

The Extension



President's Message

Hello everyone! I am the newly elected president of the Wright State University Retirees Association (WSURA), **Larry Prochaska**. I joined Wright State in 1980 and retired in 2015 as Professor and Vice-chair of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology with a joint appointment in the College of Science and Mathematics and the Boonshoft School of Medicine. During my time on the Wright State Faculty, I was the F.A. White Distinguished Professor of Professional Service from 2010 to 2014 and also served as the diversity officer in the College of Science and Mathematics from 2010 to 2015. At the same time, I was the elected Treasurer of WSU-AAUP.



I taught at the undergraduate, graduate, and professional student levels. My research activities resulted in fifty published papers and over one hundred abstracts and invited presentations. I graduated nine Ph.D. students, six Master's students, and two Honors undergraduate students and also supervised three postdoctoral fellows. I was chair of my discipline's subgroup in the Biophysical Society. I am the current President of the American Heart Association Dayton metro board and a member of the state of Ohio advocacy board for the American Heart Association. That's enough about me!

As you are fully aware, the Dayton metro region has suffered catastrophic events this year – flooding in the northern counties, tornadoes throughout the region, and most recently, the mass shooting in the Oregon District. Wright State has also experienced tough times in 2019, including significant budget cuts across campus and the AAUP strike. Most departments, including WSURA, lost thirty percent of their state allocated funds. These funds were used to support WSURA's ongoing collaborative programs such as the oral history project, our publications and membership outreach, as well as activities such as the annual luncheon, the recent picnic and our sponsored lectures and interactive workshops.

We have always operated on a tight budget, but now we are hard pressed to make ends meet. Here's how you can help. Please consider making whatever contribution your budget allows to WSURA's Patron Fund by going to wright.edu/retirees-association/patron. A healthy balance in the Patron Fund will help ensure that WSURA's existing programs can go on uninterrupted and that we can continue to innovate. I hope this issue of *The Extension* will give you some flavor of the range of issues, ideas and service projects that engage the retiree community. Let's keep it going!

Thank you for reading and thank you in advance for considering the Patron Fund!

In This Issue

A Shaggy Dog Tale	2
Artist's Corner	3
Retirees Picnic	3
Wright State Stories	4
Meet Our Scholars	5
WSURA Board	6
Retirees in the News	6
New Board Members	7

Events Calendar

Thursday, October 10 – 5:30 pm
Join your WSURA friends for dinner and harness racing at the Dayton Hollywood Racino Center at 4701 Wagner Ford Road. You will be able to order dinner and drinks from a selected menu. Please note that it will not be possible to get a separate check this year, so be sure to bring cash! Racing begins at 6:00. Reserved seating is available in the 2nd level Sky Sports Bar. RSVP by **Sunday, October 6**.

Wednesday, October 23 – 11:30 am - 1:00 pm
Paul Leonard, who is currently affiliated with the Political Science Department and who once served as Dayton's mayor and Ohio's Lieutenant Governor, will discuss the 2020 election at a Brown Bag lunch in the WSURA Office on the second floor of the Foundation Building.

RSVP for these events to mary.gromosiak@wright.edu or 937-974-4010.



A Shaggy Dog Tale

WSURA Treasurer **Sheryl Provens** is the proud owner of a five-year-old Pug of undetermined ancestry. His mother was a foundling. Near the end of a dog show, she was discovered alone in the parking lot. No one claimed or even recognized her. She wasn't chipped, so the man who found her took her home. A pretty pug, she was eventually bred to an AKC registered male. Sheryl was thrilled to get a handsome fawn puppy from this mating who would come to be known as Tucker Provens.



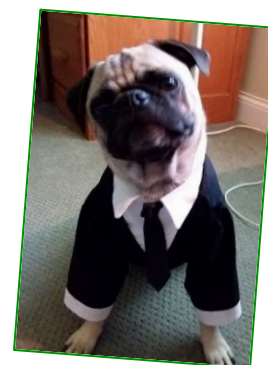
The Provens household already had a dog, an Australian blue heeler cattle dog named Hank. Sheryl signed him up for an agility class to keep him busy, but he was not enthusiastic about it. Little Tucker, just seven months old, watched Hank's class and performed the moves on his own. The next session Hank went back to playing ball and Tucker started agility training. He loved it. From the beginning he was confident and fearless, never once hesitating on any obstacle. He was patient with Sheryl but always let her know when she made a mistake that held him back.



He excelled to the point where Sheryl wanted to give him a chance to compete in official AKC sanctioned events. And for that he had to be registered as an AKC-PAL (Purebred Alternative Listing), and he had to have a registered name—thus Tucker Provens. Tucker was a natural in his event, Jumpers and Weaves. He started racking up points. He enjoyed training and loved competition. After Hank died Sheryl got another pug, Dexter. He and Tucker became fast friends. Their favorite game is chase, in which Tucker runs his heart out on the sprints and turns with Dexter in hot pursuit. In 2018 Tucker was ranked by the Pug Dog Club of America as the nation's top performing pug in his agility event.

In late October, Tucker and Sheryl will be recognized at the Pug Dog Club of America National Specialty in Hunt Valley, Maryland, just outside of Baltimore. Tucker will be formally presented at the Top Twenty in Agility ceremony and will receive a large beautiful rosette. Sheryl will beam with pride. She takes no credit for Tucker's success. In her telling, Tucker wins in spite of her mistakes, not because she does everything humanly possible to let him shine.

At the weeklong event Tucker will compete for the first time in an all-pug agility trial. He is accumulating points for 2019 rankings. He will gladly participate in the Wednesday night costume party dressed as Frank from *Men in Black*. Sheryl and human companions will appear as his entourage. Sheryl says pugs are strong-willed and smart. They have a fun personality—loving, playful, competent and not too noisy. (Hmm, sounds a bit like Sheryl.) What an unlikely trip it's been for both of them—the son of a foundling and the post-retirement novice agility trainer enjoying their moment in the national spotlight!



By Mary Kenton

Editorial Note: *The New York Times* reported on September 3, 2019, that owning a dog may lead to a longer, healthier life. People with any pet are better off than those without, but dog ownership was associated with the largest cardiovascular benefit. The study was based on a randomly selected group of 1,769 in the Czech Republic, 42% of which owned pets. Owning a dog by itself does not necessarily provide the benefit—walking the dog may be the key. But the authors point to other positives such as an increased sense of well-being, a decrease in loneliness, and decreased rates of depression.

ARTIST'S CORNER**Without Words**

Early dew-grass
Covers me
In a way that hoards no fear
As I head into a faceless woods,
Walking away without words.

The losses felt are whispers
Behind my head.
I pick up the pace
And try to form
A new, invisible path,
Like a bird flying slowly,
A heavy cargo in its mouth.

Borrowing Dusk

I have learned from my books
That dusk is a time of power
The sky is most beautiful
And God is visible
If one does not search.
A movement begins,
A new cycle of life stirs
In crevices
And voices can be heard
If one does not listen.
A yellowing in the west
Divides the world
Then disappears
And leaves us to choose what we do.

*Both Poems by David A. Petreman
Professor Emeritus, Modern Languages*

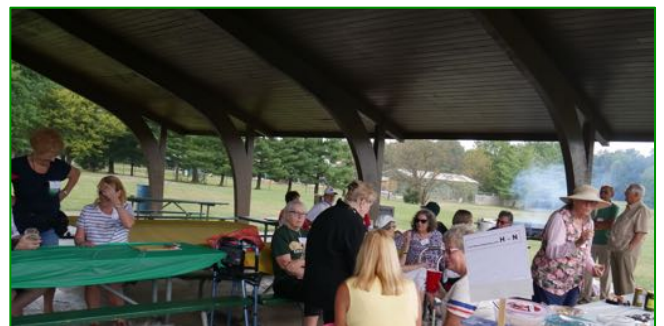
Retirees Picnic

On Wednesday, August 13, WSURA hosted a picnic for all retirees at Fairborn Community Park on Dayton Yellow Springs Road. WSURA provided hamburgers, hot dogs, bottled water and set up. Attendees brought a dish to share. It was a great success! Marlene Bireley and Gary Barlow signed in fifty some people, mostly retirees, but there were also two out-of-town academics that were visiting Ruth Schumacher, a small assortment of grandchildren and Donna Curtin's very cute puppy named Sophie. There were lots of hugs and catching up as people arrived.

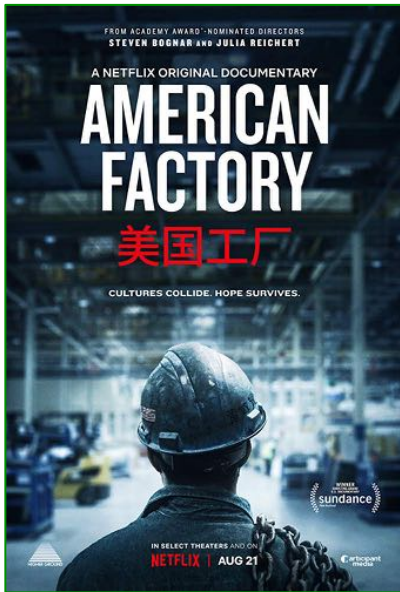
Soon Grill Master Dan Abrahamowicz had the coals blazing. He had a team of helpers, including his wife, Kelly, Joyce Howes, Dick Williams, and Larry Prochaska. They proceeded to turn out quantities of burgers and dogs, which disappeared as soon as they could get them in the trays. Lots of baked beans, salads and fruit disappeared also. Now we were down to desserts. All of them were good, but the indisputable favorite was a sinfully rich carrot cake that Al Smith brought from Current Cuisine in Yellow Springs. No one actually fought over it, but every bite was consumed with gusto. We ran out of forks but had plenty of spoons and knives, so no one had to eat with a comb a la Presidential candidate Amy Klobuchar. (Look it up).

After lunch some folks tried corn holing. We never did get around to euchre, but plenty of people guessed how many beans were in the jar. Mary Gromosiak's brother actually counted them—2,253. Roger Kauppila, Linda's husband, guessed closest and won a gift certificate. Linda concludes, "The picnic was wonderful!" Old friends found plenty of things and people to gossip about and some long-lost friends reconnected. Everyone had the chance to meet someone new. Judi Engle prepared an evaluation that many people cheerfully completed. The consensus seemed to be that we had pulled off a pretty good event. It was not perfect, but it was fun.

The WSURA Board currently plans to host another picnic next summer. We hope to recruit a fairly large planning committee with some participants who don't serve on the Board. If you would be interested in serving on this committee, please email wsura@wright.edu or mary.gromosiack@wright.edu and include a message that mentions "picnic planning."



Wright State Stories



Fellow retiree, **Julia Reichert** is getting tons of much deserved praise and recognition lately. Julia's body of work was the subject of a recent Museum of Modern Art Retrospective. She and collaborator **Steven Bognar** won the 2019 Sundance Film Festival award for the best-directed American documentary for their most recent work, **American Factory**. *The New York Times* gave it a "Critics Pick" review. It was the first work sponsored by Michele and Barack Obama's production company Higher Ground. The film played at art houses around the country and locally at the Neon and the Little Art and is now available on Netflix.

It is an absolute marvel—mesmerizing, even though large chunks of it are in Chinese. It brilliantly dissects the decline of American manufacturing and the impact that has on the local labor force. Perhaps even more disturbing is the price many Chinese workers are required to pay to participate in China's "economic miracle." They work 12-hour shifts, get only 2 or 3 days off per month, and often don't see their own children more than one or two times a year. Never didactic, always illuminating: **American Factory** teaches but never preaches. See this film—you owe it to yourself. Then go back and

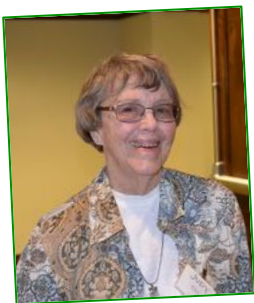
watch all of Julia's' other wonderful creations, (the early ones with Jim Klein and latter ones with Steven Bognar)—**Union Maids**, **Seeing Red**, **A Lion in the House**, **The Last Truck**, and the real subject of this article, **Growing Up Female**.

Growing Up Female was Julia Reichert's senior project at Antioch. Unlike most school projects, it has endured to become a classic. Julia's MoMA retrospective calls it "the very first feature length film of the modern women's movement." Feminist icon Susan Sontag commented, "I wish every high school kid in America could see this film." It was selected for the National Film Registry in 2011. One of its stars, you may be surprised to learn, is another fellow retiree and former Board member, **Judy Rose**.

In 1970 Judy and her family had recently settled in Yellow Springs in the house on Marshall Street that she occupied for more than 45 years. At 34, she was a stay-at-home mom with three small children. When Julia Reichert approached her about participating in her film project, Judy thought it sounded like fun. What could be the harm, she concluded. No

one would ever see it except a few of Jim Klein's and Julia's friends at Antioch and maybe the fine arts faculty.

She didn't think it would take much time, since she didn't have any lines to learn. She was wrong on both counts. Apparently, Julia Reichert and Jim Klein were meticulous filmmakers from the start. Judy remembers them filming her youngest daughter walking to school over and over and over, until they got just the angles and images they wanted. Every scene was that way and because documentarians invariably over-shoot, lots of film (and Judy's time) ended up on the cutting room floor. Judy and the other participants were invited to see the final project, and that is, to date, the only time she has seen the film.



Judy Rose



Steve and Julia
Photo by Bob Mihalek

Yellow Springs being Yellow Springs, however, she has acquired a copy of the restored film from Steven Bognar, which was delivered by his mother, with whom Judy works at the Yellow Springs Senior Center. The plan is to have a showing of the film sometime this fall. Judy has agreed to watch it with us and participate in a discussion afterward. Popcorn and soda to be provided. Watch your email for details.

Nick Davis Scholarship Recipients



My name is **Lee Huntsberger**, and I am in my senior year at Wright State. Linguistics has been my primary focus since high school. I have taken a myriad of courses in languages, including Ancient Greek and Latin as well as Spanish and even Chinese, which I study more in my free time. Outside the classroom, I am deeply involved in several campus organizations, including Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity, Eta Sigma Phi Honorary Society, Classic Club and several others. I try to make the most of my college experience. I spend my days studying and my nights with friends. Eventually, I want to be a Classics professor and advance the study of the humanities in the next generation. I am also interested in serving as a bilingual technical producer for a private company and writing a book. I appreciate the Nick Davis Scholarship for helping me get closer to these goals.

Hello, I'm **Hannah Davis**. I want to start off by expressing my appreciation for your generous scholarship. I was very excited to learn that I was selected as a recipient. You have lightened my financial burden, which allows me to focus more on the most important aspect of continuing my education. Your generosity inspires me to work hard now, so I can one day help other students as well. Wright State has always been a second home for me. Some of my best memories are running around campus during the summer camps and attending all the home basketball, soccer, and baseball games. I also wanted to follow my mom's (Cathy Davis) legacy at Wright State. When it was time for me to choose a college, I never even considered anywhere but Wright State.



I am a Financial Service and Accounting major in my junior year. My plan is to become a financial advisor. I currently manage a full schedule of 18 credit hours and a position as an assistant at Ameriprise Financial. I started working there as an intern when I was sixteen. Ever since, I have become passionate about the importance of financial planning for everyone. Decisions students make now determine their financial success in the future; yet many people do not realize how critical these years are to a successful plan. I am excited for what this year brings academically, and all the activities Wright State offers as well. Your support has made this possible!



From **Meghan Jenkins**: I am currently finishing my senior year as a Biology/Biochemistry and Molecular Biology double major. I completed my Honors thesis on bacterial/viral co-infection last spring. I am currently working in a lab at WPAFB on producing new methods of replicating toxic lung exposures. Following graduation, I plan to work for a year and apply to medical school. My goal is to learn how to combine patient care and research into infectious diseases to produce better patient outcomes. I've also started playing violin again, and I plan to complete my first half marathon this autumn.

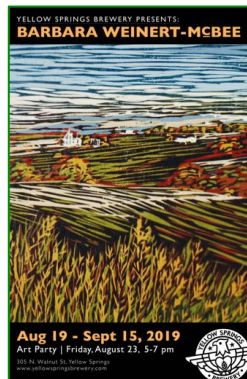
The Retirees' Scholarship helps pay my tuition and allows me to avoid incurring debt before medical school, which is a huge relief. Being able to work and live near campus enables me to function better in both classes and research. My grandpa, Jeff Vernooy, who retired as head of the Office of Disability Services shortly before he died, always pushed me to consider science and find wonder in the natural world. Being able to study on a campus he helped to shape has been deeply meaningful to me, and I'm grateful to the Retiree's Association for making that possible.



[Back row L-R]
Robin Suits, Dick Williams, Mary Kenton, Larry Prochaska, Peggy Bott, Dan Abrahamowicz, Mary Gromosiak, Richard Mercer, Donna Schlagheck, Gary Barlow, Judith Engle
[Front row, L-R] Gail Whitaker, Sheryl Provens, Joyce Howes, Ruth Schumacher
Absent: Jerry Alter, Kathy Morris, Gary Pacernick

Retirees in the News

Barbara Weinert-McBee (Printing Services) had an exhibition of her work on display at the Yellow Springs Brewery from August 19 to September 15. There was an Art Party for her on Friday, August 23 from 5 to 7. Numerous retirees showed up to wish Barb well and to see what she's been up to lately—photography in Yellowstone National Park, it turns out. Barb's work regularly appears in juried shows and fund-raising auctions, where bidding wars have been known to break out.



David Lee Garrison (Modern Languages) is one of the curators for Conrad's Corner on WYSO, which presents a moment of poetry every day of the week—Monday through Friday at 7:59, Saturday at 6:50 and Sunday during The Dear Green Place and features poets from the Miami Valley and around the world. The program is named for Conrad Balliet who hosted it on WYSO for 25 years, and more than once he featured a poem by his good friend, David Garrison. David's poems have been widely published and two poems from his book *Sweeping the Cemetery* were read by Garrison Keillor on *The Writer's Almanac*.



Photo Courtesy of the Poetry Foundation

WSURA Board – 2019-2020

Executive Committee

President: Larry Prochaska
President Elect: Dan Abrahamowicz
Past President: Joyce Howes
Secretary: Ruth Schumacher
Treasurer: Sheryl Provens
Communications: Mary Kenton

Board Members at Large

Jerry Alter
Gary Barlow
Peggy Bott
Judi Engle
Mary Gromosiak
Richard Mercer
Kathy Morris
Gary Pacernick
Donna Schlagheck
Robin Suits
Gail Whitaker
Dick Williams

Standing Committees

Activities: Mary Gromosiak
By-Laws/Elections: Gail Whitaker
Communications: Mary Kenton
Community Affairs: Donna Schlagheck
Membership Development: Judi Engle
Sunshine: Peggy Bott
Scholarship: Gary Pacernick
OCHER: Peggy Bott and Dick Williams
Historical Preservation: Kathy Morris

Liaisons

Alumni: Dick Williams
Athletics Council:
Mary Kenton and Larry Prochaska
International Studies: Ruth Schumacher
Friends of the Libraries: Gary Barlow

Web Master Robin Suits

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Website: wright.edu/wsura
Facebook: [facebook.com/groups/WSURA](https://www.facebook.com/groups/WSURA)



Three New Board Members

This year we welcome three new members to the Board: **Richard Mercer**, **Jerry Alter**, and **Kathy Morris**, and all three have jobs. Richard will chair the Scholarship Committee and Jerry will assist him. Kathy takes over the Historical Preservation Committee as Dan Abrahamowicz serves his three-year presidential stint. Below is what they had to say about themselves.

I have always been reluctant to talk about myself, Richard begins, but I will try. I came to Wright State in 1980 and taught in the Department of Mathematics and Statistics for more than 36 years without ever missing a class due to illness. I take some pride in having created the Calculus Laboratory program and developing computer-based activities for it. I led the semester conversion effort in my own department and at the undergraduate level in College of Science and Mathematics. I think my web site was probably the first at Wright State. As a retiree, I have more time to enjoy my two sons, both WSU graduates. Hiking and classes at the Fitness Center keep me in shape. I indulge myself with two visits per year to Disney World, and I love Disney and Pixar movies. I play chess tournaments, both online and in person and I enjoy reading science fiction and fantasy. I look forward to chairing the Scholarship Committee. Selecting three or four Nick Davis recipients a year seems like a manageable job. For maybe 20-25 of my 36 years, I served on the Honors Scholarship Selection Committee, often as chair, in those years when we selected as many as fifty recipients and interviewed about twenty students each year.



Growing up in Alaska, Jerry writes, I never dreamed I would spend most of my life in Ohio. It all began when I joined the new Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology at Wright State University in January 1978. It was a career of teaching graduate, medical, and undergraduate students, directing the Biomedical Sciences PhD program and codirecting the University's MD/PhD dual Degree Program. Maybe the best part throughout my time at WSU was the research I was able to perform on structural details and internal motions of several proteins linked to respiratory illnesses and cancer. Since retiring, Alice, my wife of more than 40 years, and I enjoy frequent visits to our children and grandchildren in Pittsburgh and metropolitan New York City. In fact, traveling to new as well as familiar places within the United States and occasionally abroad is always a real "kick" for us. When in Dayton, cultural outlets (love that musical theatre!) are a constant draw. My remaining free time seems to disappear into digital photography, cycling, and Rotary projects. And so an Alaskan boy has become a grateful WSU retiree and contented Ohio resident.



When I retired nearly three years ago, after 33 years in the Division of Student Affairs, Kathy Morris begins, I made a point of spending more time with my immediate and extended families, including some traveling, but not committing to activities that would lock me into a schedule. One exception was a decision to focus on my own personal fitness, so I joined a gym and started to work with a trainer. About a year into retirement, I began volunteering with Clothes That Work, a local non-profit that provides clothing and educational training and support for men and women looking to enter or re-enter the workforce. I work with some fabulous people in the donation and inventory area, and help with the organization's special event fundraisers, as well as job and information fairs. On a few occasions I've filled in as a client coach. I can honestly say that there is nothing more satisfying than helping a person who has never owned a suit find just the right clothes that they need for an upcoming job interview! But the best part of my retirement is the time I can devote to my grandchildren, ages 5 and 5 months. The older child started kindergarten this year and I care for the baby two days a week. I look forward to contributing to the Wright State University Retirees Association Board and am excited about continuing efforts on historical preservation through the oral history project. I hope members will let me know of individuals they believe should be included.





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PAGE 8

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Feb. 15 – Spring

Aug. 15 – Fall

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210 Foundation Bldg.

Wright State University

Dayton, OH 45435-0001

NOTE: If you failed to renew your annual membership for 2019, this is the last issue you will receive. If you want to continue receiving this newsletter, please renew your membership for another year (\$25) or purchase a lifetime membership (\$100) online at wright.edu/retirees-association/membership. Unsure whether your membership is still current? Contact us at wsura@wright.edu or 937.775.2777.

Dave Chappelle's Gem City Shine

On August 25, Dave Chappelle brought together more than 20,000 guests and stars such as Stevie Wonder, Jon Stewart, Chance the Rapper, and Michael Che to a unique block party. Held in the Oregon District, Chappelle organized and hosted this benefit concert to honor the nine Daytonians who died in the mass shooting of August 4 – his gift to the community.



Dave Chappelle's roots in the Dayton community are long and deep. He spent much of his childhood in Yellow Springs, especially after his parents divorced in 1974. His father, Bill Chappelle, had a long affiliation with Antioch College, teaching in the Music Department from 1969 to 1981. Dave spent all his summers in Yellow Springs with his dad. His mother, Yvonne Seon, became the Founding Director of the Bolinga Center in 1971, but she returned to Washington DC to work with Congressman Diggs in 1974. She remained in the DC area and enjoyed a distinguished career in academia and the ministry. Toward the end of her professional life, she returned to Wright State to direct the Bolinga Center once again. Dave Chappelle makes Yellow Springs his home and he is often sighted in and around town, much to the delight of everyone.