

THE AUAR NEWSLETTER

The Association of The University of Akron Retirees



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2017-2018

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President's Message

The Association of The University of Akron Retirees is about to embark on its 20th year! We could not have been so successful without the hard work of all of our past presidents – Bob Ferguson, Alberta Hensley, Ed Lasher, Velma Pomerence, Tom Vukovich, Hank Nettling, Bob Gandee, June Burton, and Diane Vukovich. I hesitate to add my name to this illustrious list. AUAR must now rely on a mathematician to serve as president! Go figure! Can the membership count on me? Rest assured! How many mathematicians does it take to screw in a light bulb? Fortunately, the answer is .99999...

Much has also been accomplished in the past by all who have served on the Executive Board of AUAR. Look at the great list to the left of this message! AUAR is in good hands! We are happy to welcome two new at-large members. In the last election, Cathy Edwards ran successfully for Vice President and her unexpired term became vacant. Jo Ann Collier accepted our invitation to fill that position. Also in the last election, Dan Sheffer was elected President-Elect. Mel Vye agreed to fill out Dan's at-large term.

Currently, we have more than 330 active members and our scholarship fund has grown to more than \$103,000! Congratulations to our membership for meeting our goal of \$100,000 in the endowed scholarship fund by our 20th year, 2018! For the 2017-2018 school year, we have been able to award two \$2000 scholarships. Brook Kendra, a senior majoring in English education, and Jonathan Masters, a junior majoring in accounting are the recipients of these scholarships. The Board has set a goal of \$150,000 in the fund by our 25th year, 2023!

With time comes change, and two of our most committed, long time Board members are looking to phase down. Bob Blankenship has been the AUAR treasurer for almost all of the years the organization has been in existence. He is one of the reasons we are in great financial shape! Not only is his past outstanding work with our finances evident with every report he gives at our monthly meetings, he does not own a boat nor a second home! The Board needs help in finding someone who can take over his duties; first, as his assistant and then to agree to run for the position in our next election.



Outgoing President Diane Vukovich is presented with a Recognition Certificate in thanks for her leadership.

Tom Vukovich has scheduled our luncheon speakers for over 15 years, and, as you know, he has provided us with many, many interesting speakers. He has notified the Board that he will step away from that task starting in 2018. He plans to continue working on the Program Committee, along with Diane, in handling the luncheon food arrangements with Aramark. He and Diane will also continue to plan all the special social activities – Soup and Chili Dinner in November, Brunch and Play in February, April Bus Trip, and Lobster and Suds. Another reason that he may be stepping down from the speaker scheduling duties is that he has run out of those UA umbrellas he has given out to our past presenters!

If you can help out with the Treasurer position or with the scheduling of luncheon speakers, it would be greatly appreciated. Just contact me or any Board member. Also, let any one of us know of any suggestions you may have for speakers. Fortunately for us, Tom has already set up the speaker schedule for this fall!

Another change that has occurred in the past year is that we have a new umbrella organization watching out for our interests. POP5 is lobbying on our behalf to stop threats to our defined benefit retirement plan. (See the article in this newsletter.)

Enjoy reading the rest of the newsletter. We appreciate the wonderful work of our editor, Pam Rupert! Best wishes for the coming year. I hope to see you at our social functions!

Neal C. Raber

**Neal C. Raber
President 2017-18**

Passing the Gavel To new President Neal Raber



In Memoriam

Editorial note: Please alert us to any member of our "University Family" whom we have overlooked.

With our condolences to their families and friends, we honor our colleagues and friends for their many contributions in making the University a better place.

David Adolph, 79, died February 12, 2017. Mr. Adolph was a member of the "Mogadore Adolph Family" and the brother of the University of Akron Retiree, Dr. Tom Adolph. Over his 55-year career, Dave had worked at various levels of football. While a student at the University of Akron, he was an All-Conference guard in football and returned to teach and coach football in 1963-1964.

Dana Furth Castle, 85, passed away January 8, 2017. After receiving her Law Degree in 1973, Dean Rakas offered her a teaching position in the Law School, from where she retired in 2000.

Kim C. Calvo, 65, died April 2, 2017. During his 33-year tenure with the University of Akron, he served as the Chair of the Department of Chemistry (2006-2016) and as Associate Dean of the Buchtel College of Arts and Sciences (2012-2014). Dr. Calvo played a central role in implementing the Biochemistry Degree and associated laboratory classes at the University.

Hamilton DeSaussure died peacefully in his home on February 23, 2017, at age 95. Before joining the University School of Law, where he served approximately 25 years, he served his country in the Army Air Corps during World War II. He was a bomber pilot flying a B-24 Liberator (the "Miss I Hope") from Cerignola, Italy, and received a certificate of Valor for 35 missions over enemy territory, the Distinguished Flying Cross with 3 Oak Leaf Clusters for extraordinary achievement in aerial flight, and other medals. He was also called up during the Korean conflict and had assignments in Japan & Germany, finally resigning from the military in 1970. He got his law degree from Harvard University while still on active duty status.

Margaret "Peggy" Elias, 72, passed away on January 24, 2017. Although not a faculty member or a staff employee of the University of Akron, Peggy was an awesome benefactor to the University. For this commitment, Peggy was named "Honorary Alumna" in 1997. In recent years, she has provided much support to the College of Business Administration and was instrumental in the establishment of the Edward G. Elias Bowling Center in the Student Union. Her most recent commitment was supporting students through the annual Edward G. Elias Bowling Tournament offering cash prizes in support of the students' tuition.

Pauline Franks died January 30, 2017. She joined the staff of Bierce Library, serving first as Reference Librarian, then Head of Public Services, and finished her final 3 years in the position of University Librarian before retiring in 1983.

Bessie (Coon) George died May 25, 2017. Bessie worked ten years in the Registration Department before retiring from the University.

Margaret (Garnick) Goda, 93, passed away on April 27, 2017. She retired with 25-years of services at the University of Akron, but was proud to say that she worked for the Goodyear Tire during World War II.

Jack E. Hibbs, 84, died July 24, 2017. He worked as a librarian at the University. Those of us on campus during the era of Jack's tenure will always remember his smiling face.

David E. Hinebaugh, 83, died March 29, 2017. David spent the last twenty years of his working career at the University of Akron as a Testing Specialist in the University's Counseling and Testing Center.

Dr. Jim L. Jackson, 81, died May 26, 2017. He taught in the Geology Department for 26 years. During this time, he began and directed the Center for Environmental Studies in the Cuyahoga Valley.

Dr. Chaman Kashkari, 83, died March 23, 2017. Dr. Kashkari retired from the University of Akron in 1994 as an emeritus professor. He devoted his research career to the use of technology in providing electricity and water to villages in Africa, India and Nepal. In recognition of his research efforts, he was presented the Presidential End Hunger Award by President George H. W. Bush.

Alan G. Krigline, 80, died April 17, 2017. He retired from the University of Akron where he was a professor of Management and International Business.

Ruthie (Anderson) McCloude, 71, passed away on December 22, 2016. She retired from the University of Akron in 1997.

Henry "Hank" Nettling, 81, died March 26, 2017. Hank arrived in Akron, Ohio from Hungary with his parents in 1947. During his 39-year tenure with the University, Hank served the University primarily as Controller while retiring as Vice President Emeritus for Business and Finance in 2002. He was awarded the honorary degree of Doctor of Humane Letters upon retiring. After retirement, he was very active with the AUAR serving as its President.

Robin Pelton, 60, passed away on February 2, 2017. Robin was an active member AUAR after serving as a Testing Specialist with the University.

Elizabeth "Betty" Behr Seiberling, 96, passed away on May 23, 2017. Betty was a member of the University of Akron Women's Club. She was the widow of the late John Seiberling who was instrumental in the establishment of the Cuyahoga Valley National Park.

Thomas Peterson, 82, died April 23, 2017. After receiving his Masters in Management, he taught at the University of Akron.

Howard L. Stephens, 97, passed away on 24, 2017. His teaching career of over 30 years started in 1950 as a Research Chemist and he retired as the Department Head of Polymer Science.

Mary C. (Vassalotti) Verderico, 98, passed away on March 5, 2017. Mary joined the University of Akron Department of Physical Facilities in 1977 and retired in 1982.

WHAT IS POP5? -Neal Raber

Protect Ohio Pensions is a super advocacy association consisting of members from each of Ohio's five public pension systems: Public Employees, State Teachers, School Employees, Police & Fire, and Highway Patrol. It was formed to support and protect the defined benefit pension plans of the five groups. The purpose of POP5 is to educate members on issues that could impact the stability of the funds and on the ability of the funds to continue providing a meaningful retirement pension and benefit package. Additionally, POP5's mission is to educate the public about the cost savings to them, and the economic value to their local communities, of maintaining Ohio's current pension programs.

The organization was incorporated on January, 28, 2016 by William Winegarner, Leslie Foor, and Mary Winegarner. On September 9, 2016, the law firm of Carpenter, Lipps, & Leland was hired to represent members and to protect the defined benefit pension plans before the Ohio General Assembly and others. Steve Buehrer, partner and head of the public policy practice at the firm, is leading the effort.

The association is led by men and women who have years of Pension Fund legislative experience. They know what to look for and how to recognize any potential threat to the current retirement systems. William Winegarner served for 22 years as Administrator of Public Employees Retirees, Inc., an advocacy group for OPERS members. Steve Buehrer, Esq. has spent more than 25 years in public service. He was a member of the Public Employees Retirement System Board, a state representative, and a member of the governor's cabinet as Administrator of the Ohio Bureau of Worker's Compensation.

POP5 started receiving memberships in September 2016. The membership total as of June, 2017 is 11,401. There are 5,696 OPERS, 4,549 STRS, and 1,155 SERS members. Of those, over 3300 have selected the lifetime membership option. At this point in time, only retirees have been contacted to join. Beginning in 2018, POP5 will contact current workers who are enrolled in the Ohio pension systems.

Each day, the leadership team at POP5 is seeking new opportunities to reach out and partner with groups that are willing to aid in taking action to support defined pension systems. The leadership is continually monitoring the Ohio General Assembly for any new proposals that could hinder the efficient management or the fundamental purpose of the pension systems.

Much more information about why we need this advocacy organization to protect our pension systems against outside threats can be found at the web site POPOFFICE@POP5.ORG. As a charter member, I encourage you to join me and consider becoming a member of POP5. A membership application form can be found on the web site. Dues are \$20 annually and \$200 for a lifetime membership.

RETIREE DEPENDENT BENEFITS

On January 1, 2017, the University of Akron changed their health care provider from APEX to Anthem.

With this change a problem was created for many retiree dependents over the age of 65. Somehow a retiree dependents list went to Medicare listing most if not all retiree dependents as active employees. Medicare becomes a secondary insurer for retirees over 65 who are active employees. When claims were submitted for those retiree dependents who were listed as active employees, Medicare rejected those claims stating that Medicare was not the primary insurer. Anthem also rejected these claims because they were not the primary insurer. Some retiree dependents were sent Medical bills by providers stating that there was no insurance and they were responsible for the bills. Hopefully no retiree dependents paid those erroneous bills. In March, Anthem said they were working hard on correcting this and the University thought the errors had been corrected. Most retiree dependents had their information corrected by the middle of April 2017. But there was at least one retiree dependent who "fell through the cracks". (Anthem's words) and their records were still not corrected as of early July 2017. Hopefully by now every retiree dependent has had their records corrected. If a retiree dependent finds that their medical claims were rejected by Medicare because Medicare considered that claimant's coverage as secondary, the claimant should call Anthem and the University Benefits office immediately to have their records corrected. This error should have never occurred and should have been promptly fixed for all retiree dependents. What this incident does is alert us to the fact that we need to review all our medical bills and explanations of benefits (EOBs) carefully. If we do not understand those documents we should call the appropriate office.

STRS health benefit premiums will not increase for 2018. Based on STRS newsletters members can probably anticipate premium increases and/or changes in benefits in future years.

Earlier this year we learned that there would no longer be STRS cost of living increases after July 1, 2018 for STRS retirees.

AUAR Retiree, Leona Farris, Reaches Milestone Birthday



On August 12, 2017 Leona Wright Farris celebrated her 100th birthday with family and friends at the Silver Run Vineyard & Winery near Doylestown.

Mrs. Farris retired from The University of Akron in 1988. She was one of the first African-American women to be appointed to the full-time faculty. Leona served in the Home Economics Department for nearly 20 years. Her list of community service and leadership accomplishments is long and varied. They range from being the founding President of the Akron Chapter of Jack & Jill, Inc. to serving as an alternate delegate to the White House Council on Aging.

Leona says that her motto has always been "Eat Right, Exercise and Do Something for Someone Else". That sounds like sage advice. Take heed fellow retirees!

What are they doing now???

1993 retiree **Dr. Don R. Gerlach**, Professor Emeritus of History, has been nominated a Trustee of the Nebraska State Historical Society Foundation in recognition of his contributions to the 150th state sesquicentennial funds, his activities in local history research and his historical preservation work including the provision of State Historical Society markers in his hometown of Harvard. With his bequest of the family farm to the Historical Society Foundation, his name will be inscribed on a room in the State Historical Society Headquarters with a view along the mall to the State Capitol where he worked as a guide in the summer after his first year at the University of Nebraska (1950-51). He continues his work to prepare additions to the Harvard History book published in 1973, his participation in the Community Club and the Harvard School Board to which he was re-elected in November 2016.

Exploring the retirees' association web page.

If you haven't yet had a chance, why not take a few minutes and explore our web page. We regularly add information to keep you apprised of our group opportunities for socializing (luncheons and speakers, or special events in the Akron area), your benefits and the latest actions of the University of Akron Retirees Board. You might wish to know a bit of our history, or if you are having trouble sleeping, you may want to read our constitution just before going to bed.

The University of Akron
The Association of the University of Akron Retirees

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Welcome from the President of the Association of the University of Akron Retirees

Dear Retiree:

As The Association of The University of Akron Retirees (AUAR) enters its 18th year, we have so many things of which to be proud. First and foremost we are proud of our members, who support AUAR in so many ways by

AUAR updates
Contact information for retirement systems
Academic encourager positions available: [More information.](#)

The Association web site is located at: www.uakron.edu/auar. Enter this address one time and bookmark the page that opens for future visits. Some enter University of Akron retirees in one of the search engines on their browsers and then follow the results of their search to our web site.

Once in our AUAR home page, you can click on any of the topics listed on the left hand edge of the page to automatically go to information you are interested in reading. Topics include: History, Board Members (contact information), Constitution, Board Minutes, Luncheons/Speakers, Special Events, Newsletter (current and past editions), Announcements, Post-Retirement Benefits and Membership Brochure (information and application). The home page also has a link to the contact list of all retired faculty and staff of the University of Akron. If you have suggestion for items to include on our web page, please let us know.

FACULTY SENATE SPRING 2017

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

- Approved a motion that the Ph.D. program in Counseling Psychology (that was offered by the Department of Psychology of the College of Arts and Sciences and the School of Counseling of the College of Health Professions) be consolidated and be housed in the Department of Psychology.
- Approved a motion to amend rule 3359-60-30.3 on repeating courses. (*A student may repeat a course more than two times at The University of Akron by permission of the appropriate dean.*)
- Approved the reorganization of the School of Family and Consumer Sciences into three new separate departments: Child and Family Development, Fashion Merchandising, and Interior Design.
- Approved courses for inclusion in the forthcoming General Education Program and approved a motion reestablishing a process for expedited approval of existing courses for the general education learning outcome credit.
- Approved a motion for undergraduates taking graduate-level courses for credit toward their undergraduate degrees - they would not to be charged more for taking those courses than they would be charged for taking undergraduate courses.
- Approved a resolution that affirmed the support for international students and international employees of The University of Akron.
- Adopted a motion approved by the Graduate Council:
 - 1 - The graduate school will no longer fund stipends for RAs.
 - 2 - For Community/Industrial grants, the tuition waiver for students cannot exceed the value of the stipend and they will be considered as in-state tuition paying students.
 - 3 - Stipend and tuition waiver should not exceed the required number of credit hours. Exceptions should be made on a case-by-case basis and the decisions whether to grant exceptions should be made individually rather than categorically. Waivers should not exceed 120 hours if full-time status during the summer is necessary.
 - 4 - The Graduate Council recommends that approximately 30% of the current funding will be maintained for terminal MS programs. This is subject to an annual review of the funding.

Dr. Geezer's Clinic...

An old geezer became very bored in retirement and decided to open a medical clinic.

He put a sign up outside that said: "Dr. Geezer's clinic. Get your treatment for \$500, if not cured, get back \$1,000."

Doctor "Young," who was positive that this old geezer didn't know beans about medicine, thought this would be a great opportunity to get \$1,000. So he went to Dr. Geezer's clinic.

Dr. Young: "Dr. Geezer, I have lost all taste in my mouth. Can you please help me??"

Dr. Geezer: "Nurse, please bring medicine from box 22 and put 3 drops in Dr. Young's mouth."

Dr. Young: Aaagh !! -- "This is Gasoline!"

Dr. Geezer: "Congratulations! You've got your taste back. That will be \$500."

Dr. Young gets annoyed and goes back after a couple of days figuring to recover his money.

Dr. Young: "I have lost my memory, I cannot remember anything."

Dr. Geezer: "Nurse, please bring medicine from box 22 and put 3 drops in the patient's mouth."

Dr. Young: "Oh, no you don't, -- that is Gasoline!"

Dr. Geezer: "Congratulations! You've got your memory back. That will be \$500."

Dr. Young (after having lost \$1000) leaves angrily and comes back after several more days.

Dr. Young: "My eyesight has become weak -- I can hardly see anything!!!!"

Dr. Geezer: "Well, I don't have any medicine for that so, here's your \$1000 back." (giving him a \$10 bill)

Dr. Young: "But this is only \$10!"

Dr. Geezer: "Congratulations! You got your vision back! That will be \$500."

Moral of story -- Just because you're "Young" doesn't mean that you can outsmart an "old Geezer."

Remember: Don't make old people mad. We don't like being old in the first place, so it doesn't take much to tick us off.

ENJOY YOUR DAY !!



Pam: How delightful to be able to speak with you. You have so many accomplishments & interests that it's hard to know where to begin. You are fresh from a trip to Italian wine country and were out at jFirestone golf course for the Bridgestone World Championship, I see. We will want details, but first let's establish your UA connections & early years. You were born in West Virginia but graduated from Tallmadge HS, then got a B.A. From Ohio University, and finally a PhD. From Wisconsin, Madison. What led you there?

John: All my professors at O.U. were from Wisconsin, and one thing led to another, so I too became a cheesehead.

P: I've met Wisconsinites at various conferences, including New Orleans. They were always having a good time!

J: Always happy to go to warmer places! I then joined University of Akron in 1969 & retired in 2000 as Emeritus Professor, School of Communication.

P: While there you held numerous positions, including Director of the Basic Speech Course, Director of the School of Communication, and Assistant & Associate Dean in the College of Fine Arts. What are some of your fondest memories?

J: I was very pleased to begin my tenure under President Auburn. We had just become a State University, so it was a very good time to be there. Under his leadership we had substantial growth. I moved my office every year as we expanded, it seemed, & often was in an annex.

P: I remember those very vital times as I arrived there about then, too. You were also involved in the political aspects, serving on University Council for 20 years in various capacities: President Pro Tem, Parliamentarian, & Chair of Academic Policies, Calendar & Curriculum Committee. How do you look back on your service?

J: Well, someone had to do it... Actually I just in general enjoyed being an active participant. It was a very rich time of shared governance; a very good time to be part of the process in a joint body with administration that sustained & built programs.

P: I noted that you also served in other capacities, including President & Provost search committees & the North Central Review. Anyone at these levels we can hold you responsible for? (Laugh)

J: I was on the search committee for Dr. Marini and Peggy Gordon Elliott.

P: Another interesting time in our history. Any insights?

J: Initially unknown to us was P. Elliott's interest in distance learning. Shortly after arriving she summoned me and requested me to specifically be in charge of such a program. I first said "No," but several weeks later was approached again & finally agreed. It turned out to be an interesting chapter in my activities on campus. I became the first Director of Alternative Instructional Delivery & initiated the first distance learning graduate program with the Joint Master of Social Work program with Cleveland State University. It functioned very well, & turned out to be a very successful & interesting piece of University history; not central but serving a useful place.

P: you had some other less academic activities as well while on campus. You played in both the Akron & Ashland university golf leagues and count former president Marion Ruebel, David Jamison & David Buchthal as some of your favorite partners. Did you discuss the political scene?

J: Not so much. Generally my biggest concern was how to get out from behind that tree!

P: Understandable. Also you were involved with the School of Music and were cast in several operas productions. Such as?

J: I participated in events when they needed a tenor. Three come to mind: *the Marriage of Figaro, the Bartered Bride, & Gianni Schicchi*.

P: Now that last one did not ring a bell, so I looked it up! A one-act comedy opera based on something from Dante's Divine Comedy. You also have sung with the Akron symphony Chorus and the Ashland Chorus. Which reminds me, you went to Ashland University after retiring from U.A.

J: As to singing, it's one thing I've been able to sustain while doing my day job. But I was at Ashland until 2013, 8 years as Dean of Arts & Sciences, then stayed onto head the North Central Review Process. While there I also led in establishing the first graduate program in Arts & Sciences and created their first distance learning components.

P: Now it would seem you have more time to devote to travel & wine. I believe you own property in the Piedmont region of Italy, at the foothill of the Alps with Switzerland to the north & France to the west. And you import their wines. I believe Barolo, Barbaresco, & the Nebbiolo grape are from that region. How did you come to choose that area?

J: My wife's parentage is from that area; it is one of the most important wine producing regions of Italy. We are in the little town of Cravanzana. The people are wonderful; friendly, generous. Our house is enfolded by a grove of hazelnuts, a major crop of the area.

P: Hazelnuts! I didn't realize. We seem to associate Italy with olives, & Capri, lemons.

J: Well we have neither! Except as a decorative feature. But hazelnuts are very important here. Piedmont is also famous for it's truffles & wild boar.

P: Sounds wonderful! What else do you do when over in Italy? Go to the opera?

J: **Yes we do. Torino has a lovely opera house, newly renovated; they kept the facade, but the interior is completely new. It's not too far away so makes for a pleasant evening.**

P: Speaking of your wife, Leona, how did you meet her?

J: **We met singing in a theatre production in Cape Cod. That worked out well so we moved forward. We just celebrated our 50th year anniversary and are working on the second. Good-so far... She is a talented musician herself; taught elementary school music and is my favorite accompanist when I sing.**

P: And you have 3 talented children. But the world moves on. We enjoy your letters to the editor, and know you have stayed interested in the welfare of the University.

J: **Actually the start of a transition in the culture of the campus came just as I left when they voted to unionize. It was reflected in the atmosphere toward shared governance. This latest chapter was very sad; I'm glad it's over & done with. Currently things are looking up. President Wilson is very affable & engaging. I am reluctant to make any strong predictions as I am not on campus, but I see a bright future.**

P: Well, please keep up your knowledgeable & articulate Letters to the Editor! Do share your thoughts at our monthly luncheons, too. And we need another wine tasting party with you to reacquaint us with those fabulous Piedmont wines. Ciao!



Rain Greets Lobster & Suds Guests

The annual AUAR Lobster & Suds party was held on Friday, May 19, 2017. While the unpredictable spring weather produced a misty rain outside for the "Lobster Boys", i.e., cooks, AUAR members and guests enjoyed the cozy amenities available inside Zwisler Hall.

It was good to see new and "old" friends. Dick Henry was escorted by his son, Jim. Bill and Minnie Pritchard shared a table with their friends, Don & Shirley O'Hare. At another table, Wanda Tettlebach and her guests chatted with Fred and Erika May. Among the "first timers" were Tom Kellar, newly retired from UA and Dan and Lisa Fouser, relatives of Ken and Marilyn MacDonald.

Thanks go out to the experienced members of the Lobster & Suds Committee who keep the event organized and fulfill the many duties that make this event such a success.

Due to construction, Zwisler Hall will not be available to us in May 2018. The AUAR Board is looking for a suitable venue to host this end-of-the-year tradition just for next year. The Lobster & Suds Party has been held at Zwisler Hall since 2011. We expect to return there is 2019. Stay tuned.



Rita Klein, Sharon Gandee, Judy Lasher and Pam Rupert



Wine stewards Pam Rupert and Neal Raber



Charlie von Spiegel and Kathy & Hans Sbinden



3-Lobster Circus



Minnie Pritchard, Velma Pomrenke and friend



Linda & Sharon



John & Nancy Mulhausan and Leslie & Roger Bain



The 50-50 Raffle guys, Neal Raber and Tom Vukovich

cont. on page 7



Diane Lazzarini, June Burton and friend Patty



Barry & JoAnne Collier and Phyllis Fitzgerald



Our larger group



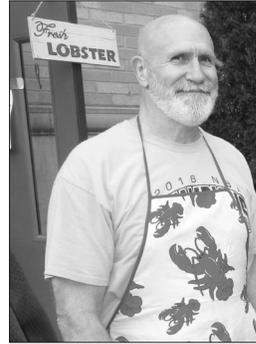
Our Special Guests



Chris and Pam Collins



The AUAR Lobsterians of 2017: Bob Fritz, Bud Marston and Loren Hoch



A determined Lobsterian

Rain Greets Lobster & Suds Guests cont...

Retirees Enjoy Coach House Theatre's "Mousetrap"



Glenn Atwood and Tom Vukovich



Judy Lasher and Caesar & Linda Carrino



President Diane Vukovich & Tom



Anticipation and a "how to" lesson for Glenn and Mary Ellen Atwood

Three blind mice; three blind mice. These three notes that were played during Agatha Christie's "The Mousetrap" at Coach House Theatre continued to ring in the ears of many who attended the play on February 12, 2017. Christie's play was filled with suspense and acted skillfully by veteran actors, who kept the production moving at a fast pace.

A group of people visiting a newly opened bed-and-breakfast in England during the winter of 1952 is stranded by a snowstorm. A guest is murdered and suspicion is cast upon everyone in the manor house. Just who is the murderer, who will be next and what is the motive behind these dastardly deeds?

Trying to figure out the answers to these questions before the unexpected climax is always fun. For this play, the culprit was difficult to determine. Many guesses were tossed about during the intermission. No one acknowledged having figured out "who did it" as we filed out into the late afternoon sunshine.

Over the past several years, an annual February production of one of Dame Christie's murder mysteries has become a staple at Coach House. Now it has become an anticipated event for the AUAR members. This year 60 retirees and guests attended the play and 42 enjoyed brunch at the Akron Woman's City Club prior to the matinee performance.

Since the Theatre has only 93 seats, AUAR is moving toward taking over the "house" for one of the Sunday performances in February. In fact, we had a "wait list" for tickets after increasing our pre-registration numbers twice. We look forward to another Christie play and the fun of trying to outwit the "Queen of Crime" in 2018.



Hans & Kathy Zbinden



Neal & Jackie Raber



Glenn Atwood and Neal Raber



Front Row:
Linda & Caesar Carrino

Next Row:
Mary Ellen & Glenn Atwood

Retirees Enjoy Coach House Theatre's " Mousetrap " cont...

"Antarctica" is the February Luncheon Topic



Madeline & Richard Milford
and President Diane Vukovich



Tom Vukovich and our
luncheon speaker Claire Purdy



Minnie Pritchard and Shirley &
Don O'hara



Tom Vukovich presents our
speaker, Claire Purdy, with our
appreciation gift.

While Northeast Ohio was experiencing a very mild winter during February 2017, a large group of U of A retirees and friends appeared to be missing our typical mix of wind, ice and snow here in Akron. So they came to AUAR's February luncheon to hear Claire Purdy tell about her recent trip to Antarctica.

Claire received her B.S. in Accounting from The University of Akron; and after working in business for several years, returned to the University as the Assistant Controller. After helping to implement the University-wide People Soft System, she devoted most of her energy to maintaining and improving that system as Director of Financial Systems Analysis. She retired from the University in 2015.

Claire and her husband, Mark, are avid hikers and bird watchers. They planned this trip to the Antarctic region to complete their "bucket list" of visiting all seven continents.

Their adventure started in Ushusia, Argentina on a 55-passenger vessel with other travelers, most of whom were from Australia. After a three-day voyage across the windy Drake Passage, they arrived at King George Island, part of the Shetland Island Chain. Later their ship took them to the Antarctic Peninsula, which is part of the continent of Antarctica, a landmass larger than the United States. Ninety-eight percent of Antarctica is covered in ice and it contains 70% of all the fresh water and 90% of all the ice on the planet.

During their adventure, they saw six species of whales and many types of seals, from the large elephant seal to the cute but aggressive fur seal. They also encountered "tons" of penguins including the Adele (with their distinctive white marking around the eyes), chin straps (marked with a thin black line under – what else – their chins), Gentoo (with an hour-glass shaped white mark across the top of their head) and the colorful Macaroni's (with yellow tufts on each side of their head). The most numerous penguins they met were the King Penguins, standing over 3 feet tall and second in size to the Emperor penguins.

One especially interesting stop was on Grytviker Island where they visited the grave of the British explorer, Sir Ernest Shackleton. His heroic exploits over 100 years ago are legendary. Later after visiting Deception Island with its abandoned whaling station, the ship turned north with stops at the South Georgia Islands and Falkland Islands.

Claire and Mark are excellent photographers. Their pictures were National Geographic quality! Claire's presentation was enjoyed by all, especially Tom and Diane Vukovich and Glen and Mary Ellen Atwood. Both couples had previously visited Antarctica many years ago. Their respective trips to this remote continent are among their most memorable.

The Story of POW, John J. Mohn



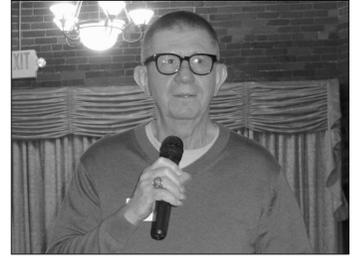
Minnie and Bill Pritchard and their friends Shirley and Don O'Hara.



Tom Vukovich and Bill Beyer with President Mathew Wilson.



Tom with our Luncheon speaker Mandy Altimus Pond.



Neal Raber, Master of the 50-50.

Inspiring, touching and incredible were just a few of the comments made by attendees after hearing the story told by Many Altimus Pond, our luncheon speaker on March 8. You may have heard of the Balaan March and surrender of 75,000 troops to the Japanese Army during WWII or perhaps The Malmedy Massacre in December 1944, but what about the unbelievable forced march over 1,200 miles by captive American soldiers during the "Battle of the Bulge"?

Mandy Pond and her mother, Deborah Altimus, brought to life the true story of Deb's father, John J. Mohn, a former army ROTC cadet and graduate of The University of Akron. John Mohn was "drafted" in 1941 and joined the Army after being rejected by Navy doctors because of "bad teeth". He was assigned to the Army Signal Corp and later joined the U.S. forces in Operation Overlord, or "D" Day in June 1944. Later as part of the 106th Division, he walked across France to join American troops along a battle line near St. Vith, Belgium. The German counter attack would later be referred to as the "Battle of the Bulge".

During this well-known WWII battle, little reference is usually made about the 7,000 American soldiers taken prisoner. This group, which included John J. Mohn, was marched continuously for 140 days over 1,200 miles because their German captors had no place to send this many POW's.

Mandy expertly depicted the horrendous treatment suffered by these men during their ordeal. The account was taken from her grandfather's memoirs and later verified and published in a book entitled, "Force March from the Bulge to Berchtesgaden". This fascinating story of hardship, inhuman treatment, starvation, perseverance and the will of the human spirit to endure left not a dry eye among the members of the audience.

Among the most telling and interesting events described by Major Mohn were acts of kindness he received from a Polish family who gave him food to eat and rations to share with fellow prisoners during the march through their town. Another shocking event was the shift of emotions when the prisoners were told to get into boxcars for a train ride to another destination. The men were so happy to get some shelter from the cold and a place to rest their weary bodies. Then they heard the drone of U.S. and allied aircraft and were being fired upon. Seven hundred of them were killed before they were able to signal the planes that they were POW's and not enemy soldiers.

Mandy also told the story about her grandfather's initial capture and being interviewed by a German officer. This interrogator spoke fluent English. He had spend time in the United States before the war and studied genealogy, concentrating on American citizens of German ancestry. He knew intimate details of Major Mohn's family background. His mission was to convince American GI's to join the 3rd Reich after the inevitable victory of the German forces over the Allies. Needless to say, the POW's did not take the officer and his efforts seriously.

The 1,200-mile march ended on May 2, 1945 but only after facing one more terrifying look into the "face of death". An irate and frustrated German officer lined up the few remaining POW's (between 30 and 100 were still alive), brought machine guns in place and ordered his men to open fire. The men were spared through the heroic efforts of a defiant Catholic priest. Moments later, American troops entered the area, captured the Germans and liberated John Mohn and the other prisoners. Major Mohn weighed only 63 pounds at the end of his ordeal.

Upon returning to Ohio, he married and graduated with a degree in Psychology from UA. He chose this field of study partly because of his experiences as a POW. His extraordinary life ended on January 25, 2005 at the age of 85.

If you wish to order the book published by John's family, it is available for \$22.95 plus tax at JohnMohn.com or on Amazon.com. It is a fascinating story about a local hero you didn't know had ties to The University of Akron.

April Luncheon features “My Fulbright Scholarship to Finland”



Speaker Susan Olson with Susan Hughes, Jaci Wilbanks, Ann Carian and friend



Bill Beyer and Loren Hoch



Speaker Susan Olson



Susan Olson with Bob and Sharon Gandy and Loren Hoch

About 40 AUAR members and guests attended the April 12th luncheon at Quaker Station. Our guest speaker was Susan Olson, Ph.D., Professor Emeritus of the LeBron James Family Foundation College of Education here at the University of Akron. Dr. Olson presented a very interesting and detailed account of her time in Finland as a Fulbright Fellow from August to December 2016. The timing of the fellowship was unique in that Dr. Olson had already retired from the University of Akron and was awarded this opportunity as a Professor Emeritus. Her many years of experience in the field of technical teacher education and curriculum development made her an ideal participant in this program funded by Finland. We followed the arrival of Dr. Olson and her husband as they adjusted to apartment life at the University of Helsinki. Dr. Olson described her office accommodations and described the many campuses of the university spread throughout Finland.

One of the highlights of the presentation was a description of the education system of Finland. Education is free to students at all levels from pre-school to the doctoral degree. Students begin pre-primary education at the age of 6 and then basic education from the age of 7 until the age of 16. Students wishing to attend Universities for undergraduate and graduate programs must pass a matriculation examination to qualify for admission.

Dr. Olson told of touring the many museums and sights of Finland and of the opportunities to visit Tallin, Estonia and Stockholm, Sweden. The slides of these trips were quite interesting. Dr. Olson concluded by telling us about a very special Thanksgiving celebration at the Fulbright Center as a treat for the American contingent and of the Finnish traditions for the Christmas holidays.

Many questions were asked by the luncheon participants and I'm sure more than a few were thinking of future trips to Finland.

AUAR Membership, Human Resources, The University of Akron, Buchtel Commons, Akron, OH 44325

If you haven't renewed your AUAR membership for the 2014-2015 year, it is time to do so. Don't forget our Scholarship fund where we provide some funding for a worthy student. Please complete the items listed below, and mail your check or checks to the address below. If you have an e-mail address, please submit it.

Name: First _____ Last _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

E-Mail Address: _____

Dues are **\$12.00**; make checks payable to "AUAR"
Scholarship Donation _____; make checks payable to the U of A Foundation

THE ASSOCIATION OF THE UNIVERSITY OF AKRON RETIREES

E-mail Digest SPECIAL EDITION

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 bobk@uakron.edu (Robert Kropff). Type *Digest Subscription* in the subject line of your email and request to be added to the subscription list in the message portion.

UPCOMING EVENTS FALL 2017/2018

The 2017-2018 AUAR Board



The AUAR Newsletter is a biannual publication of the Association of The University of Akron Retirees (AUAR), c/o Talent Development & Human Relations Department, The University of Akron, Akron, OH 44325-4730.

AUAR members receive our newsletter automatically. The AUAR Executive Board meets at 10:00 a.m. on the 4th Thursday of the month at the UA Alumni Office in InfoCision 203.

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, Dr. Pamela Rupert, can be reached at pamelarae2004@aol.com or 330-928-1810.

September 13, 2017

-Mel Vye, Travelogue:
"Return to Pitcairn Island"

October 11, 2017

-Bill Truax, "The life of Winston Churchill, The Man Who Saved Democracy for the World"

November 8, 2017

-John Burke "The Real Story of the First Thanksgiving"

February 14, 2018

-Prosecutor Sherri Bevan Walsh

March 14, 2018

-Professor Philip Thomson of the UA School of Music and his spouse, Yangsoon Kim, will be speaking on their Sezhuan-Tibet border travels

April 11, 2018

-Mark Price "Akron's Gangland war."

2017-2018 AUAR Meeting Schedule

Aug. 24, 2017
Sept. 28, 2017
Oct. 26, 2017
Dec. 7, 2017
Jan.25, 2018
Feb. 22, 2018
March 22, 2018
April 26, 2018
May 24, 2018
June 28, 2018

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

Our Motto

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

AUAR Newsletter printed and designed by The University of Akron Printing & Copying Services 2017

