From the President

As your AUAR is entering its second decade, I send you greetings from Akron. I would like to thank Tom Vukovich for his dedication and leadership as your President for the past two years. His shoes will be hard to fill. The summer solstice just passed and we look forward to a relaxing summer period after a fairly wet May and June.

The 2009-10 membership applications are coming in and if you have not sent us your $10 dues please do so as soon as possible. May I also remind you that you can include your contribution to the AUAR Endowed Scholarship Fund in the same check as your membership. At last count, the total contributions to-date amount to $30,916.

We have named our second scholar starting the fall semester 2009. The student is Caryn Collins, a junior dietetics major in the new College of Health & Human Services, formerly Fine and Applied Arts.

We are currently in the process of selecting the speakers for the monthly Robert Ferguson Luncheon Series and we promise you a wide variety of persons who will bring their unique perspective on issues and projects. We will also continue the special Day Trips which many have enjoyed. In addition, the popular annual Chili Supper, Holiday Party and Lobster and Suds events will be continued.

Members of your Executive Board will continue to follow local and statewide issues regarding pension, healthcare and other UA retiree benefits. For example, pension funds remain an attractive lure for money strapped State governments. You may be aware that our government had proposed using part of the Ohio PERS fund to balance the state budget. Fortunately that line was later dropped. The challenges we face are further articulated in the accompanying report on the May OCHER Conference (see page 2). All three retirement systems (STRS, SERS, and PERS) are currently reviewing plans regarding potential changes to our benefits. As we receive any news on these fronts we will advise you.

Our membership, this past year, stood at nearly 300. We need to bolster our ranks. Applications for 2009-10 are coming in daily. Have you sent yours? Numbers DO count when your Board participates with OCHER and ORTA in taking stands on issues which could effect your retirement. We are looking at the budget for 2010-11 and toward that end, we have reserved our OUAG funds. We will continue the AUAR Scholarship for 2009-10.

The AUAR Scholarship for 2009-10 has been awarded to Caryn Collins, a 1996 graduate of Norton High School. Caryn is scheduled to graduate from UA in May 2011. As a non-traditional student Caryn has earned an Associate degree in Culinary Arts and is anxious to further her career as a registered Dietitian. She has resigned her position as a Food Service Director at Elmcroft of Medina, an assisted living facility, to devote full-time to her classes. Right now she is in great need of financial assistance to reach her goals and sincerely thanks the members of AUAR for making it possible for her to pursue her career.

Please keep in touch with your Board and let us know your desires on anything we may be able to provide you.

President
The Conference Report

The word around the Statehouse in Columbus is, “... as soon as the Budget is completed the legislators will turn their attention to the five public employees’ pension funds.” In preparation for this debate relative to the state pension systems, the Ohio Council of Higher Education Retirees (OCHER) hosted a conference “Engagements and Actions for Public Retirement Systems.” This superb conference was spearheaded by the “OCHER Sparkplugs” Lou DiOrio and Richard Hill from the Ohio State Retirees Association (OSURA) in conjunction with the STRS Communication Director, Laura Eckler.

One major headline of the Conference was: With their combined monthly payrolls of $800 million, the state public employees’ retirement systems have a dramatic economic impact across the state. These monthly payrolls provide a major flywheel effect for the state’s economy during an economic down turn.

Eighty-seven individuals attended this May 19, 2009 conference in the STRS building in Columbus, Ohio. In addition to the representatives from the eleven four-year State institutions of Higher Education that constitute OCHER membership, other organizational representatives were Ohio State Teachers Retirement System (STRS), The American Association of University Professors (AAUP), the Ohio Federation of Teachers (OFT), Council of Retired Educators (CORE), Ohio Public Employees Retirement System (PERS), the Highway Patrolmen’s Retirement System of Ohio, the Ohio Education Association (OEA), the Ohio Retired Teachers’ Association (ORTA), State Universities Annuitants Association of Illinois, and the Ohio Retirement Study Council.

The STRS-Ohio Director of Governmental Relations, Terri Bierdeman, was the first key-note speaker describing her work with “National Coalitions of State Pension Systems.” She presented a few points of interest: 1. the importance of a few letters to your elected representative. 2. be alert to the situation with Social Security. Although Senator Voinovich vows to block the mandating of public employees to join Social Security, Peter R. Orszag, President Obama’s Budget Director maintains that public employees should be in the Social Security System.” 3. STRS and its allies are major players in pension lobbying and will get the information to you when we need to act quickly and effectively.

Beth Almeida, Executive Director of the National Institute for Retirement Study (NIRS), was the second key-note speakers. She shared the NIRS research report, “A Better Bang for the Buck: The Economic Efficiencies of Defined Benefit Pension Plans.” contrasting a Defined Benefits Plan (DBP) and the Defined Contributions Plan (DCP). Because of the efficiencies embedded in the DBP, the DBP is able to achieve essentially the same level of benefits for the retiree in retirement at about half the cost compared to the DCP. This cost reduction results from three factors: 1. DBP are able to pool the longevity risk; 2. DBP maintain an optimally diversified portfolio; 3. DBP permit the professional management of the funds. In her June 1, 2009 “Letter to the Editor,” Almeida labels as “Misguided” the May 21, 2009, Wall Street Journal’s editorial suggestion that California could deal with its budget problems by moving their public employee from a Defined-Benefits Pension into Defined- Contribution individual retirement accounts.

“Change is coming.” was the call of Artis Hutras, Executive Director Ohio Retirement Study Group (ORSG) www.orsg.org. One of the major dangers in a time of change is the intrusion and motivation of those who are initiating the change. Are they initiating change to avail themselves of the billions of dollars in pension funds at the determinate of the pensioners? The major issue is who is controlling the change. Hutras was adamant that the Board and Pensioners be willing to take the responsibility and make the changes necessary for sustaining the system. It is therefore critical that a high level of cohesion be maintained among the Retirement System staff and its membership for widespread disputation invites outside political intrusion.

In addition to the Governor’s proposed assault on the OPERS funds to cover the short-falls in the State Budget, panelists Mike Nehf, Executive Director of the STRS-Ohio, Larry Lewellen, The Ohio State University Human Resources Director, and Laura Ecklar, STRS-Ohio Communication Director, all alerted us as to the proposed changes that we might see in near future focusing on the cost of health care insurance and cost of living adjustments. Other issues of possible concern will be the minimum age of retirement, retirement formulas, and “pension envy.” When addressing pension envy, how the question is formulated is pertinent in soliciting a negative or positive response. To illustrate: 1. “Is it fair that public employees get such great benefits?” 2. “Would it not be good if all employees received the benefits that public employees receive?”

Politics is a contact sport! You must stay informed and stay in contact with your State Representative, State Senator and Governor. You may order the quad-folded Ohio Legislative and Government Directory listing the Senators and Representatives from the following:

Vincent Direct, LLC • 3560 Millikin Court • Columbus, OH 43228
Phone: 614.771.5440 • Fax: 614.771.5449 • e-mail: Ty Vincent@vincentdirect.com

FACULTY SENATE REPORT

Senators Don Gerlach and Bob Gandee report to the board monthly on the actions of the Faculty Senate. Issues dealt with during the spring term include the following:

1. A new disciplinary code was approved. Convictions for offenses must be based on “a preponderance of evidence” and in cases resulting in suspension or dismissal from the University “clear and convincing evidence” must be presented. Faculty and students appointed to hearing boards must have some training before serving.

2. The Senate approved the assigning of seats to the two Colleges created from the Fine and Applied Arts College, and approved creating an ad hoc committee to provide for the interests of part-time faculty.

3. The Senate approved the bylaws of the new University Council which provided for 4 faculty members, 4 contract professionals, 4 staff employees, 2 for graduate student government and 2 for associated student government.

4. A brochure containing the Provost’s report was distributed which described progress, including a 1000 increase in enrollment, a 2% increase in retention of freshmen, and a 13% increase in students from the top 20% of H.S. class.
The University of Akron to Saudi Arabia, but that’s where ten retirees, spouses and friends found themselves last April.

Our Saudi hosts were most gracious as we toured Tabouk, the provincial capital in northwestern Saudi Arabia, walked a pedestrian mall lined with shops, visited a floral factory where women were working in their burkas, and had lunch with a Bedouin tribe out in the desert, joining in their tradition of sitting on the carpet for our meal. (Chairs were provided, thankfully, for those who simple could not recline on the floor.) We women had to wear galabeyas - a dress covering us from neck to toe. With our athletic shoes we made quite a fashion statement! For entertainment our Bedouin hosts presented a sword dance. Diane Vukovich was enlisted to dance with them which she did with great grace and did not decapitate anyone with her sword.

But Saudi Arabia was only one day of a 19-day exhausting but very interesting trip to Jordan, Saudi Arabia, the Suez Canal and Egypt.

Highlights in Jordan were, first, a visit to Jerash, north of Amman – a city whose golden age dates back to 62 A.D and Alexander the Great. Adding to the local color were hordes of school children on end of school year outings. Secondly, Petra far exceeds its reputation. Petra – meaning stone in Greek – is an apt title as most of the buildings have been carved from the sandstone of a deep canyon some 2000 years ago. Access is through the Siq – a ¾ mile long high narrow passage twisting and turning through the rock. Thirdly, the dramatic desert landscape of Wadi Rum with its sculpted rocks of unusual shapes was viewed as we jolted along in the backs of Land Rovers, vintage 1970s. But Saudi Arabia was only one day of a 19-day exhausting but very interesting trip to Jordan, Saudi Arabia, the Suez Canal and Egypt.

We all photographed the mountain known as the Seven Pillars of Wisdom. It is here that the legendary Lawrence of Arabia spent some time as he tried to assist the Arab Revolt in World War I.

Our one week sojourn on the vessel Athena was most pleasant except for encountering the tail end of a cyclone as we sailed toward the Suez Canal. Fifteen hours of 12-15 foot waves took its toll on many of us including some of the crew. The cruise through the canal, however, was calm and sunny.

In Egypt we were “wowed” by the usual – the Temples of Luxor and Karnack with their huge columns, colonnades and inscriptions; the tombs in the Valley of the Kings and Queens dug deep into the desert mountains; the Colossi of Memnon more than 3000 years old. And in Cairo the pyramids also built as tombs, the oldest, the Step Pyramid at Saqquar in the 27th century B.C. And then the Great Sphinx of Giza built around 2500 B.C., the body of a lion and the head of a king or god, staring serenely toward the Nile.

Sandwiched in between all of this was an evening with a Jordanian and an Egyptian family in their homes; visiting a school; leaving Zippy with our Croatian ship captain; eating typical mid-eastern food; seeing the tomb contents of Tutankhamen, including the famous gold funerary mask in the museum in Cairo; being entertained by Cairo’s chaotic traffic; and being educated about all Mid-East matters by our knowledgeable guides.

I want to say more, but our editor will edit. Suffice it to say it was a most worthwhile expenditure of time, treasure and energy.

by Velma Pomrenke
Pam: Tom and Diane, you are hardly strangers to our membership: Tom, you are our immediate Past-President and both of you co-chaired the program/activities committee as well as the 10th Anniversary celebration. So you have been leaders at almost all of our functions in recent years.

Tom: It’s been fun.

Pam: You both were well-known across campus before retirement, too, so we will want to find some not-so familiar information! But first let’s refresh our memories about your activities then. Tom, you retired as Associate Provost for Student and Enrollment Services in 2000, but 28 years earlier you came aboard as an Advisor of Students.

Tom: Yes, I was working on my M.A. at KSU and did an internship at Akron to get some experience in higher education. They made me Acting International Student Advisor for a few months while regular staff was away. (Some students had trouble with my name just like I had trouble with some of theirs!) But I got to know a lot of people at Spicer, so when positions opened in the spring I applied and was hired. About 6 years later when Dr. Ruebel became Dean of University College I became his Assistant. When he went up to Buchtel Hall I became Acting Dean and eventually joined him as Assistant Vice President of Student Affairs. (The names of offices kept changing but it was essentially Student Services.) As Associate Provost I was also involved in the selection of architects for the New Student Union and Recreation & Wellness Center.

Pam: That would have been an exciting time! You kept advancing in positions over the years. Diane, you were busy too during those years.

Diane: Yes, I started on my doctorate in Education at UA in 1972. The first course I took I think was from Dr. Ruebel! I was offered a Graduate Assistantship and managed the micro-teaching lab with Isabel Pfeiffer, 1973-75. I taught some education classes and also Basic Mathematics part time in Developmental Programs. Then in the fall of ’76 I became full-time as Coordinator of Mathematics, later adding Chemistry. I was Assistant Director and eventually Interim Director of Developmental Programs.

Pam: Diane, you got your B.A. from Youngstown State, M.A. from KSU, and PhD from Akron. Tom, you started at Ohio Northern, then KSU for M.A. and PhD. I’d like to go back, now, to those pre-UA days! You are both from the Youngstown area, but not the same sections. (Diane, you were in Girard). How did you two meet? Any good stories?

Tom: (laugh) Liberty Jr. High School. I was teaching science courses for 7th and 8th graders. There was another course taught by my teaching buddy, an advanced Biology course for the super good 9th grade students. When he moved up I thought I might get it, but NO, they hired Diane! I wasn’t even offered it!

Pam: She undercut you!

Tom: Yes, she stole my class! I was working three jobs at the time to earn extra money (teaching pay wasn’t great then); McDonald’s manager, Hertz Rent-a Car, and coaching Jr. High football. I decided to work on a Masters in Student Services at KSU. Diane was interested in their Biology Ed. Program, so we started riding back and forth together. We got to know each other better, and ended up marrying in 1970.

Diane: We were actually on our way to a class when the shooting took place in 1970; we ran into the barricades. Campus was off limits for weeks; class was held in the professor’s basement. There was no access to the library or any resources, but assignments weren’t curtailed!

Pam: No automatic “A,” I gather. Well, since being at UA, you both have kept in mind the struggles of being a student. Tom, in addition to your regular responsibilities you have been very active in an advisory capacity to student organizations such as Associated Student Government, Interfraternity Council and other aspects of the Greek system, including the Order of Omega. What is that?

Tom: The Order of the Omega is a Greek Honor Society. I helped start our chapter and was a founding advisor. We started a scholarship and have an annual golf outing, and former students keep coming back. It’s great to see how they turned out, knowing what hell-raisers they were as students! I found I really enjoyed meeting students on a different level than my official capacity, and continue it still.
Pam: Your interest in student activities started early. I understand in high school you were Student Council President and King of the senior prom! You currently have a long list of community organizations you participate in, often holding offices. One seemed especially appropriate: The Optimist Club. Why so named?

Tom: I guess because it works with youth, the hope of the future. I helped form this chapter back in the 80’s. We have a Student Volunteer Award, an essay contest and golf contest, for example. Tiger Woods won it in his town when he was 12 or 13!

Pam: Diane, what has always impressed us about you is your participation and leadership in organizations related to your profession and the community as a whole. For instance, you were President of the Association for Developmental Education at both the State and National level. (But perhaps we should clarify for our readers what that is.)

Diane: Yes, I generally refer to developmental education as all the academic support units at an institution of higher learning: labs, refresher courses, etc. The official State organization was formed in the 80’s when John Elder of Sinclair College pulled a few of us together. I was the first VP, then President, and later, served at the national level. Conferences could be fun. Once somehow we got booked into New Orleans at Mardi Gras time ---at conference rates! I was probably the only officer to ever get sworn in with a butterfly painted on her cheek!

Pam: Like Tom, you were active in honor societies as well, serving as President of local chapters of both Delta Kappa Gamma and Pi Lambda Theta. I know you also worked with the Akron Public Schools on numerous Mathematics Instruction Grants. In addition, you were President of UA Woman’s Club (formerly Faculty Women), and are currently very active on the Board of the Akron Woman’s City Club. I also see that you and Tom are “Edzoocaters.” Care to elaborate?

Diane: When we retired we promised our cat we would do something to help animals, so we volunteer at the Akron Zoo. The Zoo has many volunteer opportunities including a Summer Safari fundraiser, summer Zoo Camp, and “Boo at the Zoo” in the fall, complete with costumes. Local merchants provide treats.

Pam: We can picture you both in costume! I know you are also sports enthusiasts.

Tom: Yes, we have season tickets to all the football and basketball games, and are even sharing a luxury suite at the new stadium! It should be fun. We also like theater and attend Coach House and EJ Thomas events. It’s important to support things in the community.

Pam: You have also set up some scholarship endowments, I understand.

Tom: Yes, we have two for Science/Mathematics students, one in the UA College of Education and the other at Ohio Northern. The third, for graduate students, is with the Omicron Delta Kappa Society, a national leadership organization.

Pam: You also have a scholarship and an event named after you, I believe. There is the Order of Omega/T.J. Vukovich Award presented annually to outstanding students in the Greek system, and the Vukovich-Order of Omega Golf Classic, which is now in its 26th year. But for a change of subject, I know you two like to travel. You have organized numerous trips which included members of AUAR, such as Africa, Costa Rica, Holland, and the Middle East, but you also travel separately. Favorites?

Diane: We try to take at least one trip a year. We’ve been to all 7 continents. My favorite trip was to Antarctica. Nepal was great, too.

Pam: Diane, you have a reputation for being adventurous.

Tom: Not always wise! On her 40th birthday she went skydiving! Then while white water rafting I turned around and no Diane. There she was submerged in water except for an arm sticking up like the Lady of the Lake! We pulled her up just before hitting the rocks. And in Antarctica she swam in the ocean with snow falling.

Diane: Actually, I really hate water! And they pushed me off that raft! But in Antarctica there was a hot spring in the inlet so the water was bearable.

Pam: We can see you are always looking for new experiences! We hope your future experiences end happily as well so we can keep you both around. We know that anything you undertake will be well-organized and enjoyable, and we are glad you will be staying involved as program co-chairs on the Board. You make a great team. You have our heartfelt thanks and appreciation for all you both do for the organization, the University, and the community.
New Year Starts with President’s Address

January 2009 brought farewell speeches from President Bush and the inauguration address by President Obama. Here at The University of Akron, retirees hosted President Proenza as our speaker at the first monthly luncheon of 2009. The inclement weather did not stop a large member of retirees and friends of the institution from attending.

Dr. Proenza reflected on the progress made at the University during his ten years at the helm. Past progress and future plans were outlined in three themes. The “Landscape for Learning” was the first initiative and brought us the tremendous growth on campus with the closing of streets, increased green space, the creation of courtyards, walkways, plazas and terraces as well as the addition of new buildings and the renovation of others.

The second theme, “The Landscape for Living” was designed to revitalize the area surrounding the campus. This area, covering approximately 50 blocks, is being transformed via tremendous support from the Knight Foundation and various local public and private entities.

Finally, plans continue to be developed to increase academic opportunities for both faculty and students as “The Mindscape for Learning” initiative takes shape. This set of initiatives is enhancing the quality and quantity of incoming students and providing them with curricula in emerging fields of study. It is also providing incentives to faculty in support of their teaching and research. As this initiative continues to develop, it will further strengthen The University of Akron’s position and reputation as a strong, innovative and creative institution of higher education in Ohio and the country.

It was good to see Sebastian Kanakkanatt, Ken MacDonald, Ralph and LaBarbara Mundy, Chet and Jan Taffi, Diane Underman and Shirley Kalavitz in attendance. We also enjoyed seeing the unique LED candle that Dr. Kanakkanatt is continuing to refine and market.

We look forward to future meetings with Dr. Proenza and to developing increased opportunities for retirees to remain an active and integral part of The University of Akron.

February Luncheon

The February 11, 2009 luncheon program was a great success with an audience of 62 in attendance. Our speakers were Margo Snider, Executive Director of the Akron Symphony, and Christopher James Lees, Associate Conductor of the Akron Symphony Orchestra and Music Director of the Akron Youth Symphony. Margo’s presentation centered on the importance of music, art and theatre to the quality of life in the greater Akron community. Our local arts organizations contribute greatly not only to our area’s cultural life, but they also play a significant part in the economic well-being of the community. And in these difficult economic times support for the arts is more important than ever.

Following Margo’s talk, Chris Lees spoke of the importance of classical music to the individual, either through listening to music or by perhaps learning a musical instrument. He stressed that responding emotionally to music has definite benefits to the well-being of all of us, both physically and psychologically. Chris finished by reminding us of the Symphony’s upcoming tribute to Abraham Lincoln with an outstanding concert celebrating his 200th birthday complete with visual accompaniment by noted photographer James Westover, and also with guest narrator, Leon Bibb.

Margo invited those who would like to, to stay a few minutes afterwards for a short music lesson. Then after providing each of us with a recorder, she patiently taught us how to make sounds with it, and finally to play some simple melodies. We had fun with this exercise; however no particular musical talent was evident from the sounds we made.

March Speaker is an Akron Art Museum Volunteer

Our March 2009 luncheon speaker was Mr. Bob Dill, a docent at the Akron Art Museum. Bob, a retired businessman originally from St. Louis, has volunteered at the Museum for the past 12 years.

The audience learned many little known and interesting facts about the history of the Art Museum, which began as the Akron Institute of Art in 1922. A well known Akron civic and business leader, Edwin Shaw, was chairman of a committee that organized a group of 34 local artists and several business leaders to open the Institute. Its primary mission was to provide a place for artists to work with a secondary mission of giving them a place to display their works. Mr. Shaw’s personal collection of 65 pieces of modern art (from 1850 to the present) was bequeathed to the Institute in 1955 and was the basis for the present Museum.

From 1923 to 1965 the Akron Art Museum had several homes along East Market Street. It was first housed in the basement of the Carnegie Library, which was across the street from the Museum’s present location. The Museum was also located in the Coleman Mansion on Fir Hill, the M. O’Neil Building, and the former Akron Beacon Journal Building on Market Street, which now houses the Akron Art Space. From 1981 the former U.S. Post Office has been the location of the Museum.
**AUAR Events**

The large, modern addition opened in 2007. Featuring the “roof cloud” overhang, it makes an interesting and controversial architectural statement. Bob concluded his presentation by reminding us that the Akron Art Museum is not only a place to display and restore art but also has become a place for a wide variety of community activities. The new facility provides space for musical programs, educational opportunities and exhibits, private events such as parties and even weddings. In addition, he reminded the audience that several types of volunteer opportunities are available at the Akron Art Museum, especially for retirees. Any takers?

**April Luncheon**

Our April, 2009, Luncheon guest and speaker was A.G. Monaco, Associate VicePresident of Human Resources and Employee Relations for the University of Akron. A.G. had come to us from his stint with Southern Illinois University, where he had responsibilities on both the Carbondale and the Edwardsville campuses. He had his major effort with the human resources activities at the Edwardsville campus. He has held faculty appointments at Adelphia University and McKendree College as well as SIU, Edwardsville.

His topic “68 is the New 62: the Reasons Behind Delayed Retirement” was timely since so many events have taken place in the last part of 2008 and continue on into 2009 that have impacted upon when our active colleagues will chose to retire. Early retirement is a trend that is being reversed. A.G. looked at the changes in selecting Defined Benefits vs. Defined Contributions as the system of choice of Retirement systems of like size to ours. Having been a consultant since 1995 to some 18 colleges, universities and public agencies where he assisted decision makers in the areas of compensation and selection of employees, he had ample opportunities to see the beginnings of a shift from Defined Benefits toward Defined Contributions.

He discussed the trend toward working longer that had begun back in the early part of the present decade. It has gained momentum because of the economic situation which came to a head in the midst of 2008 and may not change in a positive direction rapidly.

He urged us to realize that while the economy is devastated at the moment it will not remain that way. The trends are pointing to a recovery at the present time.

He spent some time looking at the trend of credit card debt that is causing a great deal of pain for people from all the economic classes in our society. He pointed out that trend analyses indicate marriages coming later in the careers of the faculties in the higher education as well as in the support staff members involved in higher education institutions. He emphasised that trend analysis as it is practiced today is much more than looking at problems from a statistical model only. A new emphasis from analysis of cultural components in populations have brought many factors into play in trend analysis.

He ended his formal presentation with some commentary on the actions of his two grown boys (Daniel and Tim) and their career choices as well as his daughter (Cara) plans to attend college. He mentioned that his wife (Rosemary) will be completing her contract with SIU, Edwardsville and will change her role to that of being a student (of the non-traditional kind) here at the University to earn an MFA in creative writing.

The Q&A session was lively and spirited indicating that we all had a fine time learning more about the interesting aspects of trend analysis action.

**Retirees Symposium Concludes 10th Anniversary Year**

As has been noted in previous editions of the AUAR Newsletter, 2008-09 was a year of celebration in recognition of the Association’s 10 year anniversary.

The concluding event, held on May 7, 2009 at the Quaker Square Inn, was a Retirees Symposium, “Retirement: Shaping a New Lifestyle”. The program was geared for both current and prospective UA retirees and their guests. Approximately 75 people attended. 55% were already retired; 45% were present employees who are considering retiring within 3-5 years.

Dr. Harvey Sterns gave the keynote address entitled “Later Life: Do You Want a New You?”. Next came a panel discussion, “Legal & Financial Aspects of Later Life Planning.” Afternoon sessions were “Older Adults as Caregivers”, “Housing Considerations in Retirement”, “Better Health? Engaging in Creative and Performing Arts”, and “It’s Never Too Late to Establish Health, Well-Being & Physical Fitness”. A.G. Monaco, Associate Vice President for Human Resources and Employee Relations, gave the concluding presentation, “Is This the Worst Economic Recession Since the Last Economic Recession – Cutting Through the Media Hype.”

The Symposium was planned by AUAR members and co-sponsored by the Institute for Life-Span Development & Gerontology and the Department of Human Resources. Additional support was provided by the Department of Development, Barnes & Noble College Bookstores and several local businesses & agencies. We especially appreciate the time and talent given by our session presenters, which included David P. Horn, Frank Bevilaqua, Ryan Harding, Att. Dean Smith, Linda Noeker, Terry E. Meese, Stephanie Caicco, Douglas Ribley, and James Stilson.

The Symposium evaluations were very positive and helpful. It was often suggested that such a conference should be held on an annual basis. We hope others will take note. It seems that a day-long event covering a variety of topics is preferred to having one-hour sessions periodically throughout the academic year.
As a freshman I saw my first University of Akron football game on September 20, 1958, an 18-0 win over Mt. Union in the fifth Acme-Zip Game at the Rubber Bowl. From that time until I retired from UA in December, 1989, I was in attendance at 156 of 157 home games (missed the 1960 Acme-Zip game) in the Rubber Bowl. Since my retirement I have been a season ticket holder and I now have attended 245 of 250 games at the Bowl. I thought it was the Rubber Bowl forever!

So, I have to admit that what is about to happen on the UA campus this coming September 12, would not occur in my lifetime. As a result, I am overjoyed that on that day the UA football team opens its 2009 home season with the first on-campus game in 69 years against Morgan State on Summa Field in the new state-of-the-art InfoCision Stadium.

Like some of you who are avid fans, I have closely followed what has become a $61.6 million project. I became hopeful on October 14, 2002 when I heard Dr. Luis Proenza tell a luncheon crowd at the Professional Football Hall of Fame Club in Canton that he had asked the UA athletic department to start laying the groundwork for the construction of a football stadium on campus in five years.

Well, lo and behold, nearly five years later I was fortunate to be in attendance on August 1, 2007 in the UA Student Center Ballroom when the plans for InfoCision Stadium were released to the public and the University Board of Trustees announced its approval of the financing and construction plans. I was also there on April 4, 2008 for the groundbreaking ceremony and I have since watched with amazement as this beautiful edifice has grown out of a deep hole during the construction process that continues to be on schedule.

Thanks to UA Vice-President John LaGuardia, I’m happy to write I got my first brief tour of the new stadium this past April 23, however, that will be enhanced considerably on July 9 when I will get a more complete tour, courtesy of the UA Athletic Media Office, which will include the press box tower.

You have heard that InfoCision Stadium will hold a crowd of 30,000. That figure is based on a seating capacity of 25,000 and a projected 5,000 standing room count on the concourse areas and the south end zone grassy areas. UA fans will be impressed with the stadium’s many amenities. On the concourse level, InfoCision will have 21 restrooms (four times more than the Rubber Bowl), 10 full service concessions locations (seven more than the Rubber Bowl), a complete Team Shop under the west side stands and one merchandise location on the east side. And then there is that state-of-the-art video scoreboard and the stadium’s dynamic sound system that will also please the fans.

Levels two, three and four of the press tower are mostly classrooms slated to be used by the College of Education’s Sports Science program. However, I understand those areas will not be ready for occupancy until the summer or fall of 2010. That eventual move will mean the demise of Memorial Hall, which was built in 1954 under the leadership of the legendary Athletic Director Kenneth “Red” Cochrane.

The fifth floor will be the club and loge level and the sixth floor houses the suites, including the 54-seat presidential suite with a full bar and buffet. The suites lobby overlooks the club and loge lobby so that the two can share energy and atmosphere.

Of course the top level will house what is commonly referred as the “press box.” There is space available for 52 writing press, compared to the 12 to 15 in cramped quarters at the Rubber Bowl. There are also three booths for radio, a large one for TV broadcasting, two coaches booths, and a booth each for public address and scoreboard operations.

Needless to say, it will be, in my partial and humble opinion, one of the finest collegiate football stadiums in the country! Recently, UA’s Interim Athletic Director Hunter Yurachek said it best, “Once you step foot in this venue, you will want to purchase season tickets. You will want to experience the excitement of this new stadium game after game!”

As expected the football season tickets have been going very well, yet, there are still plenty of excellent seats available at an affordable price. UA retirees can get the six-game season ticket package for only $105. For those interested, call 1-888-992-5766.

UA Retirees Can Purchase Discounted Tickets to Upcoming Football Season
Kick-off to the Zips inaugural season at InfoCision Stadium – Summa Field is just a short time away, but the excitement surrounding the program has never been higher. Don’t miss your opportunity to be a part of this historic event. As a member of the Association of The University of Akron Retirees you are eligible to purchase season tickets at the discounted faculty and staff rate. University faculty and staff as well as AUAR members can purchase reserved season tickets for only $105 (regularly $120). Additional season ticket packages start as low as $90. If you are interested in purchasing season tickets, please call Elizabeth Brinkmann in the Athletics Marketing Department at 330-972-8459.
An Honor Richly Deserved

On July 19 Dr. George Knepper and his wife, Phyllis, were invited to lunch with President Proenza and friends. It was not until the President called the group to order that Dr. Knepper realized he was the guest of honor to be admitted to The University of Akron Order of the Phoenix.

The citation sets forth the purpose of the Order of the Phoenix, qualifications of those who have been honored in the past and others who may be included in the future.

The closing paragraph of the citation describes the

Dr. George C. Knepper

that we are proud to know and honor.

Whereas,

This Devoted Son of Summit County; Distinguished Professor; Successful Author; Skilled Administrator and University Historian,

has in a lifetime of Research and Teaching unveiled to us the Flaring Follies as well as the Radiant Triumphs of our Past, and in so doing has illuminated our Path as we Journey into the Future

Now and Henceforth, be it known that Dr. George C. Knepper is numbered among those Noble and Esteemed Personages admitted to

The Order of the Phoenix

2009 Lobster & Suds Last at Heisman Lodge

The annual Lobster & Suds Party was held on May 15, 2009 with 64 friends attending. It was good to have Bob Fritz back on the lobster cooking crew and to see Barbara & Mark MacGregor, John & Margie Welch, and Jim Sweitzer and Gretchen Laatsch, who had recently returned from Florida.

The usual array of great covered dishes, salads, and desserts was available. The menu choices were about evenly divided between the lobster or the chicken parmesan. Many of the guests have whole Maine lobster but once a year, at this event. It is also fun to watch “first timers” tackle eating lobster fresh out of the cooking pot.

With the UA football team set to play at the new Infocision Stadium on campus, concern for the Heisman Lodge next to the Rubber Bowl was a topic of discussion. Just what will happen to these facilities, and where can we have the Lobster & Suds event in 2010? Your Executive Board and special events planning committee are considering new sites but are open to suggestions. Please contact Hank Nettling or Tom Vukovich if you have ideas.

We wish to thank Cynthia Hughes, Manager of the Lodge and Zia Ahmed and Dorothy Achimasi, UA Dining Services for their assistance and support over the last 9 years.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SEPTEMBER</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>8 p.m. Pianist Zahari Metchkov: work by UA Professor James Wilding.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>3 p.m. Alfred Anderson, Baritone: Schumann’s “Dichterliebe” and more.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>8 p.m. UA Steel Drum Band – “PANtastic”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>NEOFA guest artist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>8 p.m. UA Symphony Orchestra With faculty pianist Mayumi Kikuchi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Special venue: E.J. Thomas Performing Arts Hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>8 p.m. Jazz Ensembles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>8 p.m. Jazz Ensembles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OCTOBER</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Flutist George Pope, 7:30 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Symphonic Band, 3pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Concert Band, 8pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 or 9</td>
<td>Song Xin, Erhu. Part of The University of Akron’s China Week celebration.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>UA Symphony Orchestra and UA Concert Choir, 3pm Kulas Concert Series</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Special venue: First Congregational Church, 292 East Market St., Akron. ($$)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>University Band, 8pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Gregory Beyer, flute and percussion, 8pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>Soprano Lara Troyer, 8pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>Brass Choir, 8 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NOVEMBER</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>NEOFA Flute Festival, 12 pm $15.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Concerts, master classes, High School Young Artist Competition, and exhibitors. $15. For more information call George Pope at 330-972-6575 or visit <a href="http://www.neofa.org">www.neofa.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Symphonic Band Chamber Winds, 8pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Music Careers Day and Fall Visitation Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Free, fun and informative for high school students and families. Careers Day at Guzzetta Hall. To register, call 330-972-7077 or 1-800-655-4884. Or, register online at <a href="http://www.uakron.edu/visit">www.uakron.edu/visit</a>.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Opera Scenes, 8pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Brass Choir at Trinity Lutheran, 8pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Bandorama, 3 pm. Featuring The University of Akron Concert Band, Symphonic Band, and Marching Band. Special venue: E.J. Thomas Performing Arts Hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>UA Symphony Orchestra, 8pm. With faculty percussionist Larry Snider Special venue: E.J. Thomas Performing Arts Hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Composers Forum, 8pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Jazz Guitar Ensemble, 8pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Classical Guitar Ensemble, 8pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Men’s Chorus, 3pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>“Return to the 40’s” Big Band Dance, 3pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Kulas Concert Series ($$)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>UA Jazz Ensemble and UA ballroom dance studio invite you to dance your way back to the big band sound of Glenn Miller, Tommy Dorsey, Duke Ellington and more. Free for veterans in uniform. Special venue: Stage Door of E.J. Thomas Performing Arts Hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>Percussion Ensemble, 8 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DECEMBER</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>University Singers, 7 pm Brass Choir, 8:30 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Concert Band/University Band, 8 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>UA Symphony Orchestra, 8 pm. With faculty violinist Alan Bodman Special venue: First Congregational Church, 292 E. Market St., Akron.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Early Action Scholarship Auditions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 &amp; 5</td>
<td>Ohio Band Director’s Conference</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Guitar Ensemble, 8 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>UA Concert Choir, 3 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Cool Yule, 7:30 pm Special venue: EJ Thomas Performing Arts Hall Kulas Concert Series: $$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Akron’s 30th annual TubaChristmas Two shows: 4pm &amp; 6:30 pm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Magical and musical, Akron’s beloved holiday tradition returns for its 30th year conducted by founder Tucker Jolly. A gift to the community from The University of Akron School of Music and E.J. Thomas Hall, TubaChristmas combines hundreds of tubas – many festively adorned with tinsel, garlands and lights – and sing alongs in a beautiful setting. Interested in performing? Contact Tucker Jolly at 330-972-6641 or trjolly@uakron.edu. Free for audience, $5 for performers. 330-972-7570 or www.ejthomashall.com.
In Memoriam

Robert Wayne Duff, Vice President Emeritus of Business and Finance passed away on January 21, 2009.

Wayne’s career at The University of Akron began in 1963 as the assistant to the financial vice president. He became business manager in 1964 and assumed the additional title of assistant to the secretary of the Board of Trustees in 1965. He retired in 1989.

Wayne was a member of the Akron Bar Association, as well as an officer in many civic organizations including Kiwanis and treasurer of First Congregational Church. He continued to be an active participant in campus programs and activities and served as a founding member of the AUAR scholarship committee.

A man defined by his family, his work and his heritage, Wayne loved all things Alaskan because his grandparents had served as Presbyterian ministers in Sitka.

The Duff family always traveled with gusto and enthusiasm on economic car camping trips. Beloved wife, Ann, and the nine children have precious memories of the joy and laughter along the way.

Betty M. Beach passed away in February. She was employed in the Department of Student Affairs in August 1964 and retired from that department in September 1985.

Dr. James W. Dunlap died in March 2009. Dr. Dunlap joined the University’s College of Business Administration in 1963. In 1990, he retired as Dean Emeritus of CBA and later moved to Marco Island, Florida. He is survived by his wife, Melzana (Mel) who resides at 850 South Barfield Drive, Marco Island, Florida 34145.

Dr. William Frye died in April 2009. Dr. Frye joined the University’s College of Education in September 1971. He retired in 1996 as Professor Emeritus of Education.

Dr. Sherman D. Vander Ark, Professor of Music passed away in May. Dr. Vander Ark joined the University’s Department of Music in 1973. He continued to teach in that department until his retirement in June 2002.

Marian Scovell died on May 9. She joined the University Health Services in September 1970 and retired in June 1987 after serving more than 17 years as Nurse Supervisor 1 in the Health Services.

Margaret (Peggy) Betzhold passed away on June 7. Peggy was hired into the Department of Student Affairs in 1964. For many years, she was secretary to Richard Wright, University Legislative Liaison, plus serving as receptionist welcoming visitors to Buchtel Hall. Peggy retired in September 1997.


AUAR 2009-2010 Membership Form

Name: ________________________________

Spouse: ________________________________

Address: ________________________________

Phone: ________________________________

E-Mail: ________________________________

Dept. or Office Before Retirement: ________________________________

Please ✓ one: ❑ New ❑ Renewal

Please ✓ one: ❑ SERS ❑ STRS ❑ Other ____________

If other please list: ________________________________

Please list my membership application in/on ✓ all that apply):

❑ AUAR Directory ❑ AUAR Web Site

| Membership Dues for 7/1 to 6/30: | $10.00 |
| Scholarship Donation (optional): | |
| TOTAL enclosed: | |

We invite you to serve on one or more of our committees. Please ✓ any that interest you:

❑ Political Action/Affiliates
❑ Programs
❑ University & Community Services
❑ Scholarship Committee

Please return this form with check payable to The Association of The University of Akron Retirees to:

AUAR Membership
Human Resources
The University of Akron

AUAR Membership
THE ASSOCIATION OF
THE UNIVERSITY OF AKRON RETIREES
MEMBERSHIP YEAR 2009-2010

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

Look for your individual
2009-2010 AUAR membership card attached to the inside of this Newsletter.

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