The Emeriti Committee extends greetings to all for a wonderful Christmas Season as we enjoy family and friends in celebration of the Babe of Bethlehem. It is a wonderful time to review blessings that have filled our lives throughout the year. We are pleased with the successful events we have shared with you in 2015 having heard messages from Matt Richardson, Bob Freeman, Rod Brown, Richard and Mary Cook, Brent Roberts, and President Worthen. Our plans are taking shape for 2016 with information on the Winter Activity included in this issue of EmeriTimes.

I attended the October Alumni Board Meetings held around the Homecoming weekend and sensed the sincere desire of the Alumni to keep all former students and retired faculty connected to the University for good. Matthew Richardson, Advancement VP, gave a stirring address to the Board to update and encourage the feelings of family among the BYU faithful.

The following items were shared:

1. As learning needs change it often requires different space needs and this challenge is very real as the First Presidency has a cap on increased square footage on campus. So if new space comes then old space has to be done away with unless special permission is given by the First Presidency.

2. Permission was given for the addition to the Engineering building, the Marriott Practice facility and a weight room. They are in progress.

3. Work is ongoing to have better Wi-Fi coverage in the Edwards Football Stadium and the Marriott Center.

4. BYU Colleges and Departments are increasing internships with a desire to have students experience with their hands, hearts and minds.

5. The BYU Counseling Center does a wonderful job helping struggling students as they strive for perfection with inability to enjoy the day and time of their lives that need to be special.

6. Conference affiliation for the football team is always being considered, but the affiliation must fit the BYU purposes or it will not work for the good of the institution.

7. Advice comes in from all over the Country on what the administration should do in guiding the University. This has always been the pattern as members feel they have ownership in the school and their programs.

8. President Worthen is committed to the BYU Mission and Aims for Education. These can be read on line at aims.byu.edu.

In our March Education Day there will be some changes in the structure of the Emeriti within the overall BYU Alumni and a few changes of our Board members for the Emeriti. It is and has been a wonderful experience to serve with great folks during my time with the Emeriti group. I send love and best wishes for a 2016 filled with events and activities where the Spirit of the Lord is present.

Sincerely,

Paul Warner
President, Emeriti Alumni
The music and administrative staffs of the Tabernacle Choir who served during the Ottley tenure have continued to meet socially after retirement. We call our monthly luncheon group The Emeritabs. The first item on our agenda is a recitation of our collective aging problems that we call the “organ recital.” All of us, in spite of being in or nearing our eighties, have maintained interesting and active lives after Tabernacle Choir.

Following their retirement, the Ottleys, respectively music director and vocal coach, helped establish the Temple Square Chorale and Choir Training School. JoAnn busied herself in various Relief Society callings while Jerry served on a stake high council before being called as a bishop. Later they filled a three-year faculty assignment at BYU Hawaii. Now, in addition to “keepin’ on keepin’ on” with church callings, they are trying to overcome what their children describe as “recreational constipation.”

Donald Ripplinger (Myra, deceased), the associate music director, has filled demanding church and community assignments in the American Fork area. His high council service has included coordinating the physical facilities in growing stakes that have built or maintained buildings to accommodate as many as eleven wards. He and his late wife filled a mission to South Africa, Johannesburg. In his spare time he has continued a lively interest in musical and civic activities.

Organist Robert Cundick (Charlotte), in addition to arranging and composing music, has continued to initiate, design, and ramrod significant Church and community projects in his inimitable style, much to his wife’s chagrin. They together filled a mission to the Church’s Jerusalem Center where they established a flourishing concert series and paved the way for the Tabernacle Choir’s mission to Israel in late 1992.

John Longhurst (Nancy), organist and scholar who spearheaded the design and installation of the organ in the Conference Center has, since his retirement, completed a book about that organ. He has continued his participation in local and national activities of the American Guild of Organists. From his new home in the Daybreak area of South Jordan, John has served on a high council and is now a stake patriarch.

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?
LIFE AFTER TABERNACLE CHOIR

Presidents Oakley Evans (Mimi) and Wendell Smoot (Barbara) sadly have all passed away. As volunteer priesthood leaders of the Choir, Oakley and Wendell maintained executive positions in the business world. Their management skills and spiritual direction led the Choir through a period of unprecedented success and acceptance throughout the world.

Udell Poulson (Pauline), in addition to his employment in the Missionary Department, was the Choir’s part-time business manager. He did the work of at least three men to arrange the physical facilities, travel, hotels and other logistical tasks that moved the Choir around the world. In retirement he spent several years as an ordnance worker in the Salt Lake Temple as well as maintaining activity in his ward and stake.

Spencer Kinard (Lynnette, deceased), former Tabernacle Choir commentator, has continued a busy schedule as a much sought after emcee for national and international events, as well as using his broadcasting expertise as a consultant to many facets of the broadcast industry. He and his wife, Ann, are now serving in the Washington, D.C. South mission where they provide expertise with YSA activities, reactivation, and public relations.

Each of us who served during this time was supported by a faithful spouse and by family members who sacrificed much to further the outreach of the Choir. They were primary among the dozens of generally unrecognized volunteers whose support and loyalty is one of the best-kept secrets of the Choir’s success.

We, the survivors of this era, continue our monthly Emeritabs meeting although our numbers are thinning, our waists are thickening, and our vitality is waning. But we continue to be avid Tabernacle Choir boosters. Although our backward reflections are becoming more nostalgic and are perhaps over-romanticized, they seem to mirror these words by a writer referenced only as Collette:

“What a wonderful life [we’ve] had! [We] only wish [we’d] realized it sooner.”
THE BIRTH & LIFE OF A BYU COSMO

HENRY WHIFFEN

During the school year 1956-57, the third year of Cosmo’s existence, friends of the person portraying him were starting to guess his identity. One of the Cosmo trainers, Clark Rogers, suggested a 2nd person to trade off portraying Cosmo, and recommended his good friend and roommate: Henry Whiffen. While not a gymnast, Whiffen was an athlete and energetic.

Henry’s debut was at an afternoon (Mat) Dance, held in the ballroom at the Knight-Mangum girl’s dormitory. A jitterbugging Cosmo (wearing a tux) was the hit of the dance. From then on the two Cosmos traded off at games and events.

After that action-filled year Henry has had three curtain calls:

a) The first was in the 1984 Homecoming Parade (this was also the 25th reunion of his 1959 class), where he rode on a float with other student body officers from that year. Henry wore a Cosmo outfit but held Cosmo’s head.

b) The second was in 2004, which was the 50th anniversary of Cosmo’s initial debut. The celebration was held at halftime of a BYU basketball game – where each former Cosmo (still living) was introduced individually to the 20,000 fans in attendance with his or her name flashing on the scoreboard. At the end of the game the old Cosmos met the (4) current Cosmos privately, and learned of the numerous changes that had been implemented. Among these was the tryout process. It was explained that current Cosmo tryout applicants are required to demonstrate at least four basic skill-sets. These include: 1. Doing a standing back-flip; 2. Walking on one’s hands; 3. Riding a unicycle; and 4. Walking on stilts (without using hands).

c) The third appearance was during the 2009 Homecoming Parade (the 50th reunion of his class of 1959). This time Henry rode in the back of a convertible dressed as Cosmo with Cosmo’s head at his side, while seven of his grandchildren walked beside the car wearing “Cosmo Grand-kid” T-shirts handing out fistfuls of wrapped candy to very receptive parade watchers.

So the marvelous experience lives on.

TERRANCE D. OLSON { WINTER ACTIVITY SPEAKER }

In behalf of the next generation: Sustaining the moral and ethical in private and public behavior. Imagine that every act in the present moment—both by individuals and in communities—are acts for or against the next generation. Consider that cultures that abandon their moral foundations set the stage for cultural disintegration. Olson will show how crucial individual ethical action is to the well-being of individuals, families and communities. He will suggest starting points that foster cohesion and unity in communities and cultures.

Terry Olson, emeritus professor from the BYU School of Family Life, and an ongoing Fellow of The Wheatley Institution built his professional career on showing the benefit of doing family life education and counseling within a framework of moral agency. He administered a 5year federal grant that trained secondary public school teachers to deliver a character and citizenship curriculum in selected classes in 16 school districts across four western states. The National Council on Family Relations gave him the Ernest G. Osborne award for Excellence in the Teaching of Family Studies.
UPCOMING EVENTS

WINTER ACTIVITY
Thursday, January 21, 2016
Hinckley Center
11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Guest Speaker, Terry Olson
Lunch will be served.
Please RSVP by January 11, 2016
winteremeriti.eventbrite.com

EDUCATION DAY
Saturday, March 12, 2016
Hinckley Center
10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Guest Speaker, TBA
Lunch will be served.

EVENING WITH FRIENDS
May 2016
Hinckley Center
Details to follow
Dinner will be served.

EMERITI ALUMNI BOARD
Paul Warner, President
Jeanne Bracken
Ruth E. Brasher
Doug & Geri Brinley
James & Gail Christensen
Lamar & Sharron Eyre
Arnold & Cherie Garr
Joan W. Hahn
Pamela J. Paine
Robert & Leslie Webb

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION STAFF
Kristina Southam
Alumni Services Coordinator
801.422.4233
kristina_southam@byu.edu

For questions concerning events and registration please contact Trevor Finch
801.422.6661
alumniprogramsast@byu.edu

BYU EMERITI ALUMNI
RISE SHARE YOUR STORY rise.byu.edu