



# The Extension

## President's Message Mary E. Kenton

The institution of Wright State University has been much on my mind lately. To say that the place looms large to me is an understatement. It has been, in many ways, the focal point of my entire adult life. Let me tell you about it.



As I often say, I was on campus the first day Wright State held classes, but I did not become a student myself until 1969. I didn't want to quit my quite good day-job at Dayton Power and Light until I was sure I could be a successful college student. After a year of night classes, I gave notice and enrolled full time in the fall of 1970. I loved it.

The student body was older then and the faculty much younger. I broke my neck and sometimes speed limits to get to every class. I didn't want to miss anything. I still feel privileged to have had the kind of educational experience Wright State was able to provide in those early years. I had American History with Jake Dorn, American Literature with Jim Hughes, Speech with Abe Bassett and Political Science with Jim Walker. Human Biology with the late Ira Fritz was my favorite science class ever. All of these men went on to make significant contributions to the development of Wright State, but I remember them best as dynamic, student-centered, sometimes iconoclastic teachers who let me in on a lot of very cool stuff. Thanks guys!

Student life was pretty dynamic too. The whole campus was abuzz when Gloria Steinem came to Oelman Hall. I had to fight for a seat but it was worth it. She spoke forcefully in favor of tenure for one of the junior women faculty members. I learned a little more that day about how universities work and why feminism was such a hot topic in in the early 70s. I became a **Ms Magazine** subscriber. Then there was the visit by the Marxist historian Herbert Aptheker. That caused a buzz of a whole different sort. Noam Chomsky, Dick Gregory and, a little later, Oprah—need I say more?

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### 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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www.wright.edu/retirees-  
association

Allyn Hall cafeteria was THE place to be for students and faculty. We often shared tables and continued class discussion over bowls of chili and endless cups of coffee. People played cards, read, studied and sometimes napped. A group always gathered for **Days of Our Lives** on the TV in the corner. When I became a graduate student, I met Al Gaisor there to discuss my additional readings for his class on Milton. It was where all the GAs retreated on breaks from marathon graduate seminars in history. If you needed to find someone, you always checked Allyn Hall first.

Most of my Wright State life was lived in Millett Hall. My undergraduate English and History classes were usually held there. From 1974 until 1976, I shared an office on the 4th floor with former **Guardian** Editor and fellow Grad Assistant Wayne Wenning. I was elected to represent the student perspective on the History Graduate Committee. Once again I learned (perhaps more than they intended) about the sometimes strange and wonderful workings of higher education. Later, I moved down to the first floor to take over from Janice Wilson as Assistant Director in the Honors Program when she decided to finish her PhD. I stayed on for more than 30 years. I got pretty attached. Sometimes when I strode down the hall, I would think to myself—I own this place. Perry Moore (the Dean of Liberal Arts back then) may think Millett Hall belongs to him, but he's wrong—it's mine.

When I retired in 2010, the hardest part was leaving the students. Over the years I had worked with thousands. The Honors Program grew dramatically in that time and toward the end I no longer knew every Honors student, but I still had close relationships with many, particularly the Honors Scholarship recipients. I worked with our national scholarship applicants and was always thrilled with their successes. I wrote med school and law school references, and I'm pleased to report our students almost always got in. We could staff a hospital with Honors MDs.

Two of the last brilliant successes I am proud to have helped along, James Dahlman and Roger Fecher, have finished their graduate and medical studies and are starting to make their mark. It's thrilling to see one of my students' names (all the Honors students are "mine" too, of course) in an article talking about the latest in Parkinson's research.

I missed my colleagues too. It's hard to beat a life in the academy. The library, the gym, the campus, the opportunities for civil discourse on almost any topic, the friendships that grow over a career. I tried to stay away for a while, but I have slowly been drawn back in. Juanita Wehrle-Einhorn bugged me to get back on Gender Equity. For that I had to get on Athletics Council and for that I had to join WSURA. One thing always leads to another, and here I am President. In this, my last presidential message, I have tried to illuminate the general by shining a light on the particular. I am not unique. Many of you feel the same sense of ownership of Wright State. We share the same sorrow about our current situation. And we always do what we can to continue the proud legacy of the first fifty years.



## Annual Dues

Are you among the several annual members who have outstanding dues for 2017? If so, please send your check made payable to **WSURA** for \$25 to:

210 Foundation Building  
Wright State University  
3640 Col Glenn Highway  
Dayton OH 45435

# Welcome

## New Members

**Richard Mercer**, Associate Professor  
Mathematics & Statistics

**Robert Riodan**, Professor  
College of Liberal Arts

## WSURA Spring Activities



**May 11, 2017  
(Thursday)**

### **WSURA Annual Luncheon**

Nutter Center—Berry Room

\$25 per person

**RSVP by April 20, 2017**

Checks payable to **WSURA** — Mail to Mary Gromosiak, 3204 Seton Hill Dr. Bellbrook, OH 45305

Questions: Call 937.974.4010

**June 27, 2017  
(Tuesday)**

### **Roses, Roosters & Reading**

One day bus trip to include: (1) Columbus Park of Roses, (2) The Glass Rooster Cannery — light luncheon buffet, (3) Book Loft of German Village— 32 rooms of bargain books. This trip was planned by Jan Austin, alumni and retiree of WSU and owner of *Bee On the Go Travel*.

**RSVP by May 1**

Meet: 8 a.m. at Englewood Meijer; 9 a.m. at Beavercreek Meijer (Zink Road side); return at 6 p.m.

Cost: \$105 per person

**Visit:** [www.beeonthegotravel.com](http://www.beeonthegotravel.com) or call [937.828.7459](tel:937.828.7459) for additional information or to sign up.

**Periodically check the WSURA website for upcoming activities and events**  
[www.wright.edu/retirees-association](http://www.wright.edu/retirees-association)



## **Reflections**

**Frieda R. Bennett**

I grew up watching the “CBS Evening News” with anchorman Walter Cronkite. When he signed off for the last time in 1981 with his signature “And that’s the way it is,” I was already familiar with Dan Rather who became the next anchorman. I was an avid “60 Minutes” viewer and saw Mr. Rather on the show most Sunday evenings. When I learned that he was scheduled to participate in the **Presidential Lecture Series**, I decided to take advantage of the opportunity to see him in person.

As I listened to his presentation, a couple of points resonated with me. He said, “This is a difficult time for journalism, it is a difficult time for consumers of journalism...most recently because we have moved into the post-truth political era, an era when we are asked to read facts that aren’t facts...what some are calling alternative facts. This is not a political statement, it’s not an ideological statement, it’s a statement of common sense that facts are facts. Two plus two equals four. Two plus two equals five is not an alternative fact...”

I found myself thinking about the excitement, as well as the challenge, I might encounter today if I was still teaching at the University. Each term my students were asked to read current articles and relate them to topics we covered in class. I wondered how I would help my students approach topics such as “fake news” and “alternative facts.” Surely, I would be creative and provide them with learning experiences that would help them continue to sharpen their critical thinking skills and become better consumers of information.

Yes, for a brief moment it felt good to have my teacher’s hat on once again (without the papers to grade)!

## Wagleys Going Away Gathering Carol Stevenson

Tuesday, February 28, Abe and Sharon Bassett hosted a going-away gathering for Bob and Lorraine Wagley. The Wagleys are moving to Louisville (Louavull for the natives), Kentucky.


In a note to those who attended the gathering Bob stated, "While we regret having to leave Beaver-creek, WSURA, and the Historical Society what we really regret is leaving our friends of so many years. We are also looking forward to the next phase of our life in Louisville. Our address is 2411 Steeplechase Dr., Louisville, 40299 and our email is [roblorwagley@gmail.com](mailto:roblorwagley@gmail.com), home phone number will not change 937-426-8325 and cell number 937-430-0731 (this will not always be turned on)."



**Lorraine and Bob Wagley**

Bob has served the WSURA Board for many years including three terms as president, and most recently as a Liaison to the Alumni Association and the International Studies Office. He and Lorraine have hosted many international students and scholars in their home, and continue to maintain communication and friendship with many of them. As a visiting professor and through home exchanges, Bob and Lorraine have visited a number of South American and European countries and used those experiences to reach out to international students and scholars with an enhanced experience while at WSU. They will be missed in their local community and as a positive influence for international exchange at WSU.

As a final note, if you are ever invited to the home of Abe and Sharon Bassett for 'light refreshments' please do not pass up the opportunity. They are gracious and generous hosts. As Bob noted "never have seen so much 'light refreshments'".



### Deaths

**Philip Rizzo, Jr.**, January 31, 2017  
Associate Director of Budgets and Regents Reporting

**Evelyn F. Belcher**, January 31, 2017  
English Department Secretary

**Mary Magdalene Weddington**  
February 3, 2017

**Richard Johnson**, February 10, 2017  
Human Resources Department

**Mary Lorraine Kelly**, February 11, 2017  
Custodial Worker



## **Congratulations to Wright State Women's Basketball Team!** **Marlene Bireley**

WSURA members had a chance to watch the women's basketball team this year in our annual basketball outing. The women were league co-champions; first year coach, Katrina Meriweather, was named Horizon League coach of the year and the women delivered a win over Milwaukee on the night that we attended. In post-season, the women won their first WNIT game before being defeated by Michigan. Congratulations for an outstanding and entertaining season.



### **Live and Learn Workshops — A Creative Success**

Two small, but enthusiastic groups of retirees stretched their creative muscles in the first **Live and Learn** workshops held at the WSURA office in March. The first group, led by **Gary Pacernick**, discussed various kinds of poetry followed by writing sessions in which participants tried to emulate the style that had been discussed. Dr. Pacernick also shared several of his own poems. Discussions were intense and the poetry was surprisingly deep and meaningful given the short writing periods (a possible exception might be a treatise on mayonnaise by Gary Barlow—you had to be there!). A sample of the haiku poems that were written included:

Whistling, howling winds  
assault my weary senses  
through the stormy night.

Unfurled sails, gentle breeze, tranquil waves -  
On the horizon storm clouds  
herald tempestuous seas.

Hopping bird is here  
after winter's cold, hard blasts.  
Easy mornings now.

Manet's color sings  
across the canvasses wide.  
How does he do it?

Red and orange sun  
lowers in the western sky  
Heavy laden . . . rests.

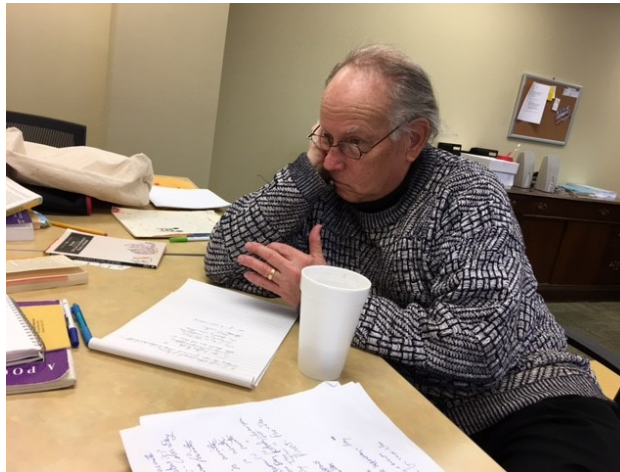
Friends around a table  
Sharing thoughts, hopes, memories  
Wonderful morning.

Children becoming men  
Purpose and goals replace play  
I mourn the lost boys.

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The second workshop, led by **Gary Barlow**, explored the ancient flower arranging art of Ikebana Ikebono school. Gary shared some of the tradition, vocabulary and meaning of this beautiful art form that he has studied for over thirty years. As beginners, all were pleased with our initial products.

Both instructors and participants expressed enthusiasm for continuing the **Live and Learn** workshops on other topics of interest. Suggestions have included genealogy, a combined art/poetry experience taught by the “two Garys” or additional sessions on the two topics described above. If any retirees have ideas of topics that they would like to explore (either as a group leader or participant) please forward your suggestions to **Mary Gromosiak** or **Marlene Bireley**.



***Finding the Poet Within***

**Presented by**

**Dr. Gary Pacernick  
Instructor**



***Ikebana Floral Arrangement***

**Presented by**

**Dr. Gary Barlow  
Instructor**



## GOOD NEWS WSURA MEMBERS

**Interested in/ever thought about/ heard about . . . hosting an international researcher, professor, or graduate student? The WSURA Board has a great opportunity for you-- --yes YOU! See details below and contact me at [ruth.schumacher@wright.edu](mailto:ruth.schumacher@wright.edu) or 937-672-3368 for questions or concerns.**

### **Informal Training and Meet and Greet (and of course Eat!)**

- **Wed, April 19<sup>th</sup>, 2-4 pm, Room E-190, 1<sup>st</sup> floor, Student Union: University Center for International Education**
- Training to include on line application in real time for WSURA members who want to host, beginning Fall semester 2017 (or earlier if desired) (alternate 20 minute training opportunities can be arranged at the convenience of WSURA members, after April 19<sup>th</sup>)
- If you are not sure you want to host but do want to learn about the host family program, no problem. Join us!
- Bring your lap top or other electronic device if you can; if not WSU will provide computers for those who wish to complete an application to host on the 19<sup>th</sup>.
- **REGISTER by April 13 noon by sending an email to [ruth.schumacher@wright.edu](mailto:ruth.schumacher@wright.edu) saying you will be coming on the 19<sup>th</sup>. Include your name. That's it!!!**

### **Host Family Program Description**

- Hosts get together with matched international/s once per semester or once per month. Hosts 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. etc.
- Hosts do NOT house internationals.
- Hosts are not responsible for assistance with academics or 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 April 19?   | <b>YES</b> |
| • Can I host more than one international?   | <b>YES</b> |
| • Can I partner with another WSURA member to host one or more international                     | <b>YES</b> |
| • Will I have fun? Make new friends? Actively contribute to the WSU community?                  | <b>YES</b> |
| • Can I bring a WSURA friend April 19 <sup>th</sup> who may want to host with me or separately? | <b>YES</b> |
| • Do I need to have young people or children at home to host?                                   | <b>NO</b>  |

## 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.

**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, 3640 Colonel Glenn Hwy, Wright State University, Dayton, OH 45435