



The Academy

Quarterly Newsletter of the Emeritus College at Clemson University

Spring 2018

Upcoming Events

- Brown-bag lunches—4/24; 5/8
- Computer workshops—5/10; 6/14
- Emeritus College Advisory Board—April 17, 2018 at 10:00 am
- Emeritus Day—May 1, 10:00 am to 2:00 pm at the Madren Center
- Emeritus College Advisory Board—September 11 at 10:00 am
- Fall Picnic—October 2, 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm Palmetto’s Event Center
- AROHE Conference—Oct 7–9, at Emory University
- Holiday Party—Dec 4, 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm, Occasions at Wedgfield

Congressional Gold Medal for Ben Skardon

President Barak Obama signed the Filipino Veterans of WWII Congressional Gold Medal Act in 2016. The back story is that this medal commemorates the bravery and sacrifice of more than 250,000 Filipinos who fought for the United States during the Second World War. In the pantheon of medals awarded by the United States, the Congressional Gold Medal and the Presidential Gold Medal are the most prestigious medals awarded to civilians.



Ben Skardon’s Gold Medal

Colonel Ben Skardon served as commander of Company A of the Philippine Army’s 92nd Infantry Regiment during the war. Colonel Skardon’s regiment fought the Japanese on the Bataan Peninsula, where they were captured and subjected to the infamous Bataan Death March. Almost miraculously, Colonel Skardon survived, and returned to his alma mater, Clemson University, as a faculty member in English. Now, at an age of 101 years, Ben is Clemson’s oldest emeritus faculty member. And, at long last, the service he rendered to his country has been properly recognized. The Congressional Gold Medal was presented on March 24 at the White Sands Missile Range in New Mexico. Congratulations, Ben!



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CAAH Hall of Fame

For the second year in a row (which officially makes it a tradition), the College of Architecture, Arts and Humanities has chosen individuals to induct into their college’s Hall of Fame. The honorees may be alumni, current or emeritus faculty members, or friends of CAAH. The selection criteria include either recognition as a leader in a profession or having made a significant impact.

Six emeritus faculty members were among the eight individuals inducted in this year’s CAAH Hall of Fame group. John Acorn, Chip Egan, Mickey Harder, Roger Liska, Jerry Reel, and Art Young all got

the nod. Each of them had already received too many awards for us to enumerate in the space available here. Suffice it to say that these are accomplished members of the emeritus faculty, and we're proud to have them as colleagues.

John Acorn is a nationally known sculptor, who has indoor and outdoor sculptures on public display all over South Carolina and throughout the country. He also has three works on display in the Emeritus College suite of offices. John is a past Chair of Clemson's Art Department.



John-Acorn

Chip Egan is a widely praised theater artist, both as actor and director. Among his many administrative roles at Clemson, Chip served as Chair of the Performing Arts Department and Dean of the College of Architecture, Arts and Humanities. He's also a former Director of the Emeritus College.



Chip-Egan

Mickey Harder is featured elsewhere in this newsletter for some, but certainly not all, of her accomplishments as Director of the Brooks Center. Mickey is professor emerita of music.



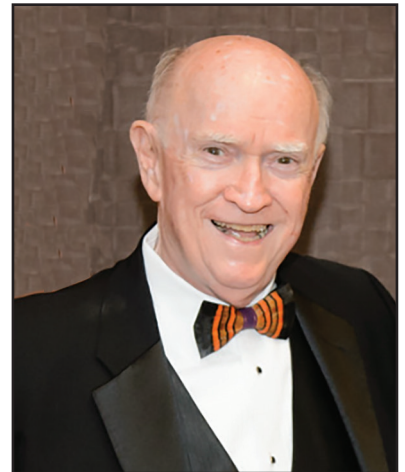
Mickey Harder

Roger Liska is nationally known for his contributions to construction science and management. These are the folks who coordinate the work of architects, engineers, builders, and others to deliver major projects on time and on budget. Roger is a past department chair and associate dean at Clemson.



Roger Liska

Jerry Reel was, and still is, the Clemson University Historian. Among other things, Jerry taught history, served as Dean of Undergraduate Studies and Assistant Provost. His extensive writings include a history of Clemson University titled *The High Seminary*. Jerry was also the progenitor of the Emeritus College.



Jerry Reel

Art Young was primarily responsible for Clemson being named *Public College of the Year* by Time magazine in 2000. Art was professor of both Engineering and English, as well as Director of the Pearce Center for Professional Communication, Art initiated the *Writing Across the Curriculum* program at Clemson. That program has been widely replicated at American colleges and universities.



Art Young

Mickey Harder and the Brooks Center

When Clemson's Robert Howell Brooks Center for the Performing Arts became ranked as number eight in Best Value School's *The 25 Most Amazing University Performing Arts Centers* list, the only reaction around Clemson was that the ranking should have been higher. Sure, the building that arose from Clemson's red clay in 1994 is a splendid facility. Quoting President Jim Barker on the occasion of the Brooks Center's tenth-anniversary, "...the Brooks Center fundamentally raised Clemson's definition of quality, sophistication, artistic excellence and outreach." But what makes a performing arts center truly great is what goes on inside. For that, we can thank Lillian ("Mickey") Harder.



Brooks Center for the Performing Arts

During her twenty-year-plus tenure as Director of the Brooks Center, Mickey displayed incredible talent for booking artists and groups destined for celebrity status. The 1996 Utsey Chamber Music Series concert by the pianist, Lang Lang, is just one example. Within a month following his Brooks Center performance, Lang Lang was the talk of the international music circuit. *Everybody* wanted him to perform in their venue.

As for the Utsey Chamber Music Series: Those remarkable free concerts were endowed by Mickey and her husband, Byron, to honor her



Ballet Performance at the Brooks Center

parents. The series was established to feature up-and-coming artists. Boy can Mickey pick them!

While booking great entertainment is a rare talent in itself, Mickey went a step beyond. A big step! In cooperation with the Performing Arts Department, she forged agreements with Work Light Productions to have major Broadway shows prepped for national tours using Clemson's facilities and students. *Hairspray*, *Avenue Q*, and *Mama Mia!*, are among the eight-or-so shows that launched their national tours from here.

In this piece, we've called out only a few of the programming innovations that defined the Brooks Center under Mickey Harder's leadership. Now, Mickey has graduated to emeritus status, and the strong programming model she developed is guiding the new Brooks Center leadership team. Members of the emeritus faculty have a history of strong support for the Brooks Center. Mickey will make sure our commitment to the performing arts continues to grow. After all, she's still Artistic Director for the Utsey Chamber Music Series.

Another Accolade for Chip Egan

Professor Emeritus of Performing Arts and Dean, CAAH Chip Egan was awarded the Lifetime Service Award by the South Carolina Theatre Association for contributions made between July 2016 and June 2017. The award is presented to nominated individuals that have contributed significantly to theatre in South Carolina throughout their careers. The presentation of the award will be Saturday, May 26, 2018 at Trustus Theatre in Columbia, South Carolina.

Emeritus Day–May 1

Folks around Clemson love traditions. And last October we established a new one. Newly retired tenure-track faculty were presented their “scrolls of honor” by President Clements and Provost Jones in a ceremony in conjunction with Emeritus Day. All went well, so now the Emeritus College has been asked to do it all again. The College has moved Emeritus Day to Spring so that new faculty retirees could be thanked for their service before they scattered to the four winds. Now it really is a tradition, this being the second year and all. President Clements and Provost Jones will present thirty-eight new emeritus faculty members with their scrolls of honor in a ceremony in the Madren Center’s BellSouth Auditorium starting at 11:30 am. Don’t miss the chance to welcome these folks to our ranks!

Other Emeritus Day events will already be underway, with the Emeritus College’s designated charity, United Way of Pickens County, providing coffee and pastries beginning at 10:00 am. Several other providers of information and services to the emeritus faculty will be on hand. Come by and greet the folks from Parking Services, TigerOne, the Brooks Center, University Libraries, OLLI, CCIT, Fike, and United Way. Students from Delta Sigma Pi will again be on hand helping in a variety of ways, another tradition!

Following a plated luncheon, the recipient of the Distinguished Emeriti Award will be presented. The Emeritus College will also present certificates to several new Special Members to the College faculty.



Cheryl Dye

Cheryl Dye is professor of public health sciences and Director of Clemson University’s Institute for Engaged Aging. She is now adding the title of *emerita*. Cheryl will deliver the luncheon talk, which we should all find enjoyable!

Language Skills Programs Nominated for Award

The Association of Retirement Organizations in Higher Education (AROHE) is sponsoring an innovation award to recognize new and noteworthy initiatives of faculty retirement organizations. Several members of the Emeritus College Advisory Board and Awards Committee collaborated to write a strong nomination of the Emeritus College’s CESP and CIS programs for that award. The award announcement will occur after the print date for this newsletter, but these excellent programs should be strong contenders.

Director’s Notepad

Each February I submit an annual report on the state of the Emeritus College to the Provost. That task was particularly easy this year because so many good things are happening in the Emeritus College. The substance of that report follows:

Overview

This has been a very good year for the Emeritus College. With the approval for a full-time Program Assistant in June and funds to remodel and furnish Suite 218 in the CAT building, the foundation was established to enable robust programmatic initiatives. The new College space was ready for occupancy in September, at which time we had only a brief moment for celebration before plunging headlong into the tasks of gaining broad support among emeriti, getting them engaged in College activities, and incubating their desires to do good things for Clemson. Along the way, we judged it critical to improve communication links and establish a presence with emeritus and active faculty members. To this point, the level of success has been gratifying; we’re pleased to report details of progress made.

Strategic Planning

Lewis Carroll’s observation that, “*If you don’t know where you are going, any road will get you there,*” applies to all essentially volunteer organizations, including the Emeritus College. Emeritus faculty are unwilling to muck around with no vision of where to take the College. A dedicated and very capable group of emeriti worked for months to

develop a detailed, comprehensive strategic plan (www.clemson.edu/emerituscollege/about/strategic-plan.html). The plan has now been enthusiastically embraced by the Emeritus College's Advisory Board. We now have a detailed road map of where the emeritus faculty are comfortable taking the College, and we have established metrics to determine when we've arrived.

Space and Utilization

Space made possible by the renovation is proving to be every bit as useful as we had hoped, with emeritus faculty quickly establishing "ownership." They view it as their space, and they're proud of it. The meeting room, nicely decorated with gallery-quality art works produced by emeriti, gets substantial use for seminars, events, group meetings, brown-bag lunches, and casual conversation. Elsewhere throughout the College suite, emeriti-produced art, scholarly publications, and display pieces abound.

The workstations already receive good use for frequent computer training sessions and for shared-interest-cluster meetings. We expect usage for professional workspace to grow, particularly among newly retiring faculty. Faculty who are long accustomed to having a Clemson base for their professional work are most likely to value the space and administrative support that the Emeritus College provides.

Communication with Emeritus Faculty

In its earlier incarnation, the Emeritus College pretty much left emeriti alone until it was time for a party. No more. Coaxing emeriti back into substantive, active participation requires a steady flow of announcements, reminders, entreaties, and marketing. During the past year, we totally re-built the member database, correcting an abundance of errors in the process. Staff members in Human Resources have been very helpful in "re-hiring" scores of emeritus faculty members whom we discovered had disappeared from Clemson's personnel management system. The faculty member count now stands at more than 830 extant members, most of whom live within 50 miles of Clemson, and all of whom are now a

part of our communications network. The entire emeritus faculty directory is also now available online at blogs.clemson.edu/emerituscollege/faculty-directory. We're now in the process of adding biographical sketches to that directory. Among other EC blog postings, we include past College events (many with photographs); upcoming events, workshops, seminars, and focused-discussion groups; meetings of shared-interest clusters; newsletters; emeriti news and awards; exhibits by featured artists in the College gallery; University and community events; and out-of-College news of potential interest to emeriti.

We know that not all emeriti are going to routinely access the College home page and blog to keep up with what's happening in the College. Consequently, emeriti are now sent at least one "*CU Emeritus College Update*" email message each week that summarizes current items that are also posted on the College blog pages.

At the time of this writing, the College continues to distribute a quarterly print newsletter to all members. We also mail print notifications of important required-reservation events, such as Emeritus Day. Beginning later this year, we plan to offer members an electronic-only option for newsletters and event-reservation notices. If most members accept the electronic-only option, it will save substantial printing and mailing costs.

With the volume and range of information now being distributed to emeriti, complaints about not knowing what's going on have virtually disappeared.

Academic Immersion

Emerging focuses of the Emeritus College are those of integrating older emeritus faculty back into the academic life of the university, and of keeping new retirees from drifting away. Success requires that active faculty embrace the notion of active collaboration with, and support from, emeritus faculty. As it turns out, preparing the two faculty groups requires substantial attention to logistics. Linking rapidly moving entities in space and time is a non-trivial task, even when strong bonds form.

While many emeritus faculty are comfortable with the notion of “giving back” to the institution they cherish, it does have to be on their own terms. Among the items we consider in structuring tasks for emeriti: flexible, limited time commitments; well-defined, circumscribed tasks; non-trivial use of their knowledge, wisdom, and experience; appropriate valuation and acknowledgment of their roles.

Among active faculty members, we have learned that most were, until recently, scarcely aware that significant numbers of emeritus faculty members would happily collaborate on educational or research projects of mutual interest. Even as active faculty members have become aware of emeriti as potential intellectual resources, they still have questions about what emeritus faculty can, or will, do to help. So, here the items to consider are: information dissemination; expertise and interest matches; and identification of potential roles for emeriti.

As with many complex tasks, it’s most productive to consider where we want to end up, and then work back from there. As one example, some emeritus faculty members would willingly read and critique such things as graduate student dissertations or faculty research proposals in their own disciplines. As another, emeritus faculty members would gladly contribute their expertise to research problems having aspects beyond the disciplinary backgrounds of principal investigators. As yet another, emeritus faculty members would be happy to deliver guest lectures in their areas of expertise when active faculty members are away on professional travel.

These kinds of collaborative interactions require mutual awareness of what prospective collaborators bring to the table; and, they may require several one-on-one conversations to build the links. To that end, the Emeritus College has begun organizing linking events, which we’re calling Productive Emeriti Partnership (PEP) talks. The strategy is for the Emeritus College to prepare poster displays for various disciplinary groups of active faculty to showcase their work to interested emeriti, who can move among the displays, visiting with active faculty members.

The ensuing discussions will determine where interests overlap enough to form partnerships. The PEP talk format is currently being refined in a pilot program with the Chemistry Department.

Branding and Marketing

Establishing a widely acknowledged presence always seemed to be a good idea for the Emeritus College, but it has turned out to be much more important than I ever would have imagined. Early on, I had to visit with a large number of administrators and faculty members to offer services of the emeritus faculty. Now that they have become aware of this enormous resource, people are calling us.

Next Steps

Good ideas are coming at us thick and fast. The problem has become one of identifying the opportunities that are (a) doable, (b) congruent with the College’s strategic plan, and (c) do not divert resources from current successful programs. While there are sure to be changes, here are some of the developing initiatives that we expect will be well supported by emeritus faculty during the coming year:

- Exploiting opportunities for professional collaboration with active faculty
- Accepting referrals from the Writing Center to help graduate students
- Collaborating with the Institute for Engaged Aging
- Supporting international study/culture initiatives for undergraduate students
- Increasing the viability of AROHE (Association of Retirement Organizations in Higher Education)

The Emeritus College has enjoyed a really good year. Next year should be even better.

Dwaine Eubanks

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Committees

Much of the work of the College is done through committees, and we are in constant need of volunteers to chair or serve as members of active college committees. More detail is provided on the EC website: <https://clemson.edu/emergituscollege>. Right now, we have a particular need for a chair and members for ***Undergraduate Support***. Please step forward. You ***are*** needed!

Awards

Debbie Jackson (dbj@clemson.edu)

Community Outreach

Bonnie Martin (bmartin@clemson.edu)

Displays

Del Kimbler (kimbler@clemson.edu)

Language Skills

Adolph Beyerlein (albrl@clemson.edu)

Member Benefits

Chip Egan (eclifto@clemson.edu)

Professional Skills

Gary Powell (glpwl@clemson.edu)

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Vacant

AROHE Representative

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Faculty Senate Liaison

Dan Warner (warner@clemson.edu)



The Association of Retirement Organizations in Higher Education (AROHE) is having its biennial conference at Emory University in Atlanta this fall. If you think you might be interested in attending, first check the AROHE website at aroh2018.org. Please call or message Nicci Hanewald in the Emeritus College office (864-656-3990; nherman@clermson.edu) if you plan to register so we can keep up with who all is going. Clemson's Emeritus College is a very active member of AROHE, and we anticipate a good attendance of Clemson emeritus faculty at the conference.

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