Luncheon Committee Report for 2009-2010

Our first UW-Madison Retirement Association luncheon was on Tuesday, October 6, 2009. We tried different days of the week this year to meet the request of some members. Assistant Professor of Dance Chris Walker and his First Wave Hip Hop Theater students presented an incredible collection of work written by the performers themselves. Their spoken-word poetry exposed the inner-monologues of a generation in transition, and the depth of their words and exposure of heart-wrenching feelings touched the audience. Dr. Paul Menzel’s luncheon talk was about "Madison and Weather Satellites" beginning with the historical work of Prof. Verner Suomi. Jean Phillips graciously gave up her presentation time so that Rick Kohrs could give a fascinating and informative demonstration on a three-foot interactive globe. We were at the Cherokee Country Club and enjoyed their catered buffet. There were 62 morning registrations and 91 luncheon registrations.

The morning program on Thursday, November 12, 2009, featured flutist Morgann Davis and pianist Thomas Kasdorf playing a variety of music that showcased how each instrument and performer can adapt to different styles. Their performance highlighted the many personalities of the flute and piano. John DeMain’s entertaining luncheon presentation was about the "University of Wisconsin and the Madison Symphony Orchestra: A Beautiful Partnership" which enriches the cultural landscape of the Madison community as a whole. MSO 2009-10 program booklets were given to each attendee. Queen Anne’s Catering served the meal at Covenant Presbyterian Church. The morning registration was 132 and 149 were registered for the luncheon.

On Monday, February 1, 2010, at the Warner Park Community Center, William H. Tishler, Professor Emeritus of Landscape Architecture at UW-Madison, presented "Old World Wisconsin: A Journey through Time." He designed the master plan for America’s largest museum of rural life. (Also on May 25, Prof. Tishler, joined the Travel Committee in visiting Old World’s setting of Wisconsin’s immigrant families.) Our featured luncheon speaker was to be Chancellor Carolyn "Biddy" Martin to talk about "The Role Retirees can Play to Assist the University." Unfortunately, she became ill and Provost Paul DeLuca filled in at the last moment and attempted to provide information and answer questions relevant to the Retirement Association. Catering for the buffet was by Gaylord’s. There were 115 registered for the morning program and the luncheon registration was 131.

The spring luncheon and annual meeting was held on Monday, May 10, 2010, at Covenant Presbyterian Church. The morning program featured five pianists and five dancers as part of the dissertation project of graduate piano student Paola Savvidou. Their dance improvisations were riveting as each dancer interpreted piano music by the great masters. The UW-Madison Retirement Association’s Annual Meeting was held. The luncheon speaker was Katherine Cramer Walsh, Associate Professor in the Department of Political Science, who presented "Perspectives from the Public: How Wisconsinites View UW-Madison." Prof. Walsh discussed what she learned about what Wisconsinites think about UW-Madison, how they thought it could better serve their communities, and what the implications are for the university. Slides and witty commentary made her research results interesting and entertaining. The meal was catered by Queen Anne’s Catering Service. Morning registrations were 86 and 116 registered for the luncheon.

At each luncheon, the Board of Directors encouraged the collection of nonperishable food items to help our community’s greater need at food pantries. The donations were distributed to food pantries at the Goodman Community Center, Middleton Outreach Ministry, and Good Shepherd Lutheran Church.

The members of the Luncheon Committee who create these educational and entertaining programs are Darrell Barth, Buff Brennan, Art Hove, Joel Skornicka, Barb Wiley, and Gail Holmes and Jack Ladinsky (co-chairs).

Prepared by Gail Holmes