



UNIVERSITY of WISCONSIN  
**GREEN BAY**

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Institute for Learning in Retirement

November 2009

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**COME TO THE  
HOLIDAY SOCIAL  
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2009**

**11:00 – 1:30 PM  
RIVERSIDE BALLROOM, 1560 MAIN ST.  
Entertainment by Mary Eisenreich**

**RSVP by sending a check for \$10 payable to UW-Green Bay  
to the LIR Office by November 25th**

#### **From Our President**

The Listening Sessions will be over by the time you receive this newsletter. Thank you to those who participated and voiced their opinions. The Steering Committee will be considering suggestions and, where possible, integrating them into the Strategic Plans.

Many of you may have heard that Jan Thornton, Associate Provost--Outreach and Adult Access and "mother" of LIR, will be retiring on December 30, 2009. It was Jan who called the meeting in May of 1991 that led to the formation of LIR on the UWGB campus. That first fall, 10 member-led courses were offered, and dues of \$50 were charged. Thanks, Jan, for realizing the potential of an organization like ours and for guiding us along the way.

One more thank you to all of you who make LIR a success by volunteering your talent and time. ***LIR thrives because of you.*** Let's join together at the Holiday Social on December 2 and celebrate!

Janice McCarthy

## **Our Poets**

By Mike Murphy

When Wisconsin Poet Laureate Marilyn L. Taylor gave a presentation to an LIR class this fall, she encouraged everyone in the audience to discover the poet in them by writing an 8 line poem in the first person. The two challenging rules for the in-class exercise were that (1) the poem had to include at least 5 of these words: *cliff, needle, voice, whir, blackberry, cloud, mother, lick*; and (2) the poem had to incorporate some “messed-up” version of an old saying or cliché (i.e., instead of “Between a rock and a hard place,” the poem could use something like “Between a pillow and a soft place.”

LIR member Stu Hoar couldn't participate in the exercise because he was too busy serving as LIR's official cinematographer, filming Taylor's presentation for future DVD use. But when he got home, he dutifully completed the exercise, choosing as his old saying, “A fool and his money are soon parted,” and produced the following cautionary tale on the dangers of texting while driving.

### Fool and His Mother R2 Soon Parted

Blackberry wine and party time--  
High as a cloud but it's long past late,  
And mother waits with needling voice, whenever I'm this late.  
So it's highway time and Blackberry time.  
Fingers steer and speeding thumbs depress the tiny keys  
As cars whir by.  
Abbreviated words 2 internet friends, then something LOUD and my time ends...  
As mother waits and friends press “SEND.”

Poet Laureate Taylor was so delighted to get the poem from the camera man filming her that she quickly responded, by email, with an original limerick celebrating Stu Hoar.

There once was a techie named Stu  
Who hadn't the tiniest clue  
He possessed the same flair  
As Millay and Voltaire  
For writing great poems! Who Knew??

## **Plane, Ship, Bus - LIR Goes to Canada**

From September 24 to October 8, forty LIR members traveled throughout eastern Canada. By all accounts, they had a wonderful time.

Having flown to Boston and eaten at Maggiano's of Little Italy, they boarded a cruise ship and sailed north to Nova Scotia with stops in Bar Harbor, St. John, Sydney and Halifax. The Titanic Museum and graveyard was a haunting highlight of their time in Halifax. Rough seas on the Atlantic made for an interesting passage, but the food and entertainment on board were excellent.

The ship sailed down the St. Lawrence to Quebec City where the group boarded a luxury bus and went on to Montreal and Ottawa. Visits to government buildings as well as other educational activities were part of the trip. Their return to Boston took them through the Burlington, Vermont area where the fall colors were spectacular.

Travelers will have an After Travel pot-luck/picture exchange on November 18<sup>th</sup>.

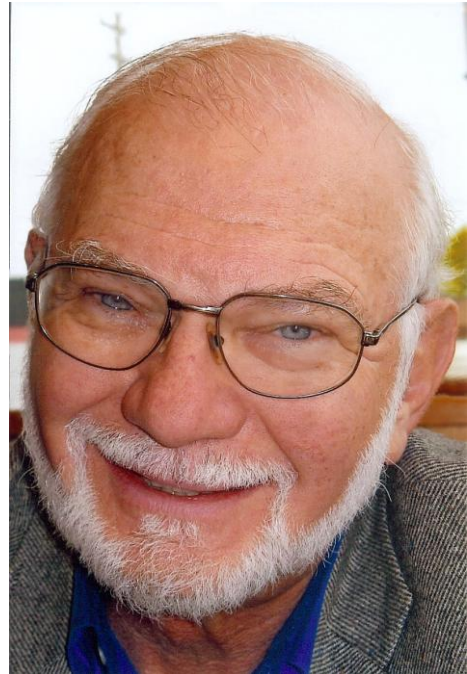
## **Familiar Faces**

By Barbara Otto

After 31 years on the UWGB Faculty, primarily teaching medical sciences such as physiology and brain function, Professor Emeritus Rick Stevens, has given his unique teaching style to LIR. In his classes he interweaves his vast knowledge of science, religion and human biology. He retired eight years ago after "stalling a bit" because he so relished his role as an educator. This is most evident in the enthusiasm he has brought to our classrooms since he joined LIR five years ago.

Born and raised in Rochester, New York, he spent his childhood reading voluminously, playing baseball and exploring the Lake Ontario region. Rick attended the University of Rochester, majoring in physics. He earned his doctorate at the University of Illinois Champaign/Urbana where he met and married Mary, his wife of 45 years. He then spent a year doing post graduate work at the UCLA Medical Center. In Green Bay he began a career of helping to prepare as many as 120 medical and dental students in their professional careers. Dr. Stevens has authored three books and numerous articles in his field of neuroscience.

It is evident when talking with him that he especially loves history. He believes that "Sometimes history teaches us things we don't particularly want to know about our country, evolution and our Judeo-Christian heritage. A knowledge of history helps us mature as human beings."



A religious man, Dr. Stevens is a member of St. John the Evangelist Church. He enjoys singing sacred music and is a member of the Dudley Birder Chorale. As youngsters, the three Stevens children took part in local summer musical theater, a result of their parents' love of music. Writing letters to his nine grandchildren is one of Rick's particular joys. He is also a former runner having logged over 11,000 miles. Photography, wood carving, Red Cross van driving and biking are among many activities contributing to his interesting and active retirement.

Richard Stevens believes that "My major motivation has been to clarify issues in science, society and religion. My primary vocation has been that of husband and father. My role as professor comes second." He takes seriously that secondary role, and LIR students are fortunate indeed.

## Bits and Pieces

- LIR members are invited to obtain a UWGB identification card that can be used for free transportation on city buses and for purchasing meal tickets at the University Union Information Center. Previously issued cards are valid as long as you maintain your membership with LIR. Contact the LIR Office at 465-2356 to sign up. A \$5.00 fee and a 48 hour waiting period are requested after you initiate your request to allow significant time for administrative preparation.
- The students in the Thomas Hardy: His Poems and Novels would like to thank Brooks and Mary Dodson for the delightful “English High Tea” complete with tablecloths, real china, scones and cucumber sandwiches at our last class. I say, well done, indeed!
- There are currently only two (2) people serving on the Potpourri Committee. In order to continue this outstanding program, we need four (4) additional members to serve on the committee. If you are willing to serve or want further information, contact Bob Cook (321-0379 or [cook9@att.net](mailto:cook9@att.net)) or Wes Carvenough (497-1108 or [wcarvenough@new.rr.com](mailto:wcarvenough@new.rr.com)).
- LIR Connection Catalog target date for mailing is Nov. 14<sup>th</sup>. Be looking for your winter/spring LIR catalogue coming soon!
- A special thank you to Gloria Gaie, Carol O’Leary, Nancy Michalek, Nancy Plettner, Gloria LaViolette, Barb Beaver, Pat Tarkowski, Carol Gagan who have volunteered to work in the LIR office in the past month.

m and m  
(Mary Kirchman and Marilyn Millhiser)

sweet Mary and Marilyn  
grace and giggles personified  
up-beat full vessels  
with considerable sound  
flying off the walls

word-painters  
tides of eminence splashing in our halls  
coloring us with your cloaks  
of kindness and fun  
nourishing, preparing, sending us out  
into the BIG-word world

thank you! many times over!

Ginny Carpentier and the class

## Food for Thought

A 92-year old man, who was shaved and fully dressed by eight o'clock every morning even though he was blind, moved into a nursing home today. His wife of 70 years recently passed away, making the move necessary.

After many hours of waiting patiently in the lobby of the nursing home he smiled when told that his room was ready. As he maneuvered his walker to the elevator, I provided a description of his tiny room.

"I love it," he stated with the enthusiasm of an eight-year old who had just been given a new puppy.

"Mr. Jones...you haven't seen the room; just wait..."

"That doesn't have anything to do with it," he replied. "Happiness is something you decide on ahead of time. Whether I like my room or not doesn't depend on how the furniture is arranged; it's how I arrange my mind. I already decided to love it. It's a decision I make every morning. I have a choice: I can spend the day in bed recounting the difficulty I have with the parts of my body that no longer work, or I can get out of bed and be thankful for the ones that do. Each day is a choice, a gift."

### Contact People for LIR

**President:**

Janice McCarthy 497-0252

**Communications:**

Barbara Beaver 983-6573

**Vice President:**

Joyce Dirschl 339-9215

**Social:**

Bettie Denny 496-1505

**Secretary:**

David Schonke 468-0243

**Office Staff:**

JoAnn Feeney 465-2356

**Treasurer:**

Mark Lampereur 435-6972

Carol Wolske 465-2356

**Curriculum:****Editor:**

Kathy Daley 499-7995

**Presiding Chair:** Robert Cook 321-0379

**Incoming Chair:** Wes Carvenough 497-1108

**Advisor:** Mona Christensen 465-2267



Institute for Learning in Retirement  
Division of Outreach and Adult Access 2471  
Wood Hall 114  
University of Wisconsin-Green Bay  
2420 Nicolet Drive  
Green Bay WI 54311-7001

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