's efforts during the last year and we look forward to furthering those initiatives:

- Communication with the Provost's office
- Communication with Departments
- Retirement Planning Seminar
- Oral History Project
- Benefits
- Newsletter
- Excursions
- Speakers

The Excursions and Speaker Series have been irresistible activities of the Society for my wife, Peggy, and me over the years. What an opportunity to keep up with ideas and developments—and greet old friends and colleagues as well! Fort Collins affords similar programs that I encourage you to explore. Most obvious, perhaps, is our own Osher Institute, but CSU's Alumni office runs an interesting monthly speaker series as well. And Beet Street has just paralleled its popular Science Café with a Culture Café, both of which feature specialists sharing their expertise with non-specialist audiences every month.

The best way to stay current with the Society's events and personnel is via the website: www.learn.colostate.edu/seniorscholars. The Executive Committee and I would appreciate suggestions of future speakers and excursions, as well as ideas of what else the Society might do to enhance the quality of our retired life in Fort Collins. I look forward to hearing from you.

David Lindstrom
President

Farewell Jerry Eckert



Senior Scholars,

As I move on to the itinerant life of a snow bird, I am struck with several observations.

Most gratifying has been the emergent sense of enthusiastic participation of the Society's leadership. At this point we have three officers, five activity leaders and several activists comprising the Executive Committee.

The Society took several key steps toward a vibrant future in the last year. A vigorous PR effort raised awareness of the Senior Scholars across campus. President Tony Frank and Provost Rick Miranda both emerged as strong supporters with additional resources (staff, budget, office space) flowing our way. New program elements highlighted the past year. Most important was the first annual Retirement Planning Seminar. The launch of our newsletter and the revitalization of our SSS website both enhanced access to the Society.

Several foundation stones were laid for the Society's future as an institution. The Faculty Council drafted verbiage for the Faculty Manual recognizing retirees as an important part of the CSU community with the Society of Senior Scholars as a key resource for retiree services. Our mission statement was revised significantly and a new set of by-laws were written around it. A check list to guide the retirement process is now on-line and being emphasized by the Provost's office as a tool. Finally, and perhaps very important in the long-run, a network of Retiree Liaison individuals is being assembled at college and departmental levels. This network should strengthen the Society's ability to discuss, design and provide retirement support services across campus.

I could not close out my tenure without the warmest thanks to Tom Gorell for his unstinting support to the Senior Scholars, and to Nicole Olsen and Kylie Vanderheiden for their excellent administration of the program. My best wishes to your new president, David Lindstrom. The balls in your court now, David.

Jerry Eckert
Past President

Living Fully in Retirement: Educators Afloat

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



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 Assistant Ranger with the Fort Collins Natural Areas Program. Since then he has provided trail leadership and presentations to school children, adults and seniors 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 Dali". 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.

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.



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/Pl - 330 - Agricultural ethics and IE -270- World Interdependence - 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 Evin, 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.