



Emeriti News



Volume XXXIV · Number 2 <http://wmich.edu/emeriti/newsletters> Spring 2025

EMERITI COUNCIL OFFICERS:

Mary D. Lagerwey ~ *Chair, Emerita, Nursing*

Darryl Salisbury ~ *Newsletter Editor and Emeritus, CELCIS (the Center for English Language and Culture for International Students)*

EMERITI COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Sisay Asefa ~ *Emeritus, Economics*

Robert Dlouhy ~ *Emeritus, CELCIS (the Center for English Language and Culture for International Students)*

Barbara Hemphill ~ *Liaison with WMU Osher Life-Long Learning Institute (OLLI); Emerita, Occupational Therapy*

Peter Krawutschke ~ *Emeritus, German and Advisor Emeritus of German*

Stanley Robin ~ *Emeritus, Sociology*

FACULTY SENATE EMERITI COUNCIL MEMBERS (2023-2024):

Mary D. Lagerwey ~ *Emerita, WMU Bronson School of Nursing*

Lester Wright ~ *Emeritus, Psychology Department*

John Jellies ~ *Emeritus from the College of Arts and Sciences and the Department of Biological Sciences*

Message from the Chair: Mary Lagerwey

We welcome the following Emeriti who retired in 2025:

- Carla Adkison-Johnson, Professor Emerita, Department of Counselor Education and Counseling Psychology, April 25, 2025
- Amos Beyan, Professor Emeritus of History, Department of History, May 14, 2025
- Donald Cooney, Associate Professor Emeritus of Social Work, School of Social work, August 14, 2025
- Richard Junger, Professor Emeritus of Communication, School of Communication, May 14, 2025
- Gwen Tarbox, Professor Emerita of English, Department of English, May 14, 2025

The Emeriti Council extends a warm welcome to any emeriti who might be interested in serving a two-year term on the Council. Emeriti are encouraged to ask questions or nominate themselves or a colleague by contacting emeriti.council@wmich.edu.

Information about the Emeriti Council:

To introduce new (and established) emeriti to key aspects of the Emeriti Council and members and review its role in this phase of your professional life, we have included information about the history, functions, and mission of the Emeriti Council, and how emeriti can contribute to the strength of the WMU community and connect with the well-being of other emeriti.

Origins:

In October 1975, following suggestions from emeriti, President John T. Bernhard invited twelve emeriti to establish an ad hoc Emeriti Council and to formulate a permanent organization and procedures. By 1976, the provisional council had initiated some programs and recommended a plan for an on-going organization of and for the emeriti. The President approved, and the council elected its first officers and continued its work. As a guest of the council on June 1, 1980, President Bernhard “assured the council of active support in fostering the best possible relationships between the emeriti and Western Michigan University.” This support has continued under Presidents Diether Haenicke, Elson S. Floyd, Judith I. Bailey, John M. Dunn, and Edward B. Montgomery.

Functions:

The original concerns of the WMU Emeriti Council were to:

- 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
- Support the growth and development of the University

WMU Emeriti Council Mission Statement:

To implement programs, events, and activities which enable emeriti to engage in Western Michigan University policy development, philanthropic funding, and other activities where they can make unique and valuable contributions.

New functions have been added, including fundraising for student scholarships, sponsoring presentations, coordinating social events, and collaboration with the Western Michigan Association of Retired Faculty (WARF) and Osher Life-Long Learning Institute (OLLI).

Wednesday II Events

Recent Events

December 11: The Emeriti Council hosted an Emeriti Holiday Celebration open house on December 11, 2024, in the WMU Fetzer Center. WMU student vocalists and a

pianist provided delightful holiday music. In spite of cold weather and snow showers, about 40 attended and many voiced appreciation for the reinstatement of this event.

The Emeriti Council plans to host another **holiday celebration in December 2025** and welcomes any suggestions you might have.

March 12: Drew Arndt, Personal trainer at West Hills Athletic Club, gave a presentation on “Exercise for Healthy Aging.” He emphasized the importance of regular strength training to maintain and improve muscle mass and bone strength, mobility, flexibility, and avoiding falls.

April 9: Dr. Christine Byrd-Jacobs, Dean, Graduate College and Professor, Biological Sciences, gave a presentation on “Graduate Education at WMU: 73 Years and Going Strong.” She provided a history and development of graduate education at WMU. The national rankings of graduate colleges and Western's placement within it was explained. She discussed the current state of Western's graduate programs, answered questions from attendees, and led a discussion of graduate education here and elsewhere. This vital and informative presentation was greatly appreciated.

May 14: Dr. Remzi Seker, Vice President for Research and Innovation, gave a presentation on “New Developments in Research and Innovation at WMU.” He highlighted the growth in funded research over the past few years and led a discussion of the challenges facing WMU in light of the changing foci and cuts in research funding at the federal level.

Upcoming Events

August 13: Save the Date: Emeriti Brunch: 9:30 a.m. in Fetzer Center. The Emeriti Council is reinstating the annual emeriti brunch. Stay tuned for more details

September 10. Performance of Monologues by Dr. Stan Robin

October 12: Lee Honors College Updates

December 10: Tentative date for annual emeriti holiday celebration

University News (Information from *WMU Today*, University websites, and the Kalamazoo Gazette)

For more WMU news, arts, and events, visit [WMU News](#) online.

Russ Kavalhuna, J.D., has been chosen as the 10th president of WMU. He will begin his term on July 1, 2025. He is the outgoing president of Henry Ford College in Dearborn and an alum of WMU. He also served as Executive Director of Flight Operations in the WMU College of Aviation. More information can be found at: <https://wmich.edu/presidential-search/president-russ-kavalhuna>

Christopher Cheatham has taken on the position of Interim Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs following the resignation of Julian Vasquez Heilig earlier in the spring semester.

The WMU Board of Trustees approved a new **Campus Master Plan** at its February 6 meeting:

- There were 39 buildings demolished across WMU's campus between 2018 and 2023. These included residence halls and apartment complexes.
- An additional 11 buildings are candidates for renovation or demolition, with Knauss Hall as the top priority for renovation, pending state funding approval. Others on this list include Henry, Seibert, Trimpe, and Moore Halls, Sprau Tower, Kanley Chapel, and the Sindecuse Center. The master plan also includes a possible multi-cultural center, and student success/health center, two new residence halls, and an academic building to replace Siebert Hall.
- Parking ramp by Miller Auditorium is undergoing annual maintenance: Annual maintenance of Parking Ramp 2, located west of Miller Auditorium, has begun. Various areas within the ramp will be temporarily closed, shifting as crews progress with their work. All maintenance is expected to be completed by the end of July. Please follow posted signage and use caution when in the area.
- Vandercook Hall demolition project has begun. The project to demolish Vandercook Hall, located on Oakland Drive, has begun, starting with hazardous material abatement and continuing with demolition starting in early July. Restoration of the site is scheduled to be completed by the end of August. After structural and environmental assessments of the 86-year-old building, it was determined the building's architecture would not accommodate the space, technology, and ADA needs of modern academic, administrative, or student housing facilities. The building has not been used for decades and, over time, increasingly poses safety and liability risks. There are no plans to build on the property after site restoration.

Library Updates

WMU University Libraries provide a variety of services and resources to guests, alumni, and retired Western Michigan University faculty and staff. Guests include community members and students from area schools, colleges, and community colleges. Many emeriti continue using the WMU libraries after retirement and all are welcome to join WMU's [library email list](#) and <https://wmich.edu/library/guests> for more news and information.

Hours:

Waldo Library is open to the public before 8 p.m. on most days. An active Bronco Card is required to enter Waldo Library when it is open after 8 p.m. [Check Waldo Library](#) hours before visiting.

Zhang Legacy Collections Center is open to the public anytime during open hours. [Check Zhang hours](#) before visiting.

Western retirees and emeriti retain a permanent Bronco Card. This card can be used to enter Waldo Library after 8 p.m. as long as the card remains active.

Events:

University Libraries provides events on a variety of subjects throughout the year that are open to the public. [See our events calendar](#) for upcoming events.

Parking:

Western retirees and emeriti retain a WMU virtual parking permit that allows parking in any lot marked "R." This permit will remain valid as long as the required annual renewal of the parking permit is completed.

Zhang Legacy Collections Center visitors may park in the two free guest parking spaces (designated with signs) in Lot 108, north of the building. All other spaces require a WMU permit or a day pass. Purchase a day pass inside the building for \$5 per day. Parking permits are not required on Western's campus from 5 p.m. to 2 a.m. on weekdays and from 4 p.m. Friday through 2 a.m. Monday.

Access to Library Resources:

Wireless network access is available to everyone.

Western retirees and emeriti retain a permanent Bronco Card and can use their Bronco NetID and password to log in to computer stations in Waldo Library. Account service will continue indefinitely as long as the required annual password change is made. Emeriti also receive a limited number of print credits each semester which can be used to print at release stations within Waldo Library. Retirees and emeriti can also request items from another library through [Interlibrary Loan](#) using their Bronco NetID and password. An annual password change is required to retain account access.

Emeriti who do not have an active Bronco Net ID, can still log in as a guest user on these computers and get the same access. You can request to have your Bronco Net ID reactivated by reaching out to the [Office of Information Technology Help Desk](#).

Some items from other collections are stored at the Zhang Legacy Collections Center. Anyone with a guest borrower's card or active Bronco Card may check out these items from Zhang. Visitors to [Zhang Legacy Collections Center](#) may request to use any items in the WMU Archives, Regional History Collection, and Special Collections. These materials must be used at Zhang and cannot be checked out. To request having materials available upon arrival, [contact the Center](#) in advance.

Rooms and Spaces:

All of the open spaces in the [library locations](#) are available for guests, alumni, retirees, and emeriti to use. Most of the rooms, however, are reserved for use by current Western students, faculty, and staff only.

The [Virtual Reality Lab](#) at Waldo Library is open to the public on a walk-in basis only. A release form must be signed in order to use the VR equipment. A parent or guardian must sign the form for a minor.

Those interested in bringing a class or group to visit one of the WMU library locations, should complete the [Class and Group Visit Request form](#).

Seed Library Reopens for 2025 Season:

The University Libraries' Seed Library, which debuted last year, is restocked and ready for the 2025 growing season. University Libraries is a member of the Michigan Seed Library Network and Kalamazoo Seed Collaborative. Anyone in our community is welcome to come in and take home seeds for their garden. Western students, employees, and community members can pick up free seeds from Waldo Library to grow at home. Over 1,200 seed packs are available, including flowers, fruits, greens, herbs, native plants, and vegetables. We will restock the seed cabinet weekly until we run out of seeds.



[Learn more about the Seed Library.](#)

How to use the Seed Library:

1. Go to Waldo Library.
2. Find the seed cabinet on the first floor to the right of the lobby.
3. Take home up to five seed packets per visit and stop back to resupply.
4. Save seeds at harvest and donate back if you can.

Student Scholarships

WMU Emeriti have a strong tradition of supporting students by generously funding the Emeriti Medallion Scholarship and the Emeriti Book Scholarship. The Council encourages donations to these scholarship funds.

Thank you to all who have and continue supporting WMU students through generous contributions to the Emeriti Medallion and Emeriti Textbook Scholarships.

Emeriti Medallion Scholarships

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.

Established in 1983, Western's Medallion Scholarship program awarded its first scholarships in 1984. Today, donations from emeriti and others continue to support prestigious four-year Emeriti Medallion Scholarships. The Emeriti Council seeks to

maintain a relationship with Medallion Scholars sponsored by emeriti by meeting face-to-face.

Current Emeriti Medallion Scholars: Avery Molnar, Anastassia Hrukach, and Meg Buckwalter.



Meg Buckwalter, Emeriti Medallion Scholarship; Nursing; Okemos, MI. Incoming class of 2024.

My freshman year of college was a great start. I ended with a 4.0 and I'm really excited to begin nursing school in the fall. I joined Alpha Lambda Delta, an honor society for first year success, and got involved in clubs like Women in STEM. I made friends through my classes, clubs, and intramural sports. One of the best parts was joining my brother's coed flag football team—we had a lot of fun and even won the championship! It was a fun and busy year, and I'm ready for the next!

Anastasiia Hrukach, Emeriti Medallion Scholarship; Chemical and Paper Engineering; Ukraine and Traverse City, MI. Incoming class of 2023.

I am a sophomore majoring in chemical engineering, and this past year, I was able to serve as an Honors College mentor—helping first-year students navigate their first steps in college has been extremely rewarding. I stayed active in the Tennis Club and on several intramural teams, and with my Medallion cohort we continued campus composting at basketball and volleyball games. Building on, we've also launched an RSO (Registered Student Organization) called "EcoBroncos" and begun recruiting volunteers to expand our sustainability efforts. We represented our RSO at the Sustainability Celebration and Climate Rally



where we recruited more like-minded students to join our efforts. I also had an amazing experience of traveling to St. Louis to cheer on the WMU Broncos hockey team as they won the national championship. This summer I am excited (and a little nervous) to be heading to New Milford, Connecticut, for a 12-week process-engineering internship with Kimberly-Clark, where I look forward to gaining hands-on industry experience.

Avery Molnar, Emeriti Medallion Scholarship in Honor of James. J. Bosco; Music Education: Instrumental; Zeeland, MI. **(2021 Medallion and 2025 graduate)**. This photos is from the Medallion Spring Celebration.

My name is Avery Molnar and I am one of the recipients of the 2021 Medallion Scholarship. I want to write you a letter to thank you for the opportunities this scholarship has given me. My first semester of this year, our group was able to meet the new Medallions (2024)



and introduce our service project a little bit. Our 2021 Medallion group helped a nonprofit organization called Clean Water for the World (CWWF). During Fall of 2024, we were able to help CWWF Executive Director Krista Dover by volunteering at open houses/informational events for the community.

I graduated from Western Michigan University with a music education degree this spring. My last academic requirement was to student teach. That was my focus for the semester. Even though I was not able to physically participate in our service project for my last semester due to student teaching, I found myself using courage and discipline that I remember having during the four years we have spent on this project. Thanks for giving us this space and opportunity to give back to the community. The biggest lesson I have learned from this project is: Giving back to the community makes me feel a part of something. It makes me feel like I have a purpose. These four years were an experience that I will hold onto forever. Again, thank you for this opportunity!

Textbook Scholarships

In past years, donations from emeriti have supported around 25 sophomores, juniors, and seniors each semester with \$250-\$400 to defray the cost of textbooks, with

scholarships which have ranged from 3.85-4.00. Nationwide, the average cost to first-year undergraduate students at public four-year institutions for books and supplies in one academic year is over \$1,200. We know that without this scholarship some students would not be able to continue their education, and others take on additional debt or increase their working hours until they cut into their time for studies. The fund needs additional and ongoing donations to continue supporting students. (See the final page of this newsletter.)

WMU's Occupational Therapy Assistant Program receives transformational legacy gift from Drs. Fred Sammons and Barbara Rider



Both individuals are longtime pioneers in the field of Occupational Therapy. Barbara is an emerita professor of Occupational Therapy. Their names are well known to anyone connected to Western Michigan University's occupational therapy program. Their dedication to OT, their passion for innovation, and their generosity have left an undeniable mark on WMU and the profession as a whole.

Fred's inventive spirit led to countless adaptive devices that empowered people with disabilities, making daily lives easier. Barb, a WMU professor emerita and leader in evidence-based practice and education, shaped generations of OT professionals through her teaching, research, and advocacy. Together, their contributions to WMU's OT program have strengthened its reputation as one of the most respected in the country.

Fred's and Barb's generosity speaks volumes about their lifelong dedication to OT. Their latest planned gift led WMU to rename its occupational therapy assistant (OTA) program in their honor, ensuring lasting support for future Broncos. This gift adds to a long list of impactful philanthropy which stand as testaments to their commitment to students, practitioners, and the future of OT. Fred and Barb lead by example, embodying their belief in giving back. As Fred says, "Whether it's financial support or your time or expertise, I think you should share what you have."

Together, Sammons and Rider have dedicated their careers to the advancement of occupational therapy, and their most recent gift to WMU represents their ongoing commitment. Founded in 1922, WMU's Department of Occupational Therapy recently celebrated its 100th anniversary, while the occupational therapy assistant program itself

was established just a few years ago in 2022 to offer students even more career opportunities in this growing field.

Faculty Senate Updates

The Faculty Senate meetings are available to stream live at: at:

<https://wmich.mediasite.com/Mediasite/Play/15ed2606f9884c43beded24b1642e6fc1d>

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. Please contact any of the representatives if you have anything you would like them to bring to the Faculty Senate. Representatives for the 2024-2025 year are:

- John Jellies, Professor Emeritus, Biological Sciences (John.Jellies@wmich.edu)
- Lester Wright, Professor Emeritus, Psychology Department (lester.wright@wmich.edu)
- Mary D. Lagerwey: Professor Emerita, College of Health, and Human Services and the WMU Bronson School of Nursing (mary.Lagerwey@wmich.edu)

As part of the Faculty Senate Action Plan, the University Strategic Plan and how it relates to the work of the Senate will be highlighted at each Senate meeting this academic year.

MOAs passed: Please see <https://wmich.edu/facultysenate/policies/moa> A record of all MOAs approved since 2000.

In Memory

- Joe Buckley, Professor Emeritus Mathematics for 30 years, including chair from 1984-1989, and retiring in 2000. He was a member and chair of the WMU Emeriti Council. January 9, 2025, in Kalamazoo, Michigan.
- Benjamin C. Wilson Jr., professor emeritus of Africana studies. November 27, 2024, at his home in Kalamazoo.
- Donald E. King, Professor Emeritus of Fine Art. January 27, 2025, in Taos, New Mexico.
- Luis Horacio Toledo-Pereyra, Professor of Biological Sciences, Science Education and History at WMU and Professor of Surgery and Director of Research at the WMU Homer Stryker M.D. School of Medicine. January 31, 2025, in South Haven, MI.
- Carol Payne Smith, Professor Emerita, Education and Human Development. Faculty Senate President 1996-98. March 18, 2025.

- Charles G. (Bud) Donnelly, Associate Dean of Students Emeritus, November 7, 2024, Portage, MI.
- Darrell G. Jones, Professor Emeritus of Business Information Systems, November 13, 2024, Castle Pines, CO.
- Johannes A. Kissel, Associate Professor Emeritus of Foreign Languages and Literatures, November 9, 2024, Henderson, NV.
- Edward Pawlak, Professor Emeritus of Social Work, October 10, 2024, Kalamazoo, MI.
- Morton O. Wagenfeld, Professor Emeritus of Sociology and Community Health Services, February 2, 2025, Fort Wayne, IN.

Opportunities for Giving to WMU

Thank you to the countless emeriti who continue giving back to WMU, its students, and its programs. Some give of their time and talents by mentoring students and young faculty members. Some give gifts, such as the medallion and book scholarships, which are designated as emeriti scholarships. Others, such as the recent gift by Drs. Barbara Rider, Professor Emerita in OT, and Fred Sammons, are specific to a particular program. Other gifts, such as those to the public radio station WMUK, directly benefit the entire communities of Southwest Michigan. Regardless of how you choose to give, your generosity helps others thrive and keeps WMU's tradition of excellence alive and strong.

Supporting Scholarships for Our Students

Please consider making a tax-deductible contribution of any size to support and help WMU students. Doing so not only helps students financially but also communicates belief in each student's potential and encouragement from those who have taught and done research at WMU for many years.

Tax-deductible donations for **Textbook and Medallion Scholarships** can be sent directly to Gift Processing, WMU Foundation, 1903 W. Michigan Ave., Kalamazoo, MI 49008, using the form on the last page of this newsletter or by using the link below.

Note that online donations are handled through an alumni web site:

[Give Now V2.0 \(wmualumni.org\)](https://www.wmualumni.org)

Go to the “Can't find what you're looking for? Search for something specific” box and type in “Emeriti” and choose from either Emeriti Council's Book Scholarship Fund or the Emeriti Medallion Scholarship by clicking on the plus sign (+) to the left. This will take you to a form that you can fill out to donate.

Examples of Ways to Maximize Your Impact in a Tax-Efficient Manner

- Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCDs): If you are 70½ or older, you can make direct donations from your IRA, reducing taxable income while supporting WMU through a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD).
- When you are 73, a QCD may count toward your Required Minimum Distribution (RMD). A QCD allows you to support the university tax-free, reducing your taxable income while contributing to programs that matter to you. Interested? Call

269-387-8791, talk to your financial advisor, or visit <https://wmulegacy.org/?pageID=158> to learn more

- Gifts of Appreciated Securities: Donating stocks or mutual funds that have increased in value can provide significant tax advantages. By giving appreciated assets directly to WMU, you can avoid capital gains taxes while also receiving a charitable deduction.
- Bequests and Beneficiary Designations: Establishing a bequest in your will or trust or naming Western as a full or partial beneficiary of your retirement account or life insurance ensures long-term support for students and programs without requiring an immediate financial commitment.

Interested in exploring the best giving option for you? Reach out to WMU's Office of Gift Planning at 269-387-8791 or visit wmualumni.org/gift-planning to learn more.

Legal name: Western Michigan University Foundation

Legal address: Heritage Hall, 1903 W. Michigan Ave., Kalamazoo, MI 49008-5403

Federal tax ID number: 38-2138856

Pull-Out Box: Make a Tax-Smart Gift with a QCD



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