



Faculty Emeriti Association **NEWSLETTER**

SPRING 2024, VOLUME 18, ISSUE 2

INSIDE

From the President's Desk	2	JMU Presidential Changes	7
News & Updates	3	Membership Updates	7
Interest Groups & Outing	4-5	Legacy Grant	8
Survey Summary	6	Events	9-10

From the President's Desk

by Kay Knickrehm, President, Faculty Emeriti Association

Greetings Everyone,

I hope everyone is enjoying May. It has always been one of my favorite times in the Shenandoah Valley although it does sometimes bring some surprises. Do you remember the interminable graduations when every single graduate walked across the stage to shake Dr. Carrier's hand while we sat and sat usually in the sun, but sometimes in the rain? Do you remember the year it snowed? I do not look back on those graduation ceremonies with any great fondness. I do remember that at the very first one I attended, the mathematicians seated in front of me pulled out paperback books to read as soon as the roll call started. I looked on with considerable envy and admiration. I had always suspected that mathematicians were geniuses and that proved it. For those of you who came to JMU too late to experience the marathon graduations, count your blessings.

Thank you, everyone, who voted in the spring election. Many of you took the time to thank the officers for their willingness to serve and your kind words are much appreciated. For those who don't know, the by laws specify two-year terms for all officers. Our practice has been to ask the president and vice-president to stand for reelection one time and to ask the other officers to serve in perpetuity until they just can't stand it anymore. I asked Mary Lou Wylie (who knows everything about the FEA) why we don't just elect a whole new slate every two years and she said, "Well, people are not exactly standing in line waiting to fill these jobs." I suspect she is correct, but if you are just waiting modestly in the wings, hoping to be tapped for one of these prestigious jobs, then please let me know and we will put you on the slate for the next election.

The Board continues to try to think up new ways to reach our out-of-town members. Unfortunately the rooms available to us for the luncheons do not include the technology to stream the



program, but we are endeavoring to schedule any stand-alone lectures in rooms that do make this possible. We did have people join us remotely for our fall lecture. We love to hear from you and would love to include information about what you are up to in our newsletters, so please keep in touch.



As always, a special thanks to Tracey Kite and Jennifer Sommers, without whom the entire board would resign. Also thank you to all the people in Advancement who look out for us. We appreciate your support.



News & Updates

by Kay Knickrehm, President, Faculty Emeriti Association

Board News:

At the March 27 meeting the slate of officers was approved. Earlier, all members were given the opportunity to vote by proxy. All votes were in favor.

The officers for 2024-2026 are:

President Kay Knickrehm

Vice-president Steve Smith

Secretary Gary Chatelain

Treasurers Pam Drake and Brad Roof

Daphne Thomas has resigned from the board as a member-at-large after several years of service. Thank you, Daphne for all your involvement.

Sherry King has joined the board as an at-large member to replace Daphne. As most of you know, Sherry took care of us for several years, knows the ins and outs of the FEA, and is a wonderful asset to the board. (And now that her husband, Charlie King, has been tapped as interim president of JMU, we have the president's wife on the board!)

Save the Date:

Pam Nelson, daughter of Eileen

Nelson has invited all members of the

association to a celebration of the

life of Eileen Nelson on October 20,

2024 in the Hall of Presidents Room.

Details will follow. Eileen was one of the

founding members of the association

and an active participant in many of our activities.

Online Payments Request:

Whenever possible, we would greatly appreciate it if you paid your dues, made donations, or paid for events online. It is so much easier on everyone and it is actually much safer than sending checks through the mail. We will, of course, continue to accept checks.

Volunteer Opportunities

The dean of the graduate school needs volunteers. She is looking for retired faculty to help out by mentoring foreign students as they attempt to settle in Harrisonburg, judging theses and projects, helping out with events, and working with her office to establish stronger ties with alums. If you are

interested in becoming involved, please contact the Graduate School Office and identify yourself as faculty emeritus or emerita.

CONTINUE YOUR MADISON LEGACY

THE POWER OF A PLANNED GIFT

With a thoughtfully structured planned gift, you can support the university programs that are most important to you while also pursuing your own charitable and financial goals.

THE BEST WAYS TO GIVE A PLANNED GIFT

BEQUEST GIVING

Leaving JMU in your will or estate plans is a simple and effective way to create a lasting legacy. Our office has specific language for you to use in your will or trust.

IRA GIVING - NOW & LATER

Give to JMU directly from your IRA and you can see your impact during your lifetime. Or you can also name JMU as a beneficiary of your IRA to support for years to come.

BENEFICIARY GIVING

Name JMU as a beneficiary on your life insurance policy, investment account or retirement account. You can simply fill out a form and submit it!

SCHOLARSHIPS

Create a scholarship and open doors for students who would otherwise not be able to attend JMU!

THANK YOU

As a faculty member your impact was monumental while you were at James Madison University. We are here to help you continue to build your Madison Legacy. If you have any questions or if you have already remembered JMU in your plans, please contact us so we can ensure your gift is honored and has the largest impact.

Kathy Ginna Brittany Amanda

The Office of Planned Giving

CALL: (540) 568-8938

EMAIL: plannedgiving@jmu.edu

VISIT: JMU.plannedgiving.org

Draft Your Will Here, for Free! jmu.edu/plannedgiving



JMU Faculty Emeriti Interest Groups

by Martha Ross, Interest Group Coordinator, Faculty Emeriti Association

The Beer & Cider Group

can find any occasion to celebrate and socialize. To finish off 2023, they gathered to toast the end of Prohibition on National Repeal Day and started 2024 with a Leap Day event, followed by St. Patrick's Day in March. Contact: Deane & Clarence Geier singerg.123@gmail.com

The Book Club

has met each month on the 3rd Monday by Zoom. Since January we have read *Second Fiddles-Prime Examples of Syrenth in the Shadows* by Paul C. Cline, retired professor from the JMU Department of Political Science, *Still Life* by Louise Penny, *The Wager* by David Grann, *Lessons in Chemistry* by Bonnie Gamus. We are in the process of reading *The Heaven & Earth Grocery Store* by James McBride for our next meeting on Monday, May 20 at 3 PM/Zoom. We meet by Zoom to allow members who have moved away, or are on vacation, or whatever to participate. We generally have 8-10 members participating in discussion. We welcome anyone who would like to participate. Send me an email, and I will add you to the list. Contact: Mary Atkins maryatkins149@gmail.com

The Breakfast Group

is meeting faithfully on the second Wednesday of each month. We are currently meeting at Panera Bread in Harrisonburg at 9 AM and have a faithful eight or nine people who come out each month. We would always like to see a few more Emeriti. Contact: Jim Benedict benediijo@jmu.edu

The Bridge Club

meets on the first Wednesday of the month at the Sunnyside Retirement Community. Players enjoy the mental challenge of the game in a non-

competitive environment with kudos for well-played hands and no criticism for losing points. Part of the appeal of bridge is the element of luck where even the best player can experience a poor score depending on the cards. The social interaction among the JMU group makes the game fun. Bridge makes a great retirement hobby: it's inexpensive, played around the world, provides competitive opportunities, and offers options for playing on-line or in-person. If interested, contact Mary Ann Chappell at chappema@jmu.edu.

The Dinner Group

meets for a potluck dinner every month or two. Contact: Doris Pye & Ron Wyanko dapye@comcast.net.

The Friends Group

provides assistance to any members needing help with transportation, meals, etc. Contact: Violet Allain allainvl@jmu.edu

The Lunch Group

has continued the tradition of eating lunch once a month at a locally owned restaurant. We are a welcoming group of about 15-20 faculty, along with their friends and spouses. We like to try different ethnic foods, and we are always looking for new places to explore. We also like to frequent our standard favorites. To accommodate everyone's schedules, we vary the day of the week M-F on a rotating basis. So far, this past year we have eaten at a Vietnamese place; at Rocktown Kitchen-one of our favorites; at Pueblo Magico, a new Mexican restaurant; and at Francesco's in Bridgewater. Our next lunch is on May 22nd, at a place to be decided. Contact: Ann Henriksen henrikad@jmu.edu

The Movie & Theater Group

gathered for dinner at Capital Ale House and a viewing of the *Holdovers*, winner of two Golden Globes in January and in March attended *Origin*. Contact: Violet Allain allainvl@jmu.edu



The JMU Faculty Emeriti Lunch Bunch at Rocktown Kitchen in January. The food and service were exceptional. Photo by Rocktown staff.

The Play Reading Group

gathers two or three times a year to read a play. You don't need theatrical abilities; you just need to be able to read.

The Whisk(e)y Appreciation Group

We haven't hosted a Whiskey Appreciation Group gathering in 2024 yet, but have some tentative plans for the late spring/early summer....keep a lookout for more information; if you are not on the WAG distribution list, contact: Steve Smith smith3cs@jmu.edu

The Wine Social Group

has met several times this semester, including gatherings hosted by Brad Roof/Brenda Seal, Louise Loe and Pam Drake/David Doremus providing the opportunity for fellowship, good food and a variety of good wines to taste. Anne Henriksen hosted a gathering in March at local vineyard, Brix and Columns. Contact: Janet Gloekner gloeckjw@jmu.edu

Join a group (see contact person):
jmu.edu/emeriti/membership/interest-groups.shtml

Photo by Diane Lepkowski



The Beer Group at O'Neills

Tour of the Udvar-Hazy Air & Space Center



Photo by Diane Lepkowski

Udvar-Hazy Air & Space Center Trip

By Elizabeth Ihle, Special Events Committee Chair, Faculty Emeriti Association

The JMU Emeriti group had a great trip to the Udvar-Hazy Air and Space Center in Chantilly, Virginia, on April 9th. This large museum is filled with aircraft, spacecraft and more, and is the sister museum to the Smithsonian Air and Space Museum that's located on the National Mall. Aircraft on display include the Enola Gay, the Concorde, the famed Space Shuttle Discovery, and a number of German and Japanese WWII aircraft.

Many of the museum volunteers were air and space geeks from the aviation industry and the military, and our guides were exceptionally knowledgeable. It was a wonderful way to spend the day!

FEA Spring Survey Results

by Pam Drake, FEA Co-Treasurer



The Board of the FEA is interested in hearing from members regarding our activities and what we can offer to members. We sent a survey to all FEA members and received 43 responses. The highlights of the responses include:

The most popular outings were for performances at either the Kennedy Center or the Richmond theaters.

The primary drivers for attendance at luncheons were location, speaker, and cost.

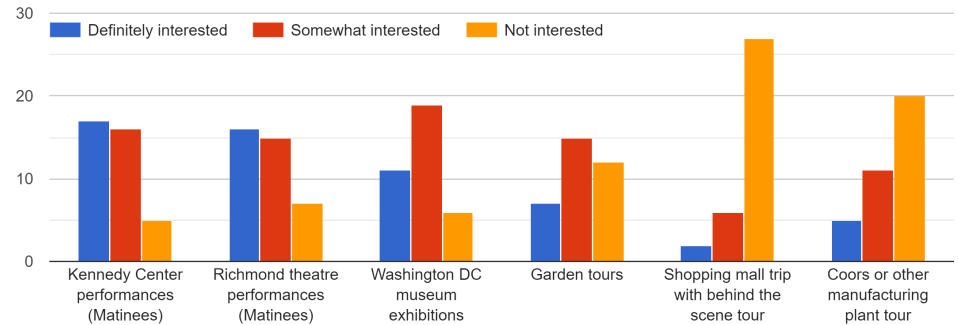
Members had mixed opinions about having luncheons off campus.

Members had mixed opinions about having lectures and presentations available through Zoom.

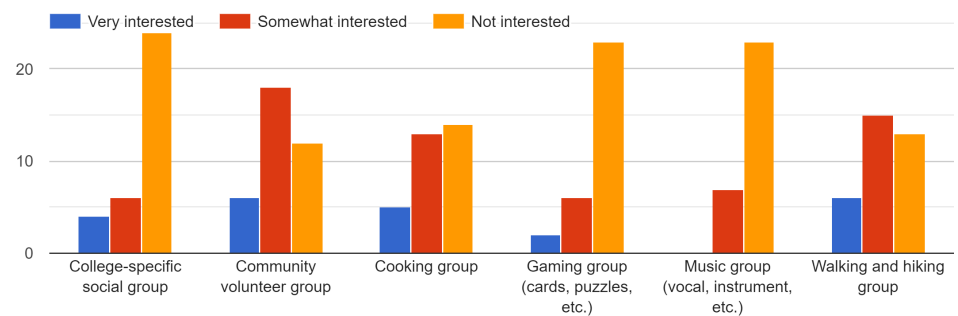
In addition to addressing our questions, many members made wonderful suggestions for interest groups, outings, and luncheon locations. The Board will (gratefully) discuss these suggestions.

Please see the three graphs from the survey results.

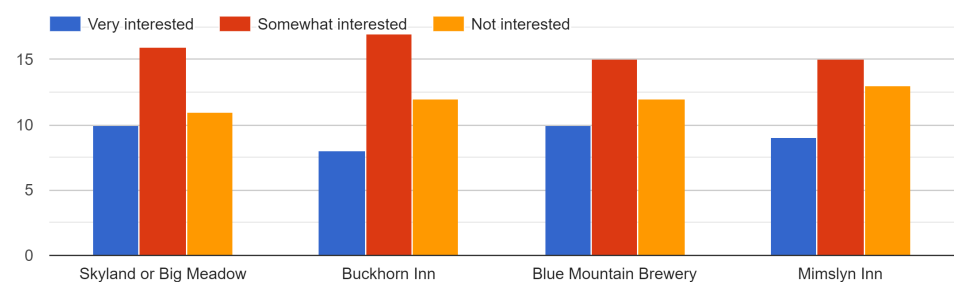
Currently we usually have two outings a year. Below is a list of possible outings for the future. Please indicate your level of interest in each of the following suggestion and/or suggest additional outings.



Possible interest groups. Please let us know your interest level in these.



In past years, we have held an occasional fall or spring luncheon off campus. Please indicate your level of interest in these suggested off-campus luncheon locations and/or suggest additions:



JMU E-Mail Account Reminder

JMU willingly grants on-going access to email with the expectation that Faculty Emeriti will follow university policy and ensure the security of the account – including making sure you have a current strong password. Please keep your password active by changing it every 90 days. Access is removed after 12 months of inactivity, and Faculty Emeriti should not assume that it will be reinstated if it lapses. If the reason is good and IT reinstates the account, IT will only do so one time. Please do not let your JMU email account lapse.

President Jonathan Alger Steps Down

Charlie King Named Interim President

President Jonathan Alger recently announced that he will be leaving JMU after the conclusion of this academic year to accept the presidency at American University in Washington, D.C., effective July 1, 2024.

Mr. Alger has served as JMU president for 12 years, during which time the university has grown and evolved into a nationally recognized, student-centered research university. During his tenure at JMU, President Alger has been a great friend to the FEA. Twice he agreed to raise his contribution to our Legacy Grant Award and he has hosted receptions for faculty emeriti, both at his home and on campus. He will be missed.

“President Alger elevated the university to a place far beyond where JMU has ever been. Under his leadership, we have turned the page into the next chapter of the history of JMU,” said Maribeth Herod, Board of Visitors rector. “JMU is no longer the hidden gem in the mountains because Jon has led us to national prominence and is leaving the university after accomplishing so much. Jon is leaving the university in an incredible place, with capable leadership throughout.”

Throughout his tenure at JMU, President Alger has been a prominent leader in higher education across the nation and world. He’s been an active presence on and off campus, as well as on many national, state, and regional boards and committees. He co-taught a leadership seminar in the Honors College for a number of years and has guest-taught in many other classes. He has represented JMU on numerous national boards and received the American Council on Education Council of Fellows/Fidelity Investments Mentor Award in 2021 and the ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge Standout Campus President Award in 2019.

At the April Board of Visitors’ meeting, the Executive Committee of the Board of Visitors named former Senior Vice President of Administration and Finance, Charlie King, as the interim president.

“Charlie King is uniquely qualified to serve as interim president given his 25-year career at JMU and is someone who has also proven to be a proficient leader on campus, in Richmond and within our local community,” said Board of Visitors Rector Maribeth Herod. “This decision was thoughtful and done with great confidence knowing there will be a seamless transition of the university’s operations into Charlie’s leadership. Just as importantly, his established relationships, knowledge of the institution and desire to continue JMU’s upward trajectory will aid greatly upon arrival of the new, incoming president.”

“Having the opportunity to come back to the university I care so deeply about is a great honor,” said King. “I look forward to supporting JMU during each phase of this transition and am eager to be back on campus.” While King will begin his interim position on July 1, 2024, he will be working through a transition period where he and Alger will work together prior to Alger moving to American University.

King said that he sees his interim president role as keeping the train on schedule while the board hires a new president. King will serve as interim president until June 30, 2025, or until a new president has been hired and completes their transition.

“It’s great to have Charlie back at the university,” said Alger.

The Board has begun executing the search process for the next JMU president; additional information will be shared as this process advances.

In Memoriam

It is with great sadness that we inform you of our colleagues who passed away since our last newsletter. We remember them fondly.

- **Dr. Alfred Francfort** passed away April 28, 2024. Al served on the JMU faculty as Professor of Finance in the College of Business from 1983-2009. He was the Director of the International Business Exchange Programs from 1990-97.
- **Joyce Krech** passed away on December 29, 2023. Joyce had been the Director of the College of Business’s Shenandoah Valley Small Business Development Center.
- **Dr. Jim Laffey**, Faculty Emeritus in the College of Education, died on February 21, 2024.
- **Dr. Frank Luth** former Head of the Special Education Department at JMU, passed away on January 2, 2024.
- **Dr. John Lyon, Jr.**, Professor Emeritus of Music, passed away January 19, 2024.
- **Dr. Eileen Nelson**, Professor Emerita of Psychology, passed away February 4, 2024. She was a founding member of the Faculty Emeriti Association.
- **Dr. Stephen Rodgers**, who was the former Medical Director of the University Health Center, died on January 20, 2024.

Welcome New Members

Dr. David Wenos, Kinesiology

Doreen (Dee) Nilsen, Residence Life

2024 Faculty Emeriti Legacy Grant

By Kay Knickrehm, FEA President, Faculty Emeriti Association

The Legacy Award (now \$5,000) has been awarded to a full-time tenured faculty member every year since 2004. The award rotates among the colleges and the recipient is chosen by the Dean's office. This year's recipient, from the College of Mathematics and Sciences is one of our contemporaries, Dr. Tom DeVore, Professor of Chemistry.

Tom came to JMU in 1977 (!). He has been an active scholar for over 40 years, publishing 86 articles and bringing in over \$700,000 in support of his program. His devotion to students has been inspiring. Early in his career, Tom was instrumental in developing a program to involve undergraduates in hands-on research. He has continued this practice throughout his more than 40 years at JMU, mentoring 113 students. In fact, when he learned of the award, he immediately expressed a desire to use the money to help further student research. Tom was also instrumental in bringing the Shenandoah Valley Regional Science Fair to JMU allowing high school students to showcase their research in a university setting.

Tom has been an active member of the Virginia Academy of Sciences and the Virginia Section of the American Chemical Society. He has served in leadership roles in both organizations; and is a fellow of the Virginia Academy of Sciences.



President Alger presents Tom DeVore with FEA Legacy Grant Award along with FEA president, Kay Knickrehm

Tom hopes to make it to 50 years at JMU before retiring. We look forward to having him join us in 2027!

This year, I was invited to present the award at the Provost's Award Luncheon. The luncheon provided a wonderful venue for recognizing Tom.

The Legacy Award is funded in part by your contributions and in part by the president's office. President Alger has twice agreed to increase the amount of his contribution and we are grateful. Please consider making a contribution to our Foundation account to continue our support for this award: <https://shorturl.at/dLY16>

Executive Board

2024-2026

President

Kay Knickrehm, knickrkm@jmu.edu

Vice-President

Steve Smith, smith3cs@jmu.edu

Secretary

Gary Chatelain, chatelgx@jmu.edu

Co-Treasurer

Pamela Peterson Drake, drakepp@jmu.edu

Co-Treasurer

Brad Roof, roofbm@jmu.edu

Interest Groups Committee Chair

Martha Ross, rossmk@jmu.edu

Program Committee Chair

Brenda Seal, sealbc@jmu.edu

Special Events Committee Chair

Elizabeth Ihle, elizaihle@gmail.com

Immediate Past-President

Shelia Moorman, moormasa@jmu.edu

Member-At-Large

Rich Harris, harrisra@jmu.edu

Member-At-Large

Roger Hall, hallra@jmu.edu

Member-At-Large

Sherry King, kingsf@jmu.edu

Parking Reminder

Emeriti Faculty enjoy the free parking privilege. This privilege is not to be shared or loaned to family members or friends. Unauthorized use may result in loss of privilege for everyone.

Lecture Series

by Brenda Seal, Program Chair, Faculty Emeriti Association

Dr. Shiree Harbick, Clinical Educator, Researcher, and Director of the Facilitating Infant Responsiveness to Stimulate Talking (FIRST) Program in Communication Sciences and Disorders, served as our Fall 2023 Lecture Series speaker. Shiree's research addresses parent-infant communication in 6- to 12-month-olds, with a particular focus on encouraging parents from low-income, low-resource, and other at-risk (e.g., new immigrant) circumstances to "tune in, talk to, and take turns" with their babies long before they're producing words. To date, Shiree and a staff of JMU speech-language pathology professionals and volunteers, have supported more than 85 graduate and 120 undergraduate students over six years in coaching facilitative communication patterns in the JMU Speech and Language Clinic, at area daycare centers, and local churches. We are proud of Shiree's ongoing work and appreciate her presentation to the small, but highly engaged audience.



Talk to us...Play for us...Perform for us...

We continue to look for diverse presenters for our luncheons and lecture series. Please communicate with me, Brenda Seal, at brendacseal@gmail.com, if **YOU** would like to offer a presentation or recommend a speaker. We enjoy hearing fine music, readings, and other entertaining presentations, too.



"It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year"

By Brenda Seal, Program Chair, Faculty Emeriti Association

The December 2023 Holiday Gala Luncheon featured a small musical program with classical selections from Jessica Haddock's and Mille Morris' senior recitals. The talented young women and their most proficient accompanist, Wei Mo, are all music education majors. At the end of their performance, they led the 90-plus emeriti faculty and staff in a boisterous sing-along, "It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year."

Upcoming Events

SUMMER PICNIC

TBA

August's, October's, and December's luncheons are still in planning stages, and we welcome your suggestions for speakers, entertainment, and menu recommendations. Send your creative thoughts to brendacseal@gmail.com or to other members of the FEA Board.

See Updates Online:

jmu.edu/emeriti/upcoming-events.shtml

Spring Luncheon

*By Brenda Seal, Program Chair,
Faculty Emeriti Association*

Dr. Jennifer Walsh, Associate Professor from the Dietetics Department, offered her FEA Legacy Grant presentation, in our March meeting. She described her community service projects at local daycare centers and food pantries as instrumental in achieving novel learning experiences for her students who crossed linguistic, socioeconomic, and cultural learning communities. Jennifer's grant funds were also supportive of her research interests—nutrition and obesity in poverty, culturally sensitive obesity prevention in childcare centers, preschoolers' nutrition, breast milk composition and supply—in the Expanded Food Nutrition and Education Program, a USDA program for low-income populations. We are clearly proud to be supportive of Jennifer's work and appreciate her presentation to an attentive audience.



**Jennifer Walsh, 2022 Legacy Grant Recipient ,
Kirk Armstrong, Health Professions AUH, Steve Smith, FEA VP**



Rich Harris, Daphne Thomas, & Karen Ford



Nancy & Charles Bailey & Doug Skelley