



# THE AUAR NEWSLETTER

The Association of The University of Akron Retirees

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<b>Publisher</b> Anthony Fawver	(330) 972-8482

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello everyone! It seems like times are getting to be a little more normal. Our luncheons have been somewhat normal this past semester with masking required when we're not eating. We're doing our best to maintain a clean and sanitary environment and spreading ourselves out as much as possible. Aramark, our food service, has even provided us with plastic hand covers when we are going through the buffet. We hope that most, if not all of you are vaccinated by now. Most of us on the Board have even gotten our boosters already. But we continue to mask at our board meetings to be safe.

So, what have we been up to? Well...We've enjoyed some great speakers this fall. We had a delicious "Soup and Chili Supper." We've met two of our scholarship recipients this fall as well, Kurt Ekensten at the October luncheon and Kayla Haag at our December luncheon, such bright and promising students, anxious to begin their lives "after college!" Your scholarship donations are being put to good use! We've decided to present a \$250 book scholarship to a student attending the Black, Brown, and Beyond Male Summit sponsored by the Office of Inclusion and Equity in April to encourage attendance. And we've donated an astounding 243 items to the Campus Cupboard, a source for emergency items and provisions for students in need. Our work, as retirees, is certainly not done!

I hope many of you will be able to join us during the spring semester. We will continue to provide access by Zoom to our programs whenever we think there may be enough interest. We love hearing from all of you, whether participating virtually or in person. We welcome ideas for future speakers or projects. Don't be shy! Stay connected! We value each and every one of you!



**Rita Klein**  
**President 2021 – 2022**

## In Memoriam

*We honor our colleagues and friends for their many contributions in making The University of Akron a better place.*

**CORRECTION:** In the Fall 2021 issue, James R. Miller was incorrectly identified as having retired from UA's Information Technology Department as a lead network engineer. He was a Building Maintenance Superintendent in Physical Facilities. We regret the error.

**Deborah Biller** passed away on August 12, 2021, at the age of 69. Debbie joined UA in January of 2001 and retired in September 2020 from the Financial Aid Department as Departmental Systems Administrator. She was preceded in death by her husband Troy and her father. Debbie is survived by her mother, daughter, two stepsons, and several grandchildren and great grandchildren.

**Dr. Minel "Jack" Braun** died on November 26, 2021, at the age of 74. He was born in Bucharest, Romania. He won a scholarship to Carnegie Mellon where he earned both his Master's and Ph.D. in Mechanical Engineering. Jack joined the UA faculty in 1978 where he worked for 43 years. He earned many honors during his UA career and published many technical books and journal publications and over 220 international conference publications. Jack was a recipient of multiple awards from NASA. Jack retired as a Distinguished Professor Emeritus of Mechanical Engineering.

**Joan Busic** passed away on December 4, 2021, at the age of 53. At the time of her death, she was a Benefits Administrator at UA. She joined UA in 2016. Joan was preceded in death by her father and is survived by her husband, Sam, her mother, son, daughter and two sisters.

**Felicitas "Lici" Calderon** died on November 12, 2021, at the age of 93. She was a witness to the Holocaust who survived by hiding in a church boarding school. Lici authored a book about her wartime experience. She remained in Czechoslovakia until she was recruited to join the Israeli navy in 1948. It was there that she met and married her husband Sam. In 1958 the couple immigrated with their two children to the U.S. Lici earned her bachelor's in Social Work at UA at 51 years of age and added a certificate of gerontology two years later. She joined the UA Adult Resource Center as a Learning Consultant and later became its director. From 1988-1995 she served as programs specialist in the Office of International Programs where her knowledge of six languages was invaluable. She loved to bake and travel. Lici was preceded in death by her husband and is survived by her daughter, son and their spouses, her grandchildren, and a great-granddaughter.

**Helen Sanders Campbell** passed away at the age of 87 on July 5, 2021. She graduated as an RN from People's Hospital (now Cleveland Clinic Akron General). Her final nursing position was at Edwin Shaw Hospital. She was preceded in death by her husband and brother and is survived by her daughter and granddaughter. Helen attended many AUAR luncheons and activities with her special friend and UA retiree, Jim Stafford.

**Becky Campbell** died unexpectedly at 64 on November 25, 2021. She worked for UA for 39 years. In the fall of 1982, she became a research secretary in the Center for Urban Studies. Becky joined the Office of Research Services and Sponsored Programs (now the office of Research Administration) in 1994. She became Grants Coordinator in 2001 and Senior Grants Coordinator in 2011, the position she held at the time of her death. Her brother preceded her in death, and she is survived by her son, four grandchildren and a large family which was very important to her.

**Dr. Jerry Drummond**, emeritus associate professor of Mechanical Engineering, died on September 14, 2021, at the age of 76. He earned his M.S. from UA and his Ph.D. from Ohio State. He joined the UA faculty in 1981 and retired in 2011. In addition to his professorial responsibilities his favorite activities were being an adviser in the Honors College and advising design teams. Jerry is survived by his wife Kris, their six children and eleven grandchildren.

**Robert "Bob" Hahn** died on September 29, 2021, at the age of 84. He attended Kent State where he met Lynne, his wife of 60 years. Bob flew fighter jets as a U.S. Air Force pilot for five and half years. He joined UA in 1969 and later became the Director of Student Financial Aid. After retirement, he worked for Key Bank, loved golf, the Portage Lakes and wintering in Florida. Bob was a frequent blood donor. He is survived by his wife, two daughters and their husbands and two grandchildren.

**Betty Holmes** died at 89 on August 13, 2021. She retired from UA in 1992 after 17 years of service in the Registrar's Office. Betty volunteered at Barberton Citizen's Hospital for fifteen years. She was active in her church and was a member of Mother Singers. Her greatest joys were hosting holiday dinners, family beach vacations, and her grandkids. Betty was preceded in death by her husband, brother and two sons. She is survived by three sons, twelve grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

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**Francis "Sonny" Izo** passed away at 85 on August 29, 2021. Sonny worked in the tool and die industry and was an expert in plastic profile extrusion. He owned Sonny's Brown Derby in Barberton. He loved golfing, solving intricate puzzles, wood working, and watching all sports. He was preceded in death by his first wife and infant daughter. Sonny is survived by his wife, UA retiree Marilyn Carrell Izo, his three daughters, two sons and very large family whom he loved dearly. Sonny attended many AUAR luncheons and activities with Marilyn.

**Marian Lott** died on September 24, 2021 at the age of 97. She was raised in a musical household where she and her three siblings were all taught the piano by their mother, an accomplished pianist. She attended USC and the American Conservatory of Music and the Chicago Musical College where she earned her Bachelor's and Master's of music degrees. She first taught at the University of Kansas and studied on leave in New York where she won an award and recital at Carnegie Hall. Marian was a Fulbright Scholar and presented recitals for the U.S. Government in cities throughout Western Germany. At the University of Kansas, she met and married her husband, Henry, a doctoral student in Chemistry. In 1962 they came to Akron; she first taught at Kent and then joined the UA faculty in 1967 as a professor of piano and Artist in Residence. She performed with both the Akron Symphony and Tuesday Musical. Marian was a church organist, and her faith and music were at the center of her life. She retired from UA in 1988. Marian was preceded in death by her husband and brother. She is survived by a brother and sister, her stepdaughter, and eleven nieces and nephews.

**C. Elaine Mravetz** died at 74 on October 15, 2021, in a car accident that also seriously injured her husband of 41 years, Bob Mravetz, a UA retiree. She enjoyed freestyle canoeing, adaptive paddling, gardening, and volunteering. She sang in the church choir. Elaine is survived by Bob, her four children, six grandchildren and other family members.

**Leonard "Lenny" Pizzute** passed away on November 2, 2021, at 69. He was the first in his family to get a college degree. He then became an Akron firefighter for 31 years and rose to the rank of lieutenant. He received an award for bravery from the city. He also was a union stagehand from 1981 until he retired in 2020. Lenny worked hundreds of concerts, presidential campaigns, and events at the Coliseum, Blossom, Lock 3, the Civic Theater and E.J.Thomas Hall. In 1993 he became stage manager at E.J. He was an active member at his church. Lenny was preceded in death by his brother and is survived by his wife of 31 years, Christine, his son Macoy and many family members.

**Darrell Reneker** died on October 17, 2021, at the age of 91. He was born in a farmhouse in Iowa and attended Iowa State where he met his wife, Joan. He earned his Ph.D. in Physics from the University of Chicago and during his 60-year career he held positions at DuPont and the National Institute of Standards and Technology. He was well known for his work in polymers, electrospinning and electron microscopy. He joined the UA faculty in 1989 and retired in 2019 as a Distinguished Professor Emeritus of Polymer Science.

**Wanda Tettlebach** passed away at 92 on November 17, 2021. She studied at KSU where she met her husband. She joined the staff of the UA Registrar's Office in 1971 and retired in 1989. She was an active church member. Wanda was preceded in death by her husband of 58 years, Richard and their son James. She is survived by three sons and a daughter, seven grandchildren, five great-grandchildren and two great-great grandchildren!

**Richard Webster** died at the age of 86 on July 28, 2021. He served in the U.S Marine Corps and worked at Alside for 34 years. Dick then worked full time from 1999 in the Physical Facilities Office as a Certified Building Services Worker until he retired in 2014 at the age of 79. He and his wife Edwina had four daughters and two sons and many grandchildren whom he adored. Dick was a man of faith.

*Memorials written by Diane Lazzerini*

**Editorial note: Please alert us to any member of our "University Family" whom we have overlooked.**

**THE ASSOCIATION OF THE  
UNIVERSITY OF AKRON  
RETIREES**

**E-mail Digest** SPECIAL EDITION

The E-mail Digest is a daily compilation of announcements sent Monday through Friday to faculty, staff and contract professionals. The digest contains announcements of all events of interest on campus. Retirees who would like to keep up with UA activities and receive the digest in their inbox can do so.

To be put on the guest list of recipients of the digest, send an email message to [bobk@uakron.edu](mailto:bobk@uakron.edu) (Robert Kropff). Type *Digest Subscription* in the subject line of your email and request to be added to the subscription list in the message portion.

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# FACULTY SENATE FALL 2021

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**During the FALL Semester 2021, the activities of the Faculty Senate included the following:**

- Approved a motion from the Executive Committee: In order to facilitate student advancement toward degrees, Faculty Senate, in consultation with the Office of Academic Affairs, endorses the development of a recommended sequence of courses for each program.
- Ratified an action of the Executive Committee: Formation of the ad hoc Investment Criteria Committee with the charge – develops quantitative and qualitative criteria for the evaluation of faculty proposals for academic investment and the review of academic programs and recommends proposed criteria to the senate.
- Approved a motion from the Academic Policies Committee to discontinue the temporary Credit/No Credit option.
- Approved the Bachelor of Science in Polymer Science and Polymer Engineering program brought by the Curriculum Review Committee.
- Approved a motion from the Academic Policies Committee to amend the Transient Credit policy. According to this revision, students must consult with advisors for approval and the requirement for students to demonstrate why they are taking courses elsewhere is removed.
- Approved the proposals brought forward by the Curriculum Review Committee.
- Approved the changes to the bylaws of the Graduate Council.
- Approved the list of graduates for Fall Commencement.
- Approved a motion from the Faculty Senate Executive Committee to establish the ad hoc Investment Criteria Committee.
- Approved a recommendation from the Academic Policies Committee to Faculty Senate regarding adoption of a software package that empowers students to plan their courses of study, more easily personalize their schedules, and minimize unproductive credits. Students and advisors view the same information thereby helping students to graduate on time.

*For more details, please visit the Faculty Senate web page at [uakron.edu](http://uakron.edu)*

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## AUAR SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS FOR ACADEMIC YEAR 2021-2022

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Due to the pandemic, we are awarding three scholarships this year instead of the usual two. Our winners are three remarkable and very active people nearing completion of their degrees.

**Morgan Cadmus** comes from Tecumseh, Michigan. She is majoring in Pre-physical Therapy. She has settled into both campus life as well as community service in Akron. She has volunteered at the local Food Bank and the Battered Women's Shelter.

**Kurt Ekensten** from Conneaut, Ohio, is majoring in Computer Information Systems. He is currently President of the Residence Hall Council and exhibits outstanding leadership skills. Kurt charmed us with his good humor at the November luncheon.

**Kayla Haag**, a senior from Valley View double-majoring in Education/Integrated Social Studies and History, has maintained a 4.0 GPA. She has struggled with many part-time jobs including residence hall assistant and mentoring APS students who need help planning for college. She was introduced at the December luncheon.

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# New Year – New Directions for The Office of Inclusion & Equity

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**Sheldon B. Rice**

On September 15, 2021, AUAR held its first in-person luncheon meeting in 16 months! With the Covid-19 pandemic subsiding and our “age group” most likely to be vaccinated, over 30 retirees and guests ventured back to campus to learn more about the Office of Inclusion & Equity and its newly expanded role.

Our speaker was Dr. Sheldon B. Wrice, Vice President of Inclusion and Equity and Chief Diversity Officer. Dr. Wrice has been a part of our University since the early 1990s and was well known to many of the retirees attending the luncheon.

Sheldon earned his Bachelor of Arts in English from South Carolina State University in 1988 followed quickly by a Master’s in Library Science from Clark Atlanta University in 1990. He also earned four more master’s degrees plus a Doctorate of Education in Higher Education Administration – all here at The University of Akron.

In 1995 he started teaching Technical Writing and Composition full time in the Community & Technical College. It was around that time that AUAR President, Dr. Rita Klein and Dr. Diane Vukovich first got to know Sheldon and recognized his leadership skills via their memberships in the education honor society, Pi Lambda Theta.

Obviously, the University also recognized those leadership skills because Sheldon has been called upon to chair many departments including Associate Studies, English, Classical Studies, Anthropology, and Modern Languages. He was serving as Associate Dean for Undergraduate Studies and Education in the Buchtel College of Arts & Sciences when, in October 2020, he was also called upon to take on the additional role of Interim Vice President of Inclusion & Equity and Chief Diversity Officer. After an internal search, Dr. Wrice was named to that position this past June.



**Sheldon Rice &  
Tom Vukovich**

In his opening remarks, Dr. Wrice mentioned several retired UA faculty members who were especially helpful during his days as a student. Among them were Dr. Edward Lasher, his mentor and faculty advisor, and Norma Spencer and Dick Steiner, who provided him with support and encouragement.

In his role as Vice President of Inclusion and Equity and Chief Diversity Officer, Dr. Wrice reports directly to President Miller. The Office of Inclusion and Equity has three major components: The Office of Multicultural Development, Title IX, and Academic Advancement Programs.

One of Dr. Wrice’s first projects was to broaden the outreach of the Office to include all underrepresented populations on campus. Indicative of this change, the Black Male Summit has been changed to the Black, Brown, and Beyond Male Summit. The in-house peer tutoring program has been expanded to include tutoring in French and Spanish to help more students fulfill the foreign language requirement for various UA degrees.

His office also serves as a champion for entering freshmen from the Cleveland Metropolitan and Akron Public School districts, who are recipients of the “Say Yes” and “I Promise” scholarships. The office offers support and wrap-around services.

The Goodyear Foundation has committed \$1.6 million to The University of Akron for a new effort, The Driving Opportunity Scholarship Program designed to increase job readiness training for underserved students.



**Rita Klein, Sheldon Rice  
and Diane Vukovich**

As you can see, Dr. Wrice has been very busy, but there is much more still to be done – and that is going to take some additional help. He has recently secured funding for three graduate assistantships for three minority students enrolled in STEM programs. One of his next orders of business is to hire a full-time Title IX Coordinator.

The audience was very interested in learning more about U of A’s inclusion and equity programs as evidenced by the many questions that followed Dr. Wrice’s formal presentation. Perhaps we should have Dr. Wrice return with updates next year.



When Mary retired in 2020, she signed up to join AUAR, but somehow her form didn't make it to our membership person, plus COVID hit. She is just now becoming involved with our organization. Welcome, Mary.

**Martha:** *When did you come to The University of Akron, Mary?*

**Mary:** I came in 2000. I retired from the Office of Student Financial Aid as the University Scholarship Coordinator. I held that position for 10 years and loved every minute of it. I had one of the best jobs on campus. Prior to Financial Aid, I was the Senior Administrative Assistant to the University Bursar, Denise Moss. I went from having to tell students that they had to pay their bill before the due date to being able to offer academically talented students scholarship assistance.

**Martha:** *Since you had the best job on campus, tell us why you regarded your job as the best.*

**Mary:** I helped with recruitment and talked with high school students at various locations about what UA had to offer. Too, I was in close contact with people such as deans and

department heads all across campus to assist with matching scholarships to their students. When Matt Wilson became president of the University, I assisted him with his Akron Guarantee Scholarship, and I helped Jim Tressel with his Innovation Generation Scholarship for Akron Public School students. I enjoyed meeting on-campus people and helping them help students.

**Martha:** *You spoke earlier about your fabulous job in the Bursar's Office—it was more than telling student to pay up.*

**Mary:** I became acquainted with more of the UA family. Because I oversaw petty cash, I was in touch with all the athletic coaches. Because math was always my strong suit, I loved working with numbers. I was the administrative assistant to the business manager and special services director of the Springfield Local School District for 10 years prior to my employment at the University.

**Martha:** *I understand that you're an Akronite.*

**Mary:** I was born and raised in Akron and grew up behind Ellet High School. I had one brother, ten years older than I, who went into the armed services when I was eight years



old. I graduated from Ellet; in fact, I met my husband-to-be, Fabian, in choir at Ellet when we were 16 years old. When I graduated, both my parents were quite ill, and I had to be available to them. We married after they passed away.

At Ellet, I studied in an Intensive Office Education program and had planned to attend UA, but that was not to be because of my parents' illness. My first job was at BF Goodrich as a teletype operator. My dad and I joked that I played softball for "the other guys' gals," since he worked at Goodyear.

**Martha: Tell me about your family.**

**Mary:** My husband Fabian owned a tire mold shop; now retired as well, he continues with his hobby as a track and cross country official. He has officiated and recruited officials all over the state of Ohio for 30 years. We are blessed with two wonderful children and four terrific grandchildren. Our daughter received both her undergraduate and master's degrees from the UA College of Nursing and her husband has degrees from the UA College of Engineering and College of Business. Our son and daughter-in-law met on the UA Track and Field Team. He is in banking and she teaches high school micro and macro economics and history and coaches track and field. Our grandchildren are icing on the cake! They are very involved in sports and school activities; we enjoy attending their activities as much as we possibly can.

Fabian and I are lovers of all things Disney! We went to Disney World on our honeymoon 45 years ago and have been going back ever since. Before COVID, we were annual passholders. Some people love the beach—we love Mickey! All ten members of our family will go to Disney spring break in 2022; our oldest granddaughter will be marching and playing with the Stow-Munroe Falls High School Marching Band.

**Martha: I understand that you were sent off in fine fashion at your retirement party in 2020.**

**Mary:** Yes, I was honored at an evening reception with an all-Disney theme in the Honors Auditorium on campus. It was wonderful to have so many faculty, administrators, and staff attend.

**Martha: Since your retirement, what have you been doing with your extra time?**

**Mary:** Fabian and I have started volunteering weekly at OPEN-M (Opportunity Parish Ecumenical Neighborhood Ministry – Summit Lake area) where my dear friend and former UA colleague Christine Curry is CEO. I work at the front desk, and Fabian works in the food pantry. We feel that this effort is a good way to give back to the community.

**Martha: It is a pleasure to make your acquaintance and learn of your important contributions to UA over the years. It is my hope that you will consider offering your expertise to our Scholarship Committee. Thank you very much for sharing your story with us.**



# UA EMPLOYEE IS A GAME SHOW CONTESTANT



**Derek J. Daily**

The Robert Ferguson Luncheon Speaker Series strives to bring a variety of presenters from the University and the community to UA retirees and guests each month. Our October presenter provided insight into TV game shows and what it takes to become a contestant. (You must admit this topic is a bit different from our "normal" presentations!)

Derek J. Daily is a UA Coordinator of Career Services & Student Employment and Liaison to the School of Education & Wayne College. He is a two-time graduate of The University of Akron. He received his Bachelor of Arts in English in 2015 and his Master of Arts in Higher Education Administration in 2018. He is also a third-generation UA graduate. Over a dozen members of his family graduated from UA! (Perhaps he should work in Admissions.)

Derek's presentation was entitled "An Incomplete Education: Life Lessons Learned from 30 Years in Game Shows." Prior to his visit, all that we knew about Derek was that he appeared on "Who Wants to be a Millionaire." What we learned is that show was his third appearance on the "tube" and an invitation to appear on another game show is "in the works."

Derek attributes his lifelong interest in TV game shows to both his maternal and paternal grandparents. One set loved to watch game shows and the other fostered his interest in reading books.

His first TV appearance was on the local program, Academic Challenge. In late 2013, Derek appeared on Episode 4 of The Chase. This American version of a British TV show was first broadcast on the Game Show Network before appearing on the ABC Network. The game is a quiz competition in which contestants attempt to win money by challenging a quiz show genius known as the "Chaser." Derek lost in the 30K round. What has he learned from these experiences? One important thing is that contestants have to pay a 30%-40% tax on their winnings.

In today's world, TV game shows are experiencing a "renaissance." Derek recalled the early days of those shows and the extremely popular "64 Thousand Dollar Question." It was on CBS from 1955-58, and it ended in scandal when it was alleged that the staff of the show provided contestants with answers. Derek also cited the comeback of You Bet Your Life and another show called Hot Ones. The latter is on TruTV.com and pits teams in a war of eating increasingly hotter wings while answering trivia questions. Derek did not indicate that Hot Ones was on his radar for a future appearance. Smart man!



**L to R: Linda Marx, Sharon Gandee, Tom Vukovich, Pam Rupert, Sue Larson, Diane Lazzerini (back to camera)**



**L to R: Rita Klein, Margaret and Frank Gruccio, Irina Chernikova, Jim Stafford**

Derek thinks that anyone could become a contestant. You first decide on a show you like. Then to prepare for the tests and auditions, you must be willing to study hard by using flash cards, websites, and participating in practice sessions now available in many bars and restaurants. Derek plays "Road Trivia" each week at the Red Fox Sports Pub & Grill in Cuyahoga Falls.

There is a limit to the number of game shows a contestant can be on. Producers do not want contestants who could appear to be "professionals." It has been 3 ½ years since his last appearance on Millionaire. He feels he is close to being accepted for his fourth TV contest. He could not tell us which game show. He did say that is is not Jeopardy, but he hopes to be selected that show sometime in the future.



The last “tidbit” he learned is that in addition to being composed and answering questions in a clear and loud voice, it helps to have some “fun facts” to spark interest in the host and audience. For example, Derek mentioned that he was a kinball champion, which promoted the question, “What is Kinball?” He has also mentioned that he skipped his brother’s graduation to audition for the game show.

We wish Derek good luck as he continues to pursue his hobby. We hope he does get his chance at Jeopardy and surpasses Medina, Ohio native Matt Amodia, who is Number 2 in the number of consecutive games won on Jeopardy.

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## PRESIDENT MILLER IS NOVEMBER LUNCHEON SPEAKER

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The Association of The University of Akron Retirees was pleased to welcome University of Akron President, Dr. Gary Miller as our November luncheon speaker. Unfortunately, Dr. Miller’s presentation had to be done via ZOOM as he had recently been exposed to COVID.

Dr. Miller began by discussing some of the factors that are affecting higher education today. He first cited the demographics. We know that the number of “traditional-age” college students is shrinking. So institutions are competing harder to attract students. Second, there has been a shift in the perception of the worth of higher education. Up to about 20 years ago, the majority of people believed that having a university in one’s community was a real plus for its growth and development. That view has now shifted. The current view is that the value of a college education is exclusive to the person who gets the degree rather than to the whole community. Consequently, they feel that it is up to the students to pay for their education, not the community. Lastly, there has been a shift from seeing the university as a place where knowledge resides to the idea that knowledge resides in many places, i.e., GOOGLE it!

To counter these widespread realities, universities must be innovative. Today’s economy thrives on collaboration. Universities must show that they do more than just give knowledge but that they also shape knowledge as they work with all kinds of learners in a collaborative effort to transform that knowledge into positive results. Universities must also make a greater effort to get more students to complete college. Today approximately 50% or more do not graduate.

Turning specifically to conditions at The University of Akron, Dr. Miller stated that there are still financial problems, including carrying too much debt. And COVID has certainly not helped our efforts to increase enrollment.

However, the University has been working on “Strategic Planning.” President Miller reviewed the recently approved “Vision Statement,” which can be found on the UA website under the “Strategic Planning” area. The “Vision Statement” and its major points are as follows.

**VISION:** The University of Akron will be a leading public urban research university with unsurpassed commitment to community engagement with a great American legacy city, Akron.

**GOALS:**

1. We will be an opportunity university for all types of learners.
2. We will be known as a willing and constructive partner of business, government, and the non-profit sector.
3. We will be an institution of innovation willing to invest in unique approaches that increase opportunity for students and reduce costs.
4. We will be a diverse and inclusive university.
5. We will sponsor an array of superb academic programs relevant to the future.
6. We will make and keep promises to our students, ourselves, and this community.

Following his presentation, President Miller opened the floor to questions. Among those asked, Dr. Cynthia Capers (referring to Dr. Miller’s earlier comments regarding progress reports) inquired if AUAR members could be added to the list of constituencies to whom he periodically reports regarding progress made toward the “Vision and Goals Statement.” President Miller indicated that this could be done.

In her thank you letter to Dr Miller, AUAR President, Dr. Rita Klein followed up on that conversation. She suggested that the AUAR listserve maintained in HR by Alexandra Schwartz could easily be used to add AUAR members to the list of groups to whom President Miller sends his progress reports. As retirees who invested our careers at The University of Akron, we look forward to reading these reports.

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# SOUP & CHILI SUPPER RETURNS!

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After more than a year without any of our "special events," AUAR held its Soup & Chili Supper at Goodyear Metro Park on Friday, November 5, 2021. Forty members and guests attended and brought a delicious array of foods.

A special thank you to everyone who contributed the pots of chili and soup. Those making the chili included Martha Hakes, Ken MacDonald, Mary Verstraete, and Tom Vukovich. Rita Klein made escarole & bean soup, Therese Sheffer brought minestrone, and Martha Vye contributed butternut squash/Granny Smith apple soup.

The dinner, of course, was followed by bingo with a wide array of "priceless" prizes. Since our regular bingo caller, Neal Raber alias Donald Trump, was unable to attend, a guest of Martha Hakes volunteered to do it and did an excellent job.

Mark your calendar now and plan to join us for great food and lots of fun on **November 4, 2022**.



**Gathering**



**Table Talk**



**Calling the Numbers**



**The Vase**



**Reserved**



**Soup & Chili Alley**

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# A DELIGHTFUL PROGRAM OF CHRISTMAS MUSIC IN DECEMBER

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**The Tuba-Fours**



**Dan Sheffer, Kayla Haag, and Mary Verstraete**

After our luncheon on December 15 at Quaker Square, we were first introduced to our 2021-2022 scholarship winner, Kayla Haag, who has a double major in history and Education/Integrated Social Studies. She will be interning at Revere Middle School in the spring and graduating in May.

Then, the Tuba-Fours, a low brass seven-piece ensemble using the tuba family of instruments mostly in four-part harmony, entertained. The group played a few Christmas carols and several light-hearted holiday favorites. The audience offered toe-tapping, heads moving to the music, humming, and even singing, plus lots of smiles!



**Frosty melts down**

AUAR member Mel Vye, who plays with the group, offered a bit of gaiety with his "Frosty the Snowman" meltdown in the year 2050 and his lighted Santa hat flashing a message in Morse Code.

The seven musicians met through their involvement with the Summit County Metro Parks Band and/or their participation in Tuba Christmas or Tuba Summer. When the pandemic caused the Metro Parks to discontinue its full ensemble, they decided to meet regularly to continue four-part tuba music. They have performed at the Children's Hospital Tree Festival, on a pontoon boat in the Portages Lakes Boat Parade, in the blimp hanger at Wingfoot Lake, Promises in the Park (the outdoor communal wedding celebration), and for a variety of clubs and senior groups.



**L to R: June Burton, Sharon and Bob Gandee, John and Jane Gwinn, Diana and Gerhard Kunze and Richard Steiner**

**AUAR Membership, Human Resources**

**The University of Akron • Buchtel Commons, Akron, OH 44325**

If you haven't renewed your AUAR membership for the 2021-2022 year, it is time to do so. Don't forget our Scholarship fund where we provide some funding for a worthy student. Please complete the items listed below, and mail your check or checks to the address below.

If you have an e-mail address, please submit it.

**Name:** First \_\_\_\_\_ Last \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City:** \_\_\_\_\_ **State:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip Code:** \_\_\_\_\_

**E-Mail Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

Dues are **\$12.00**; make checks payable to "AUAR"  
Scholarship Donation \_\_\_\_\_; make checks payable to the U of A Foundation

*The AUAR Newsletter is a biannual publication of the Association of The University of Akron Retirees (AUAR), c/o Talent Development & Human Relations Department, The University of Akron, Akron, OH 44325-4730.*

*AUAR members receive our newsletter automatically. Due to COVID-19 concerns, the Board meets on the 4th Thursday in person or on Zoom according to personal preferences.*

*If you have questions about the organization or to keep abreast of events and issues pertinent to all UA retirees, visit our website at [www.uakron.edu/auar](http://www.uakron.edu/auar). The newsletter editor, Martha Vye, can be reached at [vye@uakron.edu](mailto:vye@uakron.edu) or 330-644-7490.*

If you are interested in entertainment within the Akron area, check into our web site and view the events listed under the Special Events Menu. Just Log on to [www.uakron.edu/auar](http://www.uakron.edu/auar) and click on the Menu "Special Events" or type [www.uakron.edu/auar/special-events.dot](http://www.uakron.edu/auar/special-events.dot)

AUAR Newsletter printed and designed by The University of Akron Printing & Copying Services 2022

# AUAR WINTER 2022 SPEAKER SCHEDULE

**February 16**

**Tania Nemer and Melanie Hart**

*Summit County Prosecutor's Office  
- Presentation on Senior Scams and  
How to Avoid Them, plus visit with  
Avery, the therapy dog*

**March 16**

**TBA**

**April 20**

**Dr. Gerald Newsom**

*Ohio State University retiree  
- "Retiree Observation of STRS"*

**April 22 or 29**

**Annual ROAD TRIP - TBA**

**May 20**

**Annual Lobster and Suds Party**

*- Zwisler Hall at St. Sebastian Church*

**BOARD MEETINGS 2022**

**Jan. 27 • Feb. 24 • Mar. 24 • Apr. 28 • May 26 • Jun. 23**

**Our Motto**

*People say interns and new hires are the promise of the future.  
Let's not forget that retirees are promises kept.*

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