

*Mary Washington***ElderStudy**  
LEARNING IN RETIREMENT 

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Greetings to all our members (in our growing numbers - at latest count over 200 of us now). That means ES interest-level and diversity are both increasing, and that's a welcome development. Not so welcome is that when we have an especially interesting program, we may run out of seats for all comers in Chandler Hall, room 102. You will recall that the Fire Marshall has assigned a strict occupancy limit of 50 persons to that venue. If we fill the room to that level we are required to send any late-arrivers away. So be advised to make every effort to avoid arriving late. Yes, I am very well aware that our limited parking situation may make early arrival especially difficult. We've tried hard to address the parking problem, but all our efforts have been to no avail. I offer my sincere apologies in advance to anybody who ends up in this unfortunate situation.

*Fall Membership Meeting is October 14th in Woodard Red Room from 1000 to 1200*

**Mark your calendar. See you there.**

On a happier note, it is clear that we do have a superior calendar of program offerings for you this fall semester. I urge you to check it out on our newly re-modeled and updated internet website (ElderSturdy.com). Click on Curriculum and see at a glance what's coming up. The TV ads keep reminding us, "There has never been a better time to learn." That's just as true for ElderStudy as it is for Apple iPads.

At the General Membership meeting on Friday, October 14 at 10 AM, we will discuss the possibility of a name change. As you may know, a couple of years ago our "parent" organization, Elderhostel, changed the name of its travel program to "Road Scholars" Many of us were reluctant to identify ourselves with the word "elder". How about "Mary Washington Life of the Mind"? Think about it. Let's talk about it ! Let's act on it!!!!

Here's another thing. Might we offer something in the way of programming in addition to our regular mostly lectured based curriculum plus occasional social events and field trips. This past spring I visited our counterpart organization in Asheville, NC and got some ideas. They have a number of special interest groups which meet repeatedly throughout the semester. For example they have a wine tasting group, a stock market investment study group, a bridge playing group, a Mah Jongg group, a poetry lovers group, a "Skeptical Inquirers" group, a digital photography group, and several others including a book group much like the one we already have. Might we do more along such lines? What do you think? Do you have any suggestions?

I look forward to seeing you at some of our up-coming programs.

- Phil Hall

### **ElderStudy 2010-2011 Financial Report**

The ElderStudy 2010-2011 Program year was completed on August 31, 2011; a financial report of income and expenses for the year is included with this Newsletter. Unexpected membership growth to 247 members lead to membership-fee income exceeding projections and a need for more new-member name tags than had been anticipated (expenses above budget). Interest rates for the ElderStudy Certificates of Deposit were less than 2% with interest accruing until CD maturity; only one CD matured during the report period and the earned interest was transferred to the checking account as income.

In December 2010, the Board of Directors approved a distribution of excess funds in the form of Grants to University departments whose faculty presented programs as part of the ElderStudy 2009-2010 Program; a similar decision was made in June 2011 relative to the University department presentations during the 2010-2011 Program. At the June Board Meeting, the Board also approved a reduced membership fee for 2010-2011 members who renewed their 2011-2012 membership before September 10, 2011; as of August 31 the 2011-2012 membership count was 174 with continued growth anticipated.

Questions and comments on the Financial Report should be addressed to John Thompson (ElderStudy Treasurer) by email ([johnsafet@cox.net](mailto:johnsafet@cox.net)) or by phone 71-4827). A copy of the Report is posted on the ElderStudy bulletin board in Chandler 102.

## **ElderStudy Administration Committee**

The Administration Committee is one of the three standing committees of the ElderStudy organization as defined in Article VI of the ElderStudy Constitution. Under the By-Laws of the organization, the Administration Committee is charged with the following duties:

- a.** Develop, for the Board of Directors, policies and plans for operating the ElderStudy organization.
- b.** Periodically review the ElderStudy governing documents and recommend any needed changes to the Board of Directors.
- c.** In conjunction with the other two standing committees, update the contents of the Procedures Manual and obtain the approval for the recommended updates from the Board of Directors.
- d.** Monitor the finances of the organization and project future financial needs, propose an annual budget, and recommend annual membership fees.
- e.** Maintain an official file of all pertinent information about ElderStudy.
- f.** Develop policies and plans to achieve the above.

The Administration Committee meets quarterly, just prior to the Board of Directors Meeting. Additional meetings of the Committee may be scheduled as appropriate to transact the business of the Committee. The current members of the Administration Committee are: Don Morris, Anne McGrath, Janet Sullivan, and John Thompson (Chairperson). The Constitution and By-Laws require that the Treasurer be a member of the Administration Committee.

For additional information, contact John Thompson. (540) 371-4827 email: [johnsafet@cox.net](mailto:johnsafet@cox.net)

### **MEETING MINUTES ARE AVAILABLE TO ALL MEMBERS**

Copies of the minutes of the General Membership Meetings and the Board meetings are available for your review on our website, **[www.ElderStudy.com](http://www.ElderStudy.com)**.

*PLEASE TURN OFF YOUR CELL PHONES DURING CLASS*

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**MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE**

A warm welcome is extended to all new members. Your contact sheet lists members who contribute to the various functions that fall within the responsibilities of the Membership Committee. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions. This year's Fall Social will be held at the Lake of the Woods Clubhouse on Thursday, December 1st. If you have never seen the beautiful setting of the Lake of the Woods Clubhouse you won't want to miss the great food and good company you'll find there with us. One of the most attractive aspects of ElderStudy is the opportunity it affords to become acquainted with new colleagues with varied backgrounds and interests. Take the opportunity to meet your colleagues in a social atmosphere and relax. Guests are always welcome. Rose Marie Schlemm will take reservations and collect payments. Eugenia Jones will arrange for entertainment. Further information is contained in the enclosed flyer.

The Committee will meet in the Woodard Red Room on Wednesday, November 2nd. Interested members are encouraged to attend any or all meetings. Our tasks have been divided into manageable sizes, and there is lots of help, so you can do as much or as little as you wish.

For more info, email [stew@infionline.net](mailto:stew@infionline.net), or phone Stew Engel

**Fall luncheon will be held on December 1, 2011 at  
Lake of the Woods Clubhouse . 12:00 noon.**

RoseMarie Schlemm will take reservations and collect payments. The program is being arranged by Eugenia Jones. Further information is contained in the enclosed flyer.

Be prepared to have a wonderful time!

***Make your reservations now. You don't want to miss this exciting event.***

THE NEXT MEMBERSHIP MEETING WILL BE HELD ON

NOVEMBER 2

IN WOODARD MEETING ROOM 2 AT 1300 - 1500.

INTERESTED MEMBERS ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND.

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## **The Curriculum Committee**

ElderStudy's Curriculum Committee is responsible for providing you approximately 40 two-hour sessions each semester.

We get ideas for topics and speakers from suggestions by you the members, from research by the members of the committee, and even from speakers who contact us with offers. Our goal is to offer a balanced choice of topics, with offerings related to history, art, music, drama, literature, medicine, technology, science, world issues, politics, travel, etc., etc.

We occasionally give tours to places of interest within a convenient driving distance of Fredericksburg. We have visited many historical sites and interesting businesses in the area.

You are always welcome to attend meetings of the Curriculum Committee. We usually meet three times every semester.

If you have a topic that you would like to learn more about, if you have recently heard a speaker that you think would be interesting to ElderStudy, if you or a family member is knowledgeable about a subject and would like to talk to us about it—please let us know.

Speakers who are not ElderStudy members are normally offered an honorarium of \$100 (\$150 for out-of-town speakers).

For each topic that gets proposed, the committee reaches a consensus on whether to pursue it, then we attempt to find a knowledgeable speaker, and get the speaker to commit in principle to give a talk to us. Then we must negotiate a date and time, which is often difficult, and schedule a classroom.

If we expect a session to be very popular, we attempt to get a classroom larger than our normal venue, Chandler 102. The best larger classrooms (such as Combs 139) are only available to us when UMW is on a break. Sometimes we schedule larger sessions in the Red Room of the Woodard Campus Center, but since this location involves a longer walk from parking areas, we find that fewer members attend.

The University has announced that it plans to raze Chandler Hall and build new Student Union and Dining Hall in its place. We do not know the time frame of the demolition, but we do know that it will definitely affect ElderStudy, and we know that the University planners will be keeping us in mind.

When all the sessions for a semester have been scheduled, the Curriculum Committee prepares the schedule which gets sent to all members via U. S. Mail, and which is available on the ElderStudy web site. The web site also has other formats of the schedule, including monthly calendars and a display of sessions upcoming in the next two weeks.

Often there are changes to the schedule, and we try to notify you as soon as possible when we hear of a change. Members who have email are notified with a message, and attempts are made to call members without email.

Changes are documented on the web site, and the message on ElderStudy's phone number (654-1769, option 2) is updated. It is always a good idea to check the phone message before leaving home to attend a session.

Feel free to contact me if you have questions, comments, or suggestions. My email address is [az@azirkle.com](mailto:az@azirkle.com) and my phone number is 373 6448.

In Chandler 102, until the room fills up, please try to leave the front row open for those of us who have hearing, seeing, and mobility problems. It is a lot easier to hear the presentation if you are sitting on the front row.

If you have trouble hearing the speaker, please notify the speaker immediately. If you can't hear, you can bet that there are others who can't hear either, but are reluctant to speak up. Although we have a microphone, many speakers do not like using it unless it is confirmed that they are not being heard.

The UMW Parking Structure is a slightly longer walk from Chandler Hall, but it is a very pleasant walk through the campus, with one fairly-gentle hill. Enter from Route 1 and park on the top deck. Walk off towards the campus, and soon you will be on the main campus walkway past the Library and Woodard Student Center. Go up the hill after Woodard, and bear right to Chandler Hall.

Alan Zirkle

## THE CORNERSTONE OF ELDERSTUDY

***ElderStudy membership means more than just attending the classes of your choice.***

Membership means active participation. Active participation means not only attending sessions, but serving on committees as well. Being an involved member is important to assure a wide variety of interesting classes and achieving a smooth functioning organization. By serving on various committees you can help develop the curriculum, assist with administrative tasks, help with membership responsibilities or plan social events. ***Active participation is the cornerstone of our "all volunteer" program.***

The ElderStudy Book Group meets on the second Thursday of each month - in one of the meeting rooms on the upper floor of Woodard Hall. We are scheduled for Meeting Room 4, but if you don't see us, check out the other three meeting rooms on that floor.

On October, Margareta Williamson will be leading the discussion of *A Big Little Life: A Memoir of a Joyful Dog* by Dean Koontz. In November, Rose Reif leads *Losing Mum and Pup* by Christopher Buckley. We end the semester in December with Chuck Morgan leading *American Creation: Triumphs and Tragedies at the Founding of the Republic*.

Roger Bourdon chairs the Book Group, with Anne McGrath helping with the computer lists. It's a "loose group". Come if you wish, and join the discussion, or just come and listen. You do not have to have read the book.

Any questions, call Roger (540 373-0162) or Anne (540 785-4664).

- Name tags: contact Miriam Gerard at 540-834-2072 for a replacement. There is a charge for this.
- Remembrances: notify Kay Pearce at 540-710-7399 of any member who is ill, in the hospital or loses a family member.
- Correct information: contact Chuck Johnson at 540-891-1219 to update your information on the membership list.
- Class schedule: check the bulletin board in Chandler or the website. The link is below.

*This newsletter is published by the Membership Committee for members of UMW ElderStudy. For additional information visit our website or contact our voicemail at (540-654-1769).*

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

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



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## ELDERSTUDY RELATED COMMUNITY INFORMATION

For the convenience and protection of its members, ElderStudy has a policy that the membership list, newsletter and e-mail list be used for only the conduct of official business.

We occasionally get requests from outside organizations asking that we publicize events they are sponsoring. Examples are UMW professors holding special functions open to the public or National Park Service special one-time tours and events. These events must have a strong educational component. In addition, many members wish to be notified of the occasional passing of one of their fellow colleagues or UMW faculty.

To accommodate these special cases, a separate e-mail list is maintained. You must request that you be added to the list by e-mailing Stew Engel at [stew@infionline.net](mailto:stew@infionline.net) with "ES Xtra Info" as the Subject. You may request removal at any time.

