

## **Spring 2014 Retiree Update**

### **Good News about Brain Function**

In case you missed it, a recent study by German scientists challenges the idea that otherwise healthy adults are bound to experience deteriorating brain function. The study at Tübingen University (located in central Baden-Württemberg about 19 miles south of Stuttgart) found many older people can be slower to recall facts or to learn new information because **their brains are so stuffed with accumulated knowledge** – not because of inevitable cognitive decline. “The brains of older people do not get weak,” Michael Ramscar of Tübingen said, “On the contrary, they simply know more.”

### **Congratulations, Jim Evans**

The University of Illinois recently announced it had raised \$2 million to fund the Dr. James F. Evans Endowment in Agricultural Communications. “These funds will strengthen capacity at the university to produce a new generation of communicators in the field,” said Dr. Lulu Rodriguez, the recently appointed program director.

“We wanted to continue the legacy of Dr. Jim Evans who started the agricultural communications major and helped so many of us enter satisfying careers,” said Lyle Orwig, chair and founding partner of Charleston/Orwig Inc., Hartland, Wisc., and chair of the team spearheading the endowment funding raising effort. “He recruited us, showed us how to study and what to study, introduced us to professionals across the industry, and helped most of us get our first, second, and third jobs.”

Established in 1961, Agricultural Communications at Illinois is a unique dual program offered by two colleges – the College of Media and the College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences.

We're proud to have Jim in our ranks as an ACE Life Member. Congratulations, Jim, on this amazing tribute to your career at the University of Illinois.

### ***Members Only* ACE Website**

ACE now has a *members only* website, which we've all been looking forward to having. You'll be able to use the directory on the *members only* website to find email addresses, phone numbers, and even photos of your ACE colleagues. All ACE business, including voting and minutes of board meetings will be on this website. All current retiree and life members need to register on the new website as soon as possible.

To sign up on the new ACE directory, go to: <http://www.aceweb.wildapricot.org> Click on Join or Renew, and choose the appropriate option. You'll be prompted to sign on with your email address and complete your profile information. Your confirmation email will include a password, which you can change later.

We've noticed that many ACE Retirees/Life Members have not yet signed in on the new website. Our latest count was only 29 out of 80-some Retirees had updated their profile. So, if you haven't already

logged on, please do so and **update your profile**.

If you have problems registering, please let me know.

**New Life Members:** In January, the ACE Board voted to give these ACE Retirees, who have paid their full retirement dues, life membership: Earl Otis from Washington, Jack Sperbeck from Minnesota and Marci Hilt from Washington, DC.

**Portlandia:** Are you planning on going to the ACE annual conference in Portland, Ore., which will be held June 24-27? The theme of this year's conference is Keeping Portland Weird. <https://www.aceweb.org/index.php/en/2014-conference>

We're planning an ACE Retiree/Life Member reception for Tuesday, June 24, at 4 p.m. in the ACE Hospitality Suite of the conference hotel, the Hilton Portland. At 5 p.m., you can stay on to mingle with the ACE Past Presidents at their annual gathering. After that, you can join the entire membership at the ACE reception in the ballroom. There will be no charge to ACE Retirees/Life Members to attend these receptions.

We're hoping to see some Oregon retirees this year. Ken Kingsley, who is planning on attending, has suggested we might consider planning an off-site special retiree session. Ken says that since a lot of retirees are into amateur photography, it might be feasible to have a session that would draw upon that interest. He is thinking a program designed for folks who use smart phone cameras quite a bit and want to get better shots. Please let Ken ([enka@comcast.net](mailto:enka@comcast.net)) know if you might be interested.

### **ACE Finance Committee Looking for Volunteers**

If you have an interest in and a talent for organizational finances, consider serving on the ACE Finance Committee. If you're interested, please drop ACE Treasurer Elaine Edwards [elainee@ksu.edu](mailto:elainee@ksu.edu) a note. She would like to have at least one retiree with this expertise and interest to serve as a committee member. The committee works with the officers and executive director to prepare the annual budget and report year-end activity as well as monitor progress throughout the year.

### **Retiree Update from Chuck Woods: *Never a dull moment!***

After 42 years on the communications faculty of the University of Florida's Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, retirement really is the golden opportunity to do all the things I never had time for when we had to "go make the donuts." It's true what they say: Once you're enjoying an active retirement, you wonder how there was time for a full-time job!

Gainesville became home almost by accident thanks to my parents' decision to retire in Florida. My father was a U.S. Army colonel, and we lived in New York City; Frankfurt, Germany; Baton Rouge, Louisiana; Washington, D.C. and Tokyo, Japan. After graduating from Tokyo American High School in 1959, I enrolled at UF and never left. After finishing graduate school in UF's College of Journalism and Communications, I joined the IFAS faculty as an assistant professor and extension communications specialist in 1966. Back then, tenure was automatic after three years on the job.

Since retiring from IFAS in 2008, my days have been busy spending time with friends, social groups, bike riding and gym workouts, gardening and other home projects, freelance writing and photography, volunteer work with local political action committees and civic organizations, plus travel in the U.S. as well as Canada, the Caribbean, Europe and South America. I am currently serving on the board of directors of my neighborhood association and recently wrapped up 25 years of service on Gainesville's City Beautification Board. When you live in the same town for more than 50 years, it seems you know everyone.

Gainesville is a great college town and a wonderful place to retire, thanks to great winter weather, a diverse population of interesting, progressive-thinking people from all over the world and an amazing arts community. It's easy to take advantage of the area's many natural attractions, including beaches and world-class springs, educational and cultural events -- gala openings at UF's Harn Museum of Art, University Gallery and other art venues, plus excellent Broadway shows, jazz, dance and other productions at UF's Phillips Center for the Performing Arts. The Hippodrome State Theater and art house cinema is top-notch, and The Gainesville Orchestra, which often performs at Santa Fe College's new Fine Arts Hall, is superb. People like it here and this is home!

And, speaking of politics, I recently completed work with the University of Central Florida in Orlando on an award-winning documentary about Florida's notorious Johns Committee that attempted to purge Communists, gays and lesbians from the University of Florida campus in the early 1960s. "The Committee" video can be seen by clicking on the following link: [www.riches.cah.ucf.edu/committee/view.php](http://www.riches.cah.ucf.edu/committee/view.php). For information on the award, please go to: <https://today.ucf.edu/award-winning-documentaries-focus-civil-rights/>.



*Chuck Woods sits in front of a \$2.1 million Bugatti sports car at the Concours d'Elegance car show and auto auction held in March at the Ritz-Carlton Hotel on Amelia Island near Jacksonville. The event is one of two premier car shows and auto auctions held in the U.S. each year, the other being the famed Concours d'Elegance in Pebble Beach, Calif.*