Hello Retirees,

Spring is here! It’s so fun to watch the greening of the campus. The magnolia tree outside of Somsen has been in full flower for quite a while as have the yellow magnolias on the east side of Maxwell Hall. I feel so lucky to work in such beautiful surroundings. We have a great article from Bill Meyer in this edition of the newsletter about the “2000 Trees Initiative” that took place twenty years ago. That project went a long way towards beautifying the campus, the surrounding neighborhoods and the Winona community in general. I wasn’t living in Winona at that time and hadn’t heard about this very impactful project. Thanks to Bill for reminding us of its important legacy.

We have two more guest columnists in the newsletter this time around. Jim Reynolds is encouraging each of you to “Stand Up and Make a Difference” by contributing to the All-University Campaign and/or creating your own scholarship, and David Robinson tells us about the pleasure of viewing movies at home. I have to say I agree that it can be very nice to watch in the comfort of my own home, but I am so excited to go see a movie in a theater again! That day may not be that far away. I have received both doses of the vaccine, and I know many of you are fully vaccinated as well. It looks like summer will be more normal this year. As you’ll see in the calendar, both the Shakespeare and Beethoven festivals and Steamboat Days will be held this summer. They may not look the same as in previous years, but at least they will actually be happening!

I am so happy to announce that the Retiree Center is planning our first in-person event since the pandemic started for this fall. On October 21st, we will have a fall luncheon to honor all those who have retired since July 1, 2019. We have 76 new retirees to honor. Please save the date! I need to give a shout-out to Lisa Zibert and others from Human Resources who put together the wonderful Employee Recognition event via Zoom earlier this month. They did a fantastic job honoring the new retirees as well as new employees and employees celebrating a milestone anniversary. If you weren’t able to view it in real time, the recording is available on the Human Resources webpage. I encourage you to watch. Our very own Nancy Amann was honored with a standing ovation from President Olson for her 50 years of service to the university!! Amazing!

We have a fantastic line-up of Senior University classes on tap for the fall. Please see the details on page 4. Our classes will continue to be held via Zoom for the fall semester, but we do plan to return to in-person classes in spring 2022. Registration for fall classes is now open. We will also continue to offer monthly Retiree Center Coffee Breaks throughout the summer. Please join us for the next Coffee Break on Tuesday, May 11th. Nathan Anderson, WSU Arboretum Director, will be our special guest.

I hope you enjoy reading the newsletter. It’s filled with information about upcoming events, classes and trips. I want to thank David Robinson, Jim Reynolds and Bill Meyer for their contributions. If you would like to contribute to a future newsletter, please let us know. We would love to hear from you!
The WSU Retiree Center Scholarship Committee (Joanne Rosczyk, Sandra McNab, Rita Rahoi-Gilchrest) has chosen the Retiree Center Scholarship recipients for academic year 2021-2022. The criteria for the Retiree Center Scholarship are:

- Applicant must be a non-traditional student
- Applicant must be a full-time junior or senior
- Applicant must have at least a 3.5 cumulative GPA

The Scholarship Committee was incredibly impressed with the group of sixteen applicants this year. There were two applicants who bubbled to the top of the list, and the committee decided to give them both a $1,000 award for the upcoming academic year.

Our first recipient is John Kimmel. John is a Political Science major with three minors; Conflict Studies, History and Global Studies. He plans to someday run for office and focus on the issues of homelessness (especially within the military) and redesigning financial aid for higher education. John has been through extraordinary hardship and devastating loss. His story is inspirational and aspirational. He will be the first person in his family to obtain a bachelor’s degree.

Our second recipient is Kathleen Stoltman. Kathleen is working towards a degree in Biology. Upon graduation, she plans to attend graduate school to earn a Master of Science in Physician’s Assistant Studies. She currently works as Pharmacy Technician, but she hopes to be able to work with people of all ages on nutrition, diet, exercise and all aspects of wellness. She has overcome hardship and adversity to return to college and the scholarship funds are greatly needed and appreciated.

I’d like to thank our Scholarship Committee members for their hard work and dedication to reviewing the scholarship applications and awarding these very deserving students. I also want to thank those of you who have donated to our scholarship fund already, and I want to remind you that you can choose to donate to the WSU Retiree Center Scholarship through your All-University Campaign donation. All of the students who applied this year were well-deserving and demonstrated significant need for scholarship funds. The more money we raise for the scholarship, the more we can help these outstanding students.

Alumni Relations Director Tracy Hale and her daughter Madeline visited Florida in March. They were able to meet up with Tim & Susan Hatfield for a lovely lunch in Fort Myers. How fun!
93%! 85%! 74%! These figures represent, in order, the percentage of first year WSU undergraduates, all WSU undergraduates, and all WSU graduate students who receive some form of financial aid to attend WSU for their post-secondary and professional educations! Additionally, about 40% of WSU undergraduates are first generation college students, and about 16% are non-traditional (age 25+) students. WSU has a long history of providing accessible, high-quality education across five colleges in close to 100 undergraduate and graduate degree programs. But providing generations of students with their education to help “improve our world” is not inexpensive. This is where we as retirees can stand-up along with others to make a difference!

In your retirement, after you have reasonably provided for yourself and your family’s futures, consider, if you haven’t already done so, making regular gift to the WSU Foundation’s All-University Campaign in one of many ways. Start a scholarship in your or your family’s name, join with retirees who have donated to the Retiree Center’s Scholarship Fund for non-traditional students, donate to the Sustaining Fund to support the University’s greatest needs, contribute to the new WSU Faculty Association’s Promise Scholarship for underrepresented students, or to the Warrior Way Scholarship to create opportunities for new incoming students, or to the Endowed Scholarship Fund aimed at retention and recruitment of students, or to a special project, department or service you favor at the University. There are a lot of ways for retirees to make a difference in providing dollars to help the next generation of leaders!

Create your own lasting legacy at WSU as a retiree by standing up to make a gift that will keep on giving through this year’s All-University Campaign! Please contact any University Advancement development staff member (457-5020), and they will help you make your contribution an easy, impactful and fulfilling experience. WSU retirees standing together can make a big difference!

Retiree Center/Krueger Library Collaboration

This spring, Kendall Larson, WSU Digital Collections and Liaison Librarian, collaborated with the Retiree Center to create a Retiree Center landing page in Krueger Library’s OpenRiver Collection. The Retiree Center page currently houses all of the Retiree Center newsletters going back to 2006! These newsletters are in a searchable format, so you can plug any name into the system and see where that person has been highlighted in a Retiree Center newsletter. Our page is also connected to the Living History Project page. This page includes links to each of the documentaries that have been created as part of the Living History Project since 2005. We are excited about this collaboration, because it is another way to increase the exposure of the Retiree Center to the campus and broader community. We plan to continue this project by adding photographs and other Retiree Center documents to our page. Here is a link to our page on the OpenRiver site: https://openriver.winona.edu/wsuretireecenter/

According to the Open River website, “OpenRiver is the institutional Repository for Winona State University. OpenRiver is coordinated by the Darrell W. Krueger Library. Our Institutional Repositories (IRs) work to bring together our University’s research and creative output under one umbrella, with an aim to preserve and provide access to that research and creative endeavors. OpenRiver showcases our university’s scholarly and creative works. In addition to WSU’s collections we plan to selectively partner and collect items which provide context to the history of southeast Minnesota. We believe the name of Winona State University’s Institutional Repository, OpenRiver, reflects both the character and connection to our location on the banks of the Mississippi River.”

I encourage you to go out and explore the site. There are so many collections to browse and they are all searchable. Here is a link to the main collections page: https://openriver.winona.edu/communities.html
Have fun exploring!
Here is a look at the upcoming Senior University classes for Fall 2021. All courses will be held via Zoom. **REGISTRATION** is open now!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Instructor</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Times</th>
<th>Fees</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>On Liberty</strong></td>
<td>David Speetzen</td>
<td>Tuesdays August 24, 31, September 7, 14, 21</td>
<td>2:00-3:30 p.m.</td>
<td>$40.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>John Stuart Mill’s Vision of a Free Society</td>
<td></td>
<td>Fridays September 10, 17, 24, October 1</td>
<td>2:30-4:30 p.m.</td>
<td>$40.00</td>
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<td><strong>The Supreme Court &amp; The Constitution</strong></td>
<td>Matt Bosworth</td>
<td>Thursdays October 7, 14, 21, 28, November 4</td>
<td>2:30-4:00 p.m.</td>
<td>$40.00</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Eating Your Way to Good Health</strong></td>
<td>Kent Hansen</td>
<td>Tuesdays October 26</td>
<td>1:00-3:00 p.m.</td>
<td>$10.00</td>
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<td><strong>Senior U Lite: Learning Your Way Around the Night Sky</strong></td>
<td>Jennifer Anderson</td>
<td>Tuesday October 12</td>
<td></td>
<td>$10.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>The State of Families in the United States</strong></td>
<td>Aurea Osgood</td>
<td>Tuesdays October 26</td>
<td>1:30-3:00 p.m.</td>
<td>$40.00</td>
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In my last piece of deathless prose for this newsletter, you will no doubt recall, I considered the relative merits of going to the movies or having the movies come to you, via the TV or computer screen. Beset by nostalgia and plagued by cabin fever, I chose the communal experience available at the cineplex, reveling in the “bigness” of the screen, the sound, even the audience.

Though I’m not yet ready to fully recant, I have come around to the opposite point of view during the intervening five months. I still love going out to the theater, but what if there’s no place to go out to safely? (Perhaps you are braver or more madcap than I, having twice rolled up your sleeves for the magical jab and now feeling impervious to the virus.) And what if, when you get to the twenty-five percent full theater, there’s not much to see there, at least nothing worth the risk?

I was jarred when I recently read that that nine of the thirty top-grossing films in history use Marvel characters, some of them created for the film rather than the comic book(s). Since I haven’t enjoyed many of these after the first Iron Man with its wonderfully-flawed, definitely non-super hero, I was dismayed, especially considering that Marvel is now a subsidiary of Disney, promising yet more, um, marvelous output. (Are Mickey and Donald spinning in their graves or simply retired to their Magic Kingdoms?)

The current Big Movie gracing the Big Screen is Godzilla vs. Kong, whose opening weekend in theaters and streaming has done the biggest box-office business since the pandemic’s onset. Now, I bow to no one in my admiration of the original King Kong (1933) with its campy, clunky stop-action title character, which helped the audiences escape from the soup lines of the time. But that the current iteration is the 12th one featuring the big guy surely signals that enough is enough. And the summer’s outlook for theatrical offering is, let’s say, not much more promising: we’ll even get yet another chance to watch Spider-Man spin his magic.

By contrast, if you want to see a really good “small” movie, your chances presently are much better at home. I’m going to stretch the definition of “movie” a bit here and look at the kind of films that Netflix, Amazon, Hulu, et al are producing. In particular, you might have seen or heard of The Queen’s Gambit, a film/miniseries which began last October and ran for seven episodes, or 395 minutes if you’re bingeing at home. Its exceedingly unlikely bet is that we will sit this long for a story built around a series of chess matches—not exactly an action movie setup. Even the superb, multiple award winning acting job of Anya Taylor-Joy might not sufficiently attract us to watch her consider at length whether to castle her king.

However, the plot involves more than her staring at the board or staring across it and bringing down her cocky (male) opponents. The protagonist, Beth Harmon, works her way through various addictions, romantic disappointments, two mothers’ deaths, and the pressures of international stardom and the odd defeat. The story takes Beth from an orphanage where she first becomes addicted to drugs, through a protracted bout with alcoholism, and finally to becoming an American Cold War hero. (People of a certain age will see a parallel to Bobby Fischer and his defeat of Boris Spassky in 1972.)

Besides Taylor-Joy’s bravura performance, the film features excellent, painstaking recreations of the dress, cars, furniture, magazines, hair styles—you name it—of the era through which Beth moves and grows. Given the six and one-half hours of running time, the set design and art direction people take the opportunity to establish carefully the way that Beth’s shifting surroundings mirror the gradual, not always positive changes in her. The film’s nuances are given time—including stretches where Beth is undergoing drug-induced illusions where her visions actually help her chess game—to develop and sustain credibility. In a standard length film, her emergence out of her troubles and into her triumph might feel rushed or forced. Here, the valleys and peaks of her life play out slowly enough to pull us into them with her.

The downside of the smaller frame is that the film’s makers don’t have the capacity for or interest in the larger backdrops that Beth comes to stand before: New York, Mexico, and finally Russia. These look cheesy, in a way that a larger format would not get away with. Also, the sheer length of The Queen’s Gambit can prove daunting to even the most engaged viewers. (Of course, in a movie theater you aren’t allowed to go out for lunch, have a jog and a shower, check your email, or take a nap and rewind the part you slept through.)

Another really “small” film, Nomadland, was written, edited, directed, and produced by Chloe Zhao, working with a budget of $5 million. (That might cover the catering and housing costs of a standard “Hollywood” film.) It’s up for a Best Picture Oscar, and its star Frances McDormand—one of a relatively few professional actors in the film—is a Best Actress Nominee. It debuted on Hulu and in the relatively few theaters open by the end of last year. In other words, as these two films illustrate, smaller is getting to look a lot like “better”: less might emphatically be more.

Near the beginning of film history, in 1915 and 1918, D. W. Griffith challenged his audience’s patience and attention span with two monumental movies The Birth of a Nation and the lesser-known Intolerance. Both movies ran about three hours long and had the cliched “cast of thousands.” In the short span of two decades, movies had gone from the nickelodeon novelties with running times of a few minutes into the much longer, more complex phenomenon we now regard as an art form. It may be that, thanks in ironically large part to the pandemic, movies are again evolving, as a part of the much-discussed “new normal” bearing down upon us.
The Winona State University Common Book Project is pleased to announce WSU’s Common Book for 2021-22 is Jamil Zaki’s *The War for Kindness: Building Empathy in a Fractured World*.

Zaki’s writing about empathy is steeped in both lab research and real people’s stories. The writing is engaging, accessible, and interdisciplinary, offering instructors in many different classes an opportunity to adopt the text and for our campus and our community to engage in meaningful conversation about the world we hope to build.

More about the book from the *War for Kindness* website: “In this groundbreaking book, Jamil Zaki shares cutting-edge research, including experiments from this own lab, showing that empathy is not a fixed trait—something we’re born with or not—but rather a skill that can be strengthened through effort. He also tells the stories of people who embody this new perspective, fighting for kindness in the most difficult of circumstances. We meet a former neo-Nazi who is now helping extract people from hate groups, ex-prisoners discussing novels with the judge who sentenced them, Washington police officers changing their culture to decrease violence among their ranks, and NICU nurses fine-tuning their empathy so that they don’t succumb to burnout.”

Announcements about programming for Fall are forthcoming as details are settled and will be generously supported by the following: the College of Liberal Arts, the English Dept., the WSU Bookstore, the Psychology Department, and the Social Work Department.

Please reach out if you have questions about the Zaki’s book or the Common Book program in general. You may also wish to visit the *Common Book website* for more information.

**Upcoming Day Trip Opportunity**

We are offering another opportunity to see a fantastic musical in the Twin Cities! On Tuesday, October 19th, we will be heading to the Orpheum Theater in Minneapolis to see an evening performance of *Disney’s Frozen: The Musical*. We have secured great main-level seats for the show! Frozen is an all-new production created for the stage by an award-winning creative team, led by Academy Award® winners Jennifer Lee, Kristen Anderson-Lopez and Robert Lopez, and Tony Award-winning director Michael Grandage. It features the songs you know and love from the original film plus an expanded score with a dozen new musical numbers. It’s a theatrical experience like no other, so let yourself go.

Before the play begins, we will eat an early supper as a group at the Rock Bottom Brewery (cost of supper is included in the price of the trip). The Rock Bottom Brewery is conveniently located just across the street from the Orpheum on Hennepin Avenue. We will have a private room that overlooks the Orpheum and will have three delicious menu options available to us. The cost of the trip is $110/person and includes your ticket to the play, dinner at Rock Bottom Brewery (not including alcoholic beverages), the bus ride (including snacks and water) and tip for the bus driver.

This trip had originally been planned for May 2019 but was rescheduled due to COVID. Registration will open soon!
As I gaze out the window of my home and look up the hill, I can see two Eastern Redbud trees displaying a spectacular show of pinkish-purple blooms. Those trees were planted 20 years ago along with hundreds of other trees in Winona and nearby communities as a result of a dream of Dr. Darrell Krueger. Let’s roll back the clock to the year 2001.

Some of you with sharp memories may remember an event that occurred 20 years ago. During the spring of 2001, WSU, the city of Winona, and a number of private businesses collaborated in a community project called the “2000 Trees Initiative.” Two-thousand trees were either planted on the WSU campus or on sites adjacent to the University, and smaller potted trees were given away to the public. The hope was to plant 2000 trees in the year 2000. In fact, it took a little longer to plan, order and organize the project, and by the time the ground plan took place, spring 2001 was upon us.

How did this project come about? Years before the Initiative was proposed by Dr. Krueger, a devastating straight-lined windstorm swept through Winona destroying many of the older trees. In particular, Broadway Avenue with its canopy of mature trees was hit hard and there was a clear need for restoration in this area. Dr. Krueger tapped Joe Reed of WSU to bring other players into the planning of the project. Over time, Bruce Fuller, the city forester at that time, Dana Coulter from Winona Nursery, Nancy Peterson, Director of Grants and Special Projects at WSU, myself and many others began a planning process that took nearly a year.

We decided that the community could be best served if we separated the initiative into two distinct projects. One of the projects would involve identifying sites near WSU that could benefit from the addition of trees. It was decided that 500 larger trees would be planted primarily on boulevards in close proximity to the University. After identifying planting sites, a list of trees was decided upon. The list consisted of very diverse but hardy trees including several different Maples, the disease resistant Elm, Kentucky Coffeetree, Hackberry, Japanese Lilac tree, Ornamental Pear, and a few different varieties of Crabapple trees. These and other trees were handpicked and later planted by Winona Nursery. Unfortunately, a number of Ash trees were selected and planted. The dreaded Emerald Ash Borer disease was unknown then.

In early May, Winona Nursery donated the manpower to plant the larger 500 trees that were earmarked for boulevards. Sites near Lake Winona and entry points to the City of Winona were designated as spots for clusters of flowering ‘Snowdrift’ Crabapples. Bruce Reed followed up with loads of mulch and a much needed watering program for the trees. The summer of 2001 turned out to be an exceptionally dry summer and the mulch and watering were a much-needed lifeline to the trees until the rain returned.
The second part of the project involved finding, selecting and transporting 1500 potted trees. Nancy Peterson from WSU under the direction of Darrell Kruger, began the process of securing grant money to help find and finance the purchase of the potted trees through the Lindsborg Regional Tree Growing Out Station run by the National Tree Trust and the Kansas Urban Forestry Council. Nancy recalls that the search for grant money for the tree project was “the most unusual grant search that I had ever done.”

Wes Adell, an arborist in Kansas, helped with the selection process and arranged pick up dates and other helpful details. Minnesota Southeast Technical College donated an 18-wheel semi and a driver to pick up and bring back the 1500 assorted potted trees. I drove to Kansas with the driver from the Tech College and we loaded different varieties of Oak, Maple, and River Birch along with a number of Eastern Redbuds to bring back to Winona.

Meanwhile, preparations were being made for a tree giveaway on a weekend in late April. Residents from Winona could come and select a potted tree, fill a pail with free mulch and compost, and go home to plant a tree. KWNO and Joyce Woodworth from HBC helped promote and spread the word of the tree giveaway.

On two consecutive weekends in late April 2001, Boy Scouts and Master Gardeners came to the WSU greenhouse lot next to the Maxwell football field to assist the public in selecting trees, help load mulch, and give planting instructions. All the trees were successfully distributed and had found new homes over the course of the 2 weekends.

As Dana Coulter of Winona Nursery reminisced about the “Trees Initiative” twenty years later, “I am happy that so many trees have survived and flourished over time, but I am most pleased that the (hybrid) disease resistant Elms have done so well. Back in 2001 we were not so sure of the outcome.”

Today, while walking or driving through the city of Winona near WSU, an observant person might see some of the fruits of this grand event 20 years ago. The trees planted are now mature trees offering shade, color and diversity to the area. It might be nice to pause a moment and reflect on WSU’s great visionary, former President Darrell Kreuger, and be mindful of one of his many, long lasting contributions to the Winona community.

As a tribute to the “2000 Trees Initiative”, WSU will be planting a ‘Mountain Frost’ Ornamental Pear on campus this spring. ‘Mountain Frost’ was one of the trees planted in 2001. Due to COVID restrictions, no celebrations of the event are planned this year on the WSU campus.
May

Retiree Center Triennial Survey
Week of May 3rd
- Surveys will be sent out via Qualtrics to all retiree with email addresses
- Paper copies will be mailed to those without email

WSU Commencement
Friday, May 7, 2021

Retiree Center Coffee Break
Tuesday, May 11, 2021
10:00-11:00 a.m.
Via Zoom - Guest Nathan Anderson

WSU Design Show & Virtual Artist Talk
Tuesday, May 4th
4:00 p.m.
More Info: https://design.winona.edu/2021senior-show/visceral-show

June

WSU Commencement
Friday, May 7, 2021

Retiree Center Coffee Break
Tuesday, May 11, 2021
10:00-11:00 a.m.
Via Zoom - Guest Nathan Anderson

MEMORIAL DAY
Monday, May 31, 2021

WSU Design Show & Virtual Artist Talk
Tuesday, May 4th
4:00 p.m.
More Info: https://design.winona.edu/2021senior-show/visceral-show

Winona Steamboat Days
June 16-20, 2021

Winona Symphony
Spring Concert
Saturday, June 12th
Location to be determined

Retiree Center Coffee Break
Tuesday, June 8, 2021
10:00-11:00 a.m.
Via Zoom - Guest To be announced

GREAT RIVER SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL
Begins June 23, 2021
The festival is moving outdoors this year!

MBF | MINNESOTA BEETHOVEN FESTIVAL
June 27- July 18, 2021
For more info: https://www.mnbeethovenfestival.org/
July

CALENDAR

Time to enjoy summer in Minnesota!

Retiree Center Coffee Break
Tuesday, July 13, 2021
10:00-11:00 a.m.
Via Zoom - Guest To be announced

Winona County Fair
July 7-11, 2021

"America" Steamboat Docking
July 29, 2021
7:30 am - 5:30 pm
Levee Park

Fourth of July

August and Beyond

Retiree Center Fall Luncheon
Thursday, October 21, 2021
11:30 am - 1:00 pm
Our first in-person event of since February 2019!
Location to be announced

AROHE Virtual Conference
Assoc. of Retirement Organizations in Higher Education
October 12-14, 2021

Retiree Center Cuba Trip
September 20-25, 2021

Retiree Center Day Trip
Frozen at the Orpheum Theater
October 19, 2021
Registration will open soon!

WSU First Day of Classes
August 23, 2021
70% of classes are scheduled to be taught in-person

Senior U Classes Begin
Tuesday, August 24th
See Page 4 for details

WSU Homecoming 2021
October 7-10, 2021

Winona County Fair
WSU Homecoming 2021
Fourth of July
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 at the Retiree Center (up to 10 pages)
• Notary Public Services available at no charge
• WSU Library privileges (Retiree ID card serves as library card

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.

Don Fick
Chemistry
January 29, 2021

Betty Grangaaard
Business Office
March 12, 2021