

# THE AUAR NEWSLETTER

The Association of The University of Akron Retirees

<http://www.uakron.edu/auar/index.dot>

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## Message from the President



A big "Thank You" goes out to all our friends and colleagues who have already renewed their membership in the AUAR for 2014-2015. I find it hard to believe that we are beginning the 16th year of programming. When I see all the many enriching and fun things we have planned for this year, I am certain that we have avoided the looming pitfall of growing stale with advancing age. Contrarily, I think we have outdone ourselves in engaging another series of interesting speakers for our monthly luncheons. Yes, the ever popular Chili/Soup Supper will be held early in November and the space has already been reserved

for the "Lobster and Suds" event late in the Spring. While where the tour bus excursion will go this year is still anybody's guess.

Once more we will hold most events at the Depot building at Quaker Square, which has ample free parking. The University Parking Services has agreed to place red cones in the spaces close to the entrance, which we are authorized to remove, in order to park close by—thereby creating our own set of handicapped spaces in addition to those permanently so designated.

Our August Board meeting was certainly enjoyable since three new "Eager Beavers" were added to the mix: Cathy Edwards, Rita Klein and Stu Terrass. Having such fine people volunteer their services to keep this organization going is most heartening. In fact, there seems to be a general feeling of excitement and anticipation on campus with the arrival from Toledo of our new University of Akron President, Dr. Scott Scarborough and his family. The construction, opening and filling of several new high rise dormitory style apartment buildings across from the campus and further west on Exchange Street is quite amazing. If you joined the University when it had just become a "State school," it's worth a drive downtown just to see the transformation. (Just don't get lost!)

I am looking forward to seeing everybody on the second Wednesday of September when we will be regaled at the 2014-2015 "kick off" luncheon by revelations of Drs. Mark and Sandy Auburn, discovered while vacationing in Africa. As always, guests are welcome.

*Dr. June K. Burton*

## AUAR BOARD NEW FACES

*We look forward to these new faces and new ideas on the AUAR Board.*

*The below presented individuals will join us this fall:*

**Cathy Edwards**, whom we all know from her position as Director of Human Resources, HRIS, is joining the Board as a Member at Large. We look forward to her insights.

**Rita Klein** was Director of Student Affairs in the College of Health Professions. She will be our Corresponding Secretary, so you will be hearing from her.

**Paul Richert** was Law Librarian and Professor of Law. He has volunteered to help with the Program Committee, so will be contributing to our enjoyment and edification.

**Dan Sheffer**, Associate Professor Emeritus in the Department of Biomedical Engineering, is our new Vice President, Coordinator of University & Community Services and Webmaster. You'll find more about him in another article.

**Stu Terrass**, whose history with UA dates back many years, originally as Assistant Advisor of Men, has agreed to assist Bob Blankenship in his role as Treasurer.



# **BENEFITS** — Submitted by Linda Sugarman

## **Parking Permits**

University Emeriti/Retirees are eligible for an Emeriti/Retiree University parking permit. If you have applied for a permit you should have already gotten one for the period 2014-2016. If you wish to apply for a permit contact Candace Schonauer at cs111@uakron.edu or at 330-972-8062.

## **Zip Cards**

University Emeriti/Retirees are eligible for a retiree Zip Card, which can be obtained from a Zip Card office. One Card location is in Simmons Hall, other Zip Card Offices can be found by going to the University of Akron Web site.

## **Computer Repair Services**

Computer Repair Services will charge a \$25 fee for repairs to personally owned computers. This appears to be a very reasonable diagnostic fee. The computer owner is responsible for any additional costs involved in the repair. The \$25 fee can only be paid from balances on a Zip Card. If you take advantage of this service you will need to make sure you have a Zip Card with at least a \$25 balance. Monies can be placed on the Zip Card either on-line or at a Zip Card office. Before bringing in a computer, you should call or email Computer Repair Services to ensure that this service is available for your computer.

## **RETIREE DEPENDENTS**

### **STRS Change**

Those Retiree Dependents who are also STRS members are losing their monthly Medicare reimbursements on January 1, 2015. STRS is going to stop the Medicare reimbursement for those members who do not get their health insurance through a STRS medical plan. Any STRS Retiree who does not get their health care through STRS will lose their monthly Medicare Reimbursement.

Retiree Dependents should look at their insurance options during the open enrollment period and figure out which health insurance option is best for them. For the 2015 year Retiree Dependents who are also STRS members need to take the loss of the Medicare Reimbursement into consideration. Everyone's situation is different so there is no one answer to the question of which health insurance to choose.

Retiree Dependents should always carefully check their APEX EOB'S (explanation of benefit forms) and their billings from doctors. There have been a few problems with APEX reimbursements being incorrect. There have also been a few problems on provider billings especially for those Retiree Dependents over 65 and on Medicare.

### **STRS Informational Health Care Meetings**

STRS will offer informational health care meetings in October. The meetings in Fairlawn, Ohio are scheduled for October 27 and October 28th. The registration for the Fairlawn meetings starts on September 14th. There are also other local meetings in other locations.

### **Important Medicare change**

According to USA Today a doctor will now have to certify that a patient has a serious enough condition to need at least two overnight stays for Medicare to cover an "inpatient" admission. A patient could remain in an outpatient or "observation" status that includes staying overnight for several nights. If a patient is admitted to a hospital in a status other than an "inpatient" admission the costs could be higher and rehabilitation may not be covered by Medicare. Check your supplemental insurance coverage (Apex, Aetna, etc.) to see what that insurance covers.

## **FACULTY SENATE Spring 2014 — Bob Gandee & Neal Raber**

### **During the Spring Semester, the activities of the Faculty Senate included the following:**

- Discussing the Provost's proposal to suspend 55 academic programs and then referring the proposal to the Academic Policies Committee.
- Recommending that 22 programs be eliminated, but 16 others should only have admissions suspended until they are revised to make them viable and 4 more be suspended pending the availability of the resources needed to resume admissions. Additionally, it was recommended that 6 others, which the Provost had not proposed to suspend, be eliminated. President Proenza subsequently concurred, and the Board of Trustees approved the recommendation.
- Discussing the fiscal 2015 budget and expressing to the President and the Provost the unhappiness with the cuts in the academic units. In the final version of the budget approved by the Board of Trustees, these cuts were reduced in severity.
- Passed a resolution recommending that the Faculty Senate join the Coalition on Intercollegiate Athletics.
- Passed a resolution recommending that the Department of Allied Health Technology be moved as a unit from Summit College to the College of Health Professions, where it shall be the School of Allied Health Technology; and the Community Services Technology – Addictions program be moved to the School of Social Work in the College of Health Professions effective July 1, 2014.
- Passed a resolution recommending that The Criminal Justice Technology programs and associated faculty be moved, as a unit, to the Buchtel College of Arts & Sciences, effective July 1, 2014.
- Passed a resolution recommending that the name of Summit College be changed to the College of Applied Sciences and Technology and that the College be reorganized into four departments: The Department of Engineering and Science Technology; the Department of Business and Information Technology; the Department of Public Service Technology; and the Department of Associate Studies.
- Change the mission statement of the College to read: The mission of the College is to prepare students for professional and technology based careers through applied degrees and partnerships with area businesses and the larger community. Its diverse, interdisciplinary, student-centered faculty promote creativity and innovation by connecting theory to practice.
- Passed a resolution recommending that Developmental Programs be moved from Summit College to Student Success.
- Approved the recommendation to adopt August 1, 2014 as the deadline for the enrollment of new, first-year undergraduate students for the Fall Semester of 2014, except that students may be enrolled after that date if, taking the status of their financial aid (if any) into account, it is determined that their finances are likely to be in order by the beginning of the semester.
- Approved the resolution to increase the maximum number of credits part-time faculty members may teach in a semester from eight to nine.
- Approved a resolution to recommend that the Registrar allow at least 15 minutes between final exams.
- Approved a resolution to proceed with the General Education Implementation Plan.



## President, Downtown Akron Partnership January



*Suzie Graham, Speaker,  
Downtown Akron Partnership*

During the "Artic Vortex" cold snap in early January 2014, thirty hardy retirees and guests heard about the many programs and services available in Downtown Akron. Suzanne H. Graham, President & CEO of the Downtown Akron Partnership (DAP), explained how a "Special Improvement District (SID) was established several years ago. This SID funds programs and initiatives that enhance and promote Downtown Akron as an exciting, livable and economically viable place for residents, learners, visitors and businesses. Property owners within the established district, which comprises 42 square blocks, agree to pay a special assessment to fund the SID.

Suzie explained that The University of Akron, as a state institution, is prohibited by law from being an official partner in the SID. However, especially over the last several years, the University developed a close working relationship with DAP and its members. Many of DAP's

programs, including those which promote a safe district and market downtown as a "destination" for entertainment, recreation, dining, arts and cultural activities, enhance the perception of both the City of Akron and the University.

Attendees received information packets, which contained many valuable pamphlets and guides. For example, did you know that there is a "Clean and Safe Ambassador Program" that provides specific services in the Downtown Akron area?

You can request a safety escort or receive assistance with a dead battery, flat tires or a lockout just by calling one of the roving ambassadors. That number is 330-706-7383. These ambassadors walk the area on Thursday, Friday and Saturday, keeping a watchful eye for suspicious activity, panhandling and public cleanliness issues. They are committed to keeping Downtown Akron a safe, clean and vibrant place to work, live and play.

Suzie is a lifelong resident of Akron, having attended Ellet High School and also The University of Akron as an Honors College student. However, after three years of not being able to settle on a major, she transferred to Kent State to pursue clothing design and earned her degree in theatre arts. Prior to accepting her present position, Suzie was the mayor's Coordinator of Arts and Children's Programs and directed the highly successful Lock 3 Summer Arts Experience and coordinated the Downtown Arts Walks for several years. She also is involved with the Akron Civic Theatre and other arts organizations that align with her personal interests and talents.



*Suzie Graham and Tom Vukovich*

## February Brunch and Play a Very Popular Event



*Caesar Carrino, Bob Gandee and Julia Beyer*

For the fourth year in a row, the brunch at Akron Woman's City Club and the Sunday matinee featuring an Agatha Christie play at Coach House Theatre was a "sell out." "Spider's Web" is said to be one of the playwright's more obscure mysteries, but for the 52 UA retirees and guests, it brought plenty of laughs and good entertainment on a cold, wintery afternoon.

What could be better than watching the antics of many of Coach House Theatre's regular players bring their considerable talents to Christie's play, which included a murder, a disappearing corpse, a "cover up" and an attempted murder? For some, perhaps only the excellent food enjoyed at Akron Woman's City Club prior to the play.

Hans and Kathy Zbinden, Wolfgang and Joyce Pelz and John and Jane Gwinn along with Ed and Judy Lasher and Bob and Julia Beyeler are among the regular attendees at this special event each year. We look forward to the next Christie mystery performance in 2015. Just remember that, if you want to attend, reserve as soon as you get the notice. It's sure to be a "sell out" again.



*Tom and Leon Staniszewski*



*Stephanie Dowler and Rita Klein*



## Akron and Summit County Civil War Soldiers Topic of Presentation



Speaker John Gurnish

The February 12, 2014 retirees' luncheon featured Mr. John P. Gurnish speaking on the roles various soldiers from Akron and Summit County played in the Civil War. Mr. Gurnish is a retired Akron Public School social studies teacher and a UA alumnus. He has been interested in the Civil War since 1960 and is a collector of Civil War artifacts, especially those related to Akron and Summit County participants.

While pursuing his hobby, John became a Civil War re-enactor and is currently a member of Company G, 29th Ohio Volunteer Infantry. He has worked as an extra in two films and authored or co-authored several articles in military and Civil War magazines.

During John's PowerPoint presentation, he discussed the lives of seven military people, some of whom were familiar to the audience such as Major General Alvin Coe Voris, Colonel George Tod Perkins, Captain David W. Thomas and Colonel Lewis P. Buckley. Others, who were not as well known, included Major Byron S. Chase, a surgeon in the 53rd U.S. Colored Infantry, who helped to lay the cornerstone of Buchtel College and Private Henry Steckhan, Battery D, 1st Ohio Volunteer Light Artillery. Private Steckhan, a German immigrant, was captured by the Confederates and later returned to serve after a prisoner exchange. He also was court marshaled for hitting a Union officer and later received a pardon from President Lincoln.



Mike and Linda Sugarman



Velma Pomrenke and Bob Blankenship

Many of these Civil War Veterans are buried in Glendale Cemetery. In fact, the likeness of Colonel Buckley is prominently featured in a stained glass window in the chapel at that cemetery.

John also brought along a display case with pictures, Civil War newspaper articles and a sword once belonging to Captain David W. Thomas. The sword was found in an abandoned home in Akron just before demolition. John traced to Captain Thomas using old Akron city maps.

Mr. Gurnish's presentation was a very interesting look into the past of Akron's citizens and a reminder of their involvement in the war between the states.



Tom, Speaker John Gurnish and Rebecca Gurnish



Tom presenting speaker the umbrella gift appreciation



Hank Nettling introducing the AUAR 2013-14 scholarship recipient Heidi (Sutherland) Auk

## April Luncheon Speaker Draws a Large Crowd



Speaker Mel Vye

UA Professor Emeritus, Mel Vye, was the guest speaker at the April luncheon. He spoke about his trip to the "Democratic Republic of Korea", commonly known as North Korea. A crowd of over 65 AUAR members and guests were on hand to learn about this communist country, which is not usually visited by Americans.

Mel gave us a brief history of the country from 1910 – 2011. Japan controlled the Korean peninsula prior to WWII. After the war, the country was in limbo with no formal government and not much support from the Allies.

In 1948 a border along the 38th parallel was established and the peninsula became divided into North & South Korea in 1950. An armistice was signed in 1953 after the Korean

War. Mel then reviewed the political leaders and their succession to present-day.

Highlighted by photos he had taken, Mel discussed everyday life in North Korea. He discussed such topics as traditional foods, housing, transportation systems, hotel accommodations, and the attempt by the Korean government to hold back the internet and other ways for citizens to try to connect to the "outside world".

Among the many strange and interesting things we learned were the following.  
1) Because of a lack of diesel fuel, many Koreans have converted wood burning



Tom presents the umbrella gift to Mel Vye



stoves for use as a means of delivering power to diesel engine trucks. 2) In one city, a huge 110-story building was constructed but never completed as a hotel. It now sits abandoned and decaying with no hope of ever seeing it used for any purpose.

Mel concluded with pictures of the "Mass Games," a once annual extravaganza featuring over 100,000 participants in a synchronized display, which included the formation of huge murals from hand-held cards and spectacular gymnastics. If you remember the Olympic games in Beijing, you will recall similar displays by the Chinese in the opening and closing ceremonies. Mel was lucky enough to witness these "Mass Games" shortly before they were discontinued.

As you can see from this article and those reviewing the other luncheons, the AUAR luncheon series offers a wide range of interesting presentations. Do plan to attend during the 2014-15 series.

## Lobster & Suds: Then and Now

Now that we have held the annual Lobster & Suds event at Zwisler Hall on Mull Avenue (St. Sebastian Church) for the last three years, things have settled into common practices and routines. Seventy-five AUAR members and guests attended the 2014 event. That was one of our larger crowds. The weather was ideal, and the lobster cooked to perfection. The Parmesan Chicken, prepared by UA Dining Services was moist and plentiful.



*The official start of Lobster 2014*



*We begin with the numbers*



*Mike and Linda Sugarman and Diana and Gerhard Kunze*

Perhaps at this point in time, a little history of Lobster & Suds is in order. We (Diane & Tom Vukovich) joined The University of Akron "family" in 1972 and embraced the friendly atmosphere of university life. We quickly learned of an organization called Faculty Club and joined it. There was no building to use as a gathering place like some other institutions had; but the Club still had a group of between 130-150 faculty and administrators (who were classified as General Faculty), who paid membership dues of \$5.00. Faculty Club sponsored many of the activities that AUAR now hosts, including Lobster & Suds.

During those Faculty Club years, Lobster & Suds was held at private parks, golf courses or someone's home – anywhere that would allow us to cook lobster in the open and have a keg of beer for the party. Dr. Charles Posten had a tree stump fitted with a "tap" for the beer; and, as is done today, everyone brought a covered dish, salad or dessert.

When Roger Ryan and Dr. Muse had the Heisman Lodge at the Rubber Bowl refurbished, the event was moved to that location, where it was held for many consecutive years. Back then we had to build our own fire pit with cinder blocks, rebar and wood from various sources. Old broken bowling pins from the Gardner Student Center Bowling Alley were often used to start the roaring fire. Roger Keller was the chief lobster cook and many of the present crew apprenticed with Dr. Keller.

Roger would show up with various utensils from his biology lab. We always hoped that he had cleaned them thoroughly before our use!

The Faculty Club folded in the early 90's due to a drop in interest and membership. Lobster & Suds, the Mystery Trip, and the annual Thanksgiving "High Tea" became history.

When The Association of The University of Akron Retirees (AUAR) was organized in 1998, many of its members remembered Lobster & Suds and were happy that the social committee decided to bring back that tradition.

What has changed over the years? First, we moved to propane-fueled burners instead of a smoky fire to cook the lobsters. (Thanks to Don Rupert for that great suggestion.) Second, the choice of liquid refreshment has moved away from beer to wine – with the exception of Hans Zbinden's "home brew," which always goes quickly. And third, the move to Zwisler Hall has provided us with easy parking and a more spacious facility in which to socialize.

We certainly invite you and your friends to join us on May 15, 2015 to enjoy the fellowship and fun associated with the Lobster & Suds event.



*Loren Hoch and Dan Sheffer prep the lobster*



*Bud Marston introduces the honored guest*



*The Lobster Men at work*



# April Road Trip Full of Surprises



*Exploring a community shelter at the Indian Village*



*Appreciating the Crafts*



*Decisions, decisions...*



*So that's how it's done*

The annual "Road Trip" was held on April 25, which was a mild but wet spring day. A nice group of 33 retirees and friends trekked by chartered bus to several places in Portage, Geauga and Mahoning Counties.

Our first stop was in Ravenna to tour the buildings and grounds of the Portage County Historical Society. There we met Jackie and Jeff Jones, who expertly showed us several exhibits and homes and presented the history of the early owners. We also met "Dakota Bob," who took us through a replica of an Indian village unlike any that most of us have ever seen. Bob is an expert on pre-historic Indians. He has painstakingly researched and built a village that would have been in this area 2,000 years ago. Think wooded shelters rather than teepees and fences made of sticks and vines.

Following this interesting history lesson, we traveled to Hiram College for lunch at the new dining hall. There we were greeted by Dr. Patrick Roberts, Hiram's Vice President of Development and Alumni Relations, who had helped arrange our visit. Before Pat joined Hiram College, he was Director of The University of Akron's Alumni Office. He is still a Zip through and through!



*Rita and Dennis Klein find treasures*



*Martha and Sharon ask for a cork screw*



*Modern day explorers in the modern day cabin at Indian Village*



*Our Indian Village guide, Dakota Bob demonstrates some practices of early times*

After a great lunch, we boarded the bus for the short trip to the White House Chocolate and Candy Kitchen for a "stop and taste" tour. Owner, Ken Butler, allowed us to visit his small but efficient chocolate candy making facility. His old-time candy and gift shop features premium chocolates and unique gift items. The combination of an abundance of chocolate samples to taste and an "after-Easter-sale" prompted the road trippers to purchase loads of excellent candies.

By this time the rain had become a steady downpour; but prepared with our umbrellas and fortified by chocolate, we headed to Middlefield for some shopping. Tucked on a side street, Nauvoo Road, not far from the center of Middlefield you will find the Middlefield Market. Unfortunately the "Around the House Shop," which contains every item you would ever need for you house or garage, was closed that day. However, Many purchases were made at the "Country Collections Antique Mall" and the "Country Art and Jewelry Store." The latter is a store like you have never seen before and definitely worth a visit.



*Bob and Sharon Gandee try out their new retirement home*



*Rain or shine the AUAR spirit is to explore*



*Checking out Portage County History*



*Why can't we get a closer look?*

What better way to conclude our day trip than to have a wine tasting. So off we headed to Halliday's Winery, which is located next to scenic Lake Milton State Park in Mahoning County. Here we sampled 8 wines and learned about how this 2-year-old establishment came to be and its connection to the nearby Olde Dutch Mill Golf Course. After purchasing our wines to take home and enjoy, we boarded our Baron's Bus Company coach and returned to Summit County via I-76.

The 2014 Road Trip again provided us with an opportunity to experience, connect, discover and explore places you most likely would not venture to on your own. As retiree Ed Lasher says, "Even when you know where you're going, you don't know what to expect, see and enjoy." We hope to see you on our next Road Trip in April 2015.



## A CONVERSATION WITH DAN SHEFFER — By Pamela Rupert



Dan Sheffer

**Pam:** Welcome to the Board, Dan. You are a great addition, and we are working you hard already as our Vice President and our University & Community chair. You officially retired from UA in 2012 as Emeritus Associate Professor in the Department of Biomedical Engineering, where you served various leadership roles, including Director of the Institute for Biomedical

Engineering Research and Chair of the Department. You have an impressive vita, with degrees from Northwestern State University, LA, and a PhD from Texas A&M University. But I'm wondering where was life before that? Did you live in that region?

**Dan:** No I actually grew up in Hanover, Pa. and was there until age 17 when I then "went south". After I got out of the service in 1966, I worked for several years for Virginia Electric and Power Company. When my college educated coworker with exactly the same job duties threw his paycheck on the table complaining about taxes, I saw his salary was double mine! I said I'm going back to school! I called my brother who was at LA who said "Come on down." I applied & was accepted. It was there that I met Therese, who was a nursing student.

**Pam:** Next came marriage, and Texas A&M. After graduation you spent a year at Central Michigan U.

**Dan:** Yes, I took a one year Visiting Professorship while waiting for a grant to be funded for a position in the Biosterometrics Laboratory at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, Texas. Once again, we loaded up a truck and headed south again.

**Pam:** The question that always pops up next; how did you come to UA?

**Dan:** Well, at that time I had a grant from NIH for biomedical engineering research. Robin Herron called from UA and asked if I would be willing to bring that grant & all the equipment and come to Akron, where I would also work with a surgeon from Summa whom I already knew. We came, checked things out, and decided, yes, we would do that. My position in Akron initially involved "soft money"; one third UA salary, one third NEOUCOM and one third Summa.

**Pam:** For those of us not schooled in the medical field, could you explain what "biomedical engineering" is?

**Dan:** It involves using engineering principles to help solve medical problems. Much of my work centered on breast cancer detection through analysis of photographic and holographic data. There was a lot of overlap amongst many fields of engineering and medicine. For instance, in my research, a technique used by Goodyear to detect defects in the plies of airplane tires was able to be adapted and applied to analysis of breast tissue. We could also use the same technique to make a mirror image of

a healthy breast to be used by a surgeon for breast reconstruction. Many aspects of engineering play a role in understanding and treating human biology, and are underway in the Biomedical, Chemical, Electrical, Mechanical and Civil engineering fields.

**Pam:** Amazing. So much to learn. I also note that you spent a year, 1998-89, as a Visiting Scientist at the University of Basel, Switzerland, this time in the Department of Neuro-Orthopaedics. What did that involve?

**Dan:** It related to the analysis of the mechanical properties of motion, in regard to some of the spastic symptoms seen in Cerebral Palsy. A Swiss orthopedic doctor who preferred not to use one of the standard treatments, cutting the Achilles tendon, which worked short term but was devastating long term, invited me to bring my current research and equipment to Basel. I asked UA for and was granted a year's sabbatical. It was like going into a lion's den; half salary (only one semester pay), for a family of seven. A Swiss National Research Foundation grant helped offset living costs. Packing up, a duffel bag for everyone, 5 bicycle boxes and other items; all totaled, we had 21 pieces of luggage. (Almost needed a grant to cover it!) Therese was amazing in how she organized it all. I also had to take 180 lbs. of laboratory equipment, but I sent it on ahead of time; I knew customs would have fun with that!

**Pam:** That's quite an undertaking. I can picture you at the airport! How did your children adjust?

**Dan:** They loved it. We lived in a little village outside of Basel. We enrolled them in the Swiss schools instead of the available International school, so they would be immersed in the Swiss culture. Their schooling was presented in German, both Swiss German (a dialect) and High German. They ranged from kindergarten to 8th grade, and became quite proficient in the language in a very short time. Our eldest daughter who was in the pre-gymnasium, 8th grade at that time, is very good at languages and picked up French, Italian, and Romansch, the other native languages of Switzerland.

**Pam:** It's amazing how quickly they adapted.

**Dan:** Now with me it was a different matter. The moment I attempted to speak German at the hospital, they all switched to English! And in the bakery across the street they would change pronunciations of items daily, listen to me and laugh in the back room. I think I was their entertainment for the day.

**Pam:** But you enjoyed it all. What did you do for entertainment?

**Dan:** We went hiking. The children were in school 6 days a week, with half days on Wednesday & Saturday. As soon as school was out on Saturday, we'd don our back packs and head for the train station or tram. We had no car; I rode my bike to work. We



usually headed to the mountains. We got back Sunday evening so the children didn't miss school. We were not treated as visitors and could be fined for taking your child out of school!

**Pam:** I had heard you were quite a hiker throughout Europe. Now your whole family is, I'd imagine.

**Dan:** Therese and I started camping and hiking early in our relationship, and kept it up. We tried various regions of Europe. One year we started a hike in Belgium/Holland but decided flat country wasn't all that interesting so aborted and headed to the French Alps. Since then we usually prefer hiking in the mountains. Nowadays, though, we've cut down on the backpacking and we often send a taxi with our luggage and hike with just day pack. We've used other tour services also. Last year my new knee did well, and held me up on our Scottish Highlands trip.

**Pam:** But you did return to the States and UA in 1989.

**Dan:** The return trip was something else! We still had the 21 pieces of luggage and took them on the train heading to Luxemburg. Our daughter's class came to the station at midnight and sang us a farewell; very touching. But the train made multiple one minute stops all along the way, so I warned the family, when we reached Luxemburg, they would have to get their stuff off the train quickly; "Open the window and throw it out!" So they did just that, to the consternation of the people waiting on the platform. A porter came along and said, "Sir, you have more time...."

**Pam:** Things must have seemed much quieter once you were back in the States. You then became Director of the Institute for Biomedical Engineering Research and Department Head in 1990. You also were on the Faculty Senate from 1994 to 2004, and Chair of the Senate the last 4 years. Did you by chance know Don Gerlach then?

**Dan:** He was my Parliamentarian. He was very good. He sat behind me. I would be saying something, making a ruling, and he would tap me on the shoulder and say "You can't do that." I'd say, "But I just did," and he'd say, "Well now you've got to say it wasn't right." He knew it all. I now can remember Robert's Rules!

**Pam:** Those of us who know Don can just picture it. Any other highlights from your time on Senate?

**Dan:** Well, I was once interviewed by the Chronicle of Higher Education and actually made the cover. This resulted in much ribbing by my colleagues. Enough said. But I enjoyed my time on Faculty Senate.

**Pam:** I understand you have some other diversions, including beer making. When did that come about?

**Dan:** That started back at age 17; my brother and I concocted some gad awful stuff back then! We did everything wrong, had constant bottle explosions,

but produced a beer at 13% alcohol by volume, our objective. I remember my brother put the syphon in his mouth in between bottles, which didn't much help the bacteria count, or his sobriety. That first batch was the cause of several minor auto accidents, wanton destruction of property...our mother almost lost her mind. Over the years I have learned better. Upon retirement, I had intended to get work in a local brewery to learn proper techniques for large batches, but knee surgery put the kabash on that. But I keep trying. My favorite is a black IPA, popular in the Pacific Northwest. I've been asked to make a lighter beer, like Corona Light; brew masters scoff and say "Why?? Just add water...." I think about making wine, but my son who is an assistant winemaker in Napa, California, tells me to stick with beer and not attempt wine, although I don't think he feels threatened! So I just started canning. Another son & his girlfriend have a vegetable plot and lots of cucumbers. But I refuse to can zucchini. Sauerkraut may be next.

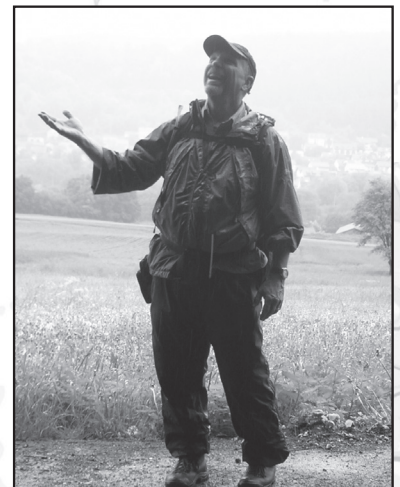
**Pam:** You are certainly keeping busy, and still involved with ongoing research as a consultant. The term Chiari Malformation caught my eye. Can you explain?

**Dan:** It involves a herniation in the spinal cord where the cord leaves the brain, interfering with the flow of cerebrospinal fluids. We have a wonderful Chiari research center on campus dealing with fluid dynamics, and collaborate with researchers all over the world.

**Pam:** So how would you sum up your time here at UA?

**Dan:** I have been here 32 years and have enjoyed every minute of it. (Well, almost; budget constraints, getting money for new faculty provided challenges...) I really enjoyed teaching as much as research and had great students at all levels. We worked to develop the Department of Biomedical Engineering and get accreditation. I believe this year our enrollment is going up 20 to 30%. All of Engineering is growing. We have a terrific faculty and students.

**Pam:** It's been a pleasure talking with you, and I realize there are interesting stories I neglected to bring up, such as stepping on snakes in a dark African basement lab, and putting rats through their paces on your treadmill on a Christmas morning. I know the readers would like to hear more. We are grateful for your participation on the Board and look forward to hearing about other adventures. Many thanks from us all.



*Rain? Onward!*



## Zip Talk

### 2013-14 UA Athletic Program Has Banner Year

By Ken MacDonald, Director Emeritus, Sports Information



I have been directly or indirectly involved in athletics at The University of Akron for 56 years, that is since 1958 when

as a freshman I tried out for the football team. A year later I became involved in the administrative side of athletics, as a voluntary student assistant sports writer in the University News Bureau and with the Buchtelite. Eventually, as many of the readers of my "Zip Talk" articles know, I spent 25 years as the director of sports information before retiring in December 1989.

What I'm trying to establish here is that I have witnessed an enormous amount of UA athletic history, in terms of success, some years not so good but, most years were outstanding or reasonably so. Of those early years, 1961-62 sticks out. That year, for the first time since Buchtel College became the University of Akron on December 15, 1913, all 11 men's sport teams compiled winning records. Capturing conference titles were the soccer, riflery and track teams.

Let's fast forward to this past UA athletic campaign of 2013-14, now a program with eight men's sports and 11 women's sports, to what could, arguably, overall be the most successful in our history! No, there were no national championship teams and not all 19 teams had winning records but, this is what those UA student athletes and those teams did do.

At the start of the current 2014-15 academic year UA now has had five NCAA individual champions and two of those, both pole vaulters, came this past year. Senior Annika Roloff captured the outdoor crown

with a pole vault of 14' 5 1/4' and sophomore Shawn Barber, who would be voted UA's Male Athlete of the Year, became UA's first individual male NCAA champion by winning the indoor crown with a pole vault of 18'6 1/4'.

Four teams earned Mid-American Conference Championships: men's soccer and indoor track and women's basketball and swimming. The riflery team grabbed two conference titles, one in the Mid-Atlantic and the other in the Western Intercollegiate. The Zip swimmers, under first year head coach Brian Peresie, captured the school's first ever championship in a sport that began as a men's program in 1952 before being disbanded in 1985. It became a women's sport in 1999. Also doing well were the men's cross country and golf teams, who were runners-up in the MAC championships, and the men's basketball squad compiled 21 or more wins for the ninth consecutive year.

Four Zip squads earned NCAA post season tournament bids: women's basketball and track and men's soccer and track. While compiling a 17-4 record the men's soccer team became one of just eight Division I programs nationally to advance to the NCAA Tournament for the seventh consecutive season. Besides Roloff, fourth place performances by senior Brittany Funk in the hammer throw and junior Alexis Cooks in the discus, not only earned them first team All-American honors but, led the UA women's program to a new team high of a 10th place finish at the NCAA Outdoor Championship.

The women cagers, paced by seniors Hannah Luburgh and Rachel Tecca, reached unprecedented heights in 2013-14, tying a school record 23 wins en-route to the program's first ever Mid-American Conference

title and the first NCAA Tournament appearance in the program's 40-year history. UA recorded its best conference record in program history, posting a 14-4 mark in MAC play and the women Zips set a new school record for most consecutive wins when they put together a 13-game winning streak halfway through the year, and went on to win 16 of their last 18 games of the season. Luburgh, who was voted Akron's Female Athlete of the Year, led the MAC by netting 734 points (22.2 ppg) to become UA's all-time single season record holder. Tecca, the MVP of the MAC Tournament, scored a career-high 729 points.

Individually, nine Zips student-athletes were presented 13 All-America honors while 96 received all-conference recognition, including 21 individual champions and 50 first team selections. UA excelled in the classroom as well in 2013-14 as 56 Zips earned academic all-conference honors, including CoSIDA Academic All-Americans Rachel Tecca (first team), who finished out her basketball career as UA's all-time leading scorer, with 2,317 points, and its top rebounder, with 1,109, and Reinaldo Brenes (third team) from men's soccer who led Akron with eight goals that included five game winners.

Then to top the year off, the UA men captured the prestigious Reese Trophy, based on a complicated points system, as the top overall men's athletics program in the Mid-American Conference for the first time in Akron's 22 years as a member! Certainly, Athletic Director Tom Wistrill, his staff, the coaches and, most of all, our student athletes, deserve much acclaim for all their outstanding achievements in 2013-14!



# In Memoriam

We honor our colleagues for their many contributions in making the University a better place.

**Francis Adeleide Albrecht** died March 15, 2014. She was a long time benefactor of the Community Arts, particularly The University of Akron Dance Program. She and her husband, Fred, hosted sumptuous parties at their home for the annual Acme Zip Football Game for over twenty-five years.

**Dr. John A. Blough**, age 84, passed away in St. Augustine, Florida on July 11, 2014. He was Chairman of the Department of Educational Administration at UA from 1979 until 1986.

**Jess Hays** died March 24, 2014 in Deming, NM. He was with the College of Business at the University. He enjoyed the fulfillment of his last wish for a pierogi meal which was shipped overnight to Deming by Perla Delights in Parma, Ohio.

**Milton Louis Kult** died March 16, 2014. He was a Professor of Electrical Engineering at the University of Akron.

**Catherine E. Pirogowicz** passed away June 20, 2014. She was the Head Baker in the Dining Services.

**William Root** died January 14, 2014. While an undergraduate at The Ohio State University, he was a marching member of the OSU Marching Band and later was a member of the Alumni Band. During WWII, he played in Glenn Millers' Army Air Force Band. At the University of Akron, he was member of the Department of Educational Administration, College of Education and was a member of the E5 Band for those who remember back then.

**Henry "Hank" Stevens** passed away January 18, 2014. He was the oldest member of the AU faculty. He was a member of the Chemistry Department where Frank Kelley was one of his first students in a polymer science class. Frank later became the Dean of AU's College of Polymer Science and Polymer Engineering. Hank was still teaching at the University of Akron when he died at the age of 95.

**Joseph "Joe" Alexander Takacs** died December 28, 2013. Joe was a Professor of Electrical Engineering in the Community and Technical College.

**Patricia "Pat" Taylor** passed away February 3, 2014 in Florida. For over thirty years, Pat taught and occupied a very strong presence in the Department of Physical Education, College of Education.

**Arlene Adele Toth** died February 23, 2014. Arlene taught in the English Department for over thirty years.

**Edith June (Bausher) Weisend** died February 20, 2014. Edie was the librarian at the Cuyahoga Falls Public Library and at the University of Akron. She was a long time active member of the AUAR.

**Paul Sidney Wingard** passed away June 11, 2014. Paul was the Associate Dean of the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences. In his retirement, he lived his dream as an auctioneer for estate sales, storage units, and government agencies.

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

## THE ASSOCIATION OF THE UNIVERSITY OF AKRON RETIREES

### E-mail Digest

SPECIAL EDITION

The E-mail Digest is a compilation of announcements sent Tuesday and Thursday 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](mailto: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 message portion.

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**

**Name:** First \_\_\_\_\_ Last \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City:** \_\_\_\_\_ **State:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip Code:** \_\_\_\_\_

**E-Mail Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

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](http://www.uakron.edu/auar). The newsletter editor, Dr. Pamela Rupert, can be reached at [pamelarae2004@aol.com](mailto:pamelarae2004@aol.com) or 330-929-1810.

## AUAR LUNCHEON SPEAKERS

**September 10, 2014**

**Mark & Sandy Auburn**  
"Africa Travelogue"

**October 8, 2014**

**Dr. Jenny Stanley, UA Professor of Psychology**  
"Emotions and Aging Research"

**November 12, 2014**

**Kim David Koveski,**  
Executive Director  
Of the MAPS Air Museum

**Ralph Lynn, WWII Veteran**

MAPS Museum Collection &  
Tales of WWII Aviation Missions"

**December 10, 2014**

Annual Christmas Party

**February 11, 2015**

**Bruce Ford,**  
photographer  
The City of Akron

**March 11, 2015**

TBA

**April 8, 2015**

**Tom & Diane Vukovich,**  
Travelogue:  
"From Moscow to St. Petersburg with Love"

## OTHER EVENTS

**Friday, November 7, 2014**

**Soup & Chili Supper**

**February 15, 2015 (tentative)**

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

**May 15, 2015**

**Lobster & Suds Party**  
Zwisler Hall, St. Sebastian Church

## AUAR BOARDMEETING SCHEDULE

**September 24, 2014**

**October 22, 2014**

**December 4, 2014**

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](http://www.uakron.edu/auar) and click on the Menu "Special Events" or type [www.uakron.edu/auar/special-events.dot](http://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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