

THE BEACON

UMKC Emeritus College

umkc.edu/emeritus

Fall 2017

From the Corner Office

By Bibie Chronwall, Dean, UMKC Emeritus College



As we welcome the Fall Term, there are exciting updates to the Emeritus College office. Immediately noticeable are the drapes, gently screening the view through the glass wall. The lamp has a different shade, and the big news is the fridge/freezer, microwave, a coffee urn and cabinets for storage of party supplies.

As members of the EC, you have access to the facility. Occupy a cubicle to work in peace or bring along a research colleague for brainstorming ideas. Use the little conference room to advise a student or gather a group for a game of bridge. For members wanting to start a book club, the EC is the venue.

Our popular monthly programs have been scheduled for both fall and spring (see page 3). The discussions are lively and interesting. Feel free to bring your spouse and/or friends or a fellow Emeritus faculty you would like to become a member.

Our partnership with the Consortium for Aging has solidified. The board will now have regular meetings in the EC, and the events will be announced on our website. We and UMKCRA will be co-sponsoring an event on October 20th on Elder Law, details to follow.

Our neighbor the Faculty Center for Excellence in Teaching (FaCET) has a new director – Candace Schlein, Assoc. Professor of Curriculum Studies in the School of Education. She envisions the direction of FaCET to concentrate on the enhanced support and retention of new faculty members in addition to general programming directed at faculty professional development for success. Moreover, she looks forward to working with the EC for mentoring leadership across programming endeavors. A FaCET conference on September 7 will focus on ePortfolios.

Other things are happening on the east side of the MNL 2nd floor. You will notice that the stacks are

gone and some construction may be ongoing. High on our Provost's list of interests is a faculty teaching and learning commons within MNL. The goal is to develop the space adjacent to the EC and FaCET for UMKC Online. With the current fiscal restraints, it may take time to develop the facility. However, in the meantime we hope to learn and interact more with UMKC Online.



EC members enjoying the recent upgrades to the office.

Happy Trails!

By Bill Eddy, Professor Emeritus, Bloch School

Whether you call it walking or hiking, opportunities in greater Kansas City for this healthy and enjoyable activity have increased many fold in the past 30 years. When Dick Ballantine and I began searching for hiking trails (off road, more than a mile long, clear path) we were hard pressed to find pathways that we could call "real" hiking trails. We pursued park maps, newspaper clippings and outdoor organizations' newsletter and often spent more time looking for trails (and sometimes getting lost) than actually walking on them. How things have changed—for the better!

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Members Spotlight

Linda Breytspraak



Linda's students come from all age-groups, from tutoring in reading and doing classroom activities with 3-5 year olds in the Operation Breakthrough program to classroom and online teaching of undergraduates. She serves as adviser to graduate students in the Gerontology Program that she was the primary developer and administrator of at UMKC, and she remains an active member in the campus-wide Consortium for Aging in Community. As a board member of the national advisory board of the Shepherd Centers of America, she supports educational programs for the elderly.

Her voice is also heard while singing in a choir and interest in music rings clear as she plays in a handbell group. Being a grandparent takes Linda and her husband to Denver and Washington D.C. for babysitting. In addition, they have done more travelling with trips to France, Switzerland, Italy and New Mexico.

Amrita Burdick



You may have walked by the Hiroshima-Nagasaki memorial exhibit at the Miller Nichols Library featuring Hiroshima Peace Museum posters including images of bombed buildings and persons. It was heart-wrenchingly, researched and coordinated by two other members of PeaceWorks KC along with Amrita, formerly a librarian at the Health Sciences Library.

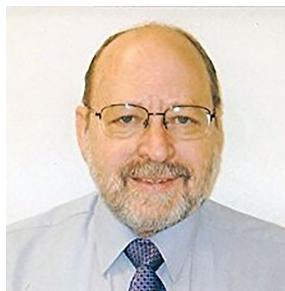
Using her archival expertise, Amrita continues transcribing audiotapes of Sunday lectures of an East Indian sage. The project has slowed a bit as she passed 50 audiotape transcriptions, but she is hoping these can be edited and compiled into a book.

Amrita participates in social justice, environmental and peace activism in the KC area—sometimes writing

letters to the editor. (Her most recent letter was about KCMO planning and zoning committee meetings.) As a volunteer with KKFI radio, Amrita recently did interviews for program about Kansas City water rates.

"Retirement is all about having fun and trying to make others' lives better!"

Patrick Peebles



Pat retired in 2008 from the Department of History but has kept himself quite active in his area of specialization—the history of Asia, in particular of Sri Lanka (known in prior times as Ceylon and was governed by the British). It remains one of the reasons for

Pat's international travels, about twice a year.

In recent years, Pat and Mary have travelled to Scotland, Turkey, Spain and England, where research in London and the archives of Durrum Castle (where they stayed as well) is contributing to the expansion of the History of Sri Lanka, 1833-1850. It is growing into a multi-volume book project.

Pat has taught in the Missouri London program and has several more books published. While the recent summer storms have caused only limited damage to his precious garden at home, he has also been busy spraying for a fungus that wiped out all his annuals this year.

For the coming season, he has been audacious in buying season tickets to University of California-Berkeley football games to enjoy those games with his son there. He really enjoys his varied retirement life.



Provost Bichelmeyer welcomes new emeriti members.

Save November 13 on Your Calendar

Our Annual Fall Dinner and Program (Monday, November 13) is rapidly approaching, and we want you there!

Please join us for cocktails and dinner followed by an interesting and informative program, “Desperate Castlewives of Medieval Britain,” presented by Dr. Linda E. Mitchell, Martha Jane Phillips Starr/Missouri Distinguished Professor of Women’s and Gender Studies and a Professor of History.

Dr. Mitchell will take us behind the scenes with those pesky Normans who conquered so much of medieval Europe, especially those areas on the “fringes”—the British Isles, Sicily and southern Italy, and Antioch and Cyprus during the Crusades—and the ways in which their notion of castle life shaped the physical and cultural landscapes of the medieval West. Her talk will reveal the many ways in which women—often erased from standard political historical narratives—shaped this notion, from designing castle components to defending them against invasion, to transforming them into comfortable living spaces when the danger of invasion lifted. And she will finally answer the burning question, “Did King Edward I really imprison the Countess of Buchan in an iron cage and dangle her over the wall of Berwick Castle in 1306?”

Most of Dr. Mitchell’s research focuses on the period between 1100 and 1400, an era when the Normans spread to their widest point, and on the networks of aristocratic and noble families that formed in the wake of the Norman conquests in England, Wales, Ireland, and Scotland. Her particular area of interest is the famous knight William le Marshal and his wife, Isabella de Clare, who was heiress not only to the earldom of Pembroke in Wales, but also the kingdom of Leinster in Ireland. This made them the Power Couple of the late twelfth and early thirteenth century. Their five daughters ultimately inherited the vast Marshal estates, and it is these families that Dr. Mitchell’s work has centered on in her thirty-year academic career.



Save-the-Date: Monthly Programs for 2017-18

Come and enjoy our programs and other happenings at MNL Room 226 (just follow the arrows) where new and old friends gather. Bring a friend!

Fall 2017:

- Sept 11 **“Building a City of Readers”**
Mike English, Exec. Dir., Turn the Page KC
- Oct 9 **“Lepidoptera: Beneficial and Beautiful Butterflies & Moths”**
Dr. James Murowchick, UMKC Department of Geoscience
- Oct 20 **“Planning for Exceptional Aging”**
Rusty Fracassa, JD and Katie Schwenk, LMSW; 2:30 - 4pm, UMKC Administrative Center | Plaza Room; RSVP to 816-235-5201
- Nov 13 **“Desperate Castlewives of Medieval Britain”**
Dr. Linda E. Mitchell, UMKC Department of History

Spring 2018:

- Jan 22 **“Community Gardening in Community Gardens”**
Ben Sharda, Director at Kansas City Community Gardens
- Feb 12 **“The Evolution of Charles Darwin”**
Dr. William Ashworth, Jr. UMKC Dept. of History and Linda Hall Library
- Mar 12 **“Remembering the Heartland: By Foot and Paddle across the Great Plains”**
Dr. Patrick Dobson, author, writer, and scholar
- Apr 9 **“The Legacy of J.C. Nichols and the Country Club District”**
LaDene Morton, author of fiction and non-fiction
- May 14 **“Happy Trails!”**
Dr. William Eddy, Professor Emeritus, UMKC Bloch School

EC History: How We Began

Appointed by Provost Gail Hackett as a project in the UMKC Strategic Plan, a Working Group for an Emeritus College at UMKC was established.

- January 14, 2011: Working Group for an Emeritus College at UMKC first met
- 2011-2012: Emeritus College proposal drafted and space design/remodel began
- March 2012: The UMKC Emeritus College Proposal was submitted to the Provost
- September 2012: Proposal approved by the Provost
- November 2012: Bibie Chronwall appointed as Dean of the UMKC EC
- 2012-2014: Fundraising for EC space remodeling, furnishing and equipment began
- February 14, 2014: Bylaws approved by Provost
- February 19, 2014: Launching reception held by Provost at Diastole
- February 2014: Membership recruitment began and brochure designed
- October 9, 2014: Remodel completed and official opening of the Emeritus College

Where We Are 2015-2017

- Doubled membership
- Held 20 scholarly and social programs and events
- Established partnerships with SEARCH, FaCET, Graduate Writing Program, UMKCRA, Honors College and the Consortium on Aging
- Developed process for maintaining a database of Emeritus Faculty members
- Installed donated artwork
- Redesigned website
- Purchased refrigerator, microwave, printer, furnishings and supplies
- Created the EC newsletter "THE BEACON;" first issue Spring 2017
- Grew the EC Endowment fund to \$11,000

We are finishing the year strong—accomplishing the many goals we set.

Looking Ahead in 2018-19

- Business plan; more publicity; more fundraising
- More programming with our partners
- Bolster recruitment of newly minted emeriti

A Call for Art, and It Happened

When the EC offices first opened its door in 2014, we had new furniture, six computer stations, and three private offices. However, the walls were bare and in need of wall decoration. So, we created an opportunity for our members to donate art and contribute their own art.

Leon Robertson began our art collection with a large framed oil and a triptyc of galaxy and planet nebulas we call "space art." Later, we received two small landscapes-by-the-sea from the daughters of James and Vera Olson. It was a wonderful start. Since then, we have several groups of photographs with differing styles and themes donated by our members ranging from digital designs transformed from a photograph, and other photographs of street and architectural shots, candid and nature photographs. Our largest piece is a 6'x10' tapestry of beautiful weaving. We called for art and it happened. Come see our gallery and stay for the other happenings at MNL, Room 226.



Vibrant art on the Emeritus College office walls create a welcoming and inspiring environment.



Members enjoy the ambiance at Diastole during the launch reception on 2/19/2014 held by the Provost.

EC Partners with UMKC Consortium for Aging in the Community

The goal of the EC is to provide opportunities for its members to continue contributing their creative, intellectual, and scholarly talents to the mutual benefit of the University, the members themselves, and the community, promoting social relationships and enhancing intellectual growth. That is exactly what a gerontologist would suggest to support optimal aging, says Joan McDowd, Director of the UMKC Consortium for Aging in Community!

Thus, we have begun a partnership with the Consortium as part of our mission to share our talents. The Consortium is a diverse group of about 30 UMKC faculty who have interests in aging. The group meets quarterly in the EC space, and an emeritus faculty member is represented at their meetings. The mission is to educate students, generate knowledge, and provide service with the goal of improving aging in our community. The EC fits well into the vision of vibrant academic-community partnerships in interdisciplinary education, research, and programming.

The EC is collaborating with the Consortium on several projects. We are planning a community forum to educate and inform the larger community on the politics of Medicare. We have also started planning a broader conference on aging that takes advantage of the expertise present with our emeritus faculty. In addition, we are planning activities involving students preparing for professional careers as well as social activities that engage the community.

As our partnership grows, a variety of activities will be planned to support the mission of both our groups. This partnership is a great example of how the EC can contribute to the mission of the University as well as support the interests of the EC. We will continue to look for opportunities to build partnerships and involve emeritus members in the activities of the University.



Bill and Linda Eddy on one of their many hiking adventures—living as they teach us to do.

Happy Trails (*continued*)

It's now hard to keep up with the many new trails being built. The latest edition of our book contains 125 trails and the number has grown significantly since the book was published.

Anyone with a comfortable pair of shoes, a water bottle and a good hat can spend many enjoyable hours on trails within a mile of the center of the city. Extend the distance to two hours and find yourself walking in solitude in forests and prairies.

In addition to our book, *Hiking Kansas City* (available in book stores or pebblepublishing.com) contact the MidAmerica Regional Council (MARC) for a comprehensive trail map for ideas on where to hike. MARC is a leader in encouraging and supporting trail development. The park departments of counties and the larger cities can provide maps and trail directions. The Missouri Department of Conservation's Anita B. Gorman Discovery Center adjacent to the UMKC campus is also an excellent resource.

If you chose a rustic trail other than a short, well-travelled urban route follow these guidelines: let someone know where you are going and when you expect to return, carry water in warm weather, know your limits and don't walk alone and make sure a cellphone is in your pocket.



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**Find us at:
umkc.edu/emeritus**

Take Advantage of Your Membership!

Remember, your first year of membership to the Emeritus College is complimentary. Consider becoming a regular member and take advantage of the amazing benefits offered to members—office space; social gatherings; intellectual discourse and dialogue; research and scholarly activities; thought-provoking programs—just to name a few!

Become a member and explore the possibilities. Go to the EC website now and register!

