

Tower Talk

Barbara Floyd, editor

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As I enter into the second year of my tenure as UTRA President, the vision I had for a robust calendar, a 25th Anniversary gala and opportunities for colleagues to travel and celebrate the arts together has greatly diminished. Yet, at our most recent meeting, I felt the enthusiasm of your Executive Board to continue planning and seek ways to meet UTRA's purpose to encourage and strengthen the bonds among retired UToledo faculty and staff.

Some activities have continued – the Book Buddies group is using Zoom to adapt to the new environment - and our Program Planning and Membership committees are exploring new avenues to provide programming relevant to you.

Jim Lapp continues to keep tabs on changes in Ohio's retiree and health benefits through his activity with OCHER, and new initiatives are being developed to enhance our scholarship programs. So, while it doesn't appear as if we will be able to collectively meet for social activities for the remainder of the year, UTRA is still going strong and seeking ways to connect to our members.

A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR:

This is an abbreviated issue of *Tower Talk*. With UTRA's programming and activities cancelled due to the coronavirus pandemic, there is no information to offer readers on upcoming events or photographs of recent ones. It is hoped that *Tower Talk* will resume with a full issue in the spring. In the meantime, please stay safe, socially distance, and wear a mask. If we all do our part, this will hopefully end in time for UTRA activities to begin again after the first of the year.

In that regard, if you have ideas that will engage our membership to meet UTRA's mission, please let me or any of our Board Members know.

Peace be with you; stay safe & Go Rockets!

Sincerely,
Curt Black, UTRA President

MEDICAL COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY RETIREES CLUB: A BRIEF HISTORY

In addition to being the twenty-fifth anniversary of UTRA, 2020 also would have been the thirtieth anniversary of the Medical College/University of Ohio Retirees Club. In celebration of that milestone, this brief history recounts some of the club's activities during its existence. Happy Anniversary to All!

The Medical College of Ohio Retirees Club was organized in 1990, with bylaws approved on June 25. The first annual meeting was held in September of that year, with 75 people in attendance. Officers elected were: Jim Richard, president; Genevieve Habermas, secretary; Gerald Connolly, president-elect; and Rosetta Steinmiller, treasurer.

The club began offering programs aimed at engaging members. Some events offered in its early years

included a trip to Toronto, visits to the Toledo Museum of Art, group outings to baseball games, and boat trips on the Maumee River. The club also organized charitable activities, including collecting for local food banks and "Toys for Tots" at Christmas. As the organization matured, it expanded its programming to offer events almost monthly, and included a Senior Movies day, physical fitness activities, a "Race for the Cure" team, and an Alzheimer's Memory Walkathon group.

The organization was a charter member of what became the Ohio Council of Higher Education Retirees in 1993. In 1997, the club started one of its most important initiatives when it decided to award \$200 scholarships, one to a student in each

of MCO's four schools. Within a few years, the amount of the scholarships increased to \$1000. Fundraising for the scholarships was assisted by the Satellites Auxiliary, with a percentage from their annual shoe sales going to the fund.

The MUO Retirees Newsletter was published until August 2006, when the group merged with UTRA and all membership in MUOR transferred to UTRA. For the first two years there was equal representation between the two groups on the governing board. It was agreed that MUOR and UTRA would continue to raise funds for and administer their own scholarship funds. A joint committee of the two groups merged the rest of the finances.

MEET THE NEW AVP FOR ALUMNI ENGAGEMENT

“Please, call me Billy.”

That’s what William “Billy” Pierce tells everyone he meets. And as the new associate vice president for alumni engagement and executive director of the UToledo Alumni Association, he’s meeting a lot of people — even if it is virtually and by phone. He started his new role at his alma mater in March right before the pandemic hit.

“Many of our engagement opportunities were in person,” Pierce said. “COVID-19 forced us to cancel Art on the Mall. It’s one of the UToledo Alumni Association’s signature events that showcases our beautiful campus. But our team has worked hard to find new, creative ways to connect with UToledo alumni.” The Alumni Engagement Office has hosted some virtual events this summer.

Pierce learned to be innovative working at the University. For nearly two decades in admissions, he helped

future Rockets find their way. Most recently, he served as senior director of undergraduate admission.

“I bring a unique perspective in that for most of my career, I was responsible for recruiting new Rockets,” he said. “Now I get to serve at the other end of the spectrum with alumni who have been, like myself, beneficiaries of what I will call the Rocket experience.”

The native of Yellow Springs, Ohio, earned a bachelor’s degree in administrative service in 1999 and master of business administration degree in 2009 at UToledo. He is pursuing a doctorate in higher education at the University.

Pierce succeeded longtime alumni leader Dan Saevig, who retired this year. “I can leave UToledo knowing we have the right person to lead the Office of Alumni Engagement for the next 20 years,” Saevig said.

“[William] Billy Pierce is that person. He’s an alumnus, he’s well-liked,



Billy Pierce

he’s personable — alumni will enjoy connecting with him.”

“I am fortunate to inherit a great team of people who dedicate themselves to the work of this office every day,” Pierce said. “I look forward to our collective growth and success, with the support of our outstanding UToledo Alumni Association Board of Trustees, as we commit to engaging our alumni throughout the world.”

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NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

Donna Haar, Nominating Committee Chair

The Nominating Committee met before the pandemic ended activities, and submitted a slate of potential candidates to the UTRA Board for approval. Committee members James Lapp, Keith Schlender, Shirley Joseph, Dorothea Sawicki, and Judith Wilkinson identified a good mix of candidates for the 2020-21 Board and completed the tasks for the election process.

The results of the 2020-2021 election are in. Meet our new and continuing representatives:

Curt Black, president, (2nd term)
Chris Spengler, vice president, (2nd term)
Carol Okenka, secretary, (2nd term)
Brenda McKinley, treasurer, (2nd term)

Members-at-Large
Barbara Floyd, historian and Tower Talk editor
Celia Regimbal, membership committee
Lance Talmage

PROGRAM COMMITTEE REPORT

Pat Russell and Shirley Joseph, Co-Chairs

Due to the Covid-19 virus, the uncertainty of the safety of the UTRA group gatherings continues to prevent any previous planned events. This includes the UTRA 25th anniversary picnic planned for this fall, as well as the UTRA Holiday Brunch that was to be held on December 6 at Heather Downs Country Club. We regret that this action is necessary, and hope that next year we will be able to resume our normal monthly programming.

At its July meeting, the UTRA Executive Board agreed that the Vermont bus trip with Diamond Tours that was to take place this summer would be rescheduled for the same price for the first week of August 2021. UTRA members who previously registered and placed a deposit will get the first chance to register for the new trip. Check your email for updates on this trip and on other UTRA programs.

BOOK BUDDIES

The UTRA book club, "Book Buddies," is currently not meeting in person. But the group is meeting virtually through Zoom. Members who are interested in participating should contact Jan Whitaker at janwhitaker@aol.com for information on upcoming books for discussion and details for how to connect with the group electronically.

DONATE TO SUPPORT UTRA SCHOLARSHIP FUND

The Executive Board of UTRA is challenging members to make a donation to the UTRA Scholarship Fund, which awards scholarships each year to descendants of active UTRA members. The members of the Board have personally pledged to match the first \$2,500 of your donations. To take advantage of this offer, please make your contributions before the end of this calendar year. You may use your credit card at this secure site:

<https://www.utfoundation.org/give/giveonline.aspx>

Type UTRA in the search box at the lower left of the page, or mail your check to The University of Toledo Foundation, Gift Processing, MS #820, 4510 Dorr Street, Toledo, OH 43615. Please indicate it is for the UTRA Scholarship Fund, #1301163. Your support of descendants of UTRA members is much appreciated.

WELCOME 2020 NEW RETIREES AND LIFETIME MEMBERS

NEW RETIREES:

John Adams
Terry Allgire
Ann Anderson
Gary Andres
Sherry Ankney
James Arquette
Sonny Ariss
Larry Baker
Debra Beene
Gina Bertolina

Julianne Bonitati
Robert Booth
Mary Bowles
Gracie Brown
Janis Brown
Bruce Butler
Pamela Butler
Sandra Caudill
Paul Conner
Esperanza Cuevas
Deborah Czechowski

Claudia Dansby
Bradford Davis
Edward Duling
Lori Duren
J. Walter Edinger
Paul Erhardt
Roxanne Farmer
Jacquelynn Fletcher
Craig Flick
Lisa Foote
William Free

Thomas Garey
Donnell Garrett
Sybille Gendaszek
Robert Gotfried
Becky Gwozdz
Jeffrey Hammersley
Rickye Heffner
Phyllis Henderson
Megan Hickey

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IN MEMORIAM

David C. Beekley, Holland, Ohio, a longtime instructor at the University, died March 14 at age 79. He was a part-time instructor of engineering and mathematics, and in 1998, he became a full-time instructor in the Department of Mathematics and Statistics. He retired in 2010.

Dr. Richard J. Beres, Toledo, who taught mathematics for a few years, died June 11 at age 78. A UToledo alumnus, he received a bachelor of education degree in education and mathematics in 1963, a master of education degree in educational administration and supervision in 1972, and a doctor of philosophy degree in the foundation of education in 1980.

Aline S. (Gilley) Bick, Toledo, a former clerk at the University Bookstore, died May 30 at age 71.

Lynn Brand, Toledo, president of the Satellites Auxiliary, passed away June 30. She was 76. In 1975, she and her husband, Dr. Paul Brand, moved to Toledo. Paul was a faculty member at the Medical College of Ohio, where Lynn began to volunteer. Lynn was a successful fundraiser, and the Satellites raised more than \$2 million in the past 45 years; some of these funds went for health science student scholarships. In 2015, Lynn received the Association of Fundraising Professionals' Community Volunteer Award for her efforts. Tributes are suggested in Lynn's honor to the Health Science Campus Retirees Fund through The University of Toledo Foundation at utfoundation.org/give/giveonline.aspx.

Dr. Lorenzo J. "Larry" Curtis, Toledo, Distinguished University Professor Emeritus of Physics, died March 29 at age 84. He received a bachelor of science degree in engineering from the University in 1958. He returned to his alma mater in 1963 to join

the faculty in the Department of Physics and Astronomy. Over the years, he conducted research at the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de Mexico, the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution on Cape Cod, and the Research Institute for Physics in Stockholm. Curtis also held visiting scientist positions in France, Germany, Denmark, and Norway, and at Princeton. In 1976, he was offered a faculty position at the University of Lund in Sweden and began alternating residence there and at UToledo. That dual professorship benefited his primary field of research: atomic spectroscopy. Curtis was a Fellow of the American Physical Society and the American Optical Society. He wrote more than 200 scientific papers and a textbook on atomic structure. In 1992, Curtis was named a Distinguished University Professor and in 1993 a Master Teacher in the College of Arts and Sciences. He received an honorary doctorate from the University of Lund in 1999.

Linda (Linticum) Davis, Toledo, private branch exchange operator at MCO/MUO/UTMC until her retirement in 2006, died April 17 at age 67.

Richard J. Fisher, Toledo, who worked at the University from 2000 to 2019, died April 22 at age 76. He was a part-time instructor and a field supervisor in the College of Health and Human Services.

Mary Louise (Foresman) Flickinger, Columbus, who was an associate professor of nursing from 1996 to 2006, died Jan. 5 at age 76.

Andrew R. Freeman Jr., Toledo, a former employee at MCO/MUO/UTMC, died Feb. 27 at age 70. He was a social worker patient coordinator, social worker and social worker case manager. He left the University in 2008.

Dr. David I. Friedman, who was a utilization review officer at MCO/MUO from 2003 to 2005, died May 31 in Boynton Beach, Fla. He was 76.

Gerald H. Gabriel, Toledo, who was a custodian at the University during the 1990s, died April 23 at age 86. He retired from the institution around 1998.

Carolyn (Lattin) Gallatin, Northwood, Ohio, manager in the Payroll Department and fiscal manager in Accounts Payable from 2012 to 2013, died March 3 at age 58.

Dr. Thomas C. Gibney, Toledo, professor emeritus of elementary and early childhood education, died May 27 at age 92. He joined the faculty in 1964 and retired in 1991, but continued to teach for several years. In 1982, Gibney received the Outstanding Teacher Award. He also was honored by the Ohio Council of Teachers of Mathematics with its Christofferson-Fawcett Award for Inspiration and Devotion to Education and Mathematics in 1995. Gibney served as chair of the Faculty Senate for the 1980-81 academic year, and was the Senate's first representative on the University's Board of Trustees. Tributes are suggested to the Thomas and Ellen Gibney College of Education Scholarship Fund through The University of Toledo Foundation.

Cheryl Gretka, Temperance, Mich., who retired as administrative secretary in Continuing Education in 2002, died April 1 at age 73. She joined the University in 1992 as a secretary 2 in Continuing Education.

William "Bill" Hitchins, Toledo, who was a manager of central services at the University for several years, died Feb. 29. He was 92.

IN MEMORIAM

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Dr. Millard L. Jones Jr., Sparks, Nev., professor emeritus of chemical engineering, died Feb. 13 at age 86. He joined the faculty as an assistant professor in the College of Engineering in 1966. In the 1970s, he oversaw a program to train engineers for work in water pollution control that was funded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Water Programs. Jones also received funding from the National Science Foundation and the University in 1972 to modernize the distillation column in the Unit Operations Laboratory to update the system used to separate liquid mixtures into their components by boiling. He was a consultant to Owens-Illinois Inc. and the John Glenn NASA Research Center in Cleveland. After more than three decades at UToledo, Jones retired and was named professor emeritus.

Dr. Althea Christine Kolar (Chris) passed away unexpectedly on February 23, 2020 in Boulder City, Nev. at the age of 79. An expert in Special Education, she taught at several institutions including the University of Toledo, Long Beach Unified School District, and Cal Poly.

Elaine A. (Hoag) Kolodzaike, Toledo, a custodial worker at the University from 1991 to 2006, died May 31 at age 77.

Barbara Jean Langston, Toledo, who worked in Mulford Library and retired from MCO in student affairs in 1989, died April 6 at age 80.

Kathleen "Kay" R. (Crawford) Locke, Mount Vernon, Ohio, died May 26 at age 81. She was a secretary in the Math Department.

Carol L. Matthews, Toledo, a part-time faculty member in the Judith Herb College of Education from 1999 to 2002, died March 8 at age 79.

Dr. Nancy L. (Dielman) Mauntler, Toledo, an employee for 34 years, died Feb. 26 at age 83. She started working as a field experience supervisor in 1980 and became instructor and coordinator of field experience in 1983. Mauntler was named assistant director of the Office of Student Field Experiences in 1989, and director in 1994. After retiring in the mid-2000s, she continued as a part-time instructor until 2011 and served as field experience supervisor from 2007 to 2014. Mauntler received four degrees from the University: bachelor of education in 1958, master of education degree in special education in 1980, education specialist degree in special education in 1981, and a doctorate in curriculum and instruction in 1990.

Corine Mays, Toledo, who worked at MCO/MUO until her retirement in 2006, died May 26. She was 78.

Alan Mendel, Whitehouse, Ohio, an early MCO faculty member, died March 26 at age 92. He became an assistant professor of psychiatry in 1970 and retired in 2013.

Betty J. (Brackett) Metcalfe, Toledo, who was a custodian at the University from 1994 to 2002, died May 25 at age 83.

James E. Porter, Toledo, who was a delivery worker at UToledo from 1996 to 2004, died March 4 at age 89.

Bilal Mohamed Rabai, Watkinsville, Ga., a nurse at MCO Hospital from 2000 to 2004, died May 6 at age 61.

Alan M. Sokobin, Toledo, died April 3 at age 94. The rabbi emeritus of the Temple Shomer Emunim was an instructor in the College of Law from 1998 to 2013. The leader in the Jewish community also was a supporter of the Medical Mission Hall of Fame. Sokobin was a UToledo alumnus; he received a law degree in 1996.

Dr. Joseph C. Sommerville, Maumee, professor emeritus in the Judith Herb College of Education, died March 15 at age 93. He joined the UToledo faculty in 1970. During his tenure, he was promoted to professor and served as chair of the Department of Educational Leadership. After retiring in 1992, he continued to teach classes and coordinated a training program for prospective principals and superintendents until 1997. The native of Birmingham, Ala., was honored by the African American Legacy Project of Northwest Ohio in 2013. Three years later, the UToledo Association of Black Faculty and Staff renamed its scholarship to honor Sommerville. In retirement, he also served as a mentor when the University launched Brothers on the Rise to help at-risk African-American and Latino students.

Donald R. Steele, Lake Havasu City, Ariz., former director of buildings and grounds at MCO, died March 14 at age 94.

Michael F. Tammarine, Perrysburg, died March 16 at age 77. He joined the MCO Police Department in 1976 and was named captain in 1999 and chief of police in 2001. He retired in 2002.

Doris I. Waidelich-Short, Archbold, Ohio, who was a registered nurse at MCO for 27 years, died June 8 at age 89.



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UTRA Tower Talk

IN MEMORIAM: PRESIDENT DANIEL JOHNSON

Dr. Daniel M. Johnson, who became president of The University of Toledo in 2001 and helped lead the 2006 merger with the Medical University of Ohio, died July 1. Johnson, who was the University's 15th president, served in higher education leadership positions for more than 40 years.

He was instrumental in the UToledo and MUO merger. During his tenure up to the merger, Johnson led the campus through developing a strategic plan, completing a campus master plan, and initiating a \$100 million capital campaign. He spearheaded initiatives to advance UToledo's mission as a metropolitan university.

Following his term as president, Johnson was named president emeritus and distinguished professor of public policy and economic development. In 2008, he served as provost of Zayed University in United Arab Emirates. He returned to UToledo in 2011 as director of global initiatives until 2013.

Prior to coming to Toledo, Johnson was provost of the University of Alaska Anchorage. His career also included administrative positions in Texas, Virginia, and Illinois. He was the author of numerous books, including "Leading Economic Development: A Toolbox for Public Officials and Civic Leaders" published by University of Toledo Press in 2015.

Johnson is survived by his wife, Elaine Johnson, and two sons, Darin and Brent Johnson.

WELCOME 2020 NEW RETIREES AND LIFETIME MEMBERS

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NEW RETIREES:

Mary Hoak
Susan Hoehing
Wendy Holley
Christine Hosley
Alexander Hristov
Lynne Marie Hutt
Kathy Jackowski
Marie Janes
Jerzy Jankun
Anthony Johnson
James Kaliniak
Peggy Kissling
Michael Kosmatak
Jeanne Kretz
Ashok Kumar
Deloris Lafia
Eileen Lewandowski
Caryl Liber
Thomas Lingeman
Nora Longsworth

Ioan Marinescu
Pamela Marok
Susan Martin
Renee Martin
Julie Matuszewski
Paul Mazur
Azedine Medhkour
John McCoy
Beth McGirt
Marcia McInerney
Marcia Meeker
Randall Meeker
Carole Miller
Linda Miller
Melvin Millimen
Karen Mockensturm
Steven Moder
Susan Monday
Gary Moore
Joan Mulligan
Daniel Nathan
Denise Neiding
Timothy O'Neil

Cherie Packard
Laura Panning
Peter Papadimos
E. Ishmael Parsal
Linda Pierce
Michael Piotrowski
Mary Powers
Russell Reising
Myra Richardson
Edward Roth
Joseph Ryno
Edwin Sanchez
Mary Schneider
James Schudel
Laurie Sedlock
Nancy Sheets
Allen Seifert
Karen Simon
Mark Sherry
Garlan Slagle
Andrea Smith
Mark Smith
Timothy Stanley

Nancy Swigonski
Lance Talmage
Gretchen Tietjen
Manoranjani Tillekeratne
Kalina Venkova-Hristova
Barbara Wainer
Robert Way
David Weldy
Donald White
Kurt Wolfe
Michael Yunker
Syed Zaidi

NEW LIFETIME MEMBERS:

Deborah Jones
Mary Beth Kurtz
Anand Mutgi
Richard Cornwell
Brian Randolph
Daniel Saevig
Dorothea Sawicki
Margaret Traband