



# Emeriti News

WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

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

Fall 2019

**EMERITI COUNCIL:** Gary Lawson – Chair; Donna Oas – Vice Chair; Phil Caruso – 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

## **E** Message from the Chair: Gary Lawson

According to Emeriti Council documents, the Emeriti Council developed from the ideas of several retired faculty members who presented their ideas to President John Bernhard in 1975. In the following year, approximately 12 faculty members formed the basis for an Emeriti Council. Today, WMU determines who becomes an emeritus or an emerita. The emeriti at large have the opportunity to elect emeriti to the Emeriti Council, and those emeriti elected to the council work to accomplish its mission.

The mission of the Emeriti Council is to implement programs, events, and activities which enable emeriti to be effectively involved with each other and with Western Michigan University. Traditionally, this has meant that the council arranges Wednesday II presentations for emeriti, encourages donations for Emeriti Council Medallion Scholarships and Emeriti Council Book Scholarships, and arranges an Emeriti BreakFest in August and an evening emeriti celebration in December. Because of low participation in December 2018, the December event was cancelled for 2019. The council welcomes ideas and participation from the emeriti at large for ideas on how to improve what it does.

It was my pleasure to become Emeriti Council Chair in July 2019. According to tradition, the Emeriti Council held the annual BreakFest on the second Wednesday in August. We were pleased to hear from President Montgomery and Trustee Ron Kitchens at the BreakFest and to welcome the WMU Provost and Vice Presidents to the event. Also, according to tradition, we continue to offer Wednesday II presentations on second Wednesdays. In early September, the council and the Department of English cosponsored a new venture, a reading of the play, “A Walk in the Woods.” The WMU Development Office supported the event with advertising. The idea for this event came from Professor Emeritus Stanley Robin, who along with Professor Emeritus William A. Johnston comprised the cast. Stan and Arnie provided superb performances, enabling the council to make a substantial donation to the Emeriti Book Scholarship Fund. The WMU Development Office supported the event through advertising. Thank you to all who supported this event.

The council will continue to rely primarily on donations from emeriti to support scholarships, but will consider ideas for future projects and for increased involvement by other emeriti. Should we try a new kind social event for a new time of year? Would you like to participate with colleagues

in the Wednesday IIs, in BreakFests, in a new social event, in developing a fundraiser, in something else? It feels good to become engaged in worthwhile endeavors, and we would like to receive your ideas. My email address is [gary.lawson@wmich.edu](mailto:gary.lawson@wmich.edu)

We are grateful to President Montgomery and Stacie Thinner in the president's office for helping the council with communication issues, but it is a sign of the times that we are dependent upon electronic communication. Each of us can help by checking key websites and providing key persons with an accurate email address. You are encouraged to visit the Emeriti Council website (<https://wmich.edu/emeriti/events> ) on a regular basis.

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

The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Western Michigan University continues to thrive under the leadership of Toni Woolfork-Barnes, Ed. D., who became director in May 2019. "Taste of OLLI: A Feast for Your Brain" was held July 24 in the Fetzer Center with 207 people attending. About half were participating in their first OLLI event. 38 people became new members that day, and 11 people renewed their membership. Approximately 24 instructors, representing 29 courses for the fall session, were available to talk to participants. Half hour mini-classes on former OLLI course topics took place and met with crowd approval. Those attending could attend up to three sessions. Current membership in OLLI at WMU is 667 members.

Future OLLI events include the Annual Membership meeting on Thursday, November 14, 1 to 3 p.m., at the KIA; January Thaw on Wednesday, January 22, 2020, 1 to 3 p.m., at People's Church; and Taste of OLLI on Wednesday, July 22, 2020, at the Fetzer Center.

OLLI at WMU offers a wide variety of courses for older adults, generally two-hour sessions, ranging from one to four weeks. The Winter/Spring 2020 catalog features 66 courses. 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 Summer Session is February 1; Fall, April 1; Winter/Spring, September 1. You may view the current course catalog at [wmich.edu/olli/courses](http://wmich.edu/olli/courses).

Emeriti near and far who wish to join OLLI at WMU (\$35 a year) may contact the office at (269) 387-4200 or [wmich.edu/olli](http://wmich.edu/olli) A special thanks to emeriti who have become active in OLLI by teaching and by taking courses.

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

## **WMU President and Trustee Speak at the Annual Emeriti BreakFest (submitted by Peter Kobrak)**

For the first time in memory, both the WMU President and a Member of the Board of Trustees spoke at the 2019 Annual Emeriti BreakFest. A number of Vice Presidents attended, and several emeriti commented that it had been a good opportunity for them to interact with the administration.

President Montgomery spoke of the energy being generated on campus by the "Think Big" effort. Under the leadership of Provost Jennifer Bott and Vice President for Marketing and

Strategic Communications, Tony Proudfoot, the University has sought input from faculty, staff, and students on new directions for WMU—what should we do and why should we do it? This Fall the University is scheduled to announce the “Big Idea,” which will be the grand strategy that draws these initiatives together.

The President also conveyed excitement about the academic overhaul of our core curriculum. WMU Essential Studies is being conducted by the faculty in conjunction with the Faculty Senate; it will be a three-part program which “...invites critical thinking and builds those skills that will be needed by tomorrow’s leaders.”

He also talked about the new Student Center and Dining Facility in Hilltop Village and the Arcadia residential facility that will house 340 students when it opens next Fall. These facilities are designed both to change the face of the campus and to provide a “space where students can gather, collaborate on common interests, and develop community.”

Trustee Ron Kitchens serves as the CEO of Southwest Michigan First; he spoke on “Kalamazoo Happenings: Present and Future.”

Kitchens talked about the Exchange Building that is under construction downtown across from the Radisson Hotel. The 15-story office and residential building, at \$52.7 million, represents a major investment in Kalamazoo. For its part, the Rose Street expansion promises a boutique hotel, office space, and shopping opportunities. More widely, the downtown has made progress thanks to the considerable investment that it has already attracted in recent years.

But Kitchens emphasized that Kalamazoo is the largest city in the US without an Events Center. It lacks a sufficiently large place for people from a number of larger organizations to interact. Wings Stadium is a 50-year-old facility. A new Center would grow the number of conferences and conventions. Kitchens also sees the arena as a vehicle for attracting and retaining millennials. Such an Events Center would require private funding.

Persuading people to stay in Kalamazoo is part of the challenge of creating a successful community. The OLLI program, for example, helps to keep senior citizens involved. A greater challenge is persuading students at WMU to stay by creating a vibrant community. More internships can involve students in the community more fully, but it is difficult to count internships and give credit for them. Putting students and Next Generation under-30 people on the Southwestern Michigan Board and other boards would also help to involve younger people in the community; involved people are more likely to stay. Convincing young people from KVCC and other training programs to stay would also provide valuable resources for Kalamazoo in the coming years.



### **“A Walk in the Woods” submitted by Donna Oas**

Stan Robin came to our July Executive Council meeting suggesting that he and Arnie Johnston could present the play, “A Walk in the Woods,” to raise money for our Emeriti Book Scholarships. We gladly accepted their generous offer. Stanley Robin and Arnie Johnson presented two interesting performances on Friday and Saturday, September 6 and 7, attracting 67 attendees and earning \$996 for the Emeriti Book Scholarship fund. We are grateful for their contribution and would gladly review other suggested activities that could increase our finances

for the Emeriti Book Scholarship fund. Please submit any ideas to any Executive Council member.



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

#### **Emeriti Medallion Scholarship + Emeriti Book Scholarship**

The Emeriti Medallion Scholarship currently has an approximate value of 1.2 million dollars. This endowed fund is sufficient to support three medallion scholars, and currently there are two recipients. A new competition for 2020 awards is currently underway. This fall (2019) the Office of Financial Aid awarded \$10,000 in scholarships to 25 students from the Emeriti Book Scholarship fund. This is not an endowed scholarship, rather we depend on continuing contributions from our emeriti to assist our students. In September we were very fortunate to have two emeriti, Arnie Johnston and Stan Robin, sponsor a fundraiser, a reading of *A Walk in the Woods*. They graciously donated their time and talent, and all proceeds (nearly \$1000) were donated directly to the Book Scholarship Fund. With this fall's awards, we are left with a current balance of approximately \$2,000. To continue with our goal of twenty-five \$400 awards annually, we will need to replenish the fund. Please consider a contribution to the Emeriti Book Scholarship Fund.



### **Spring Mingle – A New Event to Plan for (submitted by Peter Kobrak)**

#### ***Come One, Come All***

What good is sitting alone in your room staring out at the snow and hiding under the bed from the cold? Come to the “Spring Mingle.” Sponsored by your Emeriti Council, the reception on Friday, March 20, 2020, will banish the snow and celebrate the coming of Spring. It will feature wine (and succulent appetizers), women (and men), and song provided by cabaret Singer, Janice Laker, and bass player, Mike Stoline. All for the bargain price of \$15. At the reception, we will be presenting Garrard Macleod with a Lifetime Achievement Award for the enjoyment he provided to so many of us so often. The event will be held in the Kiva Room at Friendship Village where the parking is easy and the inches of snow will be low. So put this date, Friday, the 20th of March, 2020, on your calendar. Registration material will follow online early in 2020 after Christmas has been put to rest. As you realize, WMU has now moved solely to electronic communications so watch for the registration announcement in your e-mail. If you prefer to use an e-mail address other than your [@wmich.edu](mailto:@wmich.edu) address, please contact Emeriti Council Secretary Phil Caruso at [phillipcaruso@aol.com](mailto:phillipcaruso@aol.com)



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

#### **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 titled *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.

**August 12, 2020: Emeriti BreakFest**

\* 8:30 a.m., Fetzer Center

\* Speaker: TBA

Details will be forthcoming.

**September 9, 2020: Turning Points (A New Set of Original Monologues)**

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

\* Presenter: Stanley Robin, Professor Emeritus, Sociology, Western Michigan University



Since his retirement, Professor Robin has performed in several theatrical productions and has created and performed a substantial number of original monologues. He notes that, "we never know when we'll encounter a turning point after which life goes in a different direction. The course change may be large or small, but life is different afterwards." The individual monologues, *Turning Points*, are: *Scotty MacGregor*, *The Speech*, *Down for the Count*, *Slither*, *Comeuppance*, *The Blue Car*, *Rabbi David*, *Acrophobia*, *The Great Man*, and *In the Middle*.

### **October 14, 2020: On Soundscapes: Listening to Stories of the Environment**

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

\* Speaker: Sharon Gill, Associate Professor, Department of Biological Sciences, Western Michigan University

Soundscapes reflect the combined sounds of the environment, connect us to nature, and help build memories of time and place. As humans change the sound environment, we risk degrading not only our experiences in nature but those of animals that rely on natural areas. In this talk, Dr. Gill will discuss research investigating effects of environmental change on soundscapes and animal sounds, as well as a project merging art and science to explore human experiences of our changing environment.

### **November 11, 2020: Historic Causes of Central American Migration and Refugee Exodus to the U.S.**

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

\* Speaker: W.F. Santiago-Valles, Ph.D., Professor Emeritus at Western Michigan University; Visiting Professor at University of Michigan-Dearborn and National University of Senegal

This presentation focuses on the economic and military histories informing a) the flight of migrants, refugees, exiles, and asylum seekers; b) the public policies that push them out; c) who profits from those public policies inside the U.S.; d) the assumptions they [migrants, refugee, asylum seekers, exiles] bring here; and e) the impact of their presence on the health and education systems on the receiving end.



### **In Remembrance**

We lost the below listed retired faculty since the last newsletter:

**Gregory W. Boothroyd**, professor emeritus of University Counseling, November 9, 2019, Greenville, SC

**Joseph G. Engemann**, professor emeritus of biological sciences, September 10, 2019, Kalamazoo

**Ranier Erhart**, associate professor emeritus of geography, August 3, 2019, Kalamazoo

**Howard E. Farris**, professor emeritus of psychology, March 29, 2019, Dunedin, FL

**Daniel Fleishhacker**, professor emeritus of theatre, June 24, 2019, Kalamazoo

**J. Lindsley Foote, III**, professor emeritus of chemistry, August 8, 2019, Cleveland, OH

**Robin Gallagher**, faculty specialist of family and consumer sciences, June 15, Grand Rapids, MI

**Arthur Helweg**, professor emeritus of anthropology, November 12, 2019, Kalamazoo

**Thomas Kent**, professor emeritus of English, June 9, 2019, Kalamazoo

**Raymond Lish**, associate professor emeritus of social work, March 8, 2019, Gilbert, AZ

**Edward J. Mayo**, professor emeritus of marketing, April 19, 2019, Holland, MI

**Casey McKittrick**, master faculty specialist of English, June 8, 2019, Kalamazoo

**Ruth Ann Meyer**, associate professor emerita of health, physical education and recreation, July 15, 2019, Portage, MI

**Necia Musser**, professor emerita of University Libraries, April 24, 2019, Grand Rapids, MI

**Robert C. Nagler**, professor emeritus of chemistry, September 29, 2019, Kalamazoo

**William H. Rowekamp**, associate professor emeritus of health, physical education and recreation, September 12, 2019, Kalamazoo

**Mary Lou Stewart**, associate professor emerita of teacher education, June 17, 2019, Kalamazoo

**Allen Zagarell**, professor emeritus of anthropology, September 10, 2019, Kalamazoo

***Correction:***

**Shashichand F. Kapoor**, professor emeritus of mathematics and statistics, passed away on April 20, 2018 (not 2019), Kalamazoo



**Final Notes...**

Attached is an important form. It 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. Your support is vital in keeping this tradition moving forward. Thank you for your support.





# 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