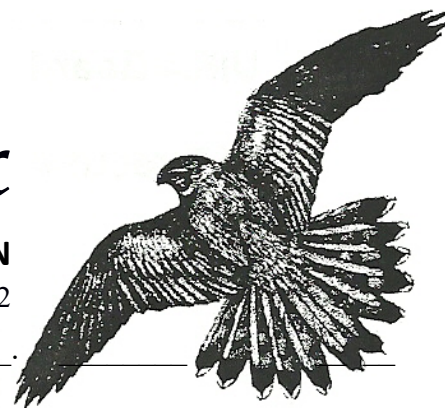


The Gray Hawk

UNIVERSITY OF IOWA RETIREES ASSOCIATION

October 2022 • Vol. XXVII, Issue 2



October-November Programming

Update on the New Stanley Museum of Art

Lauren Lessing, director of the UI Stanley Museum of Art
Friday, October 21, 1:30 p.m. [via Zoom](#)

Expect the Zoom link on October 19. If you lose the link, contact Evalyn Van Allen-Shalash, van-allen-shalash@uiowa.edu.

Docent-Led Collection Highlights Tour

Tuesday, October 25, 10:30 a.m.

Stanley Museum of Art, [in person](#)

This tour is full. Parking is available below the museum. Enter from the west side off Burlington St. Meet in the lobby. Another tour will be held on November 18 at 10:30 a.m. RSVP by November 1 to Evalyn Van Allen-Shalash, van-allen-shalash@uiowa.edu.



John Emigh photo

Lauren Lessing

Lauren Lessing became the director of the UI Stanley Museum of Art in July 2018. Her experience includes many years working in art museums, including the Art Institute of Chicago, the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art in Kansas City, and the Colby College Museum of Art in Waterville, Maine, where she built the education department and created a host of innovative educational programs. Her parents—both artists—were students of the UI museum's first director, Ulfert Wilke, and she has loved the UI and Iowa City since her first visit here in 2002. Lessing has shaped an ambitious vision that includes a mission to transform lives by connecting the UI community, Iowans, and the world with extraordinary works of art. A native Midwesterner, Lessing earned a B.A. in fine art at Earlham College and completed her Ph.D. in art history at Indiana University under the guidance of Sarah Burns. She has curated exhibitions and authored many books, articles, and catalogue essays on various topics in American art.

Making the Right Health Insurance Decision

Gary Schwartz, SHIIP counselor

Thursday, November 3, 2:00 p.m. [via Zoom](#)

Expect the Zoom link on November 1. If you lose the link, contact Carolyn Wanat, carolyn-wanat@uiowa.edu.

Gary Schwartz has been a SHIIP counselor for 15 years and is very familiar with the UI plans. He will provide particularly relevant insights about what issues should be considered when choosing among health insurance plans, including the UI plans. He will also discuss these two useful websites: <https://shiip.iowa.gov> and <https://hr.uiowa.edu/benefits/ui-retiree-benefits>.

Annual Insurance Options Q&A Session

Sonatina Fernandes, UI benefits specialist, and **Anne Thurston**, community and broker liaison with Health Alliance Medical Plans

Thursday, November 10, 2:00 p.m. via Zoom
Expect the Zoom link on November 8. If you lose the link, contact Carolyn Wanat, carolyn-wanat@uiowa.edu.

Sonatina Fernandes from UI Benefits and **Anne Thurston**, from Health Alliance Medical Plans, will again present an overview of health benefit options available to UI retirees and answer your questions. Plan to attend this session to get answers to all your questions about the 2023 health benefits options.



Upcoming UIRA Programming

A Conversation with UI President Barbara Wilson
Thursday, December 1, 1:00 p.m. via Zoom

Emeritus Faculty Council Lecture

Unpacking the Proposed “Right to Keep and Bear Arms” Amendment

Patricia M. Zebrowski, Professor Emerita, Communication Sciences and Disorders

Thursday, October 20, 4:00 p.m.
Kollros Auditorium (101 Biology Building East)



Patricia M. Zebrowski

On November 8, 2022, Iowans will vote on the addition of an amendment to the state constitution. The “Right to Keep and Bear Arms” amendment uses language that goes beyond the protections laid out in the U.S. Constitution’s Second Amendment.

Specifically, the measure on the ballot will read: *“The right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed. The sovereign state of Iowa affirms and recognizes this right to be a fundamental individual right. Any and all restrictions of this right shall be subject to strict scrutiny.”*

This presentation will provide an overview of Iowa’s existing gun laws and their impact, along with a discussion of the so-called “strict scrutiny” provision that is a key part of the proposed ballot measure.

UIRA President's Column

A Busy Month, a Bit of History, Changes Coming

It has been an eventful month for the UIRA. The **Program Committee** has completed scheduling the programs for this fall semester and has begun to schedule programs for next spring. I have found that the committee members are hard workers and have a great time working together—at times it's like “jocularity run wild” during the meetings. In any case, the members deserve our thanks for their creativity, dedication, and hard work.

Before describing the work of the **Board of Directors**, I need to sketch out a bit of our history. In 1995 a group of retirees received an anonymous donation of \$1,000 and a one-time contribution from the UI Foundation (now the UI Center for Advancement), and with this money the UIRA was formed. The first program offered to the members was by **Richard Saunders** from UIHR in which he presented a program about health insurance issues. Dues were \$10 each year. Since then, UIRA has funded all its programs and events through the annual dues and other volunteer monies collected from its members. Annual dues are still just \$10.

Since its formation in 1995, the UIRA has had no formal affiliation with the University of Iowa, i.e., UIRA has functions independent of the university. This situation is unique in that the UIRA is the only retirement association in the Big Ten that operates independently of its affiliated university. Furthermore, all the work of UIRA has been performed by volunteer UIRA members. Fortunately, membership has grown, and it is increasingly clear that we now need help to do the work of the association. We can no longer rely only on UIRA volunteers to keep providing meaningful programs and events for our members.

The **Board of Directors** has been working on establishing a formal connection with the University of Iowa through the President's Office and the UIHR department. We have developed a model of how this is to be accomplished, and we have drafted a version of a Memorandum of Understanding that we will make available to everyone when it has been agreed to by the university and has been approved by the Board of Directors. The central message is that there will be changes coming our way soon, and these changes will help UIRA move forward and be even more effective in providing many new opportunities and helpful information for our members. We will keep everyone informed as the process matures.

Other **UIRA committees** (Budget, Membership, Nominating, and Awards) will start their work later in the year. Participation in our committees' work can be personally satisfying. I want to again encourage everyone to consider sharing your talents, time, and interests by becoming a member of one (or more) of the UIRA committees.

Feel free to contact me with questions, suggestions, or comments at edwin-dove@uiowa.edu. Thank you.

—Ed Dove

Question of the Month: Of all the places that you have been in your lifetime, which do you consider the most beautiful, and when were you first there? Send your reply to *The Gray Hawk* editor, **Lesanne Fliehler**, at lesanne-fliehler@uiowa.edu.

(P.S. Submissions for last month's question are on page 6.)

FAQ: Medicare and Health Insurance Coverage

The UI Retirees Association is again offering a Zoom session on November 3 about Making the Right Health Insurance Decision. Kevin Ward, UIRA member and Senior Health Insurance Information Program volunteer, has shared this FAQ. (The November-December issue of *The Grey Hawk* will contain additional information.)

What are some key dates to keep in mind?

- October 15-December 7: Medicare open enrollment for Part D drug plans and publicly available Medicare Advantage plans. The university also offers an open enrollment to change among four university exclusive options: UI Choice, UI Select, Health Alliance HMO, Health Alliance PPO.
- From October 15, 2022 until March 4, 2023 is a special guaranteed enrollment period for individuals currently covered by UI Choice or UI Select to move to traditional Medicare with a “Medigap” supplement and Part D prescription drug plan. This could be particularly important for individuals with existing health conditions and/or looking for lower cost options outside the UI retiree group.

University Benefits is planning to hold a series of meetings beginning in mid-October to help provide information to UI retirees about their health insurance options. UIRA will again be offering two additional programs (see page 2).

How often should I review my options and past decisions?

Best practice is to review your Medicare and health insurance coverage decisions annually. The university provides an open enrollment period in the fall to move between the four UI exclusive options, for coverage effective January 1. Retirees enrolled in Part D Prescription Drug Plans and the publicly available Medicare Advantage Plans may utilize the Medicare open enrollment period of October 15-December 7 each year, also effective January 1.

Who can I talk to about my personal situation?

Senior Health Insurance Information Program (SHIIP) counselors offer individual appointments throughout the year at the Iowa City Senior Center; Mercer Recreation, North Liberty Library, as well as via phone or Zoom. Register through the Iowa City Senior Center: <https://tinyurl.com/ynymh8md>.



Upcoming Retiree Health Information Sessions

The University Benefits Office is hosting six retiree health informational sessions to help you better understand your health benefit options so you can make an informed decision in regard to your health coverage for 2023. Guest speakers include Kevin Ward, UI retiree and Senior Health Insurance Program (SHIP) counselor, and Wellmark BC/BS Medicare Supplement/Advantage Plans. Provided below are the session details.

- Tuesday, October 18, 9:00-11:00 a.m. (North Liberty Library)
- Thursday, October 20, 1:00-3:00 p.m. (North Liberty Library)
- Tuesday, October 25, 9:00-11:00 a.m. (Bioventures Center, Coralville)*
- Thursday, October 27, 1:00-3:00 p.m. (Bioventures Center, Coralville)*
- Thursday, November 17, 9:00-11:00 a.m. (Bioventures Center, Coralville)*
- Tuesday, November 29, 1:00-3:00 p.m. (Bioventures Center, Coralville)*

During the first week of October, please watch your mail for the University Benefits Office's annual Medicare Open Enrollment notification of new insurance rates, plan changes, and specific details concerning the informational sessions, as well as how you may register to attend.

*To locate the Bioventures Center, visit <https://www.facilities.uiowa.edu/building/0063>.

Big Ten Retirees Association Meeting Summary

Northwestern University hosted this year's Big Ten Retirees Association meeting, August 1-3. This has been the first in-person meeting in three years. Twenty-two delegates representing 11 of the 14 institutions attended. Deb Cobb represented UIRA.

The conference features sessions on topics of common interest, as well as an opportunity to showcase the host institution. Al Tessler and David Zareski were co-chairs. Topics of the meeting included: Discussion of the new normal at our universities in the wake of COVID (including programming, virtual meetings, and technology used), creating community with your newsletter, and a fact sheet comparing the retiree organizations of member universities.

During the business meeting, the bylaws for the association and a *Conference Handbook* were reviewed and approved. Several lectures were presented by faculty at Northwestern University in various areas of expertise. Tours were provided of the Northwestern campus, the Baha'i Temple in Wilmette, and the Chicago Botanic Garden in Glencoe, Ill. A reception and dinner were held both nights, each with a featured speaker.

Northwestern University was an outstanding host and the camaraderie was much enjoyed. The 30th annual conference will be hosted by the University of Wisconsin-Madison Retirement Association, July 26-28, 2023.

A Big Welcome to These New UIRA Members



Clar Baldus, College of Education
Vicki Bellmore, UIHC Business Office
Deborah A Calkins, Registrar/Provost
Jenan Ellis, UIHC
Michael Ellis, UI Facility Service
Charles Frohman, Mathematics
Lisa Ireland, Radiology/Nuclear Medicine
Alan MacVey, Theatre Arts
Blair Klinefelter, Radiology
Mary Klinefelter, Ophthalmology
Karen McConahay, UIHC Nursing
Nancy Ostrognai, spouse
Mary Jeanne Perino Phillips, Nursing
Kirk T. Phillips, College of Public Health
Julie Plueger, UIHC Finance/Accounting
Mark Reagan, Earth and Environmental Science
Cindy Seyfer, Student Financial Aid
Jim Seyfer, Pomerantz Career Center
Christine Welte, Ophthalmology
Thomas Welte, Spouse
Paula Woods, Ambulatory Surgery Center

Rocking Out During Our Teenage Years

Responses to Ed Dove's test question last month. Enjoy a trip down memory lane!

From Dan Benton:

Mozart: *Piano Sonata in A Major, K. 331*

From Alice Atkinson:

Just about anything by Elvis!

From Melody Strom:

Chicago: *Just You 'n' Me*

Carole King: *You've Got a Friend*

The Carpenters: *Bless the Beasts and Children*

Simon and Garfunkel: *Bridge over Troubled Water*

The Moody Blues: *Nights in White Satin*

Christopher Cross: *Ride Like the Wind*

America: *I Need You*

Bread: *Baby I'm-a Want You*

Blood, Sweat, and Tears: *And When I Die*

Anne Murray: *I Just Fall in Love Again*

Bee Gees: *How Deep Is Your Love*

Doobie Brothers: *Listen to the Music*

The Beach Boys: *Good Vibrations*

Eagles: *One of These Nights*

The Beatles: *Yesterday*

Herman's Hermits: *There's a Kind of Hush*

Raspberries: *Go All the Way*

Led Zeppelin: *Stairway to Heaven*

ABBA: *Dancing Queen*

Peter, Paul, and Mary: *Blowin' in the Wind*

From Diana Lundell:

Aretha Franklin: *Respect* (of course)

Gloria Gaynor: *I Will Survive* (one of my favorite versions is in the movie *The Replacements*)

Pure Prairie League: *Aime*

Flu and COVID Vaccines

Flu and COVID are caused by two different viruses. This year, the CDC recommends obtaining both vaccines, and it is safe to receive both (flu plus COVID vaccine; or flu plus COVID booster) at the same time. The CDC recommends obtaining your flu vaccine during September or October. Timing for the COVID booster can vary depending on timing of the vaccine or booster, so talk to your health care provider about when it is best for you to receive them.

UIRA is not offering a dedicated flu vaccine clinic this year. We recommend visiting your primary care provider, your pharmacy, or one of the Johnson County Visiting Nurse Association public clinics.

A list of public clinics is available at <https://tinyurl.com/y3srzu7u>.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2022-2023 (year term on board expires)

Ed Dove	President (2024) edwin-dove@uiowa.edu
Deb Cobb	President-Elect (2024) deborah-cobb@uiowa.edu
Carolyn Wanat	Past President (2023)
Pat Mason-Browne	Secretary (2023)
David Fitzgerald	Treasurer (2023)
Lesanne Fliehler	Editor, <i>The Gray Hawk</i> (2024)
Phil Klein	Webmaster (ex-officio)
Michael Barron	Director (2023)
Billie Townsend	Director (2023)
Maureen McCormick	Director (2024)
Vicki Siefers	Director (2024)
Mike Hovland	Director (2025)
Evalyn Van Allen-Shalash	Director (2025)
TBD	EFC representative (ex-officio)

Monthly meetings of the UIRA Board of Directors are held online via Zoom at 1:00 p.m. on the second Tuesday of the month.