One of OSU’s oldest schools and one of its newest colleges have two things in common: they have recently begun offering newly reconstituted programs after years of either joint operations, or as part of another college; they will host OSURA for presentations and tours Fall Term. The College of Veterinary Medicine’s tour is Wed., Oct. 8, from 10 a.m. to noon, and the School of Education’s tour is Wed., Nov. 19, from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

Veterinary Medicine—“This fall will mark the first time our freshmen will begin their education at OSU and stay on campus all four years,” says Linda Blythe, associate dean. “We will no longer have to send them elsewhere.” When the College was set up in 1975, OSU and the State of Oregon agreed to create a partial veterinary program because funding for a full program was not available. Small animal medicine and surgery, and the second and part of third year’s basic science courses were taught at Washington State University under a service contract between the institutions. Although the arrangement was intended to be temporary, it has lasted for over 25 years—until now.

Last year, the Legislative Emergency Board approved funds to add a small animal hospital and additional classroom space to Magruder Hall. This year, it is hoped that the Oregon Legislature will release sufficient operating funds to enable all veterinary students to study at OSU for their entire four years.

“The $8 million expansion will also allow us to take care of small animals,” continues Blythe. “This means more opportunities for Oregonians to obtain secondary and tertiary care for their small animals, and the students to gain increased experiences with pet medicine and surgery.” Until now, cases had to be referred to private veterinarians in Eugene and Portland. In the future, vet students will be required to spend two weeks at the Portland Humane Society’s new animal hospital. “Here they can obtain a practical education by studying common ailments and improving their surgical skills,” says Blythe.

The College will hire 17-19 new faculty members, most of them specializing in small animals. The others will teach basic science courses.

The new facilities will augment the College’s already successful research and teaching programs in the Large Animal Teaching Hospital. A grant is pending to provide new funds that will allow expansion of that facility. During the tour, participants will get to see the new anatomy lab and part of the large animal hospital.

(continued on the back page.)
President's Message

Warm greetings to all OSU retirees from your OSURA Board. The Board is a great group. Their enthusiasm and willingness to advance the organization makes my job easy and rewarding. As we continue to invent OSURA, we want to thank OSU retirees for their support. If you’re not already a member, please consider joining, and those of you who were charter members last year, please consider renewing your membership for 2003-2004. We’d also appreciate your help in finding retired OSU staff and faculty we may have missed.

We are delighted to be publishing our second newsletter this year. When asked, “What do I get for my $10 OSURA membership?” The newsletter is the first thing I mention. This publication is a vital tool in achieving OSURA’s purpose of fellowship among retirees and maintaining connection with the University.

OSURA provides programs to keep you up to date on OSU and to keep you in touch with fellow retirees. This fall, we’re proud to be offering programs that showcase the College of Veterinary Medicine on Oct. 8, and the new School of Education on Nov. 19. Details are described in the front-page article. Everyone is welcome, so let’s turn out a crowd. Plans are also underway for a winter term workshop entitled, “Retirement and Change: The Emotional Aspects.”

OSURA also offers the chance to give back to the institution that has been so important in our working lives. Opportunities to volunteer at OSU are increasing. A big thank you goes to volunteers who helped with new student orientation before classes began the 2003-04 academic year. Advance appreciation to those who will help with Career Services Days in October.

—Jean Peters, President

STAFF PROFILE

Sarff: A Career Full of Surprises and Funny Incidents

In a long and unusual career at Oregon State and the System of Higher Education, the statement was somewhat unnerving. “Do not wear jeans,” an Oregon State Prison official told Marilyn Sarff. “Since the prisoners wear them, no one in jeans gets out.” Sarff was making arrangements to visit the facility to look over new office furniture which inmates both made and refurbished. She had to go because the newly opened office of the Vice Chancellor for Public Affairs in Salem was operating in an empty house. “We were sitting on the floor,” she laughs. So she made the trip and walked through the gates with aplomb, although admits today that hearing the gates clang behind her was “a scary sound.”

For 25 years, learning to improvise was a hallmark of Sarff’s work in a number of important staff jobs at OSU and the Chancellor’s Office. Beginning as the administrative assistant to then Chancellor Roy Lieuallen, she went on to work in similar jobs in OSU’s Graduate School, and the Office of the Administrative Vice President. She ended her career as events planner and coordinator for President John Byrne.

It was in that post that her job had the most variety. One day she was determining with the president who should be invited to sit in the presidential box at football games, the next day planning the details of Linus Pauling’s 90th birthday celebration. But Commencement was her favorite event. “It is such a positive day,” she says. “There are no losers in this group.” She was responsible for assisting people who were to receive honorary doctorates and distinguished service awards, plus all the deans sitting on the platform. Beyond ordering flowers for the stage and inviting guests to the President’s Luncheon, she also ordered robes for the dignitaries. “I always asked them if they had ever pressed a robe themselves; if not, I did it for them,” she says. She always took a supply of safety pins for unexpected emergencies too. In addition, she arranged for the bagpipers Byrne invited to lead the procession.

In all of her jobs in the Oregon higher
Our mystery begins at OSU in 1971 when our OSURA board member and first permanent editor of the OSURA newsletter, *The Beaver Log*, joined the Journalism Department following a successful career as a magazine writer for *Business Week*, *Medical World News*, and the McGraw-Hill News Service. I met Ron Lovell (RL) soon after he arrived at the University and we’ve been friends ever since. In the mid 1970’s we were co-advisers to the OSU chapter of Blue Key National Senior Honorary. My Harley-Davidson and I recently journeyed to his home in Gleneden Beach to conduct this interview. What follows is a summary of his reluctant, and somewhat embarrassed, conversation with me.

BB: Tell us about your early years, Ronnie.
RL: Well, Bill, I have to admit I was born with a silver pen in my hand – not really! But I got into journalism in grade school and was editor of my junior high and high school newspapers in Santa Monica, California.

I majored in political science at UCLA, then went back there for a master’s degree in journalism. I was in the Army for a year of active duty and two years in the Army Reserve. After that I started my journalism career.

BB: What did you do and for how long at OSU?
RL: I was on the staff for twenty-one years in Journalism. After the program was eliminated by Measure 5 cutbacks I was switched to the Department of English for my last three years, retiring in 1995 as a professor of English & Journalism. I may be the only person with that rank. I’m proud of it!

BB: Didn’t you do some other things at OSU?
RL: Yes, for eleven of my twenty-four years I was Director of Public Affairs for the College of Liberal Arts in addition to my teaching.

BB: I know you retired, but didn’t I just go to one of your recent book signings?
RL: Yes Bill, that was me, shamelessly hawking my wares.

BB: Why mystery writing?
RL: For several years, before retirement, I had been intrigued with the idea of writing mysteries, but thought I should concentrate on publishing articles and textbooks to better play the academic game. After my retirement in 1995, I started writing my first mystery on January 1, 1996 and it became my new year’s resolution to complete it! Over the next five years I wrote four mysteries, but could not find a publisher. I finally did that in 2001 and my first mystery, *Murder at Yaquina Head*, was published in April 2002. My second, *Dead Whales Tell No Tales*, was published this past April. I plan to write more of them.

BB: How did you get involved in OSURA?
RL: I wrote the stories for the first OSURA newsletter in May and then was invited to become a member of the OSURA Board of Directors to fill a vacancy. I have really enjoyed my OSURA service thus far as a great opportunity to keep in touch with old friends and colleagues like you, Bill, and it gets me back on to campus when I might not otherwise make the trip.

BB: Thanks Ron, it’s been a pleasure talking with you, my upper, middle-aged friend!
RL: You’re welcome Bill, but I do have one request. When we go out to lunch next time, I wish you would quit telling the waitresses that I’m your father!

Bill Brennan retired January 1, 1995 as Assistant Dean of Students at OSU and is Associate Professor Emeritus of Student Affairs and President-Elect of OSURA.
I/We would like to renew/begin a membership with OSURA. Enclosed is the membership fee of $10 for each person. Donations above $10 are gladly accepted. Please make checks payable to OSURA.

Name___________________________________________Spouse/Partner’s Name____________________________________

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If you are an OSU retiree, where did you work?_________________________________________________________________

Please return this form to Gale Hazel, OSURA, University Special Events, Oregon State University, 524 Kerr Administration Bldg. Corvallis, OR 97331-2126. For questions contact Gale Hazel, (541) 737-0724, gale.hazel@oregonstate.edu.