Members attend a tour of the Kurz Purdue Technology Center

During a visit to Purdue Research Park on Oct. 31, Jan Mills, director of economic development, presented members of PURA and their guests with a Halloween program about Purdue Research Park and a tour of the Kurz Purdue Technology Center. Mills explained that the park includes technology-based companies from such diverse areas as defense and cybersecurity, engineering, information technology and life sciences.

The West Lafayette research park encompasses 725 acres, about half of which is used, so there is room to grow. There are more than 50 buildings, 164 companies, and 3,500 employees, including 250 student employees. Those attending learned that there are also research parks in Merrillville, New Albany and Indianapolis.

The Kurz tour concluded with an opportunity to talk to an employee/PhD student working in the information technology field. Retirees were proud to learn that the West Lafayette research park is the largest university-affiliated incubator complex in the country.

Purdue Research Park

- Four locations: West Lafayette, Indianapolis, Merrillville and New Albany
- More than 200 companies
- Employs about 4,100 people
- Study: annual economic impact of $1.3 billion to the State of Indiana
The Purdue careers of PURA President Bob Bain and Vice President Dan Collins intertwined in many places, from attending conferences to campus-wide projects to computerizing Physical Facilities. While both are now retired, they continue a long collaboration on football Saturdays. Bob and Dan are part of the statistics crew that produces the official game stats for Purdue home games. They've been doing it for more than 30 years, the exact date they started getting lost in the midst of time.

Bob and Dan are responsible for individual and team offense. From the stat crew booth in the press box, Bob calls the ball handlers and yard lines and interprets penalties. Dan writes it down and makes sure the data to enter into the computer is correct. Fred Rogers and Dick Damman, both former Purdue accountants, do the same for defensive action, and a grad student enters it all in the computer. The software then totals cumulative individual and team stats and displays them on computer monitors around the press box and on the stadium scoreboard.

The computer system is a great improvement — when they started doing stats, Fred and Dan tracked things by hand, manually recording each play and adding everything together as the game went on. Then, after the final gun, the totals had to be crosschecked and laboriously recorded on mimeo-masters and large NCAA forms, often taking a couple of hours after the game ended. The mimeo-masters (remember those?) were delicate, so — of course — any irretrievable errors happened there. The computer system, when the crew is confident there are no errors, final numbers are a matter of adding a few keystrokes a minute after the game ends. Bob and Dan have seen a lot of memorable plays and games over the years, but they agree that one stands out. Purdue was playing Ohio State late in the 2000 season and needed to win to keep on track for the Rose Bowl. Purdue led most of the game but fell behind late and desperately needed a score. Bob remembers, “all of a sudden we looked and (wide receiver) Seth Morales was running free behind the defense. Drew Brees threw a perfect pass for a long touchdown and everyone celebrated. I had to calm down to call the play.” The Boilermakers held on to win and secure their second trip ever to Pasadena, a trip both Bob and Dan enjoyed. Individual plays and wins like those make all the years worthwhile.
CAMPUS AND COMMUNITY EVENTS

The Campus and Community Activities Committee is offering two interesting tours this spring.

**On Tuesday, March 18, 2014, at 3 P.M., PURA members and their guests will have the opportunity to learn about and tour the Alexander Field and baseball facility.**

Parking will be at the Alexander Field parking lot. PURA will meet at the clubhouse. After the presentation and tour, members and guests can drive to the nearby Schwartz Tennis Center, park and have a tour of that facility.

Please register for these tours on the form below or by calling Michele Salla at 765-494-1779 or emailing her at masalla@purdue.edu.

Faith West Community Center

The John and Anna Margaret Ross Alexander Field is the new home of Purdue’s 2012 Big Ten champion baseball team.

Indoor courts at the Schwartz Tennis Center

**Volunteer Opportunity!**

As the local coordinator of the AARP TaxAide group, PURA member Bob Perret is seeking volunteers to help with the preparation of tax returns at nine sites around the area — located at the YWCA, Lafayette Senior Center, Morton Community Center, Fairington Apartments, Indiana Veterans Home, Salvation Army, Friendship House, Wabash Center and the Brooketon Library. The TaxAide program is geared to assist low-to-moderate-income taxpayers, especially those 60 and older. However, we don’t turn away anyone with a return that can be completed in scope. Volunteers are provided with detailed tax preparation information and five days of training in January. Tax returns are prepared beginning in February. Volunteers choose the level of their involvement.

For additional information, interested parties should contact Bob Perret at 765-465-7372 or wpiperret@hotmail.com.

PURA MEMBERSHIP AND OUR DIRECTORY: A PLEA FOR HELP

Last year, you received a hard copy of the Retiree Phone Directory. The information printed in it came from a database maintained by the University Development Office. Recently, I received an electronic version of the most current directory data in order to help PURA officers and committee chairs gain a more detailed understanding of PURA members. From that analysis, the PURA Board should be able to plan better programs, enrich communications, and solicit committee members from our diverse constituency.

As with all good analyses, the results are only as good as the data. At the bottom of the last page of the PURA newsletters you will find a form you can use to keep the directory information current. PLEASE use that form to provide any directory information additions, corrections, or changes, including e-mail address additions. OR e-mail any information directly to me at decollins.retired@yahoo.com. I know some of you have e-mail addresses that were not listed in the recent printed directory, and I know some have obsolete mailing addresses and phone numbers listed. Also, if you know of any fellow PURA members who retired prior to 2011 and are NOT listed in the directory, please let us know. As always, you have the option of opting out (aka not) having your information published in the directory.

PURA members give to Purdue

Purdue retirees continue to support Purdue University and its endeavors in a manner consistent with their passion for the University. This past fiscal year at the beginning of November, Purdue retirees giving was 57.4 percent ahead of the same time in 2012. The President’s Council and the entire University are deeply grateful for the ongoing support of Purdue retirees, who not only financially give to the University but also continue to put their time, expertise and energy into Purdue activities.

There are many ways PURA members can help Purdue. One is to support the PURA endeavor to grow the Jischke Purdue Opportunity Award (scholarship endowment) that supports students as they study at Purdue. PURA invites you to send a check made payable to the Purdue Foundation (write Jischke POA on the memo line) Mail to: University Development Office, Dauch Alumni Center, Rm. 1124, 403 Wood St., West Lafayette, IN 47907. If you have questions about other ways you might help, please call 765-494-2730.
Those Were the Days: Water skiing in North Carolina, 1952

When Temple Pearson was a junior in high school, she found a notice in the newspaper asking for interested water skiers to come to the Trent Pines Club and try out for a position in a ski club that was going to feature Dick Pope Jr., a world champion barefoot water skier. Here are her memories of that experience.

Oh, I thought this would be so much fun to try. The try out day finally came, and I had no idea of trying out because I didn’t even have water skis. I sat on the dock and watched several people try; many fell on the doubles act, a stunt where a girl drops her skis and climbs up on a boy’s shoulders. The first girl fell, the next girl fell, and then surprisingly, Lt. Pope looked at me and said, “Next!” He loaned me a pair of skis and off I went. I discovered that you didn’t need to be a good skier, you just had to have balance and be able to climb. I realized that it is just like getting on a horse — after you stepped into your partner’s hand (or the horse’s stirrup), your skis seemed to just magically fall off and up you would go to his shoulders. Oh, this was so much fun! The tricks we later learned from the pro included doubles, Ballet Girls, three and five “man” pyramids, and finally a trick called the ‘Backward Swan.’ I had found my niche. It was so wonderful being one of the stars! I don’t think I have ever been happier.

They say teen years are a struggle, but not for me. I had a passion for friends and anything on the water in our lovely town of New Bern, N.C. We called ourselves The Trent Pines Ski Club, and we put on a few local shows that all our family and friends came to see. I was shocked when I discovered I was allowed to participate on Sunday. I am so thankful that my parents agreed to my participation.

One day, someone in charge got a call from the Marine Corps in Cherry Point, N.C. (the largest Marine air base in the world) asking our little group to come and perform for our troops. Dick Pope called my father at Cypress Gardens in Winter Haven, Fla., and asked him to send ropes and costumes. Done. I was so impressed. Finally the big day arrived. After much practice, we were ready. I was in several acts and finally was to be one of the top girls in the five-man pyramid. All was going well, when the man I was standing on got a cramp and turned his handle loose. My rope pulled me forward into the water and my momentum made him ski into my face. My father ran through the crowd to make him ski into my face. My daughter!” I was out cold in the general’s viewing platform.

Temple Pearson remembers her time water skiing in North Carolina.
Check and approve your address information

The Purdue University Retirees Association is working hard to keep up-to-date with addresses, phone numbers and email addresses for retirees. Retirees are asked to check carefully the accuracy of their name and address as it appears on the mailing label (above) of this issue of the PURA Newsletter.

Please make any changes on the form below and mail to the address indicated or email to julie1@purdue.edu. Thank you.

The Purdue University Retirees Association is working hard to keep up-to-date with addresses, phone numbers and email addresses for retirees.

Please help us keep your information accurate. Send any changes from the mailing label that appears above on this issue of the PURA Newsletter. Thank you for your help.

Name ____________________________________________________________________________
Address __________________________________________________________________________
City ____________________________  State _________________  Zip code _____________________
Phone ___________________________   Email address ______________________________________

Return this form to:
Julie Thedans
Purdue University Retirees, Human Resources
401 S. Grant St.
West Lafayette, IN 47907-2024

☐ I do not want to receive PURA mailings.
☐ I do not want to be included in a future PURA Retiree Directory.