

## **(Re)Introducing the EUEC Listservs**

One of the advantages of the computer age and the Internet is being able to contact people via email. Because EUEC has over 600 members in our database, using email is the only feasible way we can afford to keep in touch with our members. For that contact, I have set up a number of *listservs*. Basically, a listserv is an electronic mailing list—one can send an email to the listserv address and that email will be sent to all members of the list. [If you are interested in a more detailed description, you can [click here](#) to read a Wikipedia article on email lists, and [click here](#) to read a Wikipedia article on listservs. Emory University maintains approximately 1500 different listservs.]

There are many advantages to having listservs. One potential problem is that if access to the listserv is not limited, there can be listserv “storms” in which users can (usually accidentally) reply to a listserv and their reply message, meant for one person goes instead to the entire list. If you have not seen that happen, I can assure you it can sometimes quickly get fairly ugly! Even intentional use of email lists can get irritating. My neighborhood has an email list, and there are a few members who like to make many postings that they regard as humorous; many people in the neighborhood (with apparently not much else to do) seem to enjoy those postings. My delete key is getting worn due to these emails! One of my considerations in setting up and using the EUEC listservs is to minimize the emails that get sent out to members. I am continually amazed at how busy many of you are!

### **EUEC “Official” Listservs**

There are two listservs that our office uses to contact members. EUEC-Members sends emails to all of our members. EUEC-GA sends emails to members with addresses in GA. When we send emails that deal with local events and would thus likely not be of interest to members unable to come to Emory, we use this more restricted list. I realize that there are many members living in GA but too far away to come to most functions here. However, it would be too difficult to try to determine who is “close enough,” and who is not, to make a finer discrimination.

### **EUEC Listservs for Members**

I realize there are many reasons that members might like to contact the entire EUEC member list. I also realize there are members who feel that they currently receive all of the emails they can deal with and don't want any more. Therefore I have set up 3 listservs, each with restricted topics that I believe would best serve our members.

### **EUEC-Travel**

One thing I have discovered is that EUEC members travel--a lot! Even those of you who might not travel as much as you used to have logged a lot of miles in a lot of places. Also, some of you might be interested in finding travel partners. How might EUEC members with similar interests make contact?

Our members' travel experiences are so extensive, that if you were interested in taking a trip to almost any place in the U.S. or overseas, you could likely find useful travel information from other members. Would you have guessed that one of our members spent 10 weeks traveling in India and Myanmar several years ago, or 2 months in Vietnam and Laos the year before? Did you know that one of our members lives in Hawaii? Did you know that one of our members lives half of the year in Kenya? The problem is that there has been no way for members to access this information and make use of the world knowledge that exists within our membership.

Another issue that I have heard about from members is that they don't want to travel by themselves, but don't have a way of finding suitable travel companions (and don't want to make a post on Craigslist to find someone!).

I created a listserv specifically for EUEC members to share information about travel: EUEC-Travel (send email to: [EUEC-Travel@listserv.cc.emory.edu](mailto:EUEC-Travel@listserv.cc.emory.edu)). You can send an email to that address and it will be sent to EUEC members. You might have a question about what sights to see in parts of the U.S. You might want to know about how best to tour Myanmar. You might want to know about members' experiences with various tour companies. You might want to see if there are members who would be interested in traveling with you to a certain destination, or to a mutually determined destination. All you have to do is send an email to this listserv and see what responses you get. All responses should be sent to the member who posts, and not to the list. That is one way of reducing email traffic to members who might not care, for example, about traveling to North Korea or Syria at present.

For how this listserv could actually work, read the article below by Carol Burns, who describes her recent success with EUEC-Travel.

### **EUEC-Courses**

I set up this listserv for those interested in taking or teaching OLLI courses and those interested in taking MOOCs. For more information about OLLI, see Volume 1, Issue #6 and [olli.emory.edu](http://olli.emory.edu). If you were interested in taking an OLLI course, for example, and wanted to try to find someone with whom to carpool, you could send an email to this list. If you were interested in teaching, and wanted to try to find other EUEC members who would like to teach a course with you, you could also send email to this list. One of the main reasons for setting up this particular listserv was to help members find others who might be interested in taking a MOOC together. (For more on MOOCs, click here to read a summary document, click to read the following newsletter issues with articles on MOOCs: Volume 1 Issue #3, Volume 1 Issue #8 and Volume 1 Issue #12.) Taking a MOOC together could involve getting together at someone's house on a weekly basis, or perhaps just staying in touch via email as the course progressed. To get in contact with other members about courses, send email to [EUEC-Courses@listserv.cc.emory.edu](mailto:EUEC-Courses@listserv.cc.emory.edu). This list is currently restricted to GA members.

### **EUEC-Activities**

When I did a survey of recently retired faculty two years ago, I found that there were many who would like to get together with other faculty for various activities. For example, I found that there were faculty who were interested in finding other faculty who would be interested in some type of book club, a photography club, a group that attended music events, a group that attended theater events, a group that attended visual arts events, a group that would go to various restaurants, or a group that would organize day trips for hiking or other outdoor activities.

What those results told me was that there are many members who would like to get together with other faculty for a variety of different activities. How might that happen? The EUEC office does not have the capacity, or expertise, to organize such a wide variety of activities. The problem for faculty is being able to find one another. I have established another email listserv, EUEC-Activities, that will allow EUEC members to find others who would like to participate in the same activity. All you have to do is send email to [EUEC-Activities@listserv.cc.emory.edu](mailto:EUEC-Activities@listserv.cc.emory.edu) stating your interest in starting a photography club, or a book club, or hiking Stone Mountain, or whatever you would like to do. This list also is currently restricted to GA members.

## **A Listserv “Success Story” from EUEC Member Carol Burns**

In the Fall of 2014, Gray Crouse announced in the Emeritus College Newsletter that he had created a travel listserv. Its purpose is to provide members with a convenient way to query other members about their experiences with traveling to a particular place, using a specific travel agency/tour group, or even living abroad for months at a time. Gray observed that “EUEC members travel—a lot!” and thought they might use the listserv to share information or even find travel partners.

I read the article with deep interest, then promptly forgot all about the listserv. Perhaps some of you have forgotten about it, too. I am now planning the biennial get-together with old college friends, and this year’s destination is the Oregon coast. As I’ve never been there, I searched online to find accommodations. I was overwhelmed with the possibilities and had no idea how to even select the towns along the coast I should consider. So, I contacted Gray about Emeriti living along the Oregon coast in hopes of finding information about vacation spots there. What I needed most was information from sources I could trust. Who better than my Emory colleagues?

Gray suggested I use the travel listserv, and I did so immediately. Within 48 hours I had 5 responses with lots of useful information. I am now happily researching specific locations and providers, a task that is no longer overwhelming.

Gray actively manages the listserv to avoid the common problems caused by “reply all” or other unwanted mail-generating actions. You may recall seeing my post about “vacation spots on the Oregon coast”, but you did not see the replies I received, thanks to Gray’s management. If I wanted additional information from respondents, I could communicate directly with them, leaving everyone else “out of the loop”. The system seems to work beautifully. Give it a try!