



NEWSWATCH

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January 2020

**Next meeting: 2 p.m., Wednesday, February 12
St. Mark's United Methodist Church, 100 SR46 Bypass**

In an age where 500 channels vie for our attention, some people have suggested that the marketplace meets the needs for which public radio and TV were established. Not so, says **Perry Metz**, who recently retired after 16 years



as general manager of WFIU and WTIU. When retirees gather on Feb. 12 at 2 p.m. at St. Mark's United Methodist Church, Perry will talk about "Why Public Broadcasting Still Matters." He will also give us a look at what is coming up locally.

Since Perry created the first combined newsroom in public media, the WFIU-WTIU news team has won hundreds of programming awards, including 65 in 2019 alone. During his time as general manager, WFIU added a second signal, and WTIU converted to digital and HD broadcasting. WTIU has produced more than 50 full-length TV documentaries during his tenure, and annual webpage views topped 4 million. Perry served eight years as the chair of the statewide consortium of Indiana public broadcasting stations.

A Phi Beta Kappa graduate of IU, he earned a bachelor's degree with a double major in political science and journalism and a master's in communications management. He went on to study at the Poynter Institute. He also worked on Capitol Hill as a Sears Congressional Fellow in the office of then-Sen. Joe Biden.

His long career in IU administration included stints as director of campus relations and

assistant vice president of the Bloomington campus.

Stretch IRAs hit the dust; RMDs delayed to age 72

With many emails, brochures, and presentations, Human Resources at IU informed us of a major change in the IU retirement system that affected many IURA retirees. The blackout period ended in early January, and reports seem to suggest that the transition went smoothly.

Less publicized, though, was a new law, called the SECURE Act, passed by Congress and signed by the president in December as part of the federal budget. The act affects tax-deferred accounts and Required Minimum Distributions (RMDs). Not surprisingly, the law is complicated, and there are special situations.

One major change, however, is that any IRAs that are inherited in the future by someone other than a spouse, such as children and grandchildren, must be withdrawn completely by the beneficiary within 10 years of the death of the IRA's owner. Guided by the previous law – the so-called Stretch IRA – some of us have told our children, our beneficiaries, that, upon our deaths, they can take over our 401(k)s or IRAs, postponing the RMD based on their life expectancies. This is no longer the case.

IRAs that already have been inherited are not affected.

A second major change: Until this year, anyone with an IRA, 401(k), or an IU retirement account

(technically, a 403(b) account) needed to start taking annual distributions in the year she or he turned 70½ (or April 1 of the following year). Under the SECURE Act, that initial RMD can be delayed until the retiree reaches age 72.

Retirees should read the fine print or consult their accountants, financial advisers, or estate lawyers to see if they should make changes in their estate plans as a result of the SECURE Act.

■ *Bruce Jaffee*

Emeriti House, University Club

For information about the programs of the Emeriti House and the University Club, our partner organizations, see <http://www.indiana.edu/~emeriti> and <http://www.indiana.edu/~uclub>.

IUB Libraries offer special events



On Feb. 5 from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Wells Library, IUB Libraries will host the Inseparable Film Tour. In 2019, Indiana Humanities

chose five award-winning Indiana filmmakers (including Bloomington-based Mitch Teplitzki and Gabriel Lantz) to create short documentaries exploring how Hoosiers experience and grapple with urban, suburban, and rural divides. This is a unique opportunity to view the final product.

IURA members are welcome to attend the Digital Library Brown Bag Series hosted by IUB Libraries. Presentations are from noon to 1 p.m. in Room E159 of the Wells Library. On Jan. 29 the topic is “Making History in the Midwest: A Tale of Two History Harvests.” On Feb. 12 you can learn about the IU Bicentennial Next Generation Archives Online project. On March 4 the subject will be the mass digitization of student newspapers from five IU campuses.

If you have concerns about parking, you can view and listen to presentations from home. Go to <https://iu.zoom.us/j/890205369>.

For a complete list of library events, go to <https://events.iu.edu/libraries/>

Clarifying governance

Reviewing IURA documents in her role as historian, **Gail Londergan** noted some discrepancies in the IURA Articles and Bylaws. Following up on her suggestions, the board is proposing several amendments, which will be voted on at the annual meeting in April. The changes clarify how long a director may serve on the board, what standing committees must be chaired by board members, how ex officio positions may be filled, and what constitutes a quorum of the membership. The proposed amendments also permit mail and email voting as an alternative. To view the proposed changes, go to <https://iura.indiana.edu/bylaws.html>

Pizzo: A filmmaker is a storyteller

“I’m a filmmaker, and my principal charge is to tell a story,” **Angelo Pizzo** told nearly 90 people at the Jan. 15 meeting of the IURA at St. Mark’s Church. Angelo showed the series of shorts he made with five different alumni. They have been broadcast on national TV during IU football and basketball games.



Each 30- or 60-second commercial ends, “I wouldn’t be here if it weren’t for Indiana University.” One of the features Angelo wrote and directed, featuring *New York Times* crossword puzzle editor Will Shortz, won a

regional Emmy. The Mark Cuban and Ailyn Pérez commercials both won Silver Tellys.

“Telling a story with a beginning, middle, and end, all within 30 seconds, is a challenge,” Angelo said. Like his motion pictures, these short commercials elicit emotion.

Angelo talked about his career in film. The first cut of *Hoosiers*, which both ESPN and *USA Today* have called the greatest sports movie ever made, ran 3 hours 40 minutes. Angelo and David Anspaugh’s final cut was 2 hours 24 minutes, but the film release was 1 hour 56 minutes. Why? Because theaters wanted films that would permit three showings in one night, Angelo said, “they had to get it under two hours.”

Jerry Goldsmith, who had 14 Academy Award nominations at the time, wrote the music for *Hoosiers*. He had agreed to screen the film because he thought it might be a vehicle for one of the up-and-coming composers he mentored. The movie moved Goldsmith to tears. His score for *Hoosiers* ended up winning him yet another Academy Award nomination.

Rudy, a film about a wannabe Notre Dame football player, was a box office failure but a Blockbuster home video rental success. “I’m still gainfully employed because of *Hoosiers* and *Rudy*,” Angelo said.

“David and I have talked about offering a seminar called ‘Anatomy of a Success, Anatomy of a Failure,’” Angelo said, because their third movie, *Game of Their Lives*, was a flop. “It was our third movie so we knew more,” he said.

With *Hoosiers* and *Rudy*, everything that could go right went right, but this time everything that could go wrong went wrong – the company was sold, four different presidents all had their hands in the pot, and “the final product wasn’t remotely close to the screenplay I wrote,” he said.

A friend observed, “When you went to the karma bank for your third movie, you found you were overdrawn.”



Nearly 90 people sat enraptured listening to Angelo Pizzo on Jan. 15. More photos from the meeting are posted on the IURA website.

Asked his opinion on the future of film, Angelo observed, “The business is changing so fast I can’t predict what will happen 10 years from now. I never would have predicted streaming – or Netflix and Amazon making movies.”

He hopes motion picture theaters will still be around. Watching with other people changes the atmosphere, he believes, and there is surround sound, with no distractions. “*1917* is an extraordinary, jaw-dropping film,” he said, but it needs the big screen to be experienced fully.

Angelo talked about some of his current projects. One stems from a friendship forged at Massapequa High School on Long Island. The three best friends are now a fireman, a policeman/detective, and an actor/director. The fireman became interested in fire horses in lower Manhattan and, with his policeman buddy, came up with an idea they pitched to their director friend. On the basis of their mutual love of *Rudy*, Angelo said, “they pitched me the story at the Uptown Café.”

Angelo has returned to his Bloomington roots. His late father, civic leader and physician **Tony**, and his mother, **Patty**, whom IURA Program Chair **Charlie Matson** described as “a force of nature who has worked with every arts-related organization in town,” both have been IURA members. Charlie introduced the speaker.

The Hospitality Committee’s refreshments included hot spiced cider.

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Put these dates on your 2020 calendar

Here are future dates for IURA meetings:

- Feb. 12, 2 p.m., **Perry Metz**, retired general manager, WFIU/WTIU
- April 8, 2 p.m., annual meeting, **John Hamilton**, Bloomington Mayor
- May 13, 5:30 p.m., dinner, Peterson Room, IU Foundation, with musical program

Note that the IURA does not meet in March and there is no newsletter in February.

Working at polls in May, November

At the December IURA meeting **Marjorie Hershey** said, “2020 is going to be a turnout election.” To help with that turnout, poll workers are needed for early voting – about 60 each day in Monroe County – and 340 for the May 5 primary election.

IURA members who are registered to vote in Monroe County can get more information and sign up by calling 812-349-2690. Poll workers are paid for their service, but people who have volunteered in the past say that being part of democracy in action is their real reward.

**He who laughs, lasts.
Mary Pettibone Poole**

About this newsletter

Newswatch is published eight times each year, August through April, except for February. To correct your address, please contact **Doris Wittenburg**, database manager, at dwittenb@indiana.edu. For comments or corrections, please contact **Judy Schroeder**, editor, at jschroed@indiana.edu. Photos courtesy of **Allan Edmonds**, webmaster.