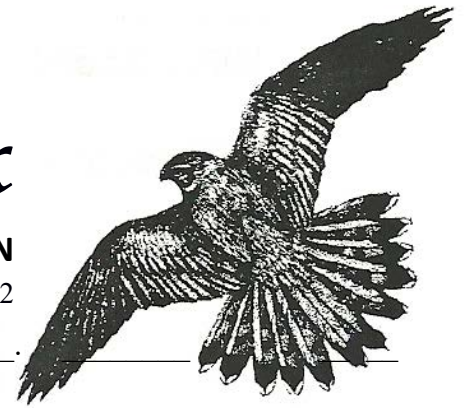


The Gray Hawk

UNIVERSITY OF IOWA RETIREES ASSOCIATION

October 2023 • Vol. XXX, Issue 2



October-Early November 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 by Sept. 30:
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., 2520-D UCC and via Zoom

Expect the Zoom link on October 14. If you lose the link, contact Ed Dove, edwin-dove@uiowa.edu.

Senior Health Insurance Information Program (SHIIP) counselors **Gary Schwartz** and **Kevin Ward** will clarify the distinction between traditional Medicare with Medigap and prescription drug supplements, in contrast to the all-inclusive Medicare Advantage plans. Gary has been a SHIIP counselor since 2006. Kevin is beginning his third year as a SHIIP counselor. They are trained to clearly present enrollment guidelines, premium costs, and benefits for Medicare A, B, C, D, and supplements.

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

Expect the Zoom link on October 22. If you lose the link, contact Ed Dove, edwin-dove@uiowa.edu.

Sonatina Fernandes, senior UI HR specialist, **Rebecca S. Olson**, senior director of Benefits, and **Anne Thurston**, client consultant with Health Alliance Medical Plans, will present an overview of the 2023-24 UI health care enrollment options available to UI retirees.

Iowa Ceramics Center and David Van Allen Photography Studio

Friday, November 10, 1:00 p.m., Cherry Building,
329 10th Ave. SE, Cedar Rapids

RSVP by Monday, October 16 to Evalyn Van Allen-Shalash, van-allen-shalash@uiowa.edu.

Participants will alternate tours of the photo studio and Iowa Ceramics Center. If you would like an immersive experience, for a \$25 fee, there is a 45-minute opportunity to use a pottery wheel. Participants will learn how to pull up a small cup or bowl. Clay will be returned at the end of the session. Reservation required and payment to be made directly to the Iowa Ceramics Center on the day. A map to the venue will be sent to participants. If you wish to car-pool, please indicate your interest and include your phone number in the RSVP.



Upcoming UIRA Programming

A Conversation with UI President Barbara Wilson

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

Saving Your Brain: Dementia Prevention

Thursday, January 18, 2:00 p.m., N116 Lindquist Center and via Zoom



New Interest Group Ready to Take a Hike

The Hiking Special Interest Group is a go! Our first hike will be at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, October 11 at Kent Park Lake. Details will be emailed to the group. If interested in joining the hiking group, email Alice Atkinson at amatkinson@mchsi.com.

Membership Dues Notice

When it is time to renew your UIRA membership, you will receive an email reminder to renew. When you do, 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.

UIRA President's Column

UI Retiree Association Goals for the 2023-24 Year

Greetings, fellow UIRA members: I recently returned from a fishing trip in Ontario, Canada, where the loons were calling, the walleye biting, and the colors of summer already changing into the reds and golds of fall. As the seasons change, so do the activities of the UI Retirees Association. We are fortunate to have a Board of Directors comprised of members, old and new, who bring a wealth of talent and enthusiasm to the organization. Equally important is the support of President Wilson and HR in sustaining the synergistic relationship between the university and UIRA. It is our collective mission to support the interests and welfare of retired faculty and staff and to help members stay connected with each other and with the social and intellectual life of the university.



Deb Cobb

An important goal of UIRA this year is to increase active membership. Kellie Digmann, our administrative services coordinator, sent out reminders to those whose membership expires on September 30, 2023, and she has reported that “the response in membership renewal has been amazing.” I am convinced that if the organization is responsive to the needs and interests of our members then our UIRA community will thrive.

The program committee has scheduled a variety of interesting and enjoyable activities, as highlighted in our excellent newsletter, *The Gray Hawk*. We hope that many of you can join us for both in-person and virtual events. The fall barn party and picnic on October 6, 3-6 p.m., will give members a chance to enjoy fellowship and food with other retirees, amidst a beautiful rural setting. Jason Taylor, executive director of Bur Oak Land Trust, will give an informative presentation about Bur Oak and nearby preserves.

Another important goal for UIRA is to increase volunteerism, particularly in support of student success. This would include both monetary support and participation in initiatives such as the Food Pantry and Clothing Closet; programs helping first-generation students; scholarships; conversations; and volunteering during orientation and finals week activities. Recently, UIRA attended and donated to the Food Pantry’s grand opening at its new location on the ground floor of the IMU. The student director and volunteers were grateful for UIRA’s support and excited about their new venue. There is a wealth of talent and generosity in the UIRA membership, and we encourage our members to continue our tradition of giving back to the university by helping our students.

Our collective membership will determine the vitality and direction of our UIRA community. It is up to us to help our retirement association continue to grow and adapt as we remain motivated by and responsive to our current and future members. Ideas, suggestions, and especially participation are always welcome. As president, I join with our Board of Directors in striving to be responsive to our members’ needs.

Warmly,
Deb Cobb, UIRA President

What's Happening on the UI Campus?

Homecoming: The Golden Age

Sunday-Saturday, October 1-7

This year's theme channels the vivacious spirit and elegance of the Roaring Twenties, merging its timeless charm with the UI's contemporary values and vigor.

<https://homecoming.uiowa.edu>

Public Tours of Hancher Auditorium

Wednesday, October 4, 11:00 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.

The Hancher Guild offers public tours of Hancher Auditorium occasionally on Wednesdays, starting at 11:00 a.m. and at 12:30 p.m. The 2023 tour schedule:

<https://hancher.uiowa.edu/PublicTours>.

Jane Smiley: Ida Cordelia Beam

Distinguished Visiting Professor Lecture

Thursday, October 5, 7:00 p.m.

Main Library, Shambaugh Auditorium

Jane Smiley is a Pulitzer-Prize winning author and UI alumna.

<https://events.uiowa.edu/79922>

One Community, One Book

Sunday, October 8, 1:30-3:00 p.m.

C20 Pomerantz Center

Keynote address is by the author of *The Farm*, Joanne Ramos. Told from the perspective of four women, the book explores gender, race, and class, and of who has access to power, freedom, and choice. <https://events.uiowa.edu/78831>

Tree Tours

Pentacrest: Saturday, October 14, noon; meet outside Macbride Hall, on the east side of the building

West campus: Friday, October 20, noon; meet outside the Field House double doors

<https://pentacrestmuseums.uiowa.edu/tree-tours>



UIRA Presidential Award to Diana Harris



At the UIRA annual meeting on June 15, then-President Ed Dove awarded the 2023 UIRA Presidential Award to UIRA member Diana Harris.

Diana served as the manager of IT Communications for the College of Engineering from 1998 to 2015. While at the university, she was a longtime member of the UI Council on the Status of Women and a recognized leader on issues of opportunity and equality. She pressed for renewed efforts to address sexual harassment on

campus and helped develop the council's Herstory initiative and the UITV series "Women at Iowa" to document women's experiences. In 2012, she received the Jean Y. Jew Women's Rights Award.



Diana Harris

Since retiring from the university, Diana served as a UIRA Board of Directors member and was editor of *The Gray Hawk* for three years. Since 2016, she has volunteered with Miracles in Motion, a therapeutic equestrian center near Swisher. She began as part of the chore team and board member, and after years of training, she is now a certified therapeutic riding instructor who develops programs for individuals with social, motor, or other developmental challenges.

Recap of Big 10 Retirees Association Meeting

The 2023 Big Ten Retirees Association (BTRA) annual conference was hosted by University of Wisconsin-Madison Retirement Association, July 26-28. The conference affords the host association the opportunity to showcase their institution and provides representatives from across the Big 10 a forum to share best practices and participate in open discussions on a variety of topics of interest to our associations.

The program included presentations by UW faculty on a variety of topics: "Creating a Sustainable Community through Collaborative Partnerships," "Serving the Underserved in Higher Education," and "Honoring the Ho-Chunk Heritage." Topics for group discussion ranged from keeping retirees engaged and expanding membership, to partnering with the university and local sponsorships. Participants enjoyed a guided tour of the Chazen Museum of Art; a campus tour; and a reception, dinner, and keynote speaker.

Next year's conference will be held July 24-26 at The Ohio State University in Columbus, Ohio.



Deb Cobb (second from right) with other Big 10 colleagues.

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)



Patricia Foster

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.

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://ti-nyurl.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*.

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.

IOWA

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

Deb Cobb	President (2025) deborah-cobb@uiowa.edu
Evalyn Van Allen-Shalash	President-Elect (2026) van-allen-shalash@uiowa.edu
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
Website: <https://uira.org.uiowa.edu>