



## President's message

Well, we seem to be off to a good start on 2013, at least in the ES program. I'm not so sure that holds regarding the "cliff," but we shall see.

As I mentioned in our last newsletter, March is our big month for ElderStudy business - board elections and bylaws changes to be approved. Many thanks in advance to those who have agreed to serve if elected. (It really is not such an onerous commitment. The meetings are infrequent and unless I fail to do my job they are civil and short). This newsletter has relevant information about our general membership meeting. Please mark the date on your calendar.

I do hope you are as pleased as I am with our Spring curriculum line-up. Some of our very favorite speakers will be returning with interesting topics to share. So, y'all come.

The big question we are hoping to get answered sometime soon is, where will the University put us after Chandler closes its doors? We have been promised that there will be a place. Hopefully it will be conveniently located and enjoy an improved parking situation. Keep your fingers crossed.

And again, Happy New Year!

Phil Hall

## **Proposed Bylaw Changes to be Voted on March 19**

In the fall of 2011, the Board directed the Administration Committee to review the ElderStudy Procedures Manual to examine the various revisions approved over the years and recommend changes to ensure consistency and clarity of the information. This assignment was announced to the members at the October 2011 General Membership meeting and a request was made for volunteers to help with this review.

Based on its initial review, the Committee realized that simple corrections would not work. The document needed a thorough revision and reorganization.

So, that's what has been done. Most recommended changes to the Bylaws involve: (1) moving a sentence or section in the original Bylaws to another place in the Bylaws; (2) moving a sentence or section from a Procedures Manual section to the Bylaws; and (3) incorporating additions made by the Board of Directors at their Dec. 2009, June 2011, Sept. 2011, and Dec. 2011 meetings. The Board approved these proposed Bylaws in Dec. 2012. They will become effective when approved by two-thirds (2/3) of members present at a General Membership Meeting. This vote is scheduled for the March 19, 2013 General Membership Meeting.

The Procedures portions of the manual require approval only by the Board of Directors. This was done in December 2012. Assuming the Bylaws are ratified in March, the entire Policies and Procedures document becomes effective and will be made available to members via the website and a lending copy in our classroom.

The rewritten Bylaws are attached to this newsletter. Please review them and be prepared to vote at the March meeting. Note that the Internal Revenue Service is concerned only about material changes in governing documents that would alter ElderStudy's original tax-exempt application as a 501(3)(c) nonprofit organization. A Certified Public Accountant (C.P.A.) and an attorney (also a C.P.A.), each a partner in his respective local firm, agree that the types of proposed changes in the proposed Bylaws do not alter ElderStudy's tax-exempt status.

Please direct questions to President Phil Hall or Administration Committee Chairman John Thompson ( 371-4827).

The proposed Bylaws and revised Policies and Procedures document may be viewed on ElderStudy's website ([www.elderstudy.com](http://www.elderstudy.com)).

## **Administration Committee Report**

Happy Valentine's Day from the Administration Committee.

The Administration Committee, with Board approval, develops policies and plans for operating the ElderStudy organization, monitors finances and projects future needs, proposes an annual budget, recommends annual fees, and periodically reviews ElderStudy governing documents for recommendation of potential changes.

The last Administration Committee Meeting was held on November 27th and the committee activities were presented in the December Newsletter. At the December 5th Board of Directors Meeting, the Committee presented recommendations regarding revision of the Procedures Manual, a recommendation to fully fund the Bachelor of Liberal Studies Scholarship for 2013-2014, and a recommendation to increase the budget for Name Tags by \$100 to account for the large number of new memberships received and anticipated this year. The Board of Directors approved the Committee recommendations. In accordance with the ElderStudy Constitution and ByLaws, the membership will be requested to approve the revisions to the ByLaws as part of the March 19th General Membership Meeting; no changes are proposed to the ElderStudy Constitution. Information regarding the ByLaws changes and recommended approval is provided elsewhere in this Newsletter; please plan to attend the General Membership Meeting to assure the presence of the required quorum.

The next regular Quarterly Meetings of the Administration Committee are scheduled for February 27th (1-3 PM, Woodard Room 2) and May 29th (1-3 PM, Woodard Room 2). Participation by the ElderStudy membership is encouraged. At the February 27th meeting, the Budget Call for 2013-2014 will be issued and the preliminary mid-year financial reports will be discussed.

Respectfully Submitted: John Thompson, Committee Chair

**<http://www.elderstudy.com>**

what you need to know-----when you need to know it!

## **Treasurer's Report**

The ElderStudy 2012-2013 First Quarter Financial Reports (Year-to-Date Operations Report and Balance Sheet Report for the period September 1 to November 30, 2012) were approved by the Board at their December 5th Meeting and have been posted on the web-site and on the Chandler 102 bulletin-board (lower right corner). As a result of new memberships exceeding expectations, the Treasurer requested that the Board approve a \$100 addition to the Budget for Name Tag expenses; the request was approved and will appear in future financial reports. At the December 5th Board Meeting, the Board also approved a Membership Committee request for transfer of \$200 from the "carry-over" category for use in promoting the ElderStudy 20th Anniversary Celebration; this transfer will appear in the Special Event expense line in future 2012-2013 financial reports . All other expenditures are occurring as anticipated.

The Annual Audit Report for the 2011-2012 year (September 1, 2011 thru August 31, 2012) was presented to the Board of Directors at their December 5th Meeting and was approved. Following the Board approval of the report, the IRS tax return was filed on-time in early January. The 2011-2012 Audit Report has been posted on the Chandler 102 bulletin board.

Contact Point: John Thompson, Treasurer

## **Celebrating Our Twentieth Year of Learning in Retirement**

The Celebrate 20 Committee continues to seek photos, information, and reminiscences to help us mark this special time. We especially need photos and hope to use them in a Flashback article in the Free Lance-Star. We are also looking for contact information for our charter members. A celebration is planned at the spring potluck luncheon on May 16, 2013.

Please share photos and information with the committee members listed below. Thank you.

Committee members: Eugenia Jones, Peg Johnson, Ann and John Massaro, Dot Meyers, Mary Ann Stana, Rose Marie Schlemm, Margareta Williamson, and Alan Zirkle

## **Membership Committee**

According to Wikipedia, one of the top New Year's resolutions is improving one's mind and body. What better way to do both or discover how by attending Elderstudy classes here at the University of Mary Washington? If you are one of those whose concern is getting the most value for your dollars, here is the place. Where else can you have lectures by various professionals or experts in their field for the fee of joining Elderstudy?

The membership committee continues to do its organizational duties – newsletters, welcome packets, and nametags. We send card, answer requests, post information on the website and in Chandler Hall. We also take care of our social activates. Be aware of our end of the year potluck on May 16, 2013.

Our next membership committee meeting is on February 26 at 1:30. Location is Wegmans second floor. Feel free to attend. If you want to see previous minutes of our meetings, you can go to [www.elderstudy.com](http://www.elderstudy.com) website. If are you not one of our computer users, feel free to call our information line at 540-654-1769.

According to our last tally, we added 8 new members this second semester with a total of 244 members.

## **Curriculum Committee**

At the January 23 meeting of the curriculum committee, chairman Alan Zirkle unexpectedly resigned, and I was elected to take his place. Since 2002 when I first joined Elder Study, I have been maintaining the spread sheet which organizes our operating information - schedules, course descriptions, honorariums, etc. As we work on preparing an exciting fall program, we expect a smooth transition, especially since Alan will continue to do the many computer related tasks he has been doing. Upcoming meetings are Feb. 21 and March 21 at 1pm in Woodard, and new members are always welcome to come and see how we operate and even help plan the next semester.

Special thanks go to Alan for his many contributions to Elder Study, and also to Janet Wishner who ably preceded him as curriculum chairman.

Bill Wemmerus

## **ElderStudy Membership Continues to Grow**

Since November 17th (the cutoff date for the December Newsletter), ElderStudy membership has grown from 236 to 244 as of February 2nd. PLEASE WELCOME THE FOLLOWING NEW OR RETURNING MEMBERS:

Judy Ayers 142 Washington Street, Locust Grove, VA 22508

Earl Bradford 1010 Conway Road, Fredericksburg, VA 22405

Harry and Linda Dolph 29 Twin Lake Court, Fredericksburg, VA 22405

Max Karaska 24 Pawnee Drivem Fredericksburg, VA 22401

Jim McMath 8 Keswick Road, Stafford, VA 22556

Mary Repass 99 Hunton Drive, Fredericksburg, VA 22405

Francine Steck 12712 Isle of Pines Boulevard, Fredericksburg, VA 22407

## **Volunteer**

ElderStudy is an all-volunteer organization. All the officers, committee members, and any others who devote their time to keeping the wheels turning are volunteers. Any member can be on a committee or just volunteer to help when needed. The more volunteers we get, the more activities we can offer. Take advantage of this great opportunity and be a Volunteer!!!!

## **Book Group**

The ElderStudy Book Group is already making plans for the next academic year – 2013-2014. All suggestions are welcome, and will be compiled into a list for voting at the April meeting. The suggestion form is available online ([www.elderstudy.com](http://www.elderstudy.com)) with full instructions. It's simple – just complete the form for each title you would like to suggest, and send it in.

The selections for March, April and May are:

March - *The Street of a Thousand Blossoms* by Gail Tsukiyama. Japanese orphan brothers dream of a future rooted in Japanese traditions only to find their lives transformed by World War II and the new Japan. Leader: Margareta Williamson.

April – *My Reading Life* by Pat Conroy. This noted author shares memories of his first encounters with the world of story-telling and reading. Leader: Rose Reif

May – *The Warmth of Other Suns* by Isabel Wilkerson. Pulitzer Prize–winning author chronicles one of the great untold stories of American history: the decades- long migration of black citizens who fled the South for northern and western cities, in search of a better life; told through the lives of three unique individuals. Leader: Phil Hall

Remember – you need not have read the book to attend. Everyone is welcome. All sessions are held at 1:00 pm on the second Thursday of the month in one of the Woodard meeting rooms on the second floor.

Anne McGrath, Temporary co-ordinator.

## **2013 Board of Directors Elections: General Information**

At the March 19, 2013 General Membership Meeting, the membership will be electing three individuals to serve on the Board of Directors for three-year terms beginning September 1, 2013 and ending August 31, 2016. Election materials are being provided by the Board Secretary to each member by mail as part of this newsletter. You are encouraged to vote and may return your ballot in one of two ways:

- (1) Bring your ballot to the March 19 General Membership Meeting and place it in the ballot box; or
- (2) Mail your ballot via the U.S. Postal Service to: ElderStudy, Attn: Board Secretary, 1301 College Avenue, Fredericksburg VA 22401.

All ballots must be received by 10 AM on March 19 to be counted in this election. Ballots will not be available at the meeting. E-mail submission of ballots will not be accepted since ballots will remain sealed until the meeting is called to order and official counting begins. The election contact is Secretary Barbara Barrett (540-372-3463).

## **ON CAMPUS DINING**

ElderStudy members may use the Seacobeck dining halls for full meal service and should display their ElderStudy nametag. Each person will pay the cashier a flat full price fee when entering the dining hall. Members may also eat in The Eagle's Nest, the student snack bar located in the Woodard Campus Center.

**Candidates for Three-Year Term, September 1, 2013 to August 31, 2016:**

Laura "Randy" Fennemore

("Randy" was derived from my former middle name, Miranda.)

My academic background includes a BS and an MS in Nutrition Research from Penn State University. In 1982, I certified at Mary Washington College to teach chemistry and general science and was a homebound teacher for several years. The last 20 years (1989 to 2009) of my employment were spent in the Textbook Department of the UMW Bookstore.

As a stay at home mother, my volunteer background is varied and includes serving as the Secretary for the local YMCA Board of Directors from 1994 to 2000 as well as serving as the secretary on the Rappahannock Swim League Board from 1990 to 1993. I currently am a volunteer at the Central Rappahannock Heritage Center.

My husband and I have lived in the Fredericksburg area for over 40 years and have two adult sons. We have been members of the Mary Washington Elder Study group since the fall of 2010 and are interested in helping the group that we have benefitted from these past 2 1/2 years.



### John Thompson

John has been a member of ElderStudy since September 2007, joining ElderStudy shortly after his retirement. During the 2007-2008 year, he attended several Board and Committee meetings so as to become familiar with ElderStudy operating practices. In June 2008, John agreed to become Treasurer and continues to serve in that position; the Treasurer's position also requires membership in the Administration Committee. The Annual Audits of the ElderStudy financial records during John's tenure as Treasurer have been very favorable; he successfully initiated the annual reporting to meet the revised IRS requirements for small non-profit organizations. From September 2009 to August 2012, John served as an elected Director of ElderStudy. In August 2011, he was requested by the President and the Board to take on additional responsibilities as Administration Committee Chairperson.

John and his family moved to the Fredericksburg area in the summer of 1972 on the heels of Hurricane Agnes. His educational background is in the fields of science and engineering, earning an undergraduate degree in engineering from the University of Cincinnati and graduate degrees in engineering/science from Lehigh University. His community activities have included serving as Treasurer for his subdivision civic association, working with scouting as a Packmaster/Troup Committee Member/ Merit Badge Counselor, serving on the Fredericksburg City School Board for 3 years with two years as Board Chairperson, and serving over 16 years on the Kane High School Alumni Memorial Award Committee (Kane, PA) with nearly 15 years as President of this scholarship committee. More recently, John has become active as a care-giver.



### Chuck Watkins

Chuck Watkins is from Roanoke, but attended high school in Hawaii. He received his M.S. in microbiology at Virginia Tech before entering the Air Force where he served 28 years as a pilot, clinical laboratory manager, hospital commander and as Corps Chief of the Biomedical Sciences Corps. After retirement from active duty he was a federal civil servant in communications research at the TRICARE Management Activity in Falls Church before retirement in 2010. He and his wife Dede reside in the Retreat subdivision west of Fredericksburg where he chairs the Homeowner's Association Board liaison committee, but they overwinter in Viera, Florida. Chuck is Sunday School Superintendent, sings in the choir, and serves as Secretary on the board of deacons at his church, and he's co-treasurer of the Fredericksburg Wine Society. He takes a 5-mile walk nearly every day and spends most of his time as a self-directed equity options trader. This is his third year in ElderStudy. He's Webmaster of ElderStudy.com and so provides our group's initial response to any inquiries, serves as our group's photographer, and is a member of the Book Group. Chuck was appointed to the Board of Directors in 2012 to fill a one-year term, due to a Board member's resignation for health reasons.

