



OUR NAME IS CHANGING!

From the President, Chuck Davidshofer



The Society of Senior Scholars was established in 2005, after several years of planning and consultation. Initially envisaged with a constituency of academic faculty at Colorado State, the organization expanded its welcome to include administrative professionals and retired faculty from other universities who relocated to northern Colorado.

As you can see from the title of this newsletter, the Society of Senior Scholars now has a new name. After much discussion and deliberation,

the executive committee voted to change the organization's name to the **Society of CSU Faculty/AP Staff Retirees**. By selecting a name that more clearly identifies who we are, we hope to effectively engage additional members in enhancing their lives in retirement.

The Society offers a number of programs and services designed to inform faculty and administrative professional retirees about campus activities, learning opportunities, and other items of interest. A few examples are this biannual newsletter, our Fall and Spring Speaker Series co-sponsored with the Osher Institute of Lifelong Learning, and continued advocacy for retiree perks and privileges. Some of these are described in this newsletter.

As always, we are open to your suggestions about your concerns or projects you would like us to undertake.

Update on Osher Program - 2018

1. During FY 17-18, **143** non-credit courses were offered (a 4% annual increase); enrollments at **3,852** were a 26% increase; and the annual membership of 911 was a 20% increase.
2. The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at CSU was invited to apply for and was awarded a **\$25,000 Capacity Building Grant** from the Bernard Osher Foundation in 2016. The grant required the program to add 100 new members and generate \$12,000 in gift revenue. The CSU Osher program successfully met these criteria, and a second Capacity Building Grant of \$25,000 was awarded on July 1, 2018. The second grant calls for an additional 100 members and a goal of \$20,000 in gift revenue by December 2019 (18 months).

Upon successful completion of the second Capacity Building Grant, Osher will be eligible to apply for a third and final grant of an additional \$25,000.
3. Programming for Fall 2019 is underway for course proposals and the Perk Series one-time lectures.

Senior Scholars - Osher Talks, Spring 2019

1. **January 28 | John Straayer**
Be Careful What You Wish For: Colorado's Adventure with Direct Democracy
2. **February 11 | Melinda Laituri**
Satellite Imagery: Absolute Truth or Misleading Half-Truths?
3. **March 18 | William Timpson**
Restorative Justice: Principles for Peace Building
4. **April 22 | Robert Hoffert**
What Does It Mean to be a "Conservative"?
5. **May 20 | Lloyd Thomas**
Discovering and Reprogramming Your Healing System

LIVING FULLY AFTER RETIREMENT

Many retirees volunteer after they leave the University; some undertake new endeavors, and some pursue – now with more time – long-held passions, such as travel, family, or gardening. For some, volunteer commitments are related to their professional careers, albeit with less stress! For the two retirees featured below, Doug Ernest and Patricia Smith, their interests as academic librarians have found new outlets.

DOUG ERNEST



Scarcely three months elapsed between my January 1, 2008 retirement as a librarian at CSU and a new “career” as an archives volunteer. In March 2008, I began as a volunteer with the Local History Archive at the Fort Collins Museum of Discovery. My ongoing work there deals with the history of Fort Collins and Larimer County, particularly an oral history project done in the 1970s. That interest in archival work led to a second volunteer effort in December 2017 with the CSU Water Archive, housed in Morgan Library. There, I have dealt mostly with a compilation of significant dates in water history in Colorado and downstream basins.

Although there appears to be a continuum between my past life as a

librarian and my current reincarnation as an archivist volunteer, the two activities are quite different, with the first dealing with published resources and the second with unpublished records. Both are rewarding while having enough dissimilarities to offer zest.

Lastly, I would be remiss if I failed to recognize Local History Archivist Lesley Struc and Water Archivist Patty Rettig for creating pleasant and supportive volunteer environments.

PAT SMITH

Since my retirement in 2012 as a librarian for CSU Libraries, I’ve replaced



work with volunteer activities. Service, I think, is ingrained in most of us CSU folks. At the outset, I volunteered at the Larimer Food Bank, helping make meals in the Kids Kitchen. Though chopping vegetables and melons was not my forte, I enjoyed knowing kids ate that day partly because of my efforts; and I certainly enjoyed working with several other former CSU employees and town professionals who volunteered there. I even learned a few tips about cooking and chopping, since one of the volunteers had been a professional chef. But I retired from the Food Bank when it moved too far for me to commute.

Since I have loved and worked in libraries most of my life, I next sought a way to continue my interest in libraries. I saw that the Wellington Library Friends were seeking new members, so I joined. Their chief activity is overseeing the used book store that operates out of a former closet in a hallway across from the door into the Wellington Public Library. One thing has led to another, and I now find myself the coordinator of a group of six wonderful volunteers who process and sell book donations from the Wellington community.

Our prices are the best anywhere – \$1.00 for hardbacks, \$.50 for paperbacks, and \$.25 for children and young adult books. Our proceeds help support programs and services in the Library. As coordinator of the used book store and current secretary of the Friends, I frequently find myself busier than I’d prefer – as I’m back to attending meetings, writing minutes, and developing procedures – but the rewards are great.

The community’s support and appreciation of the bookstore has grown. In fact, the Mayor of Wellington recently sent us a letter of commendation for our efforts. But our chief contribution and reward is providing quality reading materials for readers of all ages at very little expense, creating a venue for community donors to share with others, and seeing little kids pick out books from our basket that their parents might otherwise not be able to afford. And of course, creating lifelong readers!

HIS LAB IS GONE, BUT NOT HIS CURIOSITY: Foxes, Dogs, and Salvador Dali

BRENT REEVES



A biologist by education, Brent Reeves retired from CSU in 2006. Characterizing himself as a self-styled “perpetual student,” how did he move from his academic specialization of mycology (the study of fungi) to dogs, foxes, and Salvador Dali? The lure of Salvador Dali began when Brent was 16 and on a museum

trip to Washington, D.C. But first, the story of the dogs and foxes.

Brent and Peggy Reeves were looking out their window as Pumpkin, the neighborhood roving cat, and a fox contemplated each other. Brent asked himself why the fox wasn't hunting the cat or the cat not running from the fox. The initial assumption, of course, was that foxes and dogs share homologous and morphological structures that suggest a close evolutionary connection. Thus, the fox could be expected to behave like a dog and chase the cat.

His lab was gone, but the Internet beckoned and Brent delved into the scientific literature. With the advent of DNA research, he notes, there has been an enormous increase in the number of characteristics available for comparing foxes and dogs; the earlier visual comparisons of structures were limited to 10 or 12 major comparisons. Burrowing into the data from the last 15

to 20 years of DNA research in biology, Brent discovered that foxes are not dogs and moreover, not all foxes are the same. The scientific research to date points to a common ancestor for dogs and foxes and takes us back an estimated 7 to 10 million years ago.

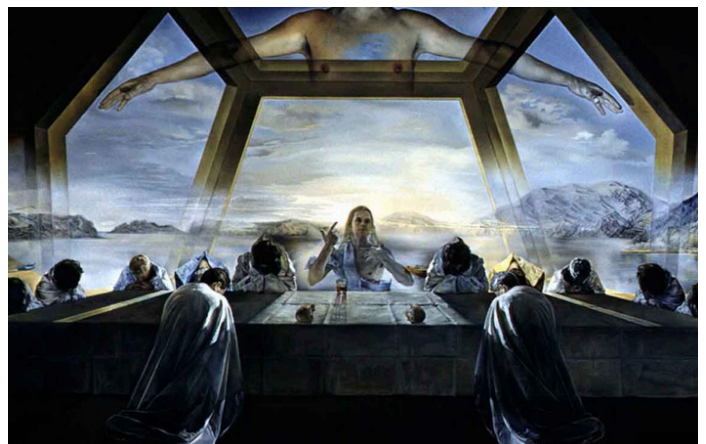
Brent comments that his research is done without the aid of a lab. Nonetheless, his

professional interest in evolutionary biology, knowledge of the scholarly journals, and intellectual curiosity, aided by the modern tool of online research, has taken him on a remarkable journey. This journey attracted a large audience to his September 2018 talk to Senior Scholars and Osher.



So where does Salvador Dali fit in? First visually captivated by Dali's surrealist images as a teenager, Brent has used his retirement years to explore Dali's unconventional imagination. He has read Dali's autobiographies *The Secret Life of Salvador Dali* and *Diary of a Genius*, and is especially drawn to the relationship between the artist and science, including Dali's period of “nuclear mysticism,” and the impact of the DNA discoveries by James Watson and Francis Crick on Dali's art. Brent has also visited the Dali museums in Figueres, Spain, and St. Petersburg, Florida, and has lectured on Dali's life and work, including the mathematical construction and geometrical images in Dali's 1955 painting, *The Sacrament of the Last Supper* (see below). Most recently, Brent has pursued information on the neurological condition, PseudoBulbar Affect (PBA), which Dali may have had.

Brent Reeves illustrates how our curiosity can continue well after our academic retirement: a simple observation of a backyard scene of common animals or a painting seen early in life that reemerges years later in inquiries that link aesthetic and scientific interests.



WHAT'S IN A NAME? **AROHE**

The **Association of Retirement Organizations in Higher Education** is such a mouthful that people commonly refer to it as AROHE, or “arō-hē.” AROHE was created about two decades ago to support campus-based retirement organizations. The Association recognizes that many retirees wish to retain a formal connection to their colleagues and institutions. It provides a variety of services to retiree organizations, depending on the needs, size, structure, and interests of the organizations. Some retiree organizations serve faculty only, some serve staff only, and some serve both staff and faculty. At Colorado State University, we focus on retired faculty and APs.

AROHE holds biennial conferences to which CSU has traditionally sent one or two representatives. The Provost Office supports this conference attendance with funding for travel and registration. Robert Zimdahl and James Boyd, retired CSU faculty members and founders of CSU’s Senior Scholars, attended one of AROHE’s earliest conferences in Phoenix. In October 2018, Sue Ellen Markey attended the ninth biennial conference in Atlanta, Georgia. An excerpt from her report to the Society’s Executive Committee is summarized below.

AROHE BIENNIAL CONFERENCE OVERVIEW

- Approximately 175 attendees, including “guests”;
- Schools and programs represented from large public universities (UC-Berkeley/Council of UC Retiree

Association) to small liberal arts colleges (e.g., Skidmore and Mt. Holyoke);

- Wide variety of retiree programs, structures, and resources, ranging from those with established and university-supported “homes” (such as Emeriti House at Indiana University) and staffs (the Emory Emeritus College) to “floating” organizations (CSU);
- Some retiree associations include all retirees from the institution; some are limited to academic faculty. The trend in higher education is faculty and staff in a single retirement organization;
- Most programs increasingly emphasize initiatives that facilitate the transition to full retirement. Retirement is a major life transition, requiring systematic preparation that goes beyond a discussion of benefits and finances.

COMMON OBSERVATIONS AT MULTIPLE PRESENTATIONS

- No program survives or grows without administrative support at the highest level. The most typical institutional home is with the Provost/Academic VP office, which is the case at CSU.
- Acquiring financial support takes time, persistence, and a clear justification of “value” to the institution.
- Communication with constituencies always a “challenge”; accurate information on retirees not easily obtained.



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Please contact us with questions and suggestions!

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