

Adventures In Lifelong Learning est. 1993	<i>MARY WASHINGTON</i> <i>ELDERSTUDY</i>
	Affiliated with UMW and the Elderhostel Institute Network

December 2010

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

As we begin a New Year and a new ElderStudy semester, I want to again say “Thank You” to all of the volunteers who help make our program so successful. The Curriculum Committee has lined up a terrific schedule of classes for the spring of 2011. The Administration Committee is busy reviewing our *Procedures Manual* and insuring that our financial procedures and records continue to meet their usual high standards. The Membership Committee has worked hard to keep you informed thru the newsletter, website and e-mails, and has arranged the “social time” we all enjoy.

I know that I don’t need to tell you that a few of our classes this year have been oversubscribed. Each semester when preparing the schedule, the Curriculum Committee evaluates numerous factors to try and match each specific class with an appropriate venue. Needless to say, the evaluation process is not perfect and our venue possibilities are very limited. The university can only make a limited number of venues available to us – student needs must come first. Most usually that venue is Chandler 102, with seating for 50. It is interesting to note that when we have been able to schedule a class in Coombs or the Woodard Campus Center (both larger venues) this year, we have not exceeded 50 attendees. As you know, members may attend as many classes as they choose, depending on available space.

On a related issue, after getting a “too hard to do” letter from the City Manager in response to my May letter concerning the parking situation, I sent a letter to Mayor Tomzak in September asking him to reevaluate the situation and our request. Both of my letters and the City Manager’s response can be found on our website and on our bulletin board in Chandler 102. A response from the Mayor has not been received.

I want to extend a special “Thank You” to Wendell Anderson for doing the 2009 – 2010 audit of the ElderStudy financial records. Thanks, too, to Chuck Watson who has volunteered to work on the website with Anne McGrath.

The members and friends who attended the luncheon at the Lake of the Woods on December 2nd were treated to good food, good company and a wonderful musical

program by the Flat Run Ramblers. Thanks go to Caroline and Joe Spero who sponsored us, and Eugenia Jones and Rose Marie Schlemm who worked to ensure that everything went as planned.

On a final note, our organization is an all-volunteer one – please consider serving on one of the committees. Your help would be appreciated.

Have a wonderful holiday season and best wishes for the New Year.

Carole Hanus

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE

At the Committee's December 1st meeting we discussed awarding of the Bachelor of Liberal Studies scholarship, the annual audit, availability of excess funds, status of the review of the *Procedures Manual*, and our annual required reporting to the Internal Revenue Service.

In continuing our support of the University of Mary Washington and students registered in the Bachelor of Liberal Studies program, the Committee voted to recommend to the Board the awarding of a \$1,000 scholarship to the Office of University Advancement. The scholarship will be awarded to a student next spring and be used for the 2011-2012 school year.

Wendell Anderson has completed the audit of the ElderStudy financial records for the period September 1, 2009 thru August 31, 2010. No follow-up actions are required. A copy of the Audit Report has been provided to the President.

The Committee's annual review of the *Procedures Manual* is well underway. The goal is to have the document completely reviewed and any changes published by next August. The objective of this timetable is to ensure that any new members joining the organization at the start of the fiscal year will have the most current organization operational procedures to review.

Annual Internal Revenue Service required reporting will be completed by mid January.

During the ElderStudy 2009 –2010 academic year, University of Mary Washington faculty supported us by providing 20 programs. The committee reviewed our financial situation and determined that we could provide some of our excess funds to those Departments that supported our program. The Committee's recommendation to the Board of Directors was that \$100 be distributed for each program resulting in \$2,000 being distributed to nine academic Departments.

The Administrative Committee will meet in Woodard on Wednesday, March 2nd. Interested members are welcome to attend all meetings.

Bob Hanus, Chairperson

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

At the Committee's November 3rd meeting, it was reported that all committee work was up to date. Many of the "behind the scenes" ElderStudy work is done by this committee and you don't even know it has been done. This includes checking voice mail, sending out welcome packets, keeping the membership list current, planning social functions, keeping the website up to date, and distributing brochures. The newsletter is also the responsibility of the Membership Committee.

Our winter social was planned and organized by the Membership Committee. To remind our members about this event, an e-mail was sent and volunteers called those members without e-mail. We have also begun work on the end of year potluck which will be held in May.

Please join us for our next meeting on Tuesday, February 15th. All members are invited to bring new ideas and lend a helping hand.

Carole Hanus, Chairperson

BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP (SPRING 2011)

The ElderStudy Book Discussion Group meets monthly, on the second Thursday, usually in a meeting room in Woodard, from 1300 to 1500. Participation is open to all ElderStudy members. Selections for the spring semester include -

January – **Nine Lives: Death and Life in Anew Orleans** by *Dan Baum*.

Discussion Leader – Carrie Allahut

February – **Still Alice** by *Lisa Genova*.

Discussion Leader – Sherill Bartholomew

March – **The Help** by *Kathryn Stockett*.

Discussion Leader – Rose Rief

April – **A Confederacy of Dunces** by *John Kennedy Toole*.

Discussion Leader – Larry Turner

May – **Luncheon of the Boating Party** by *Susan Vreeland*.

Discussion Leader – Phil Hall

Questions: Roger Bourdon or Anne McGrath

EXPERIENCE A THEATRE PRODUCTION FROM A-Z

For the first time, experience a Department of Theatre and Dance production from set and lighting design, to getting to know the playwright, to costume creation and actor selection, to seeing the final production.

On **Tuesday, February 1st** learn about the behind the scenes technical side of preparing for the play *Seascape* – the first of two spring productions. Julie Hodge and David Hunt will talk about the scenery and lighting and what went into the creation and use of each. In preparing for a play, what does the dyer do? Julie will be serving as the dyer for the costume shop for the creation of the specialty fabrics that will make up the lizard costumes in the show. Enjoy seeing and feeling a wide variety of things throughout the presentation.

On **Wednesday, February 9th**, join Helen Housley for a discussion of the play - *Seascape* by Edward Albee. A married couple whiles away the afternoon on the beach when from the infinite sea emerge two creatures. At first wary and skeptical, the two couples soon find common ground in a lively conversation about the peculiar and precarious nature of the life they've lived and the uncertain future before them. As the two couples reveal their vulnerabilities to each other, their differences become alarmingly acute and challenge their ideas of what is possible in life and in love. Moving, tender, and at times uproariously funny, the Pulitzer prize-wining *Seascape* is Albee at his best—wry, comic, surreal, intelligent, and deeply human. **This class is open to guests.**

Then enjoy the actual production. Tickets go on sale February 2nd and will also be available during/after the Wednesday class. Box Office 654-1124. Show dates: February 10-12, February 17-19 at 8:00 p.m., February 13 and February 20 at 2:00 p.m. Post-performance discussion, February 13. *For the hearing impaired, the Klein Theatre is equipped with an infrared listening system. Headsets and hearing aid adapters are available for checkout at the box office prior to each performance.*

Questions: Carole / Bob Hanus

CLASS SCHEDULE CHANGES / CANCELLATIONS

Members can call to get last minute schedule changes as updated by the Curriculum Committee. Call **654-1769 (select Option 2)**. Last minute schedule changes should also be available on our website at www.ElderStudy.com. The goal is to update these sites within 24 hours of receiving new information.

Questions: Anne McGrath, Chuck Watkins, or Alan Zirkle

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE RESPONSIBILITIES

The responsibilities and duties of the Membership Committee as summarized here are stated in our Memorandum of Understanding with the University of Mary Washington and the ElderStudy Constitution and Bylaws.

- Inform and encourage retirement-age persons in Fredericksburg and adjoining areas about the opportunities the organization offers for lifelong learning
- Maintain the official membership list and inform the President and committee chairs of changes

- Review honorary memberships annually
- Issue a newsletter to keep the membership informed of ElderStudy activities
- Maintain a website
- Plan social events
- Provide updated committee information for the *Procedures Manual* to the Administration Committee.
- Develop policies and plans to achieve the above

Questions: Carole Hanus

REMEMBER THE WINTER OF 2009/2010?

If the University of Mary Washington is closed for the day due to inclement weather, ElderStudy classes are canceled. A delayed opening or early closing of the University may or may not impact a scheduled class. For example, a two-hour delay in opening (from 8:00 to 10:00) will not impact a 10:00 ElderStudy class and the class will be offered as scheduled. For information, check local radio stations and/or Washington/Richmond television stations or try calling the University (654-2424) for the latest status.

That said, there have been times when ElderStudy activities have been cancelled although the University is open due to the lack of parking in the College Heights area. Parking on streets where many of us park for ElderStudy programs can be almost non-existent due to cars being plowed in and large mounds of snow piled at or near the curbs. The University of Mary Washington parking garage and College Avenue only offers limited available parking spaces and the students come first.

In any event, use common sense before venturing outside!

ANNUAL ELECTIONS

Each year at the March General Membership Meeting three Board members are elected to replace the three retiring Board members. Newly elected members of the Board of Directors serve for three fiscal years starting on September 1st.

Each member of the organization may recommend potential Board members from the membership. If you would like to serve, or know of someone who would like to serve, contact one of the members of the Nominating Committee. The **Nominating Committee**, composed of the three retiring Board members – **Carole Hanus, Peggy Johnson and Janet Sullivan**, will consider all the names submitted by the members and submit a slate of names to be voted on by the membership.

Since the Nominating Committee, after the March election, recommends the officers of the Board (President, Vice-President and Secretary) for the coming year, consecutive Board terms are not permitted. This is necessary to ensure that the actions of the Nominating Committee and the election process have integrity and are transparent.

Questions: Bob Hanus

REACHING CLASSROOM CAPACITY

As with the weather, storms come and go. The “perfect storm” that we experienced in September 2009 moved on very quickly, although we can always expect some problems each year. That said, we are currently averaging less than 30 members per class although a few have been oversubscribed.

During the Curriculum planning process, the Curriculum Committee evaluates numerous factors to try and match each specific class with an appropriate venue. Needless to say, the evaluation process is not perfect and our venue possibilities are very limited.

Our primary classroom on campus is Chandler 102, which has a capacity for 50 persons, including speaker(s). To ensure our continued use of classroom space on campus we must follow the University’s safety guidelines. Seating is first come, first served. Seats cannot be saved. When capacity is reached, the program sponsor is responsible for posting a "**Class is Full**" sign on the outside of the entrance door and closing the door. Please respect this requirement.

Questions: Bob Hanus

WHERE IS CLASS?

Most ElderStudy class sessions are held in Chandler Hall, Room 102. The Klein Theatre in duPont Hall will be used for theatre programs, while Membership, Board, and Committee meetings are generally held in the Woodard Campus Center.

From time to time it is necessary to change the venue to a different location on campus. To assist you in locating other campus locations, your ElderStudy welcome packet included a campus map. A campus map is also posted on the ElderStudy bulletin board and copies are located on the table in Chandler 102. In addition, a campus map can be found on the ElderStudy website.

Just a reminder – we have a microphone available in Chandler 102. If you have a problem hearing the presenter, please advise the program sponsor who will ask the presenter to use the microphone.

Questions: Bill Toomey

Want to be one of the first to know what’s happening and when?

- - VOLUNTEER - -

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

This *Procedures Manual* contains the policies and procedures that have evolved since the organization was formed in 1993. Accordingly, it is considered a living document and therefore is subject to modifications and changes as policies and procedures for accomplishing the various tasks and responsibilities are further defined and/or changed.

Questions: Bob Hanus

ON CAMPUS LIBRARY ACCESS

ElderStudy members have access to both the Simpson Library (Main Campus) and the Stafford Campus Library facilities and services. Members needing library items may request them through the Central Rappahannock Regional Library system.

ELDERSTUDY TAX STATUS

ElderStudy is exempt from federal income tax under section 501(a) of the Internal Revenue Code as an organization described in section 501(c)(3). A copy of the Internal Revenue Service exemption letter is contained in the *Procedures Manual*. Copies of the ElderStudy exemption application and supporting documents, and our exemption letter are available upon request.

Questions: Bob Hanus

ANNUAL BACHELOR OF LIBERAL STUDIES SCHOLARSHIP

In continuing our support of the University of Mary Washington and students registered in the Bachelor of Liberal Studies program, the Board of Directors has provided a \$1,000 scholarship to the Office of University Advancement. This scholarship will be awarded to a student this spring and be used for the 2011 - 2012 school year.

Questions: Carole Hanus

DISPOSITION OF EXCESS FUNDS

Each year in December the Administration Committee reviews the financial balance to determine the amount of excess funding, if any, which was available at the end of the previous ElderStudy organizational year and current year requirements. The key factor is ElderStudy membership for the current year.

This review is based on a Certificate of Deposit financial reserve of \$20,000 to ensure

solvency and to provide a financial buffer. In addition, a smaller reserve is retained in the checking account to cover any unexpected shortfalls in the budget during the current organizational year. If there are funds in excess of our overall needs, ElderStudy makes grants to those departments of the University of Mary Washington whose professors have assisted with programs during the previous year.

As a result of this year's review, nine Departments at the University that provided 20 programs during 2009 – 2010 will be sharing \$2,000.

Questions: Bob Hanus

TELEPHONE ANSWERING SERVICE

Members of the local community who might have questions about the ElderStudy program at the University of Mary Washington or who would like additional information about the program can call the ElderStudy answering service at (540) 654-1769 (select Option 1) and leave a message. A member of the Membership Committee checks the service at least weekly and calls are returned or redirected to the appropriate ElderStudy Committee or Officer.

Questions: Dottie Bourdon

ON CAMPUS DINING

ElderStudy members may use the Seacobeck dining halls for full meal service and should display their ElderStudy nametag. Each person will pay the cashier a flat full price fee when entering the dining hall. Members may also eat in The Eagle's Nest, the student snack bar located in the Woodard Campus Center.

BULLETIN BOARD

ElderStudy maintains a bulletin board in Chandler 102 (our primary classroom) for the purpose of keeping the membership informed. Information, including the class schedule, is updated as required. Brochures, Opportunity Sheets, Road Scholar Catalogs, Campus Maps, and a copy of the *Procedures Manual* are also available.

Questions: Nancy Snyder

www.elderstudy.com

what you need to know – when you need to know it!

SPRING CLASS SCHEDULE

Enclosed with this newsletter is our spring class schedule. Check class times/locations!

Happy Holidays!

This newsletter is published by the Membership Committee (Carole Hanus – Chairperson) for the members of the University of Mary Washington Lifelong Learning Institute, Fredericksburg, Virginia. For additional information, visit our website at www.ElderStudy.com or contact our voice mail at (540) 654-1769.