

EMERITI HOUSE  
INDIANA UNIVERSITY  
SECOND ANNUAL REPORT

Richard E. Stryker, Director

January 2009

This is the second annual report on IU's Emeriti House, intended to inform interested faculty, administrators and staff about the activities at and development of Emeriti House. The current report covers the 2007-08 academic year and fall semester of 2008-09.

For an overview of the origins of Emeriti House (EH), its committee structure, mission, funding and staffing, please see the first annual report, on our website: [www.indiana.edu/~emeriti/](http://www.indiana.edu/~emeriti/), where you may also find continuously updated information about the House and its events. See the addendum to this report for a listing of committee members and staffing during 2007-08.

### Programs (2007-08)

At the initiative of its Program Committee (chaired for the past three years by Jerry Chertkoff and for two years before that by the current director), Emeriti House has organized and hosted a growing number of programs: c. 25 during 2004-05 and 2005-06, 30 in 2006-07, and 40 in 2007-08. This pace was sustained during Fall semester 2008, when 20 more events took place.

Attendance by emeriti and their guests at EH events has grown from c. 750-850 annually in the first three years, to over 900 in 2007-08, and c. 600 in the first semester of 2008-09 (including the first annual Susan J. Eklund public lecture).

Presentations of **continuing research** by (mostly) retired faculty, remain a central focus of EH programming. Over the past three semesters these included physics for laypersons lectures on the universe and the atom, and on Einstein (Don Lichtenberg); the state of French-speaking communities in the US (Albert Valdman); culture and communication (Jim Naremore); the war in Afghanistan (Nazif Shahrani); George Sand (Gil Chaitin); Latin American political issues: Nicaragua (Bob Arno) and Cuba (Russ Salmon); an earlier "war on terror" in late 18<sup>th</sup> century

Britain (Ken Johnston); varied psychological explanations of hatred (Larry Friedman); the current economic situation (Morton Marcus); and others.

**Creative activities** of emeriti have been increasingly well represented, with music performances by Gary Wittlich on the new EH piano (Hoagy and Cole), Lew Rowell (21<sup>st</sup> century perspectives on musical icons), Mary Goetze (“World Music,” with audience participation), Roy Samuelson (Norwegian folk songs), Peter Bailey (autobiographical musings by a transplanted Canadian emeritus who grew up in Britain, and who also played for several end of semester receptions), and performances by two active Music School faculty groups (the Trombone Choir and a Clarinet Quartet).

EH hosted theatre performances by the Bloomington Playwrights Project and previews from a Bloomington Jewish Theatre production. Issues in film history were presented by Audrey McCluskey (images of African Americans in film posters) and Harry Geduld (visions of New York in film), along with the trailer from a new film (Santa Claus in Baghdad), based on a children’s book by Elsa Harik. Jeff Wolin presented his special photographic exhibit on Vietnam veterans at the IU Art Museum; Helga Keller offered perspectives on religion and literature through an examination of a series of masterpieces from the Museum; and Rosemary Miller described her own art and travel experiences.

**Institutional and social issues at IU and in Bloomington** were featured in a number of programs, including one on volunteer opportunities for emeriti at local museums: the IU Art Museum, the Mathers and the Monroe County History Museum. Talmage Bosin described the history of the IU-Kenya Medical Partnership; Patrick Brantlinger, Milton Fisk and Peter Kaczmarczyk led a panel discussion on privatization initiatives at IU.

The local community was the focus of several presentations, including Ken Heller on homelessness in Bloomington; Phil Stafford on aging and community; Greg Speichert on tropicals at Hilltop Garden and Nature Center; Charlotte Zietlow on Middle Way House; and members of the Bloomington Environmental Commission on progress towards a “greener” local community.

EH hosted some very **distinguished visitors** to IU through the Patten Lectureships: Richard Zare (Stanford, Chemistry), Martha Nussbaum (Chicago, law and philosophy), Gillian Beer (Cambridge, literature), James O’Donnell (Georgetown, classics), and Thomas Schelling (Maryland, 2005 Nobel Laureate in economics); through the Institute of Advanced Study: Charles Franklin (Wisconsin, political science); and through other sponsorships: Daniel Ellsberg (the noted journalist and anti-war activist), and Linda George (Duke, gerontology, discussed below).

A new and continuing series to work with emeriti engaged in autobiographical or **life-writing** was led by John Woodcock, with 2-3 sessions during each of the past three semesters. In parallel vein, Mary Burgan, a former IU English professor, presented aspects of her own life-writing with a focus on genealogy and the Irish in America.

**Other** presentations included a discussion session organized by Don Gray on mystery short stories; a return visit by Gerald Marker on maintaining the health of our computers; and a couple of human health lectures: Ann Elsner from the School of Optometry on age-related threats to sight, and Rob Stone (from the Bloomington Hospital Emergency Department) on the difficulties facing adoption of a single-payer health system in the US.

## Eklund Honorary Lectureship

Thanks to a grant from an anonymous donor and with additional support from the Office of the Dean of Faculties, Emeriti House sponsored the First Annual Susan J. Eklund Honorary Lectureship in fall 2008. Sue Eklund, distinguished professor emerita at the School of Education, was director of IU's Center on Aging and the Aged for 16 years. She also served as Associate Dean of Faculties before retiring in 2004 and (with Moya Andrews) was the inspiration behind and founding co-director of Emeriti House.

A committee of EH Executive Committee members evaluated a number of outstanding nominees for this first honorary lectureship and selected Linda K. George, Professor of Sociology and Psychiatry at Duke University, where she is also Senior Fellow in the Center for the study of Aging and Human Development. Prof. George is past president of the Gerontological Society of America and one of the country's most distinguished gerontologists. Her lecture, "Brave New World: Education and Aging Well," drew a large audience to the School of Education Auditorium on November 6, including Sue Eklund. Later, a discussion session led by Prof. George and a reception were held at Emeriti House.

Due to the success of this first lectureship as an intellectual occasion, as an opportunity to honor Sue Eklund and as a promotional event for Emeriti House, there is considerable support for seeking a second lecturer in Fall 2009.

## Receptions

In addition to the reception for Linda George, EH continued its tradition of organizing a special event each fall to honor the new emeriti cohorts (2007 and 2008), and to introduce them to the House and its activities. Attendance at these receptions is improving, but still modest; we need to do more to engage new

retirees. At the fall 2008 reception for new emeriti, our elegant living room bookcase, funded in part by an anonymous donor, was dedicated formally to Moya Andrews and Sue Eklund, with a plaque honoring them as co-founders of Emeriti House. Thanks to Janet Rabinowitch, Director of the IU Press, and to Joe Grant, owner of Academic and Scholarly Books in Bloomington, the bookcase now has at least the beginnings of a collection relevant to our mission.

At the end of each of the past three semesters, a “tasting party” has been held at EH to celebrate the House and new friendships. George Malacinski and Tine Lindemann have been the organizers of these efforts, which give the House more of a social and “club-like” atmosphere, a part of our mission gaining greater attention. A unique cooking/tasting demonstration in fall 2008 on pasta and sauces by Edoardo Lebano, furthered this goal and attracted one of the largest crowds (50) in the history of EH. The increasing number of musical performances have similar impacts on the esprit of the House. Less successful were the half-dozen brown bag lunch discussion sessions, each attracting only a handful of participants.

### Oral History Project

As described in the previous report on Emeriti House, the faculty Oral History Project collects histories of emeritus faculty on video and audiotapes. Under the direction of Don Gray, the project is now in its fourth year. He and his collaborators have collected over 150 videotaped interviews of retired IU faculty and administrators. With more than 300 additional retired faculty residing in the Bloomington area, and another 40-50 joining them each year, a long list of further interviews is planned. With the support of the Dean of Faculties Office and contributions by Don from his own research funds, typed transcripts of the interviews are being prepared, but this is a lengthy process. The completed transcripts and the tapes will be archived in both the University Archives and

at Emeriti House. Clearly, additional financial and human resources will be needed to sustain this on-going project in intellectual and institutional history, which will be of significant value in writing a new history of IU for its bicentennial in 2020.

### Annual Art Exhibit

The seventh annual Emeriti House Art Exhibit, in partnership with the IU Association of Retired Faculty and Staff (formerly the Annuitants Association), was held during the month of April 2008, with a large reception on the opening evening. The event featured over 50 highly varied and impressive mixed media works by 24 retired faculty and professional staff members and their spouses. John Woodcock and Bill Hansen served as co-chairs of the Exhibit's planning committee last year. Woodcock was also responsible for developing a continuing "Emeriti House Gallery," with a smaller, rotating number of works from the Exhibit being displayed in the House throughout the academic year.

### Parking and Access Issues

We are certainly fortunate to have such a lovely House for our retirement activities (a rare privilege, see the AROHE report below), located so close to campus and with a nearby parking lot. On the other hand, access to the House for at least some of our clientele from the Atwater Parking Garage is quite challenging. Atwater Street is very busy, with fast and heavy traffic at all times. The crossing at Faculty Lane is unsafe with poor visibility of pedestrians for traffic turning into the garage. The sidewalks on opposite sides of the Lane are not parallel and, most importantly, the sidewalk is narrow and uneven alongside Atwater leading to the House.

Only after reaching the front of the House is there a ramp for handicapped access. The only handicapped parking spaces are in

the rear alley, from which there is no access for wheelchairs or walkers to the ramp or the House. Consequently, we have few handicapped visitors and probably fewer than otherwise among those who may not feel able to navigate the Atwater stretch confidently. Our clientele, after all, is almost entirely retired and ranges from 65-90+ in age.

After extensive inquiries and discussions with IU officials, I have received confirmation that part of the vacant lot between Atwater Garage and Emeriti House will be graded and paved for our parking use. How much will be resurfaced, how many parking spaces provided, and how long this will take remain to be determined. We may only gain seven parking spaces initially, of which some would be designated for handicapped permits, with the others for “ARE” permits to park only at EH. The number of large, old trees on the lot is the primary obstacle to gaining more parking spaces, at least in the short run. We will proceed as quickly as possible and will keep our clientele informed.

### Association of Retirement Organizations in Higher Education

Indiana University was a founding member of the Association of Retirement Organizations in Higher Education (AROHE), which advocates for and serves retired faculty and staff in higher education at the national level. For background on this association, see the first annual EH report. The fourth bi-annual conference was held at USC in Los Angeles in November 2008. IU was represented by Don Gray, John Woodcock and Richard Stryker, who was elected to the AROHE Board. Gray described his Oral History Project, using videotaped excerpts, and Woodcock discussed his approach to Life-Writing workshops. Both presentations generated enthusiastic responses.

Among other conference highlights: James Birren’s autobiography program for retirees; a panel discussion with experienced retiree

organization directors; presentations on university-affiliated retirement housing; and a report on the national AROHE survey of 140 university retiree organizations which found, inter alia, that less than 5% have their own buildings on campus!

### Forthcoming Events

During spring semester, 2009, Emeriti House events include a discussion with a distinguished professor of English and African-American studies from Harvard (Patten Foundation), a report from David Parkhurst on rebuilding New Orleans, a biographical inquiry by Edoardo Lebano on comparing Lincoln and Garibaldi, several musical programs, three life-writing workshops, another mystery fiction discussion, the 8<sup>th</sup> annual EH art exhibit, Alex Rabinowitch on research in the Russian archives, presentation of a new lithograph series by Rudy Pozzatti and more.

In the past five years, Emeriti House has made clear progress towards realizing its mission of becoming a more visible, more valued, more institutionalized “environment to support the continuation of the intellectual and creative activities of retired faculty.” We intend to build further on these achievements.

Special thanks to Jeanne Sept, Vice-Provost for Academic Affairs and Dean of the Faculties (2004-08), Nat McKamey, Emeriti House Coordinator, and Tadewos Assebework, Emeriti House staff assistant, who contributed greatly to our mission during the period of this report, as did the following faculty committee members.

## Emeriti House Committees (2008)

### **Executive Committee**

Richard Stryker (chair)

Moya Andrews

Richard Carr

Jerome Chertkoff

Donald Gray

Robert Meier

Keith Michael

Joseph Miller

Joseph Waldman

### **Program Committee**

Jerome Chertkoff (chair)

Ernest Bernhardt-Kabisch

Gilbert Clark

Mary Goetze

Donald Gray

Audrey Heller

George Malacinski

Joseph Miller

David Parkhurst

Lewis Rowell

### **Art Exhibit Committee**

John Woodcock (chair)

William Hansen

Gilbert Clark

Richard Dever

Audrey Heller

Sandra Hertling

Ruth Miller