



# Emeriti News

WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

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<http://www.wmich.edu/emmeriti/newsletters>

Spring 2019

**EMERITI COUNCIL:** James Bosco – Chair; Leonard Ginsberg – Vice Chair; Donna Oas – Secretary; Don Nelson – Treasurer and Webmaster; Phil Vander Weg and Judith Halseth – Nominating Committee and OLLI Representative; Darryl Salisbury – Newsletter Editor; Gary Lawson – Wednesday II Chair; Peter Krawutschke – Faculty Senate Representative; Louise Forsleff; Barbara Rider; and Peter Kobrak



## Message from the Chair: James Bosco

### *Thinking Big and Moving Forward*

With leadership provided by Provost Jen Bott, the WMU “Think Big” initiative was begun in 2018. The fundamental premise of “Think Big” is that standing still in a world of rapid change is to fall behind. Higher education is not immune to the challenges that face other organizations in the public and private sector. The “Think Big” web site succinctly identifies three key aspects of the challenge to WMU: By the year 2030, the pool of Michigan high school graduates will be 14% smaller than it is today; the vast majority of our students come from Michigan today; and the cost to attend a Michigan public university has increased 30% over the last decade. The world of work is changing—85% of the jobs that will exist when today’s kindergartners enter WMU do not yet exist. The world may not be kind to institutions of higher education that do things tomorrow as they have done them yesterday. Fresh and bold thinking is required. It is particularly worth noting that the “Think Big” initiative was established not as a “top down” effort; rather, it has involved many members of the WMU community from the various constituencies that comprise the University. Concrete efforts to implement the recommendations that have emerged from the process are moving forward. Learn more about the “Think Big” initiative by Googling “Think Big WMU.” Just as in the case of the University as a whole, the Emeriti Council recognized the need to consider changes that would enable the Council to serve its constituency of emeriti professors more effectively. The Council began this effort by creating a mission statement as follows: “The mission of the Emeriti Council is to implement programs, events, and activities which enable emeriti to be effectively involved in the life of the Western Michigan University community. Key Elements in the Implementation of the Mission: (1) Enable emeriti to engage in University policy development, philanthropic funding, and other activities where they can make unique and valuable contributions; (2) Create or publicize University-based educational and social opportunities of interest to emeriti; and (3) Communicate to emeriti University matters pertinent to them. With this mission statement as a context, the Emeriti Council is examining existing programs and considering new programs that will increase the value of the programs and activities that are offered to emeriti. Every member of the Emeriti Council is committed to doing all that can be done to serve as a link between the ongoing life of our University with the emeriti. We welcome any suggestions which you might have. Given the changes that the “Think Big” initiative will produce, this is a propitious time for the Emeriti Council to do its own big thinking. Send any suggestions or comments to me – Jim Bosco, Emeriti Council Chair at [james.bosco@wmich.edu](mailto:james.bosco@wmich.edu)

*Jim Bosco*



## **Emeriti Council Transitions 2019 (submitted by Phil Vander Weg)**

As the 2019 academic year concludes, the Emeriti Council undergoes some annual changes and transitions. Emeriti Council Chair James Bosco (2015-2017, 2017-2019) has effectively retired from office and the council at the conclusion of the May 2019 meeting. Jim has been an enthusiastic leader, reaching out to the WMU administration to better define our status, and seeking ways to more fully articulate our mission and collective contributions to the institution. There remains much to do yet, but the journey is underway and further changes are likely to take place soon. Leonard Ginseberg (2018-2020) is also retiring from the both the council and as serving as Council Vice Chair. Len provided valuable support and important leadership while our chair was absent this past year.

2019-2020 Emeriti Council election outcomes include the re-election for second terms: Barbara Rider (Occupational Therapy), Donna Oas (Speech Pathology and Audiology), Gary Lawson (Speech Language and Hearing Sciences), and Phillip Vander Weg (Gwen Frostic School of Art).

Two new members elected to the Emeriti Council are John Geisler (Counseling Education and Counseling Psychology) and Phillip P. Caruso (Economics). Both were in attendance for the final 2018-2019 meeting and the initial 2019-2020 meeting held on May 7, 2019.

John Geisler remarked that on his second time on the Emeriti Council he sees his role as representing all faculty emeriti in terms of raising enough money to support scholarships and books for current Western Michigan University students. A second role for him is to bring speakers and programs for the edification of current WMU faculty emeriti.

Phillip Caruso also expressed similar thoughts and will bring valued expertise and insights to the ongoing activities of sponsoring the Wednesday II speaker events, student scholarship support, and sustaining collective academic values that define Western Michigan University.

Gary Lawson was unanimously elected Chair of the 2019-2020 Council, as was Donna Oas as Vice Chair. John Geisler has agreed to serve as our Secretary and Don Nelson continues as Treasurer. Darryl Salisbury will continue editing our twice-yearly newsletter. Remaining positions will be decided at the next meeting.

We truly appreciate those individuals leaving their offices as we welcome those individuals filling new roles and also thank those individuals retaining their positions.



## **OLLI at WMU (submitted by Judith Halseth)**

For the past five years, Shirley Swanson has served as the director of the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) at WMU. During her leadership the organization earned recognition and support from the Bernard Osher Foundation, including a \$1 million gift to set up an endowment to support OLLI at WMU. Shirley is retiring, and we thank her for the many ways she helped OLLI grow and prosper. We wish her a happy and healthy retirement.

Western Michigan University has named Dr. Toni Woolfork-Barnes as the next director of OLLI at WMU, effective May 1. Toni brings more than 30 years of experience at WMU in leading

student-focused programs. Most recently she served as director of the Office of Student Transitions at WMU. She earned three degrees from WMU: a Bachelor of Science in applied behavioral analysis; a Master of Arts in industrial psychology, and a Doctorate of Education in educational leadership. We welcome Toni, and we wish her success as she applies her insider's knowledge of WMU and her leadership skills to guiding OLLI into the future.

The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at WMU offers a wide variety of courses for older adults, generally two-hour sessions, ranging from one to four weeks. We continue to recruit new instructors. If teaching an OLLI course sounds interesting to you, please check the website [wmich.edu/olli/become-instructor](http://wmich.edu/olli/become-instructor). The Course Proposal Form (CPF) needs a course description (limit 100 words) and an instructor bio (limit 75 words). The final date for submitting a CPF for the winter/spring session is September 1; summer session February 1; and fall session, April 1. You may view the current course catalog at [wmich.edu/olli/courses](http://wmich.edu/olli/courses).

A special thanks to emeriti who have become active in OLLI by teaching, serving on committees, and taking courses.

Judith Halseth, Ed.D. Professor Emerita of Social Work; Member, Emeriti Council; Member OLLI Advisory Board



### **WMU's Phi Beta Kappa Chapter Thanks the WMU Emeriti Council**

Phi Beta Kappa is the nation's oldest and most prestigious honor society, and WMU has the distinction of sheltering a chapter (Theta of Michigan) since 1998.

(More information about the chapter is available at <https://wmich.edu/pbk>.) WMU also has the distinction of covering the one-time \$85 membership fee for new student members. The chapter sends its sincere thanks to the Emeriti Council for its generous support of five new memberships. Many students would not be able to accept the invitation to become members of Phi Beta Kappa if they had to cover this cost themselves. The chapter is grateful to the Emeriti Council for playing an active role in our shared celebration of this outstanding student achievement. The induction ceremony took place on Wednesday, April 17, in the Fetzer Center's Kirsch Auditorium. This year, President Montgomery was the guest speaker. Emeriti were cordially invited to attend the induction and following reception.



### **Update from Sruthi Rameshkumar, Medallion Scholar**

Sruthi Rameshkumar, a 2016 Medallion Scholar, is majoring in Psychology-Behavioral Sciences and minoring in American Sign Language Studies with the goal of becoming a Board-Certified Behavior Analyst. Sruthi has completed her undergraduate degree in just three years, and just recently received admission into the master program at WMU for Behavior Analysis. She will be joining Dr. Richard Malott's lab in the fall for her graduate studies! At Western, she has held many leadership positions and jobs including being a Peer Student Success Team Mentor at the Lee Honors College for two years, both an Orientation Student Leader and the Student Orientation Coordinator, Fall Welcome Ambassador Captain, LeadCorp Intern and Team Lead, and is the Public Relations Officer and Choreographer of the co-ed a cappella group "Vocaholics." Additionally, she is a professional Indian Classical dancer, working as a guest instructor for the WMU Dance Department. She is also a member of Alpha Lambda Delta, Psi Chi, and Phi Beta Kappa Honors

Societies, and the Intercultural Competence Committee at the Lee Honors College. In the WMU Psychology Department, Sruthi has worked as a research assistant, a practicum student, a teaching assistant for Advanced Research Methods, and in just two weeks, will be defending her undergraduate honors thesis on increasing tutor response for reinforcing compliance-related behaviors of students with autism and developmental disorders. Some highlights of Sruthi's year have been presenting her research at the Behavior Analysis Association of Michigan Conference, creating and facilitating the first ever Emerging Leaders Retreat through the Office of Student Engagement, competing at the International Competition for Collegiate A Cappella with her a cappella group, and putting together a new production for her dance studio back home in Illinois! Sruthi would like to thank her sponsors for all that they have done to support her education, from supporting her financially, to inviting her to luncheons, to creating dialogues with her about being actively an educated and responsible citizen. She thanks us for all we do!"



### **Update from Eboni Nichelle Brown, Medallion Scholar**

(Note: Nichelle is not a misspelling of Michelle, that's my name.)

My second year here at Western Michigan University has consisted of my starting anew, adjusting, and learning everything all over again. My status may say "a sophomore," but everything else points towards freshman. This school year marked the beginning of nursing school for me. These new beginnings taught me how to be versatile yet flexible with everything going on around me. I am in the program that I am passionate about and now I get to accumulate information and skills that will help me when it comes time for me to be a nurse. It is exciting yet scary!

This year I have delved deep into my studies and the community. After being asked by faculty in the Honors College, I joined a group called the Intercultural Competence Committee (ICC). In this group, we strive to start the discussion for groups that are underrepresented or misrepresented while educating about them as well. I am proud to be a part of it. It has allowed me to meet lots of people, branch out within the community, and to get out of my comfort zone. For me, this year has been one of growth in this regard as well. Along with the being a part of the ICC, I spend my time volunteering with the children at the Boys and Girls Club of Kalamazoo as well. Each week I go in and help tutor them. It always brings me joy to see their faces glisten after solving a problem they once deemed impossible. This is just one of the endless experiences that I had the pleasure of experiencing with them.

Over the course of my two years here at Western I have grown tremendously. I am proud to be a Bronco, I am proud to be an honors student, I am proud to be a nursing student, and I am proud to be a medallion scholar with an amazing Emeriti Council supporting me. Being a Bronco has led me to many experiences. Being an honors student has given me a home of esteemed scholars and faculty I can depend on. Being a nursing student has privileged me with the opportunity of taking care of many different patients. What about being a medallion scholar? With the support of the Emeriti Council, I have been granted the opportunity to further my education, expand my knowledge, impact those around me, and grow as a person. For that, I will always be grateful.



**Emeriti Council Scholarships (submitted by Don Nelson)**

**Emeriti Book Scholarship**

The Emeriti Book Scholarship program is in its fifteenth year and relies exclusively on contributions. These assist students in good academic standing who have financial need and include sophomores, juniors, and seniors. Our goal has been to offer 25 awards in the amount of \$400 totaling \$10,000 each academic year. During the 2019-20 academic year, money is available to make this commitment; however, we have carried funds forward from previous years to make this happen. Over the past three years the average of donations for this scholarship is \$6,227, considerably less than the amount needed to meet our goal. Funds will be depleted after the upcoming awards for the next academic year, so please consider making a gift in whatever amount you deem appropriate. Your tax-deductible gift to the Emeriti Book Scholarship Fund can be made online at <[mywmu.com/emmeriti](http://mywmu.com/emmeriti)>

**Medallion Scholarship**

The Emeriti Council Medallion Scholarship is another program that we sponsor. It is an endowment. Funds for this scholarship program arise from donations and growth in investment. Currently our fund balance is approximately \$1,150,000, and each scholarship requires an endowment of approximately \$400,000. Once again, we encourage you to make a tax-deductible gift designated for the Emeriti Council Medallion Scholarship. It would be great if we could move our total endowment to \$1,200,000 over the next few years to sustain three scholarships. This too can be made online at [www.mywmu.com/emmeriti](http://www.mywmu.com/emmeriti)



**Coming Wednesday II Events (submitted by Gary Lawson)**

**August 14, 2019: BreakFest**

\* 8:30 a.m., Fetzer Center  
Details to be forthcoming (see enclosed flyer)

**September 11, 2019: Physical Therapy: The Evolution of a New Doctoral Degree Program at WMU**

\* 2 p.m., Heinig Emeriti Lounge, West Walwood Hall, 601 Oakland Drive  
\* Speaker: Stacie Fruth, PT, DHSc, OCS, Founding Chair, Department of Physical Therapy at Western Michigan University  
Aging often leads to sedentary lifestyles and ultimately to chronic non-communicable diseases that place us at risk for morbidity, disability, and mortality. Physical therapists can play a major role in dealing with these issues. In summer, 2019, the Department of Physical Therapy at WMU will enroll the first cohort of students for the Doctor of Physical Therapy degree. Stacie Fruth will talk about this degree program, its pathway toward accreditation, and its role in the community.



**October 9, 2019: Michigan: Unusual, Extraordinary, Distinctive, Unique - and Sometimes Bizarre!**

\* 2 p.m., Heinig Emeriti Lounge, West Walwood Hall, 601 Oakland Drive

\* Speaker: John Geisler, Professor Emeritus, Counselor Education and Counseling Psychology, Western Michigan University

John will present an interesting, fascinating, and engaging look at facets of Michigan that make it a unique and distinctive state in terms of its geography, history, politics, and one-of-a-kind features – cabinet counties, baselines, place names, pairings, delegates to congress, roads, and time zones.

**November 13, 2019: A Performance Reading from Mark Twain's Adam and Eve Diaries**

\* 2 p.m., Heinig Emeriti Lounge, West Walwood Hall, 601 Oakland Drive

\* Speaker: Ruth Heinig, Professor Emerita, Communication, Western Michigan University  
Ruth Heinig is nationally recognized for her contributions in the field of creative drama for children. In 2005, she was named Distinguished Alumna for Valparaiso University. She played a major role in the development of the Emeriti Council at Western. Anticipate an entertaining presentation of imaginative diary entries revealing a story of growing love between Adam and Eve.

**January 8, 2020: John E. Fetzer: Entrepreneur and Student of America's Shifting Spiritual Landscape**

\* 2 p.m., Heinig Emeriti Lounge, West Walwood Hall, 601 Oakland Drive

\* Speaker: Brian C. Wilson, Professor, Comparative Religion, Western Michigan University  
Brian C. Wilson has written a 2018 book entitled John E. Fetzer and the Quest for the New Age. Fetzer was a successful Michigan business tycoon, whose wealth enabled him to institutionalize his spiritual vision into a thriving foundation – the Fetzer institute. Professor Wilson's talk will appeal to those with interest in the life of John Fetzer in Michigan as well as those interested in the development of metaphysical religions in America.

**February 12, 2020: Distractive Driving: Disruptive Behaviors, Winter Driving Tips, and Maintaining Driving Fitness**

\* 2 p.m., Heinig Emeriti Lounge, West Walwood Hall, 601 Oakland Drive

\* Speaker: Marv Berkowitz, President, Fathers Against Distracted Driving

This presentation will cover the current epidemic of cell phone use while driving as well as many other disruptive driver behaviors, winter driving tips, and maintaining driving fitness as we age.

**March 11, 2020: Swing into Fall Prevention**

\* 2 p.m., Heinig Emeriti Lounge, West Walwood Hall, 601 Oakland Drive

\* Speaker: Carla Chase, Professor, Occupational Therapy, Western Michigan University

Age is a strong predictor of falls among older adults. Occupational therapists play a key role in helping older adults prevent falls. Professor Chase will share information developed at WMU on prevention of falls and ways to incorporate fall prevention strategies into your everyday routine.

**April 8, 2020: Come Rain or Come Shine**

\* 2 p.m., Heinig Emeriti Lounge, West Walwood Hall, 601 Oakland Drive

\* Performers: William (Arnie) and Deborah (Debby) Johnston, recipients of the Kalamazoo Civic theatre's Larkin H. Noble Award in recognition of their outstanding service and lifetime

achievement toward the interest of the Kalamazoo Civic Theatre. Arnie is a past President of the Emeriti Council.

Arnie and Debby's 45-minute one-act play follows Frank and Dorothy, 1949 graduates of a Midwestern college through selected notes and letters that trace their joys, sorrows, and never-quite-connecting over fifty years of living. The two maintain their relationship despite everything until, at their 1999 class reunion, they find themselves face to face and free to be together at last.

### **May 13, 2020: Architectural Remains of the Roman Empire**

\* 2 p.m., Heinig Emeriti Lounge, West Walwood Hall, 601 Oakland Drive

\* Speaker: Helenan Robin, Professor Emeritus, Department of Sociology, Western Michigan University

Rome acquired most of its empire prior to Julius Caesar's death. Professor Robins talk looks at cities conquered or newly built in that earlier period: Pompei in Italy, Merida in Spain, Nimes and Orange in France, Athens in Greece, Caeseria in Israel, and Ephesus in Turkey. The Romans tended to replicate their urban design and buildings wherever they went. The talk will be illustrated by slides taken by Helenan Robin.



### **In Remembrance**

While some of the following people were not faculty, they are considered important WMU personages:

**James W. Burns**, professor emeritus of teaching, learning, and leadership, December 24, 2018, Kalamazoo

**Arthur E. Falk**, professor emeritus of philosophy, December 11, 2018, Kalamazoo

**June France**, assistant professor emerita of directed teaching, November 11, 2018, Marcellus, MI

**John "Mick" Hanley**, associate professor emeritus and chair of the Department of Speech, Language and Hearing Services, February 11, 2019, Scotts, MI

**Shashichand F. Kapoor**, professor emeritus of mathematics and statistics, April 20, 2019, Kalamazoo

**Raymond A. Lish**, associate professor emeritus of social work, March 8, 2019, Sun City, AZ

**Jess Morgan**, professor emeritus of education and professional development, August 17, 2018, Orem, UT

**James C. Petersen**, professor emeritus and associate dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, December 4, 2018, Julian, NC

**Donna Schumann**, assistant professor emerita of biology and biomedical sciences, October 11, 2018, Milwaukee

**Doris Smith**, professor emerita of occupational therapy, November 10, 2018, Scotts, MI

**Nancy Y. Stone**, associate professor emerita of English, November 21, 2018, Venice, FL

**Robert Wyman**, assistant professor emeritus of health, physical education and recreation, October 27, 2018, Kalamazoo

**Roger Zabik**, professor emeritus of health, physical education and recreation, October 19, 2018, Kalamazoo

**Dennis Boyle**, retired registrar, September 11, 2018.



## **Final Notes...**

Attached are two important forms. One is for your contribution to the Emeriti sponsored scholarships. When you do contribute, please note which Emeriti sponsored program should be the beneficiary: The Emeriti Book Scholarship or The Medallion Scholarship.

The second form is your pre-registration for the annual Emeriti BreakFest gathering at the Fetzer Center. Please send in your reservation early so we can plan accordingly. However, we do understand last minute plan changes, so you do have the option of registering/paying at the door. Looking forward to seeing you!



**Newsletter Editor, Darryl Salisbury**





# WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY



## EMERITI COUNCIL GIFT GIVING FORM

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, ZIP \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

**I support the continued excellence of Western Michigan University with the following pledge or gift:**

Is there another individual who should also receive credit for this gift?  Yes  No

Individual's title:  Mr.  Mrs.  Ms.  Dr.  Captain  Other \_\_\_\_\_

Individual's full name \_\_\_\_\_

This gift is for  The Emeriti Book Scholarship  The Medallion Scholarship

I have enclosed a matching gift from my employer or my spouse's employer

I have included WMU in my will or estate plan

Please send information on how to include WMU in my estate plan

I would like to mentor a student

### GIFT INFORMATION

\$25  \$50  \$100  \$250  \$500  Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

This gift will be paid in the form of:

Check enclosed, payable to the WMU Foundation

Electronic transfer (instructions will be sent)

Credit Card payment; please charge my gift to:  Visa  Master Card  Discover

Card Number \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_ CCV# \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

### MULTI-YEAR GIFT

**Please complete the section below if you are making a multi-year pledge to WMU:**

I would like to make a multi-year pledge of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to be paid over \_\_\_\_\_ years  
in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ per year. This pledge will be paid via:

Check made payable to the WMU Foundation

Major credit card (see credit card payment information above)

Electronic transfer (instructions will be sent)

I would like a reminder sent to me during the month of \_\_\_\_\_

I do not need a reminder sent to me

#### *Important Tax Statement:*

*We acknowledge that you will not receive any goods or services in return for your contribution.*

*Please consult your tax advisor regarding gifts.*

For information, please call (269) 387-8700. Return the entire page to Gift Processing:  
WMU Foundation, 1903 W. Michigan Avenue, Kalamazoo, MI 49008-5403



# Annual Emeriti BreakFest Wednesday, August 14, 2019



## Fetzer Center Western Michigan University

*Come join your friends and enjoy a wonderful breakfast  
sponsored by your Emeriti Council*

8:30 am Coffee, Juice, and Conversation

9:00 am Breakfast

10:00 am Speaker: Ron Kitchens, WMU Board of Trustees, Senior  
Partner and CEO of Southwest Michigan First  
Title: "Kalamazoo Happenings: Present and Future"



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**Annual Emeriti BreakFest  
August 14, 2019  
\$16.00 per person**

Please return this form with your check made payable to WMU by August 8, 2019

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Dietary Restrictions: \_\_\_\_\_

Stacy Thinner  
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