

KENT STATE RETIREES' ASSOCIATION NEWS

FALL 2020

Message from the President

Warmest greetings to my fellow KSU retirees. Owing to the coronavirus, the fall newsletter is a bit late this year, but I've been in touch a couple of times via listserv posts in an effort to keep you up to date. As you know, KSURA held an election over the summer, and we have a new president and vice president. Otherwise, the association's leadership team is unchanged. The current list of officers and their contact information appears at the end of the newsletter. Brief biographies of our 2020 – 21 president and vice president appear immediately below this introductory message.

Among our top priorities has been to work out a fall program. KSURA's activities typically feature a monthly (or almost monthly) presentation, either by an Association member or someone whose activities are deemed to be of interest to the Association. This fall, because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the executive committee felt that the risk of an in-person meeting was too great to justify going forward in the usual manner, and decided on virtual gatherings using "Google Meet." The first presentation was by KSURA VP Drew Tiene, last Wednesday, September 16. About 25 members tuned in either on their computers or by phone to hear Drew talk about his 2016 visit to Hiroshima, followed by questions and conversation. For most participants, the system seemed to work well, but there were a few who couldn't make the link operate properly and either gave up or took part by phone. We'll keep working with members who had problems so that our events can be as inclusive as possible. Our fall program schedule, including last week's presentation, appears after the two new-officer bios.

Let me call your attention to a couple of other matters. The first is a report on developments in The Ohio Council of Higher Education Retirees from OCHER president, Jerry Feezel, who also serves as KSURA's communications coordinator. The second involves a couple of initiatives KSURA has taken to assist Kent's students.

Some time ago we established the KSU Retiree Association Scholarship Fund. As noted on our website <<https://www.kent.edu/hr/retired-facultystaff>>, "we have given scholarships to two students with possible others to be awarded this spring. These come from spendable funds, but we currently are building toward a named endowment (Acct# 36025) to sustain this student support. If you give to this effort with a check to the KSU Foundation, your name will be included on the endowment and you will get IRS gift credit." For further information and instructions on how to donate, you may also check out <<https://www-s3-live.kent.edu/s3fs-root/s3fs-public/file/KSURA%20Scholarships%20Giving.pdf>>.

The second effort to help students is the KSURA Student Emergency Fund. It was initiated by Rod Feldmann, emeritus professor of geology, to assist students who cannot afford the computers needed to pursue their university education. In late August, we passed our initial goal of \$5,000. As Rod notes in his update at the end of this newsletter, five students have now been supported by our fund.

If you have any questions, concerns, accomplishments, or anything else you'd like to share, please don't hesitate to contact the relevant officers. Be careful, stay well. I'll look forward to seeing you virtually before long ... and, with luck, in person within a few months.

All the best,

Rick

Rick Feinberg, President

KSURA

21 September 2020

New Officer Biographical Notes

KSURA President Richard (Rick) Feinberg is emeritus professor of anthropology. He was born in Virginia, grew up in Queens, New York, and earned his undergraduate degree at the University of California, Berkeley. He pursued graduate degrees at the University of Chicago, completing a doctorate in anthropology in 1974. He conducted fieldwork for his MA in a Navajo community near Shiprock, New Mexico; his doctoral research was on Anuta, a remote Polynesian island in the southwestern Pacific. In fall of 1974, Rick joined Kent State's Department of Sociology, Anthropology, Social Work, and Corrections. He retired from the Anthropology Department in 2018.

In addition to Anuta and the Navajo, Rick has conducted research on Taumako in the Solomon Islands, Nukumanu Atoll in Papua New Guinea, and in Tokelau, a group of atolls just north of Samoa in the central Pacific. His work was supported by the National Institute of Mental Health, the National Science Foundation, the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Wenner-Gren Foundation for Anthropological Research, and Kent State's Division of Research and Sponsored Programs. Rick's findings have appeared in journals that include the *American Anthropologist*, *American Ethnologist*, *Ethnology*, *Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute of Great Britain and Ireland*, and the *Journal of the Polynesian Society*. He has also published over a dozen books and edited volumes with publishers including Oxford University, the University of Illinois, and our own Kent State University Press. He served on Kent's Faculty Senate for more than two decades, including several years on the executive committee and one year as senate chair. Particularly gratifying was his participation in several committees responsible for promoting diversity at KSU. In 2016, in recognition of his contributions to Pacific ethnography, Rick was elected Honorary Fellow of the Association for Social Anthropology in Oceania. From 2016 – 19, he served as Section Assembly Convener and Executive Board member of the American Anthropological Association. And, in 2019, he spent six months as Fulbright Distinguished Chair of Anthropology at Palacký University in the Czech Republic.

KSURA Vice President Drew Tiene is Professor Emeritus of Instructional Technology. He was born in Jersey City, New Jersey and grew up on Long Island, just outside New York City. After receiving his B.A. in psychology and master's degree in education from the University of Michigan, he taught sixth grade at Village Community School in New York City for six years. He

then obtained his doctorate from the University of Texas and was hired by Kent State University, where he spent his entire 32-year academic career. He earned the rank of full professor and became a program coordinator. Drew has written extensively about educational television, including the “Instructional Television” entry in the *International Encyclopedia of Education*. His television productions have won awards, been distributed nationwide, and been shown overseas in translation. His 1995 documentary entitled *The Story of the Kent State Shootings* was aired on PBS and is widely viewed online. Drew has also served as a jury committee chair at the Japan Prize, the world’s most prestigious educational television contest. He has published professional articles in a variety of respected journals, including *Educational Leadership*, the *Journal of Educational Research*, and *Educational Technology*. In 2001, his book, *Exploring Current Issues in Educational Technology*, was published by McGraw-Hill and used nationwide in college classrooms for years afterwards. His overseas consultancies include work for the World Bank and the U.S. Agency for International Development. After retiring in 2015, Drew was honored by Kent State as a “Pioneer of Distance Education” for his extensive work with educational broadcasting, videoconferencing, and online approaches to teaching.

Programs for Fall 2020

September 16: Drew Tiene (Instructional Technology) “Hiroshima in the 21st Century”

Hosts: Jerry Feezel and Rick Feinberg

October 21: Rick Feinberg (Anthropology) “A Fulbright Scholar in the Czech Republic”

Host: Drew Tiene

November 18: KSU Tom Riddle (KSU Alum) “Hiking through Palestine”

Hosts: Rick Feinberg and Drew Tiene

December 16: Virtual Social Hour. Details TBA

OCHER Report

by Jerry Feezel

Communication Coordinator, KSURA

The Ohio Council of Higher Education Retirees (OCHER) consists of representatives from each of the State public universities. Currently, 13 universities have members on OCHER. Each university retiree association designates those sent to meet at STRS in Columbus, but we changed this Fall to virtual meetings. Our primary role is to monitor developments with pensions and health care via contacts with OPERS, STRS, PERI, ORTA, & SERS. We function as a watchdog group

but also share information about our respective universities. Following in the history of leadership by Myra West and Hal Williams, Jenelle and Jerry Feezel are the current KSU members, with Jerry elected this AY as President of OCHER. For up-to-date information, check the OCHER website: <<https://www.bgsu.edu/retirees-association/ocher.html>>.

Student Emergency Assistance Fund

by Rod Feldmann

Professor Emeritus of Geology

Now that Kent is off and running for the semester, it is good to note that enrollment is just 3.1% down and that the planned limited on-campus residency seems to be functioning safely. However, a large number of students are working at home, and many still need computer resources in order to complete their work and remain enrolled. The efforts of the KSURA have already funded five students to secure adequate computer facilities. I hope we will be able to increase the support through more contributions.[†] It is my sense that the strong enrollment statistics and limited on-campus residences set Kent apart from many institutions that have had a more difficult beginning to their semester. I think the contribution of the KSURA speaks to our continued support of these efforts. Thank you.

[†] Donations may be addressed to Nancy C. Wagner at the KSU Foundation:

Center for Philanthropy and Alumni Engagement
Center for Gift and Estate Planning
350 South Lincoln Street
P.O. Box 5190
Kent, Ohio 44242-0001

KSURA Officers and Contact Information

Elected Officers:

- President: Rick Feinberg (katoakitematangi@gmail.com)
- Vice President: Drew Tiene (dtiene@kent.edu)
- Secretary: Christine Bhargava (chrisbhar@gmail.com)
- Treasurer: Jenelle Feezel (jenfee123@gmail.com; 330-221-0803)
- Past President: Wilma Crawford (wcrawford5@neo.rr.com, 330-678-8252)

Appointed Officers:

- Emeritus Faculty Senate Observer: Tom Janson (tjanson@kent.edu)
- Social Chair: Saroj Sutaria (Sutaria.saroj@ymail.com)
- Communication Coordinator: Jerry Feezel (jfeeze@kent.edu, or 330-221-5717)