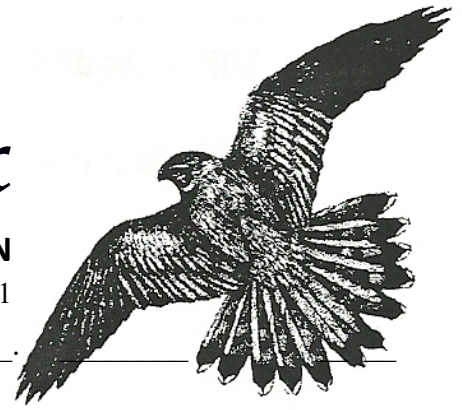


# The Gray Hawk

UNIVERSITY OF IOWA RETIREES ASSOCIATION

September 2023 • Vol. XXX, Issue 1



## *UIRA President's Column*

### *It's Another Great Year for the UI Retirees Association*

Greetings fellow UIRA members! I hope that you all had a wonderful summer, enjoying activities and spending time with family and friends. I spent a week at YMCA of the Rockies with my husband, son, daughter, and their families. My four grandchildren range from 15 years to 6 months and there was something to do for everyone, from putt-putt golf and Bingo to archery and horseback riding. Even the baby joined us for hikes and porch sitting.

As we return from our summer break, I'm excited to begin a new year of activities and fellowship with our UIRA community. It was heartening to see so many members turn out for our Ice Cream Social and Annual Meeting, enjoying good conversation and treats, while getting updated on the business of UIRA. Visiting with members in-person was a welcome change from the virtual constraints of Covid.



Deb Cobb

As members of the UIRA, we collectively determine the direction that our retiree organization will take, both in the coming year, and the future. Because of the efforts of many before us, earlier this year UIRA (under the leadership of Ed Dove) entered into a formal relationship with the university through the Office of the President and Human Resources. We are grateful to President Wilson for her vision and generosity in bringing this collaboration to fruition. HR (in particular, Kellie Digmann) provides administrative support, updating our technology, supporting financial management and communication, and providing other services. In return, UIRA offers the university a wealth of talent and support. Members volunteer for activities that help students succeed, including assisting at Orientation and during finals week, donating to the Food Pantry, and raising scholarship money for students. Our hope is to continue this synergistic relationship and to be acknowledged as the official organization giving advice to the UI president on issues affecting retired UI staff and faculty.

The goal of UIRA is to help members stay connected with each other and with the social and intellectual life of the university. The program committee is enthusiastically planning activities, including lectures, tours, hikes, picnics, and other opportunities for fellowship. Ideas, suggestions, and especially participation are welcome. As president, I look forward to a great year, working with an outstanding Board of Directors to serve our members.

# September UIRA Programming

## Update on What's Happening in Iowa City

Wednesday, September 6, 1:00 p.m. via Zoom

Expect the Zoom link on September 4. If you lose the link, contact Billie Townsend, [cheespeedy@msn.com](mailto:cheespeedy@msn.com).

Iowa City Mayor Bruce Teague will discuss the state of Iowa City, what's new and what has changed during his time as mayor.

**Bruce Teague** is serving his second two-year term as mayor. He moved to Iowa City from Chicago when he was 17 years old and graduated from West High. He graduated in 2002 from Kirkwood Community College with an associate's degree in applied science in nursing. Mayor Teague is also a 2001 graduate of the University of Iowa, where he holds a bachelor's degree in psychology and a Certificate of Aging Studies. He is the owner/CEO of Caring Hands & More LLC, a home health and family services agency.



Bruce Teague

## TRAIL of Johnson County: Helping Older Adults Age in Place

Thursday, September 21, 1:00 p.m. via Zoom

Expect the Zoom link on September 19. If you lose the link, contact Lesanne Fliehler, [lesanne-fliehler@uiowa.edu](mailto:lesanne-fliehler@uiowa.edu).

Johnson County, like many places, is aging. In the next seven years, over 20% of the population will be over 65. For older adults who want to age in place, TRAIL (Tools and Resources for Active, Independent Living) may be the answer. Learn how this important resource for seniors and families supports its members.

**Bob Untiedt**, TRAIL's executive director, has more than 37 years working in the nonprofit sector. He has worked in court mediation systems; ran a training center for nonprofits; did community organizing with churches in Milwaukee, San Francisco, and Los Angeles; and directed a theater in Marshalltown. He graduated from Coe College with a degree in sociology and business and did graduate work in nonprofit fundraising at the University of San Francisco.



Bob Untiedt

## Membership Dues Notice

When it is time to renew your UIRA membership, you will receive an email reminder to renew during the month of September. To renew, go to the UIRA website (<https://uira.org.uiowa.edu>) and choose to renew for one year (\$10) or three years (\$25). You may then use a charge card or a debit card to submit your chosen renewal. UIRA will immediately send a receipt to you via email. You also may renew by check. Instructions are available on the UIRA website.

# Upcoming UIRA Programming

## Welcome to Fall Barn Party

Friday, October 6, 3:00-6:00 p.m.  
Home of Steve Scheckel & Pam Terrill  
(O'Mara Homestead)  
4317 320th St NE, Iowa City  
Please RSVP to Deb Cobb:  
[deborah-cobb@uiowa.edu](mailto:deborah-cobb@uiowa.edu).

Connect with fellow retirees old and new at our Welcome to Fall Barn Party. Food and beverages will be provided. In addition, Jason Taylor, executive director of Bur Oak Land Trust, will join us to talk about the O'Mara-Newport Woods preserve, which is adjacent to the property, as well as Bur Oak Land Trust in general. We're looking forward to great conversation and fellowship with the UIRA community!



## Making the Right Health Insurance Decisions

Monday, October 16, 1:00 p.m., 2520D UCC and via Zoom

SHIP counselors **Gary Schwartz** and **Kevin Ward** will discuss the non-UI health care options and advantage plans.

Tuesday, October 24, 2023, 1:00 p.m. via Zoom

**Sonatina Fernandes**, senior UI HR specialist, and **Rebecca S. Olson**, senior director of Benefits, will present the UI health care options for 2023-24 enrollment. **Anne Thurston**, client consultant, will discuss Health Alliance medical plans.

### Submit Your Questions

Prior to the sessions on health insurance choices, you may submit questions for presenters to answer. Send to Evalyn Van Allen-Shalash, [van-allen-shalash@uiowa.edu](mailto:van-allen-shalash@uiowa.edu).

## Csomay Center for Gerontological Excellence

November date TBD

## A Conversation with UI President Barbara Wilson

Monday, December 4, 11:30 a.m. in person  
(2520D UCC) and via Zoom

## Saving Your Brain: Dementia Prevention

Thursday, January 18, 2:00 p.m.

### Hiking Group

Over the years, UIRA members have enjoyed hikes to various Johnson County parks and Bur Oak Land Trust properties. UIRA will continue to offer hikes, but if you would enjoy being part of a UIRA hiking special interest group, please contact Alice Atkinson, [amatkinson@mchsi.com](mailto:amatkinson@mchsi.com).

# Emeritus Faculty Council Lecture

## A Dark, Unruly Space

Patricia Foster, Professor Emerita  
Department of English and Nonfiction Writing Program  
Thursday, October 5, 4:00 p.m.  
Kollros Auditorium (101 Biology Building East)

What happens when a mother and daughter with different political concerns discuss issues of race in America?

In 2015 on a visit home to Alabama, Patricia Foster and her mother argue over the riots in Ferguson, Mo. This encounter becomes the catalyst for Foster's visit to Africatown in Plateau, Ala. (40 miles from her hometown), where the last American slave ship, the *Clotilda*, arrived in 1860 after the U.S. had abolished the international slave trade in 1808.



Patricia Foster

### EFC Lectures

UIRA does not alert its membership when EFC lectures are postponed or canceled. Please check the EFC webpage for updates.

All presentations that are part of the EFC Lecture Series are recorded and can be viewed on the EFC website at <https://tinyurl.com/bpamyjfu>.

What Foster discovers in Africatown disturbs and ignites her curiosity, leading her to two significant books—*Dreams of Africa in Alabama*, Sylviana A. Diouf (Oxford University Press) and *Barracoon*, Zora Neale Hurston (Amistad)—and to writing an essay “A Dark, Unruly Space” (Massachusetts Review, a Notable Essay in *The Best American Essays*) in which she explores the personal and historical aspects of this experience. This essay is a part of Foster's new book, *Written in the Sky: Lessons of a Southern Daughter*.

### New UIRA Members

**Susan Berends**, UIHC Clinical Quality Improvement Program  
**Tammy Becicka-McNeal**, Center for Disabilities & Development  
**Melanie Kenney**, College of Dentistry—Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery  
**Diana Knoedel**, College of Medicine—Pediatrics  
**Marika O'Meara**, UIHC Pediatrics  
**Ted Potter**, College of Law—Law Library  
**Kim Reardon**, UIHC Pharmacy  
**Kerri Rupe**, College of Nursing  
**Sandy Stewart**, HR/Benefits—Health & Productivity  
**Connie Tipword**, Provost's Office—Hancher Auditorium  
**Marie Wilkes**, UIHC Rehabilitation Therapies



## ***What's Happening on the UI Campus?***

### **Hey Buddy, I'm Bill**

August 21-December 19, during gallery hours  
Main Library Gallery, 9:00 a.m.-noon

The exhibit tells the story of Bill Sackter, the namesake of Wild Bill's (formerly Wild Bill's Coffee Shop) in the University of Iowa School of Social Work.

<https://events.uiowa.edu/80846>

### **9th Annual Iowa Falls Prevention Coalition Symposium: Awareness to Action**

Wednesday, September 20, 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.  
via Zoom

<https://tinyurl.com/3mx5sj3b>

### **2023 Healthy Aging Fair**

Friday, September 22, 9:00 a.m.-noon  
Kirkwood Regional Center, 2301 Oakdale Blvd., Coralville

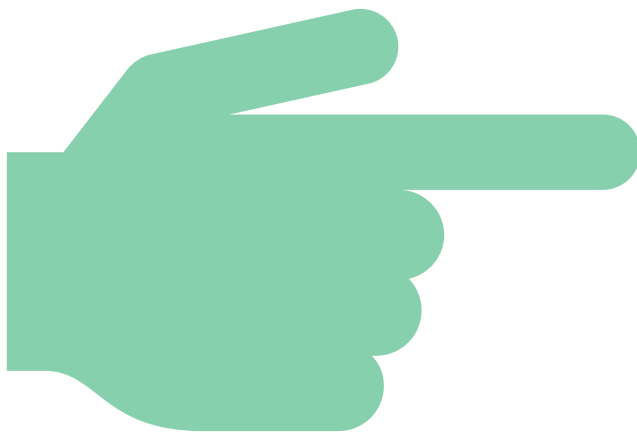
<https://tinyurl.com/4arwdbzb>



On Thursday, August 24, the Food Pantry and Clothing Closet held a grand opening in their new home on the ground floor of the IMU. "The student volunteers were excited about UIRA's support and their new venue," said UIRA President Deb Cobb, who attended the event. Shown here are Cobb (left); Faith Surface (next to Cobb), an Honors student and basic needs manager of the Food Pantry and Clothing Closet; four student volunteers; and Steph Beecher (right), the basic needs and care coordinator in the Office of the Dean of Students.

## ***Are You Volunteering at the University?***

The UIRA Board of Directors is tracking volunteer hours to let the university know how our members give back. If you are volunteering in some capacity, please let us know. You may submit your volunteer hours to Deb Cobb, [deborah-cobb@uiowa.edu](mailto:deborah-cobb@uiowa.edu).



# *History of the Gray Hawk Writers*

by John and Sandra Hudson

During the early years of the University of Iowa Retirees Association—known as the Gray Hawks—then President Sam Becker and board member Gordon Strayer requested a volunteer to organize a memoir writers group.

Sandra Hudson responded to the challenge. Based on her experiences as a member of the University Club Writers, the National League of American Pen Women, and several courses at the University of Iowa Summer Writing Festival, she drafted guidelines and an agenda. The greatest influence on Sandra's design was playwright Jeffrey Sweet. He was adamant that readings should be limited to 8 minutes to ensure better critiques, ward off boredom, and enable greater participation. That has worked well for nearly a quarter of a century.

The first meeting of the Grayhawk Writers occurred on April 14, 1999. It was a perfect day for new beginnings—sweater weather. An occasional cumulus cloud added interest to the blue skies and there was a soft, soothing, east-southeast breeze. John Hudson chaired that meeting and by popular acclamation continued to do so for the next 20 years.

Our writing has expanded beyond memoirs to include personal essays, delicious limericks, academic papers for a lay audience, travel logs, thought-provoking poetry, fiction, historical fiction, lectures, PowerPoint presentations, social critiques, and newsletters. In short, whatever takes a writer's fancy.

Our group meets fortnightly. We have limited our membership to 14 to allow time for everyone to read at each meeting. Frequently, there has been more interest than our group could accommodate, therefore, our members have helped to form additional writing groups beginning with Oaknoll in 2004.

A spouse declared our stories should be published in an anthology. We all agreed. The process was not quick. A couple of years passed before our book, *Yesterdays*, was displayed in the Iowa section of Prairie Lights bookstore in 2014.

Each of the 24 authors, or their executors, determined the stories for their section of *Yesterdays*. Alan Brody edited the book and the Hudson's did the typesetting, and book design for self-publishing. The proceeds of the book were donated to the Iowa City UNESCO City of Literature.

In 2019 John Hudson became chair emeritus. To inaugurate the third decade of the Gray Hawk Writers, Doug Paul was elected chair by acclamation. With the arrival of the Covid-19 pandemic in early 2020, our new chair was faced with a considerable challenge. Doug skillfully applied triage and arranged for us to meet via Zoom. Our group survived. No matter how or where we meet, our fortnightly gatherings have been treasured experiences, with the camaraderie of sharing our writing experiences and learning from one another. We have all become better writers.

It is our intention to publish a new anthology for our 25th anniversary. Our current membership includes Joe Artz, John Hudson, Sandra Hudson, David Jepsen, Judith Klink, Jeanne Liston, James O'Gorman, Doug Paul, Omer Sanan, Jane Shuttleworth, Judy Terry, Roger Williamson, and Deanne Wortman. That leaves room for one more. Is anyone interested? Contact Doug Paul, [drpaul507@yahoo.com](mailto:drpaul507@yahoo.com).

# IOWA

## UI Retirees Association Board of Directors 2023-2024 (year term on board expires)

Deb Cobb	President (2025) <a href="mailto:deborah-cobb@uiowa.edu">deborah-cobb@uiowa.edu</a>
Evalyn Van Allen-Shalash	President-Elect (2026) <a href="mailto:van-allen-shalash@uiowa.edu">van-allen-shalash@uiowa.edu</a>
Ed Dove	Past President (2024)
Chris Peterson Brus	Secretary (2026)
David Fitzgerald	Treasurer (2024)
Lesanne Fliehler	Editor, <i>The Gray Hawk</i> (2024)
Phil Klein	Webmaster (ex-officio)
Vicki Siefers	Director (2024)
Mike Hovland	Director (2025)
Cathy Wilcox	Director (2025)
Michael Barron	Director (2026)
Lois Cox	Director (2026)
Diana Lundell	Director (2026)
TBD	EFC representative (ex-officio)

The UI Retirees Association maintains a continuous connection to the University of Iowa and supports the interests and welfare of retired University of Iowa faculty and staff members.

Meetings of the Board of Directors are held at 1:00 p.m. on the second Tuesday of the month. Meetings are hybrid (in person at USB and via Zoom).

**Contact Info:** UI Retirees Association  
University Services Building  
1 W. Prentiss Street, Iowa City, IA 52240  
Email: [ui-ra@uiowa.edu](mailto:ui-ra@uiowa.edu)  
Website: <https://uira.org.uiowa.edu>