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Emeriti News

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Fall 2005

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Emeriti News

WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

Volume X, Number 2

Fall 2005

From the Council Chair

Our 2005-2006 year got off to a good start with a tasty buffet meal for our August 3rd Break Fest. Dr. John Beacon, Vice Provost for Enrollment Management used a power point presentation to explain his responsibilities, what he has done and what he will be doing in the near future to attract and retain more students. He faces a big challenge, but he made a distinctly positive impression and left some 60 emeriti feeling hopeful about WMU's future. As you can see, your Council will be offering you a good many opportunities (about 16 or 17) to gather together for pleasure and enlightenment. They represent the efforts of EVERY COUNCIL MEMBER and we hope that you will join us as often as possible!! Finally, my thanks to Phil Caruso and Ruth Ann Meyer for co-editing this year's newsletters.

John Houdek
Chair, Emeriti Council

Wednesdays II

Fall Semester

September 14: George Dales (Health, Physical Education and Recreation): "Olympic Glory Returns to Greece-2004" He will speak on Modern Olympic Games history 1896 to 2004 and show a DVD. In addition to Track and Field, he has some views of the Opening Ceremonies, Beach Volleyball, Gymnastics and an Olympic Memorabilia Display.

October 12: Bill Stiefel (Mechanical and Aeronautical Engineering): "Return to Afghanistan" He will relate some of his observations made of people and places while living and traveling in Afghanistan in the late 1960's, and changes noted during a month-long visit in May.

November 9: Molly (Engineering and Applied Sciences) and Roger (Upjohn/Pfizer) Williams: "Fire, Ice, and the Aurora - An Icelandic Saga" The geology of the Iceland is dominated by black lava, glaciers, numerous scenic waterfalls (often with associated hydroelectric plants), and geothermal areas which provide most of Iceland's electricity and hot water, not to mention geysers, mudpots, and other Yellowstone-like sights. The history and culture of Iceland include a parliament dating back more than 1000 years and 13th century manuscripts of ancient sagas in an old Norse language that can still be read by contemporary Icelanders. The phenomenon of the Aurora Borealis will be explained, and some spectacular pictures gained over four nights of viewing will be shown.



December 14: Diether Haenicke (President Emeritus and Department of Foreign Languages). Our usual Wednesdays II gathering will become a modestly festive event with an appropriate presentation by Professor Haenicke.

Spring Semester (Formerly Winter Semester):

In what we now call the Spring Semester, we have four people scheduled to make Wednesday II presentations. They are: Mary Cordier, Robert Poel, Woody Ehrle and Walt Turner. Further information on the last three will be sent in early January.

January 11, 2006: Mary Cordier (Department of Teaching, Learning and Leadership): “Pioneer Women Teachers: Legends and Legacies.” (Note: The Wednesdays II flyer stated an incorrect date of January 10.) Among the women who made their homes in the American west were those who taught the children of the settlers. Their diaries, letters, school papers, memorabilia, oral histories, and photographs tell the stories of these school women of the prairies and plains, 1860s to 1920s.

THEATRE TRIPS

The Emeriti Theatre Nights will be Thursday, October 20 (Proof by David Auburn) and Thursday, April 6 (Misalliance by George Bernard Shaw). Tickets will be available for \$10 at the box office by identifying yourself as emeriti. There will be complimentary refreshments after each performance.

FLU SHOT CLINIC

The Emeriti Flu Clinic is scheduled to be held on Tuesday, October 4, 2005 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on the second floor of the Sindecuse Health Center. Refreshments will be provided. Also on Tuesday, October 1, flu shots will be available at the Fetzer Health Fair in Room 2020 of the Fetzer Center from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The cost is \$20. As of August 26th, Sindecuse had received delivery confirmation of 25 percent of their flu vaccine order and they are assured it will arrive prior to the October 4 Emeriti Flu Clinic. Check the Sindecuse web site at www.sindecuse.com for updates prior to the October 4th clinic.

EXPLORING OUR CAMPUS

The chance to plumb the depths of the Earth - literally – took place on Wednesday, September 28th, when WMU Emeriti attended a guided tour of the Michigan Basin Core Research Laboratory. This laboratory contains over 50,000 feet of rock cores from some 300 deep wells in Michigan. The cores are available to the public for examination, but there is much more going on here than just storage. The laboratory, directed by Emeriti Professor Bill Harrison, partners with government and industry to carry out research projects and to conduct workshops dedicated to transfer of information and technology. The Laboratory is located in West Hall. For more information visit the Laboratory's web site at www.wmich.edu/geology/corelab/corelab.htm.

TREASURER'S REPORT

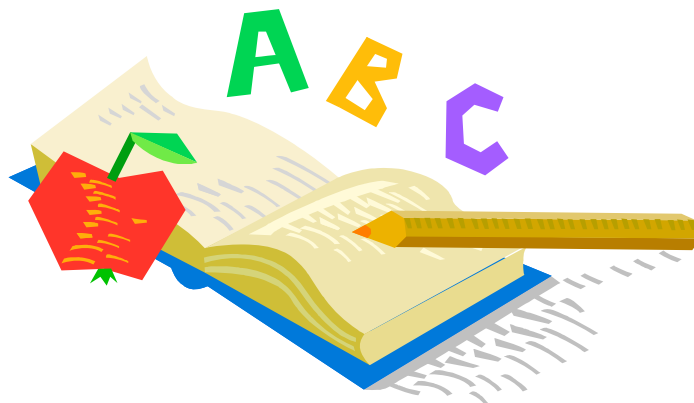
Beginning this past year, the Office of the President provided the Emeriti Council a budget of \$4,000 for the year. This amount is based on emeriti expenses averaged over the past several years and provides the Emeriti Council autonomy in determining how we choose to fund activities. In the past we sent out reminders for each of the Wednesdays II though most emeriti maintain calendars and probably don't need reminders. In this era of restricted funding, it is appropriate for the Council to indicate its appreciation for this support by re-evaluating how we communicate with members. We have about 450 members in the Kalamazoo area and about 200 more living outside the area. The Newsletter and ballots are sent to all emeriti, while the announcements for the activities are only sent to local members. Each of the local announcements costs about \$300 including reproduction, assembly and postage. The Newsletters cost about \$500 each and the ballot about \$400.

At this point the Council has decided on two changes in the way it communicates with its members. The first is that the Council will send out two announcements of the Semesters Wednesdays II, one with the schedule for the Fall Semester which you should have recently received and another in January with the schedule for the Spring (Winter) Semester. We will NOT send out any REMINDERS for each of the Wednesdays II. The second is to recognize that since some of our members probably would PREFER to receive their newsletters electronically, we will encourage that option. (This might also turn out to be a benefit for those who live in the Kalamazoo area only part of the year and may therefore miss some of the announcements.) Below you will see a request for email addresses for those who would PREFER to receive material electronically. Members who only occasionally check their email should not send in their email address. The Council does not want you to miss announcements because you haven't checked your email in the last month.

ELECTRONIC DELIVERY

If you PREFER electronic delivery of communications from the Council, you can send your name, address and email either to the address below OR you can simply send that information electronically to the email address below.

Shannon K. Landis
Director of Events
Office of the President
3051 Seibert Administration Building
Kalamazoo, MI 49008-5202
shannon.landis@wmich.edu



ASSIGNMENTS

Each and every Council member has been assigned to provide guidance for one or more tasks for the year. They are:

Break-Fest: Bach and Nagler
Wednesdays II: Cordier, Ebling, and Williams
Flu Clinic: Meyer
Exploring Our Campus: Raup & Williams
Medallions Scholar Lunches: Ebling & Kobrak
Care and Nurturing of Website: Bosco & Petro
News Items for PRISM: Appel, Petro
Nominations for 2006: Ebling and Meyer
Emeriti Newsletter: Caruso and Meyer
University Theatre Specials: Hamner and Raup
Off Campus Events: Bach and Cordier
Emeriti Textbook Scholarships: Bosco and Houdek
2006-2007 Forum: Appel and Kobrak
AAUP/WARF: Caruso & Meyer
Emeriti Dinner: Williams & Houdek

THE WMU/AAUP CONTRACT

On Wednesday, September 14, the WMU/AAUP Bargaining Unit voted on a new contract. It was approved by the Board of Trustees on September 16. You should expect to receive notification from the WMU benefits office of the changes in health benefits to which the WMU Administration and the WMU/AAUP negotiating team have agreed. A summary of those changes can be seen at <http://www.wmich.edu/aaup/negotiations/index.php>. Given the complexity of the package and the varied circumstances of the Emeriti in terms of age, dependents and whether they are MPSERS or not, no attempt will be made here to explain the details. Changes in Federal law have allowed the University to eliminate the indemnity plan for retirees and the contract does eliminate the indemnity plan. Retirees will be under the Preferred Provider Organization (PPO). There are improvements in some of the coverage. How a retiree is affected under these changes will depend upon their particular circumstances.

