

The SIFTER

A NEWSLETTER OF THE UW-MADISON RETIREMENT ASSOCIATION

on the web at <http://uwra.wisc.edu>

phone 608-262-0641 or email retireassn@mailplus.wisc.edu

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RETIREMENT
ASSOCIATION

University of Wisconsin-Madison

January 2017

Financial seminar on the state budget and Wisconsin's economy

by Millard Susman, Co-Chair, Committee on Financial Matters in Retirement

The Wisconsin economy and the state budget

Tuesday, January 17, 10 a.m. to noon

Oakwood Village University Woods

Arts and Education Center

6205 Mineral Point Road

Rhetoric about the economy and state finances abounds, much of it partisan and often wrong. With the economy – state, national, and global – on an uncertain course, WISTAX President **Todd Berry** takes a data-driven look at health of the current Wisconsin economy and the implications for the 2017-19 state budget. Todd Berry has been president of the Wisconsin Taxpayers Alliance (WISTAX) since 1994 and, over the years, has kept UWRA members up to date by sharing his profound understanding of the state budget and its effects on our lives.

Parking

Enter Oakwood grounds at the traffic light at Island Drive and Mineral Point Road. Take the left fork, then the second driveway on the right to enter visitor underground parking. Push the button for assistance. Park in any visitor stall and take the elevator to the first floor lobby and look for signs. (The garage door opens automatically when you exit in the car.) You may also park in a surface visitor parking spot (marked spaces along the drive and up the hill towards the large lot). On foot, enter Heritage (6205) at its entrance (third driveway on the right, at stop sign), or enter the auditorium doors directly from the lower drive.

Food pantry contribution

The food pantry recipient for this event will be the new Open Seat food pantry serving UW-Madison students. (See descriptive article in the November *Sifter*.) Both cash and checks payable to the UW Foundation with “Open Seat food pantry” on the memo line will be accepted.

Registration

If you plan to attend and receive a copy of the speaker's handouts, please register before noon on Tuesday, January 10, by contacting the Retirement Association office at retireassn@mailplus.wisc.edu or 262-0641 and leaving a message. If you or your companion registered for the seminar but cannot attend, please call 262-0641 by 8:30 a.m. on the day of the program.

The internet has changed our world

by Kathy Christoph, Member, Electronic Technology Committee

Following a very brief review of ancient history (1960-1994), Lawrence H. Landweber, the John P. Morgridge Professor Emeritus of Computer Science at the UW-Madison, captivated the audience at Oakwood Village on November 17 with “Surprises: the future and the dark side of the Internet.” For example, did you know the Internet of Things (acronym IoT) will see 30-50 billion devices connected to it by 2020? Larry presented many examples of things from household appliances to wearable technology to healthcare devices and driverless vehicles. Will there really be no more steering wheels in cars in 15 years? How will we think about the increase in crashes due to computer error, while crashes due to drunk driving decrease? Larry also talked about Big Data and contends, “The world is now (big) data driven!” What are our banks doing with our financial transaction data? Can Big Data really replace doctors in 20 years? Larry concluded his presentation with the dark side of the Internet by including examples such as job loss and changes in privacy.

The questions following the formal presentation reflected the many ways the Internet has changed our world and reminded us there is more to come! Professor Landweber's presentation slides are available on the UWRA website: uwra.wisc.edu/presentations.

Meet a member: ten things about Steven Saffian

by Debra Lauder, Column Coordinator

Name: **Steven R. Saffian**

Spouse/significant other: Lennie Saffian

Before retirement, all of my thirty-one years at the UW were spent in student services as part of the Office of the Dean of Students. My time on the staff paralleled many of the social movements of the latter part of the 20th century. It was invigorating to interact with colleagues as we responded to students channeling the energy of the anti-Vietnam war, the civil rights movement, feminism, and the gay rights movement, and how they would play out on campus. The Campus Assistance Center that I and others developed was one response, offering up-to-the-minute, reliable information about campus and community happenings in an easily accessible format.

The last project before retirement, and the one that gives me lasting satisfaction, was the Red Gym Committee, which I chaired. The committee was charged with coordinating the needs of the offices that would occupy the restored and reused national monument with the architects and engineers who would design the remodeling and ultimately the firm that would do the construction. My role soon evolved into the principal university representative or project manager from early fund raising until the opening in April of 1999.

The first thing I did after I retired was meet with the president of a major national, private student-housing provider to consult on their projects and share the model of private/public cooperation we had developed at the UW. I have continued this consulting with various companies for the better part of the last sixteen years. For most of my tenure at UW, I was the go-to person for the university's relationship with private sector student housing, working to assure that a certain number of private owners would provide housing that, although not approved by the UW, would meet its standards.

More important, I got my tennis schedule in order and have continued playing with a group of men and women to this day. I also accepted the Presidency of the Board of Directors of Porchlight, Inc., the nonprofit homeless services agency operating in Dane County.

Now I spend my time playing tennis and interacting with the players, whom I consider friends. We have gone beyond playing to lunches and frequent discussion of politics and social issues. Like most retirees travel to faraway places has been a highlight of our retirement.

For someone who has faint memories of WWII, visiting Normandy was a must and turned out to be a highly emotional experience. Theater and Broadway musicals are also high on our list of entertainment activities.

The top item still on my bucket list is: as children of parents who emigrated from Eastern Europe in the early twentieth century, a riverboat trip from Moscow to St. Petersburg is still out there for us.

I joined the UWRA because I was appointed in the late 90's as an academic staff representative to the Retirement Issues Committee as it was deliberating the recommendation to Chancellor Wiley to form an association. The outcome was the UWRA. I was a member of the first board.

My favorite UWRA activity is the luncheons, to enjoy the talks and reminisce with colleagues.

My least favorite part of retirement is missing the daily interaction with young people. I loved being with them and allowing them to help me stay young.

Something that would surprise you about me is that I was a high school and college track athlete specializing in the shot put and hammer throw.

What I've been reading lately: I just finished the Go Big Read book, *Evicted*, by Matthew Desmond. I found it especially interesting having spent many years working with our local homeless agency. It's hard to imagine that this other world exists just 75 miles away in Milwaukee.

The music I most enjoy listening to is the American folk music that had a brief run on the pop charts of the late fifties and early sixties. My go-to CD is Bruce Springsteen singing Pete Seeger's folk music.

Welcome to these new members of the Association, 11-9-16 through 12-5-16

Angela Buongiorno

Julie Graf

Deb Neuheisel & Michael Smith

Jaclyn O'Brien

Thomas Sullivan

Jeanne & Dan Wendtland

Gordon & Carolina Wilson

Thomas Wise

Stretch your entertainment dollars with a Campus Arts Card

by Ruth Sandor, Member, UWRA

A Campus Arts Card, with discounted tickets to arts productions across departments, is being offered by the Campus Arts Box Office for the 2016-17 academic year. The card is a voucher for a total of eight tickets. For faculty/staff it has an estimated value of \$180 but costs only \$80. Included are one admission each for a Dance Department production, the Madison Early Music Festival, a School of Music ticket, the University Opera, the University Theatre, the Wisconsin Film Fest, the Wisconsin Union Theater Season, and an extra ticket.

Pricing is for current UW students, faculty or staff, but a Campus Arts Box Office manager responded to a Retirement Association query that anyone with a valid ID reading "faculty/staff" is eligible. The Campus Arts Card may be purchased at either of the two Campus Arts Box Offices: Memorial Union or Vilas Hall. For more information, visit go.wisc.edu/campusartscard. To learn more about arts on campus, visit arts.wisc.edu.

How to spot fake apps in the app store

by Adam Hills-Meyer, Content Strategist, Division of Information Technology

A good app makes your online experience even better, but how can you tell if you've got the real deal? Many of the red flags to look out for are similar to the red flags you can use to protect yourself from phishing email scams. Read the tips to help you identify the real apps from the fake ones at it.wisc.edu/news/spot-fake-apps-app-store.

Attic Angel programs

by Julie Nelson, Administrative Assistant, Attic Angel Association

The Attic Angel Association holds programs each Monday morning at Attic Angel Place, 8301 Old Sauk Road, Middleton, WI. The programs are open to the public. Coffee is served at 10:00 a.m. and the program begins at 10:30. There is no charge, and no reservation is required.

January 9: "Right at the surface and deep under our feet: Wisconsin's water resources," Dr. Madeline Gotkowitz, Hydrologist, Wisconsin Geological and Natural History Survey, UW Extension.

January 16: "In the footsteps of Captain Cook – traveling on a tall ship in the South Pacific," Heidi Wilde and Kennedy Gilchrist, world-wide travelers.

January 23: "Memories of the Greenbush neighborhood," Tony Bruno, Gene Urso, and Ken Urso, three former Greenbush residents.

RSVP needs tutors, speakers, and drivers

by Diana Jost, Assistant Director, RSVP of Dane County

With the second semester starting in January, many schools are looking for volunteers! The focus is on literacy and math; however many schools are also looking for volunteers to help in the library, with art and music classes, and as general classroom assistants. For more information, please contact Intergenerational Program Coordinator Andrea Beaster at 441-7894 or Abeaster@rsvpdane.org.

Guest speakers are also needed in area schools to share with students their personal stories related to events in history or share their expertise on a variety of topics. For example, volunteers shared with the students at the DeForest Area Middle School events in their lives when they had to overcome difficult obstacles. The focus of this project is to teach students about resilience, facing challenges in life, and perseverance. Students interview volunteers and then complete a project on what they have learned. The volunteers return to the school for a lunch and to view all of the students' class presentations. Volunteers are invited each year to participate in an oral history project with students at Memorial High School. Volunteers participate in small-group interviews on what their life was during the Great Depression and WWII, and the students then compile a written documentation of the oral history.

Finally, drivers are urgently needed to drive passengers in all Dane County communities, especially in Mt. Horeb, Middleton, Oregon, and Madison/Monona, to provide seniors (60 years and older) and veterans of all ages with rides to medical and other important appointments, or to deliver meals to seniors in communities outside Madison. If you are interested in driving seniors or delivering meals, contact Gene Kundert, gkundert@rsvpdane.org or 608-441-7896; to work with veterans of all ages and their families, contact Tom Poppe, tpoppe@rsvpdane.org or 608-238-7901.

Monthly reminders

Westside breakfast at Sofra, 7457 Elmwood Avenue, Middleton, 8:30, January 5, February 7, March 7, and April 4.

Eastside breakfast at Elie's, 4102 Monona Drive, Madison, 8:30, January 12, February 16, March 22, and April 18.

Reservations are not needed for either location. You are welcome regardless of where you live.

For information on upcoming PLATO trips, go to <http://platomadison.org/page-18561>.

Clean your camera lenses and check your batteries: here comes the UWRA photo contest for 2017

by Millard Susman and Rose Barroilhet, Members, Connections and Electronic Technology Committees

Under the auspices of the Connections Committee and the Electronic Technology Committee, we will be conducting a third annual photo contest this year. Last year's competition drew some magnificent entries, and we're hoping to get even more entries this year. All UWRA members are eligible to compete, so check your photo archives and share your best pictures with us. You will surely get oohs and aahs from your fellow members of UWRA, and you might even win a prize. Last year, we changed the logistics a bit to make participation easier both for contestants and for voters. If you hesitated to enter because you thought the technology might be too complex for you, give it a try this year. Our web wrangler, Pat Noordsij, has made the process user friendly, and, if you get into trouble, you can get in touch with Millard Susman (msusman@wisc.edu) or Rose Barroilhet (rbarroilhet@gmail.com) to get help.

We will be accepting entries in three categories this year: people/pets, cityscapes, and nature.

All UWRA members will be able to vote online for the picture in each of the three categories that they like best. The three winners will be announced at the annual meeting at the end of the academic year. Thanks to the generosity of the Camera Company, the winner in each category will receive a high-quality, metallic, 8" x 10" print of his or her photograph. This is the third year in a row that the Camera Company has supported our photo contest!

Here are the rules:

1. The photograph must be uploaded to the UWRA website between January 2 and February 28, 2017. The photos must be in digital format. We can handle essentially all formats and all file sizes. You should submit a file that will allow the photo to be printed as a sharp 8" x 10" image.
2. Online voting will take place between March 1 and March 31, 2017.
3. Each member may submit as many as three photos. These may be distributed among the three categories in any way you like.
4. The photo must have been taken by the person submitting it.
5. The person submitting the photo must provide a title and information on the date and location of the picture.
6. In case of a tie in any category, the winner will be selected by lottery.

As was true last year, you will be able to upload your digital photos by going to the home page of the Retirement Association (uwra.wisc.edu) and following the links to the photo contest. As a special treat, Pat Noordsij has posted a slide show of last year's photo contest entries. You can view it at uwra.wisc.edu/showcase/. The winners in each category are marked with blue ribbons.

Executive Director's corner

by Ann Wallace

The best volunteer job in Madison is about to become vacant. After more than ten years, I have decided to change my UWRA status from "executive director" to "active member," effective at the end of June 2017.

The directorship has been an ideal volunteer position for me for a variety of reasons. It allowed me to build on the skills I developed during a long career at the UW-Madison, such as Excel spreadsheets, email, and our Access database for maintaining membership records. Fortunately, I was able to call on the technical experts who abound in our ranks, not only for dealing with the challenges of these areas but also for teaching me new methods and programs.

Like many of us, I value volunteer opportunities that foster ways to give back to the community that has meant something to me over the years; this position was special because the UW-Madison is my alma mater and long-term employer. It enabled me both to stay in touch with dozens of former colleagues and to meet many new UWRA members. Staffing our programs gave me the opportunity to attend most of them, and I was routinely impressed by the good work of the UWRA committees that plan them.

Because the UWRA office is housed within the Division of Continuing Studies at 21 North Park Street, the job also maintains a strong tie to UW-Madison, with helpful, welcoming colleagues just down the hall. A covered parking spot even comes with the job! The flexibility in the executive directorship sets it apart from many volunteer opportunities. Many tasks need to be managed, but the schedule is very open, even allowing work from home. It is truly an opportunity that can be shaped to become a perfect fit for the person doing the job.

Sound interesting? It is. If this unique and stimulating opportunity sounds appealing, look for the announcement of the search committee and its process coming soon, along with a full job description on the UWRA website. In the meantime, it is not too early to express interest, and I am happy to discuss this further. You can email retireassn@mailplus.wisc.edu or call 262-0641.

Wisconsin's new digital property law

by Melinda Gustafson Gervasi, Madison Estate Planning and Probate Attorney, and Howie Erlanger, Professor of Law, Emeritus, and Professor of Sociology, Emeritus, UW-Madison

It is never easy losing a close family member or friend. But by organizing your papers, assets, and wishes and completing an estate plan, you can make that loss less stressful for those who will be responsible for your estate. Yet until recently, those responsible routinely hit obstacles when addressing the digital assets of a seriously ill or deceased individual, even when empowered by traditional powers of attorney and wills. From unknown passwords to Terms of Service Agreements (TOSA) that did not acknowledge a fiduciary, it was common for problems to mount for loved ones handling the estate: inability to access emails; finding locked, on-line storage of photos; and inability to deactivate social media accounts (such as Facebook, LinkedIn, or Twitter).

Last March, Governor Walker signed the Wisconsin Digital Property Act, which aims to allow digital users to minimize obstacles in the path to managing digital assets in the event of illness or death. Under the new law, there are three tools one can use to empower those they appoint to take care of affairs: (1) create or update a Power of Attorney for Finance to grant your agent the power to manage content of digital property; (2) review the TOSAs you have with technology companies you use to see if you can appoint a successor (for example, Google allows you to name an "heir" for your Google accounts); and (3) create a Tangible Personal Property distribution letter – if your will provides for one – that now can include the distribution of your digital property assets. As the leaves begin to show hints of yellow and red, pause and reflect on your digital life; who needs access to your accounts and what should happen if you become too ill to act or your earthly presence comes to an end?

Whatever strategy you use, be sure to be explicit about which of your digital property you intend to transfer. Saying "all my digital property" will cover almost all that property, e.g., the contents of your hard drive and files stored in the cloud, but in many circumstances won't cover the content of electronic communications such as emails. If you want your agent under a power of attorney or your executor to have access to your emails – not just a catalogue showing the other party's name and the date and subject matter – you should be sure to say so, in writing. And if you don't want anyone to have that access, you should say that as well. Basically this means that your power of attorney document and your will need to be updated. You also should come up with a way that someone you trust will have access to your usernames and passwords.

This is a new area of concern, and best practices are still being developed. If you have questions or concerns, send an email to retireasn@mailplus.wisc.edu and we will try to get answers for you, to be published in a future issue of *The Sifter*.

What are these TED talks I hear about?

by Judy Craig, Co-Chair, Electronic Technology Committee

I can't remember whether I'd heard of TED (short for "technology, entertainment, design") talks long ago when I retired, but before retirement I didn't seem to have time to do much reading or even thinking just for the pleasure of it. Now I frequently come across references to TED talks, relating to a wide variety of topics.

TED has been around since 1984 and, according to its website (ted.com), it is a "nonpartisan nonprofit devoted to spreading ideas, usually in the form of short, powerful talks." The great thing technology does for us here is to serve ideas up in easy-to-find fashion: take a look at ted.com/playlists/77/11_must_see_ted_talks, a group of 11 talks with such tantalizing titles as "Do schools kill creativity?," "Underwater astonishments," "The best stats you've ever seen," and "If I should have a daughter" To my surprise, one talk was by an author my book group recently read, Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, talking about "The danger of a single story." I wish I'd heard her talk before our discussion!

As often happens, poking around on the home page leads to many interesting possibilities, including lists of the most popular or most-listened-to TED talks of all time. In this new year, follow the links and see where you go!

Tech tip for your TV

by Millard Susman, Member, Electronic Technology Committee

Sometimes your TV or DVD player just ignores the remote control. If the batteries in the remote control are dead, the problem is easy to solve, but who has a handy battery tester? The signal sent from the remote to the TV is infra-red light, invisible to the human eye, but that's not a problem! Almost everyone has a handy device for detecting infra-red. If you switch your cell phone or digital tablet into camera mode and point your remote control toward the camera lens, you can see the infra-red flashes from a remote control on the view screen of your phone or tablet. If there are no flashes, a battery change will probably resurrect the remote control.

The Sifter

<http://uwra.wisc.edu>

UW-Madison Retirement Assn

c/o Division of Continuing Studies

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UW-Madison Retirement Association Calendar

January 5	8:30 a.m.	Breakfast at Sofra
January 12	8:30 a.m.	Breakfast at Elie's
January 17	10:00 a.m.	How the Wisconsin budget can stimulate state economy
February 7	8:30 a.m.	Breakfast at Sofra
February 16	8:30 a.m.	Breakfast at Elie's
February 22	10:00 a.m.	State employee health insurance program: 2018 and beyond*
February 23	10:00 a.m.	Tour of UW Health at the American Center*
March 7	8:30 a.m.	Breakfast at Sofra
March 13	10:00 a.m.	India's caste system: trying to level the playing field*
March 15	TBA	Luncheon program*
March 21	9:00 a.m.	Continuum of care facilities*
March 22	8:30	Breakfast at Elie's
April 21	10:00 a.m.	Annual ETF/SWIB update*
April 25	10:00 a.m.	Program on hearing loss*
May 15	TBA	Trip to Yerkes Observatory and East Troy Electric Train*
May 16	10:00 a.m.	Investment strategies, pre- and post-retirement*

*details will be provided in future issues of *The Sifter*.