Outhouses: A Passing Americana

The next meeting of the OU Retirees Association will take place on Thursday, March 13th, at the Family Life Center of Norman’s First Baptist Church. The gathering will begin at 12:00 noon with a luncheon provided by Catering Creations of Norman, followed by a special 30-40-minute program, and concluding with a brief business session. Reservations for the luncheon at $8.50 per person are required for OURA members and guests alike, and a form for that purpose can be found on page 4 of this newsletter.

Our speaker for the March meeting is Billy L. Crynes, Professor Emeritus of Chemical, Biological & Materials Engineering and former Dean of Engineering at OU (1987-98), and his topic—a wildly popular longtime favorite of OU Speakers Service audiences—is the fertile but now gradually passing history of outhouses in America. “It’s a part of Americana that is rapidly leaving both the landscape and the lexicon,” he told the Norman Transcript in June 2006. “Less than 1% of American households lack indoor plumbing today.” In the words of the Transcript reporter, Crynes got the urge to dig more deeply into this subject while on a bicycle ride across Oklahoma following his retirement from OU in 2002: “He began photographing old barns, pumphouses and outhouses. He’s gathered about 300 photographs. A local Lions Club took a chance on his first pitch. The rest is history.”

“I’ve given hundreds of talks, and nothing I’ve ever done is as much fun as this,” Crynes told the Transcript. “It sure beats fundraising.” His privy presentations usually follow a meal and are tailored to the audience and to the time available. “No one’s lost their lunch yet,” he adds, “and I haven’t seen any scowling or had anybody get mad and walk out.”

Crynes obtained his Ph.D. in Chemical Engineering from Purdue University in 1967 and taught at Oklahoma State University for 20 years before being named Dean of OU’s College of Engineering. During his tenure the number of endowed chairs in the College rose from 4 to 25, annual research grants tripled, the value of endowment funds grew by a factor of six, and exchange programs were initiated with universities in France and Thailand. Crynes received five awards for outstanding teaching while at OSU and OU, three times he was presented with the Membership Recruitment Award of the Oklahoma Society of Professional Engineers, and he has also been honored with an award from the National Society of Professional Engineers. In recognition of his contributions to the advancement of higher education in Oklahoma, in 2007 the Higher Education Heritage Society welcomed Crynes into membership in its Hall of Fame.
OUSA Officers, 2013-2014

President: David Morgan, 364-3306, drmorgan1@cox.net
President-Elect: Peter Vail, 364-9307, pvail@ou.edu
Past President: Joan Goth, 329-3063, jgoth@ou.edu
Secretary: Judy Smith, 329-6967, joody@ou.edu
Treasurer: Doris Donwerth, 364-8721, ddonwerth@ou.edu
Programs: Sonya Fallgatter, 364-6883, sfallgatter@ou.edu
Membership: Brad Hawkins, 447-7411, bhawkins48@cox.net
Benefits: Renda Passek, 447-3672, jpassek@att.net
Banner Editor: Bill Riggan, 329-1994, wmriggan@att.net

DO SOMETHING TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE
VOLUNTEER

Opportunities to meet new people, a chance to serve the community, invitation to volunteer appreciation events, and more!

AREAS OF NEED:
• Gift Shop
• Surgery Waiting
• Hospitality House
• Information Desks

Volunteer positions are available at Norman Regional Hospital on Porter Avenue, HealthPlex and Moore Medical Center.

Those interested can call 405.307.1788 or visit NormanRegional.com for a full list of volunteer opportunities and to download an application.

The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at the University of Oklahoma offers a variety of exciting noncredit courses to mature learners (ages 50+). OLLI at OU members are engaged by learning, discussion, and interaction with each other.

To become an OLLI at OU member or to receive more information about upcoming courses, visit our website at www.olliatou.org or call (405) 325-3488.

Be a part of OLLI at OU!
Call to Order: The quarterly OURA Executive Committee meeting was called to order by President David Morgan at 1:15 p.m. on Thursday, February 13, 2014 in the fourth-floor conference room of Cross Center C at 1630 Cross Center Drive. In addition to David, those present were Joan Goth, Doris Donwerth, Renda Passek, Peter Vail, Bill Riggan, Sonya Fallgatter, Brad Hawkins, and Judy Smith.

Secretary: Judy Smith’s minutes from the December 2013 general meeting of the Association were approved and will be published in the March 2014 issue of The Banner.

President: David reported that he was trying to get information on Theresa Ashley, the first OURA Scholarship winner, so that it could be published in The Banner. He advised that Judy Smith will not continue as Recording Secretary as of June 30 and that the Nominating Committee, chaired by Peter Vail, will need to propose a replacement. David thanked Judy for her service. He then appointed Peter as chair of an ad hoc committee to consider revisions to the OURA by-laws. Several names were suggested to serve on the committee. A full report on the committee’s composition and proposals will be made at a later date. Lastly, David recommended that a letter be sent to President Boren expressing the OURA’s support of his request for more state funding for higher education.

Treasurer: Doris Donwerth reported a balance on hand of $4,899.99 after subtracting two years of expense reserves ($5,000) and advance dues payments for FY15-FY25 ($1,435) plus scholarship funds of $974.06.

Committee Reports

Programs: Sonya Fallgatter announced that the Association’s next general meeting will begin at 12:00 noon on Thursday, March 13 at the First Baptist Church’s Family Life Center in Norman. Catering Creations will provide a luncheon for all attending members and guests at a cost of $8.50 per person; reservations are required for the luncheon, and a reservation form will be available in the March issue of The Banner. The program for the March meeting will feature OU Professor Emeritus of Engineering Billy Crynes speaking on the interesting topic of outhouses in America. The March Banner will include privy information on both Prof. Crynes and his topic.

Benefits: Renda Passek reported that she has been attending all recent meetings of OU’s Employee Benefits Committee. A number of benefits are being studied by the committee, but none that directly affect OU retirees.

Membership: Brad Hawkins reported that his committee needs to replace, restock, or reprint several items for distribution to prospective new members and that he will soon be forwarding the invoices to the Treasurer.

Communications: Bill Riggan reported that approximately 90 members receive The Banner by email and some 350 members receive it via regular mail. Members wishing to switch to electronic delivery should contact Bill directly at wmriggan@att.net.

New Business: The resolution proposed by David in support of President Boren’s request to the Legislature was approved unanimously, and all Executive Committee members agreed to sign the letter.

Adjournment: There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

Judy Smith, Recording Secretary
**UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA RETIREES ASSOCIATION**

**Treasurer’s Report -- December 31, 2013**

*Condensed version. Complete report available from the Treasurer upon request.*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Balance as of June 30, 2013</strong></td>
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<td>Deposits:</td>
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<td>- Dues Income, July2013-Dec2013</td>
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<td>- Luncheon, Sept2013</td>
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<td>- Scholarship Funds</td>
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<td>- Catering (Luncheon)</td>
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<td>- Printing (2 <em>Banner</em> Issues)</td>
<td>460.60</td>
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<td>- Postage (<em>Banner</em> + various)</td>
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<td>- Catering (Cookies/Beverages)</td>
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<td>- First Baptist (Room Rental)</td>
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<td>Less: 2-Year Expense Reserve</td>
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<td>Less: Scholarship Funds</td>
<td>(974.06)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Net Balance</strong></td>
<td>$4,899.99</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**OURA Scholarship Fund**

Donations in any amount to the OURA’s fledgling scholarship fund will be gratefully accepted at any time. Checks should be made payable to the OU Foundation, and the memo line should indicate that your gift is to be applied toward the OURA Scholarship (rather than toward your Association dues or some other purpose). Please mail all donations to OURA Treasurer Doris Donwerth at the following address: Treasurer, OU Retirees Association / 201 E. Lindsey St. / Norman OK 73019. Thank you in advance for your support.

**LUNCHEON RESERVATIONS -- MARCH 13, 2014**

Complete and mail to: Doris Donwerth  
2413 Camelia Street  
Norman OK 73071

Reservation Deadline: Monday, March 10  
[Phone: 364-8721]

Please save space for ____ person(s) at First Baptist Church on **Thursday, March 13th, 12:00 noon**.

Name(s): ____________________________________________________________

Enclosed is a check for $______ (at $8.50 per person) payable to **OU Foundation**.  
*Please do not combine luncheon payments with dues payments or with donations!*
UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA RETIREES ASSOCIATION
Norman Chapter
December 12, 2013

Call to Order: The regular quarterly meeting of the OU Retirees Association was called to order by President David Morgan at 2:00 p.m. on Thursday, December 12th, in the Family Life Center of Norman’s First Baptist Church. Cookies and tea were provided by Catering Creations of Norman to approximately 60 members and guests in attendance. David introduced Jennifer Baker, Director of the Sooner Theatre; Allan Ross, OU Regents Professor Emeritus of Music; and Jerry Hargis, former Vice Provost for Continuing Education at OU and longtime OURA member. These three presented a beautiful program of Yuletide musical selections that also featured audience participation. The program fully met its goal of getting guests “in the mood” for the season.

President: Following the program, David announced that a recipient of the new OURA Scholarship had been chosen by a committee representing several OU offices. Her name is Theresa Ashley, and she is an OU senior with a dual major in International Studies and Spanish. More information about her will be included in the March issue of The Banner. -- David also introduced the OURA’s new representative to the University’s Employee Benefits Committee, Renda Passek. Renda recently retired from OU’s Office of Human Resources, where she had long assisted staff and faculty members alike in the retirement process.

Secretary: Judy Smith’s minutes of the September 2013 general meeting and of the November 2013 Executive Committee meeting were approved as published in the December 2013 issue of The Banner. Judy also reported that notification letters were being sent to all members delinquent in their annual dues.

Treasurer: Doris Donwerth’s latest report was included in the December 2013 issue of The Banner.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Programs: Sonya Fallgatter announced that the Association’s next general meeting will be at 12:00 noon on Thursday, March 13th, 2014 at the Family Life Center of Norman’s First Baptist Church. A luncheon will be provided by Catering Creations, and reservations will be required for the luncheon but not for the program, which will feature retired OU professor and dean Billy Crynes speaking on the subject of outhouses in Oklahoma. [Ed. Note: We’re not kidding. This is one of the most popular and in-demand Speakers Service programs of all time. It’s no “passing” fad, we assure you!]. Further details will be available in the March 2014 issue of The Banner.

Communications: Banner Editor Bill Riggan reported that no problems were experienced with the delivery of the December issue either by email or by regular mail.

Membership: Brad Hawkins will be sending OURA informational packets to December 2013 retirees soon.

New Business: Mel Messer announced that he will be offering Conversational Spanish classes at the Pioneer Public Library on Tuesdays in February.

Adjournment: There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Judy Smith, Recording Secretary
Images from the December 2013 Meeting

Top left: OURA President David Morgan introducing (l-r) guest performers Allan Ross, Jennifer Baker, and Jerry Hargis. Top right, center left: Professor Ross, Ms. Baker, and Professor Hargis in performance and leading the audience in the singing of Yuletide favorites. Center right: Pre-meeting activity, with Robert Ferrier (seated at center), Jeff Kimpel (to Ferrier’s left), and Charles and Mary Carol Gilbert (standing, behind Ferrier’s right shoulder). Bottom left: OURA Program Chair Sonya Fallgatter announces plans for the March 2014 general meeting. Bottom right: New OURA Benefits Chair Renda Passek reports on recent developments regarding employee and retiree insurance and healthcare benefits.
First OURA Scholarship Winner Named

The OU Scholarship Office and the OU Retirees Association are pleased to announce that the first annual OURA Scholarship has been awarded to Theresa Ashley, a senior from Oklahoma City. Theresa will graduate from OU this May with a BA *cum laude* in International Studies and Spanish, and earlier attended both Oklahoma City Community College and the Universidad de Belgrano in Buenos Aires, Argentina. At OU she has been a member of the Transfer Leadership Class and the International Leadership Class Fellowship, has appeared on either the Dean of Arts & Sciences’ Honor Roll or the President’s Honor Roll every semester, and previously received the University’s Lissa & Cy Wagner Sooner Heritage Scholarship and a Presidential International Travel Fellowship. She has worked as an ESL tutor at Norman’s Jefferson Elementary and at OKC’s New Land Academy, provided bilingual customer and visitor service at Norman Regional Hospital for two years, serves as Public Relations Chair for the OU chapter of Oklahoma PIRG, and is a volunteer with Central Oklahoma Habitat for Humanity. Congratulations, Theresa, and best wishes for continued success in all you pursue!
Wish to continue as a member of OURA?
Here’s how to bring your membership up to date . . .

Take a quick peek at your mailing label above. If the date atop your name is 06/30/14 or later, your dues are paid and current. An earlier date indicates that your membership has expired or will soon do so. If that is the case, simply fill out the coupon below and send it with a check for the amount due ($10/yr per person).

E-subscribers: watch for an email notice if your membership has expired or will soon do so.

Clip and mail:
To: Treasurer, OU Retirees Association
    201 East Lindsey, Norman, OK 73019

Name:________________________________________________________________________

Street, City, State, Zip: _______________________________________________________

New member: _____ Renewal: _____ E-mail Address: ____________________________

Enclosed is a check for $_____ ($10.00 per person per year) payable to “OU FOUNDATION”