

UAHRA Newsletter

Winter 2023

UAHRA General Meeting

The meeting will be in May 2023. Look for an email with further information as it becomes available.

The Photo Identification Project

As many of you may be aware, UAH will celebrate its 75th Birthday/Anniversary in 2025. Though this seems like a long way away, it's only two years and we all know how fast time goes by. The UAH Retirees Association has volunteered to help with a "behind the scene" project for the celebration. There are boxes and boxes of unidentified photos at the UAH Library Archives that go back to the beginning of our existence. The people, places, and things in some photos are clearly identified but for most photos this is not the case. Also, the photos are stored in absolutely no order. The Library would like these photos identified and logged. The only way to accomplish this seemingly endless task is with memories and "corporate knowledge". This is where we come in and we need your help. Here are a few photos from the Archives to whet your appetite.



The Archives Department has been very encouraging and supportive in this endeavor as they are already receiving requests for old photos well ahead of the celebration. The plan (after everything is done) is to have all of the photos posted on their website so everyone can enjoy them. There will also be the opportunity for people to make corrections or add more information.

UAH Library Archives have dedicated a space and a computer for our use so

there's room for us to spread out and organize. It's fast, easy and only takes as much time as you are willing to give. There have been just three of us working on this so far and they have identified almost 3000 pictures! All that is required is looking at a photo and if you recognize who, what or where, simply write it down. It's a project you can do alone or even better if you can get a group of 3-4 folks at once because we all know two heads are better than one, especially when it comes to remembering people and places. Charlie Bruce has agreed to log all photos identified into the database so you don't even have to touch a computer – just a pencil and a piece of paper. Again, it's fast, fun, easy and it brings back some great (and maybe not so great) memories! Any time you can spare will be greatly appreciated – be it 30 minutes or 30 hours. Remember that for every photo identified, THAT person will always forever be remembered (and it may be you!)

For more information, please contact Charlie Bruce, charlie@uah.edu or call her at 256-503-4093 and she will be most happy meet with you and get you started. The photos cover all aspects of UAH, so we need retirees from every department and office.

Recent Activities

September 20, 2022 Archaeology of the UAH Campus

Our September meeting featured a talk on the Archaeology of UAH by Ben Hoksbergen, the Installation Archaeologist and Cultural Resource Manager of the Redstone Arsenal and

Lecturer at UAH. Ben earned a BA from Calvin College and an MA in Anthropology from Iowa State University.

Since 2017, Hoksbergen and his students have been conducting an archaeological survey of the north half of the UAH campus, the former location of the Avalon plantation which began operation in 1820 and became one of the largest plantations in Madison County by the time of the Civil War. They have recorded four archaeological sites related to the plantation so far, including the location of the main house and the sites of three other houses related to descendants of people previously enslaved on the plantation. One of the latter sites may have originally been the location of the plantation blacksmith shop. Following emancipation, Reuben and Columbus Jones, sons of Eliza Jones who had been enslaved on the plantation, took over operation of the blacksmith shop. Both men became Reconstruction-era state congressmen and leased land to Alabama A&M founder, William Hooper Council, to establish his first school for freedmen in Madison County.

October 15 2022 Meeting President Karr

President Charles Karr provided an overview of the state of UAH at the general meeting of the UAH Retirees Association held in the Student Service Building. Dr. Karr was very enthusiastic about the role of UAH in research and maintaining our R1 Carnegie High

Level of Research classification. He pointed out that the proximity of Redstone Arsenal and Marshall Space Flight Center have been important in the research efforts at UAH. He emphasized that UAH must be responsive to the needs of the community, especially workforce development. We want to certainly grow the university in a way that also increases revenue. Increased revenue provides the funds for hiring the additional faculty and staff we need. No department at UAH is currently overstaffed, according to him. We want to have the means to hire quality faculty and staff to keep the high level of the educational and the student experience we have at UAH. Dr. Karr described several plans for improving available facilities for the University. We are close to having secured enough money to build a new Engineering building. We are seeking ARPA funds for a cybersecurity facility with a high bay for large equipment. Executive Plaza demolition has been completed and interviews will begin with companies to build out the complete area. It will be a combination of public and private spaces that will be a large addition to the UAH campus. There are expected to be residence halls, a performing arts center, broader recruiting spaces for UAH as well as retail and entertainment venues. Our goal is to create reasons for people to come to the UAH campus. He wants the Huntsville and surrounding communities to be well aware and proud of UAH.

November 3, 2022

**Erica Collins-Thomas, Assistant
Director of PEEHIP**

Ms. Collins-Thomas offered an in-person session for current and future UAH retirees. This was a valuable opportunity to learn more about the PEEHIP health insurance and Medicare supplement plans. PEEHIP is changing to United Healthcare (UHC) to administer the PEEHIP Group Medicare Advantage Plan for Medicare-eligible retirees and covered Medicare-eligible dependents of retirees effective January 1, 2023.

The presentation provided an overview of all things PEEHIP related, including Open Enrollment dates, PEEHIP staff availability, Optional plans, Premium questions, Insurance Rates, and the Medicare changeover for members as of 1/1/2023 from Humana to UHC. After her presentation, Ms. Collins-Thomas responded to a number of questions.

December 8, 2022

Holiday Cheer Reception

At the suggestion of the UAHRA, retirees were invited to the Holiday Cheer Reception hosted by President Karr. Those who attended had a great time meeting other retirees and current faculty and staff members. President Karr has told us UAH will continue to invite retirees to faculty/staff events such as the annual Faculty/Staff picnic.

\

Officers and Board

The UAHRA Officers and Board for 2022-23 are

President	Jack Fix
Vice President	Ravi Seth
Treasurer	Debra Moriarity
Secretary	Juanita Owen
Board Member	Royce Boyer
	Sharlene Bruce
	Steve Bruce
	Ramon Cerro

New Members

Leigh Kamm
Kenneth Wright

UAHRA President's Message

As you can see from the Recent Events section of this newsletter we have continued to enjoy frequent meetings and events. The Board would like to have an event or activity almost every month. Here are the events that are scheduled or planned.

On March 23rd we will have a guided tour of the UAH Salmon Library, including Archives and Special Collections. This would be a good chance for retirees to get familiar with the photo identification project mentioned earlier in this newsletter.

On February 21st, UAHRA members will get a guided tour of the facilities and research of the UAH Propulsion Research Center, one of the leading

research centers at UAH. The PRC does research in liquid, solid, electric, and fusion propulsion using facilities that include a supersonic wind tunnel and vacuum chambers

On April 2nd, we will attend a matinee performance of "Hair" in the Black Box Theater in the beautiful new wing of renovated Morton Hall. After the performance, UAHRA members are invited to a reception in the lobby, where we can meet the student cast and tech crew and drama faculty.

On April 15th, we plan to attend an athletic triple event at Charger Park. The UAH softball, baseball, and women's lacrosse teams will all be in action. Softball coach Les Stuedeman says there is a carnival-like atmosphere with folks wandering from game to game.

In May we will have a General Meeting of UAHRA members. We hope our scholarship student will be able to attend.

Finally, in June we will again attend the Faculty/Staff picnic.

We will continue to ask those who attend UAHRA events to bring a non-perishable food item to donate to the Charger Pantry. The Charger Pantry was created by SGA in 2014 to provide UAH students with food assistance in times of need. The Pantry is running low on protein (tuna, chicken, etc), ramen noodles, breakfast items (breakfast bars, single serving cereals), and fruits (canned or cups). These items are incredibly helpful and seem to run out the quickest. At the present time, the

Pantry has plenty of canned vegetables, beans, and pastas.

The Board recently came to realize that neither HR or any other organization at UAH has had a need to keep track of contact information for UAH retirees. As a result, when UAHRA was asked to forward an invitation to last December's Holiday Cheer Reception, we were able to contact only a fraction of retirees. Many retirees didn't get an invitation.

Working with Holly Holiday in Human Resources, we have been able to get a list of UAH retirees from TRS that includes emails. The emailing of this newsletter makes use of that list.

Even so, if you know of a UAH retiree who did not get this newsletter and would like to be added to the list, please send us that person's contact information.

We Welcome New Members!

If you know UAH retirees who are not members, encourage them to join. If you are a new or not so new retiree, please consider joining.

An organization such as ours always needs new ideas, helping hands and the strength that our mutual past brings. **If you know of a potential UAHRA member, please ask them to fill out the "Membership Form" on the last page of this newsletter and mail it along with a check made payable to UAHRA to:**

***Debra Moriarity
1704 Mountain Fork Road
New Market, AL 35761***

Our membership year runs from October 1 – September 31.

Retiree Spotlight

This and future newsletters will include short updates on what our retired colleagues are doing in retirement.

Sheila Scruggs



Sheila taught first grade in Illinois and then for DOD in Germany in the 1970s.

After staying home with her children for 15 years, she enrolled at UAH in 1993 to get her Masters in Education and also was hired as a temporary part-time clerk typist in the Athletics Department. She never completed the Masters degree, but retired in 2010 as the Assistant Director of Athletics. During the workday, she managed the administrative duties of being the Senior Woman Administrator, interfaced with the boosters, helped with fund-raising and financial development, and after 2008, also did facilities and operations for all the sports. In addition, she was the game day operations manager for softball and worked at every basketball and hockey game. Her

greatest joy, was seeing the athletes graduate after finishing their athletic careers.

After retirement, she recreated herself. She married Kirk Scruggs and has done lots of traveling—China, Russia, and Israel are highlights. Recently they visited Antelope Canyon in Page Arizona—it's been on her bucket list since a UAHRA member shared his trip photos at a UAHRA luncheon. Just gorgeous!

Sheila also became active in UAHRA, serving two terms on the Board of Directors and also as Treasurer. She almost single-handedly kept UAHRA

going after the death of Jerry Karr and during Covid.

She keeps busy doing the NYT crossword puzzles and volunteering at both the Friends of the Library bookstore at the South Huntsville Public Library and at Free2Teach which is one of UAHRA's community charities.

Thank You to UAH

Although the UAH Retirees Association isn't officially part of UAH, we get a great deal of help and cooperation from the university. The officers and board are very grateful for UAH support.

The University of Alabama in Huntsville
Retirees' Association
(UAHRA)
2022-23 Membership Form

Membership in UAHRA is available on an annual and lifetime basis. Annual fees are due on October 1 and must be paid in full to qualify to vote in the spring elections in May.

New retirees may enjoy complimentary membership until the fiscal year begins in October.

Membership

- ☐ Already a UAHRA Lifetime Member \$ 0.00
Please skip to bottom of form to fill in your personal information.

Type of Lifetime Membership:

- ☐ UAH retiree \$100.00
☐ UAH retiree and spouse \$150.00
Lifetime Membership fees are assessed as a one-time payment only.

Type of Annual Membership:

- ☐ New UAH retiree--date of retirement: _____ \$ 0.00
☐ UAH retiree \$10.00
☐ UAH retired spouses (both UAH retirees) \$15.00
☐ UAH retiree and non-UAH retired spouse \$17.50
☐ UAH retiree and non-retired spouse \$20.00
☐ Surviving spouse of UAH retiree \$10.00
☐ Associate member* \$10.00
(UAH employee within five years of retirement eligibility)
☐ Other individual applicant* \$20.00
(as approved by the Board)

*Cannot vote or hold office

Name: _____
Title First Middle Last

Name: _____
Title First Middle Last

Address: _____
Street City State Zip

Phone(s): _____
Please label your numbers as "H" for home, "C" for cell or "W" for work.

Email(s): _____
Your email address is greatly appreciated such that we may move toward electronic communication.

*Send form and check (if applicable) made payable to "UAHRA" to:
Debra Moriarity, UAHRA Treasurer
1704 Mountain Fork Road, New Market AL 35761*