



**FLORIDA STATE
UNIVERSITY**



Retiree News

ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED FACULTY

SEPTEMBER 2012



**Freddie Groomes-McLendon, Fanchon Funk, Fred Standley,
Tonya Harris, John Fenstermaker, Lou Bender,
and Ruth Pryor**

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**Tom Harrison, Esther Harrison, Sandra Rackley, De Witt
Summers, Beverly Spencer, Tom Hart and Nancy Turner**

From the President

Greetings and welcome to the 2012 - 2013 academic year. Summer is dwindling and fall is in the air. Things to do, places to go and people to meet sum up the activities that are planned for you.

Our Vice-President, Anne Rowe and her committee have planned the first event of the year which is the Fall Luncheon. The luncheon will be held on October 17th at The University Center Club hosting Dr. Sally McCrorie, as our guest speaker. She is the newly appointed Vice president for Faculty Development and Advancement. Please note the due date for payment of the lunch meal.

If you attended the Spring Luncheon, you received a sneak preview from Mr. Carneghi of the many changes that have occurred on the FSU campus, specifically the landscape and new buildings. Advisors of the ARF board have scheduled campus bus tours for your interest. The tours are scheduled through the Campus Visitor Center for ARF on Wednesday February 13, and Thursday February 14, 2013. Please report your intent to Max Carraway at mcarraway@admin.fsu.edu.

Support WFSU-TV is scheduled for Monday, October 15, 2012. Please note Lou Bender's article and contact him for this event. He can be reached at lbender@fsu.edu.

On August 7th, A Charter Ceremony Honoring ARF Past Presidents was held in the Cottrell Conference Room of the FSU Alumni Center. Many thanks to Past President Dr. Sandra Rackley and her Past Presidents Committee.

Stay tuned for upcoming additional news and activities. Consult the calendar that is in this issue for all the activities. Remember, we want to share the fun of being in ARF with our new retirees. If you know someone that has not been contacted by our organization, please send their information to the Membership Committee.

I look forward to seeing you at ARF events in 2012-2013.

Tonya A. Harris, President

MASTER CALENDAR OF EVENTS Association of Retired Faculty The Florida State University 2012 - 2013

Board of Directors

Tuesday - August 7, 2012

2:00 p.m., Cottrell Conference Room

FSU Alumni Center

Retiree News

August 6, 2012 (September Issue)

Board of Directors

Tuesday - September 11, 2012

2:00 p.m., Cottrell Conference Room

FSU Alumni Center

Support WFSU-TV

Monday - October 15, 2012

WFSU - TV

Day of Support by ARF

Times Requested

Fall Luncheon

Wednesday - October 17, 2012

University Center Club, FSU

11:00 a.m. Social, Noon - Lunch,

Cost - \$22

Fall Faculty Meeting

Wednesday - October 24, 2012

Turnbull Conference Center

300: - 5:00 p.m.

Retiree News

October 31, 2012
(Special Issue)

Retiree News

December 3, 2012 (January Issue)

Holiday Celebration

Wednesday – TBA
Location -- TBA
Hosted by President Eric Barron
& Mrs. Barron
Joint Event with Faculty Senate

Board of Directors

January 8, 2013
2:00 p.m., Cottrell Conference Room
FSU Alumni Center

Retiree News

February 11, 2013 (March Issue)

Tour of Campus

Wednesday – February 13, 2013
University Center – Visitors Center
10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m .

Tour of Campus

Thursday – February 14, 2013
University Center – Visitors Center
10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m

Board of Directors

Tuesday - March 5, 2013
2:00 p.m., Cottrell Conference Room
FSU Alumni Center

Barbecue

Wednesday – March 27, 2013
FSU Reservation
11:30 a.m.

Spring Luncheon

Wednesday - May 15, 2013
University Center Club, FSU
11:00 a.m. Social, Noon – Lunch,
Cost - \$22

Joint Board Meeting

Wednesday – May 22, 2013
(old and new board)
2:00 p.m. – Meeting, 3:00 p.m.
- Reception

Exchange of Materials

May 22, 2013 – July 31, 2013
(Time for exchange of materials
from old officers to new board
members)

Fall Luncheon University Center Ballroom October 17, 2012

The fall luncheon signals the beginning of an exciting year for the Association of Retired Faculty. We are pleased to announce that our featured speaker will be Dr. Sally McCrorie, newly appointed Vice President for Faculty Development and Advancement.

The price of the luncheon is \$22 and includes salad, entrée, dessert, and drink. If you have special dietary needs, please let us know. The social hour begins at 11:00 a.m. followed by lunch at noon.

TO ASSIST IN OUR PLANNING, PLEASE MAKE YOUR RESERVATION BY OCTOBER 10, 2012.

We have an outstanding Program Committee for 2012 – 2013. Members are: Bonnie Braendlin, Marilyn Young, Michael Launer, and Johnnye Luebkekmann.

Thanks to Hunter Hughes from parking services for agreeing to provide retiree parking decals at the luncheon. If you wish to purchase a decal, be sure to bring your FSU Retiree Card and \$10.00 cash or check.

We look forward to seeing you at the luncheon.

Anne Rowe, Vice President

Membership News

Do you remember the anticipation of a new academic year with fresh, bright minds arriving on campus and many cars on the highways? Just as the academic year at the University is ready to kick off, so is our new year for the Association

of Retired Faculty. The membership year begins in the fall and runs from September 1 to August 31.

Membership is open to retired persons in the following categories:

1. Retired faculty and administrative staff members of Florida State University and its direct support organizations; spouses of these members are included as well as spouses of deceased members.
2. Individuals who have given outstanding service to the University may be approved by the Board.
3. A retired faculty member from a senior institution of higher education who is now residing in Tallahassee. The spouse of the retired faculty member is also eligible.

You will find a membership form in this newsletter. Please mail your dues in as soon as possible. Hope to see you at the Fall Luncheon.

Friendship News

There has been a “Changing of the Guards” of the Friendship Chair position within ARF. We extend our thanks and appreciation to Johnnye Luebkekmann, former Friendship Chair, for her dedication and TLC during her reign.

As your new Friendship Chair, I will need your assistance with any news concerning our members of our extended family at FSU/ARF who may be having health issues. If there is anyone you may know that would like a card, visit, or transportation anywhere in Tallahassee, please contact me. You can call me at 531-0609, or email, ruth.pryor@gmail.com.

As we begin our Fall Semester at FSU, we look forward to new faces, new challenges and new ARF events. I hope to see all of our current members at our first Event, the Fall Luncheon on Wednesday, October 17th.

Ruth Pryor, Friendship Chair



**ASSOCIATION OF
RETIREMENT
ORGANIZATIONS IN
HIGHER**

*ARF joined the Association of Retirement
Organizations in Higher Education (AROHE) August
2008*

AROHE 10th Anniversary Conference:

Innovations for the Next Decade

A Triangle of Adventures in North Carolina

www.arohe.org

by

Fanchon F. Funk, ARF National Liaison &
AROHE Board Member

2012-2013

Anita Joy Greenberg

June 6, 2012

Wife of David S. Greenburg

Eleanor P. Hale

June 19, 2012

Wife of former Gifford Hale

William Lentner Furlong

July 5, 2012

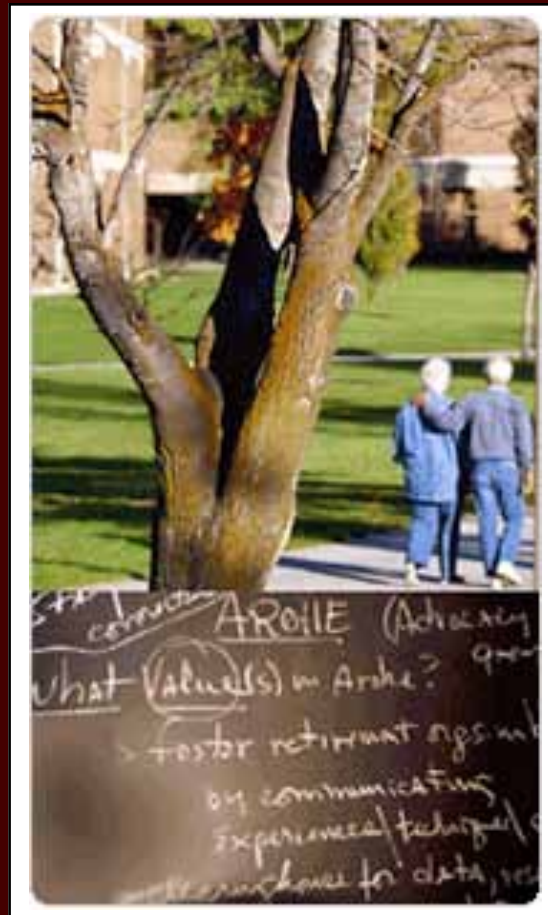
William (Bill) R. Jones

July 13, 2012

Marjorie Knowlton (Marge) Peterson

July 16, 2012

Wife of former Pete Peterson



TIN MEMORIAM

The AROHE 2012 Conference will stimulate thinking and discussion about the kinds of topics through which emeriti and retired staff organization leadership can generate interest from their constituents, learn strategies to advocate for retirees, and contribute to the continued professional and personal lives of retired faculty and staff. Living Life, Health and Wellness, and Connectedness are the “Triangle” of significant issues for advocates of academic retirees and for retirees themselves. These topics will be explored as they relate to goals and programs and for individuals who comprise the populations served by organizations. The conference will provide opportunity for scholarly presentations and discussions of “hot topics” and sharing and discussing best practices in organizing and operating associations that advocate for those in retirement.

A “Principal Plenary” on the first day of the conference will set the stage for the remainder of the conference. A Topic Plenary will focus on each of the three significant issues for the Conference, each with an invited speaker.

Keynote speakers include:

*Principal Plenary--Paul Hadley Lecture:

Monday Morning, October 22

*Trudier J. Harris, PhD., Carlyle Sitterson

Professor Emerita of English at UNC-Chapel Hill and Visiting Scholar in the Department of English at the University of Alabama. This highly regarded speaker and widely acclaimed literary critic has produced extensive scholarship in folklore and African American literature

*Living Life Keynote: Monday Afternoon, October 22

Robert L. Clark, PhD., Professor of Economics and Professor of Management, Innovation, and Entrepreneurship in the College of Management at NC State University where he is a nationally recognized expert on the economics of work in

retirement. He is also recognized for his extensive work in gerontology.

*Health and Wellness Keynote: Tuesday Morning, October 23
Norton M. Hadler, MD PhD., Professor of Medicine and Professor of Microbiology and Immunology at the UNC-Chapel Hill School of Medicine. He is attending Rheumatologist for the UNC Hospitals and is a much quoted speaker and consultant on issues of healthcare. Author: *Rethinking Aging* .

*Connectedness Keynote: Tuesday Afternoon, October 23
David D. Perlmutter, PhD., Professor, Starch Faculty Fellow, and Director of the School of Journalism and Mass Communication at the University of Iowa. Perlmutter conducts research in a wide array of areas relating to communication and has been interviewed by most major news networks and newspapers, from the New York Times to CNN, ABC and The Daily Show.

Sunday evening, October 21st includes a Presidents' Welcome Reception at the UNC System President's Residence hosted by the AROHE President and the Presidents of the hosting Coalition Associations (NC Central University at Durham, NC State University at Raleigh and UNC at Chapel Hill) and other local and academic leaders.

Full Conference Registration:

October 21-24, 2012 (Sunday Evening through Wednesday morning)

	Before August 31	
AROHE 2012-2013 MEMBER		\$240
	After August 31 - \$310	
Non-Member		\$340
	After August 31 - \$405	
Spouse/Partner		\$150
	After August 31 - \$165	

AROHE Conference attendees have a special Hotel rate at the Carolina Inn: \$162.00 + 7.0% tax. Please call the Inn and tell them that you have the AROHE Conference Rate. Call 866-974-3101. Be sure to mention Promo Code: TCIPPC or AROHE

Please let me if I might provide you with additional information (Home: 575-7908; Email: ffunk@fsu.edu). AND do plan to join us in beautiful North Carolina for the AROHE Conference.

**WFSU
Fund Raising
Volunteers**

PLEASE VOLUNTEER

WFSU FM (88.9) IS OUR PUBLIC RADIO STATION THAT RETIRED FACULTY AND STAFF CAN HELP ON MONDAY, OCTOBER 15. WE NEED VOLUNTEERS TO SERVE AS ON-AIR HOSTS AND PHONE BANK STAFF TO RECEIVE DONOR PLEDGES. THE ARF BOARD OF DIRECTORS HAVE APPROVED THIS WORTHY ACTIVITY AND ENCOURAGES YOU TO DEDICATE A FEW HOURS TO SUPPORT WFSU.

ON-AIR HOSTS (two per shift required) ACT AS THE VOICE FOR WFSU AND ASK LISTENERS TO CALL IN THEIR PLEDGE OF SUPPORT. SAMPLE SCRIPTS TO PARAPHRASE ARE PROVIDED SO YOU ARE NOT REQUIRED TO PREPARE STATEMENTS IN ADVANCE. YOU THINK ABOUT WHAT PUBLIC RADIO MEANS TO YOU AND BRING THOSE PERSONAL INSIGHTS TO USE ON-AIR. YOU ARE ENCOURAGED TO LET YOUR FRIENDS, FAMILY AND COLLEAGUES KNOW THAT YOU WILL BE ON AIR AND ENCOURAGE THEM TO DONATE DURING YOUR SHIFT. THE TARGET FOR EACH TWO HOUR SHIFT IS TO RAISE \$3,000. MANY ON-AIR HOSTS SEND EMAILS, TWEETS, FACEBOOK UPDATES, ETC. IN THE WEEKS PRIOR TO THEIR SHIFT.

PHONE-BANK VOLUNTEERS (a minimum of 4 per shift) ANSWER CALLS FROM THE LISTENERS AND TAKE PLEDGES USING A LAPTOP AND A SIMPLE WEB FORM. TRAINING IS AVAILABLE 20 MINUTES BEFORE EACH SHIFT AND A WFSU RESOURCE PERSON IS PRESENT AT ALL TIMES TO ASSIST AS NEEDED. WE HOPE VOLUNTEERS ALSO LET FRIENDS AND FAMILY KNOW WHEN THEY WILL ON THE PHONES SO THEY CAN PLEDGE DURING YOUR SHIFT. PHONE BANK SHIFTS ARE: 7-8:30 am, AND THEN EVERY TWO HOUR SESSION FROM 8:30-10:30 am THROUGH 4:30-6:30M.

TO SIGN UP FOR A SHIFT OR TO RECEIVE MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT PHEOBEE SAYE AT 487-3170,EXT. 351 OR psaye@wfsu.org . YOU CAN ALSO CALL LOU BENDER @ 562-4663 OR EMAIL HIM AT lbender@fsu.edu .

Thank you for considering becoming a part of the WFSU family

**Friends of the Library
News**

“...who value the vital role of libraries in learning, teaching, and research.”

Ms. Susan Contente was appointed July 1 as Director of Development for the Library and is the first person to serve full-time in that position. Dean Julia Zimmerman hosted a welcoming reception in her honor on July 16 at A La Provence. Susan is located in Strozier, Room 313C at phone number 645-8341, and her email address is scontente@foundation.fsu.edu.

Planning continues for the recognition at the annual Homecoming Breakfast on October 27 of Dr. David Bottoms as the recipient of the second annual Award for Distinguished Writing by an FSU alum, the Award being sponsored jointly by the Friends of the Library and the Alumni Association. Bottoms holds the position of Amos Distinguished Chair of English Letters at Georgia State. He is the author of seven volumes of poetry and two novels and was appointed by Governor Roy Barnes as the poet laureate of Georgia.

Further plans for activities of the Friends in academic year 2012-2013 await the first meeting of the Board of Directors in the fall semester. We do know that the Friends will join in the annual celebration of Banned Books Week during September 30-October 6 which is under the national sponsorship of the American Library Association. This year is the 30th anniversary of Banned Books Week, and the theme is “30 Years of Liberating Literature.” This annual event celebrates the freedom to read and the importance of the First Amendment; thus intellectual freedom –the freedom to access information and express ideas, even if unorthodox or unpopular, is the foundation for the Week. For example, two of the top ten books which were censored in various places in the United States during 2011 were “Brave New World” by Aldous Huxley and “To Kill a Mockingbird” by Harper Lee.

Annual Membership in Friends of the Library for all retirees costs a mere \$10. per year, and I will be pleased to help anyone who wishes to join; just give me a call at 562-5971. Or you can obtain more information by going online to Strozier Library and under the page showing the subjects available click on “Friends of the Libraries.”

Fred Standley

**The Past Presidents
Council**

The Executive Board of the Florida State University Retired Faculty has recently established a Past Presidents Council. This Council may serve in an advisory role to members of the ARF Board of Directors. A member of the Council will be chosen by the President to hold a representative position on the Board of Directors. If so chosen, the representative may be included in discussions which pertain to the welfare of the University at large.

We are excited that our illustrious leaders will again be actively involved with ARF.
WELCOME ABOARD!!!!!!!!!!!!



The Planning Committee for this event provided the selection of the delicious refreshments for this memorable event.



The following Past Presidents were able to attend the Reception: Janet Wells, Katherine Hoffman, Heinz Luebkekmann, Julia Goldstein, Wayne Schroeder, Fanchon Funk, Fred Standley, Sandra Rackley and De Witt Sumners

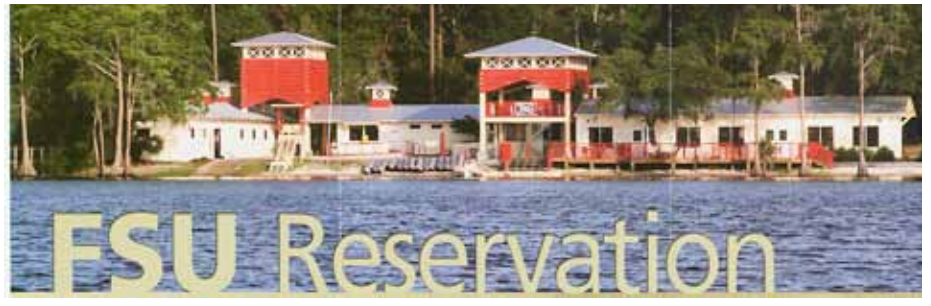


ARF Barbeque at the Seminole Reservation





Sherry Hart, Patsy Rapp and a parking attendant



Tonya Harris, Esther and Tom Harrison



Doris Winters, Dorothy Johnson and Mary Rovetta



Katherine Hoffman, Marie Cowart, Dottie Adair, Janet Wells, Janet Stoner



Bonnie Braendlin and Fred Standley



Faye Pridgen, Jessie Ward and Tonie Matthews



Tom & Pat Denmark – Betty & Bill Tanner



Karen Cooley, Brian Urban and Sandra Rackley



Ron & Natholyn Harris



Carolyn & Steve Shackelford



Aki Watanabe, Karin Jeffer,
Alex Garcia, Fanchon Funk
& Jennifer Feltman



Carol Allen & Dottie Adair



Ginny Guinipero, Claire Swartz & Kathy McWilliams



Jennette Wright & Jackie King

**EdE EDUCATION KNOWS NO BOUNDARIES:
LEARNING AND SHARING ACROSS THE ATLANTIC
THE REGAL SWAN® RESEARCH TEAM SPOTLIGHTED
FOR TELEVISION DOCUMENTARY**

**BY
FANCHON F. FUNK**



Dodging rain, rescuing swans and providing veterinary medical care were just a few of the highlights of a trip to England taken by ARF Board Member/ Past President “Fancy” Funk and The Regal Swan® Foundation, Inc. (RSF), March 2012. The adventure was captured on film for a special documentary for “Born to Explore with Richard Wiese,” which is scheduled to air on ABC in September and the National Geographic Adventure channel (international) in October/November. Wiese is a world-class explorer and an Emmy-nominated host and producer

David Wheeler, the head Swan Herd, team members gathered reeds, also used in thatching, and built nests for the 900+ wild swans who call the area home. We also examined and treated injured and sick birds during our day-long trip to this area known as “The Fleet.”



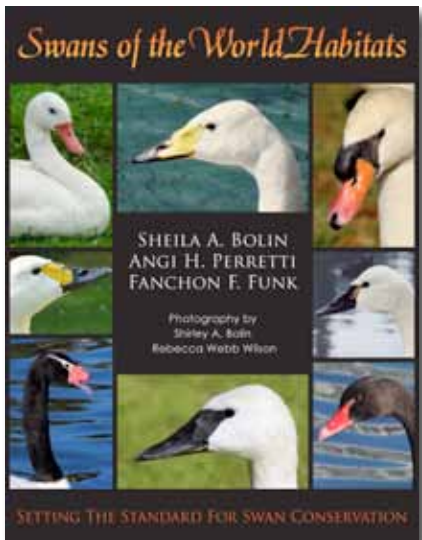
Next, we traveled to Windsor, where we helped rescue injured and sick swans along the Thames River working with Wendy Hermon, Centre and Rescue Co-ordinator from Swan Lifeline. Swan Lifeline is the oldest registered charity devoted entirely to the care of sick and injured swans in the Thames Valley and surrounding area. Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II owns proprietary rights to many of the swans along the Thames, which are banded as such and receive medical treatments at Swan Lifeline.



During the course of the trip, which was sponsored by the British Tourism Council and began on March 6 through March 13, The Regal Swan® Foundation, Inc. unveiled its newest book, titled Swans of The World Habitats: Setting The Standard For Swan Conservation. published 2012. The book presents historical markers for

“Fancy” serves as Vice-President of Research and Education for the RSF and traveled with five other researchers from the program to collaborate with swan keepers from the UK and Latvia. Abbotsbury Swannery is the largest and oldest managed colony of nesting mute swans in the world. In 1993 the Swannery celebrated its 600th anniversary. Working with

swan research and promotes swan habitat conservation and swan species preservation.



Although Wiese and his camera crew were kept busy capturing the weeklong trip on film, team members managed to get Wiese involved with the captures and release of the treated swans below the walls of Windsor Castle. The film crew also captured RSF members working with Her Majesty's Swan Marker, Mr. David Barber and Her Majesty's Swan Warden, Dr. Christopher Perrins.



RSF Research team members traveling with "Fancy" included Sheila A. Bolin, CEO; Dr. Geoffrey R. Gardner, veterinarian; Dr. Christopher W. Brown, veterinarian; Shirley A. Bolin, photographer/videographer; and Angi H. Perretti, vice-president product development.

Spring Luncheon



Johnnye Luebkemann



Neddie Sumners & Kitty Hoffman



Heinz Luebkemann, Rich & Ellen Peyton



Sherry Hart & Ginny Blazek



"Born To Explore with Richard Wiese," is an educational exploration program that is broadcast on ABC on Saturday mornings in the US. The program takes viewers around the globe in search of adventure, wildlife and explores the people and cultures of the world. The show averages more than 1.3 million viewers every week and is hosted by world-class explorer, author, and adventurer, Richard Wiese. Wiese gained fame at the age of 11 when he climbed Mt. Kilimanjaro.



Tonya Harris & Sandra Rackley



Doris Henderson, Ruth Pryor & Vice President John Carnaghi



Penny Gilmer & Sanford Sanfron



Russell & Dorothy Johnson



Charles Nam & Lou Bender



Tom & Esther Harrison



Tom & Lynda McCaleb



Fanchon Funk & Max Carraway



Joan Poulson, Neddie Summers & Nell Long



Ron & Linda Pavalko



Lauren Bacon, Bobby Bacon & Tonya Harris



Fred & Annelise Leysieffer



Bill Snyder & Joan Macmillan



Dottie Adair & Wayne Schroeder



Beverly Spencer & Anne Rowe



Nancy Turner, Jessie Lovano-Kerr & Rose Zongker



Natholyn Harris & Marian Davis



Ann Black



Patsy Rapp, Gloria Priest & Don Rapp



Lou Bender & Jane Cooper



Bob & Martha Spivey & Sherrill Ragans



Marion & Walter Moore



Tom Hart, Ginny & Ron Blazek



Calvin & Rose Zongker



Jane Flake, Doug St Angelo & Jane Clarkson



Marilyn Young, De Witt Sumners & Mike Launer



Carolyn Shackelford & Doris Henderson



Joannie & Britt Poulson

“Oh, to be in England.....”

by
Fred Standley

Sometime in the spring of 1845 Robert Browning, having returned home from Italy in the prior December, penned “Home-Thoughts, from Abroad” in which he rhapsodized: “Oh, to be in England/Now that April’s there” We, having departed Atlanta on Monday evening, April 30, did not arrive in the month so heartily praised by the poet but in an early Tuesday a.m. May Day landing at Heathrow; nevertheless, and refuge in the comforting sentiment expressed in the same poem: “And after April, when May follows....” Consequently, after an initial day’s rest there followed ten stimulating and inspiring days with a number of highlights in our favorite city.



On day two (Wednesday) following lunch in Covent Garden, we saw the play “The Sunshine Boys,” a revival of the 1972 Neil Simon comedy, starring Danny DeVito and British actor Richard Griffiths. The two are retired Vaudeville partners who have a reunion because each has thought the other was going away to live the happy life of his dreams but who discover by means of reminiscence, dispute and disagreement that ironically in their latter days they will be occupying a final place in the same home for the aged. It is a play “very funny and very sad.” The “New York Times” spoke of the “fire and fury” in DeVito’s performance:

“Even immobile, he seems to spinning and shooting off sparks.” The evening concluded over dinner with a London music therapist friend at the Arbutus, a new restaurant in Soho specializing in French and European cuisine.

No visit to London for us is complete without lunch (day three, Thursday) in the café at St. Martin’s in the Fields, the church with a well-stocked Brass Rubbing Centre as well as a world famous Chamber Orchestra. Afterwards across the street to the National Portrait Gallery to view the exhibition of 130 works (“lovers, friends and family”) by Lucian Freud (1922-2011) which has set a gallery record for viewers. Having seen the film “The King’s Speech,” we were intrigued later by the prospect of the stage play and rightly so. No room for error in the character recitations and no possibility of retakes as in the filming, this drama was a tour de force for its presentation of King George VI’s mastery of a stammer by finding his voice with the aid of a speech therapist. And, finally, supper at The Golden Dragon our favorite place in Chinatown.

Friday, day four, saw a visit to the Grosvenor Casino on Gloucester Road, and in the afternoon High Tea at the Orangery in Kensington Gardens by Kensington Palace, home of several royals including Prince William and Kate. While this High Tea falls short in comparison to that at the Ritz Hotel, it is nevertheless noteworthy with the usual finger sandwiches, tea cakes, Cornish clotted cream and jam, orange scented scones, choice of teas, etc.



Then, to Leicester Square and a broadly underrated but interesting and stimulating film “Salmon Fishing on the Yemen.” This British romantic-comedy is the story of a Yemeni sheikh who wants to introduce salmon fishing to his desert country and employs a British government expert in fisheries to aid him in the project which if successful will provide not only entertainment but also a contribution to the food supply. The finished lake is ultimately sabotaged by local militants who destroyed the salmon runs, but the sheikh and his cohorts vow to begin the project again and involve the local community more closely in all phases.

Day five, Saturday, a time for resting, television and grocery shopping, capped off later in the day by an unusual first: a reservation for “Afternoon Tease at Volupte,” close to Chancery Lane, the general locale of the legal profession. This experience of the intermixture of high tea, cabaret, champagne, and burlesque in a quasi nightclub setting reminiscent of the 1920’s to 1940’s, was an occasion of tea, music, dance and mischief, a pleas and interlude in a day featuring light rain and a slight nip in the air.

One of the delights of London and its environs is the array of estates, palaces, houses and gardens which can be visited, e.g. Churchill’s Chartwell, Wellington’s Aspley House. On Sunday, day six, Syon House and its 200 acre park, the London home of the Duke of Northumberland for 400 years, and lying west of the city, was our goal.



The third Duchess of Northumberland referred to it as “this delicious place.” Historically, the Duke’s ancestry was involved with the royal family both politically and religiously over the decades. Within its acreage there are 40 acres of gardens, an ornamental lake and a Grand Conservatory. The magnificent house abounds with elaborately planned space: the Ante Room, Long Gallery, Great Room, etc.



The magnificent house abounds with elaborately planned space: the Ante Room, Long Gallery, Great Room, etc. Today, while a private residence it is also a venue for weddings and receptions, fashion shows, exhibitions, and more recently film location. Both the House and the Conservatory have proven to be popular locales for television dramas and commercial films, e.g.” Gosford Park,” “The Madness of King George,” “Emma,” and “Byron” to mention only a few. Afternoon tea in the refectory and the bus and tube back to central London.



During the Christmas season the “Park” is dramatically lighted and a wonderland to drive through.



Monday, May 7: The British Museum is a must, and on the seventh day the focus of attention was a special exhibition entitled “Picasso Prints, The Vollard Suite,” 100 etchings produced between 1930-1937 for art dealer and print publisher, Ambroise Vollard. In this period Picasso was having an affair with his model Marie and under the influence of the symbolism of the Minotaur as representative of a darker force and brutal passion. A number of Rembrandt etchings and Goya prints were also displayed to show their influence on Picasso’s work. An evening of simple pleasure was later enjoyed in attending the London stage revival of “Singing in the Rain” which uses the 1952 Gene Kelly movie set as its basis. One reviewer warned that “those sitting in the front rows would be advised to take a rain coat;” indeed, as the musical proceeds 14,000 liters of water are used. Altogether a performance of all-singing, all-dancing entertainment.

Not to be missed on any trip to the city is a water-borne cruise down the Thames to Greenwich. The experience of standing astraddle Prime Meridian as zero longitude at the Greenwich Observatory with one foot in the Eastern Hemisphere and one foot in the Western Hemisphere is truly awesome. However, on Tuesday, May 8, Day 8, our destination of Greenwich had a different objective, to visit the newly restored Cutty Sark, the last and fastest of the great clipper sailing ships which specialized in carrying tea to England from Asia; annually these ships vied for a prize given to the first ship to arrive in England with its latest load of tea. On May 21, 2007, the permanently displayed Cutty Sark was severely damaged by fire at its mooring site,



but on April 25, 2012, after a lengthy restoration costing nearly 50 million pounds (about 80 million dollars) the ship was reopened as an historic attraction. Queen Elizabeth II and the Duke of Edinburgh presided in April at the ceremony marking the occasion of preserving one of England’s most prized maritime treasures.

Wednesday, May 9: only two full days remaining on this jaunt. So, with a plan in hand, we head for Fortnum and Mason (frequently referred to as merely Mason’s), the elegant department store said to be the Queen’s favorite and equally as well known for its food hall and restaurant and its flowers. Established in 1707 it has occupied the same location on Piccadilly. A walk through its four floors with some male staff arrayed in coats with tails reveals careful attention to splendiferous details of design and decoration.



And, lunch, in The Gallery Restaurant offers a unique repast of traditional English dishes. Those who have been reared in familial or religious or educational circles where the King James version of the Bible was central to the experiences will be interested in the play seen that night "Written on the Heart" by David Edgar which commemorates the 400th anniversary of the King James Bible. The play concerns the various clerics and scholars who have gathered in 1610 to make the final revisions to the official English translation of the Bible commissioned by King James I. It is indeed "an epic semantic contest" in which the participants argue for their respective interpretations in order to determine exactly what the Word of God should be and focuses on the precise word choices pertaining to some two dozen passages of Scripture. The influence of William Tyndale's previous translation which had been disallowed as a dangerous book which no longer needed the mediation of the clergy to the ordinary man and woman and the premise that the language of the new Bible should be that available to common people are of paramount significance in the final decisions. As the former Chancellor of St. Paul's Cathedral emphasizes the play reminds us that "the Bible did not fall from heaven in 1611—it reflected the preoccupations of its age and time. Just as, for good or ill, the way we read the Bible now, from both stage and pulpit, reflects the preoccupations of our own."

Final full day, May 10: preliminary packing in the morning and some last minute shopping, and following lunch to the theatre for "Noises Off," a vaudevilian farce employing two not frequently seen techniques: the title is taken from the stage direction indicating sounds that are intended to originate offstage, and the play within a play suggesting two plots happening simultaneously. Using the latter the playwright Michael Frayn has a secondary plot of a sex-comedy called "Nothing On" in which young girls run amuck in their undies, old men drop their pants, and many doors in the set are opening and shutting

incessantly, hence the title of the main play. How off-stage chaos is related to on-stage performances is the crux of the actions of six characters. In each of the three acts of "Noises First" is a performance of the first act of "Nothing On." While watching a performance of his own play "Chinamen" in 1970 while standing in the wings of the stage, Frayn found that "it was funnier from behind than in front and I thought that one day I must write a farce from behind."

Friday, May 11: early morning departure to Heathrow and home. In these ten days we concentrated on places not previously visited, plays not previously attended and exhibitions not previously available. We were constantly conscious of Olympic mania but decided to avoid the allure of its prior-to-the events activities. With due respect to R.B., being in England in May was just as exuberating as being there in April.

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Board 2012-2013

President
Tonya Harris
1630 Centerville road
Tallahassee, Fl. 32308
386-4763
tharris@fsu.edu

Past President
De Witt Sumners
650 E. 6th Avenue
Tallahassee, Fl. 32303
224-0096
sumners@math.fsu.edu

Vice President
Anne Rowe
3727 Bobbin Brook Way
Tallahassee, Fl. 32312
893-2464
arowe@admin.fsu.edu

Secretary
Beverly Spencer
412 Meridian Ride
Tallahassee, Fl. 32303
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beverlyspencer@me.com

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Tom McCaleb
3037 Godfrey Place
Tallahassee, Fl. 32309-2115
893-0182
tmccaleb@fsu.edu

Member at Large
Freddie Groomes-McLendon
3306 Wheatley Road
Tallahassee, Fl. 32305
576-4060
McLen3306@aol.com

Member at Large
Lou Bender
4325 Jackson View Dr.
Tallahassee, Fl. 32303-7111
562-4663
lbender@fsu.edu

Editor-RETIREE NEWS
Tom Hart
2656 Egret Lane
Tallahassee, Fl. 32308
385-7550
thart@fsu.edu

Membership Co-Chairs
John Fenstermaker
1586 Lee Avenue
Tallahassee, FL 32303-5853
386-1000
jfenstermaker@fsu.edu

Nancy Turner
1514 Avondale
Tallahassee, Fl. 32317
656-6284
goldennat@comcast.net

Scholarship Chair
Martha Spivey
1314 Hollow Oak Circle
Tallahassee, Fl. 32308
894-5242
bspivey06@comcast.net

Liaison, Friends of The FSU Library
Fred Standley
4335 Jackson View Drive
Tallahassee, Fl. 32303
562-5971
fstandley@fsu.edu

Historian/Archivist
Calvin Zongker
601 Live Oak Plantation Road
Tallahassee, Fl. 32312-2334
385-4848
czongker@fsu.edu

National Liaison
Fanchon Funk
113 Westwood Drive
Tallahassee, Fl. 32304
575-7908
funk@fsu.edu

Friendship Chair
Ruth Pryor
2303 Vinkara Drive
Tallahassee, Fl. 32303
531-0609
ruth.pryor@gmail.com

Special Advisors/ Memorials*
Max Carraway
317 Arden Rd.
Tallahassee, FL 32305
877-7010
mcarraway@admin.fsu.edu

Tom Harrison
2107 Rankin Avenue
Tallahassee, Fl. 32310
576-4271
tharrison@fsu.edu

Esther Harrison
2107 Rankin Avenue
Tallahassee, Fl. 32310
576-4271
tharrison@fsu.edu

ARF Past Presidents Council, Co-Chairs
Sandra Rackley
1111 Hastie Road
Tallahassee, Fl. 32305
576-5217
srackley@comcast.net

De Witt Sumners
650 E. 6th Avenue
Tallahassee, Fl. 32303
224-0096
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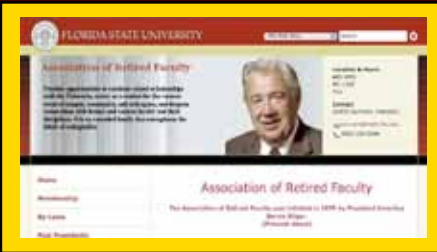
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