

The RETIREE CENTER Newsletter



Hello Retirees,

I hope you have taken some time to enjoy the fall colors and weather. It took a while for the colors to pop, but they are really beautiful now. We were lucky to have absolutely gorgeous weather for Homecoming Weekend (October 7-10) this year. We had two retirees honored with Distinguished Awards at this year's celebration. Barb Oertel received the Distinguished Faculty/Staff Award. Barb worked for WSU for 33 years. She held several leadership roles during her tenure including Director of the Warrior Success Center and Interim Vice President of Enrollment Services. Her contributions to WSU have been enormous, and she is so deserving of the honor. Carl Stange received the Grand Marshal/Heritage Award. Here is a snippet about Carl from the Distinguished Awards website: "Carl Stange was a key figure on campus and instrumental as the Director of Admissions. During his tenure, Stange recruited hundreds, if not thousands of students to Winona State by sharing his passion for his alma mater. He helped develop long-lasting relationships with the students, faculty and staff and community members." We are so lucky to have such vibrant and dedicated retirees. Congratulations to Carl and Barb!



It's been very nice being back on campus and working in the office again. Our office is open Monday-Friday, and you are welcome to stop in anytime. We would love to see you. Masks are still required in all buildings on campus. I will keep you notified of any changes to this policy. Next semester, we are going to experiment with having some of our Senior University courses held on campus. It's a slow crawl back to a sense of normality. We are keeping our fingers crossed that COVID-19 doesn't spoil our plans. You can see the schedule of Spring 2022 Senior U courses on [page 4](#). We have some amazing classes planned for you!



Tracy Hale, Director of Alumni Engagement, snapped a selfie on the field with Carl, Barb and Jean Abbott (another Distinguished Award Winner).

Unfortunately, we had to postpone our in-person luncheon to honor new retirees that was scheduled for this October. We have postponed it until spring due to COVID concerns. I will be in touch with you about the new date and time. We have so many new retirees to honor since we haven't had a new retiree luncheon since 2019! It will be wonderful to celebrate in person again. There is some positive news in that we were able to host two day trips this semester. Both were incredibly fun. We saw the Vikings beat Seattle in September, and we attended Disney's Frozen at the Orpheum just last week. Please see the pictures from these trips on [page 5](#).

As always, we hope you enjoy this newsletter and find some events you'd like to attend. Please save the date for the Living History Premiere on December 6th. We are honoring four very deserving retirees with student-created documentaries. It is sure to be a fabulous event. I'd like to thank our regular contributors, David Robinson and Bill Meyer, for their wonderful articles in this issue. I hope you enjoy reading them as much as I did. Hope to see you soon!

— Jess

RETIREE CENTER MISSION STATEMENT

To support the mission of WSU and enrich the campus community as well as the lives of retired staff, faculty and administration by providing institutional connections between the University and retirees who may wish to continue their intellectual and social participation in collegial life and service to the University.

RETIREE NEWS & NOTES

Advisory Board

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NANCY KAY PETERSON & EMILIO DEGRAZIA

Nancy Kay Peterson, retiree from Grants & Sponsored Projects, had one of her poems, *The Plains are the Sky*, chosen to be a part of Winona's 2021 Poetry Walk Project. She is pictured at right standing behind her poem that has been stamped into the sidewalk at 106 East 2nd Street.

Emilio DeGrazia, professor emeritus English, was also recognized. His poem *Pastime* is in this year's exhibit. Emilio's poem is located at 58 East 3rd Street.

There is an event to celebrate all 10 poets who were chosen to be a part of this year's project on Friday, October 29th. Here is a link to an article from the Winona Daily News with more information about the event: [Winona Poetry Walk](#)

The Winona Poetry Walk is a public art initiative from the City of Winona Fine Arts Commission. Here is a link to their website: [City of Winona Poetry Walk](#)



Nancy Peterson

Congratulations Nancy & Emilio!



Emilio DeGrazia

The Plains are the Sky

Sky defines flat land
except in corn fields,
where towering stalks
guzzle water and leave
cracked cement earth.
Wave your way out between
cutting-edged leaves,
snagging thistles,
stumbling stones,
to return to safe prairie.
Only sky surrounds you.

-Nancy Kay Peterson

Pastime

Girl, nine years of wonder
On her face, sits on third,
Running her fingers
Along the wrinkles
Of my old leather mitt.
It's the last of the ninth.
And everywhere
In the world
Bases are loaded.

-Emilio De Grazia

RICHARD BOWMAN

Richard Bowman, professor emeritus education, published an article titled "Learning How to Learn: The Infinite Learner" in *Academic Exchange Quarterly*, Summer 2021, OPEN ACCESS: <http://rapidintellect.com/AEQweb/edchoice.htm>

Across all time periods, in all life forms, organisms have encountered the challenges of learning how to learn to sustain life. The purpose of this paper is to illustrate the human dimensions and dynamics of "Learning How to Learn" from four distinctive inflection points: Roman brick makers, Leonardo da Vinci, COVID-19 ICU physicians, and the Infinite Learner. These four inflection points disrupted learning how to learn in people's personal and professional lives in ways that were not fully understood at the time.

UPCOMING DAY TRIP & TRAVEL OPPORTUNITIES

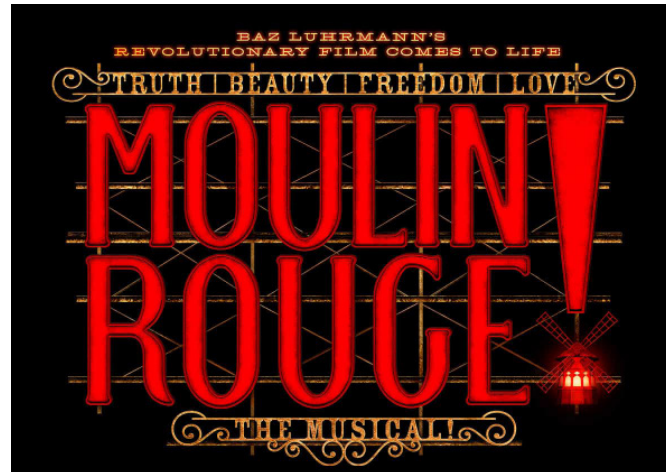
MOULIN ROUGE AT THE ORPHEUM

Date: Thursday, May 19, 2022 - 1pm show (matinee)

Venue: Orpheum Theater - Minneapolis

From the Orpheum's website: "Baz Luhrmann's revolutionary film comes to life onstage, remixed in a new musical mash-up extravaganza. Directed by Tony Award-nominee Alex Timbers, *Moulin Rouge! The Musical* is a theatrical celebration of truth, beauty, freedom and — above all — love. With a book by Tony Award-winner John Logan, music supervision, orchestrations and arrangements by Justin Levine, and choreography by Emmy Award-nominee Sonya Tayeh, *Moulin Rouge!* is more than a musical; it is a state of mind."

Registration will open in early 2022!



HAMILTON AT THE ORPHEUM

The Retiree Center was informed by the Orpheum Theater that *Hamilton* will be postponed until sometime in 2023. All who had bought tickets through us have been refunded. The Retiree Center will still be entitled to 50 tickets when the show runs. Those who had tickets will be given priority in purchasing tickets in 2023. This is something to look forward to!



2022 RETIREE CENTER TRAVEL OPPORTUNITIES

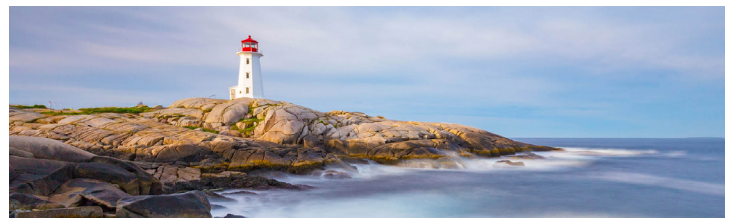
The Retiree Center is offering a *Cuba Discovery* trip from February 28-March 5, 2022. Some of the trip highlights include:

- 5 Nights in Havana
- Old Havana Walking Tour
- Museum of the Revolution
- Havana Club Rum Museum
- Hemingway's Farm
- Old Style Classic Car Club
- Nacional Hotel Tour
- Pinar Del Rio & Vinales Valley
- Tobacco Farm & Farmhouse Visit
- Colon Cemetery
- Artist Jose Fuster
- Cigar Factory Tour
- Habana Compas Dance Performance
- Cost: \$3,849 per person/double



We are also offering a *Nova Scotia & The Canadian Maritimes* trip from July 21-30, 2022. Some of the trip highlights include:

- Halifax City Tour
- Peggy's Cove
- Alexander Graham Bell Museum
- Baddeck
- Cabot Trail
- Cape Breton National Park
- Prince Edward Island Tour
- Charlottetown (PEI)
- Green Gables Farmhouse
- Hopewell Rocks
- Bay of Fundy
- Lunenburg Walking Tour
- College of Piping
- Cost: \$3,500 per person/double



SENIOR UNIVERSITY SNEAK PEEK

SPRING 2022



Here's a preview of our fantastic line-up of Senior University classes for Spring 2022. As you can see, we have classes being taught online, in-person or in a hybrid format (Zoom & in-person). All current WSU COVID-19 policies will be followed for in-person classes.

Registration for courses will open in mid-November. Course catalogs will be mailed out at that time as well.

ENVIRONMENTAL POLITICS	Darrell Downs Taught In-Person Room to be announced	Wednesdays January 12, 19, 26; February 2, 9 3:00-5:00 p.m. \$40.00
GLOBALIZATION GOOD OR BAD?	Yogesh Grover Taught Hybrid Zoom & In-Person Room to be announced	Fridays January 28 February 4, 11, 18 1:30-3:00 p.m. \$40.00
BIOMEDICAL ETHICS	Patrick Clipsham Taught Hybrid Zoom & In-Person Room to be announced	Thursdays February 17, 24 March 3, 17, 24 3:00-4:30 p.m. \$40.00
WHAT ARE WE MADE OF? A PHYSICIST'S PERSPECTIVE	Andy Ferstl Taught In-Person Lab Room: SLC 132 Lecture Room: TBA	Tuesdays February 15, 22, 29 April 5, 12 10:00-11:30 a.m. \$40.00
A BRIEF HISTORY OF JAZZ: 1965 - PRESENT	Rich MacDonald Taught via Zoom Meeting ID will be emailed	March 28 April 4, 11, 18, 25 2:30-4:00 p.m. \$40.00
BOGIE: THE ESTABLISHMENT & DEVELOPMENT OF A FILM PERSONA	David Robinson Taught In-Person Stark Hall 103	May 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 1:00-3:00 p.m. \$40.00

FALL 2021 RETIREE CENTER DAY TRIPS

On Sunday, September 26th, we attended the first Vikings home-game of the season. It turned out to be a fantastic game! The Vikings were in rare form. They beat Seattle 30-17. We all had a great time cheering them on!



Bob Berzinski & Sandy Hunter



Tom & Julie Grier



Jean Bellman & Pauline Christensen



Kim & Dave Gresham & Sharron Johnson
& their families



Bill Meyer & grandson Dylan



Andrea Northam & her family

On Tuesday, October 19th, we attended Disney's Frozen: The Musical at the Orpheum Theater in Minneapolis. We ate an early supper at Rock Bottom Brewery right across from the theater. The play was quite a spectacle...it was enchanting!



Barb Farrell & Mary Schneider



Nancy Malotke & family



Peggy Meyers & Heidi Pflipsen



Marge & Bert Mohs



My attempt at a selfie with Nancy!



Gloria McVay & her granddaughter

FALL 2021 LIVING HISTORY PREMIERE

December 6, 2021 • 3:30 - 5:30 p.m. • Stark Hall 103 Auditorium

John Ferden, Retired Director of Residence Life
& Auxiliary Services
37 Years of Service



Serena Holstad, Retired Office & Administrative Specialist
12 Years of Service

Joanne Rosczyk, Retired Telephone Administrator
& Safety Director
30 Years of Service



Richard Shields, Professor Emeritus, Physics
40 Years of Service



RETIREE GUEST COLUMNIST - DAVID ROBINSON

THE BIG SCREEN/SMALL SCREEN DILEMMA CONTINUES...

In July, I read the remarkable headline “Walt Disney Sued!” Yikes, what sorry pass have we come to when the late Uncle Walt, creator of Mickey, Minnie, Donald, and Goofy, is being hauled into court? Turns out that the party suing the Disney Studios was Scarlett Johansson, who plays the title role in the Disney/Marvel epic *Black Widow*. She was upset because Uncle Walt was acting more like Scrooge McDuck by releasing the film in theaters at the same time as it began streaming, thus cutting Ms. Scarlett —reportedly the world’s highest paid actress—out of yet more millions.

The good news is that they settled out of court on October 1; the bad news, for Disney and several other film studios, is that the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees last week authorized a strike against major television and film producers. Ninety-eight percent of the members— which includes makeup artists, costume makers, animators, broadcast technicians, and other “below the line” or “behind the camera” workers—demanding better pay and working conditions. The Disney suit was reputedly the catalyst which brought to the fore some long-standing grievances over the additional workloads and inequities brought about by the rise of streaming productions, accelerated by the onset of COVID and the consequent jump in at-home viewing. As I write, that dispute remains unsettled, endangering further productions to feed the hungry maw of TV viewership.

Okay, so what does all this have to do with you and me and other moviegoers who have (largely) stopped going out to the movies? When the pandemic started nearly two years ago, before we fully appreciated its ferocity and likely duration, I thought we would get back to the theaters with relief, enjoying the communal experience and big-screen pleasures they afford. The moviemakers themselves gambled on that hope, especially since their profit margins heavily depend on getting people’s bodies and wallets inside the theater doors and into the reclining seats, where they can happily munch on insanely overpriced popcorn and candy.

Alas (sort of) I was wrong. Though I haven’t been to a movie theater since the holiday season of 2019, I have seen and enjoyed a ton of movies, most of which I would never have had the chance to see in a theater. My wife and I enjoy “movie time” most nights: happily, she usually gets to pick the fare and has an unerring instinct for quality and novelty. So we have watched, to cull out some examples: Polish and Belgian heist flicks; British and American “limited series” dramas such as “The Queen’s Gambit” and more recently, “Maid”; documentaries and short-form films like the South African Oscar winner, “My Octopus Teacher”; older movies covering the musical careers of, say, Rod Stewart and The Beach Boys. And I haven’t missed, even a little bit, the Big Screen Bonanzas that the studios have relied on most summers to drive profits for the year: I intend to remain unbitten by the *Black Widow*.

I could go on, but I expect you take my point. The streaming channels—dominated by Netflix and Amazon but being joined by Hulu and the ilk—have emphatically come of age and are threatening to dominate the film industry for some time to come, perhaps permanently. (Even technologically-challenged oldsters like my wife and me have figured out how to navigate some of the many possible streams we can paddle down.) The arguments of Johansson, the unions, et al, illustrate the change that is a-coming, if not already here.

Admittedly, I am and will continue to be nostalgic about the Good Ol’ Days, especially when I’m watching a comedy and missing the crowd response so vital to the genre. But my vaccine-resisting, mask-hating, virus-spewing fellow citizens have denied me that pleasure for the nonce, I fear. And maybe, ironically, for good and for the best.



WSU ANNOUNCES NEW APPOINTMENTS

Originally published on Winona State University News

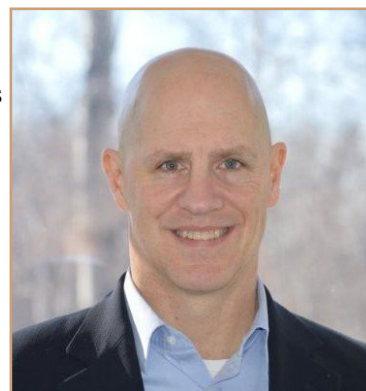
ORESTA FELTS

WSU is pleased to announce the appointment of Oresta Felts to the position of interim Director of International Student and Scholar Services (ISSS). The position oversees international recruiting, admissions and advising, as well as assistance with visiting international scholars. Ms. Felts earned her Master of Arts degree in Speech Communication at Western Illinois University and her Bachelor of Arts in Teaching English as a Foreign Language from Ivan Franko National University, Lviv, Ukraine. Oresta has been the International Enrollment Management Specialist at Winona State since 2016, and has over 14 years of experience in International Education and English as a Second Language at WSU, Stephen F. Austin University, and Western Illinois University.



MARSHALL ERICKSON

Winona State University announces Marshall Erickson as the new Director of Community Engagement and StartUp Winona State. The position will support the WSU College of Business in expanding existing efforts in entrepreneurship - one of five key initiatives in the College of Business 2020-2025 Strategic Plan, said Interim Dean of the College of Business, Marianne Collins. "With this team in place, and additional efforts to establish a Center for Excellence, I feel that we can attain the next level of entrepreneurial opportunities and resources for our students and community," said Collins.



As Director of Community Engagement and StartUp Winona State, Erickson will foster collaboration and partnerships between WSU and the business and nonprofit community. "It's fun, rewarding work, and feeds my passion," said Erickson. "(This position) is a great opportunity to continue serving entrepreneurs in the region and doing what I enjoy. I'm looking forward to fostering these relationships to get the outcomes WSU wants in entrepreneur and economic development for students and the region."

Erickson received his Bachelor of Business Administration from University of Minnesota-Duluth and his MBA from University of St. Thomas. His previous experience includes launching and growing startups and entrepreneur ecosystems, and he has a particular passion for rural entrepreneurship. Erickson enjoys building programs and equipping individuals, organizations, and communities with the skills and mindset to adapt, create value, and thrive.

RITA RAHOI-GILCHREST

Dr. Rita Rahoi-Gilchrest, Associate Dean of the College of Liberal Arts, has accepted a position at Minnesota State College Southeast as Dean of Faculty and Academic Operations. She will depart WSU effective Nov. 28. Dr. Rahoi-Gilchrest first joined the Winona State community in 2000 and served in several different roles in the Communication Studies Department. In 2016, she took on an interim leadership role in the College of Liberal Arts before being appointed Associate Dean in 2019.

During her tenure at WSU, Dr. Rahoi-Gilchrest served our community as an advocate of the liberal arts as well as a strong interdisciplinary collaborator. In her new role, she will help us explore even more academic possibilities with our colleagues at MSC Southeast and form even stronger, more resilient partnerships.



*The Retiree Center will especially miss Rita. She was an active member of our Advisory Board serving on multiple subcommittees, and she was a regular attendee at Retiree Center events. We wish her well in her new position and all future endeavors.

WSU LANDSCAPE ARBORETUM DIRECTOR: NATE ANDERSON

In the fall of 2019, Nate Anderson was living the good life in Lake Minnetonka, MN. He had established a successful career in Landscape Architecture at Ground One Enterprises of Minnesota. In addition, Nate had put years of hard sweat into restoring an older house originally built in the 50's. At the same time, Nate was busy gathering indigenous plant materials while designing and planting a near perfect native landscape in a tranquil one-acre setting. Creating this earthly look hadn't been easy. Many invasive plant materials needed to be pulled out before new desirable plants could be planted. But after growing up on a farm near Madison, Wisconsin with two brothers and one sister, he was not afraid of hard work. Eventually, after 12 years Nate was satisfied with the results of both his renovated house and the native gardens in his yard.



Nate Anderson

As is the case with most creative people, Nate began searching for a change. He began looking for something that could challenge his creative instincts. It was at this time that the position of Landscape Arboretum Director came up at WSU. After the position was offered to Nate, he officially began his duties in November, 2019. A few months later, COVID-19 arrived. By the following March, nearly all WSU staff was working from home and that situation would last until June of 2021. During this period, Zoom was the primary means for colleagues within the University to get together and hold meetings.

During this time at home, Nate could only imagine what the campus might look like when a full staff and student population could be found immersed in the true university experience. Understanding student traffic flow, planning landscape renovations, and creating a unified approach to the various gardens requires the time to walk throughout WSU grounds during the different seasons and watch how the campus is used by staff and students. However, Nate hasn't had the luxury afforded most new employees at WSU, namely to be on campus.

Despite the limitations imposed by COVID-19, Nate has begun to find ways to display his talents on the WSU grounds. He has led the way to improving aging landscape projects that needed updating. For example, the garden that surrounds the WSU clock in the central part of the campus has a new look with more colorful native flowers. Other projects have demonstrated the growing desire at WSU to eliminate unnecessary walkways and soften the harshness of too much concrete. Sidewalks have been removed on both the north and west sides of Kreuger Library and replaced with plant materials.

Anderson sees his role as WSU Landscape Director or Landscape Architect as one where he can work to "embrace the University's urban environment while embedding the ecology of southeastern Minnesota's Driftless Region into campus". He is looking to update and bring balance and unity to the various native and non-native gardens that beautify the WSU grounds. By doing so, Anderson believes that students, staff, and visitors can be educated on the benefits of both equally important types of gardens.

New projects on the horizon include a number of exciting improvements to the Meditation Garden on the Southeast corner of the Bob Dufresne Performing Arts Center, new upgrades to the walkway area between Somsen and Phelps, and redoing the stairs at the base of Garvin Heights including a new stone base.

The most talked about new development is the \$12 million project that will create the largest solar panel system on any of the Minnesota State Universities by late 2022. In addition, solar panels will be placed on a number of WSU rooftops. Exciting times at WSU!

When Nate isn't overseeing his duties as WSU Landscape Arboretum Director, he can often be found planning his next trip. He enjoys travelling both here in the USA and overseas. Recently, he had the opportunity to travel to Utah and visit a number of the National Parks, an experience that he enjoyed immensely. Trips to Ecuador and the Amazon are on his bucket list. You just might catch him at the airport heading out on his next adventure!

CALENDAR

November



WARRIOR GAME DAY EXPERIENCE

Last one of the season!
Saturday, November 13, 2021
11:00am - 1:00pm

EXPANDING PERSPECTIVES SERIES

REGINA MUSTAFA

Thursday, November 18, 2021
Kryzsko Commons Ballroom - 7:00 p.m.



VETERAN'S DAY OBSERVED

Thursday, November 11, 2021
Retiree Center Closed



RETIREE CENTER COFFEE BREAK

Tuesday, November 9, 2021
10:00-11:00 a.m.
Via Zoom - Guest: Jonathan Locust

WSU THANKSGIVING BREAK

Retiree Center Closed
November 24-26, 2021
Happy Thanksgiving!

December



RETIREE CENTER COFFEE BREAK

Tuesday, December 14, 2021
10:00-11:00 a.m.
Via Zoom - Guest: Kendra Weber

LIVING HISTORY PREMIERE

Monday, December 6, 2021
3:30 pm - 5:30 pm
Stark Hall 103 Auditorium



WSU COMMENCEMENT

Friday, December 10, 2021
McCown Gymnasium



WINTER BREAK

Retiree Center Closed
December 23 - January 2

WSU HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE

Tentative Date: Wednesday, December 15
Format is still to be determined
Details will be emailed when available



CALENDAR

January

SPRING SENIOR U BEGINS

Environmental Politics
Darrell Downs
Begins Wednesday, Jan. 12
3:00-5:00 p.m.
Room TBA



MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY

Monday, January 17, 2022
Retiree Center Closed

WSU CLASSES RESUME

Monday, January 10, 2022

BUT I GUESS I'M ALREADY THERE: A GROUP SHOW CURATED BY ROGER BOULAY

Winona County History Center
January 21 - March 6, 2022



RETIREE CENTER COFFEE BREAK

Tuesday, January 11, 2022
10:00-11:00 a.m.
Via Zoom - Guest TBD

February and Beyond

RETIREE CENTER DAY TRIP

Moulin Rouge Matinee
Orpheum Theater, Mpls
Thursday, May 19, 2022



RETIREE CENTER COFFEE BREAK

2nd Tuesday of each Month
10:00-11:00 a.m.
Via Zoom - Guests TBA



GREAT RIVER SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL

Season 18
June 18 - July 31, 2022

WATER MUSIC WITH THE WINONA SYMPHONY:

HIDDEN CURRENTS

Minnesota Marine Art Museum
Thursday, February 10, 2022
7:00 - 8:30 p.m.

RETIREE CENTER TRAVEL OPPORTUNITIES

CUBA DISCOVERY: FEBRUARY 28-MARCH 5, 2022

NOVA SCOTIA & THE CANADIAN MARITIMES: JULY 21-30, 2022



FROZEN RIVER FILM FESTIVAL

February 9-13, 2022

GRANDPARENTS UNIVERSITY

Thursday-Friday
June 23-24, 2022
Tentative dates
Will depend on COVID



IN MEMORIAM



*Neil Sawyer
Spouse of Ann Sawyer
March 26, 2021*



*Gerald Anderson
Facilities
August 17, 2021*

IN MEMORIAM



*We honor and mourn our University
colleagues who have recently died.
We recognize the richness of each life,
the gifts these members have brought to
many and the loss felt by
family and friends.*



*William "Bill" Bellman
Spouse of Jean Bellman
October 4, 2021*



*Richard "Dick" Hopkins
Business Education & Geography
September 6, 2021*

THE PERKS OF BEING A WSU RETIREE

- Athletic Events: Free admission to regular scheduled campus athletic events
- Teaching, Learning and Technology Services: Free campus offered classes when space available
- Free WSU retiree e-mail
- WSU Fitness Center access at employee rate
- ID card for all retirees
- Free parking pass for all lots, must renew each year
- 15% discount on clothing and WSU gifts at bookstore, no books
- Printer, scanner, and copy access in the Retiree Center (no charge)
- Notary Public Services available at no charge at the Retiree Center
- WSU Library privileges (Retiree ID card serves as library card)

