



UTRA Winter 2012 Newsletter

UT RETIREES' ASSOCIATION

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Knoxville, TN 37996-4125

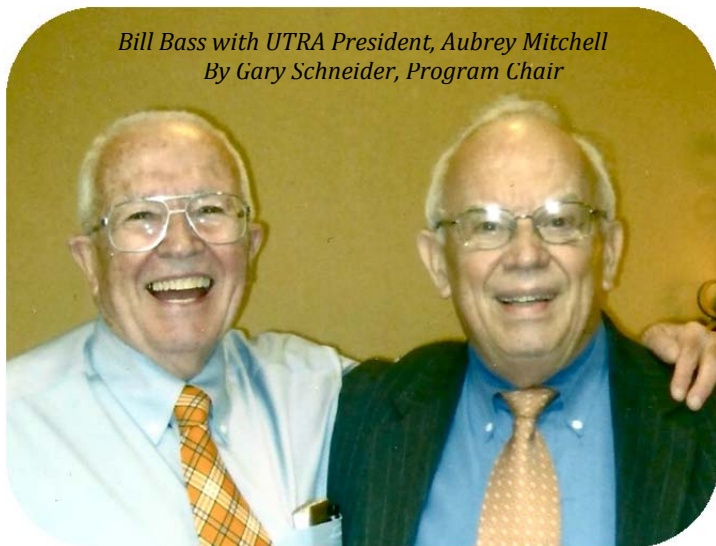
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Fall Luncheon: Bill Bass and the Big Bopper

by Bruce Wheeler



*Bill Bass with UTRA President, Aubrey Mitchell
By Gary Schneider, Program Chair*

On September 29, 2011, around 85 UTRA members, spouses, and friends gathered at Buddy's Bearden Banquet Hall for a fine luncheon and an after lunch talk by the always interesting Dr. Bill Bass. The forensic anthropologist had been called to investigate the 1959 death of singer J. P. Richardson, Jr., otherwise

known as The Big Bopper. Rumors of foul play had been whispered about for years until Dr. Bass demonstrated that The Big Bopper, along with two other popular rock 'n' roll singers, had been victims of the plane crash and that foul play was not involved.

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Bill Bass, continued

Since his retirement, Bill Bass has given countless talks and has written or co-authored several books loosely based on his years of forensic investigations. He brought some of those titles with him to the luncheon to sell to interested attendees. In all, it was a thoroughly enjoyable and well-attended meeting.

Cherohala Skyway Adventure



FALL TRIP, OCT. 20

By Wanda Wagner; Photos by Tom Hood

This was my first excursion with the UT Retirees Association, and it proved to be a memorable trip. The (literal) high point of the trip for me was experiencing the hoar frost at an elevation of a mile above sea level. I have never seen anything so beautiful in nature, and being surrounded by the ice-covered landscape made me feel as if I were in a crystal palace.

At lower elevations I enjoyed the beautiful fall foliage in the Joyce Kilmer Memorial Forest. Don Byerly's talk on the geology of the area and the construction of the Cherohala Skyway was very interesting, as was the talk by Charles Brakebill, who told us about the history of Monroe County and Tellico.



Holiday Open House

By Caroline Buckner; Photo by Tom Hood



On December 13, 2011, members of the UTRA enjoyed a Holiday Open House in the Executive Dining Room of the University Center; approximately 55 people attended. Aubrey Mitchell, President, welcomed everyone, and Gary Schneider announced plans for the winter luncheon. There was also an interesting video slideshow of UTRA trips and activities members have enjoyed in the past year.

At this event, IRA SLIGER was specially recognized. For a quarter century, he has volunteered to staff the UTRA office answering the phone and greeting members as they come by and visit. He is faithful and diligent to the task appearing every Monday morning like clockwork. Ira is an inspiration to us all!

IN RECOGNITION OF OUTSTANDING SERVICE TO THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE RETIREES' ASSOCIATION, WE AWARD THIS CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION TO
IRA SLIGER
FOR TWENTY-FIVE YEARS OF FAITHFULLY AND DILIGENTLY VOLUNTEERING HIS TIME TO UTRA. PRESENTED ON THIS 13TH DAY OF DECEMBER 2011.

Signed: *Aubrey Mitchell*, UTRA President



UPCOMING EVENT APRIL 11 at the UC: "The Best Years are Yet to Come"

Dr. Betty Greer, Professor and Nutritionist with UT, will speak on healthy aging: "The Best Years are Yet to Come." It will be part of the Life Planning Seminar at the University Center on April 11, 2012 at 1:30 pm., organized by the Benefits Committee. She will present strategies to delay the natural physiological changes associated with aging, including special nutrient needs, making healthy food choices, and the role of aerobic and strength-building exercises.

Winter Luncheon on February 16: Dr. Joe DiPietro Speaks and Dr. Joe Johnson Introduces Him by Michael Betz



Come experience an historic event with two UT presidents at our UTRA luncheon! Dr. Joe Johnson introduces Dr. Joe DiPietro as our speaker on February 16. Dr. DiPietro will share some insights into the many challenges of leading the UT System that he has experienced during his first year. This Winter Luncheon will be held at the Hollingsworth Auditorium on the UT campus with two UT presidents coming to the podium! We will hear from both after we eat. We start at 11:30 a.m. Don't miss this program.

Knox County 4-H students will prepare a delicious meal of BBQ chicken with rice, tossed salad, fruit, bread, mixed desserts, and drinks. The cost is \$15.00 per person for this 4-H fund-raising event to help support Knox County 4-H programs. Pre-cooked half chicken will be available for take-home for \$4.00, **but you must order and pay in advance when you send your checks. The deadline for sending your \$15/person is Feb 13th. Send your check, made payable to UT Retirees' Association, to Chuck Bryant, 115 Conference Center Building, Knoxville, TN 37996-4115.** If you have questions, call the UTRA office @ 974-6506 or send an e-mail to utra@utk.edu. ***Shuttle service will be provided for those without a hang-tag between the parking lot at the former Faculty Club (now UT Visitor's Center) and Hollingsworth Auditorium.**

Dr. Joe DiPietro

Dr. Joe DiPietro, was appointed as 25th President of the University of Tennessee on January 1, 2011. He will have served in this capacity for exactly 411 days when he speaks to us. So, while some refer to their "first 100 days in office," Dr. DiPietro will share with us some insight into the many issues, challenges, and opportunities that he has experienced in his first 400+ days! Providing the leadership to operate the complex UT System is an immense task due to its five campuses, an Extension Service in each of Tennessee's 95 counties, the 10 Institute of Agriculture research centers across the state, the Institute of Public Service, and the UT-ORNL partnership. A total of 44,000 students are enrolled in quality programs, and the current budget for the UT System is approaching \$2 billion.

Dr. Joe Johnson

The 19th President of UT, Dr. Joe Johnson (1990-1999), will introduce Dr. DiPietro. Dr. Johnson has been associated with UT since 1963 in numerous administrative positions such as President Andy Holt's executive assistant, chancellor for the Center for the Health Sciences in Memphis, vice president for development, and interim UT President for 2003-2004. He currently serves as a very active President Emeritus. In addition to his leadership capabilities, Dr. Joe is known for his sense of humor. I'm sure that will come out in grand style when he introduces "the other Dr. Joe" to all of us.

Bios by Gary Schneider

President's Corner

Aubrey Mitchell

2011 President

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL!

I trust everyone has enjoyed a restful and joyful holiday season. The season is always a good one for reflection, giving and receiving, and giving thanks. UTRA has much to be thankful for!

We are thankful for the support UT Human Resources provides UTRA on a daily basis. We especially appreciate the continued support of University Administration, including President Joe DiPietro, who has agreed to be the speaker at our Winter Luncheon on February 16.

We are thankful for the continuing willingness and diligence of UTRA members, who volunteer to staff the UTRA office. Special thanks go to Ira Sliger, who for twenty-five years has staffed the office. He is an example and inspiration for all of us.

We are thankful for those members who have agreed to serve in leadership capacities in UTRA. They give countless hours and extraordinary efforts planning and attending to details that bring UTRA activities to fruition.

We are thankful for the continued member support for the UT Retirees' Scholarship Fund. The endowment for the Fund currently totals \$32,000 and continues to grow. Fourteen students have been directly aided through assistance from the Scholarship Fund.



It is evident we have much for which to be thankful. Most of all we are thankful for you – the UTRA members. Through your participation and volunteering, the UTRA continues to be a useful, rewarding, and energetic organization making a difference to those of us who are now career retirees.

When you begin to put together your 2012 calendar, be certain to post the following dates:

- February 16, Winter Luncheon
- April 11, Benefits Program
- April 24, Spring Trip
- May 24, Spring Luncheon

Details of these events and how to register appear in the Newsletter.

Thanks for your support and have a VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR!

TN State Parks Annual Winter Promotion

Tennessee State Parks offer special winter rates for 360 villas and cabins, along with six state park inns, **from Nov. 1, 2011, through March 31, 2012.**

Inn Rooms are **\$49.95 per night**; available 7 days a week.

[www://http://www.tn.gov/environment/parks/promotions/winter_promotion.shtml](http://www.tn.gov/environment/parks/promotions/winter_promotion.shtml)

Fall Picnic in the Park by Michael Betz

Over thirty of us gathered on October 11th at Victor Ashe park for a picnic to enjoy great food, fellowship and some musical pickin' and grinnin'. UTRA provided the tableware and drinks while attendees brought a dish to share. After the food-fest and dessert, we were treated to some lively music by our own musical member Jim Ward, who played the banjo accompanied by his "singing friend with a guitar." Pictured are those who stayed awhile to delight in the music makers.



Spring Trip to Chattanooga Aquarium - April 24, 2012

- WHAT:** Trip to the TENNESSEE AQUARIUM, Chattanooga Tennessee
- WHEN:** Tuesday, April 24, 2012. Premier Transportation bus will leave from the UT visitors Center (old Faculty Club) promptly at 9:00 a.m. and should return by 6:00 p.m. Parking is free.
- COST:** \$45.00 per person. This includes the bus trip and ticket to the Tennessee Aquarium. The ticket is good all day, and one can go in and out of the Aquarium.
- LUNCH:** Lunch is on your own. Just outside the Aquarium are numerous restaurants in the downtown riverfront walkway with a range of food types and prices.
- HOW:** Send a check for \$45/person payable to **UT Retirees' Association** to: **Chuck Bryant, 115 Conference Center Building, Knoxville, Tennessee 37996-4115.**

Checks MUST be received by April 20, 2012.

The Tennessee Aquarium is the top-rated aquarium in America. It offers a journey through two buildings loaded with things to do and engaging experiences on Chattanooga's beautiful downtown riverfront. RIVER JOURNEY fascinates visitors with river otters, turtles, alligators, giant catfish, and thousands of freshwater wonders. OCEAN JOURNEY delights guests with penguins, sharks, butterflies and often scuba divers who interact with guests. This will be an exciting, educational, and delightful trip to visit this major attraction. Mail in your check to reserve your seat now!

“Now that I’ve retired, what’s next financially?” Retirement Income Strategies, a talk by Andrew C. Craft was part of the UT Life Planning Seminar on September 11, 2011.

By Kathleen Bennett, UTRA Benefits Committee Chairperson

A cursory glance at the amount of advice available on the Internet for detailing and exploring retirement income strategies can lead to more confusion rather than less. In some ways the method of paying yourself first, a cornerstone of so many financial plans, is simple to execute. Sign the forms and the money flows away, to grow and multiply. Then the long-awaited retirement arrives and the flow reverses, with the funds now being dispersed to the saver to fund that retirement. But, imagine entering or being in retirement and not knowing how long your money will last. What if you couldn’t pay for food, housing or fuel? What if you couldn’t pay for medical expenses? These are some of the uncertainties facing retirees and those nearing retirement.

Andrew C. Craft, a Certified Financial Planner™ professional and Chartered Financial Consultant with over 16 years experience in the industry presented the seminar to explain:

- How economic challenges impact saving for retirement
- How to manage the risks of retirement
- How the Essential Income Planning process works.

Educate Yourself

Many financial organizations, including your local bank, offer e-mail newsletters with jargon-free overviews of the current state of the markets, financial and housing. If you are already contributing to a retirement fund, look around the company website for financial planning assistance. Reading targeted sources on a regular basis can help you build a keener understanding of the issues facing retirees.

Get the Facts on Today's Economic Issues

When you begin to research around global economic issues that might impact your investments, be careful about the sources of information you choose. Be sure to identify at least two reputable sources and read briefly in each around a particular topic to achieve an unbiased look at the issues. Another wonderful option today is the wide availability of intelligent podcasts. Download and listen to financial information. Podcasts are generally geared toward the general interested public. One recommendation: “Planet Money,” a production of National Public Radio (NPR). These podcasts run around 25 minutes and are engaging and informative.



Campus Chest Thanks UT Retirees

by Chuck Bryant

For the 2011-2012 Season, the retirees contributed \$12,788 to the United Way Campus Chest Campaign. Thank you for your support. Your contributions will be used to assist many local charities.

Retiree Cost of Living Increases

Federal Guidelines

1. Any Social Security cost of living increase is based on the 12 months period of inflationary growth during the federal government's past fiscal year, Oct. 1 - Sep. 20.
2. Social Security actually considers these yearly increases effective as of December but recipients first see this increased amount appearing in their January check.

Tennessee Requirements

1. Any Tennessee Consolidated cost of living increase is based on December of the first year compared to December of the second year. All CPI items are included using the U. S. City Average, which is mandated by Tennessee law.
2. Prior to 1998, the TCRS Cost of Living percentage increase was based on the dollar amount in that individual's FIRSTEVER check. 1998 was the year when the compounded COLA was implemented, increasing the amount based on that individual's LAST previous check amount before any withholdings.
3. Any recipient must have been on retirement for at least one whole Tennessee fiscal year: July 1 through June 30.
4. No increase of above a 3% maximum per year is provided regardless of the actual inflation growth. If the CPI increase is less than .05%, no COLA benefit increase is given.

SOCIAL SECURITY Increase Appears in January Check	YEAR	TCRS Increase Appears in July Check
3.6%	2012	---
0%	2011	1.5%
0%	2010	2.7%
5.8%	2009	0%
2.3%	2008	3.0%
3.3%	2007	2.5%
4.1%	2006	3.0%
2.7%	2005	3.0%
2.1%	2004	1.9%
1.4%	2003	2.4%
2.6%	2002	1.6%
3.5%	2001	3.0%
2.4%	2000	2.7%
1.3%	1999	1.6%
2.1%	1998	1.7%
2.9%	1997	3.0%
2.6%	1996	2.5%



UTRA Membership Information

Currently there are over 600 members of the UT Retirees' Association. New members are constantly joining and are added to the membership list. Increasingly members are willing to receive the Newsletter via email which includes color pictures of events. Most of the 600 members are Lifetime Members.

For only \$40.00 a retiree can acquire this Lifetime Membership for oneself and their spouse. You can join other retirees from the University in fellowship, fun, and food. An Annual membership is also available for \$5.00/year.

Already a member? Encourage your retired or retiring friends to join and send their check with application form to the address noted.

The University of Tennessee Retirement Association (<http://hr.utk.edu/retirees-association>)
Application for Membership

Congratulations New UT Retirees!
August 16, 2011 - December 31, 2011

First Name	Last Name	Retirement Date	Department
Terry A	Austin	8/31/2011	Dairy Experiment Station
Jianming	Bai	10/1/2011	Materials Science & Engineering
Jennifer Walker	Baird	12/31/2011	Equity & Diversity
Gary Lee	Baldwin	10/2/2012	
Glenn Lee	Bass	9/3/2011	Office of Info Tech-General
Charles H	Beasley V	9/7/2011	CENTER FOR INDUSTRIAL
Dessa Mae	Beswick	10/1/2011	OIT Infrastructure (STF)
Donna J. G.	Brian	12/31/2011	Center for Literacy Studies
David C	Brill	11/4/2011	Institute for a Secure & Sustainable Environment
Peggy M. Bledsoe	Chambers	10/1/2011	Wayne County
Jama Gail	Conner	12/1/2011	Library
Margaret Ellen Latting	Crawford	12/1/2011	Construction Res Analysis
Joan	Creasia	10/1/2011	Nursing Administration
Pratibha A.	Dabholkar	12/31/2011	Marketing & Logistics
Patricia Anne	Danko	9/23/2011	Pre-College Enrichment
Donna Faye Hickman	Dockery	8/19/2011	Division of Biology
Harold	Dodds	12/31/2011	Nuclear Engineering
Ronald Dale	Dunlap	11/1/2011	Andy Holt Apartments Residence
Paula Marie	Dunn	11/1/2011	Treasurer
Theora A.	Evans	9/13/2011	Social Work Admin
Harris D (Bud)	Ford	12/31/2011	Publicity Director
Diane P.	Gardner	11/1/2011	Center for Literacy Studies
Nancy Surret	Gregg	9/7/2011	Pre-College Enrichment
Rebecca Cochran	Hammond	9/23/2011	Pre-College Enrichment
Jennifer	Hatcher	10/1/2011	Facilities Services-Administration
Mary	Helsley	10/1/2011	Development Office
Kathryn Ruth	Herd	9/1/2011	Engineering Services
Delicia L.	Holmes	11/24/2011	Hamilton County
Stanley D.	Ivester	10/1/2011	UT Press
Brenda M. Norwood	Johns	10/1/2011	Giles County
Richard M.	Kelso	12/31/2011	School of Architecture

First Name	Last Name	Retirement Date	Department
Darrell Richard	Lay	12/31/2011	Chemistry
Pennie J.	Long	9/9/2011	Entomology & Plant Pathology
William	Lyons	12/31/2011	Political Science
Margie Pauline	McCloskey	10/1/2011	Center for Info & Communication Studies
Phyllis Ann Long	Miracle	12/1/2011	Massey Hall
Anna A	Montgomery	9/1/2011	VP for Development/Alumni
Betty Lou Hatcher	Newcomb	9/19/2011	Center for Executive Education
C. Richard	Phebus	9/1/2011	Municipal Tech Advising Service
Linda L	Phillips	9/1/2011	Library
Charlene R.	Rice	12/1/2011	HR East Service Center-To
Patricia Kay Gray	Sexton	10/1/2011	Union County
Lynn Earnest	Shuler	12/20/2011	
Michael Eugene	Smith	9/1/2011	Transportation Services
Sandra Daugherty	Snapp	9/1/2011	Child Care Resources
Elizabeth Sue	Snavely	10/1/2011	Parking & Transit Services
Osama	Soliman	12/31/2011	Mechanical, Aero & Biomed Engineering
William Frederick	Stenken	9/27/2011	Audit & Consulting Services
Melvin Michael	Tallent	12/31/2011	IPS Administration
Janice Anette Reagan	Todd	9/23/2011	Bursar's Office
William R.	Wade II	12/31/2011	Mathematics
Cheryl Lynn	Watson	12/1/2011	University Housing Maintenance
David H.	Williams	12/31/2011	Office of Info Tech-General

WORKING FOR YOU

UTRA BOARD MEMBERS

Aubrey Mitchell, President
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Bruce Wheeler, President-Elect
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Michael Betz, Past President & Secretary
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