EMERITI HOUSE

INDIANA UNIVERSITY – BLOOMINGTON

ELEVENTH ANNUAL REPORT: 2017 - 2018

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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 eleventh annual report on IUB’s Emeriti House (EH), written to inform IU faculty, librarians, administrators and staff, both active and retired, about the programs and activities of Emeriti House during the 2017–18 academic year, the 14th year of Emeriti House operations (as of January 2018). Conceived as both a place and an idea, this report highlights activities and achievements in two parts: the administration and the maintenance of the house itself (part I) and the programs and activities that give life to the idea. Details are provided in appendixes A and B, covering fall and spring semesters, respectively.

I. THE PLACE

The most notable attributes of Emeriti House continue to be the handsome building on Atwater and Nat McKamey’s capable management (on a half-time basis) as coordinator of all programs and activities and house manager. As noted in the 2016–17 annual report, she continues to be the special sauce of Emeriti House.

House maintenance continues to be an issue. The crumbling back stairs and railing were finally scheduled for repair and summer discussions were held regarding refreshing the grounds and landscaping with an eye to possible increased use of the yard and side porch. In addition, discussions regarding the options for enlarging the opening in the back living room wall have continued and are yet to be resolved.

II. THE IDEA

Programs are the heart of Emeriti house. These currently include: Weekly Tuesday or Wednesday programs, the Life Writing Workshop, the Poetry Series, and Current Events (bi-weekly on Monday). In addition, three receptions punctuate the calendar: The holiday party (December), the art show reception (late April, early May), and the vice provost’s reception for newly retired faculty and librarians held in November.

**Weekly Programs:** During fall semester (APPENDIX A), Emeriti House offered 26 events attended by at least 609 persons, while during the spring semester, 34 events were attended by at least 842 attendees. In all, therefore, 60 program events were attended by at least 1,451 people. In effect, 5 more programs were offered than in 2016–17, while program attendance dropped by only 21 people compared to the previous year. This means, once again, that the capacity of the house was frequently tested, raising once more the question of how best to configure and furnish the presentation area of the living room.

As was the case in 2016–17, the attendance figures are driven largely by the series of regular weekly programs. Thus, one must again credit the significance of the efforts made by Program Committee co-chairs, Geoff Conrad and Tim Londergan, assisted by Nat McKamey and Program Committee members: Bob Arnow, Bonnie Brownlee, Consuelo Lopez-Morillas, George Malacinski, Tony Mescher, and Bill McGregor (ex officio).
Current Events: Despite the cancellation of one session in fall 2017 and two sessions in spring 2018, the bi-weekly current events discussions have become well established with more people signing up as moderators. Attendance normally ranges between 12 and 35 people with a big spike in interest when a controversial and specialized topic is being discussed – such as, the panel discussion of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict – when 35-40 people showed up to participate; indeed, the session ended by calling for another discussion (part II) in fall 2018.

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.

Bookshelf: The spontaneous contribution of a refinished bookcase from Larry Thibos has enabled a new service: the Emeriti House Bookshelf. The goal is to create a book swap operating on the honor system principle of “take a book and bring it back when you are finished.” The Bookshelf accepts donations by Emeriti House friends. That the shelves are growing slowly and selectively suggests that the bookcase is not being used as dump by retirees.

Receptions: The December holiday party continued the festive traditions of earlier years with good food and wine accompanied by home grown entertainment provided by Jack Carpenter and Peter Bailey sharing the piano bench. Once more, Tine Lindemann and George Malacinski served as hosts assisting Nat McKamey in preparing a well-decorated house filled to capacity with guests enjoying each other’s company and an extensive buffet, catered by Cynthia Moriarty.

The April 27, 2018, art exhibit was also a festive event, showing off of a diverse array of creativity curated by the Art Committee (Chair B.J. Irvine, and Jerry Cherkoff, Audrey Heller, Ed McEndarfer, Joe Miller, Larry Thibos, Beau Vallance, and John Woodcock). In all, the show listed 46 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 and was joined by singer-saxophonist Opal Fly, and thus was born a new musical duo that continues to perform in the Bloomington area.

House improvements: The new A/V equipment, installed in Summer 2018, has transformed the presentation of weekly programs. Nat McKamey and the presenters can now easily manage the new technology. The motorized screen can be viewed easily from the back rows of the living room as well as spaces beyond the living room (i.e., front hall and office behind the living room). In short, the house can now support presentations and programs of nearly any kind, including music performance. Great credit is due Steve Riggins, Property Manager in the IU Real
Estate Office, the renovation crew supervised by Mike Prince, Facilities Maintenance Coordinator in the IU Real Estate Office, and a team of A/V technical people who successfully managed a complex installation of ceiling-mounted electronics and motorized screen. The result is the up-to-date presentation environment Emeriti House now enjoys. Acknowledgement should also be extended to piano tuners and Zenon Montenez for the expert tech support.

In addition to financial contributions to the Emeriti House IU Foundation account, the house has also been fortunate to have received important, small donations in kind, including a refinished bookcase (noted above) and an electric hot water teapot, donated by Phil and Elaine Emmi. All of the contract work and contributions have made the house increasingly comfortable and functional for the diverse gatherings that now use the house, including the several faculty writing groups (non-emeriti) using house facilities throughout the week.

**Conclusions:** Resolution of the most immediate programmatic challenges also sets the stage for new ideas and ventures, especially as initiatives might involve connections between the emeriti and the community outside the physical house. For example, the EH outreach function remains underdeveloped, but holds some potential for emeriti to contribute to the general welfare of the campus as well as the larger community. Or, to take another example, there was, at one time, strong interest in a culinary program in which a complex meal was prepared and served to a large group from the house kitchen – a facility that is more than adequate for catered annual receptions and the preparation of refreshments served at regular programs, but not for much more. Yet a culinary program could be sustained were it to be expanded to include local restaurants and retiree homes *in addition to* the confines of the house kitchen.

There are other examples of possible initiatives that might extend beyond the physical place. For example, crowd size at several presentations, and even current events, suggest that the advisory board might consider scheduling larger venues for bigger events – a practice already established in the programs jointly sponsored by Emeriti House and the IU Retirees Association – such as those that might be stimulated by the run-up to the 2020 election season. One clear conclusion is that more expansive thinking about the role of Emeriti House invariably leads to a more aggressive use of technology – especially the Internet and house Web page – to provide information and networked connectivity as house programming responds to a broader definition of what active retirement might mean.

Currently, Emeriti House now coordinates with two other partner organizations: The IU Retirees Association (IURA) and the Faculty Club. Close coordination with IURA is particularly important to ensure Emeriti House weekly programs and IURA monthly meetings are not competing for the same dates and times. In addition, the Emeriti House Coordinator, Nat McKamey, now serves as the IURA Web site owner and also backstops the IURA email address system; this contributes institutional support and stability to an important campus retiree organization.
Finally, Emeriti House currently does very little to monitor and catalogue current and significant emeriti achievements. Yet, as a sweeping generalization, it seems clear that the collective body of emeritus professors and librarians represents an enormous stock of productive human capital. As former director, Richard Stryker, noted in his Fifth Annual Report (October 2012):

“...our emeriti taught courses at IU and elsewhere, gave lectures around the world, continued research in their fields, served as docents in the art museum, advisors to the individualized Major Program, interviewers of Wells Scholars applicants, Student Advocates, and volunteers for a wide range of agencies and forums across Bloomington, IU and beyond. They are a vital and continuing resource for this university.”

At this writing, it is not unreasonable to assert that, ‘the best is yet to come.’

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

PROGRAMS OFFERED DURING FALL SEMESTER 2017

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

Aug. 28  **Current Events at Emeriti House**, a nonpartisan, moderated discussion of the facts and events that define the news and great issues of the day

Sept. 6  **Tom Hustad**, Professor Emeritus, Kelley School of Business, “The Evolution of Piano Styles in Jazz Captured in Video”

Sept. 7  **Poetry Series with Don Gray**, Professor Emeritus, English

Sept. 11  **Current Events at Emeriti House**, a nonpartisan, moderated discussion of the facts and events that define the news and great issues of the day

Sept. 13  **Paul Muldoon**, IU’s **Patten Lecturer**, Poet and Professor of Creative Writing, Princeton University  
[http://patten.indiana.edu/lecturers/Muldoon-Paul.html](http://patten.indiana.edu/lecturers/Muldoon-Paul.html)

Sept. 14  **Life Writing Workshop with John Woodcock**, Professor Emeritus, English

Sept. 19  **Fred Cate**, Vice President for Research and Professor, Maurer School of Law, “Cybersecurity Insecurity – the Challenge of Securing the Data and Systems on Which We Increasingly Depend”

Sept. 20  **Provost’s Reception to Honor Emeriti Faculty, 3:00 – 5:00 p.m., IMU Alumni Hall**

Sept. 25  **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.

Sept. 27  **Nobel Prize in Chemistry, speaker Amar Flood**, Professor, Chemistry

Oct. 4  **Don Granbois**, Professor Emeritus, Kelley School of Business, “The Ruined Tudor Cottage: Restoration and History”

Oct. 9  **Current Events at Emeriti House**, a nonpartisan, moderated discussion of the facts and events that define the news and great issues of the day. **Milton Taylor**, moderator


Oct. 12  **Poetry Series with Don Gray, Professor Emeritus, English**

Oct. 18  **City of Bloomington’s Mayor John Hamilton**, J.D., Maurer School of Law

Oct. 19  **Life Writing Workshop with John Woodcock**, Professor Emeritus, English

Oct. 23  **Current Events at Emeriti House**, a nonpartisan, moderated discussion of the facts and events that define the news and great issues of the day. **Phil Emmi**, moderator


Nov. 1  **Charlotte Zietlow**, former president, Bloomington City Council, “Political Change in Bloomington: The Real Story”
Nov. 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.
Nov. 8  No program here; we encourage attendance at the Vice Provost’s
reception!
Nov. 10 Vice Provost’s Reception honoring newly retired faculty, 4:00-5:30
p.m., Emeriti House
Nov. 14 Sandy Dolby, Professor Emerita, Folklore and Ethnomusicology, and
David Weaver, Professor Emeritus, Journalism, “Folk Music”
performances
Nov. 16 CANCELLED: Life Writing Workshop with John Woodcock, Professor
Emeritus, English
Nov. 18 Private Event: Moya Andrews’ memorial service for Pat Grossman
(Invitation only) 3:00p.m.
Nov. 20 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.
Nov. 22 No program scheduled. Thanksgiving on Thursday, Nov. 23. Emeriti
House is closed both Thursday and Friday.
Nov. 28 Poetry Series with Don Gray, Professor Emeritus, English
Nov. 29 Steven Raymer, Professor Emeritus, Journalism, “Somewhere West of
Lonely, My Life in Pictures”
Nov. 30 Life Writing Workshop with John Woodcock, Professor Emeritus,
English. Rescheduled from Nov. 16.
Dec. 4 Current Events at Emeriti House, a nonpartisan, moderated
discussion of the facts and events that define the news and great
issues of the day, Bill McGregor, moderator
Dec. 6 No program here; we encourage attendance at the Holiday Party!
Dec. 8 Holiday Party hosted by Tine Lindemann & George Malacinski
Dec. 14 Life Writing Workshop with John Woodcock, Professor Emeritus,
English

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APPENDIX B

PROGRAMS OFFERED DURING SPRING SEMESTER 2018
Events are scheduled for 4:00 p.m. on Wednesdays unless otherwise noted

Jan. 10  Emeriti House & IURA co-sponsored event: Matt Bailey, President of IU Health Bloomington and South Central Region, “The Great Hospital Move,”

Jan. 17  Tom Hustad, Professor Emeritus, Kelley School of Business, “A Survey of Jazz Vocalists”

Jan. 18  Life Writing Workshop with John Woodcock, Professor Emeritus, English

Jan. 22  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 (SPEA), will moderate this opening session.

Jan 24  Alexander Dzierba, Professor Emeritus, Physics, “Science and Nature Photography”

Jan. 25  Poetry Series with Don Gray, Professor Emeritus, English

Jan. 31  Jim Sherman, Professor Emeritus, Psychological and Brain Sciences, “Benefits for Retired Faculty Members”

Feb. 5  Current Events at Emeriti House, a nonpartisan, moderated discussion of the facts and events that define the news and great issues of the day.

Feb. 7  Dan Calarco, Chair, SafeIT taskforce (IUB), and Chief of Staff, Office of the Vice President for Information Technology, “Don’t take the bait: How to educate yourself to avoid phishing scams” (with Nitocris Perez)

Feb. 13  2017 Nobel Prizes in Physics and Physiology, speakers Charles Horowitz, Professor, Physics (Physics: discovery of gravitational waves) and Tony Mescher, Professor Emeritus, Medical Sciences (Physiology: molecular mechanisms controlling Circadian Rhythms)

Feb. 14  Emeriti House & IURA co-sponsored event: Joe and Ruth Miller, “Personal Experiences with the Peace Corps,” Note: venue is the Peterson Room of the IU Foundation, Showalter House (SR46 Bypass), 2:00 p.m.

Feb. 15  Life Writing Workshop with John Woodcock, Professor Emeritus, English

Feb. 19  Current Events at Emeriti House, a nonpartisan, moderated discussion of the facts and events that define the news and great issues of the day, Bill McGregor, moderator

Feb. 21  Gregory J. Kasza, Professor Emeritus, East Asian Languages & Cultures, Political Science, “Why the world is more dangerous than it was 30 years ago: North Korea in the second nuclear age”

Feb. 27  Kathleen Hall Jamieson, Patten Lecturer, Elizabeth Ware Packard Professor of Communication, University of Pennsylvania, “An Intellectual Biography”
March 5  Current Events at Emeriti House, a nonpartisan, moderated discussion of the facts and events that define the news and great issues of the day, Bill McGregor, moderator

March 7  2017 Nobel Prizes in Literature and Chemistry, speakers John Schilb, Professor, English (Literature: Kazuo Ishiguro) and Joseph Che-Yen Wang, Ph.D., Electron Microscopy Specialist, Chemistry (Chemistry: cryo-electromagnetic phenomena)

March 11 Spring break - No programs scheduled this week

March 19  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

March 21  Storytelling with George Malacinski, moderator, Professor Emeritus, Biology (Selected emeriti will share their stories.)

March 22  Life Writing Workshop with John Woodcock, Professor Emeritus, English

March 26  Poetry Series with Don Gray, Professor Emeritus, English

March 27  Michael Burawoy, Patten Lecturer, Professor of Sociology, University of California, Berkeley, “An Intellectual Biography”

April 2  Current Events at Emeriti House, a nonpartisan, moderated discussion of the facts and events that define the news and great issues of the day, Bill McGregor, moderator

April 4  Peter Bailey, Professor Emeritus, University of Manitoba, and Opal Fly, Professional Musician and massage therapist, a duet performance of piano, saxophone, and vocals, with humorous interjections

April 10  Provost’s Reception honoring Newly Retired Faculty, 5:00-7:00 p.m.

April 11  Emeriti House & IURA co-sponsored event: Ben Brabson, Professor Emeritus, Physics, “Climate in the 21st Century”  Note: venue is the Peterson Room of the IU Foundation, Showalter House (SR46 Bypass).

April 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, George Malacinski, moderator

April 18  Breon Mitchell, Director Emeritus, Lilly Library Rare Book Collections, “Treasures of the Lilly Library,” on-site event, meet inside the Lilly Library. Participants must reserve a space in advance by emailing emeriti@indiana.edu no later than April 13. Space is limited.

April 19  Life Writing Workshop with John Woodcock, Professor Emeritus, English

April 25  No program here; encourage attendance at the Opening Reception!

April 27  Opening Reception, Emeriti House & IU Retirees Association Annual Art Exhibit

April 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, Kadhim Shaaban, special moderator

May  Emeriti House & IU Retirees Association Annual Art Exhibit runs Monday – Friday, 9:00 a.m.–noon, 1:00–5:00 p.m.

May 1  Poetry Series with Don Gray, Professor Emeritus, English

May 8  **Susanne Schwibs**, Senior Lecturer, The Media School, and Producer/Director for WTIU-TV, the film “Beautiful by Design,” on IU’s campus architecture and grounds

May 9  **Emeriti House & IURA co-sponsored event:** Dinner at Meadowood Retirement Center, 5:00 p.m. Contact iura@indiana.edu for more info or see the website at: [http://www.indiana.edu/~iura/](http://www.indiana.edu/~iura/)

May 14  **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.) (A/C unit replacement in progress)

May 16  **No Program**

May 17  **CANCELLED:** Life Writing Workshop with John Woodcock, Professor Emeritus, English

June 21  Life Writing Workshop with John Woodcock, Professor Emeritus, English (Rescheduled from May 17)