

ULARP Report to Faculty Senate

Prof. Elaine Wise, ULARP Liaison

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Do let me correct a typo in my December FS Report on ULARP. I mentioned a seminar on the Irish Family. In actuality, the Lunch and Learn Seminar at the University Club on the 13th of January was entitled “The Irish Famine.” It featured Dr. James O’Brien, past chair of Family Medicine and Geriatrics, who shared with the many attendees the terrible consequences of that devastating potato blight from 1845-1852 and the subsequent immigration of many Irish families to the United States, many of whom chose Louisville as their new home. The Limerick, Portland, and Irish Hill neighborhoods remain as reminders of their influence and importance here, as do many restaurants, businesses, and shops.

The ULARP survey of all retirees and database of member retirees remain works in progress. ULARP would like to be able to identify retirees’ special interests and areas of expertise that might be tapped, to the benefit of the U of L community.

In 2025, ULARP supported the first **Distinguished Retiree Excellence Award** which went to Dr. Stanley Levinson. This award was created to pay tribute to retired UofL faculty and staff who have demonstrated dedication to scholarship or community service that has had an exceptional impact on the university. In 2026, ULARP will be supporting that award plus a second award: the **Distinguished Alumni Retiree Excellence Award**. It will be open to someone who is both a retiree AND a U of L graduate, and who is similarly dedicated to scholarship/community service and exemplifies the University’s CARDINAL values. Nominations for both awards will be accepted through February 15, 2026.

If you are considering retirement and joining ULARP, John Smith, President, welcomes any questions as well as suggestions for programing and outreach (ularp@louisville.edu). Coffee and Conversation sessions take place on the second Friday of each month in the Pub at the University Club, 10-11. Join us if you are interested.

It is with sadness that we recognize the passing in October of Dr. John Sinai, former president of ULARP from 2004-2010. Dr. Sinai was hired by the University of Louisville Department of Physics in 1964, and he also served as Department Chair, A&S Associate Dean, and Faculty Senate Chair. During his tenure, he and his board advanced many initiatives for retirees, including securing the subsidy for the retiree supplemental health insurance plan. We will always remain grateful for his contributions and his life.