

**Rutgers
AAUP-AFT
Retiree
Assembly**

Newsletter

Volume 24 – Issue 1

Fall 2021

EDITOR

Isabel Wolock

Assisted By Richard Bumby & John Krenos



Report from the Chair, Rudy Bell

When I accepted the chairpersonship role in July 2021 the most immediate challenge facing our **Retiree Assembly** was how to recruit new members. For years we had not been able to reach recent retirees in any consistent way, a situation exacerbated by the Covid pandemic crisis. Our membership had declined to an email list under **sixty**, with only about **twenty** of them keeping in regular contact.

This past summer I culled individual Rutgers departmental websites and other such public sources, with the following results for potential retired faculty not already members: **515** total names of retirees; among these, **175** without a valid email address; among the **340** remaining names, **245** who did not respond (**6** deceased, **7** no, and **232** no response); and finally, **95** positive, **NEW MEMBERS**.

We now have developed a new system of using payroll information on hand at the Union to identify likely faculty in the semester immediately after they retire; using this system we recruited an additional **dozen members** during fall 2021.

My thanks go to **AAUP/AFT** staff members **Wendy Asreen**, **Mala Kakkad**, and **Galina Moser** for their essential assistance in making for a successful recruitment drive.

A robust **retiree assembly membership roster** now is assured. The next challenge is to strengthen what our organization contributes to the wellbeing of all its members. In this endeavor I welcome your ideas, your talents, and your labors.

Report from the Outgoing Chair, Jon Lurie

Feeling that regular rotation in office is a good thing, I determined not to seek reelection as **Assembly Chair** when my term ended on June 30. At the same time, I became aware that **Rudy Bell**, a longtime member of the **NB History Dept**, and a **former AAUP president** had finally retired, and thus was able to join our assembly group. I sought him out as a perspective candidate for chair, and we all know the rest of the story.

Our fall **Zoom** meetings, replete with an opening visit from **President Holloway**, have featured specific and important discussions concerning matters of great interest to retirees. Beginning with our December or January meetings, I think we can look forward to resuming a variety of presentations from our colleagues as well as other guests. If any of our members would like to volunteer as a guest speaker, please notify **Rudy** or the undersigned of your interest.

With our new influx of members, we can hope for some very productive sessions during 2022. Finally, let me thank the **Assembly Members** for electing me to serve as chair from 2019-21, and I am delighted to assist Rudy as **Acting Secretary** through next June.

With every good wish, **jon lurie**

Report from the AAUP-AFT Executive Council Representative, Ann Gordon

Each year the Retiree Assembly elects one member to be its delegate to the Executive Council of Rutgers AAUP-AFT. I'm in my second year of service in that position—all of it virtual. Our by-laws charge me with bringing news of union activity back to the Assembly and being “a conduit” through which retirees can bring business before union leaders. According to the union’s by-laws, the Assembly’s delegate is a voting member of the council with limits: I cannot vote on matters of collective bargaining or dues increases.

The faculty are completing surveys in anticipation of a start to bargaining in 2022. Meanwhile, the administration has not managed to perform the work toward achieving pay equity it agreed to in the last contract. This failure has been most dramatic in Camden, where the administration defines “equity” as a concept limited by the geography of a campus, not by a university-wide measurement. By the time you are reading this, we will know if President Holloway keeps his promise to have all pay equity difficulties cleared up by December 7, when the Board of Governors meets.

Recently the Executive Council formed a committee on Issues of Retirement. The starting members of this new committee are myself, Research Professor Emerita, New Brunswick; Trip McCrossin, Assistant Teaching Professor, New Brunswick; and Patrice Mareschal, Associate Professor, Camden. That number will increase, and we will figure out what this committee might accomplish.

Report from the Publisher
Previously Reporter ⇒ Now Newsletter



Official Rutgers Scarlet **Shadow Box** Scheme

Many thanks to Donald Borchardt for his tireless, seminal work on numerous Emeriti/Reporter issues. He deservedly earned the Richard Wasson Leadership Award in 2002. The Wasson award, established in 1999, is dedicated in memory of Richard Wasson, founder, and first president of the Rutgers AAUP Emeriti/Retiree Assembly. This honor is bestowed upon an individual who demonstrates leadership in academic retirement. Such leadership assumes a variety of forms such as teaching, research, writing, public service, program organization, and/or promotion of resources and legislation.



In Memoriam
Princeton Alumni Weekly
Benjamin R. Beede #62

Ben died suddenly July 4, 2021, while walking in North Brunswick, N.J.

Born Jan. 12, 1939, in South Portland, Maine, Ben earned bachelor's and master's degrees in political science and an MLS from Rutgers and studied politics at Princeton. Although he did not complete a Princeton degree, Ben was a stalwart volunteer for graduate alumni Annual Giving.

In 1964 he enlisted in the Army. A supply specialist in a combat engineer battalion in Germany, he was awarded a Commendation Medal for meritorious service.

After a year at the Linden (N.J.) Public Library in 1969, Ben became a librarian at Rutgers Law School, Camden until 1980, when he transferred to the Kilmer Area Library (now the Carey Library) on Rutgers' Livingston Campus. His career was spent largely in reference and instructional services. He retired in 2003.

Ben worked on eight reference books; journal articles in political science, history, library science, and sociology; and more than 40 encyclopedia articles. His scholarly interests included guerrilla warfare and counterinsurgency; interfaces between police and military organizations; and political development in the United States during the Progressive Era, 1900-1921.

Ben was predeceased by his wife, **Anne Brugh**, in **2001**.

Graduate memorials are prepared by the APGA.

Ben Beede received the **Richard Wasson Leadership Award** in **2012**. An interesting Interview in a previous **Newsletter**:

https://rutgersaaup.org/wp-content/uploads/securepdfs/2021/01/Emeriti_Newsletter_02-09.pdf

Guest Speakers

Elfriede Schlesinger, “From Vienna, Austria to New Brunswick, New Jersey: Surviving the Holocaust–The Intersect of Near Tragedy, Surprise Humanity, and the Family Network” (February 2019)

John McGann, “Who Smells Better: Humans or Other Mammals?” (March 2019)

Sid Madison, “Climate Science, current progress, and future path” (May 2019)

Jim Jack, “The Inspiration and Scope of GSP’s Theatre Arts Education Programs and their Positive Impact on Communities” (June 2019)

Tracey J. Shors, “MAP Train Your Brain and Stay Fit for Life” (September 2019)

Maxine Lurie, “The American Revolution from a Local Perspective” (October 2019)

Jennifer Jolly, “Baboons, Bedlam, Birth and Budongo.” (November 2019)

Robert Karlin, “A History of Hypnosis and Its Current Use in the Treatment of Pain” (February 2020). **Last in Person Meeting. Following Meetings All Conducted on Zoom.**

Barry Qualls, “Victorian Sensations: Queen Victoria’s Subjects Confront Science and the Avant-Garde” (September 2020)

Camilla Townsend, “The Aztecs in Their Own Words” (October 2020)

Julia Tulovsky, Virtual Tour of the “Soviet Industrial Design and Nonconformist Art” exhibit at the Zimmerli Art Museum (November 2020)

Rudy Bell, “Crazy for Him: A Keynote on Sanctity and Madness” (January 2021)

Sandra Moss, “Newark’s Polio Epidemic of 1918” (March 2021)

Ashley Koning, “Polling 101: The Art, the Science, and a Look at the 2020 Presidential Election” (April 2021)

James Goodman, “My Year as a Judge for the National Book Awards” (May 2021)

Jon Lurie, “The U.S. Senate and Impeachment: All You Need to Know and Maybe Some More” (June 2021)

RU President Jonathan Holloway responded to questions about his view of the future of Rutgers (September 2021)

Patrick Nowlan, Executive Director of our parent AAUP-AFT chapter, and representatives of the Aetna Medicare Advantage Plan led a discussion of health insurance options (October 2021)

Rudy Bell led a discussion with Representatives of the Prescription Drug Plan (**OptumRX**) (November 2021)

Recent Events

Excursion to Liberty Science Center (April 2019)

Last in Person Holiday Get Together (December 2019)

Excursion to [Edison West Orange Laboratory](#) (January 2020)

Holiday Get Together on **Zoom** (December 2020)

Holiday Get Together on **Zoom** (December 2021)

AN INTERVIEW WITH RICHARD BUMBY
Member AAUP-AFT Retiree Faculty Assembly
Former Faculty Member in the SAS
Department of Mathematics



By Isabel Wolock
Treasurer, AAUP-AFT Retiree Faculty Assembly

Tell me a little about your position at Rutgers before you retired.

(Quoted from my web page) I was on the faculty of the Mathematics Department on the New Brunswick/Piscataway Campus of Rutgers University from September 1960 to June 2010.

I was a fellow of Livingston College and represented the College on the New Brunswick Faculty Council. This has been compounded in two ways: (1) I became Faculty Council webmaster for the 2003-2004 academic year and continued in that role through June 2009; (2) I was chair of the Livingston College Executive Council of Fellows for the 2005-2006 and 2006-2007 academic years. While Livingston College no longer has an Assembly of Fellows following the reorganization of the New Brunswick/Piscataway Campus, I remained on the Faculty Council

as a representative of the Livingston Campus Community for 2007-2009. I was also elected to represent SAS on the University Senate for a 3 year term starting Fall 2007.

From September 2008 to May 2010, I was the Head Undergraduate Advisor for the Mathematics Department.

What were your major accomplishments and sources of satisfaction while you were at Rutgers?

I was often chosen to pioneer new approaches to teaching in the department. Here are some early examples (from late 1960s or early 1970s). Some were not successful - in an early attempt at filmed lectures, I was one of three giving a short presentation. All three of us wore full beards at the time and the audience had difficulty noticing when one speaker left off and another began. The experiment with mini-courses (half-semester introductory courses created following Warren Susman's report, "The Reconstruction of an American College" in 1968) went well although support for the concept declined after a few years.

I also organized the transition of Calculus to a lecture course. At the time 400 students seemed like a lot, so I coordinated three lecturers and an army of teaching assistants, and I was given a special assistant to help communicating with everyone. We used common exams, part of which was multiple choice. The army of assistants would suggest problems and my work at solving them would also reveal the choices of possible answers. I would also test mark-sense reader ahead of each exam. Something always failed and although I was told that no one else had complained, I requested a service call. Several parts always needed to be replaced.

Did you do any writing or research or community service work?

I have an assortment of published articles – usually fairly short – since I was attracted to a variety of problems rather than a well-defined research program. Here is one that is easy to describe: a collection of people, each with own choice bit of gossip, want to share what they know by talking to one another by telephone (an old-fashioned one, since the problem dates from 1970), how many calls are needed for everyone to know everything?

If you add one person, the number of calls will not increase by more than 2: the previous system can be modified by having the newcomer start the process by calling any one member of the existing collection and arrange to get called back when that person is fully informed. A system of calls for a small number of people will determine a possible number of calls for collections of any larger size. For example: one person needs zero calls; two people need one call, and four people need four calls. Each of these improves the previous. It turns out that no further improvement is possible! Proving this is not easy.

From 1991 to 1995, I was editor of the Problems and Solutions section of the American Mathematical Monthly. At the time, electronic communication was still in its infancy so most communication involved moving paper around. I acquired about 2000 pen-pals in this job. I also began the process of moving that part of the journal to computer typesetting.

Did you receive any award /honors before or after retirement?

My work never lent itself to that sort of recognition. Sometimes, quite the opposite. In one attempt at teaching the “Mathematics for Liberal Arts” course in Spring 1986, I was selected as one of the three *worst* teachers at Rutgers by the informal poll conducted by the “Rutgers Review”. I blame this on college distribution requirements. Some of our students were in their senior year and found this the only option available.

What did you do before coming to Rutgers?

I came here directly from Graduate School at Princeton. In fact, I had the title of “Instructor” for my first two years at Rutgers, teaching 11 hours a week while working on my dissertation. While in graduate school, I spent some summers in “industry” – enough to convince me that I belonged in a university.

Going back to earlier days, had you always planned on having an academic career — doing what you did?

Yes. School always felt comfortable.

What kinds of experiences or situations led to your decision to pursue an academic career?

In high school and as an undergraduate, I had some success at competitions in math/science. These were rooted in the academic experience, so I was led in this direction.

If you were to do it all over again, would you pursue the same career or would you choose another one?

For the time, it remains the best choice.

What did you do after you retired?

I retired when I did only because there was a special incentive that year, so I continued to participate in department activities and attending a research seminar in New York as in the time immediately before retirement.

What led you to become involved in the AAUP Retiree Assembly? Is there anything in particular you like about being part of this group?

When there were some changes in the health benefit provided by the State, this was the only place that seemed to be concerned with the consequences. Once I began participating, it restored my connection to the parts of Rutgers beyond my department.

RETIREE ASSEMBLY MEMBERSHIP DUES

The fee for **AAUP-AFT Retiree Assembly** membership is **\$10** per year beginning each September. If you haven't already done so, please send your check made out to "**Rutgers Council of AAUP/Emeriti,**" to the following address: Mala Kakkad, Treasurer, Rutgers AAUP-AFT, 11 Stone Street, New Brunswick, NJ 08901-1113 (sorry, cash cannot be accepted). You may also renew membership for one, two, or three years by paying \$10, \$20, or \$30.

The **AAUP-AFT** faculty union subsidizes the **Retiree Assembly** at the rate of **\$20** per member who joins by November of any given calendar year.

Below is a list of Organizations and their Contact Information including Web Sites you may find Useful

RUTGERS

AAUP Retiree Assembly

11 Stone Street
New Brunswick, NJ 08901-1113
Phone: 732-964-1000
Fax: 732-964-1032
E-mail: aaup@rutgersaaup.org
<http://www.rutgersaaup.org/Retiree-Assembly>

RWJMS Retired Faculty Association

<http://rwjms.rutgers.edu/faculty;index.html#>

Retired Faculty & Staff Association

<http://retirement.rutgers.edu/>

Rutgers Retiree Benefits

<http://retirement.rutgers.edu/retiree-benefits/>

Rutgers Council of AAUP Chapters-AFT

11 Stone Street
New Brunswick, NJ 08901-1113
Phone: 732-964-1000
Fax: 732-964-1032
E-mail: aaup@rutgersaaup.org
www.rutgersaaup.org



American Association of University Professors

1133 Nineteenth Street, NW, Suite 200

Washington, DC 20036

Phone: 202-737-5900

Fax: 202-737-5526

E-mail: aaup@aaup.org

www.aaup.org



NJ Department of Treasury

Division of Pensions and Benefits

Links for Retirees

<http://www.state.nj.us/treasury/pensions/retiree-home.shtml>



American Federation of Teachers, AFL-CIO

555 New Jersey Avenue, NW

Washington, DC 20001

Phone: 202-879-4400

www.aft.org



AARP

601 E Street NW

Washington, DC 20049

Phone: 1-888-OUR-AARP (1-888-687-2277)

www.aarp.org

303 George Street, Suite 505

New Brunswick, NJ 08901

Phone: 1-866-542-8165 (toll-free)

Fax: 609-987-4634

E-mail: njaarp@aarp.org

Web site: <http://www.aarp.org/states/nj/>
