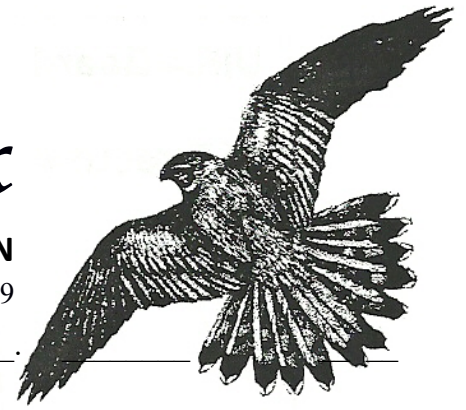


The Gray Hawk

UNIVERSITY OF IOWA RETIREES ASSOCIATION

June 2024 • Vol. XXX, Issue 9



From UIRA President Deb Cobb

UIRA President's Final Thoughts

“April showers bring May flowers” seems to be in full bloom this spring. Seedlings have been planted and my garden weeded and mulched. I’m amazed at how the flowers and trees have grown and blossomed, nurtured by rain and the warmth of the sun.

The seeds of UIRA were planted in 1995, and over the years, the UI Retirees Association has grown and thrived, nurtured by a succession of dedicated presidents and board members.

This is my final letter as UIRA president, and I am grateful for the opportunity I have had to serve our fellow retirees. I am especially grateful to the **UIRA team of officers and Board of Directors** for their dedicated stewardship. It has been a privilege to work with such wonderful people, including our Administrative Services Coordinator, **Kellie Digmann**. We are especially fortunate for the strong support of **President Barbara Wilson** and **Vice Presidents Laura McLeran and Cheryl Reardon**.

Our UIRA annual meeting will be June 11, and we hope that many of you can attend. There will be ice cream and cookies and a presentation of this year’s activities and accomplishments. Next year’s president-elect and new Board of Directors will be introduced. We will also announce the winners of the photo contest and recipients of the UIRA Volunteer Service Awards.

As my tenure as president comes to a close, I am grateful for all the support I received during this past year. I am confident that our president-elect, **Evalyn Van Allen-Shalash**, along with the new board members, will continue to ensure a bright future for the UI Retirees Association.

Thank you for a rewarding and memorable year.

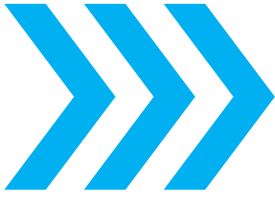
Deb Cobb, UIRA President

New UIRA Members

Mila Grady, College of Nursing

Sarah Tallman, Office of the Vice President
for Research, Research Administration

Annual Meeting: Celebrate Another Great Year



Come celebrate all that UIRA has accomplished! The annual meeting will be **Tuesday, June 11, 2024**, 2:00-4:00 p.m. in 2520-D University Capitol Center (second floor of UCC). The event will also be available via Zoom. We'll begin with refreshments and social time, followed by the annual business meeting. Look for an email coming soon with information about registering for the event.

Recent Recordings

Recordings of recent UIRA presentations are available on the web at <https://uira.org.uiowa.edu/news-and-events/events-and-programs/past-events-and-programs>.

- "Fraud Alerts for Seniors," Sally Leme
- "Incarceration Among the Elderly," Alison Guernsey

Explorers Walk

Our final walk of the year will be **Wednesday, June 5**, 10:00 a.m., at Turkey Creek Nature Preserve (Bur Oak Land Trust), 2545 Sugar Bottom Rd NE, Solon. We will plan to carpool. To RSVP or to receive more details, contact Explorers coordinators **Alice Atkinson**, amatkinson@mchsi.com, or **Lesanne Fliehler**, fliehler@gmail.com.

New UIRA Board Members Elected

Thank you to everyone who voted in this year's board member election to fill six positions: President-Elect, Treasurer, Secretary, and three directors-at-large.

The membership has elected **Lois Cox** (President-Elect), **Todd Stewart** (Treasurer), **Cathy Wilcox** (Secretary), and Directors-at-Large **Jean Florman**, **Cindy Seyfer**, and **Rachel Stewart**. Except for Florman, who will serve the remaining two years of Lois Cox's term as a director-at-large, the other newly elected board members will serve three-year terms ending in July 2027. President-Elect Lois Cox will serve as President in the second year of her term and as Past President in the third year of her term.

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

After 16 years at the UI Center for Teaching, **Jean Florman** retired as director in 2021. Prior to that she taught various forms of creative nonfiction at the UI and served as an assistant director of the UI College of Law Writing Center. In 2014 she was nominated by faculty members for the Outstanding Staff Award. For most of her career, Jean was a freelance writer and a producer for Iowa Public Radio, where she created, wrote, and recorded special series about Iowa history and culture. The "capstone" to a career of fun and challenging writing projects was the collaboration to produce *Hancher*, a coffee-table book about the construction of Iowa's magnificent new performing arts center. Jean is an avid grandmother, gardener, hiker, and traveler, and last year she served on the board of the Iowa Valley Habitat for Humanity Women Build project in honor of former teacher and legislator Mary Mascher. Recently she has discovered the magic of glassblowing.



Jean Florman

Cindy Seyfer retired in September 2022 from the Office of Student Financial Aid. She started in the office in 1982 as a graduate assistant and after holding a variety of positions in the office, she retired as the assistant provost and director. Cindy deeply enjoyed her work advocating for access and affordability in higher education and partnering on a number of student success initiatives. She was honored to receive the Lola Lopes Award for Undergraduate Student Advocacy (2013), the Improving our Workplace Award (IOWA) (2014), and the Department of Athletics Difference Maker award (2018). Cindy and her husband, Jim, have been caring full time for their granddaughter who turns 2 in late May and will transition to daycare in June, leaving Cindy to enjoy a second retirement and time to be more active in UIRA. She and Jim are also looking forward to being able to travel more.



Cindy Seyfer

Todd Stewart retired as the chief audit executive for the Board of Regents in 2018. Previously he was an administrator in Preventive Medicine and director of Accounting Services at the University of Iowa. Todd is an avid photographer and enjoys shooting local high school sporting events, the University of Iowa women's basketball team, as well as of the many travels Todd and his wife, Jan, take annually. In his spare time, Todd and Jan have also participated in many bike rides including RAGBRAI, biking other states and in Europe last year. Todd stays active serving on the board and as treasurer of the Iowa City Housing Fellowship, providing affordable housing to families in need of housing in Iowa City.



Todd Stewart

UIRA Volunteer Service Awards Announced

The UIRA receives annual nominations for two awards: the Community Service Award and the University of Iowa Service Award. To be eligible, the nominee must be a member of the UIRA, retired for at least two years, have outstanding service carried out since retirement (activities prior to retirement do not count), and may include a wide range of activities that make a positive impact. The two recipients of the 2024 awards not only meet but exceed these requirements. The University of Iowa Service Award goes to **Lesanne Fliehler** and the UIRA Community Service Award to **Billie Townsend**. We think you will agree that the selections for the two UIRA Service Awards have been active in retirement and are very deserving of these awards.

Lesanne Fliehler, University of Iowa Service Award Recipient

Lesanne Fliehler grew up in Des Moines, wanting to follow in her Gramma Brenneman's footsteps as a teacher. After graduation from the University of Northern Iowa with a B.A. degree (English major and Spanish minor), she did just that, taking a position as a language arts teacher at Iowa City's South East Junior High School in 1977.

Although that only lasted 3½ years, she continued to teach undergraduates at the University of Iowa while pursuing an M.A. in journalism and mass communication.

After graduation in 1983, she started a long career in communications roles at the University of Iowa, first at the UI Printing Department, then the Office of Public Information/University Relations, and finally at the Tippie College of Business. During her career, she received awards for writing, editing, design, and production of alumni, recruitment, and special-interest publications and websites. She also received the first UI Wellness Ambassador award. She retired in June 2019 after a 36-year career at the UI.

Prior to retirement, she began volunteering with TRAIL of Johnson County, a volunteer-driven nonprofit organization that helps seniors age in the places they call home. Joining the Marketing & Communications Committee, she began writing for the organization's newsletter. She currently chairs the MarComm committee, is a member of TRAIL's Board of Directors, and volunteers, driving members to appointments.

She served on the Board of Directors of Riverside Theatre (2016-2019) during the period when Adam Knight was hired as director and when the theater was looking to expand to a new location, eventually finding a prime location in downtown Iowa City.

She joined the UI Senior College Committee in June 2020. The group provides high-quality educational opportunities for seniors in Iowa and beyond. She has



Lesanne Fliehler

coordinated many courses, which covered topics such as Shakespeare, humor, and Russian novels.

As a member of the UIRA Board of Directors, she serves as editor of *The Gray Hawk*, co-coordinator of the Explorers walking group, member of the Membership Committee, and member of the UIRA Photo Contest Committee.

Lesanne lives in North Liberty with her husband, Jack. Their daughter, Katie, is a nurse at Mercy Medical Center in Cedar Rapids.

Billie Townsend, Community Service Award Recipient

Billie Townsend retired from the University of Iowa in 2017 where she worked for over 25 years in various departments: Affirmative Action, the College of Dentistry, the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, and the College of Public Health for the National Alliance for Doctoral Studies in the Math Sciences. She served on several committees during her career, including the Staff Diversity Committee, Staff Council, African American Council, Recruitment Ambassadors, Advisory Board for Women in Science and Engineering, Diversity Dialogue Group, and Associated University Women. Billie also was advisor to several student groups including Voices of Soul and Black Student Union. For many years, she chaired the University January Convocation program celebrating the life of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.



Billie Townsend

While working, Billie was active in community groups. She served on the Iowa City Human Rights Commission. Her work involved planning programs and activities designed to eliminate racial, religious, cultural, and other intergroup tensions. She served on other groups as well and currently serves numerous community groups. Billie is a member of the Black Voices Project and the Iowa City Planning and Zoning Commission. She is current member and past chair of the Board of Directors for the Iowa Black Alumni Association (IBAA). She also chairs the IBAA Scholarship Committee. Billie participates in the University of Iowa Athletic Mentoring Group.

Billie contributes her leadership talents to her church. She chairs the Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration at Bethel AME Church in collaboration with the East Union Mennonite Church in Kalona. She chairs the Bethel AME “slightly used” Christmas Decoration Sale.

Billie has generously volunteered her time to UIRA. In 2023, she completed two terms on the Board of Directors. She was a member of the Program Committee for five years, arranging speakers such as the Iowa City mayor and leading UIHC epidemiologist at the height of the Covid pandemic. She helped with whatever needed to be done for programs and asked questions posted in the chat in a way that made each question sound important and valued.

This spring Billie was named the 2024 Iowa Valley Habitat for Humanity Women Build honoree, a role that epitomizes Billie's philosophy of service.

Billie Townsend has unselfishly given of herself to this extensive list of community groups that include university, student, Iowa City, church, and UIRA. Her list of service activities would be incomplete without mentioning her devotion to her family. She enjoys spending time with her retired husband, seven grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren. She also has cared for her 101-year-old mother-in-law in her home for years. Billie's philosophy of service is broadly conceived.



National Advanced Driving Simulator Tour

Thirty-two UIRA members enjoyed a tour of the National Advanced Driving Simulator on April 17. Daniel McGehee, director of the Driving Safety Research Institute and professor of industrial and systems engineering, emergency medicine, public health, and public policy, shared information about the institute's research that examines the relationship between humans and vehicles to enhance safety: how humans interact with new vehicle technologies, and more.

Senior College Courses for Fall

Senior College courses will once again be available this fall. Taught by emeritus and current University of Iowa faculty members and others, the courses cover a wide variety of topics in the humanities, sciences, and the arts. The course listing will be available on the web later this summer (<https://www.foriowa.org/senior-college>). Registration will begin on Monday, August 5 at 9 a.m.

More Photo Contest Winners

Congratulations again to this year's winners! Below are the second- and third-place winners (there was no second- or third-place winner in the University of Iowa category). Photos are available on the UIRA website where they are displayed larger (<https://uira.org.uiowa.edu/news/2024/04/photo-contest-results-2024>).

Iowa

Second Place: Mark Reagan, Trumpeter Swans Flying over Cone Marsh. *Judges' comments: Nice picture of swans flying. Focus is great on the birds placed just above the tree line so they don't get lost in the background.*



Iowa

Third Place: Sue Otto, Melodi's Chalk Art. *Judges' comments: Neat picture of a girl chalking a picture of a flower. Nice clean composition. Nice streaks of light coming across the frame. Probably could have cropped a little of the foreground up to tighten it up a little bit, but still a nice moment.*

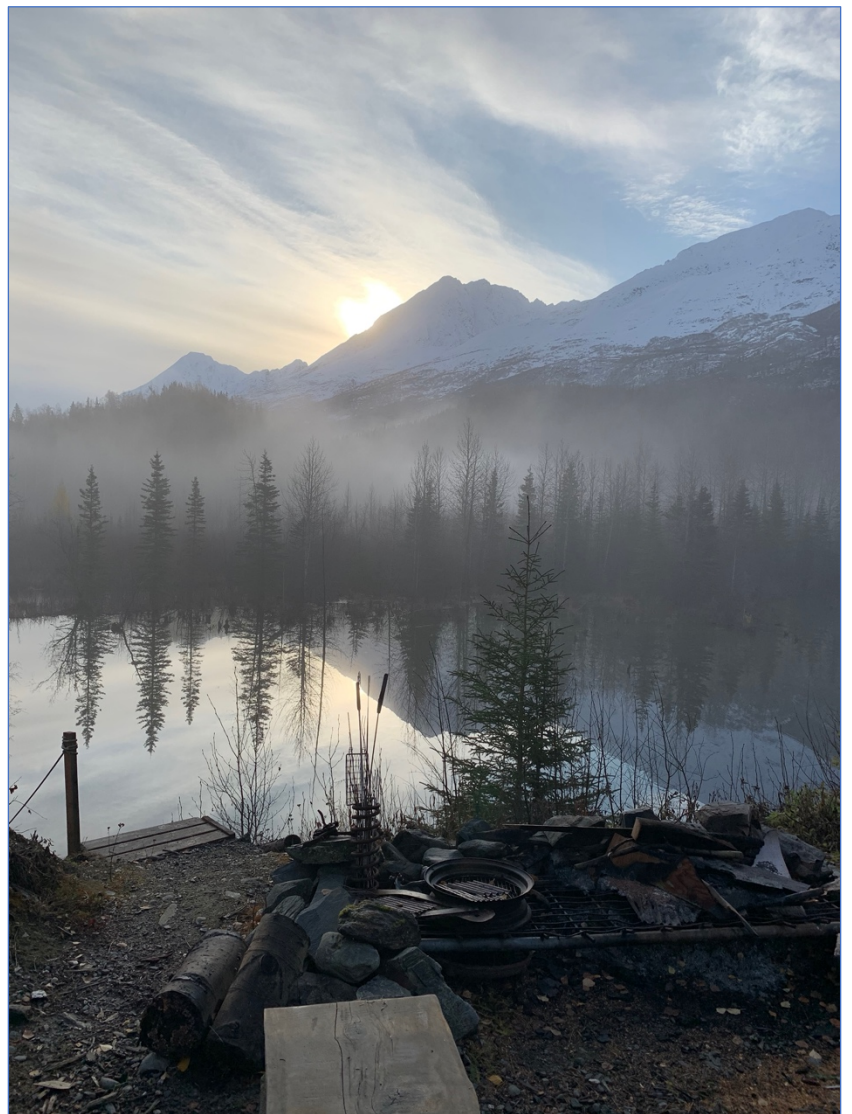
USA

Second Place: Pam Terrill, Green River Canyon, Utah. *Judges' comments: We loved this red rock/river image. Great lines and color palette with some rain in the distance.*



USA

Third Place: Kevin Heckman, Beaver Pond near Valdez, Alaska. *Judges' comments: Beautiful moody lake reflection. Absolutely love the sense of peaceful serenity in this image.*



**International
Second Place: Vicki
Siefers, Monet's Garden
in Giverny, France.**
*Judges' comments: We
liked the branches hang-
ing down from the top,
giving the frame more
depth and contrast.*



**International
Third Place: Diana
Harris, Dala Horse Work-
shop. Judges' comments:
This was an interesting
detail shot.**



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>

See You in September!

This is the last issue of *The Gray Hawk* until September. The Program Planning Committee will be scheduling events during the summer, so if you have ideas, please send them to Deb Cobb at deborah-cobb@uiowa.edu. In addition, if you would like to serve on the committee, we would love to hear from you. Enjoy your summer!