

Wright State University Retirees Association

The Extension

No. 97

Spring
2018

President's Message

Donna Schlagheck

Hello to all WSURA Members,

It has been a busy winter for the Retirees Association, and I hope you have enjoyed some of the activities with us. The connecting and sharing has included Raider Basketball, a fascinating tour of the Frank Lloyd Wright Westcott House in Springfield, and the always popular Airstream tour.

Mary Gromosiak has outdone herself organizing these outings, KUDOS Mary.

Marlene Bireley has just put the finishing touches on the Spring Seminars, and I urge you to register early! The terrific variety of classes being offered are described later in the newsletter. I am sure you will enjoy the company and conversation with your fellow WSURA colleagues.

Thanks to **Gary Barlow**, WSURA will be cooperating with the WSU Archives Oral History project, helping to transcribe some of the interviews already conducted. Preserving the stories of Wright State faculty and staff is especially meaningful to our organization. Our outstanding student assistant, **Emily Ross**, will be learning the technology and process involved in preserving these stories. We are proud that our **Nick Davis Scholarship** is nearing complete endowment and we are considering new opportunities for giving back to the Wright State Community. Watch this space for more on this topic.

Finally, I am very happy to share the news that WSURA members **Judi Engle** and **Robin Suits** have accepted appointments to our Board, fulfilling the terms of recently resigned members **Frieda Bennett** and **Jim Sayer**. Their strong backgrounds in communication will greatly enhance our ability to connect with our retired staff and faculty constituency. Welcome **Robin** and **Judi**! May 10 is our annual luncheon at the Berry Room in the Ervin J. Nutter Center. Please join us!



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. 15—Winter
- Feb. 15—Spring
- May 15—Summer
- Aug. 15—Fall

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New Board Members in 2017-18



It took a little persuading, but **Joyce Howes** agreed to join the Board last fall as President-elect. She retired in 2015 after a 35 year career in the College of Science and Mathematics. After earning both her BS and MS in Biological Sciences, Joyce signed up to teach introductory biology, advise students and manage the department's class schedule. Thirteen years later **Dean Marc Low** named her Assistant Dean for Student Affairs. For the next 22 years Joyce promoted student success programming, served on countless college and university committees, provided leadership during the implementation of Banner Student and the conversion to semesters, and worked one-on-one with hundreds of students. Since retiring, she spends lots of time with her grandchildren, ages 4 and 7, who live less than a mile away. She also has time to spend with her extended family, more time to enjoy the outdoors, and more time to make quilts. Recently, Joyce returned to her Wright State roots, teaching introductory biology as an adjunct. Teaching was her first love and she's come full circle to stand again behind the lectern. In the words **Robert Browning**, Joyce thinks of retirement as the "last of life, for which the first was made."

Larry Prochaska joined the Board last fall as Secretary. He retired in 2015 as Professor in the Department of Molecular Biology in the Boonshoft School of Medicine after 35 years of service. He was a recognized and productive scholar, researcher and teacher. He was the Frederick A. White Distinguished Professor of Service from 2009 to 2012. He served as Treasurer of the Wright State Chapter of AAUP and has been actively involved in the union since its inception. He works tirelessly for the American Heart Association, serving as President of the Dayton Metro American Heart Association and Vice-President of the Ohio Affiliate American Heart Association. He has long been a supporter of Wright State athletics, serving for many years on Athletics Council, including a term as Chair. Now that he is retired, he has more time for his hobbies. He enjoys exercising, golf, drinking wine and travel with his wife **Cathy**. They live in Beaver-creek with their cats Princess and Punkin.



Robin Suits worked at Wright State University from 1983 to 2016, serving for about half that time in the university Office of Communications and Marketing and the other half in the Boonshoft School of Medicine Office of Marketing and Communications. She was editor of the faculty and staff newspaper, **The University Times**, from 1983 to 1996, and was instrumental in creating the university's first website in 1995. After moving to the medical school in 1999, she wrote feature stories for **Vital Signs**, the medical school magazine, and later was named associate director of marketing for electronic communications and webmaster for the medical school. Robin's expertise is already being put to good use. She has agreed to help **Abe Bassett** upgrade and maintain the WSURA website and is serving on the committee formed to evaluate WSURA's publications and other communication efforts. Robin is married to **Jimmy Chesire**, who was a senior lecturer in English at Wright State for 24 years before they both retired at the end of 2016. She enjoys following political news, cooking international foods and vegetable gardening. She and Jimmy live in Yellow Springs with their golden retriever and two cats.



Judi Engle also brings a wealth of experience in communications and human relations to the Board. She is a leading voice on the ad hoc committee formed to evaluate WSURA's total effort at reaching our constituencies. Although she spent a few early years in the College of Liberal Arts and the Admin Wing, the bulk of her career was in Wright State's Boonshoft School of Medicine, from which she retired in 2008. There Judi served as the Director of Publications and Strategic Communications, which included editorship of **Vital Signs** and numerous newsletters as well as development of the first web site for the school and the first DVD recruitment materials for medical students. During the years, she also finished her B.A. and M.A. in English. Since retirement, she has become certified with the Red Cross and served as an officer for Greene County Master Gardeners, a local chapter of P.E.O. and other non-profits. Her hobbies include six wonderful grandchildren, genealogy research, gardening, reading, classical piano and international travel with her husband, retired Social Work professor Phil.



Register Now for April Workshops

The WSURA workshops are planned for members who are looking for new skills and hobbies or stimulating discussions. They will be very informal and hands-on. Enrollment is limited to ensure good interaction, so send in your reservation early. Unless otherwise specified, all sessions will be held at the WSURA office, 210 Foundation Building, which is behind the Wendy's directly across from the main entrance to the WSU campus. Parking is plentiful and free. Accessible parking is in the rear of the building. Coffee and snacks will be provided. Enroll with our office assistant, **Emily Ross**, at 775-2777 or wsura1@wright.edu or with **Marlene Bireley** at mkbphd@aol.com. Please include your name, email, telephone number, and the workshop (s) that you wish to attend. **Enrollment will be closed on April 11.**

April 17 and 24 (Tuesdays)—10 a.m.-12 noon
David Barr, WSURA member, Professor of Religion emeritus

Join in this loosely structured discussion of religion, guided by the interests and concerns of those who attend. First, we will focus on how different religions view the purpose of life and the fate of the individual after death. In the second session, we will explore four ways of being religious: Devotion, Mysticism, Myth, and Harmony. Along the way we will try to sort out some of the basic characteristics of religion and discuss the underlying logic of religious behavior—however strange it may sometimes seem.

April 17 (Tuesday)- 1-3 p.m.
Leigh Duncan, Head, Library Technology Resources and the IT staff of the Dunbar Library

Learn how to get the most out of your smart phones, tablets and laptops. Topics will be based on the interest of the participants and time will be set

aside for individual consultation with the workshop staff. Suggested topics are finding and using the right apps, using podcasts, cleaning up files, syncing various devices, etc. If you have specific questions, please send them to **Marlene Bireley** at mkbphd@aol.com by April 11.

April 26 (Thursday)-10-12 a.m.
Donna Schlagheck, WSURA president, Professor emerita, Political Science

Around the Globe: 2018 World Affairs. Join Donna for a conversation about world affairs in 2018. Is it a world in disarray? Do we miss the continuous and the good? At WSU, Donna taught American Foreign Policy and advised the Model United Nations program. She served twice as president of the Dayton Council on World Affairs, and briefed officers at WPAFB who were heading to assignments in Europe and the Middle East. She studied and wrote on terrorism and corruption.

April 24 and 26 (Tuesday and Thursday)- 1-3 p.m.
Bill Stoltz, Dunbar Library Archivist/Reference and Outreach

Genealogy Basics: Getting Started. Topics will include the Wright State and other local archive resources, popular databases, state and national resources, and "tools of the trade."

The second session will focus on getting started on personal searches. If the group wishes, this session may be held at the Dunbar Library. (WSU is on break so parking should be easy.)

SPACE IS LIMITED—ENROLLMENT CLOSING APRIL 11

Archives Fund Drive
by Marlene Bireley

WSURA has had a long partnership with the University Archives through our Oral History Project. The Archives has outgrown its space in the Dunbar Library and funds are being raised to move to the former WrightPatt Credit Union building across from campus. The fund drive started at a kick-off dinner on October 4. The co-chairs are historian **David McCullough**, whose recent book on the Wright Brothers was well received and will be made into a mini-series by **Tom Hanks**, and **Amanda Wright Lane**, great-grand niece of the Wright Brothers.

The first three major donations were announced at the dinner. Mrs. Lane will fund the reception area. The heirs of **Lew Shupe**, WSURA's Historical Preservation Chair who headed our Oral history project until his death in 2016, will fund the Oral History Room. And current Board member **Gary Barlow** who serves as WSURA's liaison to the Friends of the Libraries, will fund the Director's Conference Room. We announce these donations with pride and pleasure as yet another example of the continued commitment of our members to the university community.



Board member and Friends of the Libraries Liaison Gary Barlow funded the Director's Room.

And Dog Said
David Lee Garrison

In the beginning
God said to Dog,
"Your name is mine
in the mirror
so I grant you
the next creation."

And Dog said,
"I would like someone
to walk with me."
So God made Man
with hardly any sense
of smell and just two legs.

And God said to Dog,
"He has only a few words
like come and fetch,
and he knows little of the earth
and its redolence, but let him
totter along behind you and learn."

This splendid poem, which always makes me smile and nod my head wisely, is offered in memory of: **Ranger Roscoe, Inspector General**, a very fine dog and a wonderful companion to **Mary Kenton** and **David Barr**. He taught us a lot.

January 5, 2004 - November 19, 2017

You can find more of **David Lee Garrison's** poetry in his book **Playing Bach in the DC Metro**. David taught Spanish and Portuguese and chaired the Modern Languages Department. David is also famous for having written the lyrics for the Wright State alma mater. The late, great **Tom Whissen** (English) wrote the music. David retired in 2009.

International WSURA Friendship Program Orientation

Wednesday, April 11, 2018, 3-4pm
1st floor Student Union: University Center for International Education (Student Union 186E)
Orientation to include online application in real time for WSURA members who want to become international partners, beginning Fall semester 2018, or earlier if desired. (Alternate 20 minute private orientations can be arranged at the convenience of WSURA members.)
If you are not sure you want to become involved but do want to learn about the program, no problem. Join us! If you want to get involved, but would like to partner with an experienced WSURA member, no problem. WSURA will arrange it. Join us!
Bring your lap top or other electronic device if you can; if not, WSU's International Office will provide computers for those who wish to complete a brief partner application on the 11th.

REGISTER for the Orientation by April 2nd noon by sending an email to me at ruth.schumacher@wright.edu saying you will be coming on the 11th!

Becoming an International WSURA Partner

WSURA partners get together with their matched international/s once per semester or once per month. You select one or the other. Activities can include sharing a meal together, shopping, attending a function or event, enjoying an outing, sharing an interest or hobby, etc. The International Office will also provide a listing of free international events on campus early in each semester.
WSURA partners do NOT house internationals. WSURA partners are not responsible for assistance with academics or ongoing transport. The idea is to incorporate an international into the typical life of a WSURA member.

Q and A

Can I make up my mind after 11th?

YES

Can I partner with more than one international?

YES

Can I partner with another WSURA member?

YES

Will I have fun? Learn? Make new friends?

YES

Can I bring a WSURA friend to Orientation?

YES

Do I need to have young people or children at home to become a partner?

NO

Should I contact Ruth Schumacher with questions, concerns, etc.

ABSOLUTELY!

Congratulations!

Congratulations to the Wright State Women's and Men's Basketball teams. The men, under Coach **Scott Nagy**, won the Horizon League tournament and were invited to the NCAA Tournament for the first time since 2007. Coach **Katrina Merriweather** led her women to the Horizon League tournament final where they fell to powerhouse Green Bay. The women were invited to participate in the NIT for the fourth time since 2010. As we go to press on March 14, we don't know the outcome of either game. But both teams have given their all this year and brought a lot of pleasure to the WSU community. Way to go RAIDERS!



Deaths

Artie L. Farmer, November 13, 2017, CATS

Judy Preston, December 16, 2017, Boonshoft School of Medicine

Patsy Wilson Falkner, January 3, 2018, Associate Registrar

Cheryl L. Aubin, January 26, 2018, Instructor, School of Nursing and Health

William Roger Johnson, January 26, 2018, CATS

Charles J. Hartmann, February 20, 2018, Emeritus Professor of Law, Raj Sooin College of Business

Sally Evans, February 26, 2018, Director of Student Services, College of Education and Human Services

debates became heated. His competence soon thrust him into a leadership role and he served as our president in 2002-2003 and again in 2004-2005. After that, he served as Treasurer for several years until ill health forced him to relinquish that role. More importantly, when the scholarship fund that now bears his name was first established, we struggled to maintain enough funds to support a single scholarship. During those years, Nick and his wife, **Bea**, made generous anonymous donations to keep the fund afloat and get us closer to our initial \$30,000 endowment goal. He never announced these gifts and most Board members were never aware of his personal commitment to this important endeavor. Upon his death, I was privileged to suggest to the Board that an appropriate acknowledgement of his service and generosity would be to name the scholarship in his honor and the suggestion was met enthusiastically by those Board members.

Who was **Nick Davis**? He was an enthusiastic supporter of Wright State who continued that support through service to our organization after his retirement. While the man may be remembered by only a few really "oldtimers," his legacy persists in the scholarship that bears his name. He would be pleased.

Why Is it Called the Nick Davis Scholarship Fund by Marlene Bireley

Soon, you will receive the annual request from the University Foundation to support the Campus Scholarship and Innovation Campaign. You will be urged to consider the WSURA **Nick Davis Scholarship Fund** when you make your donation. Board members who were active in the early years of the organization remember Nick with fondness, but recent retirees (the majority of the Board) have no recollection of this remarkable man.

As a university employee, Nick served as the Director of the downtown Kettering Center which, at that time, was a thriving continuing education center. As a retiree, Nick was an important part of the early history of WSURA. He was a gentle man. His quiet demeanor was always a calming influence when

Status Report on the Nick Davis Scholarship Fund

The current balance in the endowment account is \$84,886.50. Because of recent changes in how the Foundation distributes interest, we now need to reach \$100,000 to fully fund the three \$1500 scholarships that we award each year. Last year the Fund took in \$8,198 in gifts and pledges. Our best year was 2015, when we raised \$11,625. We need a little over \$15,000 this year to reach our goal. WSURA Board members plan to participate in the 2018 Phonathon. Please think about being as generous as you can when you get that call. Every penny that you donate goes directly to students, who are the sons and daughters, grandchildren or nieces and nephews of your fellow retirees.

WSURA Membership Form

New _____ Renewal _____ Date _____

Name _____

Spouse's Name _____

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 (All Ages)

Annual Membership:

_____ \$25

**Please fill in the information requested above and send it with your dues (please do not send cash)
Make check payable to:**

Wright State University Retirees Association
210 Foundations Bldg.
3640 Colonel Glenn Hwy.
Dayton, OH 45435