

UMAR Seminar on Health Care Planning

By Mary Ellen Pitts

The University of Memphis Association of Retirees sponsored a free seminar titled "Retirement Planning: Negotiating the Health Care Maze" on Saturday, November 10. The seminar, which was first conceived as a means of exploring the complexities of Medicare and recent changes in the program, particularly the drug benefit, grew to include planning as a basic element in approaching the health care maze.

The first speaker, Mr. Cleo Owens, member of the executive board of the Tennessee Association of Retired People, talked about the history of the AAUP and the role of the organization in society today, emphasizing its role in urging passage of measures that benefit retired persons. John Fockler, J.D., then discussed legal issues that seniors encounter in dealing with health care, amusing the audience and reinforcing each point with anecdotes from his own practice. After a break for Starbucks's coffee, provided by UMAR, the seminar resumed with three financial planners, representatives from the Financial Planning Association of the Mid-South, speaking on specific areas of interest. Paul Shanklin, public relations representative for the association, discussed what financial planning means and the importance of planning for retirement. Mike Swain discussed paths to a goal and the role of planning in achieving the goal. Vincent C. Perry discussed

long-term care insurance. After each presentation, a lively question-and-answer period helped pinpoint matters of interest to the group.

After a Dutch-treat lunch in the Jones Hall Cafeteria, the program resumed with a talk by Meghan Hufstader, ABD, and Varun Vaidya, ABD, from the University of Tennessee College of Pharmacy. They discussed important terms from Medicare Part



Mary Ellen Pitts, Pat Tinsley and Amanda Clarkson

D and ways of negotiating the maze of plans offered. After a brief break, Amanda Clarkson, who is Director of Benefits at the University of Memphis, and Pat Tinsley, who retired from Human Resources at the University of Memphis, continued the discussion of Medicare Part D, drawing on their wide experience and knowledge of both Medicare itself and the drug benefits that are now available. Their understanding of new rules for 2008 was especially helpful. Again, questions and answers from the audience kept the presenters busy.

Historial "Find" donated to the Heritage Room

The University of Memphis Heritage Room was recently given an old student microscope and illuminating lamp that was found in storage in J. M. Smith Hall. The two items were found by James J. Aschberger, local technical support provider for the Chemistry Department.

Aschberger contacted several friends in J. W. Brister Hall asking if they could get a message about the availability of the circa 1930 items to Heritage Room founders to see if they were of interest for display. "The fact that the microscope had State Teachers College engraved on its barrel made me aware that this was an excellent piece of the university's history," Aschberger said. "I am happy that it will become part of the collection there."

Ronald "Butch" Alford, former Creative Services Director at U of M, a graduate of the university and a member of the University of Memphis Association for Retirees' board, accepted the donation from Aschberger recently. "I would hope that others—employees, alumni and friends—who have memorabilia from our university's history would step forward and add their collections to what we already have," Alford said. "In a few years we will celebrate a century of service since our opening in 1912 as West Tennessee State Teachers College."

The Heritage Room is located in room 203 of Brister Hall. Any historical items are welcomed and prospective donors should contact Ed Frank, Special Collections Curator, at 901/678-8242.

Notice

Due to increased mailing costs and production problems, this issue of *UMAR News* is the last paper copy to be mailed. Starting in 2008, the newsletter will be available only on our website memphis.edu/UMAR. Paper copies can be provided to UMAR members upon request to the editor.



Delano Black
UMAR President
2007-2008

Seasons greetings! This has been a good year for the University of Memphis Retirees Association. We have set record numbers in memberships and in participation in activities, organized by master planner Bill Crump, our Program Chairman. We have developed a website, designed a new recruiting brochure, toured new buildings on campus, and launched the first free one-day seminar, "Retirement Planning: Negotiating the Health Care Maze," under the guidance of Mary Ellen Pitts, with some eighty or more retirees and future retirees in the audience. Now we are looking forward to a record turnout for the annual Christmas luncheon, directed by President-Elect, David Ciscel.

In early November, Bill Crump and I represented UMAR at the third annual meeting of the Tennessee Higher Education Retirees Association at Fall Creek Falls State Park. In addition to the meeting at the lodge beside a lake rimmed with colorful trees, we enjoyed a breathtaking hike to the falls.

East Tennessee State University, the University of Tennessee at Knoxville and the University of Memphis have the longest-running retiree associations. Others, including Austin Peay, Tennessee State, and Tennessee Tech, are moving toward establishing similar organizations.

The agenda included campus health care, a statewide web page for the Association of Retirees in Higher Education, the 2007 Tennessee Higher Education Legislative report, creation of an Emeriti College, significance of the July 1, 1981, TCRS Retirement Regulations, the AROHE (national retirees organization), and financial arrangements for future state meetings. More information about these topics will appear in the next newsletter.

The new officers of UMAR will be elected at the Annual Meeting following the Holiday Luncheon this month; however, the present board will continue to serve until July 1, 2008. This arrangement will synchronize our change of officers with the fiscal year of the University and the corresponding budget changes.

We look forward to continuing pleasures and opportunities of UMAR in the coming year.

2007 Retirees

Mrs. Angeline Case-Stott, Assoc. Professor, Music
 Ms. Sharon K. Chesher, Adm. Assoc. II, Theatre and Dance
 Mrs. Sheila H. Davidson, Asst. Dir., Admin. & Finance, CERI
 Dr. Sandy Eggers, Instructor, ICL
 Mrs. Sharon Frase, Assoc. Director of IMC
 Mrs. Tanya P. Groves, Asst. to the Vice President
 Mrs. Barbara Harris, Data Mgmt. Specialist II, Registrar
 Mr. Gary R. Kendrick, Coordinator, Community Music School
 Dr. Nancy Lackey, Professor, Chair of Excellence, Nursing
 Mr. David R. McCollum, Senior Auditor, Internal Auditing
 Mr. Andrew Morgret, Instructor, Accounting
 Mr. Robert R. Newsom, Energy Mgmt., PP Crafts & Trade
 Dr. John J. Pepin, Dean, Business
 Mrs. Catherine Philpot, Administrative Assistant, Journalism
 Dr. James P. Rakowski, Professor, Marketing & Supply Chain Mgt.
 Dr. Frank Rosato, Professor, Health & Sports Sciences
 Mrs. Shirley Stanphill, Business Officer, Bureau of Bus. & Econ. Research
 Mrs. Sandra Swinger, Graduation Analyst, Education
 Dr. Dianne Vantilburg, Admin. Secretary, Ed. Support Program
 Mr. James F. Watkins, Professor, Art
 Dr. Ronald Wilkes, Asst. Professor, Mgmt. Info. Systems
 Mr. Larry Williams, Library Asst., University Libraries
 Ms. Sandra Williams, Associate Professor, University Libraries
 Ms. Faye P. Wright, Business Officer II, Ctr. For Community Health

In Memoriam

Martha Moss Armstrong, Oct. 07
 Evelyn Sanders Boyd, July 07
 Robert E. Davis, Feb. 07
 William DeLoach, April 07
 Betty Edmiston Hill, Dec. 06
 Lucille Golightly, March 07
 Virginia Lee Johnson, Dec. 06
 Charlotte Ann Buck Knowles, Oct. 07
 Richard Wayne O'Bryan, Oct. 07

UMAR News is a publication of the University of Memphis Association of Retirees. We are interested in hearing from U of M retirees. We welcome submissions of articles about your days at the U of M, your current activities and interests, or any other item that may be of interest to retirees. Include your name, former U of M department, address, phone, e-mail address, and, if you wish, a photo to Janell Rudolph, *UMAR News* Editor, 8952 E. Glendale Ct., Cordova, TN 38018. Email questions or information to nrudolph@memphis.edu. Letters may be edited to fit space limitations.



Dr. Maurice Crouse

Time goes by when you're having fun!

Program chair Bill Crump has provided retirees with a plethora of places to go and things to do this year, with a little “down time” in July and August. These are the activities since our last newsletter report:

May: The now-traditional Spring Picnic was held at the Meeman home on University property adjacent to Meeman-Shelby Forest State Park. Attendees enjoyed ham, turkey and pork barbeque along with assorted pot luck items. Then everyone stretched out on lawn chairs and listened to music provided by History Professor Maurice Crouse.

June: Another “Mix and Match Trip” offered retirees a chance to eat breakfast at the Barksdale Cafe, visit the Zoo, eat lunch at Gino’s, or tour Rhodes College Library—or do all of the above.

July and August: “Free Time”— We old folks need some time to rest—or do other things.

September: The established Fall “Coffee and Conversation” was at President Raines house again, this time honoring Eminent Faculty David Evans. Guests enjoyed socializing around brunch tables prior to the entertainment by Dr. Evans.

October: After dinner at Whole Hog Restaurant, retirees gathered at Balmoral Presbyterian Church to listen and laugh with Donald Davis and other storytellers from Jonesboro, N.C.

November: Another trip downtown took retirees first on a guided tour of St. Jude, then to Calvary Episcopal Church to hear Rhodes Singers and to eat lunch at Lolo’s Table. Those who went on the St. Jude tour took toys for the children.

December: The annual Holiday Luncheon at the U of M Wilson Holiday Inn followed a silent auction and a presentation by Dr. Phil Kolbe on the real estate market today.



Dr. Bill Short led UMAR visitors around the beautiful Rhodes Library.



Photos by Lindsey Lissau

Dr. Shirley Raines welcomes UMAR to her home; Dr. David Evans plays the Blues; UMAR members enjoy.



Prior to the tour of St. Jude’s Children’s Research Hospital, guide Donald Griffith shot this photo of the UMAR group standing in front of one of the colorful murals and statuary in the hospital. Attendees learned a lot about the history and work of this one-of-a-kind hospital located in Memphis.

Happy Holidays!



2007-2008 scholarship recipient selected

By Bob Boone

Ms. Sera E. Babakus has been selected as the UMAR Scholarship recipient for the 2007-2008 school year. Ms. Babakus is a senior majoring in Foreign Languages at the University of Memphis.

She has been on the Dean's List since Fall 2004. In addition to having an outstanding academic record, Sera has received the following awards and honors: University of Memphis Foreign Languages Student of the Year (2007); Mary Pettus Thomas Memorial Scholarship Recipient (Fall 2006); and the German Academic Exchange Program Scholarship (Spring 2008). She is a member of Delta Phi Alpha, the National German Honor Society, and has served as Vice-President and Treasurer of the campus German Club. Since Fall 2006, Sera has been a resident of International House, a building housing nine female students who are either international students or American students studying one or more foreign languages.

Ms. Babakus is employed as the "business manager" (secretary, webmaster, advertising and publications manager) of Performing Arts of Germantown. Sera's father is Dr. Emin Babakus, Professor of Marketing and Supply Chain Management. Ms. Babakus is currently planning to join us at the annual Christmas meeting so that

she and the UMAR membership will have the chance to become better acquainted.

The UMAR Scholarship is awarded annually in the amount of \$1000 to an outstanding junior or senior currently enrolled at the university with a minimum cumulative grade point average of 3.5. Preference is given to qualified applicants who are dependents (sons/daughters/grandchildren) of current or retired faculty/staff members of the university. This is the third scholarship UMAR has awarded; every recipient to date has been a faculty/staff dependent.

In order to continue our scholarship program, we encourage donations to the UMAR Scholarship Fund. Donations may be made by sending a check to The University of Memphis Foundation, with notation on the check that it is a gift to support the UMAR Scholarship Fund, Account #279. Donations should be mailed to The University of Memphis Foundation, P. O Box 1000, Dept. 238, Memphis, TN 38101-9840.

If you have any questions regarding the UMAR Scholarship Program, please contact Bob Boone, Scholarship Coordinator, telephone (901) 757-5733. Information, scholarship application forms, and donation forms are also available on the UMAR website, www.memphis.edu/umar.



UMAR
319 Administration Bldg.
The University of Memphis
Memphis, TN 38152
267200

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