



# THE AUAR NEWSLETTER

The Association of The University of Akron Retirees

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## President's Message

Once again, greetings to all our members, returning and new! As you will see, AUAR is still intact and thriving. The dire predictions that my presidency might lead to the demise of the organization have not come to fruition! Unfortunately, I cannot take credit for this accomplishment. It is due to all the hard work of the AUAR Board members, willing to volunteer their time in the planning and the execution of our many events. They get the job done!

Last May, there were thirteen members who volunteered to make our Lobster & Suds event another success (Bob Fritz, Bob and Sharon Gandee, Loren Hoch, Dennis and Rita Klein, Pam Rupert, Tom and Diane Vukovich, Frank Thomas, Dan Sheffer, Bob Leonard, and myself)! All of them showed how great they are at multitasking! They have inspired me to become better at multitasking. In the past, I thought I was good at multitasking, because I could waste time, be unproductive, and procrastinate all at once! The work of our Board has not ceased. Much has been going on during the summer months.

For the first time in 18 years, Bob Blankenship will not be serving as treasurer. Last spring, the Nominations Committee found a competent replacement for Bob – Ted Oravec! He agreed to serve, and he was elected unanimously in our spring election. (It helped that he ran unopposed!) Matter of fact, in anticipation of Ted replacing Bob, the membership of AUAR approved an amendment to the AUAR Constitution permitting Associate Members to serve on the Board. Well, as Murphy's Law would have it, Ted resigned before serving one day as treasurer! During the summer, he moved to Columbus, Ohio. It was necessary to appoint someone to serve out the rest of his term; which, in fact, was the whole two-year term! As I related above, you can always count on the Board members. John Heminger enthusiastically - well maybe not enthusiastically (I exaggerate!). He graciously agreed to serve out the remaining two-year term. Thank you, John!

During the summer months, AUAR Board members have been working with Tom and Diane Vukovich in scheduling the speakers for our luncheons. Progress has been made, though the process is time consuming. It reminds me of the answer to the question, "How many retirees does it take to screw in a light bulb?" Answer - ONE, but it will take all day!

After you read in this newsletter the list of interesting speakers and topics, you will find it very difficult to miss any of our upcoming luncheons! For example, if you are looking for a new physical fitness activity, don't miss the October luncheon. Bob Grau, a retired professor, will tell us how he took up hiking after retirement, and walked the entire Appalachian Trail in 170 days – March 22 to September 7. (For some reason, Jackie is encouraging me to listen carefully when Bob speaks, and to try the hike myself!) In December, we will even have an orchestra for your listening pleasure! And don't forget, you could win the 50/50 raffle!

Speaking of the 50/50 raffle, there are some updates you will find interesting. Ed Lasher has moved into the lead as the winner of the biggest pot - \$77 at the April, 2018 bus trip. By the way, we are always looking for volunteers to sell the tickets. Cathy Edwards remains in the lead for the person who sold the tickets and also won the raffle! She sold the tickets at our 2017 November luncheon and won the \$56 pot! However, I should mention that selling the tickets may not be that profitable! I sold them at the March 2017 luncheon and also won! Unfortunately, the pot was \$7.50! (I am not talented at sales!) Additionally, keep this in mind when you are asked to serve on the AUAR Board – 66% of the winnings have been won by members who have served on the Board!! OOPS, I was told not to mention that again. Don't tell anyone! But, anyway, keep it in mind and consider running for a position on our Board!! You might even be unopposed in the election!

Thanks to the generosity of our members, our scholarship fund is more than \$120,000. In addition to making generous donations, our members know how to enjoy themselves when raising money for the fund! In April, we had a fundraiser at Little City Grill in Kent and we enjoyed ourselves at an Italian wine tasting dinner. In all, we raised \$400 for the fund, and we felt no pain in doing so! Even the owner of Little City Grill, Bert Bellison, donated a check of \$80. Thanks, Bert! For the upcoming school year, we were able to give out two \$2500 scholarships. You can read about the recipients in this newsletter.

Suggestions for luncheon speakers and for social events are more than welcome. If you have any new ideas, please tell a Board member. We will be discussing new ideas about our November pot luck dinner and we will be planning other evening events. Evening events work well, because maybe you have noticed that the older we get, the earlier it gets late!

*Well, let's enjoy the fall season together at our many social events. See you soon!*



Neal C. Raber  
President 2017-20

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## In Memoriam

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

With our condolences to their families and friends, we honor our colleagues and friends for their many contributions in making the University a better place.

**Bruce Armstrong**, 80, died December 17, 2017. Bruce was a Professor of Art at the University from 1971-1994. He was instrumental in the development and growth of the University's Graphic Design Program. While on active duty with the U.S. Army, he designed and oversaw the construction of the first Special Warfare Museum at Fort Bragg, NC.

**Dr. J. Wayne Baker**, 84, died July 13, 2018. Dr. Baker was a Professor in the Department of History for 32 years. With others, he wrote the course Western Cultural Traditions. Many students of his era were familiar with this course.

**Nancy (Salvatore) Brigandi**, 87, died April 26, 2018. Nancy loved her job as an administrator in the College of Business.

**Barbara Clark**, 90, died January 12, 2018. She was a librarian at the Bierce Library. After 36 years of service, she retired in 1985. Barbara was also a long-standing member of the AUAR Board.

**Barry L. Collier**, 82, died April 13, 2018. Barry was the husband of JoAnn Collier a member of the AUAR Board. Barry would frequently attend the AUAR luncheons with JoAnn.

**Mary "Miss D" DiDonato**, 87, passed away January 11, 2018. Mary was the eldest of the DiDonato children from Garfield who have left a rich heritage in the annals of the University of Akron. Brother Rudy, particularly, was a student-athlete during the early 1950s and has continued to maintain a strong affiliation with the Varsity A. Not a University graduate, Mary was a member of the St. Thomas Hospital School of Nursing's first graduating class (1951). Through her generosity and commitment to the University, Mary established a scholarship fund which has presented 53 scholarship to 42 students in the medical profession.

**William M. Glazier**, Ph.D., 93, passed away May 21, 2018. Following an extensive teaching career in the engineering school at Fort Belvoir, VA, Civil Engineering Department at Cleveland State University and as a visiting Professor in Taiwan and China, Bill retired as a Professor Emeritus from the University following 26 years of service. He also played the Tuba in Tucker Jolly's Tuba Christmas and was among the oldest players for many years.

**Tom A. Goosby** passed away June 25, 2018. Before retiring from the University, Tom worked as an Assistant Director in the Student Union. Later in his career, he was the Facilities Manager in the Department of Intercollegiate Athletics.

**James A. Granlee**, 86, passed away June 20, 2018. James retired from the University as the Custodial Night Supervisor with over 30 years of service.

**Barbara J. Hayes**, 87, passed away May 31, 2018. After retiring from General Tire with 22 years of service, Barbara retired from the University.

**Robert W. Hlgham**, 77, passed away January 13, 2018. After law school at the University of Akron, Bob was admitted to practice in Ohio in 1969 and worked for Nationwide Insurance and the Summit County Juvenile Court. Subsequently, he retired as a Professor Emeritus from the Criminal Justice Program where he developed the Paralegal Program.

**Isaac C. Hunt, Jr.** 80, died October 29, 2017. Ike, as he was known, was the Dean of the Law School from 1987 to 1995.

**Norman O. Killian**, 82, passed away June 9, 2018. Norman retired from the Printing Department in 1989.

**Frances Laura (Kent) Kinsinger**, 72, died January 10, 2018. Prior to her 20-year teaching tenure in the English Department, Frances enjoyed frequent interaction with wives of NATO officers of the German, Dutch, and Belgian military while an U. S. Army officer's wife. Additionally, she managed the U.S. Army Post Exchange in Sogel, Germany.

**Mona Klingler (Shank)**, 61, died April 16, 2018. Mona retired as a tenured Associate Professor in the Audiology Department in 2015.

**Richard "Butch" J. Moore**, 59, passed away July 13, 2018. He retired with 33 years of service at the University.

**Alice H. Phillips**, 88, passed away December 28, 2017. She was the wife of Marvin E. Phillips who worked out of Dean Rogers' office in the C&T College. Alice enjoyed teaching in a variety of non-conventional settings including the LBJ's Great War on Poverty, The Akron Man Power Center, and the Hartville Immigrant Workers. She also taught freshman comp and technical report writing at the University.

**Glen H. Snyder**, 75, passed away March 28, 2018. Glen taught Psychology at the University and was a pioneer in alcohol and drug addiction counselling.

**Arthur E. Stratton, Jr.**, 60, died July 4, 2018. Arthur was a painter for the University.

**Rose M. Strebler (Moro)** died July 31, 2018. Rose traveled with Tom and Diane to Spain and Portugal.

**Regina M. Sudia**, 86, passed away January 16, 2018. She served the University as a librarian in the Law Library.

**Gladys Marie Wyant (Mathis)**, 93, passed away February 17, 2018. She retired from the Law Library.



## February Luncheon – Sherri Bevan Walsh Summit County Prosecutor, Speaks at Valentine’s Day Luncheon

**Sherri Bevan Walsh**

On a relatively mild, snowless February day, some 50 retirees enjoyed socializing at lunch and then listening to Sherri Bevan Walsh talk to us about safety. She was elected Summit County Prosecutor in 2000. Last year, her office prosecuted 4100 felonies and more than 1000 cases in Juvenile Court. She told us that crime is everywhere and at all times of the day. She told us about cases she had prosecuted and she used these cases as examples to point out many actions we can take to stay safe.

Women should be careful with their purses. When shopping, they should not dangle a purse, but they should hold it firmly under their arm. Always, be aware of your surroundings. There are just as many females who snatch purses as males. While grocery shopping, one should not let anyone divert their attention and if a woman’s purse is in the cart, never turn your back on it. Purse snatchers sometimes work in pairs, and while one distracts you, another takes your wallet from your purse. Be careful in parking lots. Do not leave your purse in your cart while loading groceries into the trunk. Criminals have been known to drive by and grab purses! She recommended putting your purse in the trunk before you load groceries. If someone tries to grab your purse, don’t fight. She told us purse contents are replaceable, but individuals are not!

When it comes to men and wallets, they should be aware of their surroundings when pumping gas. The latest modus operandi is for someone to approach with a gun and demand the surrender of a wallet. If you look around and do not let anyone approach you without you first seeing them, you are less likely to be victimized. She mentioned a case in Hudson, no less, where a wallet was taken at gunpoint at a gas station!

Sherri Bevan Walsh told us to keep our garage doors closed when we are working in the yard. She also does not recommend opening your house door to a stranger in the daytime; however, you should let them know you are in the house. She, personally, yells through the door. She told us that daytime burglars do not want to try to enter house known to be occupied, especially when it appears to be occupied by a crazy lady! She also told us that writing a check to a stranger soliciting for money is not good. Your check has on it your name, your address, your account number, and the bank routing number. These items are good to know for online purchases!

Sherri Bevan Walsh fielded many questions from the attendees. Her answers included recommendations to not leave a key to your house hidden somewhere on the premises, to consider household burglar alarms, and to consider installing motion detector lights on the exterior of your house. Additionally, she told us that giving money to individuals holding cardboard signs at intersections was a bad idea! She also mentioned that if we encounter any scam attempts, we should report it to our local police department.

Before she finished, she told us about the latest scams in our area and everyone in attendance had the opportunity to sign up for email scam alerts from her office. We also received a take home bag from her. It included pamphlets and other novelty items.

In all, Sherri Bevan Walsh was interesting, informative, and helpful. You could not come away from her presentation without feeling that she really cares about the safety of all of us. She works hard to prevent crime and to bring criminals to justice. We are fortunate to have her as the Summit County Prosecutor.



**Ted Oravec and Diane Vukovich**



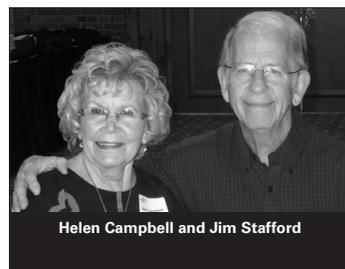
**Dick Henry and Bill Pritchard**



**John Heminger and Gerhard & Diana Kunze**



**President Neal Raber introduces speaker Summit County Prosecutor Sherri Bevan Walsh**



**Helen Campbell and Jim Stafford**



**Tom & Diane Vukovich and Mini Pritchard**



## March Luncheon – Chinese Trip in Sichuan

**Philip Thompson, Luncheon Speaker**

Approximately 50 AUAR members and guests attended the March 14th luncheon at Quaker Station. Our guest speakers were Philip Thomson, head of Piano Studies at The University of Akron, Sijia Wang, a graduate student of Mr. Thomson's and Yangsoon Kim Thomson. The speakers presented a very interesting account of their five days travelling in China in the Northwest region of Sichuan on the border of Tibet. Mr. Thomson first gave us an idea of the altitudes at which they spent their sightseeing and hiking journey. For example, the airport at which they landed was at 11,500 feet. Everywhere else they traveled from that airport was at a higher elevation. Their party included the three speakers, Sijia Wang's parents, a tour guide and a driver. The local inhabitants of this area of China include two of the 55 recognized minority groups that make up 10% of the population of China, the Zang and Qiang. They first visited Tiu Zhai Gou, an area that has been designated as a National Park to prevent destruction of the land due to mining and logging activities. The elevation of this park was more than two and one-half miles above sea level. The park is famous for its many lakes, known as seas and waterfalls, including the largest in all of China. We were treated to beautiful photographs and descriptions of these lakes and falls with names such as "Five Color Sea", "Panda Sea" and "Peacock Sea", that the group encountered while hiking three long trails over an eight hour period.

They then went even higher in elevation to visit the highest national park in China, Huanglong, to experience hiking from the highest point down and along the beautiful Yellow Dragon. This journey took these adventurers along a series of pools known for their yellow edges. At this altitude, the group was exposed to conditions that could result in significant altitude sickness. At one point, a nurse boarded their bus to offer advice and a solution to drink prior to embarking called "liquid oxygen". In addition, oxygen stations were available at intervals along the hiking trails as they descended.

Mr. Thomson described the food and culture that they encountered, including a story of his first horse riding experience. Sijia Wang presented a very nice explanation of the Buddhist prayer flags that are found in the nomadic settlements of the Zhang. The presentation ended with photographs showing the massive destruction to many of the sights visited in the Tiu Zhai Gou region following a devastating earth quake that took place after they left China. Mr. Thomson, Ms. Wang and Ms. Yonsoon Kim Thomson then took time to answer the many questions that were posed by the luncheon audience.

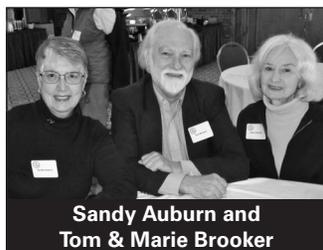
Notes on the speakers: Philip Thomson is the head of Piano Studies at The University of Akron. He was born in New Brunswick, Canada and began piano lessons in his home town of Saint John, then at the University of Toronto and at the Juilliard School. Mr Thomson won the Juilliard School's Liszt concerto competition and has recorded the world premiere of the Maxwell edition of Liszt's "De Profundis" with the Hungarian State Orchestra. He then performed the Hungarian, Italian, American and Canadian premieres of the work. He has released three CDs of Liszt for Naxos records. Mr. Thomson has performed in Hungary, Austria, England, Ireland, France, the Netherlands, China, Korea and the United States.

Yangsoon Kim was born in Jinju, South Korea and received a degree in Public Administration from Ewha Womans University. She has studied at the Wine Nara Academy in Seoul and holds the title of "sommelier". Yangsoon Kim has devoted a great deal of her studies to Korean History, Korean History of Art and the History of Western Art at the Doosan Art Centre, the Seoul Museum of History and National Palace Museum of Korea, to name a few. She has given many series of lectures on the history of both western and Korean art, Korean history and the cultural history of wine. She moved to the United States in 2017

Sijia Wang was born in Yiyang, Hunan Province, China. She studied piano at the Wuhan Conservatory of Music and received a Bachelors Degree in Music Education. Sijia Wong moved to the United States and obtained a Masters in Music Education and a Masters in Piano Performance at The University of Akron as a graduate assistant of Dr. Laurie Lafferty and Philip Thomson. She is currently enrolled in the Doctoral of Music Arts Program at the West Virginia University.



**Bob Blankenship, Bob Gandee, Diane Vukovich and Neal Raber.**



**Sandy Auburn and Tom & Marie Brooker**



**Bob & Rae Leonard**



**Dan Sheffer, Sijia Wang and luncheon co-speaker Yangsoon Kim**



## Cop Killers in Akron is April Luncheon Topic

President Neal Raber, Speaker Mark Price and Tom Vukovich

Award-winning journalist, Mark Price of the Akron Beacon Journal, was our luncheon speaker on April 11, 2018. Mark is well known for his local history column, "This Place, This Time". He has written this popular column for the ABJ for over 20 years. Mark is also the author of "The Rest is History: True Tales from Akron's Vibrant Past" (2012) and "Lost Akron" (2015). His latest book, "Mafia Cop Killers in Akron: The Gang War Before Prohibition", was the topic presented to over 50 retirees and guests.

Mark briefly reviewed the early 20th century here in Akron. From 1910 to 1920 Akron's population swelled from 69,067 to over 208,000 as labors sought jobs in the growing rubber factories. Such rapid growth included a flood of strangers to the city, including thousands of immigrants from war-torn Europe.

Good money from factory jobs and overcrowded living conditions inevitably produced criminals, con artists and places to conduct their unlawful activities. During the period from 1917 to 1919, gangsters shot seven Akron police officers, killing five. Patrolman Guy Norris was killed on December 23, 1917. His name and the names of four other officers are listed on the memorial in front of the Police Department Building in downtown Akron.

Who started the war against Akron's police? According to Price, Rosario Borgia was the ringleader. He and his thugs called themselves "The Black Hand" gang and did not use the term "mafia". One could speculate that Borgia, who was from the Calabria Region of Italy and not a Sicilian, decided to keep true to his native affiliation.

Rosario Borgia hated the police for raiding his brothel and disrupting his various illicit businesses. While he never was convicted of murder, at least five unsolved killings were attributed to him or his gang members whom he ordered to be "hit men". Much of the gang activities centered around Borgia's Pool Hall on Furnace Street and other downtown locations.

After intense police work and information gathered from "hoods" who turned on each other, Rosario Borgia and two other members of his gang were sentenced to death at the Ohio Penitentiary. Two more were given life sentences. While the Borgia gang members had been caught and prosecuted, other Italian gangsters continued to operate until about 1920.

Mark noted that had Rosario Borgia just continued with his criminal activities and not resorted to ordering murders, he may have been able to prosper with Prohibition coming on the American scene.

Look for this book and others written by Mark J. Price. You will be entertained by his well-researched and documented stories from places close to home.



Bob Blankenship recognized for serving as AUAR Treasurer for 18 years will be stepping down.



Dan Sheffer, Carl Lieberman and Wolfgang Pelz



Pam Rupert, Loren Hoch and Sandy Auburn



Phylis & Tom Getzinger and Bill Beyer and Loren Hoch

## Scholarship Awards

The University of Akron Retirees Association has awarded two \$2500 scholarships to students for the forthcoming academic year. The recipients are Lucas Bloom and Cierra Simmons.

Mr. Bloom is a senior, majoring in Mechanical Engineering. He is an active member of the University's rocket design team, and he has worked with others to encourage an understanding and passion for science among K-12 students. He has also worked to help single parent families who are homeless.

Ms Simmons is a senior in the pre-physical therapy program. At the University, she helped to organize CASA, the Coalition Against Sexual Violence, which works closely with the Rape Crisis Center. She has served as President of the National Society of Leadership and Success and is an active member of Kappa Omicron Nu, a health science honor society. She is also a Recruitment Chair for Mortar Board Honor Society. She is finishing a double minor in Child Development and Psychology and completing certification in Manual Communication.



**Pam:** Hello Bob, thanks for speaking with me. Well, you are finally retiring from your latest position associated with The University of Akron after 19 years as Treasurer of AUAR, the retirees association. A long service time!

**Bob:** Yes, I was a charter member, so there from the beginning.

**P:** There are just a few of us left, and we have seen the many changes and

development of the organization into the vibrant one it is now. You are also a real Akron local, having attended elementary & high school here (Margaret Park & South HS, respectively, both now gone) before enrolling in the University of Akron for your undergraduate degree. What was your field? What other activities did you enjoy?

**Bob:** I ended up with a B.S. in Business Administration (then still part of the Liberal Arts College). I spent 3 years as a student assistant in the Visual Aids Department of the Library. I also played trumpet in the Marching Band (as I had done in H.S.), joined the Phi Sigma Kappa Fraternity, and took advanced ROTC.

**P:** The latter was very popular back in the late '40's, 50's. And we know where it often led.

**B:** In 1950 upon graduation I was commissioned as a 2nd Lt. in the Army Infantry Reserve, and got extra training at Ft Benning, GA. After a series of unsatisfactory positions in the "outside" world, Dorothy Hamlin had hired me for the then small Library Visual Aids division; I eventually became head of the department. But in 1953, having spent 3 years in ROTC, I thought it would be better to enlist than be drafted!

**P:** So you spent 3 years, 1953 to 1956, in the army. And 16 months were in Korea. How was your experience?

**B:** We were sent to Korea as replacement for those leaving. While there I was sent to Japan for six weeks for additional training. My title became Battalion Staff Intelligence officer. We were monitoring the DMZ, with us on one side and the Communists on the other. Our task was to "keep the commander informed." We also trained new arrivals in weapon use as a precautionary measure. I was an umpire, a safety officer with a radio & smoke grenade, just in case... Only one time of excitement: an explosion in the no man's land. Turned out a wild boar set off a land mine!

**P:** I believe you were also involved at the PX; what were the facilities like? Many of us remember the TV series, "M\*A\*S\*H". How does that compare?

**B:** I have watched "M\*A\*S\*H" over & over, and found it to be very authentic (except one time they used a "newer" projector in a scene, but only I knew...) The program actually lasted longer than the real war. I did oversee the PX as an extra assignment, "officer in charge", but enlisted men did the heavy work. You got to learn the officer's preferences; one Lt Colonel always wanted Drambuie! We were housed in a Quonset hut, actually had two. My AV experience came in handy, so we showed movies in one, using an old Jeep engine to generate electricity—until it blew up! Beer & comic books were the popular items. Our living quarters were tents. As a Battalion leader I got one with a wood floor, window, door, & stove for heat & making coffee. We hired locals to wash clothes in the river and slept in sleeping bags.

**P:** It's the army now, as they would say! Sure sounds like the "M\*A\*S\*H" we all watched! After your tour of active duty you returned to civilian life in 1956. At home you heard there was an opening at the UA library, so were able to fit back in to your former position as Head of Audio Visuals. Great timing!

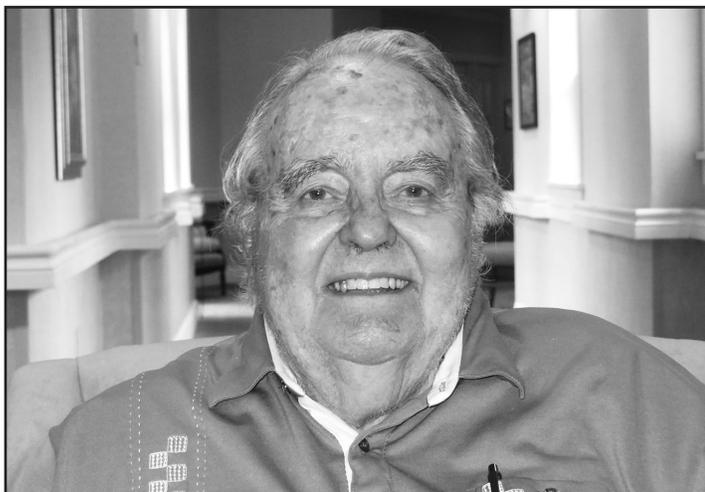
**B: Dorothy Hamlin then told me I could do whatever I wanted as long as I didn't get her in trouble! We started archiving all the old material. New technology was developing, but we had much reel to reel and 16mm material, some from the 1930's, etc. One depicted an unsuccessful bid to move the University to the Firestone Golf Course area. Another showed Mrs. Herbert Hoover at a dirigible hanger filming. All before these current "teaching machines" took over!**

**P:** The old days! You also reached out to the greater University community.

**B: Yes, we booked some travelogue films for our "World at our Door" series which we showed first at Colbe Hall, then Leigh Hall. Also we reached out to instructors and designed setups they could use. AV expanded over the years to include such items as audio tapes, cassettes, overhead projectors, slide projectors, photo services, transparencies, etc. Many members of the faculty & staff, including such as Mark Auburn, enlisted our aid in setting up presentations & learning tools. All this before PowerPoint was invented!**

**P:** Familiar concepts to those of us still around. It's a different electronic world now! You also were working on your masters at Indiana and received your MS in 1963. You then did some teaching.

**B: We were pioneers in the field! Yes, in 1963 I was appointed to the College of Education & taught audio visual courses while serving as Director of Audio Visual Services within the Office of Audio Visual Services (the new organizational plan for it all). Although I retired in 1982, I taught some during phase**



**down until 1987.**

**P:** A long and busy life at UA! And still here, on the AUAR board, although you have stepped down as treasurer. However, you did get away from campus occasionally I hope.

**B: We did enjoy traveling around the United States, and particularly memorable was a trip to the West Coast on the "California Zephyr." We also visited Hearst Castle while out there. We have been to numerous conferences scattered around, and have spent time at the Methodist "Lakeside" retreat on Lake Erie.**

**P:** I see you were active in your church as well as professional organizations, serving various roles in the Ohio Educational Library/Media Association, including president, treasurer, & Chairman of Archives. Sounds fitting. Your media knowledge was valuable to a wide variety of organizations, in addition to the University. You have over 70 years of association with UA in one capacity or another; that's quite a record. We at AUAR greatly appreciate your guardianship of our budget over the last 19 years, too!

Thank you so much for all your service, and we look forward to seeing more of you.

## **DR. THOMAS VUKOVICH AND DR. DIANE VUKOVICH HONORED**

In March 2018 the fraternity and sorority system at The University of Akron honored Dr. Thomas Vukovich by establishing an award for "Rising Leaders". The annual award will be given to one sophomore male and female who have exhibited outstanding scholarship, leadership, civic and community involvement, and character.

At the 50th Biennial Convention and Leadership Conference of the Omicron Delta Kappa Honor Society held in June 2018 in Nashville, Dr. Diane Vukovich was honored for her dedication to ODK. She received the Eldridge W. Roark, Jr. Meritorious Service Award.

# SCHOLARSHIP FUNDRAISER WINE TASTING DINNER

It was a cold evening on April 4 when 34 retirees and guests enjoyed a wine tasting Italian dinner at Little City Grill in Kent, Ohio. The menu consisted of five courses, each one accompanied by an Italian wine. (1) Meat & Cheese Platter with Centine Bianco Toscana IGT, (2) Pasta e Fagioli with Centine Toscana, (3) Roasted Garlic Caesar Salad with Pistachios with Pinot Grigio Delle Venezie, (4) Roasted Half Chicken with Parmesan & Mascarpone Polenta with Banfi Chianti Classico DOCG, and (5) Tiramisu with Prosecco Spago Nero.

The preparation of each course was explained to us by the owner of Little City Grill, Bert Bellison, and each wine was introduced by Eric Van Sant, wine master of Heidelberg Distributing.

With a 50/50 raffle and the raffle of a gift basket from Pearl Coffee in Akron, \$398 was netted for the AUAR scholarship fund!

The fee for each guest included \$5 for the scholarship fund; but to our surprise at the end of the evening, Bert added a generous donation of \$80 to the check he gave us, which instead of \$170 totaled \$250!! Thank you, Bert!

A good time was had by all of us. (Wine and a great group of attendees will have that effect!) We will do this again in the future. You don't want to miss it!!



**Bert Bellison from Little City Grill & Eric Van Sant from Heidelberg Distributing**



**Mel & Martha Vye & Janet Mealy & Laura Spitler**



**John & Jane Gwinn & friends**



**Dennis & Rita Klein, Loren Hoch, & Pam Rupert**

## 2018 Lobster & Suds at New Venue

Due to construction at St. Sebastian Church, AUAR had to find a new place to hold the year-ending Lobster & Suds Party. Thanks to Al Leyerle and veteran, Bob Jones, we were able to rent the picnic pavilion at the Firestone VFW Post 3383 property off of Waterloo Road. May 18 was overcast with seasonally warm temperatures and no rain.

The live Maine lobsters were again purchased from the Euclid Fish Company. Vegetable lasagna and chicken marsala were provided by the Waterloo Restaurant Catering Department.

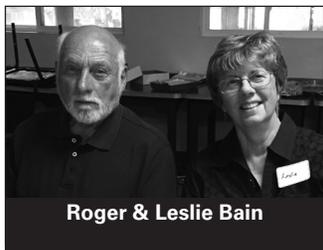
Dan Sheffer and Bob Leonard directed parking operations at the site, which is not visible from the road. Bob Fritz and Loren Hoch watched over the cooking pots and lobster preparations with assistance from Bob Gandee and Tom Vukovich. Neal Raber checked in the guests. Rita and Dennis Klein, Sharon Gandee, Pam Rupert, Suzanne Leyerle, and Diane Vukovich handled the room set-up and clean up.

President Neal Raber welcomed all the guests and thanked the crew for their efforts to make the party another successful event.

We trust that Lobster & Suds will be back on the Westside at Zwisler Hall on May 17, 2019. Mark your calendar now!



**Al & Suzanne Leyerle**



**Roger & Leslie Bain**



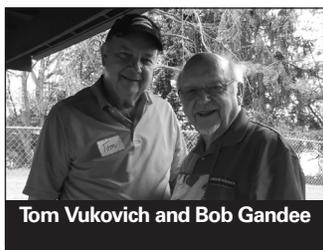
**Jim Stafford & Helen Campbell**



**Howard & Sylvia Johnson**



**Enjoying the lobster!**



**Tom Vukovich and Bob Gandee**



**Dan & Theresa Sheffer**



**Dick Henry and his son Jim**

## Spring Road Trip “Sold Out”



Tom Vukovich and Bob Gandee

After cancelling the 2017 road trip due to a low number of registrations, the 2018 adventure was well received. Fifty participants filled our bus for the day trip to Columbiana County.

After picking up our step-on guide in Salem, we proceeded to the White House Fruit Market. It is one of the largest farm markets in Ohio. Upon pulling into the parking lot, we saw a gentleman wearing an Akron sweatshirt. He looked familiar and kept watching as our bus found a suitable parking spot. After we stopped, he jumped on the bus; and, to the surprise of our guide, took the microphone. It was fellow retiree, Tom Beck. Tom greeted us and explained that since retiring from his various positions at UA, including Station Manager for WZIP, he became a fruit farmer and owns property next to the White House Farm. He recognized many of his former colleagues from the “good old days” and vowed to try to attend some of our AUAR events next year.

At White House Farm Market, we enjoyed shopping and buying many locally produced products as well as sampling their delicious homemade donuts and cider. Many shoppers were seen with a bag of whiskey sticks among their purchases. Upon departure, each of us was given a bag of apples to take home.

Our next stop was to see the Cherry Valley Bee-Hive Ovens. Here are located over 200 brick ovens constructed in 1866 to produce coke from coal to supply the steel and iron works in the area. These “hobbit-looking” structures are in various states of decay but are an interesting and unusual part of the history of the area.

We were told by a local story teller, who joined us on part of the tour, that the Salem area is one of the most “haunted” areas in Ohio. She proceeded to tell us that a woman in a long dress with her hands clasped in front of her chest is often seen on top of the hills among the bee-hive ovens. She appears to be looking for someone or something. Some believe she is the spirit of Veronica Simon, who lived in one of the “Red Row Houses” and murdered her 4 children and tried to kill herself with a straight edged razor because her husband gambled away all their money, leaving her with no way to support herself and the children.

Later we strolled through the Hope Cemetery in Salem. Here we heard stories about the lives of former residents dating back to the 1800’s. One such story was about little Goldie Taylor, who died as a young child in 1886. Her father, Jacob, was so distressed and overcome that he decided the best way to remember his beautiful daughter was to erect a memorial next to her grave. He commissioned an Italian sculptor to produce a life-like marble statue at a cost of \$4,000 (which was quite a lot of money in 1886) and paid the same amount for it to be shipped to the United States. Once it was placed on Goldie’s grave, he had fresh flowers delivered to the memorial marker every week. When Jacob died, he was buried at the foot of the beautiful statue of Goldie. Years after his death, fresh flowers still mysteriously appear in Goldie’s arms. Local people have camped out in the cemetery hoping to see who is delivering the flowers. One morning after an all-night vigil, the campers awoke to find fresh flowers but there were no footprints in the snow that had fallen during the evening. To this day someone or something continues to bring flowers to this little girl who died 132 years ago!

Our bus trippers love to shop, so we stopped at the Barnyard Boutique at Stone Trough. Here we explored a barn-full of primitive antiques and homemade items. Several indoor and outdoor home decorating items were purchased – in hopes that spring has finally arrived.

We concluded our day back in Salem at the Bone Shakers Restaurant and Event Center. Here we enjoyed lunch and were transported back to a “gin joint” in the “Roaring 20s”. We met Vinnie “The Sauce Boss” Vermicelli, owner of the “Black Sock Speakeasy” and his former pal, Ray Ricotta, a former police detective. The show, “Mobsters, Molls



The Road Trippers are ready!



Conducting an evaluation of the White House Farmer Market doughnuts.



Mary Ellen and Glenn Atwood ready to examine the Leetonia Cherry Valley beehive ovens.

and Marinara, had begun. Added to the excellent professional cast were several members of the audience. Bob Leonard became Vinnie's bodyguard, Johnny. Diana Kunze became Vinnie's reluctant girlfriend, Shirley. As the story unfolds, there was a murder and clues available to help us solve the case. Glen Atwood and Velma Pomrenke were awarded prizes for "fingering" the killer and determining the reasons for the crime.

During the bus ride, Ed Lasher won the 50/50 raffle. Diana Kunze and Tom Nichols each answered 22 of 25 trivia questions correctly, so the winner was determined by drawing a card. Diana (now a rising star) won the prize by drawing an ace, which beat Tom's two of clubs.

Now it's time to start planning next year's road trip. Let Tom Vukovich know if you have any suggestions.



Our guide relates some of the tales of those who worked the beehive coke ovens.



Tom and Diane Vukovich check the root systems



Aboard the tolly for the Salem Haunted Historical Trolley Tour.



In the cemetary in Salem.



In the Barnyard Boutique at Stone Trough



"Mobsters, Molls and Marinara," Murder Mystery and Luncheon



More murder mystery!



Murder Mystery cast takes a bow. Two of the performers are from our group.



Going home!

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## Exploring the retirees' association web page.

If you haven't yet had a chance, why not take a few minutes and explore our web page. We regularly add information to keep you apprised of our group opportunities for socializing (luncheons and speakers, or special events in the Akron area), your benefits and the latest actions of the University of Akron Retirees Board. You might wish to know a bit of our history, or if you are having trouble sleeping, you may want to read our constitution just before going to bed.

The Association web site is located at: [www.uakron.edu/auar](http://www.uakron.edu/auar). Enter this address one time and bookmark the page that opens for future visits. Some enter University of Akron retirees in one of the search engines on their browsers and then follow the results of their search to our web site.

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 (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 suggestion for items to include on our web page, please let us know.

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## FACULTY SENATE SPRING 2018

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

- Adopted a resolution from the Curriculum Review Committee approving the list of curriculum change proposals.
- Adopted a resolution from the Academic Policies Committee proposing a policy to govern the posthumous conferral of degrees.
- Adopted a resolution from the Academic Policies Committee approving the Progress Report on Targeted Duplicative Programs, with two amendments.
- Adopted a resolution from the Academic Policies Committee approving the changes to the honors program specified in Vice Provost Sarah Craven's memorandum.
- Adopted a resolution from the General Education Advisory Committee approving courses for the new general education requirement.
- Approved a list of graduates for the Spring 2018 Commencement.
- Approved a resolution from Computing and Communications Technology Committee approving the selection of a new automated curriculum proposal system.
- Approved a proposal from the Accessibility Committee approving the development of an accessibility liaison program.
- Approved a proposal from the Academic Policies Committee concerning reference to accessibility and other policies and information in course syllabi.
- Adopted a resolution from the Academic Policies Committee approving a new Urban STEM Education Center in the College of Education.
- Adopted a resolution from the Academic Policies Committee approving a rule change concerning dismissal of students for academic deficiency.
- Adopted a resolution from the Academic Policies Committee approving the Academic Program Review report with comments.

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### AUAR Membership, Human Resources • The University of Akron • Buchtel Commons, Akron, OH 44325

If you haven't renewed your AUAR membership for the 2018-2019 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 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 [hobk@uakron.edu](mailto:hobk@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.

## UPCOMING EVENTS WINTER 2018/2019

### The 2018-2019 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 in InfoCision 203.

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 330-928-1810.

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)

#### September 12 Luncheon

Randy Pelton

Topic: Panama & Columbia Travelogue

#### October 10 Luncheon

Bob Grau

Topic: Appalachian Trail Adventure

#### November 2

Soup & Chili Supper

#### November 14 Luncheon

Bill Considine

Topic: Leadership

#### December 12 Luncheon

Holiday Party

#### February 13 Luncheon

Larry Williams

UA Director of Athletics

#### March 13 Luncheon

TBA

#### April 10 Luncheon

TBA

#### April

Annual Road Trip TBA

#### May 17

Lobster & Suds Party

#### 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 2018

