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Emeriti News

WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

Volume XVII, Number 2 www.wmich.edu/emeriti/newsletter

Fall 2012

EMERITI COUNCIL: Chair, Judith Halseth; Vice Chair, Gus Gianakaris; Secretary, Emily Hoffman; Newsletter Editor, Ken Dickie; Members, Robert Beam; John Houdek; Linda Law; Bill McCarty Ruth Ann Meyer; Larry Oppliger; David Peterson; and Harold Ray

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR:



Welcome back for another edition of *Emeriti News*. This issue includes information about the Emeriti Council, Wednesday II meetings past and future, the Lifelong Learning Academy, and Break-Fest on August 8. We encourage you to read the remarks offered by David Isaacson to the incoming Emeriti at the retirement recognition dinner. Whether you live near the WMU campus in Kalamazoo or far away, we send *Emeriti News* to help you stay in touch with some activities of WMU colleagues and friends.

Warm regards,
Judith H. Halseth - Chair, Emeriti Council

UP COMING EVENTS:

Wednesday II Meetings:

Wednesday II meetings provide an opportunity to gather in the Heinig Emeriti Lounge, 2nd floor of Walwood Hall, WMU East Campus, 2 p.m. on the second Wednesday of each month, September through May. We encourage you to mark your calendar and plan to join us for camaraderie, light refreshments, and interesting programs. All Emeriti, spouses, and surviving spouses are invited. Note: dates and locations are subject to change. Check website for updates: wmich.edu/emeriti/events

Wednesday II Programs:

November, 2012:

Wednesday, November 14: **Richard Katrovas**, Professor English. "The Prague Summer Program." Dr. Katrovas will discuss the history and evolution of the Prague Summer Program, the place of study-abroad within the academic cottage industry of creative writing, and, more broadly, the place of creative writing within English-studies pedagogy and humanities education in general. 2 p.m., Heinig Emeriti Lounge, Walwood Hall, East Campus.

December, 2012:



Wednesday, December 12: **Wine Tasting**. Join us for a tasting of French wines led by Tiffany's wine expert, Saad Mandwee, accompanied by delicious hors d'oeuvres provided by the Emeriti Council. \$10 per person. **5 p.m., Richmond Center for Visual Arts**. Please RSVP to Shannon Landis, 387-2361 on or before Dec. 1. For additional information, please see the enclosed flier.

January, 2013:



Wednesday, January 9: **Mark Daniel** will speak on "Physical Training for Humans". Mark will share his experiences from over thirty years of training "humans". Experiences gained from programs that range from "Tumbling for Tots" to Division I athletes and working at Sr. housing facilities. Mark's current position as a Personal Trainer at West Hills Athletic Club allows him to train over one hundred sessions every two weeks. He will share what he sees regularly and some of the solutions that work for his clients.

February, 2013:



Wednesday, February 13: **Tom Bailey** shares observations on President Teddy Roosevelt. In undertaking a study of Theodore Roosevelt, the reader enters a world of simply stunning complexity. One of the world's most compelling personalities, and one of its most exasperating, TR dominates every room he enters, including maybe especially the reader's mind. TR was a writer. His collected works comprise 27 volumes

In this presentation entitled "Teddy Roosevelt Meets His Match on the River of Doubt" Tom will discuss TR's book, *THROUGH THE BRAZILIAN WILDERNESS [1914]*, which concerns his trip down Brazil's River of Doubt in 1913, a trip which was ill-advised, adventuresome, perilous and nearly ended our hero's life. We'll take a look at the TR myth, the TR character, the TR we think we know, and see some of that character's hidden traits, flaws and strengths.

March, 2013:



Wednesday, March 13: **Sr. Virginia (Ginny) Jones**, “Envisioning an Ecovillage in SW Michigan.” What would a “green” residential community in our area look like? Could it be a model for a smarter, healthier life style that enhances the quality of life for people and at the same time preserves and nurtures the natural community that supports all life? What would it take to create such a village?

For more than 15 years a dedicated group has been working to answer these questions. They soon learned that they needed to deal with a host of technical and legal questions, political constraints and the challenge of forming and sustaining a social group composed of individuals with diverse backgrounds and ideas. In the process they learned a great deal about what it takes to create a “community” and how much education is required at all levels of our society if a vision like this is to become a reality—not only for this group but also for others who may seek to accept similar challenges.

April, 2013:



Wednesday, April 10: **Bob Miller**, Associate Vice President for Community Outreach, “Taking a Look into the Future for East Campus.” The university continues to try to partner with private sector developers for the adaptive reuse of buildings on east campus. Associate Vice President Bob Miller will offer an update.

May, 2013:



Wednesday, May 8: **A Visit to the Wolf Lake State Fish Hatchery Interpretive Center (Easy walking tour optional)**. This 7,000 square foot interpretive center offers visitors a fascinating look at Michigan’s fish and fisheries management efforts. The Center is located on the grounds of the Wolf Lake State Fish Hatchery, just eight miles west of Kalamazoo. Completed in 1983, this modern facility and the adjacent show pond provide great adventure for anyone interested in the diverse assortment of fish that call the Great Lakes State home.

Visitors can view an assortment of the fish found in Michigan from the show pond. A long observation platform provides close viewing opportunities into the clear water of the pond. Inside the modern interpretive center, you can learn about all aspects of fisheries science through displays, multi-media programs, and interpretive materials. Learn about the habits and biology of fish, as well as the history of fishing in Michigan—from Native Americans to the present.

Rain or shine, meet at the Interpretive Center and wear your walking shoes if you want to explore.

Directions

From the junction of M-43 and US-131 in Kalamazoo, take M-43 west about 6 miles to the large hatchery road signs. Turn left (south) on Hatchery Road and proceed to the second drive on the right, which leads to the interpretive center.



SUMMARY OF PAST EVENTS:

Wednesday II Programs:

October, 2012:



On Wednesday, October 10 **Stanley Robin**, Professor Emeritus, Sociology, entertained the emeriti when he returned with his third set of monologues entitled, "A Hole in the World: About Life's Anomalies," which he writes and performs.



September, 2012:

On Wednesday, September 12 **Helenan Robin**, Professor Emeritus, Political Science, presented "What Artifacts Reveal about the Ancient Etruscans: A Slide Presentation" to emeriti. The presentation described Etruscan history which began in 1000 B.C. in the Italian regions we now know as Tuscany, Umbria and Lazio. Its territory expanded to northeastern Italy and to Campania south of Rome. Their cities had massive walls, huge arches, shrines and public and private buildings. Beginning in the 4th century B.C. and continuing into the 1st century B.C., the Etruscans were subjugated by Rome and the Celts. From burial urns, sarcophagi, painted tombs and objects buried with the deceased, we learn of their religion, family life, wars, art and death.

May, 2012:

On Wednesday, May 9 **Richard Cooper**, Professor Emeritus, Occupational Therapy, presented "Voices for Action" to emeriti in the Heinig Emeriti Lounge in Walwood Hall. His presentation described a statewide effort to reduce poverty 50% in Michigan by 2020. It was pointed out that the local group, under the Lewis Walker Institute, seeks emeriti to become involved in community programs aimed at reducing the effects of poverty on children, adults, and families in Kalamazoo County.

Faculty Retirement Recognition Dinner:

On May 31, 2012 approximately 190 faculty and emeriti gathered in the Bernhard Center to honor this year's retiring faculty. Dr. Nick Andreadis, Dean of the Lee Honors College, served as Master of Ceremonies for the evening. David Isaacson provided the welcome address and Tom Bailey provided the response from the newly retiring faculty. Following are David Isaacson's remarks welcoming the new retirees to the rank of emeriti:

Retirement Dinner Remarks

I was asked to speak to you tonight to give advice about retirement. I can sum this up in four words: YOU MADE A MISTAKE. Especially in the first year, you will want to go back to your workplace to visit your old colleagues. That's not a good idea. Whoever is

doing your old job—if, in fact, your old job still exists—isn't doing it right. Unless you're obsessed with your work, like Terry Williams, don't come back as a part-timer. The pay is lousy and you'll probably end up not really working part time.

You'll also come to discover you are now officially old. Before you retired you were perhaps an elder, but now you are really old, not simply a senior citizen. If you are married and your spouse stays at home he or she will often find your presence inconvenient. You better have a study or workshop or den to escape to or you will find yourself constantly in the way. And you better really have something you like to do in that room all your own. You think you will have a lot of time to pursue your hobbies. But if these activities are only pastimes, that's all you will do—pass time. You may discover you have an unexpected new hobby: brooding.

Now you can finally travel, but unless you are unusually fit, you will no longer have the stamina to appreciate the places you waited all these years to see. In all the most popular places you visit you are going to get very sick of seeing way too many old people who are also trying very hard to prove to themselves they are having a good time.

Your doctor will tell you to exercise. Unless you are strangely motivated, you'll end up at West Hills in one of those cliques of other retirees who exercise their mouths more than their bodies.

Try to remember that your children are not retired and therefore don't need more of your time than you spent with them while you were working. You will, of course, have more time for your grandkids, but that will only be quality time if you know how to text, play video games, and rap.

You believe, of course, that you have invested so wisely that you can afford to live quite comfortably. But you couldn't predict that President Romney would require all citizens to tithe, not just his fellow Mormons.

You already know about all those senior discounts but do you really want to eat dinner at 4:30?

As the years in retirement accumulate, you will discover aches and pains that never existed before. Some of these are imaginary, but you will be very lucky if you don't visit Sindecuse Pharmacy at least once a week. Don't just go to the drive-up window: wait inside for your prescriptions so you can talk with other retirees and compare ailments. It is true you will qualify for free annual flu shots. But you can't be inoculated for all of those other problems identified so colorfully in the commercials during the nightly news. And remember, Viagra only works if you have at least a nominally willing partner.

There are some benefits to retirement, but because of enhanced short term—or is it long-term?—memory loss, I have forgotten what they are. Oh, yes, I do remember one benefit: you can nap whenever you want, not just during your own lectures.

Lifelong Learning Academy:

Spring 2012 registration for the Academy showed an increase over previous registrations with 352 registrations from 220 members. Ninety-seven new members joined in this term bringing the total membership to 335.

An Open House to describe the Fall 2012 Academy courses was held on Aug 23. Course enrollments for the Fall session are strong with over 400 academy members. To become eligible for an Osher Lifelong Institute grant the academy needs 500 members. Is this something we wish to strive for? www.wmich.edu/offcampus/lifelong

Break-Fest:

On August 8, 2012 Approximately 75 retired faculty attended the annual Break-Fest celebration held at the Fetzer Center. The meeting was highlighted by a gift of appreciation that was presented by the Emeriti Council to Shannon Landis, Director of Events, in the Office of the President. This gift was given in recognition of all Shannon's contributions to the University Emeriti. We were privileged to have John Clark, chair of political science, as our speaker. John provided a thought provoking presentation entitled: "The 2012 Presidential Election: 'The Most Important Election of Our Lifetimes?'".

SCHOLARSHIP:

Medallion Scholars:



Josh Kallen:

Joshua Kallen, a four-year Medallion Scholar, is a senior studying marketing and behavior analysis. Josh recently completed an internship at Allegra, a local marketing company. Taking many contacts from Allegra and Rotary, he is networking as much as possible to achieve permanent employment after graduation. Josh is excited to graduate in Spring, and he can't wait to enter the workforce at a company that will be a good fit for him in the Kalamazoo Area.

Josh enjoys serving the community through service with Habitat for Humanity, the Kalamazoo Rotaract Club, and through the Carl and Winifred Lee Honors College. He also attends several more clubs, including the Kalamazoo Go Club where he attempts to master the art of the 3000 year old Chinese board game 'go'. Josh spends his weekends volunteering or spending time with peers enjoying Kalamazoo's many parks, art exhibits, and festivals.

Josh finds Emeriti to be enjoyable conversationalists with excellent world perspective, and greatly enjoys seeing Emeriti at Wednesday II meetings or in restaurants, at sporting events, or around Kalamazoo. He is exceedingly grateful for their support in his academic endeavors and would be pleased to meet any individual Emeriti more personally over coffee or a meal. Please feel free to contact him at joshua.a.kallen@wmich.edu or at (269) 599-4886.

Alyssa Murray:



Alyssa Murray is a sophomore Medallion from Novi, MI and is the daughter of Brian and Alison Murray. She is a Dietetics major and music minor, studying a Pre-Physician Assistant Curriculum. Alyssa enjoys lifeguarding and teaching swim lessons, a position she held for two summers in Novi. She is also a runner and ran her first half marathon in the summer of 2012 with many more planned for the future. Currently, Alyssa works as a telecounselor in the Student Ambassador Office where she calls prospective students and gives tours. Throughout her second semester of 2012, Alyssa helped to coordinate the 2011 Medallion class project at the Youth Development Center of Kalamazoo and regularly volunteers as a tutor/mentor. On campus, Alyssa is a member of an extracurricular chamber music ensemble and is a member of the Pre-Physician Assistant Society. Alyssa participated in Alternative Spring Break last year where she volunteered with a refugee agency in Buffalo, NY and is looking forward to co-leading a volunteer trip for Alternative Spring Break in the spring of 2013.

Garrett Gagnon: (Our newest Medallion Scholar)



My name is Garrett Gagnon. My dad, born and raised in Canada, came to Michigan in his twenties. He came to play semi-professional hockey, and made a career out of playing goalie for the K-Wings. My mom is from Mattawan, MI, and worked as a Registered Nurse for over 20 years at Borgess Hospital. I am the second of three children in my family. My older sister also attended Western Michigan University and studied chemical engineering. She now works for Kellogg in North Carolina. My younger brother will graduate from high school in two years, and will eventually uncover his future aspirations which, as of now, appear to be focused on human sciences.

My parents wanted to give me and my siblings a wide set of skills, so that we would eventually be capable of choosing any area of interest and be competent in that area. So, we were put in all of the activities many children, at one point or another, experience while growing up. Ever since 1st grade in Sunday school at church, I have participated in musical and theatrical activities. My official participation in musicals started in 6th grade, with a production of *Annie*. Around that time, I also started playing the drum set, utilizing the musical skills that seven prior years of piano lessons had given me. Ever since, music has constantly played a bigger and bigger part in my life.

Another passion and curiosity of mine is the more technical side of society. I have a huge interest in technology, at a fundamental level, and I enjoy the cliché subject of ‘how things work.’ This has driven my success in places such as shop class and my math classes. I am naturally curious about these things,

which led me to select the major that I am currently studying, Mechanical Engineering. I could not, however, leave music out of my college life. For me, music is more than just a hobby that one can drop if need be. So as of now, I am in two music ensembles at WMU, a choir and an all-male a cappella singing group. I am very happy that, having just started my freshman year, I am a part of both engineering and music opportunities.

My siblings and I took swimming lessons throughout our childhood from a swimming instructor who has been a family friend for quite some time. As we aged out of the program, we all eventually became assistant teachers, teaching in rotations and saving up the money in our piggy banks. I have been an assistant teacher with this company since I was 12 years old, and I still taught this past summer. I do believe that it was my last summer teaching swimming, though, as I will hopefully be involved in engineering-related or more professional jobs in the future. Also over the summer, I played drums for two musical productions, one of them at the professional summer-stock venue called The Barn Theatre.

I am still thoroughly in awe that I was selected to be a Medallion Scholar. My college future, wherever it will end up, will be so much smoother. I can also move through my college career with more confidence, as I have such a tangible and personal support behind me the whole way. I know that I would enjoy the application of a mechanical engineering degree in a future career. I always wonder how music is going to fit in, though, because I know that it will always be with me. I am so glad that I can be confident in what I love to do. If engineering is the path I continue to follow through college, then I will do well and enjoy myself. But if music seems to present itself in a very plausible manner, to the point at which it becomes a very large part of my life, then I will do well and enjoy myself there as well. As of now, I can only immerse myself in as much as I can and see where I land.

Book Scholarships:

Once or twice a year, your Emeriti Council has the great pleasure of awarding some thirty Medallion Book Scholarships to aid outstanding students with the purchase of textbooks for their classes. These scholarships are principally funded by generous donations from you, our Emeriti colleagues. Winners are selected by the Office of Student Financial Aid on the basis of academic achievement. This is one of those rare and pleasant instances when one may win a competitive award without even knowing there was a competition.

As a result of gifts provided by WMU Emeriti, 32 students received \$400 each for the purchase of text books in the Fall of 2012. Thank you notes received from those recipients underscored the value of these scholarships in offsetting the cost of their education.

The Emeriti Council hopes this scholarship will help students in a small way to defray the considerable costs of their college education. A solicitation letter was

sent to Emeriti in July encouraging them to contribute to the book scholarship fund.

GENERAL NEWS:

Interaction with WARF:

The Western Association of Retired Faculty, with Chair Mary Cain, continues to work with the Emeriti Council on various issues.

Emeriti Council Website:

Please check the website, www.wmich.edu/emeraliti/ for news of the Emeriti Council. Previous issues of Emeriti News and minutes of meetings can be viewed there, along with information about coming activities. Linda Law is responsible for keeping the website updated.

PRISM (Provost's Newsletter):

The Provost's newsletter *Prism* is another is another source of information that will keep you up to date on happenings at Western. *Prisim* available at www.scholarworks.wmich.edu/provost-prism.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Faculty Dames:

Attention all University (Faculty) Dames and former Dames: The Dames will be celebrating their 100th Anniversary on Saturday, May 4, 2013 at the Fetzer Center, 12:30 p.m. This will be our last get together as we will disband after that. So, we want to go out with a bang! Our speaker will be Sharon Carlson, Director of the Archives and Regional History Collections.

We will have a memorabilia table with much of our history displayed. We are also looking for any memorabilia you can contribute, i.e. memos, recipes, mementos, stories, fashion changes, or anything you might think interesting. We are having a commemorative plaque made which will be on display.

Mark your calendars! If you know anyone in or out of town who you think would like an invitation, please call Jean Scott at 343-2296 and give her the information. We want to reach as many Dames as possible.