The First Word
by Paul Adalian

ART CAN TELL STORIES WITHOUT WORDS.
Art can communicate values without a single paragraph. Over the past two years, since I began at SOU, Hannon Library has been on a quest to become filled with art and artifacts that reflect the story, values, and mission of SOU.

Artistic pieces along with the 26-foot mosaic in the rotunda were present when the Hannon Library first opened its doors in 2005 and form the foundation of our art collection.

Clean, light-filled, empty walls remained throughout the library. We wanted color and energy. The first step was to install 600 linear feet of a glass system to enable us to rotate art throughout the year.

After meeting Betty LaDuke, a local artist and former professor here at SOU, we began installing some of her larger work on permanent display on the second floor adjacent to Special Collections.

The collection chronicles the development of writing from a 2034 BC cuneiform tablet to a 1791 edition of a children’s reader. Different languages, typefaces, and writing surfaces showcase the collection.

Rick Steber, author of 29 books and has received numerous awards and recognition for his achievements in western literature.

The library recently installed a collection of flags reflecting all the members of the United Nations that is located in the Learning Commons. The flags add color and an international flavor to the large space.

All these art and artifact collections tell a global story crossing cultures and time, and reflect the ideals and mission of SOU. These collections give our students a view and appreciation of the past and provide a truly international perspective of cultures and values that have led man into the 21st century. A book signing will follow the program. Admission is free. For information, call 541-552-6835.

SOUTHERN OREGON UNIVERSITY
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COMING SOON: NEW DIGITAL COLLECTIONS FROM SOU, SOHS AND OSF

UNTIL NOW, HISTORIC PHOTOS of the people, natural resources and wonders, and cultural and social life of Southern Oregon were available for viewing or study “by appointment only.” By the end of fall term 2010, over 2,000 selected photos related to Southern Oregon history and culture will be available or in process. All Southern Oregon digital collections develop in partnership with regional institutions and agencies. With the new collections, Southern Oregonians, especially students and teachers at all levels, will better understand the social, cultural, scientific, environmental, and historical aspects of the region’s history. Collections include:

ROGUE RIVER NATIONAL FOREST HISTORIC IMAGES (about 650 items) trace 100 years of forest history. The images are from the Historical Records Collection of Rogue River National Forest, now at the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) regional facility in Seattle. Digital copies of these images were presented to Hannon Library by retired USFS Historian and Archaeologist Jeff L’Ams. Images depict landscapes and forest economy and recreational activities before and after the founding of Crater National Forest (later USFS) in 1908 by President Theodore Roosevelt. Ranger duties, facilities, and changing technologies for forestry are well represented.

SOUTHERN OREGON UNIVERSITY HISTORIC PHOTOGRAPHS, a collection of nearly 300 images which date from the 1880s, provide a glimpse into the buildings, people, academic and social life that made up the institution we know as Southern Oregon University, from its beginnings as a normal school to a modern liberal arts university.

SOUTHERN OREGON HISTORICAL SOCIETY PHOTOGRAPHS, a collection of more than 200 historical images from the nearly 2,000 prints from glass plate negatives. The collection provides a glimpse into Southern Oregon’s history, including portraits, landscapes, and economic life of the region, sometimes with Britt family members. The collection covers 1880-1930 and includes the first documented photograph of Crater Lake.

PETER BRITT PHOTOGRAPHS, from Hannon Library’s Special Collections, contain over 650 images from the nearly 2,000 prints from glass plate negatives by the famous Jacksonville photographer and his son, Emil. Primarily portraits, including early Chinese workers in Jacksonville, the collection also depicts landscapes and the economic and social life of the region, sometimes with Britt family members. The collection covers 1880-1930 and includes the first documented photograph of Crater Lake.

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FROM THE VAULTS: JOAQUIN MILLER COLLECTION

ONE OF THE HIDDEN TREASURES in Hannon Library’s Special Collections is the Joaquin Miller Collection. Joaquin Miller was the pen name of the colorful and famous American poet and author Cincinnatus Heine. Miller, the “Poet of the Sierras,” was (according to most accounts) born in 1839 in Liberty, Indiana. Married three times, his first marriage was to an Indian woman in Shasta County, California, and the second marriage was in Oregon. Joaquin Miller led a long and colorful life, until his death in 1913, living in gold-mining camps, with Native American, and working as a pony express rider, journalist, gold miner, horse thief, and the county judge of Grant County, Oregon.

Miller’s early volumes of poems portrayed frontier life in Oregon and California and brought local and international acclaim. Songs of the Sierras in 1871 made Miller nationally famous as a frontier poet. Joaquin Miller went on to publish nearly 40 books, with most republished numerous times.

In 2006, Brian G. Booth from Portland gave Hannon Library a significant collection of rare, first-edition books and miscellanies relating to Joaquin Miller. The book collection includes over 50 books by Miller, mostly first editions, as well as literary criticism and five books by his daughter, Juanita. In addition to books, the collection contains handwritten items by Miller, including postcards, a picture, and clippings. The Joaquin Miller Collection can be viewed in Hannon Library Special Collections. For information, call 552-6246.

NEW E-RESOURCE: OPPORTUNITIES VIEWPOINT RESOURCE CENTER

Despite current financial challenges, we are excited to announce a new database! Funded by the Oregon State Library’s statewide Database Purchasing Program, Hannon Library now provides access to the Opposing Viewpoints series. Opposing Viewpoints presents today’s complex and controversial issues in a pro- and con- format. Content is drawn from the many Greenhaven Press social issues series and from other sources. This resource helps facilitate critical thinking skills, and is an ideal reference for timely topics and debate preparation. To access our databases, go to hanlib.sou.edu/newsletter. Need more information? Contact the reference desk at 552-6442.