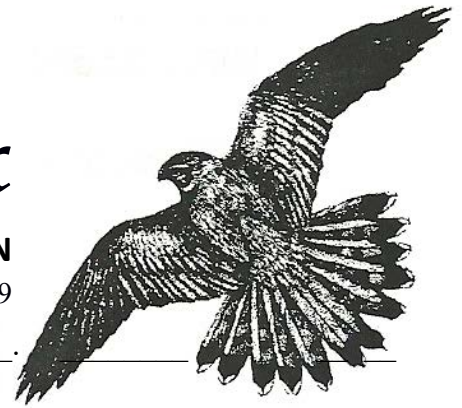


# The Gray Hawk

UNIVERSITY OF IOWA RETIREES ASSOCIATION

May 2023 • Vol. XXIX, Issue 9



## May Programming

### Tour of Hancher Auditorium

Wednesday, May 3, 11:00 a.m.

*Reservations required. RSVPs were due April 19 to Ellie Herman, [ellen-herman@uiowa.edu](mailto:ellen-herman@uiowa.edu).*

See some parts of Hancher that the general public rarely sees! Parking is available at the meters outside the Levitt Center, and handicapped parking or ticket office spaces, located outside of the Hancher main entrance.



### Phebe Timber Spring Hike

Monday, May 15, 10:00 a.m. (*Reservations are NOT required.*)

Join your UIRA friends to hike the newest Johnson County Conservation property, Phebe Timber. Waterproof or water-resistant shoes are recommended. The property is located at 4492 Kansas Ave. SW off Highway 1. Information and a map are available at [https://johnsoncountyiowa.gov/sites/default/files/2021-12/Phebe%20Timber\\_0.pdf](https://johnsoncountyiowa.gov/sites/default/files/2021-12/Phebe%20Timber_0.pdf). Parking is limited; if lot is full, park on the scant shoulder of Kansas Ave.

## Ice Cream & Cookie Social (plus Annual Meeting)

The annual meeting of the UI Retirees Association will be **Thursday, June 15, 2023, 2:00-4:00 p.m.** in 2520-D University Capitol Center (located within the UCC Conference Room Suite toward the south end of the building's second floor). The event will also be available via Zoom (link to come). Refreshments and social time will begin the meeting, followed by the annual business meeting.

City parking (for a fee) is available in the parking ramp attached to the south of the building. Entrances accessed on Clinton and Capitol streets. The first hour is free.

Please **register to attend by June 1**. Include first and last names of those attending and send to Evalyn Van Allen-Shalash ([van-allen-shalash@uiowa.edu](mailto:van-allen-shalash@uiowa.edu)).

## Recent Recordings

Three recent program recordings are posted on the web at:

<https://uira.org.uiowa.edu/news-and-events/events-and-programs/past-events-and-programs>

- “Title IX and 50 Years of Women’s Athletics at the UI,” Paula Jantz
- “Engaging with Today’s Students,” Steph Beecher
- “State of the Iowa City Community School District,” Matt Degner

## Emeritus Faculty Council Lecture

### Our Medical System Is Frayed: Why Did Humpty Dumpty Fall Off the Wall?

Victoria Sharp, M.D., M.B.A.

Professor Emeritus, Department of Urology

Acting Chief of Staff, Iowa City VA Healthcare System

Thursday, May 18, 4:00 p.m.

Kollros Auditorium (101 Biology Building East)

Living in the United States, great health care is something we all expect to be available and reliable. Busy in our lives focusing on what is important to us and what we are good at, in general, you wouldn’t think we would need to do much more than eat healthy, exercise, drink alcohol in moderation, and get our routine health preventive checkups and vaccines.

More is needed, because the challenges are complex in our ever-evolving fluid corporate, political, and cultural arenas. There are many causes; a few major ones affect us in Iowa more than in other states.



Victoria Sharp

## UIRA Board Member Candidates

UIRA elects the president-elect and 3-4 new board members each year. The candidates this year are President-Elect **Evalyn Van Allen-Shalash** and Board members **Mike Barron** (three-year term), **Chris Brus** (three-year term), **Lois Cox** (three-year term), **Diana Lundell** (three-year term), and **Cathy Wilcox** (two-year term, filling position left vacant as Deb Cobb assumes the president-elect position). An electronic ballot will be sent in early May.

Born and bred in Iowa City, **Evalyn Van Allen-Shalash** worked in a variety of positions throughout her life at the university starting as a runner in the Neurology Department as a teenager, volunteer silver polisher at the Art Museum as an art history student, and secretary in the Office of International Students and Scholars. After spending 15 years abroad in Egypt and England, she returned to work as a secretary in the Office of Affirmative Action (now EOD), moved through the years to the Office of the Provost (OP),



Evalyn Van Allen-Shalash

working as an administrative assistant with three different International Programs deans and six different provosts. She side-stepped to Faculty Senate for one year during this period. Evalyn supported many collegiate dean search committees, Honorary Degree Committee, the university's Strategic Planning Committee, and the Emeritus Faculty Council, among many other projects. Service responsibilities over the years have included member of the Hancher Advisory Board, OP liaison to the Art in Buildings Committee, Associated University Women, and the Recruitment Ambassador Program. Evalyn retired as the executive assistant to the executive vice president and provost in 2020. She loves travel, cinema, and cooking.

**Mike Barron** joined the University of Iowa as director of admissions in 1987 and retired in 2014 as assistant provost for enrollment and executive director of admissions. He was the UI's representative to ACT and the College Board for many years and active in the National Association for College Admission Counseling, receiving the Gayle C. Wilson Award for Lifetime Service to the Profession in 2008. Mike previously served on the UIRA Board for one year as a board director (2015-16) and became president-elect (2016-17). He left the board following the completion of his past-president year in 2019. He has remained active in UIRA activities, particularly the past-presidents group and Nominations Committee. He serves on the boards of various nonprofit organizations, including the Barry Goldwater Educational Support Fund, which supports the national Goldwater Scholars Program in the STEM fields.



**Mike Barron**

**Chris Peterson Brus** holds an M.S. in Public Health from the University of Iowa and is a registered cytotechnologist-CT (ASCP). Chris has worked in several capacities at the UI and UIHC over her 24-year history here including lab work (Pathology), epidemiological research (Public Health/ Environmental Health), community outreach, education and advocacy (NIEHS-supported Environmental Health Sciences Research Center), teaching (various departments), and lastly as director of the Women in Science & Engineering (WISE) Department. Chris has garnered several honors at the UI but the two she is most proud of are the Jean Jew Women's Rights Award (2003) and the Lola Lopes Award for Undergraduate Advocacy (2008). Taking early retirement in June 2015, Chris has continued to be interested in the onward march of science and technology, working part-time for a start-up company associated with the UI, as well as to reconnect with many of her friends and colleagues from her early career in music. Currently, she is excited to have time to become a more active member of UIRA and to find new friends interested in cards and board games.



**Chris Peterson Brus**

**Lois Cox** retired from the College of Law in 2019 as clinical professor. Her clinical work focused on representation of domestic violence survivors. She also served as dean of students for the college, and two terms as University Ombudsperson. In her retirement, Lois continues to be active in the university's chapter of the American Association of University Professors (AAUP), serving as chair of the chapter's Committee A on Academic Freedom and Tenure. She also serves on the board of directors of Riverside Theatre and is an enthusiastic student of Senior College.



**Lois Cox**

**Diana Lundell** received a B.S. in journalism from Ohio University in Athens, Ohio, in 1978 and worked at newspapers until joining the Public Information Office at UI Hospitals and Clinics in 1981. After a 37-year-career in marketing and communications with UI Health Care, including 10 years as co-director of the department, she retired in 2019. She has a long history of community service including serving on the Coralville City Council and several nonprofit board of directors. She is an active volunteer with TRAIL of Johnson County, the Coralville Public Library, Johnson County, and the Veterans Memorial in Coralville Committee. Diana and her husband John have two adult children and now live with one large dog and a skinny cat. In her free time, Diana enjoys reading and traveling.



**Diana Lundell**

**Cathy Wilcox** retired in July 2022 from the Office of Student Financial Aid after working 46 years in the same office. Throughout the years, she held many different positions and retired as a senior associate director of scholarships. After retiring in mid-summer, she and her husband, Joel, who had retired from the University seven years ago, spent a lot of time driving to places around the Iowa City area to hike and to view prairie flowers and fall colors. This spring, they have been to various places to look for wildflowers in woodland areas. As the weather warms up, she is looking forward to spending lots of time working on her perennial flower beds and planting annuals. They have other things they plan to do in retirement but for now since the growing season is upon them, she enjoys spending time outdoors.



**Cathy Wilcox**

## ***UIRA President's Column***

# ***Join Us in Celebrating Spring and a Successful Year***

Greetings fellow UIRA members:

Springtime is just around the corner, and if we can survive the spring tornadoes then we have lots to look forward to, including green grass, budding flowers, leafed-out trees, and warm, sunny weather.

I was raised on a farm in Virginia and springtime always meant seeing alfalfa grow and watching calves cavorting and horses sprinting just for the fun of moving. Springtime on our farm also meant work: getting equipment ready for making hay, tilling for planting corn to feed the animals the next winter, and cleaning the messes created by the animals and winter storms. I frequently think about those times on our farm, and I would like a chance to do it all once again. I know how fortunate I was to have grown up on a farm. Why did I write this? I guess that springtime made me want to offer a bit of sentimental longings this morning.

Working with the people in UIRA to move the organization forward has been one of the most enjoyable things that I have done since retiring. I think that the members of the Board of Directors have made some changes that will immediately benefit the organization. I look forward to explaining the rationale for the changes and their anticipated effects at our annual UIRA meeting.

The annual meeting will be held in a hybrid format; we will hold the meeting over Zoom and in person. If you choose to attend in person, then be prepared to enjoy good conversation with complimentary cookies and ice cream. If you choose to attend the meeting over Zoom, then you will be able to see all that we will show to those who attend in person. Expect to receive additional details as we get closer to the meeting date.

I encourage you to mark your calendars for **the annual UIRA meeting to be held June 15, 2023, from 2:00 until 4:00**. It should be fun and informative. Free ice cream is always good.

Wishing good health and happiness to all,

Ed Dove

UIRA President, 2022-2023

### **Newest UIRA Members**

**Sandy Berto**, College of Public Health

**Mike Berto**, Spouse

**Bradley Brenda**, Centers for Disabilities and Development

**Nancy Davin**, Dermatology

**Rachell Swanson Holm**, Child Health Specialty Clinics

**Nancy Rahe**, Carver College of Medicine

**Maryann Rasmussen**, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

# More UIRA Photo Contest Results

Shown here are the second- and third-place winners in this year's photo contest. Congratulations to them all! You can see larger images of the winning photos on the UIRA site.



**Above:** Dalmatian Islands at dusk. Christopher Goerdts photo.

## International Category

**Second Place:** Christopher Goerdts, *Dalmatian Islands at dusk*.

**Right:** Millers view from home inside windmill, Kinderdijk, Netherlands. Jan Lawler photo.



**Third place:** Jan Lawler, *Millers view from home inside windmill, Kinderdijk, Netherlands*.



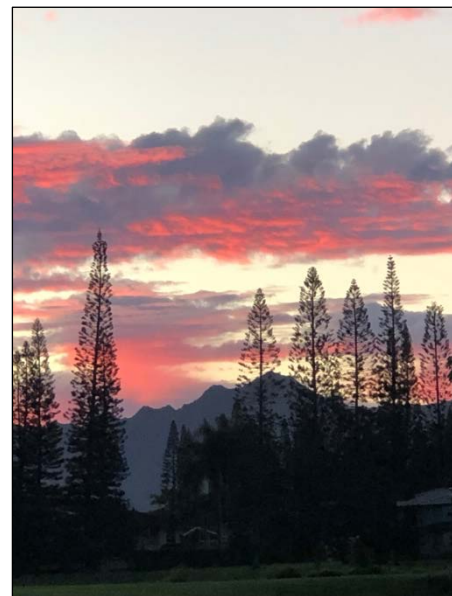
**Above:** Statuesque saguaro, Arizona. Linda Muston photo.

## USA Category

**Second Place:** Linda Muston, *Statuesque saguaro, Arizona*.

**Third place:** Deb Brandt, *Sunrise in Princeville, Hawaii*.

**Right:** Sunrise in Princeville, Hawaii. Deb Brandt photo.



## Iowa Category

**Second Place:** Diana Harris, *July rainbow, Iowa City*.



**Third place:** Roseanne Shea Meyer, *Black-and-white photo of the Levitt Center, Iowa City*.



**Left, top:** July rainbow, Iowa City. Diana Harris photo.

**Left, bottom:** Black-and-white photo of the Levitt Center. Roseanne Shea Meyer photo.

## ***Gray Hawk Writers Special Interest Group***

This month, we share one of the pieces written by a member of the Gray Hawk Writers special interest group. Want to join the group? Visit as a guest—you may decide to join! Contact Doug Paul at [drpaul507@yahoo.com](mailto:drpaul507@yahoo.com).

### **STEAM AND STEEL**

*by John Boswell Hudson*

I eagerly pedaled my bicycle down the gently sloping hill toward the locomotive roundhouse. The semi-circular building sat solidly at one end of the Great Northern Railroad yard, named “Apple Yard” in honor of the famous apples grown in the Wenatchee valley of central Washington state where I lived. As I walked from the bright sunshine of my 15th summer into the dim interior, I could smell a wonderful mixture of oil, steam, and smoke, and hear the subtle sounds of steam locomotives resting. Faint hisses of steam issued unexpectedly from valves. From remote recesses within the steel beasts I could hear panting breath, almost as if they were alive. Warmth surrounded me from the banked fires within their fireboxes. There was something beautiful and awe-inspiring about these seemingly inanimate beings, these iron horses of the rails, whether quiescent or rushing across the terrain trailing cars of passengers or freight. These magnificent creatures drew me back time and again just to be in their presence.

Here and there men in oil-stained overalls were using oilcans with long spouts, oiling critical parts of the locomotives. Others were wiping down the piston rods or other moving parts with oily rags. Some mechanics were making minor repairs. A hostler was climbing up the ladder into the cab of a locomotive, preparing to take it out of the roundhouse.

Several of the men greeted me. I was not a stranger here; I had been visiting this mysterious and wonderful place for months, watching the action, asking questions, taking in the stimulating scene, the poignant sounds, the pungent smells. The men seemed to accept my presence as natural. I was careful to keep out of their way and to observe basic safety rules. I knew I was lucky to be allowed to hang around.

The simplest details fascinated me, like the tracks inside the roundhouse radiating like starbursts from the focus of the turntable outside. Each locomotive sat at an angle to its neighbor, and only one locomotive at a time could enter or leave the roundhouse by way of the turntable outside.

The locomotives, some for passenger trains, some for freight, were positioned on the various tracks, quiet steam hissing, issuing occasional light smoke from their smokestacks that wafted toward vents in the roundhouse roof. A locomotive’s long black boiler recumbent above the arrangement of wheels, the headlight centered on the front of the boiler, the cowcatcher at the front with its coupler ready to guide the way, displayed an aesthetic that drew me back in rapt admiration again and again.

The tender was permanently coupled to the rear of the locomotive, carrying oil to feed the fire in the locomotive’s firebox, and water to feed the boiler. The firebox heated the water in the boiler to steam. The steam surged to the cylinders, thrusting the pistons, pushing the piston rods, which connected to the drive rods and side rods, turning the drive wheels. Every part performed its function in the movement of these enormous engines. The array of wheels and gear on the locomotives was intricate and a source of endless fascination to me. The huge wheels of the engines, some of which were taller than I, were the driving force for the locomotive.

The hostler in the Pacific climbed down from his cab and asked if I wanted to ride with him as he took the engine out to the water tank. Did I ever! This was something to tell my family and friends about. It was 1945, and the men who drove the locomotives were cultural heroes, like sports stars or popular musicians today. Every kid who saw a train go by would wave to the engineer or the fireman. In our contemporary world it is difficult to imagine the lofty status these champions of steam and steel enjoyed when trains were everywhere and everyday. I felt a special sense of privilege about being allowed to ride the cab in a steam locomotive. This was going to be one of life's exalted moments.

The hostler made a last-minute inspection, climbed back up the ladder into the cab, and invited me to follow. I eagerly grasped the vertical sides of the ladder and up I went, my feet feeling each rung, finally stepping onto the corrugated steel floor of the cab. The roof of the cab extended overhead, covering not only the cab, but also the space between cab and tender. Windows on both sides of the cab were open above the seats for the engineer and fireman.

The hostler took the engineer's seat on the right; I sat upon the fireman's seat on the left. The hostler moved the reversing lever, eased back on the throttle, and the black steel creature moved slowly and majestically backward out of the roundhouse onto the turntable. Sounds of escaping steam followed us, together with slight clanking noises from the side rods, mingled with a few chugs from the smokestack. The hostler applied the brake, and the locomotive came to rest on the turntable.

The operator in the little shack on one side of the turntable moved his controls, and we slowly began turning. Looking through my side window straight ahead along the left side of the boiler, I could see its many rivets and tubing, the running board attached to its side with the long grab rod above. Atop the boiler sat the steam dome and the sand dome, with the bronze bell ready to toll its melodious warning, and at the very front, the smokestack ejecting only a slight gray emission.

As I continued to look forward alongside the locomotive boiler, the moving turntable rotated the view in front of me. Several stalls of the roundhouse appeared past the front of the locomotive, some empty, some with locomotives quiet. An open space with a vista to the brown hills beyond was next. Then as the locomotive continued to rotate, the vast maze of tracks in the switching yard appeared. Myriad freight cars filled these tracks, waiting to be moved around and connected together in trains for distant destinations. A steam switch engine was moving several freight cars along one of the tracks, as a switchman stood by a switch, ready to direct the little switch engine with its cars to another track.

I looked out the window to the right, and I could see the repair shop for the electric locomotives, a space I was not allowed to enter, deemed too dangerous for a 15 year old. These electric engines took the trains over the Cascade Mountains and through the eight-and-a-half-mile Cascade Tunnel, one of the longest in the world. In the confined space of a tunnel that long, smoke buildup from a steam engine would be a health hazard to the engineer and fireman.

As the turntable continued to turn, the water tank on its long steel legs came into view directly ahead, its spout tipped up at a jaunty angle waiting for the thirsty locomotive. The turntable stopped, aligning its rails to the rails of the track to the water tower. The hostler moved his reversing lever once again, and we slowly moved forward off the turntable. As we approached the water tank, my gaze moved over the numerous dials, gauges, valves, levers, and handles covering the forward end of the locomotive cab.

There were more controls than I understood, although I realized their general purposes to control the amount of water and monitor the steam pressure in the boiler, adjust the oil deliv-



ered to the firebox to increase or decrease the fire heating the water in the boiler, make the locomotive go forward or in reverse, fast or slow, apply the brakes, ring the bell, blow the whistle, and all the other things needed to drive the locomotive.

The hostler carefully moved his throttle, stopping so the water cap on the tender was directly under the waterspout on the water tower. The hostler climbed onto the top of the tender, grabbed the pull rope on the waterspout, pulled it down into the opening in the tender's water tank, and turned on the water. After the tank was full, he released the spout and it raised itself to its former cocky angle. The opening was capped, and the hostler returned to the cab. He moved the locomotive onto the ready track and applied the brake, and the Pacific slowly came to rest again with a sound of compressed air escaping. We climbed down from the cab and walked back together into the dimness of the roundhouse. The mingled steam and smoke inside molded the rays of sunlight streaming down through sooty windows into burnished bars of gold, caressing the glistening backs of the slumbering giants.

Fifty years later I stood on this same spot, remembering what had once been a major division point on the Great Northern Railroad. Where once sprawled a massive rail yard, a roundhouse, repair shops, water tower, locomotives and rail cars, now there was only an enormous level expanse of gravel. Nothing remained of the bustling activity of fifty years ago. The single-track main line of the Burlington Northern Railroad nearby was the only reminder of what used to be here. The scene was empty and silent, the sagebrush growing down the slope to the powerful Columbia River, the brown hills looming nearby, only the wind gently whispering goodbye forever.



University of Iowa Retirees Association

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2022-2023**

(year term on board expires)

Ed Dove	President (2024) <a href="mailto:edwin-dove@uiowa.edu">edwin-dove@uiowa.edu</a>
Deb Cobb	President-Elect (2025) <a href="mailto:deborah-cobb@uiowa.edu">deborah-cobb@uiowa.edu</a>
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)
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 at 1:00 p.m. on the second Tuesday of the month.*