

THE AUAR NEWSLETTER

The Association of The University of Akron Retirees

<http://www.uakron.edu/hr/auar>

Final Notice

Hello friends, This is a final plea to those of you who have not renewed for 2009-2010. You will have the rest of January, 2010 to look for your renewal Membership Brochure or you can contact James Fee at 330.864.0442 or e-mail address: fee_james@yahoo.com and give me the go-ahead to work up a form for you based on last year's renewal and you send a check for \$10 payable to AUAR to the Human Resources office attn: Cathy Edwards/membership. That is the best I can do for you at this late date.

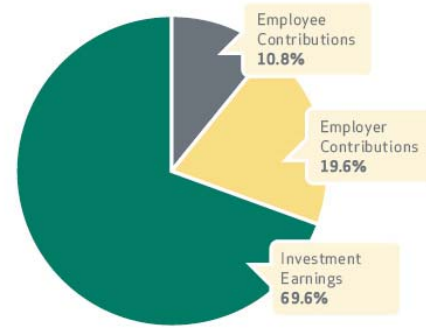
-Jim Fee, Membership Committee, AUAR

AUAR Website is on the web
Check it out for futher news and updates on activities and issues.
<http://www.uakron.edu/hr/auar>

AUAR Newsletter printed and designed by The University of Akron Printing & Copying Services 2009

Aggregate Contributions by Source, 1993-2006

Financing of State and Local Pension Plans



Aggregate Contributions by Source, 1993-2006



Pensionomics: Measuring the Economic Impact of State and Local Pension Plans

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The Association of The University of Akron Retirees
The University of Akron
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From the President

Well, HELLO again, dear colleagues. Here is hoping that your summer and fall seasons were wonderful. Fall in northeast Ohio was unusually beautiful save having to get all those leaves picked up. Here, at the University we have had an exciting fall in sports. Our men's soccer team is currently in the elite eight of

the NCAA; the new InfoCision Stadium/Summa Field is elegant; the basketball team, with its 7 foot freshman, is rated high and was the subject of a very nice article in USA TODAY on November 27; but, football did not do very well with some consequences as a result. Academically, President Proenza and his team continue to work on a strategic plan going forward into the next decade. If you have not walked around campus for a while, do so and prepare to have your sox knocked off. WOW!

For AUAR and its 300 plus members, a significant challenge has come out of the woodwork, so to speak. As I am writing this, your Board is deeply involved in the dependent healthcare question for which most of you received a letter from UA's Human Resources department. The first thing we have requested is a new deadline to file responses as well as more details about the plan document in order to see what we have been asked to pay for. I trust that by the time you receive this Newsletter, we have been able to obtain more positive information on your behalf. Stay tuned. Promises made....Promises kept?

Statewide as far as retirement issues, you all have seen major changes in STRS, SERS and PERS healthcare plans for 2010 in order to balance their budgets. Changes in the pension area, not yet approved, are to be phased in over time. Times are a 'changin! As TIME magazine has labeled it....."The Decade from Hell", but positive signs are out there.

Several of your Board members continue to attend and are active in OCHER comprising a 13 university membership. We keep abreast of changes that may affect us all. As important issues arise, we will keep you apprised. The question of Defined Benefit versus Defined Contribution plans is a key issue being discussed nationwide.

It is my hope that you had a great Thanksgiving feast and are looking forward to the next holiday season ahead with family and friends around the world. Peace Be with You!

If there is anything that your Board can do for you please do not hesitate to call on us. Look at our web site, periodically, to get updates on current issues and activities.

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Pamela Rupert 330.928.1810

Upcoming Events

2010

AUAR Luncheon Speakers

January 13, 2010
Dr. David Ayers
UA Director of
International Programs

February 10, 2010
Tom Wistrick
UA Director of Athletics

March 10, 2010
Jim Sage
UA Vice President of
Information Technology

April 14, 2010
Rev. Bob Denton
Furnace Street Mission
Victim Assistance

Other Events

April 14, 2010
General Meeting

May 14, 2010
Lobster & Suds
(New Location)

AUAR Board Meeting Schedule

January 21, 2010
February 25, 2010
March 25, 2010
April 22, 2010
May 20, 2010
June 24, 2010

Our Motto

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



A Call To Action - Robert Gandee
AUAR President Elect, OCHER Past President

Be Positive, Be Constructive, Be Concise

In September, 2009, the **Ohio Retirement Study Council (ORSC)** received from the each of the five Ohio public retirement systems the requested recommendations that each would follow to bring the plans into compliance with the statutory 30-year funding requirement. The ORSC forwarded the recommendations to the Legislative Service Commission to be drafted into comprehensive legislation which will be available late 2009 or early 2010. The lead sponsor of the legislation will be Rep. Todd Book (D-McDermott) of the 89th District.

As this process unfolds in Columbus, selected newspapers across the state will be promoting the idea that Defined Benefit Retirement Plans, such as your STRS Retirement Plan, are not sustainable and should be discontinued for public employees. **It is vital that you join with other retired educators, those currently teaching, and STRS in making the case for the Defined Benefit Plan covering public educators in Ohio.** Encourage those educators who are retired and those who are actively teaching in the public schools to write their legislators requesting their support for the Defined Benefit Retirement Plan. Suggested central themes for your communications with your legislators should convey a positive rationale for the pension plan, clear and factual evidence relative to the positive effect of the pension plan on Ohio's economy, and the importance of maintaining and advancing the educational strengths of Ohio in this competitive era.

More specifically, the STRS Ohio Defined Benefit Plan:

1. Provides participants a reasonable lifetime benefit they will not outlive.
2. Provides a stable source of revenue for local economies; STRS Ohio pays more than \$3.6 billion in benefits to Ohio residents each year that they then spend in Ohio.
3. Supports the services provided by state and federal governments through the taxes paid on these benefits.
4. Reduces the likelihood that STRS participants will have to turn to taxpayer-funded public assistance, Medicaid, or social services in retirement, and in turn, relieving taxpayers of future obligations.
5. Helps Ohio's public schools (including charter schools), colleges and universities recruit and retain quality educators.

Be positive, be constructive, and be concise. For additional factual information, go on-line at www.nirsonline.org and examine the following two reports: ***A Better Bang for the Buck: the Economic Efficiencies of Defined Benefit Pension Plans*** by Beth Almeida and William B. Fornia and ***Pensionomics: Measuring the Economic Impact of State and Local Pension Plans*** by Llana Boivie and Beth Almeida.

To find the addresses that you will need: Call the Legislative Information Office (Toll free, 800-282-0253). Using your computer: "state of Ohio government" > State Ohio > Legislative Branch > Ohio Senate (or House) > Senate Members (or House Members).

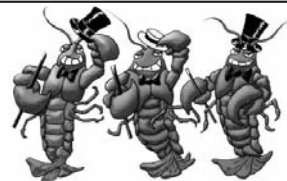
Spring Lobster & Suds Venue to Change

When Diane & Tom Vukovich became AUAR Program Co-chairs, they remembered two great events that were part of the activities of the old UA Faculty Club, which disbanded around 1992-93. The Faculty Club was not a place, but an organization open to all University of Akron faculty, administrators, and "general faculty", who are now called "contract professionals".

The first event that came to their minds was the "Mystery Trip". Don Sabatino, former Director of the Gardner Student Center, used to delight in planning bus tours to unusual or visitor-restricted places of interest. That event has now been recreated as the AUAR Road Trip. The other event, which Faculty Club members always enjoyed, was the Lobster & Suds Party. This event was held at various places, including Sunny Hill Golf Course and MACA Park in Tallmadge.

In 2002 it was decided to bring back the Lobster & Suds event and hold it at the University's Heisman Lodge near the Rubber Bowl. Many AUAR members and their guests have enjoyed our 8 years at that facility. Now that the Rubber Bowl and Heisman Lodge are "dormant" due to the opening of the new InfoCision Stadium, a new venue for Lobster & Suds was needed. Enter John & Betty Miller. Upon hearing of our search for a suitable place for 2010, they arranged for us to use their condo complex club house.

So mark your calendars now for Friday, May 14, 2010. Our Lobster & Suds Party will be at Hampton Woods Condominiums located off Smith Road. Complete information will be included on the Lobster & Suds flier, which you will receive in April.



In Memoriam

Marian Scovell, a Nurse Supervisor in the Health Services, died on Saturday, May 9, 2009. Marian was hired in September 1970 and retired on June 26, 1987.

Janet W. Waisbrot died on July 17, 2009. She was a professor of French at the University from 1965 until her retirement in 1987. Janet earned her MA at Kent State University in French. She authored a French Reader that was used in colleges throughout America.

Mary F. Jones Clay passed away early in November. She was a Custodial worker in the Physical Facilities. Mary joined the University in September 1968 and retired in December of 1987.

Peggy Shallenberger died on November 26, 2009. Peggy was an Administrative Assistant at Wayne College. She was hired on October 17, 1973 and retired in December 1987.

Lathardus Goggins died on December 4, 2009. He was the first African American with 30 years of service at The University of Akron where he taught Geography. He served in the Army Air Force and taught in East Africa. His numerous education degrees included a bachelor's degree from Central State University, a Masters from Ohio State and doctorates from St. John's University in New York

Dr. Irja Piirma an internationally recognized polymer scientist died on December 5, 2009. Since joining the University in 1957, she had accomplished many "first" at and for The University of Akron. In 1957 she was the first woman to receive an M.S. in Chemistry and she was the first woman granted a Ph.D. from the University. As a professor of Polymer Science she spent her career advising masters and doctoral students.

AUAR Newsmakers

Ruth Wright Clinefelter received the "Individual Achievement Award" from the OHIO Historical Society on October 3. Ruth was recommended to receive this honor by historians in Akron-Summit County and throughout the state.

Joining Ruth at the presentation was John Miller director Emeritus of Summit County Historical Society, as well as family members, friends and colleagues from the state library system and members of the Ohio Historical Society.

U.S. Air Force Lt. Col. Phyllis A. Fitzgerald was one of two veterans inducted into the Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame. Phyllis is a veteran of the Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve. She served in Operation Desert Storm and as a chaplain of the Summit County American Legion Garfield Post 566.

"It is overwhelming to be inducted" said Fitzgerald, a registered nurse who served as associate dean for the undergraduate nursing program at The University of Akron.

Cheryl Urban has completed the training and certification process to become a Master Gardner Volunteer (MGV) for Ohio State University Extension Service. MGV is an educational program designed to meet the consumer horticulture needs of Ohio citizens. Its purpose is to train volunteers and utilize their experience to teach people more about plants and pests, their culture, and their importance to the environment and to our quality of life. MGVs provide technical assistance to their county Extension office in order that consumer horticulture activities and programs can be more effectively and efficiently delivered to Ohio's gardening public.

If you are an AUAR Newsmaker, let us know. We would be proud to share the achievement with your friends and colleagues - even an outstanding "hole in one."



The University of Akron
School of Music
Spring 2010

Concerts@uakron.edu • 330-972 8301 • www.uakron.edu/music

Most events are free in Guzzetta Recital Hall (across from E.J. Thomas Performing Arts Hall)
For events in other venues there may be a charge: \$8 for seniors & faculty. Call for further information.

Parking is free in nearby decks and surface lots (with the exception of E.J. Thomas Hall parking deck if there is an event at E.J. Thomas Hall). If a parking attendant is on duty, please inform him/her that you will be attending a concert in Guzzetta Hall so that you will be permitted to park at no charge.

JANUARY

- 20 8 p.m. Stroud Classical Guitar Competition Finals
- 22 3 p.m. 5th annual Invitational Vocal-Choral Festival
- 26 8 p.m. Guest Percussionist John Boudler

FEBRUARY

- 3 8 p.m. Faculty Classical Guitarist Stephen Aron
- 4 8 p.m. UA Symphony Orchestra
Concerto competition winners
Special venue: E.J. Thomas Performing Arts Hall
- 12 8 p.m. Faculty Clarinetist Kristina Belisle Jones
With pianist Kim Bakkum.
- 17 8 p.m. Jazz Ensemble
- 18 8 p.m. Jazz Combos
- 21 3 p.m. Iron Toys Kulas Concert Series
Classical, jazz and avant-garde works Guzzetta Hall
- 21 5:30 p.m. MWDB Bassoon Quartet
- 22/23 22nd annual Band Clinic
- 23 Concert at 7 p.m.
Special venue: Student Union Ballroom
- 24 8 pm. Percussion Ensemble
- 28 3 p.m. Pianists Oltmanns and Wilding
- 28 8 p.m. Cellist Michael Haber Bach cello works.
Special venue: Holy Trinity Lutheran Church,
50 North Prospect St.

MARCH

- 1 8 p.m. University Band/Concert Band
- 2 8 p.m. Brass Choir
- 3-6 Spring Opera
Wednesday-Friday performances at 8 p.m.,
Saturday at 7 p.m.
- 7 3 p.m. Faculty Organist Valerie Thorson and
Faculty Soprano Laurie Lashbrook
Special venue: First Congregational Church,
292 E. Market St.
- 7 3 p.m. Faculty Flutist Jane Berkner
With pianist Kim Bakkum.
- 23-25 New Music Festival
- 26 8 p.m. Flutist Lindsey Goodman
- 28 3 p.m. Freedom Brass

APRIL

- 1 & 2 8 p.m. Dance Destination Akron!
Special venue: E.J. Thomas Performing Arts Hall
- 6 8 p.m. Woodwind Chamber Music
- 10 8 p.m. Montreux Jazz Band Reunion
Part of UA's Jazz Fest. Free.
- 10 8 p.m. Steel Drum Band's 30th anniversary!
Special venue: E.J. Thomas Performing Arts Hall
- 11 3 p.m. Solaris Wind Quintet
- 11 5:30 p.m. Laurie Lashbrook, Timothy Cheek
Voice, piano and dance.
- 12 8 p.m. Faculty Tubist Tucker Jolly
- 13 7:30 p.m. Boston Horns Part of UA's Jazz Fest
Special venue: Stage Door at E.J. Thomas Hall
- 14 7:30 p.m. Jazz Pianist Joe Augustine
Special venue: Stage door at E.J. Thomas Hall.
- 16 7:30 p.m. Jazz Trombonist Jiggs Whigham
Special venue: Stage door at E.J. Thomas Hall
- 18 2 p.m. Carnival of the Animals and Rite of Spring
Pianists Philip Thomson and Mayumi Kikuchi
Special venue: Stage Door at E.J. Thomas Hall
- 18 3 p.m. Cellist Michael Haber Bach cello works.
Special venue: Holy Trinity Lutheran Church,
50 North Prospect St.
- 18 4 p.m. Symphonic Band
- 19 8 p.m. Jazz Guitar
- 20 8 p.m. University Flute Ensemble
- 21 8 p.m. Concert Band
- 22 8 p.m. University Band
- 23 8 p.m. Guitar Ensemble
- 25 3 p.m. Concert Choir and Chamber Choir
Samuel Gordon, director.
- 26 8 p.m. Brass Choir
- 27 8 p.m. University Singers
- 28 8 p.m. Guitar Ensemble
- 29 8 p.m. University of Akron Symphony Orchestra
Special venue: First Congregational Church,
292 E. Market St. Free.
- 30 8 p.m. Men's Chorus

MAY

- 2 5 p.m. Tuba Ensemble
Special venue: Guzzetta Hall 09

Your Retirees' Pension Expenditures Have an Economic Impact

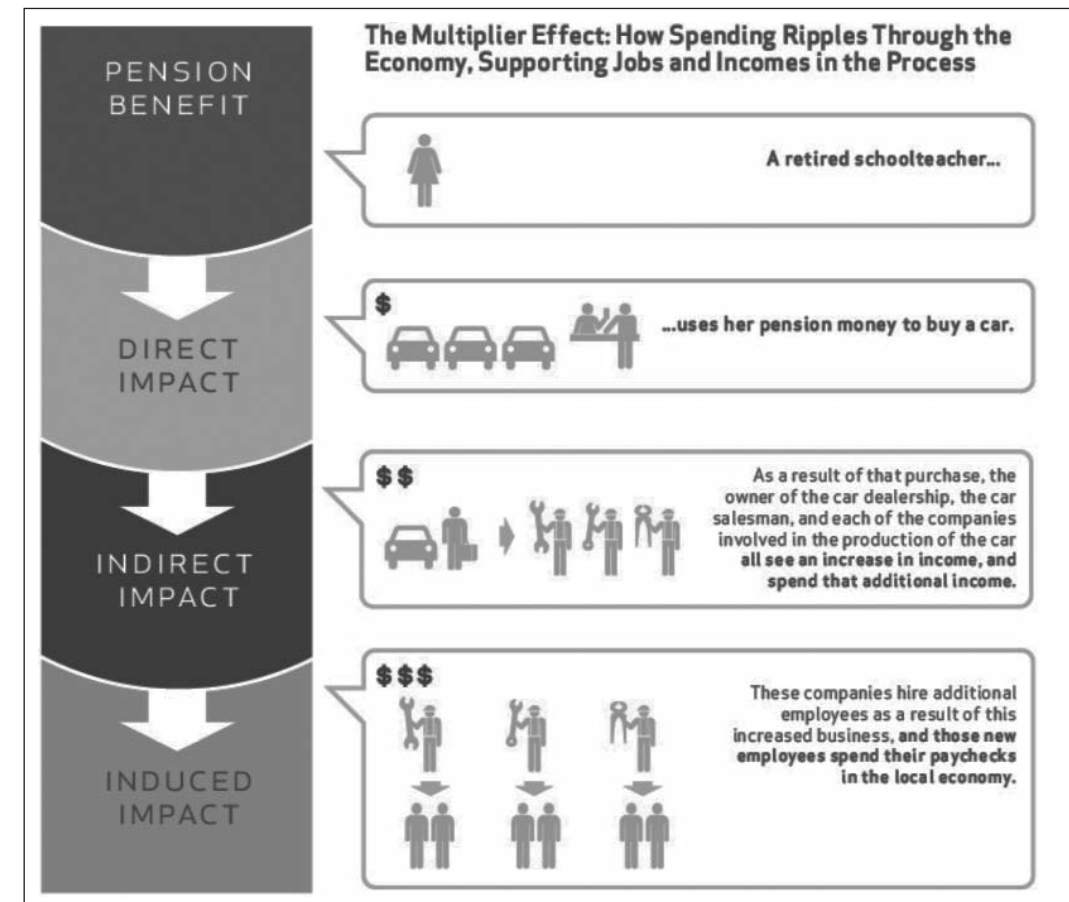
As we all know, changes to the public pension plans in Ohio are being proposed and formulated. (See also **STRS Ohio News**, October 2009) Taxpayers often question the cost of such pensions. Therefore it is important to put forth the positive effects that these pensions have on the economy. A study released in February, 2009, "Pensionomics: Measuring the Economic Impact of State and Local Pension Funds" by Ilana Boive and Beth Almeida of the **NIRS** for the FY 2005-2006 addresses these issues.

Benefits paid by state and local pension plans support a significant amount of economic activity. In 2006, 357,234 residents of Ohio received a total of \$8.41 billion in pension benefits. The average pension benefit received was \$1,961 per month, or \$23,535 per year. **Pension benefits are generally spent in the local community, creating a rippling effect as one person's expenditure becomes another's income, creating a multiplier effect.** It was determined that retiree's expenditures supported 79,410 jobs that paid \$4.3 billion in compensations, largely wages and salaries. Retirees also generated \$1.7 billion in federal, state, and local taxes. Each dollar paid out in pension funds supported \$1.33 in total economic activity in Ohio. Each dollar "invested" by taxpayers supported \$5.73 in economic activity. Retiree expenditures supported \$11.2 billion in total economic output in Ohio in 2006.*

The multiplier effect is also seen at the national level. Collectively for each dollar paid out in pension funds, \$2.36 in total economic output was supported. For every dollar contributed by taxpayers to state and local pension funds, \$11.45 in total output supported the national economy. This translates to more than 2.5 million jobs paying \$92 billion in salaries. Total economic output nationwide topped \$358 billion. Over \$57 billion was paid by retirees in federal, state, and local taxes.

*Go online at www.nirsonline.org for further details of this and other related studies.

Also of interest is the pie chart (on back cover) for contributions to pension funds by source. (Unfortunately investment earnings have declined, the "source" of much of our current problems!) But it is evident that taxpayer contributions are but a small part of the total. It is appropriate to remember that pension payments are a form of delayed compensations. Instead of receiving additional salary, money was put in retirement accounts.



Want to be on our mailing list? 330-972-8301 or concerts@uakron.edu

Pam: Well I'm glad to have this chance to talk to you. As you are one of the new members of the board, it seemed appropriate to give the rest of the membership a chance to know you better. You retired from the college of Education in 1997, I believe, where you taught science courses.

Loren: **Yes, I was a professor in the Department of Curriculum and Instruction. But may I say first that I feel very honored to be on this Board; it's really a positive thing, isn't it? After sitting in on a few meetings, it's obvious you really do a lot of substantial things.**

P: Yes, one learns a lot! And we'll go into more detail about your UA activities later, but first we want to get some idea where you came from. You were born in Indiana and spent your first 18 years as a farm boy!

L: **Yes, and let me tell you, going to college in Indianapolis was, to put it mildly, a real culture shock. The first year was really shaky but slowly things fell into place.**

By my junior year I was an entrenched collegiate! But college almost didn't happen. I had been offered a big plot of land to farm, a really good deal (farming was profitable then), but I turned it down. Thank God!

P: We're glad too. You went on to also get an MA & Ed.D.

L: **That was after the military. 1950 was a big year! Graduated, got drafted, and got married! I spent most of my short military career in Denver as a medical technician (more like a male nurse.) Following discharge (after the usual date for hiring teachers) I got a last minute call inviting me to teach biology and chemistry in Winner, South Dakota. We survived on a teacher's salary partly by filling a freezer with wild pheasant.**

P: The hunting instinct! Which reminds me to ask; how did you meet Emma Lou?

L: **It was my junior year, and she came in as a freshman. It was the sport then for upper classmen to check out incoming girls. We actually met in the library where we studied at the same table. I had a car, a novelty then, and invited her to a football game. Turned out her best friends were distant relatives of mine.**

P: And the rest is history! So after a year in South Dakota you moved to Hammond, Indiana where you taught high school and worked on your Master's.

L: **Yes, we moved for a great increase in salary (\$600, I believe!) (laugh) Our three sons (Jeff, Tom, & Stan) were all born there.**

After finishing my masters, I also taught part time at the Purdue Calumet campus. I got three summer scholarships with National Science Foundation grants, then took a year's leave of absence to complete my doctorate at Indiana University. Living on campus really opened up the family's world.

P: So what brought you to UA?

L: **It turned out that Walter Arms was the key. I had met him at Indiana; he called to say UA needed a science educator. We visited and were impressed with the campus and the people. Dean Barker asked me if I chased women. I told him it depended; I LIKE women! He hired me anyway.**

P: Sounds like him! So you became part of the cadre known as the "Indiana Mafia." I know something else you like: BOATS! How did someone from landlocked Indiana get so interested in maritime ventures? What was your first boat?

L: **(laugh) Our first was a 14 foot runabout in Hammond which I justified as entertainment for family and paid for with part time teaching earnings.**

P: Sounds like male rationalizing. Later you moved on to sailing, however.



Important Changes to Retiree Dependent Medical Coverage

On November 20, 2009, the University announced a change in the practices regarding dependent health care coverage. If you have a spouse or other family member who qualifies for coverage, you will be required to pay a premium to continue this coverage.

Notice of this requirement was mailed to you on November 24; deadline to accept/opt out was December 9, 2009. The AUAR Board thought this short timeframe unreasonable, as repeated attempts throughout the year to find out the University's intentions had gone unanswered. There was concern about the impact this change would have on retirees. Therefore, a letter was sent to the Board of Trustees and President Proenza protesting this action.

Linda Sugarman, AUAR Wellbeing Chair, has chronicled the interactions (and lack thereof) with the University over healthcare issues. Below are excerpts from her report.

University Benefits Committee Report

By Linda Sugarman

December 2, 2009

The last Benefits Committee meeting was in July of 2009. At that point no changes had been presented regarding Retiree Dependent benefits. After July of 2009 the University administration not only did not ask for input from AUAR, but refused to talk about Retiree Dependent health benefits for 2010. AUAR heard through some unofficial sources that there might be changes in Retiree Dependent health benefits.

Both, Hank Nettling, President of AUAR and Linda Sugarman, AUAR Benefits Committee representative wrote letters to the University of Akron Human Resources (HR) Department explaining the history of and the rationale behind Retiree Dependent Benefits. A meeting scheduled by the University in October with representatives of AUAR to discuss changes in Retiree Dependent benefits was abruptly cancelled by the University.

AUAR members learned that AAUP, the union representing active faculty, had signed a memorandum of understanding with the University that included a section on Retiree Dependent Benefits.

No communication in regard to Retiree Dependent Health Benefits was received by AUAR from the University until November 25, 2009. On November 25, 2009 Hank Nettling and Linda Sugarman from AUAR met with A.G. Monaco (VP for Human Resources) and Sarah Kelly (Director of Benefits) to "discuss changes to Retiree Dependent Health Benefits".

At the above meeting AUAR was told that premium charges starting March 1 would be required from Retiree Dependents for health benefits. The changes in benefits for those over 65 would start on January 1, 2010. The changes including Maintenance Coordination of Medicare benefits were explained by HR. AUAR was also told that the Retiree Dependents would be paying the costs of billing. The AUAR representatives also asked about pharmaceutical benefits and the out-of-pocket-maximum provisions and were assured there were no changes to those benefits. The out-of-pocket-maximums mean that Medical Mutual would pay once a retiree dependent had reached their out-of-pocket-maximum. Out-of-pocket-maximums are based on the retiree's income at time of retirement. The out-of-pocket maximums range from \$600 to \$2,400. A chart of out-of-pocket-maximums can be found on the University of Akron's Benefits Department's web site.

The AUAR representatives were told that a letter had been mailed on Tuesday, November 24, 2009, but were not shown the letter. AUAR representatives were not told that Retiree Dependents would be required to respond in less than 10 business days. We were also not told that signing up with the University would be for all of 2010.

Most local Retiree Dependents received the letter from HR on November 28, 2009 over Thanksgiving break, when the University was closed. Out-of-State Retiree Dependents received their letter later than that.

The letter to Retiree Dependents receiving Medicare did not state that pharmaceutical benefits continued as before, nor did it make any mention of the out-of-pocket provision, leading many over 65 Retiree Dependents to believe they were being asked to pay \$54 and being given no benefits. The letter suggested that some Retiree Dependents might wish to look at Medigap or Medicare Advantage plans and to compare all options. But because of the short time for a response there was no time allowed for anyone to research alternatives. In addition some open enrollment options had already closed.



Coach Caleb Porter

Soccer has long been a winning program here at The University of Akron, in fact since its beginnings under Hall of Fame Coach Stu Parry in 1954, it has been the most successful sport in our athletic history. And although over 55 years we have had many great teams they all have been surpassed by the brilliant performance of the 2009 Zips squad that had one of the greatest seasons in NCAA history under the guidance of Head Coach

Caleb Porter. Of all the 203 Division I teams, none was more dominant in 2009 than Porter's Zips. Akron, which led the nation in goals per game (2.32) and goals-against-average (0.27) as the consensus No. 1-ranked team for the final nine weeks of the regular season, saw its NCAA record-tying 23-game win streak come to an end with a 0-0 tie in the NCAA Semifinals.

Unfortunately, the season ended with a huge disappointment. After playing to a scoreless tie through 110 minutes, the UA men were defeated by Virginia in penalty kicks, 3-2, on December 13 in the NCAA national championship game in Cary, NC. The top-seeded Zips (23-1-1) suffered the loss despite posting their fifth straight shutout of the NCAA Tournament, spanning 490 consecutive minutes. Akron, which defeated No. 5 North Carolina on 5-4 penalty kicks in the semifinal match, could not do so again

in a match-up of the top two defensive teams in the country.

Since taking over in 2006, Porter, who recently has signed a new five-year contract that will keep him on campus through the 2014 season, has taken the Zips' program to unprecedented heights. During his tenure, Akron has posted an overall record of 68-12-8 (.818) overall and 20-1-1 (.932) in Mid-American Conference play. Moreover, since 2005 UA has logged the highest winning percentage in the nation, going 86-13-12 (.829). Porter's Zips have claimed four straight MAC regular-season crowns, three straight MAC Tournament titles and qualified for the NCAA Tournament in each of the last three seasons.

Porter is a three-time MAC Coach of the Year (2007, 2008, 2009) and the NCAA Division I All-Ohio Coach of the Year in 2008. He has produced the MAC Player of the Year in each of his four seasons as well and the nation's leading goal scorer in each of the last two. Recently, UA junior Anthony Ampaipitakwong and sophomore Teal Bunbury were named to the first team and sophomore Darlington Nagbe earned second-team honors on the NCAA Division I All-America Team.

The Zips have been just as impressive in the classroom under Porter's watch with nine players named to the all-conference academic team. UA posted a team GPA of 3.256 in 2009 and were led by a pair of Academic All-Americans, sophomore Kofi Sarkodie (first team) and senior Ben Zemanski (third team).

At the Senate

- The Faculty Senate Student Representatives failed to gain approval from their constituent body for the Structure and Bylaws for the proposed University Council (UC). Thus, the students have found the where-with-all to question the validity of the numerical representation allotted to them in the composition of the proposed UC. As you may recall, Senator Don Gerlach has engaged the Senate in much discussion concerning the numerical representation of the Faculty in the future UC and has offered motions to provide a stronger faculty representation in the future UC. In the 2009 May meeting of the Senate, in the absence of Senator Gerlach, Senator Gandee again offered Senator Gerlach's motion to increase the number of faculty representatives in the future UC from four to six. Because the motion failed to receive a second, the motion died without discussion. If not now, when will the Senate challenge this marginalization?
- Senator Gerlach urged the Senate to revise its Bylaws because of the creation of the new University Council. Because student organizations, contract professionals, administrators, etc. will elect their own representative members to the UC, the Senate Bylaws should be revised to dictate the election of only faculty members to represent it in the new UC and to exclude these groups from membership in the Senate.
- With a long list of Whereas statements, the Senate approved the following: Therefore, be it resolved, that the Faculty Senate respectfully request that the Board of Trustees reconsider its adoption of regulation 3359-11-22(B)(3). This is the DNA sampling issue.
- The University Administration and the Faculty Senate's Ad Hoc Committee on Student Judicial Policy remain in significant disagreement relative to the burden-of-proof. The Administration prefers the preponderance-of-the-evidence. The Ad Hoc Committee recommends that the Policy require clear and convincing evidence for suspensions, dismissals, and revocation of degrees.

L: David Cox (Philosophy Dept.) was the impetus for that. He proposed a three way partnership to purchase a trailerable 22 foot Catalina. Later we moved up to a 25 foot Catalina. We took both to places such as the Georgian Bay and the Chesapeake. Eventually we got a 30 foot Catalina, with some changes in the partnership makeup along the way. Lake Erie was our home base.

P: Meanwhile back at UA, you were teaching science education methods courses and initiating new workshops for teachers dealing with the rising problems of drugs and human sexuality issues.

L: True. And later we added environmental education. Over the years I must have had contact with thousands of area teachers!

P: You were on top of the latest issues! But if you needed to get away from it all, you had your log cabin retreat in southern Ohio. How did you come by that?

L: Well, as it turns out it had once been in Emma Lou's family back in the 1800's. We were in Woodsville visiting relatives and decided to look it up. It was deserted, roof caving in, etc., but it had proper white oak log walls and daffodils all in bloom in front. Unexpectedly, we decided to buy it from its current owner. It was many man hours (and women hours) later that it became a retreat. But it was a labor of love. The first thing we built was an outhouse. We took much abuse from our family and friends for this venture. (laugh)

P: And charming it now is, furnished in keeping with its origins. It finally even has indoor plumbing (but only kerosene lamps, to keep it "authentic.")

L: We've had a lot of company and good times down there.

P: I heard of another adventure from your earlier years. Didn't you also fly a plane?

L: Yes, back in high school I had a friend who had a plane, so I took flying lessons and soloed. I still have my old logs. I almost bought a plane but my parents were not encouraging and suggested a car might be a better idea. (laugh) Wise people.

P: Now you limit your flying to commercial airlines. I know you have traveled to Europe numerous times.

L: We have rented villas with family and friends, and also have a couple of contacts that provide incentive. We have been to Wales and England to see a former graduate student, Hazel Hurst. We have an Italian connection through a nephew who married an Italian girl, and have had reciprocal visits with her family. (They were just here this fall) We're inclined to settle in and experience the culture rather than take sight-seeing tours.

P: Back home, you are now settled into a condo on the Portage Lakes. And although you are no longer sailing, you still are boating.

L: Yes I like to say we have 53 feet of boat: a 20 ft pontoon boat, a 16 ft run about (named Felicina after a villa in Italy) and a 17 ft canoe! (laugh)

P: So you have come full circle in your boating and can still entertain on the water! And in the winter you're off to the Florida Keys to camp for a month or so. Between all these activities you are flying off to see your sons' families in Boston or South Beach. You are one busy person. We are so glad that you have the time to also serve on our Board, and we will all benefit from your fresh perspective.

Dean Shermis September Luncheon Speaker



Hank Nettling with our September Luncheon guest speaker, Dr. Mark Shermis, Dean of the College of Education

Dr. Mark D. Shermis, Professor and Dean of the College of Education, was our speaker at the first AUAR luncheon for 2009-10. Prior to coming to The University of Akron, Dr. Shermis served as Professor and Chair of the Department of Educational Psychology at the University of Florida and was Professor and Associate Dean for Research and Grants for the Department of Educational and Psychological Studies at Florida International University.

As a part of his power point presentation, Dr. Shermis introduced the audience to the use of "clicker technology", which allowed participants to give instant responses to questions by using hand-held "clickers". Their responses were automatically recorded, tallied by the computer program and displayed on the screen. This feedback allowed Dr. Shermis to interact with the audience and gauge their knowledge or feelings about the subjects being discussed.

To conclude his presentation, Dr. Shermis cited several of his short and long term goals for the College of Education.

- Work closely with Akron City Schools to improve teaching practices.
- Increase on-line course offerings and the use of technology-based formats as ways to reach education majors.
- Relocate the Department of Sports Sciences and Wellness into the 3rd and 4th floors of InfoCision Stadium.
- Work toward the construction of a new building for the College.



Bill Byer, Scholarship Committee Chair with Caryn Collins, AUAR 2009-2010 scholarship recipient.

October Luncheon



Hank Nettling and Victor Fleisher, UA Archivist

University Archives an Unknown Treasure

You may have seen the movie, "National Treasure" with Nicholas Cage. Much of the plot revolves around items stored for safekeeping in the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C. While our own Victor Fleischer, University Archivist, may not be an author or movie star yet, he could no doubt spin a tale or two related to the over 40,000 boxes of materials stored on the lower level of the Polsky Building. As our October luncheon speaker, Victor presented a synopsis of the activities of the Archival Services, which is a division of the University Libraries.

The University Archives collects, preserves and makes accessible materials related to the University's history and to the history and development of the Akron area. It is also a depository for rare and special printed materials. The University history collection contains thousands of photos of people, places and events. Some of the stored artifacts are the original Zippy costume, old footballs, copies of the Buchtelite and Tel-Buch (yearbook), and bricks from the original Buchtel College Building.

The regional history collection contains items pertaining to the rubber industry, lighter-than-air flight and the Ohio & Erie Canal. About a year ago the University Archives received the Goodyear Photo Collection, which contained over 250,000 images. Among the subjects of the photographs were such things as the Goodyear balloons in the Macy's Thanksgiving parades, wartime production in the rubber factories, basic tire production, celebrities promoting Goodyear Tire & Rubber products, and the company's specialty tires used to set land speed records at the Bonneville Salt Flats. Staff members are still hard at work sorting and cataloging the collection.

Victor also outlined some of the current priorities for his department. Emphasis is shifting from collecting materials to improving preservation techniques. Therefore new projects include digitizing collections and obtaining grants to support these and other efforts to preserve the collections and make them readily available now and for years to come.

November Luncheon Features Travelogue



Diane Vukovich shares some of her highlights of the Egyptian Trip with Kathryn and Hans Zbinden at the November Travelogue Luncheon.

In our fall newsletter, Velma Pomrenke described the latest retirees trip, which was to Egypt, Jordan, and Saudi Arabia. Apparently the article caught the interest of many because a large audience was present at the November 11 luncheon to see and hear more about their adventures. Velma provided an excellent narrative to accompany photos from the Dead Sea, Petra, St. Catherine's Monastery, Luxor, Cairo and Giza. Other members of the travel group also shared their experiences and brought some of their purchases to display.

November Soup & Chili Supper – Tasty!



AUAR members and guests looking forward to a good meal.

The soup and chili makers outdid themselves on November 6, 2009. Close to 50 retirees and friends gathered at the Goodyear Metro Parks pavilion for the 8th annual autumn event.

Old favorites that were offered included Alberta Hensley's Cincinnati Chili, Pam Rupert's Pumpkin Soup and Tom Vukovich's "Special Chili." Other wonderful choices were Red Lentil with Black Olive Soup prepared by Sharon Gandee, Winter Peasant Cabbage Soup from Norb Weisend, and Judy Lasher's Egg Drop with Chicken Soup. Adding to this special array were Arlene Nettling's Chicken Noodle Soup and a great Hawaiian Chili prepared by Sonny Izzo. Tom Vukovich also prepared a rich potato soup from Julia Child's Mastering the Art of French Cooking. As usual, we had a great variety of salads and desserts as well as coffee, tea, and apple cider.

If you haven't been to one of AUAR's Fall Soup & Chili Suppers, you don't know what you are missing!

December Christmas Party

Members enjoyed the annual gift (multiple) exchange



Marilyn Carrell and Sonny Izo reminisce with Roger Garver about past Christmases at our Holiday Party.