

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Greetings,

For those of you I have not met, I'm Art Haney, the newly elected president of the ECURFA. I have been retired from the School of Art and Design since January 1, 2006. Consequently, I am relatively new to the Association having only served on the Board for the past two years. When I came on the Board, the Association was experiencing an organizational restructuring with the oversight shifting from Institutional Advancement to the Alumni Association. This required a change in our by-laws, which was approved at a general membership meeting on May 12, 2008.

My duty, as I see it, is to aid in developing an efficient, productive, and amiable relationship with the East Carolina Alumni Association and to facilitate the wishes of our membership.

Currently, our most pressing issue is the partial loss of our endowment investments. These endowments fund our undergraduate and graduate scholarships and they are presently "underwater." That means the present market value of our endowments is less than the original endowment. Until the endowments regain their original value, they are not generating funds for our scholarships.

Because the RFA has commitments to current students for renewed scholarships,

the University has agreed to award those scholarships on our behalf this fiscal year. In the meantime, the market is still in a state of flux and accounts remain underwater. Consequently, we again need your help. We are starting a new donation campaign to support these scholarships. Your donation will go into a special account that will be used only for these scholarships. This account will not be invested and subject to loss. Unfortunately, we may need donations to fund these scholarships for two or three years or until the endowments recover their losses. When that occurs, the interest again will provide the scholarships. That goal is our number one priority.

Better communication with you is another goal of the executive board. Because of the restructuring, we have grown much larger but we are unable to connect with all of you. Our easiest and least expensive means of communication is through e-mail. If you want us to be able to contact you, please send us your e-mail address or call any member of the Board with your contact information. You will only be sent important information for retired faculty. If you do not have a computer with e-mail access, and you know another retired faculty member who does, ask them to share our information with you. The Alumni Association will also be sending you a questionnaire under the Retired Faculty

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New officers elected in 2009. From left to right they are Pat Pertalion, secretary; Art Haney, president; Jannis Shea, vice president; Frank Rabey, treasurer.

Association name. You can also respond to that questionnaire with your contact information, if you choose.

At the April 21 social, I asked members to inform me if they were having any parking problems on campus. I received four responses. Two had concerns about parking around the Student Recreation Center and the other two had problems with parking while they were doing volunteer or contractual work. I followed up on these concerns by meeting with Mr. Jack Tawney, Interim Director of Parking and Traffic Services. I found him to be extremely helpful. He was friendly, personable, accommodating, and above all, flexible. If you are having a problem with parking, I strongly encourage contacting Mr. Tawney personally at 252-328-6294 or tawneyj@ecu.edu. He can help you.

I will end this greeting by thanking you in advance for your generosity and cooperation regarding our scholarship funds. This organization has an excellent board of directors, web master, and newsletter editor all working in your interest.

Sincerely,
Art Haney, President

DUTCH LUNCHEONS

Dutch luncheons are held the first Thursday of each month. Check the RFA Web site (www.ecu.edu/ecurfa) or *The Daily Reflector* "Meeting Place" for location. For suggestions, call Frank Rabey at 252-756-0389.

IN MEMORIAM

Karen Baldwin
November 14, 2007

Mary G. Sorensen
March 18, 2008

James Lester Rees
April 17, 2008

William F. Pritchard
July 19, 2008

Fredrick M. Parham
July 29, 2008

Joseph W. Congleton, Jr
August 17, 2008

Philip J. Adler
August 29, 2008

Vila M. Rosenfeld
November 8, 2008

Robert B. Gantt
May 30, 2009

RFA SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM CPR NEEDED!

by Marguerite Perry, retired foreign language professor and RFA Treasurer, 1987-2002

In the spirit of its original purpose as a support group, the Retired Faculty Association (RFA) started a scholarship program under its first president, James W. Batten, elected at its first meeting on October 29, 1987. While members enjoyed continuing their social and professional ties through the organization, they were interested as well in offering financial incentives to attract additional academically talented young people to study at ECU.

The goal of creating a perpetual endowment under the ECU Foundation was established in an official document signed by Dr. Batten on May 7, 1991. The endowment agreement specified provisions for separate funding of undergraduate scholarships and graduate fellowships. Under RFA president Bea Chauncey, the document was amended on December 10, 2002, to limit eligibility for the undergraduate scholarship to children of ECU faculty members only.

Money for scholarships managed to accumulate through the years via contributions, especially memorial gifts, and by bits and pieces, leftovers after expenses were paid out of membership dues, the only fee charged. For many years dues remained at \$10 (annual), \$50 (life) and later increased to \$15 (annual), \$75 (life). They are now \$00—OOPS—for cash flow, but things change.

The corpus of the undergraduate endowment was reached on June 29, 1994, making way for awarding scholarships. Undergraduate awards were given for the

first time for the 1995-1996 academic year in the amount of \$700 to one student and \$350 to another. This marked the beginning of 15 consecutive years, including 2009-2010, for which at least one undergraduate scholarship was awarded, although the amount varied each year. When the amount reached \$1,600 for 1999-2000, it remained unchanged, so that each recipient for the last consecutive 11 years has consistently received \$1,600.

The first graduate fellowship was given in the amount of \$1,200 for 2001-2002 and the award continues, although it has been interrupted for various reasons, including insufficient funds, and the amount has varied. The recipient for 2008-2009 received \$2,000 and won a renewal for 2009-2010.

In summary, over a period of 15 years, 1995-1996 through 2009-2010, a total of \$28,750 has been awarded by the RFA to ECU students, including \$21,750 to undergraduates and \$7,000 to graduate fellows. With the undergraduate scholarship paying \$1,600 annually, it is now possible for a highly qualified applicant to receive a total of \$6,400 toward defraying expenses during four years at ECU, and two students have done this. The graduate stipend of \$2,000, renewable annually, stands to draw promising fellows to the campus. The RFA program continues to enrich the University's overall scholarship pool, increasing its recruiting potential. With less tangible yet important effect, RFA scholars play a part in raising academic standards and contribute to

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the intellectual atmosphere at ECU.

This issue of *Golden News* fully informs us of how seriously the distressed economy has plunged our scholarship funds “underwater” where they are not producing income sufficient to support our annual awards.

Thanks to the generosity of the University Foundation, these scholarships will be funded on our behalf for 2009-2010. However, only with marked improvement in the economy—or an “angel” donor—can our current plight be substantially relieved. Whether our scholarship funds “sink or swim” at this time may be decided more than we realize by how we view the problem.

Most of us are less comfortable financially now than “before” and requests for help seem more numerous than ever. Many of our members send scholarship money to other schools, including their alma maters, which understandably hold a strong claim to their loyalty. Things look discouraging, but the RFA scholarship program, particularly at this stage of development, warrants our careful attention. It is a work in progress and, although not spectacular, it is a signal achievement, laudable and worthy of ongoing encouragement. It has just gotten up to the speed that might be expected of it at this point, awarding both graduate and undergraduate scholarships of a moderate amount. Its record indicates that we would do well to make every effort to have it continue and when possible, to give it a push to gain momentum and grow to compete with more richly endowed programs on other campuses. Then it could serve better the needs of aspiring students at ECU.

Our scholarship program will have a chance to continue uninterrupted if support comes

in for it to survive the current crisis. RFA members have had meaningful connections with institutions of higher learning elsewhere all along, but neither divided loyalties nor recurring troubles have deterred them in the past from lending a helping hand.

When the RFA was organized more than 22 years ago, Art Haney, then president of the ECU Faculty Club, was campaigning for new members to join at \$45 (annual dues). Today, as president of the RFA, Art and the Board of Directors are asking a dues-free membership for contributions to get the scholarship program afloat. Let's do more than that! Let's set sail, flying the Pirate banner, enjoy the sea, relaxing and thinking about things getting better for everybody and if we dare to do it, let's hit some home ports of friends interested in helping students and invite them aboard, and sail back to the Alumni Center at ECU with a ship full of treasure to meet our needs...or do we unload at the Foundation?

LET'S CONFIRM THE TRUST WE PLACED IN OURSELVES AS AN ORGANIZATION IN THE BEGINNING AND HAVE MAINTAINED SUCCESSFULLY EVER SINCE. LET'S CELEBRATE ECU'S FIRST CENTENNIAL (1907-1909 THROUGH 2007-2009) SAILING SMOOTHLY INTO THE NEXT.

Please look for a letter in your mailbox soon in regard to how you can help the RFA Scholarships “float” once again.

AN ADVENTURE ON THE TRANS-SIBERIAN RAILWAY

by *Floyd Mattheis*

Our trip to Eastern Siberia began in St. Petersburg. We spent a few days seeing all of the important landmarks, including the Peterhof Gardens, before taking the overnight train to Moscow.

After three days in Moscow we flew to the Novosibirsk, the capital and largest city in Siberia, which is roughly a six hour flight east of Moscow. Novosibirsk was a secret science and technology center and only recently was opened to tourists. During WWII, Novosibirsk was a huge manufacturing center of tanks, planes, etc. because it was too far for the German Bombers to reach. On August 1, 2008, we observed a total solar eclipse on a river bank near our hotel outside of Novosibirsk.

The next day we boarded the Trans-Siberian Railway for travel to Irkutsk and Lake Baikal. The Trans-Siberian Railway



During the day, the sleeping arrangement is altered and people can sit up. All the individuals in this photo are in the group of Russians on their way to Vladivostok to purchase used Japanese cars for resale.

is the longest route in the world and covers one third of the globe. We travelled only a portion of the route. We boarded the train in Novosibirsk in the early evening on Saturday, August 2, and arrived on Monday morning in Irkutsk, a distance of about 1,000 miles. We spent two nights and a full day, and parts of two additional days on the train. Our train was a very old train and was not very well maintained. We thought we would be travelling first or second class but we ended up in third class. Some called it “riding the hand rail.”

Our compartment on the train was an open compartment (no door) consisting of three double bunks which would accommodate six persons. Two double bunks were perpendicular to the walkway through the car and the other double bunk was parallel to the walkway. We had the two bottom bunks on the wide side of the car. A young couple from England had the two upper bunks above us. When we boarded the train there were only four of us in the compartment. Around midnight a Russian family boarded the train during a stop and took the two empty bunks in our compartment. The family consisted of a couple with a 13-year-old son. The mother took the lower bunk and the son slept above her. The father was in the next compartment. There was a toilet at the end of each car. The toilets were not well maintained and the floor was always wet.

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RECENT PANAMA CANAL TRIP

by Herb Carlton

Thanks to Rudy Alexander's outstanding planning and leadership, 18 ECURFA members and friends enjoyed a fabulous 16 -day trans-Panama excursion in March.

We flew from RDU to San Francisco on March 5 and toured the city's harbor and zoo prior to boarding a Holland America cruise ship. Sailing at night and a few full days at sea, we spent one day in each of four ports-of-call along the pacific coast of Mexico and Guatemala. A variety of on-land tours were enjoyed at each stop.

Monday, March 16, we traversed the Panama Canal from Fuerte Amador to Colon. This was surely the highlight of the trip for everyone.

Once on the Atlantic side of the isthmus, we sailed to Cartagena, Colombia, our final port-of-call. Following two full days at sea, we docked at Ft. Lauderdale and flew back to RDU on March 20.

Our group consisted of Joanne and Ed Askew, Margaret Black, Joe Calder, Gina and Herb Carlton, Renate and Edgar Heckel (Cologne, Germany), Jeanne and Frank Rabey, Ed Tadlock, Melb and Graydon Tripp, Barbara and Ray Vickers, Edith and Tom Wilbourne, and of course our leader Rudy Alexander, to whom we are all most grateful for such an enjoyable and well-managed adventure.

For those who have never been on one of Rudy's travels, you have missed a rare opportunity for visiting interesting

places in a carefree, economical, superbly led manner and with delightful fellow travelers. Consider taking one of his 2010 tours. While ECURFA is the sponsoring organization, no need be a member to participate, so share the information with friends. Indeed, a majority of those on the Panama tour were not "retired faculty," per se.

Editors Note:

This trip had a special meaning for Herb. His uncle Oliff Long worked in Panama, and participated in digging through the continental divide (Culebra Cut). As young machinist, Uncle Oliff was building steam locomotives in Nashville, Tennessee in 1909 when he took a job in Panama. He was recruited to keep the many locomotives being used at Culebra, in good working condition. He left the canal job in 1911. He died in 1959 after working for the Southern Pacific Railroad on the West Coast of Mexico.

This photo of Herb beaming proudly as the ship passed through Culebra Cut was a unique moment for Herb and his fellow passengers.



AN ADVENTURE ON THE TRANS-SIBERIAN RAILWAY

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There was a person assigned to each car and he had a private compartment near the end of the car. He could be aroused by loud pounding on his door. We did this when we needed a blanket at night because we couldn't completely close the car's window and it got quite cool.

The train stopped infrequently during the trip—not many cities in that region. We passed many small villages that were in forests or farming communities. Each house appeared to have a sizable garden that had a variety of vegetables. This region, and especially the area around Irkutsk, was a very popular location for Stalin's "work camps."

When we disembarked from the train in Irkutsk it still had another 2,500 miles to go to Vladivostok. The Russian family that shared our compartment was going to Vladivostok to buy used cars from Japan and drive them back to their home near Novosibirsk (about 4,000 miles). They were travelling as a group of three families and were armed with rifles to keep thieves from stealing their cars on the way home. Our visit to Lake Baikal was interesting—it contains 20 percent of the fresh water on the earth. The Trans-Siberian Railway trip was interesting and unique. It would have been more enjoyable on a newer train car and travelling in 1st or 2nd class. Most of what we saw was open space with many small villages along the railway. The countryside was very beautiful during our trip.

EASTERN EUROPE RIVER CRUISE

by Rudy Alexander

Thirteen ECURFA members and friends departed from RDU Airport on June 21 for a seventeen-day cruise/tour of Eastern Europe. The group landed in Bucharest, Romania during the afternoon of June 22, where they joined 120 people from throughout the United States for many adventures during the following two weeks. Ten days were spent cruising the Danube River and making shore excursions in Romania, Bulgaria, Serbia, Croatia, and Hungary. The cruise ended in Budapest, Hungary.

From Budapest, all members of our group and many of the other trip participants traveled through Slovakia to Prague, Czech Republic for the final four days of the trip. Some of the special features of the trip were a day in the Black Sea resort city of Varna, Bulgaria; cruising through the Iron Gates of the Danube River; touring the cities of Belgrade, Serbia; Vukovar, Croatia; Budapest, Hungary; and Prague, Czech Republic; plus a number of excursions out into rural areas in each country. A highlight for everyone was the cruise on the Danube—great food, fine accommodations, and excellent service by the crew members.

The members of our group were Frank and Jeanne Rabey, Stan and Camille Harris, Page and Sally Hudson, Harry and Janet Rolison, Penny James, Meg Hudson, Nell Garner, George Mewborn, and Rudy Alexander, group leader.

SOME THOUGHTS ON VOLUNTEERISM

by Douglass C. Wilms

Editors Note: Retired ECU faculty members spend their time on travel, gardening, hobbies, investment research, etc. The editor is aware that a number of members also volunteer in order to remain active in the general community and have a positive impact. I asked Doug to tell his story because I knew about it. The purpose in asking him was to start a series on volunteering.

During my first years as a member of Kiwanis I worked as the Club’s Program Chair (arranging for speakers) and working with teachers at Wahl Coates giving talks on various social studies topics as related to the curriculum, mainly for the 4th and 5th grades. I found working with these youngsters and their teachers very rewarding and I looked forward to every opportunity presented to me.

About two years after joining I was asked to give a talk to the Club’s members. I had done some research on retirees while at ECU and thought a program entitled “Aging in America” might be of some interest. Little did I realize at the time that one club member was the president of the Board of the Pitt County Council on Aging. Shortly after that presentation, he asked me to become a board member of the Council. That invitation began a rewarding six year association with many community leaders who also had an interest in the welfare of the County’s senior population.

For many years the Council on Aging was housed in a small, cramped, and somewhat uncomfortable setting in some county offices

in need of repair. The Council, for several years, had been considering fundraising effort to build a new and larger facility. As a non-profit organization, we could expect only limited financial assistance from Pitt County. The County kicked off our efforts by giving the Council 8.25 acres on County Home Road, across from the Farmer’s Market. Later, they gave the Council on Aging a cash contribution of \$250,000. At this time, our fund raising efforts went into high gear and, to make a long story short, we successfully raised \$1.5 million. Contributions came from many individuals, businesses, and banks. The largest contribution—\$600,000—came from the Perkins, Wells, and West Foundations. When you visit our new Senior Center you will note that the name of the building mirrors the significant contribution of these three foundations. Inside you will see bronze plaques adjacent to the entrance of each room. Each plaque represents an individual contribution of \$50,000.

The new center includes, in addition to staff offices, a large multipurpose room with a divider and a catering kitchen, a computer lab, game and craft rooms, a library, and a health screening room and facilities. Ample parking is available as well. Today, the new 11,200 sq. ft. facility is debt free and stands as a testament to the countless volunteer hours Pitt County citizens gave that made this project a success.

I have thoroughly enjoyed all of my

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volunteer efforts with Kiwanis, Wahl Coates, the Salvation Army, Meals on Wheels, and look forward especially, to

continue working with the Council on Aging after my tenure on the Board ends in January, 2010.



Retired Faculty Association **LEADERSHIP**

Office or Service	Members	E-mail Address	Phone Number
President	Art Haney	haney4art@suddenlink.net	756-6957
Vice President	Jannis Shea	jbshea1@suddenlink.net	757-2450
Secretary	Pat Pertalion	pat@pertalion.org	752-5528
Treasurer	Frank Rabey	frabey@suddenlink.net	756-0389

Board Members			
Travel Chair	Rudy Alexander	sralexan@suddenlink.net	355-6084
	Vince Bellis	corgys@suddenlink.net	758-1979
	Anita Brehm	onetoe@suddenlink.net	752-3430
	Paul Hartley	hartleyp@ecu.edu	756-7729
	Wayne Ayers	ayersp@ecu.edu	756-5829
	James Bruner	jbruner1@suddenlink.net	355-7328
	Madge Chamness	masc22@suddenlink.net	758-4801
	Antonia Dalapas	apdalapas@suddenlink.net	752-6513
	Ted Gartman	gartmanw@ecu.edu	355-5731
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Liaison	Betsy Rabon '86 <i>Alumni Center Coordinator</i>	Betsy.Rabon@PirateAlumni.com	328-6072

The Winner in Response to the ECURFA Travel Questionnaire



The Great Rivers of Europe River Cruise

Amsterdam to Vienna

June 5-20, 2010

<u>Day</u>		<u>Arrival</u>	<u>Departure</u>
1	Fly RDU to JFK to Amsterdam		
2	Amsterdam (embark at 12:00 noon)		
3	Amsterdam		4:00 p.m.
4	Cologne, Germany	3:00 p.m.	11:45 p.m.
5	Koblenz	7:30 a.m.	
6	Koblenz		6:00 a.m.
	Mainz	2:00 p.m.	11:00 p.m.
7	Frankfurt	4:00 a.m.	8:00 p.m.
8	Wertheim	10:00 a.m.	overnight
9	Wurzburg	1:00 p.m.	11:45 p.m.
10	Gerlachshausen	8:30 a.m.	9:15 a.m.
	Schweinfurt	3:00 p.m.	11:45 p.m.
11	Bamberg	7:00 a.m.	2:00 p.m.
12	Nuremberg	7:00 a.m.	6:00 p.m.
13	Kelheim	8:00 a.m.	8:30 a.m.
	Regensburg	12:15 p.m.	11:00 p.m.
14	Passau	8:45 a.m.	5:00 p.m.
15	Melk, Austria	5:00 a.m.	12:30 p.m.
	Vienna	7:30 p.m.	
16	Vienna (disembark in AM and fly Vienna to JFK to RDU)		

**The Great Rivers of Europe River Cruise
REGISTRATION FORM**

The price of the cruise is based on double occupancy. Prelude Deck Cabins are \$4,719.12 and Cantata Cabins are \$5,119.12.

Includes:

- Roundtrip air transportation from RDU to JFK and transatlantic
- Airport welcome and transfers with a Grand Circle representative at your destination
- Accommodations for 14 nights in an outside cabin aboard a private Grand Circle river ship
- All meals: 14 breakfasts, 14 lunches, and 14 dinners (including complimentary wine at dinner)
- 11 exclusive, guided sight-seeing tours: Amsterdam, Koblenz, Mainz, Heidleberg, Wertheim, Wurzburg, Bamberg, Nuremberg, Regensburg, Passau
- Exclusive Discovery Series Events: silversmithing demonstration, glassblowing demonstration, home-hosted visit, discussion on local history and culture
- Personal headset on all included and optional tours
- Onboard ship: commentary during cruising, captain's welcome and farewell receptions and dinners
- Baggage handling for one piece of luggage per person, including tips

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

E-mail Address _____ **Phone** _____

Roommate Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

E-mail Address _____ **Phone** _____

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prelude Deck Cabin
Total Cabin Cost = \$4,719.12
Deposit Required = \$500.00
Balance Owed = \$4,219.12 | <input type="checkbox"/> Cantata Deck Cabin
Total Cabin Cost = \$5,119.12
Deposit Required = \$500.00
Balance Owed = \$4,619.12 |
|--|--|

Deadline for registrations is September 30, 2009.
Mail your deposit check, payable to ECURFA, and this form to:

Frank Rabey
ECURFA Treasurer
2003 Sherwood Drive
Greenville, NC 27858

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Attention Both Past and Newly Retired Faculty:

Effective with the new Retired Faculty Association Constitution, all past and future retired faculty members are automatically considered members of the RFA. Membership in the ECU RFA is no longer dues-based and dues are abolished.

The ECU RFA is now affiliated with the East Carolina Alumni Association and the new address is:

ECU Retired Faculty Association
Taylor-Slaughter Alumni Center
901 East Fifth Street
Greenville, NC 27858-4353

The ECU RFA Web site is:

www.ecu.edu/ecurfa



East Carolina ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Taylor-Slaughter Alumni Center
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Greenville, NC 27858-4353