



ROMU *news*

Issue 2

October 2016

Message from Leadership Group

It has been an exciting time for ROMU members from 2015 to 2016. Events over this period included coffee parties, a stage performance, and a travel presentation.

To date the retirees group has:

- structured our organization on a more formal basis but maintained the flexibility of an open organization
- linked up with other internal organizations for the benefit of our members
- strengthened our identity in the University and broader community with a distinct Membership card and ROMU Banner

Now we're looking for ideas to enhance our connection with our members and the University.

Suggestions from table discussions at the 100+ Celebration coffee party include:

- photography group
- garden group
- retirees' choir
- walking group
- travel group tour

Please come forward if you are interested in helping our group put these ideas into play. Send an email to Rick Lewis, Doreen Haskell or Joe Sombach through our ROMU site

retirees@macewan.ca

A happy and long autumn to you!

Joe Sombach

Upcoming Events

Theatre Night
November 24

Fall Kick Off – Celebrating the First 100

On the 14th September ROMU hosted its first scheduled event for 2016-17, a coffee social held at Fulton Place Community Hall. The primary focus was a celebration of the first 100 members to join ROMU. To some it may seem incredible that in just two short years our membership has grown to over 100. However, if we recall the unique "Spirit of MacEwan" that historically exists within our faculty and staff, it is not so surprising. Before the 26 attendees shared the celebratory cake Chery Ann Hoffmeyer provided her unique analogy between the "building" of a cake and the creation and growth of ROMU.

As always, the social also served as an opportunity for former colleagues to exchange stories from their careers at MacEwan and to catch up on what they are now doing. Since reaching 100 members in June of this year our membership has now grown to 108 and we look forward to welcoming those who will join us in the coming months. Much appreciation is extended to the volunteers of the Social Committee who organized this event, as well as all of the volunteers who are contributing to the success of ROMU.



ROMU Member Profiles

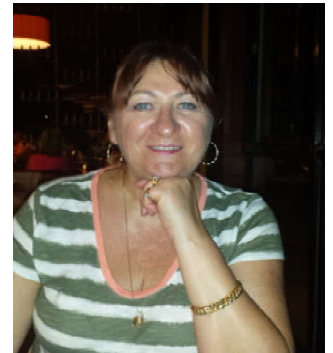
Mary Kachmar

I have held several positions at MacEwan. In August 1974 I was hired as a bookstore clerk at Assumption Campus then transferred to Mill Woods campus. Several years later I became a receptionist and transferred back to Assumption, then on to Jasper Place. From Jasper Place to Seventh Street Plaza where I took the position of Scheduler. When City Centre campus opened I moved there until December 2010.

Retirement???? I have returned to MacEwan numerous times since my "retirement" to work term positions so once I have fully retired I will let you know.

I'm waiting to hear from a surgeon to have a hip replacement so plans are on hold but am still going to Puerto Vallarta in November. Woo-hoo!

It was fun reconnecting with everyone at the Fall Kick-off.



Karl Holmann



After spending 30 years at (Grant) MacEwan, from 1972 to 2002, in various positions as instructor, department head, outreach administrator and dean in the Division of Arts and Science, I retired early at age 61. I was fortunate to watch MacEwan grow from a storefront operation to a major player on the educational scene in Edmonton, and to be directly involved in its growth as President of the Faculty Association, Member of the Board of Governors, and Chairman of Academic Council.

Transition into retirement came easy. I had prepared for it by learning a new language, Spanish, and qualifying as dive master. I organized and led dive trips from Edmonton to Central America and Mexico and worked for a while in a dive center on one of the Bay Islands in Honduras.

In January 2006, I moved to Mexico, to be closer to my dive destinations. At first, I lived in the Sierra Madre of Sonora, then moved to Puerto Morelos, half an hour south of Cancun, by the beach and often did not wear shoes for a whole week.

For the last eight years, I have been residing with my cat in a place called Ajijic on the shores of Lake Chapala, the largest fresh water lake of Mexico, at an altitude of 1500 meters, and about 50 km south of Guadalajara. Here we have a large and vibrant expatriate community, with a daily schedule of cultural, social, educational and artistic activities. My own contribution to the community is being the moderator of a weekly group of Conversaciones en Español, which I started 7 years ago. I also work with a music organization that organizes and sells trip tickets to the symphony, ballet, and live Met opera transmissions.

The climate is ideal: warm in the winter, hot in the summer, but always cool at night, with a rainy season in June through September. Life here is safe, despite of what you may read in the papers, and cheap. I rent a fully furnished two-bedroom house for less than 500 CAD a month. Public health insurance is about 35 dollars a month which includes free visits to a doctor, medication and hospital stay if necessary.

I paint and write and, with the international airport only half an hour away, I travel a lot, mostly in Europe and South America. My last trip took me to Chile for a month. My next travel plan is to drive from Chapala to Cozumel in December for a week of scuba diving. The drive takes three days each way.

Work at MacEwan was good to me, and life after MacEwan is just as good.

Our People

- Anne Baran** I retired on 06 September 2016 and am loving it. Spent a couple of weeks camping in Jasper. A little chilly, well worth it. We had no time schedule to return, therefore took it very easy. We have booked our winter vacation and staying in Bali over Xmas. I am loving being able to go to the gym during the day.
- Wilbur Collin** Since retiring over 25 years ago I have enjoyed spending spare time travelling extensively throughout Canada and the US, visiting every province and over 40 states, as well as touring Spain, Portugal and Ireland
- Liz Dawson** Greetings from Vancouver Island. We have sold our condo in Maui but going back for this winter. Plans are to move back to Edmonton in the next few years. Only good part of that is being able to re-connect with "old" friends from GMCC days and being near to daughters and grandchildren.
- Barbara Heather** Since retiring from the Department of Sociology at the end of June 2015, I have been doing volunteer work, writing exams for Sociology textbook publishers, and working on some research with a long-time colleague. We had a paper accepted for presentation at a conference in Haverford, Pennsylvania, in November. I continue to do research using GMU's databases.

Hello MacEwan Alumni

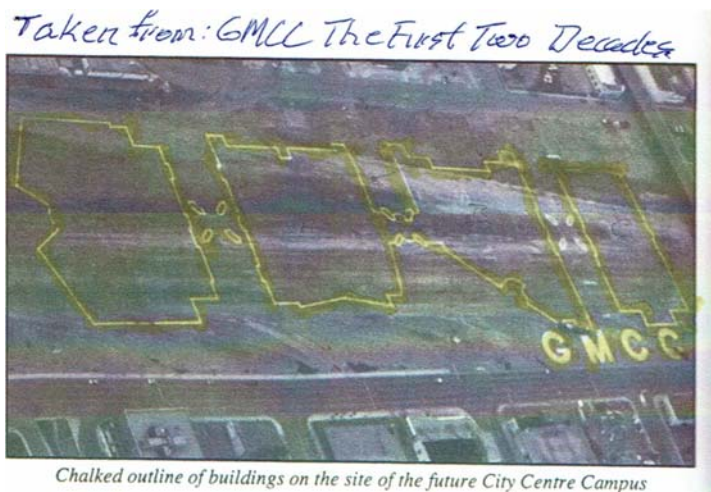
The Oilers now open their NHL season at the world class new Rogers Arena. It's fun to recollect how that former CN rail land became available for development only because of Grant MacEwan's initiatives. Realization of our city centre campus was due to the collective efforts of so many Grant MacEwan alumni. Amongst you, Barry Snowden, Andi Palas, Bruce Vincent and their staff did a wonderful job chalking this huge outline of the often delayed campus for all to see...especially Edmonton opinion leaders and MLAs

Now it's wonderfully fitting our MacEwan Griffins hockey teams will also play their home games in the arena that is part of their heritage.

Ann & I have a self-contained suite at our home in Victoria. Lucky for us it's been a stop for many MacEwan alumni...we will be delighted to see you too...simply let us know (250 391 9215) when you're coming.

Cheers, Go Oilers Go

Gerry Kelly gerry.kelly@shaw.ca



We couldn't let people think this project was on hold, which it was! In fact, active political forces were looking for the opportunity to kill it. Fortunately, we had an equally active board and Premier Don Getty on our side. Activity on the site was needed! Fifty foot letters urged "Go Oilers Go" during the 1989 Stanley Cup playoffs. Three months later, an exact scale chalked outline of the City Centre Campus appeared on the site. Of course, it was noticed by the downtown business community from their high-rise office windows, as well as by MLAs who regularly flew over the site to land at Edmonton's municipal airport.⁷²

Travel Tips

The following information has been provided by Wendy Vranas – a Travel Consultant with Transat Travel as well as a Sessional Instructor in the Travel Consultant Program at MacEwan University.

Purchasing travel insurance is one of the most important things you should do before leaving on your trip. Travel can mean encountering the unexpected, ranging from the inconvenient to the truly serious. In a medical emergency, **call the number immediately** that is on the front of your insurance card. You need to present the card at the hospital, but the call is critical to starting the claim process. By starting the claim process, you may avoid paying any costs personally. Some insurance coverage will even send a doctor to visit you in the comfort of your hotel room, which is much better than waiting in a foreign hospital.

For those of us 60 years and over, we should shop around for our medical coverage. Plans and rates change from year to year with all insurance providers. We should be especially diligent regarding pre-existing conditions. There are also annual plans for those who take several trips a year; these types of plans can provide excellent value. Whether you travel by land, air or sea, for fun or work, medical coverage is essential. Before travelling, check with your medical provider to determine whether you may require additional insurance during your travels.

Wendy Vranas CTC, ACC, Transat Travel, South Common
wendy.vranas@transat.com

Photo Memories

Is This The Same Rick Lewis



Pati Russell with the wild things
Thailand (demon monkeys) 2010, Louisiana 2013



Karl Holmann, Diving in Bonaire: This is what I saw This is what the eel saw

In Memorium

Leila Hastie
Barb Jones
Gayle Shaw

We are pleased to announce that Ross Hill is back among the living.

Committees

Leadership group

Joe Sombach
Pat Bone
Doreen Haskell
Chery Ann Hoffmeyer

Elaine Kirschner
Rick Lewis
John Morgan
Mary O'Neill

Laurene Park
Sharon Schnell
Alan Vladicka

Welcome and thank you to John Morgan for taking on the treasurer position.
Thank you to University staff for their support – Margo Baptista, Chelsea McNaughton, Tiffany Williams

Membership and Social

Mary O'Neill

In Memorium

Pat Bone

Newsletter Committee

Doreen Haskell dorenehaskell@gmail.com
Rick Lewis lewisr@macewan.ca
Eileen Matthews eileenmatthews@shaw.ca
Pati Russell patsianne@gmail.com



Cake from our fall kick off

We encourage our members to join us as a volunteer. The time commitment should be no more than two hours per month and is concentrated around the time of a specific event as opposed to every month. You can contact one of the following people to volunteer:

- Leadership – Joe Sombach at retirees@macewan.ca
- Social – Mary O'Neill at mary.oneill@shaw.ca
- In Memorium – Pat Bone at bonepm@shaw.ca

As you consider volunteering, remember, ROMU meetings are as much a social get together as a formal business meeting.