

## A United Way triumph: Retirees exceed goal

Anne Washburn of the University Development Office described the 2010 Purdue retiree contribution to the United Way as “the best [retirees] have ever done.”

Purdue retirees contributed more than 105 percent of the goal set for retirees. Because of the effects of the difficult economy, and the reality that most retirees have fixed incomes, the 2010 goal was set at \$90,000, which was below last year’s contribution level of \$93,278. But the retiree community came through with a total of \$94,718.

PURA President Chris Johannsen and Vice President Chip Rutledge credited the efforts of all to achieve such results.

The economic situation may have affected the number of retiree contributors, which was down slightly from 385 to 373, but the average contributions actually increased. Washburn referred to this as “an excellent year,” and clearly agencies, and in turn individuals, will benefit from the generosity of Purdue retirees.

Purdue faculty, staff and students also rose to the challenge this year, helping Purdue raise more than 103 percent of the University’s goal for the United Way Campaign.

The campaign total of \$761,197 was revealed at a victory celebration Nov. 17.



*The Purdue United Way Campaign total of \$761,197 was revealed at a victory celebration on Nov. 17 at the Shively Club in Ross-Ade Stadium. (Purdue University photo/Mark Simons)*

The campaign officially passed its goal of \$735,000 on Nov. 11. “At a time when our neighbors need it most, the Purdue community has come forward to lend a helping hand,” said Christine Ladisch, 2010 campaign chair and dean of the College of Health and Human Sciences. “We surpassed our highest expectations this year.”

Ladisch also shared that another record-setting year was achieved by Purdue’s Vanguarders (those who give \$1,000 or more). This year Purdue has 34 new Vanguarders, and their donations are 42 percent of the total employee contributions. Purdue is the top organization in the community for Vanguard givers.

## Save dates for upcoming trips and tours

Be sure to pencil these dates into your calendar. The Trips and Tours Committee will sponsor the following trips this spring and summer. Watch future newsletters for more information.

- April 16 – Shopper’s Delight trip to Nashville and Edinburgh Outlets. Cost is \$39 per person. The escort will be Imperial Travel.
- May 19 – Dinner/theater trip to Indianapolis. Dinner will be at The Iron Skillet. Theater will feature “Musical Comedy Murders of 1940.” Cost is \$72 per person. The escort is Top Notch Travel.
- June 28-29 – Underground Railroad: Journey to Freedom. Cost is \$199 per person. The escort is Imperial Travel.
- August – Indianapolis Indians baseball game. The date, time and escort have yet to be determined.



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## 2011-12 PURA officer slate to be presented in March

The slate of officers has been proposed for the Purdue University Retirees Association for 2011-12. Nominations from the floor for open officer positions will be taken during the March 7 luncheon at MCL Cafeteria. The slate will be voted on at the April 4 luncheon at MCL.

The slate as submitted by the nominating committee is:

- President, who was vice president and president-elect during 2010-11: Chip Rutledge.
- Vice president, who will be president-elect during 2011-12: Sue Hiser.
- Officers continuing in their current positions for the coming year are:
- Secretary-treasurer: Pat Lawson.
- Historian: Mary Alice Nebold.
- Chris Johannsen will serve as past president.

## Retirees invited to join the fun at Spring Fling on May 19

The registration form inside this issue is all you need to take part in Spring Fling 2011, scheduled for Thursday, May 19, in and around the Memorial Mall. Retirees are invited to join current faculty, staff and graduate student staff in the activities, which will begin at 11:30 a.m.

The day of food and fun will include many traditional favorites: lunch (with a vegetarian option), fitness walk, bingo, classic vehicle show and free play activities.

Golf also is on the activity list. Tee times will be available at the Ackerman Hills and Kampen courses. Those who want to play golf should call 765-494-3139, ext. 1, to reserve a tee time.

Also available this year will be a chance to donate blood at the Indiana Bloodmobile, and an opportunity to contribute to the Food Finders Food Bank.

Many Purdue retirees are expected to be on hand as volunteers and to offer assistance to those who are thinking about retirement.

The registration forms on Page 7 should be filled out and returned to the address indicated on the form. Deadline is May 12.



### Volunteers needed

Retirees are encouraged to volunteer for an hour or so during Spring Fling 2011. Opportunities for volunteering include helping in the food line, helping serve popcorn or assisting with setup and/or cleanup. To learn more about volunteer opportunities, indicate your interest on the form on Page 7 or call Carrie Hanson at 765-494-7397.

### Luncheons continue at MCL in new year



Joan Fulton joined the group to talk about the University Senate.

(photo by Ted Luce)

The PURA Monthly Luncheons are held every first Monday of each month at the MCL Cafeteria in West Lafayette. Choose your own lunch from the cafeteria line, which opens at 11 a.m. The program begins at noon in the Purdue Room.

On Nov. 1, Joan Fulton, chair of the University Senate and professor of agricultural economics, spoke to the guests about what is happening in the Senate. On Dec. 6, Michael Brzezinski, dean of international programs, spoke on the topic, "Understanding the Chinese Mind: Confucius, Values and Beliefs."

To see what luncheon speakers are scheduled for the new year, turn to Page 4.



Purdue University Retirees Association

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Any suggestions or ideas for PURA should be referred to Office of Retiree Affairs, 401 S. Grant St., West Lafayette, IN 47907-2024. Telephone 765-494-1779. Email [masalla@purdue.edu](mailto:masalla@purdue.edu).

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## Become a volunteer with the Boiler Volunteer Network

The Boiler Volunteer Network's "Get Engaged" brochure includes a Martin Luther King Jr. quote: "Life's most persistent and urgent question is: What are you doing for others?"

There is a whole world of opportunity out there if you have the time or can make the time — and often the busiest people are best at making time to help with genuine needs.

As the Boiler Volunteer Network (BVN) Service Leadership Success brochure states, the network "connects the Purdue community to service opportunities in the Greater Lafayette area and throughout the state of Indiana. Our programs facilitate community service and civic engagement for students, student organizations, faculty, staff, alumni and retirees."

When Harry Brown, director of BVN, was asked in what ways Purdue retirees might be involved as volunteers, he replied, "Everything."

BVN can connect volunteers with opportunities for

engagement in one-time or ongoing activities with more than 120 community agencies. Activities range from stuffing envelopes, writing letters for those who can't, reading to shut-ins, driving persons who need transportation to activities requiring specialized skills such as carpentry, plumbing, computing and proposal-writing.

The list of issues in which volunteers engage includes items such as animals, art, the environment, health care, homelessness, hunger, poverty, women's issues, transportation, tutoring and fund-raising.

For more information about volunteering, visit the Boiler Volunteer Network in Stewart Center, Room G4. Or check the BVN web page at [www.purdue.edu/odos/bvn](http://www.purdue.edu/odos/bvn), e-mail at [bvn@purdue.edu](mailto:bvn@purdue.edu) or phone 765-496-2450. You will be asked what you are interested in doing and when you are available. Your interests and expectations will be matched to needs within the community and state.

## Purdue's 'Mailhub' system transitions to 'myMail'

If you are using Purdue's "Mailhub" system to check your e-mail, then you may have received a notice from ITaP explaining ITaP is in the process of transitioning from the existing servers to a new system called "myMail."

To help with the transition, here are answers to some frequently asked questions:

### 1. How do I know if I am on Mailhub?

If you do not have an Exchange account and have not set your Purdue address to forward to another account, you have a Mailhub account and you will be affected by this upgrade.

### 2. When will I be upgraded?

Some of you may have already received notice from ITaP that your account is being moved. Others will be moved based on ITaP's schedule.

### 3. Will I need to do anything after the move?

If you access your e-mail primarily via the

WebMail interface, you will need to update bookmarks to use the new address: <https://mymail.purdue.edu>.

If you access your e-mail primarily via a local e-mail client on your computer or via a handheld device (iPhone, Droid, etc.) and are not an Exchange user, then you will need to update the settings in your e-mail client to use the new server address: [mymail.purdue.edu](https://mymail.purdue.edu).

The address is the same for POP3 and IMAP configurations and all other e-mail client settings remain the same. If you have specific client configuration questions, contact Bio-IT for assistance during normal working hours or you also can call ITaP at 765-494-4000 during off hours.

### 4. Will all my e-mail be moved?

Yes. ITaP will migrate your e-mail to the new server automatically including folders and subfolders. If following the move you are missing any e-mail, call ITaP at 765-494-4000 immediately and report the issue.

Retirees who do not have a Purdue e-mail address and wish to apply for one should contact Julie Thedans in Staff Benefits at 765-494-4768. She will verify your identity and then complete the paperwork needed to establish an e-mail address. Policies and other information related to having a [purdue.edu](http://www.purdue.edu) e-mail will be sent to users. It takes about two weeks for your Purdue e-mail address to be set up. Check <https://www.itap.purdue.edu/directory> until you find your name listed in the directory.

After your Purdue e-mail address has been created, you may contact ITaP Customer Service Center at 765-494-4000 to obtain your initial password. Identify yourself as a Purdue retiree and have your Purdue ID number available when calling. Once you have your initial password, you will activate your Purdue account, set a password and configure your Purdue e-mail address.

## HOLD THAT DATE!

The Purposeful Living in Retirement Conference will be held on April 27 at the University Plaza Hotel in West Lafayette. More information to come soon!



## Plan now to attend a spring campus tour

The Campus and Community Activities Committee has scheduled a tour of the PRIME Laboratory-Particle Accelerator for 2 p.m. Thursday, March 24, in the Physics Building. This tour will include a presentation on the use of the particle accelerator. This tour is not handicapped accessible and those with pacemakers or chemical pumps will not be admitted because of possible adverse effects of electromagnetic fields. Meet in Physics 244 for the tour, where the group will proceed downstairs to the PRIME Lab.

On April 14 at 3 p.m., PURA members can tour the Hansen Life Sciences Research Building. Tim Ratliff, director of the Purdue Center for Cancer Research, will discuss some of the cancer research being conducted. A tour of the building will include the Transgenic Mice Breeding Lab and Ratliff's lab. Parking is available behind the building in the center of the agriculture campus. The tour group will gather in the Hansen Life Sciences Research Building lobby.

To reserve your spot, copy the form at right and mail one week prior to date.

## Upcoming luncheon programs at MCL

Join PURA at its monthly luncheons on the first Monday of each month at the MCL Cafeteria in West Lafayette. Grab your lunch from the cafeteria line, which opens at 11 a.m., then join the group for the program. Programs begin at noon in the Purdue Room. Speakers scheduled for the new year include:

- Feb. 7 – Paul Robinson – “Climbing Mt. Everest”
- March 7 – Anthony Cawdron – “A House Manager's Life”
- April 4 – Pete Bill – “You, Your Kids, Your Grandkids: Understanding the Generations”
- May 2 – Steven Beering – “Perspectives”
- June 6 – John Norberg – “Wings of Their Dreams: Purdue in Flight”

## What a year: Check out the 2010 year-in-review video



*Purdue President France A. Córdoba (from left) Capt. Chesley “Sully” Sullenberger and Neil Armstrong took part in an event on Nov. 12 in which Armstrong presented Sullenberger with the university's Neil A. Armstrong Medal of Excellence.*

The year 2010 was an exceptional year for Purdue. Professor Ei-Ichi Negichi won a Nobel prize in chemistry. Alum Chesley “Sully” Sullenberger landed a plane on the Hudson River and was presented the Neil Armstrong Medal of Excellence. Former Purdue quarterback and alumnus Drew Brees was named Sportsman of the Year by *Sports Illustrated*, while junior diver David Boudia was honored as USA Diving's Athlete of the Year. The Purdue “All-American” Marching Band led the way at the 2010 Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade. And sadly, alumnus and three-time Purdue All-American John Wooden was laid to rest at age 99. To see a video presentation of Purdue's 2010 year in review, visit [www.youtube.com/user/PurdueUniversity](http://www.youtube.com/user/PurdueUniversity).

### CAMPUS AND COMMUNITY TOURS: PLEASE PRINT, FILL OUT, AND SEND THE RESERVATION FORM TO:

Michele Salla, Purdue Human Resources, 401 S. Grant St., West Lafayette, IN 47907-2024 or e-mail reservation to Michele Salla at [masalla@purdue.edu](mailto:masalla@purdue.edu).

Reservations should be submitted by one week prior to the date of the tour.

Print Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone number \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate number of persons wishing to attend the tour.

\_\_\_ PRIME Laboratory, March 24 at 2 p.m.

\_\_\_ Hansen Life Sciences Research Building, April 14 at 3 p.m.

Alternatively, you may e-mail Sue Hume Graham at [sg1321@comcast.net](mailto:sg1321@comcast.net), or call her at 447-7366. Please provide name(s) and an e-mail address and/or a telephone number if you e-mail or call. Be sure to indicate which tour(s) you are booking.

## Conner Prairie: Living and playing in the 1880s

On Thursday, Oct. 28, 15 Purdue retirees and others boarded an Imperial Travel bus to Conner Prairie to discover the sights, sounds and lifestyles of the 1880s.

After a short stop for lunch, the group arrived at Conner Prairie and were greeted by a guide, who introduced us to the special events of the day. Because the weather was cool, overcast and windy, the balloon ride was not available. Everyone set out to see what life was like back then.

At their leisure, retirees had opportunities to explore more than 200 beautiful wooded acres. Sites included visiting the William Conner Home site, tasting Mrs. Zimmerman's homemade gingerbread at the Golden Eagle Inn, receiving a math lesson at the school house, visiting with Dr. Campbell at his office, watching the blacksmith at work, seeing sourdough biscuits being made, observing Mr. McClure working in his woodshop and watching yarn being woven. The group also had the privilege of participating in many activities. Some of the buildings had a warm fire burning that truly enhanced the time period.

Before leaving Conner Prairie, attendees could visit the gift shop or take a short walk to the apple store to taste the taste of hot apple cider, eat a caramel apple or have a fresh pumpkin doughnut. It doesn't get much better than that!

While we traveled to and from Conner Prairie, retirees shared memories of their work experiences at Purdue and stories about their families. Our escort, Joanne, and bus driver, Mike, added to the enjoyment of the trip and helped make it one to remember.



*Pictured above (from left to right) are Sharon McCaully, Joanne Rosenbaum and Deb and John Lindenlaub, outside the Curtis home at Conner Prairie.*

*At left, PURA members gather for a group photo before spending the day at Conner Prairie.*

## Jischke scholarship fund goal met

At the time of President Martin Jischke's retirement, PURA created a scholarship fund in the name of Martin and Patty Jischke. The group chose to fund an endowment whose income could be used forever to help students who are academically very capable but who thought they would not be able to attend college.

PURA contracted for a \$20,000 endowment. Thanks to generous contributions from the PURA board of directors, the remaining \$1,600 was raised in November and the endowment is now fully funded.

Several current students who are attending Purdue with financial help from a Purdue Opportunity Award will share their stories with PURA members at upcoming MCL luncheon programs.

Contributions are still welcome to support the scholarship and build the fund to allow more students the opportunity to attend Purdue. If you are interested in contributing, contact Betty Nelson at [bmnelson@purdue.edu](mailto:bmnelson@purdue.edu) or 765-463-3144.

**Looking for the  
latest news about  
PURA?**



**Check out PURA's  
web site at  
[www.purdue.edu/  
retirees](http://www.purdue.edu/retirees)**



# Margery Monger Ismail: Life in wartime Britain

*Editor's note: Thanks to all those who have submitted reminiscences for our "Those Were the Days" column. In this issue, Margery Monger Ismail shares her story.*

What does a 12-year-old girl do when bombs are falling? Margery Monger Ismail went on with life as usual, as much as possible, and had many adventures.

War came as no surprise to the British who had a year to prepare after Neville Chamberlain returned from negotiations with Hitler's German government in 1938 declaring, "Peace in our time" — a peace that lasted only one year.

On Sept. 1, 1939, Margery and her family rode the ferry from Southampton to the Isle of Wight. They watched as passengers disembarked onto tenders from the German ocean liner *Euroopa*, as she hurried from New York to her home port of Hamburg. A bad omen, as Margery's father observed. Two days later Great Britain declared war on Germany.

Margery's home, Sherborne St. John, was 45 miles southwest of London. Her school was in nearby Basingstoke, in the county of Hampshire, a bucolic landscape of rolling chalk hills.

In wartime the school maintained its clubs and activities as much as possible, but the students also engaged in gas masks and bomb drills. The cloakrooms were reinforced to serve as bomb shelters. If the girls heard the whistle of a bomb, they were to dive under their desks. Margery learned this lesson well. When a 500-pound bomb hit near her home, she dove under the dining room table, much to her mother's amazement. The bomb fell in some nearby woods and created a huge crater, which soon became a tourist attraction. The large pit filled with water eventually and is a spot for the family to visit to this day.

Margery's father, Herbert Monger, was the head of a rescue team. They were called into Basingstoke after an air raid which was intended to disable the rail junction, but hit residential areas. They arrived with their trailer of ladders, ropes, etc. to see their dentist crawling out of the rubble of his home/office. The railroad was the target of several single plane bomb attacks, which disrupted train service, but within a short time the damage was always repaired.



*Margery Monger Ismail at age 18.*

In another night raid, many incendiary bombs were dropped on the school, putting the boilers out of action. As it was the last day of classes before Christmas break 1941, the students were notified to stay home and all repairs had been made by the end of the winter vacation.

Winston Churchill was the prime minister by 1940. He presided over the devastating retreat of the British Expeditionary Force to Dunkirk, and the dramatic evacuation of 330,000-plus of their troops by a mixture of small boats, pressed into service in the emergency, and by the Royal Navy.

In a speech shortly afterward, Churchill declared that the British people would fight on the beaches, in the ditches and in the hedgerows. The British prepared to do just that. Many homes had pitchforks behind their doors, and many hunters, like Margery's father, brought out their hunting guns and kept them at the ready.

In the villages, fire watching was organized by the Civil Defense. Margery's father was in charge of developing the rosters on a biweekly basis; two families were on duty each night. Margery would help distribute these rosters. Firefighting teams also were organized, and as soon as she turned 16, Margery became a firefighter and passed the practical test of extinguishing an incendiary bomb. This was not an easy task, as applying water directly made it splutter and burn more brightly, so it had to be disabled with sand before the fire it may have created was

extinguished.

Sherborne St. John experienced an incendiary bombing attack one night. The bombs fell near the Elizabethan Manor House, setting the grass and rushes around the lake on fire. The resulting blaze lit up the manor house magnificently, but no further activity followed. There was a large, well-camouflaged ammunition dump in the woods belonging to the Manor House that was not revealed, fortunately.

During the times of the heavy night bombings, people used to try and determine where the raid would be for that night. If the planes passed overhead, they were heading for one of the industrial cities to the north: Birmingham, Manchester, Liverpool, Coventry and so on. Sometimes on the return journey, stray planes would dump their loads on the countryside; thus there were numerous small craters in the fields.

On some nights Margery could see a glow in the sky from the east, suggesting that London had been hit, which was frequently the case. If to the south or southeast, the target was Southampton or Portsmouth, a large naval base. There were many nights when sleep was very disturbed. There was an anti-aircraft post on the next hill from the one the Mongers lived on, and if their guns were fired, the family went downstairs and sheltered in the dining room. Margery said that seeing a plane caught in the beams of two or more searchlights, while the guns boomed away, was an awesome and frightening sight.

From the age of 9, Margery went for two weeks every August to visit an aunt who lived near the coast in the county of Dorset, close to the small port of Poole. This practice continued during the war, except for one summer when travel was banned, perhaps 1940. Excerpts from the diary she kept in the summer of 1942 are quite revealing. The U.S.A. had now entered the war, and one of the interesting activities when Margery visited her aunt was to go and sit on a cliff top overlooking Poole harbor and watch the landing of Catalina flying boats from the U.S. via Lisbon.

Catalina passengers disembarked into tenders and were taken by train to London. That same evening on the 6 o'clock news, there was an announcement as to who

the visitors from America were. Cordell Hull, U.S. secretary of state, was a frequent visitor.

One day during that summer, the air activity was intense with mobile guns being run up and down the road outside their house, popping away. It kept Margery and her aunt's family up much of the night. Some of the bangs were rather close, and Margery records that they fled into the hall until all was quiet. The activity continued for much of the next day and the supposition was that a large convoy had been attacked off shore as it made its way to Southampton with vital supplies for both the British and U.S. forces. The diary records that the next morning they all got up as usual, and Margery and her aunt went shopping for birthday presents for another aunt whose birthday was imminent. On the way, they checked on some of the bomb damage of the previous night.

Eventually, after five weary years, Margery looked up as she left her grandmother's house to go to school one day to see a sky full of very high-flying planes headed toward France. She ran back to yell to her grandmother, "I think the balloon has gone up," meaning the invasion of France had begun. Subsequently the war in Europe ended and the fighting moved East.

In Margery's family, the excitement over the final end of hostilities was overshadowed by the sad news that her brother had died in a Japanese prison camp in Thailand.

Margery went off to university in September 1945. As her college in London had been badly bombed, the students were still evacuated to Nottingham, but finally returned in September 1946. By then, the ranks of students were swelling with the returning veterans, which made life much more interesting for young women like Margery.

Ordinary life in Britain returned slowly, and rationing continued for many years. Most basics were still rationed, and the cities were recovering from the Blitz, when Margery was married six years later in 1951.

*Thanks to JoAnn Thomas for her assistance with this article.*

**Spring Fling 2011  
Thursday, May 19  
Faculty, Staff and Retirees Appreciation Event  
Retiree Registration Form**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone number \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

I'd like to volunteer to help with Spring Fling 2011. My area of interest is:

Food/refreshments \_\_\_\_ Fitness Walk \_\_\_\_  
Any area \_\_\_\_ Cleanup \_\_\_\_

I'd like to participate in the Spring Fling Classic Vehicle Show.

Vehicle make \_\_\_\_\_  
Model \_\_\_\_\_ Year \_\_\_\_\_

I want to participate in the Spring Fling Fitness Walk.

NOTE: Golf participation: Those who would like to play golf must reserve a tee time at the course by calling (765) 494-3139, Ext. 1.

\*\* Return this form by May 12 to Carrie Hanson, Human Resource Services, Freehafer Hall, 401 S. Grant St., West Lafayette, IN 47907.

**Spring Fling 2011  
Faculty, Staff and Retirees Appreciation Event  
Spring Fling Prize Drawing Entry**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone number \_\_\_\_\_

Please deposit in prize-drawing barrel at Memorial Mall on the day of Spring Fling.

# PURA Newsletter

Purdue University Retirees Association

Office of University Periodicals  
Purdue University  
West Lafayette, IN 47907

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## 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 or e-mail to [julie1@purdue.edu](mailto:julie1@purdue.edu). 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