Our Collective Hero: William L. Reese

by Patricia Reese

As a young child I don’t remember much about my dad as he taught his classes and then needed to rest his back due to a back issue he had while a young man. However, he had these wonderful prism glasses, which allowed him to read while lying down. We thought they were magical and quite special. After a time, luckily for dad, his tender back improved and only flared up occasionally.

After telling friends that my dad was a professor of philosophy, they would always ask, “What’s it like to have a philosopher as a father?” My answer was typically, “Well he’s just a regular man who loves his family.” Dad played with us, read with us, took us to swim team meets, camped with us, traveled with us, brought us to McDonald’s and bought us a hamburger when Oakland swim team won our swim meets. As I grew older I started to sense that this man, my father, was no ordinary man.

He celebrated our successes and helped sort out our troubles and somehow knew that good things would come to his family. Dad was always able to see the forest through the trees and there were always a multitude of possibilities. Dad believed quite strongly that all three of his children were extraordinary individuals and that the sky was the limit. He was available to listen and facilitate as a “philosophical cheerleader” of sorts. Prior to leaving the house dad would give us a pep talk and would say, “Uphold the Reese name.” We knew he meant for us to always do our best in the Reese name. While traveling in South America, Docky, Claudia, and I got to laughing at inopportune moments. Dad would mention, “international relations, international relations.” This would mean he understood why we might be laughing, however did not want folks from other countries to interpret the laughing as cruel.

I in turn realized that this optimism was present as a father, husband, friend, minister, a professor, a writer, a mentor, grandfather, and a swimmer.

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Emeriti Editorial
Let Us Welcome 2018
by Ram Chugh, Ph.D.

UAEC Emeriti Voice wishes its readers a very Happy New Year!

New Year’s Day is considered a time for reflection and planning for the upcoming year. Most countries declare New Year’s Day as a public holiday. People start celebrating the arrival of the New Year with New Year’s Eve parties and fireworks.

It does not matter where one lives; the arrival of the New Year is celebrated as a new beginning. Television networks and newspapers carry special shows and articles highlighting the major happenings of the previous year and expression of hopes and aspirations for the New Year.

However, over the recent years, the New Year’s Day celebrations have become more somber because of the many challenges and sufferings experienced by many people in the world. Some of these challenges are caused by natural forces, such as severe hurricanes, earthquakes, wildfires, epidemics, and massive floods; other challenges, such as terrorism, gun violence, regional wars, refugee crises causing mass migrations, are man-made.

Such crises, whether man-made or natural, cause tremendous suffering for many in the world. For those afflicted by such misery, New Year’s Day has little significance. It is like any other day, where suffering for them does not seem to end. Such tragic experiences and suffering can make people lose faith in the goodness of their fellow human beings and even in God.

Despite such suffering, there remains a flicker of hope deep inside every person for a better tomorrow. Such hope for a better future keeps the world going. Human beings have tremendous resilience. We possess an innate ability to bounce back and overcome the odds. The history of humanity shows periods of extreme deprivation and periods of extreme prosperity as well.

The human race continues its quest for a world when there will be no wars. It also continues its quest to tame Mother Nature to minimize natural disasters. These dreams for a world of peace and prosperity are reflected in the credo of the Tehran (Iran) Peace Museum:

“Peace is more than the Absence of War. Real peace comes from our hearts (inner peace) and leads to peaceful relations in the family and community and among nations. Let’s inspire others with non-violence everyday .... Let’s be messenger of peace in every interaction.”

Let us do what we can to make this a better world for ourselves, our families, our communities, and our world.

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UAEC President’s Message (continued from page 1 inset)

... Join us January 29th with Harvey Charles, Vice Provost for International Education and Global Strategies! Other talks will feature faculty who have done Fulbright fellowships abroad, Gina Volynski who directs the Center for International Development, and other friends of UAlbany who have returned from global experiences and have stimulating stories to share.

The Emeritus Center will also be co-sponsoring a Writers Institute program on March 6 featuring Joachim Frank, UAlbany professor emeritus and poet, writer, and recipient of the 2017 Nobel Prize in Chemistry. We also anticipate announcing the 2018 Three Voices small grant program in April. Stay tuned - it promises to be a busy and exciting spring semester!

UA Emeriti in the News:
From Sylvia Barnard

I teach Latin as independent study two full days a week at the Doane Stuart School in Rensselaer. I have 14 students from the 8th to 12th grades ranging from 5 beginners to a boy who is reading Livy. I am a volunteer but my students receive credit. I have been doing this for six years, since SUNYA’s humanities massacre, and my students have been accepted into excellent colleges.
Our Collective Hero: William L. Reese (continued from page 1)

In addition, it seemed to me that whatever he put his mind to, he could achieve. I came to admire and adore my dad. So then I began thinking that the best job in the world must be President of the United States. At some point I became convinced that this would be my dad’s Swan Song. For some reason dad did not pursue this endeavor. However, he continued to teach at various universities, to write his articles and volumes of books, to ponder the world of religion and philosophy, and to bring to fruition your dear Emeritus Center at UAlbany. This took dad thirteen university presidents, which equaled nearly forty years of his life to finally convince SUNY Albany to fund the Emeritus Center. Please take good care of this establishment, as it was dear to my dad’s heart. In reality, The Emeritus Center was dad’s Swan Song.

Dad was charming and engaging with graduate students as well as his three-year-old grandchildren. In dad’s later years we would talk about being a good steward, and helping others who may not have had the opportunities as he had. His love, Ellen, told me that even now dad was teaching. As she said, “he’s teaching us how to grow old gracefully.” All who met dad were touched by his authenticity and humanitarianism.

My brother, Docky, carried in his wallet a saying written by an eleven-year-old boy from South Africa Nkosi Johnson. He wrote, “Do all you can with what you have in the time you have, in the place you are.” My dad copied this in his legible printing and carried it in his wallet for a long time.

Needless to say I am honored and proud to help celebrate my father, William Lewis Reese II. I think it is fair to say that dad was our collective hero.

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* Patricia Reese, Teacher, Lower School Art, Renbrook School, West Hartford, CT

UA Emeriti in the News

From Grayce Susan Burian

In October, Grayce Susan Burian, a founding member of the Executive Board of the Emeritus Center, was a recipient of The Senior Lifetime Achievement Award given by the Capital District Senior Issues Forum. The award, for her work in education, was presented to her by Bishop Edward B.Scharfenberger, D.D. She was recognized for her many years of service in education, and specifically in the performing arts.

She and her late husband, Jarka Burian, donated books and periodicals referring to theatre that became the Jarka and Grayce Susan Burian Theatre Research Library in the Performing Arts building of SUNYA. They also established a yearly lectureship that allowed for students, faculty and community members to hear from major figures in theatre, as well as grants for students at both SUNYA, SCCC, and Rutgers U.

Grayce founded and ran the Theatre Arts program at Schenectady County Community College and ran it for the twenty years she taught at that institution. (She also taught at The College of St. Rose, Hudson Valley Community College, and SUNYA) She spent many different years in old Czechoslovakia with her husband who had grants to do theatre research there and had a book of her experiences there published by Ohio State University. She has done over twenty years of volunteer work with RSVP (Retired Senior Volunteer Program), working with students on the arts in local schools, especially at TOAST.

Grayce and her husband were members of the Albany Schenectady League of Arts Decentralization Committee and in 1988 they were honored with the award “Celebrating Creative Excellence in the Capital Region.” Her other honors include “The Michael G. Breslin Award,” The “Albany County Executives Award,” and the “RSVP Inter-Generational Award.

Presently she is a member of the executive board of Theatre Voices and is the Hospitality Director and on the Program Committee of the Emeritus Center Board.
University at Albany Retiree Services

Below is contact information for services provided by the University at Albany to retirees. For services with no specific contact information, please contact the Office of Human Resources Management:

Office of Human Resources Management
University at Albany
Albany, NY 12222
(518) 437-4700

Services and Privileges

- E-mail Access for Emeriti
  Information Technology Services Website
  (518) 442-4000

- Parking Decals (renewable annually)
  University Retirees Vehicle Registration Application

- Listing in Campus Directory
  Faculty and Staff Online Directory Website

- Retiree Organization on Campus
  Emeritus Center Website
  (518) 439-6917

- Library Privileges (including inter-library loan and online research databases)

- Office Space (if available in the department/school)

- Campus Publications and Events

- Campus Facilities (e.g., gym, meeting spaces)

- Consideration for Adjunct Teaching Opportunities and Campus and Community Service Opportunities

New Year Resolution

If one is seriously considering adopting a New Year resolution, consider “making sure all your estate and financial planning papers are in order” as your resolution for 2018. Take time to review your estate planning documents by asking questions:

Does my last will require any changes? Do I have a legally valid health proxy and power of attorney? Are my financial papers, passwords, and other instructions in order and accessible to my survivors? Have I taken care of pre-planning for my funeral arrangements? It is good to take a serious look at these important advance planning issues.

According to some studies, 55% of people die without a will or estate plan. (www.americanbar.org) Fewer than half of Americans older than 65 have a living will. (Consumer Reports, March 2015). Here are some checklists to help you out:

- ESTATE PLANNING
- SURVIVER'S Check List
- SURVIVER'S GUIDE

New Feature - UA Emeriti in the News

This item will include notable activities undertaken by UA emeriti after their retirement. Such activities would include: receiving formal recognition and/or awards, publication of books, articles, receiving grants, invited guest speakers, serving professional organizations offices, serving in elected positions, mentoring students at schools, colleges, secondary schools, teaching and conducting workshops; meaningful contribution to community through service to local, state and national organizations; meaningful contribution to education through service to UA and other educational institutions including secondary schools; new ventures, hobbies, traveling and exploration, and other similar activities.

Please send information about your activities after retirement to: Emeritus.Center@Albany.edu
UA RETIREMENT STORY
Roger J. Cheng, Research Associate (Emeritus), University at Albany Atmospheric Sciences Research Center

Although I retired from the Atmospheric Sciences Research Center in 2000 after 34 years, it did not decrease my enthusiasm for science. Quite the contrary!

Following my mentor, teacher & friend, Dr. Vincent Schaefer’s life-long goal, I have dedicated myself to community service and science education for talented, young students. My first taste of American-style community service and science education was through the Natural Sciences Institute summer program, which gave hundreds of high school students from all over the United States the opportunity to work with scientists and on their own to do field research and experimentation. Dr. Schaefer developed the Institute, which he ran under the auspices of the ASRC between 1962 and 1968.

I had the opportunity to work with Dr. Schaefer’s teenage budding scientists when he was working in the field. That experience inspired me many years later to put together a major, two-month long exhibition of my photomicrographs at the Schenectady Museum and Planetarium/New York Science Center in 2007.

Called "The Story of Three Water Drops," the exhibit showed how the study of a single drop of water could challenge existing knowledge, and illustrated the very essence of the Museum’s mission: to inspire a sense of wonder about extraordinary scientific and technological developments – past, present and future. As part of the program, I had the opportunity to discuss my work with attendees while they explored the exhibit and enjoyed special children’s activities. My objective was to open people’s minds and hopefully inspire the next generation of scientists.

During my retirement, I have continued to embrace technology in a big way. I created a website - www.rogerjcheng.com - containing all of my research papers, magazine covers, and many hundreds of my photographs. It is a science education project for the science teacher, student and researcher who wants to know more about the atmosphere and who cares about the preservation of our environment.

I produced a full-scale profile on LinkedIn which contains links to eight presentations I posted in 2014 and 2015. (continues on next page)
Retirement Story (continued from previous page)

I put my “50 Years Anniversary - Atmospheric Research & Science Education” and ten other presentations on SlideShare. I was notified on October 5, 2013 that The White House had started following me on SlideShare. What an honor! I’m even on Google+ and Twitter.

CHINA CONNECTION

At the suggestion of Dr. Schaefer, I coordinated a science exchange program for UAlbany between the ASRC and Chinese atmospheric and environmental research institutions. This program was in place for 35 years (1980-2005), and many of the connections I established remain in existence today. I still visit my contemporaries in China whom I had met as part of the scientific exchange program between the ASRC and the Chinese scientific community. I continue to call Guilderland, NY my home.

Recognition and Honors

The State University of New York recognized me in 1978 with the first SUNY Chancellor’s Award for Excellence in Professional Service to be received by a member of the UAlbany Atmospheric Sciences Research Center (ASRC). I was also awarded “The Outstanding Alumnus Award of the Year 2010” from National Taiwan Normal University, from which I graduated in 1954.

While working in the lab at the UAlbany ASRC, I made observations utilizing photomicrographs in three major research fields: environmental science, through the study of acid rain; cloud physics, based on the study of frozen water drops; and marine aerosols, which I discovered were hollow and not solid as formerly believed. Each of my discoveries has been confirmed by recognized authorities in the field - often years later - leading some of my colleagues to call me a visionary ahead of many of my peers. I found this most humbling.

My discoveries have been recognized both nationally and internationally, not only for the science revealed by my photographs obtained by the light microscope and the scanning electron microscope, but also for their elegance and beauty. For years these photographs have been in wide demand by editors of both popular and scientific magazines. One graced the cover of Science magazine. My photomicrographs have also appeared on the cover of more than 30 international science journals and magazines and have been cited in National Geographic, Scientific American, and Smithsonian.

Retirement is better than I had imagined. It has allowed me to do many things I wanted but didn’t have the time for before. If you are a recent SUNY retiree, here’s a little advice: Just do everything you always wanted to do!

UA Emeriti in the News

From: Professor Nadia Kizenko, Chair regarding Dr. Iris Berger.

What a pleasure to report that Professor Emerita Iris Berger is the subject of an article as the winner of the African Studies Association’s Distinguished Africanist award, given each year ‘to recognize a scholar who has a long record of important contributions to their respective field of African studies and service to the Africanist community.’ Iris’s work on the historical agency of women in Africa helped to transform the field. As Susan Gauss, our sorely-missed colleague and now Chair of the Latin American and Iberian studies department at University of Massachusetts Boston noted in the article, “Iris is not only a preeminent scholar of African studies and women’s history, she has also been a mentor and inspiration to countless other scholars, faculty members and students for over four decades. Her path breaking scholarship and leadership at UAlbany and in professional organizations around the world have fundamentally transformed the opportunities available for future generations both at UAlbany and beyond.” Iris is the sixth woman to hold the award since 1984. Congratulations from all of us, Iris! UAlbany NEWS

Useful Links for Retirees

- Medicare Information
- NY State Commission on National and Community Service
- TIAA-CREF
- NYSUT Retirees and Retirement
- UUP
- AROHE

FOR FUN:

- Think like a 94 year old genius
- 50 Ways to live longer
- How to live to 100 and enjoy it
UA Emeriti in the NEWS
From Dr. George A. Levesque

As you may know, American SLAVERY has been the subject of some of the most acclaimed American historical writing since the 1960’s. However while all slaves were black, it has not been generally known that not all blacks were slaves! Inspired by the “new direction” in historical studies since the 1970’s with its emphasis on writing history “From the Bottom Up,” a cadre of scholars began to investigate non-slave or Free Black communities which could be found in both the North and South and whose beginnings dated from the late 17th and well into the 18th and 19th centuries. Today, every colony/state above and below the Mason/Dixon Line has a history (in some cases several histories) informing not only about enslavement but also emancipation, the struggle for equality and, most especially, the formation of full-blown communities which were, quite literally, Cities within Cities. This new-found interest in Non-slave blacks drew attention to the massive written record left by free blacks. This cornucopia could be found in autobiographies, newspapers, speeches, sermons, pamphlets, journals, letters, and even a few novels, poems, plays and short stories. Equally revealing was the large body of documents, both private and official produced by whites and blacks, reports by keepers of eleemosynary institutions, prisons, and a wide variety of public documents including reports on the census, on vital statistics, education, crime and political activity.

BLACK BOSTON was one of a dozen major works published since the 1980’s (others dealt with community formation in New York City, Philadelphia, New Orleans, Providence, et. al.) which sought to tell this forgotten history. The 537-page study, originally published in 1994 is now acknowledged to be the standard, definitive work on Free Blacks in a crucial American city. As Professor William G. McLoughlin of Brown University wrote in his review of BLACK BOSTON:

“Boston has had many interpreters but few have written about this quintessential American city as has Levesque in this incomparable book: by far the best we have on black life in urban America before the Civil War. Solidly grounded in primary sources, brilliant in its multifaceted analysis, this Big Book returns black history to the forefront of historical achievement.”

BLACK BOSTON went out of print in 2004 when the original run of 10,000 hardcover copies sold out. Since then interest in a possible re-issuance of the book has been ongoing and so I was, needless to say, elated when the prestigious Rutledge Press asked to include my study in its forthcoming series: CLASSIC STUDIES IN URBAN HISTORY which will include authors Emile Durkheim, Oswald Spengler, Arnold Toynbee among other internationally known authors. CLASSIC STUDIES IN URBAN HISTORY will be available for sale throughout the world beginning in 2018 in hardback, in paperback editions and as an e-book.

Ravishing Wolves
By Mary Beth Winn

Animal figures are frequently used as vehicles for satire in the medieval period, and the development of the printing press in the early Renaissance fostered the production of illustrated satirical books. Robert Gobin’s Loups ravissans, composed in 1506 as a New Year’s gift to the University of Paris, combines textual and iconographic series of wolves to produce a vast critique of human society. This text and its illustrations are the focus of a paper I have been invited to present at the annual meeting of the Renaissance Society of America in New Orleans in March 2018. That presentation, funded by a Three Voices grant from the Emeritus Center, is part of a larger project to complete a critical edition and study of this complex text.

Combining verse and prose in a typical late-medieval style, Les Loups ravissans sets a saintly shepherdess against ravenous wolves in a satirical moral treatise that decries corruption in church and state. The wolf, symbolic enemy of Christ, the Good Shepherd, was already famous from the popular medieval tales of Renard the fox, and he sprang forth here with new vigor because of the ambiguous adjective “ravissans” : at once ravishing and ravaging, dazzling and dangerous.

The celebrated Parisian publisher Anthoine Vérard issued ca. 1506 the first edition of Gobin’s Loups ravissans and illustrated it with two sets of woodcuts. In the first set, anthropomorphized Archwolf walks upright, sporting a cape made of sheepskin and exemplifying those who have plundered, raped, betrayed, and assassinated their victims throughout history. In the second set, human figures from history or legend are unwillingly grasped by a cadavre in a new form of Danse macabre.

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Ravishing Wolves  
(continued from previous page)

My interest in this text first developed from my research on the publisher whose roughly 300 editions from 1485-1512 contributed markedly to the development of printing in France. Vérard issued the first Parisian edition of a book of Hours, the “best-seller” of the medieval period, and he launched the printing of illustrated books. Hiring a dozen different printers, he commissioned some copies to be printed on vellum and hand-painted by the best artists of his day, as gifts to the king and nobility of France and England. My catalogue of his editions, with notes on specific copies, is in preparation for the website generously funded by the UAEC. It has expanded to include a database to be housed on the university’s research platform.

Gobin describes his animals according to traditional sources and legends from Aristotle and Isidore of Seville to Aesop’s fables. The wolf is a voracious beast that attacks sheep; it endures hunger but will become insatiable when eating. It has great strength in its head and neck, on which it carries its prey, and its bite is dangerous. It will eat a certain grass to sharpen its teeth, and it is so cruel and treacherous that it will play with a child before devouring it. In that respect it is like a cat, but the cat brings profit to a house while a wolf brings ruin to the fields. The wolf’s power lies in his chest, claws, and mouth, at the front of his body not the back. The wolf’s eyes glitter like torches and his excellent sense of smell enables him to sense his prey from a great distance. His bushy tail deceives naïve and ignorant beasts, witness the fable of the wolf and the lamb. Wolves fear stones and will lose their courage when two stones are rubbed together. When feeding their young, wolves will go far to seek their prey. They will often kill an entire flock of sheep and bury whatever they cannot eat; when they later return, they infect the sheepskin with their teeth, spreading lice to any clothing made from it. When hunting, wolves will head against the wind so that dogs will not catch their scent, and if they make noise, they will bite their paw. The older they are, the worse they are, even though they lose their teeth and cannot run as fast.

Since Gobin is writing a moral treatise, the wolf’s physical and legendary traits are interpreted morally. Homer says that the wolf is valiant but fears fire – so does the devil. He has a big mouth, big teeth, and big ears as does the slanderer who spreads gossip. Aristotle says that if a string made from wolf gut is placed on a musical instrument such as the harp, it will corrupt the strings made from sheep. Wolves are born blind, as are bad Christians, and they can be of many colors, but we call them grey because that is the color of hypocrisy.

That Gobin’s wolves are anthropomorphized is evident in multiple passages concerning both Biblical figures and contemporary ones. The elders who falsely accuse Suzanne in the book of Daniel are “detestable ravishing wolves.” So are merchants who deprive the poor of wood for heat in the winter. Wolves are “ambitious and envious sinners given to sensuality.” The little wolves, the “lupilli”, disobey God’s commandments, and Archilupus calls them “children of prostitutes” while he himself represents the devil. Wolves roam everywhere, and they have overruns church and state; they inhabit monasteries and towns, the courts of princes and those of justice. Wolves are the usurers, rapists, thieves, and villains in all social strata, from the clergy and nobility, to merchants, laborers, tavern-keepers, pimps, and prostitutes, who thrive through fraud and deceit.

The wolves, however, are opposed by a shepherdess named Holy Doctrine, who represents the church. She protects her sheep and instructs them in the virtues that will overcome the worldly vices of the wolves. Gobin was, after all, a French priest composing a moral treatise, so his text ends with the slaughter of the wolves by hunters and their dogs. In a concluding dance of Death, however, all the victims are human: those who have sided with the wolves meet their fate. Gobin’s Loups ravissants, framed by the scriptural and classical authorities known to 16th-century France, offers nonetheless a critique of human society that remains pertinent today.

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*I am immensely grateful to the William L. Reese II, Ph.D. Emeritus Center for supporting this research through its Three Voices Grant Program.
As the founding director of the UAlbany Center for Global Health, I was able to establish partnerships with over 30 universities and health institutions worldwide. This led to exchange programs for our faculty and students and the opportunity to bring faculty and students from partnering schools and institutes to our School.

In 2010 I visited Malawi for the second time. I had first visited nearly two decades earlier on a camping trip through East Africa and I had wonderful memories of Malawi, “the warm heart of Africa.” I was given a visiting faculty appointment to the University of Malawi’s College of Medicine and was able for three years, 2013-15, to return during spring semesters to the new School of Public Health and Family Medicine there to teach and to create, with colleagues, new degree programs and global health courses. What I learned in Malawi, one of the world’s poorest countries, was that the health policy analysts in the Ministry of Health, many of them educated abroad in the U.K. and other western countries, could write wonderful plans with lofty goals.

We in global health know that good governance—benevolent, effective, and orderly governance—is a necessary prerequisite then everyone needs access to universal primary education, primary health care, clean water, and improved sanitation. With these, progress in health status and economic development are possible. They were in short supply in Malawi.

I found a different situation in China where we have an outstanding partnership with Sun Yat-sen University’s School of Public Health. I have now been invited twice to teach a short course in Comparative Health Systems there. This is a course I created and teach regularly here in which we examine many national health care systems, from those of wealthy, industrialized countries offering universal health care to those of Sub-Saharan Africa and certain Asian countries where health care is more like that in Malawi, severely lacking for most citizens.

In 2017 I returned to teach a smaller group of about 40 graduate students, junior faculty, and research assistants. All courses are taught in English although my slides were translated and shared with students before the class began in case there were any terms that needed explanation.

So what have I learned about the health care system in China? If your view is of the ‘barefoot doctors’ sent out to the countryside during the Cultural Revolution, think again! Like everything else in China, health care reform has been a major undertaking with the declared goal of including every citizen with access to health care through a number of government-sponsored medical insurance plans. Two of these are designed for a rapidly growing urban population (the Urban Residents Basic Medical Insurance and the Urban Employees Basic Medical Insurance) as well as a new plan for those who live in rural areas, (the New Rural Co-operative Medical Scheme); together they are designed to cover almost everyone. Funding is a combination of government support and voluntary medical insurance purchased at the individual and household levels.

The Ministry of Health has been replaced by a new body, the National Health and Family Planning Commission, and the 2020 Health Plan which established the universal health care goals has now been replaced by the 2030 Plan. New public health care facilities including district and city hospitals, community health centers, and township health clinics have been built. There are both public and private facilities competing for patients and private clinics are preferred to government-run hospitals.

Unlike in the U.S. where we are backtracking in providing access to care for all citizens, China has declared its intent to provide universal health care by 2020. The Health Care 2020 Plan was released in 2009 when we were just establishing the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, ACA or ‘Obamacare.”

In China, their plan focused on agriculture, food, and improved nutrition and on social marketing to encourage healthier lifestyles. Public awareness campaigns were directed at increased physical activity, improved dietary choices, and the prevention of obesity. Change was sought through local and community efforts. The goals of the 2030 Health Plan are to build on what has been achieved and to increase life expectancy to 79 years which would match that of the U.S. (although in the U.S. longevity has slipped slightly in recent years so there’s a real chance China will surpass us on this important measure of health very soon!)

Are there challenges and problems? Of course. Inequities still remain between the health of those in urban and rural areas and among China’s minority populations. Providers complain of low wages and of the high demands placed on them. Patients and the relatives of patients have responded to disappointing health outcomes with violence against physicians. Doctors have been allowed to make additional money through the sale of pharmaceuticals but that has led to perverse incentives. Attempts to improve local treatment centers and use referrals to move patients to regional and tertiary care centers in major metropolitan centers as needed have failed. Rural residents continue to flock to urban hospitals for treatment creating the problems cited above and strategies for resolving this issue continue.

However, I would say that, as far as health policy considerations go, while there is some disorganization, the quality of health care in China is improving rapidly. We know that the ‘three-legged stool of health care’ (cost, quality, and access) are basic and involve trade-offs. But, in my humble opinion, China is moving far ahead of the U.S. right now. I welcome your comments.
The Vincent O’Leary Professorship Program
Edward Fitzgerald, Ph.D.

The Vincent O’Leary Professorship program was established in 2009, and is named in honor of the former UAlbany President who served from 1977 to 1990. It is an opportunity that allows senior members of the UAlbany teaching faculty to hold a special assignment for up to three years post-retirement. It is a “win-win” situation which benefits the University by retaining the important experience and contributions of these valued colleagues while also enabling them to adjust the level of their responsibilities in advance of complete retirement.

O’Leary Professors may contribute to the University’s research, teaching, and service missions in accordance with an individual agreement negotiated annually with the applicable dean and subject to approval by the Provost. In addition, O’Leary Professors may enjoy:

- A special assigned obligation
- Participation in directing master’s theses and doctoral dissertations as appropriate
- Eligibility for available travel funds
- Full e-mail, fax, and phone services, as well as full parking, library, and athletic facilities privileges
- Office space appropriate to the continuing assignment.

The duration of the appointment (one, two, or three years) depends on the post-retirement assignment. O’Leary Professors may be compensated up to 25% of the appointee’s final academic year salary, not to exceed the maximum permitted by the laws governing retirement earnings. This compensation is in addition to the recipient’s full pension. At the end of the term of appointment, O’Leary Professors continue in emeritus status at the rank of retirement.

My O’Leary Professorship began in January, 2015, upon my retirement as Professor and Associate Dean for Research at the School of Public Health, and will end in January, 2018. I negotiated with my Dean a three-year work assignment that included teaching one course per academic year, advising my existing students through their graduation dates, and serving on several departments, school, and community committees and boards. In exchange, I was compensated 15% of my academic year salary, in addition to my full pension. I also continued to serve as the Principal Investigator of my NIH-funded research grant. This obligation is administered through the Research Foundation, which provided another 15% calendar year salary support independent of that paid by UAlbany.

I have found the O’Leary professorship to be an excellent transition between full employment to full retirement. On the one hand, it allowed me the opportunity to stay engaged professionally, maintain contact with my students and colleagues, and remain an active member of the faculty. On the other hand, it provided me with more time to travel (including a one month visiting professorship in China), to engage in my favorite hobbies like golf, and to spend time with my five-year-old granddaughter. It is a very flexible program, and allowed me to set my own schedule with only very general guidelines. It also benefits the university in that it retains the experience and expertise of senior faculty while also allowing the salary savings to be used to recruit new junior faculty who will serve as the next generation of teachers and researchers.

I believe that it is an excellent program that allows full time faculty to gradually disengage from the demands of academia and to develop a plan for an active retirement without the shock that often accompanies a “cold turkey” withdrawal. I highly recommend it to any faculty who are contemplating retirement from UAlbany.
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.

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, MA - 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, Ph.D. - 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 VPAA

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, MA, MPA - 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/