



# Emeriti News



Volume XXXII - Number 2 <http://wmich.edu/emeraliti/newsletters> Spring 2023

### EMERITI COUNCIL OFFICERS:

Mary Lagerwey ~ *Chair & Faculty Senate Representative*;  
Darryl Salisbury ~ *Newsletter Editor*

### EMERITI COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Barbara Hemphill ~ *Liaison with WMU Osher Life-Long Learning Institute (OLLI)*;  
Robert Dlouhy; James Leja, Sisay Asefa

### EMERITI COUNCIL VOLUNTEERS:

Patricia Reeves & Lester Wright ~ *Faculty Senate Representatives*



### Message from the Chair: Mary Lagerwey

#### Emeriti Council: Purpose and Functions

- Maintain open lines of communication between the emeriti, the administration, and the faculty of WMU
- Foster strong relationships between the emeriti and the University
- Support and serve the emeriti in various ways
- Support the growth and development of the University
- Current members of the Emeriti Council are listed above



In collaboration with Information Technology, WMUx, and the Office of the Provost, the EC has set up a new emeriti council email address for communicating with emeriti. The address is [emer\\_council@wmich.edu](mailto:emer_council@wmich.edu).

Members of the Emeriti Council met with Provost Heilig to welcome him to campus and introduce him to the Emeriti Council's purpose and activities. The Emeriti Council met with Provost Heilig in April to discuss collaborative opportunities between the Office of the Provost and WMU's emeriti and areas in which the EC needs support from the Office of the Provost. In collaboration with the Office of the Provost and the Faculty Senate Executive Board, the Emeriti Council hopes to arrange for a tour of the new Student Center building, which opens to the public this fall.

A new section of the newsletter has been added: News from Emeriti. We welcome updates for inclusion in future issues.

## Goals for the 2023-2024 Academic Year

- Establishing remote access to Wednesday II presentations
- Explore new topics and activities for Wednesday II events
- Finding a new chair for the Emeriti Council
- Highlight emeriti accomplishments on a regular basis in fall and spring newsletters

I have been serving as chair of the EC for two academic years. At the end of the 2023-24 academic year, my term will be expiring, and I will be stepping down as chair. I greatly appreciate the colleagues who have faithfully served on the Emeriti Council, presented as part of the Wednesday II series, attended EC programs, and supported/collaborated with the EC.

During the coming year the Emeriti Council will be conducting a search for a new chair of the EC, beginning Fall 2024. Anyone interested in nominating someone or volunteering to serve in this capacity is encouraged to reply by email to the EC or to a member of the EC and to join EC this year to learn about its functioning, goals, etc. This is a three-year term.



### Emeriti Medallion Scholars

This scholarship is funded by generous donations from emeriti. Sizable gifts have allowed for full Medallion Scholarships to be offered on a regular basis every three out of four years. The criteria and process for selecting awardees and the amount awarded are the same as for other Medallion Scholarships.

#### Current Emeriti Medallion Scholars

- Rebecca Fraley  
Incoming Class of 2020  
Major: Nursing
- Avery Molnar  
Incoming Class of 2021  
Major: Music Education: Instrumental

#### Recently graduated Emeriti Medallion Scholar

- Joe Zynga  
Incoming Class of 2019  
Graduated April 2023  
Major: Aviation Flight Sciences

#### Incoming Class of 2023

- Scholar to be named

An additional 25 students were awarded Emeriti Book Scholarships of \$400 each for the Spring Semester. GPAs of the recipients ranged from 3.76-4.00. These scholarships are used by sophomores, juniors, and seniors to defray the cost of textbooks.



### New Programs

~ Western Michigan University's College of Arts and Sciences is establishing a new School of Environment, Geography, and Sustainability, with Dr. Benjamin Ofori-Amoah as the founding director, beginning July 1, 2023. This new school will combine the Institute of the Environment and Sustainability and the Department of Geography, Environment, and Tourism into a single school to enhance interdisciplinary collaboration, research, and teaching.

Dr. Benjamin Ofori-Amoah is the current chair of the Department of Geography, Environment, and Tourism. The new school will become the administrative home of existing programs, which include 11 undergraduate majors and five minors, one graduate degree, and two graduate certificate programs from the Institute of Environment and Sustainability and the Department of Geography, Environment, and Tourism, as well as from the global and international studies program and the climate change studies minor. The school will also continue to offer a joint graduate certificate program with the Department of Political Science in climate change policy and management. Additionally, the School of Environment, Geography, and Sustainability will administer the W.E. Upjohn Center for the Study of Geographical Change. The new school aligns with the Interdisciplinarity@WMU initiative introduced in 2020 to transform academic affairs by creating collaborative programs that can tackle interconnected problems across different fields of study.

The creation of the school aims to consolidate efforts to address pressing social and environmental issues and sustainable solutions. The Institute of the Environment and Sustainability and the Department of Geography, Environment, and Tourism are multi- and interdisciplinary, with complementary programs focused on the natural world, human culture, and socioeconomic systems. This merger will take advantage of their alignment, create a more understandable experience for students, facilitate new faculty initiatives, and position Western for the future.

Despite the transition from separate units to a single school, Bloom and Ofori-Amoah affirm that the programs and curriculum will remain unchanged for the time being. As a result, students will still be able to pursue their current programs while also enjoying more faculty resources throughout their academic journey at Western.

~ WMU announced, on April 13, 2023, the creation of the region's only Graduate Certificate in Tribal Governance in cooperation between the School of Public Affairs and Administration and the local tribal councils of the Three Fires Confederacy. The Three Fires Confederacy includes the Match-E-Be-Nash-She-Wish Band of Pottawatomi Indians, the Nottawaseppi Huron Band of the Pottawatomi Indians, and the Pokagon band of Potawatomi. Implementing a certificate program in collaboration with three tribal nations allows the opportunity to provide tribally endorsed resources to increase capacity building within communities in southwest Michigan. Students can engage with

various tribal entities through subject matter experts and content endorsed by each tribal nation.

Western is currently planning cohorts which will include government, gaming, and economic development corporations within each tribal nation. This will promote a collaborative to explore best practices in policies through the creation of service-learning projects.

“The inclusion of digital storytelling allows our narrative to be preserved and protected for generations. Not only will the certificate program assist the students and wider community partners in understanding our story, but it also allows professional development and networking opportunities,” says Samuel Morseau, citizen of the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi and WMU faculty instructor for the graduate certificate program.

~ The WMU Fashion Merchandising and Design Program (FMD) was granted an accreditation by the Textile and Apparel Programs Accreditation Commission (TAPAC) in March 2023. According to TAPAC, the accreditation is based on two different areas of success: content and process knowledge, in addition to professional skills and attitudes. WMU is one of six universities to receive this accreditation. The program received its first from the National Association of Schools of Art and Design (NASAD) in 1970. The TAPAC accreditation is granted in order to verify quality and credibility of baccalaureate programs. It assures individuals that the program has undergone careful consideration and evaluation in specific categories such as aesthetics, sustainability issues, social responsibilities, industry and design processes, ethics, global interdependence, and professional development.

### **Administrative Changes**

~ WMU welcomed Dr. Julian Vasquez Heilig as Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs on January 5, 2023. He has held academic leadership roles at the University of Texas at Austin, California State University, and the University of Kentucky.

~ Dr. Christopher Cheatham has returned from his position as Interim Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs to his position as Senior Vice Provost for Academic Affairs and Building Operations.

~ Dr. Laura H. Dinehart, current Dean of the School of Education and Human Development at Florida International University, has been named Dean of Western Michigan University's College of Education and Human Development. Her appointment begins July 1, 2023. Dinehart's research focuses primarily on the developmental and early academic outcomes of young children within the context of the early care and education environment. When she joins WMU's campus, she will succeed Dr. Kristal Ehrhardt who has provided steady leadership as Interim Dean following the passing of the longtime Dean Dr. Ming Li.

## Faculty Senate Updates

The WMU Faculty Senate reserves three seats for emeriti. This gives emeriti a voice in shared governance in WMU and facilitates communication between the Emeriti Council, WMU faculty members, and WMU administrators. Representatives for the 2023-2024 year are:

- Mary D. Lagerwey: Professor Emerita from the College of Health and Human Services and the WMU Bronson School of Nursing
- Lester Wright, Professor Emeritus, Psychology Department
- Patricia Reeves, Professor Emerita from the College of Education and Human Development and Department of Education, Research, and Technology

## Informational Items

~ WMUx Instructional Resources: Gwen Tarbox, Director for Faculty Development provided an update on WMUx Teaching and Learning team resources.

<https://wmich.edu/sites/default/files/attachments/u370/2023/WMUxTeachingLearning.pdf>

~ Government Affairs: Jeffrey Breneman, Vice President for Government Relations provided an update on government affairs.

<https://wmich.edu/sites/default/files/attachments/u370/2023/GovtAffairs.pdf>

~ President Montgomery presented plans for increased security on campus, recruitment efforts in the Chicago area, and requests for increased State funding.

~ University Reports Steve Bertman, a member of the Climate Change Working Group provided details of the Climate Emergency Month with Allen Webb, English, and others in attendance. The presentation gave details about why WMU has a climate change working group that included the threat to the planet by climate change; current decisions effect the future; hopeful signs; details of the working group and its activities; March 2023 Climate Emergency Month at WMU; the month-long Climate Emergency Month events and activities; progress to date; and how to get involved.

<https://wmich.edu/sites/default/files/attachments/u370/2023/Climate%20Change.pdf>

## MOAs

A record of all MOAs approved since the year 2000 is available at

<https://wmich.edu/facultysenate/policies/moa>

More recent MOAs include:

~ Recommendation of Course Delivery Definitions for Undergraduate and Graduate Catalogs

~ Revision of Graduation Requirements to Establish Minimum Credits (60) for a Doctoral Degree

~ Changes to the curriculum review policy to reflect the electronic process and to update the policy be updated so that, at its core, it is focused on process as well as principles.



## **Wednesday II events, Spring Semester 2023**

~ January 2023: Why Do Fairy Tales Continue to Interest Us?

Presenter: Dasha Nisula, Professor Emerita, World Languages, Western Michigan University

The presentation explored why interest in fairy tales has been on the rise among adults as well as young audiences. Emerita Professor Nisula discussed how although the basic structure of a fairy tale is quite simple, the tales have been dressed in modern technological advances and magnificent visual reproductions, artistically expanded and transformed.

~ February 2023: Kalamazoo United Campus Ministries: Service learning and support opportunities for students

Presenter: Kathleen Robertson King, Campus Minister at the Kalamazoo UCM.

Service/learning and student supported opportunities offered by the Kalamazoo United Campus Ministries (UCM). UCM is a non-traditional interfaith campus ministry that emphasizes action, vocation, and service/learning among students of all and no religion(s).

Kathleen Robertson King is a campus minister with the Kalamazoo UCM. She is a graduate of Western Michigan University and Louisville Seminary, and was ordained in 2000. She has worked with homeless teens, the chronically homeless, and people with major mental health diagnoses. She provided an overview of the history of UCM and discussed its work and goals with attendees.

~ March 2023: What's New at the Zhang Legacy Collections Center

Presenters: Lynn Houghton, WMU Librarian and Regional History Curator, and John Winchell, Archives Curator.

Houghton and Winchell presented updates about the Center, including WMU Archives and Records for WMU, the Regional History Collection, and the Special Collection.

The Special Collections now include the Rare Books Collection, previously housed in Waldo Library. They also described how to access materials and services and gave a tour of the building.



## **Fall 2023: Provisional Unconfirmed Topics**

- Stan Robin: "Monologues" with Stanley Robin
- Gerontology, Retirement, and Healthy Aging
- Climate Change
- Tour of new Student Building
- Master Lecturer series

The Emeriti Council happily welcomes any suggestions for topics, speakers, and venues.



## News from WMU Emeriti

~ Richard A. Gershon, Ph.D., Professor Emeritus Media, Telecommunications and Business Strategy, Western Michigan University

In 2020, Rick retired from his formal teaching responsibilities at Western Michigan University. Since then, he and his wife, Casey, have been splitting their time between Kalamazoo and New Bern, North Carolina. And while he has taken a pause from his teaching duties, his writing and research continues.

In October 2022, Rick presented two papers at the International Media Management Academic Association Conference in Porto, Portugal. He is now completing the second edition of his book: *Digital Media and Innovation: Management Design Strategies in Communication* (Routledge, 2023).

He is also pleased to announce the launch of a new website that looks at media business, technology, and innovation entitled: The Digital NavigatorEG. The EG stands for electronic gallery. <https://www.digitalnavigator.com/copy-of-innovation-and-design>

Rick previously served as President of the WMU Faculty Senate.

~ Patricia Reeves, PhD, Professor Emerita, Educational Leadership Research Director for High Impact Leadership for School Renewal and Grand Rapids Southeast Promise Neighborhood (GRSEPN) Projects, College of Education and Human Development, Western Michigan University

Further information on the following page...

~ Dasha Nisula. Professor Emerita, Department of World Languages and Literatures, Western Michigan University

Dasha recently published, *How the Hedgehog Married and Other Croatian Tales* (Exile Editions, 2022), a collection of fairy tales previously unavailable in English. Based on oral-come-literary tales, the focus of *How the Hedgehog Married* has been on preserving the elemental structure of oral tradition without embellishment. This literary collection gathers a dozen fairy tales which come from the Croatian national folklore tradition. In this bilingual edition, the Croatian and English-in-translation are presented together – accompanied by 17 original color artworks by the cover artist, Josip Botteri Dini.

Dasha is a translator who has taught Russian and Croatian languages, literature, and culture. She is a translator of poetry and short stories from these languages, the author of four books, numerous articles, reviews, and translations. Her work has appeared in *An Anthology of South Slavic Literatures*, and the literary journals *Modern Poetry in Translation*, *Southwestern Review*, *International Poetry Review*, *Massachusetts Review*, and *EXILE Quarterly*, among others. She is a member of the American Literary Translators Association, living and working in Kalamazoo, Michigan.



~ The Department of World Languages and Literatures held their annual Honors and Awards Ceremony on Friday, April 7, 2023. Emeriti Professors Cynthia Running-Johnson and Peter Krawutschke joined the ceremony with 60 other students and faculty.

~ At the Center for English Language and Culture for International Students (CELCIS), Emeriti Thomas Marks and Ila Baker taught part-time, and Eva Copija served as the Academic Coordinator. Robert Dlouhy gave presentations at Association of Behavior Analysis International meetings in Boston and Dublin, Ireland.



### **In Memory of**

- Kenneth Dahlberg, Department of Political Science and Director of the Environmental Studies Program
- Dennis Darling, Department of Industrial Technology and Education and Department of Paper and Printing Science and Engineering
- John Houdek, History Department
- Joseph Reish, French Department, Dean of the Lee Honors College, Dean of University Libraries
- John Thomas Sill, Speech Department
- Uldis Smidchens, Department of Educational Leadership
- Alan Kehew, Global and Environmental Sciences
- Ruth Meyer, Mathematics and Statistics
- Michael Stonline, Statistics
- John Tanis, Social Work
- Danny Harris Thompson, Social Work

WMU Emeriti have a strong tradition of supporting students by generously funding the Emeriti Medallion Scholarship and the Emeriti Book Scholarship. Please consider making a tax-deductible contribution of any size to continue this support and help even more students. Doing so not only helps students financially but also communicates encouragement from those who have taught and done research at WMU for many years. The form on the back page can be used to make a donation.



### **New Faculty Senate Representative**

Welcome to Patricia Reeves! "I am an Emeriti Professor from the College of Education and Human Development and Department of Education, Research, and Technology. My teaching and research focus is School and District level leadership, school and district level systemic change processes, and performance development of school and district leaders. In 2019, I "retired," but moved into an R-4 Emeriti Researcher position to Co-PI and Co-Direct two major grant projects in schools across West Michigan. I work a full weekly schedule in this capacity, but could make myself available to serve as you describe, assuming that service would begin with the Fall 2023-24 academic year.



Therefore, I humbly offer myself for consideration because I appreciate the work of the Faculty Senate and never had the time to get involved in that work when I was full-time faculty. Of course, I will happily defer to other candidates to ensure that you get the balance of perspectives you are seeking with these Emeriti positions.”

## **Emeriti Council Scholarships**

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## **From Your Emeriti Council**

The WMU Emeriti Council wishes you all a bright and fun-filled summer season. We look forward to working with the University, our fellow retirees, and other University organizations in an effort to make this time in our lives more meaningful and helpful to those in need. Enjoy...and come and join us!

Our giving form is on the following page. Please consider providing what financial support you can. Thank you!





# 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 Emeriti 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 shall 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