

PURA News

Purdue University Retirees Association

August 2019

Registration Opens for September PURA Kickoff Luncheon

Join fellow PURA members on September 9, 2019 at the annual PURA Kickoff luncheon, again being held at the Four Points By Sheraton hotel in West Lafayette.



The keynote speaker will be John Norberg—author, humorist and fellow Purdue retiree. John will share his insights in his presentation titled **The People of Our University: 150 Years of Giant Leaps at Purdue.**

Registration for the luncheon is now open. You may register online at: www.conf.purdue.edu/PURA2019, or use the paper registration form that

is being sent via U.S. mail to retirees in Tippecanoe and the surrounding counties.

Note that credit card payment can only be accepted via online registration or by calling Conference Registration directly at 1-866-515-0023.

Personal checks may only be used with the paper registration.

All reservations must be postmarked by Monday, August 19, 2019.

The luncheon begins at noon. The menu features chicken piccata, served with fresh garden salad, rice pilaf, stir fry vegetables, rolls, butter, and a chef's choice dessert. Optionally, when you register you may select a vegetarian entree of pasta primavera or a gluten-free entree of grilled chicken breast.

Fall Wellness Screenings

Fall 2019 dates for free retiree wellness screenings at the Purdue Nursing Center for Family Health will be September 18 and October 2, from 8:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m., in Lyles-Porter Hall.

Screenings include a finger stick for a total lipid profile, a blood glucose analysis, blood pressure check, pulse, weight and height. Fasting is recommended for more accurate results. You may also request a basic hearing screening at that time but must specifically mention it when you schedule your appointment.

Purdue retirees and spouses are eligible for one free screening a year. To schedule, call Chris Rearick at 496-0308 or email her at crearick@purdue.edu.

What's Inside:

Regular Features

July PURA Meeting Recap	2
PURA Tech Bytes:	
Cyberwarfare	4
Smile Corner:	
Retirement 101: Making New Friends	6
Campus Calendar	8
Mark Your Calendars! PURA events	8

Articles

Registration Opens for PURA Kickoff Luncheon.....	1
Fall Wellness Screenings	1
2019 Arthur G. Hansen Award Presented	2
A Man of Letters: Purdue's Bruce Rogers	3
Apollo 11 and Neil Armstrong's Moonwalk.....	4
Virginia Mathews Joins PURA's Cast of Historic Purdue Characters	5
2019 Center for Aging and the Life Course Conference: Age and Social Connectedness.....	7

Hansen Award Presented in June

PURA's Arthur G. Hansen award was presented to the Purdue Fire Department at the annual Purdue Retirement Luncheon on June 27, for their many years of service to and involvement of their retirees in Fire Department events. The department received a trophy and a \$2,500 cash award. The award is funded by TIAA.

Pictured during the presentation are, from left: Don Gentry, Past President of PURA; Carol Shelby, Purdue Senior Director of Environmental Health and Public Safety; Kevin Ply, Purdue Fire Chief; Shane Jones, Purdue Assistant Fire Chief; and Jack Wood, retired fire fighter and nominator.



Did You Know? Purdue is the only Big 10 University that has its own Fire Department.

Partisan Polarization in American Politics Topic of July PURA Monthly Meeting



Purdue Political Science Professor Eric Waltenburg spoke at PURA's July luncheon, illustrating the pervasiveness of partisan polarization in American politics with data and examples.

Dr. Waltenburg noted that political polarization within the electorate has been increasing over the last 40-45 years (1984-2017). Attitudes within the electorate have changed and deep negative views of the other party have developed, to the extent that many Republicans and Democrats view the other party as a threat to the nation's well being.

Elected officials—concerned about being outflanked by competitors who are more liberal/conservative than they are and consequently being voted out of office—move their positions to further extremes, causing splits within the parties, notably between 1994 - 2017. Dr. Waltenburg said this is not a new phenomenon, as something similar happened during the U.S. Civil War.

Where do the polarized factions reside and what are their characteristics? The political scientists call it “sorting”—that is, the population gravitates to “like types”. Americans don't tend to relocate based on our political views, but the politics of the area tend to shift around the population present. For instance, rural areas are more likely to be Republican strongholds, with the population largely married and with a higher percentage of religious affiliation; whereas Democratic strongholds tend to be urban, and the population wealthier and with higher average level of education.

Likely causes of polarization include:

1. Income inequality, which is also increasingly polarized. (In fact, Dr. Waltenburg defined “politics” as “who gets what, and how much of it.”)
2. The use of social media. Since exposure to alternative views tends to make us defensive, we avoid looking for other views, so we tend to follow only those members of congress with whom we agree. Members of congress who have more extreme tweets attract more Twitter followers.
3. Increasing focus on “identity politics” - rhetoric that creates an “us vs. them” mentality. We don't trust “them”. Since Republicans are predominantly white, whereas Democrats are more heterogeneous, “us” and “them” are sometimes easily identifiable (or at least, identity is assumed).

(Continued on page 3)

(July luncheon speaker, cont.)

Consequences of polarization include:

1. Gridlock; we can't get anything done. Polarization has exacerbated the slowness inherent in our governmental system, which is designed to balance power between branches of government.
2. A disastrous effect on our view of the "legitimacy" of the system. We don't see the government nor the decisions it makes as legitimate and, as a whole, we may be growing less confident in the national government.
3. Worsening race relations.

There are some bright spots though. Polarization permits real voter choice; at this point there is a pronounced difference between the two political parties. It also increases voter turnout, as we seek to elect "us" and not "them".

Suggestions that have been offered to reduce or eliminate polarization:

1. Reform the election process, particularly candidate nomination. If the parties don't exclusively choose candidates, independents may represent

- alternative views and drive up participation of eligible voters who don't normally participate.
2. Reform the districting process, for example, eliminating partisan districting.
3. Increase voter turnout.
4. Reform the legislative process. Ban the filibuster, for instance.
5. Reduce the amount spent in elections, to reduce politicians' dependence on funders' preferences.

When asked if the media has some responsibility for political polarization in this country, Dr. Waltenburg responded that they're also siloed. The media's audiences tend to choose not to listen to other opinions. Recognizing fiscal realities, the media shifts to further extremes to bolster audience share, gain more paying sponsors, etc.

Dr. Waltenburg's research focuses on judicial and state politics. He's the author of five books on judicial behavior and one book on exploratory data analysis. He's currently working with Purdue Computer Science professor Dr. Dan Goldwasser to develop a forecasting model of the likelihood of the enactment of state legislation.

A Man of Letters: Purdue's Bruce Rogers

In the late 1880's a group of young men gathered in West Lafayette to enroll in Technology, Science or Agriculture at Purdue. Two took a different path: Art. They were John T. McCutcheon and Bruce Rogers, and there began a lifelong friendship.

The two worked on the school newspaper and yearbook. Bruce's illustration studies allowed him to work on University catalogues and the College Quarterly magazines. The first Purdue University seal was designed by Rogers in 1890, and he submitted updates in 1894 and 1947. (You can read about the evolution of the Purdue University seal design here: <https://www.purdue.edu/newsroom/purduetoday/didyouknow/2016/Q1/did-you-know-purdue-seal.html>)

McCutcheon and Rogers graduated in 1890 and went on to their chosen careers. McCutcheon earned fame and a Pulitzer prize as a political cartoonist. Rogers earned equal acclaim as a designer of fine books.

His first certified work was for Lafayette friends who wanted a logo for their chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution. It was a lovely delicate piece featuring the unlikely combination of French Fleur-de-lis with the corn of Indiana. The chapter

celebrated its 125th anniversary this year and the original hand-carved plates were found and used for many publications.

He worked as an artist for the Indianapolis News and quickly discovered that he was more interested in books than newspapers. Since Boston was a center of publishing he headed there, and in 1900 he became the head of the newly formed Department of Special Bookmaking for Riverside Press.

He designed more than 60 Riverside Press Editions. The illustrations and decorations featured lovely, classic details which were printed on dampened handmade paper.

Moving to New York as a House Designer for the Metropolitan Museum of Art, he created his most famous type face, Centaur. It was first used in a book, *The Centaur*. Bruce's wife hand set the type. It is the most sought after book of all time. Thought to be Rogers' greatest achievement was the *Oxford Lectern Bible*. He was commissioned in 1929 and the volume was published in 1935, a Herculean undertaking.

If you're interested in learning more, the Purdue Archives has a large collection of his work and personal items. (J. Thomas)

PURA Tech Bytes

By Scott Ksander



Cyberwarfare

I am writing this at the end of June and the term “cyberwarfare” is all over the news. There are reports that the US launched a cyber-attack to disrupt the command and control capability of Iranian missile launches in response to the downing of an unmanned surveillance drone by Iran.

US government security expert Richard A. Clarke defined cyberwarfare in his book *Cyber War* (May 2010) as “actions by a nation-state to penetrate another nation’s computers or networks for the purpose of causing damage or disruption”. Some see cyberspace as the “fifth domain” of warfare along with land, sea, air, and space. Cyberwarfare can involve espionage, sabotage, propaganda, or interruption of services.

While most national efforts in this area are shrouded in secrecy, the first public information about cyber-attacks came from the 2007 cyberwar against Estonia. NATO established the Cooperative Cyber Defense Center of Excellence. The FBI also stationed a permanent base for cybersecurity experts in Estonia at that time.

Most of the information in the US during early discussions of cyberwarfare were about defensive efforts to protect the nation’s assets. In May 2010, the Pentagon set up the official U.S. Cyber Command to “defend American military networks and attack other countries’ systems”. For the first time, the US publicly acknowledged that the Pentagon would also engage in offensive cyber activity.

Probably the most well-known offensive effort was the attack known as Stuxnet on Iran in September

2010. While never officially acknowledged, it is believed to have been developed by the United States and Israel. It involved 14 industrial sites in Iran, including the Natanz uranium-enrichment plant, causing significant physical damage to sensitive equipment. At the time, it was said to be the most advanced piece of malware ever discovered.

Currently the countries with the most active cyber operations for both offensive and defensive purposes are the United States, United Kingdom, Russia, India, China, Israel, Iran, North Korea, and Vietnam.

Some of the most vulnerable assets for cyber-attack are power grids throughout the world. In April 2015, an attack believed to be initiated by the Iranian Cyber Army caused a massive power outage in Turkey. The event lasted 12 hours, involved 14 of 81 provinces in Turkey, and affected 40 million people. Many see that as only a rehearsal for more aggressive efforts to come. Recent reports have suggested that the United States has “explored” the Russian power grid control systems for vulnerabilities.

Purdue is not immune from active cyber interest by nation-states. While we are likely not the target for direct destruction, we are a target for intellectual property espionage. Everything from agricultural research to engineering work is a target. Make no mistake, we are a world class university and we attract both wanted and unwanted attention. This is why the continuing efforts to increase cyber security on campus with things like password changes and BoilerKey are so important.

The Cyberworld is a dangerous place. Select strong passwords that can’t be easily guessed. Use two-factor authentication like BoilerKey when they are available. Run up-to-date anti-virus and spyware protection. Keep current backups of your valuable data. Be aware and stay safe.



In July Purdue honored the 50th anniversary of the U.S. Apollo 11 space mission, and the moment on July 20, 1969, when alumnus Neil Armstrong became the first human to set foot on the moon with a three day celebration. See photos and videos of the event here:

<https://purduenews.exposure.co/apollo-11-anniversary-celebration/photos/6056454>

Virginia Meredith Joins PURA's Cast of Purdue Historical Characters

Joyce Beery Miles has joined PURA's historical Purdue characters as Virginia Claypool Meredith (1848-1936), Purdue's first woman trustee.



Joyce is a Health and Human Sciences alumna who for the past 12 years has portrayed Ellen Swallow Richards, the founder of home economics in 1909, and the first woman to attend MIT. (A.A. Potter, former Purdue Dean of Engineering, was one of Ellen's students at MIT in 1899.) Ellen and Virginia shared the same Progressive Era time frame from 1870-1911, so Joyce was a natural to portray Virginia.

While Ellen was advocating for women in higher education sciences, Virginia was a struggling Eastern Indiana rancher and cattle breeder, as well as a single parent to two adoptive children.

Born in 1848, she married Henry C. Meredith in 1870. Henry died in 1882 at the age of 37, leaving Virginia a 33-year-old widow. She continued on at the Oakland farm and raised prize winning Shorthorn cattle and Southdown sheep. She had hired help on the farm, but her meticulous records on all breeding and sales made her the successful woman rancher she became. She loved answering the census every 10 years as they would ask her occupation and she would answer "farmer".

In 1889, she became guardian to two children of a friend who had passed away, Mary L. Matthews and Meredith Matthews. She later adopted both children. Mary L. Matthews later became the first home economics graduate at the University of Minnesota and eventually, the first Dean of Home Economics at Purdue University in 1926.

Virginia was busy with community affairs and continued to travel throughout the Midwest lecturing on successful cattle breeding. She stayed on her Cambridge City farm for 46 years until the age of 67.

From 1889-1892, Virginia was a well-regarded speaker at the various Farmers Institutes throughout the State. During this time, Virginia was also selected as an Indiana representative to the Chicago World's Fair Board of Lady Managers where her managerial skills were highly sought after. Soon after her World's Fair duties ceased, she received another offer to go to University of Minnesota to start a Home Economics program. During this time she also participated in the Lake Placid Conferences with Ellen Richards. Eventually these conferences would become the American Home Economics Association in 1909.

In 1921 at the age of 73, Virginia Meredith became the first woman trustee of Purdue University. She served until the time of her death, in 1936 at age 87.

She was a strong supporter of women's issues at the university and instrumental in determining the design and location of the Purdue Memorial Union, as well as its funding. Early in the process pledges had been secured providing sufficient funds to build the building, but as the economy declined, many pledges were not completed. The Purdue Trustees borrowed money twice to complete the building, which opened in 1924 when partially finished.

Meredith Hall, a women's residence hall, was named in Virginia's honor. Her legacy was quite far flung and women on campus today owe much to Virginia's ability to advocate on their behalf.

Sources: Joyce Beery Miles; Fredrick Whitford, Andrew Martin, and Phyllis Mattheis, authors of the book *The Queen of American Agriculture: A Biography of Virginia Claypool Meredith*.

Additional information is available from the Purdue University Press and archives, including references in Angie Klink's 2011 book *Divided Paths, Common Ground: The Story of Mary Matthews and Leila Gaddis, Pioneering Purdue Women who Introduced Science into the Home*. Purdue University Press. [ISBN 9781557535917](https://doi.org/10.1336/9781557535917).

Smile Corner

By Sara Jane (Sally) Coffman



Retirement 101: Making New Friends

When I retired, most of my colleagues were still working, so the first challenge I faced was going out and finding some new friends.

My second—equally daunting—challenge was to find an exercise class. Exercise is not my strong suit, but according to the literature, exercising on a regular basis—with other people—would help to keep me fit so I could better enjoy my retirement.

After examining my options, and with some trepidation, I started attending the Silver Sneakers class at the Ismail Center. The exercises were all right, but I wasn't sure I was going to fit in. Most of the members of the class had been together for a long time.

Besides noticing that they all knew each other, I noticed that people had different strengths. Some could squat lower than others. Some could lift heavier weights. Some were really good at matching their steps to the music.

And when a member of the class truly excelled at something, the instructor would name a movement after them.

For example, there was the “Gretchen,” a wonderful move where you step to the right while swinging your arms to the right. Then you step to the left while swinging your arms to the left. It's a fun, uplifting, and invigorating move.

Then there's the “Loyola.” You walk forward three steps, kick as high as you can, then retreat three steps. It, too, is a delightfully energetic move. It's named the “Loyola” because Loyola can kick her leg up higher than any of the rest of us.

Then there's the “Monica.” This is a smooth, graceful dance move that takes timing and coordination. Basically, you step to the right, cross your left leg behind your right leg, step out again with your right leg, and

end up next to the person on your right, trying not to bump into them.

The highlight of the class is when the song “Mony, Mony” comes on. While we stand and march in place at our chairs, Jane moves to the center of the room. She bounces, twirls, twists, swoops, bends, laughs, smiles, swings her arms like an airplane, and ends with a grand flourish by giving us all high-fives on her way around the room.

I began looking forward to the day when there'd be a move named after me. I wanted something noteworthy and spectacular. Something I could tell my friends about.

And the other day it happened.

At the end of the class, when we were sitting in our chairs “cooling down” and listening to relaxing music, I happened to rotate my wrists once around to the right and then once around to the left.

Jan piped up: “Hey! We could call this the ‘Sally’!”

That wasn't exactly what I had in mind.

I'd hoped for something note-worthy and spectacular.

But now that I've retired, I'll have plenty of time to perfect that move. With the right music, it could be something note-worthy and spectacular. . .

Author's Note: The characters in this story are real PURA members. In order of appearance, they are:

Gretchen Stephens, Vet Med Librarian, 40 years
Loyola Kmec, wife of Joe Kmec, MET, 25 years
Monica Gary, Assistant Track and Field Coach, 11 years
Jane Einstein, BioMed Tech for PRIMLab, 24 years
Jan Dilley, Advisor, Visual and Performing Arts, 17 years

Sally's books are available on Amazon or at sarajanecoffman2@outlook.com.



Age & Social Connectedness

2019 Symposium



September 27, 2019

8 am - Noon

Stewart Center, 214 A - D

RSVP at www.purdue.edu/aging



Featuring:

Benjamin Cornwell, PhD: *Patterns of Change in Older Adults' Social Connections: Results from a National Survey*

Karen Rook, PhD: *Social Network Compensation in Later Life: Moving Forward After Loss*

August Campus Calendar

Academic:

- Aug. 3**—Summer commencement ceremonies.
Aug. 5—International student arrivals begin.
Aug. 9-13—Boiler Gold Rush for new incoming students.
Aug. 16—University residences move-ins begin.
Aug. 19—Fall semester begins.
Sept. 2—Labor Day. No classes; campus offices are closed.
Oct. 7-8—October Break. No classes. Campus offices remain open.

Special Events:

Through October—Purdue Farmers Market: opening day of season. Fresh fruits and vegetables, meats, freshly prepared lunches, more. 11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Thursdays through Aug. 1; then 11:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Aug. 8 through October. North end of Memorial Mall. [Suggested parking is Grant Street Garage (pay or "A" permit) or lot between Marsteller and Sheetz at Wood Street ("A" permit)]. Article with information about other local farmers markets:
<https://www.purdue.edu/newsroom/purduetoday/releases/2019/Q2/purdue-farmers-market-to-return-may-2.html>

Aug. 2 -18—Indiana State Fair, including a Purdue presence. Theme is **Heroes in the Heartland**. Indiana State Fairgrounds, Indianapolis. For more information see:
<https://www.indianastatefair.com/state-fair/>

Music: Free and open to the public.

- Aug. 16—PMO Camp Show.** Purdue Bells, Purdue Varsity Glee Club and Purduettes. 1:00 p.m. (Doors open at 12:30 p.m. Open seating, no tickets required.) Camp Tecumseh's Lake Village Scheumann Lodge (near Brookston).
Aug. 23—Purdue Varsity Glee Club First Nighter concert. 7:30 p.m. STEW, Loeb Playhouse.

Art: Free and open to the public.

Archives and Special Collections: Virginia Kelly Karnes Archives and Special Collections Research Center, fourth floor, STEW (enter from HSSE Library).

Through August 16—"Apollo in the Archives: Selections from the Neil A. Armstrong Papers" exhibition, commemorating the 50th anniversary of the first manned spaceflight that landed on the moon. More information may be found here: <https://tinyurl.com/y3xhp5sb> Semester hours: 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Robert L. Ringel Gallery. STEW. Hours: 10:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m. Monday-Saturday (except holidays).

Aug. 19-Sept. 27—"Dreaming, Automated: Deep Learning, Data Sets, and Decay – Anna Ridler." Artworks generated by artificial intelligence and their interplay with human elements. (Exhibition is in conjunction with Dawn or Doom conference of Sept. 24-25. Exhibition reception at 5:30 p.m. Sept. 26.)

Closed through August 18 for refurbishment: Patty and Rusty Reuff galleries.

Athletics:

All sports schedules available at: <https://purduesports.com>. Click through to the Home page, then click on **Sports** at the top to see specific sports menu.

Women's Soccer: Folk Field. Free and open to the public, unless noted.

- Aug. 13**—vs. Milwaukee (exhibition). 5:00 p.m.
Aug. 17—vs. Xavier (exhibition). 5:00 p.m.
Aug. 22—vs. Georgia. 7:00 p.m.
Aug. 25—vs. Toledo. 1:00 p.m.

Women's Volleyball: . Brees Center, Belin Court in Holloway Gymnasium. Free and open to the public.

- Aug. 17**—Intra-squad scrimmage: Boilermaker Tune-Up. 6:00 p.m.
Aug. 24—Gold and Black Scrimmage. 2:00 p.m.

Mark Your Calendars! PURA Events

- 5 August PURA monthly meeting**, MCL Cafeteria, 11:00 a.m.
Topic: West Lafayette Current Developments and Future Plans
Speaker: John Dennis, Mayor, West Lafayette
- 9 September PURA Kickoff Luncheon.** 12:00 p.m., noon. Four Points by Sheraton, West Lafayette.
- 27 September Annual Purdue Center for Aging and the Life Course Fall Symposium**, co-sponsored by PURA. (See promotional flyer on page 7.)

PURA News

The Purdue University Retirees Association newsletter is published for official retirees of Purdue University, and prepared by the PURA Communications Committee.

Suggestions or ideas for PURA or the newsletter, and changes of address and email, should be referred to:

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