

The Extension



WRIGHT STATE
UNIVERSITY

Spring 2022 Issue 109

President's Message: Judi Engle

As WSURA enters its 29th year, perhaps it is fitting that we take a look at where we stand.

We have more than 280 members and this year welcomed 19 new members and another 18, who renewed their annual memberships, with two of the renewals moving to a lifetime membership. The more the merrier!

In addition to awarding three annual scholarships from WSURA's endowed Nick Davis account, we formed a liaison with the Raider Food Pantry, contributing both donated goods and needed funds.

Again, our organization had to find a workaround as the COVID-19 pandemic surged. We used ZOOM meetings to tap into faculty expertise on topics of interest for members. A physician and a virologist addressed both patient care and the science of viruses. A geriatrician shared tips for "as we age," and a Russian historian explained the background of the invasion of Ukraine. If you haven't joined one of our faculty-led meetings, give it a try. We plan to hold more of these virtual learning sessions, particularly because they help us connect with out-of-town retirees.

Eliminating indoor gatherings, we took to the great out of doors with separate guided tours of Carillon Park and Woodland Cemetery. And, we enjoyed patio dining at Jimmie's Ladder. In June, we have scheduled a naturalist-guided tour of Pearl's Fen in the Beavercreek Wetlands and four of our board members are participating in a panel discussion for newly retired faculty and staff. Gary Barlow, retired professor of art education, is rescheduled to present his workshop titled "My Friend Vincent: His Life and Work" September 14 at 10 a.m. More details and invitations will be sent out in August. There will be limited seating, so if you are interested be sure to sign up as soon as you see the notice in your email or on the WSURA event calendar.

In May, after two cancelled years, we held our annual luncheon at the Nutter Center Berry Room with more than 50 guests. We were able to award the faculty and staff service awards, which you can read about in the following pages. And, check out our photo collage to see how many colleagues you remember.

You can keep up with WSURA's events and Wright State's news and media coverage on our website – www.wright.edu/wsura and make sure to review the monthly e-newsletter. As a member, you also receive this mailed newsletter and the assurance that you are investing in tomorrow's Wright State graduates.



In This Issue

President's Message	1
Gail Whitaker, Our Woman of Impact	2
WSURA Luncheon Scholarship Awardees	
Poet's Corner	3
Faculty & Staff Awards	4
Photo Collage	5
Connections	6
WSURA Board	
Dayton Peace Prize Is Affirmative Action Next?	7
	8

Upcoming Events

June 15, Noon

Faculty and Staff Virtual
Panel Discussion for new
retirees

September 14, 10 a.m.

"My Friend Vincent: His
Life and Work"



Gail Whitaker: Our Woman of Impact

The American Heart Association named WSURA board member Gail Whitaker a "Woman of Impact" for 2022, a title conferred on four women in the Dayton area who have been exceptional fundraisers. They conducted a friendly competition to see who could raise the most money and contribute most to awareness about heart disease prevention. The nine-week competition ended on April 7. An overall goal was to educate the public about the best ways to avoid heart disease: know your numbers (blood pressure, cholesterol levels, etc.); healthy eating; exercise; mental health; and CPR training. Gail posted this information to her Facebook page, sent emails, and wrote letters.



In 2008, Gail's younger daughter Katie was diagnosed with cardiomyopathy and ventricular tachycardia when she was a young mother raising two children. She feared she might not live to see them safely to adulthood. There was a history of heart disease in the family; both Gail's father and his sisters had mitral valve issues in their later years. Her doctors have speculated that her heart disease may have been congenital, the result of a difficult childbirth, or caused by a virus. To help counteract her anxiety, Katie joined a support group. There she met the executive director of the local Heart Association who wanted her to speak at the board of directors meeting. There she met our fellow retiree, Larry Prochaska, who became active after he received multiple grants from the Heart Association to help fund research projects. He served a term as chair of the board of directors.

Katie decided she wanted to participate in a Heart Walk and recruited her mother and other family members and a few friends to accompany her. That year she raised \$2,000. Katie's team for the 2019 walk consisted of 45 people and raised over \$70,000. Gail's husband, Guest, died suddenly and unexpectedly in August 2019 from a stroke. That year's Fifth Third Field Heart Walk was dedicated to him.

Gail has become increasingly involved in the Heart Association over the years. Gail serves on a Passion Committee and is a regular attendee at the Go Red for Women Luncheon. One year the Heart Association made a family video at Gail's house, which was shown at the luncheon. She lobbied successfully in Columbus for a House Bill that offered CPR instruction for high school students. She got involved because of her personal family situation, but her contributions resonate around the state. She really can't help being a Woman of Impact. It's in her nature.

WSURA Luncheon

For the first time in three years, we were able to hold what we like to call our annual luncheon on May 6 in the Berry Room of the Nutter Center with 55 people in attendance and Judi Engle presiding. Several former board members attended. Bob and Lorraine Wagely drove up from Louisville. Paul Wolfe was there with his wife, Carolyn. Marlene Bireley was there to accept her award and Abe Bassett served as official photographer. Many people were delighted to see Lorna Dawes, who was able to attend for the first time thanks to Kathy Morris.



Our scheduled speaker, Dayton City Manager Shelley Dickstein, tested positive for COVID the morning of our event, so she sent her two able assistants, Monica Jones and Amy Walbridge, to deliver her talk about all things Dayton. There were lots of questions, and we all became better informed about what is happening in our region.

Everyone agreed the food was better than usual. Mary Gromosiack and her planning committee, Kathy Morris and Joyce Howes, did a great job with the table decorations, which did double duty as door prizes. Peggy Bott and Gail Whitaker handled check-in and nametags. Thanks to everyone, everything went smoothly. People really seemed to enjoy catching up and seeing old friends and colleagues in the flesh, instead of on ZOOM. (See photos, P 5)

Nick Davis Awardees Selected

The Wright State University Retirees Association is pleased to announce it has awarded three outstanding students Nick Davis scholarships for the 2022-2023 year. Recipients for the \$1,500 scholarships are: McKenzie Blair, Mathew Mercier, and Megan Miller. Congratulations to these outstanding awardees. Nick Davis Scholarships are awarded to deserving applicants who are relatives of WSU retirees or are 25 and older. Best wishes to this year's recipients!

*Jerry Alter, Chair
WSURA Scholarship Committee*

Poet's Corner

In 1923 Edna St. Vincent Millay won the Pulitzer Prize for poetry. For a time she was the most popular poet in America. She was eclipsed by the modernists Ezra Pound, Wallace Stevens, and T.S. Eliot. When I studied American Literature in the 1970s at Wright State, she was not part of the curriculum. I kept quiet about the fact that she was my favorite poet, and that I could quote from memory scores of her poems. I came to appreciate Eliot, but Stevens remained elusive, and Pound was, well, a fascist. This all comes to mind because Yale University Press just published ***Rapture and Melancholy: The Diaries of Edna St. Vincent Millay***, which was edited by Daniel Mark Epstein.

Millay was a lyric poet. There is meter and things rhyme. I would argue that many of her poems are more intellectually complex than they may at first seem. But she is not always profound; sometimes she's even a little breezy, but her verse is almost always pleasing to the ear and the mind's eye. For example:

Safe upon the solid rocks, the ugly houses stand:
Come see my shining palace built upon the sand!

My candle burns at both ends;
It will not last the night;
But ah my foes, and oh my friends—
It gives a lovely light!

Millay was also an accomplished sonneteer, arguably the finest America has produced. She wrote many love sonnets, but perhaps my favorite is "Euclid alone has looked on beauty bare."

Euclid alone has looked on Beauty bare.
Let all who prate of Beauty hold their peace,
And lay them prone upon the earth and cease
To ponder on themselves, the while they stare
At nothing, intricately drawn nowhere
In shapes of shifting lineage; let geese
Gabble and hiss, but heroes seek release
From dusty bondage into luminous air.
O blinding hour, O holy, terrible day,
When first the shaft into his vision shone
Of light anatomized! Euclid alone
Has looked on Beauty bare. Fortunate they
Who, though once only and then but far away,
Have heard her massive sandal set on stone.

The poem I will leave you with is one of those deceptively simple ones I mentioned earlier. This one is called "Afternoon on a Hill" and it holds a special significance for me. When my sister-in-law died in 1972 following an uncomplicated tonsillectomy, leaving two young children, a stunned husband, and a devastated extended family behind, this poem was read at her funeral.



Afternoon on a Hill

By Edna St. Vincent Millay

I will be the gladdest thing
Under the sun!
I will touch a hundred flowers
And not pick one.

I will look at cliffs and clouds
With quiet eyes,
Watch the wind bow down the grass,
And the grass rise.

And when the lights begin to show
Up from the town,
I will mark which must be mine
And then start down!

By Mary Kenton

Faculty and Staff Service Awards Presented at Annual Luncheon

It is fitting that Marlene Bireley was awarded the Lewis K. Shupe Faculty Service Award. During her term as president of WSURA, she appointed Lew Shupe Historical Preservation Chair and encouraged Lew to work with the library archivist to encourage him to move copies of our minutes and newsletters to the Archives. That led to conversations that produced the Oral History Project, one of the most significant accomplishments of WSURA. Marlene served on the board of WSURA for 20 years, 10 of that as editor of the **Extension**. She also served the board for many years as chair of the Sunshine and Membership Committees. Her primary community service project is reading scripts for the Dayton Playhouse Future Fest. She and her fellow committee members read between 150 to 200 scripts each year. This year the committee read 370 scripts which they pared down to the 15 that went to another group that selects the final six plays that are staged each summer. This task takes 15 to 20 hours a week between October and March. And, no doubt, she attends each of the plays she worked so hard to select. Marlene's fingerprints are on so much of what makes WSURA what it is today. We owe her a huge debt.



Above: Marlene Bireley, Judi Engle,
and Barb Weinert-McBee

Below: Joy Heishman,
Barb Weinert-McBee,
Ron Wukeson, and Mary Gromosiak

Mary with Barb and her husband
Tom McBee

*The six plays that make up Future Fest will be performed between July 15 and 17 at The Playhouse at 1301 E. Siebenthaler Avenue. Watch the **Dayton Daily News** for ticket information.*

Barb Weinert-McBee, the recipient of the Richard A. Johnson Staff Service Award, is generous with her talents and her time. An accomplished and well-known photographer and print-maker, she regularly donates art works to help such events as the Arts Gala at Wright State and The Contemporary (formerly DVAC) raise money. She recently gifted WSURA with a stunning photo highlighting Dayton's aviation heritage. It is not unusual for bidding wars to break out over some of her pieces. One year at the DVAC annual fundraiser, her small print of a tree valued at \$100 went for \$350.* She had a well-attended one-woman show at Yellow Springs Brewery in 2019. She is active in the Dayton Print Co-Op, serving as historian for the past 10 years. She has taught at Rosewood Arts Center in Kettering and volunteered with school art programs at Eaton, Northmont, Dayton City, St. Luke's, and Xenia, as well as the Salvation Army after school program. She was a long-time 4-H advisor and a CCD teacher at Sacred Heart Church, both in Champaign County. Along the way she earned her BFA while working at Wright State and raised three successful children.



**Editorial Note:*

I am the proud owner of seven of Barb's pieces, including the "Live Oak Tree" which I can see from my bed. At \$350 it was still a bargain.

By Mary Kenton



LEFT TO RIGHT
 TOP ROW: Dennis & Carol Loranger,
 Donna Schlaheck, Joyce Cox with Kathy & Ed Keener,
 Carolyn Wolfe, Emil Kmetec,
 SECOND ROW: Paul Wolfe, Jimmy Chesire,
 Robin Suits with Abe Bassett,
 Robert Wagley, Leone & David Low
 THIRD ROW: Peggy Bott, Mary Kenton,
 Lorraine Wagley, Kathy Morris
 FOURTH ROW: Tom and Helen Fagan Listerman,
 Joyce Howes, Lorna Daves, Diane Frey, Gary Barlow,
 Richard Williams, Dan Abrahamowicz

Photos from the Annual Luncheon

For more photos, go to bit.ly/WSURA-Luncheon

Connections

By Marlene Bireley



Marlene with colleagues Lorraine and Robert Wagley and Abe Bassett at the Annual WSURA luncheon. Marlene, Robert, and Abe are all past presidents of the Wright State Retirees Association

Upon learning that I would be the recipient of the Lewis K. Shupe Faculty Service Award, I began to think about what WSURA has meant to me over the past 24 years. The word that kept coming to mind was “connections.” The first connection was with Lew Shupe himself, a dear friend, colleague and traveling companion. I miss him. It was in 1998 that I received a phone call from Lew and Gary Barlow urging me to join WSURA and, in addition, to allow them to put me on the ballot for president-elect. The first request was an easy “yes.” The second was a harder decision since I knew very little about the fledgling organization, but I eventually agreed. For the next 20 years, it was my great pleasure to serve on the board as president, The **Extension** editor, and Sunshine and Membership chairs.

While serving in those various positions a number of connections were made. First and foremost, I made new friends with people who I knew only slightly or not at all while an active faculty member. Those connections endure today. I love the continuing connections that WSURA makes with current students through our scholarship program, our support of the Food Pantry and direct contacts with international exchange students and faculty. For many years the board was a guest of the president of the university at a spring luncheon where we were updated on the current activities of the administration. This connected us to the ongoing priorities of the university. Through the social activities and our various lectures, more connections were made with retirees who were not board members and with the issues of the world beyond the university.

WSURA has been an important part of my retirement years. Receiving the award was a great honor. As we return to a more normal schedule of events, I look forward to re-connecting with all of those friends that I have missed over the past few years. I hope to see all of you in the near future.

WSURA Board 2021–2022

Executive Committee

President: Judi Engle
 President Elect: Dick Williams
 Past President: Dan Abrahamowicz
 Secretary: Gail Whitaker
 Treasurer: Sheryl Provens
 Communications: Mary Kenton

Board Members at Large

Jerry Alter
 Gary Barlow
 Peggy Bott
 Mary Gromosiak
 Joyce Howes
 Betty Kangas
 Kathy Morris
 Donna Schlagheck
 Robin Suits
 Gail Whitaker
 Dick Williams

Standing Committees

Activities: Mary Gromosiak
 By-Laws/Elections: Joyce Howes
 Communications: Mary Kenton
 Membership Development: Judi Engle
 Remembrance: Peggy Bott
 Scholarship: Jerry Alter
 OCHER: Peggy Bott & Dick Williams
 Historical Preservation: Kathy Morris

Liaisons

Alumni Affairs: Dick Williams
 Athletics Council:
 Mary Kenton & Dan Abrahamowicz
 Community Affairs: Donna Schlagheck
 Friends of the Libraries: Gary Barlow
 Raider Food Pantry: Kathy Morris

Webmaster: Robin Suits

Contact Us

E-mail: wsura@wright.edu
 Website: wright.edu/wsura
 Facebook.com/groups/WSURA



2022 Dayton Peace Prize Awarded to Ambassador Tony Hall

Ambassador Tony P. Hall, native son of Dayton Mayor Dave Hall, was honored as the sixth recipient of the Dayton Peace Prize on May 7 at the Hope Hotel, Wright-Patterson AFB. The ceremony, hosted by the Dayton Council on World Affairs celebrating its 75th anniversary, took place in the exact location where the 1995 Dayton Peace Accords were negotiated by Richard Holbrooke and the leaders of Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, and Serbia.

Cheryl McHenry, longtime anchor of WHIO-TV news, led the evening's ceremony, which included the presentation of two original works of sculpture and a video by local artist Michael Bashaw featuring local musical talent. The accolades for Ambassador Hall were many, including his lifelong work to end hunger, both at home and internationally. The opening of the local GEM City Market to address the fresh food desert in Dayton and Hall's service to the United Nations World Food Program were recognized, as well as his multiple nominations for the Nobel Peace Prize. Letters from Presidents Bill Clinton and George W. Bush were exhibited during the ceremony.

Hall's remarks reflected the humility and humor for which he is affectionately known. He shared two memories of his service as Ambassador. His first foray to Ethiopia after his 2002 appointment led to a fieldtrip in a contested region. His vehicle came under gunfire and his driver ran off, leaving the Ambassador and his interpreter to fend for themselves. Hall waited until the shooting stopped and then got behind the wheel and drove himself and the interpreter back to Addis Ababa. Returning to the US Embassy, he described a meal that might have fed a hundred people, all in the midst of war and famine—one of the many paradoxes that Hall said he encountered in the brutal place where violence and hunger collide. Hall also recalled meeting with Mother Teresa in Kolkata (Calcutta), India, where she worked to provide hospice care for the dying homeless on the city streets. Struck by the magnitude of the poverty and suffering, Hall later asked her where does one start to help? Her reply: "Start with the one in front of you."

Tony Hall's long career in public service has made him a model of servant-leadership, and many family and former staffers were present when he received the Peace Prize. Former recipients include: Archbishop Desmond Tutu, Colin Powell, George Soros, Bill Clinton, and Richard Holbrooke. Commenting on the continuing need for engagement to end hunger, Hall noted its inevitable link to violence, observing that the war in Ukraine and the food shortages it has produced are just the latest examples of the cycle of hunger and violence.

All the proceeds from the evening will be contributed to the Hall Hunger Initiative where Hall serves as executive director emeritus of the Alliance to End Hunger.

By Donna M. Schlagheck
WSURA Liaison for Community Affairs



"I'm very humbled and grateful to be in this amazing company," Hall said. "This honor is especially meaningful to me because it recognizes the contributions of my hometown, Dayton, Ohio."

"We're not a big city, but we've made a big mark on the world," he added.





WRIGHT STATE UNIVERSITY

Retirees Association
3640 Colonel Glenn Hwy.
Dayton, Ohio 45435-0001

NON-PROFIT ORG
US POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT NO 551
DAYTON OH 45401

PAGE 8

The E_xtension

The Extension is published by the Wright State University Retirees Association (WSURA). All issues can be found on our website: wright.edu/wsura.

Cut off dates for articles:

Nov. 15 — Winter

Feb. 15 — Spring

Aug. 15 — Fall

Editor: Mary Kenton

Editor Emerita: Marlene Bireley

Copy Editor: Robin Suits

Design Layout: Judi Engle

Send articles/information to Editor:
WSU Retirees Association
Foundation Bldg.
Wright State University
Dayton, OH 45435-0001
Or email to wsura@wright.edu

Is Affirmative Action Next?

The Supreme Court's approval rating is hovering in the 40s. It has been damaged lately by the leak of Samuel Alito's draft opinion overturning *Roe v. Wade*. Then, of course, there's Clarence Thomas' wife, Ginni, who is perhaps the most political of all Supreme Court spouses ever. Many Americans believe the Court is motivated more by the politics of a case rather than the jurisprudence. Several recently confirmed justices testified in their Senate hearings that they believed in precedent and that *Roe* was, in fact, a super precedent, having been upheld in at least two cases. Nevertheless, they seem poised to vote with Alito.

This fall the Court will hear arguments that Harvard University and the University of North Carolina discriminate against Asians by means of affirmative action on behalf of Black and Hispanic students. Many legal observers believe the current court's six-member conservative majority will vote to overturn *Grutter v. Bollinger* and forbid any consideration of race in university admissions.