

Retirement Luncheon May 24, 2012

Welcome to the wonderful world of Retirement! May you enjoy it every bit as much as most of us in this room are now.

Back in the 1970's KU graduate Paul Endacott was president of the Phillips Petroleum. His dream was to have active vital programs and a social life for KU retirees in an alumni building with rooms just for them. In the 1980's, thanks to his donations and fundraising, his dream became a reality with the Adams Alumni Center and the creation of a KU Retirees Club, now known as the Endacott Society.

This Retirees group is now one of the largest in the nation, and frankly we are the envy of many university retirees groups everywhere. Goals are simple: to meet for conversation with old friends and new, and to learn something, if desired, through the many interest groups, and frankly, just to have fun.

Every Wednesday at 10 am, around 60-70 retirees gather in the Adams Center for coffee and conversation. Weekly interest groups include Computer study, music listening, and gardening. Monthly groups include great book discussions, drama study, cards & games, singing for fun, opera listening, & classic cinema watching. And each month we celebrate birthdays at an afternoon lecture, often KU related, all preceded by cake & a glass of sherry.

Periodically we enjoy Armchair Travel, evening potlucks followed by a speaker, and out-of-town travel. In fact, a large busload of us just returned from the New Crystal Bridges Museum in Bentonville AR.

A somewhat unique project of the Endacott Society is the Oral History Project, whereby we record life stories and the long KU careers with many recent KU retirees. At present there are over 530 of these, kept in KU Archives and in the Adams Center Library where they are used for reading and research, both now and in the future. Many of you may soon be contacted to be interviewed for this invaluable project.

All retired faculty and staff and spouses are invited to participate in whatever aspects of the Endacott Society that might interest you.

And the best parts? There's no cost. Only annual membership in the KU Alumni Association is needed. A monthly newsletter, both mailed and posted online, will tell you more, as will the website. Do give us a try at any time.

And the really best part? There are NO committees. Just pure pleasure. And now, please enjoy the pure pleasure of this wonderful Retirement Luncheon. Welcome!