I owe a great deal of gratitude to those who impacted me during my many years in an administrative role at The University of Akron.

Capping nearly twenty-eight years at the University, including a short stint as interim president following the departure of President Muse, Marion A. Ruebel came out of retirement in 1996 to serve for three years as the fourteenth president. Rube, as we called him, was a former football coach, whose competitive and team spirit made him the right person at the right time to be both The University of Akron’s “head coach” and “head cheerleader.” There have been few leaders
whom I respected more than Rube.

Having served the University in an administrative role for over forty-five years, I know the value of having a strong and competent administrative assistant. For my first twenty-five years as an administrator, Mrs. Belinda Woody was the person who made both me and the office “run.” She knew what needed to be done, when it needed to be done, who needed to do it, and just about everything else about office operations. On top of all this, she made sure everything fell into place. When she took early retirement, I asked Kristin Brummond, who had worked with Belinda for many years, to succeed Belinda as my assistant. It was a seamless transition.

For the next twenty years, Kristin was my “boss.” Like Belinda, she had an unbelievable memory, strong work ethic, and excellent skills. She, too, could read my mind even before I thought to ask her for something. Kristin left our office to become the secretary for the president in 2014.

Alisa Appledorn became my third assistant in forty-five years, just prior to my retirement. Even though I only had a short time to work with Alisa, she is one of a kind.

Some of my memories of Mr. Arshinkoff, “The Chairman,” are likely quite different than most. As general counsel and board secretary, I can attest to his “all business” approach in carrying out his trustee role. However, he was simply Alex outside the board room. I don’t recall if Alex and Karen ever missed a football game at the Rubber Bowl while he served on the Board of Trustees, but attending any game at
the Rubber Bowl was not complete for Alex without a stop afterward at Strickland’s or the Waterloo. The deep-dish apple pie at the Waterloo was one of his favorites.