



## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

I'm very happy to announce that John Parkinson has graciously stepped forward to take over my responsibilities as Webmaster of [www.ElderStudy.com](http://www.ElderStudy.com). He joins Alan Zirkle who so expertly manages the Curriculum and Schedule portions of the website. I also thank Anne McGrath, my predecessor in that role, who tenaciously headed up the recruiting effort to find a replacement.

Another "virtual" development is that even though membership continues to run ahead of where we were at this same point last year, the number of hard copies of this newsletter being printed has been reduced by nearly 2/3rds. This is a nice cost savings, but for those of you that are not yet web-enabled or who never will be, rest assured that we remain committed to providing you with the Newsletter in your preferred format.

Congratulations yet again to John Thompson our Admin Chair and Treasurer for again scoring a "clean" audit, and for keeping us out of trouble with the bank and the IRS. Also thanks to Wendell Anderson who volunteered his time and wonderful expertise in conducting the audit. Wendell's report concluded with, "...it should be noted that the financial records under review were superbly maintained. Consequently, the performance of the ElderStudy Financial Program remains outstanding."

As you'll see in this issue, your Curriculum Committee has developed another wonderfully eclectic line-up of lectures and tours for our next semester. Many thanks to the sponsors for coming up with the ideas, selecting the best, developing course descriptions, and for shepherding and introducing our guest speakers.

Kudos also to the Membership Committee for coordinating new member name tags, making new members feel welcome, contracting for refreshments for our General Membership Meeting, sending notes of encouragement for members who are sick or bereaved, calling or sending us various reminders, and for making all arrangements for our two annual luncheons. The Lake of the Woods Clubhouse does a great job with our Winter Luncheon, and I certainly hope you'll choose to join in on December 11th.

If you're willing to volunteer your time, regardless of your particular expertise or lack thereof, I'm sure we can find a place of service for you on one of our three committees.

## Treasurer's Report

The ElderStudy 2014-2015 Preliminary First quarter Financial Reports for the period September 1, 2014 thru November 24, 2014 have been reviewed by the Administration Committee and will be presented to the Board of Directors on December 3<sup>rd</sup> for approval; pending approval, the reports will be posted on the ElderStudy website. The Preliminary Reports show that the 2014-2015 Membership Fees received to date are sufficient to cover the expenses associated with the Approved Budget.. Electronic copies of the reports will be available on the ElderStudy website [<http://www.elderstudy.com>] after approval by the Board at its December Meeting. The 2013-2014 Annual Audit has been completed and findings will be presented to the Board for approval; no deficiencies were detected by the auditor. The ElderStudy 2013-2014 Federal Tax Report will be filed before January 15. If you have questions, please contact the Treasurer (John Thompson) by email: [johnsafet@cox.net](mailto:johnsafet@cox.net).

## Administration Committee Report

The Administration Committee, with Board of Directors guidance, develops policies and plans for operating the ElderStudy organization, monitors finances and projects future needs, proposes an annual budget with recommended annual fees, and periodically reviews ElderStudy governing documents relative to potential need for revision or change. The Committee meets quarterly about 8 days in advance of the Board of Directors Meetings.

The most recent Committee Meeting was held on November 25 with the following committee-members in attendance: Ann McGrath, Whit Jones, Margaretta Williamson, Phil Hall, Chuck Watkins, Randy Fennemore, Pat Parkinson, and John Thompson. Preliminary first-quarter financial reports were discussed and approved for presentation to the Board with appropriate updates as necessary for the last five days of November. The Committee reviewed proposed revisions to Section A of the Policy & Procedures Document (Governing Documents) and recommended presentation to the Board of Directors at their December 3 Meeting; pending Board approval, the proposed changes will be provided to the General Membership for approval at the next General Membership Meeting. A recommendation for the Bachelor of Liberal Studies Scholarship for the 2015-2016 academic year was developed and will be presented to the Board at its December Meeting.

**The next Committee Meeting** is scheduled for February 24th at 1 PM in the Center of Lifelong Learning at the UMW Stafford Campus [Room SC210 South]. At this meeting, the activities associated with development of the 2015-2016 Budget will be initiated. Questions and comments may be addressed to the Admin Committee Chair [John Thompson, at [johnsafet@cox.net](mailto:johnsafet@cox.net)].

## COMING TO THE THEATRE THIS SPRING

**February 12<sup>th</sup> thru February 22<sup>nd</sup>.** - *The Drunken City* by Adam Bock. A case of pre-wedding jitters is hardly a rarity, but bride-to-be Marnie is having a tough time reconciling that, while she loves the man she is about to marry, she is not in love with him. This soon-to-be-bride, along with her soon-to-be bridesmaids, hit New York City hard for the bachelorette blowout, and upon meeting Frank and Eddie, the girls are hard-pressed to keep Marnie from making a mistake that could destroy her soon-to-be marriage. Bock's sweet and provocative comedy explores familiar "Sex in the City" themes chock full of heartache and the oh-so-complex and ever-changing nature of love.

"It's a huge huge huge huge moment in her life and it's gonna be awesome and then she gets to start out a whole new life and everything." —Melissa

"Tart, smart, and intoxicating." —*The New York Sun*

Tickets go on sale February 4<sup>th</sup> and will be available during/after class. Box Office 654-1124. Show dates: February 12 – 14 and 19 – 21 at 8:00 p.m., February 15 and 22 at 2:00 p.m. *For the hearing impaired, listening devices are available for checkout at the Box Office prior to each performance. ElderStudy members are encouraged to bring non-member guests to the class on February 11<sup>th</sup>.*

**April 9<sup>th</sup> thru April 19<sup>th</sup>.** - *Lady Windermere's Fan* by Oscar Wilde. At just shy of 21, Lady Windermere has it all—looks, riches, and status in London's aristocracy. That is...until she discovers that her husband has been secretly wooing a widowed newcomer, the mysterious Mrs. Erlynne. Desperate beyond reason and determined to retaliate against Lord Windermere's stubborn insistence that Mrs. Erlynne attend her birthday party, Lady Windermere schemes to surrender to sweet Lord Darlington's flirtatious advances in Oscar Wilde's comedy of morality, politics, and polite society.

"We are all in the gutter, but some of us are looking at the stars." —Lord Darlington

"Immensely pleasurable" —*The Washington Post*

Tickets go on sale April 1<sup>st</sup> and will also be available during/after class. Box Office 654-1124. Show dates: April 9 – 11 and 16 - 18 at 8:00 p.m. April 12 and 19 at 2:00 p.m. *For the hearing impaired, listening devices are available for checkout at the Box Office prior to each performance. ElderStudy members are encouraged bring non-member guests to the class on April 8<sup>th</sup>.*

**Mark your calendar!** ElderStudy classes are on Wednesday, February 11<sup>th</sup> and April 8<sup>th</sup>. See the spring schedule for details.

The program for April 16, 2015 is a day we will spend at Camp Upshur, Marine Corp Base Quantico (MCBQ), learning about and actually having the opportunity to operate combat simulators that the Marines used and are using in preparation for deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan.

The Virtual Convoy Combat Trainer (VCCT) is a training simulator consisting of suite of four Humvees outfitted with armor and weapons that replicate the vehicle configurations crews actually use in the field. The simulators are in 53 foot trailers that can be moved to various locations to train deploying troops. The system uses databases that give a realistic depiction of what Marines would encounter in their convoys.

The Indoor Simulated Marksmanship Trainer (ISMT) is a weapons' training simulator that is used to train shooters in the fundamental of marksmanship using a variety of weapons.

In the morning, half of the group will be involved with the VCCT and the other half of our group will be involved with the ISMT. We will then break for lunch and after lunch, we will switch around and each group will work with the other simulator. Dress very casually as there will be some physical exertion required, e.g., climbing into and out of the Humvees when involved with the VCCT and assuming various shooting positions when involved in the ISMT. You can find additional information about the VCCT and the ISMT on the internet.

The maximum size of our group that the Marines can accommodate is 50 people, and we need at least 15 before they will approve our involvement. To get on MCBQ, I will need to provide the full names of those who wish to attend, and you will need a picture ID to get on the base. If you are interested in participating in this program or have any questions, please email me at [cjeagle@verizon.net](mailto:cjeagle@verizon.net) or call me at 540 891-1219. Please note that the Marines have requested the name and rank of any of our participants who are retired military.

Our Marine program coordinator has blocked the 10:00 am to 3:00 pm time frame. We should car pool to the greatest extent possible. Those who wish to carpool will meet at the Burlington Coat Factory parking lot on Route 3 and be ready to depart for Camp Upshur no later than 8:30 am. Directions to Camp Upshur are noted below. We will need to bring a brown bag lunch.

**DIRECTIONS:** (Directions are available on Map Quest) From I-95 North, take Exit 148 and at the light turn left (West). After a brief drive, you will encounter a military checkpoint, who will have your name, but you will have to show a photo ID. Continue west and you will pass the Ammunition Supply Point on your right and then a fire station on your left. Soon thereafter, there will be a right turn with a sign stating to Camp Upshur. Turn right and continue for approximately 10 miles until you encounter a T intersection. Turn left at the T intersection and continue on for less than a 1 mile. Turn right and continue on to Camp Upshur. Note: I am working with the Marine coordinator, and it is possible we can meet up along the road immediately after the right turn near the fire station. We would then convoy together up to Camp Upshur. Suspense for signing up is April 1, 2015.

ElderStudy Winter Season's Luncheon is at the Lake of the Woods Club house on December 11 starting at 11 AM. Membership Committee volunteers, Eugenia Jones and Carolyn Sulimia arranged the special event with "Becky Y' Slam" Melody of Music Styles and good food. Planning to see you there, if not have a warm and healthy winter season.

During a recent ElderStudy session three (3) members volunteered and checked interest in curriculum, membership and administrative committees. They will join efforts to keep improving the ElderStudy organization. John Parkinson accepted as Webmaster, Nancy Neil now helps answers Telephone Inquiries, and JoAnn Mazzetta became a Buddy representative. Membership Committee is still seeking a Secretary for only four (4) meetings held each year. If you have any interests or questions, call 540- 903-3526. All members are invited to attend the next Membership Committee meeting Wednesday, February 18, 2015 at 11 AM in the CLL room.

Patricia Parkinson Membership Chair

The Book Group list for the Spring Semester is as follows:

January 8, 2015 - TRIANGLE: The Fire That Changed America by David VonDrehle

February 12, 2015 - THE POSTMISTRESS by Sarah Blake and ADDRESS UNKNOWN by Kathryn K. Taylor.

March 12, 2015 - SNOWBALL by Alice Schroeder

April 9, 2015 - THE LEMON TREE by Sanddy Tolan

May 7, 2015 - ONE SUMMER: AMERICA 1927 by Bill Bryson

Please join us for a lively discussion of these books. You don't have to read them to attend!