FRG Activities 2017-2018 for “Inside the Hall”

The newly formed Faculty Retirement Group (FRG) completed its first year of meetings and events that pertain to those who are retired or contemplating retirement. With a vigorous membership of 45 faculty in three stages—active, phasing, and retired—the group learned and enjoyed a myriad of important and interesting activities. Some were informational, both with presentations and exchanges of our experiences, while others were based on socializing with colleagues and friends, sharing trips and adventures together and celebrating University holy and holidays.

2017 Much of the year was devoted to planning the goals, activities, and social gatherings of the Faculty Retirement Group (FRG). Major issues raised were obtaining *emeritus* status, maintaining our SHU addresses and apps, examining the use of the Recreational Building, parking at a discounted cost, and the like.

May 2, 2017 Culmination of FRG planning meetings with Hiking and Birding in the Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge, including nature walks, Helen Fenske Visitor Center lecture, and a convivial luncheon together.

September 15 FRG held an open organizational meeting to meet the membership, socialize and to talk about our future plans.

September 27 FRG’s major concern this initial year was to bring forward our application for universal *emeritus* status to those full time faculty who retire from Seton Hall with at least 20 years of Seton Hall experience. Our proposal was brought before the Faculty Senate for endorsement.

September 29 FRG toured the New Jersey artists’ contributions to art at the Montclair Art Museum, Montclair, NJ.

October 16 FRG members were given a special guided tour of the Edison National Historical Museum and Park, including special archival material not open to the public. West Orange, NJ.

November 10 Dr. Maxine Laurie, of SHU History Department, presented a major part of her book, *Envisioning New Jersey: An Illustrated History of the Garden State* (Rutgers UP). To coincide with the commemoration of Veterans’ Day, Dr. Laurie lectured and showed photographs encompassing the theme of “Honoring Veterans: Images of War.”

December 1 The Senate agreed to support FRG’s plan for *emeritus* status for our retiring faculty of at least 20 years’ service at Seton Hall. Once accepted, the proposal will go to the Interim Provost for approval.

December 5 FRG attended “Madama Butterfly” at SHOPAC.

January 26, 2018 FRG attended the American Folk Art Collection, “Carved, Painted, Stitched,” of former Art History professor, Barbara Cate, at the Pierro Art Gallery in South Orange. Afterwards, Dr. Petra Chu and her husband, Fen-Dow, hosted the group at their home with dumplings and champagne in celebration of Chinese New Year.

February 9 FRG met to plan activities for the spring semester.

February 22 After a Middle Eastern dinner at Falafe-ly in S.O., FRG went to SHOPAC for the Seton Hall production of “Steel Magnolias.”

March 5 FRG visited the Liberty Hall Museum at Kean University to enjoy artifacts of New Jersey, specifically, and American history, in general.

March 18 Repeating the success of the informational event of last year, FRG invited speakers to the University to discuss options for retirement from Social Security, TIAA, Medicare, to our own HR. The Q & A, as well as the sharing of our experiences, were extremely helpful. The group suggested we offer this workshop every year.

March 26 FRG welcomed the Lenten season by attending the Sacred Concert at our Immaculate Conception Chapel.

April 13 Dr. Mary Ellen Roberts, of SHU’s School of Nursing, presented a timely talk entitled “Staying Healthy as We Get Older,” and led a lively discussion with the group. As an Adult Nurse Practitioner, she addressed topics of nutrition, chronic disease management and healthy exercise.

April 24 FRG visited the Hackensack Meridian School of Medicine at Seton Hall University, our new medical school facilities in Clifton, where we were hosted by administrators of the College who led the tour.

May 22 FRG will attend the Employee Picnic and meet to plan the major activities for academic year 2018-2019.

May 31 FRG’s final activity for the year, 2017-2018, will be a trip to Liberty State Park to walk along the Jersey side of New York Harbor, and visit the Nature Center and the historic Jersey Central RR Terminal. Our trip will conclude with lunch at the Liberty House Restaurant.

The Faculty Retirement Group (FRG) is anxious to get the word to young and not-so-young to think about joining our group so that you are prepared for retirement in the most beneficial and easiest ways. You will hear experts in various related fields, share experiences, and socialize with those faculty you’ve known and enjoyed working with and those who will be new to you.

For more information about the Faculty Retirement Group, contact griecocr@shu.edu.