

SU Emeritus Faculty Newsletter, Volume 2, April 2021

Welcome to the second edition of the SU Emeritus Faculty Newsletter! The purpose of the Emeritus Faculty Newsletter is four-fold:

1. To facilitate on-going connection and support among emeritus faculty.
2. To inform emeritus faculty and those nearing retirement about Southwestern's institutional priorities, decisions, and policies, particularly those that affect retirement.
3. To actively involve retired faculty in events (whether virtual or in person) at the university. This includes celebrations in which individual emeritus faculty members may host events, such as Homecoming and Charter Day.
4. To keep emeritus faculty informed about the calendar of the university, thus facilitating their involvement in the historical traditions of the university. The recent virtual Candlelight Service (12/3/2020), which dates back to 1915, is a fine example of this.

USEFUL LINKS

Here are some links that we think may be helpful to emeritus faculty.

Coronavirus facts:

<https://www.aarp.org/health/conditions-treatments/info-2020/coronavirus-facts.html>

Weblink to the current SU retirement benefits provider:

<https://my.viabenefits.com/southwestern>

Please send us links that you think would be helpful to your fellow Emeritus faculty members.

DID YOU KNOW? (from Mary Young)

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Retirees hired in 1995 or before are eligible for an annual subsidy that can be used for Medicare Part B and certain other health expenses. The subsidy has been frozen at 2018 amounts. It varies by age. For a retiree at 65, it is \$1,778 annually and increases to a maximum of \$2,419 at 72 or over.

It is managed by VIA Benefits so every retiree must have an account with VIA. I have found VIA to be quite helpful in setting up an account, establishing direct deposit and with other questions. It can be time consuming and information should be updated annually.

My source for benefit amounts is an SU memo from HR dated October 5, 2018.

UPCOMING SU EVENTS:

SUnity Day (a one-time celebration of the return to-person on-campus life) Fall (September?)
Actual Date - TBA

President Laura Skandera Trombley Inauguration and Shilling Lecture October 15-16, 2021

PICTURE POSTCARDS FROM EMERITUS FACULTY

This month we have submissions from **Jacquie Muir-Broadus** (the good life), The Bad **Paul Gaffney** (the ‘bad to the bone’ biker), and **Sharon Johnson** (the Snowpocalypse survivor).

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“It’s been three years since I retired, and the time has flown! Although I spent my entire adult life making theater, I’ve comfortably moved on from that work, and am as busy as ever, but now with different things, such as indulging my passions for flying, motorcycling, bicycling and reading all those books that piled up while I was still working. In addition to some fiction, my tastes run to history, biography, and some very basic level reading about DNA. This last interest was sparked by the research my siblings and I are doing into our family history. But most importantly, I’m doing all I can to support my wife, Lois Ferrari, until she (and her motorcycle!) can join me in retirement.” - Paul Gaffney



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Paul, smoothly cruising through retirement, on his 2015 Harley Davidson Heritage Softail bike "Bob". He's on a chilly February "Coco and Cookies ride!" an annual benefit for breast cancer research and recovery. Ride Paul, Ride!



“During the storm, I had several previously unknown (to me) experiences, most significantly a huge ice dam on my roof and a leak in my slab. I am happy to report that after using a very jerry-rigged water system which featured lots of temporary cut-off valves and buckets of water for more than two months, I am now able to wash dishes and clothes, take showers and more in a normal way. All this is due to a reroute of my plumbing – another new concept for me! I am truly more appreciative of the blessing of easily accessible water than I ever was before. Perhaps the most memorable moment of the storm was on the evening of my 80th birthday. Just as my son was preparing my “special” birthday dinner, the power went out, not to return until the next day. And so we dined on a half-cooked meal by candlelight as the inside temperature began to drop – definitely a birthday to remember!”

- Sharon Johnson

Sharon is ‘flushed’ with excitement that after two months her home has running water again! Go with the flow Sharon!

From **Jacquie Muir-Broaddus** we have some Snow-pocolypse wisdom and some nice images.

“Greeting colleagues! Hope you are well and vaccinated. Obviously, someone somewhere must have said “it can’t get any worse”, which only invited our raging pandemic to be taken up a

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notch with Snow-pocalypse. Unlike for many others, I feel fortunate that we had the time, means, and tools to prepare, so our 3 days without power in our all-electric house produced more learning opportunities than suffering. I now know that EVs can safely and efficiently charge devices, that fondue pots can be used to prepare dishes other than fondue, that ski attire works as well indoors as out, that cats who don't have ski attire are happy to share yours, that ice packs (when rotated through snowbanks) can chill one's freezer and not just the the other way around, that I'm not as addicted to coffee as I thought (though I sure did miss it!), and that the old adage "neither rain nor snow nor sleet nor hail" does not apply to mail carriers in Texas. I also learned that going forward, when searching for bee/butterfly friendly yet deer/drought resistant perennials I need to add "freeze resistant" to my criteria, so on that note, if any of you have advice for restoring our newly xeriscapedS yard and gardens to their former xeriscaped selves, I'm all ears!"



This is not what pundits meant when they said that before the next election Texas would experience a 'blue wave'! – view out the back door of Jacquie's house

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Though the ice storm
outside is frightful!

The fondue pot recipe is so
delightful!

So, let's all gather around
the candle's glow

and hope the water pipes
do not blow!



Plants in front of Jacquie's house (left). Attractive fondue survival cuisine (right).

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We want this to be your newsletter! Please share with us your images and stories to share. In addition, we welcome useful links and any topics you think pertinent or helpful. Also, please send us any questions or concerns you may have.

Best wishes for a great holiday season from the Emeritus Faculty Committee!

[John Ore](#)

[Mark Bottorff](#)

[Helene Meyers](#)

[Sharon Johnson](#)

[Mary Young](#)

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