

## A Panel in Honor of James Sherman Ruebel (1945-2016)

Jim Ruebel was a stalwart member and a former president of CAMWS whose sudden death caught us all by surprise. It was under his tenure CAMWS received the Martha Stewart bequest. Since we made no formal acknowledgement of him at our meeting last spring of 2017 in Kitchener, Ontario, we thought that it would be right and fitting to celebrate him this spring in Albuquerque. We hope that the five papers will not only honor Jim, but will also renew interest in the fund that consularis David Bright proposed last year. To honor Jim's decades of service, he recommended that CAMWS establish a fund to support undergraduates who want to present papers at CAMWS \$6,000.00 has already been pledged to the fund and CAMWS will this year begin offering in Jim's name grants to undergraduates to attend the CAMWS meeting.

The first paper, entitled "A Biography of James S. Ruebel," provides an overview of his life, academic career and contributions to CAMWS, as well as a sampling of comments about Dr. Ruebel by students at Ball State University.

The second paper, entitled "Two Unlikely Roommates: Narcissus and Sispyhus," focuses on Jim's devotion to classics as part of the general education of undergraduates. In this paper cartoons about Sisyphus Narcissus and the Olympian deities are used, along with an interview with Jim's Friend and Colleague, Professor Dom Caristi, to insight into the things which Jim especially cherished: classics, athletics and his students.

The third paper, "Ruebel (and Others) Join the Corps," focuses on CAMWSCorps, an on-going project of the CAMWS History Committee to gather oral histories of CAMWS members. Fortuitously, Jim was interviewed for this project before his death and this presentation will include audio excerpts from this interview.

The last two papers will discuss research topics of particular interest to Jim.

In “Caesar, the Geographoi and Lewis and Clark: The Use of Animals in Describing New Lands” the author examines the information Caesar provides about animals in description of the Hercynian Forest in *Bellum Gallicum* 6 and compares the way Caesar talks about these exotic animals to the way that Lewis and Clark described exotic animals they saw on their nineteenth-century expedition.

In “Apuleius in the Work of African American Novelist, Charles W. Chesnutt (1858-1932)” the final presenter builds on Jim’s work on Apuleius by discussing ways that an African American writer possibly made reference to the Roman author in a work of fiction entitled *The Conjure Woman and Other Tales* (1899).