A warm hearth

FORMER SINGAPORE STUDENTS HONOR HOST FAMILY WITH SCHOLARSHIP

Chuck and Jackie Swenson of Eugene didn’t really know what they were getting into in the late 1970s when a neighbor who was moving away asked them to fulfill his commitment to be a “host family” to two University of Oregon students from Singapore.

They didn’t know that they would serve as temporary parents to more than fifteen Singaporean students over ten years, that they and their two sons would develop lifelong friendships with some of the students and their families, and that they would travel to Singapore twice.

And they certainly didn’t anticipate that almost thirty years later, one of those students would express his gratitude by establishing a UO scholarship in their names. Richard Seow, a 1983 UO economics graduate, spearheaded a successful drive to raise $500,000 to fund the Charles A. and Jackie Swenson Endowed Scholarship for students from Singapore and Hong Kong.

“I’m humbled, and my wife is, too,” said Chuck Swenson, retired owner of Swenson Fire Engines.

“The fact that they would do this for us in our name—we just can’t believe it.”

Chuck Swenson

A new era for education

TOP-RANKED COLLEGE OF EDUCATION FINALLY HAS FACILITIES TO MATCH

“We have done it!” UO President Dave Frohnmayer exclaimed to some 400 alumni, donors, faculty members, and students attending the June 11 dedication of the College of Education’s stunning new facilities.

“This new education complex is a splendid statement about our priorities,” Frohnmayer said. “Nothing is more important than the education of our children.”

To see a slideshow of the new building, go to giving.uoregon.edu/coe.htm.

The $50.5 million project involved construction of the new HEDCO Education Building and renovation of the college’s older buildings. Private donors funded 60 percent of the cost, helping to secure the Oregon legislature’s authorization for most of the rest.

“Gone are the ‘temporary’ trailers that lasted

Continued on page 2
from Singapore are, left to right, Willy Teo, Penny Gan, Raymond Moses, Jimmy Tay, and Richard Seow.

Automotive Paint and Industrial Supply.

The fact that they would do this for us in our name—we just can’t believe it.”

Seow, now chairman of the health-care group Parkway Holdings in Singapore, says the Swensons made a huge difference in his experience as an international student far from home. “They were always around when you needed them with a hot, home-cooked meal, care packages during finals, and most importantly, some old-fashioned, sensible advice whenever we had any problems,” he remembers.

Steve Durrant, UO vice provost for international affairs, says the new scholarship will help boost the university’s contingent of students from Singapore, which has declined in recent years. And that will lead to more rewarding experiences for local host families like the Swensons.

“What they gave us was much more than what we gave them,” said Chuck of the students he and Jackie befriended. “They gave us an understanding of their culture and the knowledge that kids in Singapore are no different than ours—they all just need a little love when they’re away from home.”

With a compass as its logo, Northwest Review embarks on a new era. Cover art by Vietnamese-American photographer Bon DANG, Spring 2009

A new era for education

Continued from page 1

forty years, the tennis courts, the dark offices, and the classrooms left over from the old University High School, which closed in the 1950s,” said Michael Bulis, dean of the College of Education. “At long last, we have facilities fitting the excellence of our academic programs, research units, faculty, staff, and students.”

Attendees at the celebration got some more good news when Frohnmayer announced “an exciting new partnership” with Microsoft to incorporate new technology into the college’s programs. The new facilities already include the most advanced technology at the university for teaching and learning.

At four stories counting the basement parking structure, the HEDCO Education Building is housing and endowment to open the new HEDCO Education Building to touring visitors after the June 11 building dedication.

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A new direction

Continued from page 1

and sciences. The foundation’s $10 million lead gift launched the fundraising drive for the building in 2004.

The new complex also includes the college’s original historic brick quad, named for donor Lorry I. Lokey in appreciation of his $12.5 million investment in the project; the Clinical Services Building; and the Education Annex, known informally as “the little red schoolhouse.”

What began as a plan to expand and modernize facilities overwhelmed by a tripling of enrollment has resulted in the transformation of the entire 9.8-acre site. Gardens, courtyards, and walkways extend gathering opportunities into natural surroundings. The main “Walk of Fame” linking the new building with the three newly renovated buildings features pavers purchased by alumni and friends to honor their mentors.

Speakers at the event included George Pernsteiner, chancellor of the Oregon University System, and Susan Castillo, state superintendent of public instruction.

With a compass as its logo, Northwest Review embarks on a new era. Cover art by Vietnamese-American photographer Bon DANG, Spring 2009

One of your best summer reads could be the newly redesigned Northwest Review.

Pulitzer Prize–winning poets Yusuf Komunyakaa (1994 for Neon Vernacular) and Charles Wright (1998 for Black Zodiac) join more than thirty prominent and emerging authors with new stories and poems in the first issue edited by a team of UO creative writing professors.

Purdue Lori, the general editor, says the UO’s fifty-two-year-old literary journal gives voice to ideas that get drowned out in the mainstream’s Twitter-culture.

“We will preserve this journal’s tradition of publishing regional writers while further opening it to diverse voices from across the nation and around the world,” she said.

“Northwest Review is now a literary journal for all points on the compass, a journal of chance and transformation.”

Doran and her coeditors, Ehud Havazelet (fiction) and Garrett Hongo (poetry), have the luxury of building on strong foundations laid by poet John Witte, a member of the English faculty, during his twenty-nine years as editor.

They aspire to raise Northwest Review’s profile to that of top publications such as The Kenyon Review, New England Review, and TriQuarterly.

The presence of a flourishing literary journal signals the strength and vitality of a university’s writing and literature programs. Northwest Review receives financial backing from the UO’s Creative Writing Program, the Department of English, the Office of the President, and the College of Arts and Sciences. Additional support comes from subscriptions and private donors.

However, four years from now Doran hopes the journal will be financially independent, ideally with a fully funded endowment.

“We’re already gaining momentum,” she said. “We are reducing costs, increasing subscriptions, and raising our presence in the literary community.”

A few copies of the current issue are available at $8 each through nwr.uoregon.edu. To celebrate the journal’s reinvention, through September the editors are offering UO alumni a special two-year subscription for $35, a savings of $5.

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Geri Doran, General Editor

Doran Lorry Lokey, left, and Dody Dornsife Jernstedt pull the ribbon to open the new HEDCO Education Building to touring visitors after the June 11 building dedication.

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A new direction

REDESIGNED NORTHWEST REVIEW ROLLS OUT FIRST ISSUE

“Northwest Review is now a literary journal for all points on the compass, a journal of chance and transformation.”

Geri Doran, General Editor

A Ken Kesey exclusive

Swedish anniversary issue, Spring 1977

“This is our beginning... /...if we are to be in the midst of the life of a region, we should be aware of that life, not only to reflect it, but to be critical of it, and to make comment upon it through all of the voices at our command.”

From the Editor’s Voice (Robert Paul), inaugural issue, Spring 1957

“This is what’s different: / my prayer there’ll be a summer to survive, / that our deaths will not be the last.”

From Sure Spring in the Nuclear Age,” by Andrew Hudgins, Winter/Spring 1984

“Northwest Review remains as apt and sassy, as committed to originality, and as devoted to the upcoming young writer as ever.”

From the Editor’s Picture (John Witte), fiftieth anniversary issue, Fall 1987

A new direction

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On the right course

PATHWAYOREGON MAKES COLLEGE A REALITY FOR LOWER-INCOME STUDENTS

It was a day Mysha Abdulrahman will never forget. “My mom and I were in my counselor’s office at Jefferson High School,” the UO freshman recalls. Then he told her about the envelope, PathwayOregon, and how her dream of college had just become real.

“My mom cried. It was a lot of pressure off of her. We were both just really happy, because I could go to school now.”

Last fall, Abdulrahman and 415 other lower-income students became members of the inaugural class for PathwayOregon. The program covers the difference between other sources of financial aid and the total cost of tuition and fees for twelve terms within a five-year period. To qualify, students must be Oregonians eligible for the Federal Pell Grant.

PathwayOregon also provides comprehensive support to help make sure students have the tools for success in college and after they graduate. More than one-third are first-generation college students.

“This is an opportunity of a lifetime,” says Abdulrahman. “Education is the key to success and freedom.” Growing up in northeast Portland, Abdulrahman overcame obstacles that send many young people down a different path.

Her father moved out when she was a baby. There were days without enough food to go around. Days without power or water because the bills were overdue. And homeless stints, moving from house to house, staying with friends, family, or in shelters.

But college was a dream worth the work. “I know that being involved was going to open the door to scholarships,” she says. In high school, Abdulrahman was a cheerleader, honor student, and junior class president. She was president of the National Honor Society and volunteered for an organization working on African American health issues.

“My mom made ends meet by herself with three kids,” says Abdulrahman. “She was a strong woman. Mom would say, ‘You have to do this so you don’t have to live the life that I’ve had to live.’

PathwayOregon provides counseling and tutoring and requires students to check in regularly and meet benchmarks designed to help them earn a degree in twelve terms. “Money isn’t enough,” says PathwayOregon coordinator Carla Bowers. “PathwayOregon also provides them with the personal support that they need to actually be successful while they’re here.”

“My first term was so hard,” Abdulrahman says. “I felt out of place. I took too many credits.” Bowers helped her manage her course load. At the end of her freshman year, she’s well on her way to completing a degree.

Abdulrahman has declared a major in psychology, and this summer she’ll be getting professional experience while interning at Legacy Emanuel Hospital and Health Center in Portland.

“I don’t want to go through the mental and financial hardships my family has experienced,” she says. “I want to be the one who makes a difference.”

“I wanted to honor Sally because she is one of the bravest women with the most integrity of anyone I have ever met.”

Carla Blumberg

Honoring diversity and courage

When Carla Blumberg and Sally Miller Gearhart first met in 1963, they shared a secret they couldn’t talk about.

Blumberg was a drama student and Gearhart her teacher at a small private religious school near San Antonio, Texas. They would later become lifelong friends but, at the time, neither knew the other was a lesbian.

“We never mentioned the one big thing we had in common because Texas closets were very deep and dangerous,” remembers Gearhart. “I was terrified, as was every lesbian I know, of being accused of being what we really were.”

Gearhart came out of the closet in the 1970s. She was the first liberal lesbian to obtain a tenure-track faculty position when she was hired in 1973 by San Francisco State University, where she helped establish one of the first women and gender studies programs in the country. She later became a nationally known gay-rights activist.

To increase knowledge about lesbian history and issues and to honor Gearhart for her courage and service, Blumberg has made a $1.2 million bequest to the University of Oregon to establish the Sally Miller Gearhart Chair in Lesbian Studies. It will be one of the country’s first endowed chairs in the field. Blumberg, who owns a restaurant in Duluth, Minnesota, has also made a matching gift of up to $25,000 for contributions to the Sally Miller Gearhart Lectureship in Lesbian Studies, which started this year.

“I wanted to honor Sally because she is one of the bravest women with the most integrity of anyone I have ever met,” says Blumberg. “I also, she hopes the enhanced research and teaching in lesbian studies at the UO “will continue to shine light upon all the issues connected to human sexuality in general, and gay-lesbian-bisexual-transgender sexualities in particular.”

Neither Blumberg nor Gearhart is a UO alum. They chose the UO for the chair and lectureship partly because Gearhart had already donated her papers to UO Libraries Special Collections and because she knew some faculty members here.

Also, both were impressed with the national reputation of the UO Department of Women’s and Gender Studies, where the chair and lectureship will be housed.

“I was delighted about Blumberg’s gift, department head Ellen Scott told the Oregon Daily Emerald. “It’s not often that small programs find people saying ‘I’d like to endow an endowed chair here.’ Having that kind of focus on your program and that kind of appreciation . . . it’s an honor.”

“It is important to acknowledge how unusual an endowment in lesbian studies is. This constitutes a radical act, even in 2009,” Carla Blumberg should be congratulated for the statement she makes in creating this endowment.”
What a ride

THE MAN WHO BRINGS WELLS FARGO’S ICONIC BRAND TO LIFE FUNDS AN ENDOWMENT FOR ECONOMICS

Not many people get to live out their childhood fantasies, but Doug Murphy ’64 hit the jackpot when he switched from suit-and-tie banker to Wells Fargo stagecoach driver in 1972.

The company’s red Concord coaches became the nation’s first rapid transit in 1852 when the Wells Fargo and Company established an express operation between New York and California’s gold country. Today the Wells Fargo stagecoach is one of the most enduring corporate symbols.

Murphy supervises stagecoaches, teams of horses, and drivers for everything from commercial shoots to special events, including major parades. It’s safe to say the job is unique, and Murphy says he owes his success to his University of Oregon liberal arts degree.

Growing up on horseback in ranching country near Santa Rosa, California, Murphy dreamed of going to a beautiful campus with ivy-covered buildings. “When I saw photos of the UO, they matched the picture in my mind,” he said.

Murphy lived in the old Vet’s Dorm, joined Sigma Chi, and chose economics as his major. Degree in hand, he headed back home and reported for management training at a then small local bank called Wells Fargo.

He started out in credit card sales and eventually headed the team that handled merger applications when the company acquired several independent banks.

As the company expanded to cover southern California, Murphy became involved in marketing. His new job included sending stagecoaches to special events. When the hired driver didn’t work out, Murphy found himself literally holding the reins in a local parade. He was hooked.

He bought four quarter horses and the requisite tack, and never looked back.

Murphy worked as a banker on weekdays and stagecoach driver on weekends for two years. When he became assistant vice president in 1974, he continued to manage the rapidly growing stagecoach appearance program. Four years later he gave up the banking part of his job to concentrate on stagecoaches full time.

Since retiring in 1997 after thirty-three years with Wells Fargo, Murphy has continued as a consultant. He even helped build a stagecoach. “It was a labor of love,” he said. “I liked learning what it took to keep the same shape and functionality while making improvements to meet the demands of the twenty-first century.”

Murphy anticipates that this year’s merger with UBS will make him and his twenty-one drivers busier than ever as the Wells Fargo brand spreads to more than 3,500 additional locations—most in the eastern U.S.

Now Murphy is planning for the future success of UO grads by creating an endowment through his will to support a professorship and student scholarships in economics.

“My UO education eventually translated into what I’m doing now,” he said. “I hope my contribution will help others be able to say the same.”

Knights, Lokey awarded 2009 Presidential Medals

Top University of Oregon benefactors and innovative business founders Lorory Lokey and Phil and Penny Knight were honored with the University of Oregon’s highest academic honor— the Presidential Medal— during Commencement in June.

In 2007 the Knights made the largest gift in UO history—a $100 million pledge to help make it possible for the athletic department to remain financially self-sufficient and move forward with a new 12,500-seat basketball arena. The arena and a student scholarship are named after their late son Matthew.

The Knights have made many other gifts benefitting both athletics and academics at the UO. Their generosity has supported more than thirty endowed faculty positions; renovation and expansion of Knight Library, the James F. Miller Theatre Complex, and Autzen Stadium; and construction of the William W. Knight Law Center and the Ed Moshofsky Sports Center.

Phil Knight ’59 cofounded with legendary UO track coach Bill Bowerman of Nike, the world’s largest sports and fitness company. Lorory Lokey founded Business Wire, the San Francisco-based business news service that is now one of the largest in the world.

Lokey grew up in Portland and graduated from Stanford University. A major international benefactor of education and sciences, Lokey is the UO’s largest academic donor, contributing more than $132 million since 2005. His gifts have helped fund science research and teaching, new buildings for the sciences, renovation and expansion projects for the College of Education and the School of Music and Dance, and the School of Journalism and Communication’s new Portland program.

University of Oregon Foundation hires new CEO

The University of Oregon Foundation has hired Eugene insurance executive Paul Weinhold as its new president and CEO.

Weinhold, a 1986 UO political science graduate, started his new position July 1. He comes to the Foundation from Wells Fargo Insurance Services, where he has been managing director since fall 2006. Before that, he served in various capacities at Willis of Oregon Inc. starting in 1986 and culminating in his appointment as president and CEO in 2000.

Weinhold was a member of the UO golf team and was named an honorable mention All-American in collegiate golf in 1983. The university honored him with its Leo Harris Award in 2007. The award is given to an alumni letterman who has been out of college at least twenty years and has demonstrated continued service and leadership to the university.

Weinhold has been active with numerous nonprofit boards in Eugene over the years. These include the PeaceHealth Foundation, Kidsports Foundation, Oregon Trail Council of the Boy Scouts of America, Urgon Research and Education Foundation, and the Children’s Miracle Network. He is married and has three children.

“I am honored to be joining the University of Oregon Foundation and look forward to being a part of supporting the outstanding work and mission of the University of Oregon,” Weinhold said.
Lorry’s Science Exchange

Philanthropist Lorry Lokey (seated at left) brought together scientists from two of his favorite universities—the University of Oregon and Technion–Israel Institute of Technology—during a campus visit in early March. Lokey has made major contributions to science research and teaching at both institutions. Technion visitors talking with Lokey and UO scientists are Aaron Ciechanover, 2004 Nobel Prize-winner in chemistry, center, and Technion president Yitzhak Apelag to Ciechanover’s right. During the visit, officials of the two institutions signed an agreement for student and faculty exchanges.