OLLI/EC Task Force Reports

An executive proposal developed by a joint task force of members of the Clemson University Osher Lifelong Learning Institute and the Clemson University Emeritus College recommending an ongoing partnership has been delivered to Provost Jones. This proposal was reviewed by the advisory boards of both organizations and has the enthusiastic endorsement of both directors. The task force members are:

Larry Allen, Dean Emeritus, College of HEHD
Chip Egan, Dean Emeritus, College of AAH and Interim Director, Emeritus College
Skip Eisiminger, Professor Emeritus of English
Lucy Eubanks, Lecturer Emerita of Chemistry
Larry Gahan, Alumni Distinguished Professor Emeritus of PRTM
Cecil Huey, Professor Emeritus of Mechanical Engineering
Del Kimbler, Professor Emeritus of Industrial Engineering
Fran McGuire, Centennial and Alumni Distinguished Professor Emeritus of PRTM
Lucy Rollin, Professor Emerita of English
Stuart Silvers, Professor Emeritus of Philosophy
Holley Ulbrich, Alumni Distinguished Professor Emerita of Economics
Julie Vidotto, Director, OLLI-Clemson

From Interim Director, Chip Egan

Summer has flown by and the Emeritus College has been very active on a number of fronts. Our Summer Speaker Series (detailed on pages 5 and 6), jointly sponsored by the Clemson University Osher Lifelong Learning Institute and the Emeritus College, drew large and enthusiastic audiences to the Cheezem Education Center on the second Fridays of June, July and August.

The OLLI/EC Task Force met in June and July and divided into three subcommittees to examine different features of a new and exciting partnership. The subcommittee reports were then knit into a single executive proposal, circulated to the advisory committees of both OLLI and the EC for comment, revised accordingly and forwarded to the Provost for review and possible action.

Faculty Senate President, Jim McCubbin, provided valuable leadership bringing a variety of issues relative to emeritus access to University resources to the attention of campus leaders. Multiple steps are being taken to align emeritus faculty privileges with those of current faculty.

Dan Warner, Yuji Kishimoto and Holley Ulbrich joined the Emeritus College Advisory Board in September 2015. A complete and current Advisory Board roster can be found on page 8.

I am honored to continue to work on behalf of such a distinguished and engaged organization as the Clemson University Emeritus College.
What’s Happening: Event Update

Emeritus Day 2015 on October 6, 2015, in the Ballroom of the Madren Center. A “vendors fair” begins at 10AM featuring such favorites as the Sullivan Center (offering flu shots), the Brooks Center, Pickens County United Way and OLLI. The luncheon begins at noon and features guest speaker Bob Jones, Provost. The 2015 Kenelly-Voss Distinguished Emeriti Award will also be presented.

Emeritus College Holiday Reception on Saturday, December 5, 2015, 6PM to 7:30PM, Cox Hall, 214 S. Mechanic St., Pendleton, SC, followed by Clemson Little Theatre’s production of 1940’s Radio Christmas Carol (ticket information at www.clemsonlittletheatre.com or 864 646 8100)

2015 OLLI/EC Summer Speaker Series

In a new collaboration, the Clemson University Osher Lifelong Learning Institute and the Emeritus College co-sponsored three speakers this summer at the Charles Cheezem Education Center. All three events generated a robust response and encouragement for future joint programming. See pages 6 & 7 for details.

(left—Vernon Burton; below—Mickey Harder)
Heartfelt thanks to our growing list of 2015 Emeritus College Donors!

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Emeritus College Technology Needs Survey Results
Office for Institutional Effectiveness and Assessment
Surveys Started: 230 Surveys Completed: 220

1. Do you need a Clemson University userid?
   Yes 157 73%
   No 58 27%
   Total 215 100%

2. Do you require access to Clemson University licensed software?
   Yes 158 73%
   No 57 27%
   Total 215 100%

3. Please specify the Clemson University licensed software programs to which you require access.
   Adobe Acrobat 113 73%
   Adobe Creative Cloud Suite 45 29%
   Clemson email (@clemson.edu) 145 94%
   Microsoft Office 137 88%
   Qualtrics 4 3%
   SPSS 9 6%
   Other 27 17%

4. Do you require use of the Library's subscription databases?
   Yes 88 43%
   No 119 57%
   Total 207 100%

5. Please specify the subscription databases to which you require access.
   Total Responses 62

6. Do you require the use of a Clemson University ID card?
   Yes 183 89%
   No 22 11%
   Total 205 100%

7. Do you require a parking decal?
   Yes 174 85%
   No 31 15%
   Total 205 100%

8. Are you interested in receiving campus mass communications (e.g., Inside Clemson)?
   Yes 176 85%
   No 31 15%
   Total 207 100%
Guest columnist, Patrick Cullinane, recently retired as director of the Retirement Center at the University of California, Berkeley. Prior to UC Berkeley, Patrick directed special projects at the American Society on Aging. Over 46 professional years, he has addressed many issues affecting older populations and rural health and mental health needs. He holds an M.S. in community development from Southern Illinois University and a B.S. in psychology from St. Louis University.

Transforming Retirement

Is America missing a treasure? Is higher education also missing treasured opportunities? Every year tens of thousands of faculty and staff retire from full time work in higher education and transition to next life chapters of 20 to 30 years. Many leave healthy and productive with valuable institutional knowledge and desire to be engaged and continue contributing to the best interests of their institution. It is time for this untapped resource to be engaged for the mutual benefit of the institutions. It is time to transform our vision for retirement in higher education.

The Retirement Problem

Higher education faces a “retirement problem.” First, colleges and universities across the land urgently need help in facilitating retirement of their aging faculty. Faculty members need personalized assistance in the sometimes unsettling process of retiring from academic institutions – preparing for it, passing through the transition itself and then fashioning a meaningful third age of continuing creativity and service. Second, the issue of retirement in higher education has national implications in terms of failure thus far to take advantage of the tremendous resource that an active retired professoriate and staff present.

Across North America, the 78 million baby-boom generation has begun to retire – 8,000 baby boomers every day in the USA; faculty and staff in higher education are well represented in this group. According to the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics (94 – Monthly Labor Review – November 2007) there are 1.54 million post-secondary teachers in the United State. The professoriate especially is visibly “graying.” This population is both living longer and staying longer in full-time employment. In 2013, a sixty-five-year old white female college professor could expect to live to age 85.5. (Table 7. Life expectancy at selected ages, by race, Hispanic origin, race for non-Hispanic population, and sex: United States, 2013, CDC FastStats website.)

Since 1994, the freedom from a statutory retirement age in the United States has affected academic retirement more than retirement from business or industry. Sharon L. Weinberg and Marc A. Scott in the Impact of Uncapping of Mandatory Retirement on Postsecondary Institutions, (NYU, New York, NY) (Educational Researcher: Accepted, June 24, 2013) noted that…Although only 11% of faculty who were subject to mandatory retirement remained after age 70 (those with special arrangements), we find after the law changed that 60% of faculty on longer subject to mandatory retirement are expected to remain employed beyond 70….

The Retirement Opportunity

A few programs have begun to emerge to address this trend. A key to success appears to be ways to support senior faculty in the process of approaching and transitioning into retirement. Such programs focus on making retirement a positive step into the future. AROHE is committed to transforming retirement in higher education. Our mission is to champion transformative practices to support all stages of faculty and staff retirement and their mutually beneficial engagement and continuing contributions.

Continued on page 7
CESP/CIS Programs - Opportunities to Serve

By Adolph Beyerlein

The Emeritus College produces and manages the Clemson English Speaking Proficiency (CESP) test for Clemson University international graduate students. Beginning with the 2015/16 academic year, 9 graduate programs used the CESP test to comply with Southeastern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) requirements and the South Carolina Code of laws for judging whether International Graduate Students have adequate English communication skills to serve as teaching assistants. This past fall, 52 international graduate students took the CESP test.

In Clemson University the CESP test competes with the Educational Testing Service TOEFL Speaking Section scores and the British Council IELTS scores. Video interview options for judging TA eligibility are also provided through CollegeNET. However the 9 graduate programs that use the CESP test are the programs with the largest number of TA’s and as a consequence almost all of Clemson’s international graduate students seeking a teaching assistantship take the CESP test.

A unique quality of the CESP test is that it is based on a one-on-one interview of the student with an Emeritus College faculty member who has a lifetime of experience in scholarship and education. This has earned the CESP test the trust of the graduate programs and the graduate school. The students like the one-on-one interaction with the Emeritus College faculty member. The testing had broad acceptance immediately after its initiation in the fall of 2013 by Diane Smathers, former Director of the Emeritus College.

Since 2013, 210+ students have taken the CESP test. The test is given during the orientation week of both the fall and spring semesters and during the first week in December. The results are immediately available to the graduate coordinators so they can determine eligibility for TA well before classes begin.

Parallel with the testing programs, the Conversations with International Students (CIS) program was initiated in 2012 to assist international graduate students in (i) improving their English, (ii) adjusting to life in Clemson, and (iii) learning about American Culture. Since beginning the CIS program in 2012 over 60 students have benefitted from participating in this program. The program involves one-on-one mentoring by faculty of the Emeritus College. The program is flexible and may be tailored to the individual students needs.

The CESP and CIS program provide Emeriti Faculty outstanding opportunities to serve Clemson University. Both programs are very important to graduate education and keep emeriti connected with the academic processes in the University. If you would like to volunteer as a grader or mentor or both for the CESP/CIS programs, contact Adolph Beyerlein, Emeritus College Curriculum Committee Chair at abrl@g.clemson.edu or Clifton Egan, Director of the Emeritus College at ECLIFTO@clemson.edu.
Thomas champions Clemson’s unacknowledged history

On Friday, June 12, Dr. Rhondda Thomas, Associate Professor of English, addressed a large and eager audience for the first event of the Summer Speaker Series with a presentation of her research into the multiple populations that have called the land we now know as Clemson University home. Beginning with the first humans to reside in this area and continuing through to the current highly diverse population, Thomas has been reconstructing the names, genealogy and livelihoods of the Native Americans and African Americans who make up a vital but not widely known or acknowledged feature of the history of Clemson.

Recently awarded a $100,000 grant from matching sources for her pioneering research, Thomas is using Clemson students enrolled in creative inquiry to help find and document the primary sources of information about the earliest years of the Clemson area’s history. Ultimately, Dr. Thomas hopes to help Clemson University re-imagine the public presentation of its history in such ways as historical markers, campus tours and promotional materials. Thomas believes that although aspects of the University’s history may be difficult, unpleasant or even cruel, presenting it accurately and embracing it fully can be an exhilarating and inclusive step toward making the metaphor of the Clemson Family even more meaningful.

Harder pulls back the curtain on the 2015-16 Brooks Center season

Mixing anecdotes and hair-raising backstage stories with the ultimate insider’s view of the often perilous business of performing arts presenting, Brooks Center Director, Mickey Harder, kept a full house at the Cheezem Education Center on July 10 on the edge of their seats. While taking the audience on a digital tour of the more than 50 nights of events scheduled for the Brooks Center in the 2015-16 academic year, Harder revealed just how selections of artists are made and integrated into the mission of the Brooks Center.

Built and operated with education as its highest priority, the Brooks Center seeks out artists who will participate in master classes, programming for schools and enrichment activities. Covering the breadth of the performing arts with an emphasis on up and coming artists allows Clemson to enjoy such world-class artists as pianist Lang Lang, three-time Brooks Center performer, while they are building their careers.
Transforming Retirement—continued from page 4

AROHE is a dynamic network of 100+ organizations, representing over 100,000 individuals that include retired faculty and staff associations, campus-funded retirement centers, emeriti colleges and other lifelong learning centers as well as campus departments such as human resources, academic affairs, development/advancement and alumni relations. AROHE has functioned effectively as a retirement coach and advisor for faculty and staff because it understands why academics and staff resist retirement. Once economic are out of the picture, it is the psychosocial aspect of retirement that figures most prominently. And, unlike other professions, academic professionals and senior staff/administrators in particular don’t refuse to retire out of fear of boredom. Rather, research has shown that the most important factor keeping faculty and staff from retiring is simply overwhelming job satisfaction as stakeholders in a community of thinkers and institutions created to develop greater good for society. Most say they love what they do and cannot easily conceive of not doing it. Academics and senior staff face retirement as the loss of a community that has given them their identity, and thus their very sense of self-worth.

Transformation Benefits

Higher education across America stands to benefit enormously if its retired faculty and staff are organized. These highly educated, talented people, whose personal skills and professional expertise, fairly demand to be channeled into productive activities. The evidence suggests, however that only structured campus-based options and retirement organizations can manage the very substantial job of compiling, coordinating and managing this richness of human resources. This situation has profound implications for the nation. Our academic retirees – scholars, researchers, teachers, administrators, directors, clerical staff and others – are among the best and the brightest citizens of this republic. They constitute a corps of intellectual and professional expertise the nation can ill afford to let lie fallow.

*Association of Retirement Organizations in Higher Education

Burton reconsiders the historical record for surprising Lincoln theories

Vernon Burton, professor of history and director of the Clemson CyberInstitute, is used to upsetting people. As one of the nation’s leading Abraham Lincoln scholars, it doesn’t take long for him to step on toes while revealing something about the nation’s 16th president that blemishes the patina we like to believe Lincoln wears. Burton held the Cheezem Education Center audience spell-bound on August 14 with fascinating details of Lincoln’s political strategies, horse trading and bare-knuckle ways of winning.

Employing some of the latest research techniques such as word-cloud analysis of Lincoln’s most famous speeches and writings, Burton theorizes what was truly on Lincoln’s mind or what rhetorical devises he was employing. As a polarizing figure to this day in the South, Lincoln remains controversial, and Burton traces the connections between Civil War history and current events. His research brings Lincoln to life in today’s racial and political climate.
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