

# THE AUAR NEWSLETTER

The Association of The University of Akron Retirees

Winter 2016/2017  
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## President's Message

### Greetings Everyone and Happy 2017!

It was wonderful to have so many members attend AUAR's December luncheon to hear and interact with President Wilson. I think we all agree that "we have a winner" and that, while our University is not "out of the woods" yet, it is certainly moving in a most positive direction.

AUAR's future is also bright. Both our membership and our scholarship are continuing to grow. Twenty-two new retirees have joined us, bringing our current membership to 335. Thanks to your generous support, our endowed scholarship has met and exceeded the goal of reaching \$100,000, which we set when the scholarship was established in 2008 in celebration of AUAR's 10th anniversary. Your Executive Board now has set a new goal – to reach \$150,000 by AUAR's 25th anniversary in 2023.

Attendance at luncheons and other events is also increasing. Our luncheons are averaging 55-70 attendees. Attendance at 2016's Lobster & Suds Party was 77, up from 52 the previous year; November's Soup & Chili Supper was 51, up from 47 in 2015. Mark your calendar now for all of our Spring 2017 events.

Executive Board elections will also be taking place in the spring. We hope you will consider running for an office. Last spring we were pleased to welcome 3 new members to the Board. If you are interested in serving, contact any member of the Executive Board. New faces mean new ideas, and new ideas are always needed to keep an organization "fresh". Indeed, if as a member you have an idea for a speaker or an event, do let a current Executive Board Member know. "Traditional" events are always good, but it is fun to try something new. We especially would like ideas for possible scholarship fundraisers.

And speaking of new, AUAR will soon have a new President. This summer I will step into the role of Immediate Past President as I pass the gavel to our current President Elect, Neal Raber. It has been an honor to serve as your AUAR President and a privilege to work with an Executive Board composed of such dedicated, hard working and fun-loving professionals. I look forward to continuing to work with Tom on programming and to welcoming more and more retirees into our great Association.



*Diane Vukovich*

Diane Vukovich, Ph.D.  
President 2015-17



## 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.

**Ellen K. Ambelang**, 95, died October 4, 2016 in Santa Barbara, California. Ellen worked in information services at The University of Akron before becoming a corporate librarian at Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company.

**Alex Banyar**, 96, passed away October 31, 2016. Alex was the long-time manager of the University of Akron Bookstore and retired with 38 years of service.

**Joe Benes**, 61, died October 24, 2016. Joe was with the Art Department throughout his career at the University of Akron. He, also, found great enrichment in his membership in the Summit County Songwriter's Circle.

**Thomas M. Besch**, 71, died November 30, 2016. He retired as a Professor Emeritus of Surveying and Mapping in the Department of Engineering and Science Technology. Besch was also a Chief Warrant officer 4, U.S. Army, Retired, with 28 years of service from Vietnam to Desert Storm.

**Dr. Charlotte Louise Burrell**, 68, died August 17, 2016. Charlotte began her career with the University of Akron in 1987 in the Financial Aid Office. In October 2001, she transferred to the Provost's Office and retired from the University as an Assistant to the Dean of Summit College in April 2015.

**Kathy J. Liszka**, 57, died October 1, 2016. Over her career with the University of Akron, Dr. Liszka served as Coordinator of Computer Science (2014 – 2015) and Interim Department Chair (2012). She earned both the M.S. (1986) and the Ph.D. (1992) in Computer Science at Kent State University.

**Barry McBurney**, 71, died November 14, 2016. Upon his retirement, Barry had over 30 years of service with the University of Akron.

**Roland Paolucci**, 78, passed away September 19, 2016. Paolucci, Professor Emeritus in the School of Music, was Akron's "Godfather of Jazz." He founded The University of Akron's Jazz Studies Program. Roland's programs at the University were creatively fertile and continue to resonate through the accomplishments of his students.

**Jeanne Grace (Starn) Pidcock Obradovich**, 82, passed away August 18, 2016. She taught Surgical Technicians at both the University of Akron and Barberton Citizens Hospital.

**Sally Anne Riede**, 86, died December 3, 2016. Sally's life time accomplishments were significant. She was married to the late David Riede, Professor of History at the University of Akron.

**Ronald D. Simon**, 82, passed away October 6, 2016. Ron was a part time instructor at the University. Ron's Master's thesis in Art Education hung in the old Gardner Student Center for years.

**Mary E. Verhoeven**, 85, passed away November 25, 2016. She was with the College of Education.

**Norbert A. "Norb" Weisend**, 93, died October 16, 2016. Norb and his wife, Edie, were frequent travelers with the Vukovichs. Edie worked in the University libraries. While an undergraduate student at the University, Norb lettered two years in football.

**Dennis Welch** died November 13, 2016. Dennis moved to Akron from his hometown of Fort Wayne, IN to work thirty years at Goodrich. Following Goodrich, he worked for short time at LTV Steel and finished his working at the University of Akron.



AUAR Scholarship Winner  
Eider Chingvad

## AUAR Scholarship Winners Eider Chingvad and Kimberly Roby

**Eider Chingvad**, a Mechanical Engineering major, received a \$1500 Scholarship by the Association of University of Akron Retirees in the fall, and attended one of our luncheons.

**Kimberly Roby**, a senior majoring in anthropology, was recently awarded a \$1500 AUAR Scholarship for the spring semester.

## September Meeting Kicks Off Luncheon Series



Speaker, Mr. Victor Fleischer

A good crowd welcomed S. Victor Fleischer as the first presenter at the 2016-2017 Robert E. Ferguson/AUAR Luncheon Series on September 14, 2016. Victor is a tenured Associate Professor of Bibliography and The University Archivist at The University of Akron.

He currently serves on the boards of Progress Through Preservation of Greater Akron and the Friends of Hower House. His forthcoming book, tentatively titled, "Rubber Through the Lens: A Photographic History of the Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company, 1898-1948", is scheduled to be released by The University of Akron Press in 2017. While researching material for his book, Victor found time to organize a power-point presentation of photos gathered from the Goodyear Tires & Rubber Company collection.

A few years ago, Goodyear donated over 93,000 folders and 500,000 images valued at \$1.2 million to The University of Akron Archival Services. The collection covers the history of the company from 1912-1984. After receiving a \$303,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities, Phase I of the preservation and cataloging of the collection began. The project included the purchase of equipment and hiring of graduate students to scan over 23,000 images.



Richard & Madeline Milford & Denny & Rita Klein with Diane

Victor showed us many pictures of the early days of the company and traced its history, including the variety of products manufactured here in Akron. Pictures of employees and company executives were followed by seldom seen photos of blimps, dirigibles, Macy's parade balloons, rubber heels, hoses, and tires along with building activities. Goodyear manufactured about anything that could be made of rubber.

We learned that the company was a leader in sponsoring "Industrial Leagues", i.e., sports teams such as basketball, bowling, women's softball and even boxing. Larry Brown, the famous NBA player and coach, played for the Wingfoots at one point.

While F.A. Seiberling founded the company in 1898, Mr. David Hill actually was the first president. "F.A." eventually became the 4th president once the company became profitable and he was able to pay back his initial investors.

The preservation of this collection is an ongoing process. Much work remains to be done. Based upon the results so far, Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company placed these items into the correct hands. The University of Akron Archival Services Department is composed of talented, dedicated professionals, who are up to the task.



Loren Hoch, Bill Beyer, Glenn Atwood, Dan Sheffer

## UAUR BENEFITS

Retiree dependents should have received their health benefits package for 2017 on or about November 15, 2016. As anticipated premiums to be paid by Retiree Dependents increased and benefits decreased a little. The out of pocket for Retiree Dependents will be \$2500 per year for medical costs, up from \$1500 in previous years. New medical cards will be issued after January 1 2017 by Anthem the new health insurance company. Caremark remains the pharmaceutical manager.

STRS - Premiums for health care coverage are the same in 2017 as they were in 2016. But, based on newsletters from STRS those who get their health care coverage through STRS should anticipate premium increases after 2017.

Some important phone numbers

**The University of Akron Benefits Office**  
**Anthem**

**330-972-7090**  
**844-653-7397**

**STRS**  
**Caremark**

**888-227-7877**  
**888-202-1654**

## Rethinking Race: Black, White and Beyond Celebrates 10 Years

You may remember that for two weeks in February, UA has been host to "Rethinking Race: Black, White and Beyond." February 3-17, 2017 will be the tenth year for this nationally recognized event and you are encouraged to come participate. Rethinking Race is a forum in which race and race-related issues can be discussed, examined, and hopefully, better understood through films, performances, Face-2-Face Conversations, and keynote speakers.

The Rethinking Race 2017 calendar can be found at the website, [www.uakron.edu/race](http://www.uakron.edu/race). Already scheduled is a film festival including the movies 13th and Loving. In the works are possible speakers and panels on topics including implicit bias, social media and social justice, and the Underground Railroad. Small group Face-2-Face discussion allow participants to engage in conversations on a wide range of topics. Also included are special events like Exploring Your History Using Ancestry.com and Rethinking Race tours of Hower House and Akron Historical Sites. If you have any questions, contact Steve Brooks at [sbrooks@uakron.edu](mailto:sbrooks@uakron.edu) or 330.972.7944.

## Pre-election Luncheon Focus is Foreign Policy



*Speaker Walter Hixson*

deep divisions in America including women's rights, anti-immigration and anti-Black citizen sentiment.

By 1940 foreign policy was again on the minds of U.S. citizens and along with the depression era, lead to the re-election of Franklin Delano Roosevelt in 1940 and 1944. Dr. Hixson noted that foreign policy issues were only a casual factor in the upset victory of Harry Truman in 1948, but it did lead to the Marshall Plan and the Iron Curtain that divided Europe. The "war hero" status of General Dwight D. Eisenhower helped him in his elections in 1952 and 1956. The first televised debates between John F. Kennedy and Richard Nixon were more of a factor that foreign policy in 1960.

During the 1964 election of Lyndon Johnson over Barry Goldwater, Johnson used the Tonkin Gulf Resolution to thwart Goldwater's criticism of the Vietnam War. Also the memorable TV ads showing the detonation of a nuclear bomb and a child picking daisies helped sway Americans to vote for Johnson. The Richard Nixon verses Hubert Humphrey election found foreign policy again a major factor with Nixon vowing to get America out of Vietnam. The Iran Hostage crisis humiliation along with the invasion of Afghanistan by the USSR contributed to the election of Ronald Reagan in 1980.

In 1992 America elected Bill Clinton even though George H.W. Bush wins the cold war and Persian Gulf War. Here foreign policy was not a major factor but actually had a reverse effect. The "swift boat" controversy and his military record during the Vietnam War hurt John Kerry, and George W. Bush is reelected in 2004. Jumping to the present time, with all the personal attacks and lack of policy discussions by the candidates leading up to the November 2016 election, it does not appear that foreign policy will be among the decisive issues.

While foreign relations are not usually a deciding issue in U.S. presidential elections, our guest speaker on October 12 explained that in the 20th century it often was a major concern. Walter Hixson, Distinguished Professor of History at The University of Akron, and author of "The Myth of American Diplomacy: National Identity and U.S. Foreign Policy" took us back to the Spanish American war of 1898 and it's effect on the election of Ohio's William McKinley. Soon after Teddy Roosevelt, the "Rough Rider", used his military experience to garner support for his election in 1901. Prior to WWI, Woodrow Wilson pledged to keep us out of the war in 1916 but had to step in later to help bring peace to Europe in 1917.

Between WWI and WWII, foreign policy took a backseat to



*Carolyn Cox, Sharon Gandee, Sylvia Johnson, Rita & Denny Klein*

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## November Luncheon Focus – The Presidential Election



*Tom Vukovich and Speaker Dr. Stephen Brooks*

Literally only hours after Donald Trump was declared the winner, Dr. Stephen C. Brooks, Associate Director of The Ray Bliss Institute of Applied Politics at The University of Akron, presented an analysis of the 2016 presidential election. Dr. Brooks had little time to review any data available by noon the day after the election. However, his prospective from a social scientist point of view was extremely open and of great interest to the audience of over 70 attendees.

He explained that Mr. Trump's campaign was unconventional.

According to Dr. Brooks, since 2000 both parties have concentrated on convincing voters that their candidate would be the best leader for the country. In addition, major emphasis was given to develop strategies to get out the vote (think the Obama campaign). Mr. Trump's winning formula appeared to be bringing in new voters to support his candidacy. Many political analysts dismissed this strategy because they did not believe it would result in a large enough group to lead to victory.

Dr. Brooks reminded us that because of the digital revolution, a large portion of the population do not make decisions based upon news sources used by older generations, i.e., us. New outreach techniques worked for Barack Obama but apparently could not be duplicated by the Clinton campaign organization. *continued on page 4*



*Bill Byer and Ron Lederman*



*Tom Vukovich, Loren Hoch, Randy Pelton, Ricard Milford and Bob Leonard*

some believe it was the most contentious in our lifetime, has still concluded in an orderly, peaceful way.

Dr. Brooks speculated that many of President Obama's executive orders would be among the first policies to be challenged by the new president. As an example, he suggested that Mr. Trump would target the policy of the current administration on climate change and energy production.

After his remarks, Dr. Brooks responded to many questions and concerns from the audience. He ended his remarks on a positive note. He reminded us that although the 2000 Gore vs. Bush election generated much controversy, democracy continued to work, and it will continue to work now. This election, while



*Chris Collins, Loren Hoch and Dr. Stephen Brooks*

## November Soup & Chili Supper



*Martha & Mel Vye, Diana & Gerhard Kunze*

The first Friday in November has become the designated date for the Retirees Annual Soup & Chili Supper. This year over 50 attendees enjoyed a variety of homemade soups and chili concoctions prepared by retiree chefs. Among the soup choices were Turkey & Wild Rice, Green Bean, Mushroom Barley and Sausage, Spinach & Potato. The creative chili recipes included Turkey Chili, Big Horn Chili, "Plain Old" Chili and Rust Belt Chili.



*Debbie Mason displaying her bingo prize.*



*Our "guest bingo caller". He'll do anything for votes!*

The evening ended, as usual, with BINGO. It is fun to see people open and display the prize they won. This year's prizes ranged from a nice bottle of wine to finger puppets to many, many 2017 calendars. BINGO caller, Neal Raber, always has a surprise "up his sleeve". This year it was "politically incorrect" but hilarious. You had to be there!

What will Neal come up with for next year? Join us to find out on November 3, 2017.



*Jan Von Spiegel with her husband Charles admiring her bingo prize as Yvonne Brooks & Dick Henry, accompanied by Carol & Jim look on.*

## Retirees & Friends Travel to "Former Yugoslavia"

Last August fifteen UA retirees and friends traveled to several countries boarding the Adriatic Sea. The 16-day trip took us to Croatia, Montenegro, Bosnia-Herzegovina and Slovenia. For AUAR member, Tom Vukovich, and his high school buddy, Nick Milasnovich, it was a journey to the homeland of their grandparents. The other members of the group wanted to learn more about an area that is somewhat less travelled by Americans.

First stop – Dubrovnik, Croatia. Here we visited the Rector's Palace, hiked the city walls and stopped by one of the oldest pharmacies in Europe. Before departing Dubrovnik, we took a side-trip to Montenegro and the walled city of Kotor. Here we visited a church built in 1166 and one intrepid hiker, Diane Vukovich, made it to Our Lady of Remedy Chapel high up on the Old Kotor City Wall.

On the fourth day as we headed to Sarajevo in Bosnia-Herzegovina, we stopped in Mostar to view the famous

*Continued on page 5*



*Roger Bain acting as Captain on our boat to castle on Lake Bled in Slovenia*

bridge built over 400 years ago and reconstructed in 2004 after being destroyed during the 1990's war. Following a guided tour of Sarajevo where we visited the site of the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand and his wife in 1914, which led to WWI, we walked through the old town square and visited a mosque. We also learned more about the 1,425-day siege of Sarajevo, when a half-mile "Tunnel of Hope" was dug under the airport and became the lifeline for supplies to the citizens during the siege. At our first home-hosted dinner, we discussed "Bosnia Today and the Past" with our new friends, many of whom lived in Sarajevo during the war.

On the way to the capital of Croatia, Zagreb, we spent a night in the town of Karanac. Many lovely surprises awaited us at the family-run B&B. We had our second home-hosted dinner, visited a local winery, tried our hand at

making clay pottery and cheese and purchased many handmade items.

The group spent three days in Zagreb. We toured the "upper town" where we focused on Zagreb's medieval landmarks, visited St. Stephen's Cathedral and rode the funicular to a former castle overlooking the city. While staying in Zagreb, we took a side-trip to Kumrovec, the birthplace of Marshall Tito and learned about one of Croatia's most controversial leaders during and after WWII.

As we headed to the beautiful seaside resort town, Opatija, we stopped at Plitvice Lakes National Park. Plitvice Lakes is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Here lies a string of 16 beautiful lakes with crystal blue-green water and located one below the other. The lakes are fed by many small streams and brooks spilling into them forming cascades and waterfalls.



*Group photo*

In Opatija our hotel was in the heart of the tourist area with its 7.5-mile promenade. The walkway was lined by boutiques and gorgeous villas on one side and the Adriatic Sea on the other. The views were spectacular. Several members of our group joined an optional tour to the hill towns of Istria. Along the way they stopped in Motovun for a visit to the town encircled by original medieval walls.



*Tom Vukovich, Karen Clark and Diane Vukovich showing off their 3rd, 2nd, and 1st place awards for cray creations.*

Our last place to visit before our journey home was the prosperous city of Ljubljana, Slovenia. But before arriving there, we visited the Postojna Caves. This cave system is the largest in Europe and has been visited by millions of people since being discovered in 1828. Roger Bain, retired UA Geology Professor, commented that the cave formations were the most spectacular he has seen in his career. Quite an endorsement!

While the network of passages, galleries and chambers with their stalagmite and stalactite formations certainly were breathtaking; the "star of the caves" is an unusual amphibian that lives in its underground waters and is found nowhere else in the world. The olm or proteus is about 30 centimeters long with a transparent snakelike body, short tail and tiny limbs. It breathes through external gills and only needs to eat once every ten years. The cave features an aquarium where visitors can see members of this rare and endangered species.

In Ljubljana, we had fun with the locals as we browsed the open market and enjoyed the great food and atmosphere as we dined at the sidewalk cafes. The next day we were off to Lake Bled. There, in a large one-man rowboat called a pletna, we crossed the lake to an island with a cliff-top castle. The castle contained a museum that told the story of the Bled area from the Bronze Age to the present. There were also many replicas of medieval shops where you could purchase handmade items. Some of us sampled the pastry while enjoying the beautiful view of the Julian Alps. Back on shore, we walked by the summer home of Marshall Tito where he often entertained many world leaders.



*Group picture outside of Mosque in Sarajevo, Bosnia Herzegovina.*

On our last night in Ljubljana, we had our farewell dinner hosted by our Program Director, Sasha Ruic. The traditional food was excellent and members of our group participated in dances and contests with the locals. It was a fitting way to wind up our visit to the "crossroads of the Adriatic".



*Diane taking pictures from Castle Bled, Slovenia.*

## President Wilson Addresses Holiday Luncheon Crowd



*Our speaker,  
UA President Matthew Wilson*

Normally the December AUAR Luncheon is a celebration of the holiday season and does not feature a guest speaker. This tradition was broken on December 14, 2016. The 17th President of The University of Akron, Matthew J. Wilson, joined approximately 90 members and guests at Quaker Station.

President Wilson first told us stories of his youth; and how, at the age of three, when his father asked him what he wanted to be, he replied, "a fire hydrant!" Of course he really meant a fireman. An adult neighbor then suggested he should become a teacher, politician or lawyer because he "talked so much"! Matthew liked her description of how lawyers helped people, so from that time on the three-year-old now wanted to become a lawyer. He still gets teased about that goal of becoming a "fire hydrant"! Wilson went on to tell us about his church mission to Japan, how he met his wife, Noriko and then worked his way through the University of Utah and Temple University's School of Law.

President Wilson summarized his approach to the presidency by simply stating, "It's all about the students." He readily gives his text and email addresses to the students and suggests they contact him if they have problems or questions. This approach has resulted in many late hours working to find help for students who request his assistance. He related two stories regarding how he and "his team" have worked to solve personal and financial difficulties for students.

In Wilson's short time as President, he has visited 58 high schools. He talks with students and tells them "our story". He highlights the value of a University of Akron education and cites the many excellent courses of study it offers in fields ranging from the technical to the arts.

These high school visitations are part of his personal effort to address one of his major objectives, increasing student enrollment. Increases in new student admissions and student retention must occur to lift the University out of its current budgetary difficulties. He believes these challenges can be met with help from both administrators and faculty in addressing recruitment and retention at the college level.

Other possible budgetary solutions include:

- pursuing a voluntary buy-out for faculty and staff,
- bringing graduate assistant program costs more in line with those of other universities in Ohio,
- adjusting the scholarship award system to maximize its effect on promoting student retention,
- re-establishing the Evening College and offering degree completion programs for evening students
- renewing the emphasis on International Programs, increasing study abroad program offerings and perhaps offering a "Global Residence Hall" on campus.

At the end of his presentation, President Wilson responded to many question from the audience. His open, forthright answers were refreshing. He clearly understands the challenges and is coming up with unique ideas to address the many issues he inherited.

The retirees wish President Wilson well and offer our support in helping him "raise The University of Akron up from the ashes" as symbolized by the phoenix on its seal.



*Bill Beyer, Tom Vukovich and  
Gill Pritchard*



*Shirley & Don O'Hara and  
Minnie Pritchard*



*Tom Vukovich and Dottie Schmidt*



*Tom Getzinger and Frank &  
Diane Thomas*



*Martha & Mel Vye and Dan Sheffer*



*Pam Rupert, Glenn Atwood and  
Loren Hoch*



*The 2 Presidents, UA President  
Wilson and AUAR President  
Diane Vukovich*



*Linda and Mike Sugarman*



*Mary Dingler & Cathy Edwards*



*John and Nancy Mulhauser and in  
the middle is Mary Ellen Dingler*



*Ron Lederman and Glenn Atwood*

# *A Conversation with Glenn & Mary Ellen Atwood* — By Pamela Rupert



**Pam:** Good morning, and thank you both for meeting with me. Glen, I see you have returned safely from your trip to Nepal & the Himalayas. More about that later. You joined UA in 1965 and retired in 1990 as Professor Emeritus of Chemical Engineering & Associate Dean Emeritus of the College of Engineering. Mary Ellen, You came aboard in 1969 and retired as Professor Emeritus of Education & Research Professor 1994. But we'll back up a bit before discussing your many

accomplishments and explore those early experiences that helped shape you. Both of you have moved around quite a bit, but Mary Ellen, you lived abroad in the India as a teenager. Tell us about that.

**Mary Ellen:** My father was Ford Foundation representative to India, Nepal, and Pakistan for 20 years. We went to New Delhi in 1952; I was 16, oldest of 5 children. As I had only 1 year of high school left, I spent my first year in India travelling to villages with the Ford Foundation Home Economist and went to Woodstock School, a mission boarding school, located in the foothills of the Himalayas Mountains for my senior year. I went to school with kids from all over the world, all nationalities, religions. It had a huge impact on my value system, and developed goals of independent thinking, respect for the environment and for those less fortunate than me.

**P:** What a unique experience. Meanwhile, Glenn, you grew up in Iowa, working part time to earn college money, and received both a BS & MS in Chemical Engineering from Iowa State (1957 & 1959) before going to Seattle for your PhD from The University of Washington. So how did the two of you meet?

**Glenn:** Mary Ellen came to Iowa State in 1954 and we met at a Wesley Foundation retreat in early October 1954 and were married 10 months later!

**P:** And 61 years later, here you are! Tell me what brought you to Akron?

**ME:** After I finished my BS with our daughter, Ruthie, at Iowa State in 1958 and Glenn his PhD in 1963, we expanded our 1 child family to three by adoption of John and Terilyn while in graduate school at the U of Washington. Unfortunately our adopted daughter, Terilyn, developed a rare degenerative brain disorder. When Glenn started looking for teaching positions in 1964, there were only a few cities with both chemical engineering departs and excellent medical facilities with transportation for our daughter Terilyn. Akron seemed to have the best fit with the excellent Children's Hospital and the United Cerebral Palsy program here. Edmonton, Alberta, Canada was the other option.

**P:** This area does seem to offer outstanding medical services, as President Wilson will attest! I assume AU Engineering faculty openings corresponded with your family need.

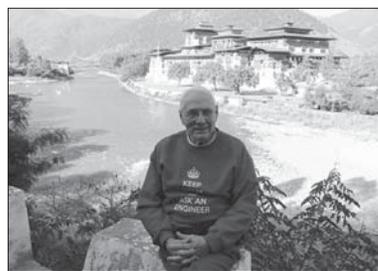
**G:** Yes, I was able to help start the Department of Chemical Engineering. Coleman Major hired Howard Green and myself. We developed graduate courses and the syllabi for the undergraduate courses the first year and entered the first Chem E. students the fall of 1966.

**Previously, on the advice of my undergraduate advisor to get some experience in industry before teaching, I worked for 3 years at Esso Research and Engineering. I had also worked at the Ames Laboratory of the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission, while at Iowa State. At the Uof Washington, I was an instructor.**

**P:** "Real World" experience definitely adds to one's credibility with students! You went on to hold many positions within the Engineering College including Department head to acting Dean. What do you remember most fondly?

**G:** When the UofA initiated the Honors program, during the early years I had more honors students as advisees than the rest of the University combined. In ChE, my advisees were either among the best students or the worst students. I remember one undergraduate ChE student, who was failing, but whose High School record indicated that he could succeed. After he revealed he didn't WANT to be an engineer but wanted to be in Business, I said, simple, I'll contact Business & transfer you, he panicked! "My parents will KILL me!" Upshot was I invited his parents to a conference and they agreed to let him transfer. About 6 months later, I was approached by a woman at a shopping center who called me by name and exuded "Thank you for saving my son's life!" It was his mother and he was earning a 3.5 GPA. We in the Dean's office became concerned about retention as existing College of Engineering strategies weren't working, so as we decided to intervene directly. Contracts overseen by the Dean's office were developed with students with low GPA's that had specific targets the students must meet each term. As a result, the retention was improved.

**P:** We love these success stories! And Mary Ellen, you were busy on your front as well, coming to AU in 1969 to help form the Nursery & Day Care facility.



*Winter Capital in Punakha*

**ME:** Before that I was at Kent as director/teacher of the deaf & normal hearing preschool. At Akron all our programs were inclusive of children with special needs. Initially, I held a joint appointment in the Departments of Home Economics & Elementary Education, later transferring to the College of Education and was Director of the Nursery School for 17 years. I also got my doctorate in Sociology here in 1983. Community work was important. I was a co-founder of the Decker Family Development Center, Barberton, a collaborative project with UA, Akron General Hospital, & Barberton City Schools which served low-income families, primarily single mothers, to encourage self-sufficiency & school success for children.

**P:** You also are a great grant writer!

**ME:** I have written with Brian Pendleton & generated between \$7 & 9 million. I found out in Akron that names are important for funding. The grant from the Knight Foundation opened doors for other Akron foundations.

*continued on page 8*

**P:** The concerns and activities of you both spill over into the community, to name but a few: Cerebral Palsy Board, P-FLAG (Parents & Friends of Lesbians and Gays), Marriage Encounter United Methodist, Kairos Prison Ministries.

**G:** The latter is interesting. The objective is to turn the atmosphere in prison from one of mistrust & hatred to one of trust. At the Marion Correctional Institution, with the support of a new warden, retreats & monthly visits by retreat teams, the recidivism rate flip-flopped from 90% to 10%. In 5 years changed from one of the worst to a model prison and the warden attributed part of the change to the Kairos Program.

**P:** Another great contribution. But you sometimes take a break from "Doing unto others:". You take time to enjoy the outside world, and I do mean WORLD!

**ME:** We have walked on all 7 continents. We have canoed & hiked the Boundary Waters in Minn. and Quetico Provisional Park in Canada For 25 years. We tend to like the outdoors/ out of the way places. We were rescued by helicopter in New Zealand when storms flooded the St. James Walkway hiking path. We go to Santiago, Chili often as we have a former exchange student living there. On our 50th Anniversary we sailed on the Windstar; on the 60th we used Holland America. Now that we have the time & the nickels, there are some other obstacles; we may need an easier way to travel.

**P:** But not Glenn this year, who just finished traipsing about Nepal and the Himalayas Mts. I know Tom Vukovich has already approached you about speaking to AUAR, but can you give us a small taste of your adventure to plant the seed of curiosity?

**G:** I had wanted to visit these two countries for a long time and it came true this fall on a three week Overseas Adventure Travel trip. In Bhutan, we visited three cities, Paro, Thimpu and Punakha. Here we visited mostly Buddhist Shrines including the "Tiger's Nest" which is built on at the top of a cliff at an altitude of 10,000 feet. In Nepal, we visited many World Heritage sites in Katmandu, then hiked in the foothills of the Annapurna Range of the Himalayas, took a three day rafting trip and visited Chitwan National Park, another World Heritage Site. The trip met my expectations. The most surprising thing about Nepal was the techniques that were being used for farming, road construction, and building. For example, buildings were being constructed using only hand tools.

**P:** It sounds like a wonderful trip! We have just scratched the surface of all you both have done, and look forward to hearing more from you in the future. Thanks so much!



*Whistler Mountain Columbia at the site of the 2010 Winter Olympics*

## FACULTY SENATE Fall 2016

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

- Adopted a resolution from the Executive Committee supporting the Tiger Team recommendation that representatives of the Faculty Senate, the University Council, the Akron-AAUP, and the department chairs serve as non-voting members of various committees of the Board of Trustees.
- Adopted a resolution from the Graduate Council to conduct a five-year review of graduate programs and undergraduate programs.
- Adopted a resolution to form an ad hoc budget review committee.
- Adopted a resolution to create an ad hoc interdisciplinary initiatives committee.
- Being informed that there has been about 8% overall drop in enrollment this Fall
- Being informed that the By-Laws of University Council were approved by the Board of Trustees
- Being informed that the expansion of Stark State College is being watched so that there is no duplication of programs offered by UA, especially those offered by the College of Applied Sciences and Technology.
- Being informed that the Board of Trustees approved the continuation of discounted General Education Courses (GE Core) in spite of a resolution from Senate recommending not doing so. However in a later meeting of the Board, the termination of the GE Core was approved.
- Being informed by Provost Ramsier that searches for 29 faculty members have been completed. Also the hiring of seven deans was approved by the Board of Trustees to go forward.
- Being informed by President Wilson that with the help of Ernst & Young and after discussions with the campus community, a two year plan (Stabilize-Invest-Grow) has been developed. It is focused on finding solutions to the university's financial realities. It includes a voluntary buy out program to reduce personnel expenses, along with enhancing retention and recruitment initiatives, increasing fundraising efforts, remodeling of the scholarship system, upgrading the graduate assistantship program, and introducing enhancements to the efficiency of the university's systems and processes.
- Being informed that the university has made an agreement with the city of Akron to release part of the first floor of the Polsky building for entrepreneur purposes. Partial funding for this project is the result of a grant.

# Zip Talk Winter 2016

## Legendary Basketball Coach Russ Beichly's Record To Fall Soon

By Ken MacDonald, Director Emeritus, Sports Information



Getting together at the University Club (Martin Center) in 1983 are (L to R) Mike Harkins, Ara Parseghian, Russ Beichly and Bob Horvath.

Those of you who have followed my "Zip Talk" articles have noticed on occasion I write how appreciative and fortunate I have been about my timeframe as a student, athlete, and employee at this University. This is one of those times when I dealt with such great administrators and coaches as Kenneth "Red" Cochrane, Andy Maluke, Tom Evans, Tony Laterza, Wyatt Webb, Gordon Larson, Jim Dennison, Al Hall and, on this occasion, the legendary Russell J. Beichly.

During my freshman year of 1958-59, thanks to several Theta Chi Fraternity brothers who were rabid fans of the Zips and loved to travel, I got to witness all 23 games of an historical basketball season under the direction of Coach Beichly. That season the Zip cagers would drop the season's debut to Westminster in Memorial Hall and their final game on the road at Wittenberg for the Ohio Conference (OC) Championship. In between UA captured 21 consecutive victories, a feat unmatched in 115 seasons of basketball on our campus.

That 1958-59 team's outstanding season earned Beichly, Ohio College Basketball Coach of the Year honors in his 19th season with the Zips. To date he is the only UA basketball coach to earn the honor.

Unbeknownst at the time, it

would be the 56-year old Beichly's last season. Later that year, as UA's baseball coach, Beichly contacted histoplasmosis, resulting from inhaling airborne spores of bird droppings that developed into a long-term lung infection. He was told he had to move to a warmer and dryer climate if he hoped to survive. He chose Arizona first but, after a few years moved to Fort Lauderdale, FL where he resided until his death in 1996 at the grand old age of 93.

Beichly came to the University in 1940 and would go on to becoming UA's all-time winningest basketball coach with a record of 288 wins and 144 losses. Although it has taken 58 years and nine coaches later, that Beichly honor is about to be surpassed by current head basketball coach, Keith Dambrot.

What makes it so special for Dambrot is that he is one of ours, a UA baseball letterman who earned his undergraduate degree from the University in 1982 and his M.B.A. in '84. His first team in 2004-05 went 19-10, the most wins since 1988-89. Since then Dambrot's teams have put together 11 consecutive seasons of 21 plus wins in each. He has averaged over 23 wins a season, has had two 26-7 seasons and was 26-9 in 2015-16. His teams have captured Mid-American Conference Tournament Championships in 2009, '11 and '13 to earn NCAA I Tournament berths. In addition, the Zips have had four National Invitational Tournament berths and two other lesser known post-season tournament bids.

As a result, it will have taken Dambrot only 13 seasons to accomplish what Beichly achieved in 19. Surely there is some disparity in these two eras. While Beichly's

teams only played an average of 23 games a season, Dambrot's teams have averaged 34. As I write this piece Dambrot's coaching record stands at 7-3 for this current season and has an overall UA coaching record of 285 wins and 133 losses. So, I figure sometime in early January, Dambrot will slide past the record owned by Beichly but, definitely not the memory of the legendary coach.

The flamboyant Beichly, often referred as "the Beau Brummel of Buchtel Avenue", parlayed personality, enthusiasm, fiery competitiveness, and a fire-wagon red vest into a successful coaching career. He was an exponent of race horse, give and go basketball with the theory that the best defense was a very productive offense. His teams became so good that he scheduled three doubleheaders during the 1946-47 season and won all six games.

His basketball went to the fringes of the "big time" and he has had the only UA team to ever play in New York's Madison Square Gardens. That came during the 1944-45 season that also produced his first 21-2 record and the first of five Ohio Conference Championships. That season the 9-0 Zippers took on one of the powerhouses of eastern U.S. basketball, St. John's University, at the Gardens that earned them plaudits from the New York press while losing, 48-42.

While coaching such outstanding UA Hall of Fame players as Fritz Nagy, Hank Vaughn, Mike Harkins, Bob Horvath, Jim "Red" Fenton, Climon Lee, Fred Golding, and Ray Pryear, Beichly's teams also won OC titles in 1946, '53, '56, '58 and the OC Tournament Championship in 1949. In addition, his 1943 squad, that included Ara Parseghian of football coaching fame, competed in the National Intercollegiate Athletic

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Association Tournament in Kansas City, MO and the 1958 team in the NCAA College Division Midwest Regional in Evansville, IN.

Obviously, Beichly's career as an athlete and coach have earned him accolades on several levels. He

was inducted as a coach into the Helm's Foundation Hall of Fame in 1964, the Summit County Sports Hall of Fame in 1960, was a charter member inductee of the 1975 UA Sports Hall of Fame, a 1988 inductee into the Wittenberg Sports Hall of

Fame, where he was a three-time All-Ohio quarterback and in 2015 he was inducted posthumously into the New Philadelphia High School Athletic Hall of Fame.

## 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.

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

If you haven't renewed your AUAR membership for the 2014-2015 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 \_\_\_\_\_

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

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**The 2016-2017 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)

**UPCOMING EVENTS WINTER 2016/2017**

**Jan. 2017**  
No Meeting

**Feb. 8**  
Claire Purdy  
Travelogue Antartica

**Feb. 12**  
Mousetrap, by Agatha Christie  
Coachhouse Theatre

**Mar. 8**  
Miss Mandy A. Pond,  
*Archivist, Massillon Museum.*  
Topic: The Story of Maj. John J. Mohn and his  
1200 mile forced  
march as a WW II prisoner of war.

**Apr. 12**  
Dr. Susan Olson  
Topic: Fulbright Scholarship to Finland

**Apr. 21**  
Annual Road Trip

**May 19**  
Lobster and 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.