



PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

Kim Trupp, AURA President 2018-19

The 24th annual meeting of the Auburn University Retiree Association is coming up on Thursday, May 23. We will gather once again for a luncheon buffet followed by a short business meeting at Saugahatchee Country Club in Opelika. We hope you will be able to join us for good food and fellowship. Please note the details for making your reservation later in this newsletter.

In a little bit of legislative news, I recently read some “retiree friendly” information in a publication I receive from the Alabama Education Association (AEA). According to the article, legislation has apparently been filed in both the Alabama House and Senate to provide “an \$800 across-the-board bonus check,” regardless of years of service, to retirees. As I write this, the bills (HB 439 and SB 288) have just been filed so they are not yet in committee. Additionally, according to this same article, Sen. Tom Whatley has “introduced a bill (SB 299) that would create the Education Retirees COLA Trust Fund and would direct a percentage of any future lottery proceeds to the fund for the sole purpose of funding retiree COLAs in the future.” Notice that I said “lottery proceeds” – that is another legislative hill to climb. But, at least there is motion on something that has not happened since the last COLA was approved in 2006. Again, as I write this, SB299 is not in committee yet.

The AURA board is pleased to announce that this year’s Wilford S. Bailey Award will be presented to Dr. Mary Q. Burkhart, who founded and directed the Auburn University Academy for Lifelong Learners (AUALL). This organization later became the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI). Please read more about Dr. Burkhart’s accomplishments later in this newsletter.

Four members will be rotating off the AURA board at the conclusion of our annual meeting. They are Richard Penaskovic, Larry Benefield, Dennis Drake, and Larry Ridgeway. It has been my pleasure to work with these individuals: they served you well as board members and they are just plain nice folks. Please thank them for their service to our organization, as do I, when you see them.

In addition to the four persons nominated for the board (read about them later in this newsletter), the current board has elected the following officers for the 2019-20 year:

Lynne Hammond, vice president; Marcie Smith, treasurer; and Michael Fitzsimmons, secretary. Both Marcie and Michael are currently serving in these positions and have agreed to do so for another year. Thanks to them and to Lynne for their willingness to take on these responsibilities. I will continue as president for the upcoming year and then Lynne will succeed me as president for 2020-21.

I hope to see many of you on May 23, please make your plans to join us. ♦

Nominees for Board of Directors



Nancy Bernard

Nancy retired from Auburn University as director of Student Career Services in April 2018 with 37 years of service. Prior to assuming the director role in 1995, she held various positions in career services and placement and dedicated her career to supporting and guiding Auburn students through their career development and helping them to realize and attain their career goals. While at Auburn, Nancy served in leadership roles on campus, in the community, and through regional and national professional organizations. Most recently, she co-chaired the A&P Welfare Committee, served on the Insurance & Benefits Committee, as well as the QEP task force for SACS accreditation. Nancy was active in professional associations and served in leadership roles in organizations such as the National Association of Colleges and Employers, the Southern Association of Colleges and Employers, and other state and regional organizations. Active in the community, Nancy is on the Supervisory Committee of the Auburn University Credit Union, a board member of The Woman's Club of Auburn, and a member of the Women's Philanthropy Board. She holds a bachelor's degree in education and a master of education degree in counseling from Auburn University.

Kale Hill

Kale began her career with Auburn University in August of 1973 as a staff secretary in the Information Services Department of the Alabama Cooperative Extension Service. After almost 17 years, she transferred to the Office of the General Counsel in February 1990. Although Kale was hired as an executive secretary, her title was later changed to executive assistant, General Counsel; the position she held until her retirement in January 2016. Kale was employed by Auburn for almost 43 years and had the pleasure of working with eight different presidents. She continues to work part-time in several different offices on campus.



Bob Ritenbaugh

Bob Ritenbaugh was employed by Auburn University for nearly 30 years in several management positions with the university's auxiliary support operation, retiring in January of 2017 as assistant vice president for Auxiliary Services. He was initially hired by Auburn in 1987 as the campus bookstore manager and was charged with ensuring student course materials were both available and affordable. Responsibilities changed over time.

Working closely with numerous outstanding directors and managers of diverse campus auxiliary functions, Bob was involved in the construction, renovation, or reorganization of a wide array of projects including residence halls, dining venues, parking decks, student transit and parking systems, printing and duplication services, airport hangars and a new airport terminal, surplus property management, public safety, and the campus bookstore.

Bob served Auburn during the tenure of five university presidents and provided liaison services between the Office of the Executive Vice President and Auburn University Athletics and City of Auburn leadership.

Bob holds an MBA from Penn State and a JD from Jones School of Law. He and his wife, Charlot, have raised two boys in Auburn. Both sons and their wives are all proud Auburn University graduates.

Keith Ward

Keith received the Ph.D. from the University Of Tennessee in 1971, and joined the faculty of its Graduate School of Planning. In 1973, Ward came to AUM to teach in the MPA program. In 1976, he moved to Auburn in the Department of Political Science and organized the Center for Governmental Services (CGS). He retired in 1998 as emeritus in both of those departments. Keith taught one course per year, Financial Administration and Budgeting, and spent most of his time in CGS. CGS was heavily involved in local government training and technical assistance and program evaluation. Charged with self-funding, services provided were fee for service. Training programs included property tax appraisal, administration of county revenue offices, city and county administrators and county engineers, and city and county financial employees.

CGS did personnel evaluations for departments wishing to improve personnel policies and pay schedules. Also, evaluations were performed for functions such as solid waste disposal and budgeting processes. CGS wrote the first energy evaluation for the state.



Mark Your Calendar

AUBURN UNIVERSITY RETIREE ASSOCIATION (AURA)

**24th ANNUAL
MEETING**

THURSDAY, MAY 23, 2019

SAUGAHATCHEE COUNTRY CLUB

(3800 BENT CREEK RD., OPELIKA, AL 36804)

BEGIN GATHERING AT 11:30 A.M. WITH BUFFET STARTING AT NOON

COST IS \$10.00 PER PERSON, PAYABLE AT THE DOOR



THE PROGRAM INCLUDES:

- Presentation of the Wilford S. Bailey Award to Dr. Mary Q. Burkhart
- Recognition of Outgoing Board Members
- Introduction of New Board Members and Officers

To provide Saugahatchee with an anticipated number for the buffet, if you will be coming to the luncheon please email or call Lynne Hammond by May 15. If you will be bringing a guest(s), please let her know how many and include their names.

Lynne Hammond • hammolb@auburn.edu • 334-744-1602



Burkhart Named to Receive the 2019 AURA Wilford S. Bailey Award

Congratulations to Dr. Mary Q. Burkhardt, who has been named the recipient of the 2019 AURA Wilford S. Bailey Award. The Bailey Award was established to recognize an individual or organization making a significant contribution to the welfare of public education and public education retirees, thereby modeling the work, commitment, and contributions of Dr. Bailey. The Bailey Award will be presented to Dr. Burkhardt at the AURA Spring Luncheon Meeting on May 23.

Dr. Burkhardt received her B.S. in psychology/sociology and M.S., Ph.D. in counselor education at Florida State University. She worked as assistant director of career counseling at F.S.U., and was assistant dean of students at University of California, Irvine prior to becoming associate director of the Center for Continuing Education at Auburn University in 1974. In that capacity, Dr. Burkhardt brought the idea of a life-long learning institute back to AU from a meeting she attended in Washington, D.C. She planted the seed that grew to become the Auburn University Academy for Lifelong Learners (AUALL) in 1990. As executive director of AUALL, Dr. Burkhardt was the heart and soul of the program and led it with a steady guiding hand while also providing support services through her office.

AUALL became the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) in 2007, adding branches at AUM and at the Chambers County Library. Today, OLLI has more than 1,000 members, helping not just public education retirees but also mature adults in general, remain active intellectually and socially.

Dr. Burkhardt has served in leadership roles in several professional associations, including The American Association of Continuing Education, the National University Continuing Educators, the Alabama Continuing Educators Association, the Director of Alabama Elderhostel, the Elderhostel Institute Network and the American Association of University Women. Dr. Burkhardt's heart for service extends beyond the education realm as she serves or has served on the boards of non-profit organizations, such as the North Auburn Housing Development Corporation, the Presbyterian Community Ministry, Lee County Historical Society, and Village Friends of Auburn and Opelika (an organization she helped establish). ♦

The Bailey Award Committee

Nominees for the AURA Board of Directors Three-year Terms Beginning May 23, 2019

- Nancy Bernard
- Kale Hill
- Bob Ritenbaugh
- Keith Ward

Clip and mail your response by
May 16 to:
AURA
P.O. Box 1436
Auburn, AL 36831-1436

I support the nomination of the individuals named above to serve on the AURA Board of Directors.

Signature _____

Date _____

FOR YOUR MEMBERSHIP DUES STATUS, CHECK YOUR NEWSLETTER ADDRESS LABEL!

After your name, there will be a “P” followed by a year. This means your dues are paid through December of that year. *If you have not paid your dues for 2019 and wish to remain a member of AURA, please complete the form below and mail it with your payment.*

AU-AUM Retiree AURA Membership Form

Name _____ AU _____ AUM _____

Address _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

- | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|---------|----------------------------------|---------|
| _____ Single Retiree | \$25.00 | _____ Surviving Spouse | \$10.00 |
| _____ Retiree and Spouse | \$25.00 | _____ Sponsor | \$25.00 |
| _____ Retiree & Retiree Spouse | \$25.00 | _____ Gift Contribution \$ _____ | |

If you have any questions, please contact **Marcie Smith** at smithmkc@gmail.com or **Kim Trupp** at trupski@auburn.edu.

Please make your check payable to AURA and mail to: AURA • P.O. Box 1436 • Auburn, AL 36831-1436



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