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Emeriti News

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Winter 2009

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Emeriti Council, "Emeriti News, Winter 2009" (2009). *Emeriti News*. 14.
https://scholarworks.wmich.edu/emmeriti_news/14

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Emeriti News

WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

Volume XIV, Number 1

Winter 2009

PLEASE SAVE THIS SCHEDULE: The Council will send reminders about activities by email to the 330 of you who have provided us with your email addresses. If you would like to receive electronic notification of our events and are not currently receiving them, please send your email address to Molly Williams at molly.williams@wmich.edu.

Those events which require reservation forms will be sent out by regular mail. Election ballots will be mailed sometime in April and the next newsletter will be sent out sometime during the middle of summer.

Wednesdays II for Winter/Spring 2009

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.

Note: For the Wednesday II scheduled for Wednesday, March 11, it is suggested that you attend a performance of DOUBT at the Parish Theatre BEFORE the presentation. Tickets can be obtained by calling the Civic Theatre Box Office at 343-1313 or online at www.kazoocivic.com. The performances are scheduled for February 27 and 28 at 8:00, March 5 at 7:30, March 6 and 7 at 8:00, March 8 at 2:00 and March 13 and 14 at 8:00. Ticket prices for seniors who are not season ticket holders are \$14 for the Thursday and Sunday shows and \$19 on Friday and Saturday. Seating is limited. These performances will be directed by D. Terry Williams, Professor Emeritus of Theatre.

Feb. 11: Shirley Bach (Philosophy), "Medical Ethics and the Wisdom of the Sages: Lessons from the Terri Schiavo case and other interesting personal health care decisions that have played out in the public media. What I have learned, and you should, too." NOTE: THIS PRESENTATION WILL BEGIN AT 1:00 RATHER THAN 2:00.

March 11: D. Terry Williams (Theatre), Discussion of the thought-provoking, play, “Doubt. A Parable” A play by John Patrick Shanley, DOUBT is as compelling as today's headlines. This Pulitzer Prize winning play is set in the Bronx in 1964 where a Catholic school, run by Sister Aloysius, a strong-minded principal, takes matters into her own hands when she suspects the well-liked Father Flynn of committing the most unthinkable of crimes. Though the evidence is circumstantial, she shows no pity for the likeable priest as she sets out to destroy him for the sin she believes, beyond a shadow of a doubt, he has committed. This is a powerful play that focuses less on scandal than on fascinating questions of moral certainty. See the schedule of the performances above and get your tickets early.

April 8: Frank Wolf (Industrial and Manufacturing Engineering), “Personal Thoughts on the Past and the Future of the College of Engineering.”

May 13: Sandra Edwards (Occupational Therapy), “Swirl of the World as a Guest at Two Asian Weddings in India and South Korea.”

FUTURE WEDNESDAYS II PROGRAMS: The Wednesdays II presentations give emeriti an opportunity to listen to the expertise of other emeriti and to hear about their activities. We have had some fascinating presenters; however, you may know someone of which the Council members are not aware that would be very interesting. Please contact Ron Crowell with your suggestions at ronald.crowell@wmich.edu.

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES SINCE THE LAST NEWSLETTER: Your Council has been busy for the last six months. President John Dunn spoke at the August Break-Fest which was organized by Donna Oas and D. Terry Williams. In September our Wednesdays II programs began with Mary Brown (Health, Physical Education and Recreation) speaking on the implications of budget cuts for the Department of Natural Resources. The remaining Wednesdays II had John Geisler (Counselor Education and Counseling Psychology) telling us about the history of US 12, and David (Environmental Studies) & Lyn Hargeave telling us about their experiences with other cultures around the world. The last Wednesday II of the Semester was our holiday gathering at which students of D. Terry Williams (and D. Terry himself) read some Christmas stories. These events were organized by Mary Cordier and Ron Crowell. On October 24, the Council staged a forum on the “The State Perspective on Higher Education” at which President Dunn moderated and Lt. Governor Cherry, WMU Provost Timothy Greene and WMU Trustee William Johnston spoke. The Forum, organized by Peter Kobrak, Ronald Crowell and Rollin Douma, attracted over 100 people. And on October 27, the Council with the help of Ruth Heinig, made a trip to the Kalamazoo Institute of Arts to view the exhibit of masterworks from the New Orleans Museum of Art.



EMERITI MEDALLION SCHOLARSHIP NEWS:

Our New Medallion Scholar: The holder of the Emeriti Medallion Scholarship for the last four years, Sarah Hurd, graduated last spring. Those attending the outing to Brook Lodge heard Sarah make an impressive speech. Our new Medallion Scholar is Emily Catherine Wacyk. Three of the Council members took Ms. Wacyk out to lunch early in the Fall Semester and she attended our Holiday Gathering so other emeriti got to meet her as well.



Emily Catherine Wacyk is a first-year student in the Lee Honors College at Western Michigan University. A graduate of Grand Ledge High School, she has a family of 14, including four WMU alumni and three nieces and nephews. In high school, Emily was very involved in both academic and extracurricular activities, including marching band, wind symphony, piano, musicals, ski club, South Church Youth Group and Irish dance. The highlights, however, of her high school career were being chosen for a concerto contest on Clarinet, winning the English Department award, and being selected as speaker at her senior year commencement ceremony. She also greatly enjoyed her summer activities of working at a music therapy camp, training to be a counselor at Grace Adventures summer camp, and traveling. She studied four years of German and spent the summer of 2007 living in Germany and learning about her love for culture. This passion has inspired Emily to become involved in the international student program between WMU and the Dominican Republic. She is currently beginning work on her Honors thesis by creating a writing center for international students that focuses on bettering the essay writing and grammar skills for non-native English speakers. With majors in Journalism and Political Science, as well as a minor in Non-Profit Leadership, Emily hopes to express her love for language by teaching English in schools abroad, and eventually would love to write novels. She plans on studying abroad in South Africa in the spring of 2010.

The Helen G. Sellers Donation: At the April event at Brook Lodge, John Houdek, former Chair of the Council, announced that an emerita had bequeathed \$500,000 to the University for the Emeriti Medallion Scholarship. The person who provided these funds was **Helen G. Sellers** who was a faculty member in the English Department. She began a college teaching career in 1947 as an Instructor of English at Western Michigan University, was promoted to Assistant Professor in 1949, and taught a wide range of courses, specializing in modern British literature. Helen treasured the exchange of ideas and was well respected by students, several of whom have maintained contact with her over these many years. She retired in 1974, after 27 years at WMU and passed away November 29, 2007.

The Emeriti Medallion Scholarship Fund: Recently, the Council met with Bud Bender, Vice President for the WMU Development Office who clarified for the Council the amount of funds in the Emeriti Medallion Scholarship Fund. With the above donation from the estate of Helen Sellers, the fund contains \$892,000. This is enough to fund one or more additional scholarships; however, the amount awarded for a scholarship no longer covers all expenses. At the current amount, \$250,000 funds an endowed scholarship. The amount required to fund a scholarship which at current prices would cover all expenses is \$350,000. After discussion, the Council informed Bender that increasing the amount of the Medallion Scholarships so that they could once more be a full ride should be a major priority for the next capital campaign. Further, the Council informed him that a goal of raising \$250,000 for the Emeriti Medallion Scholarship fund in the next capital campaign would be appropriate. This, combined with the Helen Sellers donation would allow for three scholarships even at an increased amount. Until that happens, the Council suggested that the existing funds be used to support a second Medallion Scholarship next year.

Faculty Senate Retirement Dinner: The Faculty Senate Faculty Retirement Dinner is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, May 28.

DID YOU KNOW? As I, Phil Caruso, grow older I have been thinking about what to do with the books that I was unable to part with when I cleaned out my office at retirement. Recently, I began offering some of them to my former colleagues. To my surprise, even they had no use for them because a. They already have a copy, b. the topics are not their interest, c. books can get it electronically, or d. they don't have any room. Obviously, the Friends of the WMU Libraries have book sales, but if my colleagues have no use for them, how are the Friends going to sell them? Then, I discovered that the WMU Library has a department which will accept donations, and either a) add to them their collection, b) have the Friends try and sell them or, c) if all else fails, give them to a consignment agent who will sell them (at some price) with part of the proceeds ending up in the library's budget. It's possible to find a "good home" for our books and help the library at the same time!!! If you are interested, the person to contact is Randle Gedeon, Acquisitions and Serial Resources Department. His email address is randle.gedeon@wmich.edu.

Members of the Council: In the last publication of the newsletter we inadvertently omitted the report of the outcome of the May 2008 elections. Molly Williams is the chair of the council and Ruth Heinig will serve as vice-chair. The other current members of the council are Harold Bate, Robert Boughner, Phil Caruso, Mary Cordier, Ronald Crowell, Rollin Douma, Ed Edwards, Sandra Edwards, Robert Eisenberg, Ruth Heinig, Peter Kobrak, Donna Oas, and D. Terry Williams. The terms of Bate, Caruso, Cordier, Douma, Ed Edwards, Eisenberg, Kobrak and Williams expire in May of this year.

The Nomination Committee: The nomination committee of Ed Edwards and Bob Boughner is hard at work seeking candidates for the election of 2009 members of the Council. If you know of someone who would like to serve on the Council, please email Bob Boughner at rebmj@aol.com or Ed Edwards at ed.edwards@wmich.edu before February 20.

Textbook Scholarships: Since the beginning of the Emeriti Textbook Scholarship Program in 2004, WMU emeriti have contributed over \$45,000 to support the purchase of textbooks for students with financial need. More than \$7,000 has been received in the past 6 months. We are very grateful for the support provided by our emeriti colleagues. If you are planning a gift to WMU, please consider this worthy cause.

Kalamazoo Institute of Arts: Last October, the council organized a viewing of the current show of the Masterworks from the New Orleans Museum of Art at the Kalamazoo Institute of Arts. If you were not able to attend, this is a treat you want to give to yourself. It is like a wonderful day of inspiring art in a big city, only it is easily accessible here in Kalamazoo. Masters like Edgar Degas, Mary Cassatt, Paul Gauguin, Claude Monet, Georgia O'Keeffe, Pablo Picasso, and Renoir are just some of artists and their exquisite works on display. A life size sculpture by Rodin, his first sculpture, is beautiful. The exhibit is worth hundreds of millions of dollars and yours to enjoy for only \$5 on Friday. Other days are \$10 if you are not a member. This same exhibit would require travel to a large city and lots of resources to duplicate. So if you are in the Kalamazoo area, hurry to the KIA as the exhibit closes February 8.

