

FACULTY EMERITI ASSOCIATION

20th Anniversary



The James Madison University Faculty Emeriti Association evolved over time aided by the vision of some and the hard work of many.



Beginnings

James Madison University Faculty Emeriti Association evolved over time aided by the vision of some and the hard work of many. The Association was officially recognized on November 2, 2001 in a letter to Martha Caldwell, Professor in the School of Art and Art History, from President Linwood H. Rose in which he stated, "This organization...has the potential to be of benefit to both the Emeriti faculty and the University." [See Appendix A] President Rose responded to a letter Dr. Caldwell sent to him on October 3, 2001 on behalf of an ad hoc committee which delineated the efforts to initiate an organization for Emeriti of JMU and requested its endorsement. [See Appendix B] Members of this ad hoc committee were Martha Caldwell, Howard Cohen, Jerry Coulter, Eileen Nelson, W.R. Nelson, Nancy O'Hare, Frank Palocsay, and John Wood.



Martha Caldwell

Several important events earlier in 2001 laid the groundwork for the endorsement of the Faculty Emeriti Association by President Rose. In a July 2001 email message from Dick Whitman, Dean of the College of Arts and Letters, to President Rose and Doug Brown, Vice President for Academic Affairs, Dick noted that the catalog listed 174 Emeriti Faculty and stated that, "...it would be useful to form a JMU Emeriti Association." Dr. Brown responded, "This seems like an excellent idea for many reasons..."



Dick Whitman

The association was officially recognized on November 2, 2001 in a letter to Martha Caldwell, Professor in the School of Art and Art History

The James Madison University Faculty Emeriti Association was shaped and modeled after similar organizations at Ohio University and the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill. Dean Whitman, and his wife, Denise, hosted an informal coffee in August of 2001 to determine interest in an organization for Emeriti faculty. As a result of this preliminary gathering, Dean Whitman recommended that By-Laws for the organization be drafted and submitted to President Rose with a request to officially recognize the establishment of the Emeriti Association. In September a meeting of retired faculty was held to discuss by-laws for the association. A luncheon organized by Martha Caldwell in October at the Elks Lodge in Harrisonburg was the site to vote on the by-laws and discuss applying to JMU for recognition [See Appendix C]. President Rose endorsed the association in November and officers were elected and a celebration was held in December. The JMU Faculty Emeriti Association was launched!



President Rose

While Dean Whitman and Martha Caldwell strongly promoted the establishment of the Faculty Emeriti Association, others who actively worked to its initiation were Denise Whitman; Frank Palocsay, Department of Chemistry; Nancy Gray, Administrative Assistant to Dean Whitman; Doug Brown; and Glenda Rooney. We will be forever indebted to these individuals for their unflagging support and consistent mission of the Emeriti Association that we so thoroughly enjoy today.



Our Six Presidents



Jerry Coulter
2001-2004

Jerry Coulter, School of Art and Art History, was the first President of the James Madison University Faculty Emeriti Association (FEA). He was elected in December 2001, a month after the Association was officially established by President Rose on November 2nd.



Cameron Nickels
2004-2006

Cameron Nickels was the second President of the Faculty Emeriti Association. He states that, "From the beginning, the Faculty Emeriti Association gave the faculty a new and significant place at the university – a place encouraged and supported by the administration!"



Nancy O'Hare
2006-2010

Nancy O'Hare, President from 2006 to 2010, "laid the foundation for an effective and dynamic association for Emeriti Faculty" according to Cameron Nickels. During Nancy's tenure as President the association newsletter published its first edition.

The first six presidents of the Faculty Emeriti Association provided significant leadership in their own distinctive way that enriched the association. Their unique contributions have ensured a promising future for the association.



Rex Fuller

2010-2014

Rex Fuller, the fourth President of the Faculty Emeriti Association (FEA), guided the membership to greater growth. The number of Interest Groups increased and became more diverse, while our picnics at the University Farm transitioned from potluck to catered affairs.



Violet Allain

2014-2018

Violet Allain was President of the Emeriti Association from 2014-2018. She continued the fine work of her predecessors and also established some new initiatives. She is most proud of cementing a partnership between the FEA and the Valley Scholars Program in 2015.



Sheila Moorman

2018-2022

Shelia Moorman, the FEA's current President, began her tenure in 2018. During her presidency, thanks to the artistic expertise of Gary Chatelain, a FEA logo was developed. With almost 300 members in 2020, the association was challenged by the COVID pandemic.



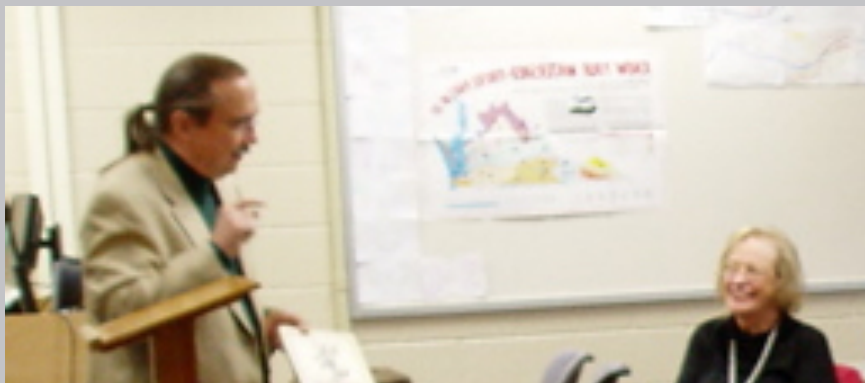
Jerry Coulter

December 2001-2004

Jerry Coulter, School of Art and Art History, was the first President of the James Madison University Faculty Emeriti Association. He was elected in December 2001, a month after the Association was officially established by President Rose on November 2nd.

During Jerry's tenure as President the association by-laws were formally established, the first Interest Groups were formed, the Faculty Emeriti Association web page was developed by Frank Palocsay, and members were actively recruited. Dues were set at \$10 for annual membership and \$100 for life membership. A good deal that hasn't changed in 20 years! The idea of recognizing Emeriti faculty with inlaid pavers on campus was initiated by Jerry and fully supported by President Rose.

From its earliest beginnings, Emeriti luncheons have been a favored way for association members to meet and savor each other's company over a meal and enjoy an interesting program.



Cameron Nickels

December 2004-2006

Cameron Nickels was the second President of the Faculty Emeriti Association. He states that, "From the beginning, the Emeriti Association gave the faculty a new and significant place at the university – a place encouraged and supported by the administration!"

Cameron believes a major strength of the association is reflected in the Interest Groups. He was instrumental in establishing the Wine Tasting Interest Group that gave its members an insight into the intricacies of wine. Who can ever forget the wine tasting session that Cameron led which paired various wines with chocolates? A fond memory.

In the early life of the association, Cameron recognized the value of retired faculty gathering for pleasure and continuing the friendships that were forged as colleagues at JMU.



Nancy O'Hare

December 2006-2010

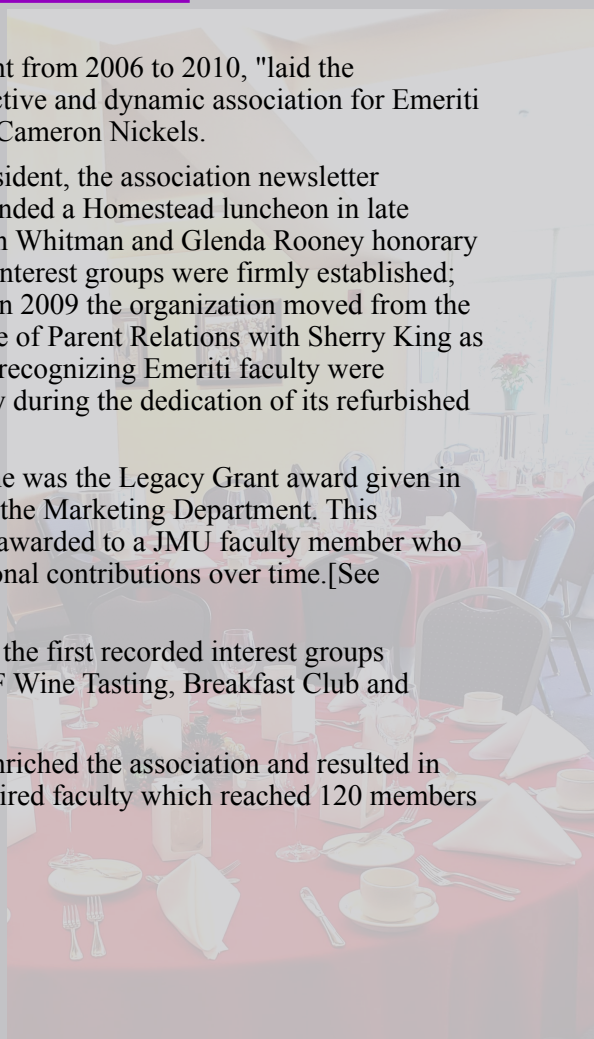
Nancy O'Hare, President from 2006 to 2010, "laid the foundation for an effective and dynamic association for Emeriti Faculty" according to Cameron Nickels.

During Nancy's tenure as President, the association newsletter published its first edition; attended a Homestead luncheon in late spring of 2006 and made Dean Whitman and Glenda Rooney honorary members of the association. Interest groups were firmly established; day trips were expanded and in 2009 the organization moved from the Madison Institute to the Office of Parent Relations with Sherry King as Director. In 2007, the pavers recognizing Emeriti faculty were unveiled at the Carrier Library during the dedication of its refurbished entrance.

Another "first" during this time was the Legacy Grant award given in 2006 to Dr. Newell Wright of the Marketing Department. This unrestricted grant is annually awarded to a JMU faculty member who has made significant professional contributions over time. [See Appendix D.]

In the 2007 spring newsletter, the first recorded interest groups included the Book Club, TGIF Wine Tasting, Breakfast Club and Travel Group.

Nancy believed this growth enriched the association and resulted in greater membership by the retired faculty which reached 120 members in 2007.





Rex Fuller

December 2010-2014

Rex Fuller, the fourth President of the Faculty Emeriti Association, guided the membership to greater growth. The number of Interest Groups increased and became more diverse, while our picnics at the University Farm transitioned from potluck to catered affairs. The Faculty Lecture Series began in 2011 with the first presentations given by Cameron Nickels, Greg Versen, and Bob Bersson.

Significant changes occurred during Rex's tenure as President as JMU welcomed Jonathan Alger as its sixth president in 2012. Many Emeriti members had the opportunity to participate in his inauguration.

With a growing membership of 155 during Rex's leadership the Association gained a significant presence in the JMU community.



Violet Allain

December 2014-2018

Violet Allain was President of the Faculty Emeriti Association from 2014-2018. She continued the fine work of her predecessors and also established some new initiatives. She is most proud of cementing a partnership between the association and the Valley Scholars Program in 2015, adding members-at-large to the association's executive board, organizing a workshop for our members to learn about the two-factor authentication, and seeing the first directory of members (264 strong!) published in 2014.

Association sponsored day-trips, interest group [See Appendix E] activities, luncheons, holiday galas, annual picnics now located in the club house of the football stadium, and lectures by members became integral parts of our organization providing Emeriti members with an array of compelling options to engage in during retirement.



Shelia Moorman

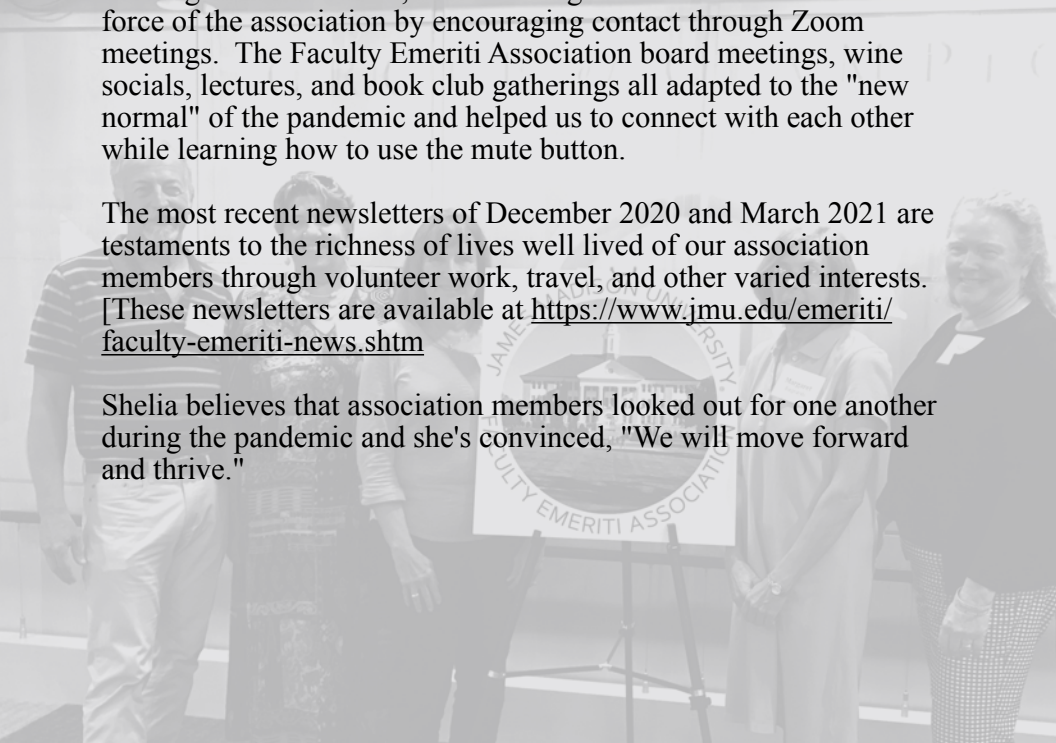
December 2018-2022

Shelia Moorman, the association's current President, began her tenure in 2018. During her presidency, thanks to the artistic expertise of Gary Chatelain, an association logo was developed.

With almost 300 members in 2020, the association was challenged by the COVID pandemic. Since our typical face-to-face group meetings were restricted, Shelia managed to continue the viable force of the association by encouraging contact through Zoom meetings. The Faculty Emeriti Association board meetings, wine socials, lectures, and book club gatherings all adapted to the "new normal" of the pandemic and helped us to connect with each other while learning how to use the mute button.

The most recent newsletters of December 2020 and March 2021 are testaments to the richness of lives well lived of our association members through volunteer work, travel, and other varied interests. [These newsletters are available at <https://www.jmu.edu/emeriti/faculty-emeriti-news.shtm>]

Shelia believes that association members looked out for one another during the pandemic and she's convinced, "We will move forward and thrive."



Events: Decade One

2001-2011

The first decade of the Faculty Emeriti Association was a time of innovation and exploration. The by-laws were established and amended to more accurately reflect the association's organization and mission.



It was during this decade that social aspects became embedded in the association.



Lunches, dinners, picnics, and outings to Washington, DC, Richmond, and local venues were planned, interest groups formed and expanded, and the membership increased.



The association became firmly established as an important part of the JMU experience.



Events: Decade Two

2012-2021

The second decade of the Faculty Emeriti Association continued to build upon the accomplishments of the first. The presence of the association at JMU was significant as members contributed to the success of the Valley



Scholars Program, served on the Honors College Advisory Council, presented a variety of lectures, and, in general, strengthened its affiliation with the university.



The second decade saw traditions becoming integral to the association. Everything (membership, gatherings, interest groups, and outings) expanded and grew.



The pandemic caused a pause in events, but didn't prevent us from reaching out and connecting with each other.

We look forward to future decades of the association.



JMU Faculty Emeriti Association Board Members

Below is a list of the individuals who have served on the Faculty Emeriti Association Executive Board since 2001. These dedicated people who served on the board made possible all of the various aspects that our association members enjoy. This list is the best we can offer from records and memory.

Presidents

Jerry Coulter
Cameron Nickels
Nancy O'Hare
Rex Fuller
Violet Allain
Shelia Moorman

Vice Presidents

Eileen Nelson
Martha Caldwell
Frank Palocsay
Rex Fuller
Violet Allain
Shelia Moorman
Kay Knickrehm

Treasurers

Al Mitchell
Joe Hollis
Bill Ingham
Bob Atkins
Terry LePera

Secretaries

Martha Caldwell
Phil Riley
Louise Loe
Lance Kearns
Gary Chatelain

Members-At-Large

LeDhu Tynes
Steve Rollman
Steve Smith
Daphne Thomas

Interest Group Coordinators

Mary Lou Wylie
Martha Ross

Program/Special Events

Margaret Horn
Martha Ross
Kay Arthur
Steve Smith

Many others served as coordinators of various Interest Groups.

List of Appendices

Appendix A – President Rose's letter - November 2, 2001

Appendix B – Dr. Martha Caldwell's letter - October 3, 2001

Appendix C – First by-laws of the Emeriti Association

Appendix D – Legacy Grant Recipients

Appendix E – List of Interest Groups



Appendix A – President Rose's letter



November 2, 2001

Dr. Martha Caldwell
1210 Moffett Terrace
Harrisonburg, VA 22801

Dear Dr. Caldwell:

I am pleased to inform you the University has approved the Ad Hoc Committee's request for recognition of the James Madison University Emeriti Association.

This organization, as you mention in your letter, has the potential to be of benefit to both the Emeriti faculty and the University. In addition to the ideas you mention in your letter, the division heads suggested a variety of opportunities for members of the organization to connect and participate in University activities. Volunteering in the library, working with new faculty members, community service involvement with our students, providing guest lectures, advising an honor society, or participating in Alumni Relations' "Madison on the Move" events are just a few of the possibilities.

It is recommended, however, for the association to submit the appropriate paperwork to request their own tax number. John Knight will be happy to assist you with this process and coordinate with the organization for an annual audit. In addition, Glenda Rooney has agreed to serve as the University liaison for the Association.

Martha, I appreciate your coordination of this new organization and I am looking forward to building a strong connection with the Faculty Emeriti Association.

Sincerely yours,

Linwood H. Rose
President

LHR:dlh

cc: Dr. Barbara Castello, University Relations
Mr. Charles King, Administration and Finance

MSC 7508
Alumnae 208
Office of
Harrisonburg, VA 22807
THE PRESIDENT 540.568.6868 Phone
540.568.2338 Fax

Appendix B – Dr. Martha Caldwell's letter

October 3, 2001

Dr. Linwood Rose, President
James Madison University

Dear Dr. Rose:

The James Madison University Emeriti Association seeks official recognition by James Madison University. The proposed Emeriti Association is an avenue for continued contact and service by Emeriti of JMU to the University with benefit not only for its members but for the University as well.

The association, initiated by Dr. Richard Whitman, began last August with a coffee generously hosted by the Whitmans. About 45 people attended. A luncheon in September had over 50 people signed up. Expressions of interest has been wide spread among those who have been unable to attend. We think it likely that a majority of the Emeriti will be members of the Association.

Enclosed is a copy of the By-Laws which were given tentative approval by the group in September and will be formally voted on at the October meeting. Committees are proposed to handle the interests and affairs of the Emeriti. Among the committees is the JMU Service Committee. Interest in service from the Emeriti has been expressed by representatives of Alumni Affairs and the Office of Admissions. Other avenues of service will undoubtedly appear as the organization becomes established on campus.

Formal recognition by JMU would include naming a contact person in the administration. Glenda Rooney of the Office of Parent and Constituent Relations might be an excellent choice. Recognition would also carry the privileges and responsibilities of using the JMU tax number and having our financial affairs under University review in the same manner as any JMU organization.. A contribution from the University would help as we get underway.

We will meet October 17th to continue the establishment of this organization. We hope to celebrate the formation of the Association at our December 19th meeting.

Sincerely,

Martha B Caldwell for the Ad Hoc Committee

Ad Hoc Committee:

Martha Caldwell
Howard Cohen
Jerry Coulter
Eileen Nelson

W.R.Nelson
Nancy O'Hare
Frank Palocsay
John Wood

Appendix C – First By-Laws of the Emeriti Association

PROPOSED BY-LAWS JAMES MADISON UNIVERSITY EMERITI ASSOCIATION

Mission: The Emeriti Association of James Madison University is a voluntary association of retired former faculty members who have joined together to maintain ties to James Madison University and to promote their common interests.

Membership: Members of the Emeriti Association shall be faculty who have retired from James Madison University and have been given Emeritus/Emerita status.

Officers: The officers shall be a President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. Ex Officio will be a member of the JMU administration. Each officer will discharge the duties normally associated with the office to which elected.

Executive Committee: The Executive Committee shall consist of the elected officers, the immediate past president and the chairs of the Program, Activities, Special Events and JMU Service committees.

Senior Council: There shall be a Senior Council of faculty who came to Madison College or James Madison University 40 or more years ago (in 2001 faculty who came in 1961 or earlier). The role of this group will be largely honorary.

Election of Officers: The first group shall serve from December, 2001 through April, 2003. Thereafter the officers shall be elected annually in April and take office immediately upon their election. Nominees shall be presented by a Nominating Committee appointed by the President. The list of nominees shall be circulated at least a week in advance of the April meeting. Members may present additional names from the floor with the permission of those they are nominating.

Vacancies in Office: A vacancy in the office of the President shall be filled by the Vice President; a vacancy in any other office shall be appointed by the President.

Quorum: A quorum of 10% of the members in good standing is required for the transaction of business. A quorum of the Executive Committee is three members.

Appendix C – continued

Funds: Funds of the Association shall be kept in a local depository and checks may be drawn thereon on order of the President, or Vice President, and the Treasurer.

Meetings: The members of the Association shall meet at least quarterly, in February, April, October and December. Special meetings may be called by the Executive Committee on reasonable notice.

Dues: Dues are payable annually in October at \$10 per emeritus/emerita. Life time membership is available for \$100.

Committees: There shall be four standing committees with the chairs appointed by the President: Program, Activities, Special Events and JMU Service.

The Program Committee shall arrange for speakers, performers or activities for the regular meetings.

The Activities Committee shall promote local events by maintaining lists of people interested in such activities as tennis, golf, card games, bike rides, and facilitate the scheduling. If desired they shall also facilitate attendance by Association members at local events such as plays, performances, and athletic games.

The Special Events Committee shall be charged with arranging trips.

The JMU Service Committee shall handle arrangements to aid such campus offices as Admissions and Alumni Relations.

In addition the Nominations Committee will be appointed annually by the President in February for the election of officers in April.

The President may establish committees as the need arises.

Communicator: A home page on the web will be maintained by the Communicator.

Newsletter Editor: A Newsletter will be sent out prior to the October meeting with news and plans of the organization and its members.

Amendments: These by-laws may be amended by a simple majority of members in good standing by ballot after written notice of the substance of the proposed change has been distributed at least one month in advance.

Legacy Grant Recipients

Each year the Faculty Emeriti Association presents a \$2,000 unrestricted grant to a JMU faculty member who has made significant professional contributions over time. The award rotates among colleges, with the selection made by the dean of the college. Past recipients are:

- 2021:** Sharon L. Blatz, Department of Educational Foundations and Exceptionalities
- 2020:** Andre Neveu, College of Business
- 2019:** Katey Castellano, College of Arts and Letters
- 2018:** Trudy L. Cole, School of Art, Design & Art History
- 2017:** Susan R. Halsell, Biology
- 2016:** David Bernstein, College of Integrated Science and Engineering
- 2015:** Michael D. Hall, College of Health and Behavioral Studies
- 2014:** David Slykhuis, Middle, Secondary, and Mathematics Education Department
- 2013:** Bill Wood, Economics
- 2012:** Scott Hammond, Political Science Department
- 2011:** Don Riererson, Music Department
- 2010:** Hassan Hamdan, Mathematics and Statistics Department
- 2009:** Ann Myers, Social Work Department
- 2008:** Teresa Harris, Early Childhood Ed. Department
- 2007:** Raymond Hyser, History Department
- 2006:** Newell Wright, Marketing Department

List of Interest Groups

- Wine Social
- Breakfast Group
- Lunch Group
- Dinner Group
- Beer and Hard Cider Group
- Whisk(e)y Appreciation Group
- Book Club Group
- Film/Theater Group
- Bridge Group
- Play Reading Group
- Emeriti Friends Group



*Dedicated to
the memories we share
and a
promising future to enjoy!*



Booklet designed by Gary Chatelain
