# THE AUAR NEWSLETTER

The Association of The University of Akron Retirees

#### **AUAR EXECUTIVE BOARD 2023-24**

President

Harvey Sterns (c)	(330) (330)	867-6336 328-0042
President Elect TBA		
Vice President Cathy Edwards	(330)	807-5617
<b>Treasurer</b> John Heminger		
Recording Secretary Mary C. Verstraete	(330)	256-8973
Corresponding Secretary Linda Sugarman	(234)	466-0808
<b>Newsletter Editor</b> Martha Vye	(330)	644-7490
Member at Large Kathy DuBose Connie Heldenfels Richard A. Milford Tom Nichols Mary Schadle Richard Steiner	(330) (330) (330)	753-6853 348-6104 923-1614 281-8596 354-1507 864-2289
Immediate Past President Rita Klien		929-0827
Program Committee Tom & Diane Vukovich	(330)	733-4608
Membership Committee Mel Vye	(330)	697-5425
Political Action Affiliate Robert Gandee	(330)	864-4659
<b>Website</b> Dan Sheffer	(330)	836-0150
Finance Committee John Heminger		

**Benefits Representative** 

Scholarship Committee

Linda Sugarman

**Faculty Senators** 

**Parliamentarian** 

Claudia Kaeberlein **Alumni Association** 

**Endowed Scholarship** 

Institute of Life Span
Development & Gerontology

Consider Tehan Stanley (330) 972-7243

Carl Lieberman

AUAR Support

Chris Franz

Kim Cole

Photographer

Anthony Fawver

Richard Steiner **Publisher** 

Mary Schadle

Ali Hajjafar Harvey Sterns (234) 466-0808

(330) 354-1507

(330) 688-3462 (330) 867-6336

(330) 864-2569

(330) 972-8508

(330) 972-7271

330-972-7608

(330) 972-8482

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

### **Our Age Friendly Future**

Each fall on campus we have a feeling of new beginnings as we start a new academic year. We launch another round of activities for the Association of University of Akron Retirees (AUAR). I am happy to report that we are able to build on the successes of last year and want to thank **Rita Klein** for her leadership as President. Our Executive Committee continues to be dedicated and involved in supporting all of our activities. We are continuing our luncheon meetings on a monthly basis at Quaker Station and have come to expect these meetings to bring us together around interesting programs.

It is my hope that more of our membership will join us in this activity and in a number of new activities that we will develop together. Growing older provides many new opportunities and challenges related to change. When someone has a birthday, I often ask: What is your biological age? What is your psychological age? What is your social age? Here is where we need to balance gains and losses on a continuing voyage.

As Co-Chair of Age Friendly Akron/Summit County, I am keenly aware of the ways in which we can make our community more effective in providing interesting activities and services for adults and older adults. The University of Akron is a partner with Direction Home Akron Canton Area Agency on Aging and Disabilities, City of Akron, and County of Summit in the WHO/AARP Age Friendly Cities/ Counties initiative. We also have the designation as an Age Friendly University. The focus here is on how to make our university an active participant in age friendly activities both on campus and in the community at large. AUAR can play an important role here by choosing and creating opportunities that are engaging and meaningful to all of us. I look forward to our creating new activities and sustaining old activities that will make our organization grow and thrive.



Harvey Sterns President 2023 – 2024



### **CHECK YOUR ADDRESS LABEL**

To conserve costs, we will no longer be mailing newsletters to members whose dues are more than one year in arrears. If you are unsure of your membership status, email me at mvye@uakron.edu.

Renewing is easy! This newsletter contains the form for renewing along with instructions for renewal. Note that we now have a life membership option. For \$150, you never again need to worry about your membership expiring. Also you can renew online with a credit card at uakron.edu/auar.

- Mel Vye, Membership Chair

### SPRING SENATE REPORT

### During the Spring Semester 2023, the activities of the Faculty Senate included the following:

- Approved a revision brought by the Academic Policies Committee of University Rule 3359-60-03.4 regarding Academic Reassessment and Discipline.
- Approved a list of program and course proposals from the Curriculum Review Committee.
- Approved a resolution from the Faculty Senate Executive Committee to dissolve the Interdisciplinary Council and to form the ad hoc Interdisciplinary Committee.
- Approved changes to university rules 3359-60-06.4 and 3359-60-06.2 brought by the Graduate Council.
- Approved a resolution from the Academic Policies Committee regarding a wait list option for course registration.
- Approved the list of graduates for Spring Commencement.
- Approved a resolution from Graduate Council regarding changes to graduate school's bylaws.
- Approved a procedure from the Academic Policies Committee regarding Transfer Credit evaluation.
- Approved a resolution from the Academic Policies Committee for an addition to syllabi regarding use of ChatGPT
- Approved a resolution from the Academic Policies Committee regarding changes to the Williams Honors College Curriculum.
- Approved APC's motion for Math Department moves to the College of Engineering and Polymer Sciences.

# THE ASSOCIATION OF THE UNIVERSITY OF AKRON RETIREES

### E-mail Digest

SPECIAL EDITIO

The E-mail Digest is a daily compilation of announcements sent Monday through Friday to faculty, staff and contract professionals. The digest contains announcements of all events of interest on campus. Retirees who would like to keep up with UA activities and receive the digest in their inbox can do so.

To be put on the guest list of recipients of the digest, send an email message to <a href="mailto:webmaster@uakron.edu">webmaster@uakron.edu</a>. Type <a href="mailto:Digest Subscription">Digest Subscription</a> in the subject line of your email and request to be added to the subscription list in the message portion.!

For more details, please visit the faculty senate web page at uakron.edu

### UA PRESS DISCOUNT OFFER FOR AUAR MEMBERS

In appreciation of the many AUAR supporters of The University of Akron Press, we would like to offer another benefit to add to membership in AUAR. This offer is a standard 30% off the price of any book we publish using the discount code of AUAR30 when ordering from us on our website. There is no time limit on this discount.

Over the years we have provided many programs for your meetings and want to recognize and support a strong retirees group by making this offer.

Julia Gammon, Marketing Manager The University of Akron Press

AUAR • FALL 2023 • Page 1

# A Viking Cruise on the Danube with Mel Vye

### **Speaker Mel Vye**



On February 15, 2023, Mel Vye took the AUAR luncheon guests with him on a cruise on the Danube from Bucharest to Budapest, recounting a two-week trip he took with his wife Martha in September 2022.

Mel is an Emeritus Professor for Electrical Engineering Technology in the former Summit College at The University of Akron, retiring in 1997. Martha also taught in the College in Office Administration and retired in 1998.

As this was the first river cruise the couple had ever taken, they chose this tour to travel to countries they had never visited before. The journey

began upon landing in Bucharest, Romania, and staying two nights in a hotel. They saw various sights of Bucharest. including government buildings and Nicolae Ceausescu's palace. As water levels in the Danube were at a near historic low, they had to board the boat 90km upstream from the previously scheduled location. On their boat, all cabins had a nice sliding glass door which could be opened to see the scenery and get fresh air. The dining facilities were exceptional and provided guests with three meal most days and seating was available both inside and outside.

Viking offered a number of land excursions. In Bulgaria they visited a memorial which claimed to be to the "victims" of Communism, as well as a rock formation which is one of the natural wonders of the world. Mel stated that the Danube River, between the Black Sea and Budapest, has two locks which raise the river 15 meters. In Serbia, they were able to see both the new and old parts of Belgrade.

Mel and Martha volunteer with an organization called Global Ties Akron, which provides opportunities for individuals to engage with business, nonprofit, government, and academic leaders worldwide. The organization works with the State Department hosting global visitors and in June 2022 the Vyes hosted a gentleman from Belgrade, who works for USAID. When he heard they were going to be in the area, he picked them up at the boat, treated them to lunch, and showed them some of the sights of the city. In Croatia, an excursion took them to a private home in Osijek where the owners greeted them and served plum brandy, fruits and sweets. Speaking English, the lady of the house told the group that she, her husband, and two sons built the house and are still working on it.

Upon arriving in Hungary, they enjoyed seeing the waterfront homes as they neared Budapest. It was also very evident that the drought had lowered the water level significantly. On an afternoon excursion to the town of Puszta, they saw an equestrian show displaying some of the horsemanship skills of which the Hungarians pride themselves. From there, they traveled on to Budapest and visited a market which greatly resembled the Westside Market in Cleveland and even had an Aldi's in the basement. In their hotel they had a beautiful room overlooking the Danube River. In front of the US Embassy, they saw statues of Ronald

Hungarian Parliament Building

Reagan and George H.W. Bush, who were credited with bringing down the Soviet influence and Communism. Mel and Martha took a night tour of Budapest and saw Hero's Square and the Parliament lit up in the nighttime sky. In late 1944 and early 1945, there existed a Nazi militia that forced around 20,000 Jews to stand on the banks of the Danube and then remove their shoes. They were then shot and pushed into the river. A memorial was constructed to commemorate this atrocity that includes a number of iron shoes along the banks of the river. As they stopped to hear a band play, they noticed the President of the Republic of Hungary and were amazed to see how little security surrounded her compared to that in the United States. The Vyes concluded their trip by having a few days with a former high school exchange student they had hosted who flew over from where she lives in Germany.

### **MARCH LUNCHEON**

## - "Pop Culture" Expert Rich Heldenfels -

### Rich Heldenfels with his wife Connie



Rich Heldenfels, our speaker at the luncheon on March 15, treated the attendees to a walk down memory lane. Best known for his syndicated question and answer column on entertainment, Rich has spent five decades writing about television and movies.

His career includes 22 years (retiring in 2016) at *The Akron Beacon Journal* and a few years of teaching English at a high school in Virginia. Presently Rich is an adjunct professor at The University of Akron, teaching Freshman Composition and Film Studies courses.

Rich brought us back to the early days of television when reception was often snowy and roof top antennas were used. Sometimes coat hangers were used to improve the pictures on our small TVs. Those coat hangers actually worked! We watched movies on the big screen in theatres. Videotape, Blu Ray, DVD, and cable TV were future developments that changed our viewing habits and are now taken for granted.

Rich began his Akron Beacon Journal career as a TV critic but later was named the "pop" culture writer when the editors combined the TV and movie beats into one job. During those early days at the Beacon, he was often sent to Los Angeles to attend press conferences, one-on-one interviews, screenings and location visits in search of good stories for his readers.

He related many stories about these visits and the celebrities he met and personally interviewed. Actor Jon Voight was gracious and spent time signing pictures for Rich's children. Former NFL coach, John Madden, answered Rich's questions while ignoring a reporter from Oakland California (home of the NFL Raiders at the time). He interviewed Cleveland native, Patricia Heaton while she co-stared on the TV sitcom, "Everybody Loves Raymond." Back stage, before the "Tonight Show," he chatted with Jay Leno about his visits to Akron and performing at the Civic Theatre. He also had memorable interviews with Joan Rivers and Rosann Barr, "when she was nice!" Rich participated in the taping of the 100th episode of the Drew Cary Show. He said, "Only my coat sleeve can be seen in the final cut!" At the 2016 Republican National Convention in Cleveland, he interviewed Gale King, George Stephanopoulos, and CBS newsman, Bob Schieffer. We learned that Sylvester Stallone is much shorter than he appears to be on the screen and that light easily breaks through the locks of Donald Trump's hair – wind or no wind.

In addition to the celebrities mentioned previously, Rich has also interviewed the following individuals: Vincent Price, Betty White, Tom Hanks, Will Smith, Fred Rogers, Fergie (the Duchess of York), Oprah, Al Gore, Jesse Jackson, Carl Reiner, Rachel Welch, Buddy Ebsen, Kevin Costner, Donna Reed, Roy Rogers, Flip Wilson, James Caan, Gene Autry, Robin Williams, and Howard Cosell. Time and memory prohibited Rich from continuing the list. Rich had nothing but positive things to say about Ohio natives, LeBron James, Steve Harvey, Tim Conway, Hallie Berry, Bob Hope, Molly Shannon, and University of Akron alumnus, Yvette Nicole Brown. Yvette continues to work in Los Angeles and Hollywood since graduating in 1994. She played Shirley Bennett in the sitcom "Community" from 2009 – 2015. She was also in the short-lived sitcom "The Mayor" in the 2017 – 2018 season. Perhaps some of you may remember Yvette from her days on campus.

continued on page 4

Rich was fond of his time spent interviewing comedians Bob Hope and Sid Caesar. Both were on top of their game continuing to tell jokes and humorous stories well past their 90<sup>th</sup> birthdays. Listening to Rich, one could not help but to envy his career – getting paid to meet and write about the rich and famous from the entertainment worlds of television and the silver screen.

Today, Rich continues to write the Q & A column for the *Tribune News Service*. Look for interesting questions and answers in the *Akron Beacon Journal*.

Having been a widower for several years, Rich married Connie Given in 2004. Connie, a fellow University of Akron retiree, worked in the Housing Office and later in the Registrar's Office before retiring in 2016. Together they have 3 children, one grandchild, 2 cats; and, according to Connie, "way too many DVDs and books."



Tom Vukovich presenting gift to Mr. Heldenfels

### **NEW STRS COMMUNICATION**

STRS has recently launched a new podcast for its members. Episode 1 features Bill Neville, STRS Ohio Executive Director. Each episode will be posted to the STRS website, **www.strsoh.org**, as well as to Apple Podcast and Spotify. Please take advantage of this new communication from our retirement system.

### APRIL LUNCHEON CANCELLED

Due to concern over civil unrest in downtown Akron following the Jayland Walker grand jury verdict, the University was closed and food service was cancelled at Quaker Station. Therefore, our April 19 luncheon had to be cancelled.

Our speaker was to be Mark Gerberich. Mark has worked in the sports management field for over 40 years – 18 years with the Pro Bowlers Tour, five as the Commissioner of the Tour, ten years of owning and managing sports facilities, and several years as President & CEO of the International Soap Box Derby. A few months prior to April 2023, he became the new Director of Business Development with State & Federal Communications here in Akron.

Mark graduated with his bachelor's degree from St. John's University in New York and earned a Master's of Sports Management from The University of Akron. He is a member of the Professional Bowlers Hall of Fame in St. Louis and has taught sports management classes here at the University.

Mark will be the guest speaker this coming fall at our Wednesday, October 18, 2023 luncheon. The title of his presentation will be "The Impact of Akron, OH on a Young Man from Lebanon, PA."





Mary, retired from the College of Engineering, is a member of AUAR and currently serves on the Executive Board as recording secretary.

Martha: Thank you very much, Mary, for coming to my house for our conversation. Would it be correct to say that you have been one of a few female engineering faculty at UA? And what is the trend in women entering the engineering field?

Mary: Yes, I was only the second female faculty member in the College of Engineering at UA. I came to UA in 1988; initially in the late 1990s and early 2000s, I did see our female numbers steadily increase, but then leveled off--we are far away from 50 percent.

Martha: What influenced you to enter biomedical engineering?

Mary: I always liked math and science but was also interested in art and writing. Since my dad was an engineer, I think that influenced me. I started in Computer Science but didn't like the hardware side, so I moved into a field called engineering mechanics, a cross between mechanical engineering and applied math. In my second engineering class, one of my undergraduate professors started talking about stress and strain, ligaments and tendons, the human body; it was then that the light bulb came on because I had always been interested in

medicine and earlier I had thought I might pursue veterinary medicine. He was my teacher initially and later became my advisor throughout my studies at Michigan State. It was he who helped me make the transition to biomechanics. When he learned of my background in software, he asked that I work with him in the laboratory on several projects, and I found that I really liked research. I also taught classes as a grad student and realized that I liked teaching as well.

Martha: Your career at UA involved teaching, administration, and advising. Tell us about your work as director of the Women in Engineering Program (WIE).

Mary: Just after I received tenure, the Dean asked me to start a student group to try to increase the number of women in all majors in engineering; I started the Society of Women Engineers student organization and initially spent one-fourth of my time on it as I was doing a lot of research. Later another woman was hired to handle the program on a more full-time basis. Over the years, this student group has done a lot of outreach to girls in grades 1 to 12 in the area to interest them in the field. The WIE Program mainly supports women in the field—promoting, rewarding, and providing resources for female engineers. WIE continues to this day and I worked with it until I retired.

I worked with MS and Ph.D. students as their academic adviser and research adviser. When I started in biomedical engineering at Akron, there was only a graduate program; I helped develop an undergraduate program, which began in 2001. Key to starting the undergrad program was developing cooperative experiences, which meant finding co-op locations for students to have hands-on experience, which was tough. We got a lot of industrial input to ensure that there would be a job market for students with only an undergrad degree. This focus took me away from research.

With regard to the gender makeup in biomedical engineering, the numbers are 50 percent male and 50 percent female at UA and nationally---quite unique.

Martha: I see that you received several teaching/ advising awards on the national, regional, and local levels. Is there any one that you're most proud of?

Mary: I'm proud of them all but two stand out because they were national awards: National Outstanding Teaching Award from the Society of Women Engineers and the National Outstanding Teacher Award from the American Society of Engineering Education. Interestingly enough, when I received the latter award, the national president of the organization had been on my dissertation committee.

Martha: I'm interested in one course that you taught "Biomechanics of Human Movement."

Mary: It was an elective course in my research area for biomechanics majors, but I did get a few students from physical education or physical therapy. My specialty was gait analysis and posture, and I did research in human and dog movement, foot motion, walking (for example to investigate medical devices such as artificial joints), aerobic dance movement, and looking at a variety of clinical analyses.

Martha: You are a native of Detroit; does your family live there now? Too, I'm curious about your last name.

Mary: When I was born, my parents lived in downtown Detroit but moved to the suburbs and I lived there until I went to college. Upon their retirement, they relocated to Traverse City in 1989 and lived there until their passing. My sister lives in Traverse City still and I enjoy visiting; it is a beautiful, touristy area right on Lake Michigan. Many thought I would move there but I like this area.

My last name is Belgian from the Flemish side.

Martha: I understand you've volunteered with Habitat for Humanity for some time and for fun, you play golf.

Mary: I have been helping to build houses for many years, and I have served on the local Habitat's Board of Directors but not presently. I play in two golf leagues, and I do enjoy the sport. Travel is another interest—have cruised Alaska, the California coast, and the Panama Canal. Once I

have visited four more states, I will have traveled to all fifty.

About three years ago, I began to tap into my creative side—nature photography. I have taken my creations to art shows, mostly in OH but some in MI. Check out my work on Facebook www. facebook.com/McsPics

Martha: Is there anything further you would like to add?

Mary: I'm single and I have an adopted family; I have two goddaughters: one is a medical doctor and the other has a doctorate in pharmacy.

Martha: I've really enjoyed getting better acquainted with you, Mary. Thank you for agreeing to be interviewed for our newsletter and for serving AUAR as recording secretary for a second term no less!





# PHOTOS FROM YESTERYEAR!

- Photos taken by Ed Lasher



Road Trip 4/25/2014 Pam Rupert and June Burton



Road Trip 4/25/2014 Bob Gandee



Road Trip 4/25/2104 Denny and Rita Klein



Luncheon 11/12/2014 Roger and Leslie Bain



Luncheon 12/10/2014 Diana and Gerhard Kunze and Tom Vukovich



Theater event 2/16/2014 Velma Pomrenke and Bob Blankenship



### **LOBSTER & SUDS 2023**

After many years at Zwisler Hall, our Lobster & Suds Event had to find a new home. The rental costs at Zwisler Hall had more than doubled, making the 2023 price beyond \$500! We thank John and Betty Miller for coming to the rescue. They live at Hampton Ridge Condominiums and were able to rent the Condominium Clubhouse for our event at a price that was very reasonable.

Once again, the Maine lobsters were delivered by Euclid Fish, and the chicken marsala was supplied by "The Venue" in Tallmadge. And, of course, we had those delicious covered dishes, salads, and desserts, which were provided by the attendees. Thank you to everyone who contributed to our buffet. We also thank all of those who helped with the cooking, setting up the tables and chairs, and cleaning up afterward.

Our 2022 and 2023 Lobster & Suds attendance has been about half of the normal 60-65 who attended in the pre-COVID days. Hopefully we will see many more of our retirees at Lobster & Suds in 2024.



Let's negotiate



On the way to the lobster pot



**Enjoying the fare** 



No, I won't share



### In Memoriam

We honor our colleagues and friends for their many contributions in making The University of Akron a better place.

Waneta Mildred Babich died on June 1, 2023 at 97. Known as Millie she retired from UA after 23 years of service in the Cashier's Office. She was a wonderful cook and baker and loved to travel. Millie was preceded in death by Nick, her husband of 71 years and a daughter. She is survived by her son, four granddaughters, and twelve great-grandchildren.

**Sue Banyar** passed away on March 13, 2023, just one week before her 97th birthday. She grew up in a large Italian family that she cherished. She and her husband of 73 years, Alex managed the UA bookstore for more than 35 years. Sue retired in 1981 with the title of Clerical Supervisor. She leaves two daughters, a grandson, and many nieces and nephews.

**Phil Bartlett**, 83, died on January 11, 2023. After 30 years of service he retired in 2001 as Director Emeritus of Space Utilization. Phil was a choir member at his church. He is survived by his wife Laurie, three sons, four grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

**Dr. John Bee** died on April 18, 2023 at 79. His undergraduate work was done at Ohio University and he earned his doctorate from the University of Wisconsin, Madison. Music was a large part of John's life and he was a wonderful tenor. He served as a professor and Associate Dean in the College of Fine and Applied Arts. He retired in 2000 with more than thirty years of service and Emeritus status. He and his wife Leonora loved Italy and bought and renovated a house there in the Piedmont region where John established John Bee and Famiglia Wines. He was very active in his local community. Preceded in death by his wife of 53 years, John is survived by their daughter, two sons, and four grandchildren.

**Dr. Walden Crabtree** passed away at 91 on April 6, 2023. First in his family to go to college, he earned a BA in Philosophy at St. Meinrad College. After teaching high school Latin and English in Evansville, Indiana, he and his wife and six kids moved to Bloomington where he attended Indiana University and attained his MS of Education and his PhD in just three years! He joined the UA faculty

in 1968 and retired as Professor Emeritus in 1994. He won two outstanding teaching awards and gave the 1992 Commencement Address. Walden liked participating in and observing athletic events, loved classical music, and had a good sense of humor. He was preceded in death by his wife of 64 years Marilyn and is survived by three sons, five daughters sixteen grandchildren, and eight greatgrandchildren.

Russel Giersch died on April 15, 2023, at 93. He graduated from Fenn College and was a mechanical engineer. As Assistant to the Associate Vice-President of Administrative Services, he maintained the grounds, buildings, and sports facilities at UA. Russ retired in 1988 after 22 years of service. He was a member of Rotary International, Kiwanis, and his church. He liked traveling, fishing, gardening, and painting. He was preceded in death by his first wife and a daughter and is survived by his wife Andrea, four daughters, sixteen grandchildren, and eight great-grandchildren.

**Dr. Loren Hoch** died at 94 on February 5, 2023. He was the first in his family to go to college and attended Indiana Central College for his bachelor's degree. After serving in the Army, he taught high school. He earned his master's at Ball State University and his doctorate from Indiana University, both in education. He joined the UA faculty in 1969, attained the rank of full professor in Curricular and Instructional Studies in the College of Education, and retired in 1997 with Emeritus status. Loren developed a series of summer workshops that were attended by hundreds of Akron-area teachers. He volunteered for the Morely Health Center, Planned Parenthood, Westside Neighbors, Goals for Greater Akron, and the Akron Symphony. Loren was a skilled carpenter and sailor. He was preceded in death by his wife of 62 years Emma Lou and is survived by their three sons, three grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

**Alda Nelson** was 96 when she died on February 4, 2023. She retired from the UA Purchasing Department after 11 years. She was preceded in death by her husband of 65 years Clarence "Swede" and is survived by their two sons, five grandchildren, and fifteen great- grandchildren.

continued on page 10

### In Memoriam cont...

**Stephanie Ramsay** died at 67 on February 9, 2003. She attended Mt. Union College and graduated from The University of Akron. She retired in 2012 as Assistant Managing Director of E.J. Thomas Hall after 34 years of service. Stephanie also worked at the Akron Civic Theatre. She enjoyed eating out, traveling, shopping, and going on pontoon outings. She is survived by her pets, cousins, and many good friends.

Agnes "Aggie" Stitz died two days before her 89th birthday on June 22, 2023. She retired in 1998 after working for 20 years as a secretary in the Department of Civil Engineering. Aggie enjoyed playing tennis and cards, reading, and solving sudoku and crossword puzzles. She also liked biking, traveling, cooking, and decorating. Aggie was very active in her church. She was preceded in death by her husband of 61 years Jerry and their son. Aggie is survived by a son, two daughters, seven grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

**Dr. Donald Story** graduated from the University of Florida, where he earned a master's in statistics and a PhD in math. He received an award for Outstanding Achievement in Teaching from Buchtel College of Arts and Sciences. Don retired in 2006 as Associate Professor Emeritus after 30 years of service. After retiring from UA, he and his family moved to Florida where he taught at Northwest Florida State College and continued research in technical software development. Don was a man of faith and was active in the UA Faculty Scripture Sharing group. He excelled at table tennis and enjoyed square dancing with his wife Kira who survives him, as does their son Alexander.

**Dr. Peter Turk** passed away at 88 on February 19, 2023. He retired as Professor Emeritus of Marketing after 15 years. Peter was a longtime volunteer at Akron General Medical Center and ran the semiannual book sale at the Northwest Akron Library Branch. He is survived by his wife of 29 years Mary Anne Rothermel and his son Andrew.

**Angela Walker** died on May 23, 2023. She was an associate professor of Business and Information Technology and retired in 2018 after 29 years of service. Angela is survived by her husband of 57 years Bill, a son, a daughter, and four grandchildren.

Kathryn Zbinden died at 92 on March 18, 2023. She earned a degree in Home Economics from Wittenberg College. After marrying Hans Zbinden and having two daughters she and her family moved to Akron where Hans joined the UA faculty. Kathy was an active volunteer and church member. She worked as the "Story Lady" in Akron's elementary school libraries. She loved traveling, reading, and being out in nature. Preceded in death by her husband of 68 years, she is survived by her two daughters. Kathy and Hans were active members of AUAR and attended many meetings and activities.

– Memorials written by Diane Lazzerini

#### **Editorial note:**

Please alert us to any member of our university family whom we have overlooked.

### AUAR Membership, Department of Development, Attention AUAR The University of Akron, Akron, OH 44325-2603

If you haven't renewed your AUAR membership for the **2023-2024** year, it is time to do so. Don't forget our Scholarship fund where we provide some funding to a worthy student. Please complete the items listed below, and mail your check to the address above.

If you have an e-mail address, please submit it.

Name: First	Last		_
Address:			
City:	State:	_Zip Code:	
E-Mail Address:			

Dues are \$15 per year (or \$15 per year for multiple years) or \$150 for life. Dues and gifts can be placed on one **check made payable to The University of Akron**. If you prefer, you may renew online at www.uakron.edu/auar.

The AUAR Newsletter is a biannual publication of The University of Akron Retirees (AUAR), c/o the Department of Development, The University of Akron, Akron, OH 44325-2603.

AUAR members receive our newsletter automatically. Due to COVID-19 concerns, the Board meets on the 4th Thursday in person or on Zoom according to personal preferences.

If you have questions about the organization or to keep abreast of events and issues pertinent to all UA retirees, visit our website at www.uakron.edu/auar. The newsletter editor, Martha Vye, can be reached at vye@uakron.edu or 330-644-7490.

If you are interested in entertainment within the Akron area, check into our web site and view the events listed under the Special Events Menu. Just Log on to **www.uakron.edu/auar** and click on the Menu **"Special Events"** or type **www.uakron.edu/auar/special-events.dot** 

AUAR Newsletter printed and designed by The University of Akron Printing & Copying Services 2023

### **FALL 2023 SPEAKER SCHEDULE**

#### SEPT. 20 - Dr. Steve McKellips

Vice Provost for Enrollment Management, UA

"The enrollment status at The University of Akron and strategies in place to increase admissions"

#### OCT. 18 - Mr. Mark Gerberich

Director of Business Development, State and Federal Communications UA

"The impact of Akron on a young man from Lebanon, PA"

#### NOV. 15 - Dr. Hillary Nunn

Professor and Coordinator of Graduate Certificate in Literature UA "Grace Hower Crawford and the Dumas Players"

DEC. 20 - Holiday Program TBA



<u>Seated</u>: Richard Milford, Rita Klein, Diane Vukovich, Robert Gandee <u>Standing</u>: Dan Sheffer, John Heminger, Melvin Vye, Ali Hajjafar, Tom Nichols, Richard Steiner, Mary Verstraete, Connie Heldenfels, Martha Vye, Carl Lieberman

#### **BOARD MEETINGS 2024**

Jan. 25 • Feb. 22 • Mar. 28 • Apr. 25 • May 23 • Jun. 27

#### Our Motto

People say interns and new hires are the promise of the future. Let's not forget that retirees are promises kept.