

# PURA News

Purdue University Retirees Association

August 2017

## Autonomous Transportation



Srinivas Peeta, Professor of Civil Engineering and Director of the NEXTRANS Center at Purdue, presented the July MCL program on autonomous transportation, the updated term for self-driving cars.

The main point behind driverless cars is safety. In 2016 there were 40,000 vehicle fatalities, of which 94% were due to human error. To date over a million miles of testing has resulted in only one fatality for a self-driving car, and it was due to a human programming error.

Professor Peeta described 5 levels of autonomous driving technology development, and currently it is at level 2.5. Level 3 will begin the totally autonomous driving experience, with no hands or eyes required, but still have a human take-over request capability if needed. Levels above 3 will not include the take-over request. With simulations starting to be available, there will be billions of miles driven in the testing process. Just as computer technology is second nature to children today, autonomous driving will become second nature to children of future generations.

The Purdue lab includes a simulator, and research is being conducted to help identify the driving behavior changes that will be needed for autonomous driving. Professor Peeta hopes PURA members will be subjects for the simulator research as they

desire a broad base of ages. If you are interested in participating in a study, you may contact him at [peeta@purdue.edu](mailto:peeta@purdue.edu)

Many changes will affect the car industry. Already there is less demand for new cars and more demand for used cars as consumers are waiting to purchase an autonomous vehicle. It is predicted there will be fewer cars owned by individuals. When you wish to go anywhere, you will simply call and rent a vehicle which arrives at your home without a driver and takes you to your destination, and then picks you up and returns you to your home. No more personal vehicles sitting in a parking garage all day while you are at work. Parking garages would become obsolete, allowing those spaces to be used for other purposes. There would be no need for cabs. Those with sight issues that now prevent them from driving will be able to travel alone wherever they wish to go.

Other factors relating to autonomous vehicles are that they do not waiver in the road lane, so the width of lanes will become 9 feet vs. the current 12 feet, and 3 lanes will become 4 lanes within the same total space. Totally autonomous transportation would not even have a seat designated for a driver. The inside of the vehicle could be more like a lounge setting. No more boredom, falling asleep at the wheel, arriving at your destination exhausted, etc.

What's the driving force in the industry? Technology, with Google being at the forefront. Google's goal is to license technology to automotive manufacturers, not to produce vehicles. Sound impossible? It's coming in your children's and grandchildren's lifetime.

## FROM AN INDIANA COUNTRY KID TO A SPACEWAKER

Purdue astronaut Jerry Ross made seven trips into outer space. He, along with John Norberg and Sue Gunderson, who co-authored his books, will be at Purdue on August 25. Ross will speak about his experiences, from his dream as a youth to journey into space and through his last spacewalk, in his presentation, "From an Indiana Country Kid to a Spacewalker."



This event is sponsored by the PURA Campus and Community Activities Committee and the Big Ten Retirees Association

Conference Planning Committee, and is the Common Read selection for 2017.

Ross, Norberg and Gunderson will be available at **3:30 pm in STEW 302** to autograph your copy of their books: *Spacewalker, My Journey in Space and Faith as NASA's Record Setting Frequent Flyer* and *Becoming a Spacewalker*. Books also will be available for sale and make excellent gifts.

The presentation will begin at **4:30 pm in STEW 302**.

To ensure seating availability, please RSVP to Michele Salla, [masalla@purdue.edu](mailto:masalla@purdue.edu) if you plan to attend.

## PURA Membership Reaches 5000

With the most recent 2017 class of 300 plus retirees, membership in PURA has topped 5,000. Congratulations to our newest members and, as PURA President John Trott says, “welcome to the world of six Saturdays and one Sunday.”

On June 29 many of these new retirees attended a University retirement luncheon in the Purdue Memorial Ballrooms to honor and thank them for their many achievements and accomplishments. Their work helped place Purdue University into the position of a world-class university. Before presenting the retiree certificates, James Almond, Senior Vice President for Business Services and Assistant Treasurer, spoke to the retirees about humorous and significant events that occurred on campus during the last ten to fifty years, which covered the span of their employment service.

On behalf of the Office of the President and PURA, Almond also presented the Arthur G. Hansen Recognition Award to the Vice President and Staff of Human Resources. Nominator Melinda Bain was present when Denny Darrow accepted this award on behalf of the staff of Human Resources, who provide so much

support for Purdue retirees. This award, which includes a cash component, is given to a unit that actively remains connected with retirees.

John Trott closed the luncheon with an invitation for the new PURA members to join him in upcoming events, to take advantage of PURA benefits, and reminded them that information can be found at the PURA website: [www.purdue.edu/retirees](http://www.purdue.edu/retirees)



**John Trott, James Almond,  
Denny Darrow, Melinda Bain**

## John Trott, 2017-18 PURA President, Introduces Himself



I was born on a farm in rural Fountain County, Indiana. My family were all farmers so I grew up with an intense interest in agriculture. When I was quite young my family moved to Montgomery County and I graduated from Crawfordsville High School. Following graduation

I enrolled at Purdue earning a B.S. in Agriculture. I then went through the U.S. Marine Corps' Officers Training School and for the next ten years I got wrapped up in the war in Vietnam. I had two full tours in Vietnam with the Marine Corps and a short special operations trip.

After my first tour in Vietnam I was stationed in Hawaii and came back to marry my college sweetheart, Nancy. I tell Nancy I took her to Hawaii for a two year honeymoon. She reminds me that Indiana winters are a lot different then they were in Hawaii. We have two children. Our son John was born in Hawaii and our daughter Jennifer was born in Virginia. We have three outstanding granddaughters. One just graduated from Purdue and will enter law school this fall. One will be a senior and the other a sophomore in high school next year.

After the Marine Corps our family came back to Indiana and I started working for Purdue as an Extension Agent in Marshall County (Plymouth). From there I served in Monroe County (Bloomington). Then we went to St. Joseph County (South

Bend). While in these counties I served on plan commissions, park boards, boards of zoning appeals and with other local organizations. During this time I used the GI bill to get an M.S. from Purdue.

After 14 years in Extension I came to campus and became Director of Purdue's Agricultural Centers, which consists of eight different research farms across the state. Part of my job description was also to serve as Assistant to the Director for Agricultural Research Programs. In this capacity I served with the Indiana Wine Grape Council, the Turkey Market Development Council, the Indiana Sheep and Wool Council and the Indiana Mint Growers Council.

I retired in 2000, but after being retired for about two months, the Dean of Agriculture asked if I would consider working part time acquiring excess government property from around the country.

In 2006, both Nancy and I fully retired, and since retirement she and I have traveled and attended many of our granddaughters' volleyball and soccer games. Fortunately they live close enough that we can get a “granddaughter fix” whenever we need one.

December 30, 2016 was our 50th wedding anniversary and to celebrate we took our family to Hawaii for a wonderful vacation.

I'm looking forward to working with everyone in the PURA organization this next year. Anyone who serves on a PURA Committee makes it possible for all retirees to stay connected. They are giving a little back to Purdue University and for that they should be very proud.

## Skin Changes in the Older Adult

I was 45 years old when I noticed my first “age spot”. During a visit with my family doctor I pointed out the “age spot”. My family doctor replied with, “That is known as a LIVER spot and as we age they increase in numbers”. I politely told him NO ONE should ever tell a woman she has “liver spots” and then

requested a more flattering term. He then informed me these spots have NOTHING to do with the liver. Then why call them liver spots? I prefer the term “sun spots” over age spots or liver spots!

Sun spots are unpopular and are caused by long- term sun  
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## Health across Generations

**CALC SYMPOSIUM**  
**September 15, 2017**  
**8:00 am**  
**Faculty Lounges**  
**Purdue Memorial Union**

### Schedule of Events

- 8:00 am Poster Session and Continental Breakfast
- 9:00 am Welcoming Remarks
- 9:10 am *Maternal Capital and the Metabolic Ghetto: an Evolutionary Perspective on How Society Shapes the Intergenerational Transmission of Health*— Jonathan Wells, PhD
- 10:10 am Break
- 10:30 am *The Role of Intergenerational Studies in Informing Cancer Prevention*— Mary Beth Terry, PhD
- 11:30 am Award Presentation and Closing Remarks

### Keynote Speakers

**Jonathan Wells, PhD**

Professor of Anthropology and Pediatric Nutrition, Institute of Child Health, University College London

Dr. Wells received his PhD in Biological Anthropology and Nutrition at the University of Cambridge and completed post-doctoral research at the MRC Dunn Nutrition Unit in Cambridge. Dr. Wells' research focuses on pediatric body composition and energy metabolism. He is involved in numerous collaborative projects worldwide to understand the links between early-life nutrition and later health. To aid the interpretation of these data and their application to public health nutrition policies, he also works extensively on evolutionary theory, addressing the association between developmental plasticity and health. Finally, he supports clinical work at Great Ormond Street Hospital, enabling the measurement of energy metabolism and body composition in patients.

**Mary Beth Terry, PhD**

Professor of Epidemiology, Mailman School of Public Health, Columbia University

Dr. Terry received her PhD in Epidemiology from Columbia University. Her research focuses on breast cancer and in the molecular epidemiology and life course methods of the disease. She is a cancer epidemiologist with more than 15 years of leading studies of breast cancer etiology specifically focused on the role genetics, epigenetics, and other biomarkers play in modifying the effects of environmental exposure. Dr. Terry has authored or co-authored over 200 scientific publications. She currently leads four NIH grants and is funded through the Breast Cancer Research Foundation.

The symposium is free and open to the public, but registration is required.

Register at: [https://purdue.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_2nPWeme8d5v2Ji5](https://purdue.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_2nPWeme8d5v2Ji5) or Email [calc@purdue.edu](mailto:calc@purdue.edu).

Special thanks to Purdue University Retirees Association and Purdue University Anthropology for their support.



The United Way campaign kicks off on July 27th this year. Your participation in the 2016 campaign helped change lives.

We hope you will join other Purdue retirees as we kick off the 2017 campaign. Don't forget to encourage other retirees to join you.

Keep an eye out for your United Way letter that will be mailed soon.

### August Health Tip

Staying active as we age is important. Older adults need at least 2 hours and 30 minutes (150 minutes) of moderate-intensity aerobic activity (i.e., brisk walking) every week and muscle-strengthening activities on 2 or more days a week that work all major muscle groups (legs, hips, back, abdomen, chest, shoulders, and arms).

<https://www.cdc.gov/physicalactivity/basics/>

## Registration Now Open for the PURA Kickoff Luncheon

Registration is now open for the annual PURA Kickoff Luncheon on Monday, September 11, 2017 at the Four Points by Sheraton in West Lafayette.



The keynote speaker will be Michael R. Berghoff, Chairman of the Purdue University Board of Trustees. This will be a unique opportunity for retirees to hear from an important leader of our University on topics such as the legal responsibilities given to the Trustees, their long-term goals for the University and the Trustees' vision for long-term financing for the University.

You may register online at:

[www.conf.purdue.edu/PURA2017](http://www.conf.purdue.edu/PURA2017)

Or, use the paper registration form sent in U.S. Mail to your home address. Credit card payment can only be accepted via online registration or by calling Conference Registration directly at 1-866-515-0023. Only personal checks may be used with the paper registration. All reservations must be post-marked by August 25, 2017.

The menu will include Fresh Garden Salad, Teriyaki Chicken Breast, Caribbean Rice, and Carrot Broccoli Medley. Vegetarian and gluten-free entrees will be available.

See you at the Kickoff!

## Indiana State Fair—August 4-20, 2017

The Indiana State Fair is the sixth oldest State Fair in the nation dating back to 1852. There is some debate about where the “first state fair” was held. New York held the first recognized state fair, although there are agricultural fairs dating back to 1809 and 1816. Kentucky started theirs in 1816 and claim it as one of the first.

The Indiana State Fair has been held every year with the exception of 1861 (Civil War) and 1942-1945 (WWII). The original purpose of the state fair was to allow Indiana’s farmers to get together to share ideas, to view the most modern farming techniques and to display their products. The fair stayed true to these ideals and continues to be a yearly highlight for thousands of Hoosiers.

While at the Indiana State Fair this year, experience the Subaru Skyride which will take fairgoers about 35 feet above Main Street.



Photos courtesy of: Indiana State Fairgrounds & Event Center

For more information, tickets, schedule, entertainment, competitions, and venue map visit:

[www.indianastatefair.com](http://www.indianastatefair.com)

See you at the Fair!!



## Skin Changes in the Older Adult, *continued*

exposure. They may fall into one of three categories:

**Cherry Hemangiomas**—These are small red spots and develop from an overgrowth of blood vessels and may grow anywhere. They are common and are NOT related to skin cancer.

**Lentigines**—These are the most popular type of sun spot and are usually in areas of the skin that have constant sun exposure. They may be pinpoint in size, such as a freckle, or may be as large as a penny.

**Seborrheic keratosis**—These may be raised, flat, light brown, dark brown, black, scaly or even wart-like.

It is important to watch the asymmetry or differences in the sides of the mole. We also need to be alert to changes in the border. An irregular border may be a suspicious sign. Color is also important. The darker the spot, the more concern. Most melanomas are larger than a pencil eraser, so therefore it is important to watch the diameter of the spot. Lastly, the evolution or changing of the spot is important. Does this spot itch, burn, bleed or cause pain? These are the A,B,C,D and E’s of sun spots. Your primary care doctor or dermatologist can assist in the diagnosis of your sun spots to rule out melanoma, a serious form of skin cancer.

**Tip:** Did you know you may use a zinc oxide based sunscreen for ultra- sun protection on your face and hands? It is a thicker cream and does not need to be applied 20 minutes prior to sun exposure. It begins working as soon as applied. This can be purchased at a local drugstore in the sunscreen area and is usually in a much smaller container.

For more information visit American Academy of Dermatology, [www.aad.org](http://www.aad.org) and <http://www.sunsafetyalliance.org>

(C. Rearick)

## Mark Your Calendars!

**7 August PURA Monthly Meeting**, MCL Cafeteria, 11 am

**Topic:** Honey Bee Research

**Speaker:** Tom Turpin

**16 August Trip—The Gangster Getaway** (see [www.purdue.edu/retirees/events](http://www.purdue.edu/retirees/events) for details)

**21 August Purdue Fall semester classes begin** (traffic increases around town)

**25 August Big Ten Retirees Associations conference**, featuring Jerry Ross

**Book Signing:** 3:30 Stewart Center, Room 302-306

**Presentation:** 4:30 Stewart Center, Room 302-306

**RSVP:** Michele Salla, [masalla@purdue.edu](mailto:masalla@purdue.edu)

**11 September PURA Kick-off Luncheon**, Four Points by Sheraton, West Lafayette (Registration information located on page 3.)

**15 September Center for Aging and the Life Course annual symposium** (Registration information located on page 3.)

**2 October PURA Monthly Meeting**, MCL Cafeteria, 11 am

**Topic:** Immigration in America

**Speaker:** David Atkinson, Prof. of History

## Free Fall Wellness Screenings for Retirees

Fall wellness screenings conducted by the Purdue Nursing Center for Family Health, at no charge, have been slated. Please contact Chris Rearick, RN, at 765-496-0308, to schedule.

Westminster: September 8, from 9am-1pm

University Place: October 6, from 9am-1pm