



# Silver Sage Society Newsletter



Volume 2, Number 1 January 2004

Silver Sage Society • UO Continuing Education • 1027 NW Trenton, Bend, OR 97701  
(800) 824-2714 • sss@continue.uoregon.edu • sss.uoregon.edu

## First Silver Sage Society Meeting and Social a Wonderful Success!

What do you get when you combine interested and engaged members, delicious pastries, warm, perfectly brewed coffee, great conversation, a fun basket raffle and productive business? Well, you have interested and engaged members, delicious pastries, warm, perfectly brewed coffee... just kidding. You have the First Silver Sage Society Annual Meeting!

stimulating conversation and productive SSS business. Virtually every person who attended purchased raffle tickets, hoping to win one of the wonderfully themed baskets full of delicious and interesting gifts. Three happy Silver Sagers walked away with raffle baskets and we have increased our SSS resources by \$126. We all win from that perspective!

attend the excellent, high-quality UO sponsored lectures that are held on occasion at the OSU-Cascades campus. Watch for notices in newsletters or outside the SSS office in the Chandler building. We can also look forward to sharing SSS experiences with John soon, as he intends to become a member once his vacation home is finished here in Central Oregon and he will be spending more time in our beautiful area. It is clear we have a great deal of support from John, personally and through his role with the University of Oregon.

In spite of some unanticipated parking snafus due to unexpected site construction, forty SSS members graced the space of the Mountain Room at the Deschutes Brewery and created a wonderful and warm environment full of

As for official business at the annual meeting, we heard a wonderful talk from John Moseley, the Senior Vice President and Provost at the University of Oregon, encouraging all Silver Sage Society members to

The major order of business intended for the SSS Annual Meeting & Social was voting in the first ever Silver Sage Society Governing Council. The main responsibility of the SSS Governing Council is to steer the Silver Sage Society ship. The Governing Council will make decisions about venues, policies and procedures, and other issues that effect the overall functioning of the organization.

## The Winds of Change... Blessings & Goodbyes

*From Michelle*

Seems life has big, new plans for me... A bit sooner than expected, but oh so joyously welcome, my husband, Jim, and I are expecting our first baby. We are thrilled to share this experience together and be moving to the next phase of our family life.

While our little one is not due until the first week in June, we have much to get in order before she or he arrives! The major project is our sweet but tiny house – we were planning to remodel and expand, and now this will have to be done sooner than we expected.

As I will continue teaching classes at COCC, we decided we had to find some extra hours somewhere to be properly prepared for this

Going into the meeting, we had six nominees on the ballot. At the meeting, three additional candidates joined the ballot. We

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# Cracker-barrel Conversations

By Hoby Herron

The main theme of this discussion group is the overall advancement of mankind. We'll look at man's improvement in quality of life, his cooperation in achieving common goals, and what stands out as both good and poor examples of leadership in history.

Like you, I have my own opinion of good versus bad. Our goal as mankind should be to reach the next plateau of advancement without experiencing another period of slavery, a revolution or further destruction of the earth, thus leaving nothing for future generations. I hope that by sharing and comparing what each of us has discovered in our lifetimes we can come to a consensus on how to proceed.

Some of the subjects we will explore are:

*Wealth – What creates it? How is it distributed?*

*Governments – What different forms have been tried? How effective have they been?*

*Taxes – How should they be applied? How should they be spent?*

*Justice vs. Legality – Which do we have in our country today?*

Most of these subjects will cover more than one session and I encourage participants to suggest additional topics. This is an open discussion for all. I look forward to participants taking an active role in confirming, enhancing or discrediting what is said. Participants also have the option to simply sit and absorb the dialogue if they choose.

The Cracker-Barrel Conversa-

tions facilitator is Hoby Herron – 312-4140 or [thebird@empnet.com](mailto:thebird@empnet.com)

Cracker-Barrel Conversations meetings are scheduled for January 14<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>, February 11 & 25, and March 10, at 10am in The Chandler Building.

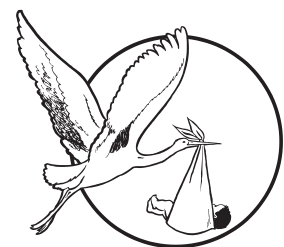
## The Winds of Change... *cont.*

major life change – and to be sure we have the opportunity to really experience this special time together.

This is where the goodbyes come in...

I have decided to pass on my Silver Sage Society Program Assistant responsibilities, effective January 16, 2004. I have so enjoyed interacting with and learning from all of you. I will be an active participant in the training of the new Program Assistant (see the article recruiting for this position on page three of this newsletter) and I promise to do everything I can to ensure a smooth transition.

Thank you all for this time with you and this experience. May our paths cross again in happy places and may you all be well along the way.



## Meeting and Social *cont.*

successfully voted in a Governing Council of nine, leaving one vacancy.

The new SSS Governing Council consists of the following members (the number of years refers to the commitment they have made on the Governing Council):

Helen Vandervort - 2 years  
Mary Oppenheimer - 2 years  
Tom Sedgwick - 2 years

Bart Queary - 1 year  
Sachiko Simmons - 1 year  
Linda Moore - 1 year  
Robb Reavill - 1 year  
Judy Clinton - 1 year  
John Robinson - 2 years

Thank you to all who made your way to the SSS Annual Meeting and helped create such a wonderful first SSS Annual Meeting and Social experience.

## Alternative Futures Course/Discussion Group Begins Anew

In this next phase of the Alternative Futures Group, we will continue to focus on new political policies needed to make basic changes in the political and economic systems.

Long-range goals to achieve ecological sustainability and human rights will be used to redesign current politics and current education. The bankruptcy of conventional views of national defense will be included.

Harry Lonsdale will be joining in one of the meetings and Cuba with slides will be discussed as a consideration of a third world model. People in the group are encouraged to propose needed political policy changes, which will be added to those created in the fall course/discussion group.

**Alternative Futures Course/Discussion Group is facilitated by Bill Boyer, Emeritus Professor of Philosophy of Education at the University of Hawaii and activist for legal rights for future generations.**

The Alternative Futures meeting dates are Feb 1 and 16, Mar 1, 8, 15, and 29.

## African Literature Mini-Course in January

As was described in further detail in the November newsletter, a new mini-course and book group in African Literature will begin this January. The focus will be on sub-Saharan African fiction written in European languages during the late colonial/early independence period.

The mini-course will consist of an introductory presentation followed by three sessions, each one focusing on a short novel that members will have read. Texts (subject to availability) will be: The Dark Child, Camara Laye (Guinea-Bissau), Things Fall Apart, Chinua Achebe (Nigeria), and Houseboy, Ferdinand Oyono (Cameroon).

This mini-course could develop into a book club, reading such masterpieces as Ngugi wa Thiong'o's A Grain of Wheat, Sembène Ousmane's God's Bits of Wood, or Athol Fugard's Sizwe Bansi is Dead, or screening films such as The Kitchen Toto or The Battle of Algiers.

The African Literature group will meet January 13, February 10, and March 9 at 1pm in The Chandler Building.

Curtis Schade will lead this group. He holds a Ph.D. in French (Indiana University); African Studies was his minor, and his dissertation focused on French-language African literature.

## SSS Program Assistant Needed!

As you now know from Michelle's note in this newsletter, we will need a new SSS Program Assistant. What better way to be sure that this person be excited about Silver Sage Society than to have her or him be a Silver Sage Society member?

Do you or another Silver Sage Society member you know have the following skills and interests?

- Excellent written and verbal communication skills
- Ability to manage time effectively while working solo regularly
- Commitment to lifelong learning opportunities and experiences

This is a paid position requiring 10-12 hours per week.

If you are interested in this position, know anyone for whom this might be a good fit, or simply have questions, please call Michelle at 617-4663 or Barbara at 1-800-824-2714.

We would be happy to send you a more complete job description at your request.

Please respond by January 9, 2004 if you are interested. We will post for this position outside of Silver Sage Society after January 9, 2004 if we are unable to find a qualified candidate in our membership before then.



**UNIVERSITY OF OREGON**  
Continuing Education, Silver Sage Society  
1277 University of Oregon, Eugene, OR 97403-1277

## Committees

(All SSS members welcome to attend)

### **Curriculum Committee**

Tuesday, January 20  
1:00pm at the Chandler Building

### **Governing Council**

Tuesday, January 20  
11:00am at the Chandler Building

## Other Committees

Are being formed – we're looking for members interested in:

- Activities & Travel
- Membership & Outreach
- Hospitality
- Audio-Visual

## Discussion Groups

(held at the Chandler Building)

- **News & Views**  
Tuesday, Jan. 6 & 20, 3pm  
Jim Clinton  
[jimclinton@bendcable.com](mailto:jimclinton@bendcable.com)
- **Thinking Allowed**  
Monday, Jan. 12 & 26, 1pm  
Ruth Burleigh  
[rufus@empnet.com](mailto:rufus@empnet.com)
- **African Literature**  
Tuesday, Jan. 13, 1pm  
Curtis Schade  
[wcs@bendnet.com](mailto:wcs@bendnet.com)
- **Cracker-Barrel Conversations**  
Wednesday,  
Jan. 14 & 28, 10am  
Hoby Herron  
[thebird@empnet.com](mailto:thebird@empnet.com)

## Art History

Thursday, Jan. 22, 1:30pm  
Henry Sayre  
[hsayre@orst.edu](mailto:hsayre@orst.edu)

Visit us online at:  
[sss.uoregon.com](http://sss.uoregon.com)

