

THE AUAR NEWSLETTER

The Association of The University of Akron Retirees

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Message from the President



AUAR had another banner year of activities for UA retirees—"age-appropriate" yet still fun. On behalf of the Board of Directors I want to thank you, our loyal supporters, for participating in the events planned for you by our enlarged Program Committee. The weatherman has also been kind to us so nobody had to risk life and limb to get there. After the terrible weather we experienced in January of 2014, however, we have not scheduled a "second Wednesday" luncheon for January 2015. [The Board will still meet on the fourth Thursday in January.]

In case you missed it, we tried something different for this December's holiday luncheon. A group of thespians from the Masonic Home in Medina presented a program of original humorous "skits" entitled: "A Little Ho Ho Ho for the Holidays." Of course, as expected, they gave us a few laughs, but I hope everyone realizes just how happy these folks were to be able to entertain us. As one lady put it, "It's getting harder and harder for us to find places where we can perform [with our limited mobility]." What a big present we gave them by inviting them here! Isn't reciprocity the true spirit of the winter holidays? Their bus driver also said how grateful they were that UA's Parking Services roped off a lane so she could park near the handicapped ramp, which they needed to use to get inside the Quaker Square Depot. Our fellow UA retiree, Blin Scatterday, formerly President of ORTA, was among this group, and it was nice to see him still being active.

The Program Committee has already started to plan another exciting Spring Bus Trip, which will be in April. And the annual "Lobster and Suds" the following month will cap off the season. Over the summer, you will get a new President who is familiar to you—Diane Vucovich. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the Board members and committee members who worked so hard to make my job carefree and effective. It was an honor to serve as your President during AUAR's 15th year. Happy New Year—2015-- our 16th year.

Dr. June K. Burton

Russia Revealed: Moscow to St. Petersburg River Cruise

By Tom and Diane Vukovich



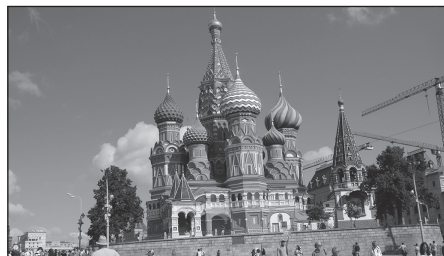
Approaching Kizhi Island showing the Church of the Transfiguration with its 22 timbered onion domes.

In mid-August 2014, nine UA retirees were among 31 members of our Akron group who traveled to Russia for an eye-opening river cruise. After an overnight flight from New York City, we arrived in Moscow and boarded our ship, the M/S *Rossia*. During our 5-day stay in Moscow, of course we visited all the typical "tourist places" including Red Square where our tour guide commented, "Did you ever think you would be walking through Red Square!" Just outside the walls of the Kremlin, we stood in awe of the famed St. Basil's Cathedral with its brightly colored onion-shaped domes. We also toured the grounds of the Kremlin and learned that the word kremlin actually is a generic term for fortress. So there are many "kremlins" in Russia.

But one of the reasons we like traveling with Grand Circle is that we also get the opportunity to visit some of the lesser known places such as the Novodevichy Cemetery, the final resting place of choice for the rich and famous and where the tombstones are works of art. Among those buried there are Boris Yeltsin, Nikita Krushchev, and the world-famous ballerina Pavlova. We also got to ride the subway, where we discovered stations filled with gallery-worthy bronze statues and ceiling paintings. And one evening we all became children again and went to the Moscow Circus. Before leaving the city, some members of the group explored Moscow's rich Jewish heritage while others visited the

Tretyakov Gallery, the National Museum of Russian Fine Arts.

On our cruise to St. Petersburg, we traveled north on the Moscow Canal to the Volga River and through three large freshwater lakes stopping to visit small towns and villages along the way. The first stop was at Uglich, where we learned of the city's tumultuous past and visited the Cathedral of the Transfiguration and the Church of St. Smitry on the Blood. We also learned about the beautiful hand-painted boxes, which are made from layer upon layer of paper mache and have up to 150 coats of lacquer. These pieces of art range in cost from hundreds to thousands of dollars. The next port of call was Goritsy, where



St. Basil's Cathedral in Moscow

we visited the Kirillo-Belozersky Monastery, an impressive walled compound built in 1397.

We also had many onboard lectures and demonstrations. One afternoon we were given "Matryoshka Dolls" (Russia's famous nesting dolls), to paint. We also sampled several kinds of Russian vodka and learned traditional toasts. We made pelmeni, which is a meat or vegetable dumpling similar to a Polish pierogi and "Blini," Russia's crepe-like specialty.

One of the most interesting and eye-catching stops was Kizhi Island in Lake Onega. It is one of the most ancient inhabited sites in Russia and is now being restored with support from a donation from Grand Circle Foundation to the World Monument Fund. As we slowly approached the island, the most impressive sight was

the Church of the Transfiguration, which we learned was built without using nails and has 22 wooden onion domes.

At the City Cultural Center in Petrozavodsk many of us participated in folk dancing lead by a group of children dressed in traditional costumes. Later we were treated to a Karelian Folk Show featuring traditional dances and songs with verses in Russian, Finnish and Karelian.

Our last stop before St. Petersburg was at Svir Stroi. Many travelers considered our visit to the home of a typical Russian citizen for tea and "piroshki," a donut-like pastry, to be one of the highlights of the trip. We had a tour of the home and heard the life story of our 78-year-old hostess.

Finally we arrived in the beautiful city of St. Petersburg, known as the "Venice of the North" because it was built like Venice on marshland and surrounded by a river and canals. Here we went to Peterhof, the splendid Palace and elaborate gardens built by Peter the Great. Its 150 gravity-fed water fountains and great vistas rival Versailles.

Of course, one cannot visit St. Petersburg without visiting the Hermitage Museum, which was built by Catherine I. This magnificent museum houses over 2.8 million works of art, including intricate and bejeweled Faberge eggs. Another cultural highlight was attending a Russian Ballet performance of *Swan Lake*. Even the most non-ballet enthusiast among us had to admit that the Russian performers were highly trained and gave us a memorable experience.

While still in the city, we visited St. Isaac's Cathedral, the largest Russian Orthodox cathedral and the fourth largest cathedral in the world. It was built by Tsar Alexander I, the son of Peter

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Tom practicing drinking a shot of vodka by holding the glass on two fingers.

the Great. When Peter the Great reclaimed the lands along the Neva River in 1703, he built a fort to protect the area from possible attack by the Swedes. In the middle of the fortress stand the St. Peter and St. Paul Cathedral, the burial place of all the Russian emperors and empresses from

Peter the Great to Alexander III. In 1998 the remains of Nicholas II, the last Romanoff ruler, and his family, who were assassinated in 1917 during the Bolshevik Revolution, were recovered and are now also interred there. We also toured the Yusupov Palace, said to be the place where Grigori Rasputin, the notorious advisor to the royal family, was murdered in 1916. Our final tour was of the summer palace of Catherine I. Painted blue with splendid gold leaf everywhere, it is said to be the largest and most complete restoration project in the world after its near total destruction during World War II.

It was fascinating to learn about Russian history from the time of the Tsars through the Revolution, the World Wars and especially interesting to hear about the Soviet Period from our guide and other who had lived through it. Their new government began in 1991, and the citizens are still adjusting to the changes in government policies that affect their daily lives.

In the coming months the Vukovich's will be presenting a travelogue of this trip at one of AUAR's monthly luncheons.

March Luncheon - Improving the Lives of People and Pets

Georjette Thomas, Director of Organizational Advancement for "Pay It Forward for Pets," spoke to the guests at the March 2014 luncheon about local animal rescue and adoption programs. Georjette, formerly with "One of a Kind Pet Rescue," recently established this new non-profit with two major goals in mind: 1) "... to assist local animal welfare groups in their effort to rehome orphaned animals ... 2) and to develop new independent programs to increase the chances of pets finding a new home."

"Pay It Forward for Pets" partners with the Summit County Animal Control Department, but the program is totally funded by public support, grants and fundraising activities.

In Summit County, about 11,000 animals each year need new homes. However, only approximately 7,200 are actually adopted. Georjette and her group are hoping to increase that number. Among the programs she has started and manages are 1) a canine behavioral assessment program to reduce stress in dogs and thus enhance their adoptability; 2) the use of a professional photographer as a way of showing pets at their best rather than in cages; 3) a humane curriculum program, which promotes compassion and humane education to area youth in a classroom setting; 4) a critical care fund, which provides funding to off-set the cost of animal health care and spay/neuter operations; 5) a "no buddy left behind" effort, which assists in the complex process of bringing the pets of military personnel home to the United States from overseas; and 6) "Senior Pets for Senior Citizens," which matches dogs and cats over the age of 5 with people ages 55 and older. To adopt a senior pet, the applicant only needs to be able to feed the animal and continue giving it medical care as needed. Prior to adoption, the animals are fully vetted and spayed or neutered using funds from "Pay it Forward for Pets." Georjette's goal is to place as many as 250 senior animals each year through this program.

Georjette Thomas is a native Akronite and previously was a Director of Marketing for University Radiologists of Cleveland before dedicating herself to animal welfare full-time in 2007. She is the daughter-in-law of AUAR Vice President, Dr. Frank Thomas.

September Luncheon - Africa Trip



Mark and Sandy Auburn show and tell us about their East Africa visit

Mark and Sandy Auburn organized their illustrated lecture about their 2013 twelve-day safari in Tanzania into five sections. First was a geographical orientation to one of the last places in the world where great animals can be seen in the wild. Second were pictures of the various lodges and tent camps where they stayed and the vehicles in which they traveled on land. Third came many images and occasional iPhone videos of the ungulates and predators—zebras, gnus, elephants, giraffes, hippos, lions, cheetahs, hyenas, and others—

including one movie of forty-two elephants moving just ten feet away from their trucks. Fourth were pictures of the people-to-people visits which highlighted the trip and which characterize the tours offered by OAT, the company for which Tom and Diane Vukovich have led nearly two dozen tours, including a couple almost like the Auburns'.

The last section briefly sketched their four days in Zanzibar, the island whose joining with the former Tanganyika East Africa brought into being the republic of Tanzania in 1964 and which was the capital of the Sultanate of Oman in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, 2,650 nautical miles from the former and present capital of Muscat and the site of the last public market trading in human beings as chattel (closed 1872).



One of the speakers, Mark Auburn and host, Tom Vukovich



Norb Weisend, John Miller and Neal Raber



At dawn on the Serengeti Plains, Sandy and Mark prepare to board their safari limousine

October Luncheon - Many UA Retirees Contribute to Campus Research



Luncheon speaker Dr. Jenny Stanley

In the fall of 2013, Dr. Jennifer Stanley reached out to AUAR members and asked for volunteers to participate in studies conducted in the Emotions and Aging Lab on campus. Many individuals and couples contacted her and assisted several graduate students with their research projects.

The 2014 October luncheon featured Dr. Stanley speaking about a recent study to investigate domains in which older adults are less able than young persons to discriminate "... between socially appropriate and inappropriate behaviors in video clips" and to determine if there was there an age difference in the perception of what is or is not funny.

What was learned was that older adults did not think gaffes clips were humorous but that both age groups were able to discriminate between inappropriate and appropriate behaviors equally.

Dr. Stanley and her students continue to study how changes in biology and social interactions affect emotional changes with age. One goal is to investigate domains in which adults continue to grow and develop into late

adulthood. Dr. Stanley noted that there is growth and loss at every stage of life.

If you wish to learn more about the Emotion and Aging Lab and the social and emotional functioning studies conducted by the UA Psychology Department graduate students, please contact Dr. Stanley at jstanley@uakron.edu or 330-972-6564. Note that volunteers are paid.



Tom & the Gang



Registration people Bob Blankenship and Stu Terrass



Richard Milford, June and Diane

November Luncheon Celebrates Veteran's Day



President June Burton presenting appreciation gifts to luncheon speakers David Kovesci and Ralph Lynn

The luncheon on November 12, 2014 was held the day after Veteran's Day. It was fitting that our two great speakers had served our country.

Kim David Kovesci, the current director of the Military Aviation Preservation Society Air Museum (MAPS Air Museum), is a University of Akron graduate and a Navy veteran. He explained that the museum was started 24 years ago with pieces of one old airplane and a few volunteers. The museum has grown steadily, particularly in recent years, with acquisitions of all sorts of aircraft from an original early glider to modern jet planes.

In 2009 MAPS had about 6,500 visitors. Last year the total was 28,000. This growth is due to the thousands of hours local volunteers devote to restoring the aircraft and acting as tour guides.

In addition to collecting and restoring aircraft, a central part of the museum's mission is to focus on providing a hands-on educational experience that brings history to life. To this end, grant funds are used to bring thousands of high school students to the museum annually.

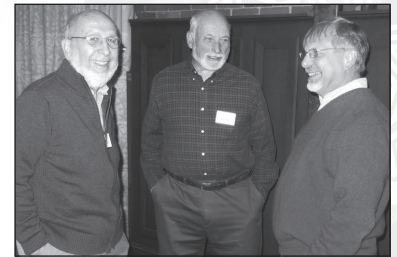
Integral to the history of flight are the men and women who designed, built and flew the airplanes. MAPS



Bill Beyer and Wolfgang Pelz

pays homage to many of these individuals in their "Gallery of Hero's". Here stories are told of their sacrifices and achievements using displays, pictures and war relics.

The second speaker was Ralph Lynn, a 95-year old Air Force veteran. He was a World War II B-24 Liberator pilot who flew 32 missions over occupied France and Germany, including 2 missions on D-Day.



Loren Hoch, Roger Bain and Dan Sheffer

If you expected Ralph to talk about his WWII experiences, you would have been wrong. Instead Ralph spoke of what it means for man to fly after thousands of years looking at birds and wondering what the earth looks like from above. Ralph quoted an Alfred Lord Tennyson poem and recited a sonnet written by John Gillespie Magee, Jr. John was an American serving in the Royal Canadian Air Force during WWII and wrote this famous poem that appears on the headstones of many aviators and astronauts interred in Arlington National Cemetery. The author was only nineteen years old when he was killed when his plane crashed as he was returning to England from a combat mission. Ralph also spoke of Charles Lindbergh and what drives the human race to reach for the stars. It is amazing that in just 60 years we have gone from gliders to space travel!



Tom and Diane Vukovich

If you want to learn more about aviation history from the earliest days of flying to supersonic jets, see aircraft that helped win wars, pushed the boundaries of flight and changed society, then you should visit the MAPS Museum. It is located just off Ohio Route 241 on International Parkway at the "back end" of the Akron-Canton Airport (www.mapsairmuseum.org). All admission fees help support the restoration projects and educational programs. There is also an extensive gift shop that sells aviation-related items for both young and old.

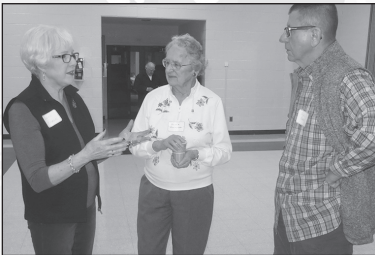


Rosemary Cannon, Linda Sugarman and June Burton

November Tradition Continues - Soup and Chili Supper



Soup and Chili Czar Tom's final inspection



Velma with Neal and Jackie Raber

The first Friday in November has become the "traditional" date for the retirees annual "Soup and Chili Supper". Other traditions have also emerged, such as Judy Lasher's excellent Stuffed Pepper Soup, Roger Bain's Big Horn Chili and the Mushroom & Barley Soup provided by Rita & Denny Klein. These crockpot favorites were offered this year along with Turkey Chili (Randy & Robin Pelton), Autumn Chili (Tom Vukovich), Italian Sausage Soup (Sharon Gandee), Rust Belt Chili (Neal Raber), and June Burton's famous Turkey Soup with Rice & Zucchini.

After ample sampling of at least 2 or 3 of the soups and chili and a bit of dessert, a fun tradition has emerged to end the evening – BINGO. The free BINGO game, with a large array of "white elephant" prizes provided by the participants, has become a great way to enjoy the event while still sipping coffee, tea and apple cider. This year the prizes ranged from a much coveted Coach Keith

Dambrot Bobblehead figure to wine stoppers, classical music CD's and, of course "brick-brack" of every style and shape, things not yet considered antiques, but close.

Next November will find UA retirees and friends attending the 2015 Soup and Chili Supper at our traditional venue, the Goodyear Metro Parks pavilion on Newton Street in East Akron. Plan to attend. You will enjoy the evening and still be home by 8:30 p.m., with a full stomach and perhaps a treasured BINGO prize, in time to watch your favorite TV shows.



Roger and Evelyn Garver



Bob Gandee and Velma Pomrenke

First Annual Retirees Scholarship Fundraising Event



John and Lenora Bee and Tom Vukovich

On a cold late afternoon in November, about 30 retirees and guests attended a wine tasting party at Riverside Wine & Imports in Kent, Ohio. Our host was Dr. John Bee, retired University of Akron Professor of Communications, who has found a new career in the wine wholesale business.

John and his wife Leonora served samples of five of the wines produced in the Piedmont Region of Italy. John's company, John Bee and Famiglia Wines, deals exclusively with wine from that region.

The group enjoyed grapes, crackers, slices of pepperoni & sausage plus several kinds of cheeses between each presentation and wine sample. The wines selected by John Bee were well received, and the cases he brought along for Riverside Wine & Imports to sell were quickly sold out. Especially popular was "Franco Conterno", featuring nebbiolo grapes, which along

with sangiovese grapes are the two most important grapes in Italy.

\$ 453 was added to the AUAR Endowed Scholarship Fund. Thank you to all who attended and also to those who could not attend and sent donations. Your support is very much appreciated.



Hans Zbinden, John Bee, Kathy Z. and Helen Candea



50/50 raffle winner June Burton



Loren Hoch and Pamela Rupert

Holiday Party Full of Entertainment



Member of the Readers Theater Blin Scatterday with Bob Gandee

A large turnout of UA retirees and guests came to hear the Readers Theatre Group from the Western Reserve Masonic Community perform several holiday related "skits" in a program entitled "A Little Ho, Ho, Ho for the Holidays". The WRMC Readers perform under the direction of retired Cloverleaf High School English/drama teacher, Jim Gilder. The cast of 10 performers included Blin Scatterday, an AUAR member and retired "C & T College" professor.

The group performed three skits, two of which involved Santa Claus (Harry Lawrence). In "Santa Wants to Retire" Santa is depressed due to getting "no respect" from today's children, his elves and his reindeer. Happily he gets a very supportive letter and changes his mind. The second skit, "Santa's New Phone System", reminded us of the frustration of dealing with a new phone system and a "helpful" but "scripted" telephone operator.



The Western Reserve Masonic Community Readers Theater Troupe

The middle skit, "The Quibbles Christmas Pageant", brought us back to the days of live radio shows featuring a family setting with the husband and wife discussing participation in an upcoming Christmas pageant. This short skit included Blin Scatterday as Quentin Quibble and Jan Bubsey as his wife, Carol. It also featured radio announcer Russ Toll, who reminded us of



Stu Terrass, Bob Blankenship, Neal Raber & President June Burton greet and check-in luncheon attendees

a "politically correct" version of "The Night Before Christmas". We also had a 50/50 raffle, which June Burton won and generously donated her winnings to the AUAR Endowed Scholarship Fund. Your AUAR Board will be looking for entertainment for the 2015 Holiday Party. Let us know if you have suggestions.



Roger & Evelyn Garver and Barbara Clark



Diane & Gerald Kunze and Tom Vukovich



Director of the Western Reserve Masonic Community Readers Theater Jim Gilder with June Burton and Tom Vukovich

FACULTY SENATE Fall 2014 — Bob Gandee & Neal Raber

During the Fall Semester, the activities of the Faculty Senate included the following:

- Approving the move of the Counseling Department from the College of Education to the College of Health Professions.
- Discussing with President Scarborough his first year timeline for meeting with college faculties to prepare strategic plans and for using the plans in the budget development process.
- Discussing with President Scarborough his reasons for approving the searches to hire two tenure track faculty members, nine non-tenure track faculty members, and five administrators.
- Hearing that in response to a resolution passed by the Senate in May, the maximum teaching load for part time faculty members would be increased from eight to nine hours per semester starting Spring Semester 2015.
- Approving the name change of the Department of Associate Studies in the College of Applied Science and Technology to the Department of Applied General and Technical Studies.

A CONVERSATION WITH FRANK THOMAS — By Pamela Rupert



Pam: Thank you for meeting with me. First, let's be sure we have your titles right. You joined UA in 1970 as Manager of Administrative Systems and retired in December 1995 as Associate Vice President for Information Services. You have many accomplishments from those years, but before we delve into your university responsibilities, I'd like to back up

chronologically and find out about your earlier years. I see you first went to college in Chicago; are you from that area?

Frank: No, actually I was born in Washington, D.C., but moved to Florida with my mother when she and my father separated. I grew up there and graduated from St. Petersburg High School in 1948. My father had moved to Chicago by then and invited me to come to Chicago if I wanted to go to college. I spent two years at Wright Jr College, Pre-Engineering, and two years at The Illinois Institute of Technology, studying EE before being drafted in December of 1952.

P: You were sent to Korea where I understand you had some unusual experiences. What was that about an Ebola scare?

F: Within a few days of my arrival and at the replacement depot in Chunchon South Korea I went through a medical exam. The result of which had me placed in a field hospital. "Turned out I had a temperature so they quarantined me for 10 days. They were watching for hemerogic fever symptoms, a form of Ebola. Turned out I was fine. They finally sent me to the front where I experienced some incoming mortar fire that took the lives of two sergeants due to rotate home. However, the truce was signed in 3 days, so I never even fired my rifle. I figure that the delay probably lessened my chance for combat. However, the day after the armistice I was in a work detail with three other soldiers and we strolled into a mine field which took some time to extract ourselves.

P: So your military experience turned into something quite different. I understand you were a bartender in the officers' mess. Tell us about that.

F: After four months on the front, my life changed dramatically when I became a bartender and orderly for the Commanding General of the 45th Infantry Division, Paul Harkins; no more sleeping in the field! I was in on all that was going on, listening as the officers talked amongst themselves at the dinner table plus reading the intelligence reports each morning. The general staff of the U.S. Army and Marine divisions in Korea all came out of WWII. Harkins was head of Personnel (G1) for General Patton, so he told many stories about Patton, including how Patton was fatally injured by a prisoner of war who drove a truck into his jeep & broke his spine. General Maxwell Taylor, Commanding General of the 101st Airborne Division during WWII and who headed the eighth Army in Korea would visit unannounced. It was not uncommon to be setting up the table for lunch and hear a helicopter coming in. Then I had to disarm him as it was standard procedure that no firearms were allowed in the General's mess.

P: Pretty top drawer stuff! I hear you also met other important people, even Marilyn Monroe.



Marilyn Monroe and myself and two ROK Army soldiers

F: Oh yes, Marilyn had just married Joe DiMaggio and they were honey mooning in Japan. She decided to visit all the divisions in March of 1954 and I was assigned to look after her. When the general appeared her request for a drink was, "I'd like a glass of Sherry Wine." Of course the General's mess was more about Whiskey and Scotch, so the general's aides were

sent out in a jeep to Chunchon to find sherry wine. They actually did find it, to my surprise. In the meantime she sat and chatted with me for awhile.

P: These experiences have certainly given you some novel "war stories" to tell. I see that following those exciting days it was back to civilian life and school, this time at the University of Cincinnati for a BS in Mathematics in 1957.

F: After graduation I worked at RCA for a few years as a Production Engineer, and then went to Lockheed Aircraft in Georgia as a Scientific Programmer. We worked on two planes: the C130 straight wing cargo plane, a real workhorse which would land and dump supplies out the back quickly, and the C5A, a swept wing 4 Jet engine cargo used to carry troops and armor in and out of combat territory. The C5A did not make an appearance until after the Vietnam War.

P: Your next stop was in Akron at Goodyear Aerospace Corporation from 1962 to 1970, job description "Scientific Section Head of Computing." What did all that entail?

F: This was during the "Cold War" days and the war in Vietnam. We were working on the Subroc Missile that is fired from a Polaris Submarine. This was an atomic war head torpedo. The Polaris consists of two Classes. Missile firing subs and killer subs that hunt and sink enemy subs. I was engaged with the killer subs. The work at that time was —all top secret. The "killer" sub, would release its torpedo which would travel into the water and then into the air, re-enter the water and find its target. The problem was to find the radius of kill for the atomic torpedo, that is how far away from the enemy sub should the killer sub have to be and not sink itself? I did the programming; Bill Webb (who came to U of A and taught Math in the C&T College) did the math for the fire control simulation. My boss and I traveled to DC every week. It took two years to finish the project. There are at least three people on a project so that no one person knows the entire problem.

The answer turned out to be a 10 mile radius from the Target. Our killer sub doing the test run was the Thrasher. You may recall that the nuclear sub Thresher went down with all hands aboard on its' return to sea from New London CT with all the test equipment aboard including 110 men. My boss and I were offered a ride which was avoided as he became sickhowever I did not know this until his return to work. It took an additional year to outfit the test computers on another killer sub and complete the project.

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P: It sounds like getting sick has been beneficial to you on more than one occasion!

F: Right! The result of the final tests and our simulation of the torpedo's fire control system shut down the subroc missile. All nuclear torpedoes were destroyed and replaced with conventional ones after the study verified that our killer sub was inside the radius of kill with the enemy sub.

Other projects that were in our work area included the following; During the Vietnam War we were also developing our laser and cluster bomb technology. This Laser bomb was the solution to knocking out bridges but was never used until Dessert Storm War. However our current method in removing bridges was for the U.S. Airforce to bomb the bridges leading from Hanoi to South Vietnam. Bombing bridges was not always successful as it often just made a patchable hole in the bridge surface. You have to take out the support pillars to remove a bridge. Laser bomb technology does this job well. However, we had the current problem with the enemy shooting down our planes with their Russian Sam II heat seeking missiles, and were looking for ways to divert this missile. One solution that we implemented was to release shredded aluminum; another solution was to place an alarm in the cockpit to tell the pilot to dive the plane. (One hoped he was above 1200 feet.) If you saw the movie "Air Force One" you saw the release of shredded aluminum from a box strapped to the wings of the President's plane as he was leaving Russia. We implemented the shredded aluminum and cockpit alarm to solve this problem. Other projects included the design and testing of cameras that could look through foliage and spot Vietnamese trucks traveling down the Ho Chi Minh Trail at Night. Another project included using the U2 data to guide the Pershing missiles to their targets in Russia. This was successfully completed however the map matching was about 80% accurate!

P: So you were involved in a lot of top secret projects. But in 1970 you ended up at UA.

F: Well, the Vietnam War was slowing down, and I looked and thought maybe I could do something for U of A," so I applied for the Director of Computing in 1968. I didn't get the top position at first but did become Manager of Administration Systems 2 years later. I had learned data processing at Goodyear when we needed to price the subroc missiles. On my arrival in 1970, Wayne Duff showed me two huge rooms with wall to wall IBM data cards that needed to convert to tape and disk files. Overwhelming. It took over 10 years or so.

P: Apparently you did eventually get past that dilemma and moved on to do other important things. I see that you implemented Telephone Registration in 1988.

F: That's a story in itself. I went to a conference at Iowa State University and heard a talk on phone registration. I came back and hit Duff with the idea. It took 3 years to convince the administration above me and to finally institute it.

P: And in so doing you eliminated those long student lines that I remember so well. You also started the computer store.

F: That was a big deal then; not so much anymore as you can buy a computer over the internet and many stores.

P: Over the course of the years you have picked up a few other degrees as well: an MA in Mathematics from Kent State in 1966, a PhD in Education from UA in 1983, and an Honorary Doctorate in Science from Ubon Ratchathani University Thailand in 2004. I know there is a lot to tell about that last one.

F: John Hirschbuhl had gone to Japan and met the Minister of Higher Education from Thailand who wanted someone to set up a computer plan for Sukhothai Thammathirat Open University (STOU) in Bangkok, Thailand. The minister came to visit UA and spoke to President Muse who signed a contract that allowed some of their staff and our staff to travel to and from Thailand. In addition was a training exchange program for their Library and IT staff.

As a result of this contract I spent 6 to 8 weeks there every year from 1986 on to 2004. I coordinated an IT plan for both STOU and Ubon that included fiber networking for the two campuses, and did some teaching. Several of my staff traveled with me and played a major role in developing the plan. We also developed an exchange program with STOU and UBON that brought many Thai grad students to UA. As a matter of fact, at the height of it we had 75 Thai grad students enrolled at U of A. When I finally left in 2004 they gave me that PhD. In Thailand the royal family presents diplomas to all the students, thus I got to meet the Princess.

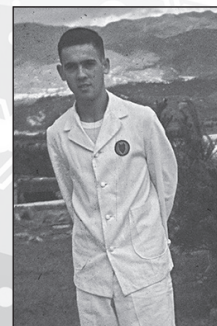
P: You do certainly keep busy. I note that during your earlier years at UA you also taught part-time at Kent State, and in retirement you are still going strong. 'I see you have a company called HEITS Inc.

F: As retirement approached in early 1990 I started thinking about what I would do then. I got a copy of a directory of top executives in higher education and found that the producer of this directory (The University of Texas) wanted to end their role in publishing the directory. So I thought if they want out. I'll get in. I now do an annual salary survey for IT professionals in higher education and market it

P: You are a busy person. Tell me: what do you do for fun? on line.

F: Fun? Oh, I work all the time! I have two rental properties and do the needed manual work with my sons. I do a newsletter for the Korean War veterans, and I exercise every day. I do like to gamble, though, just a little---\$400-500 tops once or twice a year. My brother, who was the Sales Manager for The Dessert Inn for 25 years in Las Vegas, told me if you don't place a maximum bet you won't win! You have to think of gambling as an entertainment exercise in losing money.

P: Now that really surprised me; it seems out of character! I do know you go to Florida in the winter with your wife. But of course you take your computer.... Those of us in AUAR also want to thank you for the contributions you make to our organization. You have taken over the Membership Chair, a big task, and are trying to move us forever forward into the computer age. You have had an interesting life, and we appreciate your sharing of it with us. There is much detail available about your various "Cloak and Dagger" stories that would make for interesting conversations with others.



2015 Winter Zip Talk

1963-64 Basketball Squad Honored as UA's First Team of Distinction

By Ken MacDonald, Director Emeritus, Sports Information



This coming February 20, The University of Akron Sports Hall of Fame celebrates its 40th anniversary at a banquet

in the Quaker Station Ballroom. Being honored in the Class of 2014 that evening, besides five outstanding athletes, Brande Lamb '97, track, Kim Schaper '00, volleyball, Charlie Frye '05, football, Joel Hawthorne '87, '90, baseball, and Dan McGrath '72, wrestling, an extremely successful coach, Dennis Mitchell, track, and special awardees, Vincent & Nancy DiGirolamo, Kenneth "Red" Cochrane Meritorious Service, and Michael Dowling '87, Mike Krino Varsity A Achievement, will be the 1963-64 Zip basketball team that finished national runner-up in the NCAA College Division Basketball Tournament!.

For several years, the Hall of Fame Selection Committee, that I have served on all 40 years, has contemplated ways to honor our super successful athletic teams that have brought fame to UA. We have finally decided on the guidelines and are calling it our "Teams of Distinction".

I know there are several retirees who were on campus in 1963-64 and I'm sure they have fond memories of that team and of those before and after. I had the good fortune to see UA have winning basketball teams during my first 10 years on campus. Starting with my freshman year of 1958-59 as Russ Beichly directed UA to a loss in the season opener vs. Westminster and a season-ending loss to Wittenberg. Sandwiched in between were

21 consecutive wins that still stands as an all-time UA record. That outstanding season earned Beichly Ohio College Basketball Coach of the Year.

For me it's apropos that it is this 1963-64 team that is the first to be so honored since I was very much involved during this magical season as UA's chief statistician. Despite having graduated in June, 1963 and working at Goodyear I was there for all 16 home games in Memorial Hall that resulted in but one loss. After that 65-60 loss to Otterbein, UA went on to capture the next 52 home games that was not ended until a 49-point performance by Earl "The Pearl" Monroe as Winston Salem College defeated the Zips in the 1967 NCAA Mideast Regional Championship, 88-80.

The 1963-64 squad, led by seniors 6-6 Randy Berentz (14.4 ppg) and playmaking guards Bill Stevens (13.2 ppg) and Terry Marsh (11.7 ppg), had the most wins in school history while compiling a 24-7 record under five-year head coach Tony Laterza. Rounding out the starters were 6-5 sophomore Frank Thompson and 6-4 freshman Don Williams, who each averaged nine points and 11 rebounds. In route the Zip cagers brought home the Ohio Conference Tournament Championship by defeating UA's arch nemesis, Wittenberg, by the narrowest of margins, 52-51, behind a 18-point effort by Stevens and two late and critical free throws by Marsh. Previously, the Tigers had defeated the Zips in 10 consecutive games over six seasons. That victory before a packed house in the now demolished Memorial Hall earned UA a berth in the NCAA College Division National Tournament.

Unfortunately, at that time freshmen were not permitted to play in the NCAA Tournament so UA lost the services of its starting center Williams. However, 6-5 Junior Carroll filled in admirably as UA hosted the NCAA Mideast Regional and defeated Ithaca, 94-77, and Le Moyne (NY), 62-38, to capture the Mideast title and move onto the NCAA Finals Tournament in Evansville, IN.

Over the three-day tournament in Evansville, UA continued its solid play to knock off Hofstra, 77-58, and North Carolina A & T, 57-48. Perhaps the loss of Williams was really felt in the battle for the NCAA title with tall and talented hometown Evansville Aces. Led by future NBA Hall of Famer 6-6 Jerry Sloan, who's play would help Evansville win back-to-back NCAA Championships, the Aces dominated UA with their outside shooting, rebounding and depth of talented players, 72-59, before nearly 11,000 partisan fans.

The Zip cagers returned to be greeted by a raucous crowd at the Akron-Canton Airport and on the UA campus before being presented a "key to the City", proving finishing number two is not too shabby! Not too shabby, indeed!



1963-64 men's basketball team, under Coach Laterza, when they receiving the key to the city in 1964

In Memoriam

Editorial note: Please alert us to any member of our "University Family" whom we have overlooked.

With our condolences to their families and friends, we honor our colleagues and friends for their many contributions in making the University a better place.

Dr. H. Kenneth Barker, 92, died November 2, 2014. Dean Emeritus. Because of his long career at the University of Akron beginning in 1966 as an Assistant to President Norman Auburn and subsequently being named Dean of the College of Education, Dean Barker became a legend in his own time. Of his many personal characteristics, his humor and commitment to service have benefited the University, as well as his many causes both within the University and the Greater Akron Community.

Catharine C. Ferguson (Katie), 87, died October 1, 2014. Katie retired from the Cuyahoga Falls Schools System following a long teaching career in the elementary classroom. She was preceded in death (2007) by her husband Dr. Robert Ferguson, who was retired from the College of Education, University of Akron.

Richard Hansford, 95, passed away December 29, 2014. A pillar from the University's past lives on in the memories of the many who knew him. Dean Hansford grew up in the afternoon shadows of the University, for his childhood home was located on the site of the Bierce Library. He began his 41 year career with the University in 1949 as the Assistant Advisor of Men and was subsequently named Vice President and Dean of Student Services. Although he is often remembered for his early vision of a school mascot which became known as Zippy, he continues to be remembered by students and the many members of the University community for the supportive and constructive guidance he provided students as they attempted to negotiate the rigor of the University.

Kenneth L. Klika, 69, died October 31, 2014. Kenneth was a Professor Emeritus from the University of Akron and was currently serving as an Assistant Dean in the College of Arts and Sciences and Professor of Civil Engineering at Case Western Reserve University.

Ann L. Kanze Miller, 83, died September 17, 2014. Ann was an Academic Advisor while at the University of Akron. Ann retired from Utah Valley State College (Now known as Utah Valley University) where she was Dean of the College of Health Professions.

John Henry Ramey, 88, passed away November 2, 2014. John was a member of the School of Social Work faculty. While an undergraduate at The Ohio State University, he was a marching member of The Ohio State University Marching Band. For many years, John took great pride in returning to the OSU Horseshoe and marching with the Alumni Band during those crisp fall afternoons. In more recent years, he found much satisfaction playing his tuba with Tucker Jolly's Tuba Christmas.

Marion A. Ruebel, 81, died September 28, 2014. Rube, as he was known to his many friends and acquaintances, arrived on campus in 1970 as an Assistant Professor of Secondary Education. During his long and productive career at the University of Akron, he wore many Hats: Assistant Dean of the College of Education (1974-1978), Dean of the University College (1978-1989), Interim Senior Vice President and Provost (1990-1991), Acting President (1992), Director of Alumni and Government Relations (1994), and the 14th President of the University (1996-1999). Among his many retirements, Rube also served as the President of St. Vincent/St Mary High School, Akron, Ohio.

James Teeter died August 4, 2014. James was Emeritus Professor of Geology. As the first geologist hired by the University, he, with his magnetic personality and sincere concern for the students, was instrumental in the early growth of the Geology Department which he subsequently chaired. Over the years, the experience of his introductory geology courses and week-long field trips motivated hundreds of students to major in Geology.

If you haven't renewed your AUAR membership for the 2014-2015 year, it is time to do so. Don't forget our Scholarship fund where we provide some funding for a worthy student. Please complete the items listed below, and mail your check or checks to the address below. If you have an e-mail address, please submit it.

AUAR Membership, Human Resources, The University of Akron, Buchtel Commons, Akron, OH 44325

THE ASSOCIATION OF THE UNIVERSITY OF AKRON RETIREES

E-mail Digest

SPECIAL EDITION

The E-mail Digest is a daily compilation of announcements sent Monday through Friday to faculty, staff and contract professionals. The digest contains announcements of all events of interest on campus. Retirees who would like to keep up with UA activities and receive the digest in their inbox can do so.

To be put on the guest list of recipients of the digest, send an email message to bobk@uakron.edu (Robert Kropff). Type *Digest Subscription* in the subject line of your email and request to be added to the subscription list in the

Name: First _____ Last _____

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Dues are **\$12.00**; make checks payable to "AUAR"

Scholarship Donation _____; make checks payable to the U of A Foundation



The 2014-2015 AUAR Board

The AUAR Newsletter is a biannual publication of the Association of The University of Akron Retirees (AUAR), c/o Talent Development & Human Relations Department, The University of Akron, Akron, OH 44325-4730.

AUAR members receive our newsletter automatically. The AUAR Executive Board meets at 10:00 a.m. on the 4th Thursday of the month at the UA Alumni Office on Fir Hill.

If you have questions about the organization or to keep abreast of events and issues pertinent to all UA retirees, visit our website at www.uakron.edu/auar. The newsletter editor, Dr. Pamela Rupert, can be reached at pamelarae2004@aol.com or 330-929-1810.

UPCOMING EVENTS SPRING 2015

AUAR LUNCHEON SPEAKERS

February 11, 2015

Bruce Ford

A Sampling of Akron History
From over 30 years as
Official City Photographer

March 11, 2015

Prof. Emeritus, Marge Koosed

A Gardener's Dream Trip:
The Chelsea Flower Show,
Monet's Giverny, Versailles,
The Bagatelle, and a LoireChateau's
International Garden Festival

April 8, 2015

Tom & Diane Vukovich

Travelogue:

"From Moscow to St. Petersburg with Love"

OTHER EVENTS

February 15, 2015

Brunch & Coach House Theatre
Agatha Christie's "Toward Zero"

April 24, 2015

Annual Road Trip
Cleveland Area (TBA)
8:30 A.M. to 5 P.M.

Friday, May 15, 2015

Lobster & Suds
Zwisler Hall, 4:00 P.M.

AUAR BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE

January 22, 2015

February 26, 2015

March 26, 2015

April 23, 2015

May 28, 2015

June 25, 2015

August 27, 2015

If you are interested in entertainment within the Akron area, check into our web site and view the events listed under the Special Events Menu. Just Log on to www.uakron.edu/auar and click on the Menu "**Special Events**" or type www.uakron.edu/auar/special-events.dot

Our Motto

People say interns and new hires are
the promise of the future.
Let's not forget that retirees are promises kept.

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