

Retired Faculty Serving the Future

Update from the Leadership

First, the good news: The final Society function of the academic year will be held at Merry Cellars in Pullman on May 16 at 3PM. Appetizers will be provided through Merry Cellars by the Society. Any drinks desired are available for purchase by individual members. We anticipate a good crowd and we hope to see you there for great fellowship.

Next, Charley and Larry met with Laura Hill and Kristina Wilson of the Provost's office in late April. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss how the Society would move forward without the assignment of a quarter time graduate assistant to the Society. Historically WSU administration has supported the Society in part by providing administrative resources. For over a decade that support had been an assigned half time GA, and for the last 2 years that was reduced to quarter time assistantship. With the help of some excellent GA's over the last 2 years the Society has functioned well with a quarter time appointee. Yet with the budget cuts the University is facing the Provost's Office made the decision to terminate our GA support. Obviously there is significant concern as to how the Society is to function in the future.

Kristina and Laura assured us that the Provost's Office still considers the Emeritus/a Society an important part of the University system. They are dedicated to our support. As much of what the GA provided the Society was in the form of clerical tasks, they feel that their office in general could absorb the Society's needs into their work week activities. We have delineated our needs to them. Charley and Larry feel confident that we will be able to manage well next year the Society's function. Although there may need to be some "negotiation" as to the precisely what help we will receive. Additionally, we may call upon the Society membership for some additional assistance.

The decision to eliminate our GA will clearly have a significant impact and require change in how the Society does "business". Currently Charley and Larry are very optimistic that we will be able to continue and even improve our function. But the process is evolving and will require more discussion. We plan to open our next meeting in the new academic year with updates and discussions on the Society's new functional challenges. One thought is to rejuvenate Emeritus/a Society Executive Committee. Given the talent and enthusiasm we have within the Society it should have a long a storied future ahead.



Winners of the Emerita/Emeritus Undergraduate Research Award

WSU Emeritus/Emerita Society gives awards, grants to undergraduate researchers.

"Article written by Bev Makhani and published with her permission"

PULLMAN, Wash.—The Washington State University [Emeritus/Emerita Society](#) of retired faculty has presented to students with five undergraduate research awards and two grants for research in arts and humanities.

"It's a pleasure for the members of our Society to recognize the great research projects that our students are undertaking in subjects that span so many disciplines at WSU," said Larry Fox, retired veterinary science and animal sciences professor. He represented the organization at the April 13 ceremonies where the seven students were honored. That event was hosted by the Division of Academic Engagement and Student Achievement.

"This year's award and grant recipients' research and scholarship projects are among the best we've seen, and we look forward to seeing their work continue. We wish that our support will help with that."

Emeritus Society Excellence in Undergraduate Research and Scholarship Awards

First presented in 2009, these \$500 awards in five categories are intended to encourage students to strive for scholarly excellence. Recipients for 2023 are:

Rogie-Ann "Akira" Park's award is in the category of humanities, arts, and creative activities. An English major and McNair scholar who transferred to WSU Pullman in 2022, her research project is titled, "Am I Qualified?: Inclusion of Asian-American Literature in English Classrooms." She received a grey award for her project at this year's SURCA undergraduate research showcase. The project addresses multicultural education in two disciplines—English and education—that represents Asian-American narratives and identities in the classroom. Akira hopes her research will equip current and future educators to teach using Asian-American voices and experiences with confidence.

Katy Ayers' award is in the engineering and applied science category. A biochemistry and bioengineering major, her project is titled, "Mushroom Mechanics: An analysis of Fungal Biomaterials for Wild Bee Conservation." She received a crimson award in SURCA's research proposal category in March. Her project involves the use of fungal biomaterials to provide nesting habitats for native bees. The material can degrade to biowaste, plus fungal biomaterials have shown antiviral activity, helping bees resist diseases that can be fatal to them.

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Research and Scholarship Awards “cont.”

The nesting habitats—bee hotels—will be formed from biomaterials inoculated with a fungal culture. As the fungal culture is grown, it will spread through the biomaterial providing mechanical strength to the resulting structure. The next phase of her project is to distribute the habitats across the state of Washington in May and later evaluate them. The project applies a low-tech solution to a significant problem: the loss of pollinators in the environment.

Audrey Almeria’s award is in the social, economic, and behavioral sciences category. A neuroscience and psychology major, her project is titled, “Efficacy of Digital and Non-digital Compensatory Strategies in Supporting Prospective Memory Task Completion Among Community-dwelling Older Adults.” It looks at compensatory strategies—tools that assist in everyday functioning. Digital compensatory strategies, such as calendar and notes apps, are being used more by older adults but their effectiveness compared to paper-based compensatory strategies, such as paper calendars and sticky notes, has been questioned. Unlike paper-based compensatory strategies, which are passive reminders that require memory to check them, digital compensatory strategies can be personalized and portable, and can attract attention with alarms. The study examines which is more effective; results suggest that regardless of technology use, using high-quality compensatory strategy supported real-world prospective memory performance.

Katherine “Katie” McCune’s award is in the biosciences category. A neuroscience major, her project is titled, “Comparison of Cholecystokinin Signaling Between Left and Right Nodose Ganglia.” Cholecystokinin (C-C-K) is a gut-derived peptide that is released during ingestion of food. This hormone-of-sorts promotes a feeling of fullness through the nervous system tissue that surrounds the digestive system—yet details on how this is achieved have not been fully elucidated. This project indicates that the vagal nervous system is involved in the C-C-K-satiety pathway. She discovered that left nodose vagal neurons had greater basal calcium levels, while right nodose neurons had greater calcium responses to C-C-K via receptor expression. Understanding the mechanisms involved in the food satiety system may impact the medical community’s ability to tackle weight gain and obesity in patients.

Julia Stevens’s award is in the physical sciences and mathematics category. An earth sciences/geology major, her research is titled, “Ductile Strain in the Footwall of the Schell Creek Range Detachment System, Eastern Nevada, U-S-A: Implications for Pre-extensional Geometry.” This study has provided some fascinating and fundamental information on the background-strain magnitude in the field area. Data will be useful in unravelling the effects of later deformation episodes throughout eastern Nevada, an area with a complex history of tectonism.



Presentation of Award at DAESA Event

Emeritus Society Undergraduate Research Grants in Arts and Humanities

These awards were new in 2021 and each provides \$1,000 to support original undergraduate scholarship in the arts and humanities. Recipients for 2023 are:

Brigette Hinnant is an English major at W-S-U Tri-Cities. Her project is titled, “Experience of Filipina War Brides as Post-World-War Two Immigrants to the United States.” She will examine little-used archival records of the Filipina War Brides Association to ascertain how such brides created a community in Washington and the Philippines. The project uses intersectional feminist rhetorical methodology to: study Filipina women’s ways of knowing, being, and communicating; analyze how they fostered community through the War Brides Association; and how they navigated the difficulties of moving to a new country while retaining a sense of their home cultures.

Elaine Henson is an anthropology major. Her project is titled, “Effects of Climate Change on Diet and Behavior of Hunter-gatherers in the Great Basin Region of Western North America.” She plans to examine some 12,000 years of coprolites—ancient fecal remains—to learn how changes in climate affected the diet, environment, and movements of hunter-gatherers in this region. The project uses evidence preserved in WSU’s Environmental Archaeology Research Laboratory (EARL).

WSU Emerita/Emeritus Society's Legacy of Excellence 2023 awarded to Nicholas Lovrich.

"Article written by Bev Makhani and published with her permission"

PULLMAN, Wash.—Washington State University Regents Professor Emeritus and political scientist Nicholas Lovrich is the 2023 recipient of the [Emerita/Emeritus Society's Legacy of Excellence award](#), presented to honor of his "outstanding contributions to academia, the university, and the community" continuing after his retirement. Lovrich deliver the Legacy of Excellence address on the topic of civil discourse on March 28 in Todd Hall 216. The lecture and reception were open and free to the public. The topic stems from the research underlying the book [Outside Looking In: Lobbyists' Views on Civil Discourse in U.S. State Legislatures](#) published by WSU Press in 2021 and edited by Lovrich and his colleagues Francis Benjamin, John Pierce, and William Schreckhise. The link to his presentation can be found [here](#).



Lovrich is the 16th recipient of the retired-faculty organization's top annual honor, first presented in 2007.

"All of the Emerita/Emeritus Society award committee members felt strongly that Nick is most deserving of the award," said Charley Gaskins, society co-chair. "He has a large number of notable accomplishments prior to and since his retirement, plus he is an active member in the society. We are honored to present it to him for 2023."

"Receiving the Legacy of Excellence Award means a great deal to me and is extremely gratifying," said Lovrich. "I'm humbled to be in the company of remarkable people who are prior recipients."

In good company

As an example, Lovrich said his friend and academic role model James F. "Jim" Short Jr., late WSU sociologist and criminologist, received the award in 2013. Short was someone who favorably impacted the university and its faculty, who was passionate about WSU, and who inspired others, he said. Early in Lovrich's career, Short introduced him to Thomas S. Foley, 49th Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives (1989-1995), a Democrat from Spokane.

"For a poli sci guy like me to have the Speaker of the House be from your (university's) district... well, that was a very big deal indeed." It was an honor to meet Speaker Foley early on and to go on to establish a relationship that lasted for three decades.

"That's just one example of why I believe there's something very special about this place, WSU, and I believe deeply that it's the people who come to embrace its land-grant mission that makes it a special place. I came in 1977 thinking I'd stay two to three years and it's ended up being nearly 50. I think it has to do with the culture that exists among young scholars starting out here. Once you are accepted by your senior colleagues and have your grad students to mentor, you come to understand that your WSU academic family has become part of your own DNA. You come to see that the most powerful career impact you can achieve is to empower your grad students to be good teachers, scholars, and mentors."

Outstanding Contributions

The only child of Yugoslavian immigrants, Lovrich was born and raised in San Pedro, Calif., the Port of Los Angeles. Communicating in Croatian at home, he learned English at school. A high-school student government leader and varsity athlete, he went to Stanford University on a baseball scholarship but finished college with an academic award, graduating *cum laude* in international relations. He earned his advanced degrees in political science from the U.C.L.A. Prior to joining WSU, he was on faculty at the Metropolitan State University of Denver, the University of Denver, and DePauw University in Indiana.

As a WSU professor, Lovrich's teaching covered: public administration theory and practice; evaluation research, and environmental policy and administration. He spent 25 years with a half-time appointment in WSU Extension with a focus on state and local government policy analysis; environmental policy; criminal justice system reform; and community-oriented policing implementation and outcome evaluation. Upon his retirement, he served briefly as development director for WSU's [Foley Institute for Public Policy and Public Service](#).

Lovrich supervised 30 Ph.D. students and produced 18 books and monographs and more than 200 peer-reviewed journal articles -- including four that are accepted and in press. His research has been cited nearly 10,000 times on Google Scholar and more than 2,000 times on the Web of Science platforms. His noteworthy awards for research and service include the 2022 Distinguished Scholarships Ambassador Award, the WSU President's 2013 Faculty Outstanding Lifetime Achievement Award, the 2010 Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences' Mentor of the Year Award, the 2008 American Political Science Association's Outstanding Mentoring Award (Public Policy), and the 2006 College of Liberal Arts Dean's Award for Exceptional Service to the College Award.

His administrative experience includes service as Interim Chancellor of WSU Spokane; associate chair and director of graduate studies for the Dept. of Political Science; co-director of the Center for Environmental Research, Education, and Outreach; and chair of the WSU Committee on Cannabis Policy Research and Outreach.

Since retiring in 2011—a year after becoming a WSU Regents Professor—Lovrich has been a guest faculty member at the China University of Political Science and Law in Beijing; an affiliate graduate faculty member at Oregon State University; and a senior scholar in residence at Boise State University. He is an affiliate researcher in the WSU Dept. of Criminal Justice and Criminology. He regularly attends academic conferences in political science and criminal justice with his wife and WSU retiree Katherine; they raised their daughter Nichole in Pullman.

Lovrich continues to research and write at his Johnson Hall office in Pullman and stays in touch with friends, colleagues, and former students around the world.

To share congratulations on his award, Lovrich can be reached at [his campus email address](#).

Achievements and Accolades

Congratulations go out to Greg Yasinitsky and Mick Smerdon as they continue to stay active in the academic world and share their talents and knowledge:

Regents Professor Emeritus Greg Yasinitsky (School of Music), served as the guest conductor of the Colorado All State Jazz Band and the Brigham Young University Jazz Festival Honor Jazz Band in programs that featured several of his pieces. Also, at the BYU Idaho Festival, Greg performed with the Jeff Hamilton Trio and the BYU Idaho Jazz Band. Greg's orchestral work "Celebration Overture," commissioned in commemoration of the 10th anniversary of McCall SummerFest, was named a semifinalist for the American Prize in orchestral composition. Video of the premiere of "Celebration Overture," performed by the SummerFest Orchestra, conducted by Eric Garcia, may be viewed by visiting <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZwnOaRMyd6s>. Greg's "Kingston Fire," commissioned by the Kingston High School Jazz Band and directed by WSU alum Tom Guenther, was performed at the recent conference of the Washington State Music Educators Association.



Dr. Michael Smerdon: "Odyssey of a Biophysicist: A Half Century of Exploring DNA Repair in Chromatin" For almost five decades, Dr. Smerdon's research played a major role in determining our understanding of how the structure of DNA in chromatin governs the distribution of DNA damage in cells and how DNA repair impacts changes in chromatin structure. This seminar will focus on some of the key concepts and discoveries in the field that helped form our current ideas on how DNA repair enzymes gain access to DNA lesions in chromatin and how chromatin is remodeled during DNA repair. These processes are fundamental to genomic stability, mutagenesis, and human disease. This seminar will also touch on the progression of Dr. Smerdon's early career from solid-state physics to the burgeoning fields of molecular and cell biology

