

JMU Emeriti Association

Fall 2013
Volume 8, Issue 1

INSIDE

From the President's Desk...

Our 2013/14 Emeriti Association year is off to a great start. Our annual kick-off picnic at the University Farm was a smashing success. We had over 70 in attendance and our plan to have the event catered turned out to be a winner. From all accounts, everyone had a grand time reconnecting after a summer filled with travel and fun.

The Annual Fall Luncheon at the Buckhorn Inn went very well with over 35 in attendance. The fall foliage in full color, made our trip memorable. Chair Margaret Horn and Sherry King worked hard to make sure that this was another stellar event, so I thank them both for their efforts.

Your Board of Directors is working hard to make sure that this year is filled with interesting and enjoyable events and activities. Our Interest Group Coordinators, under the direction of Mary Lou Wylie, are continuing to make sure that monthly gatherings are planned and available to everyone who wishes to partici-

pate. I encourage you to look over our list of Interest Groups and give them a try. You will find that they are great opportunities to socialize and, perhaps, to explore interesting topics that you had not thought of before.

As our year progresses, I want to acknowledge the hard work of your board and committee chairs. In addition, I want to recognize the outstanding support that the Emeriti Association receives from JMU, especially Steve Smith, Sherry King, Tracey Kite, and Deborah Centers. Without the wonderful support from the Office of Parent and Emeriti Relations our program would be much smaller and significantly less effective.

I am looking forward to another great year, as I know you are as well. Elsewhere in this Newsletter you will find dates and times for activities that you will want to put on your calendar. Great seeing you at the Buckhorn Inn and looking forward to many more events throughout the coming year.

Rex Fuller

President
JMU Emeriti Association



Faculty Emeriti Reception – March 13, 2013 Inauguration event honoring President Jonathan R. Alger

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'Nine-tenths of education is encouragement.'
- ANATOLE FRANCE

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Vice-President - Violet Allain
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Group Coordinators:

Book Club – John Stone
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Dinner – Arnie Kahn
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Movie Group – Barbara McKee
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TGIF Wine – Mary Lou Wylie
wylieml@jmu.edu

Beer and Hard Cider – TBD

Interest Group Report

The Emeriti Association has a number of active interest groups with robust membership. These groups provide an informal atmosphere for emeriti faculty to gather and socialize. If you are interested in any of these groups, you can contact the organizer, listed in the left margin of this page, or Mary Lou Wylie (wylieml@jmu.edu) for additional information. Also, contact Mary Lou if you have an idea for a new interest group. We're always on the lookout for interesting and exciting ideas!

Breakfast Group – meets the second Wednesday of each month at 9:00 a.m. at Bob Evans Restaurant. Spouses, partners, and guests are always welcome.

Lunch Group – meets monthly (except in August and December) at 11:30 at a local restaurant. We rotate through the weekdays to accommodate members who have obligations on particular days. In the four years we've been lunching, we've gone to 29 different restaurants, none of which were national chains. We generally have around 15 members in attendance, and you can always count on a lively discussion of local events, members' recent travels, and sometimes even their grandkids' accomplishments! Spouses, partners, and guests are always welcome.

Dinner Group – meets monthly with the usual exception of August and December. Attendance has been quite good recently and we may need to be creative about suitable locations in the future.

Emeriti Book Club – meets

monthly in members' homes. We vary our meeting dates and times in an attempt to accommodate members' schedules. Our choice of books is eclectic and includes a balance of fiction and nonfiction. If interested please contact John Stone, stonejd@jmu.edu.

Movie Group – is a loosely structured group of movie buffs who enjoy getting together with friends to go to the movies and perhaps dinner afterwards.

Emeriti Friends Group – is available to provide assistance to any members needing help with transportation, meals, etc. If you would like some kind of assistance or if you would like to be on the list to help provide assistance, please contact Mary Lou Wylie.

TGIF Wine Group – continues to gather once a month to enjoy wine, food, and conversation. If you are interested in joining us, please contact Mary Lou Wylie.

!!New Interest Group Alert!!

We are trying to start a Beer and Hard Cider Tasting group in our Association. The plans can be worked out as the group forms, but the current idea is for the group to meet every other month reflecting some sort of theme. Possible themes are Virginia beers, lagers and stouts, Belgian beers, beers from a specific brewery, pale ales and wheat beers, a tour and tasting at Three Brothers Brewery, a tour and tasting at Old Hill Cider, etc.

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Welcome, New Emeriti!

Congratulations to the new JMU emeriti, class of 2013. They are:

- Dr. Craig E. Abrahamson, Psychology
- Dr. Paul E. Bierly III, Management
- Dr. Timothy J. Carter, Sociology and Anthropology
- Dr. John R. Gentile, Integrated Science and Technology
- Mr. Roger A. Hall, Theatre and Dance
- James B. Hammond, Health Sciences
- Dr. John S. Hilliard, Music
- Ms. Sue L. Hutchinson, Early, Elementary and Reading Education
- Dr. Jon E. Kastendiek, Biology
- Ms. Judy B. Kidd, Mathematics and Statistics
- Dr. Joseph H. Marchal, Integrated Science and Technology
- Dr. Ann Myers, Social Work
- Ms. Claudia O'Neill, Nursing
- Dr. Judith T. Rocchiccioli, Nursing
- Dr. Barbara S. Stern, Middle, Secondary, and Mathematics Education
- Ms. Kathy Thompson, Graduate School

Event Highlights

March 13: Inauguration: Faculty Emeriti Reception honoring President Jonathan R. Alger held at the JMU Carrier Library. Program included remarks from the President and a special presentation of James Madison and Harrisonburg City coins to Mr. Alger on behalf of the Emeriti Association. Wonderful event with over 80 in attendance.



April 17: Luncheon at the Frontier Culture Museum. Program included a presentation on the history of the museum presented by JMU alum and Deputy Director of the Frontier Culture Museum, Eric Bryan. JMU's Dining Services provided a beautiful and delicious organic menu. Great event with over 40 in attendance.



August 22: Emeriti Association annual picnic at the university farm. Beautiful weather, delicious food provided by JMU's Dining Services, and an overall great event with over 70 in attendance.



October 17: Fall luncheon at the Buckhorn Inn and a beautiful drive through Stribling Spring with historical recollections provided by Margaret Horn. Very nice event with almost 40 in attendance.



Member News & Notes



Many of our members are actively involved in volunteer efforts throughout the community. For example, several members teach in the Life-Long-Learning Institute, volunteer hours are given to nursing homes, the JMU Arboretum, The Museum of American Frontier Culture, Rockingham Memorial Hospital and many other organizations important to our community.

Where have you been? Where are you going? What have you written, painted, composed or created? What have you been doing? Take a moment to send your good news to the editor, Tracey Kite, Assistant Director of Parent and Emeriti Relations, at kitetl@jmu.edu for inclusion in the next edition of the newsletter.

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Emeriti Association Legacy Grant



Dr. Rex Fuller, President of the JMU Emeriti Association and Dr. Bill Wood, 2013 Legacy Grant Recipient

Beginning in 2006, the Emeriti Association has awarded an annual grant to a JMU faculty member. When established, the grant was unanimously supported by the association's members and the grant rotates each year to a different JMU division. The dean of the selected division nominates a full-time tenured faculty member who does not hold an endowed chair or a funded professorship to receive the grant. Recommended uses of the grant are research, creative projects, travel related to professional development, enhancement of teaching, additional education, or other professional expenses. Past recipients have been Professor Newell Wright, Marketing (2006); Professor Raymond "Skip" Hyser, History (2007);

Professor Teresa Harris, Early Childhood Education (2008); Professor Ann Myers, Social Work (2009); Professor Hassan Hamdan, Mathematics and Statistics Department (2010); Associate Professor Don Rierison, Music Department (2011); Professor Scott Hammond, Political Science Department (2012); and Professor William (Bill) Wood, Economics (2013).

The Legacy Grant is supported by contributions made by association members and gifts are tax deductible. For more information about contributions to the grant contact Treasurer Joe Hollis (hollisje@jmu.edu or 434-7030).



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Interest Group Report *Continued*

For an initial gathering, we will meet at Mary Lou Wylie's home on Friday, November 1st, 4:30-6:00. For a theme, we will taste beers from a brewery that many of you might not have tasted yet, because it just started distribution in Virginia about two months ago. Boulevard Brewery is located in Kansas City and has developed several styles of beer that get excellent evaluations from beer groups. Various styles of Boulevard beer are available at several places in Harrisonburg, such as Kroger, Martin's, Downtown Market, and Downtown Wine and Gourmet.

Each person should bring three bottles of Boulevard beer or some kind of hard cider. We will have cups available so everyone can taste every style of beer and cider. Some simple snacks, such as nuts, chips and dips will be provided.

At this first gathering, we will also find someone to volunteer to organize the group.

If you would like to attend, please contact Mary Lou by Friday, October 25th, ([wylie@jmu.edu](mailto:wylieml@jmu.edu)). If you are interested in being on the list for this group but are not able to attend this first gathering, let Mary Lou know. She will send some beer information with a focus on styles of beer and the differences among them (including a copy of the beeriodic table) to those who want to participate in the beer and hard cider group.

Professor-in-Residence

Do you want to join JMU faculty visit one of our 13 professor-in-residence (PIR) schools? The program is a JMU outreach aimed at assisting underserved schools to prepare students to think about post-secondary education. These schools can use your occasional presentations on AP subjects, or faculty assistance in subject areas. JMU provides the transportation. If interested or want to know more about the PIR program, please contact David Owusu-Ansah at owusuadx@jmu.edu.

In Memoriam

- Paul Bierly III, Professor Emeritus of Management
- John Bilon, Director Emeritus, Hotel and Restaurant Management Program; Professor Emeritus of Management and Marketing
- John Cryder, Professor Emeritus of Music
- David Holt, spouse of Judy Holt
- Dorothy E. Pomraning, Associate Professor Emerita of Family and Gerontology
- George Wynn, Associate Professor Emeritus of Marketing

Mark Your Calendars...

- Dec. 12, 2013 Holiday Gala, JMU

In order to keep this information as accurate as possible, please e-mail to kingsf@jmu.edu those names of faculty who pass away.



Virginia
Retirement
System

Unfunded Liabilities

Phil Riley, a member of our Emeriti Association, has been in recent email contact with Robert Schultze, Director of the Virginia Retirement System, who warns that the Virginia Retirement System faces unfunded liabilities of \$28.14 billion.

“The primary causes of these liabilities,” according to Schultze, “are twofold: the inability of the Virginia General Assembly to maintain regular and sufficient contributions into the fund each year and two major recessions since 2000 that reduced the value of VRS investments. While the latter has recovered, the former is subject to a plan adopted by the General Assembly whereby contributions to the fund will gradually increase until July 1, 2018, whereupon the General Assembly has pledged that it will fully fund annual contributions recommended by the VRS Board of Trustees and its consulting actuary.”

To remedy unfunded liabilities, Schultze notes that “the General Assembly has made a number of revisions to the pension plan design that will reduce pension benefits for future retirees including:

1. Increased the age and service requirements so that members will have to work longer in order to achieve a full retirement benefit
2. Imposed a 5% member contribution for all state and local employees in the plan
3. Reduced the COLA formula for future retirees
4. Introduced a new hybrid plan for state and local employees hired on or after 1/1/14

These cost savings initiatives will take 8-10 years to generate substantial savings as new generations of state and local employees come under their provisions. We think that, so long as the General Assembly sticks with the long-term plan as outlined above, the unfunded liabilities will be gradually reduced to comfortable levels,” concludes Schultze.

Phil encourages emeriti faculty to keep a watchful eye on the General Assembly’s contributions to VRS, so that emeriti faculty can ensure that our elected representatives keep to the long term plan Schultze outlines. Thanks to Phil for this important VRS financial update.