

The Emeritus

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Director's Report

Nan Partlett

Summer is upon us and a quiet lull has settled over the campus. I trust that many of you will have had a chance to travel this summer – perhaps to new places or to visit family whom you don't see nearly as frequently as you would like. Summer can be a time to renew relationships, a time to explore our world both literally and figuratively, and a time for taking stock.

For those of us in the Emeritus College office, summer is providing time to catch our breath and take stock of all that has taken place in the first half of 2009. When last I wrote, the Emeritus College was preparing for some changes and I am proud to report that much has been accomplished. Most of you received an electronic survey, and in some cases a paper survey, in February that asked very specific questions about the programs of the Emeritus College. We were pleased with our response rate and have learned a great deal from you about your opinions and dreams for the future. A summary of the results of the survey are available on our web site. I hope you will have a chance to look at those results which Charity Crabtree put together for us.

As you will certainly know, the Emeritus College is settling into its new space on the fourth floor of Building A on the Briarcliff Campus. Our new location next door to the Center for Life Long Learning is advantageous in many ways – not the least of which is that we have members drop in on their way to or from a class. We have three spacious offices and access to meeting room space. Both the OUCP (Office for University and Community Partnerships) and the MARIAL (Myth and Ritual in American Life) Project staff have been most gracious in sharing their meeting rooms, and we are utilizing the space for the monthly breakfast and lunch discussions among other events.

Right: Past Unsung Heroines gathered for a panel discussion in honor of Women's History Month as part of the ongoing Living History Project of the Emeritus College on March 5, 2009. Left to right: (Back) Marianne Scharbo-DeHaan, Mary Alice Clower, Brenda Bynum, and Dana Greene and (Front) Julianne Daffin, Betty Connell, Elizabeth Sharp, and Yung-Fong Sung . (see story, page 3).

The Emeritus College has a relatively new Executive Committee which has met three times since the beginning of the calendar year. Under the strong leadership of John Bugge, the Committee is giving thoughtful consideration to the structure of the Emeritus College and preparing Bylaws which will be subject to the approval process of the University, culminating with the approval of the Board of Trustees. Once we have successfully completed this process, the Emeritus College will have an enhanced visibility within the academic community. The members of the Executive Committee and the area of the University which they represent are as follows: John Bugge, Emory College; Sundar Bharadwaj, Goizueta School of Business; Dana Greene, Oxford College; Carl Hug, School of Medicine; James Hughes, School of Law; and Marianne Scharbo-DeHaan, School of Nursing.

I look forward to the coming fall and to seeing you on September 1, 2009 when we will honor our Distinguished Emeriti and Distinguished Service Award recipients. We will honor Andre Nahmias, Perry Sprawls, and Ted Weber as Distinguished Emeriti. Ali P. Crown will receive the inaugural Distinguished Service Award. The recognition that accompanies these awards is well deserved and it is a pleasure to do so in the company of our members and friends. Newly retired faculty members will be our guests at the reception and I know that you will join Charity, Monica, and me in welcoming them to the Emeritus College.

Enjoy the fleeting days of summer and join us in the coming weeks for events and opportunities to serve. Best wishes, *Nan*



Charity Crabtree/Emory College

Prize-Winning Poet Natasha Trethewey Delivers Sheth Lecture*



Left:
Madhu
Sheth with
Natasha
Trethewey

School of Public Health. The event was co-sponsored by the Emory Alumni Association.

Professor Trethewey is the P h i l l i s

On April 14, 2009, Pulitzer Prize-winning poet Natasha Trethewey delivered the sixth annual Distinguished Sheth Lecture. The half-hour presentation was the highlight of a well attended luncheon at Emory's Miller-Ward Alumni House from noon to 2:00 p.m.

The annual lecture series, which explores the topic of creativity in later life, is made possible by a generous gift from Madhu and Jagdish Sheth. The five previous speakers have been Dr. James T. Laney, former President of the University, Dr. William Foege, former director of the CDC, President Jimmy Carter, Dr. Frans de Waal of Yerkes, and Dr. Susan Allen, of the

Wheatley Distinguished Professor of English at Emory, and her work has received wide acclaim in recent years, appearing in literary journals and as anthologies. Her first collection of poetry, *Domestic Work* (2000), was selected by former United States Poet Laureate, Rita Dove, as the winner of the inaugural Cave Canem Poetry Prize for the best first book by an African American poet, and won both the 2001 Mississippi Institute of Arts and Letters Book Prize and the 2001 Lillian Smith Award for Poetry. Her most recent collection entitled *Native Guard* won the 2007 Pulitzer Prize in Poetry.

The exclusion of African Americans from Southern and Civil War history

informed the poetry in *Native Guard*. Trethewey related this exclusion to her experiences as an African American Southern writer. A common question for panelists at conferences involving Southern writers and Southern poetry regards the Southern psyche, and how it has influenced Southern writers and writing. Other writers and co-panelists frequently explain that Southerners write the way they do because "We lost the war," forgetting or ignoring her experiences as a Southern writer who does not share that sentiment.

She explains, "I'm sure my fellow panelists never meant to exclude me when they said 'we.' I am a Southerner too. But these occurrences are evidence of the public memory of the war and its aftermath that still makes outsiders of African Americans - even as almost 200,000 fought for their freedom in the Civil War - and leaves out many narratives which will give us a fuller, richer understanding of the American experience."

Approximately eighty people including Madhu Sheth attended the event, which consisted of remarks by Trethewey, a poetry reading, and a brief question and answer period, followed by a book signing. For a transcript of the talk, please view our website (www.emory.edu/emertitus).

Finally!

Charity Crabtree is excited to announce that she successfully defended her dissertation for a Ph.D. in Sociology on June 25th! Her dissertation is entitled "Redefining Medicine? Boundary Work and Legitimizing Claims Among Acupuncturists and Physicians."

Thanks for all your support and encouragement along the way!

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Singing Unsung Stories as Part of Living History Project

On March 5, 2008, seven previously “unsung heroines,” as designated by the Center for Women, gathered in Cannon Chapel to share their stories in a panel discussion recorded as part of the ongoing Living History project of the Emeritus College, and as part of the campus-wide celebration of Women’s History Month.

Speakers included Brenda Bynum (Theatre), Elizabeth Sharp (Nursing/Medicine), Marianne Scharbo-DeHaan (Nursing), Yung-Fong Sung (Medicine), Betty Connell (Medicine), Julianne Daf-

fin (Campus Life) and Mary Alice Clower (Health, P.E., and Dance). The discussion was moderated by Dana Greene (Dean, Oxford), who herself has been recognized as an Unsung Heroine.

Each of the women discussed the reasons behind their decisions to come to Emory, and shared memories of the ways in which Emory has changed over the years. Mary Alice Clower, who came in 1958 as the second female instructor hired in the Health and P.E. department, reminisced about her early years at Emory. Female students, who had begun to arrive in 1953, did not have their own locker rooms, but even then, she said, Emory was one of the first schools to choose to incorporate women into their existing physical education program, a reason she initially took the job. She went on to almost single-handedly create the Dance program at Emory.

One of the most recent Heroines hired by Emory, Brenda Bynum, also remembers creating a program from its early days: the Theatre program. As she recalled, by the time she got to Emory she felt that Emory was making progress toward equality for women. When she began teaching, she remembered holding classes in the locker rooms at the gym. Despite there being locker rooms for male and female students, she was very happy when the Theatre program was able to move into its current location in the Rich Building.

Elizabeth Sharp was recruited to Emory

in 1970 to help create the Nurse Midwifery program and she and Marianne Scharbo-DeHaan, one of its early graduates, helped ensure that a space was created for nursing mothers who worked or went to school at Emory; the Nursing Nest is still an important part of the Emory Center for Women. With the support of the President’s Commission on the Status of Women, a lactation support group was formed. Today, as part of Emory University policy, there are sixteen nursing areas, and all new buildings must contain at least one.

Speakers agreed that Emory has long provided important resources for women, and has been moving, albeit slowly at times, towards creating an inclusive environment. Perhaps Julianne Daffin put it best when she described herself as “the last Dean of Women that Emory will have had - I pray.”

Please visit our website to hear more about the other heroines, whose achievements are wide-ranging and far-reaching. www.emory.edu/emergitus/videos.php The event was co-sponsored by the Emory Center for Women and made possible by a generous contribution from the Office of the President. If you are interested in becoming involved in this project, please contact the Emeritus College offices (charity.crabtree@emory.edu).

In Memory

The Emeritus College wishes to acknowledge the following emeriti who have recently passed away and to pay tribute to their accomplishments at Emory and beyond.

- Albert Bows*, Business
- Katherine Edwards*, Medicine
- Bond Fleming*, Oxford
- Malcolm Freeman*, OB/GYN
- John Howett*, Art History
- Newt Hodgson*, Educational Studies
- Clyde Partin*, Health and P.E.
- Jim Simmons*, Physics

We extend our deepest thoughts and prayers to their families.



Charity Crabtree/Emory College

Unfug Passing Faculty Council Torch

This year marks the end of Dr. Doug Unfug’s term as a representative on behalf of Emeriti concerns in the University Senate. Over the past three years, he has worked with others in the Faculty Council on important matters such as benefits for retired Faculty. As he steps down from his position, he expresses hope that Emeritus College members will continue to keep themselves informed on these issues, and urges the Executive Committee to include a vehicle for reporting back from the Senate to the Emeritus College in the by-laws they are currently revising (more on that in the near future!).

The University Senate meets monthly. If you have any concerns, you may contact the new representative, Dr. Yung-Fong Sung. Dr. Sung feels this is an important time for Emeriti to be involved in and aware of decisions made by the University Senate, and expects that medical issues are going to continue to be a pressing concern.



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The Emeritus College

Briarcliff Campus, Building A
1256 Briarcliff Road, Room 423S
Atlanta, GA 30306



Overwhelmed by all that paper mail? Let us know if you'd like to be taken off the mailing list, and remember, you can always visit us on the Web!

www.emory.edu/emertus/

Upcoming Emeritus College Events

Breakfast and Lunch Discussions

All **brown bag** breakfast and lunch discussions are held on Mondays in the MARIAL Conference Room (415E of Building A on the Briarcliff Campus). Also, remember to check our online calendar: www.emory.edu/emertus/calendarofevents.php for changes, additions, and cancellations!

- * **Jul 20** (M), 11:30 - 1:00: Lunch Discussion: **Jack Carew**, Lifelong Learning. "Government Paid Health Care is Coming to the US."
- * **Aug 3** (M), 9:00 - 10:30: Breakfast Discussion: **Herb Benario**, Classics. "Bimillenary of the Roman Disaster in the Teutoburg Forest."
- * **Aug 17** (M), 11:30 - 1:00: Lunch Discussion: **Jane Herndon**, Lifelong Learning. "The Best and Worst Presidents."
- * **Sep 7** (M), 9:00 - 10:30: **NO BREAKFAST DISCUSSION** (Holiday).
- * **Sep 14** (M), 9:00 - 10:30: **TENTATIVE BREAKFAST DISCUSSION**: TBA.

Beckett Project Seeks Volunteers

The Beckett Project at Emory recently featured previous Heilbrun Fellows Brenda Bynum and David Hesla (http://www.graduateschool.emory.edu/beckettletters/events.php?entity_id=39) and welcomes other volunteers. See the link for more information, or contact Lois Overbeck (404-727-6840, lois.overbeck@emory.edu).

* **Sep 21** (M), 11:30 - 1:00: Lunch Discussion: **Speaker and Topic TBA**.

* **Oct 5** (M), 9:00 - 10:30: Breakfast Discussion: **Fred Menger**, Chemistry. "Evolution of the Brain."

Special Presentations

Announcing Distinguished Emeriti

September 1/*Winship Ballroom, 3:00 p.m.*

Join us on September 1st to celebrate this year's Distinguished Emeriti, Andre Nahmias, Perry Sprawls, and Ted Weber. In addition, Ali Crown will receive a Distinguished Service Award. This event will be held concurrently with a new retirees social, honoring new faculty retirees.

Heilbrun Fellowship Reception

Date TBA/*Location TBA, Time TBA.*

Stay tuned for details about the Heilbrun Reception honoring Fellows to be selected for the next academic year, beginning September 1, 2009 (applications were due April 1). For more information about the application process, contact John Bugge (john.bugge@emory.edu).

For more information about any of the above events, please contact:

Charity Crabtree, 404.712.8834
charity.crabtree@emory.edu