

UAHRA Newsletter

Winter 2025

Upcoming Activities

As you will see in the Recent Events section of this newsletter we have enjoyed frequent meetings and events. The Board's goal is to have an event or activity almost every month. Here are some events we are planning for the near future. Please feel free to bring a fellow retiree or guest.

January 22, 2025 at 2 pm
159 Wilson Hall
Balance Class

Seniors, including retirees, are susceptible to falls, which can have a dramatic impact on health and lifestyle. In this balance class we will learn about exercises and actions that can reduce our likelihood of falls.

Faculty/Staff Clinic Tour
(Date TBD)

Many retirees are not aware that Clinic (<https://www.uah.edu/clinic>) services are available to retired faculty and staff. The Clinic offers a very wide range of services from physical exams to suture removal to EKGs to vaccinations. We will tour the Clinic to learn more about what it can do for retirees.

Local Weather (Date TBD)

This will be a follow-up on our visit to the Weather Forecasting Office last year. We'll visit one of the local TV stations to learn how local forecasters use National Weather Service products to make forecasts and how local stations will take advantage of significantly improved 10-day forecasting programs.

Recent Activities

August 14, 2024
Meeting with Kristina Hendrix, UAH
Vice President for Strategic
Communications

Vice President Hendrix told us about the upcoming media campaign to increase UAH visibility and enhance recruitment, planning for the Executive Plaza, and plans to increase awareness of UAH distance-learning degree programs.

August 23, 2024
Welcome Back Picnic
Student Services Building 112

Retirees were invited to the picnic along with current faculty and staff.

September 19, 2024
US Space and Rocket Center
Biergarten



UAHRA at Biergarten

We drank beer and ate German food under the Saturn V in the Davidson Pavillion.

November 12, 2024
Meeting with President Chuck Karr

President Karr gave us an update on important matters and events at UAH. Highlights were:

- Construction of the new Engineering building is underway.
- The Bevill Center will undergo major renovation to become the home of Cybersecurity Center.
- A new track and field facility will be built on campus.

- Planning for the development of the Executive Plaza location continues. About four full proposals were due in December. Initial phases are expected to include a research building and a residence hall.
- A new Vice President for Enrollment Management, Dr. Michael Poll had been hired to oversee recruiting, financial aid, public relations, and retention. UAH now has regional recruiters in Birmingham, Nashville, Atlanta, and Mobile.
- UAH is investing in eSports, which are very popular and a big draw for students.

December 5, 2024
Meeting with Erica Thomas of PEEHIP

After learning that a number of retirees had questions about UnitedHealthcare and the PEEHIP Medicare Advantage Plan, we asked Holly Holladay in HR to invite a PEEHIP Representative to campus for a session with retirees and soon-to-be retirees. Ms. Thomas made a presentation that answered many questions about PEEHIP and changes in Medicare, etc. and then responded to questions. About 100 people, including many current faculty and staff attended.

December 12, 2024
Holiday Cheer Reception

Once again retirees were invited to the campus holiday party. About 30 of us attended and had a great time talking with old friends.

Officers and Board

The UAHRA Officers and Board for 2024-25 are:

President	Jack Fix
Vice President	Sharlene Bruce
Treasurer	Debra Moriarity
Secretary	Juanita Owen

Board Member	Steve Bruce
	Leigh Kamm
	Sherri Messimer
	Carolyn Sanders

New Members

Narayanah Bhat
Kamala Bhat
John Burnett
Edward Meehan

UAHRA President's Message

In the past we've invited new retirees to join UAHRA and, if they join, given them the first year of membership free.

Now the Board has decided to change the policy on new members. Starting this year (2025) new retirees will automatically become UAHRA members with a free first year membership. Thus, they will get announcements about upcoming events and be encouraged to attend. At the end of the first year they will be asked if they wish to continue membership either as annual or lifetime members.

We hope that the new policy will result in more new retirees becoming involved in UAHRA.

In 2025 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 provides UAH students with food assistance in times of need. The Pantry is usually low on protein (tuna, chicken, etc), ramen noodles, breakfast items (breakfast bars, single serving cereals), and fruits (canned or cups). These items are very helpful and run out quickly. The Pantry usually has plenty of canned vegetables, beans, and pastas.

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.

Deb Moriarity and Dan Rochowiak



Deb and Dan at Mendenhall Glacier

In August, 2018 Deb Moriarity retired from UAH as Chair of the Department of Biological Sciences and Dan Rochowiak retired from the Department of Computer Science. Both of them had served as Associate Dean of the College of Science, and Deb served as Dean of the Graduate School while Dan served as the initial Director of the Center for Collaborative Learning. They planned a cruise around the British Isles immediately after retiring to be sure they were not asked to stay and work part time for UAH that Fall semester. (A fate that has befallen other retirees). They visited the island of Jersey, Dublin and Belfast in Ireland, and attended the Military Tattoo in Edinburgh, Scotland as part of that cruise. Afterward, they spent a week exploring London with much sightseeing. They even took a train ride to Cambridge where Dan had spent some time while a graduate student. Reykjavik, Iceland was a 3 day stopover on the way back from London and included a trip to The Blue Lagoon

geothermal spa. They had such a good time that travel became a major theme of their retirement. A trip to Alaska included inland trips to Fairbanks, Denali National Park, and a visit to Santa in North Pole, Alaska.

Interestingly, as they visited an art museum at the University of Fairbanks they came across a piece of art created by a UAH colleague, Glenn Dasher! A cruise through the Alaskan glaciers followed, where they saw the Mendenhall Glacier, named for the uncle of a faculty member in Biological Sciences at UAH, Dr. Eric Mendenhall. Ports in Ketchikan, Skagway and Juneau provided fun and educational excursions and appreciation of the native Alaskan culture and wildlife. They saw lots of moose, caribou and even a grizzly bear. They followed the cold of the Alaskan cruise with a flight from Vancouver to Palm Springs, CA to thaw out. Joshua Tree National Park and a ride up the Palm Springs Aerial Tramway to Mt. San Jacinto were highlights. A cruise planned for 2020 to Greece was canceled due to Covid-19, but was rescheduled and occurred in 2022. They spent a week in Rome, then boarded a cruise ship with ports for Pompeii, on Mykonos and Crete, at Kusadari, Turkey, where they visited Ephesus, and then Istanbul. The cruise ended in Athens, Greece. After 4 days of wonderful Greek food and exploring Athens they flew to the island of Santorini for 3 days to enjoy the gorgeous sunsets. Other travels have

included the Caribbean island of Antigua, a trip from the north to the south of Arizona, including the Grand Canyon and snow in May in Flagstaff. A very cold Thanksgiving was spent in NYC in 2022 and a very warm June, 2023 saw a trip to Washington DC. Moving into some warmer climates there have been trips to the western Caribbean, Antigua, the wonderfully relaxing Loreto, Mexico, various parts of the Yucatán Peninsula, and Mazatlán. And of course there have been trips to Deb's hometown, Jersey Shore, PA (nowhere near the beach) and Dan's hometown, Baltimore, MD, for family events and visits. Closer to home they have enjoyed a variety of concerts including Billy Joel, Stevie Nicks, Bonnie Raitt, Judy Collins, James Taylor, John Legend, and more. One wonderful aspect of retirement is time to spend with grandchildren. Between them they have 8 grandchildren, and have added 4 great grands. There have been dance recitals, band performances, swim meets, games, parties, and other activities. But despite all the fun and games, UAH did manage to get both of them back into the lab and classroom. During Covid-19, Deb did some research for a company developing disinfectants for the Covid virus. Dan began teaching part time on-line during the pandemic and he has continued teaching fall and spring semesters since then. He also had a few consultant activities with local companies. Deb helped fill in and taught a few courses since Covid, but is not teaching now.

They both love teaching and missing the students was one negative part of retirement.

But Deb has found a way to keep busy by volunteering with a non-profit started by her daughter, Kate (Howard) O'Neal. The Caring Link is a 501c3 nonprofit that sets up Care Closets in local schools, providing clothing, toiletries, school supplies, classroom snacks and book fair assistance for students. Their goal is to provide basic needs so that children can focus on their classroom activities. It started in Lynn Fanning Elementary School and now there are 12 schools with closets in the Madison County and Huntsville school districts, with more planned as funding allows. You can find it at TheCaringLink.org All that traveling and sightseeing took a toll and in 2024 Dan had a knee replacement and an ankle replacement. He is recovered and ready for more travel now. A two week trip to Loreto, MX is planned and they are looking for cruises to see the Northern Lights. So all in all, they are having a very happy, productive, and healthy retirement and still staying in touch with UAH.

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)
2025 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 update 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

Department/Division: _____

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 mo

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

