

## **2021-2022 Program Committee Report**

University of Iowa Retirees Association

July 11, 2022

For the 2021-2022 program year, the program committee consisted of Alice Atkinson, Sam Cochran (chair), Ed Dove, Lesanne Fliehler (Gray Hawk editor), Ellie Herman, Nancy Langguth, Emil Rinderspacher, Billie Townsend, Carolyn Wanat, and Nancy Williams.

The program committee met during the summer of 2021 to begin planning for the upcoming year. We reviewed a survey to gauge member interest in resuming in-person events in fall 2021 as well as to gather program and speaker ideas. Many UIRA members were still hesitant to attend in person events and we decided to offer fall 2021 programs via Zoom. An outdoor hike at Kent Park in October was our first venture into in-person programming after an 18 month hiatus, and a number of UIRA members attended and were positive about continuing these types of programs weather permitting.

Over the course of the year, committee members contacted speakers, secured bios and headshots, and did intros and moderated questions during the zoom presentations. Sam usually set up and hosted the programs in Zoom and Nancy Williams and other committee members cohosted. When possible programs were recorded and the link was posted to the UIRA website. Recorded programs were viewed by many UIRA members who were unable to attend the scheduled Zoom sessions. The number of zoom recording views is listed with the program summary where available. The program calendar was announced and updated each month in the Gray Hawk. Sam sent reminder emails out one week in advance and sent the Zoom meeting link out two days prior to the program.

Through the year, program committee meetings were fun, efficient and extremely productive. Committee members were engaged, focused, and had tremendous follow through. This resulted in another fantastic year of programs for our members.

Programs offered during the 2021-2022 program year:

**September 29** - Grant Wood at the University of Iowa: Community and Controversy. Joni Kinsey, UI Professor of Art and Art History.

**October 14** - Exploring the Trails at Kent Park. Marci Trana, Johnson County Conservation Naturalist and Education Specialist. (15 participants.)

**October 28** - What's New and Old at the Museum of Natural History. Liz Crooks, Director of The Pentacrest Museums. (107 Zoom recording views.)

**November 11** - Making the Right Health Insurance Decision. Gary Schwartz, SHIP Counselor. (116 Zoom recording views.)

**November 18** - Annual Insurance Options Q and A. Sonatina Fernandes, UI Benefits Specialist; and Anne Thurston, Community and Broker Liaison, Health Alliance Medical Plans. (121 Zoom recording views.)

**December 9** - A Conversation with the UI President. Barbara Wilson, UI President. (114 Zoom recording views.)

**January 7** - Navigating Perpetual Mental Health Issues in a Pandemic. John Westefeld, UI Professor Emeritus of Counseling Psychology.

**January 19** - Critical Race Theory. Victor Ray, UI Associate Professor of Sociology; and Venise Berry, UI Professor of Journalism and Mass Communication. (150 Zoom recording views.)

**February 3** - How Technologies are Changing the Way We Think. Juan Pablo Hourcade, UI Associate Professor of Computer Science. (78 Zoom recording views.)

**February 17** - IowaRISE and the UI Public Policy Center. Peter Damiano, UI Professor of Preventive and Community Dentistry and Director, UI Public Policy Center. (68 Zoom recording views.)

**March 3** - The Iowa Center for School Mental Health. Allison Bruhn, UI Associate Professor of Special Education and Director, Iowa Center for School Mental Health.

**March 17** - Politics and Protest in Pictures. Judy Polumbaum, UI Professor Emeritus of Journalism and Mass Communication.

**April 14** - Human Trafficking and Domestic Violence. Alta Medea Peters, Director of Community Engagement, Domestic Violence Intervention Program. (48 Zoom recording views.)

**May 11** - The First 100 Days. Meghann Foster, Coralville Mayor.

**May 16** - Cangleska Wakan Spring Ephemeral Forest Hike. Marci Trana, Johnson County Conservation Naturalist and Education Specialist. (30 participants.)

**June 2** - Kayak Outing at Kent Park Lake. Marci Trana, Johnson County Conservation Naturalist and Education Specialist. (12 participants.)

Respectfully submitted:

Sam Cochran  
UIRA Program Committee Chair, 2021-2022