



THE ORICL ORACLE

April 2018

A Biennial Newsletter of the Oak Ridge
Institute for Continued Learning

Former U.S. Ambassador Speaks About Syria at Roane State

Former U.S. ambassador to Syria Margaret Scobey recently spoke to an audience of more than 100 ORICL members and Roane State students and faculty on the topic of “Syria: Challenges to U.S. and Regional Interests.” The talk, presented on April 18 at the Oak Ridge campus of Roane State, was sponsored jointly by Roane State and ORICL as part of an ongoing lecture series. Jim Rushton of the ORICL Board of Directors opened the program. Owen Driskill, Executive Director of the Oak Ridge Campus of Roane State, made some opening remarks in which he praised ORICL as a “gem” in the community, and Adolph King, Director of International Programs at Roane State, introduced Scobey.

Through various assignments in Saudi Arabia, Syria, Pakistan, Iraq, and Egypt during her 32-year career with the U.S. Foreign Service, Scobey developed a deep understanding of the Middle East region, the complex relationships among the countries there, and the ever-changing political situation. Syria, she said, is a difficult subject, because “it just won’t stay still, the landscape is constantly changing.”

Scobey gave the rapt audience a brief history lesson on the region from Kissinger’s agenda in the 1970’s to the Bush administration’s post-September 11 issues with Syrian-supported terrorism to the Arab Spring and Bashar Al Assad’s military response to similar demonstrations in Syria, and the rise of the Islamic State, all of which bring us, she said to “a horrible humanitarian disaster.” Next, she defined the various players in the region – Israel, Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq, Iran, Turkey, Saudi Arabia, the Kurds (in Syria, Iraq, and Turkey), NATO, the United Nations, Russia and the United States – and outlined each entity’s history, policies, and actions with regard to Syria. The U.S., she said, does not see Syria as strategically vital to its interests and said that the Obama and Trump administrations’ approaches have been similar.

Following the presentation, Scobey entertained a number of questions from the audience, several of which touched on the plight of Syrian refugees. Scobey, a Tennessee native and graduate of the University of Tennessee, is on the board of directors of Bridge Refugee Services, Inc. a non-profit that resettles refugees in the Knoxville and Chattanooga areas.



Margaret Scobey, U.S. Ambassador to Syria, 2003-2005, at the reception prior to her Roane State lecture on Syria. Photo by Don Miller.



Nominations Sought for Volunteer and Instructor of the Year

For the second year, ORICL is preparing to honor two special ORICL supporters, a volunteer and an instructor. With this award, ORICL seeks to recognize those who have made exceptional contributions to the organization through their donated time and skills. Many individuals are deserving of these awards, and as before, the membership is part of the selection process. Please send any recommendations for the awards (volunteer or instructor) with a brief explanation of why the person deserves the honor to the ORICL office at ORICL@roanestate.edu. A committee will review the nominations and the awards will be presented at the December Volunteer Luncheon. The recipients’ names will be added to the awards plaque displayed outside the ORICL classrooms.

Spotlight on an ORICL Volunteer – Chip Bailey

Chip Bailey will start his seventh year of teaching for ORICL with the fall 2018 term. He has taught a variety of courses that focus on historical music by using live music he plays himself and through recordings. Here are his thoughts on being a volunteer.

Q. Why do you volunteer for ORICL?

A. I volunteer as a teacher for ORICL, because I get the opportunity to share my knowledge of history along with the music that has inspired events in our common American history story. I always get more out of my classes than I put in. I learn from the students and more often than not, I leave the class armed with a new research project on historical music that might result in a future class for ORICL.

Q. What is your philosophy of volunteerism?

A. If I can share some knowledge on historical music with the interested/involved adult students, then I am far richer from having done this. Volunteering to teach is a pleasure for me. I look forward to each new course and the students who come with an open mind and with their own vast personal knowledge base. I always learn from my students.

Q. What is the funniest thing that ever happened to you while volunteering for ORICL?

A. During one class that started at 2:00 p.m., I had just started setting the tone for the day's lesson by reading the course description when the door on the right side of the auditorium burst open. There were already over 100 students seated in the auditorium. I didn't think much of this since many ORICL students arrive a little late, especially those with the need for walkers or electric carts. Then in the right-hand door came three women on electric carts, I stopped talking out of respect for them. They crossed in front of me, one in line after the other. Once they reached the left side door, I expected to hear their "beeps" as they backed into three slots on the front row left side of the auditorium. Instead they opened the left side door and proceeded to exit in line. At this point I heard the lead rider say: "This is the quickest route to the parking lot." Oh well, I thought they were joining my class, not just traveling through.

Q. What is the hardest thing about volunteering for ORICL? The easiest?

A. The hardest thing for me at ORICL is coming up with new courses of interest to my students. I would love some feedback from them. The easiest thing for me at ORICL is enjoying the genuine interest that is shown by the adult students. Having taught in colleges for years, I have seen the interest level of typical traditional-age students erode in recent years. It seems to be a "consumer mentality" with students today. I'm also glad not to have to worry about grades. All traditional-aged students want "A's" today. And we all know that they don't all earn them by any means. We don't have that problem at ORICL, thankfully!



Chip Bailey plays some of the music he discusses in his winter class. Photo by Lee Smalley.



Margaret Scobey is surrounded by ORICL members who want to ask additional questions after her presentation on Syria. Clockwise from left are Scobey, Fay Martin, Katherine Smith, David Olsen, Joe McGrory, and Murray Martin. Photo by Linda Holmes.

**GET THE SPIRIT! VOLUNTEER
FOR ORICL**

Volunteer Recognition Lunch Scheduled for May 2

ORICL will host a luncheon on May 2 for the volunteers who generously contribute their expertise, time and efforts to make our organization possible. This is ORICL's way of expressing its gratitude to the instructors, class assistants, curriculum committee members, all of those who volunteer in the ORICL office, the teams who proofread the catalog and put out the mailings each term, the people who assist with the excursions, and many others who make it possible for us to offer an informative and enjoyable continued learning experience throughout the year. The luncheon will be held at noon at Grace Lutheran Church, 131 W. Gettysburg Avenue in Oak Ridge. Invitations have already been sent out by email with RSVP's requested by Wednesday, April 25th.



Aubrey Casey, far right, gives ORICL members a tour under the hood of the College of Engineering's EcoCar-3 during a recent demonstration held at the Roane State Campus. Photo by Lee Smalley.

UT College of Engineering Presents the EcoCar-3 Design to ORICL Members

The EcoCar-3 team from UT's College of Engineering presented their project to ORICL members on April 19. Engineering students Aubrey Casey and Joseph Stockley explained their role in designing and building the modified Chevrolet Camaro in "Smokey Grey" with Big Orange stripes. Following a slide presentation, the attendees inspected the vehicle.

The Advanced Vehicle Technology Competition is in its 29th year under U.S. Department of Energy sponsorship. UT has participated every year winning a first place in 1989 and placing fifth out of 18 universities last year. Casey and Stockley, along with the rest of the UT team, will be traveling to Yuma, Arizona, in May for the national competition. The testing in Yuma consists of measures of performance and handling on a track and a skidpad. The final test of fuel economy is a loop around the Los Angeles area.

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ORICL is a 501 (c)3 not-for-profit organization in partnership with Roane State Community College.

Guidance on the Use of Fragrances

It has come to the attention of the ORICL office staff and board that we need to reiterate our fragrance policy. Many individuals have chronic pulmonary illnesses or allergies that make them highly sensitive to strong scents. Please be considerate to others and refrain from wearing scented products – including perfume, cologne, aftershave, and lotion – to ORICL classes. Please note: If you become uncomfortable because of a strong fragrance during class, it is appropriate to report this to the office staff who will speak to the offending individual in private.



Eun-Sook Kim taught a class on how to make the Korean dish Bibimbap. Photo by Jan Lyons.



WINTER/SPRING TERM HIGHLIGHTS

Local Motors, the Knoxville company that uses 3D printing to reinvent the automotive industry, regularly hosts groups of ORICL members at its local plant. The next Local Motors tour will be offered in July. Photo by Don Miller.



Bill Capshaw, right, works with ORICL member Sharon Hubbard during a pottery class. Photo by Doris Sklad.

ORICL CALENDAR FOR APRIL THROUGH SEPTEMBER 2018

April 25	Online Registration Opens for Summer
April 25	1 st Meeting – Fall Curriculum Committee
April 27	Winter/Spring Classes End
May 2	Volunteer Recognition Luncheon
May 16	2 nd Meeting – Fall Curriculum Committee
May 21-23	Summer Schedule Pick-Up*
May 28	Holiday – Building Closed
May 29	Instructor/Class Assistant Meeting
June 4	Summer Classes Begin
July 4	Holiday – Building Closed
August 1	Online Registration Opens for Fall
August 3	Summer Classes End
August 8	Volunteer Recognition Luncheon
August 22	1 st Meeting – Winter/Spring Curriculum Committee
August 27-29	Fall Schedule Pick-Up*
September 3	Holiday – Building Closed

*Those not picked up will be mailed on May 23/August 29

**SPREAD THE WORD ABOUT ORICL EVERYWHERE
YOU GO – ORICL NEEDS NEW MEMBERS**

Treasurer's Report

ORICL is a 501(c)(3) non-profit, tax exempt organization, with a fiscal year beginning August 1 and ending July 31. Income is received from membership dues, investments, and donations. Membership dues are approximately 74% of total income. Investments are 22%. Trip administrative fees and class fees account for the remainder of income. Employee salaries and bonuses account for 70% of expenses. Catalog costs account for 13%. Registration expenses account for 5%. Insurance and professional (CPA) fees account for 3.6%. The teacher's/volunteer's luncheons are 2.8%. Office supplies, telephone, and equipment leasing and depreciation account for the remainder of total expenses. Assets total \$236,535. Liabilities are \$27,766, mainly due to \$16,827 deferred membership dues and \$9402 deferred trip income, which will go away when the trips are completed or cancelled. Total equity is \$208,769. The \$133,709 J. Million bequest balance remains constant, while the J. Million Speaker fund is \$7,019. Contributions and donations fund balances are \$37,984.67. The General Fund balance is \$4,332, and the Board Designated Contingency fund is \$20,928. ORICL's equity has been about \$200,000 for several years. Investment income has enabled ORICL to maintain \$100 annual membership dues.

Trygve Myhre, Treasurer