

Rutgers AARP

Emeriti

Reporter

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THE CHAIRPERSON'S CORNER

Richard Quaintance
Chair & Professor Emeritus, English

Warm greetings to all! After winding up my teaching in two literary courses, at Olli-RU and locally, I'm finally free to devote proper attention to speakers for our monthly meetings this spring. Last month Don Roden of the History Department got us off on an interesting tack outside traditional academic research-lines: his work since 2005 with colleagues to seek a fresh start on campus through the Mountainview Project. It's a whole new handle on the kind of community Rutgers can be, and some of us may want to think about helping out as mentors.

Anyhow, there are other issues outside the routine departmentalized concerns which we'll be hearing about together this spring. Denise will be alerting us as the dates get set for, among others, talks on health-care, the plight of Europe's Roma or gypsies, Tea-Parties through history, the tide of political change in North Africa and the Mideast. By all means let me know if you happen to hear of any research from former colleagues of yours that might interest our group: (732) 548-1419 or requaintance@aol.com.

MEMORIAL

Professor Mariagnes Lattimer, past member of the Emeriti Assembly, passed away on January 4, 2011. A memorial service was held in Kirkpatrick Chapel at Rutgers on Saturday, January 15. Her obituary appeared in the Trenton Times on January 9.

THE ELECTION

The Emeriti Assembly co-sponsored an event with the Retired Faculty Association on November 16, 2010, at The Rutgers Club. It was entitled "The Election of 2010 - An Analysis and Discussion." Gerald M. Pomper, Board of Governors Professor of Political Science at the Eagleton Institute of Politics, shared his insights into what happened in America on November 2 and what the results may mean for the future. The presentation and discussion included the influence organized groups of voters may have had on the outcome. The event was organized and scheduled by Todd Hunt, Executive Director of the Retired Faculty Association of Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey.

SPECIAL THANKS

A special thanks to Professor Benjamin R. Beede for his reports of Emeriti Assembly speaker events. The September, 2010 issue of the Reporter included "Peace is Possible: A Perspective on Israel and Palestine" and "Preparing for the Inevitable" and this issue includes "How Affordable is the 'Affordable Care Act?'," and "Experience Counts Anew at Rutgers: Ex-Prison Inmates as Undergraduate Colleagues". He has recently been published in *A Companion in American Military History with "Military Order and Discipline."* The volume was edited by James C. Bradford, Chichester, West Sussex, UK: Wiley-Blackwell, 2010. And he published *The Small Wars of the United States, 1899-2009: An Annotated Bibliography*. 2nd ed. New York: Routledge, 2010.

AN INTERVIEW WITH PETER LINDENFELD
Member AAUP Emeriti Assembly
By Isabel Wolock, Treasurer,
AAUP Emeriti Assembly

Tell me a little about your position at Rutgers before you retired.

I was a faculty member in the Departments of Physics and Astronomy from 1953 to 1999. My duties encompassed the entire gamut – teaching, research, administration, writing, etc. My research specialty was experimental research on superconductivity and other properties of materials. I taught students at all levels – elementary and advanced students; I worked with about 20 Ph.D. students and some post-docs as well. I also developed courses and curricula for high school teachers.

What were your major accomplishments and sources of satisfaction while you were at Rutgers?

Teaching gave me a lot of satisfaction. Also research when it worked.

In contrast to many of my colleagues, I liked work on committees, which brought me into contact with people from other departments, and gave me the chance to work on policy matters. This included being on the executive council of the Rutgers AAUP and chair of Committee A for many years.

You said you did writing and research – can you tell me more about that.

I wrote many scientific papers but have only now finished my first book – an introductory physics text.

How about community service?

I suppose the work with high school teachers can be considered community service work. Part of that was to teach a group of high school teachers in India one summer. I was responsible for establishing the degrees of M.Sc.T. and M.A.T. at Rutgers.

Did you receive any award /honors before or after retirement?

I received the Susman award for my teaching activities. Warren Susman was a friend, and that is one of the reasons that I cherish this award. Later I received the Robert A. Millikan medal of the American Association of Physics Teachers. It is awarded each year “for distinguished contributions to physics teaching.”

What did you do before coming to Rutgers?

Being at Rutgers was my first “real” job. I had a temporary job at Drew University, replacing their only professor for a year. I had more responsibility there than I had at Rutgers for quite a while.

Going back to earlier days, had you always planned on having an academic career?

Yes. Of course I didn’t know whether that would happen, but that’s what I tried for.

What kinds of experiences or situations led to your decision to pursue an academic career?

I think I thought that this would be a more public-spirited activity than working in private industry.

What type of prior training/education did you have?

I had my first schooling in Vienna: four years of elementary school, followed by “gymnasium”, the very rigorous kind of European high school. I had three years (of the eight) before the “Anschluss”, the annexation of Austria by Hitler Germany. Then two more years of high school in Vancouver, followed by work toward an electrical engineering degree. At that point an immediate job (which I had planned on when that seemed essential) was no longer a priority because my parents were more or less established by then and I went on to a Master’s degree in physics. That’s as far as I could go in Vancouver, and I applied to Graduate School at Columbia. Toward the end of my time there I met my wife and did not go back.

If you were to do it all over again, would you pursue the same career or would you choose another one?

I have no experience with another career. There were times when I was dissatisfied with the research aspects, but the teaching provided the “human” interactions that I was looking for. I tried to do both, and at different times one or the other had to be given priority.

Is there any one event or experience or person that had the greatest influence on your life? If so, please tell me about it.

The path of life is shaped by many people and many accidents. It’s difficult for me to think of any one event that I would call the most important. I suppose the exodus at the time of Hitler and all that flowed from that was a crucial part.

What did you do after you retired?

My main preoccupation has been the book which is now out. It’s an introductory physics text that aims to be more

readable and accessible than the usual.

Other retirement activities are:

I am a member of the local Recorder Society and also play with a small group about every two weeks.

I am the recording secretary of the Princeton Community Democratic Organization and the coordinator of their politics book group.

Since last summer (when the person who did this for the last 14 years moved to New York City) I am the one who organizes the care of a walk along a brook in our neighborhood.

How did it happen that you got involved in writing the book?

I started a version of the book while I still had the full-time job. I always liked writing. I tried to write about subjects other than physics, but could never get any of that published. I may try again.

What do you see as the best thing about retirement?

I like the freedom to set my own schedule and agenda. I haven't made as much use of that freedom as I had intended. It's hard to get away from established patterns. I feel very fortunate to be able to continue with most of my usual activities.

Are there any drawbacks? Do you have any regrets?

I might have started the book earlier. As the years went on, it became a burden. But then I might have had to retire earlier.

Any personal information you'd care to share:

Spouse

Lore and I were married for 57 years. She had a stroke in April 2008 and was severely impaired. After a few months I was happy to be able to take her home and to care for her here, with some help. She died last year. She was a textile artist and some of her work is now in the Princeton Public Library, in Township Hall, and in several museums.

Children

Naomi lives in Brattleboro, VT, has a pottery studio and teaches at the Putney School. Tommy is a political consultant in DC working on Democratic campaigns. Both are married and Tom has one son. Both children have been wonderfully supportive in every possible way.

What advice, if any, do you have to give to others who are planning to retire?

Everyone is different. Some people want to get away from what they have been doing and start new lives and activities. Some want to continue as before. Retirement gives you the opportunity to ask yourself what is important to you and to follow old or new paths. But you may have to plan and try different things. You may have to get used to the fact that when both the burden and the comfort of your job are gone, no one is waiting for you when you get up!

How did you come to be involved in the AAUP Emeriti Assembly?

The AAUP has been an important part of my life. It was clear that I would try to continue to some extent. Since it takes me about 45 minutes to get to New Brunswick I have not been as involved as I might like.

HOW AFFORDABLE IS THE 'AFFORDABLE CARE ACT'?

On December 3, 2010, Professor Emeritus Sy Larson spoke to the Emeriti Assembly in the Conference Room of the AAUP-AFT Office at 11 Stone Street in New Brunswick. The title of his presentation was "How Affordable is the 'Affordable Care Act'?" Professor Larson is President of the New Jersey State AARP. He is a retired Rutgers professor from the School of Management and Labor Relations. Following are notes of that presentation taken by Benjamin Beede, Secretary of the Emeriti Assembly. Professor Larson was introduced by Chairperson Richard Quaintance.

Professor Larson distributed copies of a special AARP report about "Health Care Reform." He noted that there is "still much unknown" about the operation of the law. Conducting reasonable discussions of the law is difficult.

There is a "universal desire for change." The major factors are "cost" and "quality," and the salient question is: What change?

Costs are unsustainable. Medical expenses now run to 2.5 trillion a year, that is, \$7,000-8,000 per person. This amounts to 16% of the gross national product, and the figure will soon be 17%. Despite the money spent, the World Health Organization ranks the United States as 19th in longevity because of the health care provided in this country.

Despite a consensus about the need for change, there are sharp conflicts in views. In contrast to Europe, where

the issue is "how much" for health care, the question in the United States is "if." There are major concerns about a single payer.

The new health care law is based on private health insurance companies and on market principles. Many fear that these features will change. It is in large part the complexity of the new law that is undermining support. Even with the new law, 12 million to 13 million people will be left without insurance.

Under the old law, an individual entered a "donut hole." Between \$2,800 and \$6,300 the beneficiary paid the entire cost for drugs. Now, the cost of prescription drugs will be discounted by 50% when a person enters the "donut hole." By 2020, the "donut hole" will disappear.

Drug costs are rising way beyond the rate of inflation. There are no price controls in the United States.

One major way to save money would be to reduce subsidies for insurance companies under Medicare Part C, which relates to managed care. The new law stipulates that 85% of premiums must go to medical care and 15% to administration and profits.

Professor Larson accepted comments and questions from the Emeriti listeners. John Leggett described aspects of the Canadian health care system, and he asked whether Canadian experiences were understood in the United States. Professor Larson asserted that we know quite a bit about Canada, but drugs cannot be shipped en masse.

A controversial point in the United States is that much of the medical research is done through the National Institutes of Health (NIH). Drug companies used a good deal of NIH research that is paid for by tax dollars, but they continue to charge high prices for their products.

Professor Leggett stated that in some areas of the United States there is support for what he described as "progressive" legislation, and Professor Larson agreed that there are variations.

Studies are needed to determine the "comparative effectiveness" of treatments, thereby isolating cost differences between treatments with similar outcomes. With that kind of information, intelligent cuts can be made.

By 2014, "exchanges" for ad hoc groups will be established based on income. For lower income people, health care is not to require more than 8% of an individual's income.

Shanti Tangri asked what will happen in Congress now that its composition has changed significantly. Professor Larson replied that funding will be cut. Some

Republicans would like to end Medicare, but they probably cannot do that.

Isabel Wolock asked what is to be done in terms of citizens' action. Professor Leggett emphasized action at the regional and state levels.

Professor Larson's presentation on this complicated and controversial topic was appreciated by all who attended.

EXPERIENCE COUNTS ANEW AT RU

Following is a report written by Benjamin R. Beede, Secretary of Rutgers AAUP Emeriti Assembly, who took notes at a presentation by Donald Roden, Professor of History, Rutgers University. The presentation was made in the conference room at the Rutgers Council of AAUP Chapters, AAUP-AFT, 11 Stone Street, New Brunswick, New Jersey, on January 28, 2011. The title of the presentation was "Experience Counts Anew at Rutgers: Ex-Prison Inmates as Undergraduate Colleagues."

Professor Quaintance, chair of the Rutgers AAUP Emeriti Assembly, introduced Professor Roden and noted that a student who was a former prisoner mentioned the inspiration he had derived from Professor Roden.

Professor Roden's topic was a program to bring former inmates from the Albert C. Wagner, Garden State, and Mountainview Youth Correctional Facilities to Rutgers as students. The program is known as the "Mountainview Project" after the name of one of those facilities. Earlier, it was called the "College Initiative Program."

So far, twenty-eight students who were prisoners have come to Rutgers, and another dozen are coming. One has been graduated, and two more will be graduated in June 2011. Fourteen had to leave the program because of technical parole violations, such as failing to have made a required telephone call. Of the fourteen, four are attending county colleges with the expectation that they shall return to Rutgers. Most of the students are in their early to mid-twenties. Five are women, and two of them are over thirty.

Various educational programs exist at the facilities. There is a GED project, in which Professor Roden has been active. Some county college courses are also offered.

In September 2004, Professor Roden suggested that the Rutgers dean responsible for the Educational Opportunity Fund be a speaker at the facilities. Professor Roden then worked with professors at the

English and History departments, and he wrote a formal proposal for the Rutgers effort. The emphasis is on inner city youth, but former prisoners from various social classes are participating.

Participating in higher education significantly reduces recidivism, a goal that is much to be desired, especially in view of the fact that the recidivism rate for New Jersey prisoners is sixty-seven per cent. Higher education is relatively inexpensive, moreover, considering the fact that holding a prisoner in New Jersey costs \$48,000 a year.

The program began as part of University College, but it had to be transferred when that element of Rutgers was consolidated with the School of Arts and Sciences. It is part of the office of the School of Arts and Sciences that is responsible for what are termed "non-traditional students." There is no website so far. The structure is rather informal. A number of Rutgers administrators have been involved. One decision made early on was that former prisoners would not be admitted to university housing owing to the possibility that other students might object to having prisoners as roommates.

The admissions process involves students applying with hard copy applications, not online. They apply first to the educational staff of the facilities. Coordinators at the youth correction facilities are seeking to identify prospects for Rutgers. They need to have demonstrated exemplary behavior and to have achieved twelve county college credits. Prisoners need to be under twenty-six to enter the Rutgers program. At Rutgers, the emphasis is on their accomplishments now, not their possible deficiencies. Assuming that the candidates have met these standards, they are then interviewed by Professor Roden.

Princeton University sends graduate students to teach at the Garden State facility, but the students go to Rutgers.

A hurdle in the admissions process to the School of Arts and Sciences is question 42 on the application, which asks about felony convictions. If a prospective student answers "yes," the matter goes to the Rutgers Judicial Review Board, of which Professor Roden is a member. Professor Roden noted that most students in the program were convicted of non-violent drug dealing.

Larry Jones of the Admissions Office conducts a detailed interview with each applicant, moreover.

A suggestion was made by a person attending the presentation that retired faculty might be suitable mentors for some of the students in the program.

Professor Leggett suggested that students in this program need a "bill of rights." Professor Roden replied that there is a "contract," but he agreed that a bill of

rights would be appropriate. He also noted that some of the students have their own attorneys. All the students are on parole or at halfway houses.

Professor Roden asked Professor Leggett to ask his daughter, who is a paralegal, for advice about a student bill of rights. Professor Quaintance suggested that the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) might help deal with technical parole violations by students. Professor Bodnar thought that the Veterans Affairs office might be another source of assistance.

Professor Roden noted that these students are eligible for financial aid and Pell Grants, as well as low-interest grants. Some students are using counseling services at Rutgers.

One continuing problem is that some students may be barred from their chosen lines of work by their felony convictions.

Professor Roden concluded with the observation that no fundraising has been undertaken for this program. Everyone involved is a volunteer.

**EDITOR:
DONALD BORCHARDT**



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

Rutgers Council of AAUP Chapters, AAUP-AFT

11 Stone Street
New Brunswick, NJ 08901-1113
Phone: 732-964-1000
Fax: 732-964-1032
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

1133 Nineteenth Street, NW, Suite 200
Washington, DC 20036
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:

<http://www.aft.org/yourwork/retirees/>

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
Web site: <http://www.aarp.org/states/nj/>

**NJ Department of Treasury
Division of Pension & Benefits**

Links for retirees:

<http://www.state.nj.us/treasury/pensions/retiree-home.htm>

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 2010-11 <input type="checkbox"/> RENEWING membership 2010-11
Return to Rutgers AAUP-AFT, 11 Stone Street, New Brunswick, NJ 08901-1113