



## MESSAGE *from the* PRESIDENT

*Lynne Hammond*

Greetings, fellow retirees! I'm pleased to bring this AURA update at a time when spring has finally arrived and there is a light at the end of the tunnel relative to the restrictions the COVID virus has visited on all of us. I don't know about you, but I'm COVID weary and enjoying the prospect of seeing family and friends with a little less trepidation about the dreaded bug. We will still need to remain vigilant, but I'm hoping that, by now, most of you have received the COVID vaccination and are ready to venture out.

Which brings me to the good news that your Board of Directors has made the decision to move ahead with the spring luncheon and business meeting this year! Our luncheon will be held on Thursday, May 27th, at the Saugahatchee Country Club as in years past. Registration will begin at 11:30 a.m. with the luncheon at noon. Please see the announcement herein and RSVP to Nancy Bernard as indicated. The spring event provides a wonderful opportunity to visit with your friends and colleagues, which should be especially meaningful this year after a long period of hibernation! The luncheon is also the time when the leadership of AURA changes hands, we say good bye and thank you to the Directors rotating off the Board, and we elect new Directors. We will also present the Wilford S. Bailey award at the luncheon this year.

It has been my pleasure to serve as your President this year, even though I regret that we missed our usual in person social events and other normal activities due to COVID. Your Board of Directors, however, continued to meet via Zoom and has remained vigilant concerning issues of interest and concern to us as retirees. We were also able to hold one virtual educational seminar this

year with the help of our friends at VALIC. I know you will join me in expressing deep gratitude to Ron Evans, Sherri Fulford, Ramona Lazenby, Ralph Zee and Kim Trupp who will be leaving the Board. Ralph has done an exemplary job as our Treasurer this year, and Kim has provided continued assistance as Past President after two years in the leadership role. We have one vacancy to fill that resulted from the unfortunate passing of Ford Laumer, who had agreed to serve on the Board. You will find in this Newsletter information on the six individuals who have been put forth by the Nominating Committee and have agreed to serve. Our Bylaws require that new Board members be elected by the membership in advance of the May meeting, so please use the included ballot to send in your vote by May 20th. I believe we have an excellent group of proposed Board members who will, with your approval, begin their three-year terms at the May meeting. Nancy Bernard has agreed to serve as your President for 2021-2022, and Kale Hill has graciously agreed to continue as Board Secretary. Our thanks go to both of them for their service.

I am so looking forward to seeing you in person at the May luncheon, and I hope that many of you will be able to attend. We will continue to respect COVID safety guidelines, including masks and social distancing as much as possible. We welcome your participation in AURA! If you haven't updated your membership, or you aren't sure when you last paid your dues, please check the mailing label on this Newsletter. You can use the membership form included here or pay at the luncheon. You will also have an opportunity at the luncheon to sign up for committees, which I hope you will consider. A description of the committees is included here for your information. Stay safe and happy spring! ♦

*Mark Your Calendar*

AUBURN UNIVERSITY RETIREE ASSOCIATION (AURA)

# 26<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL MEETING

**THURSDAY, MAY 27, 2021**

**SAUGAHATCHEE COUNTRY CLUB**

**(3800 BENT CREEK ROAD, OPELIKA, AL 36804)**

**11:30 A.M. REGISTRATION; 12:00 NOON LUNCHEON**

**COST: \$10 TO MEMBERS AND THEIR GUESTS**

*Please let us know if you will be attending and if you will be bringing your spouse or a guest by contacting Nancy Bernard at [auretireeassoc@gmail.com](mailto:auretireeassoc@gmail.com) or (334) 787-2296*

**DEADLINE: MAY 20, 2021 OR UNTIL ALL SEATS ARE FILLED**

## AURA COMMITTEES 2021-22

### **LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE – CHAIR: TO BE DETERMINED**

*Monitors legislative action that impacts RSA pension and health insurance programs and provides updates to the AURA board and membership.*

### **MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE – CHAIR: TO BE DETERMINED**

*Develops and implements strategies to increase AURA membership and participation with emphasis on recent retirees.*

### **AWARDS AND RECOGNITION COMMITTEE – CHAIR: TO BE DETERMINED**

*Solicits nominations and recommends recipients to the AURA board for the Wilford S. Bailey Award and arranges appropriate recognition for the outgoing president and AURA board members.*

### **MEDIA AND COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE – CHAIR: TO BE DETERMINED**

*Assists the AURA newsletter editor in preparing three newsletters annually and additional correspondence electronically and by mail, as needed.*

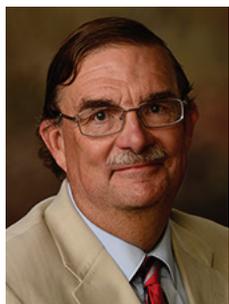
### **SOCIAL AND PROGRAM COMMITTEE – CHAIR: TO BE DETERMINED**

*Plans and executes social activities and programs of interest to the membership including the Fall Supper and annual meeting in May.*

**If you are interested in knowing more about any of these committees, please contact Lynne Hammond at [hammolb@auburn.edu](mailto:hammolb@auburn.edu) or 334-744-1602.**

# Nominees for the BOARD OF DIRECTORS

THREE-YEAR TERMS BEGINNING JUNE 1, 2021



## *Arthur H. Chappelka*

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Art retired as an Alumni Professor from the School of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences at Auburn University in December 2018 after 31 yrs of service. Art's expertise was in the areas of air pollution and climate change effects to both natural and managed forest systems. He authored or co-authored over 100 peer-reviewed journal articles, edited 1 book, 3 special editions of peer reviewed journals and 12 book chapters in addition to teaching numerous undergraduate and graduate courses within the School. At Auburn University Art served as Interim Associate Dean for Research within the School as well as numerous university committees including Promotion and Tenure, Faculty Senate and Chair of the University Faculty Research Committee. Art currently serves on the City of Auburn Greenspace Committee and enjoys fishing, traveling, and watching Auburn University sporting events.

## *Jim Killian*

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Jim Killian is the retired director of Communications and Marketing in the Samuel Ginn College of Engineering. A 45-year veteran of Auburn University, Killian began his career in the Office of University Relations and worked in and out of Samford Hall for a decade. His move to the School of Engineering in the '80s as an assistant editor culminated in a long relationship with engineering that began with Dean Lynn Weaver and lasted through Bill Walker, Larry Benefield and Chris Roberts.

Killian took the college's brand and promoted it among the best engineering schools in the region and across the nation. He oversaw the digital revolution in media assets as it affected the college and the larger academic community, and grew an award-winning staff that is recognized for its high level of professionalism. As secretary to the Auburn Alumni Engineering Council he interfaced and communicated with the council membership over a span of decades. The council and the college last year presented him with the Distinguished Service Award, joining a long line of leaders focused on its faculty, students and programs.

Killian has also played a role as a student mentor over the years, and continues to serve as university advisor to the Cupola Engineering Ambassadors, a leadership group that works with incoming students and their parents as well as alumni. A native of Opelika who grew up in the state of Ohio, he now makes his home again in Opelika with his wife Karen. Both love to travel, and await the day that they will be able to resume their journeys. Killian is an avid motorcyclist as well, which he humorously categorizes as the "the original social distancing."



## *Marie Kraska-Miller*

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Marie Kraska-Miller is a Cheshire Fraley Distinguished Professor, Emeritus, with 25 years of service to Auburn University in the College of Education. Marie earned a Ph.D. degree in technical education and statistics at the University of Missouri; an M.S. degree in technical education and statistics at the University of Wisconsin-Stout; an MPS degree in probability and statistics at Auburn University; and a B.S. degree in Speech at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point. Marie served on many graduate student committees within the college and across the university. She participated on many college and university committees and as a member of the university senate. She has published numerous articles and authored or co-authored (with W. R. Miller) four books, including a statistics textbook. Her hobbies include caring for her dog, Tulip, reading, creative writing, gardening, and traveling.

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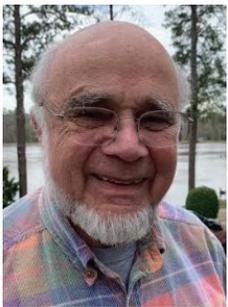


## Leanne Lamke

Leanne Lamke is an emerita professor in the Department of Human Development and Family Science in the College of Human Sciences. She joined the faculty in 1986 following positions at Arizona State University and the University of Arizona. At Auburn, she conducted research and taught undergraduate, Master's, and doctoral level courses. Over the course of her career she received several teaching awards including the AU Gerald and Emily Leischuck Endowed Presidential Award for Excellence in Teaching, the Outstanding Teaching Award from the International Society for the Study of Personal Relationships, and the Ernest Osborne Award from the National Council on Family Relations. At the university level, she was a member of the Senate Steering Committee, Chair of the Institutional Review Board, and Director of the Undergraduate Research Fellowship Program. In 2006 Leanne became Head of the Department and served for four years before retiring in 2011.

## Deborah B. Owens

Deborah Owens retired from Auburn University in 2019 with 16 years of service. During her tenure, she worked in the Information Systems Support Department with various levels of responsibility. She is a graduate of Southern Union State Community College, Faulkner University with a B. S. in Business Administration and Jacksonville State University with a B. S. in Computer Science. Deborah is also a veteran of the United States Army Reserve. Since retirement, Deborah has become more active in ministries in her church. She has recently implemented a partnership with the East Alabama Food Bank for the Mt. Zion Baptist Church in LaFayette, AL. Deborah's other interests include cooking, Auburn sports, travel and spending time with family.



## Furman Smith

Furman Smith received a Ph.D. in Probability and Statistics from Florida State University in 1972, taught in the Department of Statistics at the University of Kentucky for three years and then taught in an innovative program involving Computing, Statistics, and Mathematics in every course at the University of Houston Victoria. Furman came to Auburn University Montgomery in 1982 and retired in 2015 from the Department of Mathematics and Computer Science. He was faculty chair for a year at AUM and also for a year at UHVC. Those 43 years involved a lot of statistical consulting in a variety of fields. He was an early adaptor of online teaching and made his own videos and Web pages for students, starting in the late 1990's. As part of his responsibilities at AUM for a few years, he was Director of the Sciences Computing Center. Furman likes to program in a language called "Snap!", takes a mooc from time to time, reads, and spends a lot of time with his eight year old great-grandson.

# Nominees for the AURA Board of Directors

- Arthur H. Chappelka
- Jim Killian
- Marie Kraska-Miller
- Leanne Lamke
- Deborah B. Owens
- Furman Smith

Your membership dues must be current for 2021 if you wish to vote. Please clip and mail your response to:

**AURA**  
P.O. Box 1436  
Auburn, AL 36831-1436

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

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

# THE WILFORD S. BAILEY AWARD

The award was established in honor of the pioneering work of Dr. Wilford S. Bailey, who recognized the need for an organization to advocate on behalf of Auburn University retirees. Dr. Bailey was instrumental in the creation of AURA, which advocates for the protection of retiree benefits and provides social and educational opportunities for the association's members.

The purpose of the award is to honor an individual or organization for contributions made to society and to the welfare of retirees from the educational community. Organizations or individuals whose character reflects the ideals and standards exemplified by Dr. Bailey may be considered for the award.

Candidates should have demonstrated high moral character and a unique and significant association with activities concerning the benefits and welfare of education community retirees. Additionally, candidates should display social and professional qualities that are commensurate with the education community and educational institutions. Individual candidates must be citizens of the United States, and organizations must have been established within the United States.

## Past award recipients include:

**2020: No Award Given**

**2019: Dr. Mary Q. Burkhart**

**2018: Sen. Gerald Dial**

**2017: Mr. Joseph Borg**

**2016: Rep. Pete Turnham**

**2015: Ms. Janice Charlesworth**

**2014: Dr. Gerald Johnson**

**2013: Auburn Osher Lifelong Learning Institute**

**2012: Dr. Stanley Wilson**

**2011: The Auburn University Athletic Department**

**2010: Dr. Wayne Teague**

**2009: Gov. Albert P. Brewer**

**2008: Speaker Seth Hammett**

**2007: Dr. Harry M. Philpot**

**2006: Sen. Henry "Hank" Sanders**

**2005: Dr. Paul Hubbert**

**2004: Dr. David Bronner**



**Mary Burkhart, our last Bailey Award recipient, with then-President Kim Trupp. There was no Bailey Award for 2020.**

# 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. *Dues for 2021 are due and payable now (they became due on January 1 of this year).*

## AU-AUM Retiree AURA Membership Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_ AU \_\_\_\_\_ AUM \_\_\_\_\_

Check One:  Dr.  Mrs.  Ms.  Mr.  Other (please list): \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse's Name (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

Check One:  Dr.  Mrs.  Ms.  Mr.  Other (please list): \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Single Retiree .....\$25.00          | <input type="checkbox"/> Surviving Spouse .....\$10.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Retiree and Spouse .....\$25.00      | <input type="checkbox"/> Sponsor.....\$25.00           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Retiree & Retiree Spouse.....\$25.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Gift Contribution \$ _____    |

If you have any questions, please contact **Ralph Zee** at [zeeralp@auburn.edu](mailto:zeeralp@auburn.edu) or **Lynne Hammond** at [hammolb@auburn.edu](mailto:hammolb@auburn.edu).

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