

PURA News

Purdue University Retirees Association

May 2017

Don K. Gentry Elected as PURA President-Elect



Don K. Gentry was elected to the office of PURA President-elect by the PURA membership at the Business meeting at MCL on April 3, 2017. Don 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, a 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.

Don has most recently been identified with PURA's Benefits Committee, which he chaired for several 3-year terms plus additional years. He brings a strong leadership skill set and a sincere desire to serve PURA. Don will join John Trott as the PURA President for 2017-18 and Melinda Bain as Immediate Past President. Elected officers begin their duties after the annual PURA Transition Meeting the end of May, 2017.

Wilmeth Active Learning Center Tour on May 23

The Campus and Community Activities Committee has arranged a tour of Wilmeth Active Learning Center, which is the new building in the process of completion diagonally opposite Elliott Hall of Music (the location in which ENAD formerly stood). Wilmeth is designed for creative learning in a variety of configurations, it is a multifunctional facility that is central to campus, and it will hold much of the University's most up-to-date library technology and materials.

The tour is limited to 30 people. If more than 30 people sign up, the first 30 will be included. Others will be put on a waiting list or we will try to schedule a second tour.

When: Tuesday, May 23 at 3:00 - 4:00 PM

Where to Meet: Meet at the southeast corner of Potter Engineering building so we can enter Wilmeth together. Potter is south of Electrical and Mechanical Engineering. Please be on time at Potter.

Attire: The construction is well along but some safety requirements must still be observed. Though visitors will

not need hard hats nor safety glasses, attendees will need to wear closed-toed shoes. Please, no sandals, sling backs, etc. Legs should be fully covered. Please, no shorts — long pants with socks are best.

Parking: The tour is being held after spring semester ends, so parking should be readily available. Best parking for those with "A" permits will be in the Northwestern Parking Garage. Grant Street Garage is the best alternative for those without "A" permits. Please note that there will be considerable walking to get to Potter, get to Wilmeth, and on the tour itself.



Reservation. To reserve a place, email Michele Salla, Purdue Human Resource Services at masalla@purdue.edu, or call her at 494-1779. Specify your desire to participate in the Wilmeth tour on May 23, and include your name(s), address, telephone number, and email address.

This Year's PURA Common Read Program a Great Success

Approximately 35 PURA members, friends and guests joined members of the Purdue University Libraries and Purdue University Press at a discussion of *Slow Ball Cartoonist: The Extraordinary Life of Indiana Native and Pulitzer Prize Winner John T. McCutcheon of the Chicago Tribune* on March 24 in the Purdue University Archives and Special Collections.

Nick Schenkel, Director of West Lafayette Public Library, began with a brief review of the book and moderated questions and comments from a well-read audience. Head of Archives and Special Collections Professor Sammie Morris followed with an introduction of the archival collection of John McCutcheon cartoons and artifacts, many of which had been given to Purdue by his widow. Finally, those in attendance entered the archives for a special viewing of several original McCutcheon cartoon

sketches, printing blocks, the first Purdue *Debris* yearbook designed by McCutcheon, and related items. A rare treat was included from the private collection of PURA member Arnold Sweet – color postcards from McCutcheon's "A Boy in Springtime" series.



"The '92 Purdue Football Team,"

by John T. McCutcheon

Purdue University Libraries,
Archives & Special Collections

What an Experience!

Most of you are well aware of the advantages the Read to Succeed program provides to our local elementary students – and the benefits the 600+ volunteers reap in return. What you may not know is that there is a similar need for volunteers to help elementary students with math. I know, because that is what I do for an hour, three mornings each week at Woodland Elementary School.

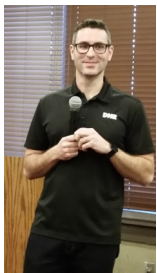
Two years ago, United Way's Amy Wood asked Woodland if they would like an additional Read to Succeed volunteer. They responded, "no, BUT..." they had a third grade teacher who wanted similar volunteer support for her math period. Amy called me, so I agreed to give it a whirl. That partnership connection has worked marvelously!

The difference between my role and that of a typical Read to Succeed volunteer is that I am more a part of the whole class.

My primary role is to help students during the math period, especially those who struggle the most. But I get to work with all the students every day I'm there. I also hand out papers, erase the board, present alternative problem solving strategies to the ones the teacher presents (by playing off each other's thoughts), and share meaningful experiences. I listen, I share, I encourage, and I support any helpful way I can. My goal is to enable the teacher to efficiently and effectively do what she does best. I learn a lot!

Based on my experience, I encourage all of you who enjoy working with elementary students to touch base with a school of your choice to establish a similar relationship with a willing teacher. If you are uncertain how to approach the school, please contact me to help facilitate an inquiry. I can also fit you with one of the other third grade teachers at Woodland Elementary, just not with my partner! (Dan Collins—reach him at decollins.retired@yahoo.com)

Indiana State Parks' Benjamin Clark Speaks at April Monthly Luncheon



Benjamin Clark, Chief of Cultural Resources, Indiana State Parks, presented the program at the April MCL PURA meeting. Praising the creator of the Indiana Parks system, Richard Lieber, he told the story of how the system was established in 1916 in honor of Indiana's 100th anniversary. Lieber came to the U.S. from Germany and worked as a journalist and businessman, but his main passion was natural resources. He recognized there were old growth forests and frontier structures in danger of being destroyed for timber and worked diligently to raise funds to purchase those lands. One of the first purchased areas was finalized on July 4, 1916 and would later become Turkey Run State Park. An early corporate donor was the Indianapolis Motor Speedway.

Lieber had met Theodore Roosevelt at a White House conference on conservation and worked with him to establish the national parks system, also in 1916. From the beginning, Lieber pushed the idea of user fees to maintain the state parks. He believed user fees would help give citizens responsibility for ownership of the lands. The first fee was 10 cents per person. To this day park fees

have kept the current 32 state parks self-sufficient, with current user fees in the range of \$5 to \$8 per vehicle. Parks also receive funding from "friends" groups, the Indiana Parks Alliance, and the Indiana Natural Resources Foundation.

Clark relayed which state parks were created in each decade since 1916. During the 1920s, Clifty Falls, the Dunes, Pokagon, Spring Mill, Brown County, Shakamak and The Mounds were added. In the 1930-40s era, parklands benefited from Civilian Conservation Clubs set up during the Depression. The clubs built trails and bridges and shored up structures. As Americans traveled more after WW II, the 1950-60s era added seven parks, and the 1970-80 era increased interest in parks due to federal conservation acts. The 1980s brought interpretive naturalists presenting educational programs in many of the state's parks.

The establishment of Prophetstown State Park in 2004 (pictured below) completed an initial goal to have a state park within one hour of citizens as well as offering a unique ecosystem on the natural divide between eastern woodlands and the great plains. (O. Wood)



Arthur G. Hansen Recognition Award Announced

The Vice President and staff of Human Resources will receive the Arthur G. Hansen Recognition Award at the annual Purdue University Retirement Luncheon on June 29, 2017. Since 2003, this annual award has been presented by the Purdue University Retirees Association and the Office of the President to a University unit that excels in fostering a strong relationship between Purdue and its retirees.



Arthur G. Hansen,
president of
Purdue
1971-1982.

Quoting from the nominator, "I can think of no other Purdue University unit that is more involved with retirees than Human Resources. For decades the staff in Human Resources has continually reached out to assist retirees in a variety of ways as individuals and through the Purdue University Retirees Association."

Human Resources maintains a call center that answers questions or directs retirees to appropriate individuals, provides in-house and external consulting services regarding the Medicare Supplemental insurance program, pre-65 official retiree medical insurance as well as assistance with claims issues, and offers flu shots at no cost to retirees. Human Resources involves retirees in Spring Fling activities and created a temporary employment service to tap the talents of retirees. And, our PURA organization would not be as successful without the resources, clerical support and liaison provided from Human Resources with the University administration.

The breadth and extent of Human Resources' assistance shows how Purdue values its retirees and is far and away the best example in the Big Ten.

This honor comes with a cash award of \$2,500, funded by TIAA, a trophy, and the name of the recipient listed on a permanent plaque in the Purdue Memorial Union. The honorees, in addition to attending the University Retirement Luncheon, will be introduced to the PURA membership at the Fall Luncheon on September 11, 2017.

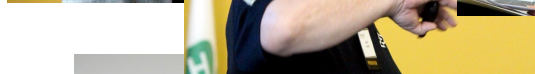
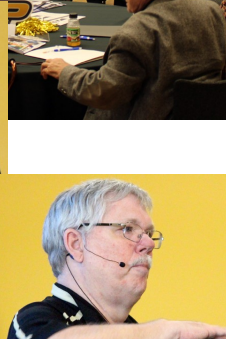
Purposeful Living in Retirement Conference a Big Success!

The PURA Purposeful Living in Retirement Conference was held on April 19 drawing a crowd of 184, the largest ever. The Beck Agricultural Center in West Lafayette was again a great setting providing room for the program sessions as well as over 20 exhibitors.

There were more speakers this year, with two in the "Let's Get Moving" session and a video and 4-member panel for the 911 emergency call system session. Each program session stressed take-home messages which were practical and could be immediately implemented. Computer technology questions were answered and members learned what challenges could occur if and when a new national health care policy is passed. A session on nutrition gave pointers on how to maintain sufficient nutrient intake while consuming less calories. Three surprise moments of humor were interspersed throughout the day.

Over 30 door prizes were drawn. Participants also had the opportunity to purchase a Purdue ornament in support of the PURA Student Scholarship Endowment. Four hundred dollars was raised from the ornament sales which will become \$800, due to a matching gift, when it was submitted during Purdue's Day of Giving on April 26. PURA members were also able to purchase at a discount two books about Purdue astronaut Jerry Ross, who will be one of the speakers at the August 25, 2017 Big Ten Retirees Conference to be held at Purdue. PURA members will be invited to attend the opening session, so mark the August 25 date now.

Look for the date of the 2018 PLIR Conference to be published soon. (O. Wood)



Welcome to the merry month of May!

Almost every day in May produces a day to celebrate. For instance, there is May Day, World Press Freedom Day, Star Wars Day, Derby Day, International Day of the Midwife, International No Diet Day, Cinco de Mayo Day, World Laughter Day, World Red Cross Day, International Nurses Day, International Family Day, World Telecommunication Day, Graduation Day, Mother's Day, Anti-Terrorism Day, World Biodiversity Day, Towel Day, World Anti-Tobacco Day, Memorial Day, to name a few. In the United Kingdom, May is National Smile Month, which is actually a campaign to promote good oral health. In New Zealand, May is music month.

But the most famous of them all, especially for those of us living in Indiana, is the Indianapolis 500 Day. Indianapolis celebrates the Indianapolis 500 through a month-long celebration in May, hosted by the 500 Festival committee and its numerous volunteers.

This event began on May 30, 1911, with Ray Harroun winning. 2017 is the 101st race, as there were no races during World War I (1917-18) and World War II (1942-45).

Some other interesting information about the Indy 500 includes:

- The track was once paved with 3.2 million bricks giving it

the name the "Brickyard." The original bricks still lie at the Start/Finish line.

- Indy cars can accelerate from 0 mph to 100 mph in 4 seconds.
- Churchill Downs, Yankee Stadium, the Rose Bowl, the Roman Colosseum and Vatican City could all fit inside the Indianapolis Motor Speedway oval, which covers 253 acres.
- The Indianapolis Motor Speedway is the world's largest spectator sporting facility, with more than 250,000 permanent seats. If the seat boards from the grandstands at IMS were laid end-to-end, they would stretch 99.5 miles.
- Worldwide television distribution of the Indianapolis 500 broadcast: 213 countries, with an audience reach of over 292 million households.
- If the speedway itself were a city, on race day its population would rank as the 45th largest city nationwide. Over 400,000 individuals are estimated to attend the Indianapolis 500 race on race day.
- The founder of the Indianapolis 500, Carl G. Fisher, is credited with the idea of using a pace car to start the race versus a standing start. In recent years, celebrities such as Jay Leno, Morgan Freeman, Lance Armstrong, Patrick Dempsey, and Josh Duhamel have been chosen to drive the pace car.

Reminder: Human Resources Has Moved

Human Resources staff who were located in Freehafer Hall moved to the Purdue Research Park in April, and are now housed in a new addition to the Kurz Purdue Technology Center (KPTC), 1281 Win Hentschel Blvd, Suite 1100. Due to the State Street Redevelopment Project, Freehafer Hall will be demolished in the coming months, and all of its occupants have or are relocating.

All HR staff and areas have the same phone numbers after the move. An on-campus office has been established for HR Customer Service, primarily for benefits assistance and retirement counseling. Staff will rotate between KPTC and STEW G-66. Appointments will be the best way to receive face to face assistance to be sure someone can be available when you arrive. For those who have limited mobility, the office at KPTC may be an easier option.

To contact Human Resources for assistance or to schedule an appointment at either location, send email to hr@purdue.edu or call (765) 494-2222.



Spring Fling—May 25, 2017, 11:30 am—4:30 pm Cordova Recreational Sports Center

All PURA retirees are welcome to attend the annual Purdue staff recognition event, Spring Fling. Registration is required ONLY if you wish to volunteer, participate in the fitness walk or golf outing, or register a vehicle for the Classic Vehicle Show. Registrations must be completed before 5:00 pm, May 12. For event schedule and registration visit the Spring Fling web pages: www.purdue.edu/springfling

Please take into consideration road closures around campus.

Mark Your Calendars!

- 1 May PURA Monthly Meeting**, MCL Cafeteria, 11:00 AM
Topic: Introduction to Purdue's New Athletic Director
Speaker: Mike Bobinski, Athletic Director
- 23 May PURA Tour of Wilmeth Active Learning Center, 3:00 pm.** (See article on page 1 of this newsletter for more information, including location, required attire, parking, and event registration.)
- 25 May Spring Fling**, Cordova Recreational Sports Center, 11:30am—4:30 pm
- 5 June PURA Monthly Meeting**, MCL Cafeteria, 11 am
Topic: What is Virtual Reality and How Can It Be Used?
Speaker: Laura Theademan and George Takahashi
- 3 July PURA Monthly Meeting**, MCL Cafeteria, 11 am
Topic: Self-driving Cars
Speaker: Dr. Srin Peeta, Hockema Professor of Civil Engineering
- 7 August PURA Monthly Meeting**, MCL Cafeteria, 11 am
Topic: Honey Bee Research
Speaker: Greg Hunt
- 25 August Big Ten Retirees Associations conference**