Wright State- a Truly Excellent Institution
Marlene Bireley

Following the June meeting, the WSURA Board members were hosted by President and Mrs. Hopkins at our annual presidential luncheon. As has become a valued tradition, the president then gave us his annual overview of the year and a peek into some exciting future endeavors.

He reported that enrollment for the 2009-10 year was at an all time high with an enrollment of 18,786, an increase of about 1300. The students represented a diverse population with 22% over the age of 25, 20 % minority (the largest in history) and 750 with significant disabilities. Of those enrolled, about 9000 were housed either in on-campus housing or within walking distance. This, of course, has implications for providing student life activities that were unnecessary when Wright State was a totally commuter campus. It also speaks to the wider geographic pool from which students are choosing our campus.

While the student body is growing, 117 employees chose to accept the incentive program (approximately one year’s salary) and retired. Fifty of these were faculty and fifty-seven were staff. Among the faculty retirees were two central office administrators (Lillie Howard and Bill Rickert) and three deans (Greg Bernhardt, Jim Sayer and Anita Curry-Jackson). President Hopkins expressed some concern at the loss of so many experienced members of the administrative team.

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A Truly Excellent Institution Cont’d

One of the Hopkins’ missions this year was to increase their visibility within the WSU alumni population. They have visited a number of groups of alumni both within and beyond Ohio. At present, only about five per cent of alumni are contributing to the Development/Scholarship Fund, a number that has remained unchanged since 1999.

President Hopkins then reviewed some of the accomplishments of the university during the year. WSU has been named one of the top 100 universities in Community Service (the only public university in Ohio) and the Raj Soin College of Business Accounting students ranked first in the state in their CPA exams. The STEM school served ninety students in its first year. Those students came from three counties and thirty school districts.

The president’s pride in the number of Centers of Excellence that have been established was evident. Videos by the Directors of each of these Centers provide more information and can be found on the university’s web page (see the link on the front page of the website—some information below was taken from that source). They include:

1. Collaborative Education, Leadership, and Innovation in the Arts (CELIA), an effort to develop projects that contribute to the quality of life and economic development in the region. Ongoing projects are collaborations between the university and the Miami Valley arts community. This COLA endeavor is directed by Hank Dahlman of the Music Department.

2. Center for Excellence in Micro Air Vehicle Research, directed by George Huang, is exploring both military and civilian applications of the micro air vehicle (the “fly” airplane). This vehicle will have the capability of exploring small spaces to search out terrorists or disaster victims.

3. Center for Excellence in Product Reliability and Optimization (CEPRO) will focus on assisting innovators in Ohio to develop products that require minimal cost to manufacture and sustain. The center will perform cutting-edge interdisciplinary research in computational modeling and simulation. These simulations can be used to work out problems in design before three-dimensional prototypes are built. The CEPRO Director is Ramana Grandhi.

4. The National Center for Medical Readiness (NCMR) or Calamityville, directed by Mark Gebhart, will provide hands-on training for those who may be called upon to assist during building collapses, floods, mining disasters or other natural or man-made emergencies.

5. Ohio Center of Excellence in Knowledge-Enabled Computing (Kno.e.sis) will address the questions relating to the optimal use of computers and the massive multimedia information base. Dr. Amit Sheth, Professor of Computer Science and Engineering directs this project in cooperation with Lexis Nexis.

6. The Center for Human-Centered Innovation is a combined effort of six colleges whose focus will be to make systems and technologies work more effectively for people. Current projects include looking at the management of air space in the future and the development of simulated patients for health care training. Jennie Gallimore is the Director of the Center,

7. The Wright State University and Premier Health Partners Neuroscience Institute, directed by Timothy Cope, will focus on the diagnosis and treatment of neurological disorders. The partnership will allow clinicians and researchers to interact in solving problems as well as training students. It is expected that the Center will attract neurologists to the area, a specialty that is much in demand in this area.

In addition to these exciting innovations, Wright State has been recognized by a number of other entities since we met with the president. Summer press releases include the naming of WSU as a Military Friendly School by G.I. Jobs magazine for the second consecutive year for the services provided for student veterans and students in the military. In the September U.S. News and World Report, WSU will be listed for the third year as among the 260 best national universities and the Princeton Review has named the university among the Best Colleges in the Midwest for the fourth year (citing a challenging academic experience and personal attention to students as particular strengths). All of these accolades support the well-deserved and growing prominence of our university.
WSURA Activities Calendar
2010-2011

Thursday, October 7

**Socrates Café**
Time 1:00-3:30pm
The Socrates Café is a facilitated conversation about a topic of interest to those in attendance. The topic of the day, chosen by the group can be discussed openly and honestly in a friendly and respectful setting. There are no prerequisites or required readings.

Location: The Greene “Groundz4Living” meeting room at 50 Chestnut Street, suite 224. The meeting place is adjacent to the Chipotle Mexican Grill and across the street from Panera Bread.

Participants may bring food and drinks into the meeting room. The room will be available from 1:00 p.m. with the discussion period from 1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. For a list of potential discussion topics, go to: www.wright.edu/admin/retirees and click on Activities; follow the link to Socrates Café Topics.

Facilitator: **Abe Bassett**
Cost: Carry in lunch or snack
RSVPs needed by Monday, Oct. 4
E-mail to: joanne.risacher@wright.edu

Monday, October 18

**Presidential Lecture Series**
Apollo Room, Student Union, 7:00pm
**Andy Imparato**, President/CEO, American Association of People with Disabilities

Wednesday, October 20

**WSU Health Fair**
Student Union, Apollo Room, 10:00-2:00pm
WSURA will have a reception for new retirees in rooms 155A & B during the Heath Fair; there will be a video display of the Oral History Project, a display of WSU pictures from the past and opportunities to visit with WSURA colleagues. All retirees are invited to stop in. See article elsewhere in Extension for additional details.

Thursday, October 21

**Presidential Lecture Series**
Apollo Room, Student Union, 7:00pm
**Robin Guenther**, Sustainability Expert

Sunday, November 7

**WSU Theater—Anything Goes**
2:00pm Curtain Time
Drinks and Appetizers at Abuelo’s after the play
Cost: $15 per ticket; those with season tickets may exchange their tickets and request seating with WSURA group
Abuelo’s—appetizers $7.00 per person; drinks self pay
RSVPs needed by Friday, October 29—E-mail joanne.risacher@wright.edu
Please indicate if you have theater tickets.
WSURA Activities Calendar
2010-2011 Cont’d

Date and Time TBA
Tour Setzer Pavilion and meet with Men’s Head Basketball Coach, Billy Donlon, and watch Basketball practice session.

Sunday, Dec. 5
Dining-In--Holiday Brunch hosted by Tom and Helen Listerman
Cost: Those attending will choose an item from the menu to bring; cost for entrée will be shared among those attending.
RSVPs needed by Friday, November 19
E-mail abassett@woh.rr.com

Sunday, Jan. 9
Dining Out—New Year’s Brunch
Buffet includes breakfast and lunch items, and dessert buffet
Time: 11:30am
Beavercreek Golf Club
Cost: $13.95 + gratuity
RSVPs needed by Monday, January 3.
E-mail joanne.risacher@wright.edu

Monday, Jan. 31
Presidential Lecture Series
Apollo Room, Student Union, 7:00pm
Charlayne Hunter-Gault, Award Winning Journalist

Thursday, Feb. 3
WSU Men’s Basketball Game –WSU vs. Loyola
Time: 7:00pm game
Details to be announced
RSVPs will be needed by Friday, January 28

Tuesday, Feb. 8
Presidential Lecture Series
Apollo Room, Student Union, 7:00pm
Alison Gannett, Extreme Skier and Founder of Save Our Snow

Monday, April 18
Presidential Lecture Series
Apollo Room, Student Union, 7:00pm
Kate Bornstein, Author, Performance Artist, Advocate for Teens, Freaks and Other Outlaws

Monday, May 9
Presidential Lecture Series
Apollo Room, Student Union, 7:00pm
Jim Hightower, American’s #1 Populist

Note: All Presidential Lectures Series events are free and open to the public.
News from WSURA

President’s Message
Peggy Bott

For those of us who spend our careers in education, September is much more the beginning of a new year than January. So let me welcome you to a new year. The recent retirees may find it a little strange to not be beginning a new academic year this September. The purpose of WSURA is to provide a link to the University for retirees so I hope last year’s retirees will take advantage of this and become active members. Remember—your first year membership is free. We are particularly inviting you to attend the reception we will have on Wednesday, October 20, 2010 as part of the Health Fair. It will be in one of the rooms across from the multi-purpose room where the fair will be held. I hope to see you there. If you have any questions, please e-mail us at WSURA@wright.edu or check our homepage www.wright.edu/admin/retirees/.

Scholarship Renamed

At the August meeting, the WSURA Board voted to rename our Scholarship as the Nick Davis WSURA Scholarship in honor of retiring Treasurer Nick Davis. Nick, who served as the Director of the Kettering Center while at WSU, and his wife, Bea, have been loyal and generous contributors to the WSURA Scholarship Fund since its inception. While on the WSURA Board, Nick held the offices of President, President-elect, Past President and Treasurer. The Board felt that adding his name to the Scholarship was a fitting tribute for his many years of service to the organization and the university. The scholarship awards $1000 annually to a mature student with preference going to relatives of WSURA members. This year’s recipient will be profiled in the next issue of The Extension.

Deaths

Matthew Melko, Professor, Sociology, COLA, August 2010

Health Fair Program-New Retirees Reception
Gerry Petrak, Membership Development Chair

All new retirees (those retiring between Sept. 09 and Sept. 10) are cordially invited to a reception at the Health Fair on October 20 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Light refreshments will be served. We will be located in rooms 155 A and B of the Student Union, directly across from the Apollo Room where the Health Fair takes place.

Watch for your special invitation in the mail closer to the time of the event with more specific information on the Health Fair.

There will be resource people from the Wright State University Retirees Association to answer questions about retirement and an opportunity to pick up some brochures about WSURA. Also, there will be a video of the Oral History Project featuring founding faculty and staff. This has been a joint project of WSURA and the WSU Archives staff for the past several years. Also available will be many photos from the Archives. Can you find yourself or identify others in these photos?

All retirees are encouraged to attend the WSU Health Fair. Plans are underway to expand the offerings this year.

University of Dayton LLI

The Fall University of Dayton Lifelong Learning Institute classes will be held from September 13 to November 12. For those of you who are unfamiliar with LLI, the courses are designed specifically for senior citizens and usually require no outside reading and never require tests. The cost is $80 for the term and one can take as many courses as one wishes from the approximately fifteen options. Two courses of particular interest to Wright Staters may be the one on Fall Elections 2010 moderated by WSURA President-Elect Jim Uphoff (League of Women Voters format) and Great Decisions sponsored by the Dayton Council on World Affairs and moderated by Margaret Karns and Donna Schlagheck. Check www. peopleware.net/2394 and follow the SeniorPrograms prompts for the complete course list and registration information.
WSURA Officers and Board Members-2010-11

Officers

President—Peggy Bott
President-Elect—Jim Uphoff
Secretary—Leone Low
Treasurer—Carol Stevenson
Communications Director—Marlene Bireley

Board Members and Committee Chairs

Activities Committee—Co-chair, Abe Basset, elected Board member; Joanne Risacher, appointed
By-Laws and Elections—Chair, Judy Rose, appointed
Historical Preservation—Chair, Lew Shupe, appointed
Membership Development—Chair, Gerry Petrak, appointed
OCHER (Ohio Council of Higher Education Retirees)—Lou Falkner, appointed; Jim Kane, elected Board member, Nick Davis, appointed
Scholarship—Chair, Barbara Eakins-Reed, appointed
Sunshine—Chair pro tem, Marlene Bireley
Emmett Orr, elected Board member
Gary Pacernick, elected Board member
Gail Whitaker, elected Board member
Paul Wolfe, elected Board member

Liaisons

Athletic Council—Chuck Willis, elected Board member, and Mary Kenton, appointed
Friends of the Library—Gary Barlow, appointed
International—Bob Wagley, appointed

New Retirees April - June

Vicky Torch
Becky Volz
James McDougal
Ivy Young
Marjorie Baker
Gregory Bernhardt
Donald David
Mary Donahoe
Chris Fickert
Diane Frey
Joyce Gilmore
Paula Goodrich

Dale Goubeaux
Paul Griffin
Lillie Howard
Ronald Kremer
Sharon Lewis
Alexander Little
Marguerite MacDonald
William Rickert
James Sayer
Teresa Shepherd
Michael Sincoff
Maria Urban
Scenes from the Summer 2010 Picnic
WSURA Membership Form
New_____ Renewal_____ Date__________________
Name_________________________________________ Date of Birth__________________
Spouse's Name________________________________ Date of Birth__________________
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 (Ages 59 and below)
_______ $75 (Ages 60-69 )
_______ $50 (Ages 70 and above)
Classified employees may deduct $10 from each of these categories.
*NOTE: If you and your spouse are retirees from WSU, use the age of the younger spouse for determining the Lifetime fee. If you have paid the current annual fee and would like to become a Life Member, subtract the annual fee and remit the difference.

Annual Membership:
_______ $10

Contribution to WSURA : Amount________

Associate Membership:
_______ $5
Eligibility: Fifty years old or older and within five years of eligibility of retirement.

Please fill in the information requested above and send it with your dues (please do not send cash) to:
WSURA, Attn: Treasurer, 139 Millett Hall, Wright State University, Dayton, OH 45435