For Colleagues and Neighbors over 55

An invitation to share in the extraordinary experience and knowledge of the Georgetown community.

“Anyone who stops learning is old, whether 20 or 80. Anyone who keeps learning stays young.”

HENRY FORD
American industrialist, pioneer automobile manufacturer.
1863-1947

One of Georgetown University’s legendary teacher-scholars, Joseph Durkin, S.J. reflected at the end of a tutorial session with a young undergraduate, “It was an intellectual feast.” He was only in his mid-80’s! Always when he taught, Father Durkin knew he would also learn – in exchanging ideas and insights with his students – no matter what their age difference.

In the spirit of this learning and teaching, Georgetown offers again the Georgetown Learning Community for colleagues and neighbors over 55 (according to one retired history professor, “55 and better”). The Main Campus Retired Faculty, the Lauinger Library Associates, Georgetown alumni/ae in the metropolitan area, and our community neighbors are invited to be teachers-learners – as we seek to create an ongoing “intellectual feast.” This is an invitation to share in the extraordinary experience and knowledge of these Georgetown communities.

The Georgetown Learning Community is sponsored by:
The Georgetown Retired Faculty,
The Georgetown University Main Campus,
Libraries and Library Associates and The School of Continuing Studies

HISTORY OF MODERN IRAQ
Wednesdays, January 23, 29 and February 5, 2007
11:00am to 12:15

It begins with Britain’s creation in 1920 of a state of Iraq which was characterized by great regional, ethnic, and cultural diversity and where authoritarianism of different styles proved the principal means for achieving stability. It then explores the era of Saddam Hussein, which began in 1979, the problems, choices, and errors he made. The
course concludes with America’s growing involvement from 1990 on, the invasion of 2003, its results, and possible outcomes for the future.
John Ruedy, Professor of History, Emeritus

PRESIDENT, CONGRESS, AND WAR POWERS: FROM ROOSEVELT TO BUSH
Fridays, February 2, 9, and 23
2:00-4:00pm

There was concern that the constitution established too weak a presidency. Now there is the opposite concern: that of an imperial presidency. We will examine the reasons why. The present controversy concerning the Administration and detainees will not be a part of this course.

Stephen Gibert, Professor of Government, Emeritus

NATO IN THE POST-COLD WAR ERA
Fridays, March 2, 9, 16, and 23, 2007
10:00am-noon

NATO, the most successful U.S.-West European defense alliance against Soviet aggression in the cold-war era, has faced the issue of its continued relevance after the collapse of the Soviet bloc during 1989-1991. This course will examine the various attempts that have been made by way of expansion of membership and reformulation of purpose to adapt NATO to its radically changed international context. Still the question remains: Does NATO have a future?

Karl H. Cerny, Professor of Government, Emeritus

THE BEGINNING AND THE END OF HUMAN CULTURE (PERHAPS)
Fridays, February 2 and 9, 2007
10:00-noon

This short course will summarize the main points of two rather slim books: *The Singing Neanderthals: The Origins of Music, Language, Mind, and Body* by Steven Mithen (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2006) and *The Creation: An Appeal to Save Life on Earth* by E. O. Wilson (New York: W. W. Norton, 2006). (It will not be necessary for participants to have read those books in advance.)

Anthropologist Mithin (a leading expert on the Neanderthals) argues that *music* was centrally important in the evolution of human culture. To support this thesis, he marshals current evidence about our hominid ancestors; their social organization, technologies, strategies, brain capacities and habits. Biologist Wilson (one of the world's foremost experts on ants) appeals to *religious* people (particularly Southern Baptists, as he was in his youth) to work for the preservation of biological diversity which, he claims, is in imminent danger of a catastrophic collapse that would bring human culture to an end. The arguments Wilson provides to support his appeal seem to be more scientific than religious. Perhaps participants will be able to extend or supplement his reasoning.

Joseph E. Earley, Sr., Professor of Chemistry, Emeritus
IS EARLY RETIREMENT ENDING?
Fridays, March 9 and 16, 2007
1:00-3:00pm

There was a big decline in the average age at retirement in the United States in the post-WWII period. However, the advent of the retirement of the large baby-boom generation, continuing increased in longevity, and growing international economic competition have combined in recent years to weaken the feasibility of maintaining the practice of early retirement. The post-war trends will be reviewed, particularly the changes of the past decade, providing a basis for trying to judge what may lie ahead. Some comparison with Canada and Western Europe will be provided.

Murray Gendell, Research Professor of Sociology and Anthropology

FROM THE WRIGHT BROTHERS TO THE MOON AND BEYOND
Fridays, April 13, 20, and 27, 2007
10:00am -- noon

This course will focus on the momentous changes that have taken place in the aerospace sector in just over 100 years, their impact on society, the story behind early aviation milestones and the “Space Race”, as well as the challenges and rewards of exploring space in the future.

John P. Sheahan, following a 32 year career at NASA Headquarters spanning projects from Apollo to the International Space Station, he was on the staff at George Mason’s School of Public Policy for several years.
Registration Form  
Georgetown Learning Community, Spring, 2007

Name: ___________________________  SS#: ____________________  
Address: ____________________________________________________________  
___________________________________________________________________  
Phone: ___________________________ Date of Birth: ______________________  
E-Mail: _______________________________  
Retired Faculty: ____ Alum: ___ Library Associate: ___ Community: ___  

Please check the course[s] you wish to register for:  
___ History of Modern Iraq  
   January 23, 29, and February 5  
___ The Beginning and the End of Human Culture (Perhaps)  
   February 2 and 9  
___ President, Congress, and War Powers: From Roosevelt to Bush  
   February 2, 9, and 23  
___ NATO in the Post-Cold War Era  
   March 2, 9, 16, and 23  
___ Is Early Retirement Ending?  
   March 9 and 16  
___ From the Wright Brothers to the Moon and Beyond  
   April 13, 20, and 27  

The cost for fall, 2006 and spring, 2007 is $200, if registering only for spring, 2007 the cost is $100. The Participants will be billed by Student Accounts after registering. The deadline to register is one week prior to the start date of the course.  
Send registration form only to:  
School of Continuing Studies/Special Programs  
Georgetown University  
Washington, DC 20057-1010  
[Registration can be sent by fax – 202-687-8954.]  

A billing statement will be mailed to you after receipt of your registration. Payment can be made by check [made payable to Georgetown University] or credit card [VISA, MasterCard, American Express]. Payment is mailed to: Student Accounts  
37th & O Streets, NW  
Washington, DC 20057  

If you have questions or concerns please contact us: telephone: 202-687-5719 or by e-mail: harringe@georgetown.edu.  

Information about course location will be mailed prior the start of the course.