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## OSURA Website:

<http://oregonstate.edu/retirees/osura>

This newsletter has also been distributed to OSURA members via email.

Gale Hazel, *Editor*  
Ron Lovell, *Writer*

## Veterinary Medicine & Education Sites of Fall Tours



*College of Veterinary Medicine's remodeled Magruder Hall*

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.)*

### TO GO ON THESE TOURS ...

Call Bill Wilkins at 541-737-7487 or e-mail him at [bwilkins@orst.edu](mailto:bwilkins@orst.edu). Parking at both facilities is limited. Attendees need to meet in the OSU Foundation parking lot (35<sup>th</sup> Street and West Hills Road) at 9:45 a.m. on Oct. 8, and 12:45 p.m. on Nov. 19. People will be shuttled to Magruder Hall and Education Hall and returned after the tours. Both buildings have ramps and elevators.

## Winter Term 2004

"Retirement and Change: The Emotional Aspects" will be the subject of a two-hour workshop in early February to be co-sponsored by OSURA and the OSU Office of Human Resources. Included in the event for both retirees and OSU personnel planning for retirement, will be an interactive presentation by Paul Biwan, OSU training and development manager and a panel of OSU retirees who will share their experiences. "We are planning this event as a service to our members and others to help them deal with the realities of retirement," says Jean Peters, OSURA president. Contact Bill Wilkins (541-737-7487, [bwilkins@orst.edu](mailto:bwilkins@orst.edu)) for more information and to express your ideas and interest in participating.

## Spring Term 2004

A combination golf tournament and tour of the OSU Trysting Tree Golf Course is in the planning stages. Ideas for the event include a tour of the facilities that many OSU staffers have seen from the Van Buren Street Bridge but probably never visited, and a golf tournament for those who are interested in playing the back nine holes of the course. A barbecue or picnic would conclude the afternoon event. We'd like to hear from you if you might be interested in attending a Trysting Tree event. Please contact Bill Wilkins (541-737-7487, [bwilkins@orst.edu](mailto:bwilkins@orst.edu))

## 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 State 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



Marilyn Sarff

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 90<sup>th</sup> 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

## OSURA's Man With The Silver Pen *by Bill Brennan*

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!

education system, she emphasized her enjoyment of working with people. "Bringing people together is what I like to do," she says. "Through the years, you make contacts and you connect. When I did so, I always thought I made another friend for OSU."

Sarff grew up in Omaha before her family moved to Bremerton, Washington. There she met her husband, Ken. They were transferred to several other states with savings and loan offices. In fact, it was his job that first brought them to Corvallis. He retired from Cascade Federal before she left OSU. The couple, who have four children, recently celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

"Even though I am retired, I'm still organizing events," she says. She is active in the Assistance League of Corvallis, the Madison Avenue Task Force, PEO, and OSURA.

Marilyn Sarff loves to dance. Her idea of a great road trip would be to put a stack of CD's into the player in her car and take off. I told my husband, "If I ever run away, it would be with a jazz guitarist," she laughs, "or as a Cajun dancer. How can you top that?"

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.*



*Bill Brennan and Ron Lovell*



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# The Beaver Log

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*(continued from the front page.)*

### School of Education—

On February 15, 2002, the State Board of Higher Education approved the re-establishment of the School of Education as a separate academic unit at OSU. "It's not every hundred year old that has the opportunity to be reborn, but our School of Education has that opportunity now," laughs the college's dean, Sam Stern. "We have a marvelous opportunity to reinvent ourselves to meet the educational challenges of our



*Sam Stern*

time." In addition to its programs to prepare teachers, counselors, and educational leaders, the School offers a College Student Services Administrative degree and programs in community college leadership and 4-H Youth Development.

New this fall is the undergraduate education double degree through which students can take forty additional credit hours and graduate with two degrees (one in their field of study and one in education) and have a teaching certificate that qualifies them to teach in a K-12 classroom setting right after graduation. Stern thinks the program is a

natural for students from all disciplines. "In Engineering, for example, you have 3,000 students who could someday teach, but they have no time for a double major. In a pilot program of fourteen students last year, four of the five engineering students were interested in teaching physics. If they did this, we could double the output of people teaching physics in one year. They might go into the work force as engineers and teach at night or one day a week."

The School is housed on the third oldest building on campus, dedicated in 1902 at a bargain rate of \$40,000 to construct. Only Benton Hall

(home of the Department of Music) and the Benton Annex (home of the Women's Center) are older. In 1924 and 1927, fires burned the interior wooden structure of the building, although its trademark stone exterior was not damaged. In 1930 a new concrete interior structure was not connected to the outside stone, creating the current problem of instability. Of particular interest is Room 201, where famed OSU alumnus and Nobel Prize winner Linus Pauling met his wife, Ava Helen, a student in his basic chemistry class. The room and a plaque to commemorate their meeting are part of the tour.



**Yes!** 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 \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Street City State Zip

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Street City State Zip

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email (please print legibly) \_\_\_\_\_

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.