Professors Emeriti Club
emeriti.utah.edu

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Renowned Magma Researcher Will Reveal Where to Tiptoe in Yellowstone

Robert Smith is a Distinguished Professor and Professor Emeritus in the Department of Geology and Geophysics. Bob’s University of Utah research group has been monitoring features of Yellowstone for over 40 years, but his fascination with the geology of that area began in 1956 before he started college. His group continues to provide real-time monitoring in Yellowstone of the world’s largest volcano and its tallest geyser, Steamboat. Bob also has conducted detailed seismic, GPS, and geologic studies of the anatomy of Old Faithful and has determined its 4D structure and dynamic plumbing and eruption properties. He is the Founder, Principal Investigator and Coordinating Scientist of the Yellowstone Volcano Observatory and the Yellowstone-Teton-Utah Seismic and GPS Networks.

Bob received his BS and MS degrees from Utah State University and his PhD from the University of Utah. In addition to Yellowstone, his research has included studies of the Alps, Greece, Italy and the Mediterranean Sea. Not to mention an Antarctic Expedition as a US Exchange Scientist with the British Antarctic Survey, for which he received a US Antarctic Medal and the British Antarctic Survey Gold Medallion. He is the author of over 210 peer-reviewed papers and the book *Windows Into The Earth: The Geologic Story of Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks* (Oxford Press, 2000, co-authored with Lee Siegel).

“Old Faithful anatomy and magma fuels Yellowstone’s geysers, hot springs and earthquakes”
— ROBERT SMITH

Luncheon will be held in the Saltair Room, Tuesday, April 9.

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

Lunch will be served at noon.

Orders due by noon, Monday, April 1. (Ordering will close at that time.)
Osher Updates:

Spring Term

• Osher spring term registration is now open for 70+ classes and special events. The term begins March 25 and runs through May 9.

• Classes will run from March 25 through May 7.

New Osher Stories Podcast: In celebration of its 20th Anniversary at the U, Osher is collecting recorded interviews with members, instructors, and volunteers as they share their experiences and describe what this program has meant to them in their lives. These recordings will be featured in Osher’s weekly email newsletters and social media accounts. To be part of this special Utah 20th Anniversary project, you can schedule a recording by contacting Osher volunteer Julie Myers via email jscott63@comcast.net or text or call 801-598-0595.

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.

Television Suggestions

Hi All:

This month, I’m offering suggestions for science fiction-themed movies and series you can view online. I know this is not everyone’s favorite category, but it’s one I particularly enjoy and hope you might give one of them a try. Enjoy.

Netflix

Dune (2021): For me, this is a science fiction at its best. A brilliant and gifted young man, born into a great destiny beyond his understanding, must travel to the most dangerous planet in the universe to ensure the future of his family and his people. Based on a screenplay adapted from Frank Herbert’s 1965 novel, this is Part 1 of the story. Part 2 just opened in theaters.

Amazon Prime

The Expanse (2015-): Hundreds of years in the future, humans have colonized the solar system and Mars has become an independent military power. Rising tensions between Earth and Mars have put them on the brink of war. Against this backdrop, a hardened detective and a rogue ship’s captain come together to investigate the case of a missing young woman.

Hulu

The Abyss (1989): With utterly gorgeous special effects, Ed Harris and Mary Elizabeth Mastrantonio are drafted to assist a gung-ho Navy SEAL (Michael Biehn) with a top-secret recovery operation: A nuclear sub has been ambushed and sunk, under mysterious circumstances, in some of the deepest waters on Earth. Make sure you watch the 1989 version of this film.

District 9 (2009): Technically brilliant and emotionally wrenching, District 9 has action, imagination, and all the elements of a thoroughly entertaining science fiction classic. Thirty years ago, aliens arrive on Earth to find refuge from their dying planet. Separated from humans in a South African area called District 9, the aliens are managed by Multi-National United, which is unconcerned with the aliens’ welfare but will do anything to master their advanced technology.
One other way emeriti can support the young, increasingly diverse, faculty and students of the University of Utah is through mentoring.

Some of those possibilities are based in departments. For example, the Department of Physical Therapy and Athletic Training has a long mentoring tradition. Dr. Odesa Addison, now at the University of Maryland, wrote: “Sometimes you don’t realize the value of the mentoring you have received, until you no longer have that support. When I was a new PhD, I didn’t realize how lucky I was to get the mentoring I did at the U of U. They have, ultimately, served as my role models. As a woman in academia, it can be complex to navigate many of the unwritten rules. My mentors gave me the confidence that I could be successful in academia and still raise a family. They provided me with the empowerment to know that I could ask for what I needed to be successful both in my personal and professional life. They also provided me with the tools to help others who are coming up in academia.”

Since Fall 2023, the Department has added another mentoring effort for young faculty to promote success and smooth their transitions. Emeriti Dave Perrin and Robin Marcus have been meeting regularly with a group of new tenure- and career-line faculty for informal mentoring sessions. Topics have included: explanations of the structure of institutions of higher education, the concepts of shared governance; academic freedom and academic duty; and academic promotion systems. Both Drs. Perrin and Marcus think they would have benefitted from a similar program early in their careers and feel that this support from emeriti faculty provides an opportunity for new faculty to seek guidance in a confidential, non-threatening, judgement-free environment.

There are a variety of other mentoring programs at the U that would welcome emeriti participation. Perhaps the simplest would be to register as faculty/staff in the “Forever Utah Network.” Karen Ashton, who runs the program for the Alumni Association, indicates that emeriti would be most welcome. “What kind of help are students asking for? Simple things like advice for life after college, tips for grad school applications, and how to make networking less terrifying,” said Ashton. To sign up, visit forever.utah.edu and click “Join Now.” The prompts make account creation a breeze, and you’ll be able to select the type of mentoring you can offer.

Another program, housed in Undergraduate Studies, provides a longer engagement with a student, including provision of financial aid. It is the Community Partners Mentoring Program, where donors/mentors are matched with a student who they mentor throughout the school year, trying to meet/touch base once per month during the academic year. The mentor provides a $2,000 annual scholarship to the student and is asked to try to commit to sophomore, junior and senior years. Website: https://cpmentors.utah.edu/

And of course you can always join us at the “Grandparents Are In” gigs.

We know from our earlier survey of members that many are already involved in mentoring. Forty-six percent of the respondents served on a PhD or MA committee and twenty-six percent mentored or were on a junior faculty member’s committee. Nonetheless, there are many more opportunities for emeriti to support the diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts of the U of U through mentoring.

Reminder:

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.

For further information, go to the university’s Duo help article (login required): https://bit.ly/39EdqKX
Personality Profile *
Linda F. Smith, emerita Law, never seems to run out of time

When many of us retire, one objective we have is to slow down. We’ve been going at break-neck speed, so we figure it’s time to ease back. Not so for Linda F. Smith, emerita Law, who retired in 2021 at the height of the pandemic.

Her initial foray into retirement wasn’t out of the ordinary — taking on-line and Osher courses, and becoming involved in the League of Utah Writers. But things snowballed after that.

“Although no longer a law professor, I’ve remained a licensed lawyer and have used my legal skills in old and new ways,” Smith says. She continues to volunteer giving legal advice in family law matters through the state courts. In 2023, she co-wrote an amicus brief for liberal religious organizations in support of Planned Parenthood’s case before the Utah Supreme Court, addressing rights of conscience under the Utah Constitution.

“That was so much fun,” Smith continues, “that I asked the League of Women Voters, which I had recently joined, if I could write a brief for them addressing equal rights under the Utah Constitution. PPAU recruited 50 business leaders to sign onto the brief.”

“I’ve also gotten involved in legislative advocacy,” Smith says. “My first project was getting the Utah Code changed to clearly define what it means to be too poor to pay court filing fees, a problem that has plagued me and my former students for decades.” Sen. Jani Iwamoto ran the bill, and Smith coordinated support from the nonprofit agencies and the Utah State Bar. “Amazingly,” Smith says, “everyone agreed, and the bill flew through both houses.” Smith’s advocacy for the LWV on guns, gravel pits, and child care this year has had mixed results, but it's not for lack of energy.

Smith has taken on the charge of generating community discussions, too. She’s served as Program Director for the LWVSL, putting together monthly meetings with expert speakers, and taking what she’s learned from those presentations and pursuing advocacy.

Smith also has helped organize the Summer Forum speaker series at the First Unitarian Church. She was recruited to chair the search committee for a new minister. Perhaps being too successful, that has led to Smith being appointed to the church’s Board of Trustees.

While Smith has lent her expertise in legal writing for community benefit, she’s taken her interest in writing writ large to other genres.

“I’ve continued my creative writing, taken fiction, poetry, and theatre writing classes at the U as an HB 60 student,” Smith says, “and gotten two poems published in anthologies of the League of Utah Writers.” She’s poised to work with a professional editor on a middle grade novel about a 12-year-old dealing with his parents’ dysfunctional divorce. You’d think Smith must not have a family, but she does. Her husband, Lee Shuster, and her son Greg exercise together five mornings a week, make themselves available for grand-kid pickups, walk two dogs and host weekly dinners. Smith makes multiple trips to Ohio, too, to tend to her 97-year-old mother.

When asked how she possibly could do anything else, Smith says, “If something comes along that interests me, I’ll find the time.”

*One in an occasional series of profiles of emeriti capitalizing on retirement. Previous newsletters have highlighted Bill Gray, Ray Gesteland and Gene Fitzgerald.*
THE HIKING GROUP has been out every week and has enjoyed a variety of locations, weather and difficulty. Traffic in Big and Little Cottonwood canyons has kept us mostly out of the area, as parking or traffic can be a problem even on Mondays. Two easy trips were tromping around the meadow by the stream between Spruces and Jordan Pines on our snowshoes and an easy walk as far as we wanted along the packed and closed Little Emigration Canyon Road. For the latter we had 20 people chatting on a glorious day. Another favorite was along the Mormon Trail parallel to East Canyon road from Little Dell Reservoir. In Millcreek Canyon we went from Burch Hollow to Rattlesnake Gulch followed by a short shuttle. With the new, late February snow, we are snowshoeing again from Solitude to Brighton and back, as it is one of our favorites.

We are excited about our May 6-11 camping trip to Kanab. It will coincide, in part, with the annual Amazing Earthfest, https://amazingearthfest.org. We will have hikes and other educational, natural and physical activities separate or with the festival. As we age we have fewer campers, most having migrated to vans or motels, but we still call it a “camping trip”. There is plenty to do even if you are not a hiker and as always there is more than enough to eat. Join our list for more information, suzanne.stensaas@hsc.utah.edu
DIS AND DATA

Sarah Projansky to join us at April 9 luncheon
We are pleased to announce that Sarah Projansky, Associate VP for Faculty, will join us at our luncheon on April 9. VP Projansky has been an important link in our efforts to facilitate continued scholarly activities by emeriti, streamline the emeriti award process, and reduce difficulties retiring faculty experience as they transition to emerita/us status. Maintaining a strong connection with the Office of the Academic Vice President is essential to the successful operation and growth of our organization.

Officer Nominations
There are two Board positions to be filled: President-elect and Member-at-large. Pres. Herta Teitelbaum has appointed the following Nominating Committee: Ken Jameson, Chair; Karen Buchi, Dixie Huefner and Susan Olson. The nominees will be voted on at the May luncheon (Business Meeting).

VITAE Invitation
Emeriti from the Health Sciences should have received a “save the date” email for the VITAE Research Symposium on April 24. If you or a Health Sciences colleague did not receive that, check the email address we have for you with Ryck Luthi (ryckluthi@msn.com). You can also go directly to the VITAE website, which lists the six speakers and has a link for registration: https://uofuhealth.utah.edu/research/vitae

ADA Parking
Visitors displaying a state-issued ADA license plate or placard may park in visitor kiosk lots or Pay-by-Phone stalls at no charge for up to 2 hours. Parking for longer than two hours in these areas does require payment at the regular posted rate. Since this regulation applies at all lots on campus with visitor parking, it expands the current designated lot options we have for parking on campus.

Speaker Suggestions
The Emeriti Club Board will meet in June to select speakers for the 2024-25 year. If you have any suggestions, please send them to Tim Chambless at timchambless@icloud.com

In Memoriam

Marilyn Holt
D. February 24, 2024
Fine Arts/Theatre

Pioneer Memorial Theatre

The Preview performance of the next play, The Lehman Trilogy, is on March 28. The play will be performed in the new, intimate Meldrum Theatre at the Einar Nielsen Fieldhouse.

Tickets for the last play of the year, Natasha, Pierre and The Great Comet of 1812, become available on April 22, with the Preview performance on May 9.

Don’t be scammed
Ryck Luthi reports on his brush with a scam
“We were raised to be trusting, perhaps too much so for a digital world. Having some problems with my HP printer, I went to the company website. I clicked on “Help” and was sent to a website that was dressed in HP logos and looks. To my delight there was a phone number to call and I did. A very pleasant voice asked, “How can I help you?” I explained my problem and the agent asked to access my computer to fix the problem. I noticed on the site window, though, that there was no locked padlock icon. So, I faked an incoming phone call and said I would return later.

So beware. A web site could look legitimate but be a fake. Some of our Emeriti Club members have reported similar experiences, some with financial regret. The three sites below will help you report a scam, see who is scamming and how to avoid them.”

https://aarp.info/3z8e93h or call 1-888-687-2277 to report a scam. The site offers other useful information under the “Fraud Alert” button.

Scam@utah.gov This site has listings of current scams.
www.ssa.gov/scam
The Social Security website is loaded with updates on current and past scams.
Tuesday, April 9 Luncheon Menu

Entrée Choices:

Chicken pot pie
or
Stuffed acorn squash
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, April 1.


(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.

Make sure you get an email with “Payment Confirmation” in the subject line after online ordering.)

To pay by check:

Name ______________________________ Chicken pot pie _____  Acorn squash _____  Fruit plate_____
Spouse/Partner ___________________________ Chicken pot pie _____  Acorn squash _____  Fruit plate_____
Guest(s) _______________________________ Chicken pot pie _____  Acorn squash _____  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