

SOME FACULTY RETIREMENT SCENARIOS

Professor A – Using your skill set on behalf of causes you favor

This retired English professor is an excellent writer and editor. Because of his interest in environmental issues, he volunteers as a writer for the newsletters of the Huron River Watershed Council and the Legacy Land Conservancy – and has even edited a book to raise money for one of the environmental groups.

Professor B – Continuing your academic work into retirement

Academic work continues for this retired Kinesiology professor. She serves on a disciplinary accrediting team, assessing the quality of Kinesiology departments at peer institutions. She has continuing funds for a UM research project that employs some grad students, and she occasionally pitches in to teach when the College needs her help.

Professor C – Personal fulfillment as a retiree

Before retiring, this Psychology professor worried about how he would fill his days. But he has found that personal projects have been very satisfying, e.g., learning about things like classical music and memoir writing. He advises new retirees to be patient and let personal interests emerge slowly.

Professor D – Lifelong learning after retirement

She has always been very active and energetic, and that has not changed since she retired from the School of Education. She has lots of intellectual curiosity and takes lifelong learning very seriously. She plays bridge well and teaches bridge to new players. She loves travel and has learned both French and Spanish to enhance her trips. And she is a musician who plays both the piano and flute, with lessons every week.

Professor E – Community volunteer work

He is a retired Sociology professor who now tutors at the Washtenaw County Jail. Under the auspices of Washtenaw Literacy, he has been working with those lacking 8th grade competency in reading, writing, math, or financial literacy. He has also taught a month-long class on “Fathering from Jail.” He reports that these volunteer assignments have been fascinating and personally challenging.

Professor F – Family support

He retired from museum leadership and moved to be near his children and grandchildren. He often takes care of the grandchildren after school and drives them to their extracurricular activities. His daughter and her husband, both with full-time jobs, are grateful for his support. Additionally, he has been doing genealogical research and writing a memoir so that his family history can be shared with his offspring.