Honored for their service to Purdue

Betty M. Nelson, dean of students emerita, speaks Oct. 24 during a President’s Council meeting. Nelson was on hand for the unveiling of portraits of three former Purdue deans of students — Nelson, Beverley Stone and Barbara Cook. The portraits were commissioned by Mortar Board, a senior honor society, to commemorate the deans’ achievements and their 50 years working with the chapter. Mortar Board had been working on the portraits for almost four years with Indianapolis-based artist Mark Dillman. The portraits will be displayed in the West Faculty Lounge, Purdue Memorial Union.

Nominate your area for Hansen award

Many retirees are still extremely involved in the University community at Purdue. Some volunteer to take part in activities to help students, faculty and staff in their former departments and schools. They are invited to programs and celebrations and included in many activities.

The areas that value their retirees and make them feel welcome are in turn valued greatly by the Purdue University Retirees Association.

The Arthur G. Hansen Recognition Award is given by PURA to a Purdue school, department, office or division that cultivates and maintains meaningful relationships with its retirees.

Retirees are encouraged to make nominations for the next Hansen Award, which will be presented in the spring at the annual Purdue retirement banquet. Deadline for nominations is Dec. 1.

See HANSEN, page 3

Health insurance info for 2010 mailed to retirees

Purdue retirees by now should have received information from Purdue in the mail about PURcare and Secure Horizons coverage for 2010. PURcare is the Purdue-sponsored health plan that supplements Medicare, and Secure Horizons PFFS is the Purdue-sponsored Medicare Advantage plan.

For news about the plans, see the article on page 2 of this issue.

PEFCU wins Nelson Award

Purdue Employees Federal Credit Union was honored during the Purdue University Retirees Association’s annual kickoff luncheon on Sept. 14.

PEFCU, represented at the luncheon by Bob Falk, chief executive officer, and Jackie Hofman, vice president for human relations and marketing, received PURA’s Betty M. Nelson Recognition Award for Outstanding Service to Purdue Retirees.

Lois Wark, PURA president, said that PEFCU has been a partner and supporter of PURA for more than a decade. PEFCU has participated in PURA’s Living to 100 and Purposeful Living seminars with display booths and favors, and provided speakers. Additionally, PEFCU has covered the cost of mailing the Purdue telephone directory to all Purdue retirees since 2001.

The Nelson Award recognizes individuals, departments and outside agencies that provide significant service to all Purdue retirees. The award is named in honor of Betty M. Nelson, dean of students emerita and former PURA president, as a reminder of her contributions to the organization and her unceasing efforts to have retirees maintain a vital role in the Purdue family.
From your Benefits Committee

PURCare for 2010

PURCare premiums for medical, prescription drugs, preventive care and vision will increase from $269.54 per month per person to $282.56, or 4.7 percent, for 2010. This is still well below the 2005 premium of $305.

PURCare premiums for only medical for those with VA-provided prescription drug coverage will increase from $196.54 per month per person to $205.78, or 4.7 percent.

PURCare 2010 will remain the same as in 2009 with a $300 annual deductible for all Medicare-approved care. Most members will pay the Medicare Part B deductible as their first costs in 2010. The remaining deductible will be paid from the 20 percent not covered by Medicare until the annual $300 out-of-pocket is reached.

Preventive coverage will include $150 toward a yearly preventive physical and lab work and $150 toward a non-medical vision exam, lenses and frames. The deductible does not apply for preventive care.

Prescription drug coverage will remain the same with an open formulary with few prior approvals; step therapy; and limited quantities.

SilverSneakers, Nurseline and Caregiver will remain as benefits.

UnitedHealthcare is changing the PacifiCare name to UnitedHealthcare, and new medical and prescription cards will be provided in December. Be sure to show these new cards to providers and pharmacists beginning Jan. 1.

Call Kate LaMar at (765) 494-1694 with any questions.

Secure Horizons (PFFS Plan) for 2010

Secure Horizons premiums for medical, prescription drugs, preventive care and vision will increase from $158.34 per month per person to $172.42, or 8.9 percent.

Secure Horizons is a Medicare Advantage plan that is subsidized by Medicare. Due to the decrease in that subsidy for 2010, the premium has increased more than that for PURCare.

Changes to the plan include a $5 increase in the co-pay to see both a primary physician and any specialist. Annual maximum out-of-pocket remains at $2,600.

Prescription drug coverage remains the same with a broad prescribed formulary that has prior approvals, step therapy and limited quantities.

SilverSneakers, Nurseline and Caregiver will remain as benefits.

Call the customer service number on your card or Kate LaMar at (765) 494-1694 with any questions.

Community Plan (non-PUR sponsored)

The community Medicare Advantage plan offered for 2009 by UnitedHealthcare through AARP will terminate in our area as of Dec. 31, 2009.

Any Purdue retiree who chose this plan for 2009 is eligible to return to one of the Purdue-sponsored health plans.

Purdue Staff Benefits has sent letters to affected retirees informing them of their eligibility to select one of the Purdue-sponsored plans.

Call Kate LaMar at (765) 494-1694 with questions.

Purdue changes distribution of phone directories

For the past eight years PURA has distributed approximately 3,580 copies of the Purdue telephone directory annually to Purdue retirees worldwide.

The cost to package and mail the directories was $12,925 last year. The estimated cost for this year’s mailing to the same number is $13,500.

Because PURA’s budget is limited, mailing costs are rising signifi cantly and PURA acknowledges that it must be a good steward of the money provided by the University, the group has decided this year to limit mailing to retirees who live in Tippecanoe County and the 13 surrounding counties: Benton, Boone, Carroll, Cass, Clinton, Fountain, Howard, Jasper, Montgomery, Newton, Pulaski, Warren and White.

The total estimated cost for this reduced distribution of 2,200 directories is $6,157.

Those who live outside the designated area may order a Purdue telephone directory following the instructions at the bottom of the first page of the current directory. The new directories are expected to be mailed Nov. 1, 2010.

PURA acknowledges the very welcome financial help from PEFCU, which has provided funds to cover the packaging and mailing costs of the telephone directories, not only for this year, but for the last eight years. Questions can be directed to Michele Salla at (765) 494-1779 or masalla@purdue.edu.

Purdue to highlight wellness in February

Planning is under way for a week of events that will promote healthy and balanced lifestyles for members of the campus community as well as showcase the important lines of health-relevant research and other scholarly activity going on at Purdue.

The week is scheduled for Feb. 1-5. Watch the PURA Web site at www.purdue.edu/retirees for more information.

Details also will be communicated through the Purdue Today e-newsletter, which you can subscribe to at https://lists.purdue.edu/mailman/listinfo/ptnews.
Luncheons continue throughout year

Monthly luncheon programs for Purdue retirees are held on the first Monday of each month at the MCL Cafeteria in West Lafayette. Lunch lines open at 11 a.m. The program begins at noon in the Purdue Room.

Upcoming dates, speakers and topics:
Dec. 7: Speaker: John Collier, Purdue’s director of campus planning. Topic: Purdue Campus Master Plan.
Jan. 4: Speaker: Don Gentry, special assistant to the Purdue provost. Topic: Higher Education in the United Arab Emirates.
March 1: Speaker: Paul Shepson, Purdue professor of analytical and atmospheric chemistry and head of the Department of Chemistry. Topic: Climate change.
May 3: Speaker: John Sautter, Purdue vice president for housing and food services. Topic: “Past, Present and Future of University Residence Halls.”
June 7: Speaker: Joe Hornett, senior vice president, treasurer, and chief operating officer for Purdue Research Foundation Inc. Topic: Purdue Research Parks.
July 5: University holiday -- no meeting.
Aug. 2: Speaker: James Lowenberg-DeBoer, professor of agricultural economics, associate dean and director of International Programs in Agriculture. Topic: Timbuktu to Kabul: Purdue International Programs in Agriculture.

Retirees eligible for Purdue e-mail accounts

As of Nov. 1, all official retirees are eligible to retain their Purdue e-mail account or apply to activate one.

All new retirees will be offered this option at their retirement counseling session.

Current retirees who wish to receive an account should call Julie Thedans in Staff Benefits at (765) 494-4768. Thedans will ask specific questions to verify identity and will then complete the paperwork needed to establish the e-mail address. Policy and other information related to having a purdue.edu e-mail will be sent to users.

It will take about two weeks to set up the account. Check https://www.itap.purdue.edu/directory until you find your name listed in the directory.

Call (765) 494-4000 to obtain an initial password. Retirees should have their Purdue ID number available when calling.

Retirees can then open their account and change their password and any other information they are allowed to change (e.g. forwarding Purdue e-mail to another home account if desired). For assistance, call (765) 494-4000.

Purdue policies relating to e-mail apply. To review those, go to http://www.purdue.edu/policies/pages/information_technology/v_3_1.html.

E-mail stored on Purdue servers is subject to public record requests. See http://www.purdue.edu/policies/pages/records/vi_4_1.html.
Campus/area activities set for spring

The Campus and Community Activities committee offers the following activities for spring 2010. Reservations should be submitted at least one week prior to the date of the tour.

Thursday, April 1. 3 p.m. Insipred Fire
Let your creative side glow! Purdue retirees are invited to visit Inspired Fire, a fully operational studio in glass and flame working and glass blowing that also has a diverse art gallery.

Inspired Fire is owned and operated by Sharon Owens, who offers free tours and flame-working demonstrations. More than 20 local artists showcase their art, which includes glass, paintings, wood working, and handmade furniture.

PURA members will have the opportunity to have a tour and see a demonstration.

Inspired Fire is located at 2124 State Road 25 S. It is about 2 miles west of the junction of state roads 231 and 25 (on the right, at the top of the hill). Parking is available on site.

Thursday, April 22. 6:45 p.m. Lafayette Symphony Orchestra.
Join us for a musical treat! Purdue retirees are invited to attend the Lafayette Symphony Orchestra on April 22. Nicholas Palmer, conductor of the LSO, will meet attendees in the St. John Pavilion Lounge adjacent to the Long Center and talk about the symphony and the musical selections that will be featured at upcoming concerts.

Following the talk, PURA members will attend the dress rehearsal in the Long Center to hear selections performed by the symphony. The Long Center is located at 111 N. Sixth St., Lafayette. Street parking is available.

Thursday, May 6. 3 p.m. Food Stores.
Come see Purdue’s pantry! A tour of Purdue’s Food Stores is scheduled for May 6. Learn how food is purchased for University Residences, Purdue Memorial Union and Stone Hall as well as about the vending machine contracts on campus. Food Stores is one of the largest centralized food purchasers for university students in the country.

Those attending will see the storage areas and freezers needed to feed more than 10,000 students daily. Participants will be amazed to learn how much ketchup is used per year and how many gallons of milk are delivered each day to food service operations.

The Food Stores Building is located on Purdue’s campus at 270 S. Russell Drive (corner of Russell and Service drives). Entrance is on Service Drive. Parking is available adjacent to the facility.
Retirees enjoy tour of child care facility, community center

On Sept. 10, PURA members had the opportunity to visit the Patty Jischke Early Care and Education Center and the Purdue Village Community Center.

The Patty Jischke Early Care and Education Center cares for 86 children from infants to pre-school. Jane Hammonds, director of the center, took retirees on a tour of the classrooms and play space, and talked about the programs. Those attending the tour enjoyed this unique and wonderful campus facility.

The next stop was the Purdue Village Community Center, where PURA members were greeted by two international students with a welcome in their native language and then in English. Andy Robison, residential life manager, led the tour of the center, which includes the main office, English for Speakers of Other Languages classrooms, a computer lab, recreation room and study areas.

Mike Shettle, general manager, provided an overview presentation about Purdue Village. Purdue Village is a year-round operation for approximately 2,500 individuals from 56 countries. There are 976 apartments housing graduates students, families, and undergraduates.

On Oct. 1, Purdue retirees visited the Wabash Center and Greenbush Industries. Wabash Center serves more than 2,000 individuals who need assistance because of disabilities. Rhonda Jones, director of the center, shared a presentation about the center’s services and showed a video featuring three individuals who tell Wabash Center’s story: Jonathan, Ann, and Marie.

Retirees then toured the facilities: Kids Connection, First Steps, Adult Day Services, EmployAbilities, Assisted Services Technology Center, and Greenbush Industries. Greenbush Industries, the community, and individuals with disabilities partner to promote a productive business and work opportunity.

Quoting Marie, "Life is not always what you plan. When life falls apart, you pick up the pieces and move forward with a smile in your heart."

Retirees take voyage on Belle of Louisville

By Jim Marciniak

On Oct. 17, 20 PURA members were bused to Louisville, Ky., to board the Belle of Louisville paddlewheel steamboat. Built in 1914 and beautifully refurbished several times, the Belle of Louisville is the oldest operating river steamboat. It was designated a National Historic Landmark in 1989 and celebrated its 90th birthday in 2004.

From the time we reached the dock to board the Belle to the end of the three-hour trip, fun and excitement were in store for everyone. Sunny skies, a cool breeze, and sounds of the calliope welcomed passengers on board for a journey back in time when the Belle traveled to ports along the beautiful Ohio River.

Everyone enjoyed the scenery, the German band playing “oomphah” songs and a variety of other music, the dancing and a wonderful buffet meal of German fare from salads to desserts.

At approximately 1:45 p.m. as the Belle attempted to turn around, strong winds pushed the steamboat into a parked barge on the river. The paddlewheel was severely damaged, which required the Belle to be towed back to the dock at Louisville while the band played on.

Despite the unexpected ending to the voyage, PURA members enjoyed the day — one that surely will be long remembered!

Future trips and tours

The Trips and Tours Committee will be considering a number of future adventures. Look for further announcements on the Web, through e-mails and information distributed at PURA’s monthly luncheons.

CSSAC releases list of discount program participants

Purdue retirees are eligible to use the Employee Discount Program, sponsored by the Clerical and Service Staff Advisory Committee.

The program enables faculty, staff and retirees to receive discounts on goods and services from various businesses in the Lafayette-West Lafayette area. CSSAC recently updated its list of businesses for 2009-10.

The list of businesses that offer discounts can be found online at http://www.purdue.edu/cssac/Employee_Discounts/Welcome.html.
‘Those Were the Days’ focuses on Great Depression

Editor’s note: Thanks to all those who submitted reminiscences for our new "Those Were the Days” column. This month, we’re sharing a story from August “Gus” Vavrus, professor emeritus of foreign languages, who was on the Purdue faculty from 1960 until his retirement in 1987. Our first subject is the Great Depression. Next issue, we’ll have stories from John Havers and Ginny Tyler. And we’ll announce the subject for our next "Those Were the Days" column.

We are all aware that the Depression was characterized by high unemployment, but fewer realize the extent to which this unemployment was accompanied by great mobility due to the large number of people looking for work.

This mobility extended to young people. I was only 16 years old when another teenager, Silvio Filardo, and I set off from our home in Chicago Heights during the summer of 1936 and hitchhiked to New York City, Boston and eventually to Mount Katahdin in northern Maine. Silvio’s older brothers had hitchhiked around the country the year before, and this gave him the courage to do the same. My mother allowed me to join Silvio because hitchhiking was considered pretty safe back then.

It also may have been because we lived along a railroad track not far from a “hobo jungle,” and people often came to the door asking for water to brew “hobo coffee” in their tin cans. Hobos were not considered dangerous — at least by my family — and it was common for young people in my community to travel by themselves, especially by hitchhiking and riding the rails.

On our way back to Chicago from Maine, Silvio and I hitched a ride to central Ohio and then decided to head south rather than go home. We hitchhiked to Bay St. Louis in Mississippi along the Gulf Coast. From there it was harder to find cars offering rides, so we took freight trains until we reached New Orleans. On one of the boxcars in which we rode was a young woman with two children whose husband had died in North Carolina, and she was traveling to Texas to live with her in-laws.

Once we arrived in New Orleans, we bummed food at restaurants, such as the famous Gluck’s Restaurant, and ate “poor boy” sandwiches for a nickel. We knocked on the doors of strangers’ homes and explained that we were looking for work and a meal. It may be difficult to imagine today, but people were willing to serve us on their porches and restaurant managers served us in their kitchens.

The following summer, another teenager and I set out to hitchhike to the West Coast, but he turned back when we reached Minnesota. I continued alone, and in Shevlin, a Minnesota railroad and logging town, I found a job as a lumberjack not far from the Civilian Conservation Corps camps in the northern forests.

After nearly two months cutting wood to make excelsior, a common product similar to Styrofoam packing pellets, the person for whom I was working claimed to have gone bankrupt and never paid me. I was then hired by another man who promised to pay me $1 at the end of each day to help haul logs to market. I learned a lot from this experience, and I may be the only former Purdue professor who knows how to harness a horse and use smoke to get the mosquitoes off the backs of cows.

Although I would hesitate if my grown children did such things today, it was quite common during the Depression for teenagers to hitchhike, ride alongside hobos in railroad cars, and ask strangers for food at their doorstep. These experiences left a distinct mark on me because I left home at 16 as a kid but returned as an adult. My classmates in high school envied me because I acquired a great deal of confidence on the road, and it served me well in subsequent years during World War II and as a professor.

— August “Gus” Vavrus

News Brief

Johanssen honored with Agronomic Achievement Award

Chris Johannsen received the Agronomic Achievement Award on Oct. 3 from the Purdue Department of Agronomy.

Johannsen was presented the award at the annual Agronomy Harvest Reunion during Purdue’s Homecoming weekend.

The Agronomic Achievement Award was established by the Department of Agronomy in 2000 to recognize and honor alumni and friends of the department for contributions to the profession or industry. Johannsen received the award in recognition of his leadership in agriculture and remote sensing, and his dedication to support research, education, and extension of knowledge at Purdue and throughout the world.

Johannsen is professor emeritus in the
**News Reports**

**Purdue ranks among nation’s top universities**

Purdue ranked 22nd among the nation’s public universities and 61st among all universities, according to U.S. News & World Report magazine rankings released Aug. 20.

The ranking is a move up from Purdue’s ranking of 26th last year. Purdue ranked 61st among all universities, tied with Clemson University, Fordham University, Texas A&M University and University of Minnesota-Twin Cities. This also is an improvement for Purdue, which ranked 66th last year.

“These rankings reflect our continued commitment to the student experience. It has been a year since we adopted our New Synergies strategic plan, and these rankings show that it is working,” President France A. Córdova said. “We are focusing our efforts on student success, and it is paying off. Students from across the nation and around the world know that when they come to Purdue, they will receive a high-quality education due to the outstanding work of our faculty and staff.”

Factors that helped Purdue move up in the rankings are higher graduation rates and classes with fewer students, Córdova said. She also noted that the alumni giving rate increased from 16 percent to 18 percent.

More on Purdue’s past U.S. News and other rankings is available online at http://news.uns.purdue.edu/ranking.html.

---

**Purdue jumps up 12 places in world rankings**

Times Higher Education - QS World University Rankings released its list of the top universities on Oct. 7, and Purdue University is ranked 87th.

This is a 12-place increase for Purdue, which was ranked 99th in 2008. Purdue tied this year with the University of St. Andrews in the United Kingdom.

“This dramatic rise in rankings reaffirms Purdue’s status as a world-class university,” said Purdue President France A. Córdova. “Purdue’s international reputation continues to grow thanks to our international students and study abroad programs, and well-known researchers who are making a difference, such as professor Gebisa Ejeta, who just won the World Food Prize.”

Purdue’s engineering and information technology programs also are ranked 37th, while life sciences and biomedicine ranked 79th, and natural sciences ranked 94th. The complete listings are available at http://www.topuniversities.com/

---

**Purdue receives $105 million to lead earthquake research**

Advancing research and education to reduce the devastation and loss of human life from earthquakes and tsunamis is the goal of a new center at Purdue.

The National Science Foundation awarded $105 million to a Purdue-led team to spearhead a center that will serve as headquarters for the operations of the George E. Brown, Jr. Network for Earthquake Engineering Simulation, or NEES. Submitted through the Cyber Center in Purdue’s Discovery Park, the grant spans five years and is the largest in the University’s history.

Purdue will connect 14 NEES research equipment sites and the earthquake engineering community through groundbreaking cyberinfrastructure, education and outreach efforts. Purdue’s center will be housed in Discovery Learning Research Center in Discovery Park.

The Purdue-led NEEScomm Center, which stands for NEES Community and Communications, includes partners from the University of Washington, University of Texas, University of Kansas, San Jose State University, the University of Florida, University of Michigan and Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory.

The center will help researchers share information and equipment to enable research and innovation in earthquake and tsunami loss reduction, create an educated work force in hazard mitigation, and conduct broader outreach and lifelong learning activities, said Julio Ramirez, the project’s principal investigator and a professor of civil engineering.
Check and approve your address information

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

Thank you.

Purdue University 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 _________________________       E-mail address ___________________________________

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