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Faculty Recognition

Western Michigan University

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5-21-2018

## Faculty Retirement Recognition Dinner 2018

Western Michigan University

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**Faculty  
Retirement  
Recognition  
Dinner**

**May 21, 2018**

North Ballroom,  
Bernhard Center



May 21, 2018

Dear Colleagues

On behalf of our University community, thank you for your dedication and commitment to Western Michigan University. As you join the ranks of our emeriti faculty you leave behind a living legacy of distinction among our alumni, students, and your faculty colleagues. Many of you played a vital role in the growth of WMU from a regional university to a globally recognized high-research institution. You have each made significant contributions to the academy through your teaching, scholarship, creative works, discovery, and professional service.

We are grateful for the time, talent, and passion you have invested in WMU over the years. We will continue to build upon the solid foundation you leave behind and hope that the next generation of educators, researchers, and scholars will be able to fill the large void your retirement leaves. It is our sincere hope that you will remain engaged with your University in the years ahead as we strive to advance WMU as the School of Choice throughout the state, nation, and internationally.

Kari and I are pleased to join you for this celebration, and we extend our thanks and congratulations upon this milestone.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Edward Montgomery". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Edward" and last name "Montgomery" clearly legible.

Ed Montgomery  
President



## HONORED GUESTS



This evening we honor 24 of our faculty colleagues who are joining the ranks of Western Michigan University's esteemed retired faculty. Like so many before them, they have contributed greatly to the growth and development of the University during their tenure here.

We express our sincerest appreciation to these retiring faculty for their years of dedication to Western Michigan University and wish them a full and happy retirement. By honoring the accomplishments of our retired faculty, we also honor the accomplishments of WMU.

Jane T. Baas  
Michael J. Barcelona  
Bruce E. Bejcek  
Debra S. Berkey  
Denise J. Bowen  
Walter L. Burt  
Janet L. Coryell  
Douglas V. Davidson  
Richard de Peaux  
Alice J. DeYoung (no biography)  
Linda A. Dove  
John M. Dunn

Robert W. Felkel  
James A. Gilchrist  
James M. Hillenbrand  
David G. Houghton  
Miranda Howard  
Barbara S. Liggett  
Steven N. Lipkin  
David E. Little  
Robin E. McKinney  
Rameshwar P. Sharma  
Edmund Tsang  
Linda H. Zoeller

## MENU



### *Entrée Selections:*

Champagne chicken with wild mushrooms  
in a wine and cream sauce  
served with parmesan red skin potatoes

### *Vegetarian:*

Pesto cheese tortellini

### *Vegan, Low Fat and Gluten Free:*

Roasted vegetables served with rice

### *All Served With:*

Garden salad with vinaigrette dressing

Vegetable garden medley

Rolls and butter

Assorted cheesecake

Beverages

# WELCOME



Trumpet Fanfare . . . . . Maximillian McNutt  
Emcee Opening Remarks . . . . . Garrard Macleod

# DINNER

# PROGRAM

Greetings from the Faculty Senate . . . . . Richard A. Gershon  
Recognition of the honorees:  
    Remarks and presentation of certificates . . . . . Edward Montgomery  
    Presentation of legislative tributes . . . . Jon Hoadley and Margaret O'Brien  
    Presentation by Osher Lifelong Learning Institute. . . . Shirley Swanson  
Welcome to the ranks of emeriti . . . . . Ruth Heinig  
Honorees' response . . . . . Jane Baas  
Entertainment:  
    Singers . . . . . Savannah Fisher and Cashion Maciel  
    Pianist . . . . . Jeremiah Downes  
WMU Alma Mater . . . . . Sung by all





## **Jane Thornbury Baas**

*Professor Emerita of the Lee Honors College  
and Professor Emerita of Dance*

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Jane Thornbury Baas was born in Ann Arbor, Michigan, and raised in Fort Wayne, Indiana. She came to Western Michigan University in 1974 to study dance, earning a Bachelor of Science in 1978, and was a member of the honors college.

In 1980, she received a Master of Arts. In 1986, she received

a Master of Fine Arts in modern dance from Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio.

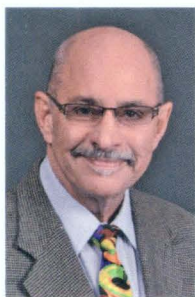
Following a two-year stint in a staff position at WMU and as a choreographer for area theatrical productions, Jane joined the faculty of the Department of Dance at WMU in 1981. While on leave from her position as assistant professor of dance, she received an MFA in 1986. Jane served as the dance academic advisor, counseling hundreds of students regarding academic and career choices, and was the department chair from 1991-1992, 1996-2001, 2003, and 2012-2014.

Jane is certified in Dancer-Specific Conditioning. Her dance-related research is in dancer wellness and she was instrumental in developing the dance science curriculum and practices within the Department of Dance. She developed important relationships with WMU's Sports Medicine Clinic, the athletic training program, and faculty in the exercise science program. These relationships led to better care of dancer injuries through streamlined access to therapeutic professionals, the establishment of injury clinics for dancers, and having athletic trainers on-site during major dance concerts. Because of Jane's efforts, numerous dance alumni have pursued careers as athletic trainers, dance movement therapists, Pilates instructors, graduate students in dance science, medical school students/doctors, and owners of small businesses that provide a variety of body therapies.

Jane has served on the boards of the Michigan Dance Association and the American College Dance Festival Association, and directed the Festival at WMU in 1985, 1996, and 2008. A frequent site evaluator for the National Association of Schools of Dance during her tenure in the Department of Dance, Jane has also presented her research on dancer wellness at conferences and workshops nationally and abroad. She served on the editorial board of the *Journal for Dance Medicine and Science* and chaired the Media Committee for the International Association for Dance Medicine and Science for five years. Among her honors, she received the 2007 College of Fine Arts Dean's Teaching Award and the College of Fine Arts Excellence in Service Award in 2003 and 2014.

Her final WMU position has been as associate dean of the Lee Honors College, beginning in January 2014. She served as interim dean of the honors college from July through December of 2016.

In retirement, Jane and her husband, Keith, hope to do some traveling and spend more time in the garden and on the small lake where they have made their home for 35 years. After some down time to get caught up on postponed home improvements and make a few trips, she fully expects to be involved in service to the University and the Kalamazoo community, and will continue to advise the 2016 Medallion Scholars in their mentoring project through Communities In Schools at Linden Grove Middle School.



## **Michael J. Barcelona**

*Professor Emeritus of Chemistry*

Michael J. Barcelona was born in Chicago, Illinois, and graduated from Brother Rice High School. Keenly interested in chemistry, and science in general, his senior science project qualified him for a scholarship to St. Mary's College in Winona, Minnesota. Upon graduation, he qualified for a scholarship to pursue a master's degree at Northeastern University in Boston, Massachusetts, also in chemistry. After earning his master's degree, he moved to Mayaguez, Puerto Rico, to pursue a Ph.D. in chemical oceanography. Three years later, he completed his doctoral degree and served in a postdoctoral position at Caltech in Environmental Engineering.

In 1979, Mike joined the staff of the Illinois State Water Survey, at the University of Illinois in Champaign. After 10 years at ISWS, he joined the Department of Chemistry at Western Michigan University to run the Institute of Water Sciences jointly with faculty in the Department of Geosciences. He was then recruited by Environmental Engineering at the University of Michigan in 1994 to run the Hazardous Waste Research and Information Center, which was actively pursuing solutions to the environmental problems associated with hazardous waste, with support from the U.S. Department of Defense. Mike returned to WMU in Chemistry in 2001. He served the National Ground Water Association as editor of the journal *Ground Water Monitoring and Remediation* from 1992 to 2002. In his last year as editor, he received the NGWA's Keith Anderson Award for his service. As a Fulbright Fellowship recipient, Mike taught chemical oceanography at the University of Las Palmas in the Canary Islands in Spain in 2008. WMU awarded him the 2010 Distinguished Faculty Scholar Award.

Throughout his professional career, Mike has published nearly 100 papers and book chapters. A dedicated educator, he advised and mentored numerous Ph.D., M.S., and B.A./B.S. students as well as junior faculty. He has continued to serve on students' thesis and dissertation committees since his retirement in June 2017.

Mike is active in the local community where he has been a member of Kalamazoo Rotary for five years. He is a volunteer with Senior Services of Kalamazoo, where he helps to update homes to be safe and accessible for community seniors and persons with disabilities. Drawing from his passion for education, he also tutors adults through the Kalamazoo Literacy Council.

Mike and his wife, Lynnette Abbate, enjoy spending time with family from coast to coast and spoiling their grandchildren.



## **Bruce E. Bejcek**

*Professor Emeritus of Biological Sciences*

Bruce E. Bejcek was born in Michigan. He received a Bachelor of Science in microbiology and public health and a Bachelor of Science in wildlife biology, both from Michigan State University. He earned a Doctor of Philosophy in cell and molecular biology from Saint Louis University.

Bruce did postdoctoral training in the Department of Medicine at the Jewish Hospital of St. Louis and was a research associate in the Department of Laboratory Medicine and Pathology at the University of Minnesota. In 1996, Bruce joined the faculty in the Department of Biological Sciences at Western Michigan University.

The focus of Bruce's research is cancer cell biology, primarily on the processes by which cancers are initiated, maintained and progress. His studies involve extensive use of cellular and molecular techniques to investigate the involvement of a variety of signaling molecules inside the cells and genes in tumor formation and control of cell growth. His research includes the role of the Platelet Derived Growth Factor Receptor in cancer and the function and regulation of secondary signaling molecules associated with the receptor. In addition, he is investigating the roles of transcription factors in PDGFR transformed cells by using siRNA technique.

Bruce is an avid sportsman and outdoorsman and also enjoys knitting and basket weaving.



**Debra S. Berkey**

*Professor Emerita of Human Performance and Health Education*

Debra S. Berkey was born in Pennsylvania. She earned a Bachelor of Science from Slippery Rock State University and both a Master of Science and a Doctor of Education from West Virginia University.

Deb began her teaching career in Wetzel County, West Virginia. As an elementary physical education teacher and a high school coach, she became a strong advocate for physical education. In 1985, Deb joined the faculty in the Department of Health, Physical Education and Recreation at Western Michigan University, and served as the department chair from 1994 to 2007. Concurrent with the position of chair, she worked with many departments across campus including Rec-Spo, a collaborative effort serving academic, athletic and campus recreation programs and facilities, which she chaired for several years. In addition, Deb has served as the coordinator for both the undergraduate and graduate Physical Education Teacher Education programs, as well as on department, college, and University curriculum committees.

Deb has incorporated best practice, applied research, and advocacy across her career. Her work with teachers and students is grounded in practical application. The zenith of these efforts came when she served as the project coordinator for the Van Buren County Physical Education Program Grant, an effort that impacted 55 physical education teachers and 17,500 students across a four-year span. Most recently, she has focused on the infusion of technology in teacher education professional development.

Beyond WMU, Deb has served as the president and the Board of Governor's Representative and executive director of the Midwest District. She was the first female to be elected as president of the National Council of Phi Epsilon Kappa. Deb also served as the physical education consultant for the Michigan Department of Education for several years, in a volunteer capacity. In addition, she is a North American Society Fellow. She has received the Meritorious Service, University Educator, and Honor Awards from the Michigan Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance, Midwest District and from the Society of Health and Physical Educators (SHAPE-America). She was recently named the MACUPE Scholar by the Midwest District and the Mentor of the Year by SHAPE-America. As a dedicated teacher educator, Deb assisted students in establishing the Epsilon Kappa Chapter of Phi Epsilon Kappa at WMU and has served as the faculty adviser for the chapter for 20 years. In that role, she has supported student service projects such as Relay for Life, Jump Rope for Heart, and the Special Olympics State Tournament.



## **Denise J. Bowen**

*Associate Professor Emerita of Physician Assistant*

Denise J. Bowen was born in Chicago, Illinois. She earned a Bachelor of Science with a major in geology and a minor in art from Western Illinois University; a Bachelor of Science in medicine in physician assistant studies from the University of Iowa, Carver College of Medicine; and a Master of Arts in the practice of teaching from Western Michigan University.

Denise is a certified physician assistant with more than 20 years of clinical experience in family practice medicine. The majority of her practice experience has been with culturally diverse, underserved populations. She also has international experience with health care development in Mexico and Guatemala.

In 2006, Denise joined the faculty in the Department of Physician Assistant at WMU. She has taught courses in the diagnostic process, health promotion and patient counseling, professional issues, as well as integrated medicine courses in pediatrics, women's health and gastroenterology. She has been serving as the interim chair of the department since July 1, 2017.

Denise has academic interests in the areas of health care disparities, cultural diversity training, diversity in the health care work force and immigrant health. She was a co-director of the Both Sides of the Fence study abroad program and 2015 documentary, focused on understanding the barriers and challenges faced by Mexicans who migrate to the United States. Both the program and the documentary received grant funding from the Fetzer Institute of Kalamazoo. She was a winner of the 100,000 Strong for the Americas Innovation Fund Grant Competition through Partners of the Americas to promote study abroad between the Americas. Denise was a co-recipient of a U.S. Department of Health and Human Services grant from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration to conduct a three-year research study related to alcohol screening, brief intervention, and referral to treatment. She received a WMU 2018 Excellence in Discovery Award for Highest Departmental Funding in 2017.

Her future plans include opening a vintage gift shop/tea shop with her sister. She plans to explore her ancestry by traveling to Ireland, England and Poland and to visit every national park in the U.S. with her grandchildren. She would also like to become an activist/advocate for immigrant rights.



## **Walter L. Burt**

*Associate Professor Emeritus of Educational Leadership, Research and Technology*

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Walter L. Burt was born in Kosciusko, Mississippi. He earned a Bachelor of Science in biology from Alcorn State University, a Master of Arts in educational leadership from Eastern Michigan University, and a Doctor of Philosophy in educational leadership from the University of Michigan.

He taught science, mathematics, and biology in the Reeths-Puffer School District in North Muskegon, Michigan, for four years. After receiving a fellowship from the Mott Foundation, he enrolled in EMU's graduate program in educational leadership. After completing a master's degree, Walter accepted a position as an assistant principal in the Albion Public Schools. Two years later, he received a fellowship from U-M, and while attending there, he served as a graduate teaching assistant in the College of Education and served as a consultant to the National Desegregation Assistance Center.

Upon attaining a Ph.D., Walter served in district-level administrative positions in the Grand Rapids Public Schools, and later other such positions in Michigan and Indiana. He retired as superintendent of schools from the School District of the City of Pontiac in June 2003. In July 2003, he accepted a position as program manager with the Stupski Foundation in Mill Valley, California. He was responsible for leading school reform initiatives in New Haven, Connecticut, and Patterson, New Jersey, school districts.

In August 2004, Walter joined Western Michigan University. In his 14 years at WMU, he taught numerous graduate courses in the Department of Educational Leadership, Research and Technology. He authored or co-authored, nine peer-reviewed articles, two technical reports, five non-peer-reviewed articles, served as co-editor of one book, and served as author or co-author of chapters in seven published books. He served as chair on 14 doctoral dissertations. Walter served as principal investigator or co-principal investigator on three five-year U.S. Department of Education research grants. He also received a \$35,000 grant from the Comprehensive Center, Region VI, from the University of Wisconsin, on behalf of the Michigan Association of African American Superintendents to support the training of principals and teacher leaders on the use of data to improve instructional decision-making. From 2008 to 2013, Walter was appointed by Michigan's State School Superintendent to serve as his representative to the Regional Educational Laboratory Midwest Board of Directors. From November 2012 to October 2013, Walter served as the interim dean of the College of Education and Human Development.

Walter is the recipient of the 2008 College of Education Strengthening Community Connections Award. In 2016, he received an Excellence in Discovery: Research and External Funding Award for having received over \$1 million for five years as PI and Co-PI on three USDE-funded research grants.

Walter, and his wife of 49 years, Gwendolyn, plan to spend a lot of time traveling visiting children and grandchildren. During this time, he intends to fish and perfect his golf swing with the goal of shooting a score commensurate with his age.





## **Janet L. Coryell**

*Professor Emerita of History*

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Janet L. Coryell earned a Bachelor of Arts from the State University of New York at Cortland, a Master of Arts from the University of Delaware, and a Doctor of Philosophy from the College of William and Mary. She taught for five years at Auburn University and the University of Dayton.

In 1991, Janet joined the faculty in the Department of History at Western Michigan University. In addition to teaching, she was involved in designing the department's Ph.D. program and developing early online general education courses. She also taught courses in the Department of Gender and Women's Studies.

Active in publications, Janet wrote one monograph, co-edited two prize-winning collections of letters, served as managing editor for two co-edited works on Southern women's history, and wrote one textbook in U.S. women's history for McGraw-Hill with her late colleague Dr. Nora Faires. Janet wrote several articles and held office in eight historical organizations, including the presidency of the Southern Association for Women Historians. Most recently, she researched, wrote, co-produced and narrated a documentary film on the All-American Girls Professional Baseball League. She will continue to work on fourteen additional short documentaries related to this project and two other books in retirement.

Janet is married to James Smither, Ph.D., professor of history at Grand Valley State University. They have one son, David, now a history major at GVSU. Among other hobbies and pursuits, Janet will continue to sing with the Chancel Choir at Mayflower Congregational Church in Grand Rapids.



## **Douglas V. Davidson**

*Associate Professor Emeritus of Sociology*

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Douglas V. Davidson was born in Hattiesburg, Mississippi. He earned a Bachelor of Arts from Tougaloo College, a Master of Science from Illinois Institute of Technology, and a Doctor of Philosophy in sociology from the University of California at Berkeley.

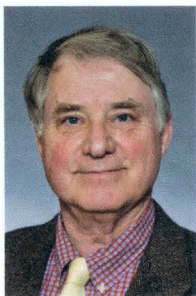
At a small private college, Tougaloo College in Tougaloo, Mississippi, Doug's interest in the transformative civil rights movement exploded, which led to his decision to become a sociologist. His academic performance there resulted in a fellowship to attend the Illinois Institute of Technology, followed by a Graduate Minority Fellowship to pursue a Ph.D. in the department of sociology at the University of California at Berkeley.

Upon fulfilling all requirements for the doctorate except for the dissertation, Doug departed the University of California at Berkeley and accepted his first teaching position at Atlanta University in the School of Social Work. It was there that he was charged with the task to integrate more black studies content into the Human Development curriculum. He then accepted a position as the first director of the Black Studies Program at the University of Massachusetts at Boston. From there he worked in black studies at several colleges and universities including Amherst College, Hampshire College, the University of Illinois (one-year visiting professorship), the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, and the City College of New York.

Doug accepted a position in the Department of Sociology at Western Michigan University in the fall of 1991, where he has worked for the last 27 years. His teaching, research, and writing interests have focused on issues in race and ethnic relations, sociology of education with a focus on black and multicultural studies, and the sociology of colonialism, social caste, and class in the black community. He has been successful in launching new programs of study, recruiting, and supervising many graduate students of color into doctoral programs until degree completion. And Doug considers this to be his greatest legacy.

In retirement, Doug and his wife, Renee, anticipate leading a quiet life and Doug is seriously thinking about taking piano lessons in the near future.





## **Richard de Peaux**

*Professor Emeritus of Art*

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Richard de Peaux was born and raised in Green Bay, Wisconsin. He was a math major as a student at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. But he always wanted to be a painter, and so he switched into the art program and received a Bachelor of Science in art, a Master of Arts in printmaking, and a Master of Fine Arts in painting.

While at the University of Wisconsin, Dick was the assistant art director and acting art director for the University Galleries where he organized many exhibitions. He was the founder and general program director for the first Science and Humanities Fine Arts Festival that included 85 people and took place over two weeks. Areas represented included physics, computational linguistics, astronomy, art, theatre, and music.

Dick came to Western Michigan University in 1969 where he was a practicing artist in the Department of Humanities in the College of General Studies for 20 years. He transferred into the School of Art at WMU where he was the head of painting, taught art history, computer graphics, and drawing. During his tenure at WMU, he invited and hosted over 60 people to present programs and lectures including John Cage, Christo, and Ivan Karp, among many others. In January 1998, Dick gave a talk on aesthetics and quantum mechanics at the annual conference of the American Association of Physics Teachers in New Orleans, Louisiana.

Dick's art work is included in several collections including The British Museum-London, England; The Lincoln Center-New York, New York (The Rare Book and Manuscript Collection); The Library of Congress-Washington, D.C.; The University of California- Berkeley; Yale University; and Harvard University. His work has been exhibited in numerous places including Sweden, London, New Zealand, Japan, Korea, Germany, as well as The Brooklyn Museum, The Smithsonian Institute, The Walker Art Center, CERN, The European Laboratory for Particle Physics, and The Hokkaido Museum of Modern Art. The *Tokyo Monthly Gallery Magazine* included a feature story on him in its July 1995 issue.

Future plans include continuing to paint and draw, spending time at his studio in Michigan's Upper Peninsula that he designed and built, and traveling more in Japan with his wife, who is from Kyoto, Japan.

Even though he has done several things, he is most proud of the fact that the parents of 12 different children trusted him enough that they asked him to take care of their kids if something happened to them.



## **Linda A. Dove**

*Faculty Specialist II Emerita of Family  
and Consumer Sciences*

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Linda A. Dove was born in Kalamazoo, Michigan. She graduated from Portage Northern High School and started her college education at Kellogg Community College. She went on to earn a Bachelor of Arts and Master of Arts degrees and Early Childhood Endorsement at Western

Michigan University.

Linda taught preschool and elementary school, and was the director of preschool programs, including Stepping Stones Preschool in Three Rivers, Michigan, and Kalamazoo Academy (Kalamazoo Country Day). She designed and implemented an alternative kindergarten program for Marshall Public Schools. Linda served as a math consultant and trainer for teachers of young children, from preschool through third grade, traveling extensively across the United States.

Her higher education career began at Kellogg Community College. She joined the College of Education and Human Development at Western Michigan University in 1998 as a part-time faculty member teaching graduate and undergraduate courses for the Department of Teaching, Learning and Leadership and the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences. She earned tenure in June 2015 as a Faculty Specialist II. Her work for FCS focused on teaching courses that emphasized the development of children. Also, as the departmental advisor to transfer students from community colleges, Linda was engaged in recruitment efforts and promotion of the University. She counseled both current and prospective students and traveled to regional sites and community colleges to support distance students as they transitioned to WMU. Linda was part of the family science faculty team to offer WMU's first fully online undergraduate degree.

Linda has presented at the National Council on Family Relations and the Academic Chairperson's national conferences and is a frequent presenter at state and regional conferences.

Highly active in service, Linda represented WMU and the FCS department and advocated strongly for effective education of young children. Her community service included Proyecto Escalon, Project Launch-Mno Penojewen, and Great Start to Quality Advisory Board as well as other state and local committees. She served on various boards, including the Michigan Association of Young Children, T.E.A.C.H. Scholarship Advisory Board, and Kalamazoo Drop-In Child Care. At the state level, Linda served on the Michigan Department of Education-Career Lattice and the Early Childhood Investment Council. On campus, Linda served on the Faculty Senate's Committee to Oversee General Education and the Transfer of Credit Committee.

With no specific plans for retirement, Linda will seek out ways to develop her passions for helping people, reading for pleasure, and blessing others with food and a warm quilt.



## **John M. Dunn**

*President Emeritus and Professor Emeritus of Human Performance and Health Education*

John M. Dunn was born in DuQuoin, Illinois, and raised in nearby Pinckneyville. He earned a bachelor's degree and a master's degree from Northern Illinois University in 1967 and 1969, respectively. He earned a doctoral degree from Brigham Young University in 1972, and began teaching at the University of Connecticut that same year.

An educator for more than 30 years, John was dean of the University of Utah's College of Health from 1995 to 2002 before moving to Southern Illinois. Before that, he was at Oregon State University for 20 years, last serving as associate provost. His earlier positions at Oregon State included assistant dean of Health and Human Performance, chair of the Department of Exercise and Sport Science and director of the university's Special Physical and Motor Fitness Clinic.

John served as the eighth president of Western Michigan University from July 1, 2007, to July 31, 2017, and currently serves as President Emeritus. During his tenure, multiple initiatives have been established including the WMU Homer Stryker M.D. School of Medicine, Seita Scholars Program and the Seita Scholar Extended Support Program, Fostering Success Michigan, and Fostering Success Coach Training. Prior to coming to WMU, he served as interim chancellor at Southern Illinois University, Carbondale. Before accepting that appointment, he held the position of provost and vice chancellor at Southern Illinois.

Internationally known for his research and writing about the long-term health of people with disabilities, John is the author of more than 50 professional papers and book chapters. He is a past president of the Research Consortium of the American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation, and Dance; past editor of *Quest*, a professional publication for kinesiology scholars; and president of the American Academy of Kinesiology and Physical Education.

Since moving to Michigan, John has been actively engaged with state and community efforts that focus on quality-of-life issues and enhancing economic development. He served on a number of boards including First National Bank, Southwest Michigan First, and the WMU Foundation, as well as the governing boards of the Greater Kalamazoo Area United Way, the Gilmore Keyboard Festival, and the W.E. Upjohn Institute.

John intends to do what he can to continue to promote the value of higher education and to say loudly every day: "IT'S A GREAT DAY TO BE A BRONCO".





## Robert W. Felkel

*Professor Emeritus of Spanish*

Robert W. Felkel was born in Detroit, Michigan, residing there, in Royal Oak, and in the Boston area as he grew up. He received a Bachelor of Science with a teaching major in Spanish from Boston College in 1965 and began his teaching career at Marlborough High School. In 1968, he returned

to Boston College to earn a Master of Arts in Spanish and later earned a Doctor of Philosophy in Spanish at Michigan State University.

In 1971, Bob came to Western Michigan University to join what was then the Department of Modern and Classical Languages. Bob recalls that when he took the position at WMU, his thesis director stated that WMU was a very good place to start. He has found the University and the department so congenial that he stayed for 47 years.

Bob is a member of the Cervantes Society of America and the Asociación de Cervantistas and has taught Cervantes's masterpiece, *Don Quijote de la Mancha*, at WMU in Spanish and in English for the last 35 years. He has published articles and given papers on *Quijote*, and is the author of a translation of José Antonio Maravall's *Utopía y contrautopía en el Quijote*, published by Wayne State University Press in 1991. Bob received the WMU Distinguished Teaching Award in 1989 and the Distinguished Service Award in 2017, in recognition for his nearly 30 years of volunteer work with Hospice Care of Southwest Michigan.

In 1965, Bob met Barbara, his wife of fifty years, at Boston College in a dogmatic theology class. They were married in August of 1968 and moved to East Lansing, where she taught Latin at Okemos High School. In 1974, Barbara was hired to teach Latin at Kalamazoo Central High School then at Loy Norrix High School. Bob and Barbara, who share over a century of teaching experience, plan to enjoy the ability to travel off-season in their retirement. In addition, Bob has always had a serious interest in jazz drumming. When he lived in Boston, he studied for four years with the legendary Alan Dawson at the Berklee School of Music. Bob plans to use some of his retirement time to finally master Dawson's "Rudimental Ritual."



## **James A. Gilchrist**

*Vice Provost Emeritus for Budget and Personnel  
and Professor Emeritus of Communication*

James A. Gilchrist was born in Pampa, Texas. He earned a Bachelor of Arts and a Master of Arts in speech communication from Oklahoma State University. He went on to earn a Ph.D. from the University of Texas, Austin, with a major field of study in organizational communication and

minor areas in program evaluation and research methodology.

Jim began his career at Western Michigan University as an assistant professor of communication in August 1980. He was a full-time faculty member, teaching both undergraduate and graduate courses in communication theory, research methodology, and organizational communication. He became chair of the Department of Communication in 1993, a position in which he continued to conduct research on communication and organizational culture and communication ethics. In 1999, Jim was appointed associate dean in the College of Arts and Sciences. In 2004, he was appointed director of the Student Information System Replacement Project, then director of Student Academic and Institutional Research. In 2006, he was appointed vice provost for Academic Operations, retaining his prior duties but adding responsibility for managing the University's curriculum review process and overseeing general education. In 2007, he was appointed vice provost for Academic Operations and chief information officer. His duties were rearranged such that his primary duty was the management of the Office on Information Technology. In 2011, Jim was appointed vice provost for Budget and Personnel and chief information officer. In 2017, he was named vice provost for Budget and Personnel and professor of Communication, and chief information officer was removed from his title.

His accomplishments included helping to move the Department of Communication forward into a research culture, improving the systems used for student data, increasing the use of data in executive decision-making, bringing more coherent management and communication practices to offices that manage technology, and providing leadership and mentoring to others who hold or aspire to hold leadership positions. Any success in these tasks is to be shared by those who mentored him as he went through various jobs: Shirley Van Hoeven, Elise Jorgens, Linda Delene, and Tim Greene, among others.

At the time of his retirement, he will have worked at WMU for 38 years. Nineteen of those years were in the Department of Communication (now the School of Communication) and 19 years in various administrative responsibilities. He has never forgotten his roots in his academic discipline and has tried to use his experience in the discipline to guide how he has carried out administrative responsibilities.

Jim's last day at work will be June 29. That weekend, he and his wife will leave for Montreal for the wedding of their son. Jim cannot think of a better way to begin retirement.



## **James M. Hillenbrand**

*Professor Emeritus of Speech, Language  
and Hearing Sciences*

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James M. Hillenbrand was born in Syracuse, New York and earned a Bachelor of Science and a Master of Science from Indiana University in Bloomington. He continued his education at the University of Washington in Seattle, earning a Doctor of Philosophy.

From 1980 to 1985, Jim held positions as assistant and associate professor at Northwestern University. From 1985 to 1988, he was director of research in the Intelligent Systems Division of RIT Research Corporation (RITRC) in Rochester, New York, with a concurrent adjunct appointment in the Graduate Computer Science Department at the Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT) teaching and directing thesis projects.

In 1988, Jim joined the faculty at Western Michigan University. Over the course of his academic career he has been recognized for contributions to both research and teaching. The following list is a summary of his accomplishments: National Institutes of Health research-grant awards totaling \$5,970,315; 1983 Northwestern University Teaching Excellence Award; 1994 Editor's Award, *Journal of Speech and Hearing Research*; 1999 WMU Distinguished Faculty Scholar Award; 2000 Fellow, Acoustical Society of America; 2006 Ig Nobel Prize; and a paper selected for inclusion in a 2009 collection titled "Classics in Voice and Laryngology: 1966-2006". With over 50 journal articles and book chapters, he is recognized as an international expert in experimental phonetics. In fact, one of his papers on speech acoustics is approaching 2,000 citations.

Jim brought the basic science aspects of speech, hearing, and language to students in the Department of Speech, Language and Hearing Sciences for 30 years. At the end of April 2018, he retired from this role to, in his words, "continue work on various research and writing projects; travel to film festivals and tennis tournaments; and learn to fly fish, hit a top-spin forehand, and other things that will never actually happen."





## **David G. Houghton**

*Associate Professor Emeritus of Political Science*

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David G. Houghton came to Western Michigan University in the Department of Political Science in 1974 after receiving degrees from Wayne State University, the University of Wisconsin, and the University of Colorado. A one-year appointment became a forty-four year career.

Over the years, David taught courses in national government, state and local politics, public administration, urban politics, and the presidency. His primary focus since 1978 has been the Undergraduate Political Science Internship Program. He has placed over 1,000 students through the years in various positions. For many of these students, these experiences helped guide them in their future careers. In 1991, along with the Lee Honors College, David began the Capital Intern Program which has sent an average of twenty students to Lansing for internships in various political offices and departments. For all of these internships, he spent time meeting with the students initially to find the perfect fit for them, matching their interests. He has accumulated a long list of contact names, many of whom are former interns who have gone on to have impressive careers at the local, state, and national levels. A dream of his is to have an active intern program in Washington, D.C. Within the last ten years, he created an endowment that bears his name which would assist students wanting to participate in an internship in our nation's capital. The first recipient of the David G. Houghton Endowment spent the fall of 2017 working with United States Representative Peter Sessions.

David also was chair of the Department of Political Science from 1996 to 2004, where he directed several new hires to the department. He served on several committees at the college and University levels, along with being his department's representative with the WMU-American Association of University Professors. He received the University's Distinguished Service Award and the Lee Honors College Faculty Fellow Award.



## **Miranda Howard**

*Professor Emerita of University Libraries*

Miranda Howard was born and raised in Evanston and Wilmette, Illinois. She earned a Bachelor of Arts in studio art from Rockford College, Illinois; a Master of Arts in art history from Northern Illinois University; and a Master of Library Sciences from Dominican University, River Forrest, Illinois.

Miranda was an instructor of weaving at the Seivers' School of Fiber Arts in Wisconsin from 1981 to 1984. She also taught adult education classes in textile conservation and restoration, Seminole patchwork and natural dyeing at the Field Museum of Natural History in Chicago. Between 1976 and 1985, she became founder and a partner of a retail store in Evanston, Illinois, that specialized in handweaving, knitting and spinning supplies, and provided classes. She formed a company that imported and sold handweaving and knitting yarns from Finland and Norway. She started towards her academic career in libraries in 1989 at St. Charles Public Library, Illinois, and then held an internship at the First Division Museum at Cantigny while enrolled as a graduate student in library science. In 1991, she served as a research assistant at Northern Illinois University's Regional History Center and Archives and worked as a librarian at Columbia College Library from 1995 to 1997 while also instructing art history courses.

In 1997, Miranda began working at Western Michigan University Libraries as an assistant professor and head of the Visual Resources, Videotape, and Film Collections Library, which was a new branch library located in Sangren Hall. In this position, she led the enhancement of the WMU libraries' monograph and serials art collections and served as the library liaison and bibliographic instruction librarian for the School of Art until 2011. In 2001, she was awarded tenure and the rank of associate professor. She was promoted to full professor in 2007. In 2009, Miranda became the head of the Technical Services Department of University Libraries, a position she held until retirement. She also taught as an adjunct faculty member in the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences.

Her accomplishments in the field of librarianship include participating in international discussions on the formation of Dublin Core digital collections metadata schema; evaluation of the Visual Resources Association metadata schema for cataloging visual materials; and training as a trainer of Cataloging of Cultural Objects metadata rules for description of artistic entities. Miranda's publications focus on image description, access and retrieval, and costume preservation. She received support from WMU from two Teaching and Learning with Technology grants and from the Faculty Research and Creative Activities Fund.

In retirement, Miranda plans on traveling, visiting museums, reading, and weaving. She is also a puppy raiser of guide dogs for PAWS with a Cause in Wayland, Michigan, and she will be volunteering with her church.





## **Barbara S. Liggett**

*Professor Emerita of Public Affairs and Administration*

Barbara S. Liggett was born and raised in Kalamazoo, Michigan. She earned a Bachelor of Arts in sociology and English from Hope College and a Master of Arts and a Doctorate of Education in higher education administration from Western Michigan University.

Starting as an employment specialist at Kal-Die Casting Corporation in Kalamazoo, Barbara took on many positions including as salary administrator at City National Bank of Detroit and director of management and analysis at the Genesee County Controller's Office before moving on to a productive career at Western Michigan University, which began in 1980. Having served as associate director of Personnel and Employee Relations and associate vice president of Business and Finance, as well as Human Resources at WMU, she moved to a full-time faculty position in the School of Public Affairs and Administration in 1996. She served as the director of the school from 2009 to 2016.

Barbara's awards and recognitions include Mortar Board and Phi Beta Kappa memberships at Hope College, and Phi Beta Kappa and Pi Alpha Alpha memberships at Western Michigan University. She is a certified senior professional through the Society for Human Resources Management and a certified mediator in conflict dynamics profiling. With an extensive record of engagement and outreach in the community, as well as professional societies within the discipline, Barbara's publications appeared in many institutional outlets as well as edited books and journals including *Public Integrity* and *American Review of Public Administration*.

In retirement, Barbara is looking forward to new challenges and opportunities.



## **Steven N. Lipkin**

*Professor Emeritus of Communication*

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Born in Akron, Ohio, Steven N. Lipkin attended Northwestern University and received a Bachelor of Science in public address and group communication in 1973. An opportunity to teach in the Rhetoric Program at the University of Iowa allowed him to earn a Master of Arts in 1974 and a Doctor of

Philosophy in 1977 in speech and dramatic art, specializing in film history, theory, and criticism.

East Stroudsburg State College, in East Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, hired Steve as an assistant professor in the Department of Speech Communication and Theatre Arts in 1977. In 1981, Steve joined the Western Michigan University communication arts and sciences faculty.

Steve's work at WMU has balanced traditional academic research with creative activity in film scriptwriting. He has published two single-authored books, *Real Emotional Logic: Film and Television Docudrama as Persuasive Practice* in 2002 and *Docudrama Performs the Past: Arenas of Argument in Films Based on True Stories* in 2011. He has regularly reported the results of his research in scholarly articles, book chapters, and conference presentations. Steve's feature film screenplay, *Betrayals*, won the Grand Jury Award for Best Screenplay at the Buffalo Niagara Film Festival in 2011. *Betrayals* also was a Creative Screenwriting International Script Expo semi-finalist; a finalist in the 2012 Table Read My Screenplay competition, Sundance Film Festival; a finalist, in the 2012 Sacramento International Film Festival; a quarter-finalist in the 2012 Filmmakers International screenwriting competition, the 2011 Story Pros International Screenplay Competition, and most notably for the 2012 Nicholl Fellowship, Motion Picture Academy of Arts and Sciences. In 2013, his feature screenplay, *Tunnels*, was a semi-finalist in the Story Pros International Screenplay Competition, a finalist in the Sacramento International Film Festival, and a finalist in the New Hope Film Festival. *Charlie's Lessons*, also a feature film screenplay, was a Top 50 Winner in the 2016 Filmmakers International Scriptwriting Competition, out of 1,527 entries. Steve received a WMU College of Arts and Sciences award recognizing his research and creative activity in 2011.

Future plans for Steve and his wife, Linda, include more travel, both abroad and to visit their two sons, with time in between trips to learn Spanish, for Steve to do more scriptwriting, and to continue to learn how to play the clarinet.



## David E. Little

*Professor Emeritus of Music*

David E. Little was born in Urbana, Illinois. He earned a Bachelor of Music from Eastern Illinois University, a Master of Music in vocal performance from Illinois State University, and a Doctor of Musical Arts from Indiana University.

In 1987, David joined the faculty in the School of Music at Western Michigan University. He taught applied voice, Italian diction, and was music director and conductor of the opera productions and selected music theatre productions. His professional affiliations included Pi Kappa Lambda, Michigan School Vocal Music Association and the Michigan Chapter of the National Association of Teachers of Singing, for which he is a board member having served as treasurer for more than 10 years.

A baritone, David has received acclaim for his expressive and energetic singing. Coupled with his stage persona and charisma, he is a delight to see and hear. His versatility as a performer has brought engagements in opera, oratorio and music theatre productions. Richard Simon of the *Sacramento Union* described him as having "...a big and resonant voice that he colors effectively and a superb diction that heightens the drama of the texts."

Favorite operatic appearances have included Figaro in *The Barber of Seville* and *The Marriage of Figaro*; Marcello in *La Boheme*; Papageno in *The Magic Flute*; Danilo in *The Merry Widow*; Eisenstein, Dr. Falke and Frank in *Die Fledermaus*; Dr. Malatesta in *Don Pasquale*; Dandini in *La Cenerentola*; El Dancairo in *Carmen*; and the title roles in *Gianni Schicchi*, *Don Giovanni* and *Rigoletto*.

On the concert stage, David has performed many works suited to his warm, rich voice including *Handel's Messiah*, Vaughan Williams' *Hodie*, Haydn's *Lord Nelson Mass*, the Requiems of Brahms, Durufle and Faure, Rossini's *Stabat Mater* and Mendelssohn's *Elijah*. Other appearances have included performances of Orff's *Carmina Burana* with the Sacramento Symphony, Fresno Philharmonic, Adrian Symphony and the Traverse and Richmond symphonies; *Beethoven's 9th Symphony* with the Grand Forks Symphony and the Boise Philharmonic; and Haydn's *Creation* with Robert Shaw conducting. David's artistic skills have provided pleasure to audiences in many diverse styles of repertoire including recitals and pops concerts.

In retirement, he plans to grow hops, play golf and keep his wife entertained.





## **Robin E. McKinney**

*Associate Professor, School of Social Work*

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Robin E. McKinney was born in Saginaw, Michigan. He attended Central Michigan University, where he received a Bachelor of Arts in piano performance and a Master of Arts in counseling. He continued his education, earning a Master of Arts in counseling psychology from Western Michigan

University, a Master of Social Work from the University of Michigan, and a Doctor of Philosophy in family and children's services from Michigan State University.

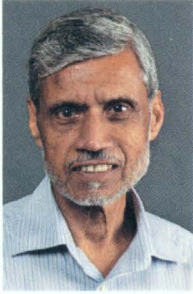
At CMU, Robin was an adjunct instructor in the counseling program. He was a professor, field coordinator, and later the program coordinator of social work at Saginaw Valley State University. He served as clinical director at Lutheran Social Services in Lansing. Robin was a permanency planning consultant for the Michigan State Department of Community Health and was a consultant for children's services for 26 Michigan counties.

In 2001, Robin joined the faculty in the School of Social Work at Western Michigan University. He served as the school's B.S.W. coordinator and undergraduate advisor from 2001 to 2006.

He has taught courses in the areas of family therapy, research methods, human behavior, and field education. His academic interests include program coordination, sexual identity in social work practice, and achievements of African-American adolescents.

Since 1981, Robin has worked in human services in various capacities, primarily with developmental disabilities and children with special needs. He has numerous publications in the areas of children's services, research methods, and child developmental disabilities. Robin received an early research grant and award from the State of Michigan and a King/Chavez/Parks fellowship to complete his Ph.D. He has served as a member of the board of directors of the National Association of Ethnic Studies and also serves as a commissioner for the Council on Social Work Education.

Future plans include working as a psychologist for Ronan Psychological Services in Mount Pleasant, Michigan, conducting psychological evaluations of children with special needs. In addition, he will be providing counseling and support services for families with special needs children.



## **Rameshwar P. Sharma**

*Associate Professor Emeritus of Mechanical  
and Aerospace Engineering*

Rameshwar P. Sharma was born and raised in Dholpur, Rajasthan, India. He earned a Bachelor of Science in mathematics from the University of Rajasthan in 1961 and a Bachelor of Science in mechanical engineering from the University of Jodhpur, Rajasthan, in 1965. He came to the United States and earned a Master of Science in industrial engineering from Kansas State University in 1968, a Master of Business in management from Indiana Northern University in 1973, and a Doctor of Philosophy in mechanical engineering from Wayne State University in 1978.

Before joining Western Michigan University, Rameshwar worked at Ford Motor Company for over twelve years in its Engine Division and Scientific Research Labs. His research and development resulted in a patent for programmed combustion.

In 1981, Rameshwar joined WMU as an associate professor in the Department of Mechanical Engineering. Since then he has taught many courses including statics, dynamics, strengths of materials, mechanisms analysis, control systems, finite element analysis, energy management, and energy conversion. He helped create the first single-cylinder experiment in the automotive laboratory. He served on many department, college, and University committees, as well as in leadership roles in national professional societies. In 1988, he was awarded the Summer Faculty Fellowship at Edwards Air Force Base. This work resulted in funded research at WMU.

Rameshwar was awarded a Gold Medal in mathematics by the University of Rajasthan, India, in 1961. He was awarded a patent for the development of the "Electromagnetically controlled fuel injection pump spill port valve assembly" at Ford Motor Company in 1983. He was honored by the Internal Combustion Engine Division of The American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) for leadership in the division activities in 1993. He is a life member of The American Society of Heating, Refrigerating, and Air-Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE).

In 37 years at Western Michigan University, Rameshwar has reaffirmed that the human brain and body are wonderful things to challenge in the confines of environmental systems of climate change. He will continue in academics and professional organizations, and engagement with family members, friends, and fellow human beings.



## **Edmund Tsang**

*Associate Dean Emeritus of the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences and Professor Emeritus of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering*

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Edmund Tsang was born in Macau and grew up in Hong Kong, former Portuguese and British colonies, respectively, that have since been returned to China. He earned a Bachelor of Science, with distinction, in mechanical engineering from the University of Nebraska and a Ph.D. in metallurgy from Iowa State University. He spent two years as a post-doctoral researcher in the Institut für Atom- und Festkörperphysik, Freie Universität Berlin, West Berlin, from 1978 to 1980.

In 1980, Edmund joined the faculty at the University of South Alabama as an assistant professor of mechanical engineering, and later earned the rank of associate professor. While there, he changed his academic interest from materials science research to engineering education. Edmund has served as principal investigator or co-principal investigator for grants from the National Science Foundation, the Corporation for National and Community Service, and the Alabama Space Grant Consortium for laboratory equipment, integration of design experience and service-learning in the first-year engineering curriculum, and K-12 outreach activities. He also received funding from the Alabama Humanities Foundation to implement 14 projects on science, technology, and society. One of the projects was named an AHF Model Project in 1987, and he was recognized in 1994 as an AHF 20th Anniversary VIP. Edmund founded *The Harbinger*, a community newspaper for which he served as publisher, editor-in-chief, and reporter from 1983 to 2001. He was named a visiting scholar in 1999 by the American Society for Engineering Education and in 2000, he was selected by the American Association for Higher Education to edit a monograph on service-learning in engineering.

In 2001, Edmund joined Western Michigan University and was associate dean for undergraduate programs and assessment in the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences. He also served as interim dean from 2013 to 2015. At WMU, he has received more than \$6 million in grants as PI or Co-PI on curriculum development, student success and retention, and involvement of under-represented minorities in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). In the NSF-funded STEM Talent Expansion Program (STEP), the college created a student success program that currently places about 90% of all beginning students with cohorts in the entire first year at WMU, and provides tutoring and other student success services. The STEP project has resulted in improving the six-year graduation rate from CEAS by 34% since its implementation in 2005. Edmund received a Platinum Award from the Division of Multicultural Affairs, was inducted into the WMU Chapter of Phi Kappa Phi, was recognized as a Lee Honors College Faculty Fellow, and received an Excellence in Service-Learning Faculty Award.

Following retirement, Edmund's short-term plan includes continuing and completing his current engineering education projects and expanding his repertoire of healthy snacks and dinners that he enjoys cooking for his two children who are students in the Portage Public School System. His longer-term plan is to stay healthy and enjoy life in southwest Michigan.





## **Linda Harrison Zoeller**

*Professor Emerita of Nursing*

Linda Harrison Zoeller was born in South Bend, Indiana, and raised in South Bend and in Niles, Michigan. She was drawn to the biological sciences while in high school, but the decision to pursue a college education was an entry into a new frontier as the first in her family to go to college.

Linda graduated from the University of Michigan with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing. After practicing as a pediatric nurse and then teaching in an associate degree in nursing program, she returned to the U-M for a Master of Public Health. She served as a nursing consultant and state health planner for the Indiana State Department before pursuing a career in nursing education that took her to universities in New Jersey, Colorado, Illinois, Indiana, and back to Michigan. Linda was awarded a summer fellowship from the National Endowment for the Humanities to study bioethics. She was also awarded a Robert Wood Johnson Fellowship in primary care nursing, and earned a post-masters certificate as a family nurse practitioner at the University of Colorado, Denver. While serving as the family nurse practitioner program coordinator and an associate department head at the University of Illinois, Chicago, Linda earned a Doctor of Philosophy in health policy and administration. She later taught at Indiana University at the South Bend campus and Purdue University Calumet. Her research focused on family management styles in families with chronically ill children. Linda served as a co-principal investigator of a five-year National Institute of Nursing Research (R-01) study while at UIC. She went on to serve as associate professor and chair of the nursing department at Saint Mary's College, Notre Dame, Indiana.

Saint Mary's College collaborated in an annual project with the Minority Health Coalition on a grant to analyze fetal and infant mortality data in St. Joseph County, Indiana. Her other professional interests include educating health professionals for evidence-based practice and the use of simulation in education and service learning. She has many publications and presentations to her credit on those topics and others.

In 2008, Linda came to Western Michigan University to serve as the director of the Bronson School of Nursing. She returned to a faculty position as professor in 2013, following the loss of her husband. She has taught in both undergraduate and graduate nursing programs over the years, while collaborating in the development of hybrid online and later fully online courses for the nursing programs.

Linda considers herself to be blessed with a 47-year long career in nursing and public health practice, advanced nursing practice, teaching, curriculum development and evaluation, and higher education administration. She looks forward to the next chapter in her life—a retirement that hopefully provides her with the opportunity to volunteer using her time, talents, and treasures. Some traveling plans are in the developmental stages, as well. She also looks forward to spending more time with her son and daughter-in-law, Hans and Brittany, and her three beautiful grandchildren—Adalia, Nolan, and Beckham.







## **ALMA MATER**

### **Brown and Gold**

Western we sing to you,  
Brown and Gold.  
Western we bring to you,  
faith untold.  
You challenge and inspire;  
Your hope is our desire.  
We sing to you our Alma Mater,  
Brown and Gold.

(James Bull 57' and Walter Gilbert 64')

#### **APPRECIATION IS EXTENDED TO**

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Department of Theatre

Judith Halseth  
Emeriti Council

Darryl Salisbury  
Master Faculty Specialist Emeritus  
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Suzanne Davenport  
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