



THE AUAR NEWSLETTER

The Association of The University of Akron Retirees

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President's Message

Another fall is rolling around and a new academic year is beginning at The University of Akron. At this time of year, I always feel a sense of excitement anticipating new beginnings-- new classes, new students, and catching up with colleagues after the summer break. Although I am no longer teaching, that emotion still creeps in as summer wanes and the leaves begin to change.

This year will be my first as president of AUAR. I'm looking forward to what that entails and I want to do a good job for all of you. Our organization has a wonderfully dedicated Executive Board, and it is my honor to serve as part of it. We will strive to make this year memorable with a new schedule of monthly luncheons, and our traditional events—Soup & Chili Supper coming up this fall, a Spring Road Trip, and Lobster & Suds to kick off the summer. Please plan to join us for as many of these events as you can. These are times to fellowship with old friends and meet new ones.

AUAR is not a social group only. We participate in university affairs through Faculty Senate with two representatives from AUAR. We also sponsor scholarships for students. The Political Action Committee keeps tabs on happenings at the Statehouse and news that could affect our retirement system. There are opportunities for community involvement, including Age-Friendly Akron/Summit County. Check it out at <https://co.summitoh.net/pages/AgeFriendly>.

The success of AUAR depends upon us, the retirees. If you know someone who has retired and isn't a member, please invite him or her to join. Dues are only \$15 annually. Folks can join online or by mail. See our website at <https://www.uakron.edu/auar/>.

I want to take this opportunity to thank our Immediate Past-President, Harvey Sterns, for two years of strong leadership. As he passes the gavel to me—literally, we have a gavel—I hope to follow in the tradition of Harvey and other past presidents who have served well and contributed to the success of AUAR.

Welcome to a new year of AUAR!



Richard Steiner
President 2025-2026

Fall Semester Senate Report

During the Spring Semester 2025 the activities of the Faculty Senate included the following

- Approved a resolution in favor of bringing back Rethinking Race in calendar 2025, subject to legal considerations.
- Approved a proposal from the Academic Policy Committee for an Institute for Computing, Data and Decision Sciences.
- Approved a proposal from the Curriculum Review Committee to reduce required General Education Credits in Art/Humanities from 9 to 6 credits.
- Approved a proposal from the Academic Policy Committee for a merger of School of Music and School of Dance, Theater, and Arts Administration.
- Approved a task force recommendation to rename and restructure the Graduate School to the School of Graduate Studies.
- Elected new Senate officers: Chair: Angela Hartsock; Vice chair: Joel Duff.
- Approved a resolution from the Curriculum Review Committee for four degree programs to meet the state requirement to be available within 90 credits. (BAS Bachelor of Applied Science in General Studies, Health Care Leadership and Management, Health Services, Speech Language Pathology and Audiology)
- Approved resolutions from the Computing and Communications Technologies Committee extending the agreement with D2L Brightspace for one additional year, until 2028 and beginning the LMS selection process and potential implementation in Fall 2025, following a proposed timeline.
- Approved the list of degree candidates for Spring 2025
- Discussed changes necessitated by the passage of Ohio Senate Bill 1.

For more details, please visit the Faculty Senate web page at uakron.edu/facultysenate

Membership Update!

Membership renewals are now due for the 2025/26 fiscal year. To check your membership status, look at the mailing label on this newsletter. Following your name on the label, you will see a code designating your membership status. **L** stands for life members, **P** stands for paid members, and **C** stands for complimentary members, available for new retirees. Following P or C is a number representing the year in June in which your membership expires.

So, if you see a number 25, that means that your membership expired on June 30, 2025 and soon you will no longer receive the newsletter.

Membership is only \$15 per year and can be renewed for multiple years. Additionally, we now offer a life membership for \$150.

Renewing is easy. You can use the form on the back of this newsletter or go to uakron.edu/auar and click on RENEW. All major credit cards are accepted. Additionally, I will have applications at our luncheons and will accept cash or checks for renewal.

Currently we have 106 paid members. Don't miss out. **RENEW TODAY!**

-Mel Vye, Membership Chair

24th Lobster & Suds Event –May 16

Dan and lobster



Once again, we were able to hold our annual Lobster & Suds Party at the Hampton Woods Party Room. Thanks to Cynthia Capers and Betty & John Miller for making all the arrangements.

This year the lobsters were purchased from The Lobster Guy, located in Rhode Island. The Venue, located on Tallmadge Circle, prepared the chicken marsala.

Bud Marston, Bob Fritz, and Dan Sheffer did an excellent job of cooking and preparing the lobsters. The consensus was that the lobsters were the freshest and tastiest ever.

Thank you to all the "chefs" who contributed the salads, covered dishes, and desserts.



Conversation and RI lobster

It "takes a village" to host a successful event and that includes those "unsung workers" who do all the setup, take down, and clean up work. It couldn't be done as quickly and efficiently without your help.

Mark your calendar now for the next Lobster & Suds Party on **May 15, 2026.**

February Luncheon

Svalbard: The Most Northerly Inhabited Place On Earth

Melvin Vye



Known for his travel to out-of-the way places, Melvin Vye didn't surprise his audience with this travelogue of a little-known island located approximately halfway between the northern tip of Norway and the North Pole. He and a friend Beirne Konarski took this one-week trip in August 2024.

Svalbard is actually an archipelago with Spitsbergen being the largest island. Four areas are occupied: Longyearbyen is the most populated with 2,500 people, Barentsburg is next with 400 Russian inhabitants, and Pyramiden with about 25. At one time this town had a couple thousand people but when the coal mine was shutdown in 2018, it was basically abandoned; the people there now are mainly for security and tourism. The fourth is Ny-Alesund Svalbard, an Arctic research station.

The island was discovered by a Dutch Arctic explorer in 1596; whaling and hunting were the principal activities early on, but when an American businessman John Longyear found coal on the island in 1901, many countries became interested in it—Russia, Norway, Netherlands, U.S—to name a few. Interested countries drew up the Svalbard Treaty in 1920. While Norway holds sovereignty, any citizen of a country that is party to the treaty can live and work on the island without a visa. Once a person leaves the international terminal in Oslo and arrives on Svalbard, there is no one there to check travel documents.

There are four things that are illegal on the island:

- possess a cat. There is fear that cats would become feral and since there are no trees, birds nest on the ground. Cats could decimate the bird population. Too, rabies has been found in Arctic foxes and could be passed on to cats.

- be born. There are limited medical facilities and no obstetricians; should a woman have a problem pregnancy, there would be no one to care for her. Once a child is delivered, she can return to the island as there are K-12 schools and a consortium of universities doing arctic research where one could get a start on basic studies.

- die. Permafrost prevents burial. A 70-year-old would be encouraged to leave the island.

- leave town without a loaded rifle. There are more polar bears on the island than there are people. The bears have learned to stay out of Longyearbyen but once one leaves, he or she must have a loaded rifle or be in the vicinity of one who does in case a bear appears. Shooting a polar bear is a serious matter and done only as a last resort.



Mel and Beirne

On Svalbard, located 78 degrees north, there are four months when the sun never sets, four months when it never rises, and two months in spring and two months in fall with sunrise and sunset. They were there in early August, so they did not have a sunset. August 25 is the first sunset. As expected, the weather the day they arrived was 50F and raining. The second day they had 60F temperatures and sun; a heat record was set. The day they left the temperature cooled and rain returned. If you have an interest in weather, you might want to see an article in the December 2024 issue of National Geographic, which documents research being done on Svalbard with respect to climate change. The temperatures there are increasing at a rate of four times that of the average on earth.

In 2019, a Russian robbed the only bank in Longyearbyen and since there were no roads to allow an escape, he was arrested and sent to Norway. The bank left town including the only ATM machine. Now all transactions are done with a card.

Svalbard is famous for its global seed vault, which is a backup facility for the world's crop diversity. Currently there are 1.3 billion samples of seeds stored there in case of a world disaster. The seeds are kept at a constant -18C. Syria is the only country who has withdrawn seeds; seeds of one crop were totally destroyed and the country was able to acquire them from the vault.

Beirne found a two-bedroom Airbnb for them; they were quite comfortable with a modern living room, flat-screen

TV, and a full-service kitchen. Mel was able to set up a portable digital ham radio on their deck but had little success because precise timekeeping wasn't available. The Russians had dragged an anchor across a fiber optic cable, which connects Svalbard and Norway so the timing was off.

Mel's PowerPoint presentation showed a very muddy Longyearbyen city street; because of the mud, shoes must be removed when entering a store. A warning appears on the supermarket door reminding people that they must check their guns before entering the market. It was well stocked; prices were in Danish krona (11 krona to 1 dollar). The city is a popular stop for tour ships; on one day, a shot showed crowded streets as approximately 4,000 tourists came to this town of 2,500 inhabitants.

He took an ATV tour out of Longyearbyen but didn't see any polar bears; however, he learned that on average every other year one person is killed by a polar bear. He saw lots of caribou, a closed coal mine as the city now uses diesel fuel, and a dog kennel housing 135 huskies.

A shot taken on a trip to Barentsburg (400 inhabitants) showed a large Russian consulate building, which would suggest that the Russians plan to expand their presence in the Arctic. To Russian politics—a sign outside an apartment building states, "Communism is our goal." Nearby is a bust of Lenin and in the distance, there is a Soviet flag with the hammer and sickle. He asked the guide about the markers and was told they were just trying to maintain a historical perspective. He saw several glaciers and learned that they are receding rapidly.

On a tour to another Russian town Pyramiden, which had a couple thousand people at one time, he learned that they were enticed to move there with amenities (swimming pool, theatre, sports facility) and a salary four times greater than that of a coal miner in Russia. Now all is abandoned and the current 25 inhabitants live in a building with bars on the lower windows to keep the bears out. In front of building is a sign reading "Arctic Coal-Spitsbergen-65 years" and close by is a bust of Lenin.

Back in Longyearbyen, Mel visited the interior of a closed coal mine, where he learned that workers had to work in dangerous and very confined spaces. In the same mine, a company named AWA has acquired a portion of the mine for the storage of documents which would probably survive a nuclear disaster.

Beirne, upon Mel's invitation to explain his motivation for visiting Svalbard, said he had two reasons: the old saying "Strange traveling suggestions are lessons from God" from Cat's Cradle applied here. And secondly, it was a chance to meet his Polish teacher. He said he has been studying Polish for several years online; his teacher Martina lives and works in Sweden for half the year and does summer work on Svalbard. He enjoyed a couple of days with her and her friend from corporate America, who was traveling the world. The trip worked out well for Mel and Beirne despite their different motives.

March Luncheon

Crime Analysis, Police Practices, and Criminal Justice Studies

David Licate



Our March 19 luncheon speaker was Dr. David Licate, Professor and Chair of the Department of Criminal Justice Studies at The University of Akron. Before the reorganization and movement of his department and degree programs to Buchtel College of Arts & Sciences, many may remember "Criminal Justice" as an associate degree program in the former Community and Technical College.

Dr. Licate brought us up to date on how Criminal Justice Studies evolved at The University of Akron with new degree options and the varied career paths associated with this field. "Crime is not going away. It is a growth industry." The public realizes the need for lawyers, police officers, and federal agents (FBI, Homeland Security, DEA) but often overlooks the need for professionals seeking out crime in the public sector. "White collar crime," such as fraud and digital crime detection, can be attractive to students who can couple courses in this area with their degree programs in accounting or finance. In addition, students may prepare for jobs in scientific fields or perhaps counseling and social services and combine those programs with criminal justice studies.

Agencies that deal with rehabilitation services (drug counseling or battered woman's shelters) and other community services are constantly looking for UA graduates to fill vacancies.

continued on page 4

Dr. Licate indicated that he often has to turn away representatives from local agencies who request time in the classroom in order to recruit students.

Among the positions which students may consider as careers in this field are police officers or investigators, probation officers and correctional treatment specialists, compliance officers, security administrators, risk managers, and crime analysts.

The department programs focus upon hands-on, real world experiences. Students may partner with community organizations on problem-solving projects or apply their classroom knowledge during internships. They may also gain experience doing field work or assisting in modern crime labs. In addition, students in the Police Academy or those seeking police leadership certificates are able to receive credit for prior learning experience. There are opportunities to get involved with the Ohio Innocence Project or belong to student organizations such as the Pre-Law Society or Sociology Club. Current UA degree programs are Associate of Applied Science in Criminal Justice, Bachelor of Science in Criminology and Criminal Justice, Bachelor of Science in Criminal Intelligence Analysis and minors in Forensic Studies and Forensic Psychology.

Dr. Licate described the relationship between Criminology and Criminal Justice and how they overlap. The study of Criminology focuses on the definition, distribution, and causes and control of crime. Criminal Justice studies concentrate on policing practices, courts and law, corrections and public policy. Within the Criminal Justice field are policing researchers. Dr. Licate's area of expertise is in policing research with emphasis on policing practices, organizations, strategies, and organizational change. These professionals take an active research approach, partnering with organizations and using "best practices" to help them become better at what they do.

Dr. Licate explained that forensic science is not what the public has learned from TV shows like CSI. Therefore, he often has to help students "unlearn" a few things early on when entering this field of study at UA.

A forensic technician collects crime scene information such as fingerprints, blood spatter information, and other useful information in the investigation of a crime. A forensic technologist, on the other hand, will use specialized methods and equipment to analyze fingerprints or ballistic analysis to provide the necessary evidence. These scientists may also provide knowledge through their study in forensic chemistry, biology, pathology, and anthropology.

Dr. Licate completed his remarks by discussing the following issues, trends, and the use of technology in the field of Criminal Justice.

1. Legitimacy, transparency, and accountability in police departments. The "use of force" policies and policing practices need to be explained so the public understands why officers do what they do in the performance of their jobs.
2. Use of data-driven and evidence-based practices. Becoming proactive before tragedies, such as an "active shooter" situation, occur.
3. Concentrate on the increase in radicalization, particularly among youth, drug and mental health challenges (workplace violence).
4. Increasing fraud, white-collar crimes, and computer-based crimes.
5. Hacking data is always a present threat.
6. The use of AI can be good and evil. AI will cause policing practices and our laws to change in response to the modern technology now available in the public realm and around the world.

The mission of the Department of Criminal Justice at UA is to provide educated professionals in the building of healthy and intelligent organizations in order to solve problems for our country.

Dr. Licate has consulted with several policing and homeland security agencies, including the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Northern Ohio Violent Crime Consortium, and the Northeast Ohio Regional Fusion Center. He has instructed at the Ohio Peace Office Training Academy and Police Executive Leadership College on crime analysis, policing strategies, and organizational change.

He received his department's award for outstanding teaching in 2009 and 2010, the Dean Petry Outstanding Teaching Award in 2012, and the Buchtel College of Arts & Science Above and Beyond Award in 2024. David earned his Bachelor of Arts in Criminal Justice Studies at Kent State University, his Master of Science Degree in Criminal Justice from the University of Cincinnati, and his Ph.D. in Political Science at Kent State University. He joined The University of Akron faculty in 2000.

Please meet Susan Colville-Hall, a member of AUAR, who graciously agreed in late May to be interviewed for this fall newsletter.

Martha: *I became better acquainted with you when our Women's Club visited the Schnormeier Gardens in Gambier, OH, a couple of years ago; it was then that I learned that you grew up in that area.*

Susan: I grew up in Mt. Vernon and my mother was my third-grade teacher; I graduated from Mt. Vernon High School, Class of 1962, (the youngest in my class!). I studied my first year at Muskingum College, then, transferred to Ohio State for my sophomore year. My junior year, I studied abroad – in Aix-en-Provence-- as I was inspired by a member of our church who had spent her junior year in France at the Universite d'Aix-Marseilles. It was less costly than attending OSU. I had a fabulous year in France, because, in addition to studying, I was able to travel all over Europe. I finally came home in November, after working "au pair" in a French family looking after five children and in the wine vineyards, where I gathered grapes for making wine. I came back to OSU, graduated with teaching degrees in French and Spanish, was awarded a teaching assistantship, and continued studying to earn my master's degree in French Literature. The immersion experience produced a fluent French speaker and guaranteed my assistantship while completing my master's. My first job after graduate school was at Miss Porter's School in Connecticut

Martha: *Miss Porter's School sounds like a finishing school.*

Susan: It was originally but in 1968, it was a very competitive school for female students ages 14-18; Jacqueline Kennedy had attended that school. I had a successful two years as a new teacher, learned a great deal about teaching, but remember feeling that I really wasn't needed there. MPS students earned 800s on their Advanced Placement tests; they were already very good students, "la crème de la crème." It was an excellent experience and allowed me to discover New England, but I left after two years because I wanted to move on and discover more; I had traveled throughout Europe but not much in the U.S.

Martha: *So, I understand you went west to Colorado.*

Susan: Yes, Colorado became a destination because I wanted to ski and to discover the west. I was hired at The Colorado Springs School, an all-girls secondary school at the time; in the ten years that I was employed there, it went co-ed and expanded to grades K-12. Teaching there was a fabulous opportunity because faculty were able to create extraordinary curricula, often as a team, much of it ahead of its time. This included focus on conservation and environment, experiential learning, discovering science and nature relationships, and group-based learning. I was also able to complete a teacher practicum for Outward Bound and worked on curriculum building with teachers from around the state to incorporate cooperation and group dynamics. I created a special seminar in France, a hands-on experience to learn French for my high school students with a four-week study experience where they had lessons with me and guest instructors but lived with host families. In addition, they experienced field trips in France; they were constantly immersed in language and culture learning. Some examples included study about the French justice system by attending a trial, watching how French baguettes or French sweets were made, visiting a car showroom and having a demonstration ride in a French car (because students at that age were interested in anything on four wheels). We were never short on historic or architectural subjects. In the 1970s in Colorado Springs Colorado College launched its block system of scheduling. CSS followed suit and wrote curricula for experiential learning and adopted a block-schedule. Fortunately for language educators, the schedule afforded students the best way to learn a language, immersion. It enabled me to take students abroad. Since Spanish was my minor in college, I also took students to Mexico as well when our Spanish teacher was not able to go.

Martha: *From the Colorado Springs School, you came to Akron?*

Susan: No, I returned to Ohio State to do my Ph.D in Foreign Language Education. (It was a long commute!!!) Steve would visit me once during

each quarter, and I would go home at the end of each quarter. Steve held down the “fort” in Colorado Springs.

I met Steve through activities with the Colorado Mountain Club on Mother’s Day one year. My roommate and I signed up for a bike ride from Divide to Cripple Creek (behind Pikes Peaks); it was our first serious outing on wheels, and Steve was the leader. We all finally met up and chatted over pie and coffee at the end of the ride. Later that summer Steve and I reconnected on a hiking trip and began dating. On my first Century Ride (a 100-mile bike ride) he offered to push me up the toughest part of the mountain pass, but I said I preferred to go on my own; he later confided that it was my independence that attracted him to me.

When we married, I added a family to my resume! Jennifer, 11, David, 10, and Dan, 5, spent summer months with us in Colorado hiking, camping and biking. Their stepdad was with the U.S. Department of State so they had lived in various countries including Washington, D.C., France, England and Japan. We continue to stay “close” and share adventures. Currently, Jennifer lives in Alaska, David in Massachusetts, and Dan in Seattle. Steve and I have four adult grandchildren.

Martha: After completing your degree, what did you do?



Susan: I returned to Colorado. At the time, the three university positions in my field state-wide were filled, so I sought employment in public education. I was hired by Jefferson County Schools in Denver and taught at Columbine High School. Eventually, I grew tired

of the commute from Colorado Springs and was eager to make a change. When Steve was laid off, I looked for a university-level job out of state and was hired at the College of Education at UA and taught here 25 years preparing language majors to become language teachers. I was director of UA’s World Language Program, and mentored students to get licenses for multiple languages—primarily French and Spanish, but also German, Mandarin, Japanese, Russian, Arabic, Italian.

I also wrote and managed several grants. In 2002 I was awarded a Fulbright-Hayes grant to take local Spanish teachers to Costa Rica for immersion in the culture, folklore and literature, and everyday life of locals. Then, I coordinated the Franco-American Teachers in Training Institute, an immersion program for pre-service teachers from France, and for American teachers to France from 2007 to 2012. High school teachers in France must be proficient in a second language if they wish to teach “advance” content classes in that language, too; they may choose Italian, Spanish, English, or German, for example. They are required to show proficiency in their subject in their second language. Most of the teachers who came to Akron taught either history, physical education, physics or chemistry; their home stay and student-teaching assignment immersed them in English and facilitated reaching that capacity.

Martha: While you lived in Colorado, I understand that you participated in sports other than biking and have continued with this interest.

Susan: Yes, I did backpacking, rock climbing, canoeing, hiking, river rafting and peak bagging (with 52 mountains, each 14,000 feet high). I climbed only 17; we would “bag” a peak by reaching the top. A few required using ropes.

In 2018, sons Dan and David, Steve and I and two friends from Colorado bicycled in Austria and Hungary along the Danube River. Even before we were married, Steve and I completed a 500-mile bike trip in the Pyrenees. A couple of years later, we did a 21-day bicycle trip in the French Alps, pedaling 1,000 miles (over many of the mountain passes the Tour de France features). A decade later Steve lead a group of eight of us across southern France to meet up with French friends from OSU days in Aix-en-Provence.

Martha: I must say that you’re quite an athlete and you continue in this vein in retirement with dragon boat racing. Tell us about this organization.

Susan: Dragon boat racing is a team paddling sport, begun in ancient China, and has been a modern international sport since 1976. A team of 20 paddlers, along with a drummer and a steerer, paddle from a long boat (42 foot canoe) decorated with dragon heads and tails. It’s a popular sport and festival activity with various divisions for

continued on page 7



participation. Races vary in length, from 200 meters to 2 kilometers. Jessica Mader, from Silver Lake, is credited for bringing dragon boating to Akron in 2007. While recovering from breast cancer, she went to her hometown in Nova Scotia where she learned of research

being done by Dr. Don McKinsey's (of Vancouver, BC) on dragon boating activities to promote health for breast cancer survivors. This sport was growing across Canada.

Steve saw a news article about the team in the ABJ and asked if I would like be interested. I had been a 15-year survivor and because of my outdoor Colorado activities, it was a natural fit. I waited, however, until I retired to join the Dragon Boat Dream Team, which practices three times a week and holds an annual festival at the Portage Lakes State Park the second weekend in July. It's been great fun!!! I've been with the team since 2013.

Martha: Tell us about your service to the Rotary Club of Akron.

Susan: As I mentioned, I received a Fulbright-Hayes grant to take Spanish teachers to Costa Rica and set up the program following my experiences in taking students to France. Years before, I had trained through the Experiment in International Living, which also provided training for Peace Corp workers. Using that model, I knew that using host families would be the best way for them to learn daily habits and have in-depth immersion in the language. Of course, we had classes at the university. I, too, had a host family who were Rotarians. Their daughter had visited my Mt. Vernon, Ohio, on an exchange year!

So I joined the Rotary Club of Akron in 2006. Since my UA retirement, I've volunteered in their youth exchange program to help American students going abroad get the most from their experience and also took charge of training for district exchange students to provide them skills for adjusting to living in the U.S. This work is being continued now by one of my former students, a teacher in Strongsville, who is also a dragon boater.

Martha: Susan, you are a very accomplished individual. My sincere thanks for sharing a great deal about your life and career. It has been my pleasure to converse with you.

AUAR Donations to Campus Cupboard

At our March luncheon, donations for the Campus Food Cupboard were collected. Mary Verstraete can be seen delivering our contributions. Then on May 27, we received the following note of thanks:

On behalf of the Campus Cupboard and the students we serve, we thank AUAR Retirees for the generous donations to the Campus Cupboard. ZipAssist appreciates your support in helping to meet our students' needs.

This year 92 food, 20 hygiene, and 10 miscellaneous items were collected for a total of 122 donated items!

Student Testimonial: *The cupboard has made a meaningful difference in my experience as a student. During times when money has been tight, having access to food and period products and other essentials has lifted a huge weight off my shoulders. It's allowed me to focus more on my education instead of worrying about how I'll cover basic needs. Knowing there's a supportive resource and people like this on campus has been both reassuring and welcoming as I am a freshmen. -MM*

Again, thank you.

Go Zips,



- Campus Cupboard, ZipAssist
The University of Akron

April Luncheon Speaker Dr. Douglas Hausknecht

Doug Hausknecht



On April 16 Doug Hausknecht, an Associate Professor Emeritus of Marketing, spoke about his decades-long collecting of Disney-related items manufactured and/or distributed by the British firm Ensign in the 1930s. The presentation included photographs and a couple of tables of items for Show and Tell.

The intriguing title of the presentation was "Walt Disney Magic Lanterns and 40 Years of Collecting." Doug began the talk by disabusing us of the notion that we were to hear about or be granted wishes from an Aladdin and the Genie style magic lamp. Instead, we learned a bit about Magic Lanterns, the forerunners of slide projectors. Doug explained that he had learned about magic lanterns after purchasing a kerosene/oil burning version while still a student at the University of Florida. Some of our members are familiar with electrified versions that showed images on glass slides in educational settings up until the 1950s and 1960s.

Doug's interests dovetailed when he discovered a set of magic lantern slides featuring Mickey Mouse at a flea market. Those slides were in a British format (4 inches X 4 inches) rather than a USA format (3.25 inches X 4 inches). That purchase led to an ongoing search for more slide sets in the series. His collecting expanded to include slide projectors as well as films and film projectors, cameras, filmstrips and filmstrip projectors and other related items from the company and its successors.

Doug's talk included anecdotes about collecting. The first magic lantern was purchased while antique shopping with a friend who specialized in modern (for 1970s) audio-visual equipment. That friend was surprised that the purchase did not include a power cord.



Some of the British items were purchased while traveling on behalf of UA. Doug taught in a summer study abroad program in London for several summers. This provided access to flea markets and antique shops in Portobello Road and Camden Town. Some of the more unique items originated there (a print maker, undeveloped film).



For history fans, we heard that one slide set was based on the 1930's animated film "The Three Little Pigs." This was the only color set that Ensign produced in a large format (versus a smaller toy format in which slides are only 1 inch tall). The film itself was significant in that the theme song, "Who's Afraid of the Big Bad Wolf?" is credited with helping to lift spirits during the Depression of the 1930s.

Walt Disney himself had an early career with Magic Lanterns. He met Ubbe Iwwerks while working for the Kansas City Slide Company. From there (with a couple of false starts) together and separately they brought animation to the world.

2025 Road Trip

The annual Road Trip for AUAR members and friends took place on Friday, April 24, 2025. For the second year, Roller Coach and Tours from Mineral Ridge, OH, provided bus transportation for the group. Our destination was Mercer County, Pennsylvania, just across the border not far from Youngstown, Ohio. Arrangements were made with the help of the staff from the Mercer County Convention and Visitors Bureau.

Our first stop was a visit to the "Avenue of 444 Flags" and the "War on Terror Veterans Memorial" in Hermitage. The Avenue of Flags is a memorial to the Americans held hostage in Iran from November 4, 1979 to January 20, 1981. On day 100 of the captivity of Americans in the U.S. Embassy, the owner of Hillcrest Memorial Park began erecting American flags on poles on the cemetery grounds to help Hermitage and the

continued on page 9

Road trip group at Avenue 444 Flags



nation to remember the hostages. Today the "Avenue of 444 Flags" remains as a silent proclamation that our freedoms must never be taken for granted. Later in 2005, in the center of the "Avenue of 444 Flags," the "War on Terror Veterans Memorial" was established. Here 11 steel and glass monuments, 12 feet tall by 4 feet wide, are placed in a circle around a fountain. Etched in the dark glass are the names of all military personnel who have died in the War on Terror since 1975. The memorial and "Avenue of Flags" are open to the public and are something of which all freedom-loving people can be proud. These sites are a testament to those who have served or paid the supreme sacrifice and will never be forgotten.

Stop number two was at the Philadelphia Candy Company in Hermitage. This local chocolatier has been making delicious delights for over 100 years. This family owned-and-operated business first opened in Sharon, PA, in 1919. The group enjoyed samples, visited the working factory, met quality control employees (remember Lucy and Ethel), and purchased "on sale" Easter candies. (This trip was one week after Easter.)

After the factory tour, we headed to a nearby Eat'n Park restaurant for an early lunch. The staff swiftly served the group from a pre-set menu selected prior to our visit. We were in and out in less than an hour with a "smiley cookie" to munch on while we traveled to the next stop.

The Buhl Mansion in Sharon, PA, was built in 1891 by Frank H. Buhl, the founder of Sharon Steel Corporation, which later was sold to U.S. Steel. The Romanesque castle is steeped in history and contains original and period furniture and art objects. It is listed in the National Register of Historic Places and is operated as a guest house and spa, "offering the ultimate in luxury, pampering, and unsurpassed hospitality." We toured the first floor of the mansion and grounds before departing for stop number five.

After a short trip back to Hermitage, we visited the Stewart House, home of the Hermitage Historical Society. The house, built in 1868-69, reminded travelers of Akron's Hower House. It contains several floors of exhibits featuring the history of the city of Hermitage, first settled in 1796.



Rear view of the Buhl Mansion, Sharon, PA



Inside the chocolate factory

For the third time in a row, we completed our road trip with a visit to a local winery. At Libations Winery near Grove City, PA, the adventurers enjoyed a presentation and wine tasting session. However, the offering of "Ben's (Hard) Cider," made from a recipe developed by the winery owner's great grandfather, was rated number one by most tasters. This oak barrel fermented and aged apple cider is smooth, with a crisp bite and a distinct kick. Many bottles made their way back to Akron.

We returned to campus at around 6:30 p.m. The variety of places visited and Ben's Cider made for an interesting and busy day trip. Where will we go in 2026?

Dr. Karyn Katz passed away at 74 on February 12, 2025. She earned her Bachelor's degree at the University of Texas, her Master's at Case Western Reserve University and her Doctorate in Speech Pathology at Kent State University. She joined the UA faculty in 1979 and retired with 30 years of service as Professor of Speech Pathology and Associate Dean of the Honors College. Karyn spent many hours volunteering at Access Women's Shelter and the Summit County Juvenile Court. She is survived by her husband Steve of 39 years, their daughter and son and seven grandchildren.

Dr. Thomas Kellar died at 76 on May 10, 2025. He was a Marine who proudly served our country from 1967 to 1973. Thomas earned his Bachelor's degree from Kent State and both his Master's and Doctorate in Psychology from UA. He joined the UA faculty in 1996 and served for more than 20 years. His last title was Associate Professor of Computer Information Systems. Thomas was a member of the American Legion, the VFW, the Fraternal Order of Eagles, and the Mogadore Moose. He enjoyed running in local races for charities and special events. Thomas is survived by his son and daughter and six grandchildren.

Sue Larson died on May 12, 2025, at 87. Before joining the Office of the Vice President for Business and Finance at UA in 1973, she worked at Western Reserve Academy. She met her husband Bob Larson while working at UA. She loved her work and retired as Senior Executive Administrative Assistant after 33 years. She was an excellent cook, an avid gardener, and a life-long sports fan who rooted for the Guardians, Cavs, Browns, Buckeyes and Zips. She and Bob attended many UA games and were honored by the Varsity A Association. She traveled widely; she loved art, following the Royal family, and playing dominoes. Sue was a loyal fan of the Cleveland Orchestra and attended more than 100 concerts at Blossom and several International Piano Competitions. Preceded in death by her husband of 38 years, her son and stepson, she is survived by her daughter and son-in-law who live in Italy and her two grandsons.

Kent Marsden passed away on February 19, 2025, at 78. Born in England, he graduated from UA where he played and lettered in soccer. Kent served in the Army's 82 Airborne. He joined the UA faculty in 1984 and worked in the Department of Development and retired in 2014 as Assistant to the Dean of Polymer Science and Polymer Engineering. An avid sports enthusiast, he enjoyed playing golf and watching Ohio State football. Kent also loved woodworking and being a member of the Rotary Club of Tallmadge for which he served as its first President. He was preceded in death by his wife of 50 years Pam and is survived by his son and daughter and four grandchildren.

Wayne Mattice passed away at 84 on March 23, 2025. He focused on science while attending Grinnell College and then earned his PhD at Duke in Chemistry. After a postdoctoral fellowship at Florida State University, Wayne became a professor of Biochemistry at Louisiana State University for 16 years. In 1986 he became an Alek Schulman Eminent Scholar at The University of Akron's Polymer Science Institute for another 16 years. His many academic achievements include serving as editor of the scientific journal *Macromolecules*, publishing hundreds of peer-reviewed articles and training a new generation of chemists. Wayne loved to travel and collaborated with colleagues in several countries. He was an avid birder, hiker, bridge player and puzzle solver. He also enjoyed grilling and cooking. Wayne is survived by Jacqueline, his wife of 60 years, his daughter and two grandsons.

Diane Thomas McCort died on February 21, 2025, at 83. She earned a degree in education and history at Miami University, a Master's in Counseling at Kent, and a Master's in Architecture

from the University of Colorado. Diane worked as Assistant to the Senior Director of Facilities, Planning and Construction and the University Architect at UA and retired with Emerita status after 11 years of service. Upon early retirement, she established Design Collaborative, a group of female architects and design professionals. Diane served as president of the Akron Chapter of the American Institute of Architects. She enjoyed the outdoors by doing home landscaping projects and being in the CVNP. Diane became a certified scuba diver and a private pilot. She traveled all over the world. Diane is survived by her sister, former husband, son, daughter, and two grandchildren.

Martha Meconi was 76 when she passed away on May 18, 2025. She taught math at UA for 30 years before retiring as a college lecturer in 2010. She also played and taught the harp. Martha enjoyed calligraphy, puzzles and making cards. Her husband LaVerne "Tony" Meconi also taught at UA. She leaves three daughters and four grandchildren.

Theresa Naska passed away at 71 on April 15, 2025. She worked at Goodyear for 30 years before giving UA 16 years of service as an administrative assistant. Theresa loved children, animals, and laughing. She was adventurous. Preceded in death by her husband John of 34 years, she is survived by her daughter, three sisters and other family members.

Marvin Phillips died at 96 on January 22, 2025. He had degrees from Albion College and Michigan State including a Master of Arts in Theater. Marvin was drafted into the US Army and served in Korea. As Director of Theater at the University of Chicago, he founded the Court Theater, a summer outdoor theater. After being an Assistant Professor of Speech at Kent, he joined the UA faculty as the first Director of Wayne College in Orville. He retired as Director Emeritus of Public Services after more than 16 years of service. In retirement, Marvin joined Veterans for Peace, played Santa Claus, held book talks at Akron Public Libraries, and started a play-reading group. He is survived by six children, six grandchildren and three great grandchildren.

Dr. John Savery died on May 8, 2025. He graduated from the University of Western Ontario, the University of Calgary, and earned his PhD in Instructional Systems Technology from Indiana University. John joined the UA faculty in 2000 and retired in 2018 as Professor of Education and Director of Instructional Services. He made many contributions to the Instructional Design field, particularly in problem-based learning, online teaching, and fostering ownership for learning. John authored many papers, book chapters, and journal articles. He is survived by his wife Carol, two sons and four grandchildren.

Juanita Ward died at 69. She owned a cake shop and after graduating from UA she joined the staff as an administrative assistant in 2001. She retired in 2017 after having led such activities as Relay for Life and Student Appreciation Days. She loved going to her children's activities and was a woman of deep faith. Juanita is survived by her husband of 40 years Herbert "Ed" Ward, three sons, three daughters, eighteen grandchildren and eight great grandchildren.

Max Willis, Jr., PhD, died on March 12, 2025, at 94. He joined the UA College of Engineering faculty in 1968 and retired in 1999 with emeritus status as Associate Dean of Research and Graduate Studies. Max served his country in the military.

— Memorials written by Diane Lazzerini

Editorial note:

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



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If you haven't renewed your AUAR membership for the **2025-2026** year, it is time to do so. Don't forget our Scholarship fund where we provide some funding to a worthy student. Please either complete the items listed below, and mail your check to the address above or go online to uakron.edu/auar and pay by credit card.

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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. 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

ON-CAMPUS PARKING

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FALL 2025 SPEAKER SCHEDULE

- Sept. 17** - Dr. Jon Miller, Director UA Press and Professor of English
Book review, "Akron at 200: A Bicentennial History"
- Oct. 15** - Dr. Gwen Price, Senior V.P. and Provost, University of Akron
Fall Enrollment, Academic Programs and Adjusting to issues in Higher Education Today.
- Nov. 19** - Dr. Mary Verstraete, UA Professor of Biomedical Engineering (Retired)"50 State Bucket list- the last four".
- Dec. 17** - Holiday Party (TBA)

BOARD MEETINGS 2025

Aug. 28 • Sep. 25 • Oct. 23 • Dec. 4 • Jan. 22
Feb. 26 • Mar. 26 • Apr. 23 • May 28 • Jun. 25

SAVE THE DATES

- Nov. 6, 2025** Soup and Chili Supper, Goodyear Metro park
- Apr. 24, 2026** Road Trip (TBA)
- May 15, 2026** 25th annual Lobster and Suds Party (TBA)



Seated: Richard Milford, Mary Verstraete, Kathy DuBose, Richard Steiner, Harvey Sterns, Linda Sugarman

Standing: George Haritos, Dan Sheffer, Tom Nichols, Doug Hausknecht, Tom Vukovich, Martha Vye, Mel Vye, Ali Hajjafar, Robert Huff, Rita Klein

Our Motto

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