

The RETIREE CENTER Newsletter



Hello Retirees,

I hope you all are having a happy start to 2024. Here in the Winona area, we have just had a week of brutally cold weather, but today we are at a balmy 30 degrees and it feels absolutely wonderful! The forecast is actually looking fairly good for the next couple weeks, but I'm waiting for the other shoe to drop in February. There's no way we will be able to avoid the cold and snow until spring. We just have to take it day by day and enjoy these nicer temps while they last.



We are having a busy start to the year here at the Retiree Center. Our Senior University courses started last week with Richard Shields' course on *Physics Experiments that Changed History*. This week, Emilio DeGrazia's course on *Forbidden Knowledge* is also starting. Both of these classes sold out quickly. It's a testament to both of these amazing professors! They have quite a following within the Senior University milieu. We have five more classes being held this spring and summer. Please see the list of offerings on [page 3](#) and [register soon](#) if you are interested.

We have some brand-new Retiree Center offerings happening this semester. We are going to hold our first-ever Retiree Spring Social on Thursday, March 7th from 2:00-4:00 p.m. at the Winona American Legion. The invitations for this social will be sent out soon, but please get the date on your calendar now. In addition to having a great time getting together with former colleagues and friends, this will also be a wonderful opportunity for you to offer congratulations and well wishes to Nancy Amann. Yes, after 52 years with the University and over 16 years at the Retiree Center, Nancy Amann is retiring on March 12th. I am so happy for her and so sad for me! I am going to miss her more than words can express. She has been consistently fantastic in her work with the Retiree Center, and she is always thinking of ways that we can improve our service to you. She is a rare gem, and I have tears in my eyes as I type this. I hope many of you will want to come and celebrate her that day.

We will also be hosting two new *Pathways to Retirement* presentations this semester. On February 20th, we will be offering a presentation by Professor Rob Wolf on *How Much is Enough? Are You Ready for Retirement?* During this presentation, he will discuss how much money is needed to retire along with an overview of fund investment and pros and cons of various funds. The following week, on February 27th, Professor Justin Geijer will present *Investing in Your Health: Physical Activity Retirement Planning*. This presentation will provide insight on how to better prepare yourself for a physically active and healthy retirement. Although these presentations are mainly targeted at current WSU employees who will be retiring in the near future, we know that many of you who are already retired may have an interest in these topics. All retirees are invited and encouraged to attend these sessions. They will both be held in the Kryzsko Ballroom from 2:00-3:30 p.m. There will also be a Zoom option. If you are interested in attending, please let us know. We would love to see many current retirees there.

There are a few other dates you should get on your calendars. The annual Retiree Center Spring Luncheon will be held on Thursday, April 25th from 11:30-1:00 p.m. in the Kryzsko Ballroom. This is our opportunity to honor all the newest WSU retirees. Invitations will be mailed in March. We also have a couple fun day trips coming up this spring. We will be heading to the Orpheum Theater to see *The Lion King* on March 28th and *MJ: The Michael Jackson Musical* on May 21st. We only have two tickets to *Lion King* available as of this writing. We still have twenty tickets available for *MJ*. [Register](#) soon if you're interested! We would love it if you could come along! Please enjoy this newsletter. I must give a shout-out to Bill Meyer who contributed an excellent article on the Amur Maackia tree...thanks Bill! Hope to see you all soon!

- Jess

RETIREE CENTER MISSION STATEMENT

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

RETIREE NEWS AND NOTES

Retiree Center Advisory Board

Brian Aldrich
Nancy Amann
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RETIREE CENTER WINTER SOCIAL

On December 7th, we celebrated the Retiree Center Winter Social at the American Legion. It was an unseasonably warm 50 degrees that day, and we had close to 100 retirees attend the event! I have posted a few pictures from the Winter Social photobooth below. If you'd like to see all of the fun pictures from the event, please visit our [Facebook](#) page.



CRAIG & PAULA SCHEEVEL



TOM & MARILYN EZDON



RILL & LARRY REUTER



JEAN BELLMAN & BARB OERTEL-PETERSEN

RICHARD BOWMAN

Richard Bowman, Professor Emeritus Education, published a manuscript titled: Intentional Listening: A Vital Inclusive Behavior in *Global Journal of Human Science*, 23(G9), 1-4. <https://socialscienceresearch.org/index.php/GJHSS/article/view/103820>

Abstract: In a classroom setting, intentional listening has six distinctive stages: Actively inviting classmates' thoughts and opinions, reflectively considering every aspect of what others say, thanking others for expressing their ideas and beliefs, putting what one has heard in a broader societal context, connecting peers with similar ideas and insights, and identifying the point of intersection between what you have heard and your own intuitions and experiences. In instructional environments, intentional listening *takes practice*.

SENIOR UNIVERSITY SPRING/SUMMER 2024



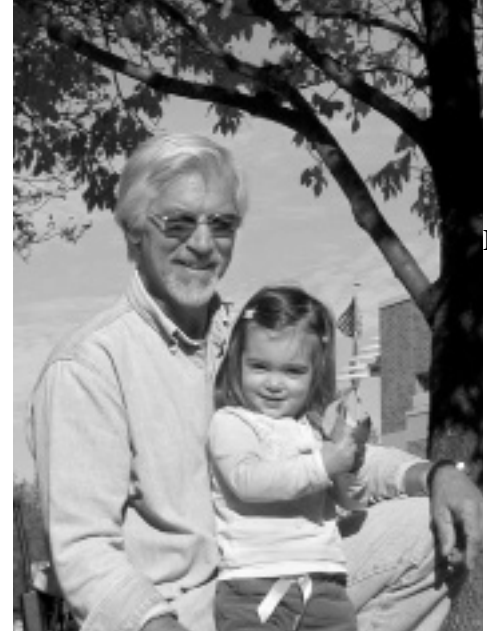
Senior University is in full swing this spring! We are currently enjoying Richard Shields' course on *Physics Experiments that Changed History* as well as a course by Emilio DeGrazia on *Forbidden Knowledge*. We are still taking registrations for the five classes below. If you're interested, please register soon to reserve your spot!

<p>JAZZ HISTORY I - 1915-1960 LOUIS ARMSTRONG TO MILES DAVIS</p>	<p>Rich MacDonald Maxwell 287 or via Zoom (Hybrid)</p>	<p>Mondays February 26, March 11, 18, 25 April 1 3:00-4:30 p.m. \$40.00</p>
<p>RETIREMENT INVESTING WITH CONFIDENCE & SUCCESS</p>	<p>Rob Wolf Maxwell 257</p>	<p>Mondays April 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 May 6 1:00-2:30 p.m. \$40.00</p>
<p>SPRING BIRDING</p>	<p>Julie McCormick & Dedrick Benz Maxwell 259 (first hour of first class only)</p>	<p>Fridays April 5, 19 May 3, 17 7:30-11:30 a.m. \$45.00</p>
<p>SENIOR U LITE: WINONA'S HISTORY & INTERESTING ARCHITECTURE</p>	<p>Mark Peterson Maxwell 158 (May 2nd)</p>	<p>Thursdays May 2, 9 10:00-11:30 a.m. May 9th class will be a bus tour \$25.00</p>
<p>SHAKESPEARE IN PERFORMANCE</p>	<p>Jane Carducci Room TBD</p>	<p>Sundays July 14, 21 Class meets before & after each play \$85.00 (includes tickets to both plays)</p>

We are already starting to put together our roster of courses for Fall 2024. We've got several great classes lined up with more to come. Right now, I can tell you that Rich MacDonald will teach the follow-up to his *Jazz History* course. Next semester's course will discuss jazz history from 1960 to the present. We will also be offering a class on *Achieving Successful Aging: A How-To Manual* with Trisha Karr from the WSU Psychology Department, and Jim Bromeland will be back to teach his ever-popular election-year course, *Election 2024*. Registration for fall courses will begin later this spring.

RETIREE GUEST COLUMN - BILL MEYER

One of the perks of writing this column on trees is that Jessica gives me the freedom to explore and write about the wonderful world of trees without any restrictions. Oh, I suppose if I went too far off the rails, she would put the brakes on me for the safety of WSU. With that freedom I often gravitate to writing about my favorite trees that I have planted and watched grow over the years during my working days at WSU. Often, when I observed a tree that displayed several desirable characteristics, I would purchase and plant it in our 3-acre mini arboretum in Trempealeau. One such tree that I planted about 15 years ago was the Amur Maackia.



This small tree, which is relatively unknown to the average homeowner, provides an attractive alternative to many of the smaller trees that are offered at your local garden center. A 19th century Russian naturalist, Richard Otto Maack, found this previously unknown tree while exploring the Amur River region. The Amur River forms the border between Siberia and Manchuria. Since this area of the world equates with very cold temperatures, the homeowner can be assured that the Amur Maackia is, not surprisingly, very cold hardy here in the southeast Minnesota - southwest Wisconsin area.

The Amur Maackia has several features that merit consideration. First, the bark is sure to catch your eye. During the winter, the bark of the tree has an intriguing texture displaying a diamond pattern with a brownish copper color. In addition, the tree tends to exfoliate as it matures providing an interesting contrast with the snow. In addition to the appealing bark, the flowers of the Amur Maackia are both attractive and fragrant. In the summer months the Amur Maackia is a late bloomer. After most flowering trees have completed their blooming season, this tree decides to advertise its goods in mid-June or even later. June would be a good time to view Winona State University's very own Amur Maackia. It can be found southwest of Gildemeister Hall.

Another property of this tree is its ability to form nitrogen fixing nodules, allowing the Amur Maackia to grow well on poorer soil sites. This is one of the reasons I decided to give the tree a try on my extremely sandy soil at home. It has exceeded my expectations and has grown nicely.

Because of the Amur Maackia's ability to grow in poor soils, it is an excellent choice for some of the more challenging urban sites, much like the Ginkgo and the London Planetree. This underplanted, small tree (25 - 30 feet) has few insect and disease problems and is fairly drought tolerant.

If there is any downside to the tree, it would be that the Amur Maackia is somewhat difficult to find. A local nursery might be able to help or a larger tree nursery in the Twin Cities often carries them in stock.

So, if you are looking for a small, tough tree with colorful flowers and interesting bark that stands out, this might be the tree for you.



A CLOSE LOOK AT AMUR MAACKIA BARK

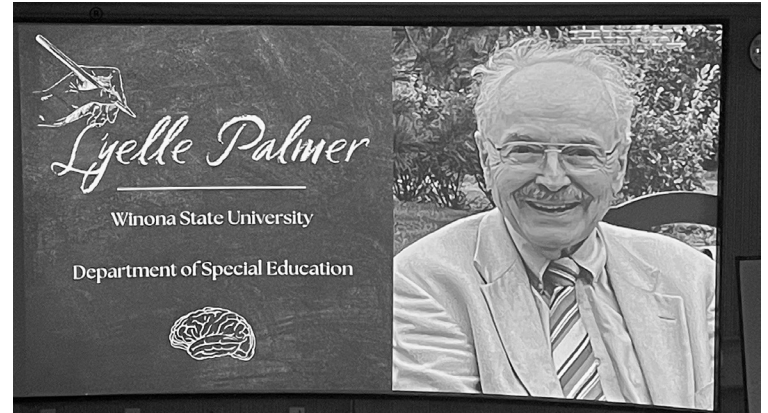


FLOWERS OF THE AMUR MAACKIA

FALL 2023 LIVING HISTORY PROJECT



LYELLE PALMER WITH HIS STUDENT GROUP



A SHOT FROM LYELLE'S DOCUMENTARY



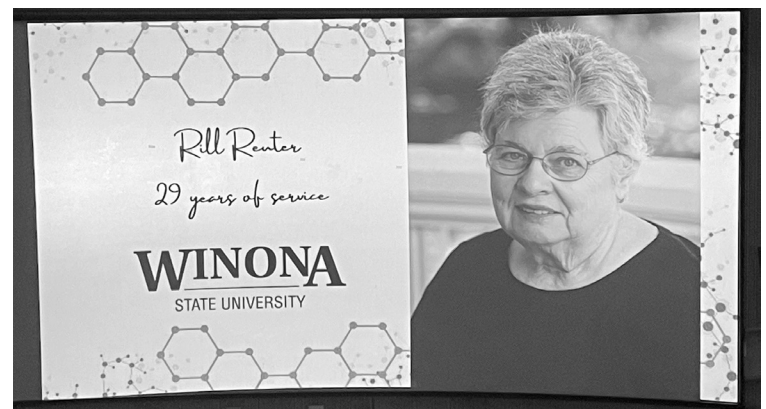
BARB OERTEL-PETERSEN WITH HER STUDENT GROUP



A SHOT FROM BARB'S DOCUMENTARY



RILL REUTER WITH HER STUDENT GROUP



A SHOT FROM RILL'S DOCUMENTARY

The Living History Project Premiere was held on Monday, December 4th. All three of the student-produced documentaries that premiered that evening were fantastic. We are so proud to partner with the Mass Communication Department and the College of Liberal Arts on this project each year. If you weren't able to attend the event, I invite you to visit our website and view each of the films. Here is the link: <https://openriver.winona.edu/livinghistoryproject/>

CALENDAR

February

AROHE REIMAGINING RETIREMENT SERIES:

"Reimagining a Personalized Plan for Your Next Phase"

Tuesday, February 13, 2024 - Noon

"Strategies and Resources for Creating Connections"

Tuesday, February 27, 2024 - Noon

To Register for the webinar series:

<https://www.arohe.org/Reimagining-Retirement/>

THE GREENEST BUILDINGS IN THE WORLD

Keynote presentation by the lead designer of the CICEL building project at WSU.

Wednesday, February 7, 2024 - 6:30 p.m.

Science Laboratory Center - Room 120

RETIREE CENTER PATHWAYS TO RETIREMENT

Dr. Rob Wolf - "How Much is Enough? Are You Ready for Retirement?"

Tuesday, February 20, 2024 - 2:00 -3:30 p.m.

Kryzsko Ballroom & Via Zoom

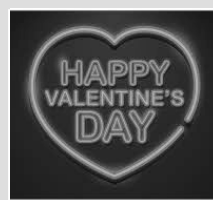
Dr. Justin Geijer - "Investing in Your Health: Physical Activity Retirement Planning"

Tuesday, February 27, 2024 - 2:00 -3:30 p.m.

Kryzsko Ballroom & Via Zoom

FROZEN RIVER FILM FESTIVAL

February 4-11, 2024



PRECINCT CAUCUS DAY

Tuesday, February 27, 2024

No classes or events after 6:00 p.m.

March

PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY

Tuesday, March 5, 2024

No classes or events after 6:00 p.m.



RETIREE CENTER DAY TRIP - THE LION KING

Thursday, March 28, 2024 - 7:30 performance

Registration open now...3 seats left!

EXPANDING PERSPECTIVES SERIES

Lynette Reini-Grendell & Venus De Mars

"Trans-Glam-Punk-Rock-Love Story"

Reading & Musical Performance

Kryzsko Commons - Ballroom

Wednesday, March 20, 2024 - 6:00 p.m.

RETIREE CENTER SPRING SOCIAL!

Thursday, March 7, 2024

2:00-4:00 p.m.

Winona American Legion

Invitations will be sent out soon

SAVE THE DATE!



WSU SPRING BREAK WEEK

March 4 - March 8

Retiree Center will remain open



AN EVENING WITH ALY RAISMAN - LYCEUM SERIES

Thursday, March 14, 2024

Somsen Hall Auditorium

7:00 p.m.

CALENDAR

April

RETIREE CENTER SPRING LUNCHEON

Thursday, April 25, 2024
11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Kryzsko Commons - Ballroom

RETIREE CENTER TRAVEL

Sunny Portugal
April 2-11, 2024



RETIREE BREAKFAST & ALL-U CAMPAIGN KICKOFF

Tuesday, April 9, 2024
8:00-10:00 a.m.
Kryzsko Commons - Ballroom



EARTH DAY

Monday, April 22, 2024

ARBOR DAY

Friday, April 26, 2024
Watch your email for WSU celebratory events

WSU THEATRE & DANCE PRESENTS: PLAY ON

April 10-13, 2024
Vivian Fusillo Mainstage Theater

WATER MUSIC: VIVALDI SPRING AND SUMMER

Minnesota Marine Art Museum
April 11, 2024 - 7:00-8:30 p.m.

May and Beyond



RETIREE BREAKFAST

Second Tuesday of each month
9:00-11:00 a.m.
Kryzsko Commons



RETIREE CENTER TRAVEL OPPORTUNITY

TROPICAL COSTA RICA

WITH OPTIONAL 3-NIGHT JUNGLE ADVENTURE

November 1-9, 2024

RETIREE CENTER DAY TRIP

Tuesday, May 21, 2024
MJ: The Michael Jackson Musical
Orpheum Theater - 7:30 p.m. performance
Registration open now...20 seats left!



GREAT RIVER SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL

SEASON 21: JUNE 25-JULY 28, 2024

SEE DETAILS ABOUT OUR SENIOR U COURSE - [PAGE 3](#)

WINONA STEAMBOAT DAYS

JUNE 12-16, 2024



WSU COMMENCEMENT

Friday, May 3, 2024

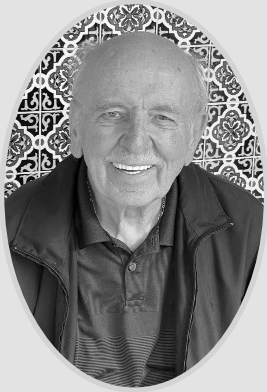


MIDWEST MUSIC FEST

May 10-11, 2024



IN MEMORIAM



*Erich Dornbusch
Business Office
September 7, 2023*

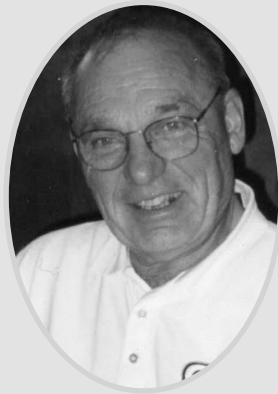
*We honor and mourn our
University colleagues who
have recently died.
We recognize the richness
of each life, the gifts these
members have brought to
many and the loss felt by
family and friends.*



*Phyllis Scattum
Facilities
November 23, 2023*



*Fred Foss
Chemistry
December 10, 2023*



*Richard Behnke
HEER
December 10, 2023*



*Keith Jungesvik
Facilities
December 13, 2023*



*Carol Blumberg
Mathematics
December 16, 2023*



*Wayne Kirk
Education
December 18, 2023*



*Jean Raz
Spouse of Robert Raz
December 30, 2023*



*Ann Golden
Student Union
January 4, 2024*