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Emeriti News

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Winter 2007

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Emeriti Council

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Emeriti News

WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

Volume XII, Number 1

Winter 2007

Wednesdays II

Spring Semester (Formerly Winter Semester): 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.

Note: the Council is no longer sending out reminders for each Wednesdays II. Dates for the Spring Semester Wednesdays II are below. Please put these dates on your calendar. The program dates for the Fall 2007 semester and the January 2008 date will be in the July newsletter.

February 14: John Petro (Mathematics): Ghana, the Black Star of Africa. John and Joyce Petro will give a presentation about their travels in Ghana, formerly the Crown Colony of the Gold Coast, highlighting the history, culture, and traditions of this young country.

March: 14: Larry Ziring (Political Science): Pakistan, Islamic State or Secular Republic. The lecture traces the origins and evolution of Pakistan from a secular model with religious appeal, to a secular experience gone wrong, leaving the religious appeal to define and shape the country's political destiny. The lecture will seek to explain how and why Pakistan became the seedbed for contemporary terrorism.

April: 11: Nancy Falk (Comparative 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 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.

EMERITI COUNCIL FORUM

On October 6, **Dr. Howard Wolpe** keynoted an afternoon Forum, sponsored by the Emeriti Council, on Achieving Peace in an Embattled World. An appreciative audience of approximately 100 students, faculty, retired faculty, and people from the community attended the Forum and heard Wolpe, Director of the African Program at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, begin with a talk on how he and several other African and American trainers and conflict resolution experts worked with the Burundi warring faction leaders. Wolpe then did a session simulating one of the exercises done with these leaders where two different versions of the same picture of a women's face were distributed, emphasizing different facial features that lead to divergent impressions of the age and expression of the woman. The point challenged the participants to recognize that the same facts could assume entirely different meanings in the eye of the beholder. The Forum was concluded with a panel addressing the question whether similar collaborative techniques could work in Iraq. Wolpe was joined in that panel by **Dr. Emanuel Kamber**, both a WMU physicist and a leader of the Abyssinian group in Iraq, and WMU historian **Dr. Howard Dooley**. The panel was unanimous in its conviction, borne out by subsequent events, that Iraq is a poor candidate for such training at this point. The audience contributed a number of insights in this final session that led to a similar conclusion. The complexity of the discussion left everyone sobered and determined to persevere in such efforts to achieve peace in this embattled world. (The preceding was written by Peter Kobrak and originally published in PRISM, The Western Michigan University Newsletter for Academic Affairs.)



EMERITI COUNCIL TEXTBOOK SCHOLARSHIP

The Council is pleased to announce that the two direct-mail campaigns raised enough money to award 33 textbook scholarships. Twelve were awarded in the fall semester and 21 will be awarded in the spring. The Council thanks you for your generosity.

EMERITI THEATRE NIGHT

The Emeriti Theatre Night for this semester is Thursday, April 12 and will feature Doctor Faustus by Christopher Marlowe. Tickets will be available for \$10 each at the Gilmore Theatre Complex box office by identifying yourself as emeriti. There will be complimentary refreshments after the performance.

EXPLORING OUR CAMPUS

The Council had originally planned to combine a tour of the new Richmond Center for the Visual Arts and the Emeriti Theatre Night on Thursday, April 12. However, due to construction delays, the Richmond Center will be dedicated at 2:00 p.m. that day. Emeriti are encouraged to attend the dedication and the Emeriti Theatre Night.

OFF CAMPUS TRIP

On Wednesday, May 9 at 5:30 p.m., the Emeriti Council is planning an off-campus trip to the Ladies' Library Association. Due to the increased availability of parking in downtown Kalamazoo, we will have a dinner instead of lunch. Please watch your mail for the final announcement and reservation form. C. J. Gianakaris, Departments of English and Theatre, will present a talk titled "Drama: Words and Music."

WESTERN ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED FACULTY

An organization called the Western Association of Retired Faculty (WARF) was formed a few years ago to monitor aspects of the WMU-AAUP contract which affect retirees and inform members. WARF also stages programs dealing with the financial aspects of retirement including inviting TIAA-CREF representatives to campus for a presentation on the financial alternatives that TIAA-CREF offers participants. WARF deals with issues that might be considered to be inappropriate for the Emeriti Council to address. Membership is \$10. Members are kept informed of relevant activities and programs by email. To join WARF contact the WMU-AAUP (phone: 269.345.0151. Address: 814 Oakland Drive, Kalamazoo, MI 49008).

OTHER DATES TO WATCH FOR:

FACULTY RETIREMENT DINNER: The Faculty Retirement Dinner is scheduled for Thursday, May 24.

BREAK -FEST: The Break-Fest is scheduled for Wednesday morning, August 8 at the Fetzer Center. A reservation form with the information about the program will be sent in July. Put the date on your calendar.

EMERITI COUNCIL ELECTIONS

Emeriti Council Elections will be held later this spring. Twelve names are needed for a ballot to elect six members to serve two-year terms on the council beginning in May 2007. The seventh and eighth top vote getters will serve one-year on the Council as alternates. An emeriti faculty member may be elected to the Council for a maximum of two consecutive two-year terms. Current members of the Council who have completed just one two-year term are eligible for re-election. Ruth Ann Meyer (ruth.meyer@wmich.edu) and John Petro (john.petro@wmich.edu) welcome suggestions of names of emeriti to be candidates for the Emeriti Council. Self nominations are welcome. However, no person will be listed as a candidate on the ballot without the approval of the individual.

The following members of the Council have one more year left on their terms:
Nancy Falk, C. J. (Gus) Gianakaris, Ruth Heinig, John Houdek, Phil Kramer, and John Petro.

The terms of the following expire in May 2007: James Bosco, Phillip Caruso, Mary Cordier, George Dales, Woody Ehrle, Peter Kobrak, Ruth Ann Meyer, Donna Oas and Molly Williams.

INVEST IN YOUR HEALTH

Emeriti are entitled to use the Student Recreation Center at no cost. To activate your membership, 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" to download the form. Print and completely fill out the Membership Contract and Membership Form.

Mail 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).