

FDIC News

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Chicago Region Donates Shoeboxes to Homeless People	3
DIR Director Ellis Conveys Valuable Lessons from the Financial Crisis to Banking Students	4
Christine Davis Concludes Noteworthy FDIC Career	5
Moving On	7

Two FDIC Retirees and a Baseball Road Trip Bucket List

By JAY ROSENSTEIN
Office of Communications

When longtime FDIC friends Joe Bauer and Fred Kirk retired in 2005 and 2004, respectively, they decided to get together once a year, just the two of them, to go to Major League Baseball (MLB) games. But there was more to it than that.

Bauer, a former Senior Financial Economist in the FDIC Research Division in Washington, and Kirk, who was a Supervisory Examiner in the Detroit Field Office, set out to accomplish something that thousands of other baseball fanatics have done or tried: they wanted to see games in all 30 MLB stadiums ... or as many as they could.

That also meant that Bauer, Kirk and others taking this special baseball dream on the road could expect to spend anywhere from one month to a couple of decades ... and a lot of money ... driving and/or flying across North America, all for a chance to attend a



On their cross-country tour of Major League Baseball stadiums, FDIC retirees (left to right) Joe Bauer and Fred Kirk also visited seven minor league fields, including Dr. Pepper Ballpark in Frisco, Texas, in 2010.

game at these ballparks (29 in the United States and one, Toronto's Rogers Centre, in Canada).

How did our two FDIC buddies do on their journey?

"It took us 14 years, from 2005 to

see **Baseball**, page 2, column 1

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LIFE OUTSIDE THE FDIC

Baseball, from page 1

2018, but Fred and I finished our quest to see games in all 30 MLB stadiums currently in use,” Bauer said. “Each year, we set aside a week in August to pursue our goal. We completed the assignment when we visited SunTrust Park in suburban Atlanta.” (That’s now called Truist Park.)

In addition, they went to games at five stadiums no longer in Major League activity — the old Yankee Stadium and Shea Stadium in New York, Fulton County Stadium in Atlanta, the Hubert H. Humphrey Metrodome in Minneapolis, and the Robert F. Kennedy Memorial Stadium (also known as RFK Stadium) in Washington. That brings their MLB stadium total up to 35. If you add in seven minor league ballparks and repeats at five current stadiums (Baltimore, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Detroit and Milwaukee), they saw a grand total of 55 games at 47 stadiums.

Bauer and Kirk separately ranked the current stadiums. PNC Park in the Steel City was #1 for both of them. “Pittsburgh was enjoyable due to the combination of good seats, good views, open stadium, enjoyable surroundings and walk, and interaction with the fans,” said Kirk.

Their other four favorites were, in no particular order, Minute Maid Park

in Houston, AT&T Park (now Oracle Park) in San Francisco, Miller Park in Milwaukee, and Camden Yards in Baltimore.

Along the way Bauer and Kirk also stopped at other baseball tourist attractions including the Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, New York, the Field of Dreams movie site and tourist attraction in Dyersville, Iowa, and the Louisville Slugger bat factory and museum in Louisville, Kentucky.

Although they could have finished much sooner by visiting more stadiums each baseball season (April to October), Bauer noted, “We never really considered having a short run at this because we were going to take our time from the start.”

And, they only scheduled games in August. That’s because Bauer, age 75, is still playing about 140 games a year (softball and hardball combined), including his participation in a Northern Virginia league that always takes August off.

Bauer and Kirk, who met on the job in the early-1970s when both started in Detroit, said they especially appreciated that their spouses were willing to let them tour the country alone for 14 years. Said Kirk, “My wife Georgeen tolerates baseball, unlike other sports, but she and likely Joe’s wife SiRi would never contemplate going on any of our trips.”

The former economist and bank examiner also found a good reason to play with numbers again. “Kirk filled in scorecards for most of the games, and both of us were always looking at statistics,” Bauer said. “People sitting near us even asked if we were scouts.”

Bauer, who now lives in Arlington, Virginia, and Kirk, in Westland, Michigan, mutually agreed to take 2019 off, but now they plan to make a comeback. “Joe and I have decided to again visit our favorite park, Pittsburgh, in 2020,” said Kirk. “We will also likely revisit Philadelphia.”

Bauer and Kirk are also planning a 2021 visit to Globe Life Field, the new home for the Texas Rangers, which features a much-needed retractable roof. Of course, they could fly to or from Pittsburgh, Philly or Dallas/Fort Worth this year instead of next, enjoy a game in the new stadium, check that off their baseball bucket list, and then fly back home. But that would go against their agreement to just take their time.

“As former FDIC examiners we are both analytical and planners by nature,” Kirk explained. “Plus annual trips give us an opportunity to see each other and talk some baseball, eat some hot dogs and other bad dietary foods, and reminisce about our careers with the FDIC.” 🍷



It took FDIC retirees Joe Bauer and Fred Kirk 14 years to complete their quest to see games in all 30 Major League Baseball stadiums in use, including the San Francisco Giants’ AT&T Park (now called Oracle Park) in 2016.

CHICAGO REGION COMMUNITY OUTREACH

By JOHN HENRIE
Acting Regional Director,
Chicago Region

Chicago Regional Office employees donated nonperishable food and personal items to fill shoeboxes for those in need. While it may have started as a simple gesture, its purpose struck a chord with regional staff, who brought

in empty boxes and small items months in advance of the holidays.

When it came time to package the gifts, there were shoeboxes stacked along the walls of the conference room with piles of hats, gloves, deodorant, small toys, cookies, and other items covering the conference room tables. Shoeboxes for men, women, and chil-

dren were then filled and wrapped in holiday paper. The goal was to donate 125 boxes to the local Salvation Army; however, the Chicago Regional office delivered 202 boxes. Members of the Salvation Army shared with staff how these items would be delivered to the homeless in the Chicago Area. 🙏



A Heartwarming Holiday Chicago Tradition—Donating to Homeless People. Salvation Army representatives, dressed in red, join with Chicago Regional staff on the eve of the region's donation of dozens of shoeboxes to Chicago homeless people. Chicago staff from left: Flavia Montes (DIT); Raquel Jackson Morton (DOA); Laura Gallegos (RMS); Jasmine Barrows (DOA); Regina Hayes (RMS) Linda Dixon-Shane (Legal); Mary Anne Benden (Legal); Christina McKnight (RMS); Patricia Ramos (RMS); and Dwana Jones (Legal). Not pictured: Brandi Williams (DCP).

LESSONS LEARNED FROM THE FINANCIAL CRISIS

DIR Director Ellis Conveys Valuable Lessons from the Financial Crisis to Banking Students

When the banking crisis began in 2008, the Deposit Insurance Fund (DIF) balance stood at \$52.8 billion. Over the next two years, as the number of bank failures started to climb, the balance dropped to negative \$20.9 billion—and would stay in the red for seven quarters.

Diane Ellis, director of the FDIC’s Division of Insurance and Research, gave a firsthand account of those turbulent days during a recent visit to the University of North Carolina’s Center for Banking & Finance.

Director Ellis was invited to speak by adjunct professor Eric Spitler, former director of the FDIC’s Office of Legislative Affairs, who is teaching a course entitled “Legal Response to the Financial Crisis.” The conversation ranged

from the FDIC’s initial, unsuccessful efforts to keep the DIF in the black, to the agency’s work to ensure that the fund had sufficient liquid assets to continue to protect insured depositors at failed banks, and, ultimately, to the reforms that have helped to rebuild and strengthen the fund. In fact, since its low point in December 2009, the DIF balance has grown every quarter, topping \$110 billion at year-end 2019.

Students learned about special assessments the FDIC imposed in June 2009 in an attempt to maintain a positive fund balance. Fortunately, when that effort failed, the fund’s liquid assets—cash and Treasury securities—were sufficient to enable the FDIC to continue to promptly resolve failing banks and protect in-

sured depositors.

Director Ellis also discussed the evolution of the statutory framework governing DIF management, as well as the evolution of the FDIC’s fund management strategy and risk-based pricing methods, which culminated with implementation of the deposit insurance reforms authorized by the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act of 2010.

“I was honored to speak at UNC about the agency’s response to the financial crisis,” said Director Ellis. “Those lessons will be critical to effectively navigating future economic challenges and, I hope, will help those who choose a career in financial services to better respond to the next period of financial instability.”



Photos l to r: DIR Director Ellis and adjunct professor Eric Spitler at the Old Well, a landmark on the campus of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. DIR Director Diane Ellis and adjunct professor Eric Spitler discuss lessons learned from the financial crisis during a course at the University of North Carolina’s Center for Banking & Finance.

Christine Davis Concludes Noteworthy FDIC Career

By SALLY J. KEARNEY,
Office of Communications

At any FDIC headquarters event—a major conference, a Board meeting, a retirement reception—look around. Most likely, you will spot Christine Davis, Chief of Special Services in DOA, quietly and confidently making sure that everything runs according to plan. If Davis is in charge, there is a sense of reassurance that all will go well, and rightly so. Events planned, organized, and managed by Davis and her team are carried off with precision and polish—equally important, with a sort of flair and warmth. Much of this can be attributed to Davis’ cordiality, care, and attentiveness to others. As a result, FDIC events reflect the FDIC at its best.

Talent played a role in Davis’ entry to government. She was attending a vocational high school in Washington, D.C., when she had the opportunity to participate in an essay contest offered throughout D.C. high schools. The prize was a government job. Davis won the contest and spent the summer between her junior and senior years at the FDIC.

A high school counselor told Davis about the Federal Junior Fellowship Program, which enabled students to attend college and work during summers and Christmas breaks. Davis was accepted into the program and served with the Small Business Administration and later with the FDIC. While at the FDIC, she applied for a management analyst position and was selected. “I started full-time at the FDIC in 1985, after graduating from college,” she said. Davis also married her husband in 1986. These were pivotal years.

The management analyst position in the former Division of Accounting and Corporate Services was with the Directives, Records, and Forms Section and gave Davis an inside view of the FDIC. “I learned so much about the FDIC’s functions through that job,” she said.

When her supervisor moved to the Office of Corporate Services, Davis became the section’s supervisor. Subsequently, she was named Chief of the

Administrative Management Section of the Office of Corporate Services when her former supervisor was promoted. In this role, Davis managed a wide range of responsibilities, and her education in the workings of the FDIC continued.

In 2006, Davis became Chief of Special Services. The position was an ideal for Davis and gave her the opportunity to apply all that she had learned about the FDIC in her previous jobs. “I have loved it,” she said, describing her work as self-actualizing and providing endless growth opportunities.

Continued growth has been Davis’ hallmark. In 2005, she earned an MBA. Of her career, she said, “It’s been awesome. The FDIC has been good to me.”

Davis’ writing skills served her well. “When I was a student at the vocational high school, I thought I wanted to be an executive secretary, so I developed my writing skills,” she said. “That training has been an enormous benefit throughout my career.”

Davis plans to start her retirement with a spate of rest and relaxation. Also on the agenda are travel and volunteering at her church. Davis looks forward to assisting her daughter, Danielle Baylor, a professional popular singer whose career is on the rise. “I have been traveling with her and will enjoy supporting her as a sort of ‘Mommy manager,’” Davis said. Without question, daughter Danielle is in expert hands.

For now, Davis and her husband plan to continue living in the Washington, D.C., area, where her mother also lives. When her husband retires, they may move to Georgia. “Atlanta is good for the music industry,” Davis said. Not surprisingly, Davis is looking ahead—and planning her next move.

Colleagues Pay Tribute to Christine Davis

“Christine embodies all of the qualities I’ve come to value in my various positions with the FDIC. She approaches her work with a sense of excitement, pride, and excellence. She will leave a legacy of significant contributions to the FDIC mission; best in government ceremonies and events; and, most impor-



Christine Davis

tantly, treasured memories for those of us who benefited from her outstanding performance and collegiality. We will also miss her smile and warm personality. The FDIC is truly a better place as a result of the many years Christine has spent with us.”—Arleas Kea

“I met Christine Davis in 1989 and we immediately became friends. Her graceful demeanor and corporate presence quickly got my attention. To my advantage, Chris eventually became my supervisor; sitting under her tutelage was a life-changing experience. She was a phenomenal leader of integrity who led by example! Chris exemplified true commitment to lead others through positive influence. While serving in the capacity as my supervisor, she demonstrated trustworthiness which expanded her influence and built outstanding working relationships amongst her staff. She motivated me to do my best in whatever role I served within the FDIC. Chris is a woman of grace and the epitome of professionalism. I was always in awe to witness her calmness and patience in full operation as she worked under extreme pressure and made it look like a walk in the park. Her work ethics and dedication to the FDIC were commendable! I already miss Chris’ presence at

see *Noteworthy*, page 6, column 1

FDIC PROFILE

Noteworthy, from page 5

the FDIC but we will remain connected, as some people you meet are for a reason, season, or lifetime. Christine Davis is a lifetime friend who serves as my personal counselor/coach for the wonderful price of “love.” I’d like to thank Chris for being a constant confidant in my life, she has imprinted the lives of so many at the FDIC and left behind a legacy of strong leadership! I know that her latter days will be greater than her former days.”—*Pamela Atkinson*

“I have known Christine for more than 25 years and she has always been a consummate professional in her various roles at the FDIC. In some of her various roles, Chris has served as my supervisor where she has always been diligent and dedicated in carrying out her responsibilities. She has been a role model, a mentor, a colleague and most of all a “friend” that I have great respect and admiration for and her many accomplishments at the FDIC. She has always encouraged me in my career growth and provided invaluable career

and personal advice over the years. For all of this, I will value our friendship that will extend beyond her retirement. You will be greatly missed, but I know that your steps in life and in retirement will be ordered to the path that lies ahead.”—*Cassandra Speights*

“I have always admired Christine’s work ethic and professionalism. One of my experiences that I will never forget that Christine have always talked to me about was how to be “money smart” and how to put money away for my future retirement. I will miss Chris’ leadership and all that she has taught me about the work force and just being there when I needed to talk. I would like to personally congratulate her on her retirement. I have truly enjoyed working with her, and I consider her not only a valuable asset to the FDIC, but an enjoyable presence in the office as well. Chris will be missed and she certainly deserves her retirement. I definitely wish her all the best, and will keep in touch with her. My hope is that she has a fun and fruitful retirement.”—*Dionne Martin*

“I met Christine when she became

my mentor in the FDIC’s Mentoring Program in 2002 (or so). I so enjoyed having Christine as my mentor because I met someone I could learn so much from, and I have had the pleasure of claiming Christine as a friend. One of the things that Christine shared with me right away was that mentoring is a two-way street ... while the program highlights my opportunity to learn from her – she will learn just as much from me. Christine imparted some of the best career advice with me, which has stayed with me on so many levels. A couple of Christine’s tips for me that have proven invaluable are (1) always consider any advice given to you and determine how best (or even if) it suits you; (2) communication and listening are key elements in all relationships and will serve you well in your career; and (3) when something isn’t clear, ask questions – do not make assumptions. I will miss Christine here at work, but as I said I have had the pleasure of building a relationship with her – so we will be in touch. I wish her all the best in her retirement.”—*Penny Bouknight* 🏠

MOVING ON

Name: Kathleen (Kathy) Halpin

Most recent position: Senior Claims Administration Analyst

Division: DRR

Location: Dallas

When and where joined the FDIC: Started with FSLIC in 1986, in 1989 after FIRREA became an FDIC employee.

Career highlights: There have been so many highlights in my career, hard to pick out just a few. Prior to working for FSLIC, for 17 years I was in the insurance industry in the Chicago area (my hometown). I moved to Los Angeles in 1985 for a position with another insurance company.

As the S&L crisis began, I was hired by FSLIC to start the Claims department at the FSLIC office in Los Angeles, hiring and training the staff. Being in the midst of the S&L crisis was exciting; little did I know what was to come. After FIRREA I was transferred to the RTC in Newport Beach, CA, as Department Head of Claims, Settlements and Terminations. We handled some of the largest S&L failures. During this time, I hired several people who eventually ended up with the FDIC, and some that are still at FDIC-so proud of them-6 degrees of Kathy Halpin-kind of a joke when I was in CFI. I was then transferred to the Franklin, MA office as Department Head of Claims and Non-Asset. Eventually I was transferred to Chicago as the Department Head of Government and Public Relations.

In 1997 with the consolidation and closing of the DRR offices into Dallas I was transferred to Claims again. During

my 23 years in Dallas I have been involved with some of the most challenging and “fun” closings, if you can call it fun; and responsible for the preparation of Claims training from CBIs to Advanced. I was also on the core team from the beginning, one of the original team, for the development of the Claims Administration System; I saw it come to fruition, and it has afforded FDIC Claims to expeditiously handle small, medium and larger bank failures more efficiently. I developed many long lasting relationships with so many coworkers. In 2018 and 2019 I participated in the Part 370 large bank CFI process on a detail and work in place.

Retirement Date: Leap Year Day, February 29, 2020

Plans for retirement: Travel, working on my family history, trying to make sense of my mother’s 1,000’s of family pictures that she bequeathed to me (not sure I should have accepted). I also bought a new camera, and hope to take a photography class to learn how to take good pictures. There is a photographer in Chicago that I would love to emulate-Barry Butler-he takes the best landscape and architectural pics. I haven’t decided if I am staying in Dallas for sure, but that is the plan right now. One of my main goals is to spend more time with my family up in Chicago, including my daughter, grandson, ten siblings and too many nieces and nephews to count. I am the oldest of the clan. Also want to spend more time with my friends all over the country, from the West Coast to the East Coast. I will be taking a tulip festival riverboat cruise from Amsterdam through Belgium in April with my friend and fellow FDIC retiree, Lynette Martin; later on in the year to Ireland and Scotland with one of my West Coast friends.



Kathleen (Kathy) Halpin

Comments and thoughts: I will miss my coworkers and the many friends I have made here over the years in the various offices I have been assigned to, though several of my “peers” have retired already. The FDIC has afforded me a wonderful career and it has been very rewarding; Making insurance determinations is the I in FDIC. I have always said; as long as I enjoy my “job” I might as well keep on working. Unfortunately, life interferes along the way; I want to retire while I am still somewhat healthy. I sure won’t miss getting up at 4:30 to get the train to go to downtown Dallas. 🍷

Name: T. Kelsey Baines

Most recent position: HMDA Data Analyst

Division: DCP

Location: San Francisco

When and where joined the FDIC: September 1990

Career highlights: While working with FDIC I have now visited 35 out of the 50 States, and had the chance to go to Canada, as well! It was nice meeting new people and learning new cultures.

Retirement Date: March 1, 2020

Plans for retirement: Relocating back to the East Coast, to Charlotte, NC, where I can eat all the Rapa Scapple,

UTZ potato chips I want and eat at Bob Evans on the regular and for cheap! Once settled in I may look into keeping up my Toastmasters skills up and also look into resurrecting my Crisis Hotline Counselor position!

Comments and thoughts: I’ve been working since I was 14 years old! The first month it’s going to seem like I’m on vacation! Afterwards I’m not going to know what to do with myself! But I will figure it out! For the most part, I am going to miss those coworkers that have been with me since RTC days! Smooches to them all! 🍷



T. Kelsey Baines

MOVING ON

Name: Saul Schwartz

Most recent position: OMWI Director

Division: OMWI

Location: Washington, D.C.

When and where joined the FDIC: May 1989, Washington, D.C., Legal Division

Career highlights: Becoming the first supervisor of the field staff of the Labor, Employment and Administration Section in the Legal Division after selecting the attorneys, paralegals and support staff from other FDIC Legal Division work units; Supervising the Headquarters labor and employment attorneys, paralegals and support staff in LEAS; three years as OMWI Director from February 2017 to February 2020.

Retirement Date: 2/29/2020

Plans for retirement: Travel (seek to go to all 50 states with my wife, along with more countries); More published writing; More reading; More time with family and friends; Consulting work in labor relations, employee relations, EEO and employment law; Exercise more and lose a few of those elusive pounds.

Comments and thoughts: My best career decision was to work for the FDIC. For more than 30 years, I have worked with many great individuals, especially in DOA, the Legal Division and OMWI. Truly FDIC is a great place to work and I have enjoyed almost every minute of my work days! 🏡



Saul Schwartz

Name: M. Dale Martin

Most recent position: Trust Examination Specialist

Division: RMS

Location: Dallas Regional Office

When and where joined the FDIC: September 1989 in the Division of Liquidation in Dallas, TX

Career highlights: I participated in the resolution of the Savings & Loan Crisis of the 1980s and 1990s which was, at that time, the greatest challenge to the financial system since the Great Depression. In 1997, I transitioned to the Division of Bank Supervision and became a commissioned bank examiner. In 2004, I joined the Dallas Regional Office staff as Regional Trust Exam-

ination Specialist. I have overseen 119 bank-owned trust departments in eight states, comprising \$66 billion in trust assets. In addition, I have served as a coach, instructor, and mentor throughout my career.

Retirement Date: March 28, 2020

Plans for retirement: My wife and I are retiring to the family farm in Wills Point, Texas. We plan on raising fat cows and pretty grandchildren or vice-versa.

Comments and thoughts: I have known some of the best people in my life thanks to my career at the FDIC. When you figure out that you love your job, you will never work another day. 🏡



M. Dale Martin