

# Society of *Senior* Scholars

Volume 7, No. 2

## SEMESTER AT SEA AND CSU: *Partnership of Learning and Discovery*



Since June, 2015, Colorado State University and Semester at Sea have been implementing a partnership in which CSU is SAS's new academic home. Both organizations are focused on providing students with a college education that is a true voyage of learning and discovery.

The Institute for Shipboard Education (ISE), parent organization to the Semester at Sea program, will complete its transition from Charlottesville, Va., to the Colorado State University campus in Fort Collins, where CSU and ISE will officially begin the partnership June 1, 2016.

The Semester at Sea program itineraries are built around international challenges, trends, issues, and relevant academic themes. Since 1963, more than 60,000 students from 1,700 colleges and universities around the world have studied with Semester at Sea. Notable alumni and contributors include Nobel Laureates Archbishop Desmond Tutu, Nelson Mandela, Mother Teresa, and many other world leaders and global thinkers.

The partnership with Semester at Sea supports CSU's rising focus on internationalization. The number of CSU students involved in education abroad has increased 70 percent in the past five years. In addition, CSU has nearly 2,000 international students and scholars representing more than 90 countries on campus, and more than 20 percent of tenure-track faculty hail from other countries.

"CSU's commitment to experiential learning and internationalization aligns with our core mission of a global comparative education," said Loren W. Crabtree, President of the Institute for Shipboard Education. "The partnership will enhance



the Semester at Sea experience for students as well as expand the opportunities for CSU faculty and students to experience a comparative global education."



Participating students on each semester-long voyage are drawn from as many as 250 universities from around the world. They will earn CSU credit for coursework that will transfer to their home institutions. The agreement also calls for ISE to provide additional scholarship support for CSU students to participate in a Semester at Sea voyage.

"This new partnership is an ideal match," said Tony Frank, president of CSU. "Our shared commitment to student achievement and innovative, globally engaged education makes this a wonderful fit, and we look forward to a strong and exciting collaboration."

### Lifelong Learning Program

Semester at Sea also offers a Lifelong Learning Program providing adult learners the opportunity to join the SAS academic community. Lifelong learners are participants who desire to study with bright and enthusiastic undergraduate students from around the world and include retirees, professionals on leave, or simply adventurous travelers. Lifelong learners participate in undergraduate courses, attend field excursions, serve as mentors to undergraduates, conduct seminars in their respective areas of expertise, and add a valuable generational element to class discussions.

### Shipboard Campus

On September 13, 2015, the program's newest vessel, the MV World Odyssey, departed from Southampton, England at the start of the Fall 2015 voyage for her role as the latest Semester at Sea campus. She has been meticulously maintained since her construction in Germany in 1998. The MV World Odyssey meets the International Maritime Organization's SOLAS (Safety of Life at Sea), U.S. Coast Guard, and U.S. Public Health requirements, as well as all other statutory standards to operate throughout the world.

"Our faculty will have fantastic opportunities for scholarly pursuits in both teaching and research in concert with the voyages – and they will bring back those experiences to the benefit of our entire campus," said Rick Miranda, provost and executive vice president of CSU.

For further information, visit: [www.semesteratsea.org](http://www.semesteratsea.org)

## CSU SSS Oral History Project:

The CSU Society of Senior Scholars oral history project began in 2010 as a result of a casual conversation between George Splitgerber, who came to CSU as a professor of chemistry in 1943, and Bob Zimdahl, Professor Emeritus, Weed Science. The conversation revealed that no one had ever asked George to tell his story about his career at our university. Jim Hansen, retired professor of history, had interviewed several retirees for his books about the University, but there's been no interest in recording other stories. The stories, the comments, of those who devoted their careers to teaching and research at Colorado State University were gradually being lost as people died.

More than 47 stories have now been captured in audio video interviews with retired faculty. Each is stored in the archives of Morgan Library. Some are available online and eventually all will be. All will be available to those interested in the history of our University. A CD of the interview is available, on request, to each interviewee. A brief summary of more recent interviews has been prepared and the older interviews will be summarized as funds become available.

Transcripts and video recordings of interviews integrated into the CSU Digital Archives can be found by searching the library catalogue under Society of Senior Scholars Oral History Project.

In this newsletter we will take the opportunity to highlight the CSU SSS Oral History Project by including an example summary prepared for our board president Thomas J. Boardman, Emeritus Professor, Statistics Department.

### Thomas J. Boardman, Emeritus Professor, Statistics at CSU from 1968 to 2007



An antique Victrola record player stands unobtrusively in the corner of Tom Boardman's great room. Cranking the handle, Boardman smiles and says, "This old thing is really only used when the electricity goes out and we invite the neighbors over for a listen." Usefulness, however quaint and rare, has been the driving force of Boardman's life and career as a statistician.

Born Feb. 8, 1942, Boardman grew up in the northern New Jersey town of Ridgewood. His childhood was defined by the Boy Scouts, and he credits his various counselors and role models in the Scouts for teaching him to "do things the right way rather than get into trouble." How much trouble could a boy be when his days were filled with camping, hiking, and canoe trips? Boardman became an Eagle Scout, chief in the Order of the Arrow, and a counselor.

He knew college was in his future, and while he enjoyed and excelled at math, he admits to "not knowing all that much about college." Three colleges accepted him, but he was certain about only two things: he wanted to study some form of mathematics, and he didn't want to go to an all-male college. Boardman chose Bucknell University in Pennsylvania because of its strong mathematics department. At Bucknell, Tom found his wife Eileen and his other lifelong passion – statistics. Between his junior and senior year, he was advised to take a job in New York City, and was lured by the opportunity to "get real experience in stats. But as it turns out it was purely an accounting thing." He recalls the job "absolutely convinced me I had no interest working in that kind of corporate environment." Instead, Boardman committed himself to academia with an emphasis on real world applications of statistics.

The faculty he studied under at Bucknell soon made it clear to him that he "really didn't know anything [about statistics] and if I wanted to learn I had to go to graduate school." His Masters degree only took a year and a half to achieve from Rutgers, and by 1968 he finished his Ph.D. dissertation. As a graduate student, he did consulting work for the surrounding community, using his skills and knowledge to help others design experiments and gain knowledge about the world around them.

"A number of corporate groups (e.g., Kodak and GE) had large statistics departments. Sometimes as many as 30 statisticians!" He confidently expressed the delight and satisfaction of someone who knows how useful his skill is. "The evidence was clear as the companies made great progress thanks to these support groups." Boardman started searching for a place he could teach and consult, and "that's what they were looking for here at CSU."

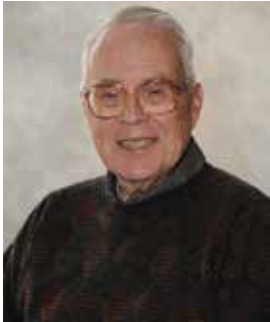
His consulting work through CSU's Statistics Laboratory brought him in close contact with many different departments at CSU and beyond. With quiet pride, Boardman remarks that his consulting work "gave the Statistics Lab an image of being a function for the entire University." He was soon recognized for his outreach to other departments "on what the stat lab can do for you."

Boardman also consulted with private companies, but the work always circled back to academia, because he was driven by the belief he "could be more valuable in my teaching role if I knew what role stats played outside of academia." He helped Nabisco figure out how altitude affects their sugar cookie recipe, and the experience left him "more credible as a teacher [because] I could come in and talk about baking sugar cookies as a real example of how stats can affect the world."

Through teaching and consulting, he illustrated through action that "statistics ... is involved in all aspects of research and all aspects of living, which is why many of us prefer to call it statistical science." Passion, hard work, and a clear mind have led Tom Boardman to achieve his goal and inspire others across the University to hold statistics in the same high regard.

## Editor's Meditation

Robert N. Meroney, Editor and Veep SSS



### Misquotes from Our Founding Fathers

During this upcoming political election season we all will be bombarded with information that attempts to convince us to commit our vote. Politicians frequently like to quote from our Founding Fathers to add weight to their opinions or statements. Sadly misquoting founders has become a

political epidemic. Consider any such statements carefully, for often the esteemed fore-father i) Never said it, ii) Somebody else said it, iii) It was spoken in a different context, iv) It was revised to fit the opinions of the presenter, or v) It was made up.

As an academic, I feel misquotes can be as repugnant as literary fraud and plagiarism; hence my concern. Such misquotes do a disservice both to the Founding Fathers who may not have supported a position and to the actual author who might deserve credit. Also such quotes can give a false sense of stature and validation to somebody who does not deserve it based on their own record.

Who are the Founding Fathers? Individuals from the original 13 colonies who fought in the American revolution, signers of the Continental Association (1774), signers of the Declaration of Independence (1776), signers of the Articles of Confederation (1777), or were delegates to the 1787 Constitutional Convention. Significant presidents since that time are often included.

It is also worth noting that our fore-fathers were rarely in total agreement, and there was no real consensus about many issues including support for a new constitution, strong vs weak central government, existence of a Federal bank, granting of Federal taxing powers, and even need for a bill of rights. Primary divisions of opinion divided the fore-fathers into Federalists and Anti-Federalists, who were often antagonistic to other opinions just as we find today. Worse, as one studies old documents, speeches, and letters, remember that some words are ambiguous or changed from popular meanings today, e.g. union, federalism, confederation, law vs equity, and even phrases like "we the people..." vs "we the states...". Even slander and fraud existed; for example, during George Washington's second term as president, political enemies circulated fake letters in which Washington allegedly expressed admiration for Britain's King George III during the Revolutionary War.



#### Examples of misquotes are:

*"Continued deficit spending must ultimately endanger all governments"...George Washington.*  
The Mount Vernon historical site says this is wholly fabricated.

*"Dissent is the highest form of patriotism"... or "The beauty of the Second Amendment is that it will not be needed until they try to take it"...Thomas Jefferson.*  
The Monticello historical site says there is no evidence he ever said or wrote these words.

*"When the people fear the government, there is tyranny. When the government fears the people, there is liberty"... variously attributed to Thomas Jefferson, Thomas Paine, or Samuel Adams.*

**Actual author was John Basil Barnhill in a debate about socialism in 1914...but nobody knows about Barnhill, so it sounds much more impressive to attribute comment to a founding father.**

*"If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more you are a leader."...attributed to John Quincy Adams.*

**Most likely originator of the phrase was Dolly Parton in 1997! Peyton Manning used a very similar phrase in an acceptance speech as an outstanding athlete...he did not claim authorship, but he did not provide attribution either.**

Remember, when all is said and done, "Never attribute to malice that which can be adequately explained by stupidity"...Hanlon's Razor (Also attributed to Robert Heinlein, Goethe, Sir Bernard Ingham, and even Napoleon!)

#### DID YOU KNOW?

Over the four year period of 2016-2020, in the new STATE YOUR PURPOSE campaign, Colorado State plans to raise an additional \$1,000,000,000 to support student scholarships and chaired professorships to enhance the learning experience for all students!

About TEDxCSU 2016? On March 5 in the LSC Theater from 11 a.m. to 5 pm., TEDxCSU will feature ten live talks where innovators and audience members can engage in the spreading of ideas. Tickets are \$5 for students and \$30 for community members. Free parking at Morgan Library and free MAX transportation will be available for this event.

## Spring Happenings

The joint Osher Perks & Senior Scholars presentations this fall are again offered from 3:00 to 4:30 p.m. at Pathways Hospice on Carpenter Rd. just East of College (US287):

*January 25, 2016* Dr. Robert Lawrence argues “How Nuclear Weapons Have Prevented Large Scale War Between the Great Powers, Including World War III!”

*February 22, 2016* Dr. Roger Culver leads all on a astronomy tour “Around the Universe in Sixty Minutes.”

*March 21, 2016* Dr Melissa Reynolds explains “Crystals as Catalysts for Implantable Devices.”

*April 18, 2016* Dr. Eric Aoki speaks of “An Intercultural Communication Toolbox: Cultural Engagement and the Global Sojourner.”

*May 16, 2016* Dr. Lori Peek talks of the travails of the “Children of Katrina.”

## Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Colorado State University: For Those Ages 50 and Better



**Robert Hoffert**  
OSHER Co-Director

This Spring, Senior Scholars and Osher are collaborating on five Perk Series lectures – Bob Lawrence on nuclear deterrence, Roger Culver on astronomy, Melissa Reynolds on crystals in medicine, Eric Aoki on intercultural communication, and Lori Peek on children survivors of Katrina. The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at CSU is offering a total of 45 courses and 33 perks during its 2016 spring sessions. The following courses are just a sampling of the spring offerings –

*“What Makes the Economy Tick – Or Not?”*

*“The Botany Peaks”*

*“Exploring the World of Molecules”*

*“Women of the Hebrew Bible”*

*“Exploring Contemporary Art Through Modern Masters”*

*“Mindfulness – What Is It and Can It Help Me?”*

Also, Osher is planning several special summer programs and its first Travel Course – a January 2017 trip to Cuba. We encourage CSU’s community of Senior Scholars to consider supporting and participating in Osher to express commitment to a vibrant program of lifelong learning in our community, to benefit from enrollment in the rich variety of courses and perks, and to consider

teaching a course of special interest or offering a lecture on an issue for which you have a unique voice. Learn more about Osher by visiting the website at [www.osher.colostate.edu](http://www.osher.colostate.edu) or calling 491-7753.

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