

EmeriTimes Newsletter

January 2025, Number 33

President: Ruby Englund

Editor: Dick Sleight

**Members: Emeriti Faculty
of Seattle Pacific University**

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Purpose for the *EmeriTimes*

newsletter is "to edify, encourage, and connect emeriti faculty; to profile emeriti achievements (past and present); to provide news and information about members and SPU; to encourage emeriti to continue to be involved in world change." [The *EmeriTimes* newsletter archives](#) are maintained by the Office of the Chief Academic Officer.



President's Corner

As I write this column for the *EmeriTimes*, we are in the season of Advent, a time when we prepare for the celebration of the birth of the Christ child. In one sense, Seattle Pacific is entering a season of Advent, a time of preparation for something new. We are entering on new paths with both optimism and concern. President Porterfield has chosen "Rooted in Christ" as the theme for this year, based on Jeremiah.

"But blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord, whose confidence is in Him. They will be like a tree planted by the water that sends out its roots by the stream. It does not fear when heat comes; its leaves are always green. It has no worries in a year of drought and never fails to bear fruit." Jeremiah 17: 7-8 (NIV)

As Emeriti we can look back upon our years at Seattle Pacific and recall other new beginnings. We had new beginnings every autumn as we headed out for Camp Casey for Faculty retreat, a time of togetherness and planning for the year. With the sale of Camp Casey, some of those memories bring sadness for some who treasured those gatherings with their walks on the beach, volleyball games, variety shows, board games, and meals prepared by George Scranton, Bob Chamberlain, and others. With less fondness, perhaps, we may remember sleeping on thin mattresses in large rooms filled with others trying to get some rest. Being together on the morning of the attack on the World Trade Center helped us face the tragedy together. We have experienced many beginnings.

We also remember new beginnings as general education curriculum was revised and when Writing Across the Curriculum was established. Meeting our students at the beginning of each quarter was usually a delight to see the eagerness that some students approached the material. Other students likely had to be convinced that the content of our class would someday prove valuable to them. These concepts are relevant now as more change is on the horizon.

Each year brought change. Some of us adapt to change better than others. Some of us like to keep things as they are. Life continues to be full of change. Sometimes it seems like change is coming faster and more

(continued)

often, sometimes bringing changes with which we disagree. Some may feel grateful that we are not as directly involved and happy to be retired. Most of us feel a deep commitment to the mission and goals of Seattle Pacific and pray fervently that the "reformatted structure" will be stronger, more resilient.

The words of the University anthem remind us that SPU is a "beacon light that shineth ever." How do we now "join the chorus, waft it onward until all shall view?" Surely we can each pray regularly for the leadership to make good decisions and that those who find themselves mired in the morass of change, that a new shape, a new form, a new look will assure us that SPU is "Rooted in Christ" and firmly on a path like Jeremiah, one that "does not fear" and "never fails to bear fruit."

Ruby Englund

SPU Emeriti Faculty President



November 6th Emeriti Dessert with President Deana Porterfield

Our invitation in October from President Porterfield indicated that this Autumn's Emeriti gathering would take on a more economical format. "This year, in place of the annual Autumn luncheon, in good stewardship, Emeriti President Ruby Englund and I have decided to host the Emeriti Faculty at a dessert gathering."

Despite the format change, and the fact that it followed a day after the general elections in November, the dessert was well attended. We were there to hear from President Porterfield, and she provided a detailed report. She had much to share about the school, its successes, as well as the financial challenges facing it. She also reminded us that what she was sharing was for "in house" audiences and that the University would communicate publicly at a later date.

Successes reported included the completion of SPU's leadership team with the return of [Dr. Kathy Lustyk](#) as our new Vice President for Academic Affairs, weekly Tuesday "Community Chapel" attendance growing from as low as 15 to over 200, and that new student enrollment saw no decline, a first since the pandemic.

We learned that the [sale of Camp Casey](#), a sale which had been contemplated for the past twenty years, was achieved at this providential time. (Note: See page 9 for an update on Camp Casey.) (continued)

Sobering news included the inevitable need for the “right sizing” of programs and personnel of a smaller institution. Enrollment had declined steadily over the past decade in line with national demographic trends to a point where SPU’s size now mirrored the SPC of the early 1970s. Dr. Porterfield recalled the school’s history when it hired a young Dr, David McKenna in 1968 who also faced a similar financial turning point.

Significant consolidations and other cost saving efforts will be finalized over the 2024-25 academic year. Dr. Lustyk will update emeriti faculty about progress toward this goal at the Emeriti Tea on Friday, March 21st at 1:30 PM.

As our Autumn Emeriti Dessert concluded, Elaine Weltz led us in our closing hymn and Rev. Dr. Frank Spina offered this benediction.

Forum Following the November Board of Trustees Meeting

Upper Gwinn was filled with faculty, staff, and emeriti to hear President Porterfield on November 21st. She gave a presentation on the financial state of the University and an outline of plans to address issues facing SPU.

She emphasized the need to make our identity unmistakable. Dr. Porterfield made it clear what our distinctives were: *With Students / At the Cross / In the City*.

While she pointed forward toward times of austerity, she looked to a new era of financial responsibility. Above all, she coveted our prayers for Seattle Pacific University.

The LORD (YHWH), whose angel found Hagar and her son, rescuing both, bless you;

The LORD (YHWH), whose actions transformed Sarah’s laugh of derision into a joyous Laugh when her son was born, keep you;

The LORD (YHWH), who welcomed Rahab, a Canaanite prostitute, into Israel’s fellowship Due to her remarkable confession of faith, make the divine face shine upon you;

The LORD (YHWH), who sanctioned Deborah’s remarkable leadership over Israel in difficult Times, be gracious to you;

The LORD (YHWH), who heard and answered Hannah’s desperate prayer. lift up the divine countenance upon you;

The LORD (YHWH), who inspired Huldah, a female prophet, to read and affirm the Torah scroll found in the temple during Josiah’s reign, grant you peace.

And the blessing of Almighty God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be with you And remain with you now and forever.



Emeriti Spring Tea

**Friday, March 21st
at 1:30 PM
in Upper Gwinn Commons**



“The trouble with quotes on the internet is that it’s difficult to determine whether or not they are genuine.”

Abraham Lincoln

Being twenty in the seventies was much more fun than being seventy in the twenties.

The 3 stages of life:

Wanting stuff.
Accumulating stuff.
Getting rid of stuff.

Seattle Pacific University Theatre Department

Tickets are free. Reserve yours ahead of time by calling the Box Office at 206-281-2959 or emailing boxoffice@spu.edu.

Winter Mainstage Production

Anastasia The Musical

Anastasia: The Musical

February 7-8 & 14-15. All shows at 7:30 PM plus a matinee at 2:00 PM on Saturday, February 15.

Book by Terrence McNally
Music by Stephen Flahery
Lyrics by Lynn Ahrens
Directed by Candace Vance
Music Directed by David Krosschell,
Julie Kae Sigars, and Ryan Ellis
Choreographed by Megan Martinko

Spring Mainstage Production



The Voice of the Prairie

By John Olive
Directed by Scott Nolte

April 25-26 & May 2-3. All shows at 7:30 p.m., plus a matinee at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, May 3.



Prayer on campus, June 5, 2014.

Memorial Remembers Paul Lee

An outdoor installation in memory of Paul Lee was dedicated on Monday, June 17, 2024, in front of Ashton Hall.

Although it had been ten years since the tragedy of June 5, 2014, the memory of Paul Lee and our campus response continues to be etched on many of our lives. Family, friends, floormates, classmates, and many others were impacted then and in continued ways during the past ten years.



Seattle Pacific worked with the Lee family, artists, contractors, and others to create a memorial for Paul in front of Ashton Hall. Through the generosity of many of you with your gifts and talents, this memorial was finished a few years ago. We are thankful to you who were supportive of these efforts in so many different ways.

Here is the plaque that honors Paul's life and SPU's response.

Built in loving memory of Paul Lee, a cherished son, brother, and member of the Seattle Pacific University family, this memorial stands as a testament to his vibrant spirit. Paul's presence was marked by his infectious passion, gentle humor, and steadfast faith. His absence leaves a void in so many hearts, yet his memory endures.

The Seattle Pacific University community's response to the tragic shooting on June 5, 2014, was one of communal grief and lament. Yet over time, deep solace grew as the campus gathered as one body.

This memorial art installation is a place to reflect and preserve an unbroken remembrance of those we hold dear (Philippians 1:3). The graceful curves of this wall embody the joy and vitality of Paul. The bench provides a

place for reflection and introspection. May you find sacred moments of hope, renewal, and comfort within its embrace.

Paul Lee
November 11, 1994–June 6, 2014

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to those whose dedication brought this memorial to fruition:
The Lee family, Julia Bennett, Roger Feldman, Absher Construction, Seth Hale, 5th West Ashton residents, and the SPU Facilities staff.

Dedicated June 17, 2024



Emeriti Faculty Updates



Michael Macdonald, *Professor Emeritus of European Studies and Philosophy (1967-2007)*

We have been home since returning in October from a wonderful 20-day cruise featuring the Panama Canal. What a magnificent achievement, first involving

France and later the United States, ultimately connecting the Atlantic and the Pacific oceans! Karen and Mike are relatively healthy and Mike is still enjoying two book clubs. Kristin Hannah's *The Women* and John Steinbeck's *Travels with Charley* are among the many books that came to the top. For other enjoyments, we list gathering with friends, knitting (Karen), church, peace and quiet, mostly. Finally, we mention that we are so grateful for so many things, too many to mention. Blessings to all in 2025!



Michael Ziemann, *Associate Professor Emeritus of European Studies/German and Linguistics (1981-2014)*

From Mike and Joy's Christmas letter:

Greetings to everyone at this tail end of a busy year 2024.

Life, as usual, has been packed with Fun, Family and Church -- and sprinkled with a few aches, pains and a few difficulties. We have enjoyed our usual travels to Hawai'i and Europe.

Michael gave his annual UNO European Studies Conference paper on Aquileia. [Aquileia](#) was an ancient Roman port on the Adriatic founded in 181 BC and destroyed by the Huns in 452 AD.

Fascinating Mosaics and Frescoes – look it up!

We celebrated Mike's 80th Birthday at our church and were able to reconnect with many colleagues and friends. Mike still teaches a weekly Bible Study via ZOOM into which he pours much effort. He manages to keep busy doing pool exercise, works around the house, some cooking, keeps up with folks, and does

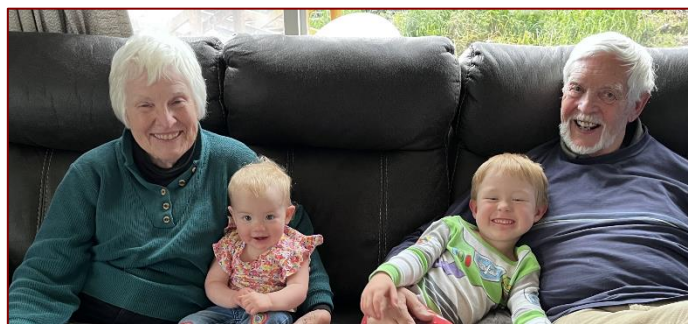
a wee bit of travel planning on the side. Joy is still working a day or two at Silverdale Pediatrics and helping at [Full Tilt Farm](#) in Poulsbo. She can't bring herself to retire.

Martha Worcester, *Professor Emerita of Nursing (1989-2007)*

My husband John and I are fortunate to be in good health. We continue to live in Olympia, WA and to be active choir members in the Westminster Presbyterian Church. Our four children have blessed us with eight grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. In 2023, we celebrated our 60th anniversary reunion in Montana.

In the past two years we have travelled to many places in our little camper van seeing the sites and visiting friends and family. I continue to enjoy writing, leading groups and workshops at our Senior Center, and being sole proprietor of [Late Life Design](#). Visit my web site to read about it. John enjoys playing with two recorder groups and being a ballot inspector for elections.

We pray for peace in our world. May the new year find each of you blessed!



Here we are this past June 1st celebrating our 61st anniversary with our great-grandchildren, Charlotte and Warren. Do we look like we are having fun? All our children are now over 50 and one will be 60 next year. Our youngest daughter is the grandmother to these two.

The **EmeriTimes** Newsletter, Number 34, is due out after Commencement in June. Be sure to send your own **Emeriti Faculty Update** news to SL8@spu.edu.

Dick



Thank You to Marilyn

The Emeriti Faculty wish to express their heartfelt gratitude to Marilyn Severson who has written notices for the Emeriti Faculty for several years. Marilyn has thoughtfully and comprehensively written the life story of faculty who have died, highlighting their service to Seattle Pacific, our faculty and students. She has gathered information about their contributions as well as informing us about their memorial services. In addition, she posted prayer requests during times of illness or impending surgery which gave us the

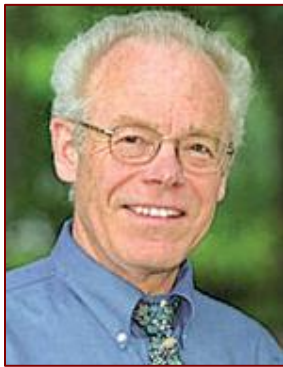
opportunity to pray for those needs. These announcements have helped us to stay connected and we are grateful for Marilyn's contributions to our SPU Emeriti Faculty group.

Elaine Weltz (eweltz@spu.edu) has accepted this role and will be writing the notifications in the future.

Ruby Englund



In Memoriam

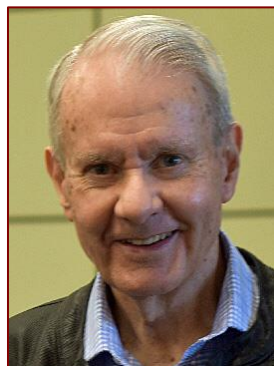


Vernon Wicker, Professor Emeritus of Music, died on Oct. 21, 2024, at the age of 87. He retired in 2002 after serving more than 25 years in the Music Department.

Online remembrances have been posted [by SPU](#) and at [Legacy.com](#).

Dick Wood, Professor Emeritus of Mathematics and Computer Science, served SPU for 40 years from 1963 to 2003. Dick passed away on December 16, 2024.

[*The Role of Faith in Mathematics*](#) by Dick Wood.



Patricia W. Blumenthal, passed away on May 11, 2024. She came to SPU when her husband Robert Blumenthal joined the faculty, teaching in the School of Business and Economics during the 1980s. Patty was also involved in education through teaching and consulting into her 80s.

The Blumenthals kept their connection with SPU through the Seattle Pacific University Blumenthal Endowment Fund. [Her obituary is here.](#)



Nancy Erisman passed on June 29, 2024. She was the wife of Al Erisman, Executive-in-Residence in SPU's business school from 2001 to 2017. Her faithful Christian witness was shared as Director of Development at Bellevue Christian School, as she served on the board of

KIROS, the Seattle area Christians in business organization, and in countless other venues. Her [obituary is here](#) and at the [Theology of Work Project](#).

Becky Le Shana died in November 2024 in Scottsdale, AZ. At the close of life on this earth, she was surrounded by her husband of 73 years, David Le Shana, their four children and their spouses, plus a number of their grandchildren. David Le Shana was president of Seattle Pacific University from 1982 to 1991. Becky was present at many SPU events during their time on campus, including hosting dinners for faculty at their on-campus home. Her memorial service was held January 3, 2025 at the Pinnacle Peak Presbyterian Church in Scottsdale, Arizona.

Emeriti Faculty and the Library

The SPU Library offers an array of services to aid you in your study and research. Both on campus and off, you can access materials and support for your research needs. [The library hosts this webpage](#) describing the details of Emeriti Faculty borrowing, research, and other services.

Book Donations

If you have books that you would like to donate, please do not drop them off at the library. It is best to contact the [liaison librarian](#) for your academic area.

Please take the time to check the [library catalog](#) to see if the SPU Library already owns a copy of the book you wish to donate.

Archives

The [Seattle Pacific University Archives](#) exists to maintain a sustainable Archives program and to ensure that selected content generated in the operation of the University will be managed securely for legal, decision-making, and historical purposes.

Also, you may [use this link to search the Archives](#).

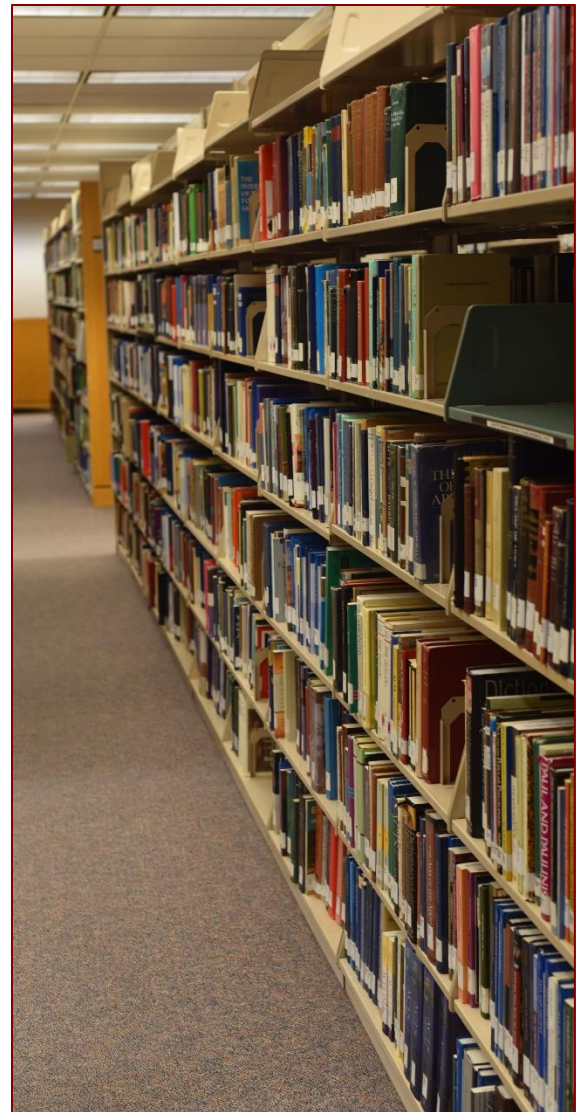
Faculty papers

Before you think about transferring (donating) your papers to the Library, please take note of these Library Guidelines from the Archives Manual:

Faculty papers consist of the documents, notes, correspondence, files, and other materials which are created in the course of research, instruction and community service performed as a member of the Seattle Pacific University faculty. They are an important component of university history, and the Archives strives to accommodate these collections whenever possible. The Archives places priority on faculty papers which have potentially significant research value or provide significant documentation of university or local history. Collections of faculty who have been widely or formally recognized for their achievements in or contributions to teaching, scholarship and community service are also welcomed. Correspondence and unpublished writings can be quite useful for future researchers and historians.

Faculty papers collections should not be transferred to the Archives without prior approval from the Archivist. The creator or a representative of the department should fill out the Archives Transfer Request form. If approved for transfer, the collection should first be inspected where it currently resides before any transfer occurs. The donor will be provided guidelines on how to prepare the collection for transfer. The guidelines will include the creation of a folder-level inventory of the collection.

Current Archive Contact: archives@spu.edu





Chamwino Secondary School Library 2012
in Tanzania and start a library.”

Cynthia Strong Goes to Africa

Cyntha Strong, Emerita Faculty Librarian, was featured in an **SPU STORIES** article as she helped set up a library in Tanzania. And it started at SPU. Her story begins . . .

When Kedmon Mapana, PhD '13, was a graduate student at Seattle Pacific, he had one consistent request for SPU education librarian Cynthia Strong: “Come to my village



Chamwino Secondary School Library 2024

“I didn’t know how to do that, so I kept saying no,” Strong said. “Just because I’m a librarian doesn’t mean I know how to start a library. He started asking me in 2009. Eventually, I couldn’t say no anymore, so I did a lot of research and figured out what I needed to do.”

Enjoy the rest of Cynthia’s adventure at [Beyond borders: A Fulbright Specialist’s Journey](#).

Also from SPU STORIES this month:

[Student, athlete, alumnus, professor, coach: Catching up with Dr. Wes Lingren](#)

Dr. Woodward Rides Amtrak for the National Park Service



Last year, Bill Woodward, Professor Emeritus of History, joined the National Park Service (NPS) volunteer team on Amtrak trains – and thinks some of you should join him in 2025.

Since the 1990s, NPS has partnered with Amtrak to provide guides on their long-distance runs nationwide, engaging passengers and explaining the passing landscapes. In the Pacific Northwest, pairs board the “Coast Starlight” daily train at King Street Station, narrating the route as far as Portland, then catch the northbound train back to Seattle and do it again, backwards. On the thrice-weekly “Empire Builder,” guides ride as far as

Wenatchee, then return on the westbound train.

The purview is broad: geography, geology, history, scenic vistas, native cultures, and unique features along the route (the [Mima Mounds](#), the [Winlock egg](#)), all compiled in a detailed reference binder. But the emphasis is individualized: each guide chooses what to talk about during the 30-90 seconds one can see a point of interest, trading off with the partner to play to each other’s strengths and interests.

Bill did a dozen “Starlight” runs from May to September, and is excited to do it again. So enthusiastic has his participation been, in fact, that he has been welcomed into the circle of leaders, assisting in ongoing professional development. He reports it was always an exhilarating experience, received with surprised gratitude by the passengers.

(continued)

And Bill wonders if you'd like to join the team for the 2025 season.

Your preparation in the natural or social sciences will prove especially attractive and strategic, but no particular expertise is assumed or required. It's like being back in front of a classroom – but without the papers or tests to grade!



NPS vets and prepares you well. New guides go through a Zoom personal exploratory introduction, then a classroom orientation in the February-March time frame, followed by six training runs with a mentor-partner to learn both protocols and content. Occasional official field learning outings are offered; learning doesn't end when one earns "veteran" status (and a Park Service shirt badge). The scheduling adapts to a guide's availability and preference, and the pairings are intentionally shuffled, such that both the experience and the relationships with other volunteers prove very rewarding. The commitment is for 8-10 one-day runs of about 12 hours.

To learn more, contact Bill at woodward@spu.edu, and [here's their site](#) at Volunteer.gov.



Changes with the Sale of Camp Casey

With the recent sale of Camp Casey to the YMCA of Snohomish County, mixed messages may have circulated regarding its use by SPU. We will certainly update you if the statement below is amended.

We are excited to continue to offer special rates to Seattle Pacific University at Camp Casey. Those discounts, however, only apply to SPU departments conducting official University business at Casey (i.e., courses, faculty retreat, student clubs, department retreats, etc.).

That means that alumni, faculty, staff, and emeriti faculty will no longer be provided discounted rates for personal use of Camp Casey facilities.

That being said, anyone can still book reservations at Camp Casey for family gatherings, retreats, and getaways. We will also be offering a whole suite of community programs and new amenities. Interested groups and families should visit our website to inquire at ymcacampcasey.org.

JAKE CARLSON, Executive Director
YMCA OF SNOHOMISH COUNTY
Camp Casey

O Sweet Exchange!

... He Himself took on Him the burden of our iniquities, He gave His own Son as a ransom for us, the holy One for transgressors, the blameless One for the wicked, the righteous One for the unrighteous, the incorruptible One for the corruptible, the immortal One for those who are mortal. For what other thing was capable of covering our sins than His righteousness? By what other one was it possible that we, the wicked and ungodly, could be justified, than by the only Son of God? O sweet exchange! O unsearchable operation! O benefits surpassing all expectation! That the wickedness of many should be hid in a single righteous One, and that the righteousness of One should justify many transgressors! Having therefore convinced us in the former time that our nature was unable to attain to life, and having now revealed the Savior who is able to save even those things which it was [formerly] impossible to save, by both these facts He desired to lead us to trust in His kindness, to esteem Him our Nourisher, Father, Teacher, Counsellor, Healer, our Wisdom, Light, Honor, Glory, Power, and Life, ...

From the *Epistle of Mathetes to Diognetus*,
130 AD

SPU Emeriti Organization Guidelines (non-binding)

Summarized and updated January 2025

Seattle Pacific University Emeriti:

An organization of retired SPU faculty and administration whom the University has honored for meritorious service. *

Vision: To support the Christian foundation and Christian values of SPU, and work towards a world in which people are whole, and love and justice reign. *

Mission: We, the SPU Emeriti, will continue collegial fellowship among our members, actively support the ongoing mission of the University, and continue our participation in the intellectual and spiritual life of the Christian higher education community. We seek, by doing so, to enhance the spiritual and physical well-being of our members. *

Newsletter, Praises, Prayers, Cares Concerns, and Historian/Futurist: The emeriti started a newsletter in 2007 and named it *EmeriTimes*. It is published bi-annually by the newsletter editor. A coordinator for Praises, Prayers, Cares and Concerns was added in 2014. A Historian/Futurist was added in 2021.

Elections and Traditions: The President is elected for a three-year term and can be re-elected. The current emeriti officers and the SPU Chief Academic Officer (or his/her designate) make up an advisory Executive Committee.

Privileges: Many of the privileges for the emeriti faculty are listed in the Faculty Handbook. To be current, the emeriti faculty should check the Faculty Handbook for any changes. Current privileges include use of the SPU library and library privileges, an SPU email account, use of the SPU bookstore, dining privileges in Gwinn Commons at faculty rates. In order to gain the library check-out, bookstore, and dining privileges, emeriti need an ID card which can be obtained at the University Services office (3220 6th Ave W.). Normally, SPU emeriti faculty are listed in the University catalog and have the opportunity to participate with the faculty in the all-university events (e.g. Commencement ceremonies, Ivy Cutting, New Student Convocation).

Additional privileges not listed in the Handbook:

Free admission to Falcon sporting events (with an SPU ID card); two free tickets to SPU matinee theatre performances on designated dates; a free campus parking pass provided by the President's Office; use of the Graduate/Faculty reading room in the library. For all updated information please visit the Human Resources website.

Website: The Office of the Chief Academic Officer maintains a website for emeriti faculty, which includes updates on upcoming events, a detailed listing of benefits, contact information, and more.

Administration Work. Some of the administrative work is done out of the Office of the Chief Academic Officer.

Meetings and Activities. There are normally at least two meetings each year: a meeting in the fall hosted by the SPU President and a meeting in the spring hosted by the Chief Academic Officer. The emeriti added the tradition that at the luncheon hosted by the President and at the spring tea hosted by the Chief Academic Officer, we include the Executive Assistant to the President and the Executive Assistant to the Chief Academic Officer. **

*Approved unanimously at the April 9, 2008, spring meeting.

** Approved unanimously at the March 19, 2019, spring meeting.

Vision, Elections and Traditions, and Privileges sections updated and modified in January 2025.

Revised by emeriti officers Englund, Macdonald, Severson, and Sleight.

