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The Extension Newsletter, Issue 91, Summer 2016

Wright State University Retirees Association

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The Extension



Second Annual Retirees' Reunion Marlene Bireley

Hugs, handshakes, smiles and the cacophony of laughter and talk of nearly ninety people heralded the success of the second annual Retirees' Reunion luncheon. Once again, reconnections were made, memories were shared and a very good time was had by all. **Becky Sommer**, formerly of Human Resources, was acknowledged for coming the longest distance from her home in Arkansas.

The theme of the day was "A Sense of Time and Place- Then and Now" and the program reflected the theme. The first president of WSURA and one of the original employees of Wright State, **Gary Barlow**, related the history of the organization. His complete remarks are posted on our website, but the highlights of the early days included :

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The Extension

The Extension is published quarterly for the WSU retirees by the Wright State University Retirees Association (WSURA).

Cut off dates for articles:

- Nov. 1—Winter Quarter
- Feb. 1—Spring Quarter
- May 1—Summer Quarter
- Aug. 1—Fall Quarter

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The idea of a retirees' group was conceived at an informal lunch attended by a few soon-to-be retirees in the spring of 1993. The idea was shared with others including **Rich Johnson**, then Manager of Employee Benefits. **Rich** reported that at that time the total retiree population was over 400. On October 3 a meeting was held to discuss the possibility of a "Retiree Club." The response was enthusiastic and by-laws were solicited from other state retiree groups. Fifteen people served on a steering committee and the WSURA by-laws were approved on February 22, 1994. Elections were held (see the website for a list of the officers) and the first event was held on April 2 in the Upper Hearth Lounge of the Student Center. Our first office space was 151 Allyn Hall. During the past twenty-three years we have grown to nearly 400 members and have enjoyed the support of every administration. We look forward to many more years of presenting a balanced program of social activities for our members and service to our members and the university.

Our second speaker, **President Hopkins**, shared the status of his goals for the university during his tenure, details of the impact of the upcoming presidential debates, and the need for belt-tightening as state support of the university continues to shrink. He will be leaving the post next year as the longest serving current president of an Ohio state university. He pointed with pride to the increased presence of WSU in the community through partnerships with local businesses, research initiatives and the nationally recognized community service program. He credited **Donna Schlagheck**, incoming WSURA president-elect, with the idea of vying for the presidential debate and stated that it may be the most-watched debate in history. Over 4000 media representatives are expected and all rooms are sold out in an 80 mile radius of campus. C-Span will air a program on Wright State prior to the debate giving us nationwide exposure.

He recounted the impact of having the support of **Tom Hanks** for our arts programs and the ongoing Rise. Shine. fundraising effort. He credited a dinner in New York City attended by him, **Mrs. Hopkins** and some major donors with the introduction of **Hanks** to **Amanda Wright**

Lane, grand niece of the **Wright brothers**. Their conversation that evening led to the idea of the upcoming **Wright brothers** documentary series that will be based on **David McCullough's** book on the brothers. (**Hanks** and **McCullough** spent considerable time touring local Wright sites during their recent trip to the university.)

Finally, he congratulated the retirees for their continued support of the university through their donations to the **Nick Davis** WSURA Scholarship Fund and other university units and initiatives.

The day ended with more talk, awarding of door prizes, and perusal of some old photographs supplied by the university Archives. Promises to meet again next year were made as the happy group departed for home.

A Personal Note Marlene Bireley

This issue of *The Extension* marks my last as editor. For more than a decade, it has been my pleasure to compile the news of the organization supplemented by articles contributed by members on various topics and reminiscences. I made the decision before the recent election that it was time for someone else to have this experience and to infuse the process with new creativity and vision. I hope you will support **Frieda Bennett** as she assumes this responsibility. In the meantime, I hope to remain on the Board in another capacity and I most certainly will remain an active member of the organization that has brought me new friends, maintained connections with old friends and supplied me with many good experiences. Thanks in particular to **Mary Gromosiak** and **Carol Stevenson** who have contributed major portions of the content of each issue and to the many student assistants who have supplied the technical skills that I lack to compile each issue into a readable and attractive format.

WSURA Summer Activities

Annual WSU Retirees and Staff Picnic WSURA Open House and Annual Meeting June 10, 2016

Come early and make a day of it! The WSURA Board is holding an Open House at our new office, followed by a short annual meeting. This is a good time to see our facility, meet the Board and enjoy a cup of coffee with your friends. The meeting will be completed in plenty of time to move on to the picnic.

9:30 -10:00 Coffee at the WSURA Office

10:00-11:00 Annual WSURA meeting, approval of By-Laws changes

11:00-1:00 WSU picnic, Garden of the Senses (Student Center in case of rain)

The WSURA Office is 210 Foundation Building which is across from the main road into campus, directly behind Wendy's. There is adequate and easy parking in both the front and behind the building. The elevator is close to the front door. The back door is accessible.

Honorees

The following WSU retirees will be invited to be special guests at this year's picnic. Drop by the retirees' area and say hello:

30 Years

Julia Adkins

Shigeru Honda

Richard Humphrey

Nancy Kern

Cecile Cary

Dee Childress

Joe Casto

25 Years

Owen Andrews

David Barnette

John Lashbrook

Harry Lipsitt

Carl Maneri

Roy Owens

Charles Payne

Faye Schwelitz

Donna Covert

Clarence Day

Elsie Fenic

Barbara Gamstetter

Jennifer Shank

20 Years

Rosina Arnold

Billy Britton

Sue Cummings

Henry Davis

Dennis Denlinger

David Garrety

Margaret Szojak

Rick Wheeler

Ruth Paige

Helen Klein

Chris Loney

Patricia Martin

Susan Smith

Linda Stutler

Gary Foland

15 Years

Gary Barlow

Patti Briner

Sandra Carlson

Enid Tangeman
Wayne Griffin
Thomas Koebernick
Hjalmar Pompe van Meerdervoort
Nancy Schneberger
Shelly Smith
Robert Wagley

10 Years

Ana Maria Douglas
William Snyder
Frances Hilderbrand
Dezna Pitts
Ernest Bozeman
Woodrow Demmy
Stephen Renas
Donald Sorrells
Bonnie Vandenbos
Cedric Harris
John Kessler
Phyllis Pacifico
Tracy Miller
Justine Dewitt
Suellen Grieshop
Terry McKee
Arthur Moliterno
William Nahhas
Manley Perkel
Robert Thobaben
Harold Godsey
Brenda Eck
Stephen Frederick
Allen Hye
Roger McDermott

Bryan Huff
Virginia Nehring
Paul Newman
Holly Rabith
Kay Wick
Lynn Morgan
Joy Heishman
Donald Jentleson
Rhonda Jones
Sharon Murray
John Boles
Joyce Kannan
Khurshid Ahmad
Carol Webster
Ann Silcox
Anna Carone
Carl Gamble
Leona Miller
Paula Saunders
Martha Teter

5 Years

Connie Heaton
Sheree Lemke
Willie Robinson
Joseph Berthiaume
Christine Klinger
Timothy Booth
James Facemire
Tyler Ray
Zhaoqiang Fang
Bonnie Grooms
Peggy Thomas

Melanie Williams
Helen Liming
Janie Bird
Patrick Davis
Barry Du Chesne
Cynthia Harrison
Leticia Miller
Martin Moss
Patricia Howard
Diane Fitch
Janet Jensen
James Leasure
Roger Owens
Jeanne Fraker
Janet Reuter
Kenneth Schatmeyer
Leslie Kepler
Fern Freeman
Dennis Moore
Carol Snyder
Marsha Alba
Brenda Barnett
Janice Belcher
Judith Brewer
Barbara Denison
Robin Dodge
Glenn Hamilton
Lillian Johnson
Michael Kepler
Gregory Schumm

Election Results:

Congratulations and welcome to new and returning WSURA Board members:

President-elect **Donna Schlagheck**

Communications Coordinator-**Frieda Bennett**

Board Members:

New- **Sheryl Provens** (two year term)
Ruth Schumacher (one year term)
Returning-**Jim Sayer, Gary Pacernick**

News from WSURA

President's Message Dick Williams

With summer rapidly approaching (Summer Term A is already in session), I want to wish you all a good summer and hope your travels are enjoyable and your health remains unremarkable.

I know you have all been following the goings on at Wright State on the front page of the Dayton Daily News. Let's hope that our university can overcome the unfortunate budget shortfalls without too many layoffs and that the upcoming Presidential Debate brings more favorable headlines and, maybe, spurs enrollment.

Let me thank all of you who attended the 2nd Annual Retirees Reunion Lunch on May 6. The turnout exceeded last year's great start and everyone enjoyed the food. You can read more about the proceedings elsewhere in this issue. Let me remind you that the annual Retirees Picnic will be held on June 10, come rain or shine. In the event of rain the picnic will be moved inside the Student Union.

The University's annual Campus Scholarship and Innovation campaign is underway. I encourage you to support CSIC and, especially, giving to our **Nick Davis** Fund that supports our annual scholarship awards. The specifics of the remarkable increase in giving by retirees is documented on page.

The news from STRS about healthcare costs is not good. STRS has already announced changes beginning 2017 that will increase out-of-pocket costs including, but not limited to, an increase in copays for emergency room treatment for Medicare plan enrollees, an increase in copays for diabetic prescriptions, and, an increase in the coinsurance percentage for specialty drugs from 10% to 13% with an increase in the per prescription maximum from \$500 to \$550. STRS is also reducing the subsidy multiplier for non-Medicare benefit recipients to 1.8% per year of service from 2.1% and are phasing out the Medicare Part B premium reimbursement over a three-year period, beginning in 2017.

Finally, I would like to thank all the Board members who have supported me and the organization throughout this year. They volunteer their time and work endlessly to serve our members and the university and they have a great time doing it. I hope that some of you will consider joining us in this endeavor in the future. Good luck to our incoming president, **Mary Kenton**, and the new and returning Board members.

Deaths

Robert Silverman, March, 2016, Professor, Mathematics, College of Science and Mathematics

Douglas Longenecker, March, 2016, Founding Chair, Professor, Family Medicine, Boonshoft School of Medicine

Linda Smith, March 2016, CPR Instructor, Interdisciplinary Teaching Lab

Janavee Williams, March 2016, position unknown

Virginia Mary Byrd, March 2016, Administrative Specialist, Community Health, Boonshoft School of Medicine

Shirley Williamson, March 2016, Human Resources

William McCormick, March 2016, Professor, Electrical Engineering, College of Engineering and Computer Science

Joe Young, April 2016, Assistant Dean, College of Education and Human Services

H. Ira Fritz, April 2016, Professor, Biochemistry, Boonshoft School of Medicine

Peter Bacon, April 2016, Professor and Chair, Finance, Soin College of Business

Give Yourself a Hand! **Abe Bassett**

(The following information was sent to **Rebecca Cole**, President of the WSU Foundation, requesting that it be used as a news release. Increasing the percentage of retirees who contribute to the annual fund has been a particular goal of the WSURA Board over the last few years.)

Wright State University retiree donations in fiscal year 2015 have set an all time high in the number of donations, the amount of donations, and the average donation.

The past year (2015) has been the most successful in the past fifteen years, with 200 individual retirees donating over a quarter million dollars (\$256,000)—an average gift of \$1,281.

In the past four years, retirees have donated three-quarters of a million dollars (\$756,270). The average annual total donations of the past four years have been \$189,000. Total giving since 2001 stands at \$885,000, with the expectation that the one million dollar mark will be exceeded in the coming year.

Donations are distributed to programs campus wide including the WSURA's **Nick Davis** Scholarship Endowment, which now stands at \$67,000. In the past two years, the endowment has grown by \$11,000 annually. The board has set a goal of reaching \$90,000 in the next two years to permit the funding of three \$1500 scholarships.

The Board of Directors expresses their gratitude for the generosity of its membership.

Ms. Cole's response:

Thanks so much for sharing the great news regarding the generosity of the Wright State University Retirees! These are very impressive numbers and they speak to the continued dedication of our retirees. We are so grateful to the individuals for making these ongoing commitments and for their continued passion for scholarship support. I'm particularly impressed with the marked growth in the number and amount of donations. The average gift of \$1,281 is a very impressive figure!

Thanks to you and your colleagues for communicating these critically important messages to the entire population of retirees. We'll be certain to share these impressive figures and accomplishments with our Foundation Board of Trustees!

Warmest regards,
Becky Cole

Website

Have you visited the WSURA website lately? Webmaster **Abe Bassett** has worked diligently to upgrade the format to make it more user friendly and has added content such as obituaries and short reflections by various members. It is also an archival repository of our old *Extensions*, minutes and treasurer's reports as well as more pictures than we can include in *The Extension*. Make sure that you visit it often to keep up with information of happenings and news that occur between publication of our quarterly Extension. If you are a Facebook member, be sure to visit and contribute to the WSURA Facebook page.

Congratulations to WSU new retirees (June to December 2015)

Willie Ballard, Facilities Operation
Deborah Berry, Materials Management
Donna Boyer, Bursar's Office
Angela Brookey, Enrollment Mgt.
Richard Bullock, English, COLA
Phyllis Cole, Community Health
Cheryl Conley, Biological Sciences
Timothy Cope, Neuroscience,
Cell Biology & Physiology
Donna Curry, Nursing
Debbie Deichler, Marketing and
Communications
Janice Duke, Medicine, OB-Gyn
Jack Dustin, Urban Affairs and
Geography, COLA
Gary Farlow, Physics
Colleen Finegan, Teacher Education
Leo Finkelstein, Computer Science
Richard Gatton, Materials Mgt.
Thomas Hangartner, Biomedical Engineering
Charlotte Harris, Dean, Education
and Human Services
Robert Hiskey, Administration,
Lake Campus
Phoebe Ingraham, Teacher Education
Jeffrey John, Communication, COLA
Jeffrey Jones, Computing and
Telecommunications
Mary Key, Community Health
Susan Krouse, University College
David Lane, Community Health
Thomas Lockwood, Pharm. and
Toxicology, SOM
James Lucot, Pharm and
Toxicology, SOM
Kathleen Malloy, School of Prof.
Psychology
Susann Matthews, Math and
Statistics
Jacqueline McMillan, Enrollment
Mgt.
Bille Mills, Facilities Operations
Michael Norris, Sociology and
Anthropology

Carrie Richele O'Connor, Teacher Education
Michael O'Meara, Facilities Operations
Michael Ondrasek, Computer Science
David Orenstein, Sociology and Anthropology
Chandler Phillips, Biomedical, Industrial and
Human Factors Engineering
Alexander Pittman, Lake Campus Library
Lawrence Prochaska, Biomedical, Industrial
and Human Factors Engineering
Linda Ramey, Teacher Education
Scott Rife, Computing and Telecommunications
Jeffrey Roberds, Materials Mgt.
James Runkle, Biological Sciences
Edgar Rutter, Administration, College of Edu-
cation and Human Services
Donna Schlagheck, Political Science
Christen Shepard, Custodial Services
Cassandra Snyder-Dorsten, Administration,
Lake Campus
Timothy Sorg, Internal Medicine, School of
Medicine
Patrick Spradlin, Facilities Operations
Lisa Terrell, Biochem/Molecular Biology-SOM
Theodore Terrell, Engineering and Construction
Carol Vukovich, Univ. Auditing and Consulting
Services
Richard Wantz, Human Services, CEHS
Yvonne Wyrick, Math and Statistics

Reunion Door Prize Winners

Our thanks and appreciation to the area merchants who contributed gift certificates for the following prizes:

Applebee's - **Dixie Barnhart**
Happy Hour - **Louis Thomas**
Abuelo's - **Mrs. John Fortman**
Max & Ermas - **Judy Pabst**
Chili's - **Liz Harden**
Wellington Grille - **Charlotte Harris**
Knollwood Garden Store - **Glenn Graham**
O'Charley's - **Billy Friar**
Hilton Garden Inn - **Ed Keener**

WSURA Membership Form

New _____ Renewal _____ Date _____

Name _____

Spouse's Name _____

Primary Address _____ Phone _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Wright State Department at Retirement _____ Year _____

Spouse's Department at Retirement _____ Year _____

Email Address _____

Check One: Faculty Unclassified Classified

Life Membership:

_____ \$100 (All Ages)

Annual Membership:

_____ \$25

Patron (Membership in WSURA not required):

No set amount. Donations are tax deductible. Contributions should be sent directly to the Foundation as follows:

Wright State University Foundation
3640 Colonel Glenn Hwy
Dayton, OH 45435-0001

Make your check payable to:

Wright State University Foundation

Note on check memo line: 551327 Patron Donations Fund

Please fill in the information requested above and send it with your dues (please do not send cash) to:

WSURA, Attn: Treasurer, 210 Foundation Building, Wright State University, Dayton, OH 45435