Bennett advises retirees on travel

Travel advice changes from day to day, but don’t expect any bargains. Pent-up demand means prices are going up for airline tickets, hotel rooms, and rental cars. “When Oceania opened bookings for its 2022 around-the-world cruise, it sold out in a single day,” Bill Bennett, director of the IU Alumni Association’s travel program, told retirees at the May 12 annual meeting of the IU Retirees Association.

Bill Bennett took this photo of FloatHouse River Kwai in Thailand, one of his favorite destinations.

Bill advised retirees not to expect smooth sailing when travel resumes. A resurgence of the coronavirus in a particular area may cause itineraries to change. Check the cancellation/refund policies before buying tickets, Bill advised. If you have a premium credit card that offers travel protection, use it to book your reservation. Buy travel insurance with pandemic provisions, and realize that “cancel for any reason” insurance will be expensive. If you have points through a travel program, use them, Bill suggested. He expects these programs to be watered down in the future.

“Travel is what put us in the fix we’re in now,” Bill reminded retirees, with the airborne virus spreading rapidly in enclosed spaces. “I’ve never been a fan of big cruise ships,” Bill admitted. He would be reluctant to board a ship with more than 1,200 passengers. Cruise line prices are likely to increase in 2023, he said.

The travel industry is stressing safety. Testing is likely to be routine, and you’ll likely be required to provide proof of vaccination. China, Israel, and the EU are all discussing vaccine passports. The TSA requires travelers to wear facemasks on buses, trains, and commercial flights. The mandate originally was scheduled to expire May 11, but it has been extended through Sept. 13 and may very well last through the end of the year.

“Expect more North American travel as people begin with baby steps,” Bill said. If you’re planning on renting a car, make your reservation now. Already it may cost $1,000 a week, but in Hawaii it may cost $1,000 a day. “Be prepared to be creative,” Bill advised. Some people have resorted to renting U-Hauls.

The IU Travel program began in 1968 as a way of transporting Hoosiers to the Rose Bowl in Pasadena. “At that time it was the largest civilian airlift ever,” Bill said. IU Travel has locked in prices for 2021 and 2022, but airfares are likely to go up. Bill hopes the travel program will resume with a trip to the Canadian Rockies in August, but that decision depends on the Canadian government’s allowing travelers into the country. Most spring departures have been moved to August or September. Many universities still have international travel bans for faculty and staff who represent the university.

But come fall he will be willing to hop on a plane and feel comfortable traveling domestically. “May your travels be safe, healthy, and joyful,” Bill concluded. See the program online at http://bit.ly/billbennett.

The May 12 meeting served as the IURA’s annual meeting. Elected to three-year terms on the board
members are omissions. (on the IURA website. over the years can be found index to obituaries that have appeared in May issue died since the last listing. Issues, Twice a year since 2008, in the April and August
Bicentennial honors bestowed
As part of its bicentennial celebration, the university conferred Bicentennial Medals, “in recognition of distinguished and distinctive service in support of the mission of Indiana University.” Among IURA members who received medals are Doug Bauder, Dick Bauman, Ken Beckley, Ernest Bernhardt-Kabisch, Bonnie Brownlee, Terry Clapacs, Joanie Curts, Pam Freeman*, Steve Gottlieb, Jim and Joyce Grandorf, Ralph Gray, Steve Hitzeman, John Hobson, Bruce Jaffee, Jim Kennedy, Jeanne and Jim Madison, Portia Maultsby, Martha McCarthy, Dave Meyer, Keith Michael, Tony Mobley, Norm Overly, Randy Powell, Pat Ryan, Edson Sample, Judy Schroeder, Jim Sherman, Max Skirvin, Cindy Stone, Sue Talbot, Herb Terry, Jack Tharp, James T. Townsend, David Weaver, Allen White, James Williams, and Carl Ziegler*. Because the Office of the Bicentennial has indicated that the list on its website is incomplete, apologies for any omissions. An asterisk indicates a member now deceased.
The bells salvaged from the tower of the Student Building after the 1990 fire were melted down to make the medals.

Remembering our friends
Twice a year since 2008, in the April and August issues, Newswatch memorializes members who have died since the last listing. The entries in this unique May issue supplement the April 2021 listing. An index to obituaries that have appeared in Newswatch over the years can be found under the newsletter tab on the IURA website. Please notify the editor (jschroed@indiana.edu, 812-332-5057) of any omissions. Because of space limitations, only IURA members are included.

Ida Giotto Medlyn died March 14 in Bloomington. She was 94. She was born in North Lake, Mich., and graduated from Northern Michigan University. She later earned a doctorate in counseling and guidance at IU. Ida was a guidance counselor at Bloomington High School South and an adjunct professor at IU’s School of Continuing Studies. She was president of the boards of Monroe County United Way, the Mental Health Clinic Foundation, and Monroe County Junior Achievement. She served on the boards of the Monroe County Mental Health Association, Monroe County Heart Association, and the IU Center for Human Growth. She was president of the Indiana Personnel and Guidance Association and received its Barbara Walters Cole Distinguished Counselor Award in 1991. IU’s School of Education awarded her its Distinguished Alumni Award in 1992. Her husband, Bill, a professor in the School of Education, died in 2006.

Michael Metzger died in Bloomington on May 31, 2020. He was 74. Born in Jeffersonville, Ind., Mike grew up in Bloomington and Indianapolis. He earned a bachelor’s degree in 1966 and a J.D. degree from the School of Law in 1969. A lifelong weightlifter, he placed second as an undergraduate in the Mr. IU bodybuilding contest. He began his legal career in Indianapolis and joined the business law faculty in 1976, eventually serving as department chair. He became associate dean for academics at the School of Business in 1984. He won numerous teaching awards and received four “best article of the year” awards from the American Business Law Journal. Mike was passionate about racing cars and visited the Ferrari test track in Italy and the Monaco Grand Prix. He and his wife bicycled through Europe during the summers and enjoyed sailing catamarans. He was a voracious reader and a lover of Westies and fine wines. Virginia, former chief financial officer of Radio-TV Services and his wife of 50 years, survives.

John D. “Jack” Mulholland died in Bloomington on Dec. 23, 2020. He was 93. Jack grew up in Malone, N.Y., where he was an Eagle Scout. He graduated from Clarkson University and received his MBA from the University of Michigan. A trumpet player, he was part of the U.S. Army band during World War II and played in dance, jazz, and marching bands. A CPA, Jack served in a variety of corporate roles in New York, Ohio, Indiana, and Hawaii before becoming IU treasurer in 1972. He was president of the National Association of College and University Business Officers in 1991. Jack was an avid baseball fan. He played tennis, golf, and pool
and supported men’s and women’s teams at IU. He was the first executive director of the Community Foundation of Bloomington and Monroe County and served on its board. He was president of Theatre Circle, the University Club, and the Meadowood Resident Council. He also served as treasurer for Meals on Wheels and Habitat for Humanity. Pat, former admissions director for the business school’s MBA program and his wife of 66 years, survives.

Patricia Murphy Pizzo died May 3 in Bloomington. She was 93. Born in Chicago, Patti attended the University of Chicago. In 1951 she moved to Bloomington, where she was actively involved in community and philanthropic endeavors. While raising her children, she earned a bachelor’s degree in art history at IU and a master’s degree in library science. In 1968 she founded the Friends of Art Bookstore. She supported the activities and outreach of the Art Museum, Theatre Circle, Friends of Music, the Lilly Library, and Wylie House. For 18 years she served on the Bloomington Arts Commission, where she spearheaded the Monroe County artists’ postcard series and championed the restoration of the John Waldron Arts Center and the Buskirk-Chumley Theater. The City of Bloomington proclaimed Jan. 9, 2013, Patti Pizzo Day. She and her husband gave the 26-acre Pizzo Preserve north of Lake Monroe to the Sycamore Land Trust, and she was the first president of Friends of the T.C. Steele Historic Site. Tony, clinical professor of pathology and her husband of 69 years, died in 2015.

Anthony Shipp died April 9 in Bloomington. He was 94. Born in Tryon, N.C., Tony served in the Navy during World War II. He graduated from Mercer University and received a master’s and Ph.D. in English from Northwestern before earning a master’s degree in library science from the University of Michigan. He worked at Utah State University and the University of Colorado before coming to IU in 1967 as librarian for English and theater at the University Libraries. He retired in 1991. He was the author of The Quote Sleuth: A Manual for the Tracer of Lost Quotations. A lover of the King James version of the Bible, he was a member of First United Methodist Church, where he led a discussion group. Jan, professor emerita of history and religious studies at IUPUI and his wife of nearly 70 years, survives.

Carl Henry Ziegler died on April 19. He was 80. Born in West Bend, Wis., Carl graduated from Valparaiso University and received his Ph.D. from Vanderbilt University. He joined the IU faculty in comparative literature and Germanic studies in 1966. He worked with the Groups program in the 1970s and 1980s, creating a comparative curriculum to teach language concepts common to English and German. He took Groups students to Austria, to live with families during the summer, and he directed overseas studies programs in Graz, Austria, and Hamburg, Germany. In 1990 he was appointed director of the Collins Living-Learning Center, where he expanded the center’s mission and introduced service learning to the curriculum. Upon his retirement he received the 2003-2004 Mary Burgan Distinguished Service Award. Carl served on the boards of Middle Way House, Monroe County United Ministries, and United Way. He was a recipient of IU’s Bicentennial Medal.

What pandemic? Zoom art triumphs

The annual Emeriti House/IURA art show, cancelled in 2020 because of the pandemic, resumed this year as a two-hour show-and-tell Zoom program on April 30. Attending were 32 Zoom rectangles, some framing two people. This novel format worked surprisingly well. The 13 artists showed varying numbers of artworks, most with the shared-screen feature that allowed for full-screen images.

Moderators Beau Vallance and Wendy Bernstein managed to hold most artists to the seven-minute time limit. Audience participation was lively. Notes
sent afterwards applauded the rich interaction and suggested continuing this format somehow, perhaps as a hybrid, when on-the-wall exhibits return.

The Zoom format permitted two-dimensional works – paintings, photos, paper collages – to be shown full-screen with artist commentary as voice-over. But it also allowed Larry Thibos to present a video tour of his front yard, with small children climbing on his wooden sculptures. Andy Singer was able to introduce her embellished “gleaning sack” from several angles, with close-ups of the materials. Gail Londergan used PowerPoint to introduce her complex jigsaw puzzle designs and final products. The exhibit ended with Martin Weinberg’s photomontage (above) capturing the dread and uncertainty of the year 2020, an image of the very reason we had to go to Zoom. In every case, we learned more about the artists, their methods, and technical challenges than a simple label can communicate. Although the Zoom exhibit attracted fewer artists than the gallery version has in the past, it allowed for in-depth exploration, a fine trade-off in a challenging time.

Beau Vallance

About this newsletter/organization

Editor Judy Schroeder writes Newswatch eight times each year (10 in 2021), August through April (May in 2021). For comments or corrections, please contact her at jschoed@indiana.edu. To correct your address, please contact Doris Wittenburg, database manager, at dwittenb@indiana.edu.

Founded in 1975 as the IU Annuitants Association, the IURA welcomes all retired faculty and staff and their spouses or partners. It is supported entirely by membership dues. It receives no university funding.

Board members for 2020-21 were Charlie Matson, president; Doug Porter, vice president and program chair; Perry Maull, secretary; Anita Douglas, treasurer; Jim Grandorf, United Way chair; Steve Hitzeman; Joyce Krothe, retiree benefits liaison; Joe Miller; and Martha Smiley, hospitality chair. In addition to Judy and Doris, webmaster Allan Edmonds and historian Gail Londergan have served as ex officio members of the board.