



The Extension



(Kasanah Parrish)



(Rosa Tweed)

2015-16 Scholarship Recipients

Once again we have been able to award two \$1500 scholarships based on the generous donations of our members. One scholarship was awarded to **Rosa Tweed**, a second year recipient, and the other to **Kasanah Parrish**. **Kasanah** is an Integrated Language Arts (grades 7-12) major in the College of Education and Human Services where she carries a 3.8 GPA. In addition to working toward a teaching credential, **Kasanah** has a long range goal of becoming a writer. She describes herself as “having to write.”

Kasanah is a transfer student from Capital University in Columbus where she was a volleyball player. She had to give up the sport because of some health concerns and now commutes to Wright State from her home in Waynesville. Unlike many of our recipients, she has no familial ties to any Wright State employees. Her family consists of her father, a physical therapist at Kettering Hospital, her mother who is a biblical counselor and one brother who is a swimmer who attends Asbury University in Kentucky.

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The Extension

The Extension is published quarterly for the WSU retirees by the Wright State University Retirees Association (WSURA).

Cut off dates for articles:

- Nov. 1—Winter Quarter
- Feb. 1—Spring Quarter
- May 1—Summer Quarter
- Aug. 1—Fall Quarter

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www.wright.edu/retirees-association

Kasanah works part-time as an aide for a teenage boy with muscular dystrophy and as an instructor at the Hybrid Christian School in Centerville where she teaches cooking to students who are primarily home-schooled. She is excited about an ongoing project that will result in interaction between her students and local refugee children. She has a professor who works with refugee children who are making cook-books with recipes from their heritage.

Kasanah's students are making similar books and the plans are to have the students meet and teach each other their recipes.

As you may recall, **Rosa** graduated from Milton-Union High School and also attended the graphic arts program at the Miami Valley Career Technical Center. She has dual majors in biology and studio art and has a long range goal of combining the two through wild life art or a similar vocation. She reports that she enjoyed an internship with the Brukner Nature Center in Troy, Ohio, this past summer.

As has been our practice for the past few years, these students will meet with the Board at the December meeting then join the Board members for a lunch at the Holiday Inn.

President's Message

Dick Williams, WSURA President, 2015-16

Wow, the holidays are already here! It seems like just yesterday that I was welcoming everyone back to a new academic year. On behalf of all the members the Board, I wish you and your family happy holidays and a healthy and prosperous 2016. With any luck winter will be mild (yeah sure!) and we will soon be greeting the first flowers of spring. In this edition of our newsletter I would like to report on two items that I think will be of interest to all members of WSURA.

The University recently released a draft of a 2015 Master Plan for Wright State produced with the help of the consulting firm of Perkins & Will. This plan apparently replaces the one prepared in 2011 by a different consulting group.

The plan is very ambitious and, among other things, calls for the tearing down of a number of major buildings in the heart of the campus, including Medical Sciences, Health Sciences, Biological Sciences I and II, the Student Union and Hamilton Hall. The plan calls for the demolition of the Medical Sciences and Health Sciences within the next five years with others to be demolished within 5-10 years. New construction will replace the buildings that are torn down. If you would like to see the entire report go to the following website: <http://www.wright.edu/business-and-finance/facilities-management-and-services/planning-and-architecture/2015-master-plan-draft>.

For those of us who have seen Wright State grow from a single building (Allyn Hall) in a cornfield to the impressive campus it has become today, this plan represents a drastic rethinking of the vision for Wright State.

I recently attended a meeting of the Ohio Council of Higher Education Retirees that includes representatives from all the university retirees associations from around the state. One item of interest for STRS retirees is that the STRS Board continues to be concerned about increases in health care costs. Currently health care for most STRS retirees is provided through a single provider - Aetna. The STRS Board will discuss at an upcoming meeting the alternatives to using a single provider, namely the possibility of STRS asking its members to choose a health care plan from the Affordable Health Care Insurance Exchange (similar to what PERS retirees did this year) or, alternatively, to choose a plan from one of several offered by a single private insurance company like Aetna. Whether a change is likely or not will depend on the returns from STRS's investment portfolio. While this discussion is still in its early stages, STRS retirees should pay close attention to future STRS reporting on this issue.

With the new year close at hand, it is not to soon to mark May 6, 2016 on your calendar to attend the 2nd Annual Retirees Luncheon. Last year's luncheon was a great success and we hope to see more of you this year. **Mary Gromosiak** has also arranged a number of interesting and informative events for retirees so check the upcoming Winter activities in this issue of *The Extension*.

WSURA Winter Activities

Thursday, December 17, 2015

WSU vs Charleston Southern

7pm Nutter Center—Alumni Association
Suite #218

Snacks, Sodas, and Water provided

Limited number of free basketball tickets

Contact: Mary Gromosiak at

Mary.gromosiak@wright.edu

Cell (937) 974-4010

RSVP by Thursday, December 10

Sunday, January 17, 2016

Dining-out Brunch

11am—10000 Yankee Street

Centerville, Ohio 45458

Cost per person—\$18.95 full buffet

Contact: Mary Gromosiak

mary.gromosiak@wright.edu

Cell (937) 974-4010

RSVP by Sunday, January 10

Thursday, January 14, 2016

Thursday, February 11, 2016

Thursday, March 10, 2016

Socrates' Café discussions are held the second Thursday of each month at 1:30 pm at the Temple Beth or at Rahn and Bigger Roads in Kettering.

Hold the Date:

Friday, May 6, 2016

2nd Annual Retirees Reunion Luncheon

Watch the WSURA website:

www.wright.edu/retirees-association

and your emails for updated or changed

information on upcoming activities

Other Activities of Interest

Presidential Lecture Series

February 12, 2016
Apollo Room of Student Union
7pm

Amy Purdy: Actress, Paralympic Bronze Medalist

March 22, 2016
Apollo Room of Student Union
7pm

Maysoon Zayid: Actress, Professional Stand-Up Comedian, Writer

Friends of the Libraries Workshop Series

Saturday, January 16, 2016
10:00a-12:00pm

Blue Sky Skills for Cloud Computing
Room 241/244, Dunbar Library
\$10 registration fee

Tuesday, February 9, 2016
6:00pm-8:00pm

Exploring the Archives
SC&A Reading Room, 4th Floor
Dunbar Library
\$10 registration fee

Saturday, March 12, 2016
10:00am-12:00pm

Mobile Mania 2
Room 315, Dunbar Library
\$10 registration fee

Basketball Season is underway. Be sure to support our men's and women's teams. If you have not seen the women play, do yourself a favor and go watch **Kim Demmings** and the rest of the talented team play. **Kim** became the highest scoring woman in Raider history early in the season and is well on her way to breaking **Bill Edwards'** record to become the highest scoring Raider of either gender. Tickets are \$5.00 for women's games and easily accessible parking is available by the McLin Gym (back) entrance of the Nutter Center where there is a ticket office.

News from WSURA

As a member of the Wright State Retirees Association you have the opportunity to become a member of the WSURA Board. The Board is a small group of retirees of the University who keep the retirees connected to the students through our scholarships and the activities of the University through our various Committees and Liaisons. If you would like to become a member of this active group of retirees, please contact **Judy Rose**, Chair of the Bylaws and Election committee at jjrose2@aol.com or call 767-7645. I hope you can join us.

Social Activities

Our three social activities were successful with nearly twenty members and guests attending each. The first activity was held at the Dayton Art Institute where we toured the special exhibit on patriotic posters. The posters were not only interesting works of art, but provided a visual history lesson of the last century. A highlight of the show was the iconic "Uncle Sam wants you."

Next, a group attended an enjoyable evening consisting of dinner and a play at LaComedia Theatre in Springboro. Finally, a group enjoyed dinner at the Dayton Hollywood Casino. They were anticipating an evening of harness racing, but were disappointed when a problem with the track caused the races to be cancelled (maybe next year). Most of the attendees finished their evening with a visit to the enticing slot machines.

New Office Assistant

Our office assistant, Sarah Spitzer, resigned in October for personal reasons. We are pleased to welcome, **Katrina "Ri" Molnar** as her replacement. **Ri** is a Spanish major who hopes to become a translator. **Ri** began their college experience several years ago at Antioch College, then left to become a professional dancer in Arizona and California. They are pleased to return to continue a college education while assisting on their organic family farm in Sugarcreek Township,

Ohio. **Ri** will begin regular duties in January. Please check the WSURA phone message for new posted hours. ("They" is used as a pronoun in place of him/her to indicate gender neutrality at **Ri's** request.)

Health Fair

The WSURA booth at the October WSU Health Fair was well attended. Over two hundred people filled out raffle tickets for the two baskets that were given by the group. The baskets were won by **Marian Brainerd**, Curriculum and Academic Policy Program Director, and **Jennifer Kube**, Reference and Technology Specialist at the Dunbar Library. Both were surprised and delighted with their prizes.

Membership Chair **Gerry Petrak** would like to thank the local entities that contributed to the baskets. They included: the WSU Bookstore, the WSU Athletic Department, the WSU Theatre Department, Starbucks at Fairfield Commons, and Parker's General Store - Xenia. These gifts were supplemented by foodstuffs purchased by WSURA. Carol Stevenson assisted **Gerry** in gathering the donations and making the baskets. The booth was manned by **Gerry, Donna Curtin, Peggy Bott, Dick Williams, Bob Wagley** and **Frieda Bennett**. **Marlene Bireley** helped **Gerry** deliver the baskets and took pictures of the recipients.

Deaths

Arlene Foley, June 2015, Assistant Dean, College of Science and Math

George Hess, September 4, 2015, Professor of Chemistry, Science and Math

Don Swanson, October 2015, Professor of English, COLA

Benjamin H. Richard, October 20, 2015, Professor of Geology, Science and Math

Jacob Paperman, October 29, 2015, Chair of Accountancy, Soin College of Business

About the Board

Bob Wagley

Bob Wagley served as president of WSURA three different years and now serves as liaison to the Center for International Education. He retired from WSU in 1995 where he was an Associate Professor of Management. He chaired the Curriculum Committee for many years while at WSU. **Bob** and his wife, **Lorraine**, have three children and two grandchildren, all of whom live in Louisville, Ky.

His interest in international education comes from his extensive overseas experience. He and **Lorraine** have lived in England, Italy, Germany and Chile while **Bob** served as an exchange professor in universities in those countries. In addition, they are avid home exchangers and have exchanged homes in England, The Netherlands, Belgium, Norway and Wales. They are excellent contacts for persons contemplating trying exchanges.

At present they are involved in the campus LEAP program assisting foreign students with improving their English and coping with life in our country.

Other interests of the couple include the Beavercreek Historical Society where **Bob** serves as vice-president and the writing group that **Bob** leads called "My Life: One Story at a Time" that assists seniors who are writing their life stories.

Carol Stevenson

Mother of two, **Grandma Carol** to six and WSURA's "go to" writer of eloquent eulogies and other laudatory speeches when the occasion warrants, **Carol** served as WSURA Treasurer for two terms and now as Board Member-at-Large assisting in various projects. She makes frequent trips to Toledo where she assists her daughter who is home schooling her children. Her son is a welder by trade certified as an underwater diver qualified to weld underwater, currently starting his own business, who has traveled to all seven continents. He worked two summer sessions in Antarctica during which he was a walk-on during filming of the Weather Channel's *How the Weather Changed History* for the episode featuring the rescue of **Dr. Jerri Nielsen**.

Carol is a graduate of Cedarville University in Business Administration who simultaneously received her secondary education degree from Central State University. After teaching business for four years at Yellow Springs, she joined WSU in 1970 as Assistant Bursar. She retired as University Bursar and Director of Treasury Services in 1999. During that time she served two terms as President of the Ohio Bursars Association, served on statewide committees to improve distribution of financial aid loans and grants, and University committees to facilitate services to students and academic departments and programs, and received a President's Award for Excellence In Service.

Her Wright State years provided public speaking opportunities at orientation to large parent groups and in retirement that experience has encouraged her to speak for church seminars and to women's groups. She served at least two terms as chair of the Wright State Organization for Women. The organization provided opportunities for staff and faculty women to meet monthly for lunch and to discuss topics of current affairs, and mutual interests. WOW, as it came to be known, provided meaningful opportunities for young women to join their parents for Take Our Daughters to Work. One year voting booths were brought in from a local Board of Elections to give attendees a simulated voting experience. Another stand-out event was a 'what I want to do/be when I am older' wall. She wonders how many of those ambitions have been realized 30 years later.

Marlene Bireley

Marlene Bireley was recruited by WSURA Board members to serve as President-Elect in 1998 and has remained on the Board since that time. During the last decade she has been the elected Communications Coordinator including editor of *The Extension*. A lifelong Ohio resident, she attended Bowling Green State University and The Ohio State University. While a part-time student at OSU, she taught elementary and

special education students and later served as a school psychologist in various Franklin County schools. In 1969 she was recruited to develop the special education program at WSU. As additional faculty were added in that area, she added programs in school psychology and gifted education and focused most of her teaching in those areas. For four years, in the late 1970's she was Associate Dean of the College of Education and Human Services. During her tenure at WSU, she received distinguished service awards from state organizations for school psychology, gifted children and persons with learning disabilities. She was one of the first three recipients of the WSU Alumni Association Teaching Excellence award.

Marlene retired during the "big buyout" of 1988 in part to take care of aging parents. She continued her professional interests on a part-time basis until 2006. During that time, she co-edited two books on gifted children and wrote *Crossover Children*, a book concerning the needs of persons who are both gifted and learning disabled. She also spent three years as a gifted coordinator in the Clark County Schools and a number of years as a psychologist in private practice and for the Miami Valley School.

In addition to WSURA, **Marlene** is an avid supporter of the local visual and performing arts programs and the WSU Raiders men and women's basketball teams. She has traveled extensively to all fifty states and five continents. Her latest adventure was in September when she drove to New Mexico with two high school friends on a "Celebrate 80" trip. She is the mother of two daughters, grandmother of five adult grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren most of whom live in Utah and California so she makes frequent trips out west.

Health Fair Raffle Winners



(Gerry Petrak, Membership Chair and Marian Brainerd)



(Jennifer Kube and Gerry Petrak)

WSURA Membership Form

New _____ Renewal _____ Date _____

Name _____

Spouse's Name _____

Primary Address _____ Phone _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Wright State Department at Retirement _____ Year _____

Spouse's Department at Retirement _____ Year _____

Email Address _____

Check One: Faculty Unclassified Classified

Life Membership:

_____ \$100 (All Ages)

Annual Membership:

_____ \$25

Patron (Membership in WSURA not required):

No set amount. Donations are tax deductible. Contributions should be sent directly to the Foundation as follows:

Wright State University Foundation
3640 Colonel Glenn Hwy
Dayton, OH 45435-0001

Make your check payable to:

Wright State University Foundation

Note on check memo line: 551327 Patron Donations Fund

Please fill in the information requested above and send it with your dues (please do not send cash) to:

WSURA, Attn: Treasurer, 210 Foundation Building, Wright State University, Dayton, OH 45435