

## Retired Faculty Serving the Future

### To the moon and back

From dusty Pullman to outer space

John Bussey, one the awardees of the SURCA 2021 Undergraduate Research Award is a student at WSU Pullman. As a chemical engineering and materials science major, John has been working on an out-of-this-world project. Along with mentor John McCloy, Bussey has been researching quality analogs (simulants) in high quantities that can be used for testing lunar equipment. John comments that lunar regolith (or dust) is hazardous for humans and harmful for equipment.

In his research, John is working to develop a cleaning system for the suits astronauts would wear during the moon mission which, according to NASA, will be launched in 2024. In order to test the equipment, Bussey is making use of the ash that landed in Pullman after the volcanic eruption of Mt. St. Helens in 1980. He explains is St. Helens' ash is a relatively high-quality, medium-fidelity simulant that can replicate moon dust. Hence, is being used to test lunar-bound products.

John's presentation at SURCA 2021, titled "Characterization of Mt. St. Helens Ash for Use as a Lunar Regolith Simulant," was highly acclaimed. If you missed his presentation at the Showcase poster session and were not able to attend last month's winter luncheon (where he also presented), You can see his poster presentation at this [link](#)



John Bussey presenting at the Emeritus Society Winter Lunch on December 16, 2021.



## SURCA 2022

The Emeritus Society Undergraduate Research Awards and Humanities grant

The Showcase for Undergraduate Research and Creative Activities, SURCA is a WSU-wide event that brings faculty, undergraduates and other participants together. In this event, intellectual or creative contribution is recognized, and the Emeritus Society takes part in it with two different types of awards.

The first is the [Undergraduate Research Award](#), which consists of five \$500 dollars awards in the areas of physical sciences and mathematics; biosciences, engineering and applied sciences; arts, humanities, and creative activities; and social, economic, and behavioral sciences. The second is the [Undergraduate Research Grant in Arts and Humanities](#), which consists of two \$1000 dollar grants.

For the former award, all research should be completed whereas for the latter, the project can be at different stages of development.

[Tom Dickinson](#) will be the chair of SURCA 2022 committee and will be also leading the physical sciences and mathematics subcommittee. Larry Fox will be leading the applications' review in the area of biosciences, and [Robert Olsen](#) will chair the engineering and applied science subcommittee. The chairs for the arts, humanities, and creative activities as well as for the social, economic and behavioral sciences subcommittees are still to be announced.

Please keep in mind that in addition to the subcommittees' chairs, we will also need volunteers to evaluate the application we receive. You will be contacted soon regarding this matter.

The SURCA 2022 will be an in-person event this year and will take place on March 28. You can read more information about it at this [link](#).

### Graduate assistant

Meet the person

A brief summary of her life before Pullman, her academic and professional background.

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### Workday

The new HR system

While painful to use the first time, Workday is making its way to modernize administrative processes at WSU.

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### Office of the Provost

A word from the vice provost

Dr. Hill shares her views on the Emeritus Society and its liaison with the Provost Office .

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## What happens now?

Tom Brigham is stepping down after over a decade of service with the Emeritus Society

Last October, [Tom Brigham](#) publicly announced that his duties as the Society's secretary were coming to an end in Fall 2022. To ease the transition, [Charley Gaskins](#) and [Larry Fox](#) are working with Tom in running the Society.

It is expected that Larry and Charley will continue their duties once Tom has stepped down, but they welcome any who

wants to join them and help them run the group.

While it is true that we all miss Tom greatly after over a decade of service, we all wish him well in his retirement from the Society.



## Guest speakers

The new trend at the Society



Picture source: <https://www.forbes.com/>

The pandemic has presented many challenges for all, especially for senior citizens who have been prevented from meeting with friends and colleagues. In an effort to bridge this social gap, the Emeritus Society decided to make use of the many affordances technology provides and started asking guest speakers to present via Zoom.

During this fall, the society welcomed five speakers. [Dr. Jeffrey Sanders](#) inaugurated the presentation session with his talk about current environmental and Pacific Northwest history and radioactive fallout research. Following that, [Dr. Michael Phelps](#) amazed us with a fascinating presentation about Clustered Regularly Interspaced Short Palindromic Repeats (CRISPR). [Dr. John Roll](#) talked to us about the Washington State Academy of Sciences. We also welcomed [Dr. Trevor Bond](#), who spoke to us about his recent publication *Coming Home to Nez Perce Country*. All attendees to this presentation agreed that Bond's presentation on cultural heritage was exceptional.

Our last presentation of the semester was led by [Dr. Aurora Clark](#), who presented about developing innovative methods to advance the study of complex chemical solutions and their interfaces using molecular simulation and integrating methods from graph theory, topology, and geometry. Undoubtedly, her presentation was stellar.

Most of these presentations were recorded and shared with the Society; however, they will soon become available on our website (provided we obtain permission from the presenters). For this spring, our first speaker will be [Dr. Mathew Sutton](#). He will talk to us about his recent publication titled *Double Crossed: The Missionaries Who Spied for the United States During the Second World War*. His presentation will be on Wednesday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>.

To keep you informed about upcoming presentations, Estephanie, the GA, will send email invitations. In addition, you can visit our [website](#) for an updated calendar of events. What is more, if you would like to propose a topic or a speaker, please send your recommendations our way. We would be glad to receive your recommendations for future presentations!



Estephanie, Rebecca "Becky" and Alvaro while visiting Los Angeles, CA

Estephanie S. López Contreras

## The new kid from the block

Meet your new GA

Estephanie is the new graduate assistant for the 2021-22 academic year. She is from Santiago, Chile, and is now pursuing a Ph. D. in Language, Literacy, and Technology at WSU. Before coming to Pullman, Estephanie was a teacher in the English teaching training program at Universidad de Santiago de Chile (USACH) and worked for the Chilean Ministry of Foreign Affairs, diplomatic division, teaching English to the future diplomats of the country. Because of the pandemic situation, she has continued working for Chile remotely.

Although she is a teacher of English as a foreign language and holds a master's in education, she spent the first few years after graduation traveling around the world while working as a flight attendant for a Middle Eastern airline and the Chilean flag carrier. These jobs were another type of education, and the skills she learned during those years have been highly valuable and helpful for life.

On a more personal note, Estephanie married Alvaro, a flight attendant, in 2015 in the Museum of Flight in Seattle, WA. A year later, they rescued a stray dog, Rebecca, and has been a family member ever since. Estephanie and her family love life in the Palouse and really enjoy the small-town feeling of Pullman. When they are not caught up with school or work, they usually spend their afternoons at Pooch Park and weekends exploring eastern Washington or visiting Estephanie's sister in Seattle. As a couple, Alvaro and Estephanie enjoy traveling, going out for dinners, and attending concerts, and a glass of good wine (preferably Chilean).

They have adjusted really well to the slow-paced life in Pullman; commuting times is what they love the most! And while the winters are certainly colder than in Santiago, they hope they can stay here for a long time.



Coffee meetings and events are (partially) back

Past and upcoming events



Considering the uncertainties of the last 20 months, the Emeritus Society suspended their usual gatherings on Tuesday mornings. However, with the COVID19 vaccine and booster shots, the Society decided to return to some group activities.

On November 16, 2021, we had our first socially distant coffee meeting after two years. Attendance was limited, but conversation was great.

We are planning on more coffee meetings during the spring semester; however, these will be subject to change considering the

developments with the new COVID19 variant, [Omicron](#). For now, the Society is planning on having coffee meetings twice a month.

Regarding events, we held a winter luncheon on Tuesday, December 14 at the [Lewis Alumni Center](#). During this event, emeriti were able to listen to two presentations by our Undergraduate Research Scholarship Award recipients: Randi Richards and John Bussey. Randi talked about her current research on *Rhizobium* bacteria, and John presented about his fascinating project concerning the space suits astronauts will use in the future mission to the moon.

The Society is also planning an in-person event for the Legacy of Excellence lecture. The lecture will be on March 24 at Todd Hall 230. More information about this event will be sent closer to the date.

If you have suggestions for other type of activities either in person or online, do not hesitate to let us know. You can communicate your ideas at [emeritusociety@wsu.edu](mailto:emeritusociety@wsu.edu).

Information needed!

A new survey is your way



In an effort to make the Emeritus Society a stronger organization, some members designed a survey to collect valuable information. This instrument will help us (especially the GA) to plan for activities or events you are interested in. At the same time, this survey will help the GA to keep an updated list of all emeriti.

This survey is still in the making but should be completed soon. When finished, you will receive said survey in your email. When you do, please make sure you answer it, your participation is important!



Vaccination record cards.

Workday and vaccination verification

It has come to stay

In an effort to modernize different administrative processes, WSU has implemented Workday as the “primary finance and administration, human resources, post-award grants management, and payroll system” (<https://modernization.wsu.edu/>). While Workday has presented challenges for some faculty and staff, it has certainly proved to be an efficient technology for university administration.

Last year, most emeriti experienced Workday first-hand with the vaccination verification [requirement](#). This verification consists of two steps, the first one is to complete a simple form on the system, and the second requires that you show your vaccination card to your department chair. Although the deadline to complete the verification on Workday has passed, WSU encourages all faculty, staff, and retirees to comply with this state [mandate](#), especially if you make use of campus facilities, such as an office or the library.

If able and willing to comply with this verification, emeriti should go to <https://modernization.wsu.edu> to access Workday. Then, they should verify if their status reads “affiliate” next to their name. If it does, you can continue with your verification by typing “request” in the search box and selecting COVID19. The verification form should appear, and you would be able to complete it in less than two minutes. However, if next to your name you read “retired” instead of “affiliate”, contact the Emeritus Society GA at [emeritusociety@wsu.edu](mailto:emeritusociety@wsu.edu). She will contact your former department and have you added to the new system. The change of status in the system is necessary to move forward with the verification.

Workday is not only necessary for the vaccine verification, if you are still advising students or have some work affiliation with WSU you will need to use Workday.

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## The scoop of the day

### A conversation with Sally



Sally at a Christmas market in Europe.

In a male-dominated group, Dr. Sally Horton, discusses her experience with WSU and with the Emeritus Society. Originally from Scotland, Sally came to the United States a few decades ago. When she arrived at WSU, she was a family economics specialist, but later became part of the Human Development Department. While she never taught in the department, she did conduct research and with extension programs.

As part of the extension program, her job was to take research from the university and other sources and make that available to the people of the state. Among the topics she mainly taught people in the community were home economics, human development, and economics. She also worked with families in teaching them about food preservation and budgeting.

When asked about the imbalance between men and women in her field, she did mention that she was one of the few back then. However, she states she never felt discriminated because of that. When discussing how women's role has change over the years, she expresses that the main changes are seen in that they now occupy higher-rank positions, and the number of female faculty has enlarged.

Fund raising efforts

## Money wanted!

### Donations make a difference

It is that time of the year again, we need your help to support more outstanding undergraduate scholars. Your donations finance the undergraduate research scholarship with five awards, and two grants for the undergraduate scholarship in the humanities program.

You can make your donations directly to the WSU University Foundation by sending checks and putting the Emeritus Society Scholarship Fund on the memo line. You can also make your donations online at this [link](#).

For more information, don't hesitate to contact us at [emeritusociety@wsu.edu](mailto:emeritusociety@wsu.edu), visit our [website](#), or contacting the WSU Foundation's Gift Accounting Office at [wsuf.gift.accounting@wsu.edu](mailto:wsuf.gift.accounting@wsu.edu) or at 509-335-1686.

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## The Emeritus society and the Provost Office

### An interview with vice provost Dr. Laura Hill



Laura Hill

As the liaison between the Office of the Provost and the Emeritus Society, Dr. Laura Hill is responsible for providing information and assistance to the Society when needed. A clear example is advocating for the funding of the Society's graduate assistant.

Dr. Hill expressed in her interview that the role of all vice provost and our newly appointed chancellor, Dr. Elizabeth Chilton, have changed over the last two years with the demands the COVID-19 pandemic has brought. Dr. Hill explained that the administrative burden has increased among all in the Provost Office; and this has sometimes meant that implementation of certain projects is delayed in order to prioritize other issues. She also addresses that this is a situation not only the Provost Office experience, but other departments at WSU too.

Regarding the connection between the Emeritus Society and the Office of the Provost, Dr. Hill states that while resources, especially time, are limited, the emeriti will always find support and help in the office. She especially addresses the importance of scholarship and mentorship the emeriti can provide to younger scholars and students since, in her words, the Emeritus Society is a group with many talents, interests, and values.

The vice provost also remarks the significance of the different awards the Society offers to WSU students, and that these should be further promoted. However, she does point out that the Provost Office does not have a revenue, thus, budget toward funding more opportunities should come, primarily, from the Society itself. Concerning this, she suggests the Society could organize more events as a means to obtain more funding.

When asked about other ways in which the Emeritus Society could improve, Dr. Hill says that conducting a survey among all members could be a great source of information. This instrument could not only help to maintain an updated data base of active members, but it could also serve to gather information about the members' interests and what they would like for the Society.

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“The Emeritus Society is  
a group of people with  
many talents, interests,  
and values”

- Laura Hill

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In addition, she states that contacting other organizations of retired faculty could also inform decisions withing the WSU Emeritus Society. What is more, she also indicates that affiliations with organizations such as AROHE are considerably beneficial, and that these types of consultations such be maintained.

On a concluding note, vice provost Hill invites all emeriti to maintain their involvement with WSU since their personal, professional, and research experience is valuable the university and the people that conform it.