



THE AUAR NEWSLETTER

The Association of The University of Akron Retirees

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President's Message

Whoa, did anyone manage to get the license number of the truck that ran over us in March? This has certainly been an event-filled first year in my presidency of AUAR. I reread the message I wrote for the Winter 2020 newsletter and it looked like we had things pretty well under control; great Executive Board to work with, optimism resulting from the successful presidential search at UA, wonderful line-up of luncheon speakers, AUAR Road Trip and Lobster & Suds scheduled. Therese and I were getting ready to leave for Thailand for birding trip..., etc. So many changes to our daily lives have taken place since the arrival of the COVID-19 pandemic.

I want to review what we have accomplished since January 2020. The AUAR Executive Board has met monthly, on-line, to carry on the business of our organization. It certainly was a learning experience for all of us. We managed to successfully complete the process of nominating and carrying out an election of new board members. We were able to have only one of our scheduled luncheons take place prior to the cancellation of all group meetings on campus in March. I know we were looking forward to the other luncheons in the Spring in which we would meet President and Mrs. Miller and hear about the travels to Japan of Ed Lasher, Tom and Diane Vukovich. We sent out numerous letters by email or regular mail to those who do not use on-line technology for updates and news that affected members of AUAR. Linda Sugarman provided a detailed document for communication to our members to assist those of us who were informed by the University of Akron that we will no longer have UA provided health insurance for our retiree dependents. This information can be found in an article in this issue of the newsletter. Finally, I want to thank those of you who responded to the recent membership survey. We had a 31% response rate, which is what we expected to obtain. I have just received and collated the responses to the survey. The board has received this summary and is reviewing the information to assist in evaluating and setting strategies and goals for our future. We will communicate the information to you in future correspondence.

In the past year we had four members of the board "retire." I say retire because the four members who left the board had served many years on the board for our organization. We will miss the contributions to the board by Bob Blankenship, Loren Hoch, Pam Rupert, and Frank Thomas. The new members of the board are featured in an article in this issue of the newsletter.

Based on health concerns and the prohibition for large group meetings, we have to cancel the in-person luncheons for Fall 2020. In place of these luncheons, we have asked the speakers that were scheduled for our luncheon presentations to participate in a series of on-line "virtual" luncheon meetings using ZOOM. We tried out this means of meeting in June, when I presented a travelogue of a birding trip that Therese and I took to Argentina in 2019. Approximately 35 of you participated in this meeting and the comments I received were good. Hopefully, this will give us an opportunity to meet, at least on-line, until we are once again able to socialize at our luncheons and other events. Tom and Diane have provided a schedule of speakers in this newsletter.

Dan Sheffer
President 2019-21



In closing, I ask that you please spend a moment looking at the article later in this newsletter about the website and other communications that we will be using this fall.

My very best wishes to all of you.

In Memoriam

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

Walter Eugene Arms, 84, passed away in Dalton, GA, June 29, 2020. At the University of Akron, Walt taught in the Department of Elementary Education in the College of Education, 1968-1989. Upon leaving Akron, he taught at West Georgia College at Dalton State College, 1989-1993; subsequently was the Director of the Elementary School at Berry College, 1993-2003. Among his accomplishments, Walt also retired from the U.S. Army Reserve as a Lieutenant Colonel in 1995.

Robin "Diane" Arnold (Staley), 78, died June 1, 2020. She taught at the Ohio State School for the Blind prior to arriving at the University of Akron/Wayne College. During her over thirty years of service, she ultimately was named Head of the Wayne Department of Physical Education. After retirement, she broadened her education becoming a certified personal trainer while continuing her passion to assist others in the enhancement of their physical fitness, wellness, and nutrition.

John W. Beckham, 63, passed away on May 26, 2020. Following his formal education at the University of Akron and St. John's University in New York City, John had an adventurous work experience starting out in the U.S. Customs Service in NYC, which was followed by a move to the ABC News Show, "Nightline." After several years with ABC News, he moved to the Los Angeles Times Newspaper on the West Coast, eventually relocating to the LA Times Chicago office. His next and final career move was to the Bierce Library, University of Akron, where he became known for his skilled library searches in identifying the finite points of interest across an ever-expanding array of subject content.

Leonora Jean Bee (Allera), 77, passed away on June 9, 2020. After a twenty-year career of teaching music in the Kent City Schools, she was flourishing in retirement. Leonora was also the long-time choral director at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church. She loved to travel with husband, John Bee, the former Associate Dean of the College of Fine and Applied Arts at the University of Akron, to Cravanzana, Italy in the Italian Piedmont area, her ancestral homeland where she and John had renovated a home.

Carlos Begley, 74, passed away on May 3, 2020. Carlos retired from the University with 25-years of service in the Department of Physical Facilities.

Carol Anne Carter, 84, died May 1, 2020. While a student at the University, she worked as a Secretary in the Guidance Department. Upon her graduation with her Master's Degree, Carol was hired as an Academic Advisor in the Guidance Department where she worked until retirement while playing a pivotal role in the lives of many of her students.

Helen K. Clemminshaw, 81, passed away on December 21, 2020. Helen was the Director of the Center for Family Studies at the University of Akron. As an active faculty member, she acquired much grant money. One of her major accomplishments was fostering her Child Life Curriculum to train students working with seriously ill children to focus on their emotional needs. In addition to her University work, Helen founded and operated Hudson Psychological Associates.

Jean Close (Laird), 82, died June 7, 2020. Jean was a long-time member of AUAR. She enjoyed teaching as a part-time instructor of College Reading and Study Skills in the Developmental Programs at the University.

Tom Conway, 91, passed away April 9, 2020. Following a successful diving career at Florida State University capturing the Southeastern Conference 1951 Diving Championship competing in the 1-meter, 3-meter, and tower diving, Tom coached Swimming and Diving at the University of Akron. For his many

achievements as an athlete and coach, Tom was inducted in 2007 into the Summit County Sports Hall Fame.

Robert "Chris" Deibel, 74, died April 21, 2020. Chris retired from the University of Akron Police Department following his service in two other jurisdictions.

Cecil L. Dobbins, 97, died January 9, 2020. Cecil worked in several administrative positions at the University at one point serving as the Assistant Dean of the Evening College. In addition to his employment with the University, he had worked in administrative positions at Fenn College and Baldwin Wallace College during his working career. For over twenty years, Cecil conducted hiking tours in the Alps of Europe.

Carol Burton Drugan, 95, passed away January 9, 2020. Carol taught Sociology at the University of Akron as well as Kent State University and many other local colleges.

Mary Ann Frye, 83, died on August 8, 2020. Mary retired from the University of Akron Development Office with twenty years of service. From her Italian heritage, Mary was a fine cook; over the last ten years, she became widely known outside of the University as the "Pizzelle Lady" for selling her famous pizzelle cookies at the Hartville Flea Market

Gasper "Gary" Angelo Garofalo, 72, died June 19, 2020. Gary retired from the Department of Economics serving as the Head of the Department for several years in the 1980s. His research focused on the economic productivity of older urban areas such as Cleveland and Pittsburgh.

Robert L. Giebenrath, 94, passed away on June 4, 2020. He worked part-time at the University in the Counseling and Testing Bureau for 37 years.

Joseph "J.D." Goddard, 75, passed away February 14, 2020. J. D. was recognized for his expertise in voice and choral conducting through the decades. He was an influential presence in the Akron/Cleveland choral community serving as the Director of the University of Akron Opera Program in the late 1970s and early 1980s. In 2001, he founded and directed the Master Singers Chorale with the mission of performing choral masterworks as well as serving as the clinician for choral and orchestral groups throughout the United States. He was the husband of Pearlmarie Goddard who worked in the College of Education.

Jacquelyn F. "Jackie" Haley, 94, passed away on January 21, 2020. Jackie was a member of the University of Akron School of Art teaching drawing, painting, and design. Over her career, her paintings and drawings were exhibited nationally in over two dozen juried, one-woman and invitational group shows.

Donald Elliott Hall, 81, passed away on June 28, 2020. Don's first job out of college was as a newspaper reporter for the New Castle News in New Castle, PA. He worked as speech pathologist in the public service sector and in higher education before spending 24 years at the University of Akron where served as the Director of the Speech and Hearing Clinic, Associate Dean of the College of Fine and Applied Arts, and Professor of Communicative Disorders. Following retirement, Don relocated to Savannah, Georgia where he worked at Armstrong State University as an Associate Professor of Special Education. Subsequently, Don concluded his work career at the Matthew Reardon Advance Academy as a Speech Pathology Consultant and Director of Educational Services.

Ann Holzapfel died April 22, 2020. Ann had an over 20-year career as an Administrative Assistant in the University of Akron Dance Institute and mentored countless dancers.

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Robert H. Jones, 97, passed away on May 20, 2020. Robert came to the University of Akron as the Chair of the History Department helping in the establishment and development of its new doctoral program. With Caroline Pardee, he published, "My Dear Carrie: The Civil War Letters of George Pardee and Family as well as several other civil war publications during his career.

Alvin H. Lieberman, 82, passed away on April 15, 2020. Alvin taught primarily taxation and accounting principles during his 49-year career at the University. While at the University, he, with others, organized and managed over many years, several conferences on the varying aspects of national and international taxation at the University.

Mary E. Meeker, 70, died February 26, 2020. Mary was a graduate of the University of Akron School of Nursing receiving several academic honors at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. She initially returned to the University of Akron to teach Geriatrics before serving as the Chair of the Walsh College School of Nursing and subsequently teaching Geriatrics at Kent State University.

Douglas "Doug" K. Miller, 62, passed away on August 7, 2020. Doug was a network engineer for the University establishing and implementing the first campus-wide Wi-Fi system.

Marvin M. Moore, 87, passed away on June 11, 2020. Marvin spent much of his teaching career at the University of Akron School of Law where he continued to conduct his research producing over 30 law review publications. Marvin also loved music and played the piano often entertaining family and friends with his rendition of "Boogie Woogie Swanee River."

LaBarbara Mundy, 93, died on May 24, 2020. She spent 26 years with the University working primarily in Business Services. She was an AUAR member.

Mary L. Nice, 75, passed away on March 31, 2020. Mary was an event planner for the University. In the era of the Martin Center, with her office located there, she handled the planning and scheduling of all the events occurring in the Center. For those of us conducting events in the center, we knew her well and appreciated her professional patience.

Kenneth John Pakenham, 73, passed away on December 29, 2019. Ken was a member of the English Department teaching Linguistics and English as a Second Language while serving as the Director of the English Language Institute.

Robert J. Pletzer, 82, passed away on May 29, 2020. Bob taught Developmental Chemistry in the Department of Developmental Programs and was much respected by his students.

Louis Michael Poda, 78, died on August 11, 2020. Louis was a forty-year employee working in the Department of Physical Facilities at the University of Akron. While at the University, he cultivated much interest in the Akron Astronomy Club and the University's Amateur Radio Club.

Howard S. Reinmuth, Jr., 90, passed away on April 29, 2020. Howard taught in the History Department for 27 years. He was known as a brilliant historian and a superb storyteller. Howard's ability to describe historical sites he had visited and food he had enjoyed there would often make the listener feel that he had vicariously shared Howard's experience.

James P. Reynolds, 71, died on July 10, 2020. Jim was a history buff and a book collector, which was a perfect match for his career at the University Bookstore and later Barnes and Noble.

Shirley May Roebuck, 85, passed away on March 30, 2020. Shirley retired from the University of Akron Bierce Library; additionally, she was an accomplished writer. She was active in the community serving as president of the Medina County League of Women Voters and Wadsworth Tennis Association, just a few of her many community commitments.

Lori Ann Meek Seesdorf, 63, died on July 3, 2020. She was the Advertising Manager in the Institutional Marketing Department at the University. She was especially proud to have worked on the award-winning TV and radio spot ads that ran for several years during the annual NFL Superbowl. Lori was honored in 2008 in being selected to be one of the Akron, Ohio "Women of Distinction."

Basil Stephanoff, 84, passed away on April 4, 2020. Basil retired from the Department of Physical Facilities at the University following previous employment with the FAA at the New York Air Traffic Control and Firestone Tire and Rubber Company.

Rosa Lee Terry, 91, died on March 19, 2020. She retired at the age of 80 as a Food Service Coordinator at the University of Akron. She was a sought-after caterer with renowned cooking skills.

George L. Young, 71, died August 13, 2020. George was an engineering specialist with the University. Following retirement, he initiated a second career working as a project manager for ASW and Circle K Corporation, concluding his second career in 2017.

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

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

Due to the pandemic situation, the leadership of The Association of The University of Akron Retirees has decided to cancel the Fall Semester luncheons that were scheduled to meet on campus.

We will hold our programs virtually on ZOOM instead of in person for September, October, November, and December 2020. All programs will begin at 11:30 a.m. and end at approximately 1 p.m.

The Fall Semester Schedule is as follows:

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|---------------------|--|
| September 16 | <i>Dr. Mark Auburn & Dr. John Miller, "Hail We Akron!"
A preview of the commemorative book being published to help celebrate UA's 150th Anniversary.</i> |
| October 7 | <i>Dr. Glenn Atwood, "Travelogue on India: Dharamshaia to Kochi"</i> |
| November 18 | <i>Dr. Frank Thomas, "'Goodyear Aerospace's Contribution to National Security."</i> |
| December 16 | <i>To be announced</i> |

Those on our active email list will be sent an email reminder approximately 10 days prior to each program. That email will include instructions for accessing ZOOM. If you do not have an email on file with us, you will be sent a letter detailing Zoom instructions. Please keep that letter as it will be the only mailing you will receive for the September – December programs.

We look forward to meeting with you virtually.

The Spring Semester programs are:

- | | |
|--------------------|---|
| February 17 | <i>Dr. Paul Weinstein, TBA</i> |
| March 17 | <i>Victor Fleischer, "Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company: A Photographic History"</i> |
| April 21 | <i>TBA</i> |

- Spring 2020 - What We Missed!

For years the format for the AUAR Newsletters has been to include articles and photos about the AUAR events that occurred over the last 6 months. However, during this past spring and summer, the COVID-19 situation forced the cancelation of many such activities.

The March and April luncheons were the first activities to go. New University of Akron President, Gary Miller and his wife, Georgia Nix Miller, were to be our guests at Quaker Station on March 11. This was the beginning of the pandemic and the first luncheon to be canceled for a reason other than weather. The April 8 luncheon, featuring a travelogue by Ed Lasher and Tom and Diane Vukovich on their trip to Japan, was also scrubbed.

To finish the academic year, two traditional and very popular AUAR activities were also removed from the calendar. The 2020 Road Trip was to be to Youngstown and an "encore trip" to some extent. In 2002, Tom Vukovich was employed at Youngstown State University as the Interim Executive Director of Enrollment Management after his retirement from The University of Akron in 2000. Both Tom and his wife, Diane (also a UA retiree) had joined the AUAR Board as Co-Chairs of the Program Committee. Together they organized the first AUAR road trip, reviving what was once a staple of the UA Faculty Club, which disbanded in the early 1990's.

That spring 2002 Youngstown trip was not via a chartered bus but by car caravan and featured the Butler Institute of American Art and the Youngstown Historical Center of Industry & Labor. A box lunch was served in Jones Hall outside of Tom's office. On the way back to Akron, many cars followed Tom and Diane to visit the first franchised Handel's ice cream shop, located in Liberty Township. Tom likes to take credit for introducing this group of Akronites to Handel's before they arrived in the Akron area a few years later.

After working with the Mahoning County Convention and Visitor's Bureau, a return trip to Youngstown on April 24 was planned – this time by bus! At this point, the trip is rescheduled for late April or early May of 2021. We will visit the following places: Butler Institute of American Art, Youngstown Historical Center of Industry & Labor, lunch at MVR Restaurant near the YSU campus, Arm's Family Museum, a snack at "One Hot Cookie", and wine tasting at the Mastropietro Winery on the way back to Akron.

Last to be canceled was the annual Lobster & Suds cookout, which most recently has been held at the St. Sebastian Zwisler Hall. Of course, that event has already been rescheduled for 2021.

Under the leadership of President Dan Sheffer, we joined many organizations in turning to ZOOM for virtual AUAR Board meetings in March, April, May, and June. On June 10, Dan tested this method of communication using the internet and did a power point presentation of his "birding" trip to Argentina and Chile. (See that report elsewhere in this newsletter.)

AUAR is adapting to this "new normal" and will continue to support UA retirees with information and activities during the 2020-2021 academic year.

SHEFFER ELECTED OCHER VP

Dear colleagues -

Fifteen people voted in our election. All ballot results were unanimous.

The officers for 2020-2021 will be:

Jerry Feezel (Kent), President
Dan Sheffer (Akron), VP
Michele Hobbs (OSU), Secretary
Jim Lapp (Toledo), Treasurer

Both Jerry and Dan have indicated their willingness to serve in these positions for two years, although there will need to be an election in May 2021. And, as is our custom, there is the presumption that Dan will stand for president in May of 2022.

We will be making our usual \$500 contribution to HPA.

My two-year term as president is now ended other than needing to put together the annual report, which I will do sometime in August. I am happy that we will have strong leadership going forward. The new new officers (i.e., Jerry and Dan) bring a good deal of relevant experience and, of course, Michele and Jim have been stalwarts. My thanks and appreciation to all four of them.

A special thanks to Jerry Newsom for his amazing reporting on HPA activities.

Our meetings are enriched by the contributions and preparations of the STRS and PERS staff copied on this email.

These are strange times. The public four-year universities are under enormous financial pressure due to Covid-19 and, as we know, several of them were in severe distress even before the pandemic hit. It's my belief that public higher education is going to undergo radical transformation over the next 5-10 years. (My thoughts are laid out at <https://medium.com/@kasam123/promise-re-imagining-american-higher-education-7acb74972238>).

But we're all retired and immune to these shocks, right? Not by a long shot. The health of the universities and the public secondary schools cannot be separated from the health of PERS and STRS. We are facing some anxious times. I hope you will join me in helping to sustain OCHER by maintaining your support and active participation.

Best regards,

Steve

Steven R. Howe, Ph.D.
Professor Emeritus of Psychology
University of Cincinnati



A Look Back at Television's "Golden Years" -Speaker: Bill Brauning

Bill Brauning

Many retirees and guests were treated to a look back to the "good old days" at the luncheon meeting on February 12, 2020. Our speaker was "pop culture" historian, Bill Brauning. Bill, a graduate of Kent State University, presented a multi-media program, "The Golden Age of Television – Great Variety Shows of the 60's".

According to Bill, TV variety shows have a history with vaudeville and comedy acts dating back decades before television. Steve Allen was one of the first to bring the vaudeville format to early black and white TV.

Ed Sullivan carried on the tradition with his very successful Sunday night show from 1948 to 1971. Because Ed's show originated from New York City, he often included performances right off the Broadway stage. Bill played a clip of Robert Goulet singing "If Ever I Would Leave You" from "Camelot." However, Ed's program brought us more of a classic variety show featuring comedy acts (remember Topo Gigo), classical and pop music singing groups, dancers, and acting scenes from Broadway productions.



Guest and Susan Hughes

Other popular variety shows during this time featured music as their central theme. The Andy Williams Show and the Dick Clark Beech Nuts Show are examples. Bill treated us with another clip showing Eddie Fisher, Andy Williams, and a young singer new to America, Bobby Darin, singing "Do-Re-Mi" from the "Sound of Music."

Many comedy shows were huge during this period also. Do you remember "Laugh In" and the catch phrase "sock it to me"? How about the Dean Martin Show where Johnathan Winters was a frequent guest? Often Dean could not stop from "cracking up" at the inventive and "off the cuff" comedy of Winters.

Bill showed a classic clip of Flip Wilson, the first African American to host a variety show, doing a skit with heavy weight boxing great, Muhammad Ali. Flip was at his best dressed as female character he developed to the delight of his audience.

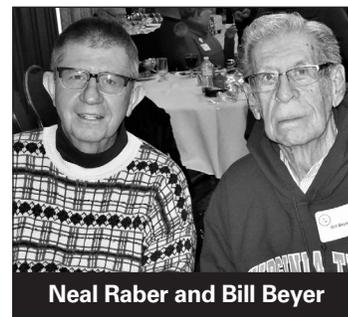
"Geraldine," a sassy talking

Other memorable comedy shows were the "Tonight Show" and the "Carol Burnett Show." Arguably, the best "Tonight Show" host was Johnny Carson. His format often featured animals such as snakes, talking birds, and mammals. These unscripted encounters often left Johnny playing "second fiddle" to his animal guests.

To end his program, Bill showed us a comedy skit from the "Carol Burnett Show" that produced one of the longest continual "laughs" in TV history. It involved Harvey Korman and Cleveland's own Tim Conway doing a skit entitled "A Visit to the Dentist." Conway's antics, many unrehearsed, left Korman "breaking up" and unable to say his lines. Conway was a master at adding his own interpretations to the script to the delight of the audience and his fellow actors.



Gerhard & Diana Kunze



Neal Raber and Bill Beyer

The presentation brought back many memories of growing up in the early days of television.

Richard Milford commented that he remembers the 15-minute news broadcasts and their expansion to 30 minutes. Many people wondered how the news networks could find enough news to cover a whole 30 minutes! Now, of course, we have news available 24/7.

The clips shown by Bill provided the audience with a look back at great entertainment and an opportunity to see some classic comedy routines. While the winter weather had been mild, a February cold snap was predicted for Valentine's Day. Hopefully this laughter-filled program left everyone feeling up-beat enough to cope with the next few gloomy days.



President Dan Sheffer

THE ASSOCIATION OF THE UNIVERSITY OF AKRON RETIREES

E-mail Digest SPECIAL EDITION

The E-mail Digest is a daily compilation of announcements sent Monday through Friday 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 (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.



Martha: I would like to start with AUAR because I understand you were involved with the organization from its beginning. Tell me about your participation.

Bob: Actually, Alberta Hensley and Bob Ferguson had already organized a retirees' group when I became involved. I think I began to meet with them several months after they organized in 1998. To begin, I accompanied Alberta to several meetings of OCHER (Ohio Council of Higher Education Retirees); in one of these excursions (September 18, 2001) I went with her to Ohio University where OCHER conducted its quarterly meeting in recognition of the Ohio University Emeriti Association celebration of the completion of their on-campus Emeriti Park honoring OU retired faculty and staff. From then on, I served along with others-- Ed Lasher, Jim Fee, June Burton, Velma Pomrenke, Tom and Diane Vukovich and Hank Nettling-- as an Akron representative to OCHER. I have been a consistent face with OCHER over the years and have served as its chair.

Tom Vukovich, as chair of AUAR, started the on-campus conferences on subjects of interest—a chance to gather and to present information on the various retirement systems for those people who were approaching retirement; people from STRS, OPERS, and SERS came to present. Hank Nettling, retired controller of the University of Akron, was a most valuable resource as he knew all the history of the retirement systems. We also had people from the community who made presentations illustrating the various after-retirement services. Later we began having monthly luncheons with a speaker September through April. Alberta, with the help of Dan Sheffer, chair of the Faculty Senate at the time (December 2001), was key to getting AUAR two seats on Senate. Dan currently serves as Chair of AUAR. I have served, with others, as an AUAR representative to the Senate.

Martha: What brought you to UA? And how did you and your wife Sharon meet?

Bob: I began as a transfer student from Heidelberg University in the spring of 1955 but was drafted in 1956 subsequently completing my military obligation in the US Navy. Later I completed a B.S in Biology and Physical Education and a M.Ed. in the College of Education. My early teaching positions were with Barberton Public Schools as an elementary teacher in Woodford and Johnson Elementary Schools; these were followed by approximately 10 years of teaching at Highland Junior High (Barberton) in the sciences. Sharon and I, both natives of Akron, were introduced by a friend at the Venice Café in Kent. She is a graduate of Notre Dame College in Cleveland.

Throughout my work career I often advised students: “second only to the completion of your degree requirements is the development of a mentor to advise and guide you into your educational and work career.” I have been fortunate to have had excellent mentors in high school, college, and in graduate studies. Mr. Andrew “Andy” Maluke was my undergraduate and graduate advisor as well as a positive influence in my career development, as he was for many other students and faculty members. When I learned that there might be an opening at UA in a few years, I was motivated to study further. I thought that Sharon would be my support.

Sharon: I told him that if he was going back to school, I would do the same. Working another year, we saved \$10,000, took a two-year leave from our respective jobs, and headed for Ohio State. With that money and \$181 a month from the GI Bill, we lived an idyllic life in Columbus with our two daughters and loved being students. Bob commuted two nights a week from Columbus to teach at UA, which brought in a bit more income. Imagine what a couple would have to save today to do such!

Bob, with his doctorate in exercise physiology, returned to teaching at Highland and again taught two-night classes at UA. I, with a masters in English, picked up my teaching at Wadsworth High School. Originally, I taught at South High School where there was a no-leave policy in case of pregnancy. I had a summer baby, so I had no job for the next year. At that time, Akron would not hire you if your child was not a certain age. Wadsworth needed a teacher in August, and I went there. I never intended to be a career teacher, but I loved teaching; I started the AP English program at Wadsworth.

Martha: With your night teaching at UA, Bob, you were a “known” when an opening came in 1973!

Bob: Yes, along with teaching, I established the exercise physiology lab which included cardiac testing and later served as head of Physical Education for five years. In conjunction with Ruth Layfield Faux in Harvey Sterns’ Gerontology Office and many others on campus and from the Greater Akron Community, we started the Senior Olympics program (local and state levels) here in Akron. It was wonderful to have seniors on campus; we hosted the state Senior Olympics for a few years and had a close association with the city of Akron. When our benefactor at the time, Blue Cross/Blue Shield, could no longer offer support, the program went to a state organization and continues to today. However, we did continue to operate locally.

Martha: After your sabbatical in the late 80s, what then?

Bob: I returned to UA for one year and then went out on a buyout. I was not ready to give up teaching and was looking for something and Slippery Rock University in Pennsylvania called. A part-time position evolved into full-time work in gerontology. I learned that Slippery Rock had an exchange professorship contract with Kangweon University in Chuncheon, Korea, a town located 18 miles south of the DMZ. I applied, not expecting to get the opportunity to teach abroad. With the help of an interpreter, I was a teaching professor for one semester. My students had studied English since the fifth or sixth grade and could read English but were not proficient otherwise. If there was lack of understanding, I could just write information on the board.

Sharon: I was still teaching in 1992, but luckily there was a buyout and I was able to go with Bob. We got off the plane and became illiterate as we could not read any Korean.

The first six weeks were difficult—new culture, new language, new food. Shopping for food was a challenge as we did not know salt from sugar. We could buy a few American products on the black market but mainly had to rely on Korean products; there was little meat and lots of veggies. We would go to Seoul once a week and have an American meal. Their sanitation standards left much to be desired and the food was quite spicy, but we adapted and learned to enjoy their food.

Interestingly, the Koreans were doing online banking in 1992, way ahead of us. The Korean professors at the university who were planning to go abroad would entertain us once a week just so they could practice their English. With a U.S. military base nearby, I was able to get a job teaching English to the American soldiers.

It was called Camp Page and looked like something right out of a MASH unit. I thought I might be able to get food at the base but was not allowed. During our semester there, we had trying times, but we ultimately enjoyed the experience.

Martha: Now, you are back at home.

Bob: Yes, living in a foreign country made me appreciate my country. I returned to teaching at Slippery Rock, where I worked with graduate students on making presentations on gerontology; we did much research in nursing homes doing psychological and physical function measurements.

Martha: Now that you are fully retired, I know that you are both are involved in the community.

Sharon: For many years now, we have hosted international visitors in our home through Global Ties Akron. I volunteered with Meals on Wheels for a long time but no longer because of the pandemic. Currently I volunteer at Stan Hywet as a docent and I am a member of the League of Women Voters. Also, I serve as co-chair of the Book Review Group of the UA Women Club. We have been long-time subscribers of Akron Symphony, Tuesday Musical and Playhouse Square.

Martha: You both enjoy travel; Mel and I have been co-travelers with you on several trips. I have heard you speak of Sicily as a favorite spot.

Sharon: We have 17 pins on the map pointing to our trips to Greece and the Greek Islands, Africa, Russia, France, Italy (my very favorite), England, Mexico, and Korea, among others.

Martha: It is my understanding that Bob’s favorite thing is eating out. What is your favorite restaurant?

Bob: Any restaurant that has a white tablecloth! We enjoy Edgar’s at Good Park and Santo Suosso in Medina.

Sharon: We have belonged to a Gourmet Group for over thirty years and the meals we cook together surpass the offerings in most restaurants.

Martha: Speaking further of favorite things ... you’re dog lovers.

Sharon: In 50 years, we have had three long-lived dogs: Daisy, Coco, and Cooper, our current dog. We love our dogs.

Martha: Bob and Sharon, you are most generous to share with AUAR your professional lives, activities, and interests. I thank you both. Bob, we are appreciative of your many years of service to AUAR and we anticipate your continuing as our political action affiliate.

“Virtual Luncheon” Travelogue — By Dan Sheffer

Birding Trip to Argentina in March 2019 taken by Dan and Therese Sheffer

Dan’s parents introduced him to birding in the 1960s, but it wasn’t until the mid 1970’s when Dan and Therese lived in Texas and saw their first Scissor-tailed flycatcher which started their real interest in bird watching. The move to Ohio in 1980 with its ideal location on one of the major migratory pathways of the world really fanned the flames. After retirement, their first international birding trip together came in 2015 to Peru and the Amazon, and since that time they have taken one or two trips every year, among them Ecuador, Panama, Costa Rica, Spain, Iceland, Zambia, Botswana and Namibia.

Their Argentina trip took them to three different areas of the country in summer: the Pampas region near Buenos Aires, Tierra del Fuego and the northwest corner of Argentina . The two-and-a-half-week trip allowed them to see different environments and many, many different birds. In the Buenos Aires area, their base, they saw these beauties.



Then to Ushuaia, on Tierra del Fuego, where they viewed the steep, snowcapped Andes Mountains and shorelines of the region. Birders get up early; generally, they arose at 5 and met their group outside at 6 for an hour or two of birding before a buffet breakfast. Mid-morning, there was more birding before a boxed lunch and more birding before dinner at the hotel, checklists of the day’s sightings, laundry (must get clothes ready for next day), and sleep. In the Tierra del Fuego National Park, on the border of Chile and Argentina, a highlight for Dan was seeing the Magellanic woodpecker, a bird he had always wanted to see. Seen here is the Andean Condor with a 7- to 10-foot wing spread . Time for a condor celebration shot!



East of Ushuaia, they explored the Beagle Channel, windy, cold with mountains all around. Next they went north to the border of Chile near the Straits of Magellan to Porvenir, where they observed adult King penguins with a crèche of chicks and Magellanic Plover in a dance.

The third region in the northwest corner of Argentina, Salta, included the high desert and the rain forest. In all, the group saw 296 different species of birds on the trip! Dan’s enthusiasm for birding showed through with his bird observations and descriptions.



Before the meeting concluded, it was also confirmed that the group sighted and sampled, several Malbecs on the trip!

Website to explore: www.allaboutbirds.org (Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology)

Suggested reading: *Rounding the Horn*, by Dallas Murphy (about geography, weather, winds, and people)

RETIREE DEPENDENT HEALTH INSURANCE

Following the May 29, 2020 action of The University Board of Trustees, the University of Akron sent out a letter on June 2, 2020 to 322 non-bargaining Retiree Dependents informing them that their university health insurance will be terminated on December 31, 2020. Please Note: Another 95 retiree dependents are part of the bargaining unit. The fate of their retiree dependent insurance is part of the current contract negotiation and not yet decided.

THE FOLLOWING ARTICLE IS NOT LEGAL OR EXPERT ADVICE AS IT IS BASED ON PERSONAL EXPERIENCES; FOR LEGAL OR EXPERT ADVICE CONSULT AN ATTORNEY, CPA, FINANCIAL ADVISOR, OR INSURANCE BROKER.

Ideas on replacing retiree dependent health insurance are as follow:

Retiree Dependents on Medicare

- Retiree Dependents who are participants in a state retirement system, (STRS, SERS, OPERS) may find their health care plans are their best choices. Check to see what their open enrollment dates are.
- Medicare supplement Plans (Medigap) are plans that work with your original Medicare plan for additional insurance beyond what Medicare offers. Most of these do not include prescription coverage (part D). A separate Part D plan will need to be purchased. These plans may be more expensive than Medicare Advantage plans.
- Medicare Advantage Plans offer an alternative way for Medicare coverage through a private insurance Medicare-approved plan, such as a Preferred Provider Organization(PPO) and Health Maintenance Organization (HMO), which are very common and may offer additional benefits within a Healthcare Network System.
- A Medicare Advantage Plan may include Prescription Medication coverage (Plan D). If your Medicare Advantage Plans does not include medication coverage, you may need to add a separate Part D plan.
- Some Healthcare Network System Plans cover your medical needs while traveling within the USA; some cover your medical needs only within local or regional healthcare systems. These different networks may affect your premium costs and benefits. Using a medical provider outside your network will be more expensive.

Medicare wants to help you obtain more information before enrolling in any Medicare plan.

- Call Medicare (1-800-Medicare) and talk to a representative or request information on medical insurance plans that are available to you.
- Look at the Medicare Website (<https://www.medicare.gov/>), enter **State and ZipCode**, click **"Find Plans for 2020"**. The plans that were offered for 2020 will be listed from Medicare. These plans may differ from the 2021 plans that you will be enrolling in.
- Some people use an Independent Medicare Broker (also called Insurance Agent) which should be at no cost to the retiree/Medicare enrollee. These agents will help you find the best plan to meet your needs. Search the Internet using **"Find a Local Medicare Insurance Agent."** Friends may also make a recommendation for an Independent Medicare Insurance Agent.
- Medicare plan open enrollment starts October 15 through December 7. **"During open enrollment, think about the year ahead. Compare health and prescription drug plans for 2021."** (www.medicare.gov.)
- During the open enrollment period, States will usually have a website with information. US News also publishes a listing of Medicare Plans each year for States and Counties.

For those dependents under 65 or over 65 and not on both part A&B of Medicare

- One option for insurance coverage is through the Affordable Care Act. A good way to find insurance may be through an independent insurance agent or broker. For those not on Medicare some agents charge the clients.

Shop around carefully

Retiree dependents who have lost their insurance

Some other things to do after you have decided on new insurance that will start on January 1, 2021

1. Before enrolling in new insurance check to see that your medical providers accept that insurance. It's possible you could have to change medical providers.
2. For those over 65, present letter from the university about credible coverage to your new insurer. Hopefully, the new insurer will take care of that for you or tell you how to handle it.
3. You may have to get new prescriptions from your physician, especially if the new insurance has a different pharmacy manager than the old insurance
4. Stop any automatic payments to Chard Snyder after your December premium has been paid

FACULTY SENATE SPRING 2020

During the Spring Semester 2020, the activities of the Faculty Senate included the following:

- Approved a motion brought by the Academic Policies Committee to change University Rule 3359-60-03.6 to grant levels of distinction for students who are completing their program after transferring to The University of Akron and attaining very high GPAs.
- Approved a motion brought by the Academic Policies Committee to approve the change of name of the School of Allied Health Technology to School of Allied Health.
- Approved courses and programs brought by Curriculum Review Committee.
- Approved a motion brought by Senator Haritos to endorse the recommendation from UC Budget & Finance Committee regarding research grants.
- Approved a motion brought by the Academic Policies Committee to change University Rule 3359-20-05.1 in order to specify that all grades for the course are to be included in the records to be retained. There is a second change to the rule regarding the length of time a student has to challenge a grade. Faculty Senate approved that part of the rule change in December.
- Approved the list of graduates for the spring 2020 semester.
- Approved a motion brought by Computing & Communications Technologies Committee regarding a one-year extension for Webex contract.
- Approved a motion brought by the Academic Policies Committee regarding reassessment with change of major (If a student changes major, with some requirements he/she may request the omission of up to three courses from the cumulative GPA taken prior to change of major).
- Approved a motion brought by the Academic Policies Committee regarding the timeline for dismissal for academic deficiency (It is extended to a maximum of four consecutive semester, excluding summer terms).
- Approved a motion brought by the Academic Policies Committee regarding the waiting periods for admission with adult status, for readmission following dismissal, and for transfer admission following dismissal from another institution (It is reduced from five years to two years).
- Approved a motion brought by the Academic Policies Committee regarding the Department of Curricular & Instructional Studies of the LeBron James Family Foundation College of Education requesting a change of admission for their undergraduate program to:
 - a) A GPA of 2.5 or better overall and 2.5 or better overall in prerequisite credit hours from specific courses identified by the Department.
 - b) Demonstration of competency on a measure of writing expression evaluated by the faculty.

For more details please visit faculty senate web page at uakron.edu

Keeping in Touch with You

In this time of very limited opportunities for actually getting together for social events or meetings, it is very important that we take advantage of alternate ways to communicate with one another. Two avenues that we have now are the AUAR Web page and Updates that are sent using email and US Mail.

AUAR web page. If you have not yet had a chance, why not take a few minutes and explore our web page. We regularly add information to keep you up to date on our group opportunities for socializing or other special events in the Akron area, your benefits, and the latest actions of the AUAR Executive Board. You might wish to know a bit about our history, our constitution, and our organization.

The AUAR web site is located at www.uakron.edu/auar. Enter this address once and bookmark the page for future visits. Once in our AUAR home page, you can click on any of the topics listed on the left-hand edge of the page to automatically go to information you are interested in reading. Topics include: History, Board Members (with contact information), Constitution, Board Minutes, Luncheons/Speakers, Special Events, Newsletter (current and past editions), Announcements, Post-Retirement Benefits and Membership Brochure (information and application). The home page also has a link to the contact list of all retired faculty and staff of The University of Akron. If you have suggestions for items to include on our web page, please let us know.

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Updates. When there is information that we feel you need to know about immediately, we use email or US Mail. So far since March 2020, we have sent out numerous letters with important information for our members. Several problems have occurred and we would ask your assistance in fixing these issues. First, there are over 400 members who are on the AUAR list server that is used for sending email messages. We are thankful that so many of you have chosen to get your updates using this method. It saves us a tremendous amount of time in US Mail preparation and also saves us the cost of postage. Unfortunately, some members have contacted us citing problems receiving these emails. One solution might help if you would change your email address on our list server from the one that uses uakron.edu and replace it with the email address that you commonly use, i.e., your gmail or yahoo or whatever email server you most commonly use or check. Just send your desired email address to sheffer@uakron.edu and we will see that the list server address is modified.

To those members who are still receiving all information by US Mail, please consider changing your method of receiving communications from AUAR to using email if you have a computer or cell phone with internet access. Be assured that the AUAR Newsletter is always sent to all members by US Mail.

New At-Large Board Members

Timothy Lillie

A warm welcome to Timothy Lillie who formally joined the AUAR Board during its July 2020 meeting. Dr. Lillie brings to the Board a wealth of knowledge of a University in transformation. He was an active member of the faculty of the College of Education as it evolved into the LeBron James Family Foundation College of Education. Tim considers Indiana, PA, his hometown. He graduated from Lafayette College in Easton, Pennsylvania with a degree in English as well as a teaching certification (1971). His MEd (1988) and PhD (1991) were received from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Prior to his 1996 arrival at Akron, he taught at two other universities. Tim's first faculty position, as a Zip, was a Special Education position, in the Department of Counseling and Special Education, moving eventually to the Department of Curricular and Instructional Studies in the College of Education. His career focus was on disability studies with a concentration on the end-of-life issues confronting disabled persons. Self-advocacy for disabled individuals was an additional focus.

Tim was an active member of the Faculty Senate serving as a member of the Executive Committee of the Senate and was instrumental in the establishment of the University Council serving as the first Chair of the Council. Additionally, he was among the faculty group that founded the Faculty Union. Therefore, he brings to AUAR a wealth of information relative to the process, or the lack thereof, of shared governance.

Richard Steiner

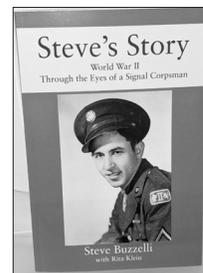
Dick grew up on a farm in western Pennsylvania and attended Grove City College, where he met his wife Carolyn; both had a major in biology. His first teaching job was at Portersville Christian School, where he taught all of the sciences for grades 7-12. Although he loved those years at PCS, he knew that he wanted to teach at

the college level. His graduate studies in biology at Clarion State College (PA) were followed by studies in biostatistics at the University of Michigan, where he earned a Ph.D. and a master's of public health degree (MPH). In 1983, he joined The University of Akron, largely because of the value this institution placed on teaching. Through the Center for Statistical Consulting, he met people from many disciplines and collaborated with their research. In the late 1990s, he helped to develop the Consortium of Eastern Ohio Universities MPH program and served the program in various capacities. He was a Faculty Senator for two terms and served on the Curriculum Review, Executive Committee, and the Academic Policies Committee. Dick retired after the Spring 2018 semester. Presently he and Carolyn, also retired, enjoy a bit more freedom to do things, such as hiking and birding. He has taken up photography of all sorts, but mainly wildlife. They very much miss seeing their granddaughter, who is entering the fourth grade. Recently, Dick has become reasonably proficient using Photoshop and InDesign as a result of editing artwork and doing the page layout for Carolyn's rhyming children's stories that are available on Amazon. He says "It's been fun ... mostly... at least 93% of the time, ± 5%." Since retirement, he has taught one graduate course each semester. "I guess I can't just give it up," he says.

Jaci Wilbanks

New Member-at-Large Jaci Wilbanks has had 2 fabulous careers! She retired from the Canton Public Schools as a history teacher in 1989. From that point, since she was only 50 years old, she entered a new era by joining the University of Akron as a doctoral student in Education. Falling in love with the University, she ended up accepting a full-time position after she had completed her program as a Licensure Coordinator in the College of Education. She handled the paperwork for students as they processed their certification or licensure within the state of Ohio, managed their test preparation and even participated in recruitment. To quote Jaci: "I've had two great careers!" And we ended our conversation with "Go Zips!" We're looking forward to Jaci's participation on the Board this fall.

Unexpected Journey into World War II



A "retirement project" of preserving family keepsakes turned into a journey lasting over 2 years for board member Rita Klein. After typing up the diary that was kept by her father, Steve Buzzelli, a member of the 53rd Signal Corps during WWII, she realized the document needed some context. So after wrapping some history around the entries and adding photos and postcards saved by her father, Rita realized that she and her father had brought to life nearly 3 years of World War II! Wanting to make it as broadly available to family members and others interested in memoirs of this type, Rita self-published the book this spring. Quite an unexpected journey to be sure!!

AUAR Membership, Human Resources

The University of Akron • Buchtel Commons, Akron, OH 44325

If you haven't renewed your AUAR membership for the 2020-2021 year, it is time to do so. Don't forget our Scholarship fund where we provide some funding for a worthy student. Please complete the items listed below, and mail your check or checks to the address below.

If you have an e-mail address, please submit it.

Name: First _____ Last _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

E-Mail Address: _____

Dues are **\$12.00**; make checks payable to "AUAR"

Scholarship Donation _____; make checks payable to the U of A Foundation

The 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. Because of COVID-19 concerns, The Board meets on the 4th Thursday of the month using Zoom.

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. The newsletter editor, Martha Vye, can be reached at vye@uakron.edu or 330-644-7490.

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 and click on the Menu "Special Events" or type www.uakron.edu/auar/special-events.dot

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Vukovich receives Lifetime Service Award



Dr. Tom Vukovich, associate provost emeritus of student affairs, has been named by Omicron Delta Kappa's National Awards Committee as the 2020 recipient of the John "Jack" D. Morgan Award for Lifetime Service to Omicron Delta Kappa. This award celebrates Vukovich's more than 40 years of service working with

The University of Akron's Theta Circle chapter, the eighth oldest chapter celebrating 100 years in 2022, as well as his leadership at the national level, including the national vice president for circle standards, a member of the Foundation Board of Trustees and the Campaign Planning Committee, and now as an Emeritus Trustee.

Vukovich was recognized during a virtual award ceremony on June 28.

BOARD MEETINGS 2020

Sept. 24

Oct. 22

Dec. 3

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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Akron, OH 44325-4730
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