



NEWSWATCH

Vol. 2011-2012 No. 7

March 2012

**Next meeting: 2 p.m., Wednesday, April 11
Peterson Room, Showalter House, IU Foundation, SR46 Bypass**

Get on board for the circus in April

On Wed., April 11, at 2 p.m. retirees will be part of a traveling circus. IURA board member **Vince Mabert**, professor emeritus of operations management at the Kelley School, will present “The Logistics of a Traveling Railroad Circus.” During the Golden Age of the railroad, from 1880 to 1920, American circuses like Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey were mobile cities. Over a seven-month season, the railroad transported more than a thousand people and 700 animals to 150 communities.

“You will see many historical pictures that highlight specialized logistics activities — just-in-time scheduling, rapid loading and unloading, piggyback carrier transport — that are now considered common principles and practices,” Vince says. “Although they underlie modern logistics management, they were in use more than a century ago.”

“We’ll get a different perspective on the circus, including lions and tigers,” said IURA President **Iris Kiesling**. The Retirees Association did not meet in March. The May 9 meeting is the annual pitch-in dinner at the IU Foundation.

“News keeps getting better,” says Pfister

In January retirees heard that we had not only met our United Way goal but surpassed it. At the Feb. 8 meeting **Harriet Pfister** announced that “the news just keeps getting better.” As of Feb. 7, Harriet announced, 161 donors pledged \$111,930, exceeding our \$100,000 goal by nearly 12 percent. The number of Vanguard donors, those contributing \$1,000 or more, rose to 59.

Retirees contribute more than money, however. They contribute service, as exemplified by Harriet, **Doris Burton**, and **Wain Martin**, the longtime leaders of

the Retirees Association’s United Way drive. Retirees also volunteer and generously support many of the United Way’s 26 member agencies. Several serve on the boards of directors of these agencies. For example, **Norm Overly** is treasurer of Monroe County United Ministries, **Don Weaver** chairs the Salvation Army’s advisory board, and **Sally Dunn** and **Janet Stavropoulos** serve on the board of Middle Way House. Thanks to those who make this community a better place to live.

April meeting to feature board elections

When retirees meet April 11, IURA President **Iris Kiesling** reminds members, that gathering also will function as the annual meeting. Three new board members will be elected for three years to take the place of **Dick Dever**, **Jim Kennedy**, and **Vince Mabert**, whose terms expire. Although the slate was not final when *NewsWatch* went to press, **Joan Curts** and **John Hobson** are two of the board nominees. Nominations may be made from the floor, if the nominee has given prior consent.

Schwartzkopf looks back on music at IU

For nearly 50 years **Michael Schwartzkopf** has been part of music at IU, first as a Singing Hoosier and student in music education and, for the last 17 years, as director of the Singing Hoosiers. Before retiring at the end of this academic year, he told tales of a musical life when he spoke to retirees on Wed., Feb. 8, at the IU Foundation.

Michael grew up in Columbus, Ind., one of six children of hard-working parents who didn’t think much about academics. A diver in high school, he met **Bob Stoll**, director of the Singing Hoosiers from 1963 to 1995, when Bob came to direct a community theater production of *The King and I*, with Michael’s uncle as the king. “Bob talked to me about the

Singing Hoosiers,” Michael recalls. “He took me under his wing and was like a second father to me, making sure I did what I was supposed to do.”

Michael recalled performing at the Wagon Wheel Playhouse in Warsaw, Ind., while pursuing a degree in music education at IU. He also recalled concerts all over the U.S. and, with the USO, to Greenland, Newfoundland, and Labrador, as part of the Singing Hoosiers. As a college senior in the days of the draft, he auditioned for and was accepted into the U.S. Army Chorus. He’ll never forget singing a solo in the White House for President Nixon.

He “came close to getting some parts” in New York City but “came to realize that what I really craved was the white picket fence.” One year teaching middle school showed him that was not his cup of tea, but he enjoyed leading choirs at Mercer University, a small college in Georgia. After earning his master’s in choral conducting at IU in 1976, he went to the University of Iowa to earn a doctorate, with Don Moses, whom he had known at IU, as his mentor. He taught at Illinois State University. When Bob Stoll retired, Michael applied for the job of director and was chosen, returning to IU, where he is the Pam and Jack Burks Professor of Music.

Michael showed a DVD put together for the 50th anniversary of the Singing Hoosiers, which evolved from a men’s chorus led by basso profundo George Krueger in 1950. Bob Stoll began the annual Chimes of Christmas concert in the mid-1960s, and the group took USO tours every other year until about 1970. Bob also fostered a relationship with the late Erich Kunzel, with whom the Singing Hoosiers made four CDs, including one at Carnegie Hall shortly before Bob’s retirement.

Six years ago the Singing Hoosiers went to Greece, and last May they traveled to China for sold-out concerts in Hong Kong, Shanghai, and Beijing. Critical to the invitation and arrangement were the efforts of Singing Hoosier alumnus Ali Tuet. Like many Singing Hoosiers, Ali was not a music major; he got his degree in business and now chairs a Hong Kong company with 10,000 employees.

“The mission of the Singing Hoosiers is very important,” says Michael. “We learn as many styles as we can — popular, jazz, spirituals, folk — and we create serious citizens, who learn responsibility, teamwork, organization, and time management. We are musical ambassadors for the university.” Notable alumni include actor Kevin Kline and U.S. federal judge Sarah Evans Barker.

Special memories for Michael, who also has directed the chancel choir at First United Methodist Church for 17 years, include:

- Leading the chorus in a Wal-Mart commercial;
- Singing for Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu;
- Organizing concerts after 9/11; and
- Training the opera chorus for *Carmen* and *La Bohème*.

Michael and his wife, Marilyn, are preparing to move to Bluffton, S.C., where “we have built a house on a golf course with palm trees.” His swan song as Singing Hoosiers director will be March 31 at the IU Auditorium. “Students are like sponges,” he said. “I will miss them terribly, but I won’t miss arranging and organizing the concerts.”

In introducing Michael, **Wayne Craig** commented, “So many things bring pleasure at IU: basketball, theater, the Lilly Library, and many others. But I can’t think of any other one group that has brought so much pleasure in such numbers as the Singing Hoosiers.”

After the meeting, retirees enjoyed cookies provided by **Marge Belisle, Fran Bell, Suzann Owen, and Harriet Pfister**.

IURA helps you display your inner artist

Once again, the IURA will cooperate with the Emeriti House in its annual art exhibit, with the opening reception at the Emeriti House, 1015 E. Atwater Ave., Friday, May 4, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

According to **Jerry Chertkoff**, who chairs the organization committee, “We welcome submissions in any art medium. We know from previous exhibits that many retirees are producing works of displayable quality, and we strongly urge you to submit work for this year’s exhibit.”

Bring works to the Emeriti House on Wed., May 2, between 9 and 11 a.m. Art should be ready to display. “If it is to be displayed framed, it should be submitted already framed,” Jerry says. On the back or bottom of each piece, a label should state the name of the submitter; if for sale, the price; if not for sale, “NFS”; and the title of the piece if there is one.

Each person may submit from one to three works, although the maximum number accepted from a single contributor will be two. “Every contributor who submits one to three works will have at least one work included in the show,” Jerry explains. “All final

selections are made at the discretion of the organizing committee.”

If you have questions, contact Jerry at chertkof@indiana.edu or at (812) 339-9519.

Authors in our midst

Retirees don't practice just the visual arts. Others try their hand at writing. Two IURA members recently have published works with AuthorHouse — not academic studies, mind you, but books based on their life experiences.

Ken Beckley, retired CEO of the IU Alumni Association, is the author of *Knuckleball: The Uncertainties of (a) Life*, published at the end of February. The novel opens in rural Indiana on a hot August afternoon of 1955, when 15-year-old Davie Miller throws his third no-hitter of the season. The book traces Davie's journey into adulthood. He learns the figurative knuckleballs his mother endured, and an unforeseen gift on his 50th birthday changes everything. The publisher calls the novel “an inspirational story of how one man learns to live through the unexpected and, in the end, discovers it is never too late to realize a dream.”

Last August **Eleanor Lahr**, retired from the Office of Risk Management, realized a dream when she published *Angels Along the River*. Reading a historic novel changed Eleanor's life. As she read about Mary Draper Ingles, captured in 1755 by Shawnee Indians and carried 500 miles from her home, Eleanor felt compelled to retrace the route Mary took to escape. After extensive planning and training, Eleanor hiked for 43 days along the Ohio, Kanawha, and New rivers. According to the publisher, hers is “an inspirational story of hope, fear, joy, and accomplishment that is a testament to the incredible tenacity and spirit of ordinary people everywhere.”

Hershey explains political polarization

Whatever your political views, you can learn from listening to IU political scientist **Marjorie Hershey**. On Jan. 25 she spoke to a packed room at the Emeriti House, giving a guided tour to political polarization in America.

Today, she asserted, “no Republican in Congress is more moderate than the most conservative Democrat in Congress.” The political landscape has changed since the 1960s because of civil rights. The Republican Party used to be the party of Lincoln, the

party of civil rights, she reminded us. Things started to change in 1964, when Barry Goldwater said no to the Civil Rights Act because its enforcement would require a strong national government. Southern Democrats gradually moved to the Republican Party, bringing with them, she said, such issues as abortion and same-sex marriage. Liberal New England Republicans no longer felt at home in their party and moved over to the Democratic Party.

The parties are far more clearly differentiated than they were in the past. “Republicans have moved more to the right than Democrats have moved to the left,” Margie said. Newly elected Democrats are more moderate than Democrats already in Congress, but newly elected Republicans are more conservative than continuing Republicans. The cumulative effect has been to move Republicans to the right, with no movement to the left by Democrats. “Redistricting tends to create more homogeneous districts, so polarization will continue,” she said.

Polarization has also increased because the media world has grown more segmented, with 95 percent of people who read political blogs on the Internet looking at *only* conservative or *only* liberal media. “We live in information silos,” she said, “enmeshed with people and media who agree with us.”

“Most Americans favor substantial cuts in the federal budget,” Margie said, “as long as it doesn't affect them.” People greatly overestimate government aid to the poor and greatly underestimate subsidies to the rich, she pointed out. When asked whether they receive government aid, 40 percent of those receiving Medicare and 44 percent of those receiving Social Security answer no, and a whopping 60 percent of those with home mortgage exemptions don't think they are receiving a government subsidy.

How did voter turnout in 2010 compare to 2008? In 2010 one-third of those who voted in 2008 stayed home. Those who went to the polls for the midterm elections were whiter, more affluent, better educated, and older than those who voted in 2008. The party in power almost always loses seats in the midterm elections, she said; in the last 100 years exceptions to that rule have occurred only twice. An incumbent president's popularity generally drops midterm. Then, Margie said, “there is usually an uptick in his numbers, when real opponents emerge, when he is running against other than the perfect president to whom we've been comparing him.”

“The Tea Party's greatest effect,” she said, “is on the media, not on the voters. The media love the drama, the controversy, and the good pictures — those

IU Retirees Association
P.O. Box 8393
Bloomington, IN 47407-8393

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage PAID
Bloomington, IN
Permit No. 2

people in their Uncle Sam suits.” She believes that the Tea Party cost the Republicans some very winnable races because non-electable candidates were selected in the primary.

Looking at the 2012 election, Margie thinks that, if the economy continues to improve, Obama may well be re-elected. The fall election is likely to bring out younger, Latino, and African-American voters, who are more likely to vote for Obama. “The Electoral College is more predictable than some might think,” she said, “with only seven states in question. Florida and Ohio will decide the election.” At the same time, Democrats need 24 more seats to gain a majority in the House, which she considers unlikely. It is more probable that the Republicans will gain control of the Senate, leading to further gridlock.

Marjorie, who earned her doctorate at the University of Wisconsin, has taught at IU, in her words, “since the beginning of time.” **Bill McGregor**, SPEA professor emeritus, introduced her and pointed out that her textbook on political parties is now in its 15th edition. Her talk was titled “The Presidential Race, as of Five Minutes Ago.”

Marjorie will be the speaker in September when the IURA celebrates the new academic year with its annual luncheon at Terry’s. To hear an update on the presidential race, come to the September luncheon.

There’s never a reason not to vote

Ask any demographer, and you’ll hear that retirees are the group most likely to vote in any election. It’s easy — and it’s important.

If you’re 65 or older, you can vote by mail. Just request an application to vote absentee by mail by calling (812) 349-2690. You may also download an application from www.in.gov/sos/elections/2402.htm. To vote in the May 8 election, you must complete and return the application by no later than April 30. Absentee-in-person voting will begin April 9.

Joe Belth recalls long-ago interview

Longtime IURA member **Joe Belth**, professor emeritus of insurance at the Kelley School, shared this memory in a letter to Judy Schroeder (jschroed@indiana.edu), who writes and edits *Newswatch*:

“I regret missing the January meeting, when **Byron Smith** spoke. I was intrigued by his comment, quoted in your January issue, that ‘you need to take the initiative in starting a conversation with me because I don’t know you’re there.’ In the 1970s he interviewed me for WFIU. Afterward, each time our paths cross, I say, ‘Hi, Byron.’ He instantly replies, ‘Hi, Joe.’ Byron is amazing.”