



SOUTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY

SU Emeritus Faculty Newsletter, Volume 4

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

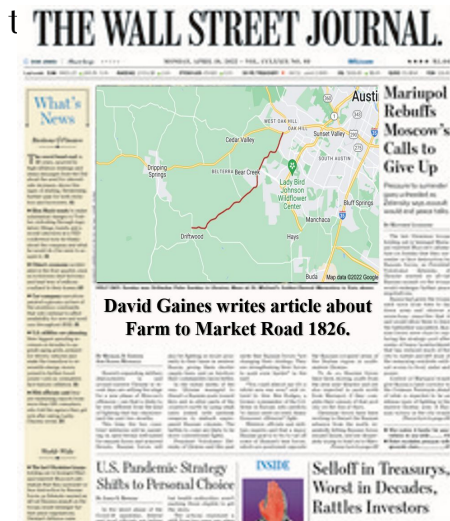
1. To facilitate ongoing connection and support among emeritus faculty.
2. To inform emeritus faculty and those nearing retirement about Southwestern's institutional priorities, decisions, and policies, particularly those that affect retirement.
3. To actively involve retired faculty in events (whether 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.

PICTURES & WISDOM FROM EMERITUS FACULTY This month we have submissions from:

David Gaines, English

"A lot of water under the bridge/A lot of other stuff too" wrote one of my favorite poets. That pretty much captures the nature of my--and, no doubt, many others'--post-retirement adventures so far.

Between the onset of Covid and the invasion of Ukraine, Norma and I (1) moved to Sun City rather than Tucson, Fort Collins, or Santa Fe*; (2) have managed to travel between the metaphorical raindrops to Las Vegas, Southern California, New York, Santa Fe, Cloudcroft, and Tucson: (3) established a standing pizza night with the Veerkamps and a fortnightly rummy game in San Antonio with Norma's 98+ year old father; (4) walk, read, cook, and enjoy our 5:17 p.m. martini after



I did sell an article about Farm to Market Road 1826 to *The Wall Street Journal* and a book review about T.C. Boyle's *Outside Looking In* to *The Austin Chronicle*, as well as winning the Grand Prize in the 2021 North Country Poets competition for "Changing Course," my poem about Bob Dylan, my retirement, and our exterminator Diego recognizing the iconic Milton Glaser poster of Dylan during our quarterly silverfish treatment. The rejection slips for my freelance efforts are stacking up; but I'm pressing on.

Our kids continue to be amazing, hilarious pieces of work (see illustration of them, their partners, our granddaughter, and us this past December in New Mexico below). They are in Cloudcroft, Phoenix, California (but headed to Colorado), and Seattle (but headed to New York City this June in a cross-country drive we are calling "The Reverse Lewis and Clark"), all good places to visit. And our granddaughter with the 1965 Bob Dylan hair (see illustrations from Summer 2021 and November 2021), well...Words fail me.



*“We feel incredibly blessed, send our best to all,
and highly recommend retirement.”*

*Although we scouted out a variety of locales, the price points and family ties made Sun City our best option. We initially thought we were too young and cool for SC. But it turns out that we are neither too young nor as cool as we imagined. "Go figure," as they say on the first tee box and around the pool. Our cottage suits us well, the library is a hidden treasure, we're 45 minutes from the airport, and, one day out by the mailbox, our next door neighbor told me, "Faulkner is the American Joyce." The words of the late, great Debby Ellis come to mind: "You just can't make this s*** up."



The cost of health insurance in retirement can be shocking . . .



. . . especially when you are uninformed. The minimum a person will pay for basic Medicare Part B in 2022 is \$170.10 a month. But if your income exceeds \$91K as an individual, or \$182K as a couple, your premium will jump quite dramatically and tops off at \$580 a month. Also note that this does NOT include the costs of a Medigap supplement, an Advantage plan, dental, vision or prescription drugs. As a simple comparison, an SU faculty member has options for health insurance and prescription drug coverage in 2021–2022 that range from \$0 to \$153 monthly for one person.

Dental varies from \$11 to \$46 per month and vision is offered at \$7. My Medicare cost is \$170, my supplement cost is \$97, my prescription drug cost is \$7, dental coverage is \$48 . . . and I have no vision coverage. The Medicare surcharges use a two year “look back” period. As an example, 2020 tax returns are used for 2022 Medicare premiums. As an example, 2020 tax returns are used for 2022 Medicare premiums. It is very important to be aware of IRMMA (Income Related Monthly Adjustment Amount) in planning for Medicare costs. Financial events such as the sale of a house or rental property, withdrawals from an IRA or conversion to a Roth, or just continuing to earn a good salary may all impact Medicare and taxes. *“I have found it to be helpful to work with an independent Medicare advisor as well as with VIA Benefits (the company that SU contracts with to manage retiree health care benefits).”*

Since I retired from SU, I have been fortunate to enjoy traveling extensively pre-COVID. I have been to Africa three times, made five trips to Asia, three to South America, one to Iceland and to Europe too many times to count. I have also camped around the US. The picture to the right was taken in Tren Crucero in the Andes in Ecuador.



Mary's Fun Facts: In December of 2016, I moved back to Georgetown from my ranch in Lexington, and I have continued to work and volunteer as a dog trainer.



During COVID, I gathered with Facebook friends and family to share cooking ideas. I focus mostly on healthy affordable recipes that I have tested and adapted.



I have enjoyed serving on this Committee and hope that some other colleagues will join.

- Mary Young

DID YOU KNOW?

This Committee will be looking for NEW members. There are 2 positions for retired faculty, preferably for those who are in the Georgetown area. It's a great way to help others and requires very few hours. Please let one of the current members know if you would be interested in assuming one of these positions in the future. Our emails are at the end of the Newsletter.

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT ...



Dr. Laura S. Trombley, President of Southwestern University, wrote a letter to the faculty about an article she wrote on the Williamson County Confederate Statue. You can find her [letter to the Southwestern faculty here](#). You can find her [essay on the Williamson County Confederate Statue here](#). *Note: A condensed version of the essay appeared in the February 16, 2022 issue of The Williamson County Sun.*

Guess who's retiring!!

SOUTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY
Faculty and Staff Retirement Event

Thursday April 28, 2022 4 p.m.-6:30 p.m.
Program will begin at 4:30 p.m.
Julie Puett Howry Center

Please join us to honor the following Faculty and Staff Retirees:

2019/2020	2020/2021	2021/2022
David Gaines English	Sherry Adrian Education	Idolina Cabral Facilities
Irene Gallegos Facilities	Patty Casady President's Office	Bill Christensen Language Media Services
Hal Haskell Classics	Anita Drake Facilities	Randy Damron Facilities
Jingwen Ma Chemistry	Carol Fonken Library Center	Lois Ferrari Music
Glada Munt Athletics	Kathleen Juhl Theatre	Phil Hopkins Philosophy
Judy Offield Business Office	Stephen Marble Education	Terri Johnson Student Life
David Olson Communication Studies	Debbie Sanderfer Post Office	Xan Koonce University Relations
Jimmy Smith Kinesiology	Mary Visser Studio Art	Susan Lamb Dean of Faculty
Dominga Zarate Facilities	Willis Weigand Chemistry	Helene Meyers English
		Sandi Nenga Sociology
		Joan Parks Library Center
		Debbie Pauley University Relations
		Susan Stubbs University Relations

CONGRATULATIONS!

INFORMATION REQUEST FOR EMERITUS FACULTY

This Committee is interested in the experiences that retiring and retired faculty have had with the Human Resources Department. Have they been available and helpful? It is our wish to facilitate the process of retirement and HR plays a key part. Please let us know your thoughts.

SEND US YOUR STORIES!

We want this to be *your* newsletter! We would love to hear some of your stories, and we would like to include your email if you are open to responding to those who have questions that they would like to ask you. Also, are you comfortable with minor editing that may be done as a part of assembling the Newsletter? Just let us know.

Best wishes for a happy, peaceful, and cool spring and summer from the Emeritus Faculty Committee!

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[Mary Young](mailto:marveyoungwf@gmail.com) - marveyoungwf@gmail.com

WHO ARE OUR ESTEEMED EMERITUS FACULTY? **GLAD YOU ASKED!**

Visit the EMERITUS webpage for more information: [List of Emeritus Faculty](#)