

**AUAR EXECUTIVE BOARD  
2013-2014****President**  
June Burton 330.864.4161**President Elect**  
Diane Vukovich 330.733.4608**Vice President**  
Frank Thomas 330.928.4938**Treasurer**  
Robert Blankenship 330.923.7313**Recording Secretary**  
Hans Zbinden 330.836.3566**Corresponding Secretary**  
Barbara Banks 330.882.4045**Members at Large**

Martin(Newt)Engle	330.325.7244
Loren Hoch	330.644.7566
Ed Lasher	330.664.1158
Neal Raber	330.688.1742
Pamela Rupert	330.928.1810
Daniel Sheffer	330.836.0150

**Immediate Past President**  
Robert Gandee 330.864.4659**COMMITTEE CHAIRS****Program**  
Tom & Diane Vukovich 330.733.4608**Membership**  
Frank Thomas 330.928.4938**Political Action Affiliates**  
Hank Nettleing 330.686.2411  
Robert Gandee 330.864.4659**University Contacts**  
Frank Thomas 330.928.4938**Scholarship**  
Hank Nettleing 330.686.2411**Finance**  
Robert Blankenship 330.923.7313**University Benefits**  
Linda Sugarman 330.864.1834**Faculty Senators**  
Robert Gandee 330.864.4659  
Neal Raber 330.688.1742**Parliamentarian**  
Carl Lieberman 330.864.2569**Newsletter Editor**  
Pamela Rupert 330.928.1810**Photographer**  
Ed Lasher 330.664.1158**Message from the President**

AUAR just celebrated its 15th Anniversary on December 10th 2013! Our success was (and is) due to the work of many wonderful volunteers. They have continuously fulfilled our mission, which is to provide an Akron connection to OCHER (the Ohio College and Higher Education Retirees organization); organize monthly luncheons with talented guest speakers and plan the "Chili/Soup Supper" and the "Lobster and Suds"; and take us on excursions by bus; as well as keep members informed about legislative news affecting our pensions and health benefits from all the State pension systems to which we belong. We also provide 2 retiree representatives for the Faculty Senate.

Due to the closings of the Martin Center (the former University Club on Fir Hill St.) and the Stitzlein Alumni Center (the historic mansion on Fir Hill is going to be razed), we have had to relocate our events this year. The moves seem to be working out splendidly. Parking services has cooperated with us by issuing temporary stickers for both the Quaker Square luncheons and for InfoCision Stadium, where the Board now holds its monthly meetings. At both locations we now have more space and amenities. The handicapped parking area has been expanded at Quaker Square by the placing of temporary green cones, which people should just remove if they need to park there, close to the steps and ramp.

Unfortunately, the Board of Directors needs to ask for a vote to raise annual dues, beginning next Fall, by \$2.00—to \$12.00—to keep up with increased printing costs and postage.

In line with this, we would like our members who use computers to tell us if they would like to obtain future newsletters online only.

If you do wish to download and print your Newsletter from our website, log on at <http://www.uakron.edu> and click on the "Newsletter" menu.

Thank you very much for your help in keeping things affordable and more paperless.

President  
June K. Burton, Ph.D., L.L.D.



## POLITICAL ACTION AND AFILLIATES — Hank Nettling

There has not been too much action at OCHER meetings this past year. Your representatives attend each of the quarterly meetings.

The newest things to come to the forefront are the two GASB #67 and 68 (Governmental Accounting Standards Board) pronouncements which are more "accounting-type" rules than anything else. They are intended to give more transparency to institutional and retirement system financial statements for unfunded retirement dollars. The basic intent is to record estimated financial obligation for retirement pay-outs in the future. The presentation requirements are June 2014 for retirement systems and June 2015 for institutions. This may well affect the bond ratings of both institutions and retirement systems, as additional liabilities will be shown in their balance sheets. The Ohio Retirement Study Commission (ORSC) will be discussing this issue during their December and January meetings.

Also on the agenda for ORSC will be a review of the "mitigating rate" charged to employers for those employees who elect the Defined Contribution plan offered by STRS. This review will be accomplished with the assistance of Milliman Associates who are the actuarial assistants to STRS.

ORSC will also be reviewing the actuarial rate used by STRS to estimate total return on investments. This is a process which is reviewed every four years. Milliman Associates will also assist in this review.

At both the May 2013 and Nov. 2013 OCHER meetings STRS reviewed the healthcare options/changes for 2014. All retirees have been sent their personal best choice which they may accept or change and were due back to STRS in November.

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)**

Dear Member, thanks for your support and do not forget to renew your membership.

Send your check for \$10.00 made out to;

**AUAR**  
**Human Resources**  
**University of Akron**  
**Buchtel Commons**  
**Akron, OH 44325**

### THE ASSOCIATION OF THE UNIVERSITY OF AKRON RETIREES

#### E-mail Digest

SPECIAL EDITION

The E-mail Digest is a 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.



## BENEFITS: DID YOU KNOW?

The University has a fairly new program called ZIP TIX. If you sign up for ZIP TIX notifications, you will receive information about the availability of free tickets to E. J. Thomas and Akron Civic Theater Events. The University offers a limited number of free tickets to selected events for faculty, staff, and retirees on a first come basis. The tickets have to be picked up at the box office a few days prior to the event. In order to take advantage of this program, you must have a Zip Card and a University email address.

Retirees are entitled to Zip Cards. If your Zip Card has gotten lost, you can get information about replacing it by calling the Zip Card Office at 330-972-5637. If a retiree wishes to reinstate their University email, they should be able to get information on how to do this by contacting the support desk at 330-972-6888.

Retirees and their spouses can still take advantage of fee reductions for credit courses (See University rules for specific information). The general public and retirees can also take advantage of the 60 plus program for auditing courses. Retirees can also receive fee reductions for some non-credit courses. To find out what non-credit courses are available for fee reductions, contact Summit College Workforce Development and Continuing Education.

Although most of the benefits offered to University Retirees are only practicable for those living in the immediate Akron area, Retiree Dependent Health Benefits are available all over the United States, if the retiree was eligible when he or she retired. Eligibility for this benefit depends on when you were hired and how long you had worked on a continuous basis at the University. When you retired the Benefits Office would have told you if you were eligible for this benefit. For the 2014 year, Retiree Dependents should have received a new benefits card with the name of the provider listed as Apex. Fear not! Apex is still Summa. All benefits for 2014 should be the same as 2013 benefits. Providing a card that lists Apex instead of Summa should clear up the confusion that some providers had between the insurance offered by the University of Akron and the Summacare insurance offered to the general public.

## FACULTY SENATE Fall 2013 — Bob Gandee & Neal Raber

**During the Fall Semester, the actions of the Faculty Senate included the following:**

- Listening to a report indicating that the Higher Learning Commission had formally notified the university that its accreditation would be continued until 2022/23. The university would, however, be subject to interim monitoring and to a focused site visit in Spring 2015 on two issues: shared governance and assessment of student learning.
- Passing a resolution objecting to the amendments to the bylaws of the University Council introduced in the August 13th University Council meeting. The resolution stated that those amendments would effectively eliminate the University Council as a deliberative legislative body, and with it the potential for genuine shared governance on those matters within the purview of the University Council; and that the adoption and implementation of the proposed amendments would constitute a breach of faith with the Faculty Senate, which initially proposed the creation of a University Council and participated in good faith in the deliberations and negotiations over its creation.
- Electing Constance Bouchard, William Rich, and Harvey Stearns to serve as representatives of the Faculty Senate to the Presidential Search Committee.
- Approving the move of the Department of Sports Science and Wellness Education as a unit from the College of Education to the College of Health Professions, where it shall be the School of Sports Science and Wellness Education.
- Passing a resolution eliminating the wording in the University Bylaws that refers to part time employees as being employed on an "at will" basis.
- Passing a resolution that includes the University Library in the curriculum approval process for courses seeking approval for online delivery.

## Don Baker, Jr. Kicks Off 2013 Luncheon Series



Speaker Don Baker receiving thanks from  
President June Burton

lifestyles publication was first published in 2002 and now has a circulation of over 15,000.

Other magazines launched by Baker Publishing include *Akron Business Magazine*, *Ohio Collectors' Magazine* for antiques dealers, *Great Lakes Sailors Magazine* and *Import Car and Speed & Custom Dealers Magazine*.

Many of Don's publications reflect his personal interests, which include racing both sport and formula cars for over 25 years for his own team and as a part of other racing teams.



Speaker Don Baker, Jay Hershey and Diane and  
Tom Vukovich

Mr. Don Baker, Jr., President and Publisher of Baker Media Group, LLC, was our luncheon speaker on September 11, 2013. The luncheon was held at our new location in the Quaker Station across from the former Quaker Inn Complex.

Mr. Baker has had a distinguisher career in the publishing business, having overseen the launch of eight magazines during his career as publisher and owner. The most recognizable, perhaps, is the publication, *akronlife*, formerly known as *Akron Life & Leisure*. This Greater Akron area



Barbara Banks, Phyllis Fitzgerald, Frank Thomas  
and George Makar

lifestyles publication was first published in 2002 and now has a circulation of over 15,000.

Other magazines launched by Baker Publishing include *Akron Business Magazine*, *Ohio Collectors' Magazine* for antiques dealers, *Great Lakes Sailors Magazine* and *Import Car and Speed & Custom Dealers Magazine*.

Many of Don's publications reflect his personal interests, which include racing both sport and formula cars for over 25 years for his own team and as a part of other racing teams.

Don discussed his business successes and failures along with his adventurous attitude that led him to begin writing and publishing a variety of magazines. Presently he has turned over many of the duties to his adult children, who have succeeded him in the publishing business. However, he has not yet decided to give up sport car racing.

## Among the Great Whales



Speaker Tom Vukovich explains about the whale  
that got away

Our October 9th luncheon speakers were Tom and Diane Vukovich, who are no strangers to AUAR members. Tom and Diane are avid travelers and have presented travelogues to our group several times over the years. This time the topic was a February 2013 trip with National Geographic Expeditions to the Sea of Cortez (aka the Gulf of California) to get up-close views of whales and other wildlife.

The Vukovich's briefly presented statistics about blue, humpback and gray whales such as size, weight, diet, key features and distribution around the world. These were the three types of whales they encountered on the 7-day voyage on the National Geographic Sea Bird with 53 other

passengers.

While blue whales are among the largest at 80-100 feet long and weigh between 114-136 tons, they and the others dine on tiny krill, small crustaceans and fish. The smaller grays, at 39-46 feet long and 26-40 tons, were the friendliest and most approachable.

After spending 4 days among several small islands along the east side of Baja California Peninsula snorkeling, kayaking and experiencing pristine beauty and abundant wildlife (which included sea lions, dolphins and a variety of birds), the Sea Bird took passengers past Friars Rocks at Land's End and into the Pacific Ocean.

Traveling north up the coastline, the ship entered Bahia Magdalena. Each winter during their long migration, gray whales travel south from their Arctic feeding grounds to breed and raise their calves in these sheltered waters. Here the lucky travelers boarded small rubber rafts called zodiacs and encountered many friendly female grays and their 4-6-week old babies, which were already 10 feet long and weighing 1,000 pounds!

Tom and Diane explained that the expedition crew contained 5



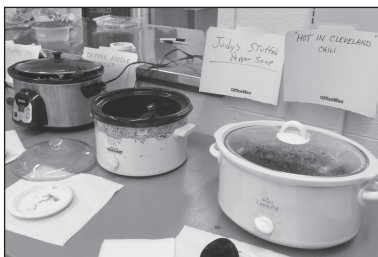
AUAR audience



naturalists, a photography expert and a videographer. The video expert traveled with the group on every island landing and zodiac excursion to make a personal documentary DVD of what the group saw and experienced.

Tom felt that this video was far superior in quality and editing than any he was able to produce and well worth the cost to purchase at the end of the trip. Therefore he ended the presentation with that 37-minute DVD. Highlights included interviews with several passengers, who discussed what they were experiencing, and many close-ups of excited and happy whale watchers petting momma and baby grays. Yes, Diane did get to touch one!

## Soup and Chili Event



Some of the stars of our event



Hopefuls Bill Pritchard, Jack Huggins and Dick Milford

Our Soup and Chili event on November 1 at Goodyear Park was most enjoyable on a lovely fall evening. A goodly crowd attended. The Soup and Chili provided by June Burton, Judy Lasher Arlene Nettling, Randy Pelton, Neil Raber and the Vukovichs and the scrumptious salads and desserts brought by the attendees made for a veritable feast. Substituting for Tom Vukovich as MC for the Bingo - the highlight of the evening - was Neil Raber who ran a tight ship. Most people went home with a gift of inestimable value.

Goodyear Park has already been reserved for the next Soup and Chili on Friday, November 7, 2014. Do not miss this fun evening.



Master Bingo Caller Neil Raber



We have a Winner!

## Lisa Abraham November Luncheon Speaker



Speaker Lisa Abraham

Lifestyle columnist and food writer for the *Akron Beacon Journal*, Lisa Abraham, was the speaker at our November 16<sup>th</sup> luncheon. When the newspaper was sold in 2006, she moved from being one of its political writers to fill the vacancy created in the Food Section by the retirement of her predecessor, Jane Snow. Afterward, Abraham signed copies of her recent book, *Famous Chefs & Fabulous Recipes, Lessons Learned at One of the Oldest Cooking Schools in America*, published by the U. of A. Press. Her book was based on the notes, recipes, and letters in the archives of the famous cooking school in Hudson, Ohio, now owned by Catherine St. John, but which had been opened in 1971 by Zona Spray.

Abraham shared interesting anecdotes about famous chefs and their recipes gathered from her research and from a quarter century of newspaper reporting. It was easy to understand why she has won numerous writing awards and is a popular guest on WAKR radio, where she chats about the love of her life—food and cooking. Her philosophy about good food is simple: it is transformational and connects us, whenever and wherever we share it. Hence, to her, a humble toasted cheese sandwich and tomato soup can constitute a good meal.

Look for her new photo in the Wednesday Food Section of the *Beacon*. Then decide for yourself whether she still “is taller than her picture in the paper,” as she is often told when readers first meet her.



Bob Gandee and Neil Raber





Hans Zbinden

**Pam:** Hans, I am delighted to talk with you and explore your background and many interests. First, however, I want to get your title correct. You are Assistant Professor Emeritus, Modern Languages, in the College of Arts & Sciences. German studies was your focus. Since retirement you have been Recording Secretary for the AUAR Board for many years, so we keep you working!

**Hans:** Yes, and I finally have a computer!

**P:** Given your name and bearing, I would not have been surprised to learn of a European birth, but no, I see you were born in Pennsylvania.

**Hans:** True, but my parents were from Germany, and the first five years of my life German was the language of the home. No doubt about it, the die was cast. With the aid of good teachers in school, teaching became the desirable career choice.

**P:** Your college study brought you over to Ohio to Wittenberg College in Springfield, with a major in a course of study called Humanities. In addition to Philosophy, French, German Literature, and music harmony, you found time to be on the swim team and sing in the college choir. What next?

**H:** After graduation in 1953 I went on for a Masters at The University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia. In those years the military draft was still in force, so my draft board let me know that when I finished my Master's degree I would be drafted. I graduated in May 1955 and was drafted in August.

**P:** I see that after basic training you were sent to Fort Riley, Kansas, as a Chaplain's assistant. How did that come about?

**H:** I've thought about that. I think it's because earlier when I had to fill out many forms I had stated that I had played the organ for my church back home. Fort Riley was like a small city. I was assigned to Chapel 5.

**P:** I know you are still playing the organ, and have a beautiful instrument in your house.

**H:** The organ at Chapel 5 was a Hammond; I have a pipe organ which I acquired in 1985. Vast difference. I saw a small ad by an organ builder, enquired and visited his shop in Canada. I decided this is right for me. Ever since High School years, I have served as church organist in Lutheran churches. I would have to first practice on the piano, and then go to the church to transfer music to the organ. Now it is much easier. I still fill in for a friend when he is away each year over the holidays. For me, there is a connection to teaching; to serve as an organist one must prepare, practice and then perform. The same applies to teaching. Indeed, in 19th century German culture a known and respected figure in many small towns was the school teacher who was also the local church organist.

**P:** On your way to becoming that teacher, you continued your studies at Penn State.

**H:** Yes, when my military period ended, I first took a position as instructor of German at Juniata College, Huntingdon, Pa. Very pleasant. But somewhere in this time frame I was told that I needed a "terminal degree" for a permanent position. Just up the road, about a 30 minute drive, was Penn State.

**P:** So you were at the now notorious Penn State.

**H:** My memories of Penn State are all positive. In the library on Saturday afternoons I could hear the roar of the football fans---the stadium was nearby. It's true I never saw a football game, but I saw Joe Paterno every once in a while on campus. I still believe he got the shaft at the time of the scandal.

**P:** Many of us recall working while others play, back in school days. Now the question we always ask; how did you get to UA?



Vatican pass

**H:** We have a Modern Language Association. I went to a California conference and attended a session where I made contact with the department head of a school in Ohio, Arno Lepke. That school of course was UA, and after interviews which pleased us both I was invited to join UA. I hold him in high regard.

**P:** You joined us in 1965, and have taught German classes as well as German Culture & Civilization. You did some exploring of those cultures abroad, I understand.

**H:** I was pleased to take part in two extended study programs. In the summer of 1975 I was accepted for study with Germany's Goethe-Institut. Our group of about 20 American teachers went to absorb information about the social, political, economic and cultural scene in both West Berlin and the Democratic Republic of Germany (i.e. East Germany).

**P:** So how was East Germany in those days?

**H:** Oh, I was afraid they were going to arrest me! When we got off the bus, I made the mistake of calling out, in German, "Well, now we're in Russia!" The East German guide was furious and started screaming at me! "This is not Russia! This is the Democratic Republic of Germany!" All in German, of course. After that faux-pas I kept my head down!

**P:** Close call! It's best to keep a low profile. But you survived and later had another interesting trip.

**H:** For my Sabbatical leave in 1993-94, I used Baedeker Travel Guide for Germany as my textbook for my German Culture course. It has a splendid time line and one entry for the year 600 A.D. spoke of "Christianization of Germanic tribes by Irish-Scottish monks...." The exploration of this topic was accepted as the rationale for my Sabbatical.

**P:** Using a travel guide as a textbook seems like an enviable activity. So you followed the path of these monks?

**H:** I started in Ireland, making note of the still standing empty walls of the now expired Irish monasteries. Heading east, Holland, North Germany and Switzerland all show interesting evidence of Irish monk activity. Some presently active and intact Catholic churches still retain the names of the monks who founded them centuries ago. My itinerary ended in Rome, where I had obtained permission to use the Vatican Library. I had a special pass, and they searched me every day, I tell you, to be sure I wasn't taking any forbidden items. My wife, Kathy, then joined me as it was the Christmas season. We enjoyed walking around the festive Rome, and attended Christmas mass at the Vatican; not bad for two Lutherans!

**P:** Well done! Another tie I see between you and Germany is your interest in brewing. Those of us who attend Lobster & Suds have been fortunate to sample your brew.

**H:** This has become an interest in recent years. I started out making wine by fermenting concord grapes, but decided that beer would be more to my liking. German beer recipes are basic, calling for malted barley, hops and yeast. My beer is made the same way. Martin Luther's wife, Katarina von Bora, made beer as one of her many household responsibilities. As I am drinking my current brew I like to think that if it is good enough for Martin, it's good enough for me!! Prost!

**P:** And good it is indeed. Thank you so much for speaking with me. I have always considered you a bit of an "old world gentleman," and your interests reflect that.

**H:** Well thank you for that. I enjoyed this experience as it caused me to look back over my life. It has been a full one.

## AUAR SCHOLARSHIP 2013-14

The scholarship for 2013-14 was presented to Heidi (Sutherland) Auk. She is a 5th year senior in Nursing and she was just married this past summer to a former UA student. She lost most of her scholarship aid as a result of being a 5th year student. She minors in Psychology.

Heidi will join us at our February 2014 luncheon and we look forward to meeting her.

The AUAR scholarship endowment is now at near \$60,000 in principal. Our goal is to reach \$100,000 so this time of the year is a time to remember that.



Heidi (Sutherland) Auk



## Holiday Party Featured Entertainment

The December Holiday Luncheon was different from those of past years. The annual gift exchange was replaced with a "Cookie Walk". Participants who brought a dozen homemade cookies or candies swapped with other attendees and had a nice variety to take home.

The program featured Al Leyerle, retired University of Akron Professor of Law, and his dance partner, Darlene Cirino. They entertained the group with an exhibition of ballroom dancing. Darlene is a national dance competition award winner, and Al still has "all the moves".

They treated us to 3 fast-moving dance numbers. In addition, Mel & Martha Vye volunteered to learn the rhumba and were quite good at it. Later we learned that they had previously taken dance lessons at an Arthur Murray Studio. No wonder they picked up the steps so quickly!

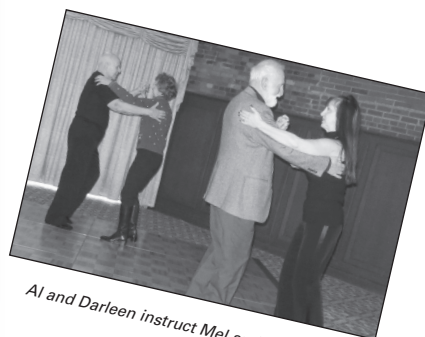
If you were unable to join us at this event, you missed out on a lot of fun!



Al Leyerle and Darlene "Red" Cirino demonstrate



Al and Darlene



Al and Darlene instruct Mel and Martha Vye



Now Martha and Mel demonstrate



Gerhard Kunze, Diane Vukovich and Diana Kunze



Tom Vukovich and Martha & Mel Vye



Pam Rupert and Loren Hoch



Glenn and Shirley Smith



Renata De Luca, Tom Vukovich and Diane Underman



Our dance demonstrators Al Leyerle and Darlene "Red" Cirino



# 121-Year Old Buchtel Field Continues To Serve

By Ken MacDonald, Director Emeritus, Sports Information



If you have been around the campus recently, it's hard not to notice all the construction going on, especially on East Exchange Street, west of Brown Street. And if you venture a block south to the corner of Wheeler and Kling Streets, you will find the property referred to as "Buchtel Field," which is in the process of re-inventing itself again as the new home for outdoor tennis courts on campus. I write "again," since the 121-year old Field has had many uses during its existence.

According to A. I. Spanton's book, *Fifty Years of Buchtel*, "At a faculty meeting on October 2, 1890, a committee of three was appointed to investigate the

matter of procuring grounds suitable for athletic purposes. The next April the present athletic field (Buchtel Field) was purchased for \$8,500 and work was started at once on grading the grounds and erecting a grandstand."

Most assuredly the birth of Buchtel Field was brought about due to the fact that Buchtel College had joined the Ohio Inter-Collegiate Athletic Association in 1890 and was starting a varsity football program in 1891.

Approximately \$3,700 was spent preparing the grounds and erecting grandstands for 300 spectators. It also included a running track, tennis courts, and fencing to enclose the entire area. The official opening of this athletic facility didn't occur until October 15, 1892, when the Buchtel College football team opened the season by hosting Case Tech. According to Spanton, "Before the game, the college band paraded the streets, the members of the Buchtel and Case teams following in wagons." Unfortunately, Case spoiled that inaugural game

with a 14-9 victory.

In 1904, a fire destroyed the grandstands and part of the fence. Insurance coverage fell short of the damages to the property and a tight financial situation forced College officials to delay rebuilding the grandstands. Whether it was the fire or perhaps the lack of players and coaches, something forced the disbanding of football from 1904 through 1907.

Finally in 1912, Akron businessmen provided financial assistance to help equip and fence in the Field; however, Buchtel's football teams continued to play before a standing and not a seated crowd. On December 15, 1913, Buchtel College became the property of the City of Akron and was promptly given a new name, the Municipal University of Akron. Despite the influx of new money, it wasn't until 1920 that the Akron City Council issued funds to erect grandstands and a dressing room at Buchtel Field. Within a year, all but the grandstand project was completed.





The concrete grandstands seating 5,500 finally became a reality in 1923. Buchtel Field was officially dedicated The Memorial Stadium on October 13. According to George Knepper's book New Lamps for Old, "A bronze tablet, a gift from the Athletic Association, inscribed with the 304 Summit County heroes who had lost their lives in World War I, was placed on a wall near the main entrance." The day was also highlighted by UA's 32-0 win over arch rival Kent.

Later, an additional 1,500 bleacher seats were added on the south side of the Field, and lights were a welcomed addition in 1932. Spectators continued to enjoy football in the intimate confines of Buchtel Field until 1940, when the UA football team moved to the Akron Municipal Stadium, better known as the Rubber Bowl. The move was brought about by the deteriorating grandstands and the lack of parking. However, due to military use of the Rubber Bowl in 1942, the Zippers had to return to Buchtel Field during a miserable 0-7-2 season.

The crumbling stands were torn down in 1946 in preparation for the construction of a new athletic services building. That building was

finished in 1949 and was referred to as the Buchtel Field House. It contained a trainer's room, locker rooms, offices, and a small dormitory. The Field basically became a practice facility for football, track, intramural track and football, and for R.O.T.C. marching drills. This past summer Buchtel Field House was demolished to make room for the return of tennis courts to the campus.

It might interest some of you to know that among the myriad of football players that lived at Buchtel Field were Heinz Poll, choreographer and co-founder of the Ohio Ballet (stayed a week in 1968), and current University Vice-President Jim Tressel, who spent several months there as a graduate assistant in 1975.

During the 1950's, the UA baseball team, under the guidance of Hall of Fame coach Russ Beichly, and the University's grounds staff carved out a baseball diamond in the southeast corner of Buchtel Field. The Zip nine played their home games there until moving to Lee Jackson Field in 1969.

Softball was the next sport to make use of this land steeped in tradition and historical significance. After

playing its first four years of its existence, 1977-80, on the old Zip baseball diamond, the program moved to the newly constructed diamond in the southwest corner of Buchtel Field. Spearheaded by Head Softball Coach Joey Arrietta, Akron was awarded the bid to host the 1986 NCAA II National Softball Championship. And just as the Akron community responded in 1912, area businessmen and University personnel helped convert the field into a championship caliber facility with upgrades in the stands, dugouts, and fencing.

Buchtel Field proved to be most friendly, indeed. When the softball team finally left to take up residence at Firestone Stadium in 2005, it had won nearly 80 percent of its games at the facility.

The Buchtelite reported in the late 1940's, "Buchtel Field is dead, let us all unite in one mighty moan and lay her gently to rest." How wrong the writer was. It certainly was at the grassroots of our athletic program and its historical impact, felt by the students, athletes, and fans alike throughout one and six score years continues.

## Fun Facts

- Our eyes are always the same size from birth, but our noses never stop growing.
- No word in the English language rhymes with month, silver, or purple.
- "Dreamt" is the only English word that ends in MT. (Are you doubting this?)
- The Sentence: The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog" uses every letter in the alphabet. (Now you know you're going to check this for accuracy.)
- The words "racecar" and "level" are the same whether read from the right or left. Know any others?
- A cat has 32 muscles in its ear.
- A goldfish has a memory span of three seconds. (Sometimes that's mine, too.)
- An ostrich's eye is bigger than its brain.
- Peanuts are one of the ingredients in dynamite.
- The microwave was invented after a researcher walked by a radar tube and a chocolate bar melted in his pocket.
- Winston Churchill was born in a ladies room during a dance.



# In Memoriam

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

**Jerome (Jerry) Elliott Apple** passed away July 26, 2013. He taught Accounting at the University of Akron and served as the Finance Director for the City of Fairlawn, Ohio. Among his many interests, Jerry found great enjoyment in being a football referee in Akron.

**James P. Banks** died December 2, 2013 in Brecksville, Ohio. Jim work 19 years at the University of Akron in the Development Department. He was active in the Centennial Campaign providing the funds for the construction of the E. J. Thomas Performing Arts Hall.

**James P. Banks** died December 2, 2013 in Brecksville, Ohio. Jim worked 19 years at the University of Akron in the Development Department. He was active in the Centennial Campaign providing the funds for the construction of the E. J. Thomas Performing Arts Hall.

**Donald Edward Becker** died August 22, 2013 in Sun City, Okatie, SC. Don retired as an Associate Professor of Management in the College of Business at the University of Akron.

**Gail Gertrude Dye** passed away October 30, 2013. She was living in Maryville, Illinois and is survived by her beloved husband, Dr. Charles M. Dye, who is retired from the College of Education at the University of Akron. While living in Akron, Gail worked as a records clerk and chief's secretary for the Fairlawn, Ohio Police Department and was a long time supporter of the Akron Zip Athletics.

**James Vincent Fee** died November 12, 2013. Among the AUAR members, Jim was known as "Mr. Membership," for he, with the support of his late wife, Ruth, was the long time Chairman of the AUAR Membership Committee. Fee taught Speech and Communications at the University of Akron from 1967-1989.

**Herman W. Honaker, Jr.** passed away July 13, 2013. Herman worked 30 years at the University of Akron Physical Facilities.

**Sister Martha Leyden, OP, Phd., 81,** died January 1, 2014. She taught at numerous parochial schools, including Our Lady of the Elms where she was Directress of the Preschool. After receiving her doctorate from Columbia University in 1971, she became Associate Professor of Early Childhood Education at the University of Akron, where she was held in high esteem by both students and colleagues during her 19 year tenure.

**Regis Q. McKnight** died August 28, 2013. Regis was a Professor of Elementary Education at the University of Akron with a special interest in Environmental Studies and Outdoor Education. He also served his community as a volunteer fireman in Wadsworth, Ohio.

**Dodi S. Meade** passed away November 12, 2013. She was predeceased by her husband, Claude Y. Meade, Professor of French in the Modern Language Department at the University of Akron. Dodi was a well known patron of the Akron Performing Arts community. She was the Past-President of the Akron University Faculty Women's Club among many other community organizations.

**John A. Popplestone**, a colorful campus personality, passed away September 15, 2013. John was a member of the faculty at the University of Akron from 1961-1999 and Director of the Archives of the History of American Psychology. Additionally, Popplestone, during his professional career, was very active in the American Psychological Association serving on its Council of Representatives and numerous other advisory committees.

**John S. "Jack" Watt** died October 19, 2013. During his long career with the University of Akron, as a student, faculty member, and administrator, Jack held many titles, among others, Professor of Education, Dean of the College of Education, and Vice President of Academic Affairs and Provost. He also served the community as a member of the Board of Education of the Akron Public Schools for seventeen years. His love of music gave him much enjoyment in directing the choir at the Fairlawn Community Church.



*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.

## UPCOMING EVENTS SPRING 2014

### AUAR LUNCHEON SPEAKERS

**January 8, 2014**

**Suzie Graham**, President  
Downtown Akron Partnership  
"Relationship between the Downtown Akron Community and The University of Akron"

**February 12, 2014**

**John P. Gurnish**, local historian  
"History of Summit County in The Civil War"

**March 12, 2014**

**Georgette Thomas**  
Local pet adoption advocate  
"Senior Pets for Senior Citizens"

**April 9, 2014**

**Mel Vye**  
"An American in North Korea"

### OTHER EVENTS

**February 16, 2014**

**Coach House Play & Brunch**  
**Agatha Christie's "The Spider's Web"**

**April 2014**

**Road Trip: TBA**

**May 16, 2014**

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

### AUAR BOARDMEETING SCHEDULE

**January 23, 2014**

**February 27, 2014**

**March 27, 2014**

**April 24, 2014**

**May 22, 2014**

**June 26, 2014**

### Our Motto

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

AUAR Newsletter printed and designed by The University of Akron Printing & Copying Services 2014