

PURA News

Purdue University Retirees Association

March 2023

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Welcome Current & New *PURA News* Readers!

The PURA newsletter, published 10 times a year, regularly features articles on retiree benefits, Purdue news, upcoming opportunities to hear interesting speakers with other retirees, health topics, humor, Indiana travel, and PURA business.

We welcome your comments and suggestions (send to: pura@purdue.edu), and we invite you to join us at our in-person and virtual programs.

March 6 PURA Monthly Meeting



Program:

Tippecanoe County 4-H Program, Then and Now. How 4-H is Evolving to Meet the Needs of Youth and Families

Presenter:

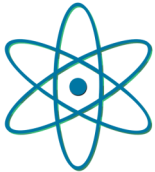
(Deidre) Dee Nicley, Extension Educator, 4-H/Youth Development, County Extension Director, Tippecanoe County

The Purdue Cooperative Extension Service, with an office in every county in Indiana, maintains and conducts the 4-H Program as one of their charges. Indiana 4-H programs have been and remain one of the premier programs in the United States. Guided by lay advisory boards and volunteer 4-H club leaders these programs continue to flourish. Join us to hear the latest in Purdue's 4-H programs and more specifically 4-H programs and activities in Tippecanoe County.

Dee Nicley is one of two 4-H Educators in Tippecanoe County. Prior to joining Tippecanoe County 4-H, she worked for 21 years as an elementary school teacher at Thorntown Elementary. Dee is a graduate of Lebanon High School, Purdue University, and Indiana Wesleyan University. In her spare time, she enjoys spending precious time with her family and friends, cheering the Boilermakers on the field and on the court, reading a good book or recipe, and relaxing with her furry kids Miley and Wheezie.

Join PURA in person at Lafayette VFW, Duncan Road, Lafayette, Indiana. Or join us via Zoom broadcast from our studio at the VFW (connection information at the end of this newsletter.) Lunch begins at 11:45 a.m. ET; program begins at 12:30 p.m. ET; speaker at 12:40 p.m. ET.

Tour Purdue's Nuclear Reactor Number One on March 8



The Community and Campus Activity Committee invites you to a special opportunity on March 8, from 3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. ET, to learn first-hand about the Purdue University Nuclear Reactor Number One. The committee has arranged a discussion, Q&A, and tour that features the first and only nuclear reactor operating in Indiana.

Purdue student Trevor Hylen will lead the activity for Purdue Retirees who choose to attend. Trevor hails from Los Angeles and is a Junior in Nuclear Engineering with a goal of designing and building nuclear power plants in the future.

Trevor will be describing the history of the reactor, its connection with other university reactors across the US, and how it has been designated as part of the critical infrastructure for the country. In addition, he will be describing the kind of research that takes place using the reactor and how it is closely tied not only to ongoing research in engineering, but also research in health science, chemistry, pharmacy, agriculture, biology, and nanotechnology.

Participants are asked to bring their questions to ensure a lively discussion.

Assembly

3:00 p.m. to 3:15 p.m. ET. Plan to arrive early. Participants will assemble in the lobby next to the elevator in BHEE. (Note this building is formerly the Electrical Engineering Building, now the Max Brown and Maileen Brown Family Hall.)

Discussion/Q&A/Tour

Promptly at 3:15 p.m. ET, the group will be greeted by our guide and escorted to the reactor site. If anyone arrives after 3:15 there is no guarantee they can join the tour. **All participants must present a valid picture I.D.** (Driver's license, employee ID, passport.)

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Parking

Parking is available in the Northwestern Street Parking Garage. This parking garage is directly across Northwestern Avenue and the entrance to BHEE. You will need an “A” parking permit.

Walking

On the tour there is an elevator in BHEE but there will be some walking and stair climbing, in addition to walking to and from the parking garage.

Registration

You must be a confirmed registered guest to attend, so make sure you include your e-mail and a phone number where you could receive a text. Send your request directly to Al Knight at a.m.knight@comcast.net.

Note that this activity is limited to 20 individuals. The deadline for registering is March 1, 2023.

Registration Opens March 1 for PURA’s Annual Spring Conference



We’re sure you’ve already marked your calendar for PURA’s Annual Spring Conference coming up on April 19, 2023, right? If not, please plan to join us!

Below is the link for online registration, which opens on March 1. Register soon for this popular event because registration will close on April 1. (You’ll also receive a separate email registration reminder in March.)

Registration Link:

<http://www.purdue.edu/conferences/PURA2023>

The conference returns to the Beck Agriculture Center venue, where it’s been held in the past. (4540 U.S. Highway 52 west, just northwest of the Purdue West Lafayette campus).

What can you expect? Here’s the rundown of the day’s agenda. (All times listed are Eastern Time):

8:00am – Registration with Full Hot Breakfast menu

9:00am – Welcome/Comments – Dr. Norman D. Long, Chair.

9:15am – Session # 1 Living with Chronic Pain without Addiction

- Dr. Matthew P. Ward, Assistant Professor Biomedical Engineering @ Purdue

10:00am – Exercise Break with David Caldwell

10:15am – Session #2 Securing our financial system with retirees in mind.

- Dr. Jerry Lynch, Retired Professor of Economics @ Purdue

11:00am – Morning Break for restrooms, vendor booths and Purdue Insurance Information with Kate LaMar and Larry Pherson.

11:30am – Session # 3 Mental Health for Seniors

- Sheri Moore – West Central Indiana National Association of Mental Institutes
- Brandi Christianson – Mental Health America
- Sgt. John Yestrebky – Lafayette Police Department – Retired

12:30pm – Lunch Break, restrooms, vendor booths and Purdue Insurance Information with Kate LaMar and Larry Pherson.

1:30pm – Announcements and Acknowledgements

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1:45pm – Session #4 Life is Made up of Unexpected Things!

- Mayor John Dennis – Keynote Speaker

2:15pm – Session #5 Library Services Available for Seniors

- Jos Holman – Tippecanoe County Public Library
- Nick Schenkel – West Lafayette Public Library
- Rebecca Richardson – Purdue University Library System

3:15pm – Awarding Vendor and Door Prizes

3:30 pm – Closing Remarks and “Hail Purdue.”

Jerry's Jottings



As I look out my window today, I see sunshine! A welcome change after so many cloudy, dreary days over the last couple of months, it certainly helps to make the cold winter days more tolerable and reminds us that spring is not too far off. As I write this, Purdue men's basketball is still on top in the Big 10, but now with three losses. As always, the stiff competition in the Big 10 will provide many exciting games over the coming weeks!

At the February PURA monthly luncheon, Program Chair Bob Ritchie posed the Purdue Trivia question. “The first time for classes at Purdue was September 16, 1874 - Men Only. What was the first-year women were admitted to Purdue?” The answer was 1875, only one year later. Congratulations to Betty Nelson, the winner of the insulated Purdue cup, for her closest correct guess. Our speaker, Dr. Jason Henderson, Senior Associate Dean, College of Agriculture and Director of Purdue Cooperative Extension Service, presented on “Purdue Extension: Then, Now, and Tomorrow.” We wished Jason well as he is leaving Purdue later this spring to take a similar position at Iowa State and return to his home state.

Please join us on March 6 at the VFW for our next monthly luncheon meeting. Lunch will be available beginning at 11:45 a.m. ET for \$10 per person. The program begins at 12:30 PM. Our presentation will be by Dee Nicley, Extension Educator 4-H/Youth Development, County Extension Director, Tippecanoe County. Hear about the latest in Purdue's 4-H programs and more specifically 4-H programs and activities in our local county. Note that the start of lunch availability has changed from 11:30 to 11:45 a.m. ET.

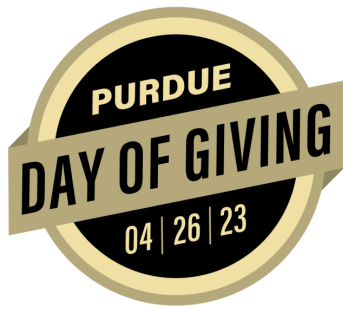
Hold the date! The PURA Annual Spring Conference is April 19, 2023. Registration information will be sent out soon. Again, I would like to recommend this event—which hasn't been held in person since 2019—to those who retired during the last couple of years. Attending this conference would be a great way to get involved with PURA, your retiree organization. Maybe you could reach out and invite another retiree to attend the spring conference with you.

To help recruit new PURA committee volunteers, I am featuring a different committee in my notes each month. This month I would like to feature and give special recognition to the PURA Program Committee. They plan and coordinate the speaker presentations for the monthly luncheon meetings currently held at the VFW on the first Monday of the month. They hold their annual planning session as part of PURA's Annual Transition Meeting in early June. They put together a list of potential speakers for the coming program year, and each committee member confirms and coordinates at least one monthly meeting. Bob Ritchie chairs this important committee.

We need your help in reaching out to fellow retirees (especially recent retirees) to encourage them to become actively involved in PURA. We need fresh faces on our committees and would encourage you to let us know if you have an interest, and would also welcome your suggestions of fellow retirees that might just need a little push to get involved. An email expressing your interest or suggestions should be sent to pura@purdue.edu. We also ask that you verify with other retirees that they are receiving our PURA emails. If they are not and wish to, please let us know.

And finally, Go Boilers! Let's put those tough losses at Indiana and Northwestern behind us and finish strong!

Thanks!
Jerry Day
PURA President



SAVE THE DATE—APRIL 26

PURA has been participating in the Purdue Day of Giving online fundraising campaign since April 2016. These seven events have raised over \$72,000 dollars for the two PURA scholarship endowments, making this annual event a valuable endeavor. PURA members contribute generously to help Indiana students become Boilermakers. Every contribution counts. Please give what you can to continue building the two endowments: the PURA Student Scholarship Endowment and the PURA POA in Honor of Martin C. and Patty Jischke.

The PURA POA in Honor of Martin C. and Patty Jischke has a balance of \$54,000 and the PURA Student Scholarship Endowment is approaching \$250,000. From these endowments there have been 18 individual scholarships totaling \$20,000 awarded from the investment income for the PURA POA in Honor of Martin C. and Patty Jischke Endowment, and 50 individual scholarships totaling \$46,000 from the investment income for the PURA Student Scholarship Endowment. Over the history of these endowments, the scholarship amounts have ranged from \$500 to \$3,000, determined by the Purdue Department of Financial Aid. Each award is part of a total financial aid package developed for each Indiana student.

The students are very thankful, as many share that their financial assistance provides them with more valuable time for study and opportunities to join important professional organizations and engage in activities that will further their careers.

Please consider a contribution on Purdue Day of Giving, April 26. A dedicated online link to make a donation to the endowments will be emailed to you prior to April 26. If you prefer to mail a donation, write a check payable to the Purdue for Life Foundation, with either the PURA Student Scholarship Endowment or PURA POA in Honor of Martin C. and Patty Jischke noted in the memo line. Mail the check to: Purdue for Life Foundation, 403 W. Wood Street, West Lafayette, IN 47907-2007. You may also call 1-800-319-2199 to make a contribution. And for individuals over 70 ½ years of age, gifts contributed from your IRA are not taxable income and qualify for your required minimum distribution (RMD). To learn more about the IRA Rollover opportunities, or to make an IRA Rollover charitable contribution, please contact the Office of Planned Giving 765-494-8657.

THANK YOU
EVERY DOLLAR IS IMPORTANT

Benefits Committee News: The Inflation Reduction Act of 2022

The Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 (IRA) is a United States federal law which aims to curb inflation by reducing the Federal deficit, lowering prescription drug prices and investing in domestic energy production while promoting clean energy. In order to comply with the provisions of IRA, United Healthcare(UHC) has provided the following update regarding insulin and vaccine coverage for PURA members enrolled in a plan with Part D prescription Drug coverage. Both the PURCare (UHC Senior Supplement plus Part D prescription plan and the PURA/UHC Group Medicare Advantage PPO including Part D prescription plan are impacted.

Effective January 1, 2023, for Insulin:

The IRA implements copay caps for insulin. The caps set the maximum cost-share per month supply at \$35.00/\$75.00/\$105.00 for a 1-month/2-month/3-month supply .

The caps are agnostic to preferred, non-preferred or non-formulary status (when covered by the plan).

The caps apply to both retail and mail order purchases.

In order to comply with IRA, UHC is implementing the IRA caps to ensure that members pay the lesser of their standard cost-share or the IRA cost-share.

PURA insureds should expect that their cost-share for insulin purchases will either be reduced or remain the same as pre-IRA.

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Effective January 1, 2023, for Vaccines:

IRA reduces cost and improves coverage for adult vaccine coverage under Medicare Part D, effective January 1, 2023. The following is a list of \$0 copay vaccines under IRA:

Hepatitis A
Hepatitis B
Human Papillomavirus (HPV)
Japanese encephalitis
Measles-mumps-Rubella (Combinations)
Meningococcal bacteria (Combinations)
Poliovirus
Rabies
Rotavirus
Shingles
Tetanus-Diphtheria-Pertussis (Select combinations)
Tick-borne encephalitis
Tuberculosis
Typhoid fever
Varicella
Yellow fever

Reminder, vaccinations for influenza and COVID are covered under Medicare Part B.

The IRA provides the means for impacting prescription drug prices in 2024 and beyond. Further information regarding the IRA's impact on PURA insureds will be provided as it becomes available.

Meet Dr. Marshall Martin, Nominee for PURA President-Elect 2023-24



The PURA Nominating Committee recommends Dr. Marshall A. Martin for the position of President-elect for 2023-24 and President for 2024-25.

Dr. Martin and his wife, Dr. Berdine Martin, both have M.S. and PhD degrees from Purdue University. Dr. Berdine Martin retired in 2109 following a 34 year career as a Senior Research Associate in the Department of Nutrition Science, having taught undergraduate and graduate courses in infant and maternal nutrition, and conducted research on osteoporosis and bone health. She is currently a member of the PURA Annual Spring Conference Meeting Committee. In December 2020, Dr. Marshall Martin, after a 45 year career at Purdue University, retired with the rank of Professor of Agricultural Economics, Senior Associate Director of Agricultural Research and Graduate Education, and Assistant Dean in the College of Agriculture, Emeritus. Dr. Marshall Martin taught more than 4,000 students, supervised more than 50 graduate students as a Major Professor, and served as Chair of the Graduate Program and Associate Head of the Department of Agricultural Economics prior to his 20 years in the Office of Research and Graduate Education in the College of Agriculture. Given his professional expertise and language skills in Spanish and Portuguese, he made more than 50 international trips during his Purdue University career. He served for many years on six Indiana-based, agriculturally-affiliated Boards of Directors, representing the College of Agriculture.

The Drs. Martin met at Iowa State University and upon graduation and marriage spent nearly five years in Bolivia, where Marshall was the Director of the Instituto Rural de Montero K-12 school and taught vocational agriculture. Berdine taught vocational home economics with a focus on nutrition. They have two children and four grandchildren. Dr. Melanie (Martin) Dodd is a Professor of Pharmacy and Associate Dean in the College of Pharmacy at the University of New Mexico. Her husband has undergraduate and graduate degrees in electrical engineering from Purdue University. Their oldest son is currently a sophomore at Purdue University majoring in electrical engineering and plays trumpet in the AMRE jazz band. The Drs. Martin's son, Matthew, is the Chief Marketing Officer for Harris-Teeter, a 260 grocery store chain owned by Kroger, with stores from Virginia to Florida. He holds an MBA from Purdue. Combined, the Martin family has seven degrees from Purdue University.

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Marshall has been the recipient of numerous awards including: Special Boilermaker Award from the Purdue University Alumni Association; Certificate of Distinction from the Purdue University Agricultural Alumni Association; the Hovde Award for Excellence in Service to Rural Indiana; Block "P" Award from the Purdue University Department of Bands and Orchestras; Meritorious Service Award from the Indiana Pork Producers Association; Crop Merit Service and Meritorious Service Awards from the Indiana Crop Improvement Association; Beyond the Fence Award from Beck's Hybrids, Indiana Soybean Alliance, and Indiana Corn Marketing Council; Best M.S. Thesis Award from the American Agricultural Economics Association; and inducted as an Inaugural member of the Wethersfield School Corporation Academic Hall of Fame.

In retirement, Marshall is the Chairman of the Board of the Agricultural Alumni Seed Improvement Association (a global popcorn genetics company shipping seed to over 40 countries), Vice-President of the Board of the Indiana Crop Improvement Association (state authorized seed certification organization with genetics and seed testing laboratories in Indiana), member of the Purdue University College of Agriculture Alumni Association Board of Directors, and in 2022 served on the PURA Benefits Committee.



For 32 years, the Drs. Martin have managed Martin Acres LLC, a you-pick blueberry farm north of West Lafayette. This past year Marshall served as General Contractor as they built a ski chalet style, timber frame home with geothermal heating/cooling, solar energy, and its own septic and well systems, etc. They were fully engaged with the supervision of the multiple subcontractors and provided their own sweat equity labor for painting, sanding wood, landscaping, etc. They also own corn/soybean farmland east of Lafayette. Each spring and fall Marshall operates large agricultural equipment helping on a commercial farming operation for one of his former graduate students, who lost her father to cancer.

They are both active in the St. Andrew United Methodist Church. Marshall has chaired many programming and administrative committees, taught Adult Bible classes, and was Project Manager when a new facility was constructed in 2007-08. He also mows the church's 15-acre lawn on a regular basis. Berdine is chair of the Missions Committee.

The Drs. Martin are strong supporters of Purdue University through several endowed scholarships, investment in the new Hagle Hall, and co-sponsors of the annual Purdue University Convocations' jazz festival.

PURA Tech Bytes

By Scott Ksander



Artificial Intelligence and chatGPT

John McCarthy first coined the term artificial intelligence in 1956 when he invited a group of researchers from a variety of disciplines to a summer workshop called the Dartmouth Summer Research Project on Artificial Intelligence to discuss what would ultimately become the field of AI. At that time, the researchers came together to clarify and develop the concepts around "thinking machines". McCarthy is said to have picked the name artificial intelligence for its neutrality to avoid highlighting one of the tracks being pursued at the time for the field of "thinking machines" that included cybernetics, automata theory and complex information processing. The proposal for the conference said, "The study is to proceed on the basis of the conjecture that every aspect of learning or any other feature of intelligence can in principle be so precisely described that a machine can be made to simulate it."

Recently there has been a lot of press about AI, Machine Learning, and, specifically, an application called chatGPT (Chat Generative Pre-trained Transformer) developed by OpenAI. Some look at chatGPT as Google on steroids but it is more than just that. chatGPT has access to many databases and can combine those results into different styles such as conversational, poetry, music, and even computer programming. It can even answer test questions!! The Wharton Schools operations professor, Christian Terwiesch submitted his operations final into ChatGPT. To his surprise, it passed. According to a white paper Terwiesch published on January 17 2023, "Would ChatGPT Get a Wharton MBA?", Terwiesch would have given the chatbot an A+ on that first question, which asked students to identify the bottleneck in a seven-part process in an iron-ore refinery. As you might guess, this has caused a great deal of concern in many circles.

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So, let's let chatGPT tell the story. Below is the exact text I received when I asked chatGPT to write an article for the Purdue University retirees newsletter about ChatGPT.

Dear Purdue University Retirees,

We hope this newsletter finds you well. As you know, technology continues to play a crucial role in education, and here at Purdue, we are constantly exploring new ways to enhance the learning experience for our students.

One such tool is chatGPT, an advanced artificial intelligence-powered language model developed by OpenAI. This technology has the ability to generate human-like text, making it a valuable tool for educators.

We are excited to announce that chatGPT is being used in various courses at Purdue University. This technology is providing students with a unique and interactive learning experience, allowing them to engage in virtual discussions with chatGPT, who can respond in real-time with informative and relevant answers to their questions.

This innovative approach to education is not only making the learning process more engaging and enjoyable, but it is also helping students to gain a deeper understanding of the subject matter.

As retirees of Purdue University, we invite you to learn more about chatGPT and its usage in higher education. If you have any questions or would like to share your thoughts, please feel free to reach out to us.

Best regards,

One of the major concerns expressed about ChatGPT is information accuracy. The app has access to MANY databases but does not claim to verify any of that information. You will notice that ChatGPT claims it is being used at Purdue. I was unable to verify that claim.

If you would like to try ChatGPT for yourself you can find it at—<https://chat.openai.com/auth/login>.

Tinnitus

Melissa Newell, Au.D., CCC-A/FAAA
Clinical Assistant Professor
Purdue Department of Speech, Language, & Hearing Sciences

Millions of adults experience noises in their ears that are not caused by external sound. Tinnitus, pronounced tin-NY-tus or TIN-u-tis, is most often a high-pitched ringing sensation, but there are various sounds that people hear. These phantom sounds can be a buzzing, roaring, clicking, hissing, or humming sensation. Some patients complain of hearing “cricket” sounds and musical melodies. Tinnitus is typically only heard by the patient. It is rare but possible for others to hear the noises coming from your ears, known as subjective tinnitus. Tinnitus in any form can be intermittent or constant. A pulsing sensation or rhythmic pulsing sound can be heard, typically due to hearing your heartbeat. Blood flow issues in the head and neck can cause pulsatile tinnitus but can also occur from other issues.

What causes tinnitus? It is a symptom of other problems, not a disease or disorder. Typically, tinnitus occurs when something in the auditory system is not working correctly. It could be from damage to the inner ear, parts of the brain, impacted wax, heart disease, brain tumors, medication interactions, and more. More than 200 medications have tinnitus listed as a common side effect. Hearing loss that has occurred due to noise exposure frequently results in tinnitus. Hormonal changes in women, thyroid abnormalities, ear and sinus infections, and Meniere's disease can often cause tinnitus. Sometimes, tinnitus occurs for no known reason, but it can happen or be worsened by fatigue, anxiety, depression, and stress. Caffeine, nicotine, and aspirin (and their derivatives) are frequently known to cause or worsen tinnitus.

Why does tinnitus occur? We don't know completely, and more research is needed to find the true source of this issue. Although tinnitus seems to be coming from the ears, it is believed that the sounds likely come from a network of brain

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cells or a process of abnormal interactions between neural circuits in the brain. It may occur because the brain perceives hearing loss from the ears, increasing sensitivity to sound. Many people with hearing loss also become sensitive to loud sounds (hyperacusis), and this complaint is more common for patients with tinnitus. As one of the sensory systems, the ears communicate with other areas of the brain, including the limbic system, which regulates mood and emotion. Tinnitus can be so bothersome that it causes anxiety, depression, and fatigue, negatively impacting many people's lives.

Are there treatments? Unfortunately, there is no cure for tinnitus, but there are ways to manage or improve the patient's reaction to the sounds. If tinnitus is present, patients should speak to their primary care physician to determine if any medical conditions are causing the problem. Seeing an audiologist for a hearing assessment and a tinnitus evaluation, if needed, is the best solution to determine the cause of tinnitus which will direct proper treatment. Seeing an ear, nose, and throat (ENT) physician may also be necessary. Without a cure for tinnitus, other treatments are needed to reduce the severity of the symptoms and increase the quality of life. A combination of treatments may be required. Over-the-counter medications, which are frequently advertised to seniors, are not effective. Acupuncture, ginkgo biloba, melatonin, and zinc supplements have been tried, but there is little evidence that they are beneficial.

Hearing aids or cochlear implants may be recommended for patients with hearing loss and tinnitus. Often, when people hear better, they no longer notice the tinnitus. The sound of the hearing aids can also help to mask out tinnitus. By relieving some communication difficulties, focus can be removed from the ears and may help patients begin to ignore the annoying sounds in their ears. Some hearing aids include a "tinnitus masking" program that can be utilized for temporary treatment.

Counseling is essential to understanding and living with severe tinnitus. Audiologists and mental healthcare providers can offer solutions to learn to live with this problem. Learning calming techniques can help lessen the symptoms, and learning to think and react to tinnitus differently can impact the severity of the sounds. Antidepressants or anti-anxiety medications can improve symptoms and help with sleep problems. Tabletop sound generators are helpful when trying to relax or sleep. Calming sounds like rain, white noise, waterfalls, or waves can help with relaxation and masking tinnitus sounds. Behavioral therapies and mindfulness techniques can help manage a patient's emotional reaction to tinnitus and may be needed for people with severe problems, but it is not a quick fix. There is time, effort, and a level of commitment necessary to be successful in this type of treatment. Other behavioral therapies can be used, but finding a professional to provide these services can be difficult for many patients. Additionally, self-help groups are beneficial for many people suffering from tinnitus.

Taking care of your hearing and overall health will reduce the likelihood of tinnitus occurring. In addition, protecting your ears against noise exposure is the easiest way to avoid hearing loss and tinnitus. If you have concerns regarding your hearing or if you suffer from tinnitus, consider scheduling an appointment at the Purdue University Audiology Clinic. An audiologist will assess your hearing, take a thorough case history, and recommend treatments. Our contact information: Purdue University Audiology Clinic, Lyles-Porter Hall, 765-494-4229.

For more information, consider the following:

<https://www.ata.org/about-tinnitus/>

<https://www.nidcd.nih.gov/health/tinnitus>

<https://www.asha.org/public/hearing/Tinnitus/>

<https://www.audiology.org/consumers-and-patients/hearing-and-balance/tinnitus/>

<https://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/tinnitus/diagnosis-treatment/drc-20350162>

To reach Professor Newell:

<https://www.purdue.edu/hhs/slhs/clinics/audiology.html>

Purdue University

Phone: (765) 494-4229

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Find current and past issues of the *PURA News* newsletter on our website:

www.purdue.edu/retirees

Current issue, typically available by the end of each month: on home page, **NEWSLETTER** link in the gold bar at the top.

Past issues: from home page, **ARCHIVE** link in the gold bar at top, then 3rd link from top on the Archive page.

Confessions of a Book Addict

By Jo Thomas



Have I mentioned Canadian author Louise Penny? Critics call her detective, Chief Inspector Gamache of the Surete du Quebec, “One of the most interesting detectives in crime fiction.” Other reviews declare “The series is deep and grand and altogether extraordinary,” and “Cranking good.”

The focus of the stories is Chief Inspector Gamache. He is intelligent, introspective and regularly solves the case with a surprise. Many of the mysteries revolve around the village of Three Trees, which is not found on any map. People find it by chance and many stay. The inhabitants are sketched so they are instantly recognized by those who read the series. There is the renowned—but crazy—poet who carries a duck, the well respected psychiatrist who owns a new and used book store, and the kind woodsman whose words no one can understand.

There is often a murder but also drugs, unexpected deaths and political threats. Gamache and his officers are up for the challenge. My daughter thought I might like the series. I have just finished the 17th book and can’t wait to read the next. If you prefer to watch the television adaptations, turn your channel to the one offering Three Trees.



Hello. Is Anyone Out There?

By Sara Jane Coffman

The other day I decided to change my hairdo. I had my stylist color it, cut it, and fluff it up, then went over to Sam’s house to show him.

“Do you like it?” I asked, turning around seductively.

“What happened to your old hairdo?”

My old hairdo? The one you never said you liked? I should have expected that response, though. One time when we were going out, I asked him if he liked the dress I was wearing.

“I thought you were going to wear the green one you look so good in.”

Besides having trouble getting compliments from Sam, I also have trouble getting compliments from my boss. At my last job interview, she did spend several minutes praising my work, then said: “But I’d like to see more stress in your job.”

SAY WHAT? So should I not solve my problems myself? Did she just want me to look more stressed? If so, I could stop coloring my hair and replace my expensive, long-lasting hairspray with a cheaper one.

As a humor writer, it’s extremely important for me to get feedback. I need to know if people think my stories are funny, and if my punch lines hit the mark. But asking people for feedback can be dangerous. The only kind of feedback any of us ever really wants is the good kind -- the kind that affirms our wonderfulness. Unfortunately, that’s not always the kind we get.

Anyway, I’ve been writing this column for awhile now, and I’d like to know if anyone likes it. So, here’s a survey I’d like you to complete. Put a checkmark next to the comments you agree with:

1. Your articles are:

- Too short
- Too long
- Just the right length

(Continued on Page 11)

2. Your sense of humor:

- Is right on!
- Is very weird
- Could use some help

3. Which of the following is true?

- I enjoy your column so much, I read it twice!
- My cat/dog/hamster enjoys your column.
- My Aunt Bertha would have liked your column. She died in 1948.
- There was one story I liked. I can't remember which one.

4. Your columns:

- Saved my marriage! Reading your column with my spouse has brought us closer together.
- Should be on the front page
- Serve a good purpose. They're something to fill the space between the President's message and Scott Ksander's Tech Bytes.

5. My advice to you is:

- Don't quit your day job
- Take a writing class. I'm teaching one in the spring. Call me.
- Buy a dog. I think it would help your writing. (Incidentally, I have some German Shepherd puppies for sale. Message me on FB.)

6. I think:

- The Newsletter should double what they're paying you!
- What? You're not getting paid?
- NOTHING?
- What's wrong with those people?

Thank you for completing this survey. Please send all of your positive comments to my email and any negative comments to the Newsletter.



Set Clocks Forward One Hour On
Sunday, March 12, 2023 2:00 a.m.

March Campus/Community Calendar Highlights

events.purdue.edu

Purdue's one-stop-shopping events calendar, which features campus, student, and community events. Highlights for March include:

- **1 March—Art and Design Undergraduate Exhibits begin:** including painting, drawing, electronic & time-based art, metals, sculpture, ceramics, textiles, industrial design, interior design, and visual communication. Held in both Ringel and Reuff galleries. More information:
https://cla.purdue.edu/academic/rueffschool/galleries/exhibitions/22-23/art_and_design_undergrad_2023.html
<https://cla.purdue.edu/academic/rueffschool/rueffgalleries/CurrentSchedule/index.html>
- **2 March—Lafayette Symphony “The B-Side, Track 4: Latin Jazz”** Concert and social evening that's part of the Symphony's nightclub series, featuring Symphony musicians' ensembles. Tickets and more information:
lafayettesymphony.org/events/
- **7 March—“Be Prepared, North Central Region: A Community Planning Approach to Green Infrastructure, Hazard Mitigation, and Flooding”.** Presented by Extension Educators from Purdue, University of Illinois, and North Dakota State Universities. Virtual program, no cost, but registration is required, at <http://bit.ly/317K0PL> Once registered participants will receive the link to attend the program.
- **10 March—Executive Forum lecture, with Purdue alumni Roland Parrish** (BSIM and MBA, Krannert School of Business). Parrish is founder, President and Chief Executive Officer of Parrish McDonald's Restaurants, Ltd. His firm owns and operates 24 restaurants in Dallas, Texas, and surrounding areas. Parrish Restaurants, Ltd consistently makes the Black Enterprise BE 100 as one of the Top 100 Black Owned Businesses in the United States. The Executive Forum is one of the most popular classes in the School of Management, and celebrates its 50th anniversary in 2023. More information:
https://events.purdue.edu/event/executive_forum_with_roland_parrish_president_ceo_founder_parrish_mcdonalds_restaurants
- **27 March—“Yours/Ours”** Columbian interdisciplinary artist Carlos Castro Arias' solo exhibition, celebrates the 20th anniversary of Purdue's Latino Cultural Center. Robert L. Ringel Gallery, Stewart Center. More information about the artist at:
https://cla.purdue.edu/academic/rueffschool/galleries/exhibitions/22-23/yours_ours.html
- **Purdue Winter/Spring Sports**—basketball, track & field, swimming & diving ongoing; tennis begins; golf, softball and baseball seasons begin, but contests are held out of state.

Purdue Women's Conference 2023 June 8–9, Purdue Memorial Union Ballrooms

The Purdue Women's Network invites you to join us on the university's flagship West Lafayette campus for Purdue Women's Conference 2023, where women from around the world will gather to engage, connect, and grow within a supportive community of Purdue alumnae and friends. Special discounts will be offered for Purdue employees and students and members of the Purdue Alumni Association, President's Council, John Purdue Club, or Parents & Families Club.

For more information: <https://www.purdueforlife.org/womens-conference-2023/>

Purdue Academic/Holiday Schedule

13-18 March—Spring Break. No classes.

6 May—Spring semester ends.

12, 13, 14 May—West Lafayette commencements.

15 May—Summer modules begin classes.

29 May—Memorial Day holiday. No classes, offices closed.

4 July—4th of July holiday. No classes, offices closed.

Mark Your Calendars! Upcoming PURA Events

6 March, 2023 PURA monthly meeting.

- **Location:** IN-PERSON at Lafayette VFW, Duncan Road, Lafayette, Indiana. Also **VIA ZOOM** broadcast from our studio at the VFW.
- **Time:** Lunch begins at 11:45 a.m. ET; program begins at 12:30 p.m. ET; speaker at 12:40 p.m.
- **Speaker:** Dee Nicley, Purdue Extension Educator, 4-H and Youth Development, Tippecanoe County
- **Topic:** Tippecanoe County 4-H, Then and Now

8 March, 2023 PURA Tour of Purdue Nuclear Reactor Number One. See the announcement earlier in this newsletter for details and sign-up information.

3 April, 2023 PURA monthly meeting.

- **Location:** IN-PERSON at Lafayette VFW, Duncan Road, Lafayette, Indiana. Also **VIA ZOOM** broadcast from our studio at the VFW.
- **Time:** Lunch begins at 11:45 a.m. ET; program begins at 12:30 p.m. ET; speaker at 12:40 p.m. ET.
- **Speaker:** Deanna Watson, Executive Director, Lafayette Journal & Courier
- **Topic:** MSM Influence on the Demise of the Lafayette Journal & Courier

19 April, 2023 PURA Annual Spring Conference. Beck Agricultural Center, West Lafayette. Registration opens March 1 and closes April 1. Registration information will be emailed to PURA members in early March.

1 May, 2023 PURA monthly meeting.

- **Location:** IN-PERSON at Lafayette VFW, Duncan Road, Lafayette, Indiana. Also **VIA ZOOM** broadcast from our studio at the VFW.
- **Time:** Lunch begins at 11:45 a.m. ET; program begins at 12:30 p.m. ET; speaker at 12:40 p.m. ET.
- **Speaker:** Dr. Kenneth Ferraro, Distinguished Professor, Purdue Department of Sociology
- **Topic:** U.S. Population Demographics Shift Over the Next 10 Years

PURA's virtual meetings are presented via Zoom. Zoom connection information and other important updates are provided via email, the *PURA News* newsletter, and our website: www.purdue.edu/retirees



About PURA News

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

Send suggestions or ideas for PURA or the newsletter to:

Office of Retiree Affairs
2550 Northwestern Ave., Suite 1100
West Lafayette, IN 47906
Telephone, via Purdue Benefits help line:
(toll free) 877-725-0222
Email: pura@purdue.edu

2022-2023 PURA Communications Committee:

Chair: Karen Lembcke

Members: Connie Bilyeu, Jo Thomas

www.purdue.edu/retirees

Zoom Connection Information for PURA Meetings

The Zoom connection information for PURA monthly meetings is shown below. **The link, Meeting ID, and password will be the SAME for all normal monthly meetings.**

Members who wish to join via phone call audio only will need the separate Passcode shown below. (The password/passcode for that method is different from the normal “computer connection” to Zoom.)

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://zoom.us/j/97285398989?
pwd=MIB4U0FudEplMFRoWm1GTkZzNmYrZz09](https://zoom.us/j/97285398989?pwd=MIB4U0FudEplMFRoWm1GTkZzNmYrZz09)

Meeting ID: 972 8539 8989

Passcode: BoilerUp

One tap mobile

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+19292056099,,97285398989#,,,,,0#,,41051096# US (New York)

Dial by your location

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+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

Meeting ID: 972 8539 8989

Passcode: 41051096

Find your local number: <https://zoom.us/u/acvQOKVcnE>

