The Sifter

RETIREMENT ASSOCIATION
University of Wisconsin-Madison

Fall 2011 e-mail address: retireassn@mailplus.wisc.edu uwra.wisc.edu • 608-262-0641

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S CORNER

by Ann Wallace

Welcome to the twice-yearly newsletter of the UW-Madison Retirement Association that is sent to all campus employees as well as to our usual mailing list. We are grateful to the University of Wisconsin Foundation for sponsoring this issue and for its continuing support of our entire campus community.

The Retirement Association is not exclusively for those already retired. We try to provide useful information for those contemplating retirement, for example, where to find information on your benefits or how you can apply for emeritus status.

An excellent source of information on benefits is the website of Employee Trust Funds: etf.wi.gov. Explore that site and find both a video library and a very helpful page of Frequently Asked Questions. The FAQs cover a dozen different topics, and the answers are easy to understand. You can also calculate your retirement benefits online and review a very detailed segment called “How to Retire,” for which the ETF home page has a link. New items are added regularly.

Do you know how to pursue emeritus status as you retire? Both the Retirement Association board and the campus governance group called the Retirement Issues Committee regularly consider ways to get this information into the hands of prospective retirees. There is no mystery involved. The university’s policies for unclassified employees can be reviewed at www.ohr.wisc.edu/polproced/UPPP/2001.htm; scroll down to section IV. For the policy covering classified employees go to www.ohr.wisc.edu/polproced/CPPP/cppp_chapter20.pdf, also in section IV. Both documents spell out the privileges retained after retirement. Then you will want to contact your department administrator to learn your department’s process for granting emeritus status.

Once you have retired, you may wish to buy business cards. You can find an order form at www.doit.wisc.edu/printing/retireecard.asp. For $30 you receive 250 cards on white paper with black type, set off by a red and gold university logo.

To become a member of the Retirement Association and receive monthly news about programs and social events, just fill out the membership application on the back page. More information about our activities can be found on our website: uwra.wisc.edu.

ARE YOU AN EMERITUS/A WHOSE CONTACT INFORMATION HAS CHANGED?

The Academic Personnel Office will update your home address, campus address, phone number, and email address. Campus address, telephone and email changes will be reflected in the university’s online directory within two weeks. Home addresses and telephone numbers are not listed in the online directory, but they are kept in the new HRS electronic personnel system. You may submit your changes to APO@ohr.wisc.edu or call Margy May at 263-2431.

“Whatever may be the limitations which trammel inquiry elsewhere, we believe that the great State University of Wisconsin should ever encourage that continual and fearless sifting and winnowing by which alone the truth can be found.”

(Taken from a report of the Board of Regents in 1894)
OK, raise your hand if you were a student in one of Professor Harold Scheub’s (’69 PhD L&S) classes.

Hands seem to be shooting up everywhere. Students in African 210, The African Storyteller, alone number 22,000, and counting. Add to this the 90 dissertations and theses he has read or supervised and you have some sense of what inspires Professor Scheub, even after more than 40 years and what keeps his classes full. “My whole life is students,” he said during a conversation in his Van Hise office. “I love walking into that classroom.”

It is just possible, in fact it is highly likely, that a few Great People Scholars will be sitting in Scheub’s classes. Some of these lucky students might even be the recipients of the Harold Scheub Great People Scholarship, which he recently established. But there will be no special treatment. All students are expected to focus on ideas, to write papers with original and critical thought, and to make connections among cultures and traditions. He is a hard grader.

Scheub joined the faculty in 1970 and served three terms as chair of the Department of African Languages and Literature. He has won numerous teaching, research, and service awards. In 1983, he co-founded the Folklore Program and developed two courses. Working with Memorial Library and the International Institute, Professor Scheub digitized about 2,300 hours of taped oral narratives, poems, histories, and epics collected during his research trips among the Xhosa, Zulu, Ndebele, Swati, and Sotho peoples in South Africa, Swaziland, Lesotho, and Zimbabwe. The collection also includes thousands of photographs and approximately ten hours of film.

But mostly, Harold Scheub walked thousands of miles in Africa to bring ancient stories told in distant voices to a classroom in Wisconsin. His generosity makes it possible for more students to hear them.

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PHISHING SCAMS: THINK BEFORE YOU CLICK

by Joe Rossmeissl, Communications Office, Division of Information Technology

“Mailbox quota exceeded!”

“Online banking notice: Confirm your email address and password!!”

“WARNING!!!”

Warning, indeed. All those exclamation marks and capital letters are a dead giveaway that these email messages are fakes. They are “phishing” scams aimed at hoodwinking you into divulging account numbers, login credentials, or other personal information.

Most phishing emails (or texts or phone calls) are easy enough to recognize and delete, but online miscreants are getting more devious every day. Identity thieves can, for example, disguise a phishing message as coming from your bank, from UW-Madison, or from some other trusted source. You might see a message from “UW Webmail Service” that includes a clickable “https://login.wisc.edu” web link. It looks official and secure, but danger lurks.

How do you fight back? Defenses include spam filters, antivirus packages, and other sophisticated software. Maybe your best weapon is your own common sense. Here are some basics:

Be skeptical about messages that sound urgent or are not personalized.

See spelling errors or bad grammar? That’s a flag for a bogus message.

Check the “From” or “Reply-To” address for the email. If a message about your UW email account is not from “@wisc.edu,” for example, suspect a scam.

THREE WAYS TO STAY SECURE

Use strong passwords — That means at least eight alphanumeric characters with a mix of upper/lower case, digits, and special characters. Don’t share your password.

Back up your data — Make a backup copy of important files and store it in a separate safe place. If you lose your data, it’s probably lost for good.

Keep an eye on your laptop — They’re often stolen at airports, coffee shops, libraries, and hotels. Use a cable lock. Affix stickers or decals to your laptop or etch the serial number into the plastic; that could help you identify your stolen laptop later.

A phishing email usually contains a web link. Drag your cursor over the link and compare it to the URL displayed in the status bar at the bottom of the email window. If they don’t match, be suspicious.

The best defense against phishing and other forms of online fraud is your own vigilance. Remember that your bank or UW-Madison will never send an email with a link asking you for identity information. If you’re not sure, contact the sending institution directly by phone or in person.

For more information about safeguarding your computer and your personal data, see www.cio.wisc.edu/security.

MFIS THANKSGIVING HOSPITALITY HOSTS NEEDED

Madison Friends of International Students (MFIS) is looking for families who would like to invite international students to their homes for this year’s Thanksgiving celebration. It is a wonderful opportunity to share Thanksgiving traditions, food, and family with people from around the world. The warmth and friendship shared will never be forgotten. Thanksgiving is celebrated on November 24 this year. For questions and/or to volunteer as a host, please call MFIS at 263-4010 or email info@mfismadison.org (email subject: Thanksgiving Hospitality). Deadline: November 15.

MFIS has served international students at the University of Wisconsin-Madison for 52 years and is extending a welcome to international students at Madison College as well! Volunteers will be screened and matched through MFIS. For information about MFIS, visit www.iss.wisc.edu/mfis/index.html.
Gordon Mitchell sees the benefits of animal research firsthand. Mitchell is professor and chair of the Department of Comparative Biosciences in the University of Wisconsin-Madison School of Veterinary Medicine. As part of his annual lecture on the history of research, Mitchell asks how many students were born more than one month prematurely. “When I started giving this lecture in the early 1980s, few students ever raised their hand,” said Mitchell. “Today, two to eight students raise their hands in nearly every class. These are students that may not have survived without the discovery of effective therapies—all therapies based on animal research.”

It was not until animal research discovered a substance known as lung/pulmonary surfactant that the often-fatal Infant Respiratory Distress Syndrome of premature infants could be understood. Preemies had inadequate surfactant, leading to lung collapse. “Through years of animal research,” said Mitchell, “therapies based on surfactant replacement were developed, allowing most of these babies to live.”

At any given time on the University campus, there are approximately 1,100 approved activities that involve live vertebrate animals in some way. About 95 percent of these activities are research projects and involve mice or rats. Other activities include laboratory courses and outreach to the community. All activities have been approved by one or more of six Institutional Animal Care and Use Committees (IACUC) on campus.

“Dedicated and knowledgeable animal caretakers are critical to the success of our work,” said Mitchell. “The animals benefit, the researchers benefit, and the public benefits because quality research will advance medical care.”

The animal caretakers Mitchell refers to are classified employees known as Animal Research Technicians or ARTs. More than 150 individual employees hold these positions across the UW campus and are trained by the staff of the Research Animal Resources Center (RARC). RARC trainers also provide customized instruction to scientists, researchers, and employees who work with research animals.

The American Association for Laboratory Animal Science is a national organization that offers certifications in three levels of competency for ARTs. Knowing these classified employees are on the front line of defense in assuring research animals are well cared for and healthy, the University offers a free 14-week course that meets 90 minutes each week to prepare for the exam to obtain the first level of certification. While the class and materials are free, the individual ART must pay at least $190 for the exam and fees. When administrators and trainers learned that this cost stood in the way of some ARTs completing the exams, they established a scholarship.
ENJOY TRAVEL WITH UW CONTINUING STUDIES

by Mary Lock Albrecht, Division of Continuing Studies

Do you get headaches when trying to plan international travel?

Now you can visit exciting overseas sights and learn historical, cultural, and environmental information from expert guides without doing any extensive research.

UW-Madison Continuing Studies organizes and conducts several educational travel programs every year, when you are accompanied by UW's travel director and receive personal attention to all details. Upcoming travel includes

- Ecuador and the Galapagos, February 2012
- Spanish immersion and service: Learning in Ecuador, June 2012
- Tanzania, June 2012
- Medieval Burgundy, Spring 2012
- Russia, Summer 2012
- Chile/Argentina, Fall 2012

For more information visit www.dcs.wisc.edu/lsa/travel/ or call 608-263-7787.

LUNCHEON INVITATION

by Gail Holmes, Co-Chair, Luncheon Committee

You are invited by the Luncheon Committee to our Thursday, November 10, programs at the West Side Club, 437 S. Junction Road. Our 10:30 morning program “Creating Choreography” features UW-Madison Assistant Professor Kate Corby and students from her dance composition class demonstrating steps to making dances.

We are pleased to have Jim Hubing, director of the Vilas Park Zoo, as our luncheon speaker at 11:45. His presentation will address “Conservation of Endangered Animals” as well as the Zoo’s 100th anniversary celebration this year. The meal of tenderloin tips or portabella mushrooms will be served by Queen Anne’s catering.

For more information and how to register, please contact the Retirement Association office at 262-0641 or retireassn@mailplus.wisc.edu.

JOIN THE BADGER VOLUNTEERS!

by Peg Davey, Co-Chair, Volunteering Committee

Badger Volunteers is a semester-long program offered by the Morgridge Center for Service Learning that gives students the training and logistical support they need to engage in meaningful and consistent service to the Madison community. Students commit to work in teams once a week to serve at one of over 50 community partner sites in Madison.

Starting this fall, retirees will be able to join Badger Volunteer student teams. Over 25 placement opportunities for interested UWRA members include Second Harvest, the Arboretum, the Salvation Army, and elementary and middle schools in the Madison area.

This is a win-win-win opportunity: 1) those in need in our community receive help; 2) retirees engage in satisfying volunteer work with our students; and 3) students make connections and share experiences with UW faculty and staff of another generation.

While initial recruitment was in early September, retirees are invited to join Badger Volunteer teams through September and October.

Staff at Morgridge have developed a slick website providing information about Badger Volunteers, the various volunteer stations they serve, and how to get connected: www.morgridge.wisc.edu/programs/uwra/index.html. You can also call Kala Grove, 262-0731, to get more information and to sign up.

CARING FOR THOSE WHO CARE FOR OUR RESEARCH ANIMALS

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fund to help eliminate the barrier. The Caring for Animals in Research Employee Scholarship was created in 2008, and it is now supported across campus by people who value the contributions of ARTs and want to encourage their career development. ARTs are eager to learn, and by 2011 requests for the scholarships were outpacing the funds available.

“Educated and concerned caretakers can make all the difference in the world,” said Professor Mitchell, “by assuring that these animals receive the quality care they deserve.”
All classes are held at 330 West Mifflin Street, Madison, WI 53703. Stop by and discover all that the Center has to offer. Call 266-6581 to register for all programs except the one on October 11. More information is available on the web at www.madisonseniorcenter.org.

Looking for some new things to try? Meet Author David McGlynn on Tuesday, October 11, as he discusses his book, *The End of the Straight and Narrow*. How do great historians interpret the past? Register for “Making History,” a 12-week discussion group starting on October 10. Take care of your “Eyes and Eyewear” on October 14, discover new ways to travel with Kathy Brinkman’s “Travel Talk” on October 21, and find out about Wisconsin’s “Odd and Colorful Characters” on Tuesday, October 25. Learn new tricks with “Intro to MS Word 2010” on October 24.

For more information on these topics, please see below:

### Book Bites with Author David McGlynn

The stories in *The End of the Straight and Narrow* take on the inner lives of the zealous, their passions and desires, and the ways that religious faith is both the compass for navigating daily life and the force that makes ordinary life impossible. McGlynn’s story collection won the 2008 Utah Book Award, was a finalist for the Steven Turner Award for Best First Fiction from the Texas Institute of Letters, and was named an Outstanding Achievement by the Wisconsin Librarians’ Association. Join the author on Tuesday, October 11, at 1:00 PM. Refreshments are served. Registration not required.

### Making History: How Great Historians Interpret the Past

How did the world’s great historians create their monumental histories? What role does the historian’s viewpoint play in what you accept as truth? In this series, travel deep inside the minds of our greatest historians—including Herodotus, Thucydides, David Hume, and Edward Gibbon—as they write about and shape humanity’s story. Told through enthralling historical anecdotes, travel into mankind’s fundamental desire to record and understand the complexities of the world. Join facilitator Jim Lamal on Monday, October 10, from noon until 1:30 for 12 weeks. $15 fee. Registration required.

### Eye Care and Eyewear Cleaning

Dr. Callie Maursetter of Isthmus Eye Care will discuss the most common eye diseases. Her staff members will adjust and clean your glasses at the end of the program. Educational information and cleaner for your glasses will be available on Friday, October 14, at 10:00 AM. There is no charge, but registration is required.

### Senior 911: Prepare for Natural Disasters

Learn ten ways to prepare for disasters such as tornadoes, power outages, and snow storms. Join Bonnie Nutt, Program Coordinator at Home Instead Senior Care, on Tuesday, October 18, at 10:00 AM. Receive handouts and tips for what to do. There is no charge, but registration is required.

### Travel Talk

Join Kathy Brinkman, Tour Coordinator at Burkhalter Tours, for a presentation about the benefits of group travel versus independent travel. She will share tips and stories about her travel experiences on Friday, October 21, at 10:00 AM. There is no charge, but registration is required.

### Intro to Microsoft Word 2010

We’ve upgraded our computers! Even if you’ve taken a Word class before, here’s your chance to learn the brand-new Microsoft Word 2010. Get introduced to Microsoft’s ribbon and how it’s replaced toolbars for a more streamlined way to create documents. Learn to format letters, modify text, cut and paste, save and print, and other useful topics that will be covered in this 3-week relaxed, no-stress class. Join instructor Amy Moschkau on Monday, October 24, 31, and November 7 from 10:00 until noon. $15 fee. Registration required.

### Odd Wisconsin: Colorful Characters

Wisconsin’s past is full of crazy characters, bizarre events, and surprising incidents that somehow did not make the official account of state history. Wisconsin Historical Museum staff will present and share amusing, perplexing, and unlikely stories about the interesting people from Wisconsin’s past such as Jane, the Mysterious Woman of the Woods; Belle Boyd, the Civil War spy; Mary Hayes Chynoweth, the Psychic Healer; Scientist Stephen Babcock; and Entertainer Orson Wells. Register for Tuesday, October 25 at 1:00 PM by calling 266-6581. There is no charge.
INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING AT DISCOVERY?

by Peg Davey, Co-Chair, Volunteering Committee

The staff members at the Wisconsin Institutes for Discovery are launching the Discovery Guide program (formerly known as the docent program) and are looking for volunteers to help! Qualifications for these positions include enthusiasm for bringing the sciences to life and a love of learning and teaching.

Volunteer Opportunities

**Saturday Science Assistants:** This monthly series consists of free science exploration and education programs aimed at families and learners of all ages and occurs on the first Saturday of the month. Volunteers help with presentations, engage with visitors, and assist with wayfinding.

**Discovery Guides:** Guides use educational activities to engage visitors with the niches and features of the Town Center.

**Teaching Lab Aides:** Aides provide hands-on assistance in the three teaching labs at Discovery.

More information about volunteer opportunities and a volunteer application can be found at discovery.wisc.edu/home/discovery/town-center/volunteering-at-discovery/volunteering-at-discovery-home.cmsx or call Ashleigh Ross at (608) 316-4388.

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2011-12 members of the UW-Madison Retirement Association board

*Front row, left to right: Judy Craig, president-elect; Millard Susman, president; Darrell Barth, treasurer; Bill Steffenhagen, secretary, Joan Calkins, past president

*Back row: Dale Burke, Buff Brennan, Chris Kleinhenz, Chère Gibson, Kathy Poi, Peg Davey, Bob Dye, Maria Ritacca

*Absent: Nan Kunde*
UW-MADISON RETIREMENT ASSOCIATION
Membership for the year ending 8-31-12

Spouses/partners are included in the membership fee and need not have worked for the UW.
Name(s) ___________________________________________________________ Phone ________________
Address ___________________________________________________________ E-mail ___________________________
City _______________________________________________________________ State _______ ZIP+4 _____________

UW employment: □ classified staff □ academic staff □ faculty □ associate (non-UW)
Are you retired? □ Yes □ No Dept./Unit:______________________________

Topics I/we would like to see in Association programming: ______________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________________
Association activities for which I/we offer my/our expertise: ____________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________________

Sifter format (choose one) □ Sent in hard copy OR □ Sent by e-mail
□ Regular: □ $20 for one year □ $40 for two years □ Other: $20 x ____ years
 □ Bargain: □ six years for the price of five ($100)
□ Out of area: ZIP codes other than 535, 537, and 539—$10 for one year or $50 for six years;
e-mailed Sifters only
□ Life: □ $300 nonrefundable
Eligibility: one member of household must be receiving a Wis. Retirement System annuity

Your check should be made payable to the UW-Madison Retirement Association and mailed
with this completed form to the UW-Madison Retirement Association, c/o University of
Wisconsin Foundation, 1848 University Avenue, Madison, WI 53726-4090.

October 2011