



THE UNIVERSITY OF UTAH
Professors Emeriti Club

emeriti.utah.edu

Newsletter / No. 6 February 2024

Natalie Gochnour is an associate dean in the David Eccles School of Business and director of the Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute. She also serves as the chief economist for the Salt Lake Chamber. In these roles, she helps connect the Eccles School with the broader business community and shares applied economic and business research.

Gochnour's background includes a diverse mix of public service and business experience. From 2006 to 2013, she guided the public policy work of the Salt Lake Chamber. She helped create and lead the Downtown Rising movement, helped pass a ballot initiative to secure funds for the expansion of Utah's TRAX light rail and FrontRunner commuter rail service, and assisted with the drafting and promotion of balanced immigration policies inspired by The Utah Compact.

During Gochnour's state service she advised three Utah governors, and was the media spokesperson for the governor's office during the 2002 Olympic Winter Games. She also served as a political appointee in the



Natalie Gochnour
Envisions:

THE NEW UTAH
Keepers of the Flame

George W. Bush administration as an associate administrator at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and as a deputy to the secretary at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

In 2022, Gochnour was the recipient of the internationally-acclaimed Athena award, a recognition given to a professional female leader who has demonstrated significant achievement in business and community service.

Gochnour serves as a Utah Department of Transportation Commissioner and is on the boards of the Utah Olympic Legacy Foundation, Envision Utah, World Trade Center Utah, and Primary Children's Hospital. She's also a regional director for Alta-bank.

Gochnour has both an undergraduate and master's degree in economics from the University of Utah. When she is not working, you can find her climbing in the Wasatch Mountains, cycling along the Jordan River Parkway, spending time with her two children and son-in-law, or up on the slopes skiing with her husband.

Luncheon will be held in the Saltair Room, **Tuesday, March 12.**

Patrons are encouraged to arrive by 11:30 if you wish to socialize.

Ms. Gochnour will begin speaking at noon.

Orders due by noon, Monday, March 4. (Ordering will close at that time.)

President's Message **HERTA TEITELBAUM**

Osher Updates:

Spring Term

- Classes will run from March 25 through May 7.
- Registration will open March 1.
- Osher Online with Northwestern University will continue this term with 13 new courses.

Emeriti Teaching Osher Classes in Spring Term

- **Bruce Landesman**, The 2024 Presidential Election
- **Jeanne Le Ber**, Becoming a Bird Watcher
- **Morris Rosenzweig**, Great Composers and Other Music
- **Tim Chambless**, Current Issues in American Politics
- **Margaret Landesman** (with **Jill Meyers**), Masterpieces at the Met

Special Class: Lyuba Basin, Rare Books Curator at Marriott Library, will teach a course spring semester called, "Inside the Vault: The Marriott Library's Rare Books Collection," which might be of particular interest to emeriti.

Osher Night at the Utah Jazz: As part of Osher's 20th Anniversary at the University of Utah, Osher has arranged for members to watch a Jazz game from the SkyBox suite at the Delta Center. The event will start with a pre-game meal followed by the game. This is a special event with fee.

Osher Newsletter: To stay informed about Osher programs and activities, you can sign up for the weekly Osher Newsletter at: <https://continue.utah.edu/enews?unit=osher> .

President-Elect's Message **TIM CHAMBLESS**



Gene Fitzgerald, reflecting on his career path, observed that, "Farming was just not in my blood."

Once a "farm boy", Gene grew up in rural Fennimore, Wisconsin, and went to a high school of 220 students. He entered the University of Wisconsin majoring in chemical engineering, but the coursework didn't agree with him. Instead, he joined the Air Force,

where proficiency tests revealed he had a gift for learning the Russian language.

This was 1957 when the Soviet Union had launched the Sputnik satellite – intensifying the tensions of the Cold War. In response, the U.S. government created the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. Suddenly, Americans fluent in Russian were a hot item.

Later, as a civilian, Gene reenrolled at the University of Wisconsin, this time as a Russian major, graduating in 1964 with a B.A. and a lovely wife, Kathy. In 1965, Gene enrolled in graduate school.

"I was a teaching assistant for a year, and then got more money than I had ever dreamed of through a new G.I. Bill and a teaching fellowship."

While writing his dissertation on Fyodor Dostoevsky's novels, universities were hiring professors fluent in Russian. "We picked the University of Utah as the best," Gene said, arriving in Salt Lake City in August 1969.

Gene also noted, "We simply fell in love with southern Utah, and the position at the UofU was fulfilling. I was almost the entire department when we arrived and was able to teach a wide variety of courses of my choosing."

Eventually, Gene taught for 24 years, becoming Professor of Russian Language and Literature and leading student and faculty groups to the U.S.S.R. twelve times.

After retirement, Gene continued to teach a course at the U. In 2009, he began teaching for the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute. A year ago he taught a well-attended course, "Russia and Ukraine." Currently, he is teaching an Osher class on Dostoevsky, a completely different world from down on the farm.

Past President's Message

KEN JAMESON

The anti-DEI legislation was a "Law Foretold." Gov. Cox signed it on January 30, and we'll spend the year figuring out what this "Floridation of Utah" implies.

My fear is that the legislation could chill the atmosphere and the U's effort to expand access to underserved populations. The actual programs the U has implemented in this regard do bear scrutiny, but I think the governor is simply wrong that we have not made progress in diversifying our faculty and student body. He cited no data. The closest he came was to say he had been reading Eboo Patel, an author and activist who advocates religious diversity. We can use that in Utah, especially in the legislature, but it is certainly not a major DEI issue as far as I can tell.

For a summary of the data on DEI in education, I recommend Andy Larsen's column in the January 14, *Salt Lake Tribune*: https://eedition.sltrib.com/infinity/article_popover_share.aspx?guid=cbfa8735-a841-4124-9dc5-9260e1f98480&share=true He showed that the main study by The Heritage Foundation criticizing the effectiveness of DEI programs was highly flawed. Beyond that there is no good evidence in either direction.

The U is becoming more diverse, despite the governor's claim. In 2022, over 35% of its first-time, first-year students were from underrepresented groups, far higher than their share of Utah's population. Also, between 2018 and 2022, there was an increase of 23% in the number of faculty of color. And importantly, graduation rates for students of color, rural, Pell-eligible, and 1st generation students, the DEI targets, continue to increase from 46.5% in 2017 to 50.3% in 2021.

I can offer personal experience that seems to confirm the impact of DEI efforts. At Faculty Club gatherings, I have met a highly diverse group of younger faculty who are interesting, energetic, and who bring a broad range of life experiences. The same is true in my home department, Economics. In our "Grandparents Are In" interaction with students, and in my experience with DACA students, they are far more diverse than the governor claims; and they have so much to offer, e.g. the DACA student whose parents were from Mexico and who graduated with three majors and a 4.0 average and is on her way to law school, or the DACA student from Argentina who is now an MD serving patients in Utah.

So, we emeriti need to bear testimony to the value of the diversity at the U, and we need to make all of those bearers of diversity feel welcome and supported here. How?

- Continue our financial support for these efforts, e.g. the Completion Scholarship and the close to \$500,000 in scholarship donations last year by emeriti.
- Engage with students and junior faculty. We talk with many first generation etc. students in our Grandparent interaction. Often, we are so impressed we end up not giving advice but simply applauding them and cheering them on, e.g. the first-year male, active in the Black Student Union, who is going to be central to organizing students in the new Impact and Prosperity Epicenter; or the young woman from rural Southern Utah who ensured her transition to the big city-big university by bringing her whole robotics team to the U.
- Be open to opportunities to provide support, e.g. the "Home Away from Home" hosting program for students or the Honors research thesis by a Psychology student who needs volunteers aged 65-80 (contact Memory Study, Kristina.rand@utah.edu, (406) 599-7180).
- Let's offer them all our support where we can and seek out opportunities to do so. And let's welcome the increase in the diversity of our Emeriti as the younger faculty begin to retire and join the Professors Emeriti Club.

Television Suggestions

DON STRASSBERG

Hi All:

This month I'm offering (for no particular reason) suggestions for movies released in 2019. As a reminder, when you see a "\$" in the description, it means that there is a charge to watch the movie, even on Netflix and Amazon Prime. Enjoy!

Netflix

Marriage Story: Observing a splintering union with compassion and expansive grace, the powerfully acted (Scarlett Johansson and Adam Driver) *Marriage Story* ranks among writer-director Noah Baumbach's best works.

The Irishman: Scorsese's latest gangster movie features De-Niro, Pacino, & Pesci (enough said).

Always Be My Maybe: Childhood sweethearts have a falling out and don't speak for 15 years. They reconnect as adults and, although the old sparks are still there, the couple live in different worlds.

Amazon Prime

Knives Out (\$): I've recommended this one before, but it's worth another shout out. The circumstances surrounding the death of a crime novelist are mysterious, but there's one thing that renowned Detective Benoit Blanc knows for sure — everyone in the wildly dysfunctional family is a suspect. Starring Daniel Craig.

A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood (\$): An investigative journalist receives an assignment to profile Fred Rogers, aka Mr. Rogers. He approaches the interview with skepticism, as he finds it hard to believe that anyone can have such a good nature.

In Memoriam

Bangs L. Tapscott
1935 - 2024
Philosophy

Jerry L. Jorgensen
D. January 15, 2024
Finance

Bené Arnold
1936 – January 24, 2024
Fine Arts/Ballet

Lester Martin Partlow
1943 – January 29, 2024
Pharmacology and Toxicology

Frank Alan Coombs
September 26, 1938 - February 2, 2024
History

If you learn of the death of an emeriti member or emeriti spouse, please contact ryckluthi@msn.com so that we can honor their passing. The date of death and college department would be helpful. The passing of other University friends and colleagues is noted on the Alumni Association web page at <https://bit.ly/35H63oF>



Pioneer Memorial Theater

PLAY

The Lehman Trilogy

*Natasha, Pierre &
The Great Comet of 1812*

TICKETS AVAILABLE

March 11, 2024

April 22, 2024

PREVIEW PERFORMANCE

March 28, 2024

May 9, 2024

Emeriti In Action

Transitioning To and Through Retirement



David Derezotes (Emeritus, Social Work) and **Linda Dunn** (former Director of the Bennion Center) are teaching an Osher class called “Transitioning from Employee into Retirement” spring term (March 25 through May 7).

Although the class targets U of U employees (staff, administrators, and faculty) who are thinking about retiring, the transition issues discussed in the class may also apply to many of us who are already retired but may still experience those transition problems as we go through this new stage of our lives. We invite emeriti to participate in the class, not only to learn more about the wide range of transition issues, but also to share with class members our own experiences when we moved to emeritus status.

For more information about the class including the syllabus, go to the Emeriti Club website (emeriti.utah.edu) and click on “Osher Class - Transition to Retirement.” From there, you can find a link to the “HR Benefits Planning for Retirement” webpage, that has more information and where the class is also advertised.

Giving Day/ Completion Scholarship

U Giving Day will take place on April 2-3. This is the one day each year where faculty, staff, alumni, donors and friends come together to support the U. We encourage you to consider supporting the Professors Emeriti Completion Scholarship during U Giving Day. This scholarship supports students as they complete their last semester before graduation. Several emeriti have agreed to MATCH contributions up to \$5000 during April 2-3, so any contribution will be doubled if made to the scholarship during U Giving Day through the scholarship website: <https://ustarter.utah.edu/o/university-of-utah-39/i/ustarter/s/professors-emeriti-club-completion-scholarship-pkyoryyqk> or made by check, noting the U Giving Day intent, and sent to:

University of Utah Advancement
c/o Chelsie Armstrong
P.O. Box 58006
Salt Lake City, UT 84158

Check memo: Emeriti Completion Scholarship Fund

Utah Citizens' Counsel

The Utah Citizens' Counsel, a nonpartisan group of senior citizens dedicated to improving public policy, has been working the past few months documenting what it sees as a growing imbalance of power in state governance. Its recently released document (January 2024) highlights four areas of legislative action that suggest an evolving pattern that warrants public attention. The four areas are: changes to the balance of state and local government authority, changes to the Executive Branch civil service system, changes to Judicial Branch processes, and changes to the Utah Constitution and citizen initiative rights. Several current UCC members who have worked on the document have also taught at the U, including **Susan Olson, Bob Huefner, Dixie Huefner, Andy Schoenberg, Cheryll May, and Wu Xu. Dave Carrier**, current Professor of Biology also volunteered his skill in producing the document. We are inviting interested members of the Professors Emeriti Club to read UCC's January 2024 policy brief on these matters at www.utahcitizenscounsel.org. Your feedback is welcome.

Hiking Group



*On the way to Road Canyon
Trailhead near Kanab*



*Snowshoeing from Brighton
To Solitude*

The January weather on Mondays resulted in some changes and cancellations, but when we got out we had a great time. We snowshoed from Brighton to Solitude (and back for some) as well as around the Spruces area and toward and to Dog Lake from Big Cottonwood Canyon. Attempts to reach Willow Heights Lake took three tries, but nice and short and well worth it.

Many of us are busy following the legislature, hoping to stop gravel pits and gondolas and to find ways to fill the Great Salt Lake. Nevertheless, we find time for renewal in the beautiful setting we have come to call home.

We have announced the dates and plans for our 2024 camp/motel/RV trip to Kanab. In summary: the Week of May 6-11, 2024 partially overlaps with the Amazing Earthfest, <https://amazingearthfest.org>, which we scouted last year and thought would be fun to combine with our annual outing. Earthfest is from May 8th -12th (Mother's Day). There are lectures, hikes, films, art, music, etc. So, the plan is that the first few days will be our group alone and then we will join in with the various activities that interest each of us that are part of the Amazing Earthfest. Our group potluck will be at Ponderosa Grove north of Kanab. Since most of the campers are really Vanners we will also use a combination of a historic 1912 home converted into 6 bedrooms, motels and a local RV park. Kanab has become an important tourist hub due its proximity to Grand Canyon (closed), Bryce and Zion and Escalante-Grand Staircase. We are excited to explore this new venue for our annual trip. For more information, get on the mailing list for the hiking group, Suzanne.Stensaas@hsc.utah.edu.

Duo is Coming!

In May 2024, all U emeriti will be required to use Duo two-factor authentication (2FA) when logging in to University of Utah online services (e.g, UMail, CIS, Marriott and other library online services). A specific date in May has not been determined. Duo 2FA provides an extra layer of IT security for you and the U. You may already be familiar with using a 2FA app to securely log in to your online bank account, utilities account, etc.

If you're not already using Duo for University logins, you'll need to install the Duo app on your smartphone and/or tablet (e.g., iPad, Android tablet) and register to receive the University's Duo prompts.

It's a good idea to set aside some time before May to set up Duo so that you can take your time, carefully go through the instructions, and call the University Information Technology (UIT) Help Desk (801-581-4000) if you need help. Please note that you will have to call the Help Desk if you take too long to register or leave the registration website.

For further information, go to the university's Duo help article (login required): <https://bit.ly/39EdqKX>

Tuesday, March 12 Luncheon Menu

Entrée Choices:

Roast pork loin

or

Cheese ravioli

or

Fruit plate with cottage cheese

Luncheon Reservation and Dues Payment Form

Voluntary Dues for 2023-24: \$12/Single, \$24/Couple

Attendees are encouraged to arrive by 11:30 if you wish to socialize.

Online and print ordering deadline is noon, March 4.

To pay by credit card (preferred): <https://umarket.utah.edu/um2/uuemeriticlub/product.php?product=30>

(Please use the dropdown menu to select your meal choice. If you plan on bringing a spouse/guest, be sure to update the quantity box to "2", and fill out the info for your guest's lunch selection.)

To pay by check:

Name _____ Pork loin _____ Cheese ravioli _____ Fruit plate _____

Spouse/Partner _____ Pork loin _____ Cheese ravioli _____ Fruit plate _____

Guest(s) _____ Pork loin _____ Cheese ravioli _____ Fruit plate _____

Email: _____ Telephone # _____

Number attending @ \$20 each _____

Luncheon \$ _____

Dues \$ _____

TOTAL \$ _____

Please check here _____ if this is your first luncheon as a new member. (Hey! It's a free lunch!)

Make out the check to *Professors Emeriti Club* and send to:

**Barbara Brown
1332 Dover Road
Salt Lake City, UT 84108**