

# THE BEACON

UMKC Emeritus College

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Spring 2018

## From the Corner Office

By Bibie Chronwall, Dean, UMKC Emeritus College



We all remember our own graduation ceremonies, as well as when students got their diploma – the pomp and circumstance, the expectant students, proud families, the traditions, the cheers, and the speeches combining words of wisdom with humor. We, who took part in the commencements, discovered it is not too late to re-live the atmosphere. Participating in the ceremonies serves us and our Emeritus College. We are still a connected and an active part of the education system.

Our third Annual Dinner was a success. It's always a fun and lively time when we are together for dinner and programs. The period-costumed guests and castle centerpieces captured the theme of Linda Mitchell's presentation "Desperate Castlewives of Medieval Britain" based on her many years of research on the topic and infused with humoristic details.

The Monday speaker series was multi-faceted. Mike English from Turn the Page KC, an organization devoted to improving the reading proficiency of young children, stirred our teacher-hearts. Jim Murowchick revealed the beauty and beneficence of butterflies and moths accompanied with a good portion of science. With UMKCRA, we learned to plan for exceptional aging with Rusty Fracassa and Katie Schwenk.

Spring and Fall semesters of 2018 invite you to more exciting programs and opportunities to socialize. "Random Collisions" is a collaboration with the UMKC Consortium on Aging in the Community. It is an unstructured get-together with participants from consorted groups with libations and snacks. Hopefully, you can attend the "Healthcare in America: What's Age Got to Do With It?" announced separately by e-mail. A special and dear event was an Emeritus College open house for MNL librarians and staff – a great mingle and conversations over libations and sumptuous finger-food.



Interim Chancellor and Provost Bichelmeier addressing the crowd at the Mid-Year Commencement.



John and Kathy Killip modeling their medieval attire at the Annual Dinner.



EC members are fascinated by the moths and butterflies from Jim Murowchick's collection.

# Members Spotlight

## Marilyn Carbonell



Marilyn Carbonell is a double emerita, as a UMKC Librarian IV and from the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art. With her husband Prof. Emeritus David Weinglass, they were both involved in the study of English art, primarily the late 18th and early 19th centuries, specifically, the Anglo-Swiss painter Henry Fuseli and his circle. Marilyn was fascinated by the early punk artists of New York and Zürich Dada's art movement in early 20th century, such as the Baroness Elsa von Freytag-Loringhoven.

She is a reader of mysteries, primarily those featuring set in libraries, museums, or galleries. One highlight of her 42-year professional career is requesting and receiving an original cartoon from Charles Barsotti, internationally known KC cartoonist, for the 1991 program cover for the annual conference of the Art Libraries Society of North America hosted by Kansas City. Marilyn, known for her volunteer work, includes the advisory board for KCUR 89.3 Public Media.

Note: Marilyn will present the October 8th program at the Nelson-Atkins, Spencer Art Reference Library, 2nd Level of the Bloch Building. The museum is closed on Mondays, but special security arrangements will be made to open the doors from the parking garage directly into the Bloch Building. The usual parking fee for non-members will be waived for this program offered to emeriti and their guests.

## Lyndal Holmes



Reams could be written about Lyndal's interests and activities. Actually, he has written some himself – a book containing 80 short stories about family, growing up and the Vietnam War. He is a sought after speaker for high schools and churches. His knack for storytelling and deep interest in history enhances his

talent for restoring old family movies and making DVDs for his high school reunions (working on the 60th). With his wife, he is helping to restore a one-room school house in Phelps, Missouri. He is a tree-trimmer, too. Forever the dentist, Lyndal continues to inspire dental students and to practice for those in need at the City Union Mission.

Lyndal's recent memorable experiences: a day at Whiteman Air Force Base learning to fly a B-2 Stealth Bomber in the flight simulator and being invited to Dick Cole's (Doolittle's co-pilot) 100<sup>th</sup> birthday party and getting a signed copy of his book.

## Denis Medeiros



Denis has loved his life as an academic gypsy. A native of Connecticut, he earned his degrees from Illinois State, Central Connecticut State, and Clemson University followed by serving on the faculties at Mississippi State, University of Wyoming, Ohio State, Kansas State, and UMKC from where he retired last year.

The fourth edition of his book, *Advanced Human Nutrition*, will be published this year. In addition, he will continue to publish peer refereed articles, do some consulting this summer on grant development for another university, continue his board service with the Emeritus College, and his commitment as Vice President and President-Elect of the UMKC Retirees Association. He says, "This will keep him connected to his academic roots."

Since retirement, Denis said he has more "me" time which takes him to the gym most every morning for two to three hours through the Silver Sneakers Program. Besides running, he has a cross-training workout and a weight lifting program. He chooses the weight bearing exercise which is critical in maintaining muscle mass at an elderly age.

Travel is in his plans with his wife, Susan, to spend more time back east, more fun time with grandchildren, visiting with neighbors he didn't know, and making new friends elsewhere. "Right now," he says, "doing nothing seems to be ideal."

# Spring Reading Suggestions

The following are titles and authors submitted by your Emeritus College members. Thank you for sharing with us the books you enjoyed!

**American Nations: A History of the Eleven Rival Regional Cultures of North America** by Colin Woodward explains the red state-blue state myth. (Linda Breytspraak)

**The Bookman's Tale** by Charlie Lovett is a Shakespearean mystery thriller. (Jennifer Martin)

**Death in Yellowstone: Accidents and Foolhardiness in the First National Park** by Lee H. Whittlesey is a great book if you are curious about the ways of nature and man. (Steven Driever)

**The Dialectic of Freedom** by Maxine Green is a great intellectual journey. (Dianne Smith)

**A Flag Worth Dying For: The Power and Politics of Flags** by Tim Marshall and **The Rise and Fall of Adam and Eve** by Stephen Greenblatt. (John Ezell)

**Hero of the Empire: The Boer War, a Daring Escape, and the Making of Winston Churchill** by Candice Millard is intense and uncompromising. (John Ditto)

**Instrument Commercial Manual** by Jeppesen Sanderson is a technical textbook providing the most complete explanation of aeronautical concepts for pilots. (Ed Christopherson)

**Legends and Lies of the Civil War** by Bill O'Reilly and **Dunkirk** by Joshua Levine. Survival and enduring are always gripping topics when accomplished with such bravery. (Lyndal Holmes)

**The Lost City of the Monkey God: A True Story** by Douglas Preston is about a 500-year old legend, an ancient curse, and a pioneering journey into the heart of the world's densest jungle. (Jane Knapp)

**Pushing the Limits: From West Point to Berkeley and Beyond** by storyteller and maverick

writer, Ted Hill and **The Poincaré Conjecture: In Search of the Shape of the Universe** by Donal O'Shea. (Norton Starr)

**Quantum Labyrinth** by Paul Halpern is a biographical depiction of Richard Feynman and John Wheeler, front-rank scientists who helped develop many of the aspects of modern quantum mechanics. (Charles Wurrey)

**Quiet: The Power of Introverts in a World That Can't Stop Talking** by Susan Cain is expository and thought-provoking. (Lynda Bonewald)

**A Sand County Almanac** by Aldo Leopold is an older environmental classic known as one of the most important nature works ever published. Leopold has a way of looking at nature with a poet's heart. (Amrita Burdick)

**Saxton Tales** by Bernard Cornwell is a re-imagined, real history of the emergence of England in its struggle with the Vikings around 900 A.D. (Jakob Waterborg)

## In Memory of Patrick Jesaitis

In the Fall 2017 issue of THE BEACON, the EC art gallery was introduced. Sadly, Patrick Jesaitis, the creator of four exquisite photographs, passed away in December 2017. "Pat" was a professor in the Bloch School of Business.

Along with photography, his diverse interests included social justice issues and travelling. Founding Member, Leon Robertson, asked his friend, Pat, to donate his photographs to the Emeritus College.



# Faculty Diversity Dialogues

By Stephen Dilks

In Fall 2015, the UMKC Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion sponsored a series of meetings with faculty, staff, and students to discuss what we are doing, and what we might do to sustain and improve the work being done to make our campus more diverse and inclusive. For me, these conversations started when I joined UMKC in 1997, when colleagues in the English department who are now Emeritus, Ralph Berets, Linda Voigts, and Bob Willson, challenged me to use my experiences growing up in England and Scotland to infuse my teaching.

In my work with colleagues including Syed Hasan (Writing across the Curriculum), Bibie Chronwall (FaCET), Jacob Waterborg (Faculty Senate), and Charles Wurrey (CAS Dean's office), I have learned that the most productive conversations about diversity are careful and sensitive but also open and honest.

In this spirit, faculty from the two main campuses (Benevides, Dilks, Hunter, Igwe, Nilsson, Santee, Shafee) convened regularly from Fall 2015 to Spring 2017 to figure out how to engage faculty across the university in “difficult conversations” about systemic racism and sexism, about power and language, and about cultural and other differences that make a difference. Throughout, the group insisted that the goal should be to identify specific changes we might make at the institutional level to make UMKC a better place to work for ALL faculty while improving how we engage with students, staff, and the Kansas City community.

In summer 2017, the ad hoc group submitted a formal proposal for the Faculty Diversity Dialogues program. In Fall 2017, the program convened four pairs of sessions (each session held at the Miller-Nichols Library and the Health Sciences Building on consecutive lunch-times), addressing invisible bias, flashpoint issues in the classroom, and the recruitment and retention of under-represented faculty. We also hosted open dialogue sessions designed to let faculty shape future conversations and policy proposals.

Those who are interested in the program may contact me directly at dilkss@umkc.edu. You may also wish to join the “Diversity Dialogues” LISTSERV for updates about the schedule of meetings.

## Monthly Programs for 2018

Mar 12	<b>“Remembering the Heartland: By Foot and Paddle across the Great Plains”</b> Dr. Patrick Dobson, author, writer, and scholar; 3:00-4:00 pm, MNL 226	Oct 8	<b>“Notes From the Past: The Karen Gould Collection of Medieval Manuscripts”</b> Marilyn Carbonell, librarian emerita and head of Library Services at the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art; also, featuring Prof. William Everett’s graduate students performing selections of Medieval music; 3:00-5:00 pm at the Nelson-Atkins
Apr 9	<b>“The Legacy of J.C. Nichols and the Country Club District”</b> LaDene Morton, author of fiction and non-fiction; 3:00-4:00 pm; MNL 226	Nov 12	<b>Emeritus College Annual Dinner - “Navigating a Life: Henry Bloch in War and Peace.”</b> John Herron, Department of History and Associate Dean, CAS; a program on the American spirit during World War II of our own Henry Bloch and others; 5:30 pm at Pierson Auditorium
May 14	<b>“Happy Trails!”</b> Dr. William Eddy, Professor Emeritus, UMKC Bloch School; 3:00-4:00 pm; MNL 226		
Sep 10	<b>“The Consortium on Aging in Community: What’s It All About?”</b> Dr. Joan McDowd, Professor and Director, Experimental Health Psychology Ph.D. Program; Director Gerontology Programs 3:00-4:00 pm, MNL 226		

# Floating Down the Mekong

By Jakob H. Waterborg

What is on my bucket list? Until I retired, I didn't even know what that was and certainly did not have or make the time to ponder what I would put on it. Then a medical disaster slowed me down – and almost stopped me – and I thought about it. "Floating down a foreign river with a woman by my side" became one of my entries.

By now, this wish has been fulfilled twice! In 2016, I floated in luxury, supplied by Viking's customary care, among the civility of central Europe down the Danube through Vienna to Budapest with Marjan, my wife, by my side. Lavishly supplied with rest, food and culture, I recovered some body mass and refreshed my historical insight in this part of Europe where I had travelled by moped, bus and train many decades ago. What more can a man want? I answered that question by an urge to discover real foreign lands, tantalizing cultures at the other side of our shrinking globe. However, despite shrinking, 24+ hours of flying were too much for Marjan, but our youngest daughter Linda, the traveler in our family, was game – and the perceived necessary chaperone.

What is more foreign than Hanoi with its Hanoi Hilton, crazy moped traffic, and a communist history which now successfully engages in the global capitalist competition? What is more intriguing than multiple ninth-century temple complexes sinking in Cambodia's jungle where Buddhism merged with Hinduism in fantastic sculptures and ginormous fig trees pry apart the *Tomb Raider* temple walls? What is more gut wrenching than walking the killing fields of Phnom Penh, that recent reincarnation of Auschwitz, where you can hear from living survivors how inhuman fellowmen can be and a few years later again be part of a thriving society where U.S. dollars are still the common currency?

I once again selected Viking River Cruises because they are superb in not only feeding your body in relaxing luxury but also in supplying a constant stream of educational opportunities. Local guides explain historical contexts. Local movies let you recognize how minds and cultures are different. Visits to unique local factories and hearing insights from crafts(wo)men about local economies and family lifestyles that remain hidden on commercial tours.

Linda and I took so many pictures and little movies! We enjoyed the modern conveniences like the wifi in the bus and hotels, before and after the Mekong cruise portion of our trip, and on the ship when we were far from any town. We able to share our progress and well-being daily through Facebook with selfie pictures of the two of us – called "ussies" – and respond to the questions sent from the home front. Overall, a worthy bucket list experience, well worth repeating, but I think that I'll try something really new next time.



*In sight: Angkor Wat—the largest religious monument in the world. UNESCO has set up a program to safeguard this symbolic site and its surroundings.*



*Jakob enjoying a refreshing coconut drink!*



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## **Pen-Palling a Sophomore**

By Linda Edwards

The Emeritus College often gets interesting requests from UMKC professors for specific kinds of assistance. These range from providing students editorial help through the Graduate Writing Committee, judging entrepreneurial business plans aimed at targeting the interests of older adults, to evaluating final portfolios of students in the University College. This past semester a request came from Dr. Amanda Grimes in the School of Nursing for “pen pals” to correspond via email with individual students in her class “Health Issues in Aging” (HLSC 230). Goals of the assignment were to increase appreciation of older adults, gain comfort in engaging older adults, and to increase knowledge of how older adults stay healthy, both physically and psychologically.

Julie (not her real name) and I corresponded once or twice a week throughout the fall semester. Some of our exchanges were health related (“what health advice would I give now to a 20 year old; did I take my health seriously as a younger person”) but many times we discussed dorm living, the importance of family, what’s good and/or challenging about UMKC from our different perspectives, the current political situation, and career aspirations and confusions. I looked forward to hearing from her and found the experience interesting as it gave us both the freedom to go beneath surface pleasantries.

Part of Julie’s assignment was to complete journal entries describing her experience and her “changing perceptions of older adults and the aging process” (language from the course syllabus). Of course, I will never know if this happened for her, but as for myself, I have a new and expanded appreciation of the life of a UMKC sophomore.