



# WWURA NEWS



February, 2012

www.wwu.edu/~wwura

Serving Retired Faculty and Staff

## President's Letter

We have turned the corner toward Spring and an escape from winter cold (maybe). That's the good news.

We have a spate of activities soon to be upon us. We have the Winter Luncheon on the 17th and you might consider offering a ride to members you think might be in need of one. And be sure to save the date--April 20--for the WWURA Spring Luncheon and come to hear James "Dino" Christianson, Jr. of the Hearing, Speech and Deafness Center present an informative and fascinating discussion on the story of hearing and deafness. Two members of the Board have heard the presentation and say it is one of the best and most interesting they have heard.

Be sure to put the May 16th Retirement Dinner on your calendars. And again think of those members who might need transportation.

Please consider volunteering for service on the Board of Directors. New ideas and fresh faces are always welcome and it's one of those things that keep our organization going. Call Nanette Davis if interested--671-1686.

- **Howard Evans**

**Reminder:** Harriet Spanel is scheduled to speak at the WWURA Winter Luncheon on Friday, February 17, 2012. Hope you made a reservation!

## WWURA Travelogue

### Traveling Along the Southern Coast of England

Presented by Barbara & Mel Davidson and Gail & Marty Haines

Wednesday, March 21, 2012

Squalicum Yacht Club

6:30 for socializing,

7:15 presentation



Hiking the Coast

Travel with the Davidsons and Haines along the historic southern coast of England, including Cornwall, an area which has played an important part of English and American history and is still very appealing in the 21st century. We will visit the ports from which the Pilgrims, Vancouver and others sailed for America and where England launched most of her sea battles as well as the Normandy Invasion. You will follow our adventures from Southampton and the New Forest through many attractive villages in the South West of England, including Port Issac, the filming location for the popular BBC Doc Martin series on PBS television.

If your name begins with **A though L**, please bring a dessert to share. WWURA provides coffee and tea; some members bring wine. Contact one of the board members if you need a ride.

## Medicare Reimbursement: Hospital Inpatient? Outpatient?

**Staying overnight in a hospital doesn't always mean a person is an inpatient.** Going to the Emergency Department and receiving emergency department services, observation services, outpatient surgery, lab tests, or X-rays/scans means a person is an outpatient, not an inpatient. Spending the night without a physician's formal order means the person is still an "outpatient." A person is considered an inpatient the day a physician formally orders a person admitted to a hospital. This may occur in the ED but a patient must ask his/her status. Being an inpatient or an outpatient affects what you pay and whether you qualify for Part A coverage in a skilled nursing facility. Medicare covers skilled nursing facility care (SNF) only if a person first has a "qualifying" hospital stay. This means the patient has been formally admitted (by a physician) to the hospital and stays 3 midnights in a row. The discharge day does not count. The last inpatient day is the day before discharge. <http://www.medicare.gov/Publications/Pubs/pdf/11435.pdf>

Below are common hospital situations and a description of how Medicare will pay. Remember, you pay deductibles, coinsurance, and co-payments.

Situation	Inpatient or Outpatient	Part A Pays	Part B Pays
You're in the Emergency Department (ED) (also known as the Emergency Room or "ER") and then you're formally admitted to the hospital with a doctor's order.	Inpatient	Your hospital stay	Your doctor services
You visit the ED for a broken arm, get X-rays and a splint, and go home.	Outpatient	Nothing	Doctor services and hospital outpatient services (for example, ED visit, X-rays, splint)
You come to the ED with chest pain and the hospital keeps you for 2 nights for observation services.	Outpatient	Nothing	Doctor services and hospital outpatient services (for example, ED visit, observation services, lab tests, EKGs)
You come to the hospital for outpatient surgery, but they keep you overnight for high blood pressure. Your doctor doesn't write an order to admit you as an inpatient. You go home the next day.	Outpatient	Nothing	Doctor services and hospital outpatient services (for example, surgery, lab tests, intravenous medicines)
Your doctor writes an order for you to be admitted as an inpatient and the hospital later tells you they're changing your hospital status to outpatient. Your doctor must agree, and the hospital must tell you in writing –while you're still a hospital patient – that your hospital status changed.	Outpatient	Nothing	Doctor services and hospital outpatient services

The decision to discharge an inpatient is made by the hospital and physician in accordance with federal regulations. Hospitals and physicians keeping inpatients longer than the federal regulations mandate are at risk of negatively affecting their accreditation and reimbursement.

Sources to check for further information and clarification about Medicare regulations:: <http://www.medicare.gov/publications/pubs/pdf/11376.pdf> (“Your Discharge Planning List,” which is a list of questions to ask). Medicare Blog and “Are You Ready for 2012?”: <http://blog.medicare.gov/2012/01/19/are-you-ready-for-2012-5-questions-to-ask-yourself/#respond>

Current media promoted Urban Legend relating Medicare costs: Is it a fact that Medicare Premiums will go up more than 100% in two years? Will the per person Medicare Insurance Premium increase from the present Monthly premium of \$96.40, rising to \$104.20 in 2012, \$120.20 in 2013 and, \$247.00 in 2014? According to Snopes (<http://www.snopes.com/politics/medical/medicare.asp>) and the 2011 Annual Report of the Boards of the Trustees of the Federal Hospital Insurance and Federal Supplementary Medical Insurance Trust Funds at <https://www.cms.gov/ReportsTrustFunds/downloads/tr2011.pdf> **The answer is NO!**

---

- - - - -

### Jingle Bell Run

The 24<sup>th</sup> Bellingham Annual Jingle Bell Run/Walk held December 10, 2010 was the best ever. A new record was set for the number of participants as well as the funds (over \$171,000) raised to support local arthritis services and national research. There were 3600 participants, including 300 dogs and 2 miniature horses. The Bellingham event earned bragging rights to be one of the top JBRs in the country (after Seattle, Malvern, PA, and Columbus, OH). I wish to thank WWURA members who participated in and contributed to our WWURA team, which raised \$700.

-Evelyn Ames



### 18th Annual Employee Arts and Craft Show

Retired faculty are invited to submit entries. Deadline is **February 21**. Plan to attend. Opening Reception is Monday March 5, 3-5 pm at VU565. Exhibit hours will be Monday, March 5, 11am- 5pm, Tuesday -Thursday, March 6-8, 11 am-4 pm and Friday, March 9, 11 am-1:30 pm. Contact Nancy Phillips, Assistant to the Vice President, at 360-650-3407 for more information.

**October 1-22, 2012**

Join our group of 16 on this very popular trip with Overseas Adventure Travel. The cost per person is approximately \$5000 with air fare included. At this date there just THREE remaining reservations available. Please contact Marty & Gail Haines for more information and a brochure at 360-676-1344 or [mghaines@comcast.net](mailto:mghaines@comcast.net).



Along the Danube

**DANUBE RIVER 50<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY HOLIDAY MARKETS CRUISE****December 2 – 12, 2012**

In 1962, while teaching at Ramstein Air Base in Germany, Kathy Whitmer went to her first Christmas market in Nuremberg, bought a wooden nutcracker, sipped some gluhwein, and has been enchanted by European holiday markets ever since.

To celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of that first visit, one more holiday markets trip is planned for Dec. 2 – 12, 2012. The WWURA and friends group will begin in Prague for 2 nights, then continue to Nuremberg to embark the AmaWaterways 148 passenger AmaLyra. The 7-night cruise goes to Regenberg, Passau, Salzburg (optional, but a “must see”), Melk, Vienna and Budapest.

Cost (per person) starts from \$2250 for the river cruise which includes 10% group discount. Land portion (Prague) is \$460. Port charges \$147. Estimated air is \$1250. Each receives \$100 shipboard credit; past passengers each receive an additional \$100 discount. Reservation deposit is \$400. Itinerary details and more information available at the Feb. 17 WWURA luncheon and from Kathy (734-7211) or Joyce D. Wilson (733-4703).

**MONGOLIA AND THE GOBI DESERT****August of 2013**

We will fly to Beijing and from there to Ulaanbaatar where we will visit the Gandan Monastery. We then head across the steppes to a 16,000 acre preserve that is the habitat of the ibex, wolves, hawks, etc. Our lodgings will be Mongolian gers for three days. We will also explore Kharkhorin, the ancient capital of the Mongol Empire, which was established by Genghis Khan at the crossroads of the Silk Road. We then have three days at picturesque Khovsgol Lake which will give us the opportunity to meet families who herd reindeer and yaks. We finish the trip with three days at the Three Camel Lodge in the Gobi desert. This is an Overseas Adventure Travel trip which means our group is limited to 10-16 participants. Please let Donna Rochon know if you are interested in the trip. (360-647-2301, [djrochon1@comcast.net](mailto:djrochon1@comcast.net)).

This trip is an opportunity to experience something quite different from our usual trips. It will be fascinating to see a different part of the world. You can view a detail itinerary at the OAT web site. <[www.oattravel.com](http://www.oattravel.com)>

Cost: \$6195 from Seattle; Land Tour only: \$4895

Difficulty level: You must have good health and mobility and be able to walk 3 miles unassisted each day.

## WWURA INTEREST GROUPS

WWURA'S Interest Groups are open to everyone. If you would like to join a group, please call the contact person.

### February's Interest Groups are listed below:

**Book Group** - Donna Rochon, 647-2301

Meets at Barbara Davidson's, 806 17th St., 2:30 p.m. Tuesday, February 21st

The book is *Cleopatra: A Life* by Stacy Schiff.

The book for March is *In Cod We Trust* by Eric Dregni.

**Bridge Group** - Nicholas Bullat, 676-1156. The bridge group will meet on Tuesday, February 28th at Betty Cross's, 715 North Garden, #101 at 1:30 p.m.

**Informal Dining** - The hosts for February are Caryl Hinckley, Larry and Marilyn Richardson, Donna Rochon. and Sarah Jacobson and John Reay.

Call Jan Berg, 733-4654 or Barb Evans, 650-9724 if you would like to be added to the list.,

**Opera Group** - Evelyn Ames, 734-3184

The Metropolitan Opera Live in HD is shown at the Lincoln Theater in Mt. Vernon and at Bellis Fair Regal Cinemas.

Verdi's *Ermani*, February 25 at 9:55 a.m.

Encore: Lincoln, 1 p.m, March 4; Bellis, 6:30, March 1.

Massenet's *Manon*, April 7 at 9a.m.

Encore: Lincoln, 1 p.m.,April 22; Bellis, 6:30, April 25.

Verdi's *La Traviata*, April 14 at 9:55 a.m.

Encore: Lincoln, 1 p.m., April 29; Bellis, 6:30, May 2.

**Downhill Skiing** - Charlie Way, 734-0649. Call Charlie if you are interested.

**Writer's Group** - call Evelyn Wright for information, 676-0227.

## **WWURA Calendar—2012**

### **February**

17 Winter Luncheon

### **March**

6 Board Meeting

21 Travelogue

### **April**

3 Board Meeting

20 April Luncheon

### **May**

1 Board Meeting

16 Retirement Dinner

### **October**

1 China/Tibet/Yangtze trip

### **December**

2 Holiday Markets trip

**Western Washington University  
Retirement Association (WWURA)  
526 High Street  
Bellingham, WA 98225-9020**