

PURDUE UNIVERSITY RETIREES ASSOCIATION

2013-2014 YEAR IN REVIEW

Officers and Advisors:

President	Robert W. Bain
Vice President	Dan E. Collins
Secretary/Treasurer	Melinda H. Bain
Historian	Carolyn T. Jones
Past President	E Suzanne Hiser
Advisor	Luis E. Lewin

Committee Chairs:

Benefits	Don K. Gentry
Campus and Community	Diane E Stevenson
Communication	Jill P. May
Endowment	Betty M. Nelson
Hospitality	Jeris G. Eikenberry and John D. Miller
Kickoff Luncheon	Sarah A. Johnson and Ann C. Pickett
Program	Dale W. Margerum and Sue W. Scholer
Retiree Seminar	W. Scott Rumble
Trips and Tours	Linda L Hawkins

Activities:

Annual Transition Meeting:

Considerable planning was done by each of the committees for the coming year at the annual transition meeting on June 5, 2014. Vice President for Human Resources Luis Lewin was the luncheon speaker, and outgoing president Bob Bain passed the PURA Key to incoming president Dan Collins.

Award Recipients:

Arthur G. Hansen Recognition Award:

The Department of Biochemistry received the 2013 Hansen Award in recognition of its accomplishments in cultivating and maintaining meaningful relationships with its retirees. Biochemistry continues to offer its retirees office and lab space; compiles, preserves, and makes available a bound volume of all their research publications; sends them departmental publications, notices, and e-mails; keeps them engaged in alumni activities; encourages them to attend departmental lectures and seminars as well as participate in social events; invites them to give lectures in courses in which they have special expertise; and calls them back into service on an interim basis when teaching and/or administrative vacancies occur. Accompanying this award was a \$2500 check from TIAA/CREF for use in further strengthening the department's ties with its retirees.

Betty M. Nelson Special Recognition Award:

The Nelson Award is given to an individual or organization for providing outstanding service to a broad range of Purdue retirees. The 2013 recipient—Michele Salla, Assistant, Human Resource Services, Benefits and Services Center-- was honored for her long-time, caring, extraordinary service to PURA. Michele provides countless essential support services and counsel to PURA's officers and members. Without her long-term knowledge base, special assistance, and dedication, PURA clearly would not be the Big Ten's premier retiree organization.

Benefits:

United HealthCare was selected by the PURA Benefits Committee to continue as the University's Senior Supplement health insurance provider for 2014. Both plans offered (PURcare and Medicare Advantage PPO) are elective and now cover over 2500 Purdue retirees. Even though health insurance rates continue to increase nationally, the premium negotiated for PURcare in 2014 is lower than it was in 2013! In fact, PURcare is the only retiree health insurance plan in the nation to have premiums go down three years in a row!! Working with the Director of the France A. Córdoba Recreational Sports Center and Purdue Procurement, the PURA Benefits Committee also was able to add the Co-Rec to the list of authorized centers for Silver Sneakers, a wonderful wellness benefit for all retirees enrolled in either PURA health insurance plan. Other benefits available to official Purdue retirees include free "A" parking permits and flu shots (over 1100 retirees came back to campus to get their free flu shots in 2013), staff discounts on tickets, staff rates at University athletic facilities, access to the Purdue Pharmacy and services at the Nursing Center for Family Health, staff discounts on computers and peripherals, free rides on City Bus, access to the facilities and services of the Purdue Libraries, eligibility to retain Purdue e-mail accounts or to apply to activate one, an opportunity to enroll in Purdue classes at current faculty/staff rates, and long term care and medical insurance for pets at cost.

Big Ten Retirees Conference:

Bob Bain, Dan Collins, and Don Gentry represented Purdue at this annual conference which was held at the University of Michigan in 2013. Purdue retirees can proud of the many benefits, programs, and activities we have and our great relationship with the University. This is not the case at many other institutions.

Calendar of Events:

PURA events continue to be placed on the University calendar, and information about them can be found through a link on the PURA web page (www.purdue.edu/retirees).

Campus and Community Tours:

During the summer and fall, 117 retirees enjoyed tours of Ivy Tech's art collection, the France A. Córdoba Recreational Sports Center (an additional 20 participated in PURA- sponsored Functional Fitness programs there) , and the Kurz Technology Center at Purdue Research Park. In the spring, 77 visited Faith West, Alexander Field (baseball), and the Schwartz Tennis Center.

Endowments:

The PURA Endowment is comprised of two funds. PURA's Purdue Opportunity Award in Honor of Martin and Patty Jischke generates funding for scholarships for high-need undergraduate students. Michael McCormick from Colfax, IN, now a sophomore in the College of Technology, is the initial recipient. He loves going to luncheons and talking with retirees "about school and my life and being given endless amounts of advice and encouragement." He is especially grateful to all of his " Purdue Grandparents" for helping make an education at Purdue possible for him. PURA's Activities and Opportunities Fund generated sufficient income to support its first programs in 2013-14. Ten proposals were submitted. Two were funded—"Aging Families and Health Symposium: Social Influences on Health Lifestyle Choices in Later Life" sponsored by the Center for Families and PURA and "The Challenge of Long Term Care" sponsored by the Department of Political Science and PURA.

Kickoff Luncheon:

294 Purdue retirees and friends attended the annual Kickoff Luncheon at Four Points by Sheraton on September 9, 2013. President Mitch Daniels, the featured speaker, provided an update on recent campus news and events as well as a preview of ten initiatives for moving the University forward he planned to present to the University Senate later that afternoon. More than 46 lucky attendees received door prizes donated by 29 vendors.

Newsletter and Website:

Five PURA newsletters including a special edition covering the Kickoff Luncheon and new healthcare information were published and mailed to Purdue retirees in 2013-14. The PURA website (www.purdue.edu/retirees) continues to be a comprehensive one-stop repository of information for retirees about PURA programs, activities, health benefits, and insurance. It is updated weekly.

Pre-Retirement Meetings:

The PURA president and chair of the Benefits Committee joined the staff in Human Resource Services in presenting information to active employees regarding retirement planning. These sessions continue to be well attended and well received.

Programs:

Speakers on topics ranging from the State of West Lafayette and Lafayette to The Future of Public Education in Indiana and from Stop Fraud and Crime Before They Strike to Research in Degenerative Diseases brought an average of about 100 retirees to MCL each month for PURA's luncheon meetings. A complete list of programs and speakers is on file in the University Archives.

Retirees' Giving to Purdue:

Purdue retirees continue to be exceptionally generous in providing gifts to the University. \$4,804,634 was given in FY 2013. Through March 31, 2014, \$3,582,419 has been contributed in FY 2014.

Retiree Seminar: Purposeful Living In Retirement

Over 150 attendees participated in this very well-received seminar which was held at Four Points by Sheraton on April 9, 2014. Topics covered and speakers included Healthy Living With Affordable Care Act (Don Gentry), Beyond the Will—Unavoidable Issues We All Face (Patti Truitt, Linc Perkins, Greg Kapp), and Social Media: Keeping In Touch With Your Grandkids (Scott Ksander).

Spring Fling:

A flyer, "Thinking Retirement? - PURA Is Here To Help You", was distributed by the PURA Hospitality Committee at the University's annual Spring Fling on May 22, 2014. Many other retirees returned to campus not only to see former colleagues but also to help distribute food and assist with the various contests and games.

Trips and Tours:

Purdue retirees "hit the road" again in 2013-14 with trips to places such as The Heritage Trail to tour five beautiful gardens, Chicago's Navy Pier to see the Tall Ships, Wildcat Creek Winery for a tour and wine-tasting, and Louisville to see Christmas decorations and lights at the Galt House and underground at the Mega Caverns.

United Way:

Purdue retirees continue to be generous Pacesetters. Contributing \$110,043 to the 2013 campaign, they exceeded their \$95,000 goal by 15%!

Comprehensive reports regarding PURA activities and accomplishments during the year June 2013 through May 2014 are filed in the Purdue University Library Archives and Special Collections. A guide to the PURA records can be found on the library's website at <http://www.lib.purdue.edu/spcol>. The direct link to the inventory from that website is <http://www.lib.purdue.edu/spcol/fa/pdf/pura.pdf>.

May 2014

Carolyn T. Jones, Historian