



THE AUAR NEWSLETTER

The Association of The University of Akron Retirees

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President's Message

Looking Forward to a Fulfilling New Year

Greetings to all. I am writing this message during the holiday season and hoping everyone has had a great time with family and friends. As we launch another New Year, I want to share with you the excitement and commitment of the Executive Board for 2024. Much of our discussion is looking to the future for AUAR.

During the fall we were able to reaffirm and strengthen the relationship between the University and our organization. We have had great support from the Alumni Office leadership and staff. We have a new working relationship with the Office of Development that is assisting us with membership and outreach. The Executive Board had a fruitful meeting with Dr. Paul Levy, Chief of Staff and Vice President regarding how to further develop our relationship with the University. Our goal is to further the opportunity to create a meaningful engagement for our members and to take advantage of the opportunities that the University can offer.

Our discussions have included how to fully engage in the rich opportunities on campus. We will be listing on our website lectures, concerts, plays, sporting events and performances that are available. There continues to be opportunities for study with the 60+ program and continuing access to the library, recreation center, IT, and discounts at the bookstore. We are planning to have a conference in the spring related to the issues of retirement, including policy in regard to our pensions. We will also share on our website opportunities for volunteering on campus and in the community. We will continue our monthly luncheons with speakers and special events such as Lobster and Suds. For members not in the greater Akron area, we will create some online activities to share that will offer the opportunity for connection.

The Association of the University of Akron Retirees is here to provide an opportunity for engagement, friendship, renewal, and growth. The Executive Board is very dedicated to making our organization a meaningful opportunity for its members. I appreciate all of the work being done to further our development. Regards to all, Harvey



Harvey Sterns
President 2023 – 2024

Fall Semester Senate Report

During the Fall Semester 2023, the activities of the Faculty Senate included the following:

- Ratified actions of the Executive Committee: Approval of the Summer graduation list and CRC approved courses and programs.
- Elected the following persons to the offices listed below: Faculty Senate Executive Committee
Members: Stacia Biddle and Stephanie Davis-Dieringer (2-year terms).
Graduate Council Representatives: Mahesh Srinivasan and Maria Hamdani (1-year terms)
Ohio Faculty Council Representative: Dana Cole (2-year term), University Council: Brant Lee. (2-year term).
- Approved a resolution brought by the Executive Committee to revise the process for Graduation List approval.
- Approved a resolution brought by the Academic Policies Committee to amend the Portfolio-based Prior Learning Assessment policy.
- Approved the list of courses and programs brought by the Curriculum Review Committee.
- Approved a resolution brought by the Academic Policies Committee on the Course Evaluation Policy.
- Approved a resolution brought by Senator Evans to have the Faculty Senate Executive Committee schedule an informal senate meeting to discuss research directions.
- Approved the Fall graduation list.

For more details, please visit the Faculty Senate web page at uakron.edu

AUAR Contributes to Campus Food Cupboard

Our efforts were reward with an acknowledgement from the Cupboard as follows:

On behalf of the Campus Cupboard and the students we serve, we thank The Association of the University of Akron Retirees for the generous donations to the Campus Cupboard. ZipAssist appreciates your support in helping to meet our students' needs.

This year a total of 259 items were donated consisting of 231 food items and 28 hygiene items!

Student Testimonial: I've been so thankful for the food I've been able to receive. It's helped so much with grocery bills and being able to get good quality meat and produce as well as stock my pantry.

- Kimberly B.

Again, thank you.

Go Zips,

Campus Cupboard, ZipAssist

The Campus Cupboard began in 2019 as a "Grab and Go" small food pantry in three buildings on campus. With increased need, the University soon converted former office space into a walk-in pantry. Today, the Cupboard has expanded in its offerings and its partnering with other on-campus and community organizations. To learn more, go to uakron.edu/cupboard.

The Executive Board voted to ask members to make contributions again at our March meeting.

September Luncheon

UA Enrollment Update and Management Strategies



Dr. Steve McKellips Speaks about UA Enrollment Update and Management Strategies

Our AUAR Luncheon speaker on Wednesday, September 20, was Dr. Steve McKellips, Vice Provost for Enrollment Management at The University of Akron. Dr. McKellips was named to the position and joined the University in April 2022. He came to us from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas and prior to that he worked at universities in North Carolina, Tennessee, and Wisconsin. His responsibilities at UA include overseeing admissions, financial aid, the registrar's office, and the International Center. Dr. McKellips had been asked to provide AUAR with an update of the 2023 enrollment numbers and his plans for increasing the student population at UA.

He started the presentation by drawing our attention to an article that appeared in that day's edition of the Akron Beacon Journal which highlighted the stabilization in the number of students enrolled at UA for the Fall 2023 semester. Akron had been experiencing a serious and continuous drop in enrollment over the past seven years and the three-to-five-year ensuing effort to stabilize the enrollment showed a small but positive increase in the fall 2023 census. The remainder of the presentation highlighted the efforts by the University to continue to develop strategies that will attract and retain a student body for the coming years.

Following the enrollment update, Dr. McKellips then presented a list of several of his stretch goals that were exceeded in the 2023 enrollment plan. These included having 13.2% more applications submitted than planned, 4.6% more Admits than in Fall 2022, and 29.9% more undergraduate admission confirmations than the stretch goals.

Dr. McKellips went on to explain growth strategies for the Fall 2024 and beyond enrollment campaigns, which include the installation and launching of a completely new system for universal application processing for all students: undergraduate, graduate, and international. This platform will increase the communication and efficiency of the entire application process.

By far, the topic that elicited the most comments by the audience was the deployment of the Financial Aid Optimization strategy in which an affordability model rather than a previously used merit-based only scholarship program that had been applied. Basically this means that if a student has been accepted to The University of Akron and is sincere in wanting to attend the University, the student's cost will be discounted to the price that the student and his/her family can afford. This strategy will, in theory, increase the number of students who then enroll in the university. Dr. McKellips explained that this strategy is commonly used in many universities and does not affect the quality of the students entering the university because they have already been deemed admissible prior to the financial aid determination.

If you were unable to attend the September AUAR luncheon and would like to see this presentation, it is available at the following link: <https://youtube/wZAF2AizWY0>

October Luncheon

“A Kid” From Lebanon, PA Finds Opportunities in Akron

Speaker Mark Gerbich



Attendees at the October luncheon meeting were treated to a personally revealing and entertaining presentation by Mark Gerberich. Mark currently is the Director of Business Development at State and Federal Communications. His office is on South Summit Street, just a few steps from Quaker Station. However, his journey from his hometown of Lebanon, PA (located about 20 miles east of Hershey) to career opportunities in Akron contained many twists and turns.

Growing up in Lebanon, he was involved in sports at an early age because his father, who was a vocational technology teacher, was also a high school cross country coach.



Mark and Tom Vukovich

Mark kept busy helping his father and other coaches as a student manager. He took care of equipment and player needs. He also started bowling while in high school, which later would lead him to Akron and the Pro Bowlers Tour.

After a short “stint” at nearby Shippensburg University, where he said he spent most of his time playing on a variety of intramural teams and working as team manager for several varsity sports, his goal of becoming a math teacher took a turn. In 1981 he decided to get into the sports management field with an eye on becoming an athletic director.

His father was supportive of that goal, but back in 1981 sports management programs were not available at many colleges. In fact, Mark and his father could only find two suitable courses of study, one at St. John’s University in New York and the other at Biscayne College in Florida. So it was off to the Big East school, St. John’s, which was, at that time, a powerhouse in major college basketball. They also had a bowling team! This time around, Mark excelled in his studies and as an athlete. He practiced bowling, rolling 150 games each week, and finished 12th in the country in his senior year.

At that time a degree in sports management was not widely recognized by major sports organizations as a highly desirable qualification for employment. (Times have certainly changed!) Mark sent out 400 hand-typed resumes. One call did come from Elias Sports, located in Akron, offering him a position with the Pro Bowlers Tour. (University of Akron alumnus, Eddie Elias, a sport and show business agent, who had represented professionals such as Marlo Thomas and Phil Donahue and professional golfer Chi Chi Rodrigues, founded the Professional Bowlers Association (PBA) in 1958). Mark accepted the position in 1983. He worked with Rainy Stitzlein (former UA Board of Trustees Chairperson) and Joe Antenora, President of the PBA. Mark spent nine years with the Tour handling member services and later sales and marketing development. He oversaw the PBA Tournaments as they became a lucrative major TV sports fixture on the ABC television network until 1992, when a new commissioner was hired.

Four years later Mark became the Commissioner of the Tour. As the popularity and financial stability of the Tour started to wane, he and his staff tried to improve the Tour’s health by holding outdoor bowling events and tournaments in large arenas and convention centers. The efforts were to no avail, and the PBA was sold to three former Microsoft employees.

Loving the Akron area, Mark became part owner of Pinnacle Sports in 2002 and began a new career in managing this local sports facility. The goal was not only to offer soccer instruction to area youth, but also to teach them life skills. Mark left this business in 2008 and later was hired as general manager of “The Pond,” an ice skating and hockey rink located in Chagrin Falls, OH. When the owners sold the rink, he left that position.

While Mark knew about bowling, his positions at the soccer facility and the ice arena were totally new to him. He has continued to take on other jobs, such as selling outdoor sports equipment for camping and fishing and hunting, about which he says he “knows nothing.” Mark’s first position with a “not-for-profit” organization was with the International Soap Box Derby as President and CEO. He found the Derby had major financial issues. He and his staff planned over 90 fundraising events at the local track and brought in corporate sponsors to obtain the needed operating funds. Again, his goal for the young racers was to add “life skills” to the mix of their experiences while in Akron. As Mark described each step on his career path, he provided humorous antidotes about his responsibilities, his colleagues, and the major issues that he encountered.

Mark left the Soap Box Derby in 2023 to take his current position with State and Federal Communications. Once again, he has entered a new arena and is learning about lobbying and ethics laws and campaign financing.

Mark is an avid UA basketball fan and teaches sports history in the Sports Management Degree Program at the University. He began teaching at UA in 2010 and obtained his master’s degree in Sports Management in 2012. He is married to Beth, and they have three sons and four grandchildren. Mark enjoys traveling, golfing, hiking, and volunteers at his church and in the community.



November Luncheon

“Grace Hower Crawford and the Dumas Players”

Dr. Hillary Nunn



Dr. Hillary Nunn, University of Akron Professor of English and Coordinator of the Graduate Certificate in Literature program, gave a presentation entitled “Grace Hower Crawford and the Dumas Players” at the November 15 luncheon. Dr. Nunn’s Power Point presentation contained numerous pictures gathered by graduate student Hannah Severance and materials developed by students in Dr. Nunn’s “unclass.”

This “credit” class is offered to University of Akron students. Its main focus is to research a topic and put it in a format useful to the community. With the use of “experimental learning techniques,” students are offered numerous resources including digital archival materials and blog websites to develop the project. Items from the Hower House Museum, the Weathervane Playhouse, UA Archives and Special Collections, and from former Weathervane Board Member, William Kist were scanned and became essential to the project.

We learned that Grace Hower Crawford was interested in drama from an early age. Her aunt, Marie Leah Bruot, ran a school of Elocution and Dramatic Art, and Grace was known to have a “flare for the dramatic.” As a young adult, Grace was involved with the Coach House Theatre. This community theatrical group was operated by members of the Akron Woman’s City Club (AWCC), and productions had to include members of the Club.

Frustrated by this policy, Grace and other theatrical community members “rebelled” and founded another community playhouse, the “Weathervane” in 1934-35. Also around 1935, a company of players was formed by Akron’s Black community, The Dumas Players.

Dr. Nunn provided examples of playbills and newspaper articles showing productions by The Dumas Players in 1935-36. The performances were held in the auditorium of the YWCA in downtown Akron. Newspaper clippings list Grace as director of many one-act plays for The Dumas Players. She and her husband John were also listed as stage managers for many of their productions. In 1937, a Weathervane production of “Uncle Tom’s Cabin” featured actors from The Dumas Players in a “blended cast.” The Dumas Players appear to have stopped performing at the start of World War II. No evidence was found of their existence beyond 1942.

Grace continued to be committed to Weathervane Playhouse and keeping it open. It was suggested that she helped pay off the mortgage for the Playhouse’s second location on Copley Road. Weathervane moved to its present location in Merriman Valley in 1972. It continues to thrive as one of the oldest continuing community theatres in the country.

Hillary and Tom Vukovich



Enjoying the meal

Attendees of the luncheon learned about Dr. Nunn’s “unclass,” their research project, and sources of information. We also learned about Grace Hower Crawford’s early years growing up in the house on Fir Hill, her life-long interest in community theatre and impact on sustaining the Weathervane Playhouse. Her interest in assisting The Dumas Players was not a routine relationship given the time period with its largely segregated society.

If you are interested in the Hower House collection, you may go online to UA Archives Hower House Digital Collections, (<https://collections.uakron.edu/digital/collection/p15960coll17>).

Dr. Nunn received her Ph.D. in Early Modern English Literature from Michigan State University. She joined The University of Akron faculty in 2002. Her tireless efforts to develop an “unclass” was recognized by her students and the University last spring. Dr. Nunn received the 2022-23 Outstanding Teacher Award for University Faculty with six or more years of service.



Meet Dr. Ali Hajjafar, retired professor of mathematics at UA. Our conversation took place in his lovely home in Munroe Falls in mid-November. Both he and I agreed that it was fitting that I photograph him sitting in his chair which he received from UA.

Martha: Thank you, Ali, for agreeing to talk with me about your life and career for inclusion in this winter issue. Could we begin with your early life?

Ali: I was born in Rafsanjan, Iran, pistachio capital of the world; my father was a pistachio merchant. I attended school here until the 11th grade; when I was 16 years old, I moved to Tehran where I attended the oldest high school in the country for my 12th year. Then, I went to the University for Teacher Education for a BS in Mathematics. Inside this University was the exclusive Institute of Math where six to ten students per year were trained for teaching at the university level. Courses were taught by professors from Iran and Europe and only three graduated from my class. I was one of the three. Upon completion of this two full-year program, I was hired at my alma mater as an assistant professor, but after four years, I realized that I needed a doctorate to advance. First, I wanted to go to England because credentials from the Institute would be recognized but decided to come to the U.S. for study. I applied at seven different universities for an MS/PhD degree

including Michigan State University. I chose MSU because I heard that the school had good housing for married students, plus the environment was safe, quiet and convenient to campus.

Martha: *Did you find this to be true?*

Ali: Yes. I found the university to be a comfortable place. Upon completion of my PhD in applied math from MSU, I went to an AMS convention in Louisville, KY, where I caught the eye of Bill Beyer, who asked that I apply to The University of Akron. I had offers from a few places, including Akron. I chose Akron because of the friendliness of Bill and Dave Buchthal and was told that houses were cheap in Akron. By this time, I had two children, and I wanted my family to be comfortable. While at MSU, I was an instructor/teaching assistant; my efforts earned me honorable mention for the Brown Excellence Teaching Assistant Award.

Martha: *When did you begin your career at UA?*

Ali: I began in 1984. My first assignment was to revise and develop the Numerical Analysis courses. Throughout my career here, I have taught more than 30 different courses, from the elementary courses at the 100 level to the 600 level for masters and doctoral students inside and outside the department including engineering and polymer science. The classes I taught were always in demand. I was demanding of students, but I found ways to encourage and engage them, to clarify or explain concepts they found difficult and to present relevant and updated real-life problems. I brought the Numerical Analysis courses up to a level comparable to any other university in the nation in scientific computations. It was in these courses that I introduced MATLAB, a preferred language for numerical analysis.

After I received tenure, I was put in charge of revising and developing the gen ed math requirement, MUM (four one-credit TV courses) to a single course, College Algebra. I brought uniformity and success to the course, but it took three years. This involved training teaching assistants and part-time faculty, assessing the results of different sections, and holding meetings

to coordinate our efforts. Later this coordination ended up with coordinating all math general education courses. From 2001 to 2007, I was program coordinator for the mathematics division.

Martha: *For one year, you were the director of the North East Ohio Center of Excellence for Mathematics and Science Teacher Education (NEOCEX), an indication that you were involved with math education at the state level.*

Ali: I collaborated with faculty at Kent State, YSU, CSU, and UA to develop programs to enhance learning at the P-12 in northeast OH. Together with a colleague, we wrote innovative lessons for middle school teachers, which are published in the Ohio Resource Center. In addition, I gave talks for the symposiums organized by the Center. In the year I served as director of NEOCEX, the center obtained two grants from Ohio Board of Regents: a three-year grant to plan programs to enhance student learning in P-12 for northeast Ohio school systems and a grant for a summer STEM program to enhance teacher training, hosted at The University of Akron and Cleveland State University. Speaking of grants, I was CO PI of more than ten grants and supplemental grants from NASA with two adjuncts over several years. Students and the department benefited from our endeavors.

Martha: *You can be proud of the awards you've received during your career. Tell us about them.*

Ali: In 2001, I received the Buchtel College of Arts and Sciences Service Award and in 2007, the Buchtel College Chair's Award for outstanding teaching. Then in 2014, I was rewarded with the UA Outstanding Teaching award. Also in 2014, I was among the state of OH educator honorees recognized for Excellence in Education; Ohio Magazine published this recognition.



Martha: *In addition to your teaching, publishing, research, presentations, etc., you gave service to UA.*

Ali: Yes, I served 14 years on the Buchtel College Council, 12 as chair. From 1999 until I retired in 2015, I represented Buchtel College on Faculty Senate for 14 years and served on many department, college, and university-wide committees. Also, I served on the Graduate Council, as well as University Council for three years. I chaired the university council budget and finance committee for those three years. Currently I am representing AUAR in the Senate and serving on the academic policies committee.

Martha: *Introduce us to your family.*

Ali: I met Fattaneh when we were both students at the university in Iran. We were married while I was a student in the Institute of Mathematics. She too is a math teacher; while teaching at Garfield High School in Akron in the day, she taught two courses per semester at UA for many years, mainly precalculus. Garfield offers a Shining Apple award: the valedictorian chooses the best teacher he or she has had during high school. Fattaneh received this award three times. We have a son who lives in Texas and a daughter, in Missouri. We meet as a family in St. Louis; we travel from OH and my son travels there from TX. We have five grandchildren.

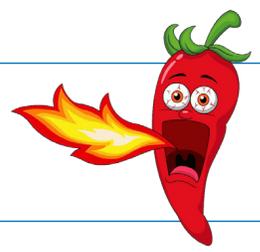
Martha: *I know that you enjoy cooking and that persian cooking is your specialty; I've tasted your delicious dishes.*

Ali: Yes, I like cooking; Fattaneh says that I'm a creative cook because I can make good tasting dishes from whatever is available in the refrigerator. I enjoy reading, traveling, watching sports (played soccer when I was younger) and working around the house. We both enjoy keeping up with our families in Iran and America through social media.

Martha: *It has been my pleasure to chat with you, Ali, and I thank you very much for serving on the AUAR Executive Board and representing AUAR on the Senate in retirement.*



November Soup and Chili Supper



On November 2, 2023, a group of 32 retirees and friends gathered at the Goodyear Metro Park Pavilion to enjoy four homemade soups and three varieties of chili. The “main courses” included Chicken Soup with Matzo Balls (Harvey Sterns), Sausage and Lentil Soup (Rita Klein), Seafood Chowder (Sharon Gandee), and Apple-Butternut Squash Soup (Martha Vye), “Just” Mild Chili (Carolyn Steiner), White Chicken Chili (Mary Verstraete), and Tex-Mex Chili (Tom Vukovich). In addition, guests brought a nice array of salads and desserts to share.

By popular demand, Neal Raber returned to complete the evening by being the caller for the BINGO games. Neal’s “unique” brand of humor always generates much laughter combined with a few “groans”! Many of this year’s prizes were actually useful. They varied from household items and holiday decorations to quite a few 2024 calendars.



In addition to the retirees who are regular attendees at the AUAR luncheon meetings, it was good to see Kathy Ciszewski, Jim and Rose Eichler, Leslie Bain, Charlene Cook, and Bonnie and Tom Tubaugh.



If you haven’t been a “regular” attendee at this event, put it on your calendar now for **Thursday, November 7, 2024.**



Scholarship Recipients

The students listed below were awarded the AUAR Scholarship for the 2023-24 academic year. Each will receive \$2,000 divided half in the fall semester and half in spring.

Abigail Armstrong
Biomedical Science major (Chemistry minor, Bioethics minor)
Overall gpa= 4.0 (not including Fall '23)

Reagan Phillips
Speech Language Pathology and Audiology major
Overall gpa= 3.640 (not including Fall '23)

Mason Arnold
Computer Information Systems- Cybersecurity
Overall gpa= 3.149 (not including Fall '23)



December Luncheon Required Last-Minute Improvising!

Scholarship Awardees Reagan Phillips and Mason Arnold



Tom and Diane Vukovich arrived at Quaker Station at 10:30 a.m. to meet singer, Robin Roseberry, and help her set up for her performance. By 11:30 a.m. it was obvious that something must have happened to prevent her from fulfilling her engagement. Later in the day, Robin emailed letting us know that due to a "crucial family emergency" she was called out of town and unable to notify us until after the luncheon concluded.

Luckily, two of the three AUAR scholarship recipients were with us and did an excellent job of telling us about themselves and their future plans. Reagan Phillips is from North Canton and is majoring in Speech

Language Pathology. She will graduate this spring and has applied to the UA graduate school program. Mason Arnold is from Shelby, Ohio. His major is Computer Information Systems Cybersecurity. He will also be a spring graduate and has a job awaiting him at Wright Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton. Both expressed their gratitude for the scholarships they received from AUAR.

Cynthia Capers then suggested that the group share some of our favorite Christmas memories. We may be retired and forgetful at times, but many attendees recalled fond memories of past Christmas traditions.

AUAR president, Harvey Sterns, had to leave early for another meeting, but left instructions that if he won the 50-50 raffle, he wanted to donate his winnings to the AUAR Scholarship Fund. Yes, he won, and the Scholarship Fund is a bit larger.

The afternoon concluded with members (led by Mason Arnold who was in glee club for four years) singing "We Wish You a Merry Christmas".



Membership Update!

Following your name on the mailing label, you will see a code designating your membership status. **L** stands for life members, **P** stands for paid members and **C** stands for complimentary members, available for new retirees. Following P or C is a number representing the year in June in which your membership expires.

So, if you see a number 23, that means that your membership expired on June 30, 2023, and this is the last newsletter that you will receive unless you renew.

Renewing is easy. You can use the form on the back of this newsletter or go to uakron.edu/auar and click on RENEW. All major credit cards are accepted.

Currently we have 175 paid members. Don't miss out. **RENEW TODAY!**

- Mel Vye, Membership Chair

Save These Dates In 2024

AUAR Road Trip - April 18 or April 26 • Lobster and Suds - June 7

UA Press Discount Offer for AUAR Members

In appreciation of the many AUAR supporters of The University of Akron Press, we would like to offer another benefit to add to membership in AUAR. This offer is a standard **30%** off the price of any book we publish using the discount code of AUAR30 when ordering from us on our website. There is no time limit on this discount.

Over the years we have provided many programs for your meetings and want to recognize and support a strong retirees group by making this offer.

- Julia Gammon, Marketing Manager
The University of Akron Press

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 webmaster@uakron.edu. Type *Digest Subscription* in the subject line of your email and request to be added to the subscription list in the message portion.!



In Memoriam

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

Abdu "Al" Alrubaiy died at 87 on June 23, 2023. He retired from UA in 1994 as Professor Emeritus in the College of Education. He then continued working in the College of Arts and Sciences until 1997. Married for 59 years, Al was a loving husband, father, and grandfather.

John "Jack" Cochran passed away on October 1, 2023, at 86. After 20 years of service to UA, he retired in 1989 from the Department of Counseling as Professor Emeritus. After retiring Jack had a private practice specializing in career counseling. He had many interests including cars, auto racing, travel, art, and photography. Jack won awards for his photography in Ohio and Santa Fe where he lived at the time of his death. He is survived by his wife Barbara and many good friends.

Evelyn Garver died on August 11, 2023, at 96. Widowed at a young age with five children, she came to work at UA. Evelyn was a secretary in the University Libraries Dean's Office and retired after 15 years of service. She earned a bachelor's degree in English while working and graduated on the same day as her youngest daughter! After retiring, she remarried and had 28 happy years with her husband Roger, who preceded her in death. Evelyn is survived by her children and many grandchildren, great grandchildren, and great great grandchildren.

H. Roger Grant passed away at 79 on November 17, 2023. After graduating from Simpson College in Iowa, he earned both his M.A. and Ph.D. in American History from the University of Missouri. He joined the UA faculty in 1970 and retired in 1996 as Professor Emeritus. He then went on to teach at Clemson University. Roger was the author, co-author, or editor of more than 400 pamphlets, book chapters, or articles. He is considered to be one of the country's leading railroad and transportation scholars. Roger served on many boards and commissions and received numerous awards. He is survived by his wife Martha of 57 years and their daughter.

Grace Jensen died at 96 on July 23, 2023. She raised her four sons after being widowed at a young age. Grace worked as a professional cook at UA for 17 years, retiring in 1990. She was a volunteer at her church and ushered at both E.J. Thomas Hall and the Akron Civic Theatre. She was an avid collector of dishes, pottery, art glass, dolls, cookbooks, and cookware. Grace was preceded in death by her husband George and her son Gerald. She is survived by many relatives.

Roberta "Penny" Marquette passed away at 78 on October 31, 2023. She earned a degree in Broadcasting from the University of Florida, a master's in accounting from UA and a doctorate in Accounting from Kent State. Penny taught accounting in the College of Business Administration for 20 years, retiring in 2001 as Professor Emerita. She volunteered at Hospice Care Center and was elected clerk-treasurer of Bath Township where she served one term. Penny was a Master Gardener, loved animals, and had numerous publications. She is survived by her son and his wife, five grandchildren, and her sister.

Kenneth Mast died on August 17, 2023, at 92. He taught in the College of Business Administration for 26 years, retiring in 1996 as Professor Emeritus. He then continued to work in Academic Advisement until 2001. Ken served in the military.

Delmus "Del" Williams passed away on November 6, 2023, at 76. He retired as Professor Emeritus from the University Libraries in 2010 after 18 years of service, 13 of which were while he was Dean. As Dean, he established faculty status for librarians, helped plan the formation of Ohio LINK, and folded the University Press into the University Libraries. Del was an active writer and editor. He loved to travel and taught in Lithuania as a Fulbright fellow.

– Memorials written by Diane Lazzerini

Editorial note:

Please alert us to any member of our university family whom we have overlooked.



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**AUAR Membership, Department of Development, Attention AUAR
 The University of Akron, Akron, OH 44325-2603**

If you haven't renewed your AUAR membership for the **2023-2024** year, it is time to do so. Don't forget our Scholarship fund where we provide some funding to a worthy student. Please complete the items listed below, and mail your check to the address above.

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

Name: First _____ Last _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

E-Mail Address: _____

Dues are \$15 per year (or \$15 per year for multiple years) or \$150 for life. Dues and gifts can be placed on one **check made payable to The University of Akron**. If you prefer, you may renew online at www.uakron.edu/auar.

The AUAR Newsletter is a biannual publication of The University of Akron Retirees (AUAR), c/o the Department of Development, The University of Akron, Akron, OH 44325-2603.

AUAR members receive our newsletter automatically. Due to COVID-19 concerns, the Board meets on the 4th Thursday in person or on Zoom according to personal preferences.

If you have questions about the organization or to keep abreast of events and issues pertinent to all UA retirees, visit our website at www.uakron.edu/auar. The newsletter editor, Martha Vye, can be reached at vye@uakron.edu or 330-644-7490.

If you are interested in entertainment within the Akron area, check into our web site and view the events listed under the Special Events Menu. Just Log on to www.uakron.edu/auar and click on the Menu "Special Events" or type www.uakron.edu/auar/special-events.dot

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Spring 2024 Speaker Schedule

February 21 - Rochelle Sibbio, President and CEO, Habitat for Humanity of Summit County
Topic: Adding new homes to the Akron's Neighborhoods, one home at a time

March 20 - Dr. Dan Sheffer, UA retiree
Topic: Birding in Cuba-Nov. 2023

April 17 - Jason Segedy, UA Project Manager, Office of the President
Topic: Polsky/Knight Creative: Forging a link between Town and Gown.



Seated: Richard Milford, Rita Klein, Diane Vukovich, Robert Gandee
Standing: Dan Sheffer, John Heminger, Melvin Vye, Ali Hajjafar, Tom Nichols, Richard Steiner, Mary Verstraete, Connie Heldenfels, Martha Vye, Carl Lieberman

Board Meetings 2024

Jan. 25 • Feb. 22 • Mar. 28 • Apr. 25 • May 23 • Jun. 27

Our Motto

People say interns and new hires are the promise of the future.
 Let's not forget that retirees are promises kept.