



# LIRA NEWSLETTER

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

December 2013



*Please join us for  
LIRA's Annual Holiday Party  
and Town Meeting*

*Wednesday, December 4, 2013  
10 AM until Noon*

**Cumnock Hall, 31 University Avenue, Lowell, MA  
Shuttle bus from the Tsongas Parking Lot**

**Three Scholarship Awards will be given.  
Participate in the Consumable Auction.  
Enjoy the snacks and meeting with friends.**

**See details inside.**







## 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration

LIRA's 25<sup>th</sup> celebration was a resounding success! After 25 years, we are officially in a partnership with UMass Lowell as stated in the Memorandum of Understanding. Chancellor Marty Meehan presented the plaque to a very happy Toby Hodes who has worked so hard to make this partnership a reality. Board members Shirley Mitchell, Ron Cannistraro, Richard Grove and Toby Hodes are shown with Marty Meehan.

Cumnock Hall was decorated beautifully by Mary Willis and Dawn Gillogly. Each table had silver balloons and for each member, an elegantly wrapped gift of a monogrammed padfolio with a pen and magnet inside along with a booklet by Dorothy Bromage which told of the history of LIRA. Toby and Marty cut the cake - Toby's comment was "It's almost like a wedding - we tied the knot formally and then cut the cake!"

Pictured on the bottom left are some of the faculty that made this all possible: Patty Coffey from the office of Community & Cultural Affairs, our speaker Steve Tello, Toby, Marty, Director of Alumni Relations Heather Makrez and Larry Siegel, Associate Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs and University Events.

The LIRA quilt was designed by members in 1992; the process is described in the booklet by Dorothy and is also on the website. LIRA members with the quilt are Dotty Morris, Suzanne Knapp, Connie Lanseigne-Case, Toby Hodes and Betty Sampas. Betty, who is the longest member of LIRA, actually worked on the quilt.

There are many more pictures of the celebration that can be viewed on the website: [www.facebook.com/UMLCommunityRelations](http://www.facebook.com/UMLCommunityRelations). Click on PHOTOS.

Congratulations, Toby for finally reaching your goal!

# LIRA'S Scholarship Fund Annual Auction

We will hold our annual auction at the LIRA Holiday Party on December 4th. We have decided that the auction will be a "Consumable Auction" once again. The Auction is a major fundraiser for the Scholarship Fund. This year LIRA will be giving \$1500.00 scholarships to three UMass Lowell students.

## What is a Consumable Auction?

It is an auction where all donated items can be consumed, i.e., you eat it, drink it, do it or use it up. The Committee sells tickets; \$1 per ticket or 6 tickets for \$5. You decide what item(s) you want and put your ticket(s) in the appropriate container(s). All donations must be brought directly to Cumnock Hall on the day of the party.



Some things you might donate:  
Baked Goods; Candy; Wine; Gift Certificates, i.e., restaurant, movie, theater, grocery store, and bookstore

Suggestions for Baskets you can make:

- Book – put a gently used book in a basket with a bookmark, book light, china teacup, box of tea, etc.
- Food – Italian or Mexican
- Soup Lovers Basket

I think you get the idea. It will all be wonderful and we have a great time deciding just what we want to win. Thank you to everyone who has donated in the past. Let's make a difference in someone's life and have a great auction this year.

*The Auction Committee,  
Carol Cannistraro  
Barbara Willman*

## Scholarship Update

Again we have received scholarship applications from bright and interesting UMass Lowell students. The committee has been meeting weekly to read, study and discuss them. Somehow we will choose three winners and present them at our Holiday Party on December 4. At a later date, we will make applications available to the LIRA members so they can see the variety of interests and work in which the students are involved.

The Scholarship Committee would like to thank the members for generously donating more than \$1800 which helps to make our scholarships possible. The proceeds from the Consumable Auction also go to the fund. We thank you for all your donations.

*Bill Terris, Scholarship Chairman*

## Holiday Party Details

Because of the difficulties of transporting the food on the shuttle bus, we are keeping the food simple at the Holiday Party. If you would like to volunteer to bring some kind of finger food (fruit, cheese and crackers, cookies, etc.), it would be appreciated. Contact Mary Willis or Dawn Gillogly if you have any questions.



In lieu of exchanging gifts, LIRA members have donated many new books in past years for distribution by Community Teamwork, Inc. of Lowell, the agency which serves families in shelters and oversees many child care programs in the City. Each book is marked with a bookplate denoting that it is a gift from

Learning In Retirement Association. They continue to need warm clothing such as hats, mittens and gloves, for children of all ages.

**Please bring a new book and/or hat and mittens, unwrapped, to the Holiday party.** Thank you for your participation. Contact Elaine Jeleschek if you have any questions.



## Location of the Holiday Party and Parking Lot

The Holiday Party will be held in Cumnock Hall on 31 University Avenue, Lowell from 10 a.m. to noon. A shuttle bus will be taking us from the Tsongas parking lot to Cumnock Hall, leaving us off in the front of the building. The shuttle will be running from 9:30am to 1:00pm for as many trips as needed.

**Parking is in the Tsongas Parking Lot.** This is the lot where we normally park when we attend classes at the Tsongas Center. Please use your hangtags in the parking lot.

## List of What to Bring to the Holiday Party

I love lists! I thought it would be helpful to have a reminder of what to bring to the Holiday Party in one place.

- ◆ Donation of warm clothing for any size child (hat, gloves, mittens, scarf)
- ◆ New book for a child of any age
- ◆ Donation to the Consumable Auction
- ◆ Finger food for our enjoyment

*Jeri Durant*



## Jean Schott, In Profile



Jean grew up in Port Washington, Long Island, New York. It was when she was in High School that her lifelong passion for foreign languages began. One day her Spanish teacher told her that she and another student in the class should study in Spain during their junior year in college. Jean remembers that day very well.

She realizes that she felt then as she would today if she were advised to study on Mars now!! Living in Spain then was very cheap! For a year she lived well on 2 dollars a day. She and her roommates enjoyed hitchhiking to see the country which would not be possible now. Under the dictatorship of Franco, there was very little crime.

Jean had hoped for a career as an interpreter, but realized that there were only limited opportunities in that field. However, during the 1964-65 World's Fair in NYC, she landed a job as a Spanish speaking concierge at a Sheraton hotel in Manhattan. After that, she went to Arizona to get a Master's in Spanish Literature. While studying at the University of Arizona in Tucson, she met her husband Nick who was preparing to get a doctorate in engineering. He landed a job as a professor of Plastics Engineering at UMass Lowell from which he retired in 2010.

Jean's interest in art began when she studied in Madrid where she had an art course at the Prado Museum of Art. She continues to enjoy visiting museums and to continue to learn more about art. She says how thrilling it is to see works of art in person after studying them in books! Jean has given 7 talks on art for our LIRA group and she hopes to continue doing so in the future!!

*Jeanne Gunion*

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## Sally Palmer Field, New England Quilter

JudyBuswick of Chelmsford taught in area schools before working on local cable TV. Later she became an author and has written 3 books. She gave a very interesting talk to LIRA members about one of her books, *Sally Palmer Field, New England Quilter*. She discussed the stories told by Sally, who was widely known in the Lowell area for her outstanding production of quilts. Many of Sally's followers contributed to the book too, as well as members of Sally's family. Judy also included newspaper and magazine articles about Sally's quilting career. Sally spent much of her life learning about the history of the textile industry in the Lowell area. She eventually opened a quilting shop, The House of Patchwork, with the idea of bringing back historic designs to local quilters. Judy gave a very interesting talk on perhaps most well-known quilter in the greater Lowell area, the late Sally Palmer Field.

*Jean Schott*

## John Singer Sargent Watercolor Paintings at the MFA

By the time Sargent reached his 40's at the beginning of the 20th century, he had been recognized as the best society painter of the Gilded Age. At that time, he began to experience a midlife crisis. To up and coming artists, he seemed a bit old fashioned. Around 1900, he put down his oils and turned to watercolors, capturing landscapes, gardens and exotic locales. He experimented with new compositional styles and techniques. This lovely exhibit of over 90 watercolors was first shown at the Brooklyn Museum of Art and then came to the MFA. The works shown were done between 1902- 1912.

*Jean Schott*



*The Bridge of Sighs by John Singer Sargent, 1903-4*

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## Beethoven Class

Beethoven, Life and Works, Part I, was presented by LIRA member Jeanne Gunion in six two-hour Tuesday afternoon sessions. Each class began with Robert Greenberg in The Teaching Company's video series, highlighting Beethoven's life and music in an energetic and often humorous vein. In the second hour, Jeanne played CD selections by Beethoven and composers influenced by him, enhanced with material from her background and research. Class members were encouraged to share their experiences, knowledge and recordings of Beethoven's works. The class was a relaxing interlude in the day while learning about Beethoven and his music. The class will conclude the Beethoven lectures in the Spring semester.

*Carol McCarthy*

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## LIRA Members Exhibit at Whistler House

Barbara Page and Connie Lanseigne-Case each have a painting in the annual juried member exhibition in the Whistler House Museum of Art. Barbara's painting is a watercolor titled "The Old Pine" and Connie's encaustic and collage is "Marigolds in Yellow and Brown". The member exhibit started in November and runs through December 26th. Participants this year can leave works in the Parker Gallery through January 26th.

# Tour of St. Vartanantz Armenian Church in Chelmsford

By 1908, a group of local Armenian women began to recognize the need to organize the community. Gradually a church was built in Lowell on Lawrence Street. As the community grew, plans were finalized to relocate to Chelmsford. The church was established there in 1978 and continues to draw worshipers from the surrounding communities. It is replica of the Cathedral of Ani in Armenia. Father Khachatur Kesablyan, the leader of the

congregation, arrived in the US in 2006. He and Deacon John Margarian gave an informative talk on the similarities and differences in their beliefs and those of other branches of Christianity. A very interesting discussion was given of the colorful and well done interior of the church. The beautiful paintings were done by a Chelmsford artist.

*Jean Schott*



## Interview

President Toby Hodes was interviewed by Teddy Panos on WCAP on September 24 where they discussed all things about LIRA. The interview is now on the website at <http://www.uml.edu/Community/LIRA/About-Us.aspx>. Click on the link about halfway down the page and the interview should come up. It is about 12 minutes long. Please note that if you use Google Chrome as a browser, it doesn't seem to work. Internet Explorer and Mozilla Firefox browsers seem to work fine.

*Jeri Durant*

## Member News

Barbara Kager is recuperating at home after recent knee surgery. We wish her a speedy recovery.

We are saddened to learn that Connie Richardson's husband, George passed away on November 1, 2013. We offer her and her family our deepest sympathy.

Long-time member Jane Yeuell fell in October and spent some time in rehab. She is now recovering at home.

If you know of any member who would like to be remembered by LIRA, please contact me:

si.allard@aol.com - 603-943-7527

## Cancellations

### Emergencies (Cancellation of Classes/University Closing)

In the event that it becomes necessary to cancel a LIRA program for any reason, i.e. snowstorm, hazardous road conditions, or if the UMass Lowell campus is closed due to a storm emergency or other unexpected events and if the cancellation affects the entire membership, Toby Hodes will call Judy Miller or Carol McCarthy who are the telephone tree coordinators, to let them know of the cancellation. Judy and Carol will then call the contact persons to inform them of the cancellation. These contact persons will then call the members on their respective list to inform them of the cancellation.



### Email Notification

Many people signed up to have class cancellations emailed to them. Those people should make sure that they check their email in the morning if there is any doubt about a class being held. If there are others that would like to be on this email list, please notify Judy Miller (978-256-8466 or [gmiller29@verizon.net](mailto:gmiller29@verizon.net)) or Carol McCarthy (978-256-5904 or [jfmcCart@aol.com](mailto:jfmcCart@aol.com)). Those not on the list will be notified by telephone.

*Carol McCarthy  
Judy Miller*



## Women in Art

On Wednesday, October 30 Liana Cheney, Professor of History of Art, gave us a lecture on the female form in art and many women artists.

She began with the Venus of Willendorf, a small amulet carved of limestone some 30,000 years ago. The figure has large breasts and is pregnant, invoking the attributes of both nurture and fertility. Then we saw a classical marble statue of Venus carved in the 4<sup>th</sup> c.BCE. It conveys ideal beauty with one hand covering her breast and the other her pubic area. It is referenced by Botticelli in his Birth of Venus painted in 1485. Liana mentioned that the Greek name for Venus is Aphrodite meaning “born of foam.”

Both Pliny the Elder and Younger made records of female artists, a great resource for Renaissance artists. In 1292 Hildegard, a nun, painted visions trying to comprehend the world beyond her convent. In a time when paintings were not signed, she paints a small portrait of herself in a lower corner. Christine de Pisane, whose father was a scientist, was educated, not usual for women in those times. She presented several of her paintings to Charles II. In 1550 Sofonisba Anguissola painted a self portrait which was praised by Michelangelo and is now at the MFA.



*Bernardino Campi Painting Sofonisba Anguissola by Sofonisba Anguissola, late 1550s*

In the Renaissance and after, the individual became very important; it was a narcissistic era like today. Sofonisba Anguissola did a painting of her teacher painting HER, in other words, a double portrait. In 1576 Lavinia Fontana painted the Holy Family which is now owned by the Davis Museum at

Wellesley College. In 1600 Artemesia Gentileschi painted herself nude as Diana with Jupiter shown as a shower of gold. Both she and Fede Galizia painted powerful and horrifying works showing Judith with the head of Holofernes.

More recently, women have shown their independence in choosing subjects; they are no longer bound by church, court or patron. (Those have been replaced by dealers!) A self portrait photo by Cindy Sherman shows her pregnant. Suzanne Valadon paints Adam and Eve in a surrealist style; and Alice Neel does a nude self portrait at age 80!

Liana is no longer at UML; she is now associated with several European Universities, finishing a book on

Edward Burne-Jones, and writing one on Bronzino. In spite of these commitments, she says she will give us another talk in the spring. We look forward to it.

*Barbara Page*

## Thank you.....

August 13, 2013

Dear Mr. Cannistraro,

My husband and I were pleased to share the resources of our Historical Piano collection with members of LIRA last month. Our plan of dividing the group in two sections seemed to work well; especially in light of the heat wave that week, it was good not to have people any more crowded together than necessary.

Many thanks for LIRA's generous donation of \$100.00 to Historical Piano Concerts, Inc. As you may be aware, our nonprofit organization is supported wholly by public freewill donations, which cover our rent, insurance, utilities and building maintenance. We are also grateful to those LIRA members whose individual cash donations on the day of the tour totaled \$79.00, as well as those who bought a CD and a copy of my little poetry book, both fundraisers for the organization.

I trust our LIRA visitors came away with some new understandings of piano history and music. Perhaps some of them will wish to attend some of our upcoming fall concerts. Please share this letter of appreciation with the group.

With all best wishes,  
Patricia H. Frederick, Treasurer  
Historical Piano Concerts, Inc.

NOTE: The concerts are listed on their website [www.frederickcollection.org](http://www.frederickcollection.org). They are over for the season, but will begin again in late April or May.

## Spring BSO Open Rehearsal Concert

Jean Rubinstein would like to know how many members are interested in attending the spring BSO Open Rehearsal Concert so that she can order tickets. In the past she has ordered 35 but has found it difficult to sell them all. A response to Jean would not be a commitment but it would give her an idea as to how many tickets to order. The sooner she knows, the better the chance will be at getting a block of tickets in the same seating area as this past fall. The program is as follows:

Thursday, April 17 10:30 a.m. (talk at 9:30 a.m.)  
Lorin Mazel, Conductor  
Mozart Symphony No. 38 *Prague*  
Mahler Symphony No. 5

If you are interested in attending, please let Jean know either by email [jeanruby@juno.com](mailto:jeanruby@juno.com) or by phone 978-256-9943.

## Chelmsford Library Lecture Series

The Chelmsford Library is running a Lecture Series in conjunction with LIRA on the second Friday of the month. The next scheduled lecture is on Friday, December 13, 2013: “New England Authors in the Making of the Modern World” by Roger Kolb, beginning at 10 a.m. in the McCarthy Meeting Room. Check the library's website for further information. [www.chelmsfordlibrary.org/programs/programs/friday\\_morning\\_lectures.html](http://www.chelmsfordlibrary.org/programs/programs/friday_morning_lectures.html)

## Use Your Hangtags!

Please use your hangtag in ANY UMass Lowell parking lot. Members have received warnings in the Tsongas parking lot and another member received a \$15. parking violation.

## 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gift

If you didn't receive your 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary gift from the celebration in September, please contact either Toby Hodes [tkhodes@comcast.net](mailto:tkhodes@comcast.net) or Dorothy Bromage [bromageD@verizon.net](mailto:bromageD@verizon.net).

## Change in Dues

The Executive Council voted on September 20, 2013, to make the following change in the dues. As of January 1, 2014, dues are \$125 per person or \$200 per couple regardless of when during the year they are paid. It seemed like the most equitable thing to do since there are many people that attend only in the fall and others only in the spring. This way every member will be paying the same amount.

## Spread the Word

Although word-of-mouth is the most effective in telling others about LIRA, there are other ways you can help. Jeanne Gunion has prepared posters that can be emailed to you and are ready to print. Please send requests for posters to her at



### 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 you membership list.

#### **Returning Member:**

William F. Sarro  
5 Bishops Lane  
Lynnfield, MA 01940  
781-771-8706  
[william.sarro@verizon.net](mailto:william.sarro@verizon.net)



## Coffee Break Note

Many, many thanks to all the volunteers who provided the delicious refreshments during the fall session.

Aramark will continue to supply the coffee and tea during the winter intersession.

Coordinators will be asking for volunteers to bring refreshments for the programs.

*Barbara Willman*



The Town Meeting will be held on March 12, 2014. Classes begin on Monday, March 17, 2014.

## Newsletters on Website

The newsletter will appear on the website in color, around the last week of November. If you would prefer to read them there instead of getting a hard copy, please let Shirley Mitchell know.

The website for the newsletter is [www.uml.edu/community/LIRA/newsletters.html](http://www.uml.edu/community/LIRA/newsletters.html)



The next newsletter will be out on March 1, 2014; the deadline for news items is February 15, 2014. 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.

*Jeri Durant*

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*I would like to wish you all a Joyous Holiday Season  
and a New Year of Peace, Happiness and Good Health.*

*Jeri Durant*





# December 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4 10AM—Noon Town Meeting and- Holiday Party	5	6	7
8	9	10	11 10AM—Noon Book Discussion - <i>The Great Gatsby</i> by F.Scott Fitzgerald	12	13 10AM Chelmsford Library Lecture— <i>New Eng- land Authors....</i> 12:30PM Executive Council Meeting	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21 
22	23	24	25 	26	27	28
29	30	31				







# January 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			<p>1</p>	2	3	4
5	6	7	<p>8 10AM—Noon</p> <p><i>Using the Microscope to Create Art</i></p> <p>Tim Bromage</p>	9	10	11
12	13	14	<p>15 10AM—Noon</p> <p><i>The Many Lives of Sherlock Holmes</i></p> <p>Melissa Pennell</p>	16	17	18
19	<p>20</p>	21	<p>22 Meet at Museum at 10 am</p> <p><i>Color Revolution</i></p> <p>American Textile Museum</p>	23	24	25
26	27	28	<p>29 10AM—Noon</p> <p><i>The World Crisis About Water-Schott</i></p> <p>12:30 Book Disc-<i>The Round House</i></p>	30	31	



# February 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5 10AM—Noon <i>Terrorism</i> Neil Shortland	6	7	8
9	10	11	12 Meet at Nerve Center at 10am <i>Nerve Center Tour</i> Adam Norton	13	14 	15
16	17 	18	19 10AM—Noon <i>Development of Artificial Heart Tech</i> Victor Poirior 12:30 Book Disc- <i>Polio: D.Oshimsky</i>	20	21	22
23	24	25	26 10AM—Noon <i>Ted Williams and the Red Sox</i> Bill Nowlin	27	28	

LEARNING IN RETIREMENT ASSOCIATION  
University of Massachusetts Lowell  
Lowell, Massachusetts 01834

**Winter 2014 Intersession**

The 2014 Winter Intersession, given between semesters, offers to retirees and those semi-retired a sample of LIRA's almost year-round program and friendly community. The program is planned and much of it provided by the members themselves. The general public is invited to all Intersession programs. The time for these programs is 10 a.m. to Noon. The Intersession programs are all Wednesdays and will be held in the Campus Recreation Center, 292 Aiken Street, Lowell, MA, with the exception of two sessions that are tours: January 22 and February 12. The Rec Center is on the corner of Aiken and Pawtucket Streets; the entrance is facing Pawtucket Street. Parking is in the garage directly across the street or in the Perkins Parking lot. Your ID is needed to enter the garage or lot **and** the Rec Center. Please use your parking hangtags wherever you park.

**DECEMBER 11**

**Book Discussion  
Toby Hodes\***

10 a.m. to Noon *The Great Gatsby* fiction by F. Scott Fitzgerald (Location to be announced)

**JANUARY 8**

**Art and the Microscope  
Tim Bromage**

Analyzing hard tissue to solve the mysteries of skeletal development was once a struggle, but with digital imaging, researchers today can creatively alter colors to highlight miniscule but important features or apply algorithms to calculate the tissue's growth rate. By employing artistic principals as they manipulate color and structure, researchers create images startling in their beauty as well as scientifically important. Dr. Timothy Bromage, an NYU College of Dentistry Professor of Biomaterials and Biometrics and of Basic Science and Craniofacial Biology has come to LIRA twice before—this time for pairing art and science.

Coordinator: Dorothy Bromage\*

**JANUARY 15**

**The Many Lives of Sherlock Holmes  
Dr. Melissa Pennell, Professor of English, UMass Lowell**

Sir Arthur Conan Doyle introduced the character of Sherlock Holmes in 1887's *A Study in Scarlet*. Holmes went on to appear in three other novels, including the popular *Hound of the Baskervilles* and more than 50 short stories. Conan Doyle tried to end Holmes' career and life in the confrontation with Moriarty at Reichenbach Falls, but reader demand brought about his return. Reader demand and fan interest has turned Sherlock Holmes into an immortal character. In this talk and discussion, we'll look at the original Holmes and at clips of some of the movie and television adaptations; we'll then consider the many authors, as well as film and television productions, that continue to invent new versions of Holmes and his detective career.

Coordinator: Ann Dahlman\*

**JANUARY 22**

**Color Revolution: Style Meets Science in the 1960s**

Chemists and manufacturers were experimenting with new fibers and dyes after World War II and these experiments in technology, combined with a cultural reaction against the perceived dreariness of the wartime legacy, resulted in an artistic explosion of color and patterning in the 1960s. We will have a talk on the **Color Revolution** by staff and the Director of Interpretation will talk about exhibits at the American Textile History Museum. Please meet at the Museum, 491 Dutton Street #2, Lowell, MA at 10 a.m.

Coordinator: Beverly Rudeen\*

**JANUARY 29**

**The World Crisis About Water  
Nick Schott**

About 70 percent of the earth is covered with water but only 2 percent is fresh water. Population growth, pollution, deforestation, and climate change have put a great strain on this vital resource. Many parts of the world have great fresh water scarcities that can lead to wars, famines, and disease. Reliable, clean, affordable, safe water can prevent many diseases and allow us a lifestyle and standard of living that is the best in history, but can it last? We may have to change our lifestyle, agriculture, technology to live in harmony with nature and have a decent life for all the people of the world. Both fresh water and the ocean water are under stress and solutions must be found before it is too late. Nick Schott is Emeritus Professor, UMass Lowell-Plastics Engineering.

Coordinator: Jean Schott\*

**JANUARY 29**

**Book Discussion  
Toby Hodes\***

12:30p.m. to 2:30p.m. *The Round House*, fiction by Louise Erdrich



**FEBRUARY 5**

**Terrorism Then and Now**  
**Neil Shortland, Senior Research Associate, Criminal Justice, UMass Lowell**

Neil's primary research interest is terrorist behaviour, and specifically how this can be used to inform the counter-terrorism, both at the policy level and at the investigative level. He is also interested in socio-psychological factors of military operations and problems currently faced by deployed forces.

Coordinator: Russ MacLeod\*

**FEBRUARY 12**

**Robot Testing Capabilities at the UMass Lowell NERVE Center**  
**Adam Norton**

The New England Robotics Validation and Experimentation (NERVE) Center is a dedicated testing, training, and research at the University of Massachusetts Lowell. The 10,000 square foot space houses replicas of robot test methods from the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), water features designed in collaboration with the Army, an indoor rain area, and many other NERVE-designed test apparatuses. The NERVE Center also houses a machine shop used for wood working, 3D printing, and laser cutting. During this event there will be a tour of the test courses and machine shop, as well as a demo of an Inuktun VGTV robot.

Meet at the NERVE Center, 1001 Pawtucket Boulevard (Route 113), Lowell, MA at 10 a.m. As you enter the parking lot, the company COBHAM will be on your left. The NERVE Center's main entrance is located around the back of the building between the loading docks. Please park on your right in the area designated for 'Day Event Parking' and walk down the street to the Center entrance.

Coordinator: Jeri Durant\*

**FEBRUARY 19**

**The Development of Artificial Heart Technology:  
Past, Present and a Look into the Future**  
**Victor Poirior**

Our past president Lyndon Johnson suffered a mild heart attack in 1965 and asked the following question "Why don't we have an artificial heart in this country? We sent a man to the moon and back and we don't have a heart."

This was the starting point and that is when I became involved in developing Heartmate Technology. This talk will describe the challenges that faced us and the significant effort put forth in over 30 years of research looking at over 20 different pump configurations as well as multiple types of power sources including nuclear energy. After completing over 500 hundred animal trials we undertook the first clinical trial in humans in 1975. This was followed by 6 additional trials which evaluated first generation pulsatile pumps and second generation high speed rotary pumps. In all, 3 pump configurations were FDA approved as well as applications for a bridge to transplant and as an alternative to transplant. To date over 20,000 Heartmate devices have been implanted to support desperately ill patients, one of which was vice president Dick Cheney.

Coordinator: Leon Poirior\*

**FEBRUARY 19**

**Book Discussion**  
**Toby Hodes\***

12:30p.m. to 2:30p.m. *Polio: An American Story*, non-fiction by David Oshimsky.

**FEBRUARY 26**

**Ted Williams and the Red Sox**  
**Bill Nowlin**

Bill Nowlin will talk on Ted Williams and the Red Sox. This talk will focus on Williams' drive to be the best at whatever he undertook – batting, fishing, or flying bombers with John Glenn during the Korean War.

Coordinator: Nancy Pitkin\*

\*Member of LIRA