Bill Reese is the son of a Midwestern minister; he even spoke at his father’s services. This devotion never left him: he studied and wrote about religion and philosophy for his entire professional career. And he taught both subjects at Drake University, Grinnell College, the University of Delaware and, until his retirement, at the University at Albany.

Almost as soon as he arrived in Albany in 1969 he began asking the University administration to establish an emeritus center. He kept at it for thirty-five years. Always University presidents agreed with Bill that an emeritus center was a good idea, but again and again no definite plans or funds were forthcoming. Finally, President Kermit Hall not only listened, but found a place and provided funds for the Emeritus Center.

Bill planned the facilities, consulting with President Hall’s representatives, and quickly assembled an Emeritus Center Board. The Center officially opened in August 2006, just a few days after President Hall’s untimely death.

Bill served as President of the Board for several years, and then as simply a member, helping it become a community resource and an inspiration to Albany emeriti.

In 2015 Bill established two generous endowments, one to fund the Center’s activities, the other, the Three Voices Endowment, to provide competitive grants. These grants help emeriti to continue the University goals of research, teaching, and service into their retirement years.

Bill has been the force, the inspiration, and the support that make the Emeritus Center work. It is more than fitting that the Center be honored with his name: The William L. Reese, Ph.D. Emeritus Center.
Emeriti Editorial

Adjustment to Retirement: Some Perspectives
by Ram Chugh, Ph.D.

As with many major life-changing events, retirement brings its share of mental and emotional excitement and fulfillment, and in some cases, turmoil. Depending on how we deal with it, retirement can be an enjoyable experience – a time filled with new opportunities and challenges – or a painful transition that brings boredom, a lack of purpose, and discouragement.

The process of transitioning to retired life varies from one person to another. No two experiences are exactly alike. However, studies indicate that most retirees go through a variety of phases as they adjust to their new lifestyle.

First is the preparation phase, where individuals start planning for their retirement, including when to retire and what to do afterward. Then comes the honeymoon phase, where the newly-retired person engages in recreational activities such as exploring and traveling. Some—but not all—retirees also experience the disenchantment and reorientation phase, where, having done fun activities such as taking cruises and traveling, they start questioning their decision to retire. And finally, there is the contentment phase, wherein the retiree settles into a routine and is ideally at peace with what he or she has achieved during life’s ups and downs.

In a recent survey of SUNY retirees about their adjustment to retirement, most respondents, including several UA retirees, indicated that their transition to retirement had gone well. But they indicated that they missed their former colleagues and wished their campuses would do more to maintain social connections. One retiree wrote, “Campuses should communicate with their retirees on a regular basis and offer programs and activities which encourage retirees to remain involved as members of the college community.”

Several respondents said that recognition for their contributions was an important factor in making their retirement experience more rewarding. One retiree said it is “important to make retirees feel they still belong to the campus, are valued, and can still contribute.”

To maintain that connection, many respondents felt it was important to retain access to services and facilities at their former campuses. Access to campus library collections, meeting/office space, campus email addresses, and reduced-rate parking and admission to campus events were popular suggestions, as were requests for lectures, workshops and courses of interest to retirees.

Having been retired for more than 15 years, I can still relate to how tough it is to adjust. It was a period of great emotional conflict and it took me several years to reach the contentment phase. Now, however, I am very active and happy. I found my niche in doing volunteer work at SUNY System, University at Albany, and in the community. I am still able to enjoy life with my friends, family, and especially my beloved grandchildren.

Based on the findings of the survey relating to SUNY retirees, and my own personal experience, it is evident that staying busy and socially connected are two important factors in a fulfilling retirement experience.

Given the advances in medical science, most individuals retiring at 65 today can expect to live for another 20+ years. Sound personal and financial planning before and during the retirement years is critical to ensuring a smooth and enjoyable retirement. A positive attitude is equally important.

We request other UA emeriti to share their adjustment experiences with their colleagues through the EMERITI VOICE. Send your experiences to Ram Chugh at Ram.Chugh@SUNY.Edu
The Emeritus Center encourages emeriti to continue pursuing the University’s mission of research, teaching, and service. With a strong sense of community, the Center sponsors a rich variety of speakers and ambitious series of educational and cultural programs throughout the academic year, open to the public, at the Center’s home: Room 134 in the University Administration Building, 1215 Western Avenue.

On May 15, 2015 the Emeritus Center was renamed the William L. Reese II, Ph.D. Emeritus Center at the University at Albany, in celebration of our Founding President, and of his generous endowments to the Center.

Remember - As an emeritus/a you are automatically a member of the UA Emeritus Center. The Center’s Board represents your interests in programs, honors and awards. You can vote for Board members and you can be a Board member. Start the conversation here: emeritus.center@albany.edu
2017 Three Voice Grant Recipients

Henryk Baran, professor emeritus, Department of Languages, Literature and Cultures (Russian/Slavic languages), *Tracing the Forgery “Protocols of the Elders of Zion”: The French Connection*. The project will investigate the “Protocols,” a fabricated anti-Semitic text published in Russia in 1903 and widely translated and disseminated. The grant will support travel expenses for Baran to work in the French National Library.

Christine Bose, professor emerita, Department of Sociology, *A Comparative Study of International Marriage in Seven Countries: The Patterns of Gender and Nationality*. Bose’s study will investigate changing international marriage patterns across Europe and the Asia/Pacific region, focusing on variations over time of the gender and national origin of the migrating spouse. Women are now half of all international migrants, and international marriage is a growing phenomenon. The grant supports research and travel expenses.

Eloise Briere, professor emerita, Department of Languages, Literatures and Cultures (French), *Lucie Coustrurier and Negritude*, a paper to be presented at the Conseil International d’Études Francophones conference in Senegal. The paper is part of a book-length project on French Colonialism in West Africa. The grant supports airfare to Senegal.

Joel Chadabe, professor emeritus, Department of Music, *New Musical Instruments in the Technical World*. Chadabe’s project will result in an e-book and website on the theory of electronic musical instruments. The grant supports a research assistant and editor.

Lindsay Childs, professor emeritus, Mathematics and Statistics, presenting *Research in Local Galois Module Theory*, the recent results from his long-term mathematical research on algebraic number theory. The grant supports travel costs to a professional workshop.

Judith Saidel, associate professor emerita, Department of Public Administration and Policy Studies, *Managing the Dynamics of Contracting Relationships: Public Administrator’s Perspectives*. The project involves in-depth interviews with public agency administrators for their views on how to best manage contract relationships with nonprofits. The grant supports software needs.

Mary Beth Winn, professor emerita, Department of Languages, Literatures and Cultures (French), *A UAlbany Database for the Editions of Anthoine Verard*. The project seeks to organize and present the results of Winn’s many years of scholarship on Verard, a prominent Parisian publisher who dominated the French book trade from 1485-1512. The grant supports technical assistance and the rights to digital images.
Volunteer Opportunities at UA

The University welcomes expressions of interest in volunteer service from emeriti faculty and staff. There are a variety of opportunities for mentoring, sharing your experience through guest presentations, and participating in campus activities. Please contact Willam Hedberg in the Provost's Office (whedberg@albany.edu) to discuss your particular interests.

Retirement Story: WARREN ROBERTS (UAlbany)

I retired in 2013, after teaching at the University at Albany for 50 years; I was in the History department. I had a bicycle accident in the fall of 2013, a few months after my retirement; I don’t remember the accident; my first memory was seeing the lights of the ambulance that took me to Albany Med, where they patched me up. It is now almost four years later, and I continue to wonder about the impact of the accident on my life.

My wife and I moved to Florida last year; my life is very quiet here; I get up at 7 a.m. or so and go for a walk on the beach; I return to our small condo and spend the rest of the day working on my current writing project. It follows my last writing project and the others as well; I have written six books. I don’t know if I will finish this project; it will depend on my health, above all my mental health.

I fell walking on the beach last December (2015) and spent four days in the hospital; at one point my heart stopped; I have had memory loss since that happened. But I spend all of my time on my current writing project; I don’t leave my work place other than to go for my morning walk; writing has been at the center of my life since I became an academic.

We live outside Sarasota, on the Gulf of Mexico side of Florida; the area is solidly Republican; the vote here was resoundingly for Trump; this is one of the reasons for my isolation. Moreover, most people in our area are gone for most of the year, which I like.

Before my stroke (a year ago), I was giving talks on history and art at our little Episcopal church here and gave many talks and courses for adults at the local Education Center and for various art groups in the area. I did this a lot in Albany before I retired in 2013 and was a very popular speaker - especially with my book on Albany: A PLACE IN HISTORY; Albany from 1775-1825.

I have posted several blogs for the Albany Times Union (http://blog.timesunion.com/roberts/), most recently on January 2, 2017.

When I began teaching in 1963 I put in 50-hour weeks; toward the end I put in 100-hour weeks. My six books are one result of my commitment to academic life; my students are another. I still hear from some; they email me and I email them. I received a nice email yesterday from one of my former students who is a librarian at the University of Rochester, whose press published my last book.

(continues on next page)
Retirement Story (continued)

When I arrived in Albany in 1963, construction had begun on Rockefeller’s massive transformation of Albany. Its impact on me was great; I followed it through its various stages; the University at Albany is a product of the Rockefeller initiatives. I lived through great change at the University and in the city of Albany; that, in part, is what I am working on now.

I have two current projects: the first is the First Viennese School of Musical Composition – Haydn, Mozart and Beethoven, and the Second Viennese School – Schoenberg and his contemporaries. The other project is myself and my academic experience, basically my fifty years of Teaching at the University at Albany. I think about it all the time; I feel that I taught when the doors to academic life were wide open; I had two job offers without being interviewed. Five people were hired in the Social Sciences department when I was; when I received tenure I had completed the dissertation but not yet turned it into a book. I was appointed Distinguished Teaching Professor after completing my second book. The other books came one after another; I hope I complete my current projects.

UAEC Board Members

President: Ed Fitzgerald, Ph.D. - O’Leary Professor of Environmental Health Sciences, School of Public Health, University at Albany. Retired in 2015 but continuing as a part-time O’Leary Professor until 2018.

Grayce Susan Burian - Emeritus from Schenectady County Community College where she instituted and ran the Theatre Program for over 20 years.

Sorrell Chesin, Ph.D. - Appointed Associate Dean of Students at UAlbany in 1965, served in several senior administrative positions thereafter, including Executive Director of The UAlbany Foundation, and retired in 2013 as Associate Vice President for University Development (Emeritus).

Ram Chugh, Ph.D. - Distinguished Service Professor of Economics (Emeritus), SUNY Potsdam and System Administration. Retired in 2013 after 43 years of service.

George Hastings - Associate Professor Emeritus from the English Department, specialties in English linguistics and medieval English literature, and is a founding member of the Emeritus Center Board.

Bill Hedberg, Ph.D. - Senior Vice Provost and Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs.

Charles Marshal, Ph.D. - Professor of Computer Science (Emeritus) SUNY-Potsdam

Bonita Sanchez, MSW - retired from the UA School of Social Welfare as Assistant Dean and Director of Field Education after 28 years of service as faculty/staff. In retirement, she continues volunteering with organizations that provide support to seniors, domestic violence survivors, and homeless teens.

Carol Whittaker - has had many roles at the School of Public Health since joining as the "Assistant Dean for New Fun Stuff" in 1993. More recently she established and directed the Center for Global Health and now, retired from the NYS Department of Health, is satisfied with teaching on line courses and directing the Global Health Certificate Program at the School. Retirement is not a word she acknowledges.

Find out MORE: http://www.albany.edu/emerituscenter/

New Emeriti:

Michael Derensis - Graduate Studies Senior Staff Associate
R. Hamilton Lankford - Educational Administration & Policy Professor

Editorial Committee

Ram Chugh, Ph.D. - Editor
Ed Fitzgerald, Ph.D. - UAEC President
George Hastings, Ph.D. - UAEC Communication Director
Bill Hedberg, Ph.D. - Senior Vice Provost and Associate VPAA
Ken Jacobie - Consultant

Send comment or story suggestions to Ram Chugh at ram.chugh@SUNY.Edu