



LIRA NEWSLETTER

LEARNING IN RETIREMENT ASSOCIATION
Office of Community Service – UMass Lowell
Member of Elderhostel Institute Network
Tel.: (978) 934-3135 Web: uml.edu/community/LIRA

May 2010

Vol. 17 No. 2

Join us for.....

LIRA's Annual Meeting

Wednesday, May 26, 2010

10 AM until Noon

**MIL Conference Center, Suffolk Street, Lowell
(Wannalancit Building)**

**Election of Officers
Hear about the new Summer Intersession
Refreshments**

See details inside about our new summer location.

Cover Image painted by Jeri Durant



March 17, 2010 Luncheon and Auction



March Madness a Success!

Our rescheduled Holiday Party was held on March 17, 2010. The weather cooperated this time and the day was enjoyed by all. After the changes in the Bylaws were voted on and the Spring Curriculum reviewed, Mary Jane Meyers introduced one of the Scholarship recipients, Danane Chhor. Her goals and accomplishments are impressive and she truly deserved her award. Unfortunately, our second recipient, Sopheavy Seng was in the hospital at the time and not able to attend.



Marjorie Short ran around in her 'Membership Hat' signing up the new members. We had a delicious array of food with plenty of variety for our luncheon. The Consumable Auction had a few big winners – note all the 'winnings' of the Kay and Frank Carroll and Suzanne Knapp! The Scholarship Fund made \$344.00 from the auction.



Thanks to Sally Cady for organizing the food, Carol Cannistraro, Pat Dion and Deanne Sferrino for running the auction and thanks to all for their contributions of food, consumable auction items and buying raffle tickets. It was a great way to celebrate St. Patrick's Day!



Prestigious Award to Tim Bromage

In June last year, Tim Bromage traveled to Massachusetts from his home in New York City. He presented a LIRA Interession program titled, “Hard Tissue, Early Man, and the Rhythm of Life.” The description of the talk was:

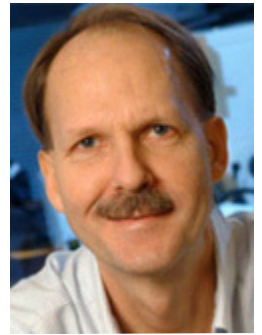
“Not a single day goes by without night. The most potent regulator of our physiology, behavior, and development is our planet earth, turning on its axis with a period we measure in about 24 hours. The effect it has on us is a manifestation we call a biorhythm: specifically a circadian rhythm, meaning ‘about a day.’ But there is another rhythm as plain as night and ay, but one that oscillates on a longer time scale. For mammals this rhythm controls the pace of life. We discovered this rhythm, not from the halls of molecular biology, the keepers of research on circadian rhythms, but from the harsh landscapes of our human ancestors and the sawing, grinding, and polishing machines of hard tissue biologists. The bones and teeth of us all reveal our—indeed, your individual – long period rhythm and our place in nature, which we will examine in some detail. Beyond this, using our newfound knowledge of long-period rhythms, we explain, if even we do not understand, really long-period rhythms!”

In the September 2009 issue of the LIRA newsletter is the review of his presentation, including his comments on the significance of the research. Those of us who attended had no idea that this very research would subsequently be rewarded with a rather overwhelming prize. In typical understated Tim-fashion, he sent the announcement to me by email with the comment, “Things are looking up.” As he describes the use of the money, much of it will be given to students working on a PhD who apply and demonstrate that they will pursue research in the specific area of his award. Expenses such as transportation and attendance at conferences will be funded, too.

In episode three of a recent TV series, “Becoming Human,” I found several sequences showing the Max Planck Institute in Germany. I can’t be with him in Hanover on June 17 when the award is presented, but I certainly will have him and his wife Hediye on my mind.

Dorothy Bromage

What follows are details of the Max Planck Research award taken directly from the January 2010 newsletter of the Alexander von Humboldt Stiftung Foundation.



On the path of human evolution

Timothy George Bromage of New York University College of Dentistry and Michael Tomasello of the Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology in Leipzig are the recipients of this year’s Max Planck Research Awards, valued at 750,000 EUR each.

Timothy Bromage has been a professor at New York University College of Dentistry since 2004. One of his research interests is located in Malawi, where he examines the structure of bones and teeth to draw inferences on the living conditions of early humans. Findings on the micro level, which only a few researchers have investigated so far, are proving particularly enlightening. Bromage hopes to use them to discover the answers to difficult questions such as whether bones and teeth belonged to a male or female individual and whether there was more than one annual rainy season at the time. In the course of his research, he discovered a new mechanism which uses the lamellar construction of bones as the basis for drawing conclusions on growth rate and individual life history. The award will help Bromage to develop the investigation of bones and teeth into an even more important tool for research into human evolution. He is currently compiling a database which he will use to compare the metabolism and bone structure of today’s apes and humans. He has been honoured for his academic achievements by the National Science Foundation (2009, 2007), the National Geographic Society (2008) and the National Institute of Health.

Congratulations to Tim and his proud mother, Dorothy!

The Music of Silent Movies

On Wednesday, February 24, 2010, Dorothy Bromage presented a program that emphasized the music that accompanied silent movies before sound was added to movies. Dorothy demonstrated how music was added and enhanced gradually by first having pianists or theatre orchestras, then theatre organs and including the use of a Fotoplayer that incorporated piano rolls with an organ and sound effects. She showed us some silent films with and without music. The first was "The Wrong Mr. Fox." (1917). We heard themes of characters in "The Big Parade" (1925) with John Gilbert, a different war movie with a little love story between a GI and a French maid during WWI, and "Know Thy Wife" made in 1918. It was a charming program and ended with Charley Chase in the 1926 film "Mighty Like a Moose."

Jeanne Gunion



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John Gilbert offers Renee Adoree some chewing gum in King Vidor's *The Big Parade* (1925).

Member News

Carole Pender, a long time member and active contributor to the Scholarship Committee, passed away in February. A Sympathy card was sent to her family.

Kay Carroll

New Bylaws

Changes in the bylaws were voted on and passed at the March Madness meeting on March 17, 2010. If anyone would like a copy of the bylaws, a new copy can be emailed to you or a hard copy sent to you. Please contact Jeri Durant, 978-251-4107 or email jeri@netway.com.

Thank you Marjorie Short

LIRA participated in the Volunteer Fair sponsored by the Chelmsford Library and Chelmsford Senior Center on March 13, 2010. Marjorie arranged for us to have a table there and made the display board for our table. We have three new members as a result of the fair and many more inquiries. Thanks, Marjorie!



Jeri Durant, Marjorie Short and Jeanne Gunion at the Volunteer Fair

Thank you.....

The follow is a thank you note that Mary Jane Meyers received from one of the Scholarship recipient, Danane Chhor.

Mrs. Myers and the Scholarship Committee,

I just wanted to say 'thank you' again for selecting me as the recipient for the LIRA Scholarship.

It was so great meeting all of you at the luncheon. I had a great time.

*Best of luck,
Danane Chhor*

There was also the call from Sopheavy Seng apologizing for missing the luncheon because she was in the emergency room and then the hospital.

Slate of Officers for 2010-2011:

The Nominating Committee would like to present the 2009-2010 nominations for officers of LIRA to be voted on at the Annual Meeting. All nominees have agreed to serve if elected.

President..... Toby Hodes
Vice-President..... Alan Kent
Secretary..... Shirley Mitchell
Treasurer..... Ann Dahlman

Nominating Committee
Ron Cannistraro, Chairman
Simone Allard
Jean Rubinstein

Pointing in the Right Direction

During the first two weeks of May (May 3-14) all classes will be held in the MIL Conference Center—first floor. Space on the second floor is very busy with testing. Starting with May 17th, we will be back in Room 204. The exception is Thursday, May 13th, which puts us back into Room 204.

LIRA's New Summer Location

Just as we were feeling comfortable in our new surroundings and had worked out the kinks in our new 'refreshment and audio/visual carts', we have been told that we will not be able to use the Wannalancit Building any more. The new location of the summer intersessions that need a classroom setting is the UMass O'Leary Library, Room 222. Toby and the University are still working on a place for us to meet in the fall.

Directions to the O'Leary Library

The UMass O'Leary Library is at 61 Wilder St., between Pawtucket and Broadway. Coming from the north, the street immediately before Wilder is Walker, on either Pawtucket or Broadway. There are two buildings: McGauvran Student Union on the left and O'Leary Library on the right. Go into the area between the two buildings. Bear left and enter the student union. There is an elevator just inside to the right. Take it to the 2nd floor. Traverse the walkway into O'Leary. Once inside, you are looking at room 222. Go up eight steps. Room 222 is an auditorium with stadium seating and fully equipped for AV use. Restrooms: Down one flight of stairs in the library or back into the student union at the end of the hall.

Parking Directions will be available at the Annual Meeting.

Moses Greeley Parker Lectures

The following is a calendar of events for the Parker lecture series held on the day, time and place noted. The lectures are free and open to the public.

MAY 20, 2010 POLLARD LIBRARY - 7:00PM THURSDAY "Hi, I'm Ernie Pyle" by Gary Morrison

A tribute to the World War II journalist who at the time of his death on April 18, 1945 was the most widely read of all correspondents covering the war. Sometimes poignant, sometimes humorous, Morrison captures what it was like between the years 1940-45 when Pyle's dispatches, written from the soldier's point of view gave the folks back home the unvarnished truth about what it was like in the trenches.

Time for a Change



If you want to remain current with LIRA members, take pen or pencil in hand and make the following changes in your membership list.

Welcome to the twelve
new members who have
joined us since January!

New Members:

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The next newsletter will be out on September 1, 2010; the deadline for news items is August 15, 2010. Please remember that the coordinators are now responsible for getting someone to write an article about their program, if you want something to appear in the newsletter. Articles may be given to me at any time before the deadline. All the newsletters from September 2007 have been archived on our website. Have a look – they are in color!

Jeri Durant

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