EMERITI HOUSE

INDIANA. UNIVERSITY – BLOOMINGTON

TENTH ANNUAL REPORT: 2016 - 2017

Eugene B. McGregor, Jr.
Received by the Advisory Board on
December 18, 2018

Emeriti House Mission: To support continued intellectual and creative activities of retired faculty and librarians and the creative use of their talents as a continuing university resource.
This is the tenth annual report on IUB’s Emeriti House (EH), summarizing the programs and activities during 2016 – 17, the 13th year (as of January 2017) of Emeriti House operations. Conceived as both a place and an idea, this report summarizes the highlights in two parts: the administration and the maintenance of the house (part I) and the programs and activities that give life to the idea (Part II) as expressed in the front-page mission statement. Three appendixes supply more details.

I. THE PLACE

The 1920s-era center hall, four bedroom home and grounds that define Emeriti House is a great gift to emeriti professors and librarians. The house combines the advantages of location, ease of access and technical connectivity for weekly programs and gatherings in a dedicated social space consisting of living room, kitchen and dining room. Such a generous physical space presents a range of program possibilities limited only by the imaginations of the emeriti themselves. Indeed, the unstinting support for the enterprise by Vice Provost Eliza Pavalko anchors a clear invitation to the friends of Emeriti House to be as creative as possible in designing and executing the programs, activities and events that will form the core of what began as a unique idea in higher education.

It is important to note that “the place” is also defined by the capable management of Nat McKamey who, on a half-time basis, serves as coordinator of all programs and activities. Too much cannot be said about the contributions of Nat who is the EH secret sauce, serving in multiple roles. For example, she hosts the many visitors who attend house programs and helps program presenters connect to the house computer and AV systems. She also provides the administrative and logistical support required by the EH Director who must access a full range of university resources required to operate the array of EH activities and programs. In addition, she serves as the on-site custodian of the building, able to spot problems needing attention, both in and around the house, and schedules the work to be done. In short, she runs Emeriti House!

A brief review of the physical plant reveals a number of correctible issues:

- While the house is basically in good shape, there were signs of deterioration around the edges, such as the back door stairs and railings and the loose bricks in the front walkway;
- The kitchen has proved functional for different kinds of social events, missing only a few utensils needed to serve refreshments;
- The computers and printer in the upstairs cluster were in need of an upgrade;
- The living room facilities were in the greatest need of improvement. For example, Audio/Visual (A/V) equipment has presented historical difficulties, including: Internet connectivity, an inadequate screen on which to project
weekly presentations and chronic problems supporting different configurations of hardware and software brought to the house for weekly programs. In addition, as program attendance has increased, the limits of living room furniture presented an awkward combination of bulky seating with uncomfortable hardwood chairs;

- The size and shape of the living room also presented a capacity constraint on a living room that frequently required attendees to peer through the office doorway at the back of the living room at a small, mechanical tripod screen planted at the far end of the room.

The advisory board agreed that the most important problem to solve was the outdated A/V equipment. The upgrade should include a large motorized screen, state-of-the-art A/V equipment, and hard-wired Internet connectivity with a suite of adaptors for the variety of ICT equipment in current use on around the campus. Thus, an expensive upgrade (~$13,500) will be installed in the living room in time to launch the 2017-18 season. In addition, modest living room furniture changes could provide more comfortable seating for larger audiences.

Also, a general upgrade of the computer cluster was achieved in the fall semester, including the addition of a three-way printer that would support document printing, copying and scanning. Finally, small repairs were made to the front walk. Meanwhile, the back stairs and railing have continued to deteriorate.

II. THE IDEA

The Emeriti House program portfolio has traditionally revolved around the weekly programs on Tuesday and Wednesdays, supplemented by two special programs: The Life Writing Workshop run by John Woodcock and the Poetry Series operated by Don Gray and Stephen Wailes.

In addition, Don Gray ran an oral history program for many years, conducting lengthy recorded interviews of emeriti professors, librarians, and administrators. That program has now been transferred to the Office of the Bicentennial under Kelly Kish. and advisory board members, Bruce Jaffee and Bonnie Brownlee, serve as co-directors of a reconstituted program that will operate out of the Media School’s Beckley Studio. The advisory board, at its December meeting, briefly considered a possible support role in the bicentennial project for Emeriti House, including: The transfer of existing interviews and transcriptions to IU archives; front-end help in recruiting interviewers; encouraging all emeriti to accept an invitation to be interviewed; and back-end analysis that might convert the raw interview data into conclusions and narratives useful to the university.

Programs: The 2016-17 program calendar details are provided in two appendixes. Data show that in the fall semester (APPENDIX A), at least 587 people attended 21 events, while at least 885 people attended 34 events in the spring (APPENDIX B). At
a minimum, 1,472 people participated in 55 events, sometimes filling the living room to overflow capacity. The head count is conservative, since sign-in sheets at the door, from which attendance totals are derived, are sometimes ignored – especially by those arriving late to crowded Tuesday and Wednesday programs. Still, the head count provides an indicator of the level of activity as well as a baseline for ordering refreshments and arranging the facility for different events.

Since the attendance figures are driven largely by the series of regular weekly programs, the efforts new program committee co-chairs, Geoff Conrad and Tim Londergan, loom large along with the energetic assistance of Nat McKamey and Program Committee members: Bob Arnowe, Bonnie Brownlee, Consuelo Lopez-Morillas, George Malacinski, Tony Mescher (new member), and Bill McGregor (ex officio).

**Poetry Series and Life Writing Workshop:** Both programs are designed for small groups ranging from 6 to 9 in the case of life writing and between 7 and 11 in the case of the Poetry Series. The poetry group meets three times per semester, while the Life Writing Workshop meets 4 or 5 times per semester. John Woodcock continues his long service as convener of the workshop, while Stephen Wailes now shares the poetry series duties with Don Gray.

In December, Director McGregor presented a proposal to the Advisory Board, with the approval of the Program Committee, for a new program, “Current Events at Emeriti House.” Board approval launched the new bi-weekly (Monday afternoons) review of current events in January 2017. Inaugural meetings drew large crowds immediately before and after the inauguration of the Trump administration and then settled down to a regular attendance of between 12 and 20 for the rest of the semester. Notwithstanding that one session was cancelled because a moderator could not be found, the program was sufficiently well received that it has been added to the Emeriti House list of regular programs. A copy of the original “Current Events Rules” is provided in APPENDIX C.

**Highlights:**

The program year was marked with a number of highlights. First, the regular Tuesday/Wednesday programming was generally well attended, often filling the living room to capacity and raising the question of whether and how to make the living room more comfortable for more people. Perhaps the greatest test occurred with the standing room only crowd that came to hear Congressman Lee Hamilton and Political Science Professor Gerald Wright address the topic, “What Did We Do To Ourselves on November 8th?” The massive attendance raise four issues: One is the question of acquiring more comfortable, compact and comfortable furniture. A second is the possibility of opening the back living room wall that would allow more people to attend presentations by sitting in what is currently labeled the director’s office. A third is the possible need to contract for larger space in cases where
blockbuster programs are to be scheduled. A fourth is that crowd size had made the need for improved A/V equipment more salient.

In general, a discernable program pattern has emerged that mixes strong intellectual content on diverse subjects presented by Patten Lecturers, senior and often distinguished IU professors, public officials and important administrative IU staff. One program innovation was introduced in spring 2017: “Storytelling,” featuring notable campus narrators sharing short personal stories drawn from personal experience. For the inaugural occasion in spring 2017, Biology Emeritus Professor George Malacinski built and donated an orator’s platform on which each storyteller could sit and offer a narrative for the enjoyment of the large audience in attendance.

**Receptions:** The December holiday party followed the festive traditions of earlier years with good food and wine accompanied by home-grown entertainment provided by Peter Bailey on the piano bench. As in the past, Tine Lindemann and George Malacinski served as hosts, working with Nat McKamey to prepare a well-decorated house filled to capacity with guests enjoying an extensive buffet and each other’s company.

The May 5, 2017, art exhibit was also a festive occasion when the house presented a diverse array of newly created art at an early evening reception, all organized by the Art Committee, including B.J. Irvine (Chair) and Jerry Chertkoff, Audrey Heller, Ed McEndarfer, Joe Miller, Larry Thibos (newly appointed member), Beau Vallance, and John Woodcock. Their efforts delivered a handsome art show consisting of 43 works presented by 30 artists. Approximately 60 people attended the reception and enjoyed a generous array of food and wine as they toured the new work. Once again, Peter Bailey provided music.

**Conclusions:** The 2016-17 academic year was active and productive and included the launch of one new program initiative – Current Events at Emeriti House. In addition, a plan for house furnishing and capital improvement was developed for completion over the 2017 summer with the aim of better serving EH programs in 2017 – 18 and beyond. More work clearly remains.

Respectfully submitted to the Advisory Board
Bill McGregor, Director
December 18, 2018
APPENDIX A

*************** Emeriti House Schedule of Events***************
**Fall 2016**

Events are scheduled for 4:00 p.m. on Wednesdays unless otherwise noted

Sept. 7    Ben Brabson, Professor Emeritus, Physics, “The Great Satan Tours Iran”
Sept. 13   Eunan McIntyre, Ireland’s Award-winning singer-songwriter, “Irish Ballads, History, and the War of Independence” (Note: Tuesday)
Sept. 14   Poetry Series with Don Gray, Professor Emeritus, English (Note: 1:30-3:00 p.m.)
Sept. 15   Life Writing Workshop with John Woodcock, Professor Emeritus, English (Note: Thursday, 2:30 – 4:30 p.m.)
Sept. 21   Jon Vickers, Founding Director, IU Cinema, “IU Cinema: For All Who Believe in Creative Research”
Sept. 27   Bill McGregor, Professor Emeritus, SPEA, “Can Sanibel-Style ‘Current Events’ Work at Emeriti House?” (Note: Tuesday)
Sept. 28   Provost’s Reception to Honor Emeriti Faculty, 5:00 – 7:00 p.m., IMU Alumni Hall (please note the venue and watch for invitations via email). RSVP via the e-invite, or send an email to iuevents@indiana.edu, or phone Teresa in the Office of University Events at (812) 855-3762. Accessibility needs can be accommodated by University Events – please notify when you RSVP. (Note: Wednesday)
Oct. 5    Morton Marcus, Director Emeritus, Indiana Business Research Center and Lecturer, Kelley School of Business, “Why Are People So Doubtful About the American Economy?”
Oct. 11   Dan Calarco, Chair, SafeITtaskforce (IUB), and Chief of Staff, Office of the Vice President for Information Technology, “Cybersecurity: It’s Far Worse than You Think” (Note: Tuesday)
Oct. 19   Morton Marcus, Director Emeritus, Indiana Business Research Center and Lecturer, Kelley School of Business, “Why aren't Hoosiers troubled about the Indiana Economy?” (Part II)
Oct. 20   Life Writing Workshop with John Woodcock, Professor Emeritus, English (Note: Thursday, 2:30 – 4:30 p.m.)
Oct. 25   Paul Slovic, IU's Patten Lecturer, Professor of Psychology, University of Oregon, “An Intellectual Biography” (Note: Tuesday, *3:45* p.m.)
http://patten.indiana.edu/lecturers/paul-slovic.html
Nov. 1    Poetry Series with Don Gray, Professor Emeritus, English (Note: Tuesday, 1:30-3:00 p.m.)
Nov. 2    Jack Baker (Plan Commission), Christy Langley (AICP, Planning and Transportation Director), with Bill McGregor, Moderator, “Panel Discussion: Bloomington at an Urban Planning Crossroad”
Nov. 8    Rob Shakespeare, Professor Emeritus, Theatre, Drama, & Contemporary Dance, “Theatre Staging and Lighting” (Note: Tuesday)
Nov. 11  Vice Provost’s Reception honoring newly retired faculty, 4:00-5:30 p.m., Emeriti House (Note: Friday, *ALL EMERITI, SPOUSES, PARTNERS, AND GUESTS* ARE WELCOME! Mark your calendars now and please join us in welcoming the new cohort!)

Nov. 16  Congressman Lee Hamilton, with Gerald C. Wright, Professor, Political Science, “WHAT DID WE DO TO OURSELVES ON NOVEMBER 8TH?”

Nov. 17  Life Writing Workshop with John Woodcock, Professor Emeritus, English (Note: Thursday, 2:30 – 4:30 p.m.)

Nov. 23  No program scheduled. Thanksgiving on Thursday, Nov. 24. Emeriti House is closed both Thursday and Friday.

Nov. 30  Terry Clapacs, Vice President Emeritus and Chief Administrative Officer, “Indiana University – America’s Legacy Campus”
For more information, see: http://newinfo.iu.edu/news/page/normal/24214.html

Dec. 7  No program here

Dec. 9  Holiday Party hosted by Tine Lindemann & George Malacinski  (Note: Friday, *5:30-7:00* p.m., held at Emeriti House)

Dec. 13  Poetry Series with Don Gray, Professor Emeritus, English (Note new time! 2:00-3:30p.m., Tuesday)

Dec. 15  Life Writing Workshop with John Woodcock, Professor Emeritus, English (Note: Thursday, 2:30 – 4:30 p.m.)
APPENDIX B

************** Emeriti House Schedule of Events**************

**Spring 2017**

Events are scheduled for 4:00 p.m. on Wednesdays unless otherwise noted

Jan. 10  **George L. Walker, WFIU Radio Host**, “George Walker, 1943-2017, etc./WFIU 1950-2017, etc.”  *(Note: Tuesday)*

Jan. 16  **Current Events at Emeriti House, a nonpartisan, moderated discussion of the facts and events that define the news and great issues of the day.** Emeriti House Director, Bill McGregor, will moderate this opening session. *(Note: Monday, 3:30 p.m.)*

Jan. 18  **Heidi Gealt**, faculty and former Director, Eskenazi Museum of Art; **Jason Baird Jackson**, Professor, Folklore, and Director, Mathers Museum of World Cultures; and **Catherine Pilachowski**, Professor, Astronomy, “Beauty: A Panel on the 2016-2017 Themester Topic”

Jan. 19  **Life Writing Workshop with John Woodcock**, Professor Emeritus, English *(Note: Thursday, 2:30 – 4:30 p.m. Note new time!)*

Jan 24  **Franco Moretti, IU’s Patten Lecturer**, Stanford University (Humanities) *(Note: Tuesday, *3:45*p.m.)*

Jan. 30  **Current Events at Emeriti House, a nonpartisan, moderated discussion of the facts and events that define the news and great issues of the day.** *(Note: Monday, 3:30 p.m.)*

Feb. 1  **Steven “Jim” Sherman**, Professor Emeritus, Psychological & Brain Sciences, and **Adam Wason**, Director, Public Works Department, City of Bloomington, “Talking Trash: Time to Change Bloomington’s Sanitation System?”

Feb. 7  **Mary Goetze**, Professor Emerita, Jacobs School of Music, and **Antonio Jackson**, “Incarceration Nation and the Monroe County Jail” *(Note: Tuesday)*

Feb. 8  **Glenn Gass**, Provost Professor of Music, “Bob Dylan”  *(Note: This program is co-sponsored with IURA, and will take place at the IU Foundation, Showalter House, SR46 & Bypass. Time: 2:00 p.m.)*

Feb. 13  **Current Events at Emeriti House, a nonpartisan, moderated discussion of the facts and events that define the news and great issues of the day.** *(Note: Monday, 3:30 p.m.)*

Feb. 14  **Poetry Series with Don Gray**, Professor Emeritus, English *(Note: Tuesday, 2:00 – 3:30p.m. Note the new time!)*

Feb. 15  **Geoff Conrad**, Professor Emeritus, Anthropology, Travelogue: “From the Amazon to the Galapagos: a South American Odyssey”

Feb. 16  **Life Writing Workshop with John Woodcock**, Professor Emeritus, English *(Note: Thursday, 2:30 – 4:30 p.m.)*

Feb. 22  **Storytelling with George Malacinski**, moderator, Professor Emeritus, Biology (Selected emeriti will share their stories.)
Feb. 27  **Current Events at Emeriti House, a nonpartisan, moderated discussion of the facts and events that define the news and great issues of the day.**  (Note: Monday, 3:30 p.m.)

Feb. 28  **Michael Watts, IU's Patten Lecturer**, University of California-Berkeley (Geography and Development Studies)  (Note time: 3:45 p.m.)

March 6  **Current Events at Emeriti House, a nonpartisan, moderated discussion of the facts and events that define the news and great issues of the day.**  (Note: Monday, 3:30 p.m.)  **Milton Taylor, moderator**

March 8  **Massimo Ossi**, Professor, Jacobs School of Music, “What’s in a Title? The World, if You Listen. The Origins of Program Music”

March 14  **Spring break** - No programs scheduled this week

March 22  **Marjorie Hershey**, Professor, Political Science, “Politics of Resentment”

March 23  **Life Writing Workshop with John Woodcock**, Professor Emeritus, English  (Note: Thursday, 2:30 – 4:30 p.m.)

March 27  **Current Events at Emeriti House, a nonpartisan, moderated discussion of the facts and events that define the news and great issues of the day.**  (Note: Monday, 3:30 p.m.)  **Geoff Conrad, moderator**

March 28  **Poetry Series with Don Gray**, Professor Emeritus, English  (Note: Tuesday, 2:00 – 3:30 p.m. Note time!)

March 29  **Nobel Prizes I (Physics & Economics)**, speakers **Jorge José**, Professor, Physics, and **Michael Rauh**, Professor, Kelley School of Business

April 3  **Current Events at Emeriti House, a nonpartisan, moderated discussion of the facts and events that define the news and great issues of the day.**  (Note: Monday, 3:30 p.m.)  **Dave Weaver, moderator**

April 5  No program here; encourage attendance at the Provost’s reception!

April 6  **Provost’s Reception honoring Newly Retired Faculty, 5:00-8:00 p.m.**  (Note: Thursday, **LOCATION is the Alumni Hall Solarium (IMU)**)  RSVP’s required by phone (812-855-3762) or email to iuevents@indiana.edu. Parking is available in the Poplars Parking Garage and the lots at Sixth Street and Indiana Ave.  **Mark your calendars now!**

April 11  **Dick Rubinger**, Professor Emeritus, East Asian Languages & Cultures, “The Search for Siebold’s Daughter; the First Western-Trained Female Physician in Japan”  (Note: Tuesday)

April 19  **Joseph Coleman**, Professor of Practice, The Media School, “Unfinished Work: The Older Worker as a Global Trend”

April 20  **Life Writing Workshop with John Woodcock**, Professor Emeritus, English  (Note: Thursday, 2:30 – 4:30 p.m.)

April 24  **CANCELLED**  **Current Events at Emeriti House, a nonpartisan, moderated discussion of the facts and events that define the news and great issues of the day.**  (Note: Monday, 3:30 p.m.)

April 26  **Sean Starowitz**, City of Bloomington Arts & Economic Development; and  **Lynn Coyne**, President of Bloomington Economic Development Corporation, “Bloomington Economic Development Strategies”

May 1  **Current Events at Emeriti House, a nonpartisan, moderated discussion of the facts and events that define the news and great issues of the day.**  (Note: Monday, 3:30 p.m.)
May 3  No program here; encourage attendance at the Opening Reception!

May 5  **Opening Reception, Emeriti House & IU Retirees Association Annual Art Exhibit**  (Note: Friday, 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.)  *Mark your calendars now!*

May  Emeriti House & IU Retirees Association Annual Art Exhibit runs Monday – Friday, 9:00 a.m.–noon, 1:00–5:00 p.m. (mixed media)  Stop in and visit!

May  Mark your calendars now!

May 9  **Nobel Prizes II (Chemistry and Medicine), speakers Tony Mescher, Professor Emeritus, Anatomy/Biology, and Amar Flood, Professor, Chemistry**  (Note: Tuesday)  Note: Nobel Prize in Chemistry to be rescheduled. This session devoted to Medicine.

May 10 **Poetry Series with Don Gray, Professor Emeritus, English**  (Note: Wednesday, 2:00 – 3:30p.m. Note time!)

May 15 **Current Events at Emeriti House, a nonpartisan, moderated discussion of the facts and events that define the news and great issues of the day.**  (Note: Monday, 3:30 p.m.)

May 17  **No Program**

May 18  **Life Writing Workshop with John Woodcock, Professor Emeritus, English**  (Note: Thursday, 2:30 – 4:30 p.m.)
On December 16, 2016, the Emeriti House Advisory Board approved a new program, entitled “Current Events at Emeriti House.” Conceived as a nonpartisan discussion group, its purposes are to convene regular discussions of the facts and events that define the news and great issues of the day and to encourage the careful reading of reliable news and information sources that inform attentive publics. Because the program creates a forum for discussing events about which intelligent and reasonable people can disagree, a moderator system organizes the meetings based on rules defining the respective roles of moderator and participant.

The Moderator: Current events discussions are meetings of participating equals who have informed opinions and ideas to share. The role of the moderator is to facilitate discussion by setting an agenda and observing the following rules:

- The moderator introduces each topic with brief defining remarks and poses a fundamental question to which participants are asked to respond.
- The questions posed should have no obviously correct answer and should be designed to encourage discussion among different points of view.
- The moderator should recognize respondents in turn, giving everyone who wishes a chance to participate.
- The moderator limits the speaking time available to each respondent (e.g., 2 minutes) and enforces meeting decorum; for example, partisan posturing, arguments, jeers, and applause are not allowed.

Participants: Participants are the friends of Emeriti House who regularly attend Current Events meetings. They set the terms of participation by agreeing, at a minimum, to:

- Accept the rules of moderation.
- Read about current events, using sources judged by the active membership as authoritative.
- Participate on a regular basis in the meeting schedule established by the membership.
- Respond to the questions posed by the moderator;
- Accept the rotating duties of moderator as required by the established schedule.

Meetings will be held in Emeriti House on Monday afternoons, starting at 3:30 p.m. No record or report of proceedings will be kept.