

# THE GOLDEN EAGLE CALL

## EWU RETIREES ASSOCIATION SPRING 2025

---

### EWU LEADS PFAS RESEARCH PROJECT



An Eastern Washington University professor and his team of student researchers are leading a project to measure the spread of potentially harmful polyfluoroalkyl substances — the “forever chemicals” more commonly known as PFAS — to sources of drinking water on the West Plains.

The long-lasting chemicals, developed in the 1940s to repel oil and water while resisting heat, were

for decades used in firefighting foam used at Fairchild Air Force Base and Spokane International Airport.

A \$450,000 grant is covering the cost of testing private and public wells, along with other water sources, for PFAS concentrations, says Chad Pritchard, the EWU professor of geosciences and grant principal investigator.

“If you go to most universities, these kinds of research projects would be given to master’s or PhD students,” says Pritchard. “But here, we just kind of push our students to the next level as undergraduates. And that’s why they get hired and have great futures.”

The project is developing a wealth of hands-on skills for students as they collaborate across agencies that include the Department of Ecology, Washington Department of Health, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Department of Defense, Spokane Regional Health District, West Plains Water Coalition, local municipalities and other stakeholder groups.

Geosciences major Jerusha Hampson, age 24, says the project has helped her gain hands-on experience as a paid research assistant while making a difference in her community. “It has been super rewarding,” Hampson says.

The research is providing a path to safe drinking water — and potentially federal clean-up funds — for residents of impacted properties. Terri Cooper is the mayor of Medical Lake, one of the communities at risk for PFAS contamination. Her municipality manages the grant funding, and she is pleased with the partnership with EWU.

“To have this funded project to research an expanded area is invaluable to me as mayor, and also to the community, in that we will understand the extent of the environmental impact this has had,” Mayor Cooper says.

Pritchard’s team was pleased to discover most of the 140 wells they tested were within state action limits, with PFAS concentrations of less than 10 parts per trillion.

Their research will be combined with federal EPA data from the sampling of 400 additional wells, and any data the U.S. Department of Defense might share from their work at Fairchild. A report on these combined results is expected to be released in June.

### NEW DISPLAY TO HONOR RETIREES NEEDS YOUR HELP

Eastern Washington University is seeking old photos, articles and memorabilia to create a display honoring the service of EWU retired faculty and staff.

Located outside the Walt and Myrtle Powers Reading Room in Hargreaves Hall, the display cases will exhibit photos and artifacts of faculty and staff throughout our history.

If you have items to consider for this display — either loaned or gifted — please reach out to Steven Bingo, university archivist, at [sbingo@ewu.edu](mailto:sbingo@ewu.edu) or 509.359.2302.



### RETIREE HIGHLIGHTS

**Thank you for supporting Giving Joy Day 2025:** More than \$910,000 in gifts, pledges and planned gifts was raised to support students and the university.

**Retirees had a strong turnout** for the Side by Side concert with the Spokane Symphony and EWU Orchestra, held April 3 in Showalter Hall.

**The 2024 Holiday Party,** held Dec. 12 in Senior Hall, brought together retirees to enjoy camaraderie, snacks, stories and holiday cheer.

## EWURA BOARD 2024-2025

**Morag Stewart**, President  
**Keith Adolphson**, Vice President  
**Wendy Repovich**, Past President and  
Foundation Representative  
**Ron Dalla**, Treasurer and Secretary  
**John Bruntlett**, Member-at-Large  
**Floyd Cloke**, Member-at-Large  
**Bob Gibbs**, Member-at-Large

### OFFICE

301 Showalter Hall

### MAILING ADDRESS

Eastern Washington University  
301 Showalter Hall  
Cheney, WA 99004-2484

### VOICEMAIL

509.359.4559

### EMAIL

EWURAreirees@gmail.com

### WEBSITE

inside.ewu.edu/retirees

### FACEBOOK

EWU Retirees Association

### NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Melodie Little mlittle6@ewu.edu

## TREASURER'S REPORT

### AS OF OCT. 31, 2024:

Current Market Value:.....\$187,934.06

Principal: .....\$132,693.43

### AS OF SEPT. 19, 2024:

Golden Eagle Scholarships: .....\$25,039.18

### AS OF MAR. 18, 2025:

STCU Checking Account: .....\$1,661.88

## JOIN EWURA!

Fill out the enclosed membership form to join our group.

### MONTHLY GATHERINGS

When: The third Thursday of the month, September through May

Time: Social time with coffee and baked goods, 9:30-10 a.m. Guest speaker presentation, 10-11 a.m.

Where: 205 Monroe Hall, Cheney campus

## DEAR RETIREES,



I recall a milestone in my life: the day I turned 50. I was eligible to join AARP. I have renewed my membership every year since.

Initially I was attracted by travel-related discounts. Today, I scan each monthly publication for health-related news tips and breakthroughs in treatment of age-related conditions such as dementia. Two tips I remember well: the benefits of socialization, and the benefits of cognitive activities. Based on scientific research, I can assure you attending EWURA gatherings will improve your health!

We host monthly gatherings, fall through spring, that include a social time with refreshments at 9:30 a.m. and guest speakers talking about topics of interest at 10 a.m.

Starting off our 2024-2025 year was Erik Budsberg, EWU's director of sustainability. Budsberg and three student researchers provided an update on the Prairie Restoration Project. A resounding "Bravo" for the graduate student who lost 5 of 6 planted plots from a research project due to a wildfire, then expanded her research to study the impact of fire on soil! WOW, what resilience and innovation!

Although American football isn't my favorite sport, I thoroughly enjoyed Paul Delaney's October talk. Paul emphasized his role as a reporter for Cheney Free Press covering EWU sports. In his career, he has amassed over 200,000 action photos and pursued numerous stories behind the headlines. Paul, an EWU alumnus, found the perfect job marrying his passion and his education.

We heard about salmon restoration from Chris Donley in November and then, in December, enjoyed a Holiday gathering. In January, Brian Buchanan shared his ongoing anthropology research. February saw alumna Dawn Sidell talking about the work of the Northwest Autism Center. In March, Jonathan Middleton amazed us with highlights of his sonification research projects.

We are a congenial group with a wide range of backgrounds and interests, united by years of service at EWU, and a desire to fund EWU scholarships for the next generation.

We hope to see you at our next gathering!

**Morag Stewart**

EWURA President

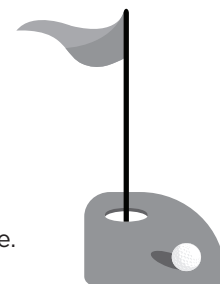
## GOLDEN LINKS COED GOLF LEAGUE RUNS THROUGH SEPTEMBER

The EWURA Golden Links Coed Golf League is gearing up for another season of fun and camaraderie. Golfers of all abilities — including university retirees, current faculty and staff, spouses and friends — are welcome. The league begins April 21 and continues Mondays through September at The Plains Golf Course. Late registrations are accepted.

### Here's what we offer:

- 18-hole divisions (8 a.m. tee time) and 9-hole divisions (10:30 a.m. tee time).
- Tournaments, special events and an end-of-season awards luncheon.
- League dues are \$40 for the 18-hole division and \$30 for the 9-hole division. Dues support the EWURA Golden Eagle Scholarship Fund.
- The Plains' greens fees and cart fees apply. Golfers with a season pass to The Plains will only pay registration dues.

For questions, or to request an application, please contact Kathy Sawtells at krsawtells@gmail.com.



## IN MEMORY OF DICK DONLEY

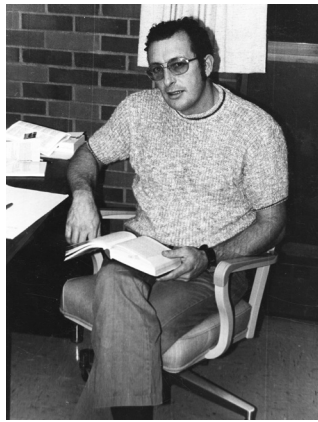
We are saddened to announce the passing of our friend and fellow retiree, Richard (Dick) Donley, who passed away at age 90.

Donley came to work at Eastern State College in 1967, teaching courses covering the history of American Civil War and even baseball. He served as coordinator, advisor and department chair, while establishing the annual History Day student awards ceremony.

After making a difference for students for 30 years, Donley became a lifetime member of the EWURA. He golfed in the Golden Links CoEd Golf League, and served on the EWURA Board of Directors, serving in officer roles, including the presidency, and as EWURA representative on the EWU Foundation Board.

For years, Donley and his wife, Mariann, who passed away in 2020, hosted the annual EWURA holiday party in their festively decorated farmhouse.

Donley's efforts supported the EWURA Golden Eagle Scholarship, which has now helped more than two dozen students earn their degrees from EWU.



## GOLDEN EAGLE SCHOLARSHIP HELPS STUDENT WORK TOWARD CAREER GOAL



Eva Khamphouy is looking forward to a career of public service after graduation. The 20-year-old from Cottage Grove, Wisconsin will graduate this fall with a bachelor's degree in criminal justice and a double minor in psychology and sociology.

"I hope to go into law enforcement," says Khamphouy, who has already started applying for jobs.

Her journey to Eastern began when, as a 17-year-old high school graduate, she bravely moved across the county to a new state and community. She didn't know a soul on campus, but quickly made friends.

"Everyone here is super friendly. There are so many different communities within the greater school," says Khamphouy, who enjoys going to the gym and attending games and special events.

Khamphouy, who is far from home and on her own to pay for college and living expenses, works full time as a homecare provider for a client in Cheney who struggles with dementia. When Khamphouy was notified last year that she'd been chosen for an EWURA Golden Eagle Scholarship award — the first scholarship she's ever received — it was thrilling.

"I was so excited. I feel like me putting in all of my work finally paid off. To hear that it was this scholarship — I was over the moon," she recalls, thanking retirees for their support. "This helps so, so much in ways that they would never know."

Although she is busy juggling work and classes, Khamphouy gives back by mentoring a freshman student.

"She's a criminal justice major too, and she wants to go into law enforcement. So, I've been able to help her a lot with this whole process, because I'm going through it right now."

Khamphouy appreciates her program and professors: "I think that they really care about their students and just the overall, not only academic, but the overall well-being of their students, which has been really nice."

## IN MEMORIAM

We'd like to take a moment to honor the outstanding Eastern faculty and staff retirees, and their spouses, who have passed away over the past few months. We extend our condolences to their loved ones and our gratitude for the impact they made for EWU's students and community.

**Lauris Brychell**, retired staff in the registrar's office, served the university for 21 years and passed on Nov. 26, 2024.

**Richard (Dick) Donley**, faculty emeritus in history, served the university for 30 years and passed away on Nov. 1, 2024.

**Ernest Gilmour**, faculty emeritus in geology, served Eastern for 43 years, and passed away on Dec. 14, 2024.

**Timothy Rolfe**, faculty emeritus in computer science, served the university for 13 years and passed on Oct. 12, 2024.

**Thomas Trulove**, faculty emeritus in economics, served at Eastern for 44 years and passed away on Dec. 2, 2024.

**Larry Davis**, retired faculty in business management, served the university for 12 years and passed away Feb. 2, 2025.

**Gary Krug**, retired faculty in communication studies, served the university for 16 years and passed away in March 2025.

**Dan Schierman**, retired staff in transportation services, served Eastern for 16 years and passed away March 29, 2025.

## UPCOMING CONCERTS

### Hooray for Hollywood

Thursday, May 22 | 7:30 p.m.

The Fox Theater

Admission: \$10 Senior \$20 General

Tickets are available at [ewu.edu/music](http://ewu.edu/music) and at the door.

### EWU Music collaborates with Vytal Movement Dance for Translations

Friday, May 16 | 7:30 p.m.

Bing Crosby Theater

Tickets cost \$27+ and are available on The Bing's website and at the door the night of the concert.





Eastern Washington University  
301 Showalter Hall  
Cheney, WA 99004-2484

Presorted Standard  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Eastern Washington  
University

**EASTERN**  
WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY  
▪ FOUNDATION ▪

Publication and distribution  
of *The Golden Eagle Call*  
is supported by the  
Eastern Washington  
University Foundation.

## SUPPORT BUILD OUR FUTURE — CONSIDER THESE OPTIONS FOR GIVING.

You can make a tax-wise gift that supports our campaign:

- **Appreciated Assets** (such as stocks): Your capital gains can benefit our students and create an income tax deduction for you.
- **IRA Charitable Distribution:** If you are 70 ½ or older, you can make a gift through your IRA and avoid income tax on the distribution.
- **Beneficiary:** By naming EWU Foundation as a beneficiary of your retirement plan, your heirs avoid inheriting taxes on that income.

Please let us know your giving plans to support the Campaign for Eastern.

## BUILDING OUR FUTURE



Dear Friends of Eastern,

Spring represents fresh beginnings, making it the perfect time to reaffirm our commitment to education and the

university that shaped our lives.

Eastern's first comprehensive campaign announced last fall — Build Our Future — is gaining momentum! We encourage your continued commitment to our students by supporting the campaign. Whether you choose to direct gifts to scholarships, research initiatives or campus programs that mean the most to you, your generosity plays a vital role in building our future.

Here are a few ways to show your support:

- Double your annual giving
- Include EWU Foundation in your will or beneficiary designation—and let us know!
- Establish an endowed scholarship for future generations

In addition, many of our retirees leverage their charitable giving by making non-cash donations, such as:

- **Appreciated stock** — Avoid capital gains taxes when you donate appreciated stock.
- **IRA** — Give directly from your IRA (if over age 70 ½) and avoid income tax on the distribution. Those over 73 may donate all or a portion of their required minimum distribution (RMD).
- **Charitable Gift Annuity** — Use cash or appreciated assets to generate a new income stream for life with the residual donated to EWU Foundation.

This spring, I urge you to consider how you can continue to make a difference with Eastern. Please contact me if I can assist. We are grateful for your continued commitment to ensure our students are prepared for the seasons to come.

With Gratitude,

**Courtney Gray**

EWURA Foundation Liaison  
Senior Director of Gift Planning  
509.359.6703 or [cgray37@ewu.edu](mailto:cgray37@ewu.edu)