



Emeriti News



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EMERITI COUNCIL OFFICERS:

- Mary D. Lagerwey ~ *Chair and 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*
- Richard Cooper ~ *Emeritus, Occupational Therapy*
- D. Terry Williams ~ *Emeritus, Theater, and past Chair of the Emeriti Council*

FACULTY SENATE EMERITI COUNCIL MEMBERS:

- Mary D. Lagerwey ~ *Emerita, WMU Bronson School of Nursing*
- Lester Wright ~ *Emeritus, Psychology Department*
- John Jellies ~ *Emeritus, Biological Sciences*



MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR: Mary Lagerwey

Greetings and best wishes for a happy summer from the Emeriti Council. As Chair of the Council, I am pleased to add a sincere thank you to the Council members for a busy and productive semester.

There have been several exciting developments for the Emeriti Council which promise consistent University support and more consistency for gatherings and opportunities for service. The most significant change has come in our formal relationship to the University administration. With changes in its internal organization, the Office of the Provost has had to cut back on its direct support for the Emeriti Council. The Emeriti Council invited President Kavalhuna to meet in person with the Council, and he joined us in December 2025 to discuss the role of the EC and possibilities for improvement. Then, in January of this year Dr. Kahler Schuemann, approached the Emeriti Council

chair to explore placing the Emeriti Council administratively within the University Advancement Office. Further discussions with his team and the Council confirmed that this would be a wise move which would help the Council obtain the administrative support it needs and enhance emeriti's ability to serve the University.

During and following COVID, many organizations, including the Emeriti Council, put their activities on hold. But the Emeriti Council has been back, with Wednesday II events and, since December 2024, reinstatement of the December Holiday Celebrations in December 2024 and 2025, and the BreakFest in August 2025. The University Advancement office has helped us with organizational logistics for the most recent Holiday Celebration and the August 2025 BreakFest, and we look forward to ongoing collaboration

Also, as a result of closer collaboration between the EC and the Faculty Senate, David Rudge, Vice President of the Senate, is serving as official liaison between the FS and EC. Thank you, David.

These collaborative efforts and support, along with support from the Office of the President, led to the reinstatement of a celebration for faculty members who retired in 2019 through 2026. On May 20, the Emeriti Council, along with the Advancement Office and the Office of the President, hosted the first faculty member retirement event since 2019. The event was a great success with about 70 attendees. D. Terry Williams, Emeritus, Theatre, acted as emcee. A welcome to the ranks of emeriti was given by Brad Wong Emeritus, School of Music. Music was provided by Caleb Downey from the Gold Company. And greetings were provided from the EC Chair Mary Lagerwey and from President Kavalhuna.

STUDENT SUPPORT

Emeriti have been historically strong supporters of WMU. In addition to individual support for home departments and colleges, Emeriti fully support three Medallion Scholars: Macey Meyer (first year), Meg Buckwalter (2024), and Anastasiia Hrukach (2023). Anastasiia Hrukach will graduate in 2027 and another Emeriti Medallion Scholarship will be awarded.

Anastasiia has shared information about her academic journey and her appreciation for the support of the Medallion Scholarship.

"I just finished my junior year studying Chemical Engineering. I am originally from Ukraine, and this scholarship has been extremely important for me--without it, attending

college in the United States would not have been possible, as my family is not able to provide financial support.”

“Outside of academics, I try to make the most of every opportunity campus has to offer. Together with my Medallion cohort, I co-founded Eco Broncos, a student organization focused on sustainability efforts at WMU athletics events. We currently lead recycling and composting efforts at basketball and volleyball games, and we are working to expand to hockey and football games, as well as composting programs in the dining halls.”

“I am also an active member of many campus activities, and recently I had the privilege of speaking as a keynote speaker at the MAC ALDP Conference. I serve as Vice President of the Society of Women Engineers, an Ambassador for the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences, and a mentor and now Assistant Coordinator at the Lee Honors College. I am involved in the American Institute of Chemical Engineers, Women in STEM, and the Outdoors Club, and I enjoy staying active through Club Tennis and intramural sports — I am usually captaining at least one team at a time, whether that is pickleball, coed flag football, or coed volleyball!”

“This summer, I will be completing my third Chemical Engineering internship, this time in the pharmaceutical industry with GRAM in Grand Rapids. I am excited to explore a new application of my field and see how it might shape my path after graduation.”

The photos below were taken during Anastasiia’s presentation at the MAC ALDP Conference.





In April, the Emeriti Council Chair, Professor Emerita Dr. Mary D. Lagerwey, attended the 2026 Spring Foundation and Medallion Graduation Ceremony, now known as the Prestigious Scholars Celebration on March 22. The photo below shows her with the LHC Dean, Dr. Irma Lopez, and Molly Cochran, a Medallion Scholar graduating from the WMU Bronson School of Nursing, Dr. Lagerwey's home department.

The Emeriti also support a Book Scholarship to assist students with reading-related course expenses. This scholarship fills a void as many other scholarships do not cover the costs of books. In past years, donations from emeriti have supported around 25 sophomores, juniors, and seniors each semester with \$250-\$400 per student. Currently, however, the balance is only \$5,129, resulting in no Emeriti Book Scholarships being awarded since 6/30/24. Emeriti are strongly encouraged to contribute as able through the WMU Advancement site or the form on the last page of this newsletter.

CAMPUS UPDATES

Did you know that you can easily access news about Western Michigan University?

How to keep up with Western News:

- Getting to the WMU University News Website
- On your search engine type WMU NEWS (note spacing between). You need not log into WMU before doing this.
- Click on "WMU News" from the search list.
- Click on WMU News under the WMU logo (big letters at top).
- This should open the WMU News website.
- "Bookmark" the site for future use.
- Getting to your WMU College or Department Websites
- On your search engine type in WMU then your college or department name or initials.
- (Such as WMU CHHS or WMU OT; note spacing between).
- Click on your college or department site.
- This should open the website.
- "Bookmark" these sites for future use.
- Add any of your favorite WMU topics such as sports teams or associations using the same process.

Remember to use your WMU account occasionally, or you could lose access to your account! Your account gives you access to WMU libraries and to University email (format is "name@wmich.edu").

WMU also has a strong presence on Facebook.

Use your Facebook SEARCH icon to enter and like WMU. Western has Facebook pages for many of your favorite WMU topics such as sports teams and Associations.

We have highlighted a few news items that may be of general interest. Additional news from WMU can be found in “W Magazine” at wmich.edu/magazine and at wmich.edu/wmutoday.

Road Closure

If you drive on Oakland Drive between Howard and the intersection with Stadium Drive, you may notice construction at the corner of Oliver Lane and Oakland Drive. This intersection is being closed permanently this summer. The University began work on Thursday, May 7, to close off Oliver Lane where it intersects with Oakland Drive, resolving a long-standing safety issue. Insufficient sight distance at this location makes turning from Oliver Lane onto busy southbound or northbound Oakland Drive difficult and potentially hazardous. Once construction is complete, Oliver Lane will become a no-outlet street that will end at the entrance to Lot 11, by the Little Theatre. For more details copy and paste into your browser: [View the Oliver Lane closure map](#).

For information on other summer University projects, copy and paste into your browser: [View the summer project map](#). Facilities Management has created a map highlighting areas where construction or projects will be taking place across campus this summer. For your safety, please stay clear of marked construction zones.

Discover Fort St. Joseph

If you are interested in Michigan history or archeology, you might want to visit the Fort St. Joseph Archaeological Project, run by WMU’s Department of Anthropology. Nestled along the St. Joseph River, Fort St. Joseph was once a vital hub of colonial life, where French settlers, soldiers, fur traders, and Native American groups coexisted. The Fort St. Joseph Archaeological Project is dedicated to unearthing this rich past, bringing over 25 years of research to life through excavations, artifacts, and public programming. The project offers immersive opportunities to connect with the past. An Annual Archeology Open House will be held on August 1-2, from 10:00 to 4:00.

Visitors will have the unique opportunity to tour the nationally recognized archaeological site of



Fort St. Joseph, witness live excavations, experience a replica birchbark canoe ride, and see recently uncovered artifacts. For updates, visit the Project's Facebook events page or reach out to Andrea Burns, Program Manager at the Niles District Library, at 269-683-8545 ext. 116 or programming@nileslibrary.net. For information on summer camp experiences for children cut and paste in your browser: Fort St. Joseph Archaeological Project | Western Michigan University.

International Student Profile

You may have seen or heard about a Kenyan student, Gideon Kipkemoi, a second-year student studying aviation flight science and management and operations. He was drawn to Western's "well-rounded university experience" and the tuition being affordable compared to other flight programs. "I was fascinated by the idea of flying during the winter," Kipkemoi says. "I also found WMU's community to be incredibly welcoming, especially during the application process." To learn about Gideon's journey and see photos, go to wmich.edu/news and search for his name.

Fulbright Specialist Awards

KALAMAZOO – (from wmich.edu/global/Fulbright/recipients)

The Fulbright Specialist Program, funded by the U.S. Department of State, promotes knowledge exchange and partnerships between U.S. institutions and international communities. Each year, more than 400 U.S. scholars and professionals engage in international research and lecturing through the Fulbright U.S. Scholar Program. These awards are open to academics at all career stages, including Emeriti faculty. See wmich.edu/global/Fulbright/faculty for more information.

Jazz in South Africa

Greg Jasperse, Associate Professor of Applied Jazz Voice at the Irving S. Gilmore School of Music, traveled to South Africa in May on a Fulbright Specialist Award. Jasperse is a globally renowned musician and directs WMU's award-winning vocal jazz ensemble, Gold Company. While in Johannesburg he performed with local artists and university students.

Jasperse returned recently from a three-week trip to Johannesburg where he partnered with the University of the Witwatersrand, commonly known as Wits. There, he taught jazz, led vocal improvisation classes, and coached the university's first jazz ensemble. One of the pieces the group worked on was his own arrangement of "They Say It's Spring." He also participated in educator workshops on jazz voice philosophy, vocal pedagogy, and vocal jazz arranging. "I got to see how another jazz and music department operates and how Wits tries to serve their students," Jasperse says. "This allowed me to see WMU in a new light as well, appreciating what a gift it is."

In South Africa, there is almost no music education in their public schools, Jasperse explains. Most students studying music at the university-level come from a church background where they sing or play by ear. "This leaves a great deal of ground to cover in terms of music literacy," he says. "In America, with the current focus on STEM and the sense that music programs are on the decline, we are still so fortunate to have as much music in primary and secondary educational systems as we do."



Greg Jasperse, Associate Professor of Applied Jazz Voice, teaches a voice lesson at the University of the Witwatersrand in Johannesburg, South Africa. The connections he made were meaningful. Jasperse expects to see some of the South African students at WMU's New York Voices Vocal Jazz Camp this summer.

Exploring ways to collaborate with him in Kalamazoo. "I remain in touch with all of these folks, open to wherever these relationships may lead," he says. "The connection between WMU and Wits feels like the beginning of something unique and special. Just like in jazz, we must show up for the conversation and connection, bring our authentic selves to the table, welcome others as they are, and do all of this without expecting a particular outcome."

Public Health in Thailand

Dr. Shannon McMorrow, Associate Professor in the School of Interdisciplinary Health, will travel to Thailand in June on a Fulbright Specialist Award. She will serve as a consultant and advocate on several projects with the public health faculty at Naresuan University. Her work will include helping Thai researchers and academics integrate planetary health into their curriculum, providing specialized training and visiting local communities to promote public health.



"Planetary health makes sure we recognize that human health and environmental health are linked together," McMorrow says. "This concept has been recognized by Indigenous cultures for thousands of years and has become an academic and professional focus in public health in the past 10 years or so."

McMorrow will also train health professionals and community members in Photovoice, a participatory research method in which people record, discuss, and publicly share photos and stories which reflect their lived experiences.

This is McMorrow's second Fulbright award. In 2022, she was a U.S. Fulbright Scholar and spent 10 months in Uganda with her family, conducting research and teaching at the Makerere University School of Public Health. "The specialist award is an opportunity for a short-term experience to consult with and learn from another school of public health in a global setting and, hopefully, plant roots for more sustained collaboration."

The Fulbright Program provides WMU faculty and students short- and long-term opportunities to engage globally, said Dr. Michelle Metro-Roland, Associate Director of External Scholarships and Faculty Development at WMU's Haenicke Institute for Global Education.

The Fulbright Specialist Program has six application deadlines a year, including **July 11, Sept. 12, and Nov. 7** for the summer and fall cycles. Interested faculty should contact Dr. Metro-Roland at michelle.metro-roland@wmich.edu. They can also visit wmich.edu/Fulbright to learn more.

UPCOMING FALL EVENTS

The **College of Health and Human Services (CHHS)** will be celebrating its 50th anniversary in the week of October 5. Alumni and Emeriti will be invited to participate in events, including a planned gala on October 9 at the Fetzer Center. Visit the college's website (wmich.edu/hhs) for updates and more information about the college.

This year's **International Education Week**, which will celebrate global diversity and encourage cross-cultural learning through events, programs and activities, is set for Nov. 8-15, 2026. If you are interested in getting involved or sharing your ideas, complete the [International Education Week interest and involvement form](#). Additional details will be shared as they are confirmed. Save the date and watch for updates on the [International Education Week webpage](#). Maddie Christians, recruitment and outreach specialist at the Haenicke Institute for Global Education, is available to answer your questions. Maddie.christians@wmich.edu

WEDNESDAY II EVENTS

Wednesday II events during spring semester included a presentation by Waldo Libraries Dean Julie Garrison and a tour of the Richman Center for the Arts by Dean Dan Guyette. The Emeriti Council welcomes suggestions for Wednesday II guests or topics.

NEWS FROM THE WMU FACULTY

Janet Hahn was elected president of the Faculty Senate and David Rudge was elected Vice President. They began their terms in May 2026. David also serves as a liaison between the Faculty Senate and the Emeriti Council.

Highlights from the WMU Faculty Senate include the passing of MOAs in undergraduate studies to revise Global Learning Outcomes, catalog graduation requirements, the Undergraduate Catalog and Addition to the Graduate Catalog Extension of the Drop/Withdrawal Period, GPA Revision Policy, credit/no credit to allow major/minor credit, and service-learning course approval procedures, and to establish equivalency level acceptance of American Council Education Military Credit Policy. An MOA from the Graduate Studies Council revises faculty-driven learning assessments for graduate students. Monthly presentations focused on how the work of the Senate was addressing components of the University Strategic Plan.

For more details, visit <https://wmich.edu/facultysenate> and <https://wmich.edu/facultysenate/policies/moa>

The Faculty Senate reserves three voting positions for Emeriti. The current **Emeriti representatives to the Faculty Senate** are:

- Mary D. Lagerwey ~ Professor Emerita, College of Health and Human Services and the WMU Bronson School of Nursing
- Lester Wright ~ Professor Emeritus, Psychology Department
- John Jellies ~ Professor Emeritus, College of Arts and Sciences and the Department of Biological Sciences

The Emeriti Council honors the memory of the following individuals:

- Roger Cole, July 6, 2025
- Sandra Glista, February 1, 2026. Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences
- Ruth Moser, April 1, 2026. Spanish
- Howard Steiner, January 14, 2026.
- Richard Wayne Pippen, March 3, 2026. Department of Biological Sciences.
- Barbara Rider, April 11, 2026. Professor and Chair, Occupational Therapy.
- W. Thomas Straw (Tom). March 8, 2026. Professor and Chair, Geology Department

- Mark R. Jenness, May 26, 2026. Mathematics Program Improvement (SAMPI) Project in the Mallinson Institute for Science Education, Senior Researcher

WE NEED YOU

As the Emeriti Council has been re-instating its activities, we are excited about the future of WMU Emeriti and the Emeriti Council. We would warmly welcome additional members to be part of the Council and to be involved in activities such as planning for events, contributing to the Newsletter, communication, and publicity. You also can contribute to the Newsletter with Emeriti updates and other information for the Emeriti. To learn more about how you might be able to contribute, please contact an Emeriti Council member. As Emeriti Council chair, I can be reached at Mary.Lagerwey@wmich.edu.

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.

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