WSU Retiree Center
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WSU Retiree Center Mission
To support the mission of WSU and enrich the campus community as well as the lives of retired staff, faculty and administration by providing institutional connections between the University and retirees who may wish to continue their intellectual and social participation in collegial life and service to the University.

Advisory Board
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Grandparents University 2012 - June 21 & 22
Becoming a Soil Detective (top photo) was popular with grandparents and grandchildren alike! Nothing better than making a friendship bracelet with the help of REAL college students!! (bottom photo)
Director’s Report

WOW – what a summer! I hope you are all staying cool and drinking lots of water. It makes me wonder what winter will bring, but we’ve all spent many years in Minnesota so we will cope with whatever Mother Nature throws our way.

We are pleased to welcome our new President, Scott Olson, to Winona State. Many of you had the opportunity to meet him at the July 19 Ice Cream Social. In fact, I heard someone comment that it seems very fitting to have an “Olson” serve as president of a Minnesota university. If you should see him on campus or in the community, please introduce yourself. I am also excited to report that I am no longer the “Interim” Retiree Center Director. I think all of the good vibes you were sending my way paid off! I have thoroughly enjoyed the last year with the Retiree Center and I’m looking forward to many more. Please don’t hesitate to call me or stop by the office with suggestions for programming, volunteer opportunities, or social events.

We have an exciting schedule of fall Senior University classes. Carol Jefferson is leading a class, Reading the Woods, comprised entirely of field trips to area parks. If you want to learn more about Minnesota trees and other indigenous flora and fauna, this is the trip for you. Jim Bromeland is teaching Election 2012, an analysis of campaigns, elections, and political parties in American politics. Topics include how well do campaigns inform voters, how important is money in conducting a winning campaign, how do voters make decisions, and how do campaigns, elections and parties fit into models of democracy? Tim Forester is offering what he describes as “a brief, lively (and sometimes surprising) history of Protestantism in the United States.” The Protestant Experiment in America will focus on basic themes, challenges and characteristics of Protestantism in American history. Janis Martin is a genealogy expert who will lead you on the path to answering the question, “Who Do You Think You Are?” If you would like to discover your lineage and document your ancestors, Janis will provide the knowledge and tools to start your journey. You may register online at http://winona.augusoft.net; contact the Retiree Center at 507-457-5565 if you have any questions.

The new retiree parking permits have arrived! If you have not received one, please stop by our office at the Alumni House (corner of Winona and Wabasha Streets). Remember, this permit allows you to park in any campus lot and it hangs nicely on your rearview mirror. If you see Don Walski or Scott Bestul, thank them for extending this special privilege to WSU retirees.

Take care and stop by to visit soon,

Ann Kohner
Director, WSU Retiree Center

P.S. I hope to see you at the August 14 Retiree Breakfast in the Purple Rooms of Kryzsko from 9:00 to 11:00. Unless something unforeseen develops, President Olson plans to attend the breakfast, so it would be a great opportunity to meet him.
**WSU Arboretum Project Is Underway**

by James Reynolds (Sociology, Retired), Nancy Reynolds (Alumna ’66, ’70; Retired Winona Educator), and Bill Meyer (Senior Groundskeeper, Retired)

WSU often receives high praise from hundreds of campus visitors annually about the beauty of its grounds and their maintenance. Current and retired employees, too, are able to enjoy on a daily basis the varieties of flowers, trees, shrubs and ornamental grasses that are so attractively arranged across campus. An effort is now underway at WSU to establish the campus as an arboretum that will support undergraduate education (the campus as a “living laboratory”) and help make WSU a destination-point for public education in species native to the State and S.E. Minnesota region. This would further distinguish WSU as a campus-of-innovation within MnSCU since, to our knowledge, no other state university has taken similar steps to utilize its campus in this way. Does this project hold interest for you? Read on.

The WSU Arboretum Work-Group on which we volunteer is comprised of current and retired faculty, students, administration and community members, and is engaged in laying the groundwork for the arboretum. Among the projects being worked on are establishing an All-University Arboretum and Land Stewardship Committee (including vision, mission and goals statements), planning and acquiring plant species native to the State and local region (e.g., trees for the our campus’s “Minnesota Collection”), developing an application for the “Tree-Campus U.S.A.” designation from the Arbor Foundation, supporting and recruiting interested campus and community groups to assist with landscape maintenance and restoration, developing promotional materials and activities (e.g., signage, brochures, advertising, campus tours, etc.), helping establish an “Arboretum and Land Stewardship Fund” through University Advancement, and supporting the development of undergraduate curriculum, public education programs, events and activities centered on the campus arboretum. Sound ambitious? Want to get involved?

If you are interested in getting involved with the Arboretum Project, there are some things you can do. For example, if you or others you know would like to contribute a memorial gift to the arboretum (e.g., funds to purchase trees, flowers, shrubs, ornamental grasses) for a family or friend, this can be done through University Advancement. Perhaps you would like to help with campus tours, advertising, public education events, and if so, we would like to hear from you. Or maybe you would like getting some exercise by helping maintain the goat-prairies on Garvin Heights or develop recreational trails in the woods of the Krueger Oak Savannah (east of Garvin Heights). Of course, financial donations are always welcomed through University Advancement and would be used for the general development (e.g. signage, new plantings), maintenance and restoration of the campus landscape. As you can see, the Arboretum Project can make use of all of the interests, talents, and contributions of its retiree volunteers.

If you would like more information or want to get meaningfully involved in the Arboretum Project, please contact Jim Reynolds (jreynolds@winona.edu; 454-5486) or Nancy Reynolds (nreynold@hbci.com).

Cheers for now!
A Change to the Retiree Center’s Living History Project

The annual Retiree Center’s Living History Project will adopt a new approach to conducting retiree interviews in 2012-13. From 2005 to 2011, Professor Robin O’Callaghan, Mass Communication Department, and her television production students produced over twenty high quality video documentaries recording the careers of WSU retired faculty, staff and administration. These documentaries are now in the process of being permanently archived and made available for future historical and promotional purposes.

Robin has recently accepted a new position in the WSU Teaching, Learning and Technology (TLT) Department where she will continue to share her expertise in technology with faculty in support of their teaching. The Retiree Center Board and staff are very grateful for Robin’s enthusiasm and commitment to the Living History Project over the years and look forward to exploring new ways that the Retiree Center and TLT can collaborate on mutually beneficial projects.

The new approach to the Living History Project is called Retiree Snapshots. This new format will permit more retiree’s stories to be recorded than in the past and permit interested students as well as retirees and others to become involved conducting interviews with honorees. The recording technology to be used is very simple (even fun), so interviewers need have no concern about the use of complicated forms of technology.

This new approach involves becoming familiar with the interview questions, learning how to turn on and off the video camera and enjoying a relaxed but structured conversation with the retiree being honored. The total interview would take about 15-20 minutes, and can be done anywhere (e.g., at the Retiree Center, on campus, at home, at a Retiree Center event, etc.). Once completed, the interview may be edited and then re-recorded and permanently stored on the University’s computer-server for future use. We hope this new approach to the LHP will result in more interviews being completed, continued intergenerational interviewing between WSU students and retirees, and more retirees doing interviews with one another.

We thank those who submitted Living History Project nominations this spring. As we work on Retiree Snapshots and continue to find innovative, interdisciplinary approaches to recording these amazing stories we will honor these deserving individuals.

The Retiree Center staff and Living History Project Committee will be further developing and testing the “Retiree Snapshots” format over the summer months and hope to have it in place by fall 2012. If you are interested in assisting with this project or be an interview subject, please contact Ann Kohner, Director, Retiree Center at 457-5565 or akohner@winona.edu.
Announcements

WSU classes start August 27

Learning Club Open House
August 16 - 9:00-Noon
Kryzsko SAC

Retiree Fall Reunion
October 17; 4-7pm

Sign-up for Generations Connect kicking off this fall*

*See page 7 for details
Reading the Woods with Carol Jefferson
Four 3-hour field trips in local woodlands in Bluff Side Park, Garvin Heights Park/Krueger Woods, Prairie Island Park and Agahaming Park & Preserve. Learn to see the small details in the woods that tell a greater story of forest history, ecological interactions, invasive species and human impact.
Date: September 18, 25, October 2, 9
Time: 12:30-3:30 p.m.

2012 Election: The Candidates, Elections, Results with James Bromeland
“Hear ye! Hear ye! The polls are now open!” This interesting and timely course will survey the candidates, issues, political strategies, campaign finances (PAC’S and SuperPAC’S), voter behavior and results of the upcoming 2012 Presidential and Congressional elections.
Date: October 18, 25 & November 1, 8
Time: 3-5 p.m., Maxwell 158

The Protestant Experiment in America: Themes and Challenges from Colonial to Modern Times with Tim Forester
A short history of Protestantism in the United States, focusing primarily on basic themes, challenges and characteristics during each era of American history. Social, economic, political and other influences will be considered. A reading list will be made available.
Date: November 7, 14, 21, 28 & December 5
Time: 1-3 p.m.

Who Do You Think You Are? Janis Martin
Who are you? Where did you come from? Join Janis Martin, genealogical researcher and lecturer, as she reviews the possibilities for documenting your ancestors and discovering your lineage and aids you on the journey to discovering who you are.
Date: November 27 & December 4, 11, 18
Time: 2-4 p.m., Maxwell 257

Register online at: http://winona.augusoft.net
“Brain-er-cise” at the Socrates Cafe!

OK, so you exercise your body but how about your brain? Do you want to stretch your thinking and grow new dendrites? Then come to the next Socrates Café discussion group to develop more brainpower! We are an amiable group that discusses a wide range of challenging topics. The group meets on the fourth Thursday of each month from 2:00 to 4:00pm (see calendar below) at the Retiree Center. No attendance, no tests, and no required reading are pluses. Just bring your life experience, a healthy curiosity and an interest in reasoned discussion. Come and challenge your intellect and expand your horizons in a relaxed but stimulating environment. Refreshments are provided. Contact Jim Reynolds at 454-5486 or jreynolds@winona.edu to be put on the email list for notifications of meetings and discussion topics, or consult the Retiree Center’s website at www.winona.edu/retiree/index.asp for more information.

August 23, 2012
September 27, 2012
October 25, 2012
Not meeting in November or December
January 24, 2013
February 28, 2013
March 28, 2013

The only way in which a human being can make some approach to knowing the whole of a subject, is by hearing what can be said about it by persons of every variety of opinion, and studying all modes in which it can be looked at by every character of mind.

John Stuart Mill

Please let us know if your address or email changes, so we can keep you informed of Retiree Center events.

Contact the Retiree Center at 507.457.5565 or Ann Kohner at akohner@winona.edu.

Generations Connect
A collaborative mentoring and coaching program between the Retiree Center and the Advising/Tutoring Services Department

This program is open to all Winona State retirees and is designed to facilitate learning and support students through either a coaching or mentoring experience. Coaches and mentors will meet with students at mutually agreed upon times in mutually agreed upon places, which can be on or off campus. Coaching is task related, academically focused and short term, with specific goals related to study skills, time management or other similar issues. Mentoring is relationship based and may be longer-term. Mentors share knowledge and wisdom with students, helping them connect to Winona State and make the most of their college experience. Training for both coaching and mentoring is provided and is free.

Contact Ann Kohner at the Retiree Center for more information 507.457.5565.

Necrology

Deb Salyards
Wife of Donald Salyards
June 13, 2012

We honor and mourn our University colleagues who have recently died. We recognize the richness of each life, the gifts these members have brought to many, and the loss felt by family and friends.

(Full obituaries available on the WSU Retiree Center Website: www.winona.edu/retiree/memoriam.asp)
If you know of colleagues we have missed, please contact Retiree Center at 507.457.5565, or send an email to retiree@winona.edu.
Retiree Center SAVE THE DATE

August 14: Retiree Breakfast, 9-11 a.m., Purple Rooms, Kryzsko Commons
August 16: Learning Club Open House, 9-11 a.m., Student Activity Center, Kryzsko Commons
August 23: Socrates Cafe, 2-4 p.m. Alumni House
September 11: Retiree Breakfast, 9-11 a.m., Purple Rooms, Kryzsko Commons
September 27: Socrates Cafe, 2-4 p.m., Alumni House
October 17: Retiree Fall Reunion, 4-6:30 p.m., Dinner served, Alumni House
October 25: Socrates Cafe, 2-4 p.m., Alumni House

Parking Notice: Effective immediately, retirees with parking permits can PARK ANYWHERE on campus. This includes all gold and silver lots. If you don’t have a parking permit, please visit the Retiree Center.

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