

PURA News

Purdue University Retirees Association

October 2017

Annual Kickoff Luncheon a Big Success



The PURA annual kickoff luncheon was held at the Sheraton Four Points in West Lafayette on September 11, 2017. There were over 260 members and guests in attendance. PURA President John Trott introduced the program by sharing some of PURA's successes from the last year, including support of the PURA Student Scholarship Endowment and participation in the Greater Lafayette United Way Campaign. PURA membership now tops 5,000

members across the U.S., with 3,500 residing in Indiana, most in the local area.

Michael R. Berghoff, Chairman of the Purdue Board of Trustees, (pictured below with PURA president-elect, Don Gentry) was the luncheon speaker. Berghoff, a Purdue graduate in Industrial Management, revealed



that like PURA volunteers, he is also a volunteer. He works a full-time job managing his business in Indianapolis in addition to the duties as Chairman of the Board of Trustees.

He shared a state of the union about Purdue admissions. Currently there are 40,000 students, with 30,000 undergraduates and 10,000 graduate students. Fifty five percent are Indiana residents, 35% from other U.S. states, and 10% international. He compared the four-year graduation rates before and after the tuition freeze. The results show a four-year graduation



rate of 42% in 2011 compared with 56% in 2016, and first generation students attending college changed from 40% in 2007 to 53% in 2012. The current average time to graduation is 4.1 years

compared with 4.5 years in 2004. Almost 5% graduate in 3 years, a number which should increase with the new 3 year graduation curriculums recently approved for liberal arts majors. Sixty percent of the entering 2017 class are STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) majors, reflecting the areas with the highest current employment opportunities.

Under-represented student enrollment has doubled, but is still not as high as desired. A new venture for Purdue is an Indianapolis High School that is one potential answer to help increase minority enrollment. The tuition freeze has resulted in a decrease in student debt upon graduation from \$180 million in 2008 to \$130 million in 2016. Less student debt means the graduate can help the economy by purchasing homes or starting new businesses sooner. The "Back A Boiler" program, which pairs a student with an investor to help pay for their tuition in exchange for agreement for employment, started in 2016 with 148 participants. There are 270 participants in 2017.



(Continued on page 2)

Campus/Community Activities for Fall 2017

The Campus and Community Activities Committee would like to announce two tours for October 2017:

- ◆ A walking tour of selected public art and sculpture in Lafayette will begin at 4 PM, Tuesday, October 10, at 515 Columbia Street in the Office of Economic Development, right next to City Hall. The tour, led by Margy Deverall, will last about an hour. Participants are cautioned to wear comfy walking shoes! The Public Art Trail booklet will be given to each participant. To reserve a space on this tour, email Michele Salla at masalla@purdue.edu, or phone her at 765-494-1779, and specify the Lafayette Art Tour and the 10/10 date.

- ◆ An hour-long tour of Cook Biotech Incorporated will begin at 2 PM on Wednesday, October 25. Cook is located in the Purdue Research Park at 1425 Innovative Place, West Lafayette. Cook is a world leader in regenerative medicine focusing on biologic tissue grafts and soft-tissue-repair treatments. To reserve a space on this tour, email Michele Salla at masalla@purdue.edu, or phone her at 765-494-1779, and specify the Cook Tour and the 10/25 date.

NOTE: This tour will be limited to 20 people, with a waiting list of 5. Names will be sent to Cook on 10/20. Please be sure to make space for someone else by that date if you find you cannot attend.

(PURA Kickoff Luncheon, continued)

Berghoff completed his remarks with a summary of the increase in research awards, patents, and licenses in 2017 and discussed the Kaplan venture, currently dubbed the “New U”. The proposal is working its way through the state and federal requirements for formal recognition.

The Human Resources staff who work most closely with retirees accepted PURA’s Arthur G. Hansen Award on behalf of Human Resources, in recognition of that department’s work to foster continuing contact with retirees. PURA president, John Trott, reminded members to submit applications for the 2018 Arthur Hansen Award.

Melinda Bain was named 2017 Betty Nelson Award winner (see separate article on page 3), and the luncheon concluded with the group singing a rousing chorus of “Hail Purdue.”



Staff members Candace Shaffer, Michele Salla, Teresa Schnarr, Sue Davis, and Kate LaMar accepted the Arthur G. Hansen Award on behalf of Human Resources



Purdue University Retirees Association Health Insurance Plans Renewed for 2018

The Benefits Committee of the Purdue University Retirees Association (PURA) has renewed the PURcare and Medicare Advantage PPO group health insurance plans with United Healthcare (UHC) for 2018. No changes were made to the benefits provided in either plan for 2018. The goals of the committee were to maintain the very best medical and drug insurance plans with the lowest premium possible, while preserving your ability to see the Medicare provider of your choice.

During September 2016, members were advised of the Benefits Committee’s concerns about the increasing pressure on insurance costs. First, the committee was concerned that the introduction of many specialty drugs, some costing thousands of dollars per month and the ever-escalating cost of healthcare would make holding the line on premiums very difficult. Secondly, the committee was concerned about the continuing decline of the CMS (Medicare) Funding (aka Direct Subsidy) for Medicare Part D Prescription Drug Coverage. Unfortunately, the committee’s concerns of the past year or two have become reality.

The total PURcare premium for 2018 will be \$282.73/member/month. This is an increase of 7.2% over the 2017 monthly premium. This is not unique to PURcare. As a matter of comparison, the University has announced that the monthly medical insurance premium for faculty and staff will increase by 7% during 2018.

For PURcare members with Rx coverage from the Veterans Administration, the 2018 Supplement-only premium will be \$188.61/member/month, a decrease of \$5.09 (2.6%).

The premium for the Medicare Advantage PPO Plan for 2018 will remain at \$208.49/member/month. This is the same

amount as for 2015, 2016 and 2017. There will be no change to Hospital and Medical co-pays or the Annual Out-of-Pocket Maximum.

The Committee is pleased that the monthly premiums for the Veterans Administration Supplement has declined and the Medicare Advantage PPO premium has remained constant for four years in a row. We are disappointed that our concerns regarding the factors impacting the PURcare premium have become reality.

Shown in the table below are the PURcare per member per month premiums over the last several years.

Plan Year	Monthly Premium
2015	\$276.22
2016	\$263.96
2017	\$263.85
2018	\$282.73

The 2018 premium is \$6.51 (2.4 %) per member/per month higher than the 2015 premium.

For members enrolled in either of the plans, PURcare or Medicare Advantage PPO, who do not wish to make a change, your coverage will automatically continue for 2018 with no re-enrollment required.

If you decide to terminate your Purdue retiree group coverage for a non-Purdue plan, you will not be able to join again at a later time.

Melinda Bain receives Betty Nelson Award



Melinda Bain, Immediate Past President of PURA, received the Betty M. Nelson Award at the PURA Kickoff Luncheon on September 11, 2017. The Nelson Award is named in honor of Betty M. Nelson, a former PURA President who was instrumental in the establishment of PURA. The award, first presented in 2004, is given to a member who has voluntarily given generously of their time and skills for the betterment of PURA. Melinda, pictured above between Betty Nelson and John Trott, has served the association in many roles since her retirement in May 2010.

She worked at Purdue for thirty-eight years in several capacities, retiring as Administrative Assistant to the Executive Vice President and Treasurer. Her PURA committee roles have been

diverse, as well as her elected positions as President-Elect, President, Immediate Past President and Secretary/Treasurer.

Melinda has done “double duty” the last two years. While President she chaired the Big Ten Retiree Association Annual Meeting Committee, culminating in the conference held at Purdue on August 25-27, 2017. During her year as President-Elect she initiated the PURA Student Scholarship Endowment, securing a pledge of \$50,000 for a matching 1:1 opportunity, and with the assistance of the generous PURA membership, satisfied that goal in record time. Both of these efforts were in addition to the large number of responsibilities associated with the offices to which she had been elected.

She currently chairs the Scholarship Committee and is on the Purposeful Living in Retirement Committee, the Endowment Committee, and the Benefits Committee. In her “spare” time she cross-stitched Boilermaker Special holiday ornaments, donating all supplies and sales to the PURA Student Scholarship Endowment, an amount that so far has yielded \$1650 to the fund. Is this beyond the call of duty? A resounding, “YES”! Congratulations to Melinda!

PURA Hosts Big Ten Retiree Associations Annual Meeting

Thirteen of the fourteen Big Ten institutions sent conferees to the Big Ten Retirees Association Annual Conference hosted by PURA on August 25-27, 2017. The purpose of the annual meeting is to share best practices, which ultimately benefit retiree members.

Planning for the conference began two years ago, and the agenda was titled TOGETHER WE SOAR – Best Practices and Sharing of Ideas for Operating a Successful Retiree Association. Conferees engaged in lively exchanges on organization and governance, finances, marketing and member benefits, and retiree health care issues and insurance. All the associations also face the challenge of meeting the needs of today’s retirees, who represent a different set of demographics and interests than just a few years ago.



Since the PURA planning committee knew the conferees attending previous meetings had a fascination with Purdue’s aviation history, that became the theme for the “entertainment” portion of the conference

With 175 in attendance, Friday’s keynote address by astronaut and Purdue graduate Jerry Ross, and Purdue retiree John Norberg (who co-authored, *Spacewalker: My Journey in Space and Faith as NASA’s Record-Setting Frequent Flyer*), coupled the conference with PURA’s Summer Common Read. (The talk was featured in last month’s **PURA News**—read it on the PURA website, www.purdue.edu/retirees, in the Archive section).

That evening, conferees attended a Purdue Libraries-hosted reception in the Stewart Center Library Archives and Special Collections area featuring artifacts from the Barron Hilton Flight and Space Exploration Archives. At dinner, Denny Darrow, Vice President for Human Resources and PURA Liaison, spoke on “Embracing our Past to Ensure Our Future”, which focused on the importance of retirees to the university.

Saturday’s discussion sessions were followed by a campus tour,

in part an “aviation history”. The route went past Grissom Hall and the Holleman-Niswonger Simulator Center, where namesake Charles Holleman gave a history of the flight simulators. The tour drove past the hangar that held Amelia Earhart’s airplane, and stopped for a walking tour of the Voss Model, a scale model of the solar system honoring Purdue astronaut Janice Voss. Also included in the tour was Ross-Ade Stadium, the golf courses, the athletic complex at Cherry Lane and McCormick Road, and a stop at Purdue West to discuss the State Street Project.

James Mullins, Dean of Purdue Libraries, introduced conferees to the newly-opened Wilmuth Active Learning Center, followed by a tour of the facility. Saturday’s dinner, held in the Neil Armstrong Hall of Engineering atrium, continued the aviation theme and provided conferees with access to the Armstrong sculpture, moon boot experience, and a chance to see the Roger Chafee memorial and moon rock specimen. Speaker Interim Provost Jay Akridge highlighted Purdue’s strategic agenda of affordability, accessibility and excellence.

No conference would be complete without getting our students involved. Purdue Musical Organization ensemble BaNaNa serenaded with 50’s and 60’s songs and the Reamer Club Boilermaker Special transported everyone from Armstrong Hall to the Purdue Memorial Union after the Saturday night dinner.

Sunday morning the conference wrapped up with a sharing session followed by the Big Ten Association Annual Meeting. Evaluations revealed that the conferees survived the road construction projects, learned a great deal from their colleagues about how each institution manages its retiree association, expect to utilize much of the information shared, made excellent networking contacts, and thoroughly enjoyed themselves. Oh yes, and especially enjoyed the Boilermaker Special ride!

The Big Ten Retirees Association Conference Planning Committee deserves a large round of applause. They are: Melinda Bain, Robert Bain, Dan Collins, Don Gentry, Sarah Johnson, Sandy Komaskinski, Marta Read, John Trott, and Olivia Wood. This committee has set a high mark for the 2018 conference to be hosted by Pennsylvania State University.

October Campus Calendar

Theatre:

Through Oct. 1—*The Mousetrap*, by Agatha Christie, continues. Mystery. Sept. 27, 28, 29, 30 at 7:30 pm 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.

Music:

Oct. 1—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.

Oct. 13—American Music Repertory Ensemble and Lab Jazz Band. Oct. 13, 8:00 pm. Loeb Playhouse, Stewart Center. Free and open to the public.

Oct. 15—Purdue Wind Ensemble. Oct. 13, 2:30pm, Long Center, 111 N. Sixth St., Lafayette. Free and open to the public.

Oct. 19—Varsity Glee Club “Encore” Performance. Oct. 19, 6:30 pm. Steps of Hovde Hall. Free and open to the public.

Oct. 20—Purdue Jazz Band, Concert Jazz Band, and Tower of Power Band. Oct. 20, 8:00 pm. Loeb Playhouse, Stewart Center. Free and open to the public.

Oct. 22—Purdue Bells in worship service. Oct. 22, 8:30 am and 11:00 am, First United Methodist Church. 1700 W. State Street, West Lafayette.

Oct. 22—Purdettes in worship service. Oct. 22, 10:45 am, Immanuel United Church of Christ, 1526 S. 18th St., Lafayette.

Oct. 27—Purdue Bells, University Choir, and the Holy Cowgirls. Performing Oct. 27, 7:00 pm. St. Boniface Catholic Church, 318 N. 9th St., Lafayette. No tickets required. Free and open to the public.

Oct. 29—Heart & Soul in worship service. Oct. 29, 10:00 am. First Christian Church, 329 N. 6th St., Lafayette.

Wednesdays, Through Dec. 6—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.

Art:

Oct. 3–Nov.4—Natalie Baxter, Clearly Confused. Fiber sculpture, through which “Baxter strives to create an approachable entry point from which to unpack political issues that have become points of division in today’s political and social landscape.” Tuesdays through Saturdays, noon - 7:00 pm. Fountain Gallery, 330 Main St. Free and open to the public.

A New Season is Coming: Flu Season

As the season changes come upon us, so does the flu and cold season. The average person breathes in and out about 20,000 times a day. Folks that have lung problems such as chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), asthma or other lung conditions often find the change of seasons and cold weather challenging to their health. When an older adult gets the flu on top of a chronic lung issue it can be life threatening. Understanding our lung issues and following treatment plans prescribed by our healthcare provider are two ways to help us get through this season. Receiving the flu shot every year before flu season begins is also recommended.

Simple ways to avoid the flu and pneumonia include washing our hands with soap and water, covering our mouth and nose when sneezing or coughing, throw all tissues used away (remember to wash hands again), get plenty of rest and fluids, make healthy choices, and do not smoke. When freezing weather sets in use a scarf to cover your mouth when going outside. This will help prevent spasms in your lungs that can be caused from breathing in cold air. Some folks may find a mask that covers their nose and mouth works better. You may purchase these at any drug store. Most of all, remember to get your flu and pneumonia shots.

If you have any questions or have problems getting your flu shot call Chris Rearick, RN, at the Nursing Center for Family Health (NCFH) at 765-496-0308. NCFH will have access to the Fluzone High Dose vaccine and can give along with your wellness screening. They are located in Lyles-Porter Hall.

Additionally, NCFH will offer wellness screenings at University Place on October 6, from 9:00am—1:00 pm. These are offered at **no charge**, and can include your flu shot. Contact Chris Rearick, RN, at 765-496-0308, to schedule.

(Reference: National Institute on Aging, US Department of Health and Human Services, www.nih.gov)

Mark Your Calendars!

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

Topic: Immigration in America

Speaker: David Atkinson, Prof. of History

10 October Public Art and Sculpture Walking Tour, sponsored by PURA Campus and Community Activities Committee. 4:00 pm. Office of Economic Development (next to City Hall), 515 Columbia Street, Lafayette. **Reservations needed**—email Michele Salla at masalla@purdue.edu, or phone her at 765-494-1779, and specify the Art Tour and 10/10 date.

13 October Retiree Flu Shots, 7:00 am—5:00 pm. Free.. No appointment needed. **Bring your PUID.** Daniel Turfgrass Research & Diagnostic Center, 1340 Cherry Lane, next to the Birk Boilermaker Golf Complex, W. Lafayette

20 October Retiree Flu Shots, 7:00 am—5:00 pm. Free. No appointment needed. **Bring your PUID.** Daniel Turfgrass Research & Diagnostic Center, 1340 Cherry Lane, next to the Birk Boilermaker Golf Complex, W. Lafayette

24 October Retiree Flu Shots, 7:00 am—5:00 pm. . No appointment needed. **Bring your PUID.** Kurz Purdue Technology Center (KPTC), Conference Room B, Research Park, 1281 Win Hentschel Blvd., W. Lafayette

25 October Cook Biotech Tour, sponsored by PURA Campus and Community Activities Committee. 2:00 pm. Purdue Research Park, 1425 Innovative Place, W. Lafayette. **Reservations needed**—email Michele Salla at masalla@purdue.edu, or phone her at 765-494-1779, and specify the Cook Tour and the 10/25 date.

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.