

Summer 7-1-2018

The Extension Newsletter, Issue 98, Summer 2018

Wright State University Retirees Association

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Wright State University Retirees Association

The Extension

No. 98

Summer
2018

President's Message Donna Schlagheck

Summer finally arrived! As I sat with friends and fellow retirees at the WSURA Annual Luncheon on May 10, I realized that time DOES go by faster when you're engaged and enjoying the rich culture in and around a university campus. Retirees, friends and guests heard a fascinating presentation from **Dr. Dan Krane** on the subject of testing evidence for DNA, and how that evidence is presented to jurors. The WSURA organizing committee: **Gail Whitaker, Gary Barlow, Mary Kenton** and **Mary Gromosiak**, planned the luncheon. Thanks to them for their time and effort on behalf of WSURA.



WSURA will "go quiet" for a few weeks after our annual meeting with members on June 6. New officers will be elected to join incoming President **Joyce Howes**, and just like undergraduates, we'll begin a new season in August. The office continues to benefit from the diligence and hard work of our student assistant, **Emily Ross**. The board members will soon resume planning and scheduling activities, and the "communication" team will continue its work on the manner and platforms with which we communicate to the retired faculty and staff members of WSURA. Keep an eye on the website, Facebook page and future editions of the EXTENSION. Communication with you and helping connect our members to each other remains a top priority. Interested to join us? Please reach out to me (d.schlagheck@wright.edu) or Joyce (joyce.howes@wright.edu) to learn more about volunteering with WSURA. My homework includes arranging a speaker and/or panel for the November mid-term elections. Lucky for me, the topic is never dull!

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your President this past year. I am proud of the work we've done, especially partnering with CaTS to ensure that interviews of WSU faculty and staff for the Oral History project are transcribed and available to the public. We're also approaching full endowment level for our Nick Davis Scholarship, and are beginning to explore new options for supporting the life of the campus we care about so much. Please do consider joining us!

Have a safe summer!

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. 15—Winter
- Feb. 15—Spring
- May 15—Summer
- Aug. 15—Fall

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Share Your Spare



Last September 19, **Joyce Howes** opened her email and changed two lives. She read an appeal from a man whose name she recognized from her years at Wright State, **Phil Combs**, who was on the staff for the Center for Teaching and Learning. Phil needed a kidney. His kidneys had been damaged by decades of diabetes. He had started dialysis the year before. He was on the wait list for a cadaver kidney, but those waits can sometimes be long. Five friends had volunteered to be donors, but none of them was a match. His situation was complicated by the fact that his job was eliminated in the ongoing budget crisis and his employment at WSU was going to end on October 27.

Joyce responded to Phil's appeal immediately (almost impulsively, she says), mostly out of anger over Phil's situation, but also because she was a life-long nurturer. Phil put her in touch with the University of Cincinnati Health Center to begin the process. The initial blood test showed a probable match and thus began a long series of medical tests to determine whether she was sound enough physically and mentally at age 66 to go through the three-hour surgery. She cleared the last hurdle in January. Phil was thrilled and profoundly grateful to learn that he had a living donor! Joyce and Phil met for the first time soon after the good news.

Joyce's family—to put it mildly—was not thrilled. Her older sister could not comprehend why she would do such a thing for someone she didn't

even know. Wasn't it enough to be an organ donor after death? Her daughter, **Darcy**, was also opposed. She didn't want her mother to take the risk. But Joyce was resolved. She believed her decision was based on a pragmatic rationale. It was based on the science, facts, data. The science had long since established that humans needed only one functioning kidney. And furthermore it was the "correct thing to do." Understanding that they could not dissuade her, her family finally stopped arguing and fully supported Joyce throughout the process. Joyce, Phil and the UC transplant team made a plan. They would do the exchange in April, after the biology class Joyce was teaching had concluded.

The surgeries were scheduled for April 30. The very handsome (according to both Joyce and Darcy) **Dr. Tayyab Diwan** was Joyce's surgeon. Despite thinking that he "looked about 22" Joyce was confident about the procedure. She had no fear, no last minute anxieties. Everything went like clockwork. Phil was prepped and ready in the next O-R. As soon as Joyce's "spare" kidney was removed and cleaned up a bit, it was placed into Phil's waiting body. Everything went well on his end too. The kidney started working immediately. Joyce felt well enough to visit Phil in recovery the next morning. The accompanying photo shows two people who look pretty pleased with what they've done.

Joyce went home that afternoon, took her pain meds and slept about three days. She has continued her recovery without incident and with very little pain. She was allowed to resume her walking program after two weeks and had just a couple of common sense restrictions on her activities. Phil was quarantined until early June because of the immune suppressant drugs he had to take. But he is feeling much better and looking forward to what his new life has to offer.

If anything, Joyce seems energized by her experience with kidney donation. In no way does she feel diminished or endangered. Scientist that she is, she did the research and learned that she has no higher risk for kidney problems than she did before the surgery. She admitted that she's thinking about a small tattoo to commemorate the event to go with her other two discreet inkings.

She hopes that her story will inspire others to become living donors. A kidney from a live donor is far better for the recipient than one from a cadaver. The plea “share your spare” stuck in her head, and Joyce, well, she thought “why not.” And of such are heroes made. They answer the call.

Those interested in exploring the possibility of kidney donation should contact the University of Cincinnati Kidney Program at 513 584 7001 or the National Kidney Foundation—513 961 8105 in Cincinnati or 614 882 8184 in Columbus.

Fourth Annual WSURA Luncheon



On May 10 a congenial group of retirees gathered in the Berry Room to celebrate the joys of retirement, one of which is the freedom to have two or three hour lunches. During dessert President **Donna Schlagheck** introduced our speaker, **Dan Krane**, Professor of Biological Sciences. Dan is an internationally known and respected DNA expert who routinely testifies in high profile cases. He promised to make us all DNA analysts before the end of his talk. He delivered in every possible way. He proved in short order what a fine teacher he really is. He taught us how to read the different DNA samples and to reach possibly erroneous conclusions. We too could send the wrong suspect to jail. By the time he left to teach his next (real) class, everyone in the room had a new understanding of just how imprecise the interpretation of DNA evidence can sometimes be.

Before we dispersed, the door prizes were awarded by **Gail Whitaker** and **Mary Gromosiak**. **Helen Listerman** won the “Eat Local” bags filled with foods that originated in Dayton: Esther Price, Mike Sells, Pine Club, etc.



Helen reports that she and husband **Tom** are “enjoying sampling the wonderful assortment of gourmet items.” Tom especially enjoyed the Yellow Springs craft beer.



One of the first things to disappear, Helen says. “Winning the door prize capped off a delightful event: good company, good food, and an interesting presentation on forensic DNA—all taking place on the WSU campus where Tom and I joined the faculty more than 50 years ago.”

Janet Frederick was awarded the hotel stay and wine basket. **Jean Kmetec** won the Wright State themed basket. And **Joanne Dombrowski** took home the large pot of mums.

She’s an avid gardener and enjoyed planting her winnings along with other flowers over the Memorial Day weekend. She reports that as she was leaving



the Berry Room with her flowers, she heard someone call out “Dr. Dombrowski.” It was a student from a differential equations class she taught in the 80s. Professor Dombrowski deemed it a pleasant surprise to conclude an enjoyable event.

Live and Learn Workshops by Marlene Bireley

The Live and Learn Workshops were developed last year as informal, short term presentations designed to give our members introductions to possible new skills to pursue in retirement. The first classes, held in the spring of 2017, gave participants hands-on experience in Ikebana flower arranging and poetry writing. This year, members were polled at the men's basketball game outing and several topics emerged as being of interest to the attending group. Consequently, four two to four hour workshops were held in the month of April. Attendance tripled from the first year and feedback was excellent.

David Barr, Emeritus Professor of Religion, led two sessions discussing comparisons of the world's major religions. Participants varied from the devout to atheists, and a respectful sharing of views provided a stimulating and satisfying experience.

Two workshops were provided by the staff of the Dunbar Library. **Bill Stoltz**, Archivist, shared a myriad of resources to start or continue genealogical research. On the second day, participants visited the Dunbar Archives, then spent time on the Library computers exploring some of the websites that Bill had described in the first session.

Leigh Duncan, Head of Library Technology Resources, and three staff members gave a helpful presentation on some of the more important apps and functions of smart phones and/or tablets. During the last half hour of the session, the presenters worked with the group on an individual basis answering questions and problem solving.

Finally, **Donna Schlagheck**, our President and resident political scientist, led a discussion on current international areas of concern. It was the consensus of the group that this was a "tip of the iceberg" presentation that could have gone on for several sessions.

This year's participants were asked for suggestions for future workshops and several good ideas were received. Tentative plans are underway for **Gary Barlow** to present two sessions on the basics of art, including a visit to the Dayton Art Institute to look at paintings illustrative of the introductory lecture and a political discussion coordinated by Donna Schlagheck to be held prior to the fall elections.

Watch the website and the Fall Extension for specifics on these presentations. Unless field trips are included, all presentations will be held in the WSURA office in the Foundation Building where parking is free and plentiful. We hope that many more of you will join us to meet and interact with other WSURA members, spouses and friends.

Good To Know

In October 2017 Food and Drug Administration approved a new shingles vaccine called Shingrix. In a major study, it proved to be far more effective in preventing shingles than the original vaccine, Zostavax. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends that people 50 and older should get the Shingrix vaccine, even those who have had the Zostavax. Medicare Part D helps cover the cost. You'll need a prescription. To read more about the horrors of shingles and what makes Shingrix so much better, see Jane E. Brody's April 10, 2018 column in **The New York Times**.

Sunscreen does expire and should be discarded after three years. If in doubt, replace. Keep your sunscreen out of high temperatures and direct sunlight. Toss it in the cooler you take to the pool or beach or wrap it up in a towel. **Consumer Reports** gives Trader Joe's Spray SPF 50+ a 100 rating and it's fairly inexpensive at \$1.00 per ounce. Walmart's Equate Sport Lotion SPF 50 got a score of 99 and comes in cheapest at \$.63 per ounce. Time to stock up. The July **CR** has a feature article on sunscreens.

From the June **Harper's** Index:

Percentage of registered US voters who say that Donald Trump is a good role model for young people: 29

Of Americans who said the same of Bill Clinton in 1998: 18

Percentage of biographical Wikipedia pages that are about women: 17

Percentage of US political donors in 1990 who were women: 23
Today: 47

“The Naming of Cats” from Old Possum’s Book of Practical Cats

T.S. Eliot

The Naming of Cats is a difficult matter,
It isn’t just one of your holiday games;
You may think at first I’m as mad as a hatter
When I tell you, a cat must have THREE
DIFFERENT NAMES.

First of all, there’s the name that the family use
daily,
Such as Peter, Augustus, Alonzo, or James,
Such as Victor or Jonathan, George or Bill Bailey —
All of them sensible everyday names.
There are fancier names if you think they sound
sweeter,
Some for the gentlemen, some for the dames:
Such as Plato, Admetus, Electra, Demeter —
But all of them sensible everyday names.

But I tell you, a cat needs a name that’s particular,
A name that’s peculiar, and more dignified,
Else how can he keep up his tail perpendicular,
Or spread out his whiskers, or cherish his pride?
Of names of this kind, I can give you a quorum,
Such as Munkstrap, Quaxo, or Coricopat,
Such as Bombalurina, or else Jellylorum —
Names that never belong to more than one cat.

But above and beyond there’s still one name left
over,
And that is the name that you never will guess;
The name that no human research can discover —
But THE CAT HIMSELF KNOWS, and will never
confess.
When you notice a cat in profound meditation,
The reason, I tell you, is always the same:
His mind is engaged in a rapt contemplation
Of the thought, of the thought, of the thought of his
name:
His ineffable effable
Effanineffable
Deep and inscrutable singular Name.



In Memoriam

Frances Spence, May 28, 2018 WSU Founda-
tion

Paul Schreiber, MD, May 24, 2018, Profes-
sor of Medicine

JoAnn Topmiller, May 22, 2018, Secretary for
17 years.

Walter Morgan, 87, May 12, 2018, Physical
Plant

Shirley Monnin, May 2, 2018, Office Manager
for International Studies and Past
President of WSURA

Joanne R Cross, 89, April 22, 2018, Assistant
Professor Emerita, Nursing and Health

Khurshid Ahmad, 85, April 9, 2018,
Assoc. Professor Emeritus, Finance

Charlotte Ann Green, 70, April 8, 2018, Office
of Bursar

Ruthann Knudson, 77, March 25, 2018, College
of Liberal Arts

Ronald C. Fetzer, 74, March 20, 2018, Assoc.
Professor Emeritus, Communications

Fredric D. Jefferson, 67, March 17, 2018, De-
partment of Athletics

Imogene B. Horne, 79, February 26, 2018, Ac-
counts Payable

Election Returns

Joyce Howes takes over as President
from **Donna Schlagheck**. Donna will remain
on the Executive Committee as Past Presi-
dent. **Larry Prochaska** becomes President
Elect, and **Ruth Schumacher** replaces Larry
as Secretary. Elected to two-year terms on
the Board are **Gary Pacernick**, **Judi Engle**
and **Robin Suits**. Congratulations to all.
Thanks to **Gail Whitaker** for recruiting candi-
dates, managing the election and counting
the ballots.

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

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

Wright State University Retirees Association
210 Foundations Bldg.
3640 Colonel Glenn Hwy.
Dayton, OH 45435