



The Extension

Summer

Summer Picnic 2012

The Annual WSU Summer Picnic will be held on June 21 (rain date June 22) from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. You should receive a formal invitation from the university but, if, for some reason you do not, all are welcome.

Because of construction near the Garden of the Senses, the location has been moved this year to the area behind the Student Center near the tower.

Come early at 10:15 a.m. and attend the WSURA annual Board meeting in the first floor Millett Hall Atrium. We will vote on changes in the by-laws. It is also a good time to meet your Board members.

See you there!

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

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www.wright.edu/admin/retirees

President's Message

Jim Uphoff, President

I have been so privileged this past year to serve as the WSURA President because we have had such a forward looking Executive Board. Examples of this include our development and adoption of a **well-planned budget** for our organization; a study and presentation of **by-laws updates**; a re-started **Socrates Café** monthly discussion program, a **survey** of our WSURA members as to the ways in which they continue to serve their communities, professions, etc., and active participation in such university events as the **Health Fair, drama productions, and basketball games.**

Gary Pacernick, Ph.D. is our incoming President. His delightful humor and his original talent with poetic verse have been very positive over this past year on our Board. He and I have already been meeting together to help make our organization even stronger in 2012-13. Please get to know him yourself, perhaps at the annual WSU Picnic in June.

It is never too late to make a contribution to the WSU Scholarship Fund campaign and to designate your gift to go to the **WSURA Scholarship**. Paul Wolfe, Ph.D. leads our effort on this. His committee selected a fine young man who has been with us this past year. Please give us the chance to reward another deserving student with our support for 2012-13.

In closing, I must thank all of you for the help and support given to me in my role as your President this past school year. I enjoy working with my fellow retirees on behalf of our university. My tenure at WSU began on June 19, 1967 and I am still employed here at a 51% FTE basis as an unclassified leader. This on-going role (CTL Associate Director: Faculty Development) has enabled me to be on campus

regularly for both that position and my WSURA role.

Thanks and Best Wishes to you all!

Deaths

Mike Schulze, University Planner (active), March 2012

Robert Hardman, Associate Clinical Professor, School of Medicine, April 2012

Will Stoesz, Professor, Religion and Community Medicine, May 2012

Election Results

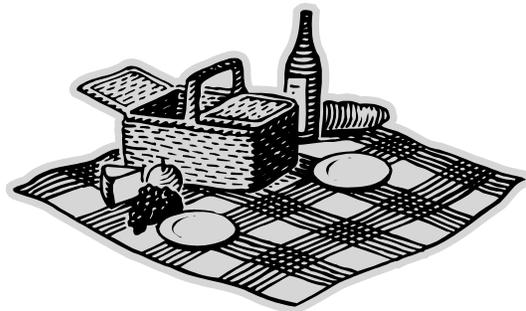
The recent elections results include:

President-Elect: **Abe Bassett**

Communications Coordinator: **Marlene Bireley**

Board Members: **Peggy Bott, Jim Sayer and Blair Rowley**

Outgoing Board members are **Chuck Willis** and **Don Swanson**. Both have served for a number of years. We thank them for their dedication to WSURA.



Retiree Honorees

Each year we give a special invitation to the annual picnic whose retirees who retired five years ago or in multiples of five. We use the information provided by Human Resources and our own membership list. If you are on this list erroneously or if you should be on the list and are omitted, our apologies. Please email our office with corrections.

30 Years (Ret. 1982)

Malcolm Ritchie

25 Years (Ret. 1987)

Evelyn Beaty

Lois Cook

Gail Phillips

Anna Shumski

20 Years (Ret. 1992)

Joseph Bitzko

James Daily (?)

Sally Evans

Arlene Foley

Carol Gibbs

Jean Green

William Kane

Jerilyn Knopp

Phil Rizzo

Harper Roehm

Ronald Schmidt

Alice Swinger

Carol Taulbee

Betty White

Mary Lou White

Susan Williams

Charles Willis

15 Years (Ret. 1997)

Peter Bracher

Janice Collinsworth

Gordon Constable

Ruth Darrow

Barbara Dreher

Robert Goodwin

Ann Houston

Burga Jung

Timothy Spoonster

Robert Stout

Robert Stover

Margaret Surber

James Uphoff

Mary Weddington

Alan Whiston

Lloyd Williams

Henry Wilson

Joseph Young

10 Years (Ret. 2002)

Victoria Adkins

Joyce Baldwin

Donald Beelick

Bela Bogner

John Bullock

Burley Edwards

Barbara Gamstetter

Ivan Goldfarb

Cynthia King

William King (?)

Anita Lashbrook

Barbara Mann

Brenda McKenzie

Kimberly Monhollen

Mary Planeaux

Irene Romanowski

Rebecca Sommer

Linda Stewart

James Walker

Robyn Weddington

Morgan Wheeler

Francis Yu

5 Years (Ret. 2007)

Samuel Adebonojo

Margaret Aveyard

Kathleen Belew

Judith Blair

Nalda Blair

Barbara Bogan

James Brandeberry

Judith Brinkmoeller

David Calhoun

Wayne Carmichael

Judith Cathcart

Santonio Chambers

Kenneth Cornelius

David Darr

Linda Fowler

Patricia Fox

Lois Foy

Karen Geist

Kim Goldenberg

Douglas Grove

Donna Hardin

Charles Hartmann

Norman Holcomb

Deborah Jennings-Ryan

Betty Kangas

Sung Kim

Francis Laws

Katherine Mechlin

Edgar Melton

Juanita Melton

Judith Mullins

Robert Ping

James Rafferty

Nancy Reichelt

Ronald Rife

Beverly Rowe

Kenneth Rosengarten

Deborah Sargent

Paula Saunders

Jean Saylor

Sharon Sexton

Gloria Sickles

Carolyn Smith

Karin-Leigh Spicer

Carol Stein

Harold Stills

Martha Teter

Linda Versic

Patricia White

Robert Wood

Gene York

Jayne Zetts

News from WSURA

The Library Archivists hosted WSURA and Friends of the Libraries members at an open house prior to the spring Friends of the Libraries Lecture Series. Exhibits from the early days of Wright State were available for perusal as well historic documents from the Wright Brothers and others. The lecture that followed was a second Wright State Blast from the Past featuring pioneer faculty, staff and students. Moderated by **Bill Rickert**, former Assistant Provost, the speakers were **Jim Brown**, basketball coaching staff from 1970 to 1997; **Bill and Cynthia King**, former Classics professors; **Cathy Pearson**, early student and cheerleader and former member of the Alumni Board of Directors; and **Mary Jo Wiley**, a staff employee who was hired in 1962. Each shared their memories of the early days at the university as each remembered fondly the rather Spartan surroundings in which they first worked and learned.

A group of fifteen WSURA members and guests visited the Brandeberry Winery near Enon on May 18 .

Owner **Jim Brandeberry**, former Dean of the College of Engineering and Computer Science, regaled the group with the story of how a basement hobby has turned into a full time business involving his whole family. Participants were given a “back room” tour of the winery where he described the winemaking process after which all enjoyed sampling the wines. The winery visit was preceded by a delightful lunch at TJChumps in Fairborn.



The WSURA group enjoying the Brandeberry wines.

Jim Brandeberry addresses the WSURA group about wine making.



News from WSU

The U.S. News and World Report has ranked the **College of Education and Human Services** online master's in Education program for training teacher's to be leaders in the field as the best in the nation based on faculty credentials and training. The Teacher Leader program has been functioning as an off-site program since the 1970s. It has been offered in outlying areas where a number of students were interested in upgrading their skills while remaining in the classroom as instructional leaders. In 2004, the program morphed into a hybrid of classroom and online courses. Now, most of the cohorts are totally online. Students log in at a designated time to watch a power point presentation by one of twenty-two involved faculty members. Interaction with the instructors is by webcam or by typing questions and responses.

The **College of Engineering and Computer Science** marked its 25th anniversary on May 11. To mark the event, a new assistantship program that will provide scholarships, internships and paths to employment for thirty undergraduate students was announced. The renewable scholarships are for \$6000 and the assistantships pay \$4000. The three year assistantships culminate with a third year with a sponsoring industrial partner. Dean **S. Narayanan** said that the model is geared so that the students can graduate debt-free and in a position to be hired for a full-time position by the sponsoring partner.

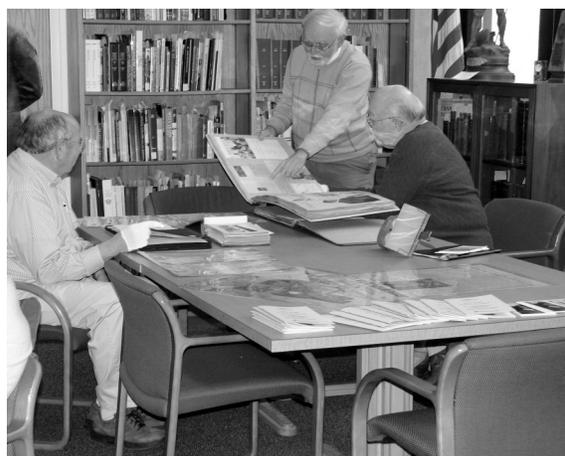
Eight student athletes were named to the Horizon League All-League baseball teams including player of the year, **Tristan Moore**, Relief Pitcher of the Year, **Michael Schum**. Other first team members were catcher **Corey Davis**, first baseman **Jake Hibbard** and outfielder **Ryan Ashe**. **Moore** is the fifth Raider in six years to be named Player of the Year. In spite of a stellar season, the team made an early

exit in the Horizon League tournament and will not be participating in the NCAA tournament this year.

Outstanding track athlete **Cassandra Lloyd** has qualified for the second straight year for the NCAA national meet. She placed ninth in the East Regional meet with a personal best and school record of 13.17 seconds in the 100 meter hurdles. The top twelve qualify for the semifinals which will take place on June 7 in Des Moines, Iowa.

Dayton Daily News columnist, **Tom Archdeacon**, was honored by the **Wright State Libraries** and the **Department of Communication, College of Liberal Arts**, as a living legend. His speech was attended by several WSURA members. The video of his speech is available on the WSU website.

Noted Dayton artist, **Willis "Bing" Davis**, was the speaker at the **Friends of the Libraries** Spring meeting. WSURA member, **Gary Barlow**, is the incoming president of the group. Several other WSURA members have served on the Friends Board and/or are supporting members of the organization.



Paul Wolfe, Rich Johnson and **Gary Barlow** at the Archives open house.

Williamson, the Greatest Town in the World

Abe Bassett

President-Elect, WSURA

In the eyes of a young person, Williamson, West Virginia was the greatest town in the world! And it was an important town, too. If the Germans were going to bomb any place in the United States it would be Williamson, West Virginia. When we had practice air raid warnings, we pulled the shades as far down as they would go and we rushed around the house to make sure the lights were off. Then I would sneak outside to make sure no light came from our house, or from our neighbors.

The Norfolk and Western Railway main line came through Williamson. All during the war, troop trains came through the town a half a dozen times a day, on their way from the Great Lakes Naval Training Station in Chicago to Norfolk, Virginia. The Williamson train station—the depot—was right across from Bassett’s Confectionary Store. We boys ran to greet the trains, to wave at the sailors, and to beg for their sailor’s hats.

When I was born, I was one of 9410 people who lived in Williamson. The population didn’t include East Williamson and West Williamson, which were outside the city limits, and South Williamson which was in Kentucky. We were, as the Chamber of commerce said, in the “Heart of the Billion Dollar Coal Field.” A billion dollars! That must have been all the money in the world. To prove our importance and uniqueness, the Chamber of Commerce had their own building, right next to the Mingo County Court House. It was the world’s only building constructed of coal. Bituminous coal.

But the coal building and the railroad yards weren’t our only claim to fame. We had the world’s largest broom handle factory. We were very important; no wonder we worried about being bombed by the Germans.

WBTH was our local radio station with the station’s call letters standing for

“Williamson Between Three Hills.” Our station came on line in 1939 and was affiliated with the Mutual Broadcasting System. It was a new window on the world but not the only radio station we could listen to. My father had purchased a large floor model Zenith radio, which had FM as well as AM, and a 78-rpm record player.

The Zenith, an advanced model, whose tubes were considerably smaller than those of the previous decade, was very sensitive and powerful. I listened regularly to WLW, Cincinnati’s all powerful 50,000 station—“The Nation’s Station.” I listened to cities too distant to ever dream of visiting: St. Louis, Atlanta, Chicago, and Des Moines, Iowa. I fell asleep many nights listening to the program “Moon River.” I learned the words to the opening of the show, the words read by a smooth deep-voiced announcer, accompanied by the “Moon River” organ:

Moon River . . .

A lazy stream of dreams,
Where vain desires forget themselves
In the loveliness of sleep

Moon River . . .

Enchanted white ribbon
Twined in the hair of night
Where nothing is but sleep.

Dream on . . . sleep on . . .

Care will not seek for thee.

Float on . . . drift on . . .

Moon River, to the sea.

The radio was very important in my young life. My imagination was stirred by such shows as "The Lone Ranger," "Ozzie and Harriet," "The Jack Benny Show," "Fibber McGee and Molly," "The Fred Allen Show," "Abbott and Costello," "The Shadow," "Bergen & McCarthy," and "Bob Hope".

My infatuation with radio may have changed the direction of my life. I went to college to major in "Radio Speech." I wanted to speak into a microphone and have my voice heard a thousand miles away.

One could feel claustrophobic in Williamson. The highways were merely paved-over trails. Traveling out of town meant dealing with endless curves on roads that were never on the level. The Tug Fork River—which flows down to the Levisa Fork at Louisa, Kentucky to form the Big Sandy River—was navigable only by a row boat. Air service was an unknown. But one could climb to Death Rock, and we boys did that, and from Death Rock we could see mountain range beyond mountain range. In our imaginations we could see the distant cities we could hear on the radio. And from our perch on Death Rock, we could see our great little city and feel happy that the Germans did not come to bomb us.

News from Fabio

Fabio Roveda, the Italian student who was involved with WSURA through our International committee last year, has been in contact with several WSURA members who contacted him after the earthquake that occurred near his home town in mid-May. He wrote the following to **Abe Bassett**:

"Thanks for thinking of me. It's a tough day for people from San Felice. Almost all buildings are unsafe because the earth keeps moving and the people will spend the night outside. With respect to me, I was safe in Bologna, but my father got three broken ribs while running out from the house. It should be nothing more than broken bones but he'll spend the night at the hospital for monitoring. My mother will be with my brother at my uncle's but I think they will sleep in the car anyway. It was a rough day, I hope it will get better soon."

Changes in STRS/PERS passed by Ohio Senate

After several years of negotiating, the pension plan reform bills (one for each of the four largest systems) seem to be on track for passing the Ohio Legislature this year. While changes may be costly to some individual members, they seem to be necessary to maintain the systems over the long haul. The major change for current retirees is in the Cost of Living Allowance (COLA) that has been at 3% annually for both systems. The current bills set the COLA for PERS members at the lesser of 3% or the inflation rate. STRS members will see a reduction from 3% to 2% beginning July 1, 2014. For those not yet retired, the STRS law recommends an increased employee contribution rate from 10% to 14%. Both systems are raising the required years of service and the age of retirement associated with certain years of service. The final average salary for both will be based on five rather than three years of service. These anticipated changes have led to a higher rate of retirement for employees wishing to retire under the current system. Watch your system's website for the latest information concerning this legislation.

Wisdom from Will Rogers

1. Never slap a man who's chewing tobacco.
2. Never kick a cow chip on a hot day.
3. There are two theories to arguing with a woman. Neither works.
4. Never miss a good chance to shut up.
5. Always drink upstream from the herd.
6. If you find yourself in a hole, stop digging.

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

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