



The Extension



2014 Nick Davis WSURA Scholarship Recipients

Due to the continued generosity of our members, WSURA was able to award two \$1500 scholarships this year to students with ties to former or present WSU employees. Our first recipient, **Rosa Tweed**, is the daughter of **Maureen Tweed** who worked in both the Book Store and in Residential Services. **Maureen** retired from WSU in 2011 to complete her own degree in Business Management. **Rosa's** father works for Miami Valley Recycling.

Rosa has three major interests-art, animals and the environment- and is completing a dual major, a B.S. in Biology and a B.F.A. in Studio Art with the goal of combining the three in the future. As a high school student, **Rosa** attended the graphic arts program at Miami Valley Career Technical Center that allowed her to graduate from both that facility and her home school of Milton-Union. She has a portfolio website at centaurii.carbonmade.com.

One of **Rosa's** hobbies is knitting. At the request of a friend, she made a "sweater" for the friend's snake that was such a hit that she is now expanding this "clothing line" on the website, Etsy. As she says, "You can buy clothing for cats and dogs, why not for reptiles?" Another interest that she has developed at WSU is karate. She is an active member in the campus Karate Club and has designed a logo for the club.

In addition to the WSURA Nick Davis Scholarship, **Rosa** has received a Raider Excellence award and another from the Arts Gala funds. **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

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President's Message

Jim Sayer, WSURA President, 2014-2015

Let me begin by wishing you and your family the happiest of Holiday seasons this year, one blessed with health and stockings filled with all sorts of goodies to make your physicians cringe. And I hope that those forecasts of our having a repeat of last year's cold and snow turn out to be inaccurate. One winter like that every decade or so is more than enough!

If you have not visited our new and wonderful WSURA website, you really ought to give it a look. **Abe Bassett** has spent countless hours working on the site, and it a million times better and more user-friendly than the old site. Not only do you get to see what the WSURA Board has been doing, but you get to view upcoming WSURA events and reflections from retirees about their time at WSU.

I came to WSU in 1974, a whopping 40 years ago, but there are lots of our fellow retirees who came long before me, and it is neat to read about their initial experiences "out in the cornfield" in the mid and late-1960s. So, check out the website; you'll find all kinds of interesting things.

Looking ahead: in the spring the University will launch its annual Campus Scholarship and Innovation Campaign, giving us yet another opportunity to invest in student scholarships. I hope you will consider supporting the Nick Davis Fund, for it is money in that account that allows us to give two scholarships each year. I would love to have the money to support three scholarships next year! And we can do it!

Again, have a great Holiday season!

Visit our website and Facebook pages for up-to-date information

Wright.edu/retirees-association
Facebook.com/WSURA

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The latter was a competitive grant based upon submission of a work of art.

Our second recipient, **Ajay Pujara**, graduated from Beavercreek High School and has extensive family ties to WSU. His grandfather, the late **Rai Pujara**, was a professor in the engineering department. His grandmothers, **Nimmi Pujara** and **Sandy Berning**, teach Math Development and Business Calculus respectively. His mother, **Imita**, is a graduate of the Counseling program in the College of Education and Human Services and an adjunct instructor in that program. His father and an aunt also attended WSU.

Ajay's major is computer engineering. His major interest in ROTC and his goal is to join the Air Force as a special investigator. He is the public affairs officer for the campus Arnold Air Society, a position that requires him to write articles and keep up-to-date information about the squadron. One of his duties in ROTC is to volunteer for area events such as the Renaissance Festival.

Our two recipients have vastly different goals and interests, but share the traits of being serious students and goal-oriented young adults. We are pleased to help them reach those goals.

Deaths:

Michael J. Cleary, PhD, Professor of Management Science, 1971-1996. September 2014

J Anne Holton, Administrative Assistant, Graduate Studies. September 2014

Dr. Stanley R. Mohler, Director of Aerospace Medicine, 1978-2000. September 2014

For additional information, please visit us at www.wright.edu/retirees-association

WSURA Winter Activities

Sunday, December 14, 2014

WSU vs Miami University

7 pm Nutter Center — Alumni Association Suite #218

Snacks, Sodas, Waters provided

Limited number of free basketball tickets

Contact mary.gromosiak@wright.edu

Cell 937-974-4010

RSVP by Monday, December 8, 2014

Sunday, January 11, 2015

Dining-out Brunch

11 am — 15 Yankee Trace Drive, Centerville

Cost per person – \$18.95 full buffet

Contact mary.gromosiak@wright.edu

Cell 937.974.4010

RSVP by Monday, January 5, 2015

Thursday, December 11, 2014

Thursday, January 8, 2015

Thursday, February 12, 2015

Thursday, March 12, 2015

Socrates' Café discussions are held the second Thursday of each month at 1:30 pm at the Temple Beth or at Rahn and Bigger Roads in Kettering.

May 14, 2015

SAVE THE DATE!

First Annual WSURA Retirees Reunion Luncheon

Details in Spring *Extension*

Other Activities of Interest

Presidential Lecture Series — February 4, 2015 7 p.m.

Steve Wozniak

Apple co-founder, designer of the Apple I and Apple II

Wright State Nutter Center

Co-sponsored with Honors Institute

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- Thursday, January 8, 2015 (off campus) Un“wine-d” Book Club:
Be Safe I Love You by **Cara Hoffman**
Winans, 3510 Pentagon Blvd, Beaver creek
5:30 pm
- Tuesday, January 20, 2015 (on campus) Room 441, Dunbar Library
12:00 pm

Join us as we talk about a book that the BBC calls "a fierce and nuanced tribute to women warriors." Come discuss this book with the Wright State community at Winan's Fine Chocolates and Coffee at 3510 Pentagon Park Blvd.

About the book: A classically trained singer returns home from a tour of duty in Iraq to find that her family's and friends' lives have continued without her. In fact, things have improved for her family since she's been gone. It's clear, though, that all is not well with Lauren in her return to civilian life. This novel confronts the internal struggles and the war that continues for the soldier long after returning home.

For more information or to join the discussion online, check out the Unwin(e)d blog.
Contact **Mandy Shannon** with any questions.

Friends of the Libraries Workshop Series

- Saturday, December 6, 2014 **Holiday Memories**
Room 315
Participants are encouraged to write-out their memories prior to the workshop.
- Saturday, January 17, 2015 **Picture This!**
Room 241/242
Please bring copies of print photos with you to the event for a scanning/editing demonstration.
- Saturday, February 21, 2015 **Bursting the Cloud: Organizing, Sharing and Storing Digital and Print Files**
Room 315
- Saturday, March 14, 2015 **Mobile Mania: How to Use Your Mobile Device**
Room 315
Bring your device and questions as we teach you quick tips and tricks and share our favorite free apps.
- Register online or by calling (937) 775-2380.

News from WSURA

Dues Increase

At the October meeting, the WSURA Board voted to change the dues structure. Primary consideration was the increased cost of printing, mailing, and student worker wages, even though we have expanded our communications through emailing and the website. The new structure that will take effect on January 1, 2015 is:

Annual Dues: Change from \$10 to \$20
Lifetime Dues: younger than 59- \$100 (no change)
60 to 69- from \$75 to \$80
70 and older- from \$50 to \$60

WSU Health Fair

The WSURA booth at the October campus Health Fair proved to be a popular stopping place for attendees. Not only were we able to share information about our organization with near-retirees, but the raffle for two baskets attracted 231 participants. The baskets were put together using contributions from the Athletic Department, the Book Store, Parker's General Store and Starbucks as well as food stuffs bought from the dues fund. Membership Chair **Gerry Petrak** chaired the committee for event. **Carol Stevenson** and **Mary Kenton** solicited the contributions and **Gail Whitaker**, **Donna Curtin**, **Jim Sayer** and **Marlene Bireley** staffed the booth with **Gerry**.

Unbelievably, the two randomly drawn winners of the raffle baskets were from the same campus office. They were **Tamarus Stokes**, administrative assistant to the Associate Provost and **Renee Aitken**, Assistant Vice- President for Education Effectiveness and Institutional Accreditation. Both were delighted and surprised at their good fortune.

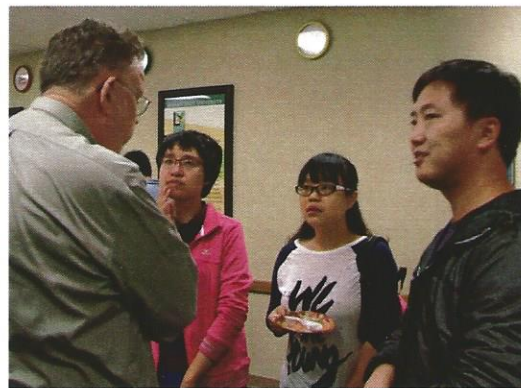


International Reception

On October 1, **Bob Wagley**, liaison to the University Center for International Education, hosted the Fall Reception for visiting faculty and research associates. Several Board members also attended and provided refreshments. Of the 25 visitors on campus this fall, ten came to the reception. All but one were from China. The lone exception was a young woman from The Netherlands. **Bob** brought Beaver Creek and Greene County Visitor maps for the group.

In chatting with some of the visitors, they shared the fact that they chose to come to Wright State because the Wright Brothers are known in China and it was a familiar name. Some were interested in visiting the Air Force Museum to learn more about the history of early flight. The next week, **Marlene Bireley** drove seven of the group, all of whom teach at the same university, to the museum. They were delighted to have this opportunity since they are without personal transportation.

They reciprocated by inviting **Marlene** and **Bob and Lorraine Wagley** to a dinner celebrating **Li Dong**, a Chinese festival celebrating the beginning of the winter season, where they were able to partake of several traditional Chinese delicacies.



Above: **Bob Wagley** with international visiting scholars

Left: **Renee Aitken** with Membership Chair **Gerry Petrak** and **Tamarus Stokes**

Presentations to the Board

Carol Stevenson

President **Jim Sayer** is continuing the practice of ending the Board meetings with speakers of interest to the Board. This fall we have heard from **Dr. Robert Sweeney**, retired Dean **Greg Bernhardt** and **Dr. Bill Rickert**.

Dr. Robert Sweeney, Executive Vice-President of Planning and Secretary to the Board of Trustees addressed the WSURA Board at the regular September meeting. In opening remarks, **Dr. Sweeney** recalled that his first and last classes at WSU were taught by Board member **Robert Wagley**.

The first question was a 'what's happening at WSU' inquiry. **Dr. Sweeney** responded with information on five initiatives:

Construction of the Neuroscience Engineering Building. Projects include how does the brain know the transfer of weight; how does the brain interact with machinery, and funded research developing new ideas and solutions.

Continuing activity at the National Center for Medical Readiness. This includes the use and development of equipment and the training of medical and emergency personnel.

Construction next to University Hall of the Student Success Center. The facility will be tied in to the tunnel system for access, and enhance student success in placement.

Completion of the new chapel. The chapel was situated on 5 acres of privately owned land. As part of the plan, four of the acres were sold to the University to be developed as a student commons housing food service, meeting rooms, game space and could even become the home of 'the rock'.

A Veterans Center is being developed in Millett Hall. It was determined that the best location was close to the academic core rather than the Student Union for the social core.

Another issue addressed was the building of a parking garage to accommodate more student parking. In response, alternative ideas are being explored such as moving/re-locating staff who do not need to interact with students to areas across Colonel Glenn Highway which have been or are in the process of being acquired by the University. This would free-up approximately 600 additional spaces. Tuition costs/increases were next to be addressed. The University continues to look for revenue streams to help defray additional costs to students. Recently Printing Services were outsourced and co-operative agreements have been arranged with Clark State University and Central State University to share the costs of that service.

Other topics of interest were the process of decision making and **Dr. Sweeney's** role in hearing and resolving issues of unintended consequences of decisions. Concern was expressed about what appears to be a top-heavy administrative staff, however, it was pointed out that WSU operates much like a small city and to relieve faculty of the burden of excessive administrative tasks, administrative best practices are employed. A variety of other questions completed the lively discussion.

In October, **Dr. Greg Bernhardt**, former Dean of Education and Human Services, spoke to the Board describing the Dayton STEM School purposes and programs. He emphasized that the program is built on a strong liberal arts foundation that develops critical thinking. STEM itself (science, technology, engineering, and math, promotes partnerships with and support for business and industry in the area. The Dayton STEM school has also reached out to organizations outside of the counties served to provide a wider base of contacts and experiences for firms such as Newport Aquarium and defense contractor, Grumman. Other partnerships have been developed with Wright Patterson AFB, local colleges and universities, community and government entities. Job shadowing, internships, and power lunches with professionals are encouraged. Students develop their own contacts within the partner institutions.

The grant for starting the school was written in 2007 and in February 2008 was one of the first two sites chosen. The school now includes grades 6 through 12. There are 640 students representing 32

statistics include special needs students (generally learning disabilities)-6% and reduced lunches are provided to 19% of the students. There are 12 STEM schools in Ohio, however, the Dayton school located in the old Value City building on Woodman Drive is one of only two free-standing schools in Ohio. Admission by lottery is based on the number of applicants and districts represented, after each student and parents have submitted an essay describing why the STEM school experience interests them and is the best 'fit' as a learning environment. No students are added after the 10th grade.

Qualities stressed at the school are persistence, inquiry, communication, creativity, and collaboration. Each student's portfolio is tied to these qualities. The curriculum is project based. The grading scale is A, B, C, and F. No D grade is given. In addition to campus classes, students participate in short-term STEMmersion (off-campus meaningful, authentic experiences for growth – often in the arts and government). While this school is not appropriate for all students, those who learn and work hard, are flexible and adaptable are most likely to be attracted to the environment and to succeed in it.

Our last fall speaker was **Dr. Bill Rickert**, Assistant Provost, who addressed the WSURA Board on the topic of the History of Unionization at Wright State University. When unionization was contemplated several years ago, two major concerns were raised, 1) unionization would mean the end of grievances; and 2) unionization would be the end of Western Civilization as it was known at the time. He was pleased to observe that neither occurred. Issues directly affected by the current faculty agreements are health care, summer teaching, annual evaluation standards, student evaluations, distance learning, and intellectual property.

The American Association of University Professors is the largest union on campus with the Teamsters and Fraternal Order of Police next. There have been eight collective bargaining agreements negotiated with the faculty since unionization in 1998. Agreements were negotiated in 1999, 2002, 2005, 2008, 2011, 2013, and 2014. Usually an agreement is for a period of three years; however, in 2013 negotiations were necessary to cover new rules for lecturers, instructors, and visiting faculty.

There have been both positive and some perceived negative results from unionization. On the positive side there is stronger morale, workload equity, more sense of fairness and less bending of rules. On the negative side it is perceived as more rigid and restrictive. The overall results have been more consistency, but less flexibility. Adjuncts do not benefit from unionization as the State of Ohio does not allow part-time employees to bargain, but union negotiations for the faculty have spilled over to increased benefits for staff.

Each of the speakers has brought interesting, up-to-date information to the group helping the Board to maintain a stronger connection to the campus community.

