



# Emeriti News

WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

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**WEDNESDAYS II FOR FALL 2007 AND WINTER/SPRING 2008:** Wednesdays II programs are held in the Emeriti Lounge on the second floor of Walwood Hall at 2:00 p.m. on the second Wednesday of every month during the Fall and Spring semesters. The public is welcome to attend. Light refreshments will be available. Enter Walwood Hall from the parking lot east of the building by the door closest to Oakland drive.

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

- 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 (Religion): "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, others converts to Hindu spiritual paths. This slide-illustrated talk will introduce hearers to 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.

**Wednesday, Feb.13: James Bosco (Educational Studies): The Kalamazoo Promise: Status and Future.** As Western Michigan University's liaison with the Kalamazoo Public Schools, James Bosco work with the KPS administration, teachers, and with the students as they implement their Promise scholarships at Western.

**Wednesday, March 12: Ernst Breisach (Distinguished Scholar, History): Why Would an Historian Write a Biography?** Dr. Breisach's many scholarly publications include his recent book, On the Future of History: The Postmodernist Challenge and its Aftermath, several well-known publications on Historiography, and the biography, Caterina Sforza: A Renaissance Virago.

**Wednesday, April 9: Brook Lodge, Augusta, MI, 12:30-2:30, lunch with our Medallion scholar, Sarah Hurd.** This remarkable young woman will graduate in April and is eager to speak to us before she leaves Western Michigan University. Invitations with menu choices and costs will be mailed in March 2008. If the spring weather is cooperative, there may be some early flowers in bloom in Brook Lodge's extensive gardens. Parking is free.

**Wednesday, May 14: President Emeritus Diether Haenicke "WMU After 20 years: Memories and Hopes"**

#### **OTHER DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR**

**AUGUST BREAK-FEST:** The August Break-Fest will be held on Wednesday, August 6, 2008. Details will be sent with the reservation form sometime in April or May.

**FACULTY SENATE RETIREMENT DINNER:** The Faculty Senate Retirement Dinner is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, May 22, 2008. As you will remember from the past, conflicts have arisen which necessitate date changes.



**THE COUNCIL'S NEW E-MAIL LIST:** Until a few years ago, the Council sent out reminders for each and every event. Doing so required only that we get the information to the Office of the President in time sufficient for them to assemble the workers to do the mailing process. To eliminate the lead time the Council began asking volunteers from the Council to help with the mailing process. We quickly realized why it took so much lead time for the WMU to get our mailings out. We found that a typical mailing took about four people each of two to three hours to do the folding, spindling and mutilating. (In addition, each mailing cost the University about \$240 in postage alone.) That led to a concerted effort to do fewer mailings, so that we now send out two newsletters and try to time the newsletters so as to include the announcements for the next semester's Wednesdays II and at least the dates for upcoming on- and off- campus events, but we no longer send out reminders. This procedure also does not allow us to notify you of

events that have become known only since the last newsletter or cancellations or changes in dates. The Council has had considerable discussion about how much more efficient it would be if we could assemble an email list for this purpose. With Nancy Falk doing much of the organizing, the Council has finally assembled an email list of about half of the emeriti and is now sending reminders and updates out electronically to those of you for whom we have an email address. If you have not received any of these reminders and would like to get them, send an email to Nancy Falk ([nancy.falk@wmich.edu](mailto:nancy.falk@wmich.edu)) so that she can make sure you are on our email list.

**THE EMERITI COUNCIL WEBSITE:** Finally, the website is up and running! Our thanks go to Molly Williams who worked diligently to get new material on the website and will continue to make sure that the minutes and newsletters as well as other information are updated. That website is [www.wmich.edu/emeriti/](http://www.wmich.edu/emeriti/).

**EMERITI TEXTBOOK SCHOLARSHIP:** Contributions to our textbook scholarship funded fourteen scholarships of \$500 each to WMU sophomores, juniors and seniors. We will send a second appeal in November for contributions from those who have not given. Last year that appeal awarded an additional 21 scholarships.

**“SHARPENING THE EDGE: WMU’S Strategy for the Future”** On November 8, the Emeriti Council in cooperation with the Western Association of Retired Faculty (WARF) held a public forum on the Western Edge. Peter Kobrak, Woody Ehrle and Ed Edwards were the organizers for the Council and Kobrak undertook publicity and introduced the speakers. Ken Miller from the Board of Trustees, President John M. Dunn, Andy Bowne (Grand Rapids Community College) and Greg Rosine ( WMU Senior Vice President Advancement & Legislative Affairs) all spoke about this endeavor.. Approximately 120 people attended this successful event. Many of us learned the details of the Western Edge program for the first time. For more details, please go to [www.wmich.edu/edge/](http://www.wmich.edu/edge/).

**Sindecuse Health Center Pharmacy** Additional volunteer drivers are wanted to deliver prescriptions to WMU retirees. Deliveries are done on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Sign up for any Tuesday or Thursday by contacting Alice Lapekas, (269) 387-3355. The retirees appreciate this service.

