History of the Organization

The roots of the Geneseo Emeriti Association go way back to the late 1970s when a Twenty-Five Year Club was established to recognize Faculty and Professional Staff who had completed 25 years of service at the College. An annual Dinner and Cocktails celebration was held at the historic Big Tree Inn which was highlighted by the induction of new members to the Club.

Over a number of years, the founders and record keepers retired, Twenty-Five Year Club membership and the number of new SUNY Geneseo retirees grew significantly, and it was decided to create an Emeriti Association to help keep Emeriti in touch with campus activities. Our first Luncheon was held in the early 1990s.

We meet in June shortly after graduation and again in early October at Geneseo’s Big Tree Inn before the Snowbirds escape to warmer climes. Members start gathering at 11:30 A.M. to chat and catch up with each other, lunch with a special emphasis on dessert is served at noon, and we close with a 20-to 30-minute presentation by one of our members or someone from the College Administration.

Campus Collaboration

The support of the Geneseo College Administration has been exceptional from the beginning. Assistant Vice President for Human Resources Julie Briggs and staff member Elaine Anderson provide and maintain mailing lists and labels, and send out invitation letters for each Emeriti Association meeting. They also collect the reservations, prepare name tags and coordinate payment to the Big Tree Inn.

The Human Resources Office has created an informative brochure of benefits available to retired Faculty and Professional Staff including ID cards, parking, computer access, library access, and discounts to athletic and cultural events on Campus.

Executive Assistant to the President Becky Glass, and Gayle Dykeman, Administrative Coordinator for the President’s Office, provide Emeriti with weekly e-mail updates on Campus academic, social, cultural, and athletic events as well as notification of the passing of current or retired Faculty and Staff.

Vice President for Administration James Milroy has attended a number of Emeriti Association meetings over the last five years to give detailed and informative reports on numerous construction projects occurring on Campus. Tours of the completed projects have been held before our luncheons including the Integrated Science Center, the Doty Administration Building, Monroe Hall, and Bailey Hall. We look forward to touring the new athletic stadium in the spring.

Emeriti Association Luncheon Presentation Topics

The presentations at recent Emeriti Luncheons have covered a number of very interesting topics.

Continued on the following page

Jim Kimball, Geneseo’s renowned ethnomusicologist and historian of Western New York folk music, discussed his grant to preserve the early instruments and music of those who settled this area.

Professor Emeritus Gary Cox from our Philosophy Department has grown his own grapes and produced his own wine. He presented the first of two documentaries he is creating for the newly-established Finger Lakes Museum in Branchport on the wine and grape industry in New York’s Finger Lakes region. See the Epilogue at the end of this article.

What is Next for the Geneseo Emeriti Association?

Our first priority is to get more Emeriti to attend our meetings. The key to that is to make them aware we are a social organization providing a place to meet and share stories of our years at Geneseo. Many Geneseo Emeriti will tell you they came to Geneseo expecting to spend one to five years and stayed for a lifetime.

Our second priority is to provide a couple of day trips each year within a reasonable distance of Geneseo. Our first was a successful luncheon cruise on the Erie Canal.

Our third priority is to make every Emeritus more aware of the information and resources available through the SUNY Retirees Service Corps (http://suny.edu/retirees).

If you have questions regarding the Geneseo Emeriti Association, please contact ndlackey@localnet.com or briggsja@geneseo.edu.

Finally, if you find yourself on Route 390 coming south from Rochester or north from the Southern Tier, please stop and visit our historic Landmark Village and the Geneseo Campus. I believe you will see why so many faculty and staff came here for a job, fell in love with this place, and stayed for a lifetime.

Epilogue

For an exclusive, behind-the-scenes look at the making of Gary Cox’s documentary, visit the SUNY Retirees Newsletter Bonus Features section online at www.suny.edu/retirees/newsletters/.

NOTE: Don Lackey, Coordinator of the SUNY Geneseo Emeriti Association, passed away suddenly on 9/11/16. The current contact person for the Emeriti Association is Julie Briggs, Geneseo’s Assistant Vice President of Human Resources. She may be reached at briggsja@geneseo.edu. (Current as of 10/7/16)