



# The Extension

## President's Message

Mary E. Kenton

Happy New Year! From the time I was a child, the real new year has always been that first day of school when everyone showed up shiny and bright wearing new shoes and new clothes. I loved the smell of the place and the buzz and the promise of a new beginning every September. It's never changed for me and I suspect not for most of you either. School is where it's at for our academic tribe. I came to campus the very first day that classes were held in 1964 and here I am more than 50 years later still showing up on campus the first day of school to renew my locker. It was satisfying to see all the students pouring in and to greet a couple of old friends. I just smiled at the huge traffic snarl. It felt like home.



If you haven't been to campus lately, I recommend that you come and look around. Much has changed over the last few years. I haven't yet been in all of the new buildings or figured out the new traffic circle, but I'm comforted that much remains as it was when I retired in 2010. WSURA helps me stay updated. Following our September 7 board meeting, WSURA toured the new Student Success Center to learn more about how the university is helping undergraduates achieve their goals. We will schedule other such tours during the year. Please consider joining us on one of these excursions. You can keep up with WSURA activities on our first-rate web site, which Web Master **Abe Bassett** updates almost daily.

## 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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This academic year will be pivotal for Wright State. We will celebrate our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary as an independent university. All of you have memories of the contributions you and your units made to the overall success of the institution. There's that Honors Teacher of the Year award you won, or maybe you served on the search committee that hired the best ever dean for your college. Maybe you were elected to sit on the Classified Staff Advisory Committee and worked hard to resolve some thorny employment issue. Or you just did the best job you could day in and day out for 30 years. This year will be filled with such reflections. WSURA will play a role in the celebration and we will look for suitable ways to include all retirees in the process. Stay tuned.

We will also be searching for a new president to replace **David Hopkins** this year. **Gerry Petrak** is representing WSURA on the search committee. She asked us to respond to a series of questions about what characteristics we would like to see in successful candidates. If you have thoughts about the search or the ideal candidate, please email her at [gpetrak@woh.rr.com](mailto:gpetrak@woh.rr.com)

It's a tough time to be a public university president, what with declining state support, tuition freezes, ever growing student debt, and changing demographics. Sometimes I think that only super heroes need apply—the job has literally become so demanding that no mere mortal can handle it. But the Board of Trustees will eventually make a selection and we will celebrate that hire as we thank **Dr. Hopkins** for his many years of service both as provost and president. And let us not forget to celebrate his friendly, open, charming, and equally hardworking wife, **Angelia**. Together they have done much to make Wright State a better place.

This year will also be important for WSURA. Under the leadership of several outstanding presidents and with the help of an exceptionally hardworking board, we have made good progress on multiple fronts. Contributions to the **Nick Davis** Scholarship Fund have grown

dramatically over the last few years. We are now able to award three scholarships to students who have a relative who worked at Wright State. The Board's goal is 100% participation and we have increased the rate of participation from all retirees in scholarship contributions. We intend to work hard to keep the rate going up. We are working with Alumni Affairs to inaugurate a new e-newsletter that will link back to the web page. We will continue to produce this publication. Our goal is to keep as many retirees as possible as connected as possible to WSU and WSURA, wherever they may live. It is our intention to ramp up our service contribution to the institution. We are working on establishing additional priorities in this area. We will maintain and strengthen our connection to other units—The University Libraries, Alumni Affairs, International Studies, and Athletics. We have a good working relationship with Associate Provost **Steve Berberich**, whose office serves as our administrative home.

My goal as president is to maintain these gains and to take advantage of new opportunities that may come our way. I want to turn over to President-elect **Donna Schlagheck** the same vibrant and thriving organization that Past-president **Dick Williams** handed over to me. And in the course of the year I can promise you that there will be lots of fun and comradeship to be had. Our hyper-efficient activities chair, **Mary Gromosiak**, keeps us busy with a variety of outings. If you don't like the Racino then join us at the Art Institute or for one of our road trips. We are mandated to be both a service and social organization. We try to maintain a good mix.

I can't close without mentioning that longtime board member and past president **Lew Shupe** died this summer. He had been ill for some time, yet we all hoped he was slowly getting better. It was a shock to lose him. Those of you who knew **Lew** will understand what I mean when I say a sweeter, kinder soul never walked the earth. He was unique. His cheerful, always positive presence will be remembered and cherished for many years to come.

**Mary Kenton**

## WSURA Fall Activities

- October 19, 2016           WSU Health Fair – Student Union  
Time: 11 am – 2 pm
- December 2016            WSU Raider Women’s Basketball Game – TBD
- January 15, 2017         Dining-Out Brunch  
Date: Sunday, January 15, 2017  
Place: TBD  
RSVP: January 8, 2017 to [mary.gromosiak@wright.edu](mailto:mary.gromosiak@wright.edu)

## Other Activities of Interest

### 2016-2017                    WSU Presidential Lecture Series

- \* November 2, 2016 — **Margaret O’Mara**, author, Pivotal Tuesday’s, 7 pm Student Union Endeavour Room (Her book on the past four elections is required reading for freshmen classes.)
- \* January 31, 2017 — **Dan Rather** – Award Winning Broadcast Journalist, WSU Nutter Center, 7 pm
- \* March 30, 2017 — **Jonathan Capehart**, Pulitzer Prize Winning Journalist, WSU Nutter Center, 7 pm

### **Proposed Event – Dependent Upon Response**

Tuesday, February 14, 2017     La Comedia – Evening with the Van Dells Valentine’s Day Package  
Cost: \$53 - \$55

**RSVP by: December 1, 2016** if interested. **Mary Gromosiak** will follow up with everyone who responds. Email: [mary.gromosiak@wright.edu](mailto:mary.gromosiak@wright.edu)

- April 2017                    WSU Baseball Game + dinner out  
Date: TBD
- May 11, 2017                WSURA Annual Retiree Luncheon  
Place: Berry Room, E. J. Nutter Center

Periodically throughout the year, please check your mail, [WSURA@wright.edu](mailto:WSURA@wright.edu) and [www.wright.edu/retirees-association](http://www.wright.edu/retirees-association) for information and updates. A number of ideas have been submitted, but plans are not yet finalized.

## Upcoming Library Workshops

- \* Finding the Poet Within — **Gary Pacemick**
- \* Ikebana -- The Art of Japanese Flower Arrangement — **Gary Barlow**
- \* My Life -- One Story at a Time — **Bob Wagley**

## **Congratulations to Abe!**

### **Marlene Bireley**

**Abe Bassett**, WSURA Secretary and Webmaster and former President, was inducted into the Dayton Theatre Hall of Fame at the July 30 Annual Meeting. This honor was in recognition of his dedication to the theatre arts in Dayton.

**Abe** came to WSU in 1970 to build the university's theater program. By 1980 the school led the state in the number of majors and size of audience. The Board of Regents recognized the program with Program Excellence Awards in 1984, 1986 and 1988.

After retiring from Wright State, **Abe** became the Founding Dean of the College of Fine and Performing Arts at Indiana University Purdue University in Fort Wayne. Since his retirement in 1994 Abe has continued to be active in the Wright State community through his service on the WSURA

## **WSU 2016-2017 WSURA Board Members**

### **Executive Committee**

President—Mary Kenton  
Vice President—Donna Schlagheck  
Past President—Richard Williams  
Secretary—Abe Bassett  
Treasurer—Gail Whitaker  
Communications Coordinator—Frieda Bennett

### **Members-at-Large**

Donna Curtin  
Gary Pacernick  
Sheryl Provens  
Carol Stevenson  
Jim Sayer  
Ruth Schumacher

### **Standing Committees**

Activities—Mary Gromosiak  
By-Laws/Elections—Judy Rose  
Membership Development—Marlene Bireley  
Publications—Frieda Bennett  
Sunshine—Peggy Bott  
Scholarship—Gary Pacernick  
OCHER—Paul Wolfe  
Historical Preservation (Vacant)

### **Liaisons**

Alumni—Bob Wagley  
Athletic Council—Mary Kenton

## About the Board

### Gary Barlow

**Gary** was born in Toledo, Ohio and grew up in the country outside of the city. After graduation from high school, he attended Miami University and received both the B.S. Ed. (1957) and the M. Ed. (1958) degrees at the Oxford campus. He began his teaching career as an art teacher in the Cincinnati Public Schools. During the summers, **Gary** taught on-campus Art Education classes for Miami University. Both Miami and Ohio State University's extension programs in the greater Dayton area were growing, and from 1960-1964, he was hired to handle some administrative duties as well as supervise Miami's Art Education program in Dayton. He taught MU extension classes at Roth High School, and evening extension classes in Piqua, as well as supervising student teachers from the Oxford campus.

When Miami and OSU collaborated to begin the extension campus in Dayton, **Gary** was the first Miami University faculty member hired as a full-time resident faculty member (from Miami) for the Dayton Miami/OSU Campus. Classes were held in one building, and during his first class the workmen were still putting up the ceiling tiles. He made an agreement with them that he would teach for about ten minutes, then he (and the class) would wait a few minutes for the workers to continue, then they would wait, and so on. During one of the intervals when he posed a question to the class, one of the workers on the scaffolding raised his hand and answered the question. The class applauded, and he knew then that everyone in the room (students and workers) was a part of the teacher-learner process.

**Gary** said, "After the beginning *trial and error years* we became Wright State University." During this time he managed to spend two summers and a residence year at Penn State University and received the D.Ed. degree in 1967. At the Dayton campus he chaired the undergraduate and graduate programs in Art Education and the graduate program in Art Thera-

py. For the work accomplished with physically and emotionally challenged children and adults, WSU was selected as the singular national university training site by the National Committee, Arts for the Handicapped (original name), founded and chaired by **Jean Kennedy Smith**.

A few selected memories are:

- In the beginning stages, faculty and staff members were all in one building, and this promoted camaraderie and some life-long friendships.
- The campus made the Guinness Book of Records for continuous rowing a boat in a moat (how many universities had moats?).
- Our first commencement was held outside in the open area east of the moat.
- Our small library services were in Allyn Hall, as well as our first food service cafeteria (limited), the student mailboxes and a study area.
- We all gathered in this area one day to select the colors for Wright State (hunter green and gold).
- Being awarded the "University Professor," a designation presented by President **Paige Mulhollan**, for teaching, scholarship and service.

After retirement in 1993, **Gary** helped to organize the WSU Retiree's Association and served as its first president. He continues to serve on the WSURA Board and served as President of the Friends of the Library Board as well. For many years he has grown roses and has been both a horticultural and arrangement judge for the American Rose Society and continues to give workshops nationally. He has received the prestigious Klima Medal, the second highest award given by the American Rose Society for service (workshops, presentations, publication, judging) to the organization. Related to the artistic aspect, **Gary** has worked with the Japanese Ikebana Society (Ikenobo School) in Columbus, and has the certification of Professor of Ikebana; with this designation comes the responsibility of teaching art and design classes for floral arrangers. Retirement continues to be wonderful, with a balance of continued University involvement as well as creative outside interests.

## Paul Wolfe

**Paul Wolfe** was elected to the WSURA Board for two terms as an at-large member and served on the Scholarship Committee. He has been a WSURA representative to the Ohio Council of Higher Education Retirees for the past few years. He lives in Fairborn; he and **Carolyn** have two sons, two grandsons and three great-grandchildren.

**Paul** is an Ohio native from Mansfield. He went to Case Institute of Technology (now Case Western Reserve University) earning a BS degree in Physics. He graduated in 1960 and married **Carolyn Mogg** from Owosso, Michigan. **Paul** worked for General Electric Lamp Division in East Cleveland for a year then returned to Case for a PhD in Physics, specializing in nuclear physics.

He came directly to Wright State Campus in 1966 and celebrated the founding of Wright State University in 1967. In the first years the Physics and Geological Sciences Departments were side by side and shared a departmental office and secretary.

**Paul** initially conducted nuclear physics research in collaboration with **Joe Hemsley** using a particle accelerator at Wright-Patterson Aerospace Research Laboratory. After several years, research funding in nuclear physics was drastically reduced and the WPAFB accelerator and nuclear research group were closed. He had worked a little on some geophysics research and teaching with **Ben Richard** of Geological Sciences. After the nuclear accelerator closed he switched his research emphasis to geophysics and had a 30 year collaboration with **Ben Richard**. He had a joint appointment in Physics and Geological Sciences and served as chair of each department for several years.

He and **Carolyn** have traveled extensively in North America and other parts of the world, spending extended periods in Australia and Colorado. He also gave lectures on several cruise ships including a 30-day cruise across the Pacific Ocean from Seattle to Sydney.

**Paul** retired in 2003 but continues to teach an online introductory oceanography

course. He keeps busy with church and volunteer activities, including the WSURA Board.

## News from WSURA

### Special Report on the Presidential Search Committee

#### Gerry Petrak, WSURA Representative to the Search Committee

At the September 7 meeting of the WSURA Board of Directors, **Gerry Petrak**, the retiree's representative, made the following report:

**Gerry** explained how she has surveyed the Beavercreek City Council, a state legislator, and several other organizations. She lauded Committee Chairperson **Douglas Fecher** (also Chair of the Board of Trustees) for an excellent job and for his insistence on transparency.

A survey instrument will be sent to campus faculty, staff and students. The committee has contracted a search firm—Academic Search, an executive search firm specializing in higher education.

A Symposium on Presidential Search will be held on October 19 [2:30 pm - 4:00 pm, 109 Oelman Hall] and will include Bowling Green President **Mary Ellen Mazey**, former Dean of Liberal Arts at Wright State University.

There are 25 persons serving on the search committee, none of which are Trustees. The most recent report from the search committee has been posted on the WSURA website: Search Committee Report

The committee expects to introduce the new President in the spring of 2017.

## Loss of a Pioneer

### Marlene Bireley

The recent loss of several colleagues who were instrumental in establishing Wright State has brought home the realization that soon the first generation of Wright State pioneers will be gone. WSURA Board members are particularly saddened by the passing of one of our own, **Lew Shupe**. **Lew** was a founding member of WSURA and served as its third president. For the last fifteen years he has chaired the Historical Preservation Committee. In that capacity, he worked with the Library Archives staff to complete numerous interviews with the early employees of Wright State including both faculty and staff. These interviews have become an indispensable part of the Oral History of the university that will serve both scholars and those who just want to reminisce for years to come.

**Lew** was a gentle and kind man who served the university to the very end when he donated his body to the Boonshoft School of Medicine. He will be missed and remembered with fondness by all of us who knew him.



## Website

Have you visited the WSURA website lately? Webmaster **Abe Bassett** has worked diligently to upgrade the format to make it more user friendly and has added content such as obituaries and short reflections by various members. It is also an archival repository of our old *Extensions*, minutes and treasurer's reports as well as more pictures than we can include in *The Extension*. Make sure that you visit it often to keep up with information of happenings and news that occur between publication of our quarterly *Extension*. If you are a Facebook member, be sure to visit and contribute to the WSURA Facebook page.

## Deaths

**Gordon K. Constable**, July 31, 2016, Professor, Raj Soin School of Business

**Roberta Ritchie**, July 23, 2016, Archivist for the Wright State Collections

**Donald (Don) R. Bell**, July 7, 2016, Director of Materials Management

**John A. Vogel**, July 5, 2016, Professor of Accounting

**Richard Stanley "Ric" Bambic**, June 27, 2016, Business Administrator, Department of Computer Science

**Lewis Shupe**, June 26, 2016, Professor of Communications, College of Liberal Arts

**Melanie Leigh Rammell**, June 12, 2016, School of Nursing

**Ruth I. Fields**, June 10, 2016, Career Services & Athletics

**Nicolas Gressis**, June 6, 2016, Professor of Finance and Financial Services

**Francis Richard Swann**, May 24, 2016, Assistant Dean of Liberal Arts

**Ritchie D. Thomas**, May 24, 2016, University Librarian

**Evelyn Beaty**, May 23, 2016, Account Clerk

**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

**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, 210 Foundation Building, Wright State University, Dayton, OH 45435