Congratulations new retirees, and welcome to the world of retirement. We hope you will join UARA! It’s your Association!

Election Ballot for New Executive Committee Candidates and Bylaw Revision
Please vote for Executive Committee candidates and a revision to the Bylaws. Included in this issue is a blue ballot insert for you to vote on the new Executive Committee candidates. Last year the membership voted to create a new type of Executive Committee that will consist of a minimum of six members who will be elected by the UARA membership for three-year terms (six this year, then two per year starting next year). The Executive Committee will then select, from its members, a president, vice-president, secretary, and treasurer, each to serve for one year.

Short biographies of each candidate are on the front of the insert; on the back is the ballot. You can also vote on a proposed amendment to the Bylaws, which will allow UA employees who are within two years of their retirement date to be eligible to become UARA members.

Fourth Annual UARA Day at the Ballpark—May 13
UARA Day at the Ballpark has become a yearly tradition, and we cordially invite you to participate! Please join us on Friday, May 13, 7:00 pm at Hi Corbett Field to cheer on the Wildcats. The Wildcats were the NCAA National Champions in 2013. They will be playing Arizona State University in a PAC-12 baseball game to be televised on the Pac-12 Arizona network. General admission is $4.00 each (no limit), so feel free to bring friends, family and grandchildren. The traditional baseball stadium fare of beer, nachos and hot dogs will be available for purchase. Checks, payable to UARA, must be received in the UARA office by Wednesday, May 4. If you’re running late, call the office by that date to let us know you would like to attend.

Tickets Available for UA Football Game—September 17
We are excited to announce that we are offering discounted football tickets for Saturday, September 17, the University of Arizona Vs. Hawaii football game at Arizona Stadium. The start time will be announced. Tickets are $12.00 each (no limit), and seating will likely be in the south end zone. Checks, payable to UARA, must be received (early) by Wednesday, May 4. If you are lucky to be able to offer these tickets at a group discount. Help us start a new UARA tradition!

For updates about UARA Activities, Luncheons, Meetings, Newsletters, Membership, Retiree Resources, and other important information, be sure to visit UARA on the Web, uara.arizona.edu
April 2016 President’s Message
By Ruth Eskesen, UARA President

Greetings! How times flies! It is difficult to believe that the 2015-2016 year of UARA activities is almost at an end. It has been an honor and pleasure to serve as UARA president this past year, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank those who made that task easier. I greatly appreciate the support of members serving on the Executive Committee, President-elect Jim Barrett, Treasurer Tom Rehm, Secretary Felicia Hermann, Past-president Rose Perrill, and appointed members, Suzanne Van Ort and Bob Perrill. In addition to serving as our enthusiastic UARA Office Manager, Trudy Jacobson edited the UA Retiree News, collaborated with Roger Caldwell in publishing the UARA history and worked diligently to insure the success of UARA events.

The UARA Advisory Council was fortunate to be invited to hold its meeting at the Habitat for Humanity facility and to have had dedicated volunteers who provided leadership for committees and events. Jim Barrett, Activities Committee chair, arranged exciting opportunities for members to socialize, learn and have fun. Betty Atwater continued her dedicated service as chairman of the Scholarship Committee and, along with Janice Murphy, assisted in organizing the travel group luncheon meeting. Luncheon coordinator, Jane Dugas arranged three wonderful luncheons again this year in addition to her work on the newsletter. Replacing Roger Caldwell as Webmaster, Jane will be wearing another hat in serving UARA. Past-president and chair of the Nominations Committee, Rose Perrill and her committee, Tom Rehm, Alison Hughes and Bob Perrill, successfully recruited well qualified candidates for next year’s Executive Committee.

Special thanks is extended to Roger Caldwell, Suzanne Van Ort, and Senior VP of University Relations, Teri Lucie Thompson. In addition to volunteering as Webmaster, Roger worked closely with Trudy Jacobson in publishing the UARA history, an important part of 35th Anniversary celebrations, and served as UARA liaison to the University Club planning group and representative on the ASRS health insurance committee. A dedicated life member and Past-president of UARA, Suzanne provided valuable assistance in the planning and coordination of UARA programs and events. She worked tirelessly with the University of Arizona Foundation in establishing the UARA Program Endowment to provide future financial support for programs that will serve our members. As UARA President this past year, I am deeply indebted to her for her guidance and counsel. While leaving the University of Arizona in mid-April, Teri Lucie Thompson has been a wonderful advocate for UARA by offering her ongoing support and resources from her office in securing the UARA Babcock office; aiding in the design of the new UARA logo and brochure; providing ongoing support to publish UA Retiree News; and participating in development of UARA’s Program Endowment.

Goals for 2015-2016 were adopted by the Executive Committee and Advisory Council to reflect our commitment to serving University retirees by promoting social interaction and communications among members; strengthening links with the University; and providing scholarships for undergraduate and graduate students. With the help of everyone we have succeeded in meeting our goals for the year. Thanks to all.

With best regards,

Ruth Eskesen

Advisory Council Meetings
Meetings are held at the Habitat for Humanity facility located at 3501 N. Mountain Avenue, just south of Prince Road. Ample free parking is available in the Habitat lot, or on E. Greenlee Road, immediately south of the building. Meetings are from 10 am to noon, and we encourage all members to attend; guests are welcome too! Refreshments are served...we hope to see you there!

Schedule follows on these Tuesdays:

April 12, 2016
October 11, 2016
January 10, 2017
February 14, 2017
March 14, 2017
April 11, 2017

It’s Membership Renewal Time!
If your address label reads “Exp. June 2016” you will receive a blue renewal postcard this summer. If you renew annually ($20 per year), and would like to switch to the five-year plan ($80 for five years), simply check the five-year box on your renewal card, mail in the dues ($80), and your next renewal wouldn’t be until June 2021. The five-year plan is a nice bargain! Life Members and those who have a later expiration date will not receive a renewal notice. Thank you for your membership!

Attention: UARA Members Who Leave for the Summer!!
If you are planning to leave town for the summer months (and believe me, we are so jealous), please let us know the dates you are departing/returning so we can update our mailing list. We mail the Newsletter via bulk mail, which goes through the “National Change of Address” process. If you permanently move and file a change of address card at the Post Office, all mail will be forwarded. But if you file a temporary change, only first-class mail will be forwarded to you. We don’t want you to miss any UARA Newsletters or postcards.

Please write, call, or email with your “away dates” (contact information on back page). If you sent in a request last year, please let us know if it is the same information and dates for this year (you don’t need to send the addresses and dates a second time).
Past Luncheons Report

WINTER. The rustic Tanque Verde Ranch was the location for our winter luncheon this past January. Eighty UARA members and guests attended this event that featured the very popular buffet.

SPRING. For UARA’s spring luncheon at the end of March, ninety people enjoyed a delicious three course meal at the historic Lodge on the Desert.

This was the perfect opportunity to listen and learn from our guest speaker, the 18th President of the University of Arizona, Dr. Peter Likins.

Dr. Likins talked about many topics including his marriage of 60 years, a multi-cultural family of six adopted children, a career as an engineer in spacecraft design and faculty positions at several universities, his health, in particular, his near death experience, and retirement.

Dr. Likins’ latest endeavor as a self-publishing author, is his book entitled Coyote Speaks: Cross Country Run. For more information, see research.arizona.edu/stories/self-publishing-peter-likins

Next Venue and Menu!

Spread the word, so we can pack the room at our Fall Luncheon in the Crown Room at the scenic Skyline Country Club, on October 20, 2016. A three-course lunch has been planned including three entrée choices, salad, dessert, rolls and beverages. Free valet parking will be available. A special invited speaker will be featured. Cost: $25.00 per person.

Skyline is under new management and we look forward to returning after a two year hiatus. More information and reservation form will follow in the Fall Newsletter, to be mailed early October.

UARA Members Tour Tech Park Arizona

A group of UARA members and guests enjoyed a tour of the UA Science and Technology Park on February 4th. The tour was led by Molly Gilbert, the Tech Park’s Director of University and Community Engagement. The UA Tech Park is one of the nation’s premier university research parks that links cutting edge technology and the resources of the UA, creating an environment in which companies innovate, grow and succeed. It’s located on a 1,345 acre campus on Tucson’s Southeast side. (Photo courtesy of Lorraine DeNigris.)

One of the highlights of the day was viewing the artwork of President Emeritus Dr. Henry Koffler, that was displayed on the wall upon entering the main lobby. Dr. Koffler, a UARA life member, taught himself digital art production using a Paintbrush program on his Ipad, which he started in his 90s.

After the visit, some members of the group went on a lunch trip to Omar’s at the TTT, a true Tucson icon.

We hope to return to the Tech Park in the near future to view the massive solar energy area!

Editor’s Note:

UARA gratefully acknowledges the efficient and cheerful assistance of Tracy Bibeau, Executive Assistant to Bruce Wright, Associate Vice President, Tech Parks Arizona, in setting up the tour.
AN EXCITING OPPORTUNITY FOR UARA’S FUTURE

During the 2016 UARA Winter luncheon, we announced a new opportunity for UARA’s future. We are now inviting your participation in this exciting possibility. Last year the UARA Executive Committee approved establishing a Program Endowment in collaboration with the UA Foundation and Office of University Relations. The purpose of the Endowment is to provide ongoing financial support for a variety of new, creative UARA programs to engage retirees and encourage their lifelong Wildcat involvement.

As officers of UARA, we are joining with others to support this very important initiative at the University of Arizona to serve UA retirees. Specifically we are contributing to and seeking additional donors to establish a significant UARA Program Endowment at the UA Foundation. Contributions to the Endowment will be tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law.

Currently there is no sustainable funding source for programs and activities to serve our retired faculty and staff. In the past, member dues were the primary vehicle that supported UARA programs and activities. Now three important factors are occurring which affect UARA’s ability to offer programs. First, member dues do not provide sufficient funds to expand programming. Second, UA retiree demographics have changed. More individuals are retiring early and their program interests often differ from those retirees in previous years. Third, costs are increasing for offering programs as technology expands and space needs change.

We need to address all interests of our former faculty and staff to provide a variety of opportunities to learn, explore and socialize. We invite you to participate with us as a donor to the proposed UARA Program Endowment. If you have questions or would like additional information, please feel free to contact any of us. A donation form is included in this newsletter mailing for your convenience.

Sincerely,

Suzanne Van Ort  
UARA Past-President  
Chair, Endowment Committee  
svanort@aol.com

Thomas Rehm  
UARA Treasurer  
trrrush@msn.com

Ruth Eskesen  
UARA President  
reskesen@comcast.net

Scholarships by UARA

Did you know that UARA provides three scholarships through the UA Foundation? The UARA Scholarship Committee has made 25 awards since the program began in 2004, providing $23,700 to students.

Donations can be allotted to the following:

(1) Irving Yall Book Scholarship;
(2) Van Ort UARA Undergraduate Scholarship;
(3) UARA TR Rush Graduate Scholarship (or all three).

More information and a downloadable donation form can be found on our website, uara.arizona.edu; Click on “Scholarships” on the left side. If you don’t use a computer and would like a donation form mailed to you, please contact the office (contact information on the back page).
**Building a Better world. Constructing a Stronger Southern Arizona**
*By T. VanHook, CEO, Habitat for Humanity Tucson*

**Habitat for Humanity** Tucson volunteers are on the frontline of the fight to alleviate substandard housing in our community. Each year, more than 4,500 individual volunteers help us fulfill our mission of building a more just and compassionate world. Our dedicated volunteers give their time and talents at the construction site, in our offices, and helping shoppers who visit the HabiStore.

**You don’t have to lift a hammer to help build homes!** Consider volunteering at an upcoming home build, help facilitate daily functions in the Habitat Tucson offices, partner with a future homebuyer, or be a regular volunteer sales representative at the HabiStore. Each volunteer experience offers a chance to greatly impact your community while directly benefitting the ongoing mission of Habitat Tucson – to give a hand up, not a handout, to hardworking families and individuals so that we may build a better world together.

At Habitat Tucson, we listen to the dreams of our neighbors to help them build the futures they deserve. Together with our community partners, volunteers and supporters, we build affordable and sustainable homes alongside hardworking, local families. We also provide critical home repair services to individuals, seniors, veterans and families to help them live in safety and security in their homes for years to come.

For 35 years, we’ve worked in partnership with families and individuals in Tucson, Marana, Amado, Green Valley and Sahuarita. We’ve sold 400 new homes to local families at zero-percent interest. We continue to help our neighbors by repairing existing homes and new home construction.

We are building a stronger community; however, our job will never be complete. Why? Because there are still children who don’t know the meaning of home. There are many families who can benefit from home ownership. We can continue to positively impact neighborhoods and lay foundations for success for our future generations.

**You can help!** Volunteering is a great way to network with like-minded individuals, make new friends and learn a few new skills along the way. We look forward to sharing your skills to continue building a stronger Southern Arizona together.

*For more information about Habitat Tucson’s programs and to find out how you can make a difference in your community, visit HabitatTucson.org/volunteer.*

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**UA Cares Program Has Blossomed!**
*By Sheila McGinnis, UA Cares*

The University of Arizona’s UA Cares Program has evolved over the past two years under the guidance of UA’s Community Relations team. The UA Cares Program now encompasses several initiatives which directly support the community.

Each fall, the university coordinates the **UA Cares Giving Campaign**, an initiative in which employees can choose to donate either through payroll deduction or direct donation to a multitude of non-profit agencies. Because we partner with the local chapter of United Way, we are able to include retirees in this effort also.

Our most recent campaign raised $286,680 for non-profits who serve children, older adults, animals, people with mental illness, and hunger, along with organizations focusing on education and literacy. UA is Arizona’s land grant university and staff are housed across the state. Many employees give to charities in their locality so we often have statewide impact.

Another UA Cares initiative is called **Cats in the Community** that focuses on volunteerism and fundraising activities. Historically, this was a one-day volunteer event that involved many months of planning. Today, Cats in the Community introduces UA volunteers to more non-profits and the work they do to improve lives in Greater Tucson. This allows the university to make a bigger impact community-wide. We’ve hosted ten volunteer events to date with several more in the works. We’ve booked just under 2,000 hours of volunteerism and employees have hosted 63 fundraisers and supply drives (used books, clothing, school supplies).

Just before the summer falls upon the campus, we host the **UA4Food Campaign** - a staff and faculty food drive benefiting the Community Food Bank of Southern Arizona. Many departments across campus collaborate on this effort. The food drive culminates with an event called “**Stuff the Cat Truck**” in which we open the food drive to surrounding neighborhoods to participate with us.

The past two years of change have been inspiring to UA participants and the non-profit agencies we’ve helped. Through UA Cares volunteerism and giving initiatives we are helping to make a difference in our community.

Retirees interested in volunteering can contact me by calling 520.626.4671, or via email at smcginnis@email.arizona.edu.
The 2nd regular session of the 52nd Arizona Legislature convened on Monday, January 11, 2016. Tuesday, April 19, 2016 is the 100th day of the legislative session which, theoretically, is the date the Legislature is supposed to adjourn.

NON-ASRS PROPOSED BILLS

SB1151: ASRS; Continuation — Arizona Sunset statutes requires that, on a periodic basis, the Legislature authorize the continuation of state agencies. SB1144 would continue ASRS for 8 years until July 1, 2024. Passed Senate 30-0; 3/14 on House consent calendar.

HCR2023: PROP 105; Legislative Authority
The November 2016 general election ballot would ask voters to amend the Arizona Constitution to allow the Legislature to amend an initiative or referendum measure approved by voters with a vote of at least 3/5 of the members of each house of the Legislature instead of 2/3 of the members as currently required and to remove the requirement that any amending legislation further the purpose of the original measure. (Requirement in the Senate would be reduced from 23 to 18 and from 45 to 36 in the House.) Also would give the legislature power to repeal an initiative or referendum measure approved by the voters with a vote of at least 3/5 of the members of each house of the legislature. Currently the Legislature is prohibited from repealing a voter approved initiative or referendum. Passed House 32-25; 2/23 referred to Senate government.

SB1196: Silver Alert; Alzheimer’s Disease
Conditions necessary to activate Arizona’s silver alert notification system would be expanded to include missing persons with Alzheimer’s or a related disorder. Passed Senate and approved by House COW on 3/16 with amendment.

HB2115: Public Employee; Misappropriation; Penalty — An individual who misappropriates public monies is not eligible to receive severance pay, annuity payments, pension benefits or any other monies otherwise provided by the public entity. Penalty ranges from class 1 misdemeanor to class 2 felony depending on amount misappropriated. Language must be included in future employment contracts. Passed House amended 34-23; 3/21 from Senate judiciary amended to state that the individual must have been convicted of misappropriation and loss of benefits is limited to severance pay.

HB2438: Personal Identifying Information; Transmission — Statute prohibiting a government agency from transmitting material containing both a person’s social security number and bank/savings and loan/credit union account number does not apply if the social security number is transmitted in a redacted or encrypted form, and does not prohibit transmittal of personal information that is not a social security number. Passed House 56-3; 3/16 from Senate committee with a ‘do pass.’

SB1257: Misconduct Involving Weapons; Public Places — Would allow persons with valid concealed weapons permits to bring a weapon into public establishments other than a vehicle or craft or at a public event. Exceptions include ‘secured facility’ public establishments/events, premises of a liquor licensee or an educational institution. Passed Senate 18-12; 3/16 Passed House judiciary with a ‘do pass’/. Note: Similar bill failed on final vote in Senate last year (14-15-1).

ASRS 2016 LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVES — ASRS proposed seven pieces of legislation this session for consideration by the Arizona Legislature. If passed, statutory changes would impact relatively few members of ASRS. Status of those bills as of March 28 is as follows:

HB2104: ASRS; Retention of Credited Service
Clean-up legislation to HB2050 passed in 2012 to reflect the IRS agreement with ASRS action and language allowing potentially miss enrolled individuals to remain in ASRS. Passed House 56-0; Passed Senate amended 29-0; ready for House action on Senate amendment which would allow a retired ASRS member to return to work as a state elected official without suspension of ASRS pension benefits.

HB2159: ASRS; Rulemaking Exemptions — Would exempt ASRS from rulemaking for the purposes of actuarial assumptions and calculations, investment strategies and decisions, and accounting methodology. Passed House 49-11; 3/17 from Senate finance and government committees with ‘do pass’ recommendations.

HB2160: ASRS; Eligible Rollovers — For the purpose of service purchase, clarifies that a member can no longer purchase service using an indirect rollover. The modification would allow only direct transfers from an individual retirement account or annuity because indirect rollovers create confusion for participants and significant administrative complexity. If incorrectly categorized, an indirect rollover can also lead to double taxation. Passed House 60-0; 3/7 to Senate consent calendar.
HB2243: ASRS; LTD Program; Liability — Would provide ASRS with protection from legal claims against the agency and the LTD Program relating to the denial of benefits. ASRS would like the same protection afforded to private retirement plans by the 1974 Employment Retirement Income Security Act (ERISA). ASRS has a remediation process in place in the event a member is denied LTD benefits. 1/28 from House government and higher education with a ‘do pass.’ 2/8 to House Consent Calendar. No further action. Dead in this form because 3/18 was last day for a House bill to be heard in a Senate committee.

SB1037: ASRS; Board Delegation; Benefit Determinations — ASRS Board would be permitted to delegate the duty and authority to act on the Board’s behalf to a Committee of the Board for the purposes of determining on an appealable agency actions or of accepting, rejecting or modifying a determination of an Administrative Law Judge. Passed Senate 28-0; 3/3 from House government-higher education with a ‘do pass.’ 3/14 to House consent calendar.

SB1038: ASRS; Reinstatement; Contribution Amount — A member of ASRS with previously forfeited service credit who is reemployed by an ASRS employer must repay the amount of the contributions that the ASRS paid, not the amount the member received, at the time of the member’s separation from service, with interest to receive all credits forfeited. Passed Senate 30-0; 3/3 from House government-higher education with a ‘do pass.’ To House consent calendar.

SB1144: Contributions; Adjustments — Sets requirements for return of overpaid contributions to employers and methods of payment for underpaid contributions by members of the ASRS. Passed Senate 30-0; 3/3 from House government-higher education with a ‘do pass.’ 3/14 to House consent calendar.

Healthy Heart Day 2016; Food for the Heart
Sponsored by Sarver Heart Center, at DuVal Auditorium, Banner University Medical Center, on Saturday, April 9th, 8:00 a.m. to 2:15 p.m., Program to include health screenings, health information, updates on the risks and symptoms of coronary artery disease and stroke, and Food for Heart, including nutrition information and a plant-based cooking demonstration. Registration (by April 6th) is $35.00 per person. Register with a friend and receive a $5.00 per person discount - $60 for two people. Visit heart.arizona.edu/events/2016-04-09/healthy-heart-day-2016-food-heart

Weight Watchers Program at Banner - University Medical Center
To join this group, you must sign up by May 29. If 15 people have signed up and paid, a new session will begin June 1. Meetings are held at Banner-University Medical Center in the cafeteria dining room "D." For more information, contact Pam Flint at 404-1149, or pam@weightwatchersaz.com

Arizona Public Media Needs Your Help!
If you were a fan of Downton Abbey (and who wasn’t), you can help assure that programs of that type of caliber are available in the future. You can do so by joining a group of volunteer UARA members to answer phones during one of the upcoming AZPM pledge drives (dates TBA, but will be during the first two weeks of August). Volunteer shifts are three or four hours long, and participants are asked to arrive one hour early to be trained on the “easy-to-use” phone system.

If you would like to join us on one of those dates, please contact the UARA office (contact information on the back page) by July 30 with your name and contact information. For people who prefer to be heard but not seen, there will be a Radio Pledge Drive, which raises funding for NPR 89.1 and Classical 90.5, dates TBA. If you are interested in this venue, contact Laura Maher, Arizona Public Media Volunteer Coordinator, at lmaher@azpm.org, or (520) 621-7677.

New Video Board Installed at Hi Corbett Field
The UA baseball program will have a new toy out at Hi Corbett Field. Recently installed was a new Daktronics 15HD video board, said Greg Byrne, UA Vice President for Athletics. The new video board will span 44 by 25 feet. It is nearly five times the surface area of the old board, which was 20 by 11.

The old board used a fixed digit scoreboard, while the new state-of-the-art one will use a virtual scoreboard. It will have the ability to use it like a giant canvas and put whatever information and numbers we choose. It also has the ability to go to a “super screen” for important video moments, such as the introduction video and home runs.

See the front page for information about “UARA Day at the Ballpark”, scheduled for May 13.

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University of Arizona Retirees Association
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Office Hours:  Summer: June 1 to July 31, Wednesday 10-12
Winter: August 1 to May 31, Tuesday 9-1 and Thursday 1-5
Office Manager: Trudy Jacobson

Newsletter Editor: Trudy Jacobson  Layout Coordinator: Jane Dugas
Financial support for this publication provided by the Office of University Relations.

Executive Committee

President  Ruth Eskesen
President-Elect  Jim Barrett
Past-President  Rose Perrill
Secretary  Felicia Hermann
Treasurer  Tom Rehm

Activities  Jim Barrett
Communications Director  Tom Rehm
Legislative  Ruth Eskesen
Luncheon Coordinator  Jane Dugas
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