

## New officers elected at April monthly luncheon

New officers for the Purdue University Retirees Association (PURA) were nominated on March 5 and elected at the April 2 meeting at MCL cafeteria in West Lafayette.

The officers for 2012-13, as submitted by the Nominating Committee and elected by vote are:

- President, who was vice president and president-elect during 2011-12, Sue Hiser
- Vice president, who will be president-elect during 2012-13, Robert Bain
- Secretary-treasurer, Melinda Bain
- Historian, Carolyn Jones
- Chip Rutledge will serve as past



Carolyn Jones (from left), Melinda Bain, Sue Hiser, Robert Bain and Chip Rutledge are introduced after elections on April 2.

## Sue Hiser represents retirees at reception for president



ABOVE: President France A. Córdoba presents her annual State of the University address on March 27 at Purdue Memorial Union. AT RIGHT: PURA vice president Sue Hiser represents retirees at a reception for Córdoba following the State of the University address. The text of Hiser's remarks can be found on page 6 of this issue.

## President highlights University successes, looks to future of higher education

Purdue President France A. Córdoba presented her annual State of the University speech Tuesday (March 27) during the President's Forum in the Purdue Memorial Union. Córdoba spoke about progress on the strategic plan and discussed the future of higher education.

The complete speech, including a video featuring accomplishments and events

over the past five years, is available online at <http://www.purdue.edu/president/speeches/sotu2012/index.html>.

Córdoba, who will end her five-year term as president in July, was honored at a reception following the forum, her last as Purdue's president. The event was emceed by Kirk Cerny, president and CEO of the Purdue Alumni Association, and speakers



included Ebony Barrett-Kennedy, Clerical and Service Staff Advisory Committee chair; Robert Morman, Administrative and Professional Staff Advisory Committee vice chair; Morry Levy, University Senate chair; and Sue Hiser, vice president of the Purdue University Retirees Association. See SOTU, page 6

## Endowment supports activities, opportunities for retirees

The PURA By-Laws passed in 2002 included language that established an endowment fund which could grow and provide income to be used for special events or programs to benefit Purdue's retirees. These programs might include special lectures on medical issues or fellowship activities for new retirees.

Characteristic of a true endowment, the gifted funds are invested in perpetuity, and it is the income that can be used for special PURA projects.

Gifts, large or small, can make a difference – forever. One can make an outright gift of cash, stock, or bonds; bequests can be made through one's will; a paid-up life insurance policy can be transferred to the endowment.

Gifts can be directed to the A&O Fund following these directions:

- Provide a **check payable to the Purdue Foundation** and designate PURA Endowment on the memo line.

- Provide information that allows a specified **withdrawal from a credit card account**.

- **Contact the University Development Office** to discuss details of a gift to the endowment.

Join others in supporting the work of PURA for now and for the future!

The contact point for general information about gifts to the Endowment:

**University Development Office**  
Dauch Alumni Center, Room 1124  
403 W. Wood St.  
West Lafayette, IN 47907-2007  
Phone: 765-494-2730  
Fax: 765-494-7035

To transfer appreciated stock:

**Purdue Foundation**  
Trust Officer  
3000 Kent Ave., #C2-100  
West Lafayette, IN 47906-1075  
765-494-8645

### Look to BVN for volunteer opportunities in community

Many PURA members work with local community agencies that depend on volunteerism for support.

The Boiler Volunteer Network (aka the Office of Community Service and Learning) is tasked with matching Purdue students, faculty, staff, alumni, and retirees to the volunteer needs of nearly 300 not-for-profit agencies.

To stay abreast of those ever-changing opportunities, please contact BVN by accessing its website at [www.purdue.edu/odos/bvn/](http://www.purdue.edu/odos/bvn/) and selecting "About BVN." You also can email Diane Richey at [drichey@purdue.edu](mailto:drichey@purdue.edu), or call 765-496-2450. You can make contact with BVN and find a volunteer activity that may suit you as well.

### Have a question?

The Human Resources Service Center has established a toll-free number for retiree questions: 877-725-0222.



## Save the Date for the PURA Kickoff Luncheon

**Mark your calendars now for the annual PURA Kickoff Luncheon!**  
**Monday, September 10, 2012**  
**Four Points by Sheraton**  
**(formerly University Plaza Hotel)**  
**West Lafayette**

Complete information, including your invitation and registration form, will be in the July issue of the PURA Newsletter.

# PURA

Purdue University Retirees Association

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The *Purdue University Retirees Association Newsletter* is published for official retirees of Purdue University by the Office of Marketing and Media. For change of address, please use the form on the back page of this newsletter or email [julie1@purdue.edu](mailto:julie1@purdue.edu).

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 or 877-725-0222. Email [masalla@purdue.edu](mailto:masalla@purdue.edu).

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# PURA members enjoy evening out at Civic Theatre

Food, drink and 'Red, Hot and Cole' entertain more than 100 at downtown venue

After months of anticipation that began with event planning last summer by the Trips and Tours Committee, 110 PURA members and guests enjoyed a "delightful, de-lovely" Civic Theatre of Greater Lafayette production honoring Indiana's own Cole Porter. Born in Peru, Ind., in 1891, Porter was driven in life by his passion for composing. "Red, Hot, and Cole," performed by Lafayette-area residents, depicted the evolution of this creative, talented Hoosier from 1913 to 1961.

Prior to the song and dance performance, members experienced a lively social hour powered by Adelino's Old World Kitchen hors d'oeuvres and cash bar. The chicken skewers, stuffed mushrooms, and sausage and cheese mini-kabobs were delicious and filling. The conversation, priceless!

While many of the songs performed were classic Porter, many "from my old trunk" were quite interesting. Twenty-nine songs were performed, including the obscure "I'm a Gigolo." Most were familiar hits from "Anything Goes," "Kiss Me Kate," "Silk Stockings" and other movie musicals. Many of Porter's songs recorded by Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin, and other pop artists were recognized as having appeared on the Billboard Top 100.

Credit for the success of the evening is to be attributed to Steve Koehler and his theater cadre and 20 talented performers that included a Purdue business manager, an instructor, and three students. Assisting your Trips and Tours Committee was a much appreciated supporting cast of PURA Board members who volunteered as greeters and house ushers. Kudos to all. Note that a similar event is already being planned for this fall, to include a senior-discounted, pre-show dinner!



**CIVIC** theatre  
of greater lafayette

*PURA members and their guests enjoyed an evening of food, drink, conversation and performance at Civic Theatre of Greater Lafayette. Most of the theater's events, including the March 8 production of "Red, Hot and Cole," are staged at the historic Monon Depot Theatre on Fifth Street in downtown Lafayette.*

# Marion Baumgardner: India and beyond

The fifth of six Baumgardner brothers to graduate from the Texas Tech College of Agriculture, I received a B.S. degree in soil and crop sciences in May 1950. Having been active in the Wesley Foundation and the Methodist Student Movement through my undergraduate years, during my junior year I became aware of the Methodist I-3 program--to volunteer in India for three years at a salary of \$90 per month. I might have returned to the farm to work with my father, but the economy did not encourage that option.

Instead, I volunteered for the I-3 program to teach soil and crop science at the Allahabad Agricultural Institute in the Gangetic Plain of North India. My assignment began as caretaker of four young Jersey bulls, donated by a dairyman and Methodist layman in California who provided the bulls for cross-breeding to improve milk production in India. For 58 days the bulls and I were the only passengers between San Francisco and Bombay on the Silverash, an antique British merchant ship.

Arriving in Bombay in mid-January 1951, four years after India gained independence from 200 years of British rule, three years after the assassination of Mahatma Gandhi and a few months after cessation of the Hindu-Moslem wars in India, this West Texas farm boy faced the most sobering event of his life — literally tens of thousands of refugees from those religious wars had no homes nor food. Sidewalks of major streets of Bombay at night were covered with starving people, many dead the following morning. This was my introduction to India, where I spent three years in an astonishing and profound life-changing experience.

Allahabad, meaning place of God, is an ancient city lying between the Jumna and Ganges rivers at their junction. On the bank of the Jumna, the institute campus became my home and work place for almost three years.

Several years after massive U.S. aid

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## THOSE WERE THE DAYS

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*As he sat at Lucknow Rail Station in India in 1952, writing a letter to his parents with his typewriter on his suitcase, Marion Baumgardner was quickly surrounded by curious observers.*

to Western Europe and Japan began following WW II, U.S. Ambassador to India Chester Bowles initiated President Truman's Point IV foreign aid to India. An Indian colleague and I were contracted by the director of Point IV to study and recommend possible sites in North India for Point IV agricultural extension training centers. A year later under a special Ford Foundation grant to the institute, I was a participant in a program to train Indian agricultural extension workers. I was privileged to participate in the preparation of India for the Green Revolution to come decades later.

Predating the personal computer by 30 years, email by 40 years, and Facebook by 50 years, communication from India with my parents was by my typewritten letters on onion skin paper, with as many words as possible per page, many letters being 6 to 8 pages in length. I was eager to share in as much detail as possible my remarkable personal experiences in this multicultural, multi-language country of many religions. After becoming a Purdue faculty member and after Maralee and I had been married a decade or more, we received our regular Christmas package from my Mom in Texas. Her gift to me

was a box of 157 letters, in chronological order of every letter I had written to Mom and Pop from India. Unaware that these letters were still in Mom's archives, I was astonished to have this personal diary of my daily observations and experiences of three years of horizon-broadening and global mind-stretching.

The India experience led me to dedicate my talents to helping to feed a hungry world, realizing that I needed more in-depth training and preparation. From India I applied for graduate training at eight different U.S. universities, and Purdue offered me the best "free-grant" research assistantship. After completing MS and PhD degrees at Purdue University, I was offered a faculty position in Purdue's Department of Agronomy, where I served for almost 40 years in an environment and with administrative support which provided a continuing flow of opportunities in international agricultural development, related to feeding a hungry world, assignments with the Ford Foundation, U.S. Agency for International Development, and several U.N. and Canadian agencies. I had workshops and consulting assignments in more than 30 countries with lectures and travels in more than 100 countries.

Fifty years ago I could not have written a job description that would have brought more personal and professional satisfaction and fulfillment than my 40 years as a member of the faculty of Purdue's Department of Agronomy and Laboratory for Applications of Remote Sensing.

Editor's note: Thank you to all who have submitted reminiscences for our "Those Were the Days" column. We welcome further reminiscences from earlier times and would also be interested in printing first- or third-person "Purdue Retiree Profiles" about the careers of some of our members. Please Contact Jill May at [jillmay@purdue.edu](mailto:jillmay@purdue.edu) with ideas or submissions.





## Retirees, guests invited for evening at Pappy’s, visits to Marriott, Hanley halls

### Fun, food on tap for Sweet Shop visit

The Trips and Tours Committee invites retirees and their guests to enjoy a PURA exclusive old-fashioned soda fountain dinner and party at Pappy's Sweet Shop from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. on May 9.

You'll find favorites like burgers, fries, grilled cheese and more — each offered at an affordable price. Pappy's soda fountain features soft drinks, shakes, malts, cones and sundaes each made with the original Purdue Creamery recipe ice cream.

You can also enjoy oldies music direct from the juke box for only a nickel per selection. Choose your favorite hit from among the big-band, fabulous '50s, and nifty '60s eras plus a few classic jazz hits – 100 total songs to choose from. We'll also have playing cards, board games, trivia questions, and lots of general conversation to enjoy at your leisure. Some may even choose to dance in the aisles!

No reservations are needed for this event; just show up and enjoy the fun. If you have any questions, please contact Dan Collins, PURA Trips and Tours Committee Member, at decollins.retired@yahoo.com or call 765-413-8451.



### Reserve your space now for May 10 tour of new academic spaces

The Campus and Community Activities Committee plans a visit to Marriott and Hanley halls on May 10. The tours will begin at 2 p.m. at Marriott Hall at the corner of State Street and University Street, where attendees will see the new John Purdue Room dining facility and the state-of-the-art kitchen.

After Marriott, the tour will continue on to Hanley Hall, farther west on State Street near Martin Jischke Drive.

Hanley Hall houses the Military Family Research Institute, the Center for Aging and the Life Course, and the Department of Human Development and Family Studies.

AT TOP: The Hanley Hall exterior and playground as viewed from the north. ABOVE AND BELOW: The interior of Marriott Hall, which includes the John Purdue Room for lunch and dinner, the Boiler Bistro

for lunch and the Lavazza coffee shop for coffee, gelato and pastries.



#### CAMPUS AND COMMUNITY ACTIVITY RESERVATION FORM for May 10, 2 p.m., tour of Marriott and Hanley Halls

PRINT INFORMATION AND SEND FORM TO:  
Michele Salla, Purdue Human Resources, 401 S. Grant St., West Lafayette, IN 47907-2024 OR email reservation to Michele Salla at masalla@purdue.edu.

Reservations should be submitted as soon as possible. Guests are welcome.

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

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

Email \_\_\_\_\_

## Monthly PURA programs continue through summer at MCL

The PURA Program Committee invites all Purdue retirees and their guests to attend a luncheon and program the first Monday of each month at MCL Cafeteria on Sagamore Parkway in West Lafayette.

Attendees go through the regular service line and join fellow retirees in the John Purdue Room to enjoy their meals and each other's company.

The John Purdue Room doors open at 11 and the meeting and program begins at 12.

All are invited to come and share

*Robert May:  
Civil War*



some social time with fellow retirees.

Each luncheon features a speaker and a topic of general interest.

Program topics in the past few months have included Purdue Bands; Origins of the Civil War — Fact and Myth; Climbing Mount Everest; the Future of West Lafayette; the Future of Lafayette; and You, Your Kids, Your Grandkids — Understanding the Generations.

Speakers have included Lafayette Mayor Tony Roswarski, Purdue President Emeritus Steve Beering, and Athletics Director Morgan Burke.

The March 2012 program featured John Collier, Purdue director of master planning, presenting the Purdue Master Plan.



*John Collier: Master Plan*

The following is a list of the MCL programs scheduled through August.

- May 7:** Lafayette/West Lafayette Development Corporation  
Speaker: Joe Seaman
- June 4:** Purdue Wind Farm  
Speaker: Jerry Frankhouser
- July 2:** Health Issues: Replacement Body Parts  
Speaker: Dr. Robert Hagen
- August 6:** Wabash River Enhancement  
Speaker: Stan Lambert

*Joe Micon:  
Lafayette  
Urban  
Ministry*



## SOTU

Continued from page 1

Purdue's 11th president and the first woman to hold that position, Córdova was also presented with a One Brick Higher Award by Rab Mukerjea, the University's executive director of strategic planning and assessment who also serves as chair of the One Brick Higher awards committee. In presenting the award to Córdova, Mukerjea praised her work at Purdue.

"Under President Córdova's leadership, Purdue has risen in reputational rankings, student success rates and in sponsored research funding," Mukerjea said. "Her focus on the student experience, field-defining research and global footprint expansion has enhanced Purdue's profile as a world leader in higher education.

"I think I speak for the entire Purdue family when I say that you have taken this university 'One Brick Higher.'"

## Hiser speaks for retirees at reception

*The remarks below were delivered by Sue Hiser at a March 27 reception for President France A. Córdova. Also speaking at the event: CSSAC chair Ebony Barrett Kennedy, APSAC vice chair Bob Morman and Senate chair Morry Levy.*

Today we are celebrating you, President Córdova, and what you have done at Purdue.

On behalf of the Purdue Retirees Association — PURA — I'd like to thank you for continuing, during these difficult economic times, the financial support the university has given to PURA. This has made it possible for PURA to provide educational and social opportunities to more than 4,000 Purdue retirees.

The university also provides a consultant to help our benefits committee determine which health insurance plans are appropriate for our retirees. Individually this can be a daunting task, so this is much

appreciated by the retirees.

During your tenure, our retirees have given much back to the university through volunteer service in classrooms and the Visitors Center, with student organizations, and through research. We have been major contributors to Purdue's development campaigns and are the largest contributor to United Way.

We appreciate that under your leadership we have seen Purdue faculty and students win prestigious awards, a master plan is in place to guide Purdue into the future, the campus has grown with new building and facilities, and Purdue continues to be recognized as a top-tier university.

President Córdova, you have left your mark. We wish you success and happiness at the Smithsonian and in your future endeavors — may they be all that you hope for! And we hope Purdue will always have a special place in your heart! Hail, Purdue!

# Retirees invited to join the fun; Spring Fling events include talent show

The registration form at right is all you need to take part in Spring Fling 2012, scheduled for Thursday, May 17, in and around 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.

In addition, a Spring Fling Talent Show — Purdue’s Got Talent — will take place from 1 p.m. until 2 p.m. in Fowler Hall. Fill out the form at right if you or a group of you would like to participate. Or, just go to Fowler Hall at 1 p.m. and enjoy the show!

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 this page should be filled out and returned to the address indicated on the form. Deadline is May 10.

*Suggestion: Consider photocopying forms rather than cutting newsletter pages in order to save newsletter features.*

## Spring Fling 2012 Thursday, May 17 Faculty, Staff and Retirees Appreciation Event Retiree Registration Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Email address \_\_\_\_\_

I'd like to volunteer to help with Spring Fling 2012. 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 Talent Show.

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 10 to Carrie Hanson, Human Resource Services, Freehafer Hall, 401 S. Grant St., West Lafayette, IN 47907.

## Spring Fling 2012 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.

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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 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](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 \_\_\_\_\_ Email address \_\_\_\_\_

Return this form to:

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