Readers’ Theater Members Bring on the Laughter

EWURA Readers’ Theater members Bunny Mutschler and Fred Lauritzen had everyone laughing at the November EWURA meeting with their reading of I’m Herbert.

The short play is in the collection of Robert Anderson’s You Know I Can’t Hear You When the Water is Running. Mutschler played Muriel and Lauritzen played Herbert, an elderly couple sitting on the porch, carrying on a comical conversation about memories of their previous spouses. Confusion reigns as each had been married at least three times, and names, dates, places, vacations, children and events get all mixed up.

If you would like to join the Readers’ Theater group, the next meeting is 11:30 a.m., Jan. 22, 2015, room L03 in JFK Library on the EWU Cheney campus. Bring a lunch item to share and get ready to have fun!

Catch Up on Our Website

If you miss an EWURA meeting, need a back issue of our newsletter, want to know if there are EWURA updates about upcoming meetings, or want more EWURA information, the first place to look is our website: sites.ewu.edu/retirees

The Golden Eagle Call

Eastern Washington University Retirees Association

December 2014

Recent Retiree Shares His Art

Marvin Smith, EWU emeritus professor of theatre and film, retired in June and opened an exhibit of his paintings Oct. 8 in the university’s Gallery of Art. A quick comeback?

“No Chair Greg Demontier approached me last February. Fall quarter worked best for the Art Department. I love the space of the university gallery. I thought my recent work would work there, so I grabbed the opportunity,” Smith said.

This was his third exhibit at Eastern and his second in the university gallery. Smith’s work has been shown internationally in venues ranging from museums to the walls of the National Institutes of Health, as well as traditional art galleries.

The 11 images in the exhibit that extended through Nov. 25 were taken from three series of paintings. Eight images are from the Untitled Suite; two from the “Bereishith Suite” and a single work from the “Kundalini Suite.”

Smith’s artist statement consists of five ideas taken from sources ranging from photographer Ansel Adams to the Buddhist concept of emptiness.

“I paint what is impossible for me to write,” Smith said. “I try to go beyond words and tap into the fundamental suchness we all share.”

Legacy of Leadership

The most influential presidents have generally been people combining broad educational experience and connections at the state or federal level with solid organizational leadership and a sense of vision,” according to Charles Mutschler, EWU archivist.

Mutschler presented “Legacy of Leadership” at the Oct. 16 EWURA meeting. Throughout his talk, Mutschler highlighted the role of Eastern Washington University’s past presidents as leaders with educational experience and vision who struggled and triumphed and ultimately shaped Eastern and prepared it for future challenges.

“Most presidents have encountered challenges from local and occasionally world events and political matters,” Mutschler said. “Generally, the presidents at Eastern have recognized the need to provide a door of opportunity to students from rural and under-represented communities in eastern Washington. The most successful presidents have found ways to engage these groups and the university’s past presidents as leaders with educational experience and vision who struggled and triumphed and ultimately shaped Eastern and prepared it for future challenges.”
Announcements from the President

Holiday greetings, everyone! We are coming up to the annual Christmas party at the Donley’s, and I certainly hope as many of you that are able will attend. This will be my first time, and I am looking forward to seeing everyone, sharing in the joys of the season, and taking part in the variety of activities that always take place.

An update for the membership: At our last EWURA Board meeting, a “Strategic Plan for EWURA” was adopted and is now an official part of the Handbook for the Eastern Washington University Retirees’ Association. This document was brought forth by Niel Zimmerman during his term as president of the RA and was one of the major goals for me to complete during my term. I hope to have this document posted on the EWURA website very soon. I look forward to hearing from the membership about this new plan, especially if you have an interest in helping to achieve the annual goals that are listed therein.

For all of you “snowbirds” out there enjoying the sunny days and warm nights – please keep in touch via email or phone with any suggestions or ideas to keep the communications flowing between all of the membership. Oh, and if you haven’t paid your dues or submitted your donation to the scholarship fund(s) this year – the form is included for your convenience!

Best wishes for this holiday season – Go Eags!!
Jerry Uppinghouse,
2014-2015 EWURA President

A Note about Your EWURA Dues

There are times when retirees pay $15 annual membership dues more than once per year. Unless we hear from you, we put all extra dues payments toward the EWURA Golden Eagle Scholarship pass-through fund. When this happens, the extra $15 is considered a donation, and you will receive a receipt from EWU Foundation.

Time to Think about 2015-16

EWURA Board would like to know what topics of programming interest you most for the coming year, 2015-16. If you have a topic or speaker in mind, please email retirees@ewu.edu, speak to a board member, or post on our Facebook page (EWU Retirees Association).

New People Welcomed at September Meeting

At the September EWURA meeting, a number of “new” people were recognized. EWU President Mary Cullinan dropped by to introduce herself, talk about her first few weeks at the helm and answer some questions from the floor. Jesse Shooter, this year’s Golden Eagle Scholarship recipient, thanked the EWURA for the funds that will help him succeed at Eastern. Several new retirees attended the meeting, including Ron Dalla, who wore a number of hats since he began his career at Eastern Washington State College in 1970. His most recent concurrent titles were professor of mathematics and vice provost for Academic Planning and Accreditation. All new retirees in attendance introduced themselves and gave brief descriptions of their Eastern careers.

Driving Directions: Party at the Donley’s

2021 W. Pine Springs Rd, Cheney. From 1st St. (SR 904), toward Tyler, turn left at Mullinix Rd. Go approximately 9.5 miles to Pine Springs Rd; turn right. It’s the first house on the left. All EWURA members and guests are welcome, 2-4 p.m., Thursday, Dec. 18. Please bring a potluck dessert or hors d’oeuvres and consider a gift to the Golden Eagle Scholarship Fund blanket toss.

Retirees Show Spontaneous Generosity

At the November EWURA meeting, President Jerry Uppinghouse mentioned there was a $200 shortfall in the scholarship pass-through fund to pay for this year’s scholarship. Marty Seedorf removed his hat to pass around. Retirees in attendance filled the hat with $190 in cash and checks in a spontaneous display of generosity for student success.

In Memoriam

Niel Templeton died Aug. 9, 2014. He worked in the Information Resources area for 27 years, serving as the primary payroll programmer when EWU processed payroll on campus from 1979-83. Templeton retired in 2000.


Philip George, 89, died Aug. 21, 2014. The emeritus professor of education retired from EWU in 1988 after more than 19 years of service.

Bert Conrath, 92, died Sept. 4, 2014. He began his Eastern career in 1949 and retired from the Motor Pool in 1978.

Oren House, 93, died Sept. 4, 2014. He retired from Eastern in 1983 after serving as an office manager in the Department of Theater for 12 years.

Calling All Senior Sojourners!

If you have a good story and a photo about your travels to share or have a change of address, tell us so that we can update our records and share your news with your fellow EWURA members and friends in an upcoming issue of The Golden Eagle Call. Please send to: EWURA, The Golden Eagle Call, 102 Hargreaves, Cheney, WA 99004-2402, or email pspanjer@ewu.edu.

Name ________________________________
Retirement Year ____________ Department _________________________________________________
Emeritus/a?  □ Yes  □ No  Title at Retirement: __________________________________________
Address _________________________________________________________________
Is address new? □ Yes  □ No  Phone(s)  __________________________________________
Email(s) _________________________________________________________________
Your News __________________________________________________________________________
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