

Penn Association of Senior and Emeritus Faculty:

PASEF 2019–2020 Annual Report

Overview

Founded in 2004, the Penn Association of Senior and Emeritus Faculty (PASEF) organizes programs and activities for its members and encourages them to be active in the intellectual and social life of the University, and to provide service to the University and the community. PASEF members are senior (age 55 and above) and retired standing faculty at Penn. Current membership numbers 1,116 senior faculty and 585 emeritus faculty. PASEF provides information and assistance to aid faculty in transitioning to retirement and organizes intellectual and social events such as lectures, excursions to cultural attractions, and attendance at theater, opera, and orchestra presentations. It is a member organization of AROHE, the Association of Retirement Organizations in Higher Education. The Association of Senior and Emeritus Faculty (ASEF–PSOM) is an analogous organization at the Perelman School of Medicine; its senior and emeritus faculty are also PASEF members. The two organizations regularly cooperate in planning joint programs and activities. The redesigned PASEF website, launched in July 2019, is provost.upenn.edu/pasef/

Administration

Governance and administration. PASEF operates under a set of bylaws and is governed by a Council which meets monthly during the academic year. The President, President-Elect, and Past President form the Steering Committee. Council members for 2019–2020 are listed in the Appendix. PASEF receives an annual budget from the Provost and reports to the Vice Provost for Faculty. Anita Allen was Vice Provost for Faculty during 2013–2020 and Laura Perna assumed the position in July.

Facilities and support. PASEF has an office and an adjacent room used as a lounge on the first floor of Duhring Wing, next to the office of the Faculty Senate. Both the office and the adjacent lounge can accommodate meetings of small groups. Staff support is provided by Sarah Barr, PASEF's full-time Coordinator. During the past year able assistance has also been given by members of the Provost's staff, including Jillian Powell, Kathy Swartz, Jessie Burns, and Lynne Hunter.

Retirement

PASEF provides resources and gives presentations to aid senior faculty in planning the transition to retirement.

Road to Retirement programs. Panel discussions with PASEF members addressing retirement were held in November and early March. The topics were *Exploring Living Options in Retirement* and *Negotiating the Retirement Transitions—What's Next?* Both presentations are available at the PASEF website. The annual presentation by Hilary Lopez and Vicki Mulhern, University staff experts on retirement options and retiree benefits, scheduled for April, had to be cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Retirement planning. The 13th edition of PASEF's publication *Hitchhiker's Guide to Faculty Retirement*, under the editorship of Martin Pring and Janet Deatruck, was published in January. Sections on financial planning for retirement, transition to emeritus status, and retiree relations with the University are included, and the publication is available on the PASEF and ASEF–PSOM websites (the latter is www.med.upenn.edu/asef/). Both websites also house a guide to continuing care retirement communities (CCRCs) in the Philadelphia area. Sixteen such communities are featured, each with detailed information about cost, types of housing, medical support, and amenities. The guide also provides details about the different types of CCRCs, and links to information about them from the Pennsylvania and New Jersey state governments, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid, and CARF International, the sole accreditor of CCRCs. In addition, PASEF regularly alerts members about new developments concerning retirement, suspension of required minimum distributions from retirement accounts during 2020, as specified by the CARES Act, being a recent example.

Reception for newly emeritus faculty. Recently between 50 and 60 standing faculty have taken emeritus status each year, and PASEF and ASEF–PSOM have co-sponsored an annual reception to honor the retirees. The in-person reception planned for May 2020 had to be cancelled. It has been rescheduled as a virtual reception in September, to honor the 72 faculty who are 2019–2020 retirees.

Activities and Events

Lectures. PASEF sponsors lectures throughout the academic year. These are open to all members of the University community and span a wide range of topics which are of general interest. Normally, there are monthly luncheon lectures at the University Club and featured Fall and Spring lectures. During the Fall semester luncheon lectures were presented by Professor of Sociology Jerry Jacobs and author Julien Suaudeau. The Fall Lecture, given each year in October in conjunction with the 25-Year Club Dinner, was presented by Professor of Political Science Avery Goldstein on *U.S.—China Relations in the Current Era*. A link to the presentations is on the PASEF website. Lectures planned for the Spring semester had to be cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Looking ahead, PASEF will be presenting virtual lectures for the foreseeable future. This will have the advantage of allowing participation by persons who are unable to attend, including those who are located outside the Philadelphia area. Presentation of in-person lectures has been greatly facilitated by the purchase of new equipment funded by the Office of the Provost.

Fall outing. Each year PASEF and ASEF–PSOM jointly plan Fall and Spring outings to locations of cultural or historical interest in the Philadelphia area. In November members went to the Ruth Bader Ginsburg exhibit at the National Museum of American Jewish History.

Theater and orchestra attendance. The Membership Committee, chaired by Anita Summers, has during the past two years arranged attendance at open rehearsals of the Philadelphia Orchestra. The Committee has also arranged theater outings. In October members attended a performance of *Ragtime* at the Arden Theater. Two more theater outings scheduled for March and April had to be cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition, PASEF is working with Opera Philadelphia for the presentation of virtual events for the membership, and plans to initiate outings to attend live opera performances when they resume.

Speakers Bureau. With encouragement and funding from Vice Provost Allen, PASEF launched its Speakers Bureau in the spring of 2016. This work was spearheaded by Jack Nagel as chair of the Speakers Bureau Committee. The Bureau enables community groups, including retirement communities, civic, social, and religious organizations, and high schools, to identify and invite PASEF members to speak to audiences in the Philadelphia area. The current roster of speakers numbers 31 and includes both senior and retired Penn faculty from Schools across the University. Information about the Bureau and the speakers and their topics is on the PASEF website.

Task Force Planning

With support from then-Vice Provost Anita Allen, PASEF convened a retreat at the end of AY2019 for the PASEF Council to review current operations. The discussion was facilitated by Fernando Chang-Muy from the Law School. Stemming from the retreat, task forces were subsequently formed to study the issues raised and to make recommendations to the Council. By the close of AY2020, three of the four task forces had completed their work and reported to Council, which voted acceptance of the recommendations. Work of the task force on *programs* and approval of its recommendations by Council has established guidelines for monthly lectures, including videotaping; affirmed continuation of non-lecture programs, such as theater attendance, outings to cultural attractions, and negotiation with the Philadelphia Orchestra to allow attendance at open rehearsals; and continuation of the sessions on retirement PASEF currently offers. Recommendations of the *communications* task force have led to enhanced communication with the PASEF membership, substantial redesign of the PASEF website, and continuation of the writing of detailed minutes of Council meetings. The task force on *membership* affirmed continuation of cooperation between PASEF and ASEF–PSOM on several programs and events. It recommended that future lectures and retirement sessions, including those which will be in-person, be live-streamed. Further, a proposal from the task force to expand the PASEF membership to include Research Faculty, full-time Academic Clinicians, and full-time Practice Professors is currently under consideration.

(continued on page 5)

(continued from page 4)

Archives Project

Lois Evans and Sarah Barr have worked to collect PASEF archival materials, both in hard copy and electronic forms. They have met with Acting University Archivist Jim Duffin. Oral histories are being compiled from living former Presidents, and all collected materials will be transferred to the University Archives. Further, a policy and procedures document to guide future maintenance of the archives has been drafted.

Faculty Senate and University Council

PASEF sends non-voting representatives to the Senate Executive Committee, four Senate committees, and the University Council Committee on Personnel Benefits. The Senate committees are the Senate Committee on Faculty and the Administration, the Senate Committee on Faculty and the Academic Mission, the Senate Committee on Students and Educational Policy, and the Senate Committee on Faculty Development, Diversity, and Equity.

PASEF Annual Election

Janet Deatrack chaired this past year’s Nominating Committee, and the Committee’s proposed slate was approved by email voting. Janet Deatrack is the President-Elect, John Keene Secretary, and Martin Pring the SEC Representative. Newly-elected at-large Council members who will serve three-year terms are David Balamuth, Peter Conn, and Marilyn Stringer. Ann Mayer will serve a two-year at-large term to fill a vacancy.

—Paul Shaman, President (2019–2020)

Appendix: PASEF Council Members, 2019–2020

Roger M.A. Allen, Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations (SAS), Representative to the Faculty Senate Committee on Faculty and the Academic Mission

David Balamuth, Physics and Astronomy (SAS), Representative to the University Council Committee on Personnel Benefits

Janet Deatrack, Family and Community Health (Nursing), at-large member of Council; chair, Nominating Committee; co-editor, *Hitchhiker’s Guide to Faculty Retirement*

Marc A. Dichter, Neurology (PSOM), at-large member of Council
Lois K. Evans, Family and Community Health (Nursing), Past President

Howard I. Hurtig, Neurology (PSOM), at-large member of Council
Barbara Kahn, Marketing (Wharton), at-large member of Council
John C. Keene, City and Regional Planning (Design), at-large member of Council, Representative to the Faculty Senate Committee on Faculty Development, Diversity, and Equity

Janice Madden, Sociology (SAS), President-Elect
Carolyn Marvin, Annenberg, at-large member of Council
Ann Mayer, Legal Studies and Business Ethics (Wharton), Secretary
Marshall W. Meyer, Management (Wharton), Representative to the Faculty

Senate Committee on Faculty and the Administration
Martin Pring, Physiology (PSOM), Representative to the Faculty Senate Executive Committee; co-editor, *Hitchhiker’s Guide to Faculty Retirement*

Howard M. Rosenberg, Dental Medicine, at-large member of Council
Brian M. Salzberg, Neuroscience (PSOM), at-large member of Council; co-chair, Community Involvement Committee

Jorge J. Santiago-Aviles, Electrical and Systems Engineering (SEAS), at-large member of Council; co-chair, Community Involvement Committee

Paul Shaman, Statistics (Wharton), President
Anita A. Summers, Business Economics and Public Policy (Wharton), chair, Membership Committee; Representative to Faculty Senate Committee on Students and Educational Policy
Peter Wilding, Pathology and Laboratory Medicine (PSOM), ASEF-PSOM President

Former PASEF Presidents:

Benjamin S. P. Shen
Gerald J. Porter
Neville E. Strumpf
Vivian C. Seltzer
Roger M. A. Allen

Ross A. Webber
Rob Roy MacGregor
Jack H. Nagel
Anita A. Summers
Paul Shaman

Institute of Museum and Library Services: Grant Funding for Digital Scriptorium 2.0

The University of Pennsylvania Libraries’ Schoenberg Institute for Manuscript Studies (SIMS) recently announced receiving \$100,000 planning grant from National Leadership Grants for Libraries, a program of the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS).

The IMLS grant has been awarded to the Penn Libraries on behalf of Digital Scriptorium, a consortium of 34 institutional members representing American libraries and museums across the country. The grant will provide funding to plan the redevelopment of Digital Scriptorium’s online platform.

Since 1997, Digital Scriptorium has been committed to providing free online access to its members’ collections of pre-modern manuscripts. Digital Scriptorium’s ultimate objective is to create a novel platform—using linked data technologies—to integrate all of its member institutions’ collections into an inclusive, open access, online catalog of pre-modern manuscripts housed in U.S. institutions.

“Penn Libraries has been a proud member of Digital Scriptorium since the very beginning,” said Constantia Constantinou, H. Carton Rogers III Vice Provost and Director of the Penn Libraries. “We are thrilled to be collaborating with peer institutions on the creation of a state-of-the-art, open-access database for pre-modern materials.”

“This is an exciting opportunity,” agreed Lynn Ransom, curator of programs at SIMS and project director for the grant. “SIMS will play a significant role in a national manuscript studies project of unprecedented magnitude.”

At its inception, Digital Scriptorium premiered an online platform to address the immediate needs for access and discoverability of pre-modern manuscripts. Its online database has grown to serve an international community of scholars, librarians, teachers, and students. Online technologies have changed dramatically in the 23 years since Digital Scriptorium was launched, however, and the original platform requires renovation.

“Thoughtful and strategic steps taken over the past several years have prepared us for our next great challenge,” explained Debra Taylor Cashion, president and executive director of Digital Scriptorium since 2015.

In 2017, the Digital Scriptorium Board of Directors polled its database users about improvements that might be of benefit to their research. Digital Scriptorium 2.0 (DS 2.0) will incorporate this feedback in the next stage of development of a national catalog, which will moreover provide a center of authority control and standardization for manuscript cataloging practices.

In 2018, SIMS invited Digital Scriptorium to present on the future development of DS 2.0, which ultimately resulted in Penn Libraries’ becoming the administrative sponsor of the IMLS grant. “With a firm base of support from Penn Libraries and the rest of our participating institutions, the Digital Scriptorium consortium is both confident and enthusiastic to begin the development of DS 2.0,” said Dr. Cashion.

The year-long IMLS grant will support the planning phase of redeveloping Digital Scriptorium’s existing digital platform. Planning will entail refining the purpose and scope of DS 2.0, developing the DS 2.0 data model, and creating a plan for both technological and financial sustainability.

Even in the planning phase, DS 2.0 will serve as a cross-disciplinary model for incorporating stakeholder and community input to rebuild a legacy digital project into a viable and sustainable online resource.



Laborers working and eating in the fields of the Castle of Labor. Free Library of Philadelphia, Widener 001, ff. 65v-66r.