The Chair’s Corner by Herlie Hendrix

Integrity, Service, Excellence, these are shared values of our emeriti. This year’s theme focuses on one of these, “Continuing to Serve.” We have over 800 retired faculty who have remained connected to Clemson University with approximately 92% living in the area. The Emeritus College has been recognized as one of the top programs for faculty in the nation due to the support of many of our emeriti, and the leadership of Diane Smathers, Director of the Emeritus College. Think of what we can accomplish if we can get more emeriti involved in continuing to serve Clemson University.

So how can you serve? The College has a number of ways for our emeriti to continue to serve Clemson University and the Emeritus College. I would like to encourage you to volunteer and serve on one or more of the Emeritus College committees (Policy, Curriculum, Development, and Faculty History), the board, or on other programs the college is actively supporting. I think you will find any of these rewarding and it’s a way of continuing to be involved in meaningful activities with other retired emeriti. To explore specific ways of serving contact Diane Smathers, our Director (864-656-3990, dsmthrs@clemson.edu.)

The spirit of volunteerism is what has made the Emeritus College so successful and given it the national stature it presently experiences. This spirit has resulted in some amazing accomplishments, considering the very limited resources and space allocated for the college. For example, past awards of the college include the Town ‘n Gown History Project, two creative writing courses, four STS courses and our university program, Roadmap to Retirement.

Your Emeritus College is looking to the future and is looking for space on campus as a home where emeriti can interact with other emeriti, have small discussion meetings, and work on projects. Toward that end such a facility will need computer and copying support, and desk space for emeriti activities. We hope to be able to find a suitable facility which provides adequate parking space for our emeriti. Your executive committee is submitting to President Barker a request for his assistance in finding a home for the Emeritus College which will assist the college in excelling in its theme of “Continuing to Serve.”

Advisory Board News

Matt Watkins from the Development Office addressed the January board meeting outlining ways in which their office could assist with the college campaign. The board moved to go forward with a collaborative effort.

Lucy Rollin provided an update from AROHE and noted that the organization will celebrate its 10th anniversary at the biennial conference, October 21-25 in Chapel Hill. The conference title is, Innovation for the Next Decade: A Triangle of Adventures in North Carolina. We hope to have a delegation from Clemson to attend.

Herlie Hendrix led a discussion about space and shared a draft letter to President Barker and Provost Helms. After much discussion and editing, the board voted to send the letter. New board members Adolph Beyerlein and Martha Duke were welcomed.
In Remembrance

Forrest Christopher Alley
Professor Emeritus
Chemical Engineering
1929—2011

Bernard Bayer
Professor Emeritus
Library Science
1933—2011
The Ohio State University

What’s Happening: Upcoming Events

Clemson University Faculty and Staff Senates are actively involved in completing the Habitat for Humanity home started on Bowman Field during Homecoming. The house will be home to a single mother and three children. If you are interested in donating time or resources to this worthwhile endeavor, contact Cathy Sturkie at coffey2@clemson.edu or 656-2456.

The work of two widely-known and popular local artists of the 20th century, Olivia McGee and Charles Councell, will be shown in the Clemson City Hall galleries from Jan. 16 through March 31 with a public reception set for Feb. 19. Both artists had close connections with Clemson faculty and students.

Their much-loved watercolors, oils and pen-and-ink sketches have lived on homes, museums and public buildings throughout South Carolina and beyond. The items in this exhibit are on loan from those private collectors and public institutions.

The Emeritus College, The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi, and the Brooks Center for Performing Arts will sponsor a public concert with Dr. David Northington, concert pianist and Phi Kappa Phi National Artist on Sunday, March 11, at 3:00 pm at the Brooks Center. Professor Emeritus John Butler will give an *informance* before the program and there will be a reception immediately following. Invitations will be mailed.

United Way of Pickens County is looking for volunteers to assist with the VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance) program. VITA offers free income tax preparation to families and individuals whose household income is less than $50,000. For more information, or to volunteer, contact Virginia Blowers at (864) 850-7094 ext. 133 or by email, vblowers@uwpickens.org

Aging Research Day
Aging: From Cell to Society
March 9, 2012 - Greenville Hospital System University Medical Center

Speakers include:

*Victor Hirth, MD* - Dementia - the Silent Epidemic
*Sue Levkoff, PhD* - Economic and psychosocial cost/impacts of dementia
*Don Schmechel, MD* “Memory Issues in Aging”
*Lotta Granholm, PhD* “Brain Bank”
*Julie Eggert, PhD, RN* “The Genetics of ‘Chemo Brain’ in Women
*Charles Bennett, MD, PhD, MPP* “Drug Safety”
*Bärbel (Barb) Rohrer, PhD.* “Age-Related Macular Degeneration (AMD)”
*Francis G. Spinale, MD, PhD* “The Cardiovascular System and Aging”
*Juan Gilbert, PhD* “Innovations Promoting Older Adult Use of Technology”.

This event, cosponsored by Clemson’s Institute for Engaging Aging, is open to the public but pre-registration is required. Contact coffey2@clemson.edu

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Success Stories: Emeritus Lunch at Seasons

Thirty-two emeriti and spouse/guest participated in the first emeritus Lunch at Seasons by the Lake on January 24. The event was so successful that it will be held again on April 24.

The summer newsletter will again feature pictures of emeriti travels around the world. Please send electronic photos to dsmthrs@clemson.edu. Be sure to state who is in the picture and where it was taken.

It’s time to be thinking about nominations for the Distinguished Emeriti Award. Criteria and the nomination form can be found on our website at www.clemson.edu/emerituscollege

The Campaign: Continuing to Serve

The 2011-2012 College Campaign, Continuing to Serve, is well underway. Many thanks to those who have already contributed. Without support of the emeritus faculty, the College could not achieve its goals. The undergraduate scholarships, the newsletters, Emeritus Day and other college events are possible through your generous donations. Please consider a gift to your college today.

If you have made a contribution and do not see your name on this list, please contact the college office immediately at 656-3990. To ensure that the College receives your gift in a timely manner, please send all checks directly to the College office.

Send a check, made out to Clemson University Foundation, to the Emeritus College, E 301 A Martin Hall, Clemson, S.C. 29634. Note Emeritus College on the memo line. You will receive a letter of thanks along with an orange, leather bookmark designed especially for the College.

$500—Gold Plus Level
Rob Roy McGregor
Ray Sawyer
Dave Senn
Diane Smathers
Ab Snell
Bud Webb
Bill West
Client Whitehurst
Harold Woodell
Art Young

$250—Gold Level
Adolph Beyerlein
Walt & Rameth Owens
Jerry Reel
Helene Riley
Paul Zielinski

$100—Silver Plus Level
Carolyn Briscoe
Farrell Brown
Bruce Cook
Joe Dickey
Larry Gahan
Bob Lambert
Don McKale
Wayne Patteson
Frank Paul
Lucy Rollin
Roger Rollin

$50—Silver Level
John Acorn
Joe Arbena
John Bennett
Walt Castro
Deuel Griffin
Ed Freeman
Herlie Hendrix
Almeda Jacks
Dick Klein
Max Loyd
John Syne
Marian Withington
Balancing Athletics and Academics
By Larry LaForge, Alumni Distinguished Professor Emeritus of Management

Followers of college sports are no doubt aware of recent athletic scandals at several prestigious universities including Penn State, Ohio State, Syracuse, North Carolina, and Miami. The shocking stories involve sexual abuse, academic fraud, recruiting violations, improper benefits to enrolled athletes, and unethical and/or illegal conduct by coaches and administrators. In some cases it appears that success of the athletic program was of paramount importance, causing a lack of monitoring and a loss of perspective on the role of sports at the institution.

Could these things happen at Clemson? The short answer has to be “yes.” Clemson’s aspirations for athletic success have never been greater, and history tells us that major NCAA violations can occur on our campus. It would be naïve to assume that we are suddenly immune to current issues at other top schools.

Understanding this vulnerability may be Clemson’s greatest asset in assuring overall compliance of the athletic program with institutional expectations and NCAA rules. In response to previous compliance issues, Clemson has worked hard to develop significant checks and balances to monitor athletics.

Three critical and interconnected campus entities must work together for Clemson to have the needed level of academic involvement in the athletic program. The key roles are the Faculty Athletics Representative, Athletic Council, and Faculty Senate.

The Faculty Athletics Representative (FAR) has responsibilities in all Clemson athletic activities involving academic integrity, rules compliance, and student-athlete welfare. The FAR monitors current and proposed NCAA legislation, attends numerous meetings to provide a faculty perspective on key campus issues involving athletics, communicates on a daily basis with administrators and campus constituent groups, and represents Clemson externally at various meetings of the ACC and NCAA. At Clemson the FAR has direct access to the President and Provost, and works closely with both the Athletic Council and the Faculty Senate. The Faculty Senate involvement is particularly important in maintaining academic integrity.

The above entities provide Clemson with a solid infrastructure to address the balance of athletics and academics. However, we should recognize that schools currently experiencing serious issues also have similar entities on paper. Fortunately, Clemson has the advantage of an institutional culture of collaboration that allows openness and communication, and an athletic administration that understands the importance of academic success and full compliance. We must capitalize on these institutional strengths, and trust and support our colleagues as they fulfill their roles in these important positions.

It’s more important now than ever.

Larry LaForge served as Faculty Athletics Representative at Clemson from 2006 – 2011. His new book is available at:
http://smashwords.com/books/view/118954

"Clemson has the advantage of an institutional culture of collaboration that allows openness and communication, and an athletic administration that understands the importance of academic success…"
Spotlight on.... Ireland Regnier

Cigarettes might have saved Ireland Regnier’s life. While serving in New Guinea during World War II, Regnier recalls being separated from his unit one day while out looking for wood. Following the sounds of chopping, Regnier crested a vine-covered hill only to realize that the sounds weren’t from his fellow soldiers but from the New Guinea natives. Luckily, he had a fortune in his pocket. He slowly produced his full pack of cigarettes and tossed it over, instantly becoming the natives’ best friend and, to them, the richest man in the country. They pointed around the bend in the direction of Regnier’s companions and he was on his way.

After the war, Regnier graduated art school and found work drafting and rendering for various architectural firms. For him, it was his way to pay the bills. His love was painting—not for just anyone, but for himself. Inspired by the work of early American modern artist John Marin, Regnier dove into the world of abstraction, creating paintings that are personally unique. “I repeat motifs, like landscapes, but in a different way. Like when you see a landscape and you go back to it a week later. It’s different.”

Denise Detrich, director of the Clemson’s Lee Gallery, notes that Regnier’s work stands apart from the romantic, awe-inspiring projections of traditional landscapes. “Regnier finds the beauty not in the grandiose, but the simplicity of light and sky, of being struck by the little spots in everyday life. His landscapes speak to a greater perspective on painting and on life.”

After teaching night classes at the St. Petersburg Junior College in Florida, Regnier made the move to Clemson. He began teaching painting in 1961 in what was then the School of Architecture, before the university had an official department of art.

A selection of Regnier’s work will be on view in the Lee Gallery at Clemson University, which will present Ireland Regnier Paintings: A Retrospective (1944–2011), from Jan. 17 through Feb. 16.

Editor’s Note: Reprinted by permission. The complete article by Kevin Human may be found http://www.clemson.edu/media-relations/4017/clemson-emeritus-professor-and-world-war-ii-veteran-celebrates-life-through-painting/

Book Review

by Rameth Richard Owens

This issue’s book note selection is Unbroken: A World War II Story of Survival, Resilience, and Redemption by Laura Hillenbrand (2010). Like her earlier saga, Seabiscuit, this is a work of non-fiction that reads like a first-rate novel. Once you pick it up, you’ll be reluctant to put it down.

Unbroken’s central character is Louis Zamperini, born in 1917 to Italian immigrants who soon settled in Torrance, CA. A feral boy, Louie had more energy than he knew what to do with, more than his parents could readily manage. As a young adolescent, his mischief repeatedly crossed acceptable lines, bringing the police to his parents’ door again and again. When he entered ninth grade, his brother Pete (in temperament a polar opposite) rescued him from an uncertain future, persuading him to go out for track. Physiologically gifted, he could run like the wind! Though he qualified for the 1936 Olympics, he was young, not yet at the peak of his performance. Next time around, in 1940, gold would be within his reach. By then, too, he was expected to be the first four-minute miler.

Of course, World War II intervened, cancelling the Olympics and sending Louie into the Pacific with the Army Air Forces. A bombardier, he and his crew engaged early in 1943 in their fiercest combat, a raid over Nauru, 2,500 miles SE of Hawaii. Their B-24 bomber limped home, riddled with 594 holes! On their next flight, a search and rescue mission in a different B-24, the plane stalled, ditching them in the Pacific. Louie, the pilot Phil, and one crewman, Mac, survived. Then began a 47-day ordeal during which they drifted 2,000 miles westward with only dye and flares, some fishhooks, and a few water tins for supplies. While losing half their weight, Louie and Phil reached within themselves to find ingenuity, resilience and optimism that enabled them to endure. (Sadly, Mac did not.)

Unfortunately, the land they touched was Japan’s. The most brutal trial of their lives followed, as they were subjected to unimaginable deprivation and sadistic cruelty. This, too, they endured, but Louie brought home with him seemingly unquenchable rage against the most heinous of prison guards, the Bird. Just as he hit bottom -- in danger of losing wife, daughter, everything -- he experienced an epiphany, managed to negotiate a 180-degree turn, and has since enjoyed acclaim and remarkable wholeness, serving troubled young men as a mentor. Amazingly, he’s both alive and well!

Hillenbrand provides vivid background for her story -- information about international track stars, losses of planes (six to accidents for every one in combat, 1943 Pacific theater), deaths among airmen (apparently more from accidents than combat), death rate among Japan’s POWs (an estimated 39% versus 1% among German-held POWs), and vast cultural differences separating western prisoners from their Japanese captors. She had the good fortune to interview scores of participants, to see their personal correspondence with family and friends, and to mine Louie’s own memoir as well as his many scrapbooks (one weighing 65 pounds). The story she tells is gripping, always fascinating, often amazing, sometimes infuriating, and finally uplifting. There are many instances here of unimaginable evil, but there is also much evidence of incredible endurance and remarkable triumph of the human spirit. On a scale of 1-10, definitely 10! (Amazon, $13.98; to borrow mine, <rrowens@clemson.edu>).
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www.clemson.edu/emerituscollege

Continuing to Serve

Calendar of Events

February..............................Newsletter
February 16...........No Power Point Seminar
March 11.......................Spring Concert
April 19......................No Power Point Seminar
April..............................Newsletter
April 24.........................Advisory Board Meeting

Emeritus Lunch at Seasons

Don't simply retire from something; have something to retire to.
— Harry Emerson Fosdick

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