

# PURA News

Purdue University Retirees Association

September 2017

## From Purdue To The International Space Station: Astronaut Jerry Ross Shares His Story

Jerry Ross, astronaut, educator, and author, presented the keynote address for the PURA Common Read/Big Ten Retirees Association Annual Conference on August 25 in Stewart Center. The event was hosted by PURA and attended by 13 of the 14 Big Ten University chapters along with over 150 PURA members and guests.



Jerry Ross

Ross is from Crown Point, IN and is a Purdue educated, retired U.S. Air Force officer and former NASA astronaut. He is a veteran of seven space shuttle missions making him the joint record holder for most spaceflights. He is in the NASA Astronaut Hall of Fame, and is the author of *Spacewalker: My Journey in Space and Faith as NASA's Record-Setting Frequent Flyer*.

John Norberg, co-author of Ross's book, introduced him and they both signed copies of their book along with Susan Gunderson, who co-authored with Ross the children's companion book *Spacewalker*.

Norberg reported that most astronauts do not plan to become one until college or even later, but Jerry started his dream on the family farm by the time he was five years old. At that time NASA was investigating launching satellites into space and Jerry became fascinated with the whole concept of flying.

Ross shared that as he began to read his mother helped him clip articles from the news and make a scrapbook about anything related to flying.



John Norberg

While in the sixth grade, toy rocket model kits were on the market. He and his siblings built one which he launched multiple times with insects, crickets, caterpillars, and his sister's pet mouse as passengers. The mouse didn't survive his flight.

Ross read an article about Purdue's aeronautical engineering program and decided that Purdue would be the place for him to learn how to fly. (Continued on page 4.)

## Tom Turpin speaks on Honey Bees



Dr. Tom Turpin, recently retired Professor of Entomology, and the initiator of the famous Bug Bowl each spring at Purdue, addressed a packed August MCL PURA luncheon on the topic of honey bees.

Using insect puppets, he explained the physical difference between a honey bee and a wasp. Although similar in color, the honey bee is fuzzy to enhance gathering pollen, while the wasp is not.

Honey bees feed only on plant material, while wasps feed beneficially on other insects. There are drawings of honey being

gathered that date thousands of years BC, and Dr. Turpin laid out a history of bees in the literature of Aristotle, the Bible, and Shakespeare. In fact, there are 55 references in the Bible to honey. Dr. Turpin treated the members to renditions of passages and poems from writers such as James Fenimore Cooper, John

Greenleaf Whittier, and James Whitcomb Riley's "The Bumblebee". Honey bees were brought to the U.S. by European settlers in the early 1800s. Native Americans called them "white man's flies". Early in military history each unit had a honey bee hunter to locate honey for the troops to eat and have as a sweetener.

Only the female honey bee bites or stings, and they are the only insect that leaves the stinger in the skin, which you should immediately remove. The bee is also unique in that once they sting, they die.

Prior to the 1950s, when colonies started to decrease in number, most farms maintained their own colony. Today urban beekeepers and hobbyists provide help by raising bees. Dr. Turpin is not a fan of the "colony collapse disorder" believed by some to be a factor in the decline of honey bees. Rather, he supports the presence of a mite that invades the colony as the primary culprit. He did, however, attribute the collapse disorder to factors such as pesticides and warmer winters. Winter temperatures above 50 cause bees to leave the hive to find pollen which is not available in the winter, and then they do not survive when the temperature falls again.

## “Shots” for Seniors

“Shots,” or vaccinations, do not end as we age. The vaccines we get as an older adult protect us from the same diseases we got as a child. Decreased immunity as we age makes us more vulnerable to those childhood diseases. Below are some recommended shots. Always address vaccination questions to your doctor if you have any concerns.

**Flu** The flu virus can change from year to year. Simple flu may just have symptoms of sore throat, chills, fever, muscle aches and/or headache. Flu becomes very serious when it gets into the lungs. The flu shot is recommended every year and should be received between September and October. This will give the shot ample opportunity to start working. Often we hear of the “double strength” flu shot for seniors. Studies have shown this is about 24% more effective for seniors, BUT the Center for disease Control (CDC) does not favor one over the other. CDC does recommend all populations from six months on receive the flu shot every year.

[www.cdc.gov/flu/protect/vaccine/qa\\_fluzone.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/flu/protect/vaccine/qa_fluzone.htm)

**Pneumococcal Pneumonia** Pneumococcal Pneumonia disease spreads easily and is a serious infection. There are now two different pneumonia vaccines. Prevnar 13 and Pneumonvax 23. Prevnar 13, which is also the pneumonia vaccine given to chil-

dren, should be received if you are over 65 years of age and is followed a year later by the Pneumovax 23. If the Pneumovax 23 has been received first, then follow up with the Prevnar 13 a year later. Your healthcare provider can inform you of your need.

[www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vpd/pneumo/hcp/recommendations.html](http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vpd/pneumo/hcp/recommendations.html)

**Tetanus, Diphtheria and Pertussis** A single dose of Tetanus/Diphtheria (Td) should be administered to adults every ten years. A tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis (Tdap) shot can be given to adults over 65 in place of the Td. The difference is the Tdap offers protection against pertussis, also which is also known as whooping cough.

**Shingles** Shingles is caused by the chickenpox virus in your body becoming active again. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) recommends adults 50 years and older should receive the shingles shot. The CDC recommends 60 years of age and over. You should NOT get the shingles vaccine if you are immunocompromised. Your healthcare provider is a great resource for any questions regarding if you are a candidate for the shingles. [www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vpd/shingles/public/index.html](http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vpd/shingles/public/index.html)

Feel free to call Chris, RN, at 765-496-0308, Purdue’s Nursing Center for Family Health, with questions or concerns.

## Flu Season Ahead: Get Your Flu Shot!

Getting an annual influenza vaccine is the No. 1 way to fight the flu. Purdue University is once again providing seasonal flu shots on the West Lafayette campus **at no charge** for its official retirees and their spouses. You don’t need an appointment. Just bring your PUID and get your flu shot\*. It’s that simple!

### Retiree Flu Shot Events

#### October 13 and October 20,

7:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Daniel (William H.) Turfgrass Research & Diagnostic Center, 1340 Cherry Lane. next to the Birck Boilermaker Golf Complex

#### October 24

7:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Kurz Purdue Technology Center (KPTC) Conference Room B, Research Park, 1281 Win Hentschel Blvd.



Wellness screenings will also be available at all events.

\*The Fluzone quadrivalent vaccine which is designed to protect against four different flu viruses; two influenza A viruses and two influenza B viruses and is approved for anyone ages 3 and older will be administered. See your provider if you need an alternative vaccine.

\*For ages 65 and older, the Fluzone High-Dose will be available. Fluzone High-Dose vaccine contains four times the amount of antigen (the part of the vaccine that prompts the body to make antibody) contained in regular flu shots. The additional antigen is intended to create a stronger immune response (more antibody) in the person getting the vaccine. See your provider if you need an alternative vaccine.

## PURA Jischke Scholar Selected to Attend Conference



Last semester Kiana Bowen, recipient of the PURA Jischke Purdue Opportunity Award (Scholarship), was selected to attend the SIGGRAPH Conference this July. She is a sophomore in the Purdue Polytechnic Institute and is studying game design and animation. Here are her comments about her experience:

This summer, I attended the annual SIGGRAPH conference (which stands for Special Interest Group on Computer GRAPHics and Interactive Techniques) in

sunny Los Angeles. It was a four-day conference that focused on new and upcoming technologies, animations and animators, artists, and so much more. During the time I was at the conference, I worked as a student volunteer, which meant that I worked

around 25 hours during the week, and my shift duties ranged anywhere from greeting people and making them feel welcome to explaining the newest virtual reality technology to attendees. Throughout the four days, there were so many things to do like animation festivals, virtual reality (VR) games, an exhibition hall to walk through, and so many people to meet.

There were upwards of 14,000 people at the conference, and they came from many countries and continents. There were people who worked at places like Pixar, DreamWorks, and so many more notable companies in the industry, and they were all there to gain and even distribute knowledge.

Overall, I think my favorite part of the conference was getting to meet so many different people that were interested in much of the same things as I am. I had so much fun talking with my peers, making new friends, and learning so many exciting new things about the field I want to work in. Next year, SIGGRAPH is being held in Vancouver, Canada, and my experience makes me want to try my best to go again next year!

## PURA Members Satisfy \$50,000 Matching Challenge

A little over a year ago PURA members pledged to raise \$50,000 to endow a scholarship to support a very financially challenged Purdue student, taking advantage of the availability of a matching program that would double that amount. Congratulations! You have contributed over \$50,000 in a year and a half to satisfy the pledge. With the matching funds the PURA Student Scholarship Endowment will have a balance in excess of \$100,000. The annual investment income from this endowment will assist Indiana students with significant financial need and help realize the dreams of generations of Hoosier Boilermakers.

Over 80 PURA members and friends have supported this effort. And, when PURA President John Trott noted in the June/July PURA News that we were approaching the \$50,000 pledge, we received an inquiry from a long-time PURA member who contributed the balance. Thanks to all who have made the PURA

Student Scholarship Endowment a success, particularly to Dr. James A. Papke, economics emeritus professor of the Krannert School of Management.

However, our work is not done. There are many academically qualified Hoosier students who will not be able to go to college without financial support. The larger we can grow this endowment, the more funds will be available to assist Indiana students.

Please consider a donation to the PURA Student Scholarship Endowment by sending a check to the Purdue Foundation, Dauch Alumni Center, 403 W. Wood Street, West Lafayette, IN 47907-2007. Please note the PURA Student Scholarship Endowment in the memo line. If you would like to contribute online, please do so at <http://Giving.Purdue.edu/PURA>.

Scholarship Committee: Melinda Bain, Dan Collins, Fred Ford, Joyce Koelzer, Betty Nelson, John Norberg



The United Way campaign has kicked off! Your participation in the 2016 campaign helped change lives.

We hope you will join other Purdue retirees and contribute to the 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.

### September Campus Calendar

#### Theatre:

**The Mousetrap**, by Agatha Christie. Mystery. Sept. 22, 23, 27, 28, 29, 30 at 7:30 pm and Sept. 24, 30 and October 1 at 2:30 pm. Tickets may be purchased at all campus box offices, or by calling (765) 494-3933 or (800) 914-SHOW, or online at [www.purdue.edu/theatre/tickets](http://www.purdue.edu/theatre/tickets).

#### Music:

**Picnic with Purduettes**. Sept. 10, 6:00-8:00 pm. Slayter Hill. Bring your own picnic meal and a blanket to sit on. Free and open to the public.

**Jazz at Marriott Hall**. Every Wednesday, Sept. 20—Dec. 6, except Nov. 22. 5:30—6:30 pm. Marriott Hall. Free and open to the public.

**Varsity Glee Club Homecoming Performance**. Sept. 23, 1:30 pm. Homecoming stage on Stadium Mall, between Armstrong and the large Purdue University arch across from Lambert Fieldhouse. Free and open to the public.

**Purdue Philharmonic & Symphony Orchestras**. Sept. 30, 8:00 pm. Long Center for the Performing Arts, 111 North 6th Street, Lafayette. Free and open to the public.

**Purdue Symphonic and Fall Concert Band**. Oct. 1, 2:30 pm. Long Center for the Performing Arts, 111 North 6th Street, Lafayette. Free and open to the public.

#### Art:

**Myung Gyun, You: Forest of History**. Aug. 18 through Sept. 23. Tuesdays - Saturdays, 12:00 - 7:00 pm. Fountain Gallery, 330 Main St., Lafayette. Free and open to the public.

**Dong Yifang: Painting Through a Century of Change in China**. Aug. 28 through Oct. 7. Mondays - Saturdays, 10:00 am - 5:00 pm, and Thursdays, 10:00 am - 8:00 pm. Robert L. Ringel Gallery, Stewart Center. Free and open to the public.

## Exhibit Focuses on Amelia Earhart's Last Letters and Telegrams From 1937 World Flights

A new exhibit from Purdue Libraries, Archives and Special Collections, will explore Amelia Earhart's last adventure through letters, telegrams, photographs and logs sent during her famous 1937 world flight attempt.

"Missing You" opened in June to mark the 80-year anniversary of Earhart and navigator Fred Noonan's world flight. It will remain open through December 8.

"The mystery surrounding Earhart's disappearance often overshadows her legacy as a pioneer aviator, vocal advocate for women's opportunities in the workplace, as one of the first equal partners in a power couple marriage and as a role model for young women," says Tracy Grimm, Purdue's Barron Hilton Archivist for Flight and Space Exploration. "'Missing You' explores Amelia Earhart's last adventure through letters, telegrams and logs

sent home during the 1937 world flight and examines the unique role Earhart played to promote women's rights during the 1920s and 1930s."

The exhibit includes never before seen letters that Noonan sent home during the flight, photographs Earhart took with her own camera and a telegram, Earhart's last communication, sent from Lae, New Guinea prior to their departure for Howland Island.

The exhibit, located in the Purdue Archives and Special Collections on the fourth floor of the Humanities, Social Science and Education Library in Stewart Center, is free and open to the public.

Hours are 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Monday-Friday.

The exhibit is made possible through the support of Purdue Libraries' Susan Bulkeley Butler Women's Archives and the Barron Hilton Archives for Flight and Space Exploration.

(Thanks to Purdue University News Service and Purdue Libraries for permission to reprint this article.)

## Listen UP!

One word in the English language can be a noun, verb, adjective, adverb and preposition: UP. This two-letter word in English has more meanings than any other two-letter word.

It's easy to understand UP, meaning toward the sky or at the top of the list, but when we awaken in the morning, why do we wake UP?

At a meeting, why does a topic come UP? Why do we speak UP, and why are the officers UP for election, and why is it UP to the secretary to write UP a report? We call UP our friends, brighten UP a room, polish UP the silver, warm UP the leftovers and clean UP the kitchen. We lock UP the house and fix UP the old car.

At other times, this little word has special meaning. People stir UP trouble, line UP for tickets, work UP an appetite, and think UP excuses. To be dressed is one thing, but to be

dressed UP is special. We open UP a store in the morning but we close it UP at night. We seem to be pretty mixed UP about UP!

When it threatens to rain, we say it is clouding UP. When the sun comes out, we say it is clearing UP. When it rains, the earth soaks it UP. When it does not rain for awhile, things dry UP.

To be knowledgeable about the proper uses of UP, look UP the word UP in the dictionary. In a desk-sized dictionary, it takes UP almost 1/4 of the page and can add UP to about thirty definitions.

If you are UP to it, you might try building UP a list of the many ways UP is used. It will take UP a lot of your time, but if you don't give UP, you may wind UP with a hundred or more.

One could go on and on, but will wrap it UP, for now . . . time is UP! (Source: an anonymous Internet muse.)

## (Astronaut Jerry Ross, continued from page 1.)

Not innocent of some college mischief, as a freshman he and other classmates tore down the goal posts when Purdue won the game that led to the Rose Bowl. Showing a photograph in his presentation, he said they concealed this information for decades.

When he graduated in Engineering, NASA was starting to employ astronauts from two categories of professionals: military test pilots and mission specialists who were engineers, scientists, or physicians. Already an engineer, Ross decided to enter test pilot training school with the Air Force to further enhance his application. After completing the training program he flew 23 test flights. Ross stressed never to give up on your dreams. Even after meeting the criteria for both categories to be an astronaut, he was not accepted on his first application, which included 8000 applicants, with 210 interviewed and 35 selected. He was accepted on his second try, one of 19 selected out of 120 interviewed, and 6000 who applied.

His initial work as an astronaut was to build the model on earth that would become the international space station. He likened the work to playing with tinker toys. Ross's sixth mission into space was to participate in the actual building of the station which he had worked on in Houston, and his seventh and last mission continued that work. He talked the audience through a video from launch of the space shuttle to travel to the space station, docking in space with the station, daily activities, and multiple space walks to work on the station. His last space flight was on the Atlantis.

The control panel in the International Space Station has over 1000 switches and circuit breakers. Every astronaut must know how to work the controls, which first includes mastering a very large (6 inches thick on 8x11 size paper with both sides printed) manual in training.

This motivational and inspirational presentation encouraged everyone, especially young individuals, to follow their dreams.

## Mark Your Calendars!

**11 September PURA Kick-off Luncheon**, Four Points by Sheraton, West Lafayette.

**15 September Center for Aging and the Life Course annual symposium.** 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).

**2 October PURA Monthly Meeting**, MCL Cafeteria, 11 am.  
**Topic:** Immigration in America  
**Speaker:** David Atkinson, Prof. of History

**13 October Retiree Flu Shots**, 7:00 am—5:00 pm. Free.  
Daniel Turfgrass Research & Diagnostic Center, 1340 Cherry Lane, next to the Birck Boilermaker Golf Complex, W. Laf.

**20 October Retiree Flu Shots**, 7:00 am—5:00 pm. Free.  
Daniel Turfgrass Research & Diagnostic Center, 1340 Cherry Lane, next to the Birck Boilermaker Golf Complex, W. Laf.

**24 October Retiree Flu Shots**, 7:00 am—5:00 pm. Free.  
Kurz Purdue Technology Center (KPTC), Conference Room B, Research Park, 1281 Win Hentschel Blvd., W. Laf.

**6 November PURA Monthly Meeting**, MCL Cafeteria, 11 am.  
**Topic:** Tech Toys, Part 2  
**Speaker:** Scott Ksander, Retired Security Expert

**4 December PURA Monthly Meeting**, MCL Cafeteria, 11 am.  
**Topic:** Birds and Airplanes—a Dangerous Mix  
**Speaker:** Esteban Fernandez-Juricic, Prof. of Biological Sciences

**1 January Holiday –No meeting.**

## 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