

The Society of Senior Scholars

Enhancing Lives in Retirement for CSU's Faculty and Admin Pros

Volume 2, Number 2

When It Is Time to Say Goodbye

Persons our age are often counseled by lawyers and financial planners to think ahead in terms of wills and trusts. There is another type of planning which applies to university faculty who are retired--should your memorial service, often called a celebration of life now days, be held somewhere on the campus? And if so, where?

You have probably attended such events in the three campus venues which are available for them. The most popular, and versatile in terms of room size, costs, and food service options, is Lory Student Center. Therein the accommodations range in size from the Ballrooms, the largest of which can hold 1,200 at a rental cost of \$1,185, to the Cherokee Park Room which can seat 154 at \$355, to a number of small rooms such as the Grey Rock Room with a capacity of 100 and a cost of \$180. Most of the Lory locations are equipped with various types of projectors for what is becoming the popular recalling of one's life via still and moving pictures, and power point presentations. Food service is available from a light meal to more extensive servings with the price varying accordingly. The contact person is Bruce Freestone in the Event Planning Services Office, 491-1177.

A second venue is the renovated Fort Collins High School known as the University for the Arts building. The primary location there is the Griffin Concert Hall which seats 550. The rental cost is \$735. Food service is available. The contact person is the Music, Theater and Dance Manager, Eileen May Krebs. She can be reached at 491-5481. Danforth Chapel is also available. However it has some disadvantages compared to the other two locations. For example there is no dressing room and no restrooms. It will seat 60 and the cost is \$175. Catering food is a bit of a problem as there is no kitchen. The contact person in the Scheduling and Event Support Office of Facilities Management is Emilia Parker at 491-0108.

Although Colorado State University is an extension of the State of Colorado, there is no "separation of church and state" problems in regard to the many types of religious services that can be scheduled in the campus locations noted above.

Upcoming Events

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.

January 24

"The Megachurch and the Mall: Building the Suburban Moral Landscape"

Greg Dickinson, Communications

February 21

"Making Peace On the Platte River Basin: Ending A Water War Over the Endangered Species Act"

David Freeman, Sociology

March 21

"Lessons from a Cold Desert Ecosystem: The Antarctic Dry Valleys"

Diana Wall, Biology

April 18

"Current Issues at CSU"

Rick Miranda, Provost & Executive Vice President

From the Editor

This is the fourth edition of the Society of Senior Scholars newsletter and we are settling into a pattern which features a story which should be of general interest to retired faculty members on the first page; news about the Society of Senior Scholars at Colorado State University and the national organization with which the SSS is affiliated written by the organization's president on the second page; "Living Fully in Retirement" that has as its focus upon activities of retired faculty on the third page; and announcements regarding OSHER programs and SSS group events on the last page. We don't want to fall into a bureaucratic rut early in the life of the newsletter. So, if the format being used should be changed let us know

Robert Lawrence
Newsletter Editor

From the President

I attended the biennial conference of the Association of Retiree Organizations in Higher Education (AROE) at Wesleyan University in Connecticut last October. And, like Bob Zimdahl and Jerry Eckert before me, I had an exciting two days learning about the energy and activities of our colleagues across the country.

Names. There are a variety of names in play: Retirees, Emeritus Faculty, and Retired Faculty are the most popular, even when Administrative Professionals are included in the population, as CSU's Society of Senior Scholars is moving to do.

Social. Everyone stresses the importance of events that allow and promote social interaction—breakfasts, lunches, receptions—often funded by a university or collegiate unit. The Senior Scholars have done little in this regard, but see the announcement elsewhere in this newsletter of CSU's Office of University Advancement's intention to stage an all-university all-retiree event in the fall.

Communication. Not surprisingly everyone stresses communication, by both email (which saves the SSS money) and snail mail for those without easy access to email. The Senior Scholars has finally accessed a good mailing list, so you can expect better contacts from us. More than a few associations are converting to Facebook. Are you ready?

Space and Staff. The Society enjoys excellent part-time support through the Division of Continuing Education and a modest budget from the Provost. In addition, we have a small meeting room and an office, with computer and printer, in Routt Hall for the use of Senior Scholars. Other retirement organizations enjoy paid staff—virtual social directors—and comfortable space (think den or library).

Giving Back and Visibility. Many retiree organizations are highly active in University functions—participating in Homecoming activities, marching en masse in ceremonies, collecting oral histories (as the SSS does), judging student competitions and contests, teaching in special circumstances (as Senior Scholars have done)—all the while wearing hats or badges proclaiming the Senior Scholars connection. Your Executive Committee is working with The Institute for Learning and Teaching (TILT) to develop opportunities for Senior Scholars to tutor and mentor students and even young faculty. Stay tuned for more information.



David Lindstrom
President

Happy New Year from the Division of University Advancement

The role Colorado State University's Senior Scholars play in defining our University cannot be overstated. Through your teaching history, research excellence, and continued support of CSU, you are indeed some of the University's most cherished assets.

To honor and recognize the contributions made by Senior Scholars, University Advancement would like to host an annual event that would bring all members together for a breakfast or lunch celebration.

Although many Colleges host annual gatherings for their Senior Scholars, the University Advancement celebration would include Senior Scholars University wide.

We would like to hear from you about your preference for a breakfast or lunch celebration, and if you have any other ideas for this annual event.

Please send an e-mail with your preference and ideas to Deb LeClair at dleclair@ua.colostate.edu, or call her at 491-7530.

We look forward to hearing from you, and I welcome the opportunity to host this celebration of CSU's Senior Scholars.

Brett Anderson, '87
Vice President for University Advancement

Living Fully in Retirement

Dr. David Freeman: A New Book!

After retiring from CSU in May, 2005, I accelerated my work on recording, and analyzing, the dynamics of one of the most significant Western United States' river basin negotiations. Results have just been published by the University Press of Colorado under the title: Implementing the Endangered Species Act on the Platte Basin Water Commons.

I had been involved in water organizational issues in South Asia and in the interior U.S. West since the late 1960's. Any irrigation ditch, reservoir, lake, river, or assembly of groundwater wells pulling from sources tributary to a river requires a system of organized governance. Problems of water delivery and quality are outcomes of our social organizational decisions. There is nothing more inherently social and political than human efforts to manage their water commons. By the early 1990's, I became aware that something important was beginning to occur across the entire Platte River Basin of Colorado, Nebraska, and Wyoming. Federal Fish and Wildlife Service implementers of the Endangered Species Act (1973) were placing new environmental handwriting on utilitarian state water user walls. After much wrangling, governors of the three states parties agreed to formal negotiations in 1994, produced an outline of a plan to restore and maintain quality habitats for three species listed under the Act by 1997—the whooping crane, interior least tern, and the piping plover. Parties to the negotiations also agreed to test the hypothesis that restoration work on behalf of the birds would also serve needs of the endangered pallid sturgeon further downstream. Negotiations slowly, haltingly produced the Platte River Habitat Recovery Program in December,

2006. The Program was launched January 1, 2007. Within the first 13 year increment, the program will have provided 10,000 acres of quality habitat and buffer zones, 130,000-150,000 acre feet of water re-organized to produce some significant semblance of a natural flow regime with which to sustain restored habitats.

The descriptive questions were: how did the conflicting parties (water users in three rival basin states, environmentalists, local state and federal government authorities) exert themselves in problem solving? What kept them in the long years of negotiations? What roles did the federal regulatory process, science, and politics play? The analytical questions centered upon how a new environmental governance system could be installed at a river basin scale that addressed the needs of multiple species habitats, multiple levels of government, multiple conflicting parties of rival states with histories of deep water conflicts? Or, how could individually rational organizational actors—each seeking to preserve their own agendas—transcend self interest to install new governing rules and tools on the Platte River Basin water commonwealth?

My work on the project began in 1997 and finally, after 13 years, the book has been published. This kind of thing is definitely not for the assistant or associate professor.



Friendship After Retirement

Sometime after their retirement from the Department of History, two friends decided to have lunch together. Soon afterward several more colleagues from the same Department joined the original two. Currently the group, which calls itself the Gaffers, can have as many as nine former History professors. That is, if they all attend, since many are away traveling, some baby sit, and several are off doing other things. The luncheons, held on Fridays, are located at randomly chosen local restaurants, usually in a place where the acoustics will allow free flowing discussions. Curiously, little if anything is mentioned about historical subjects. Sometimes politics is the focus.

At other times personal anecdotes, comments on local sports, activities of members' children and grandchildren, and new births are the topic of conversation. Alas, on two occasions the group attended the funerals of members. At the conclusion of lunch a good-hearted discussion takes place regarding which restaurant will be the location of the next Friday gathering. These weekly meetings have a life of their own, mostly due to the fact there is no constitution, no agendas, no commitments, no requirements, and no dues—only the continuation of over forty years of friendship.

The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at CSU

Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at CSU

If your new year's resolutions included the goal of continuing to challenge your intellect and/or meeting new people, we suggest that you consider joining the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at CSU. Many of your colleagues have already gotten involved either as class instructor/facilitators or as Osher members taking courses. We are pleased that during spring term, a number of retired/active CSU faculty members are sharing their expertise with our membership: Linda Carlson, Frank Ethridge; Bob Hoffert, Mary Littrell, Carole Mitchell, David Freeman, Sandy Kern, Bob Zimdahl, Ruth Alexander, Jane Kneller, Bob Lawrence, and Jessica Thompson. You can find full descriptions of these courses, along with short biographical information of instructors on our website at <http://www.learn.colostate.edu/osher>. If you would like to receive printed copy of the catalog, please call (970) 491-7753 to request one.

Courses are staggered over a number of months to better meet the needs of our very active membership. Many "perks" come with the \$35 cost of the membership, including the lecture series, tours, a book club. For example, we are pleased to co-sponsor with the Society of Senior Scholars, the Monday Lecture Series which highlights the talent of the broader CSU community. Our Osher members are rightfully amazed at the breadth of talent among the faculty as they attend these sessions. We are always willing to consider additional member benefits. If you have ideas to share, please contact Kevin Oltjenbruns at kevin.oltjenbruns@colostate.edu.

Kevin Oltjenbruns

Stay Connected!

Retired CSU faculty and admin pros who wish to receive emergency announcements and memos from the President and the Provost that are blasted university-wide can opt in at acctmgr@colostate.edu

Those who wish to receive the University's daily Today@Colorado State can do so at www.today.colostate.edu/. Click on "subscriptions" in the upper right corner.

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