



# Retiree Newsletter

## Mark Your Calendars To Take Advantage Of These Exciting 2020 Retiree Activities!

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All events and RSVP info can be found at [supportmadisoncollege.org/retirees-event-schedule/](https://supportmadisoncollege.org/retirees-event-schedule/)

- **January 6:** Join us at 9 a.m. in the Truax Campus Health Building Room 218 to hear Melinda Gustafson Gervasi who will present Estate Planning Basics. In addition, Turina Bakken, VP for Learner Success, will provide an update on college happenings. (FYI: The health building is close to the gated visitor parking lot allowing for an easy walk into the building.)
- **February 3:** Meet at 9 a.m. in the Truax Campus Health Building room 218. Eileen Steven, Director of Logistics, will tell us about Badger Honor Flight, an affiliate of the National Honor Flight, which is a program that takes U.S. veterans on a one-day trip to Washington D.C. Turina Bakken, Madison College Provost will also speak about campus updates.
- **March 2:** Come to Commercial Avenue Madison College Campus, 2125 Commercial Ave., Madison, room A240 at 9 a.m. Sandy Thistle, Construction and Remodeling Instructor, will show us around and speak about nontraditional jobs for women and union implications.
- **April 6:** At 9 a.m. in the Truax Campus Health Building room 218 Shelly Slama, Outreach Specialist with the Alzheimer/Dementia Alliance will speak about understanding Alzheimer and dementia disease and boosting your brain health. Come with your questions and concerns, and learn about resources available to us in the Madison area. Kevin Mirus, VP for Learner Success, will also speak about math success.
- **May 6: (Note day & time)** At 10 a.m. join us for a 1 ½ hour tour of Trek Bicycle manufacturing corporate facility, 801 W Madison St. Waterloo. Reservations are required for a max of 30 people to Julie Pahl-Washa at [JPahlWasha@madisoncollege.edu](mailto:JPahlWasha@madisoncollege.edu) or by [RSVPing here](#). The tour is easy walking, no stairs or elevators. Visitor parking available. Lunch TBD.
- **Summer Tour:** Exact Sciences – Watch your email for details.

**PSRP, administrators, AND faculty retirees are invited to attend these events. Call friends from your department to join you in attendance.**

Regular monthly Madison College Retiree Meetings are held the first Monday of the month, September through May. Retirees, guests, and Madison College employees can visit from 9:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. before the program begins. Announcements, business, and the main program will start at 9:30. The room will be available until 11:30 for additional visiting after the program.

## Future Tours & Speakers

**January 6: Estate Planning Basics** will cover the basics of estate planning, including discussions on: powers of attorney, wills, trusts, and the probate process. Join us for a morning exploring what Wisconsin law has decided for you, and what it has not. Estate planning comes down to taking control over who will act during your illness or disability as well as who will handle your affairs at death & distribute your assets. You will also gain a few creative suggestions on how to leave assets to a charity outside of updating your will or trust. Wisconsin Lawyer Melinda Gustafson-Gervasi will lead this session.



**February 3:** Learn about the Badger Honor Flight. Usually, they fly about 90 veterans to Washington D.C. for the day as a way to give them an all-expenses-paid opportunity to see the monuments erected in their honor.



**March 2:** Have you ever wondered about those "tiny homes" and sheds you see near the Commercial Avenue campus? Sandy Thistle, Instructor of Construction and Remodeling, will tell us about those and focus on non-traditional jobs for women with union implications.

- **April 6:** Shelly Slama, Outreach Specialist with the Alzheimer/Dementia Alliance will speak about understanding Alzheimer and dementia disease. Though there are many forms of each, what are the differences between to two, what are the signs, and when should you become concerned? And finally, what can you do to maintain optimum brain health.



**May 6: Trek Bicycle Tour** Want to see where the best bikes in the world go from an idea to reality? See how bikes are manufactured when you join us at 10 a.m. on May 6 for a tour of Trek Bicycle Corporation in Waterloo. Reservations required; see page 1.



**Summer 2020:** Watch your email for information about a tour to Exact Sciences.

**Schedule and RSVP Info at [supportmadisoncollege.org/retirees-event-schedule/](http://supportmadisoncollege.org/retirees-event-schedule/)**

## Past Recent Speakers and Tours



On November 15, retirees enjoyed an informative tour of the new Madison College Goodman South Campus at 2429 Perry Street. Following the Tour, Mae Laatsch treated everyone to lunch at Monona Gardens.



Marian Timmerman arranged to have Channel 27 Chief Meteorologist Bob Lindmeier speak to our group about climate change at our yearly kickoff meeting in September.

Retiree, Vic Johnson, would like everyone to be aware that the board has decided to fill in the Truax campus pool and feels that it is not in the best long-term interests of the Madison area community as a whole. Thus, he is sharing the following:

(12/02/19)

Madison College Pool Statement of Support  
Victor Johnson Madison College Teacher - Retired

Swimming Hotbed For evidence that the Madison area is a swimming hotbed one need look no farther than the annual All City Pool Meet. Each summer it is one of the largest outdoor amateur events in the country. The 2019 All City Pool Meet consisted of three days of competition involving over 2000 local swimmers, ages 5 to 18. Competition extended from 8:00 AM until roughly 6:00 PM each day with a heat of swimmers going off the starting blocks an average of every 90 seconds. In 2019 these 2000 swimmers represented a collection of 13 outdoor pools spread across Madison, Middleton, Monona, Fitchburg, and Maple Bluff. The subsequent close of the outdoor pools each year at summer's end leaves all participants in search of indoor pool space for the nine months of the school year. There a number of year around teams the swimmers whose families can afford it can join. Many teams, however, do not have their own pool space, but depend instead on being able to rent pool space within the community. According to Jacob Johnson, Vice Administrative Chair of Wisconsin Swimming, every Madison area youth swim team is in constant dire need of pool space. In addition to youth swimmers the Madison area is home to a sizable number of adult athletes for whom swimming is a life long passion. Every year this number is swelled by the All City swimmers who transition out of the 5 to 18 year old age group. These adults are also desperate for year around pool space to support their healthy life style. To a swimming hotbed community like Madison the Madison College Truax Campus swim pool looms as a precious community asset. As the population continues to grow, it is certainly reasonable to expect that each year the pool's value will only escalate.

Madison College Pool I have been a Madison area resident most of my life. A life long athlete, I have been an avid swimmer since early childhood. I can testify that few indoor pools come even close to the Madison College pool as an inviting place to swim.

Two of the walls are glass almost floor to ceiling. One of these two walls borders the out of doors. A third pool wall has substantial daylight lighting via large windows towards the top of the wall that run the length of the pool. Swimming laps in that pool, I often feel as if I am swimming outside.

I believe that to date the pool has been severely under publicized. Madisonians are invariably shocked when I tell them use of the pool is open to the public. I doubt if more than one Madison area adult out of one hundred knows that to be true. They simply assume that like the area high school pools or the UW pools it is not.

A logical consequence of poor marketing is unrealized demand. It is no surprise to me, given the lack of a swim team, that Madison College student use of the pool has never been what one would hope. With proper marketing, however, I suspect the potential for increased outside use of the pool is huge.

What was the original cost of construction for the existing pool, I wonder? I have to believe the answer is a substantial investment of money.

What would be the current day replacement cost of an identical facility? I suspect the answer to this second question is truly mind boggling.

Do any of us have a crystal ball? Once the pool is gone, it is gone forever. Can anyone be absolutely certain the decision to deprive the community of such a valuable resource will not at some future date prove to be a source of major regret?

Motivation I am not aware of any public statement detailing the motivation for the District Board's decision to close the pool. I am aware only of the very recent announcement that it will in fact close in December 2020. Rumor has it that a primary motivating factor was the need for expanded locker room facilities. Apparently, the plan is that the space currently occupied by the pool will serve as the footprint for locker room expansion. As a long time user of the Madison College Pool & Wellness Center, I have no doubt whatsoever about the need for expanded, upgraded locker room facilities. Is it fiscally responsible, however, to trash one valuable facility to make room for another? Surely, there must be a more creative solution than that.

Beacon of Community Madison College is a beacon of the Madison Area community. The facilities & resources of the College, including the Truax Campus Pool, essentially belong to the taxpayers of the district. In aggregate these facilities & resources provide far more to the community than just a place to take classes. A clear goal of the recently opened Madison College south side campus is to target historically disadvantaged members of the Madison area community. Several years prior, the City of Madison built the south side outdoor swim pool with the same goal in mind. The south side outdoor swim pool has been a remarkable success story, attracting a huge crowd, many of whom cannot afford the costs associated with participation in area winter swim groups. Easy to imagine is a plan to provide south side swimmers an opportunity to swim during the school year via low cost transportation to regularly scheduled swim activities at the Truax pool. This is only one example of the pool's potential benefit to the community. I believe focusing on the Truax Campus only significantly underestimates the value of the pool. Closing it may very well be in the best short the short term interests of the College itself. I would argue, however, that it is absolutely not in the best long term interests of the Madison area community as a whole.

## Planned Giving – Supporting Madison Area Technical College

Earlier last fall an alumnus finalized his intention to leave the bulk of his estate to the Madison Area Technical College Foundation. The endowed fund he established will forever provide access to high quality learning in the program from which he graduated. Other faculty members have called to say that they are including the Foundation in their estate plan. Could you consider a similar arrangement to help future students? For more information, contact Maggie Porter Kratz in the Foundation Office at (608)246-6584 or [mpkratz@madisoncollege.edu](mailto:mpkratz@madisoncollege.edu).

### Reminders

- ★ Retirees are not charged library fines at the Madison College Library. Retirees enjoy the same benefits that were available to them prior to retirement.
- ★ Retirees are allowed to park in the Visitor's Parking Lot when attending retiree activities. You will be asked your license plate number.
- ★ Madison College recycles batteries. Retirees are eligible to bring used batteries to the duplicating center at the Truax campus.

### Get Involved

Theater Group—Bring your ideas for attending a “Dinner and Play” activity. Let Dianne Redsten at [dianneredsten@charter.net](mailto:dianneredsten@charter.net) know if you are interested in the theater group, a stitchery knitting group, card group, potluck group or a women's/men's breakfast or lunch group. Other ideas are gladly accepted.

Contact Sylvia Schultz at [sschultz@madisoncollege.edu](mailto:sschultz@madisoncollege.edu) if you have other ideas for speakers or group activities. The retiree group encourages others to get involved in planning to make this a vibrant group.

#### Madison College Retiree Association Enrollment Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone (home) \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is my contribution to the Madison College Foundation  
 \_\_\_\$25\_\_\_ To help with the expenses of the Retirees Association  
 \_\_\_\$\_\_\_ To help with the Foundation's Scholarship Program  
 \_\_\_\$\_\_\_ Total enclosed, Check payable to Madison College Foundation

Please charge \$\_\_\_ to credit card number \_\_\_-\_\_\_-\_\_\_-\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_/\_\_\_  
 Return to Madison College Foundation, 3591 Anderson St, Suite 203, Madison, WI 53703

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