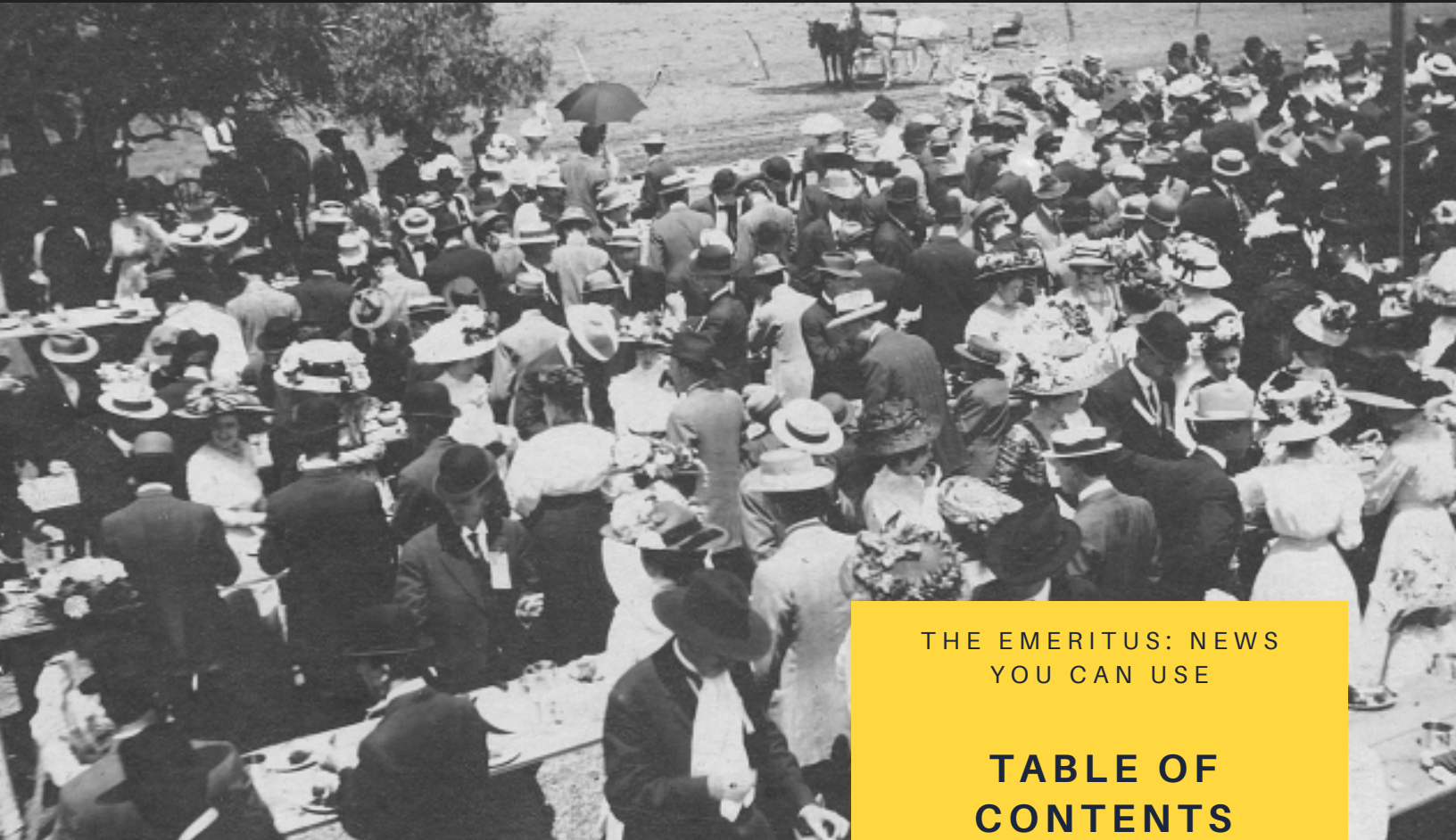




# THE EMERITUS

SU EMERITUS FACULTY NEWSLETTER, VOLUME 5  
SPECIAL HOMECOMING EDITION



## HOMECOMING SPECIAL GUESTS

Enjoy an open mic retrospective of the songwriter and poet John Prine, featuring emeriti faculty John Bigley and Dan Hilliard, members of the band, The PhDs, on the A. Frank Smith, Jr. Library Center, James E. and Mary B. Clifford Outdoor Deck.

THE EMERITUS: NEWS  
YOU CAN USE

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# HIGHLIGHTS FROM HOMECOMING 2021

# WELCOME HOME, SOUTHWESTERN ALUMNI & FRIENDS!

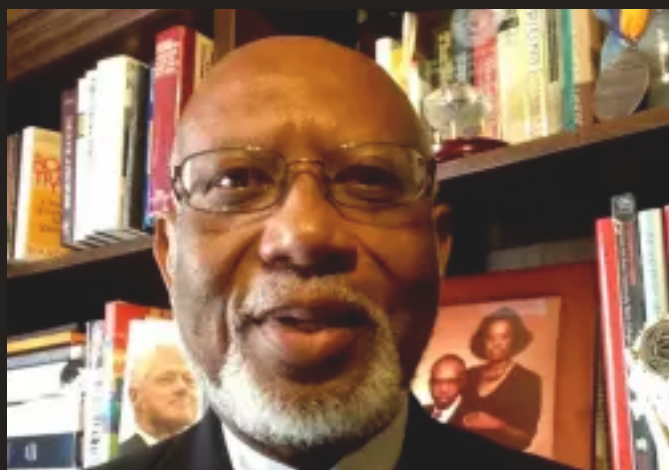
SOUTHWESTERN  
*FIRST* / 



## THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE Ron Swain to Assume Southwestern University Chaplain Duties

**When Ron Swain begins his appointment on Nov. 1 as Southwestern's new chaplain and director of religious and spiritual life, he will bring with him more than 40 years of experience in higher education administration.**

He is the recipient of numerous awards including the Owen W. Sherrill Lifetime Achievement Award from the Georgetown Chamber of Commerce which he received in 2012.



Swain holds undergraduate and masters' degrees from Duquesne University in Pittsburgh, PA; from the Shaw Divinity School in Raleigh, NC; the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill; and a Doctor of Education degree from The George Washington University in Washington, D.C. In addition, he has completed postdoctoral study at the Harvard University Graduate School of Education's Institute on Educational Management.

# 2023 Homecoming Schedule

JOIN US NOVEMBER 4-6, 2022!

Join us for a weekend full of opportunities to connect with your fellow Pirates. Homecoming is a celebration for the entire Southwestern community. Festivities will include the Homecoming picnic, reunion parties (ending in 2s and 7s), SING!, athletic games, a 30th anniversary of the Tower Papers and Reading Room, a presentation on campus renovations, Silent Disco, and more.

**Note:** Tickets for indoor seating at the SING! performance are limited and are on a first-come, first-serve basis.

**CLICK THE LINK TO VIEW THE SCHEDULE**

[View the schedule](#) of events to take place during the weekend of November 4-6, 2022.

**Registration ended on October 25th!**

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After October 25, the University staff cannot guarantee event tickets. Registration **will not** be available between October 26-November 3. See below for onsite registration opportunities.

**Onsite registration will open:**

Friday, November 4 (2 p.m. to 11 p.m.)

Saturday, November 5 (9:30 a.m. to 11 p.m.)

**LOCATION:** Red and Charline McCombs Campus Center, Charles and Elizabeth Prothro Bishops Memorial Lounge

Questions may be directed to [alumni@southwestern.edu](mailto:alumni@southwestern.edu) or 512-863-1410.

# Feature Story

The Emeritus Faculty Committee is pleased to announce that Dan Hilliard and John Bigley, emeriti faculty, will perform at the 2022 Homecoming at 5:30 p.m. on Friday, November 4th on the east patio outside the library. These two members of the band the PHDs, also known as the Post Hole Diggers, will feature songs written by the late John Prine, American singer-songwriter who passed away during the Covid pandemic.

Jim Hunt and Dan Hilliard shared some of the history of the PHDs with our Committee. Both agree that while some faculty and staff had been practicing together informally, it was Walt Herbert who suggested they do a pre-symposium concert associated with the 1997 Brown Symposium Drawing and Crossing Boundaries: The Roots Of Texas Music.

How the "Ramblers" became the "Post Hole Diggers/PHDs)" remains a bit of a mystery. Herbert named the band the "San Gabriel River Valley Multicultural Ramblers"...only something Walt would think was catchy. Hunt recalled talking with Mike McCarthy after the concert about continuing a version of the band - and he said we had to lose the name -McCarthy may have suggested the "Posthole Diggers".

There were a number of band members that came and went as the years passed. Jim and Dan remember that John Bigley, Lee Edwards, Mike McCarthy, and Bill O'Brien joined most often. Julie Cowley, Deb Brown, Lois Ferrari, Dave Naumann, and John Ore also were involved in performances. Please join us on Friday, November 4th at 5:30. In the event of inclement weather, an indoor location will be available.

*Submitted by Mary Young, Professor Emerita, Economics*



# Post Hole Diggers play for fun, campus events

Joey Venghaus  
Megaphone Reporter

Like any other college campus, SU has its share of amateur bands comprised of various people who happen to play musical instruments. However, at SU we have one band which is a little bit different than the other usual bands comprised of young musicians trying their hand at playing in a performing group. This band, called the "Post Hole Diggers," or the PHD's for short, is not made up of students, but of various musically-inclined faculty members, and plays many types of music, from blues, to country, to what they refer to as "leftover rock."

This band features John Bigley from the Acquisition and Inventory Depart-

ment in the library, Dr. Jim Hunt of the Education Department, Dr. Lee Edwards, Director of Counseling Services, and Dr. Mike McCarthy of the Mathematics Department on guitars, John Ore of the Theater and Communications Department on the drums, Dr. Dan Hilliard of the Sociology Department on the bass guitar, and Dr. Bill O'Brien of the Physics Department on the saxophone, keyboard and flute.

The band was initially formed last year for a preview constructed by Dr. Walt Herbert for the Brown Symposium on the "Roots of Texas Music," and has been performing ever since. Mike

McCarthy suggested the name, "Post Hole Diggers," as a humorous name for a faculty band of a college campus. They usually have an

informal practice about once a week for anyone in the band who can make it, and get to-

gether more frequently whenever they are scheduled to perform for an event.

So far, the PHD's have performed at the Potluck Symposium, last April's play *Into the West*, in May for the Senior Dinner, and for the President's Party. Edwards commented on the

President's Party, saying that he feels they officially became a band when they got the president to dance.

They also played for the opening of the June play *Bye, Bye Birdie*, and in September for the first Natural High Party. They are not currently scheduled to perform for any upcoming events, but said that they would like to play on a bill with student bands.

Said Dr. Edwards about the band, "it's more fun than committee work."

He also offered the comment that "none of us are about to quit our day jobs, but it's a lot of fun."

According to Edwards, one of the band's best aspects is not their diverse departmental backgrounds, but the fact that "we're cheap, as in free."

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## Ph.D.'s mix up older styles

Lee Edwards  
Special to the Megaphone

The unique faculty and staff band called the Post hole Diggers (Ph.D.'s) is composed of Jim Hunt from the Education department on guitar and singing, Dan Hilliard of the Sociology department playing bass guitar and providing vocals, Counseling Services' Lee Edwards playing guitar, fiddle, harmonica, and singing, John Ore from the Theatre department on drums, Mike McCarthy from Mathematics/Institutional Research on guitar, mandolin, and providing vocals, John Bigley from the Library playing guitar and singing, and Bill O'Brien from the Physics department on piano, flute, recorder, harmonica, and contributing vocals.

The music is described as "leftover rock" (classic rock), blues, and slightly warped country. It is almost always covers of other people's songs. Some of which are straightforward renditions and while

at other songs tend to be twisted rearrangements. A typical show's set might incorporate some old blues, a little bit of primitive country music from Buck Owens or Merle Haggard, a polka, a waltz, some Bob Dylan, an obscure bluegrass song, and a couple of loud 60s pop songs.

The band has been always happy to play student, staff, and faculty events. "We've played the President's year-end party for faculty and staff the last two years, and we haven't gotten fired from our day jobs as a result, so we count that as a success," said Lee Edwards. The Post hole Diggers' last performance was held at Walburg's Biergarten honoring Farley Snell's retirement. The next performances are on Friday, April 23 from 4-6 at the "Burned Out" party on the Academic mall and then a cancer society benefit that evening at an off-campus location. Dr. Edwards expressed that anyone is welcome to give the group a call if they want to have them play at any event.

# THE EMERITUS HISTORY MYSTERY

We are reaching out to each of you for help in solving the mystery of the history of the emeritus faculty program at Southwestern. We first became aware of this mystery as we were developing the emeritus faculty website. The faculty handbook identified the charge to the Emeritus Faculty Committee, but there was no mention of the origin of the program or of how the decision to confer emerita/ emeritus status is reached. This led to many questions.

**WHEN WAS THE PROGRAM ADOPTED?**

**WHO WAS INSTRUMENTAL IN BRINGING THE PROGRAM INTO PRACTICE?**

**WERE THE PURPOSES FOR ESTABLISHING THE PROGRAM IDENTIFIED?**

**WHAT ARE THE CRITERIA FOR AWARDING EMERITUS STATUS?**

John Ore and Alicia Moore began to investigate, examining course catalogs back to the 1960's, as well as a few from the 1930's. They examined Bill Jones' To Survive and Excel: The Story of Southwestern University but were unable to find answers to our questions. Dan Hilliard helped by sharing his memories: My recollection, not based on any attempt to go back and document. . . I believe that the Emeritus Professor designation began during President Shilling's administration, as several of the original group of Brown Endowed Professors, who had been leaders in helping President Shilling attempt to raise the national profile of Southwestern, both by modeling faculty scholarship and by leading the early Brown Symposia, decided to retire (how is that for a run-on sentence?).

These faculty who included Walt Herbert, Weldon Crowley, Gwen Kennedy Neville and Bob Soulen, wished to remain active in their professional and scholarly lives after retiring from teaching. And now we're asking you join us as detectives attempting to solve The Emeritus History Mystery. We welcome any memories you have of the origins of the program and any suggestions you have for solving the mystery. If you are in touch with emeritus faculty members who do not receive these Newsletters, please forward the Newsletter to them along with a request for them to send their current email address to one of the Emeritus Faculty Committee members listed at the bottom of the Newsletter. Perhaps those of you mentioned in Dan's recollections will be able to add information. Thank you in advance for your efforts!

Submitted by Sharon Commons Johnson, Emeritus Faculty Committee Member

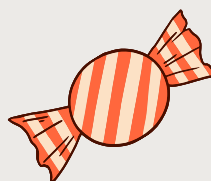
# Southwestern's Inaugural Pet Costume Contest

SUBMIT YOUR PHOTO



Participate in Southwestern's first University-wide favorite pet Halloween costume contest by submitting scary-cute -weird-photographs of your pets.

This may be your wonderful cat, or, in President Trombley's case, stubborn bulldogs, or maybe a pet rabbit—who knows?







# **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 they would like to ask you about retirement, etc. Also, are you comfortable with minor editing that may be done as a part of assembling the Newsletter? Just let us know.

Your Emeritus Faculty Committee Members are . . .

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Alicia Moore - moorea@southwestern.edu

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**WHO ARE OUR ESTEEMED EMERITUS FACULTY? GLAD YOU ASKED!** Visit the EMERITUS webpage for more information: [List of Emeritus Faculty](#)

**Best wishes for a thankful, crisp, and cool fall and winter from the Emeritus Faculty Committee!**



SEE

YOU

THERE!!

[Click here for a video version of this Newsletter.](#)