

Emeritus Newsletter #92
October 2020

Hello Colleagues,

If you were unable to view the COVID-19 Update presented by President Smith and Provost Longworth, you may want to go to the EMU webpage and click on the top band about COVID-19. There is a dashboard which shows COVID cases reported since August and is updated twice a week.

The Board of Regents met on October 22, 2020 and we now welcome the following faculty, lecturers and staff to our emeritus association:

Faculty: Gregg Barak, Sociology, Anthropology and Criminology; Mary Brake, School of Engineering; Margaret Davis, Art and Design; Sandra Defenbaugh, Marketing; Badie Farah, Computer Information Systems; Bob Lahidji, School of Engineering; Virginia Maceda Lan, School of Nursing; Jean McEnery, Management; John Whitney Prince, Music and Dance; Keith Judd Stanger, University Library; James Stein, School of Visual and Built Environments; Jeanne L. Thomas, School of Social Work; Pam Walsh, School of Health Sciences; Patricia Zimmer, School of Communication, Media and Theatre Arts.

Lecturers: Kathy Ashton-Miller, Teacher Education; Margaret Polmear Patterson, Teacher Education.

Staff: Arthetus Abraham, Engage EMU; Phyllis Mason, School of Art and Design; Brian Fitzgerald, Housing; Rhonda Linderman, Controller's Office; Mark Lewis Savage, Housing; Jane Jackson, School of Nursing; Wanda Monks, College of Arts and Sciences.

Share your Scholarly/Creative Activities

We have a new page for our website at <https://www.emich.edu/emeritus> to allow our colleagues to highlight their Scholarly/Creative activities since retirement. Richard Douglass will manage the submissions for the page and will have editing rights to adapt your submission to our format.

If you are interested in submitting your scholarly/creative activities since retirement, please submit your name, a brief summary of one to two sentences and url to access further information to Richard.Douglass@ymail.com

President Smith introduced a Renaming Committee for the Quirk Building and the Quirk Theatre. You can read the reason for the name changes in the report below and submit your suggestions to the committee.

I have included information from the Board of Regents meeting on October 22nd below.

Until we can safely meet in person again, be safe and healthy,

Sally McCracken, President
EMU Emeritus Faculty and Staff Association

To students, faculty and staff:

Below are links to news items and reports from today's (Oct. 22) regular meeting of the Eastern Michigan University Board of Regents. The committee meetings and the regular meeting, which were live streamed and open to the public, were held remotely because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

[In effort to keep campus safer from COVID-19, Eastern Michigan University modifies winter semester calendar; students to return from holiday break a week later](#)

[Eastern Michigan University invests in student success with \\$53.3 million financial aid package for 2021-22 academic year](#)

[Eastern Michigan University, part-time lecturers union reach agreement on new three-year contract](#)

[President's Report to the Board of Regents](#)

In his regular report to the Board of Regents, President Smith provided an update on the work of the committee that is gathering information and will provide guidance around the names currently given to the Quirk Building and Quirk Theatre. President Smith noted that the Committee has reviewed information uncovered by an Eastern Michigan University alumnus and local historian that suggest the building and theater's namesake promoted Blackface Theater, including local performances. EMU Historian Mary-Elizabeth Murphy also was invited to share her deep expertise and insights as well.

"The Committee members and I have stood in strong agreement from the start of this process that our actions in this matter must be grounded and guided by our University's statement of core values, one of which is inclusiveness ... " President Smith said. "Our next step will be for the Committee to engage our campus community, including the issuance of a call for suggestions about naming. This process will occur over the next several weeks. The Committee's work will be finalized at the conclusion of that process and a formal recommendation regarding a name change will be brought to the Board of Regents at the Dec.10, 2020 meeting."

You may submit your suggestions to the committee here: [Call for Naming Suggestions](#)

President Smith also thanked the members of the committee:

- Dana Heller, CAS Dean, co-chair
- Kathy Stacey, CMTA Director, co-chair
- Pirooz Aghssa, CMTA Faculty
- Pam Cardell, CMTA Staff
- Doris Fields, CMTA Faculty
- Jill Hunsberger, Foundation
- Sally McCracken, CMTA Emeritus Faculty
- KC Quirk, family member
- Ken Stevens, CMTA Emeritus Faculty
- Rand Stewart, CMTA Alum

In his report, President Smith also noted the low number of positive COVID-19 cases among our students, faculty and staff. In the seven days ending Oct. 20, the University administered 840 tests that resulted in zero positive tests. Since August 12, the University has administered a total of 5,676 tests that resulted in 46 positive results for a positivity rate of 0.81 percent. The data is updated regularly on the University's [COVID-19 Dashboard](#).

The Board also heard a report on the [extensive COVID-19 response from the Physical Plant](#). The report detailed the enormous effort, procedures and protocols needed to prepare and modify campus to best ensure the health of students, faculty and staff.

You can read [all the documents from today's board meeting](#), including the list of faculty promotions, new appointments and emeritus status awards for former faculty and staff.