

PURA News

Purdue University Retirees Association

December 2016/January 2017

Building Habitat for Native Species Topic of December PURA Luncheon

Patty Jischke, retired Purdue first lady, is involved in many community activities in the Greater Lafayette area – currently co-chairing four Purdue Women’s Club interest groups, leading her P.E.O. Chapter, and maintaining an 11 acre farm. Her many interests center on gardening, reading, successful child development, community development, bird and nature study, family history, Purdue athletics and her three young grandchildren.

On December 5, she spoke to a full-house at the PURA monthly business and luncheon meeting at MCL. Her discussion focused on the reduced numbers of songbirds, butterflies, and insects due to diminishing natural habitats. Since 2008 she has created an oasis for birds and other



wildlife on her farm by planting nearly 3,000 native trees and shrubs. Jischke encouraged everyone to stop planting non-native plants which often do not provide nourishment for native species and choke out “good plants.”

She suggested when adding plants to existing gardens that you search by zip code for good native plants at:

www.audubon.org/native-plants

Using plants that support songbirds, hummingbirds, butterflies, bees and other insects in your home gardens will help increase natural habitats.

Needed! Nominations for Arthur Hansen Award

Nominations for the Arthur Hansen Award must come from a PURA member or members. This award is presented to a Purdue unit that works to foster a strong relationship with its retirees.

There are many ways consistent contact with retirees could qualify for a nomination. Selected examples include invitations to social activities and/or professional seminars or meetings, inclusion in newsletters, holiday greetings and emails about the unit, an email system for retirees to stay up to date with other retirees and their former work place, special events such as retiree receptions/events or a special social event for retirees, etc.

The award, a joint effort through PURA and the Office of the President, includes a trophy and \$2,500 from TIAA and a master plaque identifying recipients in the Purdue Memorial Union. The recipient is recognized at the annual retiree luncheon as well as the PURA Kick-off Luncheon each fall and in PURA and Purdue publications.

Nominations are limited to 1 page and should be submitted to Michele Salla, PURA, Human Resources, 401 S. Grant St., West Lafayette, IN 47907-2024. The nomination must have the signature(s) of the nominating PURA member(s). **Nominations are due February 1, 2017.** (O. Wood)

United Way Goal Exceeded

Congratulations!!!! PURA has again exceeded its goal of \$120,000 for the Greater Lafayette United Way Campaign by raising \$121,540. This is the sixth year that PURA has topped the \$100,000 mark. Not only do Purdue retirees

provide financial support to United Way, they volunteer their time and expertise to many of its programs and agencies – Read to Succeed, Food Finders, and the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program, to name a few.

Thank you, Purdue retirees, for your continued and generous support of United Way.

The Latest “Tech Toys” Featured at November Monthly PURA Meeting



At the November 7 PURA business meeting, Scott Ksander, retired ITaP Executive Director of IT Network and Security, gave a presentation and demonstration on Internet connected “tech toys for all ages” and home security devices. He noted early in the program that an up-to-date router (less than three years old) is essential.

Ksander illustrated the uses of **Amazon Echo Dot**, voice technology using Alexa, which will answer questions such as “what

is the weather?”, or give commands to utilize other technical devices such as **Nest**, a thermostat, or **August**, a

door lock. Using your smart phone or Alexa you can change the temperature in your home or lock the door with a voice command from a distant location. He also introduced the audience to an array of lightbulbs that can be programed by a good router, smartphone or Dot.

He discussed becoming unplugged from TV cable by using the **Amazon Fire TV Stick** or **Apple TV**, both with voice control. Both will give you additional programming without a monthly fee.

Ksander shared information on the following toys: **Barbie Hello Dreamhouse**, **CHIP** (a robotic dog), **Sphero BB-8** (update of robot R2D2, from the movie *Star Wars*), **Lumi** (indoor quadcopter), **Air Hogs Helix Sentinel Drone**, **Code Gamer** (learn to write code), and **Kano** (kit to make a computer)

If you want more information on any of the devices or toys, Google the words in bold to learn more about the connected world. (M. Bain)



Indiana Is 200 Years Old

After a year-long celebration, Indiana officially turned 200 on December 11, 2016, celebrated at an interfaith service held at the Indiana State Fairgrounds’ Indiana Farmers Coliseum. The planners hope the Indiana Bicentennial events will inspire the next generation of Hoosiers to “Ignite the Future.”

A large map of Tippecanoe County, drawn by Lou Camilotto’s group, has been placed in the Tippecanoe County Historical Association. If you are interested in studying or observing this map further, it is possible to check it out.

The Indiana Bicentennial website contains the Visioning Report which can be an enjoyable piece of information. (S. Scholar)

Don K. Gentry is Nominee for PURA President-Elect



After careful consideration of candidates, the PURA Nominating Committee recommends Don K. Gentry for the 2017-18 PURA ballot for the position of President-elect of PURA. The PURA Executive Board approved the ballot selection at the December, 2016 board meeting.

Gentry retired after twenty-six years of service as a faculty member and administrator for Purdue University in 2009. He was the first director of the Purdue Statewide Technology Program, professor of Industrial Technology, and Assistant and Associate Dean of the College of Technology. In 1987, he was appointed Dean of the College of Technology serving 14 years. He was the organizing Vice Provost for the Office of Engagement to provide leadership for the

university’s outreach and engagement functions. He also served as Special Assistant to the Provost prior to his retirement, completing a career of 47 years.

Since retirement he has become a volunteer and involved grandfather. He served as the inaugural Chair of the Board of Directors for the Greater Lafayette Commerce, as a member of the Leadership Team for Greater Lafayette Read to Succeed program, is an elder in the Faith Presbyterian Church, and an active member of the Lafayette Rotary Club. He is completing his seventh year as chair of the Purdue Retirees Association Benefits Committee and as a member of the PURA Executive Board. In 2014 he received an Honorary Doctorate of Technology from Purdue and was honored by PURA with their Betty Nelson Outstanding Service Award. He is enjoying traveling with his wife and following activities of seven grandchildren.

The ballot will also be announced at the February business meeting. Additional nominees can be *(Continued on page 4.)*

PURA Tours The Envision Center



Dick Nelson views a virtual reality .

Approximately 50 PURA members attended the tour of Purdue's Envision Center on Oct. 27, 2016, and experienced a "touch" of virtual reality.

This is a fascinating place that operates in four areas: virtual simulation, human-computer interaction, data visualization, and analysis and media creation. They blend technology and art into a display of graphics that communicates complex ideas more effectively, simplifies understanding, and creates a springboard for new insights for research or the classroom.

The Center helps with faculty research and

teaching designs by graphically representing data and information through techniques such as scientific visualization, animation, motion capture, and immersive 3-D virtual environments.

The moderator informed the group that possibly one could experience dizziness, headache or disorientation from the movements he would be showing us; but everyone watched the demonstration without any ill effects.

From left to right: Bob Bain (back to camera), Chip Goldsberry, and Bill Bennett with the Envision Center host



Chef Hubert Schmieler Receives Award for Lifetime Achievement



Purdue retiree Hubert Schmieler was recently honored with the President Special Award from the World Association of Chefs Societies, "in recognition of lifetime contribution to the culinary profession."

He is very proud of this and his numerous medals from organizations located in Germany, Canada, the United States, and elsewhere. One of these medals is the Golden Toque (Chef's Hat) which is limited to 100 members. A chef may not simply join this group, the individual must be sponsored and voted into the organization. Only when someone dies is another chef nominated for this very prestigious organization.



Schmieler was the first chef at Purdue University, joining Purdue in 1987 as a Chief Instructor at Stone Hall. He began working at Westwood when Steven Beering was President of Purdue.

At that time Westwood's kitchen consisted of a four-burner stove and a regular refrigerator. Schmieler worked with Jane Beering to promote hospitality events. They began preparing for small groups and eventually increased the events—and the size of the kitchen—to accommodate larger private groups and sit-down dinners.



Above, Schmieler (left) and assistants at an event honoring eight astronauts who visited Purdue. The astronauts had taken some eggs into space to perform various experiments, so Chef Schmieler prepared deviled eggs that he called space chicks, or "little peeps," (center). And, since in folklore the moon is reputed to be made of cheese, to the right and left in the photo are "moon rocks" —i.e., cheese balls.

Nursing Center for Family Health (NCFH) Offers Wellness Screenings and Swallow Evaluations

A new year is upon us and NCFH will again offer free wellness screenings in the spring for retirees/spouses that did not have one in the fall. We will also offer a limited number of swallow screenings, as a pilot, on an appointment basis for retirees/spouses that feel they have a swallowing issue. You may schedule only the swallow screening if you had your wellness screening in the fall.

Spring 2017 dates for these free wellness and swallowing screenings are March 10, March 31, and April 7. Please call Chris Rearick at 765-496-0308 or email crearick@purdue.edu to schedule.

There is no charge for either of these screenings. Appointment availability is limited.

Winter Health Tip: SOCIALIZE! Due to cold and ice, winter months can lead to isolation. Isolation can lead to depression. Reach out to family and friends or call a friend or family member just to "chat". If you have no one to chat with, feel free to call NCFH and chat with Chris Rearick, 765-496-0308.

About the Center for Aging & Community—

Founded at the University of Indianapolis, the Center for Aging & Community is one of Indiana's leading gerontology centers, helping businesses and community organizations to engage older adults effectively in the key focus areas of Aging in Place and Meaningful Work for Older Adults. Find more information at <http://www.uindy.edu/cac>.



Indiana Tidbits: Do you know?

- Indiana was admitted as the 19th state of the Union on Dec. 11, 1816. After the original 13 colonies, only five other states preceded Indiana into the Union. They were Vermont (in 1791); Kentucky (1792); Tennessee (1796); Ohio (1803); and Louisiana (1812).
- The state song is “On the Banks of the Wabash, Far Away”, written by Terre Haute native Paul Dresser in 1897, and adopted as the state song in 1913.
- The tulip tree, also known as the tulip poplar or yellow poplar, became Indiana's state tree in 1931.
- In 1933 the cardinal was chosen to be the state bird of Indiana. Also known as the redbird, the cardinal is the state bird of seven states: Indiana, Illinois, Ohio, North Carolina, Kentucky, Virginia and West Virginia.

- The Indiana General Assembly adopted the peony as the state flower in 1957.
- In 2009 the sugar cream pie was named Indiana’s state pie.
- In 1816 Indiana’s population was 63,000, according to a census of the Indiana Territory. But in 2014, Indiana had 6.6 million people making it the 16th most populous state.
- The oldest county in Indiana is Knox County, which originated in 1790; the newest county is Newton County, created in 1859.
- LaPorte County claims to be the home of the state’s oldest county fair, first held in 1845.
- Indiana is the smallest state west of the Appalachian Mountains (excluding Hawaii). At 36,418 square miles, Indiana ranks 38th among the 50 states in area.

Sources: *Electric Consumer*, January 2016, Wikipedia, and the Indiana Historical Society web site.

Don Gentry Named PURA President-Elect

(Continued from page 2)

added at the March business meeting with their prior approval. The vote of the membership will occur at the April meeting. New officers begin their duties after the annual PURA Transition Meeting in late spring. (M. Bain)

Volunteer Opportunity:

**JOIN OUR TEAM OF INFORMATION
SPECIALISTS
at the Purdue Memorial Union
Welcome Center Kiosk**

Love Purdue? Love to Talk?
Work 4 hour shifts—once a month,
once a week, or be a Sub.

Contact Cindy MacDonald at the
Welcome Center, 765-494-9017/
cmacdona@purdue.edu

The first *Friday the 13th* of 2017 occurs on January 13, 2017. Sometimes this is called "Blame Someone Else Day". It is celebrated on the first occurrence of a *Friday the 13th* each year. There is always at least one *Friday the 13th* in a year, but never more than 3.

Fear of *Friday the 13th* is known as paraskavedekatriphobia. Say that three times fast!

Mark Your Calendars!

2 January Official University Holiday—NO monthly meeting.

6 February PURA Monthly Meeting, MCL Cafeteria, 11:00 AM

Topic: State of the West Lafayette School System

Speaker: Rocky Killion, Superintendent, W.L. Community School Corporation

6 March PURA Monthly Meeting, MCL Cafeteria, 11:00 AM

Topic: Is Fat a Sixth Sense?

Speaker: Rick Mattes, Distinguished Professor, Purdue department of Nutrition Science

3 April PURA Monthly Meeting, MCL Cafeteria, 11:00 AM

Topic: 100 Years of Indiana State Parks

Speaker: Benjamin Clark, Historic Preservation Officer, Indiana Dept. of Natural Resources

19 April Purposeful Living In Retirement conference, Beck Agricultural Center, U.S. 52 North

1 May PURA Monthly Meeting, MCL Cafeteria, 11:00 AM

Topic: Introduction to Purdue’s New Athletic Director

Speaker: Mike Bobinski, Athletic Director