

THE AUAR NEWSLETTER

The Association of The University of Akron Retirees

<http://www.uakron.edu/hr/auar>

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ACCOLADES, A NEW BEGINNING

On level five of the stadium, it is Founders' Day, a day of remembrance and recognition of the threads from our institutional past that bind and provide a purpose to this day. It also is a moment to pause and recognize those individuals who have long served this University with commitment and dedication and who now are approaching the completion of their University employment. Founders' Day also provides opportunities to focus our attention on the achievements and contributions to this institution of these dedicated employees.

In the still of the sun drenched hall, a sea of dining tables each stunningly appointed with the University's traditional blue and gold on a cloth of white await the luncheon guests. To the east and west, observation windows provide a striking panoramic view of the campus and the city beyond. With the arrival of the guests and the University dignitaries engaging in their many pre luncheon conversations, the stillness of the great hall is transformed to an ever increasing roar of muffled conversations and laughter.

As University President Proenza and Provost Sherman share their many, well deserved accolades for the soon to be retired, I asked myself, "What are these soon to be retired individuals thinking of as they approach their formal retirements?" For in the late 1980s, I, too, found myself confronted with a similar situation and questions as I approached my own retirement from this University. I remember asking a dear old friend who had been retired for just a few years, "What is it like being retired?" "It is like living a week of Saturdays," he promptly replied. I wondered, "What kind of a Saturday does he have in mind? A football Saturday that finds both Akron and Ohio State are winning, or a Saturday that finds both Akron and Ohio State losing?"

Retirement is not the end, but a new beginning, perhaps a renaissance. After a brief period of decompression and a few primal screams, lean forward, write the poetry once dreamt, develop your personal journal, learn a few new dance steps, and discover anew those soothing emotional moments, and enjoy. As the weekly calendar fills, you are fully involved in the many life activities. Involvement is the major key to an enjoyable and successful retirement.

AUAR and its many activities is an avenue available to you for establishing and maintaining a meaningful new beginning. Many opportunities await you in a variety of endeavors such as:

Political advocacy: following and analyzing the bills and political activities in Columbus and Washington D.C. that are of vital importance to the well being of your new beginning;

Organizational activities: serving as an AUAR Board or Committee member;

Socially: renewing old acquaintances and creating new friends while participating in such festivities as AUAR's long tradition of Lobster and Suds and its many other social activities;

Community and University service: evaluating and selecting the potential recipient student scholars of our AUAR Scholarship Fund;

Educational learning: attending, listening to, and organizing speakers for the monthly AUAR Robert Ferguson Luncheon Series.

These are just a few of the many choices available to you for your personal enhancement through your AUAR participation and membership. If you do not discover your avenue of interest, AUAR will assist you in its creation. AUAR is a retiree membership driven organization. Therefore, your membership is vital to the well being of you, as well as to that of AUAR. Your membership and participation is encouraged.

October 24, 2012 is for you! AUAR, in conjunction with Cathy Edwards and Michelle Smith and the staff of the Human Resources Department, will present a daylong Successful Aging Symposium for University employees who are anticipating retirement within the next five years and those who are currently retired. This is an excellent opportunity for exploring life transitions as retirees or for helping those soon to be retired UA employees to contemplate, establish, and organize their priorities regarding work, recreation, health and fitness, and giving back to the community. More detailed registration information for this symposium will be available on the AUAR website by September 1. Mark your calendar and plan to attend this informative event.

As examples of retiree involvement, none other than our own AUAR member John Ramey, 85, (Emeritus, Social Work Department) joined with AU's renowned Tucker Jolly, University of Akron Music Professor, and his many musicians in continuing the long standing TubaChristmas Tradition providing Holiday Season listening enjoyment for capacity crowds in the E. J. Thomas Hall on December 17, 2011. John was recognized by Tucker as the oldest musician participating in the afternoon session. Ramey comes to TubaChristmas with much musical experience for while a student at The Ohio State University, he was a marching member of the "Best Damn Band in the Land." Following graduation, Ramey often returned during the early fall to the OSU Horseshoe to march with the Band during the "Alumni Band Day" half-time show of the season's opener.

From the word about town, Mel Vye, motivated by his former C&T colleague, following a long delay since his high school band experience, has purchased a tuba and is taking lessons on campus to perfect his long silent musical skills while playing with the "Summer Tubas." When sufficiently proficient, it is my expectation that Mel will join with John and the other musicians in the great tradition of the Tucker Jolly TubaChristmas.

A Tip of the Hat to all!



President
Robert Gandee



OSURA

Ohio Pension Reform: It's Long, Long Past Time For The House to Act

—Hank Nettling Political Action Affiliate

Ohio Pension Reform: It's Long, Long Past Time For The House to Act. Judging from comments cited in a front page report appearing in the *Columbus Dispatch* (7/19/12), Rep. Kirk Schuring, Chair of the House Health & Aging Committee's Subcommittee on Retirement and Pensions, senses little urgency to act on retirement reform legislation (*"I'm a big fan of process, and we're gonna have plenty of it"*).

Process can and has been useful, but after two years, we would seem to have had enough. The Senate has acted, and the PTA report (July 10, 2012) has been supportive of the plans of the five systems. At an estimated cost of "more than \$1 million a day" to these systems, it's time for the House to act.

If you believe this delay is too costly to continue, you can express your views today by writing directly to:

**Rep. Kirk Schuring
Chair, House Health & Aging Committee's
Subcommittee on Retirement and Pensions
77 S. High Street, 11th floor
Columbus, Ohio 4321-6111**

FACULTY SENATE SPRING 2012 — Neal Raber

During the Spring Semester, Faculty Senate dealt with the following:

- The approval of the revisions to the Code of Student Conduct.
- The approval of the establishment of the Institute for Leadership Advancement within the College of Business Administration.
- The approval of the changing of departmental responsibilities for degree administration in the Buchtel College of Arts and Sciences for all Geography programs.
- The approval of the final steps of the convergence of the Buchtel College of Arts and Sciences with the College of Creative and Professional Arts.
- The progress of the committee to revise the General Education requirements.
- The report of the ad hoc Committee on Criminal Justice and Summit College recommending that Summit College faculty meet with the College of Arts and Sciences faculty to strengthen the degree proposal by CAS to include requirements that would satisfy the Criminal Justice Certificate. The progress of the ad hoc committee on preparing guidelines for establishing four-year degrees in Summit College.
- A report on the progress of the Pearson Learning Studio for online courses.
- The lack of an annual report of the Athletics Committee due to the disagreement of the committee members on the content and the tone of the first draft of the report.

SAVE THE DATE - "Successful Aging Symposium – 2012"

Sponsored by The Association of The University of Akron Retirees in collaboration with the Department of Human Resources.

Wednesday, October 24, 2012

**First Congregational Church
292 East Market Street – Corner of East Market & Union Streets**

MORE INFORMATION COMING IN SEPTEMBER

2012 Road Trip to Alliance, Ohio

They may have driven through Alliance or attended a football game at Mount Union College (now University of Mount Union), but not many of the 33 AUAR members and friends had spent time exploring museums and historical sites found in our neighbor to the southeast in Stark County. Founded in 1850, the City of Alliance was formed by the merger of three small settlements, Williamsport, Freedom and Liberty. A fourth settlement, Mount Union,



Visiting The Mabel Hartzell Historic Home

was added to the city in 1888. Because of the "alliance" of the small settlements into a larger entity, the City of Alliance was chosen as its new name.

Our first stop was a tour of the Mabel Hartzell Historical Home. The guided tour of this 1867 fully restored Italianate farmhouse was conducted by members of the Alliance Historical Society. Mabel Hartzell was the adopted daughter of Matthew and Mary Early, who originally built the home. Mabel graduated from Mount Union College and received a Master of Arts degree from The Ohio State University. She was the founder of many area organizations, including the Alliance Chapter of the American Red Cross and the Alliance Woman's Club. (www.alliancehistory.org/house.html)

Stop number two was at the Feline Historical Museum, which is the home of one of the largest collections of feline history and memorabilia in the world. The museum's collection began in 1990 with 100 books and magazines about cats, which were donated to the Cat Fanciers' Foundation, Inc. Since those humble beginnings, the Foundation's collection has flourished through the acquisition of many additional publications as well as a significant amount of cat show memorabilia and artifacts. The "centerpiece" of the museum is

the Maneki Neko special collection, the cat of good luck. The display of more than 160 sculptures of these cats in a variety of mediums and sizes will remind you of your favorite Asian restaurant. (You know, the cat at the cash register with its right paw waving at you.) (www.felinehistoricalfoundation.org).

Lunch was a special treat because we all became college students again. By special arrangements with AVI, the dining service at the University of Mount Union, we joined faculty and students in the Kresge Dining Hall for an "all you can eat" lunch. Our choices included a hot entrées, deli, grill and international foods, pasta, pizza, salads, soups, bakery desserts and ice cream! Many of the road trippers opted for ice cream and perhaps a brownie or two after our meal. Most haven't been in a modern dining hall at a college or university for years and were delighted at the quantity and variety of food available. A



Velma examines Feline Art at the Historic Feline Museum

big thanks to UMU and AVI for a great eating experience at a very reasonable price!

In the afternoon we were pleasantly surprised to learn about the World War History and Art Museum and had a very interesting tour conducted by Joel Parkinson, director and curator of this wonderful collection. Located at the College Plaza on Route 62, this recently opened establishment features WWI and WWII relics and drawings and paintings done by military men and women who were involved in those conflicts. Joel gave us an indepth guided tour and explained the contextual significance of the soldiers, battles and circumstances behind many of the artifacts and works of art. A special collection, on loan from the Patton Military Museum at Fort Knox, is a complete miniature collection of an entire German



On to the next point of interest

WWII Panzer division of over 15,000 pieces. It took the artist over 15 years to assemble and paint each of the soldiers, tanks, vehicles, other military equipment and armaments that made up this German fighting force. If you like art and history, we suggest you stop in to visit the World War History and Art Museum. (www.wwham.com).

Our last stop in Alliance was a visit to Glamorgan Castle. Built in 1904-05 by Col. William Henry Morgan, Glamorgan Castle is one of Alliance's most well known landmarks. Our tour guides were part of the Castle Crusaders, a volunteer group dedicated to the preservation of the castle. Now the home of the Alliance City Schools Administrative Offices, this imposing landmark has rooms decorated in Italian Renaissance, French Empire, Louis XV, Elizabethian and Japanese styles. We visited the upper floors, including the ballroom and the Rathskeller in the basement, often interrupting workers at their work stations, which are scattered throughout the building. If you haven't visited Glamorgan Castle, we urge you to do so. (www.rodman.lib.us.chamber/castle.html).

So after a very busy day and great food, where do you think we stopped next? Why at the Hartville Kitchen and Collectibles on our way back to Akron. It gave us a last chance to shop a little and buy homemade breads and pastries just in case we needed something for an evening snack.

We arrived back at our starting point at the Montrose Center just 15 minutes behind schedule at 5:45 p.m. Thanks to Harry, our driver, from Cleveland Southeastern Trails Bus Company out of Bedford, OH.

The cloudy and cool weather didn't hamper us as we once again found interesting places to visit close to home.

A CONVERSATION WITH NEAL RABER — By Pamela Rupert



Neal at Mt. St. Helena

Associate Professor of Mathematics. I see you have an undergraduate degree from neighboring Kent State, then Masters & PhD in Mathematics from Ohio State. How did you come to choose mathematics as your major?

Neal: Well, back in high school I was sitting in my English class-I had an excellent teacher- and I remember thinking, "I could do that- I could teach!" But I didn't want to teach English and have to grade all those essays! Since I was a good student, co-valedictorian of my class-I could choose an area & decided on Math/Chemistry. But in college one day when I came out of organic chemistry lab I smelled so badly I decided to concentrate on Math. But the ironic thing is later when you teach upper level math courses you have to grade student proofs, which are like essays! How often I've had to write "This is nonsense!" etc.

P: So you didn't avoid essays after all! Now all that is behind you and you have joined our Board as Representative to Faculty Senate. How do you find that responsibility?

N: I find it interesting. Surprisingly, because during the 39 years I taught here I always refused to serve-too busy. But now I can sit back without an agenda and note the activities and vote what I think is right.

P: And you often take an entertaining perspective on the actions; members of the Board have enjoyed your reports and commentaries! You mentioned your long tenure; how did you happen to come to UA?

N: I went from Kent to OSU. It was during the Sputnik era, and I had a National Defense Fellowship from 1966 to 1972. But when I finished my PhD in 1972, there was a surplus of Math majors! I sent out 70 resumes got 3 offers. One serious offer came from Huntington, West Virginia, but I knew I could not survive that far away; I wanted to be back in Cleveland Browns territory! So I took the UA offer. After visiting campus, I told my wife Jackie, "Oh my goodness, it's only streets and buildings! You wouldn't know it was a college if you didn't see students carrying books!" But I'm very glad I came.

P: And it certainly has changed! So the Browns were part of the recruitment team! I heard you were a diehard Browns fan. Did you grow up in the area, then?

N: I grew up on the Cleveland West Side. No suburbs. My dad was a butcher and had a stand in the old Central Market, where Progressive Field is now. I worked with him on Saturdays. I used to take the rapid transit to downtown, but instead of going directly to his place, I'd detour; one day it would be to May Company's toy department, another day to Higbees. Mom would be calling, "Is he there yet? He left hours ago!" Also on Sundays if the Indians had a double header I'd ride in, buy my \$4.50 ticket & sit there all day. Always something interesting would happen, like Jimmy Piersall throwing garbage cans.

P: You have a lot of Cleveland experiences. During KSU days you worked downtown.

N: For a while I worked at Fazios. But it was union, and as your hourly rate went up your hours went down. So I got a job parking cars, and saw a lot of interesting people; Sam Shepard, the Beatles, the Mary Martin entourage came through our lots. One frequent visitor was Shondor Birns who ran the numbers racket in town. You always had to park his car in sight of the toll booth. One time when I was a valet I had to get his car as he stood 20 feet away. I remember thinking as I turned the ignition, "For a lousy 25 cent tip I'm risking my life!" Some years later his life did end with a bomb placed by mobster Danny Greene blowing up his car on West 25th St. On my last job before graduating & getting married, they put me in charge of a lot; I had to bring in the money to set up the booth. After watching them carry a body out of a nearby flophouse, I thought "I'm not going to make it to my wedding day."

P: Now the tickets you deal with are more likely to be for a sporting event. But I hear you're acquainted with scalpers!

N: Vukovich has been talking! Yes, we have scalped more than once. We had extra Faculty Club tickets to a Cavs game and went out there with the professionals. Did quite well, and earned money for the club. I've tried it with the Browns games with less success; the professionals are too good. They'll give you just \$10; then when the buyer sits next to you he reports paying \$50!

P: You also know something about sports shuttle buses, I heard.

N: (laugh) That's a great story. We had been going to the Grand Prix at Burke Lakefront Airport for several summers with Tom & Diane Vukovich and Chris & Gay Kolaczewski. I am notoriously cheap, and heard there was a shuttle from the Sheraton parking lot. So we parked and saw this beautiful bus sitting there. I asked the driver, he said something, and motioned us in. It was really plush, bar, restroom, etc. But after waiting & waiting, we were afraid we were going to miss the first race so we got off and found another shuttle. After the event we saw the same bus, but from the other side, with the sign "Stan Getz Associates". I

had thought the driver said "paying guests" when he said Stan Getz!

P: I can see life is exciting with you around. I hear you also have zoo stories.

N: Oh, I often say I live a dull life; I've only had one wife, one house, and one adult job! It used to be when people asked me what I did and I'd say "Teach Math" they'd say, "Oh no, my worst subject!" End of conversation. But now I can say I volunteer at the Cleveland Zoo and that opens the door! When I retired I really wanted to do this as I had been a member there for many years. I went to an Akron Zoo fundraiser and met a Cleveland Zoo person who told me how and when to apply.

P: It sounds like the interview process is involved. But we want to hear about Willie.

N: Oh, Willie is the main elephant- a male. There are now 4 females. He weighs in at 12,000 lbs., the females around 8,000. They are usually kept separate, but recently were put together for a while, and he is having a good time! However the Zoo will not be raising baby elephants as Willie has had a vasectomy and the females have been sterilized. Some call the Cleveland Zoo the Old Age Center for Elephants! They keep males and females separate most of the time as that is the pattern in the wild.

P: Speaking of animals, I hear you sometimes look like one!

N: It started out with me wearing a mask in class at Halloween. I waited until the students were all working away on a test before putting it on. Shock! Later I told Jackie, "I want my own gorilla suit!" One time I came in in costume & sat quietly at the back of the class. While students looked warily at this creature, one called out, "When the professor comes in, scare the hell out of him!" Then I walked to the head of the class and took off the mask! I really get a reaction because I'm not normally that kind of professor.

P: You did do some scaring, I understand, in some of your colleagues' classrooms, as Rita Klein and others can testify! Another time when you might look a little frightening, I'll wager, is when you are gardening. I understand you are quite fastidious about your property.

N: Oh yes, I consider myself a landscaper! One of my big projects is my 6 blue spruce trees, 12 to 15 feet tall, which need pruning every June. When my daughter asked me about getting an iPad, I said what I really wanted was this gas powered pruner with an extension that reaches 12 feet! With it I don't have to go up and down the ladder. I'm a lawn man, too. When cutting the grass I actually count weeds-1, 2, 3-then go back and get them. A neighbor once dug out one of his dandelions and planted it at my place! (laugh) I also trim and edge, wearing masks, knee pads, etc. to protect me from flying debris.

P: I can hear all those power tools going, and you sound like quite a sight to behold. But in your more laid-back moments you go to wineries.

N: We love going to wineries. I have volunteered to pour at Vintage Ohio for a number of years; sometimes I am with Candlelight Winery, a small family-owned place. I started out at Wolf Creek. It's a lot of fun and you meet interesting people, make new friends. Ohio has 162 wineries now.

P: And you visit more when you are in Oregon seeing your daughter. You also volunteer in a medical support group. Tell us about that.

N: It is the Akron chapter of the UOAA-United Ostomy Associations of America. Years ago I had an ileostomy, removal of the intestinal system; no colon. I talk to people who are considering similar surgery, encouraging them and telling them my experiences. I am able to do everything; drink wine, eat, work out, whatever I want to do. Only once did I get myself in trouble with a blockage. I bought a poppy seed kuchen from Crest bakery, and Jackie says I ate 3/4th of it. After calling the doctor from a "fetal position," he sent me to emergency. When the nurse saw my exiting fluids she said "How much did you eat?? It looks like poppy seed dressing!" Since then I've learned my lesson.

P: Well, you've had a successful life. You have participated in many professional activities, co-authored several books, received Outstanding Teacher awards, and developed a variety of interests to keep you active during retirement. We are delighted to have you with us on the Board to add your insights.

N: I am really enjoying retirement. We are treated so well here at UA. We can use the Rec Center, have free parking and use of e-mail, and have this organization to keep us up with what is going on. There is a great group of active retirees.

P: It's not a bad life. Let's toast to the future.



Fear the Roo

AUAR Events

January Luncheon Features Saturn Rocket Story



Edie and Norm Woland

The January 11, 2012 luncheon was held on a rainy day shortly before Akron was hit with the first big snowstorm of the winter on Friday the thirteenth. A good crowd of over 50 attendees, including several current faculty and staff, came to hear Dr. Andrew Thomas and Mr. Paul Thomarios tell a tale of pride and dedication.

Dr. Thomas is an assistant professor of marketing and international business at The University of Akron. Mr. Thomarios is a local contractor and an expert in structural preservation and reconstruction. The two collaborated on a book, "One Giant Leap for Man and Decades of Neglect: The Rise, Fall and Resurrection of the Saturn Rocket", published by The University of Akron Press. The Saturn V was the rocket used to carry men to the moon, and its history also reflects the rise, success and demise of our country's space program. The last Saturn V rocket, which

was never used, was tossed aside to rot in a field near the Kennedy Space Center in Florida. In the 1990's, supported by the Smithsonian Institution, it was brought back to life. The book details the reconditioning of the rocket along with the story of Thomarios and his family's immigration to the U.S. after World War II.

During the first part of their presentation, Dr. Thomas skillfully described the Saturn rocket and the early history of the space program. The Saturn V was 363 feet tall, weighed 6.3 million pounds and was built at a cost of 1.5 billion dollars each. The U.S. built 15 Saturn V rockets.

As Mr. Thomarios took over and began telling his story, some of us could not help



Luncheon speakers Andrew Thomas and Paul Thomarios

thinking back to the history of their own families coming to America to seek a better life. Paul's mother and father, of Greek ancestry, were separated for over 9 years during World War II. After being reunited and arriving in Akron, where Paul's uncle lived, Paul was born. He started school speaking only Greek and credits his third grade teacher, who was a woman pilot during WWII, for starting him on the path to success by taking the time and interest to help him overcome his language deficiencies. A second female, whom Paul knew and expressed her dedication and pride in her work, was a fellow classmate at Firestone High school, Judith Resnick.

Paul then described how other companies had submitted his name to the Smithsonian to lead the restoration of the Saturn V rocket project and how, after an extensive selection and interview process, his proposal was accepted over that of several large corporations. He and his employees from Akron moved to Florida, placed an inflatable tennis court bubble over the huge rocket and completed the restoration in five months.

To read the entire fascinating story, contact Julia Gammon at The University of Akron Press for information regarding purchasing the book at a special AUAR price.

Akron Beacon Journal Columnist February Speaker



Luncheon Speaker Betty Lin-Fisher

Betty Lin-Fisher, consumer and business reporter and columnist at the Akron Beacon Journal, was the guest speaker at the February luncheon. Betty, her husband and two children have lived in Akron for 16 years. A native of Chicago, Betty graduated from the University of Iowa with a degree in journalism and environmental studies.

Her presentation, "Reclaim the Dream", reviewed the award winning series of articles in the Akron Beacon Journal, which looked at personal finances and ways to eliminate overpowering debt. Four or five couples, who were courageous enough to expose their personal financial situations with readers, revealed their incomes, expenses and

amount of debt. The ABJ writers assisted them in obtaining professional financial planning from experts and then did follow-up articles looking at how well the families were succeeding. Each story was different and provided candid examples of how Akron area citizens were coping with the economic recession.

Betty answered several questions from the audience regarding credit card policies and ways to avoid being "ripped off". She also gave "tips" gathered from personal experiences on making minor life-style changing decisions.



Barb Jones, Bob Gandee and Barb Clark

Third Annual Brunch/Play Event

On February 12, 2012 AUAR members and guests ventured out on a cold, snowy afternoon to once again enjoy brunch and a play at the Akron Woman's City Club and Coach House Theatre. This was the third year for this event, and attendance has grown each time. Fifty-three attended the brunch and fifty-seven were entertained by an Agatha Christie play, "And Then There Were None".

Caesar & Lynda Carrino drove in from Wadsworth and joined newly retired Chris Collins and his wife Pam along with soon-to-be retired Dan Sheffer and his wife Therese for this fun "Valentine's Day" activity.

The play, a classic from the "Queen of Crime", had the sold out audience in suspense for the entire show. Everyone tried to guess who was murdering some of the 10 people who had been lured to the island and marooned for the weekend. Several members of the audience screamed out when sudden gunshots were heard, and one by one the "10 little soldiers" were being picked off.

It was good to see Neal Raber, Barbara Clark, Rose Strebler, Barbara Jones and Diane Underman enjoying both the brunch and the play. We look forward to another great turnout in February 2013.



And Then There Were None

UA Steel Drums Band Bangs in March Madness

The March luncheon featured Dr. Larry Snider, founder of the University's renowned Steel Drum Band. Dr. Snider brought along Patty LaNasa to assist with a video presentation and two students, who provided us with several traditional musical selections.



Tom Vukovich and speaker Larry Snider

Larry explained how, as a percussionist, he became aware of the interest students had with just fooling around with "pans" after playing traditional instruments in their formal classes. Upon arriving at The University of Akron in 1980, he approached the head of the Music Department as well as then UA President, Dr. D.J. Guzzetta, about starting a steel drum band at UA. Initially the idea met with reluctance. It was deemed beneath the high ideals of UA. However, the Steel Drum Band was an instant success when it was introduced

to Akron audiences.

Dr. Snider learned from friends and acquaintances from Trinidad how, from humble beginnings on islands in the Caribbean, the pans are made from discarded oil drums, tuned by hand with sledge hammers and made into unique musical instruments.

When Dr. Snider began, there were only three such steel bands in the United States. Now there are 38 bands in Ohio alone. Many of them were started by Larry's former students. Only California and Florida have more steel drum bands than Ohio.

After students Joe Leaman and Doug Feig played "Jamaican Farewell", "Yellow Bird" and "Everyone Likes a Saturday Night" (a very upbeat tune), Larry relived his trip to Trinidad that became a video documentary and played on several PBS television stations nationwide. The essence of the trip was to show where steel drum music originated and the humble surroundings still present that first spawned such delightful sounds.



Barb Clark, Mike Sugarman and June Burton check out the drums

CVNP Development Officer – April Luncheon Speaker



Tom Vukovich and speaker John Debo

The last speaker for the 2011-2012 AUAR Luncheon Series was Mr. John P. Debo, Jr., Chief Development Officer for the Conservancy for Cuyahoga Valley National Park. You may remember John Debo as the Superintendent of the Cuyahoga Valley National Park (CVNP) from 1988-2009.

Prior to this position, John's work with the National Park Service (NPS) began in 1976 at Acadia National Park. Over the course of a 33-year career with the NPS he subsequently held positions at Fire Island National Seashore, Lowell National Historical Park, NPS headquarters in Washington D.C. and Boston National Historical Park.

John quizzed the audience about facts and history of the CVNP, its development and the workings of the National Park Service. Our CVNP is one of only 8 National Park Service operated sites in Ohio. Among others are the memorials for Presidents Taft and Garfield but not those of Hayes or McKinley as several of us guessed incorrectly.

John explained the fundraising purpose of the Conservancy for CVNP and how it has grown from a beginning of all volunteers to a paid staff of 60 (about 30 are full-time) and a 3-million dollar budget. Along the way the supporters of the CVNP changed its name four times, but the main purpose, to help underwrite educational and cultural programs and sustain everyday operations of the park, has remained.

As John spoke, a continuous video presentation played in the background showing wonderful pictures of the flora and fauna found in this natural gem right in our backyard. John concluded his remarks with a pitch to the attendees to become a supporter of the National Park by becoming a member of the Conservancy or by joining the group of over 5,000 volunteers who donate time and energy to make the CVNP a very special place in Northeast Ohio.



Ron Lederman, JoAnn Collier, Max Rightmaster and Jim Brechbill

May Lobster & Suds Event Grows



Opening ceremonies of the Lobster and Suds event

On May 18, 2012 seventy-five retirees and guests attended the 12th Annual Lobster & Suds Party, making this one of the largest crowds in recent years. First-time attendees were Jim Stafford, Fernando Hamilton, Dan & Donna Galehouse, Hal & Greta Foster, Dan & Linda Ely, Rich & Cheri Mostardi, Chris & Pam Collins and Lee & Diane Wolf.

This was the second year the party was held at Zwisler Hall. It is a convenient location with excellent facilities for cooking the lobsters and serving the large array of salads and desserts. We thank Mrs. Julie Musci for her assistance and hope to continue to use the Hall for many years.

The event could not be successful without the help of the "crew of cooks" and all the other helpers. Each year these same folks pitch in to bring all the supplies necessary for set up, see to the buffet table set up, make sure the beverage tables are stocked and clean up after the event. They are Bob Blankenship, Bob Fritz, Bud Marston, Velma Pomrenke, Bob & Sharon Gandee, Ed Lasher, Hank & Arlene Nettling, Pam & Don Rupert, Tom & Diane Vukovich and Loren Hoch (in his "rookie" year).

We appreciate their dedication and commitment to making Lobster and Suds a successful year-end party for AUAR retirees and

Pam Rupert and Sharon Gandee take the wine to its next level



their guests. Plan now to attend in May 2013.



The Lobsterman, AUAR style



Phyllis Fitzgerald, Barb Banks, JoAnn Collier and Diane Lazzarini

Zip Talk: UA Women's Athletics Has Come A Long Way — By Ken MacDonald



This past June 23rd marked the 40th anniversary of the passing of Title IX. While the specific legislation does not mention sports directly, the impact of Title IX has been most felt in the sports community, especially in the sports for girls and women.

Title IX states that "no person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any educational program or activity receiving federal financial assistance." Needless to say, Title IX paved the way for equality on the athletic field at The University of Akron and all over the United States.

Women have been involved in athletics on the UA campus since they formed a tennis club in 1889. In 1899, basketball was played by female students two years before the men played their first intercollegiate game and by 1906, Buchtel College coeds had formed the Women's Athletic Association. This organization, which over the years evolved into the Women's Recreation Association, the Women's Physical Education Club and back to the Women's Athletic Association, fostered the growth of women's sports and provided a solid foundation for UA's current successful women's athletic program.

Throughout those formative years, women were making the way for the future. It was freshman Margaret Hamlin, who in 1926 suggested that "Zippers" (later shortened to "Zips" in 1950)

would be a great nickname for UA athletic teams. It was Evelyn Hooker, later the wife of Akron Judge Theodore Price, who played on the 1942 golf team and became the first female to earn a letter in a varsity sport.

There wouldn't be another women earn a letter until Jean Linton became the school's first four-year letter winner while competing with the riflery teams of 1960-64. In the process Linton also became UA's first female athlete to be accorded All-America honors, not once but, twice in 1961 and '62. In 1981 Linton was the first of 34 coeds, to date, to be inducted into UA's Sport Hall of Fame and, two years later, softball infielder Kay Piper became the first athlete from a women's sports team to earn first team All-America honors.

However, the beginning of women's intercollegiate sports was not prompted by the passing of Title IX legislation. In the fall of 1969, freshman Linda Kampfer from Canton organized a group of interested former high school athletes involved with the Women's Athletic Association and arranged basketball games with nearby colleges at the expense of each player. The following year, Kampfer and teammates Carolyn Bower, Molly Gerber, Debbie Heinlein, Karen Kennedy, Karen Mitchen and Cathy Schweitzer approached graduate student Lynda Smole with the idea of starting a basketball club team.

Smole took the proposal to Andy Maluke, Department Head of Physical Education, who told Smole he had no problem with a women's basketball team as long as, "they always act like ladies, dress like ladies and behave both on and off the campus like ladies." With Maluke's help, Smole got \$300 from the Student Activity

Fund. Although this club team did play a college schedule, its wins and losses have been lost to antiquity.



Mary Ann Tripodi

A year later, Athletic Director Gordon Larson evidently saw the handwriting on the wall, that UA women's intercollegiate

athletics was inevitable, and hired Mary Ann Tripodi to coach the basketball team and start a volleyball program. The two programs grew quickly out of their club sport status and in the fall of 1974, the basketball and volleyball programs officially became varsity sports.

Tennis and softball were added three years later and women athletes were granted athletic scholarships for the first time. Cross country and indoor and outdoor track joined the fold in 1981. Since then UA has added swimming (1998), soccer (2006) and golf (2008) to its athletic program for women.

HEALTH TIPS — Provided by Phyllis Fitzgerald

Speaking from the experience of a septuagenarian with 50+ years as a nurse, Phyllis shared some thoughts on maintaining good health for “all us” AUAR retirees.

We know many changes occur in the body as years pass, affected by both our lifestyle, including eating/drinking habits and level of activity. Genetics also play a role. But no matter your age or condition, there are things you can do help maintain your body in the best state possible.

Get exercise. Even on these hot days, **walking** is a great option. Walk along water-a lake, river, or even walk in the rain! The shopping malls and even grocery stores provide temperature controlled conditions.

Lift weights. You don't have to go to a gym; just pick up cans of fruit or vegetables, lifting them for numerous repetitions. Also do **aerobics** by standing behind a chair and doing knee bends, or hold on to the back of the chair & lift your legs to the side (one at a time, please...) and cross them in front of you. **Even sitting** you can exercise. Lift your legs one at a time, and place those cans of fruit on your thigh for additional weight. Use cans for arm routines as well. Raise arms to the side and overhead. You might enjoy *Silver Sneaker* classes if there is one in a location near you.

Always check with your doctor before starting an exercise routine.

Don't bypass breakfast. It can be the most important meal of the day. Consider fruits and cereal, as fruits provide essential vitamins and minerals.

Maintain body temperature. It is smart to dress in layers so you can add or take off as needed.

See your physician on a regular basis. Blood tests will check your cholesterol and triglyceride levels to be sure medications are not harming your liver function. If you have Type 2 Diabetes you may also be put on medication to control your blood sugar. Kidney function can be affected if you are taking Celebrex or other arthritis medications so Ibuprofen is NOT recommended. (e.g. Advil, Aleve, etc.)

See your dentist regularly. Lack of proper care can lead to periodontal disease.

Maintain eye care. Wear polarized sunglasses, brimmed hats, and eat foods with vitamin A, B complex, C, & E, such as blueberries, spinach, kale, and of course carrots. Eye drops are available for dry eyes. And get your eye exams for cataracts, etc.

Reduce Stress. Learn to say “No,” take a more tranquil route to avoid traffic jams, and don't procrastinate. Enjoy the outdoors with family & friends. Recharge your batteries.

Caring for Others

Recognizing someone is having a stroke. There are some questions that may help determine this. First, ask the person to smile and watch for ability to do so. Is the smile crooked? Second, ask the person to speak a simple sentence. Third, ask the person to stick out his tongue. If the person has trouble with ANY ONE of these tasks, call 911 immediately and describe the symptoms to the operator.

Recognizing a heart attack. Chest pain may not be an obvious sign. Pain radiating down the left arm, feelings of indigestion, feeling of anxiety, profuse perspiration, and chest pain on exertion are some symptoms. Women may have different symptoms, including shortness of breath, occasionally pain in the back, & increasing fatigue. One's physician should be contacted immediately or call 911. It is helpful to have aspirin crystals available, especially bedside, as heart attacks can sneak up during the night. Take with water & REMAIN SITTING UP while contacting responders.

Being a Caregiver. If you are one, or know someone who is, you know it is often a 24/7 job. Caregivers need to care for themselves in order to care for others. Some small daily changes may help reduce stress:

1. Make a list of things you could use help with for those who might offer assistance.
2. Check with the Area Agency on Aging for suggestions on services available in the community.
3. Check for home health care providers who could help reduce the work load.
4. Adult day care centers as well as senior centers can supply some respite.
5. Write down questions you can ask health care professionals during visits.
6. Write down information gathered for future reference.
7. Select an activity that you enjoy and make sure you participate in it.
8. Take care of your OWN health.
9. Stay in contact with family & friends, & get professional help if you feel overwhelmed.

Even the existence of health problems doesn't necessarily mean a diminished life experience. We can still participate in activities of interest and enjoyment.

In Memoriam

Joseph Berty was Professor of Chemical Engineering from 1979 to 1989. He died March 1, 2012.

Robert Bosser passed away June 12, 2012. He worked many years in the field of human resources and taught evening courses in personnel practices.

Edward N. Clarke was Academic Advisor and Assistant to the Dean of the College of Business until his retirement in 2000. He sang in various music groups, including the Master Arts Chorale of North East Ohio, Akron Derbytown Chorus, Matinee Singers, & St. John's Choir. He passed away December 20, 2011.

James Cosgarea taught English at UA after retiring as Principal from the Cuyahoga Falls schools with 30 years' experience. At age 50 he trained in Karate, Judo, and Jujitsu, and also was an avid golfer. He died June 7, 2012.

Rose M. Dawley was a Secretary in the department of University Libraries from 1966 to 1982. She died March 12, 2012.

Dr. Ralph Hummel retired from the College of Arts & Sciences in 2008 after 10 years of service. He died March 20, 2012.

Delores Janes, an Akron Public Schools teacher and administrator, also taught student teaching at UA. She passed away June 24, 2012 after a lengthy illness.

Meredith Kalapich retired from the College of Nursing in 2010 after 11 years of service. She died July 1, 2012.

Dr. Roger F. Keller, with his Ph.D. in Zoology, taught in the Biology Department until his retirement in 1985, and was Professor Emeritus in the C&T college. He taught & mentored pre-med students on UA campus and is especially remembered for encouraging female students to go into medical fields. He served on the Board of Trustees for the Akron Zoo for decades. His WWII experiences earned him the Purple Heart for his injuries in the famous Battle of the Bulge.

Dr. Bruce Landis, Professor of Rhetoric and Communication at both Kent State & UA for 40 years, passed away March 16, 2012. He was known as a collector of all things Batman, an avid golfer, beer connoisseur, voracious reader and conversationalist.

Robert W. Larson, "Bob," passed away January 1, 2012. He first was with UA as an assistant registrar & then Director of Financial Aid, retiring from that position in 1974. He later returned to teach accounting classes, but is best remembered for his athletic prowess and coaching abilities; he is the only UA basketball coach with a perfect record. In 2007, at the age of 88, he became the oldest honoree in the history of the UA's Hall of Fame, and was awarded the Mike Krino Varsity Achievement Award.

Edward McDonald retired as Professor Emeritus from the College of Engineering & Science in 1994, where he taught Mechanical Engineering & served as Coordinator for 21 years. He died April 5, 2012.

Nancy Collins Parry was known for her devotion to UA, including membership and presidency of the UA Women's Committee. She passed away in July, 2012.

Geraldine Rosenberger worked in the Division of Human Resources, Benefits Administration, as benefits coordinator and workers compensation specialist, and retired in 1994 after 17 years of service. She died June 1, 2012.

Dr. Ronald Schneider, Associate Professor of Physics in the College of Arts & Sciences, passed away March 16, 2012. He was hired in 1962 and retired in 1993.

Dr. Gerald Sweeney taught in the English Department of the College of Arts & Sciences for 32 years, retiring in 2004. He was known for his passion for gothic literature and a love of life and practiced tai chi for decades. He died May 15, 2012 after a struggle with lung cancer.

Mary Oran Witwer retired in 1989 from the Department of Business Technology where she taught for 17 years. She passed away March 27, 2012.

Frank "Whitey" Anthony Wahl, a legendary figure in Akron sports, passed away at age 90 on February 20, 2012. He was the sports announcer for UA football & basketball games, and was inducted into the UA Hall of Fame, as well as Greater Akron Softball Hall of Fame, Summit County Hall of Fame, and the All American Hall of Fame.

Lou DiOrio

January 14, 1931 – July 31, 2012

The Ohio Council of Higher Education Retirees (OCHER) and the Higher Education Retirees across the state have lost a very supportive colleague with the unexpected death of OCHER President Lou DiOrio, July 31, 2012. Lou's absence creates a very significant void in the many hearts and minds of the OCHER Community. DiOrio always provided that spark of wisdom to illuminate the pathway forward. Tom Sweeney, OSU, most succinctly expressed our gratitude for Lou, "He had a thousand friends, each of whom considered Lou one of his best friends..."

Alberta Hensley

It is with both sorrow and gratitude that we remember our colleague and friend, Alberta Hensley, who died May 12, 2012 after a two-year struggle with numerous illnesses. She will be remembered as being one of the founders of AUAR and its second president. She also instituted the AUAR Newsletter in July 2002 as a one 11 by 18 sheet of paper and shepherded it through various printers and upgrades to the excellent paper it is today. She was noted for her meticulous attention to proofing and if there were errors it was not for lack of trying. Her life is a testament to dedication to her work at The University of Akron, her volunteer work in numerous organizations and her attention to family and friends. We mourn her loss but are grateful for her life with us.





2012 AUAR Board

Upcoming Events 2012-2013
AUAR Luncheon Speakers

September 12, 2012

Mel & Martha Vye
Travelogue:
Burma/Cambodia/Vietnam

October 10, 2012

Mary McClure
Summit County's Forgotten
Amusement Park

November 14, 2012

Dr. Stephen Brooks
The 2012 Nov. Election
Results & Analysis

December 12, 2012

Holiday Party

Other Events

October 24, 2012

Successful Aging Symposium
First Congregational Church
292 East Market Street

November 2, 2012

Soup & Chili Supper
Goodyear Park

February 17, 2013

Coach House Theater Party
Agatha Christie Play

April, 2013

Annual Road Trip
TBA

May 17, 2013

Lobster & Suds Party
Zwisler Hall,
St. Sebastian Church

AUAR Board Meeting Schedule

September 27, 2012

October 25, 2012

November 29, 2012

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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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