



Emeriti News

WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

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FROM THE COUNCIL CHAIR



I would like to thank Phillip Caruso for putting together this newsletter. Phil has also been steady and dependable when it comes to setting up the Emeriti Lounge for our Wednesday II gatherings and putting it back in order for everyday use. Thanks Phil! Lyda Stillwell, Moyra Ebling (Coffee) and Bill Appel have also been especially helpful in organizing what we intend to continue throughout the coming academic year. We have volunteers to fill nearly all of our Wednesday openings.

We also look forward to meeting Sarah Hurd for lunch during Fall and Spring semester and hearing about her WMU experience at next year's spring dinner, if not sooner. She is a delightful and bright young lady.

I hope that the following Emeriti Council Scholarship report will be of interest to those who have not received it as 2004-2005 donors.

John Houdek
Chair, Emeriti Council



EMERITI COUNCIL'S TEXTBOOK SCHOLARSHIP REPORT

The Council began raising money for this purpose late in the Summer of 2004. Once we had agreed on a stipend (\$250) per semester, paid for from funds donated by Emeriti, we consulted the WMU Development Office. The Vice President for Development, Bud Bender, and his Executive Assistant, Joyce Parson, were very quick to take over all details of this effort. The Council Chair drafted a solicitation letter, Bender's office made a few changes (with Council approval) and provided a contribution form with a few changes the Council deemed necessary. Bender's office made up new Council stationery with (the names of Council members in the left hand margin), handled the mailing of our letter, the contribution form, and a return postage paid envelope to all Emeriti.

Michelle Saigh, Assistant Director for Financial Aid in the Student Financial Aid & Scholarship Office, identified a pool of financially needy sophomores, juniors and seniors with excellent (often 4.0 GPA's) from which awards were made (one semester a time) to the extent of our resources. This meant ten awards for Fall Semester and twelve awards for Spring Semester during the 2004-2005 academic year. Ms. Saigh's office handled all details, as the Council wished. Several recipients sent letters to the Council and we were left with a feeling that we had done something worthwhile. With that, our goal is to double the \$5,500 we raised during Fall 2004 when we undertake this effort again in 2005.

The 2005 Scholarship Fund raising will begin with a letter in May 2005 and followed up with a reminder mailing in July 2005.

FORUM ON UNIVERSITIES AND CORPORATIONS

The Emeriti Council staged a two-day conference on the topic of Universities and Corporations on November 11 and 12. Robert Kaufman spent a considerable amount of his time organizing the conference, arranging the speakers and persuading departments and offices of the University to provide funding. Those who attended the conference found the presentations and discussions stimulating. The work of Robert Kaufman is much appreciated.

LUNCH WITH EMERITI MEDALLION SCHOLAR

Once in the Fall Semester and then again in the current Spring Semester, three members of the Emeriti Council invited the Emeriti Medallion Scholar to lunch at the Black Swan. The current Emeriti Medallion Scholar is Sarah Hurd.

WEDNESDAYS II AT WALWOOD

This year the Emeriti Council began series called Wednesdays II at which Emeriti presented a program about a topic of interest. The presentations are held in the Emeriti Lounge, Walwood Hall on the second Wednesday of each month. As of this writing, the first four have been held and each was enthusiastically received with attendance of between 20 and 45. The first, held on January 12, 2005, was by Robert J Griffin (Foreign Languages & Literature) who presented *The Incas: History & Mystery*. The second was a presentation by Maryellen Hains (English) on February 9, titled *Jewelry in the 21st Century: Science & Fashion*. Then, on March 9, Charles F. Heller (Geography) presented some of his research done jointly with John Houdek titled *Women & Farm Mortgages in 19th Century Kalamazoo County*. The April 13 program was a presentation by Louis Robeck (Kalamazoo Literacy Council) *The Real Axis of Evil: Poverty, Crime and Illiteracy*. Finally, on May 11, Ernest E. Rossi (Political Science) will make a presentation titled *Politics in a Museum: Tourism v. Economic Development in Florence, Italy*. (Note: If you have ideas for programs you would like to present or suggestions for presenters, please contact one of the members of the Council.)



SPRING

WESTERN ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED FACULTY

Some members of the faculty have begun formation of an organization of retired faculty. The purpose of this group, which is called the Western Association of Retired Faculty, is to promote and support the health care and other concerns of Western Michigan University's retired faculty members that are covered by the WMU-AAUP contract. The current annual dues of this organization have been set by the WMU-AAUP at \$10. Additional information can be obtained by contacting the WMU-AAUP (269.345.0278).

NEW IDENTIFICATION CARDS FOR WMU FACULTY, STAFF AND RETIREES (Source: WMU News April 1, 2005)

"Beginning Monday, April 4, all Western Michigan University faculty, staff and retirees—as well as WMU students—can get new ID cards at the temporary card-processing center in Lawson Arena. Until May 2, only old ID cards will work in campus card-swipe readers; after that date only new cards will work. For that reason, all faculty, staff and students are encouraged to get new cards during April, although the card center will remain open weekdays in Lawson through May. Beginning April 11, the card center at Lawson will be open 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Mondays through Thursdays and 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Fridays, though the end of May. In June, the center returns to its normal home in the Bernhard Center and will be open on a reduced summer schedule. New cards are part of the university's switch from Social Security numbers to Western Identification numbers or WIN as the primary way of identifying students and employees. The change, which was mandated by the state will provide greater protection from identity theft."

THE EMERITI COUNCIL

The Emeriti Council consists of twelve members and two alternates. Each of the regular members serves a two-year term while the alternates serve a one-year term. The Council meets the second Tuesday of every other month at 2:00 p.m. in the Emeriti Lounge, Room 211 West, in Walwood Hall East Campus.

The purpose of the Council is not only to arrange interesting social events and to serve the interests of WMU, but also to address and alert you to any changes of status or any Emeriti concern. You are welcome to attend any of the meetings to present suggestions or you may submit questions for consideration to any Council member prior to the meeting. The Council welcomes and appreciates your interest and comments.

ELECTION RESULTS

The following were elected to two-year terms ending in May of 2007.

James Bosco, Phil Caruso, Mary Cordier, Peter Kobrak, Ruth Ann Meyer and Molly Williams

The following were elected to one-year terms as alternates ending in May 2006.

Robert Nagler and Henry Raup

Thanks go to the following whose terms expire in May 2005.

John Burke, Charles Davis, Robert Kaufman, Gerrard MacLeod, Owen Middleton, Beatrice Sichel and Lyda Stillwell