



# 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

The Emeriti Council has been busy this past fall, hosting gatherings and Wednesday II events, and working behind the scenes to update our web site and archival collections.

## Events

### *Summer Breakfast*

The Emeriti Council hosted two Emeriti gatherings in the past year. One was the reinstated breakfast, held in August in the Fetzer Center. It was a great success, with over 70 emeriti and university administrators attending. D. Terry Williams gave a keynote address, with an overview of the history and accomplishments of the WMU Emeriti Council, and its importance in the life of the University from its inception 50 years ago. \$1500 of the costs of this event were generously covered by University

Advancement. Rachel Cook, event planner for University Advancement, provided valuable support in arranging for and managing the event. Thank you also to David Bernhart for his contribution. Mark Lindemood, Interim Vice President for University Advancement and Executive Director of the WMU Foundation, spoke on the financial contributions of the emeriti, announcing that since 1975, emeriti have contributed over \$75,000,000 to dozens of funds across the University. The major areas of contributions have been to the Student Book Scholarship and to the Medallion Scholarship funds. He also addressed how emeriti can continue their generosity to the University and its students.

This data was based on cross-checking specific donations with a list of emeriti. Thank you to the staff who made this possible! Currently, there is no designation to keep track of which gifts are from emeriti, and the Emeriti Council is working with the Advancement office to see whether information about emeriti status can be included with donor information in records of contributions made to WMU and the WMU Foundation.

### *Holiday Celebration*

On December 10, the Emeriti Council hosted its annual Emeriti Holiday Celebration. It was an enjoyable gathering and provided opportunities for emeriti to reconnect with each other and administrator guests. A highlight of the event was delightful holiday music from four amazingly talented WMU student cellists. Thank you to Aiden Everson, Nora Duffy, Paul Natividad, and Lily Smith. In spite of challenging weather and icy roads, about 50 attended.

We hope to continue making these events annual gatherings as they provide unique opportunities for emeriti to stay connected to each other and our University community.

## WEDNESDAY II EVENTS

### **Recent Events**

Wednesday II events this fall included a performance of Monologues by Emeritus Professor of Sociology Stan Robin in September, and a tour and overview of the Lee Honors College, led by Dean Irma Lopez and Associate Dean Anthony Helms in October.

### **Upcoming Wednesday II Events**

**January 14, 2026:** Dan Guyette, Dean of the College of Fine Arts. We will meet at the Richman Centre at 2:00 for a look behind the scenes of some of the amazing offerings of the prestigious College of Fine Arts. Parking is available in the # 2 parking ramp and in lots 33 and 34 near Miller Auditorium. If you have questions about parking, the please

see maps and information at [wmich.edu/parking](http://wmich.edu/parking) or call 269.387.4609 between 7:30 and 5:00 Monday-Thursday and 7:30 and 4:00 on Fridays.

**February 11, 2026:** Julie Garrison, Dean of the WMU Libraries, will present on the exciting developments in the library, including Waldo Library, Zang Legacy Collections Center, the Monastic and Medieval Digital Collections, and how emeriti can access the services and materials in person and remotely.

## ARCHIVAL RECORDS

Our Emeriti Council chair, Mary Lagerwey, has been working with librarian archivist John Winchel to bring the archival records of the Emeriti Council housed at the Zhang Center on Oakland Drive up to date. Beth Pappalardo, Director of Academic Affairs Marketing Strategy is working to update the Emeriti Web page content and format. Thank you, John and Beth, for your expertise, attention, and generous use of your time!

To learn more about the purpose and activities of the WMU Emeriti Council and explore the updated site, please visit the WMU Emeriti Web site at <https://wmich.edu/emeriti>.

## EMERITI COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP

The Emeriti Council welcomed two new members this year:

### **Richard Cooper, Professor Emeritus of Occupational Therapy**

Richard began his career at WMU with a one-year temporary Assistant Professor appointment in the Occupational Therapy Department. 33 years later he retired as a Full Professor. During those years, he taught numerous OT courses with Gross Anatomy and Clinical Neurology as his specialty, completed his Doctorate in Educational Leadership, and served as Chair twice. He was active within the AAUP serving as Department Representative, College Representative, and as AAUP Chapter secretary.

Since Retiring (2010) he has continued his involvement with WMU by serving as Emeriti Representative to the Faculty Senate, a term on the Emeriti Council, and on the board of Western's Association for Retired Faculty (WARF). He continues teaching Basic Neurology offered through the WMU-OLLLI program. Within the broader community he serves as a volunteer with the Kalamazoo Hispanic Council, the Telamon Migrant Head Start Program, the MSU Kellogg Bird Sanctuary, and the Kellogg Manor House.

### **D. Terry Williams, Professor Emeritus of Theatre and past chair of the Emeriti Council**

D. Terry Williams returns to serve on the Emeriti Council after a sixteen-year hiatus. During his tenure as chair of the council, he and fellow council members Ruth Heinig and Ron Crowell along with Bob Beam, convinced then President John Dunn to support a lifelong learning program at WMU, which evolved into OLLI.

Meanwhile, Terry serves on the KSO board of directors, on the arts committee of Rotary, teaches in the OLLI program, and directs plays at the Farmers Alley and the Kalamazoo Civic Theatres.

## NEWS FROM THE WMU FACULTY SENATE

Highlights from the WMU Faculty Senate include the passing of MOAs in undergraduate studies relating to military training credits, experiential learning, revisions to grade appeals and dismissal policies, course delivery definitions, establishment of a Standing Sustainability Committee, and revisions to the Graduate Program application and credit transfers.

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

The Faculty Senate reserves three positions for emeriti. The current Emeriti members of the Faculty Senate are:

- Mary D. Lagerwey – Emerita from the College of Health and Human Services and the 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

## NEWS FROM WMU

Western Michigan University bid farewell to its 9th president, President Edward Montgomery, after eight years of service.

On April 2, 2025, the University appointed its tenth president, President Russ Kavalhuna. President Kavalhuna is well acquainted with Western Michigan University and its community. He is an alumnus of the University, having earned a B. S. in Aviation Sciences at the University and is a former Director of Flight Operations. He also has a Juris Doctorate and experience as a commercial airline pilot. He comes to WMU from serving as President of Henry Ford College. He has been conducting listening sessions across the University, including a recent meeting with the Emeriti Council. A hearty welcome to President Kavalhuna!

The University Center for the Humanities recognizes and supports the humanities at Western Michigan University. The humanities provide fundamental intellectual resources for exploring the issues of our day. Rooted in diverse perspectives, the humanities comprise the classics, languages, literature, philosophy, ethics, history, jurisprudence, religion, archaeology, and cultural studies, as well as the social sciences, such as cultural anthropology, economics, geography, political science, and sociology. They also have close links to the study of visual and performing arts, the sciences, engineering, business, and health sciences. Moreover, the humanities cross disciplinary boundaries, taking up questions about the meaning of human existence that transcend the thinking of any single field of study.

There are several upcoming events sponsored by the University Center for the Humanities that the Emeriti Council recommends and may be of interest to emeriti. Events are open to the public.

- **January 16, 2026: Books and Beer Series**  
Evan Kutzler, History | 5:00p.m. | Seibert 2110 (first floor to the right as you walk in)
- **February 13, 2026: Books and Beer Series**  
Cristina Fava, School of Music | 5:00p.m. | Seibert 2110 (first floor to the right as you walk in)
- **March 13, 2026: University Center for the Humanities Speaker Series: Community Conversations**  
Dr. Farhana Sultana, Professor, Geography and the Environment Department, Syracuse University | 7:00 p.m. | Multicultural Center, Adrian Trimpe Building, Room 1021, WMU - Main Campus
- **March 20, 2026: Books and Beer Series**  
Dini Metro-Roland and Jessica Heybach, CEHD | 5:00p.m. | Seibert 2110 (First Floor to the right as you walk in)
- **April 10, 2026: University Center for the Humanities Speaker Series: Community Conversations**  
Mark Crain, Director, Dream of Detroit | 7:00 p.m. | Multicultural Center, Adrian Trimpe Building, Room 1021, WMU - Main Campus
- **April 17, 2026: Books and Beer Series**  
Jesse Smith, Sociology | 5:00p.m. | Seibert 2110 (First Floor to the right as you walk in)

# NEWS FROM THE COLLEGE OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

*Provided by Richard Cooper, Professor Emeritus from Occupational Therapy*

College of Health and Human Services Fall 2025 Happenings:

- Dean Dr. Lillian Smith and her co-authors published an article in the Community College Journal of Research and Practice titled, “Community College Student Success: A Multilevel Examination of Institutional Contexts and Student Outcomes,” which explored how institutional factors shape student success.
- Dr. Neale Chumbler has been named Associate Dean for Academic Affairs. Dr. Chumbler has held teaching and research roles throughout his career in higher education, most recently as Executive Associate Dean and Chair of the Department of Diagnostic and Health Sciences in the College of Health Professions at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center in Memphis, TN.
- The College was a proud sponsor of the WMU Women’s Track Team’s 2025 Homecoming 5K which took place on October 12, 2025. CHHS was the second highest donor of the event.
- During the Summer of 2025, five students from the College traveled to Mombasa, Kenya, for a one-month elective rotation as part of their Physician Assistant (PA) program.
- Occupational Therapy Students and Faculty represented the department at the Fall 2025 Michigan Occupational Therapy Association (MiOTA) Fall Conference with four graduates from the OTD class of 2025 presenting their capstone projects, four current students presenting their faculty-mentored research projects, five OTA students presented their baccalaureate projects, and six OT faculty made professional presentations.
- The Departments and Schools that make up the College continue to be leads in their respective fields. The College houses nine academic programs and two community service agencies. The 2023-2024 Career Outcomes Report states that 97% of College of Health and Human Services graduates working full-time have a job related to their degree.

The Academic Programs include:

- Bronson School of Nursing
- Department of Blindness and Low Vision
- Department of Occupational Therapy
- Department of Physical Therapy

- Department of Physician Assistant
- Department of Speech, Language and Hearing Sciences
- Interdisciplinary Health Sciences PhD
- School of Interdisciplinary Health Sciences
- And School of Social Work
- The Community Service Agencies include:
  - The Unified Clinics
  - The Center for Disability Services

## **ACTIVITIES OF THE WMU BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

Over the past half year, the WMU Board of Trustees made the following New and Renewed Administrative Appointments:

- Peter Gustafson; Chair; Department of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering; effective August 15, 2025, through June 30, 2028.
- Anthony Helms; Assistant Dean; Lee Honors College; effective July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2030.
- Nancy Hock; Chair; Department of Occupational Therapy; effective July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2028.
- Neale Chumbler, Associate Dean, College of Health and Human Services; effective September 2025 through June 30, 2030.
- Megan Kowalske, Chair, Department of Chemistry' effective July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2025.
- Adriane Little; Director; Gwen Frostic School of Art; effective July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026.
- Irma Lopez; Dean; Lee Honors College; effective July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2030.
- Bianca Nightengale-Lee; Interim Chair; Department of Teaching, Learning, and Educational Studies; effective August 11, 2025, through June 30, 2026.
- Heather Petcovic, Chair, Department of Geological and Environmental Sciences; effective July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2029.
- Brandy Pleasants; Director; Mallinson Institute for Science Education; effective July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2028.
- Phillip Repp, Director, Rishman Institute for Design and Innovation; effective January 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027.
- Lisa Singleterry; Director; Bronson School of Nursing; effective July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026.

Additional news from WMU can be found in “W Magazine” at [wmich.edu/magazine](http://wmich.edu/magazine) and at [wmich.edu/wmutoday](http://wmich.edu/wmutoday).

**The Emeriti Council honors the memory of the following individuals:**

- Robert (Bob) Balik, October 27, 2025; Professor of Finance at WMU Hayworth College of Business.
- Robert (Bob) Beam: November 7, 2025; WMU alumnus and Vice President for Business and Finance, and member of the WMU Foundation Board Committee of Directors, Board of Directors, and Investment Committee, and the Irving S. Gilmore Foundation.
- Cordier, Mary Ellen, July 25, 2025; Department of Teaching, Learning, and Leadership, College of Education.
- Timothy (Tim) Light: December 19, 2025; professor of religion and Provost/ Vice president for Academic Affairs. He was Instrumental in bringing a Center for Chinese Studies to Western Michigan University. He also held administrative positions at Kalamazoo College and Middlebury College. Timothy Light and his wife Joy established the Kalamazoo Institute of Art Joy Light Gallery of Asian Art in 2007, and the Joy Light East Asian Art Acquisition and Exhibition Fund in 2010. He was an engaged and generous member of the Kalamazoo Community for many decades.
- Robert H. Poel, August 4, 2025; Professor Emeritus, Mallison Institute for Science Education.
- Andy Robins, December 3, 2025; WMU News Director
- Gary Wegenke: August 30, 2025; Dean of the College of Education and Human Development.

## WE NEED YOU

There are several ways in which emeriti can contribute to the work of the Emeriti Council and support WMU and its students. Emeriti can contribute financially to the Emeriti Medallion and Textbook Scholarships, and offer a presentation for one of the Wednesday II events.

The Council welcomes new members and individuals to help support communications, organize social events, and/or contribute to the general functioning of the Emeriti Council.

For more information on how you can contribute, please contact an Emeriti Council member. As Emeriti Council chair I can be reached at [Mary.Lagerwey@wmich.edu](mailto: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](http://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