



THE AUAR NEWSLETTER

The Association of The University of Akron Retirees

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings to all my fellow retirees from The University of Akron! We have just exited the strangest time in our lives. And I do hope I'm not using the term "exit" prematurely! I'm hoping that our year ahead will allow us some normalcy paired with some wise precautions. If so --- all will be well.

I am so honored and humbled to be taking over the presidency of this fabulous group which, from its infancy was the brainchild of those intimately and passionately connected to The University of Akron, her students, and our region. I am blessed to have by my side these next two years, Dr. Harvey Sterns as my President Elect. It was Harvey, Dr. Michael Sugarman, Tim Dufore and Dr. Robert Ferguson who initially got the ball rolling in 1998. It was President Marion Ruebel and Dr. Joseph Walton who formed a Steering Committee with former President Dominic Guzzetta as Chair. We were known at that point as an "Emeriti College." Harvey tapped Dr. June Burton to put pen to paper to incorporate all that had up to this point been discussions into a constitution and bylaws. And June and her committee did it! I hope you can see, from this brief trip down memory lane, we've got BIG SHOES to fill!!!

We owe many words of thanks and appreciation to our outgoing leader, Dan Sheffer. He definitely knew how to "row this boat" through rough waters. His time as president of the Faculty Senate certainly paid off for us! It has indeed been a difficult period in many ways for many of us. But I believe that we can "calm the waters" by taking stock of our origins in 1998 and taking time to refocus and redirect our energies moving forward from 2021. That's 23 years of growth and evolution that we have to build on! I invite you all to take some time to read our history as put forth on the AUAR web page so you can understand why we began, where we have been.... and now where shall we go. I am hopeful, looking forward to the future of AUAR, that we will continue to add to our legacy of dedication to this university and all that it touches.



Rita Klein
President 2021 – 2022

In Memoriam

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

Joan Baumgardner, RN, BSN, MSN, PhD, died on February 2, 2021, at the age of 85. She led groups of UA students to Norway each summer for several years so they could observe a different health system. Joan retired in 1987 and enjoyed traveling. She is survived by her husband, Reverend Thomas Baumgardner, and a large family.

Charlotte Bentley passed away on February 23, 2021, at 83. She began working at UA in 1984 and retired from the College of Nursing in 2000. She loved music. Charlotte is survived by her husband, Richard, and children and grandchildren.

Dr. Tomasita Chandler died at 78 on January 10, 2021. She began her career at UA in 1971 and retired in 2000. She was honored as the University's Outstanding Teacher in 1991. In 1993 Dr. Chandler was nominated by UA as its candidate for U.S. Professor of the year. She had a B.A. in Home Economics and a doctorate in Child and Family Development and Home Economics Education. Her husband, Robert, predeceased her. She loved quilting, reading, and hosting parties.

Lawrence Ciarrochi passed away at 88 on June 7, 2021. He served in the armed forces and after working for a construction company he became a member of the UA Carpentry Shop where he worked for 24 years. Lawrence was preceded in death by his wife of 56 years. He is survived by a large family, all of whom loved his homemade meatballs and sauce!

Johnny Kimble Fletcher died at 59 on March 18, 2021. He retired from UA in 2011 with 30 years of service. Kim was the Equipment Maintenance Superintendent in the Physical Facilities Department. He was preceded in death by his father and is survived by his mother and stepfather, a large family, and his UA family.

William Francis, 82, died on February 24, 2021. He was a professor of English at UA for more than 40 years and retired as Associate Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. He loved literature, travel, long walks, good conversations, and nice meals. He is survived by his wife, Margaret, and their children and grandchildren.

Richard Haas passed away at 100 on January 26, 2021. He earned a B.S. in Chemistry at MIT in 1943. He then served as a flight instructor during WWII. Dick graduated from Harvard Law School in 1948. In 1960 he joined Goodyear and retired from there as Patent Counsel in 1985. He became an arbitrator with the Ohio and Federal Courts, arbitrating more than 400 cases. In 1997 he joined the faculty of the UA School of Law as the organizer and initial Director of the Center for Intellectual Property. He loved golf and was a Life Master at Bridge. Dick was preceded in death by his wife and is survived by their three children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

Dr. Chang Dae Han "Paul" died at 85 on July 25, 2021. He was born in Korea and received a B.S. in Chemical Engineering from Seoul National University. Having come to the U.S. for graduate studies, he earned both a Master of Science and a Doctorate of Science in Chemical Engineering at MIT. He became the

Benjamin Franklin Goodrich Endowed Professor of Polymer Engineering at UA in 1993 and retired in 2012 as Emeritus of Polymer Engineering. Paul is survived by his wife of 59 years, Kitty, three children, and 5 grandchildren

Jo Ann Harris died on May 11, 2021, at 74. She taught full-time in the Criminal Justice program in the former Summit College for 15 years and then taught part-time for another 18 years.

Bruce Hollering passed away on April 28, 2021, at 83. He had a bachelor's from Ohio Northern, a master's from Kent, and his doctorate from Ohio State. He was a Sports Medicine professor at KSU and then joined the UA faculty in 1983. Bruce retired as Professor Emeritus in Physical Education in 1996. He loved gardening and was an avid runner. Bruce is survived by his wife, Kathryn, and a large family.

Gertrude Alice Kengott passed away on February 26, 2021, at 94. She was born on a dairy farm and loved it and the outdoors. She and her husband married in 1949 and built a house where they lived out their lives and raised their six children. Milton preceded her in death after 57 years of marriage. They had a florist shop and Alice worked at UA from 1971 to 1996, putting all 6 children through college. She worked in Student Affairs in the Adult Resource Center. Alice loved nature and reading.

Kathy King died on July 27, 2021, at 89. She worked at UA for 23 years and retired from the Academic Advising Center. She loved being a wife and mother. Kathy was a devout Catholic who was active in her church, helped the Red Cross after disasters, and loved the people of the Catholic Missions in El Salvador where her son served as a missionary. She enjoyed camping, boating, and traveling. Kathy was preceded in death by her son, Russ Jr., and is survived by her husband of 66 years, Russ, and their children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

Cathy Kodish passed away at 72 on May 18, 2021. She worked for 48 years, first retiring from General Tire and then from UA after 20 years of service in Instructional Services. Cathy is survived by her husband of 42 years, Neal, and many family members. Her favorite thing to do was be outside on a sunny day with her dogs.

Ed Lasher, Ed.D., died at 78 on January 31, 2021. He received his degrees from Oneonta College, Indiana University, and the University of North Dakota. Ed joined the UA faculty in 1972 and retired in 1998. He served as professor and Director of the Audiovisual Lab. He was a very active member of AUAR, serving as president, board member, and official photographer. He loved traveling and enjoyed taking photos of the places he went. He was a member of the Temple Israel for 46 years and was an active volunteer not only there but at several other organizations. Ed is survived by his wife of 46 years, Judy, a UA retiree, their two daughters, and two grandchildren.

Lloyd Lueptow died on March 21, 2021, at 92. He was a pilot who flew in a Hurricane Squadron, carried transport to Europe and helped build the U.S. Air Force base in Greenland, finishing his career as an Ensign in the Naval Reserve. Lloyd had a notable career at UA in Sociology and Social Psychology,

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retiring as Professor Emeritus. He is survived by his wife of 30 years, Margaret Basilia, and two children. Lloyd loved sailing and competed out of Sandusky. Until recently, he lived for 25 years in the Florida Keys.

Roberta Martin passed away at 75 on October 4, 2020. She had a doctorate in Psychology and helped many students at UA as an Academic Adviser for 38 years. She was preceded in death by Fred, her husband of 46 years and is survived by her two sons and a grandson. Bobbie loved nature and was happiest when she was outdoors. She loved plants, camping, and fly fishing.

James Miller died at 75 on June 7, 2021. After 30 years of service, he retired from UA's Information Technology Department in 2017 as a lead network engineer. He loved making his yard beautiful and cheering on his grandkids. James is survived by Julie, his wife of 56 years, and their children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

Nancy Mulhauser passed away on May 18, 2021, at 80. Born in Cleveland, she loved the city, its sports teams, and its cultural institutions. Her adopted hometowns of Akron and Cuyahoga Falls were also home to many of her favorite places, including the Metro Parks, CVNP, the Akron Civic Theatre, and the Falls Library where she was board secretary. She loved to travel the world with her husband of 60 years, John, a UA retiree. Nancy was a member of Progress Through Preservation and AUAR.

Dr. Allen Noble died at 90 on March 24, 2020. He completed his Ph.D. in Geography at the University of Illinois in 1957 and then worked for the U.S. State Department as a consular officer in Brazil and India. He joined the UA faculty in 1964 as head of the Geography Department, a position he held for the next 30 years. He authored and edited many scholarly publications, including 15 books. He retired in 1999 as Distinguished Professor Emeritus. Allen traveled widely in the U.S. and abroad. He was predeceased by a daughter and is survived by his wife, Jane, and two sons.

Dr. Joseph Perry passed away at 76 on February 4, 2021. Having received his Ph.D. from Kent in School Psychology, he was an assistant professor at UA in Family Ecology in the College of Fine and Applied Arts from 1987 to 1996. He held several other professional positions, was a licensed psychologist in three states and had a private practice for 25 years. Joseph was credentialed at the highest level of his profession as a Diplomate with the American Board of Professional Psychology. He loved collecting antique clocks, watching the Browns and Buckeyes, boating, landscaping, and Roman history. Joseph was preceded in death by his son and is survived by his wife, Dr. Elizabeth Bard, and two daughters.

Kenneth Preston, Jr., died at 88 on February 19, 2021. He attended Princeton but was drafted into the Army, serving from 1953 to 1955. He then graduated from OSU with an Engineering degree and went on to get his law degree from George Washington University. After working for several corporations, he returned to Ohio to join UA as the Associate V.P. for Research and Director of Technology Transfer as well as V.P. and Executive Director of the UA Research Foundation. He

loved nature and was an avid music lover, attending seasons of performances by the Cleveland Orchestra for more than 40 years. Kenneth is survived by his partner of 32 years, Nita Milbourn, two children, and three grandchildren.

Helen "Penny" Ryan Ranson was professor of Modern Languages at UA from 1968 to 2000. She taught Spanish and retired as Professor Emeritus the same year as her husband, Dr. Nicholas Ranson, an Associate Professor Emeritus in the Department of English. He survives her. Penny was very active at her church, St Hilary.

Thomas Reese, 70, died on June 26, 2021. For 30 years he served UA as a Safety Officer. He loved his retirement years and enjoyed the family home and boat on Lake Erie. Tom also loved to golf. He was preceded in death by his wife of 40 years, Ginger, and leaves a large family of siblings, nieces, and nephews.

Charles Stephens died at 73 on December 4, 2020. He was an Academic Adviser from 1979 to 2008. Charles loved to play tennis and played nearly every day after work in the summer. He retired to North Carolina. Charles is survived by his wife and son.

Genevieve "Gigi" Turlik passed away on April 5, 2021, at 95. She graduated as an RN from Idabelle Firestone School of Nursing and earned her Master's from UA. She taught in the Allied Health Technology program from 1976 to 1988. Gigi was preceded in death by her husband of 64 years, John. She loved Polka music and Croatian line dancing. She played the balalaika in a local ensemble and loved to read and play cards and other games. Gigi was proud of her Polish heritage, which she passed on to her large family of six children, 13 grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren.

Darlene Walker died at 65 on July 15, 2021. She worked at UA in Health and Safety from 1977 to 1983 and then returned to UA in 1989 to work in the Records Department of the Registrar's Office. She retired in 2014 and returned to work part time until June of this year. She enjoyed reading, watching tennis, birdwatching, and traveling with her husband, Dale. In addition to her husband, Darlene is survived by her parents, three sons, and four grandchildren.

Carol Walters died on July 22, 2021, at 87. When her daughters were in elementary school, she began working at UA in 1968. She retired in 1994 as Director of Admissions for the College of Law. Carol had a great sense of humor, loved camping, and wintered in Arizona for 26 years. She is survived by her husband of 63 years, Noel, their two daughters, and a granddaughter.

Dr. Hans Zbinden died on June 27, 2021, at the age of 90. He graduated from Wittenburg College in 1953 and later earned his Ph.D. from Penn State. Hans taught German language and culture to UA students from 1965 to 1995 and retired as Professor Emeritus. Hans was a member of AUAR, served as Recording Secretary, and regularly attended meetings with his wife of 68 years, Kathy. He was an accomplished organist and played at worship services at Faith Lutheran Church for more than 30 years. Hans is survived by Kathy and their two daughters.

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

FACULTY SENATE SPRING 2021

During the SPRING Semester 2021, the activities of the Faculty Senate included the following:

- Approved a motion brought by the Academic Policies Committee to approve the name change of the College of Business Administration to the College of Business.
- Approved a motion brought by the Academic Policies Committee to create a crisis policy for the Credit/Non Credit option.
- Approved a motion brought by the Academic Policies Committee to approve the no-test option for admission.
- Approved a motion brought by the Academic Policies Committee to create the Center for Intelligence Studies and Safety.
- Approved courses and programs brought by the Curriculum Review Committee.
- Approved a motion brought by the Computing and Communications Committee to move to Microsoft Teams as the primary video conferencing solution for fall 2021.
- Approved a motion brought by the Computing and Communications Committee to create a committee to review the replacement of Qualtrics software and to research possible alternatives.
- Approved two motions from the ad hoc Committee on Program Review to create a permanent committee and to create a committee on summative review.
- Approved a motion brought by the Part-Time Faculty Committee to increase part-time faculty pay.
- Approved changes to the Faculty Senate bylaws.
- Approved a motion brought by the Academic Policies Committee regarding the consolidation and name changes proposed by the faculty of the University Libraries. Consolidation and re-naming involved:
 1. Structurally organizing non-administrative University Libraries faculty into a single University Libraries Faculty unit reporting up through the Associate Dean for Technical Services with the name changed with the designation University Libraries Faculty;
 2. Consolidating staff, contract professionals, and coordination of services from Access Services, Research & Learning Services, and Science & Technology Library units into a single centralized unit reporting up through the Assistant Dean for Public Services and Facilities with the designation University Libraries Public Services;
 3. Changing the name of Archival Services to Archives and Special Collections; and
 4. Changing the name of Electronic Services to Technical Services.
- Approved a motion brought by the Academic Policies Committee to change the name of the Center for IT & e Business (CITe) of the College of Business to the Center for IT & Analytics (CITA).
- Approved a motion brought by the Academic Policies Committee to transfer the Classics program and its full-time faculty member from Anthropology Department to History Department.

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- Approved a motion brought by the Academic Policies Committee to establish the Center for Financial Wellness in the College of Business.
- Approved a motion brought by the Curriculum Review Committee to endorse a pause on Theater and Public Administration and Urban studies programs.
- Approved a resolution brought by the Computing and Communications Committee that University to renew the Qualtrix software.
- Approved a motion brought by the Academic Policies Committee to add to the bulletin that two third of credits for all certificates must be completed at the University of Akron.
- Approved the list of graduates for the Spring semester.

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

BENEFITS

The year 2021 was an awful year for University of Akron retirees in regard to retiree benefits. On January 1, 2021, the university broke long-time promises to retirees. With the excuse of a financial crisis, they eliminated retiree dependent health benefits and life insurance for retirees. Both retiree dependent health insurance and life insurance at retirement were promises made to retirees many years ago and again that promise was repeated at the time of their retirement.

At least one retiree dependent had a letter from the University stating that these were lifetime benefits. That letter was ignored. Some ninety-year-old retiree dependents in their golden years were thrown off their retiree dependent insurance at a time in their lives when they did not need this aggravation. The university offered no help to any retiree dependents in getting new insurance. Retiree dependents who were at one time union members of AAUP received one month's official notice that their retiree dependent health insurance was being ended. The notice that life insurance was being eliminated was even shorter. That really didn't matter because most retirees with university life insurance were too old to purchase life insurance on the open market.

The President of the University of Akron Retirees Association pleaded with the University president to maintain retiree health benefits for a time, especially for retiree dependents under 65 who would have a very hard time finding health insurance at reasonable rates. His pleas were ignored.

During their working years, some employees opted for less University provided life insurance while they were working in order to get more life insurance when they retired.

Some retirees were told when they were working that even though their salaries were not competitive with other Ohio state universities, they had great benefits including retiree benefits.

The moral of this article is do not count on future promises as they are often not kept.

- Submitted by Linda Sugarman, Benefits Representative



Please meet John Gwinn, a retiree from The University of Akron in 2000 after 30 years of teaching. He has been an AUAR member for many years.

Martha: *John, you're a native Ohioan with higher education from Indiana. What was your journey from Dayton to Akron?*

John: I grew up in Dayton and attended the Church of the Brethren, which led me to a college that the church supported--Manchester College in Indiana and that seemed like a reasonable place to go and I liked Indiana as much as a 20-year-old likes any place. I studied biology; from there, I later went to Purdue, where I earned a master's in neurobiology. It was there that I met my first wife, Diane; we were married and decided that we would settle somewhere closer to home, which turned out to be Cuyahoga Falls.

Martha: *Prior to UA, did you have other teaching jobs?*

No, the teaching that I did was as a graduate assistant at Kent State University. There, I pursued a Ph.D. in comparative physiology—how do animals differ and do things and how they respond to environmental situations.

Martha: *What subjects did you teach when you went to UA?*

As I remember, I started out teaching traditional anatomy and physiology to nursing students but later decided there was a better way and that led me to develop ATAP (audio tutorial anatomy and physiology) in the mid-70s. Lectures were recorded on tapes; students could listen to the tapes and use an outline/study guide. They could even take the tapes home with them. There were weekly units and when students were ready, they could schedule on-line tests and they could retest as well. At one time, I had around 900 students in ATAP, and John Hirshbuhl appreciated all the students I sent to Computer-Based Education at the time. Students liked this method of learning. I also taught pharmacology as well as comparative anatomy.

Martha: *I understand that you received an award for this innovation.*

John: I earned the Phoebe Award in recognition of my development of this program, its unique qualities, and its use computers. I added a segment where groups of 6 to 8 student met weekly with a grad assistant for oral quizzes. They had to verbalize what was learned in the laboratory, and periodically we had what we called a general assembly where there was a guest lecturer, a film, or special topic; students were required to write a paragraph about the subject. It was a different way of presenting the information and holding students responsible for learning.

Martha: *Years after your first wife Diane passed away, you met and married Jane. It is interesting to compare how you met then and how people meet today.*

Jane: Back in the day, the Beacon Journal offered a section called Personals, maybe compared to today's dating sites. One could put an ad in the paper but the person who responded had to pay for it. John's ad read:

“Single widowed professor seeking woman with preteen kids.” I was shocked that anyone would want teens. I answered it and asked that if he called back, he was to say that he was from the Beacon Journal because I didn’t want my children to know about my answering the ad. We learned that we worked close to each other—he, at the University and I, at Info Line, about a block away. We agreed to meet downtown; I went to the Diamond Deli and John went to the Diamond Grill. Our plan didn’t work out. Later, we met at a Country Kitchen in Kent. We married in 1993.

John: In the 10 years following Diane’s passing, I thought about being a part of a family with kids and had an interest in seeing what would happen. I wasn’t interested in a family with adult children.

Jane: He became a grandfather one month after we were married. He has been a wonderful stepfather to my four children, eight grandchildren, and four great grandchildren.

Martha: Jane, I understand that you were born in New York City.

Jane: Yes, I was born in Queens but moved upstate. I went to Kent to study physical education and be involved in their gymnastics program but left after the May 4 incident without finishing my degree. I married and had four children. I worked for Info Line, a nonprofit organization, for 17 years. After my marriage to John, I completed a degree in Social Work and Gerontology. Then I worked for Family and Community Services in Portage County as a case manager. I joined the Kent Lions Club in 2002 and have received several awards for service. When I was inducted as Lion of the Year, John moved from the Cuyahoga Falls Lions to the Kent Lions. In 2015, I retired but continue to volunteer for the UA Women’s Club, Retired Senior Volunteer Program, and Kent Social Services.

Martha: John, I know that in your 45 years in the Lions Club you gave much, but you have

made some pretty impressive contributions to other organizations.

John: After retirement, I completed a master’s in public health at NEOCOM in the charter class. Later I was appointed to the Kent City Health Department Board, the Ohio Board of Local Health Departments, and the National Association of Local Boards of Health, serving as president in 2004-2006 for the latter. I served on a committee to develop national criteria for certification for local boards of health. This work involved traveling extensively in the U.S. Often, Jane would travel with me, and we would extend a trip with a vacation at the end.

Martha: Besides having an interest in health, you’re quite the gardener. I remember seeing your garden when you lived on Harvey Street in Kent.

John: I became a Master Gardener through the Extension Service and became an active member of the Kent Garden Club. In addition to serving in many positions, I introduced Keep America Beautiful to Kent with Adopt a Spot. Often, I did judging and took gardening questions on the telephone.

Martha: Tell us of your traveling and your hosting of internationals.

Jane: We have hosted five American Field Service (AFS) exchange students and have traveled to most of their countries, plus we have hosted international teachers. Our other travel includes many states in the U.S., Ireland, Europe, Argentina, and China.

Martha: Both of you are quite accomplished and I’m impressed by the many awards you have received for your efforts. Speaking for AUAR, I say thanks for sharing your story with us.

PENDULUM THEORY TOPIC FOR FEBRUARY MEETING



Dr. Paul B. Weinstein

Over the years, AUAR has brought to our Luncheon Speaker Series interesting presentations and topics. We have had entertainment, book reviews, travelogues, civic leaders, naturalists, and researchers.

The February 17, 2021, virtual meeting generated some cerebral activity as we were treated to a presentation entitled "The Pendulum Theory of American Political History." Our guest speaker was Dr. Paul B. Weinstein, Professor of History Emeritus from UA's Wayne College.

Dr. Weinstein explained that since the Civil War, America has experienced continuous periods of "WE," where the prevailing trend is for people to prioritize reform and the common good; and then when that impulse is exhausted, the pendulum swings to periods of "ME," where individuals prioritize themselves and their own well-being.

Dr. Weinstein explained that the "WE" collective values are community, teamwork, cooperation, and enlightened self-interest and interdependence. On the other hand, the focus of the "ME" values shifts to the individual and center around self-reliance, competition, self-interest, and independence. We are all of these things at the same time.

Paul then proceeded to give illustrations of the pendulum swinging back and forth. The Civil War produced a "WE" period up to the end of the era of Reconstruction. A "ME" period then blossomed with the conquest of Native Americans, the opening of the western territories, economic growth, the emergence of the "Robber Barons," entrepreneurs, and "go-getters." By the 1880s, people living on farms, who valued self-reliance and independence ("ME" values) were the majority of the population. But urbanization was starting to increase due to industrialization and immigration.

By the 1920s the rural population was less than in the cities. City people tend to be more interdependent ("WE" values) than the rural population, so once again the pendulum began to swing. Under Walter Raughenbusch, the country experienced the "Social Gospel Movement" that gave roots to "Modern American Liberalism." Paul noted that Ohio played a major part during this period when the mayors of Toledo and Cleveland instituted "WE" type progressive reforms. New political leaders developed services for workers, fair police and justice measures, and promoted the growth of their cities.

The Progressive Era was characterized by social stability, organization, efficiency, and opportunity. President Theodore (Teddy) Roosevelt names his political agenda the "Square Deal." It included the preservation and management of natural resources. Paul cited that the presidential election of 1912 had four candidates, all calling themselves "Progressives."

WWI brought on a crusade for democracy. President Woodrow Wilson proposed a "League of Nations." However, after the end of the war, the U.S. Senate disregarded such a notion and the pendulum began its swing back to the "ME" values. Rugged individualism became the dominant value of the leadership in the country. Presidents Warren Harding, Calvin Coolidge, and Herbert Hoover led America during the "roaring 20s," an "I" generation of self-indulgence.

Then came the 1929 stock market crash. Paul cited this quote by Dorothy Parker. "There is no longer I; there is WE. The day of the individual is dead." That brought the pendulum back to the "WE" position. FDR's "New Deal" coalition would last for the next 50 years. During this period there would be a growth in labor unions, ethnic minorities, big city voters, liberal farm groups, the white south, and intellectuals. WWII galvanized the country to work together for the greater good. Citizens were asked to "do with less so the soldiers have enough." The "WE" needed to fight the war. This led to approximately 15 consecutive years of interdependence.

After WWII and into the 1950s and 1960s, the "WE" swing began to fade out. Migration to the suburbs increased. By 1960, 33 percent of the population was living in the suburbs. This gave rise to a mindset of "ME" values including self-reliance, competition, and independence. The urbanites thought of themselves as out on the frontier, i.e., the "urban frontier."

President Kennedy's challenge to America to "ask not what your country can do for you but what you can do for your country" was the ultimate "WE" statement.

But as the pendulum moves one way, the seeds are planted for the beginning of the swing to the other direction. Enter Barry Goldwater and conservative philosophies. Although Lyndon Johnson brought us "The Great Society," the 1970s and beyond saw the shift back to "ME" under Nixon, Reagan, and Bush I. In this period we experienced the movement to the "sun belt," the aging of the "baby boomers," rise of the right-wing media, and a decline in union membership. In 1980 one-fifth of the income was owned by 1 percent of the population.

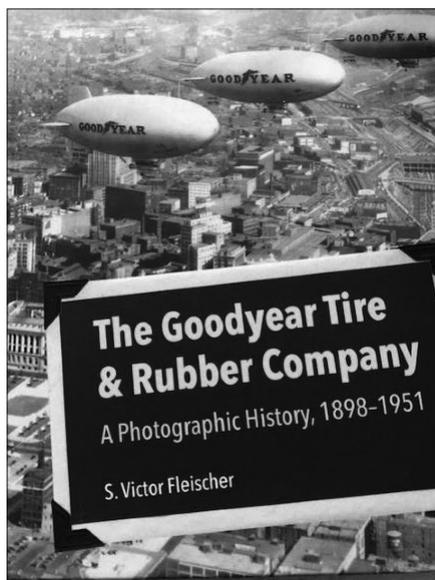
The 1990s, with President Bill Clinton, saw the swing to the “ME.” Under President George W. Bush, the horror of the 9/11 tragedy did bring us to a “WE” mentality for a time, but the country was eager to return to conducting business as usual, so it was back to the “ME.”

The Obama years marked the beginning of a “WE” swing. “We are the ones we’ve been waiting for. We are the change that we seek,” said Barack Obama.

In summary, Dr. Weinstein reminded us that 1) the pendulum moved from “WE” to “ME” within 15 years of the Civil War; 2) it took about 20 years for another swing; 3) the world wars precipitated swings as did the Great Depression; 4) the swing from the 60s to the New Conservatism began with Goldwater and fully arrived with Reagan; 5) the latest swing probably began in the early 2000s but still hasn’t yet fully defined itself.

Paul suggested that the “MAGA” movement was not a forward-looking movement, but one that looked to a nostalgia for the past via Trump’s “America First Movement.” At the present, Dr. Weinstein feels that the pendulum is swinging, but slowly, and in fact may be stalled. It is also possible that this paradigm is no longer operative. Only time will tell!

MARCH MEETING PRESENTER UA ARCHIVIST - VICTOR FLEISHER



The March 17, 2021, retirees meeting was again held virtually via ZOOM. Our presenter, Victor Fleisher, serves as Archivist, Head of Archival Services and Associate Professor of Bibliography at The University of Akron. Previously he held similar positions at Youngstown State University and Stan Hywet Hall and Gardens. Victor holds a BA and MA in History and a Masters Degree in Library Science from Kent State University and has worked for over three decades as a professional archivist researching, writing, and preserving local history. He has published many articles in archival journals and researched, co-wrote and co-produced the Emmy-nominated documentary, “Lost Voices of the Great War.”

You may recall that a few years ago Victor gave us a preview of the photographic collection donated to UA by Goodyear. His March presentation featured the photos from his new book, “The Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company: A Photographic History, 1898-1951,” which resulted from his research.

First, Victor gave us a little background about his department. Archival Services is a division of the University’s libraries. Its mission is to collect, preserve, and provide access to materials that document the history of the Institution and Akron area. The department’s focus also includes the Ohio Canal, the rubber and polymer industry, and “Lighter Than Air Flight.”

In 2008 the Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company donated part of its corporate records to UA. The donation consisted of 93,000 folders containing between 500,000 and 1 million images. It is considered one of the largest and oldest corporate collections in the U.S. The portion donated to UA was appraised at \$1.2 million. The collection now at UA covers Goodyear’s history from 1898-1984.

What do you do with such a vast number of materials that need to be digitized, indexed, and cataloged? Answer – apply for a grant to support that massive undertaking. In 2016, Archival Services received a \$303,000 grant (the largest in UA history at the time) from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH).

This grant started a two-year project involving scanning and cataloging over 23,000 images covering the period from 1898-1951. Victor explained that the materials collected during this time period were among the most fragile and needed the most attention. Many photos were on nitrate film, which is flammable and not suitable for safe storage on campus.

Once that process was accomplished, Victor developed a plan for a book as a way to share these amazing pictures and stories and to promote the collection. By putting the photos with historical context and providing background information, he could tell the rich history and contributions of Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company and its importance to Akron, the region, and around the world. In addition, he hoped that the effort would appeal to NEH.

cont. page 9

Perhaps this would lead to more support to complete phases 2 and 3 of the project, which would deal with the remaining portion of the collection. Victor feels that there are several more books to come from these materials if he has the stamina to begin the process once again.

His initial book, "The Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company: A Photographic History, 1898-1951," contains 286 pages and 193 photographs. It focuses on images not previously published and rarely seen by the general public. Emphasis was given to the historical significance of many of the vast array of products produced along with the people and places involved with the development and manufacturing process. It took Victor six full years to complete the project.

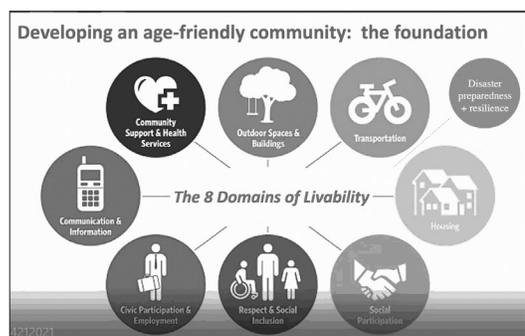
The book is arranged into six chapters based on products with sub-sections for items made within the larger category. The six chapters are: Chapters 1 and 2 (Tires), Chapter 3 (Airships), Chapter 4 (Balloons), Chapter 5 (Mechanical and Industrial Products, and Chapter 6 (Products Made to Support the War Effort).

Victor's presentation included many images found in the book along with interesting stories about the people and how and why the products were made by Goodyear. To see images from the collection, visit www.uakron.edu/libraries/archives. If you or your family are interested in Goodyear's heritage or Akron's history, this book is sure to be satisfying. You can purchase Victor's book at local book sellers or from the UA Press at www.uakron.edu/uapress.

Since we started using ZOOM this past November, retirees from outside the Akron area have been joining us. This is one of the extra benefits of using such technology. We plan to investigate using ZOOM to continue broadcasting our programs as we, hopefully, are able to return to having luncheons again starting in September. UA President, Dr. Gary Miller, is scheduled to be our November speaker.

IS AKRON AN AGE-FRIENDLY CITY?

The April 2021 AUAR speaker was Dr. Anthony Sterns, son of Drs. Ronnie & Harvey Sterns. Anthony has followed in his father's footsteps and has developed a career working on issues facing older adults. Currently he is the Secretary General of The International Society for Gerontechnology and has pioneered the application of mobile computers and smartphones to improve communication between patients and their health care providers.



Dr. Sterns' presentation, via ZOOM, was a report on a survey recently concluded regarding the "age friendliness" of the City of Akron. The survey was conducted by Drs. Harvey & Anthony Sterns and Briana Rummer. The partners in this process to determine "Age Friendly Cities and Communities" are the City of Akron, Direction Home, Akron-Canton Area Agency on Aging and Disabilities, the City of Akron Senior Citizens Commission to the Mayor and City Council, and The University of Akron. Members of the Commission on Aging make up the core advising committee for this "Age Friendly Akron" initiative.

The project, designed to assess "livable communities" for older adults, was developed by the World Health Organization (WHO) to help cities prepare for the rapid aging of populations and the increase in urbanization. AARP joined the effort to encourage communities in the United States to begin to establish a baseline to determine if older adults are able to "age in place." The goal is to conduct a community needs assessment and identify and prioritize areas of focus. According to the AARP Research Department, "a livable community is defined as a community that is safe and secure, has affordable and appropriate transportation options, and offers supportive community features and services." (Joanne Binette, AARP Research)

The instrument developed and used in the Akron survey followed the WHO and AARP suggestions and looked at the following 8 areas that influence the quality of life for older adults: 1) outdoor spaces and buildings, 2) housing, 3) transportation, 4) social participation, 5) respect and social inclusion, 6) civic participation and employment, 7) communication and information, and 8) community health services. Once a baseline is established by assessing these domains, the next step is to help policy makers and planners better understand the needs of their aging populations and then begin to take steps that will improve the livability for all in the community.

Akron has committed to undertaking this 5-year study by conducting this assessment in year 1, creating an action plan in year 2 (now being developed), and implementing the plan in years 3-5. A program and status update will be done at the end of year 5.

Rate Akron

8. Rate Akron as a place for people to live as they age

Row Labels	44223	44303	44313	44302	44312	44301	44305	44310	44320	44314	44307	44306	44311	Grand Total
1 Excellent	0%	10%	8%	0%	10%	8%	3%	5%	8%	2%	11%	8%	0%	7%
2 Very Good	25%	24%	38%	36%	19%	36%	21%	21%	23%	27%	25%	25%	36%	27%
3 Good	63%	59%	51%	55%	60%	51%	65%	56%	53%	52%	54%	45%	45%	54%
4 & 5 Poor & Very Poor	13%	7%	3%	9%	10%	5%	12%	18%	14%	19%	11%	23%	18%	11%
Total n	8	29	105	11	58	39	68	57	72	48	28	40	11	574

Ordered highest income to lowest income

Note: Zip codes with less than 8 responses were excluded from this analysis

Dr. Sterns reviewed for us the survey instrument and results of the Akron assessment. The survey was conducted in January and February 2020. Steps were taken to include citizens from all wards. A list of eligible Akron voters over 60 years of age was obtained. A normal distribution in regard to race for the City of Akron was included. Possible participants were then sent a packet of materials; 647 (about 90%) of the surveys were returned. Two-thirds of the respondents were women. The average age of respondents was 70. Most of the respondents were long-time residents of Akron with a mean of 50 years. The respondents' demographics indicated a

slightly higher level of education and reflected the vocational history of Akron. The survey also indicated a high level of independent living with 76% of the participants owning their own homes.

Following the 8 domains established by WHO and AARP to determine the age-friendliness of the community, 8-10 questions were asked regarding each area. Some of the results indicated that the older participants valued remaining in their homes and remaining in Akron more than those who were younger. Dr. Sterns felt that this was good news for Mayor Horrigan as it would seem to indicate that they think Akron is a good place to live.

Areas that were rated quite favorably included affordable housing, good seasonal services, access to parks,

available public transportation (however, 90% of respondents still drive their own vehicles), access to transportation for individuals with disabilities, and access to internet services such as WIFI in public places. Access to public events, both educational and social, was rated highly.

Some areas of concern that were rated negatively and need to be improved included better waiting areas for public transportation, the condition of sidewalks, neighborhood watch programs, availability of reliable handy persons to help with repairs, bike and wheelchair lanes, and legible street signs.

The research team was not charged with interpreting the data. That is the responsibility of the larger review committee. However, Dr. Sterns concluded that the picture was pretty positive and that our citizens realize



what it means to be an "Age Friendly" city. He also felt that the survey indicated that Akron has been aware and has improved many of these areas already as a result of the efforts of his father and his colleagues, which started back in the 1970s, and with the establishment of the Institute for Life-Span Development and Gerontology at The University of Akron.

The City of Akron appears to have benefited by focusing on these issues longer than other cities. However, needs remain and an effort to make adjustments and improvements will be on the agenda for city planners to address in the months ahead.

AUAR SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS FOR ACADEMIC YEAR 2021-2022

- **KAYLA HAAG** - Senior - 3.989 GPA - AYA (Adolescent Young Adult) Education/ Integrated Social Studies and minor in History.
- **KURT EKENSTEN** - Junior - 3.536 GPA - Computer Information Systems
- **MORGAN CADMUS** - Junior - 3.218 GPA - Pre-Physical Therapy

Each will receive \$2,500 (split in half for fall and spring semesters).

THE ASSOCIATION OF THE UNIVERSITY OF AKRON RETIREES

E-mail Digest

SPECIAL EDITION

The E-mail Digest is a daily compilation of announcements sent Monday through Friday to faculty, staff and contract professionals. The digest contains announcements of all events of interest on campus. Retirees who would like to keep up with UA activities and receive the digest in their inbox can do so.

To be put on the guest list of recipients of the digest, send an email message to bobk@uakron.edu (Robert Kropff). Type *Digest Subscription* in the subject line of your email and request to be added to the subscription list in the message portion.

AUAR FALL 2021 SPEAKER SCHEDULE

September 15

Dr. Sheldon Wrice

*Vice President of Inclusion & Equity,
The University of Akron*

October 13

Derek Daily

UA Department of Career Services

November 5

Soup & Chili Supper

Goodyear Metro Park

November 17

Dr. Gary Miller

The University of Akron President

December 15

**Entertainment by Eight Tuba Players
including Mel Vye**

BOARD MEETINGS 2022

Jan. 27 • Feb. 24 • Mar. 24 • Apr. 28 • May 26 • Jun. 23

Our Motto

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

AUAR Membership, Human Resources

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

If you haven't renewed your AUAR membership for the 2021-2022 year, it is time to do so. Don't forget our Scholarship fund where we provide some funding for a worthy student. Please complete the items listed below, and mail your check or checks to the address below.

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

Name: First _____ Last _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

E-Mail Address: _____

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

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

The AUAR Newsletter is a biannual publication of the Association of The University of Akron Retirees (AUAR), c/o Talent Development & Human Relations Department, The University of Akron, Akron, OH 44325-4730.

AUAR members receive our newsletter automatically. 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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