

LRI Times



Broadening Horizons Together

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President's Message—Vitality

With all that is going on at LRI, I cannot help but be impressed with our strength, enthusiasm and vitality. As you read this, I hope everyone has had a chance to greet friends and get acquainted with our new members. The winter term provides us with the usual dilemma of how to choose between 50-plus courses, numerous special events and ongoing activities, the new Scrabble group, a winter ice cream social, a new member coffee and a visit by George Mason University President Dr. Alan Merten. I always marvel at how we do it! We can be proud of ourselves and proud of our teachers and instructors who give so freely of their time and ideas to make LRI's program truly outstanding. Thank You.

If you hear the sound of saws, drills and heavy equipment, blame Gordon Canyock and the Facilities Committee for initiating several necessary construction projects, which will continue through the spring term at Tallwood. Harold Davey and the members of the Nominating Committee are developing a slate of candidates for six vacancies on the LRI Board and will appreciate your ideas and suggestions. Space limits a mention of other activities, but there is a lot of good planning going on within LRI.

Part of the vitality of LRI comes from the outstanding relationship we have with GMU. We look forward to hearing from Dr. Merten when he visits LRI on February 4 in TA-1 at 2:00. All members are welcome and encouraged to attend. Under his leadership since 1996, GMU is now the fastest growing university in Virginia, the quality of students has dramatically improved, the College of Visual and Performing Arts has been established, and most important from our perspective, LRI's status as an affiliate of the University was formally recognized. We very much appreciate Dr. Merten's

interest in LRI, the leadership of the GMU senior staff and the time and effort of GMU faculty and instructors who contribute to our program. We look forward to hearing Dr. Merten's thoughts and vision of GMU in the future and what contributions LRI can make to the success of the University.

A special thank you to all the LRI members that support our program by giving of time, energy, and talent and to the generous financial contributors to Friends of LRI. Thank you for the vitality!

Bob Bohall

Joanne Lingerfelt Resigns



Joanne Lingerfelt

Our sincere thanks for outstanding service and best wishes for her family go to Joanne Lingerfelt. Joanne resigned as LRI Administrator on December 31 to be with her family as her husband faces difficult medical problems. Joanne joined LRI in 1999; she will be greatly missed.

Jennifer Maloney Promoted

Congratulations to Jennifer Maloney on her promotion to LRI Administrator, effective January 9. Jennifer has been with LRI since 1999 and is an outstanding employee. She is thoroughly knowledgeable of LRI operations and procedures, has taken on many new responsibilities and has strong leadership and organizational skills.

Recruitment for an administrative assistant is underway. We very much appreciate the extraordinary response and hard work of the office volunteers who are doing a great job of filling in during this period of short staffing in the office.

Tallwood Facilities Update

In January, GMU removed the old asbestos tiles and sink from the Tallwood House kitchen and the “secret” bathroom toward the rear of the house. These actions were preliminary to an eventual decision to renovate or demolish the building. There is no timetable for further action, but we are guaranteed use of the two bathrooms and the copy machine area.

An emergency fire exit has been constructed in TA-1, which allows us its continued use for large classes (maximum occupancy was capped at 50 by the GMU Fire Marshall following the fall semester). GMU has picked up the tab for this work since it is a fire safety requirement. We tried to have the hinges on the existing doors switched so they open outward, but the concrete walkway blocks the doors. GMU will also replace the roof on TA-1 sometime after the winter session.

Despite the improvements to TA-1, we are continuing our experiment using an even larger venue for our most popular courses. The Christ Lutheran Church in Fairfax City has graciously offered us use of their fellowship hall for the Foreign Affairs course this semester.

When the weather is a little warmer, construction will also begin on new sidewalks leading from the parking lot to the patio and from the patio down to TA-2. GMU is paying for 50 percent of the bill, the rest to come from our capital improvement budget thanks to the generous donations to Friends of LRI.

Finally, we have also requested a cost estimate on the construction of three handicapped parking spaces on the west side of the circle adjacent to the north side of TA-3

If you would like to help with planning for facilities needs, landscaping or classroom beautification, please contact me at 703-425-4607.

Gordon Canyock

LRI Remembers Paula

Paula Schwartz died at age 78 on December 21, 2003. She taught numerous courses in literature, poetry, and song, bringing joy and delight to LRI members. She was also a revered member of the Life Story Writing Workshop where her self-revealing essays, brimming with poignancy and mirth, brought both tears and smiles to eager classmates. Both as a teacher and student, Paula was

special; she honored us with her talent. Her knowledge of English and American literature flowed effortlessly, touching all who were fortunate enough to enroll in her classes. Paula’s charisma as teacher and loyalty as friend has enhanced our lives and she will live on in our hearts and minds.

Facts about Paula’s life and celebrity as a writer may be found at www.elizabethmansfield.com.

Dr. Barry Berkey

Captain Michael Hogan, Michael Hogan Styles

When Patrick O’Brian’s fictitious commander Captain Aubrey sailed into American waters in 1812 to capture an American frigate (in the book, if not the movie), LRI’s Michael H. Styles’ triple-great grandfather Captain Michael Hogan had long since turned his years of being a real-life British ship commander into becoming a wealthy shipping merchant. At the age of 37, Captain Hogan had settled down, but only for a while, as an American in his new home of New York City. When you sign on to your first Royal Navy ship at age 10 and become both a ship owner and husband at age 23, you can live quite a full life in 66 years. And you can leave the telling of it to your descendents.

Michael Styles realized he was that descendent and was expected to organize the boxes of papers in his Aunt Betty’s Falls Church attic into a story of an active, strong-willed man whose life touched on many of the hot topics of the late 18th and early 19th centuries. Michael told the *LRI Times* that when he came into possession of the documents many years ago, he reviewed them, organized them chronologically, and then decided that research and writing was a job he could put off until retirement. His first step, when he started the task some 12 years ago, was to type each document into a computer file for easier searching. Fitting the documents into the events of their times required extensive research. The result is a highly interesting, well-footnoted history: *Captain Hogan: Sailor, Merchant, Diplomat on Six Continents*. (Michael also published a companion book, *Michael Hogan: A Family Addendum*.)

As far as LRI is concerned, Michael’s book is only his most recent distinction. He is one of the original members of LRI. He demurs on calling himself a founding member. “I wasn’t one of the people who set up the organization, just one of the first to sign

up.” He was vice president of LRI for the two years 1994-1996 and president for one year. Over the years, he has been a member or chair of all the core committees of LRI. In recent years he has been the chair of the University Liaison Committee. In early 2002, when GMU realized that LRI’s status with the University was not documented, Michael negotiated an affiliation agreement with GMU.

Many of the things we do today were started by Michael. In 1993, he began the weekly information sheet, *LRI Notices*. The professional computerized formatting of LRI publications began on his watch on the Publications Committee, and he still maintains a strong interest in LRI’s publications including the catalog and *Fairfax Ink*. LRI can only hope that Michael does not carry out his threat to “step back” from his LRI activities.

More information on Michael Styles and on purchasing his books may be found at <http://sixcontinents.home.att.net/>. The GMU-LRI Affiliation Agreement is on the LRI Website at <http://www.lri.gmu.edu/affagree.htm> and pictures of the GMU-LRI signing ceremony are at <http://mywebpages.comcast.net/coynem/signing.html>.

Michael Coyne

The Treasurer’s Corner

I’m pleased to report that in December the Board of Directors approved a 2004 budget that calls for total expenditures of \$211,250 (\$197,850 in operating costs and \$13,400 for capital fixtures and equipment), an increase of 7.7 percent over our 2003 budget. Because we are in a good cash position, the 2004 budget will be funded without a dues increase.

The principal reasons for the planned 2004 expenditure increases are:

- An overall 2-percent staff payroll increase or \$2,000.
- A \$5,000 increase in rent to provide for enlarged off-campus classroom space for our more popular classes.
- A \$2,000 increase in teacher appreciation expenditures—the board felt this was justified since all of our teachers provide their expertise gratis to LRI.
- A \$1,000 increase in landscaping expenditures to improve the look of the Tallwood campus.

- An additional \$3,200 for capital expenditures dedicated to classroom, office and general building/facility needs.

As in the past and to the extent deemed necessary by the board, your Friends of LRI contributions will be used to fund our capital needs and scholarship donations to George Mason—thanks for your past and future support.

Don Yesukaitis



*Here’s the LRI Chorus having a great time singing *The Twelve Days of Christmas*, complete with appropriate motions for each day’s gift. Joyce DeVoll was the capable leader getting these folks in shape (literally) to entertain at the LRI Annual Holiday Luncheon on December 5.*

Spring Short Story Contest

The LRI Fiction Writing Club invites all LRI members to take part in a short story contest. The deadline for entries is April 16, 2004. The winner will receive a prize of \$50 and publication in *Fairfax Ink*.

Stories should be typed, double-spaced, and no more than 5,000 words in length. There are no restrictions regarding style or subject matter, and LRI members may submit as many stories as they wish. Each story should be accompanied by a \$5 reading fee (which will pay for the prize and a small honorarium to the judge). The contest will be judged blind by a person who is not a member of LRI, so the title of the story should appear on each page of the manuscript, but the author’s name should not appear on the manuscript. The author’s name, story title, and word count should appear on a detachable cover sheet.

Checks for the reading fee should be made payable to LRI, and the manuscripts may be left at the LRI

office. If you have questions about the contest, please contact me at 703-281-0530 or email petpoole@msn.com.

Peter Poole

Record Year for Friends of LRI

Friends of LRI received record donations of \$28,053 in 2003. We are very fortunate that so many members and friends have generously supported our efforts. With the exception of three small institutional gifts, all donations came from either members or their family and friends. \$4,235 was donated in memory of deceased members and these funds were dedicated to our scholarship program with GMU. Of the balance, \$7,500 alone was received from a single generous benefactor to whom we can't say enough to express our gratitude. We are also grateful to the large number of LRI members who participated in the program (See the

special *LRI Times* supplement for names of the contributors. Fifteen asked that their names not be listed.) In total, 222 donations were received of which 21 were \$250 or more, shown as *Patrons*. Another 61, the *Supporter* category, were for \$100 or more. The wide breadth of donations shows how so many of our members appreciate our programs and are willing to give a little extra to make them better.

The donations have been used to fund our George Mason scholarships, acquire new equipment and supplement the general fund so that we are able to enter the new year without having to raise membership dues.

The Board of Directors and the Development Committee thank everyone for their generosity and thoughtfulness.

Eileen Duggan

Acknowledgement: Richard Lanterman took the pictures on pages 1 and 3. Rod Zumbro took the picture on this page.



Part of the large Best of Reader's Theatercast reacts to applause from an appreciative audience.

Welcome, New Members

Charles Allen
Agnes Aranyi
Claire Brunner
Hal Byers
Louise Carr
Cheryl Freeman
Mary Gauthier

Fred Glave
Fred Kaiser
Beth Kinser
Karol Knight
Judy Melnotte
Jerry Moore
Sarah Munson

Peter Nelson
Bob Neuman
Mary Orzech
Juliette Paelinck
Hermelinda Pompa
Ellen Schor
Carole Sergio

Joyce Simmons
Mary Stack-Dunne
Barbara Swecker
Averett Tombes
Joe Torpey
Barbara Walsh

Visit the Learning in Retirement Website at www.lri.gmu.edu

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