



Emeriti News

WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

Volume XII, Number 2

Summer 2007

COMING ATTRACTIONS!!

(Please put these on your calendar!)

BREAK-FEST FOR 2007: The Break-Fest will be held on Wednesday, August 8 with coffee and juice at 8:30 a.m. and breakfast at 9:00. At 10:00, Bob Beam will present “Reminiscences with A Bean Counter.” The reservation form is included with this newsletter.

WEDNESDAYS II FOR FALL 2007: Please join fellow Emeriti and friends from 2:00 to 3:30 on the second Wednesday of the month in the Emeriti Lounge (second floor, Walwood Hall) for informal talks and light refreshments will be served. Enter Walwood Hall from the parking lot north of the building by the door closest to Oakland drive.

Wednesday, Sept 12, 2007: Bill Appel (Music): A Director for 50 Years Answers Your Opera Production Questions [including the ones you always wanted to query, but were afraid to ask].

Wednesday, October 10, 2007: Erika Loeffler (Anthropology): Iran today: Old Persia, Islam, and Los Angeles Cousins. Despite extensive coverage of Iran in our media, daily life in the Islamic Republic remains enigmatic. Using an anthropological/ethnographic perspective, she will focus on some of the main motifs that influence how people live, their aspirations, concerns, and their identity as Iranians. We will be able to understand them better as people, but also to understand their conflicting attitudes toward “The West,” and to avoid the usual stereotypes we get from our main sources of information on Iran.

Wednesday November 14, 2007: Mick (John Michael) Hanley (Department of Speech Pathology and Audiology): “Charles Van Riper, a.k.a. Cully Gage.” Hanley’s presentation will focus on both Van Riper’s professional history and his writings under the pen name of Cully Gage about his childhood experiences in the Upper Peninsula.

Wednesday, December 12, 2007: Garrard MacLeod (WMUK): Readings for the Holiday. For our Holiday Gathering, the Emeriti and spouses will gather in the lobby of Walwood for special holiday treats, conversation, and "Readings for the Holidays".

The following passages will be read:

--An excerpt from "The Adventure of the Blue Carbuncle" a Sherlock Holmes story by Arthur Conan Doyle

--"Merry Christmas," a sardonic piece about Christmas cards by James Thurber

--"Hershel and the Hanukkah Goblins" a funny and cautionary tale by Eric Kimmel

--"The Distant Music of the Hounds" by E.B. White

Wednesday, January 9: Nancy Falk (Philosophy): "Hindus in Kalamazoo?" How many Americans think of Hindus as people who live and work half a globe away? The reality is that, increasingly, we have Hindu neighbors, teachers, doctors, co-workers, and bosses. Even in a city as typically Midwestern and American as Kalamazoo, there are a number of thriving Hindu communities, some made up almost wholly of immigrants from India and others consisting of converts to Hindu spiritual paths. This slide-illustrated talk will introduce several of these local Hindu communities: their origins, aims, and the many creative adaptations they have made to be able to take root and thrive on American soil.

EXPLORING OUR CAMPUS: Friday, September 28, 2007: The Department of Chemistry will offer us (along with some of their special friends and donors) a tour of their recently opened building. Meet at 3:30 pm in the lobby of the new Chemistry Building by the large mural of the periodic table. The Department of Chemistry will serve light refreshments following the tour.

EMERITI FLU CLINIC: The Emeriti Flu Clinic will be held at the Sindecuse Health Center on October 18th from 9 am till 2 pm. This date may change so as October 18th approaches, please check the Sindecuse web page, the Western News or call Sindecuse at (269)387-3287 to confirm the date.

EMERITI THEATRE MATINEE: As you can tell by the title of this section, the Council has decided to try something new. The play chosen is the matinee performance of *PIPPIN* on Sunday, November 4. There is a block of tickets for that performance which will allow Emeriti to sit together. After the performance, please meet in the atrium for a discussion of the play and possibly a presentation by the director. After the discussion, we will go to The Ground Round or Gallaghers. (Each person will be responsible for their own food and drink.) Because we need to make arrangements with The Ground Round/Gallaghers, we will need to know the number of those who wish to go to the restaurant. Please call John and Carolyn Houdek at 269-381-5349 (or email them at jthoudek@charter.net) to sign up. Final details will be mailed (or emailed) to those who sign up.



ELECTION RESULTS: THE 2007-2008 EMERITI COUNCIL: Nancy Falk (2008) agreed to serve as Chair of the 2007-2008 Council and Ruth Heinig (2008) agreed to serve as Vice-Chair. In alphabetical order, the remaining Council members are as follows. (The year the member's term expires is in parenthesis.) Phillip Caruso (2009), Mary Cordier (2009), Rollin Douma (2009), Ed Edwards (2009), Woody Ehrle (2007), C. J. (Gus) Gianakaris (2008), John Houdek (2008), Phil Kramer (2008), Peter Kobrak (2009), Ruth Ann Meyer (2008), John Petro (2008), and Molly Williams (2009). Leaving the Council in May 2007 were: James Bosco, George Dales, and Donna Oas, although Oas has volunteered to work with Gus Gianakaris on the August Break-Fest.

THE EMERITI COUNCIL WEBPAGE: The University has a page for the Emeriti on its website. We've had some difficulty keeping it current, but that may be changing. The University will soon be adding some material from the recent past for us and then we hope the Council can update the webpage itself. That website is: www.wmich.edu/emeriti.

THE "YEAR" IN REVIEW

Since the year of the Council is an Academic Year, this is the time to review what the 2006-2007 Emeriti Council has done during its tenure. The members of the Council think it has been another successful year.

AUGUST 2006 BREAK-FEST: The first activity of the Council during this period was the August Break-Fest, at which Ed Callan spoke to about 60 members detailing his experiences in writing for Dublin's Abbey Theatre. (This event was organized by Gus Gianakaris and Donna Oas.)

2006-2007 WEDNESDAYS II: In September, the Council began its Wednesdays II programs for the year with Alan Jacobs (Anthropology) making a presentation titled "Penjing: The Chinese Origins of Japanese Bonsai." In October, the Council hosted a forum entitled "Achieving Peace in an Embattled World" presented by former WMU professor, Dr. Howard Wolpe. In November, Monica Nahm presented some material from her research on the Italian Peninsula and in December the Council had a holiday gathering with music provided by Wind Works, a recorder ensemble. In January, Phyllis Rappeport (Music) talked about her experiences with the Master Classes connected with the Gilmore Festival. In February, John Petro (mathematics) presented a program titled "Ghana, the Black star of Africa." Finally, in March, Larry Ziring (Political Science) presented a talk titled "Pakistan, Islamic State or Secular Republic." Thanks to Mary Cordier and Gus Gianakaris for organizing the Wednesdays II.

EMERITI COUNCIL TEXTBOOK SCHOLARSHIP: The Emeriti once again responded generously to our request for funds for the Emeriti Council Textbook Scholarship. John Houdek reports that we raised \$8,250 and funded textbook scholarships of \$250 each for 33 students.

EXPLORING OUR CAMPUS FOR 2006-2007: The Exploring Our Campus program which was supposed to be a tour of the Richmond Center combined with the Emeriti Theatre Night had to be changed due to construction delays which pushed back the University dedication of the building for the same day.

THE OFF-CAMPUS TRIP FOR 2006-2007: The Off Campus Trip was a delicious dinner at the Ladies Library Association and a presentation by C. J. Gianakaris (English and Theatre) titled "Drama: Words and Music" which was attended by 72 people. Mary Cordier and Ruth Heinig made the arrangements for this event.

FORUM FOR FALL 2007: In April, the Emeriti Council, along with the Western Association of Retired Faculty and the Friends of WMU sponsored a program titled "Forum on the Future of the University" which was attended by about 70 people. Thanks to Peter Kobrak for his efforts on behalf of the Council.

EMERITI FLU CLINIC: The Emeriti Flu Clinic held at the Sindecuse Health Center was originally scheduled for October 10, 2006, but had to be postponed because of delays in getting adequate supplies of flu vaccine.

ELECTIONS FOR 2007-2008: Ruth Ann Meyer and John Petro were responsible for finding people to replace the members of the Council whose terms expired in May. Thanks go to them, the volunteers and those whose terms expired. (See the complete election results in this newsletter.)

THE EMERITI MEDALLION SCHOLARSHIP: Many years ago the WMU Emeriti funded a Medallion Scholarship. Our current Medallion Scholar is Sarah Hurd and the Council tries to invite her to lunch twice a year. This year, Woody Ehrle, John Houdek and Phil Kramer took her to lunch at the Black Swan in the Fall Semester. A lunch was also scheduled for the Winter/Spring Semester, but Ms. Hurd was ill and unable to attend.

THE NEWSLETTER AND OTHER MAILINGS OF THE COUNCIL: In order to get the Newsletter and other mailings out at appropriate times, the Council now does some of the preparation of the mailings. Shannon Landis in the Office of the President arranges for the mailing labels, does the final formatting and gets the materials copied. After reproduction, council members fold, spindle and mutilate the materials. Furthermore, every mailing costs the University about \$250 for postage. Consequently, the Council has tried to reduce the number of mailings. We send out two Newsletters, one in January and the other in summer and we include the Wednesdays II to avoid separate mailings for those. (No reminders are being sent out, as mentioned above, please place these dates on your calendar.) Whenever we can, we include relevant reservation forms with the Newsletters. This year we were able to combine the mailing of the ballot for new Council Members with the reservation form for the Ladies Library Association dinner. The coordination of the material for mailing and the organization of the folding, spindling and mutilating party are accomplished by Ruth Ann Meyer and Phil Caruso.

INVEST IN YOUR HEALTH.

A friendly reminder that Emeriti are entitled to use the Student Recreation Center at no cost. It does require activating your membership. To do so, retirees can stop in at the Student Recreation Center (SRC) between 8 am and 5 pm, Monday through Friday or go to the website (www.src.wmich.edu) and click on “Home” and scroll down to “Membership.” From there you can download the form. Print and completely fill out the Membership Contract and Membership Form. You can mail them to:

Coordinator of Member Services
1903 West Michigan Avenue
Student Recreation Center
WMU

Kalamazoo, MI 49008-5447

or you may fax them to (269) 387-3766, attention: Cindy VanderWoude.

SRC Hours of Operation:

Monday through Friday 6 am to 10 pm

Saturday 10 am -7 pm

Sunday: 10 am - 9 pm

Invest in your health at no cost. Come walk on the track at Read Field House from 11:30 to 1 pm, play tennis, racquetball, badminton, and exercise on cardio equipment or use the pool. Visit the website and see what we have to offer. Contact Cindy VanderWoude if you have any questions about your SRC membership (387-3115).

