

Emeriti Matters

UNIVERSITY OF HARTFORD

EMERITI ASSOCIATION

Emeriti Newsletter, Vol. 1, Issue 1, Summer 2017

Welcome from Robert Wallace, Chair, Executive Committee and Mike Kahn, Issue Editor

As colleagues who worked together for many years at the University but are now retired, we often lose track of the contributions and activities our friends continue to make. However, we increasingly learn of often delightful hobbies, professional responsibilities, volunteer and organizational efforts, and scholarly accomplishments our Emeriti are continuing to perform. Some have developed new interests, or traveled far and wide. Some are using their talents to become politically active and continue scholarly work. We've learned that some are contributing to the general well-being of their communities in ways that they had little time for previously. Indeed, social scientists are helping us redefine "retirement" as an awkward term, inconsistent with increased life-span, advances in health care, and resource management. Learning becomes a never-ending challenge, both necessary and desirable, keeping our minds and bodies active, even though we can't deny our wear and tear, and fear of obsolescence or irrelevance.

In keeping with the effort to keep each other informed of our activities, and to encourage us to think creatively, the executive committee of the Emeriti Association has voted to issue a modest-sized newsletter, at least annually, distributed by mail and electronically to our members and to key positions in the University community writ large. We intend our expenses to be minimal and not to detract from the student scholarships which we gladly fund and which are growing. We invite you to send us news of your activities, which your Emeriti colleagues would enjoy learning about in future editions, and any suggestions for format and content we might employ. Please use email address emeritus@hartford.edu.

The Emeriti Association of the University of Hartford comprises retired faculty and University administrators who have been granted emeritus status by the Board of Regents and who continue to contribute to the University's vibrancy and growth. Additional members may be invited on a case-by-case basis as reviewed by the Executive Committee and submitted to the whole group for vote. New members need not have been granted emeritus status by the University, but should be individuals who have retired from the University and who have made important contributions to the University over the years. The EA has created an endowment to provide periodic scholarships for worthy undergraduate students.

The Executive Committee Celebrates Walt's Retirement

The Executive Committee hosted a celebration for our outgoing President, Walt Harrison and his wife Dianne at the Metro Bis restaurant in Simsbury on Thursday April 20. We presented Walt with a plaque honoring his 19 years of service to the University, and our Executive Committee's contribution to the newly established President Walter Harrison Endowed Faculty Development Fund.

We welcomed his future participation in our gatherings and collegueship for many years to come. All in all, a delightful evening.



Emeriti Scholarship Donor Reception

We welcome you to join the group of emeriti scholarship donors who make possible the awarding of three \$1500 scholarships to University of Hartford students. The awardees are carefully selected from an annual pool of outstanding and worthy applicants. On April 5, 2017 a reception honoring emeriti scholarship fund donors was held at the home of Regina Miller. Anna Pan, a 2013 recipient of the scholarship joined the Executive Committee and donors. She shared what she has been doing and what receiving the scholarship meant to her. Those in attendance enjoyed food, beverages and lively conversations.



Colleague Highlights in Their Own Words *

Dom Armentano, Barney, Economics. I'm continuing to write Public Policy Op/Eds for the *Press Journal* here in Vero Beach, Florida. My two books are still in print and my wife and I work out at the local gym and I play golf twice a week.

Wally Banzhaf, CETA, Engineering Technology. I'm a member of of the Tariffville Water Commission and project manager for a \$1.5 million water tank installation. I tutor math and recently demonstrated some cool electrical, electronic and magnetic concepts at the Simsbury Mini Maker Faire

Barry Broden, Barney, Accounting. I am continuing my tax practice, revising tax books, traveling, and enjoying our kids and grandkids as they grow into adults.

Bill Coleman, A & S, Biology. I have published several papers, done research at UCONN, and taught as adjunct faculty at two community colleges in Florida. Now fully retired, I enjoy gardening, travel, and taking courses in drawing, design, and watercoloring.

John Feierabend, Hartt, Music Education. Continuing as a leading authority on music and movement development. Visiting lecturer at five other universities, for music teachers at UHart, presenting at international conferences, and have a national organization named after me. I continue to publish (over 70) with some of the books translated into Chinese.

Bernard Z. Friedlander, A & S, Psychology. I am now working on two scholarly presentations for the interdisciplinary Chaos and Complex Systems Seminar in the Physics Department here at the University of Wisconsin-Madison for the 2017—18 AY. I am also polishing a final version of a joint memoir on a hitherto unknown family's important involvements in American history.

Steve Gryc, Hartt, Music Composition. I am still composing, getting commissions, and giving performances (including a recent anthem for the University of Hartford) One of my principal hobbies is geyser gazing in Yellowstone National Park. where I spend one week each summer. I am one of the editors of the newsletter, *The Geyser Gazer Sput* and have written numerous articles in journals about the thermal features of the park.

John Schloss, A & S, Psychology. Frequent visits with my children and grandchildren. Weekly radio broadcasts of business news on CRIS for the blind and print impaired. Clinical Assistant Professor of Psychiatry (part-time) at UCONN Medical School and maintaining a private practice in psychotherapy in the Farmington Valley.

Sharon Toffey Shepela, Hillyer, Psychology. In November, 2015, I organized a committee to solarize my town, resulting in 54 contracts for over 400kw of pv solar. Worked on the Clinton campaign and after the election, have joined two groups working on climate action and renewable energy legislation

Catherine Stevenson, A & S, English. For the past 6 years, I have adored teaching courses in the Presidents' College to brilliant people on texts too challenging for most undergraduates. I also belong to a weekly writer's group, and foster my love of animals by volunteering at the Connecticut Humane Society. I've also become a devotee of yoga and travel.

* Due to space limitations, the scope of some of the submissions has had to be reduced. Hopefully, the essence of what people submitted has been faithfully preserved. (MK)

Highlighting member Leo Rockas , A&S, English



Leo Then
"It was all downhill from here"

Our colleague Leo Rockas has been busy presenting work he has authored this last year. *BECOMING REGENT* a history play by Leo, was given a staged reading at the Main Stage in New York last July. In addition, the Jane Austen Society of North America announced on Saturday, May 21, 2016: "Our long time friend Leo Rockas is visiting us from Connecticut to give a talk titled 'Solicitudes.' Join us on Saturday to learn why he chose to title his presentation after one of Jane Austen's favorite words." That week NPR mentioned Leo at the end of a broadcast and an article about the new film version of *Lady Susan*.

Leo has published three essays on Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice* in the Jane Austen Journal, *Persuasions*. He is under contract with a London publisher to do two "completions" of works Jane Austen left incomplete. He is continuing to work on his play about the Prince Regent who became King George IV and his Queen Caroline. (He was the Regent for whom the Regency period is named, which is when Jane Austen was publishing her major work.) In addition, just this May, Leo gave a reading to a group of Jane Austen Society members in Rochester, NY based on the stories of Saki of a playscript called *An Ear for Music*.

We will follow with interest Leo's significant scholarship and his forthcoming works.



Leo Now

Emeriti Scholarships—Leo Smith

The generous support of the membership has allowed an increase of three scholarships to \$1500 each. The 2017 recipients, chosen from 17 well-qualified applicants, are: Alexandra Francisco, a sophomore in ENHP, majoring in Health Sciences; Sophie Kaye, a junior in CETA, majoring in Acoustical Engineering and Music; and Kyle Vaccaro, a sophomore in Arts and Sciences with a double major in Biology and Chemistry. All three have grade point averages in excess of 3.90 and are very active in University and community service.

Past recipients have gone on to excel in graduate studies and in their careers. Among these are: Anna Pan, a 2013 recipient, who is an actuarial assistant at the Hartford; 2011 recipients Andrea Wojcik, a Ph.D. candidate in Technology and Society Studies at Masstricht University in the Netherlands, and Michael Thatcher, a transportation engineer at Tetra in Orlando FL; 2010 recipient Betsy Kadapuran, who is completing her pediatrics residency in Oklahoma; and Billana Mihaylova, a 2009 recipient, who, after obtaining an advanced degree in Business Administration from Northeastern, works as northeast director of sales of Popcorn, Indiana.

Contribution Request: A word from Bob Wallace

One of the most rewarding undertakings as an Association since our founding has been our Emeriti Scholarship Program. What started out as one \$500 scholarship has over time grown to currently three \$1500 awards. As noted elsewhere in this, our first newsletter, our awardees have shown themselves to be both dedicated scholars and contributors to the University community and beyond. That we have been able to accomplish this is due to the contributions, the support of you, our membership. We hope, in the future, to increase both the number and the amount of these awards. To accomplish this we need your continuing help. Please give whatever you feel you can, either at the time of our two plenary meetings, or during the academic year. We will also soon have a direct donation page on our web site for those who would wish to make a contribution. Your assistance, your generosity makes all the difference to our most talented students.

We welcome our new Emeriti: Michael Anderson, A & S, Computer Science. Walter Harrison, University President Emeritus. Harvey Jassem, A & S, School of Communication. Dennis Nolan, Art School, Art Illustration. John Ogilvie, Barney, Management/ Marketing. Joan O'Mara, Hillyer, Humanities. William Stull, A & S, English. Joe Voelker, A & S Dean, English. Barbara Wolfe, Hillyer.

In Memoriam: Joan Glazier, Hartt

Emeriti Association Publication Committee: Mike Kahn, Newsletter Issue Editor, Mary Dowst, Regina Miller, Sandy Morgan, Leo Smith, Bob Wallace, Ralph Zegarelli

Please visit the Emeriti website: hartford.edu/emeriti