



Faculty Emeriti  
Association

# Faculty Emeriti Association **NEWSLETTER**

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# From the President's Desk

**By Kay Knickrehm, President,  
Faculty Emeriti Association**

Hello Everyone,

I feel compelled to note from the outset that I can think of absolutely nothing to say in this newsletter. Clearly, I am a very limited person as I have used up all my ideas in previous editions.

Having nothing else to say, I have decided to give unsolicited advice to all the new retirees. Everyone else can just stop reading.

First, stop worrying about money. Let's be real. Working for a public university means you never had any money to speak of. You are used to it. You will be surprised at how well you will get by in retirement. Everyone I have known (including myself) has worried about whether they will have enough money in retirement, and yet, everyone has done just fine. I am pretty sure you don't really need any new things. Your heirs will not want what you have now! Collect experiences instead.

And speaking of experiences, travel now. Travel as much as you can for as long as you are able. Build those memories. You won't regret



it. Even if you have a disaster or two, it will give you fodder for scintillating conversation at one of our gatherings.

Take up a new hobby or interest. See the News and Events section of this newsletter about finding your inner artist in your old age.

Nap.

Become an active member of the FEA. I promise you that all those people that you found incredibly irritating and boring at work meetings, become both charming and fascinating once you each have a glass of wine in your hand. And unlike whose meetings, you can always walk away.

Nap some more.

Finally, I would like to offer you an incredible, once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. We will be holding elections in the spring and we will be seeking someone to nominate for vice-president. It could be you! Slip me a note expressing your interest and I will see that you are not disappointed.

I hope everyone has a wonderful holiday season and that I see a record number of you at the Christmas gala event.

Kay Knickrehm  
President, Faculty Emeriti Association



# News, Events, and Opportunities

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## **2025 Legacy Grant Recipient Presented by FEA president, Kay Knickrehm**

The Legacy Award (\$5,000) has been awarded to a full-time tenured faculty member every year since 2004. The award rotates among the colleges and the recipient is chosen by the Deans. Half of the award is provided by the FEA Legacy Grant Foundation Account and half is provided by the Office of the President.

This year the grant is awarded to **Corinne Diop**. Corinne is Professor of Art, Photography Area Head, and Graduate Director of Studio Art in the School of Art, Design, and Art History. She teaches traditional darkroom processes as well as digital and new media, theory, and professional practices from first year introductory classes to graduate level.

Her most recent solo exhibitions were at Emory & Henry University and Beverly Street Studio School in Staunton, with her work also included in group shows in Los Angeles, Brooklyn, Chapel Hill, NC and several cities in Virginia.



**FEA president, Kay Knickrehm, and Provost Bob Kolvoord present Corinne Diop with FEA Legacy Grant Award.**

## **Mandatory Security Training**

All members of the Faculty Emeriti Association are affiliates of JMU. As such we must complete the mandatory security training by December 19, 2025. If you fail to do this you may lose your email and other privileges. The training takes about 20 minutes and is relatively painless.

## **Trip to Virginia Museum of Fine Arts**

December 4 we had a trip planned to Richmond to see the special exhibition "Giants: Art from the Dean Collection of Swizz Beatz and Alicia Keys," which featured notable African American artists at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts. The museum also hosted a holiday craft show, so you could do all your holiday shopping at the same time.

## **Christmas Gala Luncheon**

The Christmas Gala Luncheon was held on December 10. As always, there was good food, good conversations, and plenty of time to socialize. Guests also enjoyed a festive holiday sing-along ensemble performed by a group of undergraduate music students, adding a joyful touch to the celebration.

## **Volunteer Opportunity with Admissions**

The JMU Admissions Office is looking for volunteers to help meet prospective students and their parents at the Choices Events. Online training is provided. They need people to greet families, give directions, and answer

questions about JMU. Given our history with the university, we make ideal helpers.

If you would like to volunteer, email Ashely Lindquist at [choices@jmu.edu](mailto:choices@jmu.edu)

## **Travel, Eat and Drink with Tassie Pippert**

Tassie Pippert, a member of our group, will be leading a food and wine trip to Portugal September 3-13, 2026. The group will taste wines, visit vineyards, tour amazing places, and enjoy a Portuguese cooking class.

Tassie partners with EF Go Ahead Tours, a company she has trusted for many years. The trip price includes excellent hotels and economy airfare, with the option to upgrade to Business Class.

Questions? Email Tassie at [pippertl@jmu.edu](mailto:pippertl@jmu.edu).

*Space is limited to 20 travelers, so reserve your spot soon!*



# JMU Faculty Emeriti Interest Groups

*By Martha Ross, Interest Group Coordinator, Faculty Emeriti Association*

## Why Should You Join an FEA Interest Group?

Many of our members are involved in one or more small groups that focus on a particular activity. When asked why members felt that their interest group was fun, interesting or important, some of the answers are below. The whole list of interest groups can be found on the [FEA website](#).

### Film and Play Interest Group

(Violet Allain [allainvl@jmu.edu](mailto:allainvl@jmu.edu))

People like movies whether the film takes us to foreign places, future worlds, our own community, or gives us experiences we could never do first hand. Movies transport us as we enter a different place. It may be the English country side in Downton Abbey or the land of Oz in Wicked.

With the opportunity of enjoying a meal with fellow movie goers, the film and play interest group can deepen our understanding of the film we saw together and savor the company of our colleagues.

### Friends of Emeriti Interest Group

(Violet Allain [allain@jmu.edu](mailto:allain@jmu.edu))

Our group of Emeriti members meet the needs of other members. Giving rides,

making a meal, and helping to comfort fellow members gives us the opportunity to serve others and connect with our colleagues.

### Beer and Cider Club

(Deane Geier at [singerg.123@gmail.com](mailto:singerg.123@gmail.com))

The thing we like about the Beer and Cider group is the informality. There is no hosting in your home so all are equal participants.

- The venues are local and easily accessible.
- The individuals have fascinating life experiences and wide-ranging interests.
- Who could ask for a better faculty committee in the service category?
- There are often themes that add to the fun of getting together.
- Locations often have full bars (no judgements for non-beer or cider orders) and dining.
- The group is fun and irreverent (in the best sense).

If you're interested in an informal, congenial fun group, contact Deane and you'll be added to the list to receive notices!

### The Bridge Group

(Kay Knickrehm [knickrkm@jmu.edu](mailto:knickrkm@jmu.edu))

This group is both therapeutic and lots

of fun. It is therapeutic because it will exercise your brain, keeping you sharp. It's fun because: 1. Bridge is a fun game, 2. The bridge group is made up of fun people. We laugh a lot! Sometimes a group at one table will say to the other "Stop having so much fun over there!" 3. We are kind. We don't care if you screw up and no one minds going down. I have in all honesty never heard a cross word.

So please join us! If you need to refresh your bridge knowledge or if you would like to learn, Kay can give you the link to an online tutorial.

### The Whiskey Appreciation Group

(Steve Smith [smith3cs@jmu.edu](mailto:smith3cs@jmu.edu))

WAGS truly enjoy each other's company over a spirited beverage. Since its inception, we have been to regional distilleries in Virginia and have had a number of events hosted by members of the group. Generally, when we meet in homes, we have members bring a favorite bottle to share and have seen some quite interesting entries! We find that our group prefers to locate at the homes of members with an occasional trip to a distillery.

Anyone with an interest in whiskey - or any spirited beverage for that matter - are most welcome to join us. Please send your email address to Steve.



## Spanish Conversation Group

(Elizabeth Ihle elizaihle@gmail.com )

This group of intermediate and advanced Spanish speakers meets mainly at 11 am on Mondays via Zoom for conversation on a preselected topic (my first car, for example) or to hear a special presentation by a member. We help each other improve our language skills while enjoying friendship. Our local group occasionally meets in person at a restaurant or winery. Contact Elizabeth Ihle for more information.

## The Book Club

(Mary Atkins maryatkins149@gmail.com )

I love to read because it is such an enriching and enlightening activity. However, reading fine fiction and nonfiction is essentially a solitary process. The JMU Emeriti Book Club is a wonderful way for us to come together and transform reading into a communal experience.

## The Wine Group

(Janet Gloeckner gloeckw@jmu.edu )

You should join us at the monthly wine socials, held in members' homes, if you want to have a very enjoyable early Friday evening. We meet on the fourth Friday of most months from 4:30 to 6:00 pm. You can interact with many of your fellow emeriti faculty (usually about 45) and try different wines brought by the guests. We also have a variety of finger foods available to complement your wine choice(s). We even welcome nondrinkers who want to come for the comradery and snacks!



## The River City Dukes

(Mary Lou Wylie wylieml@jmu.edu)

The group is trying to get organized so Emeriti Faculty who live in the Richmond area can get together. New participants who would like to engage should contact Mary Lou.

## Field Trip Notes

With administrative changes at the Kennedy Center, we're looking for suggestions for other performance spaces.

If you have ideas, please let me know (elizaihle@gmail.com).

In our recent trip to the VMFA, we visited a special collection of Black art that opened there in late November. You may have noticed on our invitation (which was mailed separately from this newsletter) the two giant paintings by Kehinde Wiley, which were even more spectacular in person. Wiley created President Obama's presidential portrait and the new equestrian statue in front of the VMFA.

There was always plenty to see at the VMFA, though some exhibits were in storage as the museum continued its expansion. There was also a Holiday Bazaar selling decorations and gifts.

## New Members

**Geary Albright.** Physics and Astronomy

**Shelley Aley.** School of Writing, Rhetoric & Technical Communication

**Molly Brown.** College of Business Associate Dean

**Carey Cole.** Computer Information Systems and Business Analytics

**Cheryl Duncan.** Scholarly Resources and Discovery Libraries

**Dr. William Evans.** Psychology

**Frances Flannery.** Religion and Philosophy

**Scott Gallagher.** College of Business Management

**Bob Golson.** University Recreation Center

**John T. Haynes.** Geology and Environmental Science

**James Herrick.** Biology

**James Jewett.** Computer Information Systems and Business Analytics

**Helmut Kraenzle.** Geographic Science

**Val Larsen.** College of Business Marketing

**Rick Larson.** Administration and Finance; Human Resources

**Eric Maslen.** Information Science and Technology

**Sharon Mazzarella.** Communication Studies

**Maria Papadakis.** Information Science and Technology; Environmental Sustainability

**Elizabeth Pass.** School of Writing, Rhetoric & Technical Communication

**Christopher Rose.** Biology

**Scott Stevens.** Computer Information Systems and Business Analytics

**Anne Stewart.** Graduate Psychology

**Michael Stolloff.** Psychology

**James Zimmerman.** School of Writing, Rhetoric & Technical Communication

## In Memoriam

**We are saddened to have lost the following Faculty Emeriti Association and retired faculty/staff members since the last newsletter:**

**Jerry Coulter**, Professor Emeritus of Art, passed away on November 20, 2025 in Harrisonburg at the age of 89. Jerry came to JMU in 1966 as an Associate Professor of Art to develop the painting program; 10 years later, he was honored to become the youngest full professor of art at the University. He was a Madison Scholar, served in the JMU Senate, and helped establish the MA and MFA degrees in studio art for which he served as chair until he retired in 2000, when he became the first President of the newly formed Faculty Emeriti Association. Jerry was a well-known artist with worked in private and public collections, and in addition to painting, he had many talents in a variety of artistic disciplines, including charcoal drawing, etching and sculpture.

**Robert "Bob" Vanderwarker, Jr.**, former head coach of the JMU's men's soccer program, passed away on Monday, November 17 in Harrisonburg at the age of 89. Bob started at JMU in 1970, coached men's soccer through 1987 and continued teaching Kinesiology and Physical Education at JMU until his 2001 retirement. He was inducted into the JMU Athletic Hall of Fame a year following his retirement.

**Dr. David Stringham**. Dr. Stringham came to JMU in 2010, where he was on the Music Education faculty, and was the Dean of SUNY Fredonia School of Music since 2023. During his time at JMU, he taught the JMU Jazz Band, served as a pianist/conductor for musicals, and taught classes in music education, music

technology, and research. He served as the Executive Director of the Office of Creative Propulsion. David passed away on November 10, 2025 at the age of 44.

**Dr. Inez L. Ramsey** died on August 13, 2025 in Las Vegas NV at the age of 87. Dr. Ramsey came to the JMU faculty in 1975 and retired in 1998. She served JMU as Professor of Library Science and Secondary Education, focusing on Special Collections and Oral History. Her deceased husband, Dr. Jackson Ramsey, was also on the JMU Faculty.

**Dr. Vernon C. Mechtensimer**, 84, passed away on August 5, 2025 in his hometown of Summerville SC. Dr. Mechtensimer earned his Ph.D. in Political Science and shared that knowledge as an educator at JMU. Later, he built a successful career as a CPA in Charlottesville, where he worked for 20 years.

**Lt. Colonel Clyde Long, Jr.** passed away on August 1, 2025 in New Mexico at the age of 76. Long had a distinguished military career, having served in the US Army for 21 years. He is a former Professor of Military Science at JMU.

**Dr. Steven Rollman**, Professor Emeritus of Communication Studies passed away on July 31, 2025 in Harrisonburg at the age of 77. Steven served on the Board of Directors of the Faculty Emeriti Association.

**Dr. Raymond Serway**, 89, passed away on July 25, 2025, at his home in Ashburn, VA. In 1980, Dr. Serway joined JMU as Professor of Physics and Head of the Physics Department. He remained at

JMU until his retirement in 1997. He was recognized with the Madison Scholar Award in 1990, and in 1996, Dr. Serway established an endowment scholarship at JMU.

**Bob Holton**, 76, passed away on June 14, 2025. Bob was an adjunct member of the JMU faculty for 23 years and was employed by the Town of Bridgewater VA—primarily as the Town Manager—for 46 years.

**Tom Nardi**, long time JMU employee, passed away on June 11, 2025. Tom served as the Director of Career Planning and Placement, then later as the Director of Scholarships in the JMU Financial Aid Office. Tom was 83 and worked at JMU for over 30 years.

Dr. Ricky A. Crawley, age 65, died on March 19, 2025 in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. He received his Bachelor in Music Education from JMU in 1982 and was formerly the Assistant to the Head of the JMU Music Department. After leaving JMU, he taught in the Music Department at South Dakota State University.

**Condolences are extended to the families of all of our departed Faculty Emeriti and retired faculty/staff.**



# Member Spotlight

This space is to note current activities of our members and also serves as a space for members to honor one another. We invite all of you to submit your own news or information recognizing the activities and achievements of others.

## FEA Helps First Generation Students

Emeriti faculty answered the call for assistance to first generation students. Every fall, Student Affairs hosts a Bingo Night for incoming first generation students. Many of these students come to the university with very little. The bingo night enables them to win useful items such as toiletries, shelf-stable food, gift cards and pillows. The wine social group responded enthusiastically to a request to bring to the August gathering items from a prepared list. The gifts filled Janet Gloeckner's car completely. Other members of the FEA made cash donations. Thank you to all who participated. Your generosity was greatly appreciated.



## Travel While You Can

We invite you to submit short articles about your travels so that we can all live vicariously. Please add pictures.

### Rich Harris and Karen Ford's European Adventure

Rich Harris and Karen Ford traveled through Europe this September. They flew into Vienna and enjoyed that

beautiful city for 4 days. They then bicycled 200 miles through Austria, Slovakia and Hungary along the Danube River to Budapest where they enjoyed another 4 days. Karen then flew to Denmark to spend a week with Else Neergaard and family who she hired as an international camp counselor in 1976. Rich flew to Sardinia, Italy where he joined his friend Larry Vitez who he met as a freshman at Madison College in 1973.



They and 12 others bicycled the length of the island and kayaked for an additional day. Karen and Rich reunited in the Netherlands where they spent a week with Wijnand Jongen and family who Rich hired as an international camp counselor in 1982. The last night of the trip was celebrated at a dinner party with 20 Dutch friends they met over the 40 years of traveling there.

## Finding Your Inner Artist at a Later Point in Life

A number of our members have been finding (or at least searching for) their long dormant inner artist at the Friendly City Clay and Art Center in Harrisonburg.

The FCAC offers classes in everything from ceramics, water color painting, mosaics, drawing, lithography, and even stone cutting at their studio on Route 42 in Harrisonburg. Classes range from one day workshops to six to eight week classes. Doug Skelley, Kay Knickrehm, Mary Lou McMillan and Fred Copithorn are all members working in clay. Robin Teske has participated in workshops. If you are interested in exploring your own creative urges, you can visit their website at [friendlycityclay.com](http://friendlycityclay.com). Oh and lest I forget, there are occasional "Wine and Wheel Nights". You can try your hand at throwing while drinking wine!



## Dave Pruett and the Appalachian Trail

Dave Pruett has written a book on his adventures hiking the Appalachian Trail. He held a book signing at the Hotel Madison on Friday, November 7.

You can learn more about his book [here!](#)

# Member Spotlight

## Veterans Poetry Workshop with Dr. Bill "MacGregor" Kimsey

James Madison University hosted a special Veterans Poetry Workshop led by Dr. Bill "MacGregor" Kimsey—military dependent, father of two combat veterans, and an educator with global experience.



With a background in political communication and years of teaching at VMI and JMU, Dr. Kimsey brought a deep understanding of the veteran experience and the power of personal storytelling.

The supportive workshop invited veterans to explore creative expression, craft poetry from their lived experiences, and share their stories in a safe, understanding environment.

## Environmental Evidence from the Sky: Spotlight on Glen Gustafson

When Glen Gustafson first trained in aerial interpretation with the U.S. Air Force in the 1960s, he expected a four-year enlistment—not a lifelong career. His work has since spanned military intelligence, teaching, and the founding of Environmental Image Group, Inc., where he now applies aerial imagery to environmental law cases.

Gustafson witnessed the field evolve from film photography and micro-stereoscopes to today's high-resolution digital imagery. When film processing



Glen Gustafson doing Catalina Conservancy GPS Fieldwork.

disappeared in the early 2000s, he devised a low-cost method to recreate the critical 3D stereo effect digitally, allowing interpreters to see detail comparable to the original film. Digital tools also opened new possibilities for enhancing clarity and extracting information once hidden in shadows.

Today, Gustafson uses aerial evidence to help resolve legal disputes involving polluted industrial sites, often long after facilities have closed. His analysis can determine when damage occurred, who is responsible, and the scale of cleanup required—often influencing significant settlements. While AI can assist with routine tasks, he believes true interpretation still relies on human judgment and intuition. Alongside his professional work, Gustafson spent nearly 30 years teaching at a Virginia research university, encouraging students to pair aerial interpretation with fields like geology or engineering.



### Environmental Image Group, Inc.

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Now, more than 50 years into his career, he remains active, providing expert testimony and continuing to show how images from above can reveal the story—and impact—of human activity on the ground.



Glen Gustafson engaged in refinery environmental fieldwork.

Read Glen's full story on [USA Today](#).

## Parking Reminder

Emeriti Faculty enjoy the free parking privilege. This privilege is not to be shared or loaned to family members or friends. Unauthorized use may result in loss of privilege for everyone.

## JMU E-Mail Account Reminder

JMU willingly grants on-going access to email with the expectation that Faculty Emeriti will follow university policy and ensure the security of the account – including making sure you have a current strong password. Please keep your password active by changing it every 90 days. Access is removed after 12 months of inactivity, and Faculty Emeriti should not assume that it will be reinstated if it lapses. If the reason is good and IT reinstates the account, IT will only do so one time. Please do not let your JMU email account lapse.