

# The Next

# Chapter

## Association of Retirement Organizations in Higher Education (AROHE)

JUNE 2008



### In this Issue ...

#### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

#### SPOTLIGHT ON ... ...THE ReVU, VALPARAISO UNIVERSITY'S RETIREMENT ORGANIZATION

#### CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS

#### AROHE SURVEY

## FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR YOUR AROHE BOARD AT WORK!

Ever wonder what goes on behind the scenes at AROHE?

Things are humming as we gear up for the AROHE Conference in October, gather new members, talk to potential members, send out AROHE Start-Up Kits, and collect data from the AROHE Survey. Your dedicated board meets via conference call almost monthly to discuss organization matters as well as conference issues; the Conference Co-Chairs and Program Chair email and talk several times a week! Documents fly across the internet and go through numerous edits before going to press. About 5 to 10 calls are made each week to answer questions and secure new colleagues for the survey, membership, or the conference.

My deepest thanks to those without whose help we would not be in such good cutting-edge shape!

- Program Chair, Research, Editing, ETC.:  
Linda Pearson
- Membership VP, (makes 100's of calls monthly to new contacts):  
Ken Klein
- Conference Co-Chair, Newsletter Editor, Conference Brochure, Sponsorships:  
Eddie Murphy
- Treasurer, Bill Payer, Membership Data:  
Tom Elleman
- AROHE Web Master and Developer:  
Bob Stallings
- Sponsorships, Conference assistance:  
Doreen Ballona-Strnad
- Sponsorships, Conference Brochure Editing, Masterful Guidance:  
Shelley Glazer
- Advisors & Consultants:  
Betty Redmon  
Norma Summersgill
- Database management, AROHE records, mailings, communication:  
Geri Toscano, our dedicated student assistant

Thanks to these stars and to the rest of the AROHE Board who have dedicated themselves to making the AROHE Conference a very valuable and timely event!

*~Janette C. Brown, Ed.D  
University of Southern California*



## **CURAC CONFERENCE 2008**

The city of Montreal was the setting for the 2008 CURAC (College & University Retiree Associations of Canada) Conference which was held in May. There were fifty CURAC members in attendance. The program was very informative for the CURAC members, and even visitors unfamiliar with the topics found it interesting.

The CURAC board graciously welcomed Janette Brown, AROHE's Executive Director who participated on a panel and presented preliminary AROHE survey results from the Canadian perspective and discussed retiree campus privileges.

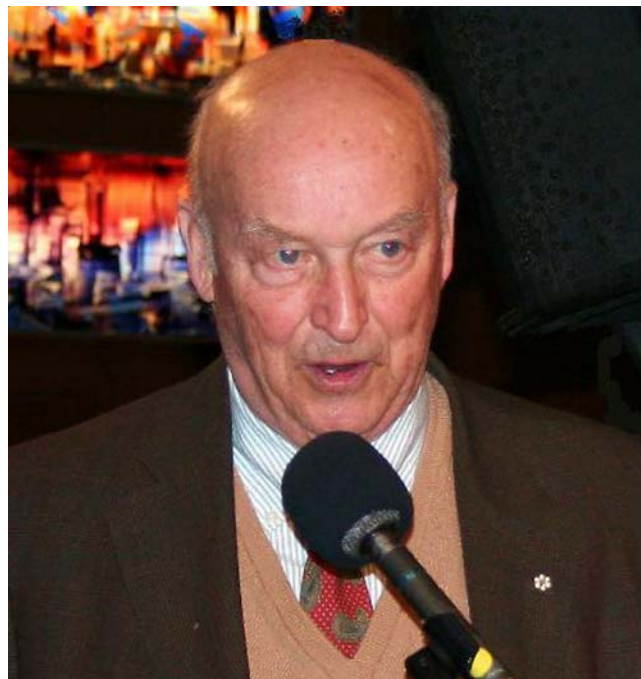
The CURAC conference was well-organized. The presentations were timely, interesting, and stimulating. An awards banquet at the Université du Québec à Montréal (UQAM) not only recognized good work but the audience learned more about their colleagues' important CURAC contributions. Most enjoyable was watching Peter Russell, past president of CURAC receive his special award for service. Peter was one of the first Canadian attendees at the earliest AROHE

meetings and expressed his appreciation of AROHE and Shelley Glazer's guidance in the development of the University of Toronto's Retirees/Senior Scholars Centre — another example of the value AROHE brings to its members!

The AROHE board looks forward to CURAC's participation at the AROHE Conference in October.



Pictured L-R: CURAC President: Tarun Ghose - Dalhousie University, CURAC Conference Co-Chair: Roch Meynard - Université du Québec à Montréal (UQAM), AROHE Executive Director: Janette Brown - University of Southern California (USC), CURAC Conference Chair: Howard Fink - Concordia University.



*~Peter Russell accepting CURAC Award*



# A SNAPSHOT OF OUR 4<sup>th</sup> BIENNIAL INTERNATIONAL AROHE CONFERENCE-DON'T MISS IT!!

**Retiree Organizations in Higher Education:  
Values & Opportunities  
October 24-26, 2008  
Los Angeles, CA**

## Featured Presentations

- Paul Hadley Honorary Address: Author/ Lecture, Helen Dennis
- AROHE Survey: What We Have Learned About Retiree Organizations
- National Retired Teachers Association (NRTA): Roger Annusen, "Keeping Sharp"
- Comedian—UCLA Emeritus Professor Jack Rothman

## Panels

- From Alive to Thrive: Making Your Retirement Organization Viable & Vital
- Creating Retirement Organizations
- Institutional Relationships & Support
- Models & Practices: Education, Engagement & Partnering
- Campus Retiree Re-Employment Programs
- Campus Affiliated Retirement Housing
- Connecting Campus & Community: Opportunities for Service, Volunteerism, and Outreach

## Break-Outs & Round Tables

- AROHE Start-Up Kit & Starting a Retirement Organization
- Retiree Organization Websites
- Teaching Technology to Retirees
- Emeriti College Initiatives
- Communication & Marketing
- Brain Health Ambassadors Program
- Autobiography Program for Retirees

## Open Forums

- AROHE Survey Q & A
- Issues & Answers
- Sharing Best Practices & Discussing Challenges

## Demonstrations

- Retiree Organization Web sites, Fall Prevention,
- Ageline Database, Brain Fitness Programs

## Trends & Updates

- Lifelong Learning & Retirees
- Cutting Edge Research of Interest to Retirees
- Framing New Terrain: Older Adults & Higher
- Education—American Council on Education (ACE) Report

## AROHE Organization

AROHE Biennial members meeting

AROHE Board Meeting

Colleges and University Retiree Associations of Canada (CURAC) Update

## Opportunities

- Networking, dine-arounds and local tours

Check the AROHE website [www.arohe.org](http://www.arohe.org) for conference information and updates.

~Linda Pearson,  
University of Indianapolis

*"I do hope that all of you will consider attending the AROHE Conference in Los Angeles in October. I can guarantee that, when you do, you will learn a great deal that you can take back to your local organization. I have already found AROHE meetings to be wonderful events. We in Canada owe much to our American colleagues' initiatives in promoting the interests of university and college retirees. The inspiration for the Retirees/Senior Scholars Centre that will soon open at the University of Toronto came directly from developments on U.S. campuses."*

~Peter Russell, Past President  
College & University Retiree Associations of  
Canada

## AROHE MEMBER RECEIVES RECOGNITION



*William (Bill) Wasch*

The National Council on Aging presents each year the Geneva Mathiasen Award to a person who has contributed to the goals of NCOA. Geneva Mathiasen, for whom it is named was a founder of NCOA and its executive director from 1950 to 1969.

This year one of the members of AROHE was honored by the Council to receive this prestigious award: William K. Wasch of Wesleyan University, Middletown, Connecticut.

William Wasch, with his daughter Christina E. Wasch, an architect, designed and built a first-of-its-kind, completely accessible house for older persons that won The National Association of Home Builders' Best of Seniors' Housing Award in 1999. Member Wasch's advocating for seniors is varied—from supporting social services for frail elderly and overseeing older worker training and recruitment programs, to ensuring accessibility for federally funded senior housing. Additionally, he served as a Connecticut delegate to the 1995 White House Conference on Aging and was program co-chair of NCOA's 1996 annual conference. He is especially proud of the latest project that he is working on with his wife Susan: underwriting the Wasch Center for Retired Faculty at Wesleyan University ([www.wesleyan.edu](http://www.wesleyan.edu)). It is completely accessible with eleven offices and several attractive multipurpose rooms for retired faculty activities. They are also building a 7-unit active adult housing project in

Middletown using universal design principles in a prefab housing project. Wasch has served on the NCOA Board of Directors and as a leader in NCOA's work in housing and employment. He continues to serve as a member of NCOA's Leadership Council. Congratulations!

*~Eddie Murphy  
University of California, Los Angeles*

**Editor's Note:** AROHE members Janette Brown, USC; Doreen Barcellona-Strnad, UC Davis; and Ken Klein of Valparaiso University all attended the joint American Society on Aging/National Council on Aging Conference which was held in Washington DC in March where Bill received his award. The Conference title was "Aging in America 2008." Member Klein (AROHE's Vice President, Membership) gave a presentation on "Physician-Assisted Suicide" in which he advocated PAS as an option for the terminally ill.



*Kenneth Klein*



*Janette Brown & Kenneth Klein*



## AROHE SURVEY SHEDS LIGHT ON RETIREE ORGANIZATIONS IN HIGHER EDUCATION

So far, we have collected over 100 AROHE survey responses from colleges and universities across the U.S. and Canada. We hope to collect many more responses before the August 30th deadline.

The findings below illustrate just a portion of the data collection. In addition to quantitative data, we are analyzing qualitative responses reflecting best practices, challenges, and more. We hope you will find the preliminary data interesting. Keep in mind that this is preliminary data and the percentages will change as we continue to collect responses. As promised, those that take the survey will receive a brief summary before the AROHE Conference presentation in October.

- 90% of the survey respondents have retiree organizations
- 2.5% are in the process of implementing a retiree organization
- 2.5% are considering starting one
- 5% don't have a retiree organization
  
- Only 50.9% of the survey respondents are AROHE members
  
- 75.2% are from a single institution
- 24.8% are from a multi-institution system
  
- 94.8% represent universities
- 6.1% represent colleges

Some privileges/benefits enjoyed by retirees:

- 94.6% Use of library facilities
- 84.8% Use of institutional e-mail services
- 82.1% Identification cards
- 79.5% Free or reduced parking fees
- 67.0% Recognition dinners/luncheons/receptions

- 67.9% Emeritus/Emerita Professor status is granted after review.
- 29.5% Emeritus/Emerita Professor status is automatic at retirement.
  
- 15.5% have retirement communities or senior housing affiliated with campus
- 82.7% do not have retirement communities or senior housing affiliated with campus
  
- 59.4% are dues-paying retiree organizations
  
- 56.6% of the retiree organizations serve both faculty and staff
- 70.8% include spouses/partners/widows of retirees
  
- 14% of the retiree organizations were established prior to 1980



## SPOTLIGHT ON ReVU, VALPARAISO UNIVERSITY'S RETIREMENT ORGANIZATION

**Organized:** 2002.

**Officially recognized:** 2002, by action of the Faculty Senate and letter from the President.

**Incorporated:** 2003.

**By-laws approved:** 2004

**Current membership:** Approximately 180

**Eligible members:** Retired faculty, staff, and administrators of Valparaiso University (VU)

**Funding:** Annual dues: \$15 single; \$25 couple. No financial support from VU

**Leadership:** Annually elected officers (President, VP, Secretary, and Treasurer) plus a steering-committee of volunteer members with areas of responsibility: Membership and Records, Programs, Newsletters, Communications, and Resource Committee. No salaries or stipends.

**President:** Jerry Speckhard,  
[JerrySpeckhard@hotmail.com](mailto:JerrySpeckhard@hotmail.com)

**Contact:** ReVU, Kretzmann Hall, Valparaiso University, Valparaiso, IN 46383

**Website:** (under construction)

ReVU (Retirees of Valparaiso University) is a voluntary, non-profit association of Valparaiso University retirees (faculty, staff, and administrators, including spouses, widows, widowers, and other former employees of longstanding service to the university) that seeks to provide educational activities, social opportunities, news, and occasions for service to our members and to our university.

In contrast to many of the established retiree associations “Spotlighted” in this feature, ReVU is the new kid on the block. Recently formed, ReVU is less full-featured than some of the associations formed decades ago, associations drawing on a longstanding, larger retiree base, and often generously funded or otherwise supported by the colleges and universities that shelter them.

But we find satisfaction in what we have done so far, and we are encouraged by the positive feedback we receive from our members, who report that ReVU has proved to be a positive force in their lives.

Looking back over the rhythms we are beginning to establish, here are the highlights of our ever-evolving programming:

- New-retirees luncheon each spring, with our Provost honoring each retiree with a retrospective of their place in our community and their achievements at VU
- “ReVU Review” our Newsletter, four issues per year, hardcopy sent to full membership, both local and distant, in October, November, January and March. Shorter events-oriented letters, sent out three times a year, in Jun, Aug, and Dec. These publications address a variety of interests: current affairs, professional activities of members, ReVU events, human interest stories, facts about VU’s past history, building projects, and university-related events

- Movie series, one film per month, viewings followed by guided discussion led by specialist in Film Studies, offered as a zero-credit University course in the Graduate Division
- Annual Christmas banquet, with seasonal entertainment
- Summer picnic, usually in June
- Frequent mid-morning coffee breaks with guest-speakers
- Annual day-trip by commuter train to Chicago Art Museum, for special exhibits, with docent
- Thrice-weekly cardio-and-fitness sessions, drop-ins encouraged, at the university’s athletic center
- Volunteer outreaches to local schools, churches, and charities
- Newly established liaison with VU’s College of Nursing, allowing senior nursing students to conduct physical examinations on willing, aging, but still ambulating, seniors.
- Outreach to and input from “Pines Village Retirement Communities”, a local senior residential community
- Organized tours, with docent, for special exhibits at VU’s Brauer Museum of Art
- “ReVU Resource Committee,” which helps members find reliable repairmen or handymen to provide repairs, maintenance, and home services at reasonable prices
- Regular use of “telephone tree” for communications and timely reminders to our members
- Extensive use of a “ReVU Listserv” (provided by VU) to disseminate email announcements, invitations, reminders, and other kinds of communications. (e.g., a “Health-Watch” thread to keep our members apprised of one another’s health-challenges, hospitalizations, bereavements, etc.)
- Annual business meeting for election of officers, feedback from membership about their status, unmet needs, and suggestions for future programming

ReVU's membership includes staff as well as faculty, a situation that presents challenges for programming. Our activities thus far have been more social and recreational than intellectual, but we hope to move in the direction of including more programs that engage our critical, artistic, and moral reflexes.

We are always looking for ways to be more useful to our university, and ways in which it could be more supportive of us. Although ReVU receives no financial support from VU and is not answerable to the administration in any official way, the university is supportive of our organization in many small ways. At no cost to us, VU receives and distributes our mail, sends its weekly "Campus Chronicle" to ReVU members, and includes our names, addresses, telephone numbers, and email addresses in its university-wide Campus Directory. It provides spaces and equipment for our campus-based activities, supports us in our desire to have a website of our own and office space on campus. It provides the spaces and equipment for our film course. VU also provides members with Retiree ID cards, parking stickers for free parking anywhere on campus, free tickets to athletic events, free use of library facilities and free email accounts on VU's server.

Even in our early, enthusiastic stages of formation, we are experiencing some of the factors that other associations report as hobbling their effectiveness in mobilizing seniors: ennui, burnout, hunger for rest, absence of deep personal bonds with one's longstanding professional associates, unwillingness to assume leadership, paucity of new blood, interest in travel, the always compelling lure of gardening, getting-away and grandchildren, withdrawal into hobbies and family, mounting physical challenges, and general Weltschmerz. We renew our vision of the "Look at all that can be done with retiree organizations!" that enthusiastically bursts from mouth of the author of this article when he returns from each of AROHE's biennial national conferences (2002 at Indiana University; 2004 at Vanderbilt University; 2006 at Arizona State University), and we aspire to incorporate into our modest program the spirit, the programming variety, and the commitment to retiree vigor that animate those luminous conferences. Since we formed ReVU six years ago, partially under the inspiration of AROHE,

we feel much better about ourselves, the lines of communication we have established with each other, our concern for one other, and our sometimes challenged belief that retired life can be beautiful.

*~Kenneth Klein*  
*Steering committee for ReVU*  
*VP for Membership, AROHE*  
[kenneth.klein@comcast.net](mailto:kenneth.klein@comcast.net)

**INDIANAPOLIS** -The Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis (IUPUI) Senior Academy was among 35 donors and volunteers honored for their contributions to excellence in a school or program at IUPUI at the 20th annual Spirit of Philanthropy Luncheon and Awards ceremony.

In honoring the donors and volunteers, IUPUI Chancellor Charles Bantz said, "Philanthropy enables us to seize the opportunities that propel both our campus and our city forward."

The IUPUI Senior Academy gifts established the Senior Academy Room in the new IUPUI Campus Center. Fifty-eight members of the Senior Academy contributed to the room naming campaign, with gifts ranging from \$25 to a \$5,000 anonymous matching gift. These generous gifts support the mission of the Campus Center which is to complement IUPUI's academic mission and enhance the campus community. The IUPUI Senior Academy is an independent association of retired faculty and staff who contribute their expertise and experience to the university and to the greater community. The academy, with assistance from the university, encourages and assists scholarly, professional, educational, and service interests of its members, enabling them to continue to contribute to the campus and its programs.

"I gratefully acknowledge the assistance of Marge Sobel, UCLA in the production of this newsletter."

*~Eddie Murphy, AROHE Newsletter Editor*

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AROHE  
3715 McClintock Avenue, Suite 220  
Los Angeles, CA 90089-0791