



# The Extension

**Save the Date: Reminisce, Celebrate, Anticipate**  
**Thursday, May 14, 2015**  
**11 am – 4 pm, Berry Room, E.J. Nutter Center**

On **Thursday, May 14, 2015**, Wright State University Retirees' Association (WSURA) invites you to attend their first annual retiree reunion. The event will begin with a social time and a group picture. Please plan to arrive around 11 am. For your convenience, you may park in Lot 1 near the entrance to the Berry Room.

After a few opening remarks and introductions by WSURA president, **Dr. James Sayer**, the buffet luncheon will begin around 12 noon. The day's activities will include special presentations from guest speakers **Dawne Dewey**, Head of Special Collections and Archives, and from **Chris Wydman**, University Records Manager and Archivist.

Stroll down memory lane with past co-workers and enjoy special presentations from the early days of Wright State University. You might also be able to help solve a few mysteries by helping to identify some of the old photographs displayed by the Archives.

Cost per person is \$20.00. The buffet will include two entrees, one of which will be a vegetarian option. Seating will be set up with round tables for eight. We encourage you to reserve a table and enjoy the event with your family members and former friends and co-workers. **Reservations are due by Wednesday, April 15, 2015.** In case of a cancellation due to illness, you can receive a refund. Other reimbursements will be handled on a case-by-case review dependent upon the resale of your reservation.

WSURA is not set up to handle credit cards, but payment can be sent by check made out to WSURA. Please mail your reservation to **Mary Gromosiak**, 3204 Seton Hill Drive, Bellbrook, OH 45305 and include a list of the names of your guests and the department from which each retired.

Please join us for a memorable event. There may even be a surprise or two in the works!

## 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

Asst. Editor: Carol Stevenson

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](mailto:wsura@wright.edu)

WSURA website:

[www.wright.edu/retirees-association](http://www.wright.edu/retirees-association)

## President's Message

**Jim Sayer**

In a short time, the annual Campus Scholarship and Innovation Campaign will start and I wish to encourage all WSU retirees to contribute to this year's campaign. Specifically, I ask that you make your donation to the **Nick Davis WSURA Scholarship Fund** for that is the source of revenue that we use to give two \$1500 scholarships each year to two of WSU's most outstanding student.

This past year, the retiree participation rate in CSIC increased from nine per cent to 17 per cent-yeah, us! Now, if we can bump that up a bit more, we might have enough money to award THREE scholarships this year, something that would benefit the entire university. So, when this years CSIC kicks off, please consider contributing to the **Nick Davis WSURA Fund**. The impact of your gift is sizeable!

On another topic, I know that, because of changes in the state's retirement systems, a lot of faculty and staff colleagues are contemplating joining us in the "over-the-hill" club. Here are my recollections of my retirement in the recent past.

I retired in July 2010 after 36 years at WSU. It took me a full three months to get acclimated to that great change. At first, I found myself still getting up at 5:30 in the morning and wanting to get ready to go and I had to remind myself that I did not have to go anywhere-except the golf course. I think that from July to November that year I played more rounds of golf than I had in the preceding twenty years; I just wished that my scores had improved!

After getting that out of my system, I was happy to get back into something important by teaching Honors Seminars and becoming more heavily involved in WSURA, both of which, along with my church work, have provided great meaning

to my retirement days. There is, after all, only so much golf a human can play.

If you are a recent retiree, realize that things are not over, they are but different. You can contribute in many ways-and you don't have to get up at 5:30!



WSURA is on Facebook!

Follow us at:

[Facebook.com/WSURA](https://www.facebook.com/WSURA)

Visit our website:

[Wright.edu/retirees-association](http://Wright.edu/retirees-association)

## Deaths

**Joseph Albrecht**, Associate Professor,  
School of Medicine, November 2014

**Charles Ryan**, Director of Graduate Studies,  
CEHS, November 2014

**Patricia Bittner**, Fels Research Institute,  
December 2014

**Malcolm L. Ritchie**, Professor, Engineering,  
January 2015

**Robert Habor**, Professor, Engineering,  
January 2015

## WSURA Spring Activities

### American Impressionism: The Lure of the Artists' Colony

On **Wednesday, March 18, 2015**, join other WSURA members and friends when they visit the Dayton Art Institute's special exhibition on "American Impressionism: The Lure of the Artists' Colony."

There will be more than 100 works from the American Impressionism era from the 1880s through the 1940s. The exhibition examines artistic communities at Cos Cob and Old Lyme in Connecticut; Cape Cod, Cape Anne, and Rockport, Massachusetts; New Hope and Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; Taos, New Mexico and throughout California.

The selection of lyrical landscapes, ranging from snow-covered hills to sun-filled harbors and seascapes, penetrating portraits, and remarkable still-life paintings, documents an important moment in the history of American Art.

We will meet at 11 am at the Dayton Art Institute on Wednesday, March 18, 2015. **Please RSVP by Wednesday, March 11, 2015** if you plan to attend. Following the tour, we plan to have lunch at Leo Bistro inside the DAI.

Cost for seniors (60+) is \$11.00; adults \$14.00; and museum members: no cost.

Send your reservation to [mary.gromosiak@wright.edu](mailto:mary.gromosiak@wright.edu). Cell: **937.974.4010**

**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.

**Thursday, March 12, 2015**  
**Thursday, April 9, 2015**  
**Thursday, May 14, 2015**

### Other Activities of Interest

**Thursday, April 16, 2015**

**5:30 p.m.** Public Reception E156 Student Union

**Presidential Lecture Series**  
(Free and open to the public)

**7 p.m.** Lecture Apollo Room, Student Union

**Steve Baskis**, SPC, U.S. Army-Ret., advocate for disability awareness through adventure exploration and adaptive recreation.

## Other Activities of Interest

**Thursday, March 5, 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, March 17, 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, 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.

### Shredded Similes, Mutilated Metaphors

For your entertainment, actual similes and metaphors found by high school English teachers from across the country in their student's essays.

She had a deep, throaty, genuine laugh, like that sound a dog makes just before it throws up.

He was as tall as a six-foot, three-inch tree.

The little boat gently drifted across the pond exactly the way a bowling ball wouldn't.

It was an American tradition, like fathers chasing kids around with power tools.

John and Mary had never met. They were like two hummingbirds who had also never met.

## News from WSURA

With the exception of a few social activities, the WSURA Board has taken January off while many of our members are enjoying sunnier climates. The committee planning the May reunion has been busy as the lead article on page one indicates. **Judy Rose**, Bylaws and Elections Chair, is hard at work putting together the election slate for next year. If you are interested in becoming more involved in WSURA, please contact her immediately at [JJRose2@aol.com](mailto:JJRose2@aol.com). Here are some pictures attesting to the fun that we had at our December and January social outings:



Christmas Brunch at the Listerman's



January Brunch at Yankee Trace



Annual men's basketball game outing

### Williamson, the Greatest Town in the World

(This remembrance was written by **Abe Bassett**, Past-President and Webmaster of WSURA, in 2006. Since that time, he has completed and published his autobiography. It is available on Amazon as *Abe, Son of Abraham: Stories, Vignettes, Remembrances, Reflections, Thoughts and Tributes*. The Amazon website describes the book as:

*“Abe, Son of Abraham* begins as a series of well written and funny vignettes about the author’s early years and his special relationship with his father. It concludes with remembrances of his uncles and aunts, immigrants from Lebanon. In between are stories of adventures of hitchhiking in Europe, serving in the Army in the Far East and traveling in the Middle East. The title derives from the fact that **Abe** and **Abraham** are Junior and Senior, leading to the book’s dedication to the father whose influence permeated the life of the junior.”

While not all of us may be as ambitious as Abe, may this serve as a reminder of the importance of preserving our own stories for future generations.)

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 famously 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 watt 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: (Continued on Page 7)

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 rowboat. 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.



Bob and Lorraine Wagley hosted an American dinner for visiting faculty and families from Xi'an University in China

**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)

\_\_\_\_\_ \$80 (Ages 60-69 )

\_\_\_\_\_ \$60 (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:**

\_\_\_\_\_ \$20

**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