

Summary of the 2019-2020 academic year

Hello fellow retirees. The Retiree Association Board of Directors hopes you are all staying safe and healthy in these difficult times.

Our annual retiree dinner was to be held this September 23, 2020, but due to the coronavirus pandemic we felt it was necessary for the safety of our retirees to cancel the dinner. This is the first time we have not held our annual dinner since its inception in 1997. We look forward to continuing this tradition next year.

Your Board members for the 2019-2020 year are Dan Spielmann (President), Pat Przybelski (Vice President), Frank Madzarevic (Treasurer), Christopher Sampson (Secretary), Carol Emmons, Ken Fleurant, Curt Heuer, Barbara McClure-Lukens, Kathy Pletcher, and Judi Pietsch. Members that were to end their terms at the September 2020 dinner were Pat Przybelski, Judi Pietsch, Christopher Sampson and Dan Spielmann.

Due to COVID-19, the Board has not met in person since January and probably won't be meeting in the near future. Because we are not gathering at the annual dinner this September to elect new members for those retiring, the Board voted online to authorize that the current officers/members have their terms extended by one year and remain on the Board until our September 2021 annual dinner, where election of new Board members will occur.

Below is a summary of what did not happen during the 2019-20 academic year. The Board regrettably had to cancel several activities that we typically sponsor during the year. These include:

- 1) the annual Arboretum Walk in May;
- 2) the beautification project to plant flowers at the Shorewood Golf Course;
- 3) a scheduled Spring retiree "behind-the-scenes" tour of the STEM Building;
- 4) the August annual golf outing—which is our major retiree scholarship fund raiser;
- 5) various social events/outings held during the academic year; and
- 6) our annual 2020 retiree dinner scheduled for this September 23.

Prior to the pandemic taking hold, the Retiree Association did sponsor or co-sponsor two social events in late February 2020.

1) A pre-concert reception on Saturday, February 22, at the Weidner Center was well-received. Early arrivals for the Weidner Philharmonic's performance of the Casablanca sound track had the opportunity to meet UW-Green Bay Provost Michael Alexander, shortly before his appointment as the University's new chancellor. Several dozen retiree concertgoers stopped in for the informal meet-and-greet and cash bar in the Weidner's Studio One.

2) A week later on February 29 at the Kress Center, retirees were among the Phoenix Fans who crowded the old gyms for music, snacks and refreshments at the annual "Krash the Kress" basketball/homecoming celebration. The event was scaled-down a little because of the looming public health situation, but several thousand fans attended either the afternoon Phoenix women's game or evening men's game on either side of the modified tailgate in the gyms.

In addition, Chancellor Michael Alexander hosted a virtual town hall meeting with retirees on August 25. The Chancellor gave an update on how the University is coping in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic crisis. He indicated that enrollment at UW-Green Bay and its three other campuses is strong and growing. He emphasized the need for UW-Green Bay to modify its mission to teach all who want to be taught and to better serve our region by nurturing our local students. Chancellor Alexander stressed the critical importance of addressing the racial achievement gap in northeastern Wisconsin. He also indicated that the University remains committed to interdisciplinarity and he looks forward to engaging with retirees as the University moves forward.

We have lost several colleagues and friends this past year: Betty Brown, Dennis Bryan, Ken Burda, Don Dreweski, Tian You Hu, Richard Jameson, Robert Lanz, Gary Mach, and Bob Pum.

Oral History Project Committee: Chair Jane Rank, Roger Vanderperren, Cliff Abbott. The Committee is still active although interviews came to a standstill with Covid-19 limitations. Thanks to Roger Vanderperren's magic, we are now set up to do quality phone interviews from Jane's kitchen. A few interviews are currently in the planning stages and we have time to do a few more. Please contact Jane if you know of someone we may have missed and would be interested in doing an interview this Fall (jrank7@new.rr.com). Many completed (but not all) interviews are searchable and internet accessible and can be found on a UW-Green Bay Archives link <https://www.uwgb.edu/archives/collections-more/digital-collections/> A big thank you to Deb Anderson and her staff for providing web access to our interviews.

Retirees can no longer use the .ret@uwgb.edu address unless you chose to complete the required online course. If you change your email address or have another you would prefer we use, please let Ken Fleurant know at either kfleurant@new.rr.com or fleurank@uwgb.edu. And if you have moved recently, please forward your new address to Ken also.

Our financial report is as follows: - Endowed Scholarship Fund: \$47,201; Supplies and Expense: \$4,305; Oral History Project: \$778

The UW-Green Bay recipient of the Retiree Association Endowed Scholarship Award for the 2020-21 academic year is Anthony Fenner. He has junior standing and is a Music major pursuing teaching licensure. We are pleased to announce that Anthony will receive an award in the amount of \$1,500.

You may not be aware that the Retiree Association is entirely self-funded, and our support for the students we aid is directly dependent on the success of our annual donation appeal and special events. Looking ahead, our goal is to award two \$1,000+ scholarships. For that, we need to build the endowment to at least \$50,000. We only need \$2,799 to reach that goal. There was no monetary increase to our Endowed Scholarship Fund this year due to the cancellation of the August golf outing and the annual retiree dinner. These two events typically brought in profit/donations of over \$1500 each year. If you would like to contribute to the scholarship fund, please do so by either mailing in a donation or by donating online at the website below. Your donation would be a fully tax-deductible, year-end gift to the scholarship fund.

1. Mail your donation to Retiree Association, University Advancement Office, UW-Green Bay, 2420 Nicolet Drive, Green Bay, WI 54311-7001. Or ...
2. Make a donation online at <https://secure.ggiv.com/for/retirees>

Thank you for your consideration, and as always we welcome you to join us at one or all of our activities. You can find out more about the UW-Green Bay Retiree Association on our website at www.uwgb.edu/retiree. We also welcome questions or feedback at retirees@uwgb.edu.

Sincerely,

Dan Spielmann
President, UW-Green Bay Retiree Association

And Board members Carol Emmons, Ken Fleurant, Curt Heuer, Frank Madzarevic, Barbara McClure-Lukens, Judi Pietsch, Kathy Pletcher, Pat Przybelski, Christopher Sampson