

Emeritus College Survey 2009 Executive Summary

This report is based on a detailed statistical analysis of the results for the *Emeritus College Survey*. The results analysis included answers from all respondents who took the survey in the 34 day period from Thursday, February 05, 2009 to Wednesday, March 11, 2009. There were 112 completed responses received to the survey during this time.

Why people don't attend programs:

- Timing
- Busy with other things
- Feeling EC "doesn't fill a much needed gap"
- Health/Life elsewhere (including distance from University)
- Lack of social integration

Suggestions for future direction (quotes from Emeriti):

Scholarly Approach:

- **Research:** "Keep the support for research, retirement seminars, and ditch all the other nonsense."
- **Courses of study:** "The variety and emphasis on evening courses of study might be well to re-establish such as "illness prevention"; "Nutrition - foods to secure and foods to avoid" ... etc."
- **Current issues discussion:** "There is clearly a bias of information toward the nonsciences. There should be a forum (blog) which allows faculty to discuss contemporary ethical/biological issues"

Community Approach:

- **Emeritus Community:** "Develop an Emeritus Community to replace the disconnect that occurs upon retirement."
- **Go at their pace:** "Those just entering retirement may be a bit busy... we can keep tracking and encouraging them."

Multiple Approaches:

- **Emeriti as resource for university:** "EC should have two foci: to serve the University and to serve its members. Emeriti are an under-utilized resource."
- **Involving out of towners:** "Think about ways of involving those who live elsewhere. They will be coming in increasing numbers as faculty retire who have no lasting loyalty to Atlanta."
- **Benefits information:** "A concerted effort to catalog, collate and inform [Emeriti of benefits] would be appropriate."
- **Trips:** "Trips with Emory alumni and staff and not including other institutions."

Programs/Ranking

Personal Importance: Dorm Chats came in significantly behind the other events. Three of the higher ranking programs were Lifelong Learning Collaboration, Living History, and Museum Tours. We need to better structure Museum Tours.

Importance of EC Support: Dorm Chats were ranked low again. The Orange Gallery ranks a little higher in *personal importance* to emeriti, but is not ranked highly in *this* particular question, so its necessity is questionable. Lifelong Learning Collaboration is top and Living History is also ranked highly. In both questions, Retirement Seminars and Museum Tours reside in the middle.

Intended Participation: More people were interested in participating in or planning the following events: Lifelong Learning Collaboration, Living History, Museum Tours, and Retirement Seminar. Dorm Chats were at the bottom again.

Program Proposals: There was strong support for 1) developing an EC brochure, 2) hosting a New Retiree Social, and 3) creating and maintaining an online directory. There was also fairly strong support for the Ambassador Program and Summer Pre-College programs (both with OUE), and Emory Cares, which would require the EC finding co-sponsors for and/or community partners (OUCP?). There is support for the Emory Scholars program.

EC Participation: Responses indicate that we should spend more time recruiting people to work with us here in the office and on committees. We should also spend more time finding ways for the members to be involved with other campus organizations, and send out general calls for participation regularly.

Current Programs

1. Newsletter	Most people enjoy reading the newsletter, and many rely on it to keep them informed of ongoing events. More than a third refer to the online version. Suggestions: call for contributions, have the newsletter do a story on a project undertaken by an emeritus professor.
2. Breakfast/Lunch Discussions	Many people said that parking/access was <i>why</i> they don't attend. Additionally, <i>should we have more people picking topics to get more diversity?</i> Other reasons people don't attend: 1) too busy or time conflict, 2) too far away, 3) health conflicts, 4) newly retired and not yet involved/don't know anyone.
3. Conversations on Mid- and Late-life Transitions	Some people don't attend because 1) they are not interested in gender-specific activities, 2) distance, 3) too busy, 4) health, 5) don't understand what they are about 6) they are men.
4. Men's Stories	Several people remark that they do not attend because of parking difficulties, and 1/3 of respondents are not interested. Other reasons: 1) too busy, 2) distance, 3) lack of concern for "other people's problems" 4) they are women, 5) haven't heard about it, 6) health.
5. Writers' Group	A few people do not have transportation, and 4 mention parking/access as a deterrent. 40% are not interested. Other reasons: 1) Too busy, 2) didn't know about it or don't know what it does, 3) I'm not a writer, 4) I'm already a writer (so don't need it), 5) health, 6) already in a writers' group, 7) newly retired, 7) distance.
6. Alumni-Emeriti Teacher Celebration	A little more than a third of the respondents have attended these events (Emeriti are not the main audience). Reasons for not attending are mainly lack of interest (19) or other (28). Other reasons include 1) too busy, 2) "waste of time"! 3) too specific and not relevant, 4) distance, 5) health, 6) didn't know about it.
7. Distinguished Emeriti Spring Receptions	Those who did not attend either weren't interested (16) or listed the following: 1) too busy, 2) parking, 3) distance, 4) health, 5) no bond with other faculty, 6) didn't know about them or unclear about criteria.
8. Heilbrun Fellows Fall Reception	Responses indicate that respondents view this program favorably. Those who did not attend either weren't interested or listed the following: 1) too busy, 2) distance, 3) unaware, 4) health, 5) low priority, 6) haven't known recipients.
9. Toys for Tots Party	Those who did not attend primarily either had no interest, or: 1) too busy, 2) distance, 3) repetitive (w/ other groups), 4) health, 5) parking. Some responses indicated a lack of integration with this program and/or group or a desire to do something else, such as contribute to a children's hospital.
10. Meet Emory's Movers and Shakers	Those who have not attended mostly responded that they were uninterested (20%) or gave other reasons (25%). Other reasons for not attending included the following: 1) too busy, 2) distance, 3) know speakers already, 4) health, 5) didn't know about them.
11. Sheth Distinguished Lecture	Reasons for not attending are either lack of interest (less than 12%) or: 1) too busy, 2) distance, 3) didn't know about it (in time), 4) health, 5) lack of social integration. They appreciate accessing materials online, and the opportunity to hear from a "distinguished contributor" but one thought speakers are too specialized.
12. Spring Symposia	18 people noted that they like this program but a very small number (7) stated that it was an essential one. Those who did not attend either were not interested (although this number was relatively small: 17), or gave other reasons. Those included: 1) too busy, 2) didn't know about them (MANY), 3) distance, 4) newly retired, 5) health.