



Emeriti News

WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

Volume XI, Number 1

Summer 2006

From the Council Chair

During the past year your Emeriti Council has demonstrated what open communication and a cooperative spirit can yield. The energy and imagination that task groups have brought to a range of issues from social events to our upcoming Forum have lightened my responsibilities and fulfilled our mission of service to Emeriti, students and WMU. I am especially indebted to several fellow council members and I have thanked them repeatedly. The entire Council deserves a round of applause. As you can see from this newsletter, another full and pleasant year is just around the corner. We hope to see you often during 2006-2007.

John Houdek Chair, Emeriti Council

Council Members for 2006/2007

Elections were conducted in May and the newly elected Council members are: George Dales (2007), Woody Ehrle (2007), Nancy Falk (2008), Gus Gianakaris (2008), Ruth Heinig (2008), Phil Kramer (2008) and Donna Oas (2007). The members of the Council who continue for the 2006/2007 year are: James Bosco (2007), Phillip Caruso (2007), Mary Cordier (2007), John Houdek (2008), Peter Kobrak (2007), Ruth Ann Meyer (2007), John Petro (2008) and Molly Williams (2007). Departing the Council are: Bill Appel, Shirley Bach, Moyra Ebling, Nick Hamner, Robert Nagler and Henry Raup.

Emeriti Council Activities

Wednesdays II Walwood Hall (Enter Walwood Hall from the parking lot east of the building by the door closest to Oakland. The lounge is on the second floor.)

Please join fellow Emeriti and friends from 2:00 to 3:30 p.m. on the second Wednesday of the month in the Emeriti Lounge for informal presentations designed to inform and stimulate discussion. Light refreshments will be served. We hope to see you on any or all *Wednesday IIs*.

Wednesday, September 13, 2006: Alan Jacobs, Anthropology. “PENJING: The Chinese Origins of Japanese Bonsai.” Dr. Jacobs has been a bonsai enthusiast for more than 40 years. He has lived and traveled extensively in the Far East and Southeast Asia where bonsai flourishes as a distinct horticultural art form in numerous countries. He is a founding member and past president of the Bonsai Society -Kalamazoo, as well as a past director of the national American Bonsai Society. He will present slides and display several of his own bonsai.

Wednesday, October 4, 2006: There will be no *Wednesdays II*. The Council will instead hold a forum on Friday, October 6 entitled Achieving Peace in an Embattled World. Please see the enclosed flyer.

Wednesday, November 8, 2006: Monica Nahm. In conducting research for the book SAGA OF THE ITALIAN PENINSULA: People and Places, Nahm gathered on-the-spot information and visuals by visiting the lesser known sites of historical significance. She will share some of her discoveries and surprises of exploring places off the beaten track, as well as adventures, frustrating incidents, and the interesting people she met along the way.

Wednesday, December 13, 2006: Wednesdays II Holiday Gathering. There will be holiday goodies, coffee, and conversation with a program by Wind Works, a recorder ensemble consisting of William Combs, Chris Bartley, Carolina Carpenter, Paula Walker, and Walter Ogston. Wind Works has performed at KIA as well as other venues. They will play music appropriate for the season.

Wednesday, January 10, 2007: Phyllis Rappeport (Music). “Reflections on the Gilmore Festival.” Rappeport organized the Master Classes connected with the 2006 Gilmore Festival.

OTHER IMPORTANT DATES:

Wednesday, August 2: Break-Fest: The Break-Fest has been scheduled for Wednesday, August 2 from 8:00 to 10:00 a.m. in the Fetzer Center. A reservation form is enclosed

with this newsletter.

Thursday, October 5: Emeriti Theatre Night: The Emeriti Theatre Night for Fall Semester will be Thursday, October 5. The play is *The Lion in Winter* by James Goldman. Tickets will be available for \$10 at the box office (ask for the Faculty/Staff rate). There will be complimentary refreshments after the performance.

Electronic Delivery

If you PREFER electronic delivery of communications from the Council, send your name, and preferred email address to shannon.landis@wmich.edu.

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Sindecuse Pharmacy Services

You may have received a postcard from the Sindecuse Health Center announcing a new service. Sindecuse is now offering UPS delivery of your prescriptions for those who find it difficult to pick up their prescriptions in person. If such a service would be useful to you call Sindecuse at 387-3301 for more details.

Attention Widowed Spouses of 25 Year Club Members

It has come to the attention of the Emeriti Council that you have not been invited to the 25 Year Club Parties. We are trying to identify those whom have been omitted. Please let us know if you would like to be on this list for invitations. Call or email: John Houdek, 381-5349, <jthoudek@charter.net>. Please use "25 Year Club" for the subject line in emails. We would like to complete this list by September 1. Thank you.

Emeriti Council Textbook Scholarships

Thanks to a generous response by 150 donors, the Emeriti Council Textbook Scholarships funded fourteen \$500 Textbook Scholarships for Fall 2005 and Spring 2006 semesters (\$250 per semester). An October solicitation provided funding for an additional fifteen \$250 awards for Spring 2006 semester. Michelle Saigh, assistant director of Financial Aid, followed the Council's guidelines that recipients be: a sophomore, junior, or senior, that every College at WMU be represented, and that each recipient have an excellent academic record and meet financial need standards. The Emeriti Council hopes emeriti and their spouses will lend a hand later this year as a similar group of deserving students enters WMU.

Emeriti Medallion Scholarship

Several years ago, during a fund drive by the University, the emeriti contributed money to fund a Medallion Scholarship. Currently, the value of the fund is more than sufficient to fund one scholarship, but falls shy of being able to support a second scholarship. Bud Bender, vice president for Development, provided this information to the Council. Our current scholar is Sarah Hurd. Members of the Council have now established a tradition of inviting our scholar to lunch once each semester and Sarah spoke at the most recent Emeriti Spring Dinner.

A Message from the Emeriti Council Medallion Scholar

(The Council thought that the emeriti might be interested in getting to know our current Medallion Scholar.)

Hello! My name is Sarah Hurd and I am your current Emeriti Medallion Scholar. I have had the pleasure of meeting many of you in the past two years, however, with such a large group I have not been able to personally get to know each Emeriti member. I will try hard in my two remaining years here at WMU! My lunches with various members have inspired and intrigued me beyond my expectations. It amazes me how much I have learned from my semester gatherings with members and more importantly how much I have thoroughly enjoyed each one. Having had the opportunity to learn about some of you, I would like to tell you a little about myself.

I was born in Louisiana to Tony and Betsy Hurd. My parents are originally from Saginaw, MI and we moved back up north when I was five. I am a southern belle at heart. I am one of four children and the only girl in the family. Many people assume this role led my parents to spoil me; however that was not the case. Meet my parents for five minutes and you will understand that they spoil no one! We laugh at our family saying, "In the Hurd family: only the strong survive." My brothers have been my biggest supporters and critics from day one, and I would not have changed that for the world. I loved growing up in a big family and attribute many, if not all, of my morals and values to the way my parents led our family. I truly admire my parents more than anyone else in the world. The concepts of hard work, honesty, integrity, and faith have shaped me into the woman I am today. I will forever be grateful for their guidance.

My mom and dad are both public school teachers and as such have instilled in me a love for learning. As a child I would get in trouble for staying up past my bedtime and reading with a flashlight in bed. I was always the girl who loved museums and history novels. Now in college I am still that girl reading long into the night and taking trips to Detroit, Chicago, and even Europe to visit some of the world's best museums.

I am currently studying public relations and marketing. This field leaves me a plethora of options for continuing my education and choosing a specific career. In the last year I have become very interested in Higher Education Administration and am considering remaining at Western to attend graduate school. Watch out, I could be the future president of WMU! I just finished my second year and am looking forward to my last two. This summer I am working as an Orientation Student Leader on campus. I absolutely LOVE my job. The people I have met and this leadership experience have challenged me in new ways each day. It is long hours, high temperatures, and constant activity and I couldn't be happier.

Being the Emeriti Medallion Scholar has meant more to me these past two years than any other award I have ever received. As a freshman it felt great to be recognized for my hard work and accomplishments as I left high school. Now it feels even better knowing I have the support and encouragement from a group of people who believe I have just grazed my potential as a leader on this campus. The financial assistance from the Medallion Scholarship has lifted a heavy burden from my shoulders. Without the worry of money and tuition payments I have been left time to explore campus and take advantage of its many resources and opportunities. So what do I do with my "free time" if there is such a thing in college? I am a Resident Assistant on campus, have volunteered with Volunteer Student Services, studied abroad in nine different countries, attended symphonies, plays, and sporting events. I am a parishioner at St. Thomas Moore Student Parish, have helped run campus wide programs, and am the chairwoman of Senior Prom. This summer has given me the opportunity to be an Orientation Student Leader and next summer I will be interning for a Public Relations Firm in Chicago. So I suppose the question is... What haven't I done??

All of my AMAZING college experiences I owe to you. Without your emotional and financial support I could not have enjoyed my freshman and sophomore year nearly as much. I cannot imagine what awaits me in my final two years. From the deepest corner of my heart: thank you for everything. I look forward to meeting many more of you. Enjoy summer!

WMU Flu Clinic for Retirees

On Tuesday, October 10 from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm, the Sindecuse Health Center will hold a flu clinic for Emeriti.

Hearing Tests

Hearing and speech assessments performed at the WMU Unified Clinics' Charles Van Riper Speech, Language and Hearing Clinic are now covered by the WMU health care policy. The Clinic is located on the corner of Oakland Drive and Oliver Street in the University Medical and Health Sciences Center. Appointments may be made by calling (269)387-8047.

Retiree Fringe Benefits: A Summary

The following information was obtained from WARF (the Western Association of Retired Faculty). Membership in WARF is \$10 per year and can be obtained by contacting the Western Michigan University American Association of University Professors.

Retiree Benefits for Emeriti Retiree benefits for former bargaining unit members are listed in Article 36 and Article 33.6 of the Collective Bargaining Agreement, titled “OTHER FRINGE BENEFITS”. Retirees are eligible for all of these benefits to the extent possible. They may use the Library to obtain a permanent University ID card. To get a card, call Human Resources at 269-38-SMART to find out how.

Fringe Benefits for Retirees include:

1. Discounts on season tickets for selected athletic and cultural events and programs. (Western selects)
2. Campus Bookstore discount of 10% for retirees and their immediate family members.
3. Choice of a parking hang tag and sticker or two stickers.
4. Purchasing drugs at Sindecuse Pharmacy.
5. Treatment at Sindecuse for emergency medical treatment and immunizations for flu and overseas travel at minimal cost.
6. Emergency counseling.
7. Tuition Discounts: 100% for former bargaining unit faculty for 8 hours during spring or fall, 4 hours summer I and II for either graduate or undergraduate courses. A 75% discount for spouses or dependents only for undergraduate courses up to a maximum of 130 credit hours.
8. One person in lieu of a spouse may be designated to be eligible to receive these fringe benefits.
9. Life Insurance: Retired faculty who had term life insurance provided by Western for at least 10 years prior to retirement continue to have life insurance paid for by Western. The amount decreases to \$2,000 at age 70.

Copies of the Collective Bargaining Agreement are available in the WMU-AAUP office.

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