

Rutgers AAUP

Emeriti

Reporter

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THE CHAIRPERSON'S CORNER

Shanti S. Tangri

Emeritus Professor of Economics

As before, the Emeriti Assembly held several lunch meetings listening to thoughtful speakers dealing with issues such as the role of cartoons and humor in teaching, immigration, schism in the Episcopal church due to issues of gender and marriage, Catholicism and politics in Nicaragua, the American electoral process and health issues affecting seniors. Next year should be a very interesting one as we head into another general election bearing on issues of war and peace in the Middle East, foreign policy in general, global warming, public infrastructure, education and growing inequalities of wealth and income. I intend to tap the best talent available for addressing these issues and hope for active participation in discussions by our members.

In addition, we had several Planning Committee meetings and a general membership meeting. Several of us are jointly exploring the possibility of participating in the freshman seminars program directed by the Associate Dean of SAS, Sarolta Takacs, and Associate Dean Julio Nazario. Depending on member interest we intend to schedule a reception as well as some poetry readings.

The National AAUP is engaged in serious internal discussions about its future and the possibility of legal restructuring. The Emeriti meetings are a good place to have some input in the process.

Livingston College doesn't exist as a college as of June 30. Fortunately, we will continue to enjoy the use of room A232 in Lucy Stone Hall and other support from the University administration.

I hope you renew your membership and, if you are not a member, join us soon. There is not a better deal in town for \$10 a year.

RICHARD WASSON LEADERSHIP AWARD PRESENTED TO ISABEL WOLOCK

The annual AAUP Emeriti Assembly award (Richard Wasson Leadership Award) was presented to Professor Emerita Isabel Wolock on Tuesday, August 14, 2007. This award was established in 1999 in memory of Richard Wasson, Founder and First President of the AAUP Emeriti Assembly. It is presented to an individual who has demonstrated leadership in the area of academic retirement. The leadership can take a variety of forms such as teaching, research writing, public service, organizing programs, or promoting the provision of resources and legislation. Isabel has served with distinction as an officer for the Emeriti Assembly, and for the Retired Faculty Association of Rutgers University as well. She has done the member profile interviews for the Emeriti Assembly newsletter for years, and she is still active with teaching and mentoring. She presented her scholarly project in Social Work as a special event for the Assembly and she remains an active participant on the Planning Committee. She and her husband, Mel, have hosted the annual picnic meeting of the Emeriti Assembly at their home for several years. Her award, presented at the August meeting at their home, is in the form of a wooden plaque showing her name, the name of the award, and the year. Congratulations to Isabel!

**EDITOR:
DONALD BORCHARDT**



IMAGES OF LOUIS ARMSTRONG: JAZZ MUSICIAN

David Cayer, retired Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs and the Institute of Jazz Studies at Rutgers, presented "Louis Armstrong on Film: Jazz and Race in Hollywood" on February 27, 2007, at Livingston College, Lucy Stone Hall. This was a special Emeriti Assembly event in cooperation with the Office of the Dean, Livingston College.

Professor Cayer showed film clips from Louis Armstrong's 38-year career in films, illustrating how this jazz musician reflected attitudes of Americans over this span of time. Professor Cayer's presentation was divided into three parts entitled: Stereotype, The Established Jazz Musician, and The Greek Chorus. Each part illustrated a politically "off beat" image projected by Louis Armstrong over the years. Some of the commercialized stereotypes included the horse trainer who falls in love with a horse, a street cleaner, and a bar tender. One clip showed him singing a song with a skeleton, and in another he appeared in a mixed live and animated cartoon featuring Betty Boop. He visited Denmark in 1933 where ten thousand people greeted his performance. A Clip of "Tiger Rag" shows close-up shots of his finger work on the keyboard, and he projects the image of a bandleader. No one left the auditorium as he played and sang "Ain't Misbehavin" during intermission time.

The Howard Hawks film A Star is Born shows Armstrong as a bar tender but emphasizes his role as a bandleader playing with white musicians. He appeared in films along with celebrities, and he and Lionel Hampton appear together with a white jazz band. In the 1958 film The Five Pennies he sang "When The Saints Go Marchin In" with Danny Kaye. In 1968 he sang along with Barbra Streisand in Hello Dolly.

An Edward R. Murrow documentary of Louis Armstrong in 1957 emphasizes his being an ambassador for America in his travels throughout the world. Armstrong became the "Greek Chorus", the good sympathetic guy who comments on

others. In High Society, with Bing Crosby and Grace Kelly, he comments on the love story as he sings. During the Viet Nam War, Louis Armstrong's "It's A Wonderful World" received high ratings and continued to rate well over the years. It has a lasting quality.

As Professor Cayer comments, "Armstrong made dozens of television appearances, many preserved on film or video. His distinctive vocal style continues to provide films, television dramas, and commercials with appropriate commentary. There are several documentaries such as BBC's Laughin' Louis (1984). Armstrong's career is a major theme in Ken Burns's 2001 ten-part documentary, Jazz." Armstrong died before his 70th birthday.

Professor Cayer's presentation provided an inspirational and moving event.

WHAT ABOUT DARFUR?

Stephen Eric Bronner, Professor II of Political Science at Rutgers, discussed "The Sudan and the Crisis in Darfur" at the Graduate Student Lounge in the Rutgers Student Center on Thursday, March 29, 2007, as an event sponsored by the Emeriti Assembly and the Graduate Student Association. Professor Bronner has been in Sudan and has an affection for this African country which has been experiencing severe political conflicts of interests resulting in a humanitarian crisis of great magnitude.

Darfur, once independent, is now an involuntary part of Sudan. The competition for natural resources has split Darfur into three parts. Rebel organizations have used troops to displace people in farming communities that are pitted against nomads who have aligned themselves with militia groups. Raids on the communities are a way of life, and two million people have fled to reside in 153 displaced person camps in the South. There are some 80 tribes and ethnic groups divided between nomads and sedentary communities. There are Arab and African conflicts resulting in ethnic cleansing attacks in which people are just killed or chopped up and thrown into the river.

The UN is the primary aid to the displacement camps, but the camps are not work camps. People just sit there wanting to go back to their homes. The sanitation situation is very poor resulting in disease and many deaths. Khartoum in the North is fascist. Thugs are organized. They use old weapons, probably from the 50s, and children soldiers are involved.

Proposals by Professor Bronner involve communications between the African Union, Khartoum, and the United Nations. However, there is general criticism regarding the incompetency of the United Nations as well as the African Union. The African Union should be able to establish agencies to give aid, and independent research units should be employed. The UN should lift sanctions and develop a strategy for Sudan to govern. Funding should be made available for repatriation and conferences should be expanded to promote disarmament. Support should be extended to the African Union.

Professor Bronner's discussion of this complex subject provided increased awareness and interest in this catastrophic international situation.

A HOUSE DIVIDED

The Reverend Barbara C. Crafton, Episcopal Priest, Diocese of New York, spoke to the Emeriti Assembly on April 25, 2007, at Lucy Stone Hall in Livingston College. This event was in cooperation with the Office of the Dean, Livingston College. The Reverend Barbara C. Crafton summarizes her topic as follows:

BEDFELLOWS MAKE STRANGE POLITICS

As traditional societies come face to face with modern ones in an uneasy intimacy fostered by lightning communication that shares information easily, but culture only with great difficulty, the Anglican Communion teeters on the brink of schism these days, as the result of an interesting array of factors that have come together in something of a perfect storm.

The Church of England of the 17th -19th centuries followed the progress of the British Empire into places far from home, planting itself in places in which it felt its mission to be the supplanting of indigenous religion and culture with something more like the world it had left behind. Missionaries fanned out across Asia, Africa and the Caribbean, creating a federation of churches which, though independent, looked to Canterbury for spiritual unity. These became strong parts of their countries' lives, easily surviving the end of Empire during the twentieth century and serving to cushion the shock of that change in many places.

The colonial experience was a mixed one; there were gifts as well as obvious inequities. Because of the gifts, it has taken a while for leadership of former colonies to find ways to express the residual anger caused by the fact of being "colonial." This cautious deference is coming to an end as Africa and Asia come into their own.

The controversy around homosexuality, the presenting issue in the Anglican schism, is merely an expression of this deeper anger. Homosexuality is present in all human societies, as well as among animals, but the hostile rhetoric attaching itself to its presence in religious institutions suggests that it is a western import into countries in which it was unknown - yet one more way in which the West attempts to degrade its former underlings. Indeed, there are scores to settle between the former colonizers and the countries they exploited, but the existence of gay and lesbian people in their midst isn't one of them.

ATTENTION ALL MEMBERS

MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE PAYABLE NOW. PLEASE SEND YOUR \$10 AS DIRECTED ON THE LAST PAGE OF THE NEWSLETTER INCLUDING YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS. MEMBERSHIP IS FROM SEPTEMBER 1, 2007 TO AUGUST 31, 2008. CHECKS SHOULD BE MADE PAYABLE TO RUTGERS AAUP EMERITI ASSEMBLY. THANK YOU FOR YOUR IMMEDIATE ATTENTION.

AN INTERVIEW WITH ARLENE R. ROSINSKI,
Former staff member of Rutgers Chapter of AAUP
By Isabel Wolock, AAUP Emeriti Assembly



How would you like to begin, Arlene?

Having typed and read so many of the stories of the various professors life's work and experience in your newsletters, I am both humbled and flattered at the notion of putting my own on paper for you to read. It certainly will be far removed from your own in terms of academic accomplishments, but it may reveal something about how each of us longs to experience and learn more and how valued your own calling to be educators is to someone like myself. I'm pleased to take this on and evaluate my progress at putting together a new life as an "emerita."

What did you do before working at AAUP?

I entered the world of full-time work when I graduated from South River High School in 1957. I was sixteenth in a class of 165 and received the award for "Best Secretary" at graduation, an award that apparently had implications for my working life. My family was unable to pay for higher education, but the award got me my very first "professional" experience at J&J in New Brunswick. In retrospect, J&J wasn't where I belonged, and after three months I sought a position at Rutgers University, mainly because my classmates had jobs there. The position was on the Ag Campus, as it was known then, in the State 4-H Office (part of the Extension Service) as secretary to Clara Ann Smith, the Associate State 4-H Leader. I loved my job in that less "stuffy" atmosphere than in the corporate setting, and it kind of set the tone for future positions. Over the years the world of educating and supporting the efforts of people rather than

producing a product seems to have been more attractive and satisfying to me. Number wise, I spent most of my working years in the Catholic Church setting, although I also worked in corporate medical and in product development for significant periods of time.

When did you begin working at AAUP?

When I interviewed for the AAUP position of Assistant Staff Representative, I had been recently "fired" from a position in the church for what I would define as insubordination. I was employed as a temp, but desperate for a permanent job. I responded to a classified ad for a position at Rutgers AAUP. I remember being interviewed by maybe five people around the table, including Wells Keddie, Mary Gibson, Ken Carlson, and Chris Berzinski – kind of an intimidating setting for me because I never really was interviewed for a position before. Positions were usually offered to me through others suggesting I would be good for a position. I really had no experience with unions prior to the interview, but felt that representing a constituency and working for the good of that constituency held similarities to working in the church setting. Lucky for me, I was hired – and became known as "the church lady" by those who had some misgivings about hiring me. You may remember "the church lady" act that Gilda Radner did on Saturday Night Live. My employment was from September 1995 until retirement in December 2004.

Tell me the things you liked most about your job.

I loved working at AAUP. There were always interesting people, ideas and conversations, collegiality and inclusiveness in the office, a variety of tasks, a sense of striving for excellence and fairness in all things, and the feeling of being part of movement that attempted to uplift people. As a staff, we were just a terrific team! We had our low points and disagreements, but the team hung together, and it felt like we were working for something important much of the time. We were, I think, highly motivated individuals who valued what we did to keep the union growing and serving everyone equally well. The staff was really a group of people who were passionate and intent on moving the union forward – helping faculty to make it all that it could be. I was principally involved in negotiations, supporting the Executive Council,

typing the newsletter, and, of course, supporting the Rutgers AAUP Emeriti. I have fond memories of working with Isabel Wolock, Don Borchardt, Ludwig Geismar, Ray Bodnar, Shanti Tangri, and the late Dick Watson.

And when did you retire?

All these good years made it possible for me to, with a little financial prudence, retire comfortably to Cameron, North Carolina in 2005.

What was the adjustment like to retire outside of New Jersey?

I am adjusting to living a full-day's drive from New Jersey, where I was always just ten miles from my place of birth. I was actually born in my grandparent's home in Helmetta, a mill town of 350 people, where we lived in mill-owned homes with outhouses, without hot water and just a kitchen stove to provide heat, and a mile walk to school rain or shine – and we walked home for lunch most days!

Tell me a little more about your early education?

We were a small school with maybe fifty children in kindergarten through eighth grade. There were three teachers and each had three grades in her room. By seventh grade, I really became a teacher's aide for part of the day, and perhaps that's where my interest in learning more about many things was stimulated. In my last year of elementary school there were only two of us in eighth grade. Our library consisted of a bookcase with three shelves of books - I remember reading the dictionary page by page from sixth grade on and enjoying it.

Our teachers had a very positive effect on my life in so many ways - inspiring me to read, love music, have a sense there was a world out there that was different than mine, be creative, dress well, and to give me confidence to excel in my school work. I'm a firm believer that children can be strongly influenced by an excellent and caring teacher who guides and nourishes them in ways in which sometimes their family might be deficient. Unfortunately, the Helmetta Elementary School no longer exists. The building houses administrative offices. When I visit Helmetta, I fondly give the old school a loving wave of the hand.

I did have an opportunity to go to Felician College in Lodi, New Jersey for several years on a partial scholarship when I was in my early 50s to study for a certificate in religious studies. I really thrived on the book learning, lectures and wonderful adult discussions about the Catholic faith. It changed my thinking in countless ways and made me an adult Catholic woman. They were exciting days for me.

What are you doing now that you're retired - how do you spend your time?

I am still an avid reader, but without access to a really good library. Harnett County is a rural county that seems to run out of money in June and consequently few new books are added to their collection. Used bookstores and sales are plentiful, however, and they meet my needs. My love of travel probably began in school when we spent rainy or snowy days playing a "what city am I thinking of game" on a wall-hung map of the world. I've been to Italy, Germany, Austria, Poland, Tanzania, Kenya, and Canada - and since retirement to Prague, Budapest, and Provence.

So far, I still have Michigan, Wisconsin, North Dakota, Idaho, Washington, Oregon, and Hawaii to visit in the U.S.A. My next trip will be after Labor Day to Maine to visit my daughter, Kathryn, who some of you may remember – she is now the proud owner of a health food store in Bar Harbor called A & B Naturals. David and Lynn and their families still call Flemington their home. Of course, I miss my children, grandchildren, and friends. The loss is not as acute, but will undoubtedly always be there to some degree. My email address, if anyone would like to write, is arlene39@windstream.net. Between the computer and phone, I am able to stay in touch quite well.

When I return to Cameron I will begin volunteering once a week at First Health Moore Regional Hospital in Pinehurst in their Infusion Center (out-patient chemotherapy). As a cancer survivor I think I have something to offer. And I joined a gym earlier this summer where I go for water aerobics three times a week. As always, I'm an avid hiker in the cooler weather. We have a not-for-profit theatre here in Southern Pines, which I usually frequent on Sunday afternoons - only "artsy" films there and really good ones. This year I have a subscription to a local theatre that does a variety of plays, and we have wonderful concerts in this area as well. Carolina Sandhills Community College offers a

THE AMERICAN HEALTH CARE SYSTEM: REFORMATION OR TRANSFORMATION?

speaker program for six months each year, with some really good speakers that keep me thinking. I'm an avid Charlie Rose fan and keep up-to-date on many areas of life by watching PBS and reading Newsweek. With all of these activities, I keep myself quite busy.

My passion, however, is my garden. I have a half acre which I am in the process of taming - a daily chore, but a happy one. Just learning what to grow in what space requires planting and replanting, especially in the hot and dry weather we are now experiencing. I love to see something grow successfully. With the long growing season and plants that are unfamiliar to me, it's quite an adventure. There are five lemons on my tree right now-strawberries, blueberries, tomatoes and peppers, and a fig tree are all thriving, as are azaleas, crape myrtles, loropetalum, camellias, lantana, roses, irises, and spectacular lilies.

Do you have any advice to those who are planning to retire?

Adjustment when you retire to the loss of your workday and to a new place takes time. It's beginning a new process and somehow you work your way through it. Like gardening, there's a seed, a sprout, a blossom, and then fruit. But isn't that how life is – over and over again? It keeps us young and students forever. Each day after dinner, I take a few moments to sip a little wine and listen to the quiet and peace where I now live – the birds are singing, the sunset is wonderful, and all is well in this half-acre.



Sy Larson, Rutgers Professor Emeritus, Labor Studies, and President of the NJ Chapter of AARP, spoke to the Emeriti Assembly on May 23 in Lucy Stone Hall, Livingston College, in cooperation with the Office of the Dean, Livingston College. Following is his written summary of the presentation:

The American health care system is in crisis. This observation has permeated American thinking gaining acceptance from both labor and management, conservatives and liberals and those who deliver medical care and the broad range of Americans who are recipients of its services. Many of the problems of the American health care system can be seen through the prism of costs and outcomes.

The United States expenditures for health care totals 16 percent of its GDP (gross domestic product) or \$6200 for each individual as compared with Canadian expenditures of 8-10% of its GDP and \$3200 for each of its residents, approximately half of that of its neighbor to the South. Annually, our total cost for medical care exceeds \$2.2 trillion.

Rising health care costs have negatively affected corporate profits and the health of the American people. Companies find that the high cost of health insurance - premiums for family coverage have risen by 87% since 2000 - places them at a disadvantage with their competitors in countries where governments have largely undertaken the cost of providing health care to their employees. For older Americans, the cost of prescription drugs and long term care are the greatest financial risks.

Forty seven million Americans lack health insurance. Studies indicate that individuals without coverage tend to delay seeing doctors when they have health concerns leading to increased medical problems. Eventually, as their health deteriorates, they are forced to go to a hospital, seek charity care, leading to escalating state costs and to a medical condition which, if treated early, could not

have further impaired the individual's physical well being.

It would be logical to assume that a correlation exists between high medical expenditures and an increasingly healthy population. Yet, the opposite is true. A recent study of white middle-age Americans, regardless of income or educational level, found they were far less healthy than their counterparts in England: Americans had higher rates of diabetes, heart disease, strokes, lung disease and cancer. Life expectancy is lower in the United States than other industrialized nations. According to the World Health Organization, the United States ranks below two dozen other countries in measuring the quality of health of its citizens.

Aside from Iraq, polls indicate that health care is the most pressing issue facing the American people. Presidential candidates, from both political parties, find it politically expedient to discuss ways of overhauling our present system. The AARP is mobilizing its 38 million members and allying itself with organizations reflecting a broad spectrum of the thinking of the American people to force the issue onto the national agenda.

Divisions among candidates and political parties on the issue revolve around the role of government versus the private market. Some would rely primarily, if not exclusively, on private insurance companies to deliver health care while others favor a single payer system. Still others would favor a combination of the two by strengthening the employer-based system and expanding government programs along the lines of Medicare.

**HEALTH CARE FOR ALL
REAL SOLUTIONS FOR NEW JERSEY & THE NATION
A STATEWIDE HEALTH CARE CONFERENCE**

The Emeriti Assembly is co-sponsoring a statewide health care conference on November 13, at the Labor Education Center, 50 Labor Center Way, New Brunswick from 8:45 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. "Health Care For All" will explore the various options to improving our health care system. Governor Jon Corzine, NJ Congressman Frank Pallone, Congressman John Conyers and several presidential candidates are among the list of invited speakers. Confirmed speakers include many experts on the subject of health care.

If interested in attending, register by calling 732-246-4772, ext. 18 or e-mailing healthconference@njcitizenaction.org giving your name, organization or business, title, phone number, complete mailing address and e-mail address.

Below is a list of organizations and their contact information including web sites you may find useful:

Rutgers Council of AAUP Chapters, AAUP-AFT
48 Street 1603
(Livingston Campus)
Piscataway, NJ 08854-8036
Phone: 732-445-2278
Fax: 732-445-5485
E-mail: aaup@rutgersaaup.org
www.rutgersaaup.org

Sign up with Rutgers AAUP-AFT's Action Center:
<http://www.unionvoice.org/rutgersaaupaft/home.html>

American Association of University Professors
1012 Fourteenth Street, NW, Suite 500
Washington, DC 20005-3465
Phone: 202-737-5900
Fax: 202-737-5526
E-mail: aaup@aaup.org
www.aaup.org

American Federation of Teachers, AFL-CIO
555 New Jersey Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20001
Phone: 202-879-4400
www.aft.org

AFT's Web Page for Retirees:
www.aft.org/retirement/index.htm

Rutgers University's Web Page on Retiree Services:
<http://uhr.rutgers.edu/ben/RetireeServices.htm>

AARP
601 E Street NW
Washington, DC 20049
Phone: 1-888-OUR-AARP (1-888-687-2277)
www.aarp.org

AARP NJ
Forrestal Village
101 Rockingham Row
Princeton, NJ 08540
Phone: 1-866-542-8165 (toll-free)
Fax: 609-987-4634
E-mail: njaarp@aarp.org
<http://www.aarp.org/states/nj/nj-news/>

MISSION AND MEMBERSHIP

The Mission of the Emeriti Assembly is to sustain and enhance the personal, intellectual and University interests of retired faculty. These interests will be met through meetings, special programs, a communications network, and work with other groups concerned with retiree issues. All retired faculty individuals, who are members of AAUP-AFT, are eligible for full membership. Non-voting, Associate Membership is available to retired faculty who are not AAUP-AFT members.

Membership extends from September through August. If you are not a paid member you may fill in the application form below. Your membership enables us to continue to publish the newsletter and make plans for the activities during the year. Membership in the Emeriti Assembly also entitles you to an associate membership in the Rutgers AAUP-AFT Chapters. Some Emeriti also continue AAUP National dues and membership.

Name _____ Telephone () _____
Street Address _____
City _____ State _____
Zip Code _____ E-mail Address _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Enclosed is my check for \$10.00 payable to Rutgers AAUP Emeriti Assembly.
<input type="checkbox"/> NEW member 2007-08 <input type="checkbox"/> RENEWING membership 2007-08
Return to Rutgers AAUP-AFT, 48 Street 1603, Bldg. 4103, Livingston Campus, Piscataway, NJ 08854-8036

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Piscataway, NJ 08854-8036