



The Extension

A Bit of History Marlene Bireley

Did you know that WSURA was founded just over twenty years ago in October 1993? *The Extension* that was first published that Fall provides us with a good history of the organization. The founding of WSURA was initiated by **Rich Johnson**, Manager of Employee Benefits, in response to a meeting initiated by The Ohio State University's Retirees Association. At that meeting, representatives from the fourteen Ohio state universities were invited to discuss common interests such as legislative action affecting STRS and PERS, health benefits and other areas of mutual interest. It was felt that acting together provided more clout than acting as individual university retiree groups. The outcome of that meeting (where **Nick Davis** and **Mary Stonecash** represented WSU) was the formation of the Ohio Council on Higher Education Retirees. Interestingly enough, **Rich Johnson** is now one of our representatives to that organization.

The retirees listed as participating in the first two organizational meetings of WSURA were: **Gary Barlow, Carl Becker, Len Cargan, Joanne Cross, Larry Cross, Nick Davis, Billy Friar, Ira Fritz, Frieda Jessee, Pat Jessee, Ken Knight, Ron Oldiges, Adrian Rake, Mary Rutkowski, Lew Shupe, Mary Stonecash, Jean Sullivan, Robert Thobaben, Lois Wamsley, Susan Williams and Gordon Wise.** **Len Cargan** developed a questionnaire that was sent to the over four hundred retirees soliciting input on interest in and the focus for such an organization. One hundred twenty-two retirees responded and, of those responding, ninety-seven retirees liked the idea of a newsletter and sixty-eight liked the idea of monitoring legislation, STRS and PERS.

By the Winter Quarter of 1994, **Elizabeth Harden** and **Leone Low** had joined the planning group and provided leadership in setting goals for the organization and developing bylaws. Continued on Page 2.

The Extension

The Extension is published quarterly for the WSU retirees by the Wright State University Retirees Association (WSURA).

Cut off dates for articles:

- Nov. 1—Winter Quarter
- Feb. 1—Spring Quarter
- May 1—Summer Quarter
- Aug. 1—Fall Quarter

Editor: Marlene Bireley

Asst. Editor: Mary Gromosiak

Send articles to Editor:

139 Millett Hall
Wright State University
Dayton, OH 45435-0001

For additional information call
(937)775-2777

WSURA email address:

wsura@wright.edu

WSURA website:

www.wright.edu/admin/retirees

President's Message

Abe Bassett

The Remarkable Generosity of Retirees

The Wright State Retirees have established a reputation as very generous gift givers to the University. In the past ten years, retirees have donated more than \$450,000, including \$193,000 last year and \$130,000 the year before.

Besides giving to the annual scholarship drive—Campus Scholarship and Innovation Campaign, which begins March 4—gifts go to many departments and programs, including the WSU Retirees Patron Fund. There are, in fact, 1600 destinations for contributions.

The percentage of retirees who give to the University has increased from 3% of the total number of retirees in 2007 to 9% in 2013, a 300% increase. I am extremely pleased to report that 100% of the WSURA Board of Directors are contributors.

You will soon be receiving a request to participate in the 2014 CSI Campaign and we hope that you will join the 9% who do contribute. No gift is too small and no gift is unimportant.

Each year in December, we invite the students who have earned the WSURA Scholarship to meet the Board of Directors, either in our meeting or at a luncheon. I wish you could meet these hard working and outstanding young people who are impressive in their drive, proud of their academic accomplishment and filled with ambition for their future.

In the past two years, thanks to increased contributions from you and other retirees, we have increased the number and value of scholarship grants to two \$1200 awards. As our scholarship endowment increases, we will be able to increase the amount of the grant, or perhaps even to award a third grant.

Your contribution to our **Nick Davis WSURA Scholarship Fund** makes that possible. If you have not given in the past, let 2014 be your maiden year. Help us increase the number of retiree donors from 9% to 12%. For that to happen we need you.

Continued from Page 1:

The first election was held that spring with the following results:

President	Gary Barlow
Vice-President	Elizabeth Harden
Secretary	Mary Rutkowski
Treasurer	Tom Keller
Communications Coordinator	Len Cargan

Board Members: **Lois Cook, Alyce Jenkins, Ron Oldiges, Lew Shupe, Alphonso Smith and Millie Waddell**

A number of those in that first group served in various capacities for many years. **Gary Barlow, Lew Shupe and Leone Low** still serve on the Board. The goals of the organization continue to be those of communication with the members through *The Extension*, monitoring of legislation and STRS/PERS, social activities for members and service to the university community. We continue to solicit input from members regarding specific activities and/or interests that would best fulfill our purpose.

Deaths

December 28, **Noel Nussbaum**, Professor, Dept. of Neuroscience, Cell Biology and Physiology, College of Science and Mathematics and the Boonshoft School of Medicine

January 10, **John Ray**, Professor, Dept of Geography, COLA, former WSURA Board member

January 16, **Robert Turk**, Professor, Department of Surgery, Boonshoft School of Medicine

WSURA Activities Spring Semester 2014

No activities expressly for WSURA members have been planned for Spring Semester. Activities Chair, **Mary Gromosiak**, is working on scheduling visits to **WSU Calamityville**, the **Dayton STEM School** and **Hawthorn Hill** (the Wright Brothers home). Each of these places have waiting lists for visitations so watch your emails from WSURA so that you will know if any openings occur in the spring or summer.

At **Hawthorn Hill** tours are by reservation only and space is limited to no more than ten visitors per tour. If more than 10 sign up, we can make more than one reservation. All tours begin at Carillon Park and visitors are shuttled to Hawthorn Hill. Tours are held twice a day on Wednesdays and Saturdays at 10 am and 12:30 pm. Admission is \$12 per person or \$10 per Dayton History Member. Your ticket can be upgraded to \$15 and includes Carillon Historical Park and Hawthorn Hill.

Socrates Café discussions are held the second Thursday of each month at 1:00 p.m at the Temple Beth Or, at Rahn and Bigger Roads in Kettering.

April 25 and 26. Backroads and Buggies-Holmes County, Ohio. See beeonthego-travel.com and contact Jan Austin at 428-7459 for particulars. Down payment due by March 1 and final payment due April 1 but that may be flexible if openings are still available.

Friends of the Libraries

March 13 Unwin(ed) Book Club—Man Alive! By Mary Kay Zuravleff

The Book Club is held at Winans Fine Chocolates and Coffees
3510 Pentagon Blvd. Beaver Creek (in front of the Hilton by Sam's Club)
Limited numbers of books and ebooks are available in the Dunbar Library
Barnes & Noble University Bookstore will give a 20% discount with a Wright 1 or Friends of the Libraries membership card.

March 14 Legacy: The Future is Our History- A Public History Graduate Symposium with Keynote Speaker: **George Willeman**, Library of Congress Nitrate Film Vault Manager. In addition to the keynote address, Sessions will include The Legacy of World War I, An Introduction to WSU's Public History Program and Women with Nerve (**Virginia Kettering** and **Dorothy Stang**).

The Endeavor Room, The Student Union. No charge but RSVP is requested by March 7. (If you receive this later than this date, call Archives at 775-2092 to see if registration is still possible.)

Other WSU Events of Interest

Alumni Tours

WSURA and the WSU Alumni Association are planning activities of mutual interest. The Association graciously “loaned” us their suite for the Cleveland/WSU basketball game and have approved the inclusion of our members in their travel plans. Full information is on their pages on the wright.edu website.

Tours that are listed at this time include:

May 4-15, 2014-Cradle of History-Oceania Cruises- Ports in Turkey, Greece, Cyprus and Israel

June 20-30, 2014- The Great Journey through Europe-Travel through The Netherlands, Germany, France and Switzerland—Sold out, Wait list only

October 20-28, 2014-Accent on the Adriatic- Ports in Croatia, Montenegro, Albania, Greece and Italy

January 6-16, 2015-Mayan Mystique-Cruise the Western Caribbean with ports in Central America and trips to Mayan ruins and the rainforest.

February 22-March 7, 2015-Gauchos, Tangos, & Tapas- Tour Argentina, Uruguay and Brazil.

Presidential Lecture Series

March 19 Michio Kaku, Ph.D. famed theoretical physicist and co-founder of the String Theory, 7 p.m, the Nutter Center

News from WSURA

The WSU Retirees are [choose the right word]:

(1) With it, (2) Up to date, (3) Current, (4) In the groove, (5) Modern.

Oops, we are all those things and you can be too, by joining us on Facebook. It is another great way to keep up on happenings and to let other retirees know about you. All you need is a computer, a tablet or a smartphone. Go to Facebook and enter "Wright State University Retirees Association" in the search bar. Follow the prompts.

If you run into difficulty, ask **Abe** for help at abassett@woh.rr.com.

The WSURA Board closed out the year with a luncheon at the Holiday Inn where we invited our two scholarship students, **Erin Dorsten** and **Brianna Wellman**, and our student assistant, **Sarah Spitzer**. This opportunity to interact with these outstanding and delightful young women is a favorite activity of the Board each December.

Winter activities planned for WSURA met the same fate as many other area activities because of the relentless weather. The brunch at Brio's was cancelled and most of those scheduled for the back stage tour of the Schuster Center cancelled. Those who did attend were treated to a first hand introduction to the performance space, the specific building specs and acoustical devices that account for its excellent sound and an opportunity to hear the Dayton Philharmonic in a final rehearsal for an upcoming program. This opportunity may be re-scheduled next year for those who chose not to brave the weather and for others who may be interested.

A good-sized group enjoyed the Cleveland/WSU basketball game in the Alumni Association suite followed by a pleasant meal at TJChumps. The day was spoiled only by the heartbreaking loss to Cleveland.

Bylaws and Elections Chair **Judy Rose** reports that the ballot for next year's officers and board members is complete. Watch for the mailing in the near future and be sure to return your ballot by May 15.

News From WSU

On February 20, the annual Association of Women in Psychology conference held in Columbus was coordinated by two SOPP faculty members. **Kathleen Malloy, Ph.D.**, and **Julie Williams, Psy. D.**, and WSU alumna, **Jennica Karpinski, Psy.D.**, The conference was themed, "The Personal is Political: The Lived Experience of Disability." About four hundred women attended.

Tom Jenkins, a WSU science education graduate and teacher in nearby Enon, has been chosen to go on a flight of the NASA high flying laboratory where he will be able to use its infrared telescope at 45,000 ft. where the telescope provides clearer images since it is above the water vapor. Each trip takes off from Palmdale, CA and will carry about two dozen people including educators, scientists, engineers and astronomers from around the world. Also on the flight will be Oakwood teacher, **Heidi Steinbrink**. **Tom** describes this experience as the opportunity of a lifetime.

Thomas Webb has been named as the new Director of Disability Services, replacing **Jeff Vernooy** who died last August after a 36 year career at WSU. **Tom** comes from the University of Delaware and has past experience in Washington DC drafting the Americans with Disabilities Act of 2008. He is happy to join a campus that is known in the disability community as "one of the best" at providing services. He hopes to promote WSU to a wider audience, assist faculty in providing a more accessible curriculum and assist other universities in replicating the WSU model of services.

Establishing a Scholarship

Abe Bassett

Endowed scholarship funds are enduring legacies that make the Wright State education experience available to generations of deserving students. By establishing a new endowed scholarship, your gift represents a ringing vote of confidence in our ability to provide a high quality education to the young men and women who represent our future.

There are various way to award scholarships:

ENDOWED: An endowed scholarship a wonderful way to honor a loved one, or perpetuate your own memories an good will for your alma mater and will remain at the university in perpetuity. Earning from an initial give are used to make annual awards. The minimum amount needed to establishing endowed fund is \$10,000. The donor has up to five years to reach this level.

ANNUAL: Annual scholarships can be established with an outright gift of at least \$1,000. Typically, the donor provides an annual commitment for at least three years.

THE WSURA SCHOLARSHIP FUND: There is no minimum amount for contributions to this fund, which now totals \$35,000, providing an annual minimum payout of \$1750. In order to give ensure our ability to give two \$1200 grants, the endowment must reach a level of \$48,000. The Retirees Association named their fund in honor of the late **Nicholas Davis**, a long time University employee and long serving member of the Association. Contributions may be made anytime in the year, but most often are made during the Campus Scholarship and Innovation Campaign, this year from March 4 to May 15.

Puns from the Internet

A strabismic teacher lost her job because she couldn't control her pupils.

I tried to catch some fog. I mist.

When chemists die, they barium.

Jokes about German sausage are the wurst.

A soldier who survived mustard gas and pepper spray is now a seasoned veteran.

I know a guy who's addicted to brake fluid. He says he can stop any time.

How does Moses make his tea? Hebrews it.

I stayed up all night to see where the sun went. Then it dawned on me.

This girl said she recognized me from the vegetarian club, but I'd never met herbivore.

I'm reading a book about anti-gravity. I can't put it down.

I did a theatrical performance about puns. It was a play on words .

They told me I had type A blood, but it was a type-O.

This dyslexic man walks into a bra.

I didn't like my beard at first. Then it grew on me.

When you get a bladder infection, urine trouble.

What does a clock do when it's hungry? It goes back four seconds..

I wondered why the ball was getting bigger. Then it hit me!

Broken pencils are pointless.

What do you call a dinosaur with an extensive vocabulary? A thesaurus.

December Board Luncheon

Right:

Luncheon at the Holiday Inn



Left:

Communications Coordinator: **Marlene Bireley**

Scholarship Recipients: **Brianna Wellman and Erin Dorsten**

Scholarship Chair: **Paul Wolfe**

Right:

Overflow table at the luncheon



WSURA Membership Form

New _____ Renewal _____ Date _____

Name _____ Date of Birth _____

Spouse's Name _____ Date of Birth _____

Primary Address _____ Phone _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Wright State Department at Retirement _____ Year _____

Spouse's Department at Retirement _____ Year _____

Email Address _____

Check One: Faculty Unclassified Classified

Life Membership:

_____ \$100 (Ages 59 and below)

_____ \$75 (Ages 60-69)

_____ \$50 (Ages 70 and above)

Classified employees may deduct \$10 from each of these categories.

*NOTE: If you and your spouse are retirees from WSU, use the age of the younger spouse for determining the Lifetime fee. If you have paid the current annual fee and would like to become a Life Member, subtract the annual fee and remit the difference.

Annual Membership:

_____ \$10

Patron (Membership in WSURA not required):

No set amount. Donations are tax deductible. Contributions should be sent directly to the Foundation as follows:

Wright State University Foundation
3640 Colonel Glenn Hwy
Dayton, OH 45435-0001

Make your check payable to:
Wright State University Foundation

Note on check memo line: 551327 Patron Donations Fund

Please fill in the information requested above and send it with your dues (please do not send cash) to:
WSURA, Attn: Treasurer, 139 Millett Hall, Wright State University, Dayton, OH 45435