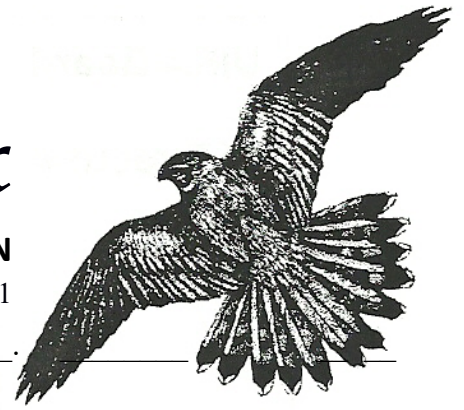


The Gray Hawk

UNIVERSITY OF IOWA RETIREES ASSOCIATION

September 2024 • Vol. XXXI, Issue 1



From UIRA President Evalyn Van Allen-Shalash

Come Along for the Ride This Year!

Welcome to all new and continuing members of the UI Retirees Association. I will be heading this group for 2024-25 and invite you to come along for the ride.

I enthusiastically joined UIRA upon learning that its strength lies in recognizing both faculty and staff. We all worked closely together in employment and this organization is a natural extension of that relationship. My own path was in administration assistance, from the original Office of Affirmative Action, International Programs, a brief stint in Faculty Senate, and eventually to the Office of the Provost. My most memorable interactions were with secretaries, security personnel, professors, deans, provosts and presidents. I've worked with every college along the way and am proud to have met some truly amazing people.

Those remarkable people include the board of the UIRA. I'd like to thank them for inviting me to join. It was a particular pleasure to get to know **Deb Cobb**, my "partner in crime," as we felt our way along the path so well paved by our predecessors. I'd also like to shout out to my mentor **Carolyn Wanat**, a font of knowledge. This past year we happily announced that with the approval of **President Wilson**, we are now a recognized advisory body to the president in the University of Iowa Policy Manual. A huge thank you to all past and present board members who brought this to fruition.

In accord with this new designation, **I will strive to steer UIRA in support of student success. I am gearing up to collect previously worn suits and accompanying**



Evalyn Van Allen-Shalash

accessories for the Clothes Closet. One retired faculty member told me that he has not worn a suit or tie since the day he stepped down...perhaps you too are one of my target contributors! Also, we are always **looking for support of the Food Pantry.**

I am interested in learning ways we, as experienced, hardworking, real-life veterans of long-time employment, can share our practical knowledge and skills with students.

I will report back on a mentoring conference I'll attend in

October and see where it takes us. I would like to begin a database of UIRA members who may be interested in participating.

A quick look further ahead: 2025 is the 50th anniversary of the university's Council on the Status of Women. In due course, we will be seeking memories and speakers from our membership to honor this outstanding organization.

If any of these initiatives appeal to you, or indeed **if you would like to serve on one of our standing committees (Awards, Budget, Manual Update and Orientation, Membership, Nominations, Program Planning, or Website), please feel free to contact me** directly at this email address, van-allen-shalash@uiowa.edu, or by phone to 319-400-3215. We have a robust Program Planning Committee in place, but please feel free to suggest any programs you would be interested in having us arrange.

Here's to a wonderful 2024-25 UIRA year ahead.

New Feature: Reflections

In this new feature, we invite you to submit a remembrance of your working years, share an experience you've had post-retirement, or nominate a retiree to highlight in *The Gray Hawk*. You may send it to Evalyn Van Allen-Shalash at van-allen-shalash@uiowa.edu.

Evalyn Van Allen-Shalash kicks off this new column with this treasure:

"I recently unearthed correspondence between unlikely friends, two of our distinguished retirees from the past. At the time, my father, Maurice Van Allen, was an associate professor in the Department of Neurology who later chaired the department, while Forest 'Evy' Evasheski served as the UI Athletics Director. I hope you enjoy their tongue-in-cheek interchange."

The letters are available [here](#).

Walks and Nature Explorations

Explorers is a group of UIRA members interested in walking and hiking at various parks and trails in the area. We also schedule naturalist-led hikes with Johnson County Conservation or the Bur Oak Land Trust. If you are interested in joining the group or would like to RSVP to attend one of the events below, email Alice Atkinson at amatkinson@mchsi.com or Lesanne Fliehler at fliehler@gmail.com.



- **September 11** (Wed.), 10:00 a.m., Corriell Nature Preserve (limit: 8)
- **September 25** (Wed.), 10:00 a.m., Mormon Handcart Trail
- **October 9** (Wed.), 10:00 a.m., Macbride Nature Recreation Area
- **October 18** (Fri.), 10:00 a.m., Waterworks Park
- **October 30** (Wed.), 10:00 a.m., Kent Park

September UIRA Programming

Second Annual Fall Barn Party

Wednesday, September 18, 4:00-6:00 p.m.

Home of UIRA members Steve Scheckel
and Pam Terrill

4317 320th St NE, Iowa City

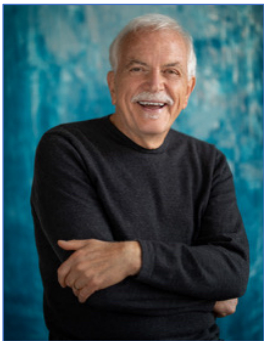
Please RSVP to Deb Cobb:

deborah-cobb@uiowa.edu

Connect with fellow retirees old and new
at our Welcome to Fall Barn Party. This
fun, fall event will again be held in the

100-year-old barn at the home of Steve Scheckel & Pam Terrill (previously the O'Mara
Homestead). The acreage is just two miles from downtown Iowa City. Food and beverages

will be provided. Our special guest and speaker this year will
be **Ron Clark**, who co-founded Riverside Theater four decades ago
with his wife, Jody Hovland and Professor Bruce Wheaton. In his
role as resident artist and production manager, Ron has directed
and/or acted in over 200 productions. Ron will share a personal
and heartwarming story from his memories as a boy growing up in
Iowa. We're looking forward to great conversation and fellowship
with the UIRA community. This event is a great start to an exciting
year for UIRA!



Ron Clark



Save-the-Date for These Upcoming Programs

UI Health Care Options for 2024-25

Thursday, October 17, 1:00 p.m., 2520-D University Capitol Center (UCC)

Deaccession (Stanley Museum of Art)

Thursday, November 21, 1:00 p.m., 2520-D University Capitol Center (UCC)

A Conversation with UI President Barbara Wilson

Tuesday, December 10, 1:00 p.m., 2520-D University Capitol Center (UCC)

Specific Days of the Month Chosen for Programming

This year the Program Planning Committee will be scheduling programs at 1:00 p.m. on the 2nd Tuesday and/or the 3rd Thursday of a month, so members can save those dates on their calendars in advance of program announcements. There may, of course, be exceptions when this isn't possible.

Membership Dues Increase Slightly

The UIRA Board of Directors recently approved a small increase in dues from \$10 to \$12 a year (or a discounted rate of \$30 for three years). The membership year runs from September 1 to August 31. All members will receive a renewal reminder email in August.

A few additional changes were approved regarding UIRA membership:

- UIRA membership is open to staff and faculty who are at least 55 years old, have retired from the UI, or have had significant employment-related ties to the university.
- Spouses or partners of UIRA members are also eligible to be members of UIRA.
- All University of Iowa retirees shall receive an introductory membership upon retirement, provided at no cost. After the introductory membership period expires, the retiree may elect to continue membership by paying dues.
- All members of UIRA, dues-paying and introductory, shall be eligible to vote on all matters presented to the membership for a vote.

Women Build Project Honors Billie Townsend

The 2024 Iowa Valley Habitat for Humanity's Women Build project broke ground on its 14th home on Saturday, July 27, in honor of Billie Townsend, a member of the Women Build Committee and former UIRA board member. Billie served two terms on the UIRA board, was a five-year member of the Program Planning Committee, and in 2024 received the UIRA Community Service Award.

This year's build marks the 20th anniversary of Women Build, and it honors its first African American woman, recognizing Billie for all her community work but especially for her work to support more affordable homes in the community.

"This is my first Habitat project," Billie said, "but it won't be my last."

Billie is pictured at the groundbreaking with the family who will live in the home being built: parents Nagi (right) and Raddiya (left) and children Aya, Ayan, and Ahmed.



Fitzgerald Receives UIRA President's Award

At the UIRA annual meeting then-President Deb Cobb presented the President's Award to outgoing UIRA Treasurer David Fitzgerald. In her presentation, Deb said:

“David Fitzgerald served four years as UIRA treasurer and was steadfast in his responsibilities in managing UIRA finances. He always provided wisdom and thoughtful advice in board meetings, and his gentle and capable guidance was greatly appreciated by his fellow board members. David retired from the University of Iowa in 2012. His sons and grandchildren live in Alaska.



David Fitzgerald

“David graduated from Iowa State with a bachelor's degree in landscape architecture in 1972. He returned to school and received his graduate degree in counselor education from the University of Iowa in 1979.

“Before retiring, David was a career and internship advisor at the UI Career Center. For 20 of those years, he was the facilitator of a collaboration between the U.S. Department of Labor Workforce Recruitment Program and students with disabilities. And one of his most treasured roles was serving as administrator and liaison for the Washington (D.C.) Center internship program for 20 years. He was recognized for his dedication and excellence and for always going above and beyond for his students.

“I can attest to that dedication in his service to UIRA. David Fitzgerald is one of the unsung heroes, who quietly does his job with excellence and compassion and who lifts others up in the process.”

The President's Award is presented annually to a UIRA member who has gone above and beyond in service to UIRA. The recipient of the President's Award is chosen by the UIRA president and honored at the UIRA annual meeting.

UIRA Undergraduate Scholarship Recipients

Since 2021, the UIRA has raised more than \$4,500 for needs-based scholarships for UI students during the “One Day for Iowa” online giving campaign.

This year UIRA raised \$2,000 for the UIRA Student Scholarship Fund. Receiving \$1,000 each for the 2024 school year are:

- Max Halbach, Social Studies Education major, from Ankeny, Iowa
- Olivia Mayer, Elementary Education major, from Saint Ansgar, Iowa



Emeritus Faculty Council Lecture

Dream No Small Dreams

Edwin M. Stone, M.D., Ph.D.

Professor of Ophthalmology, Director of the Iowa Institute for Vision Research, and Seamans-Hauser Chair of Molecular Ophthalmology

Thursday, September 12, 4:00 p.m.

Kollros Auditorium (101 Biology Building East)

This lecture will detail our 38-year journey toward the restoration of vision for people blinded by inherited retinal disease.



Edwin M. Stone

New UIRA Members

Jim Clancy, Prosthodontics, College of Dentistry

Mary Copper Clancy, UIHC Compliance Office

Mila Grady, College of Nursing

John Kostman, Computer Networks, College of Engineering

Kathy Martensen, Radiology, College of Medicine

Suely Oliveira, Computer Science, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Laura Phearman, UIHC Nursing Service

Rachel Stewart, Marketing & Communications, Tippie College of Business

Periyasamy Subramanian, Environmental Health and Safety, Office of the Vice President for Research

Marilyn Swanson, Center for Disabilities and Development

Stephen Swanson, School of Music, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

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

Welcome to the UI Retirees Association! We look forward to seeing you at one of our events very soon.

Register for Senior College Courses

Registration for 14 Senior College courses began on August 5, but you can still register until a course is full. Don't miss some great courses (taught by fabulous instructors) on Ella Fitzgerald (Tim Hankewich), music in Hitchcock films (Nathan Platte), Iowa City in the 1960s (David McCartney), tending Iowa's land (Connie Mutel), the 2024 election (Ben Kieffer), and more. Visit the Senior College website at <https://www.foriowa.org/senior-college> to register.

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 Jennifer Wohn at lwsbws@gmail.com.

Comfort

by Jennifer Wohn, 2/11/24

Where do we go
When we can't hear our souls?

We turn to these things that guide our way
That shine light in our hearts and brighten our day

Music that provides us with solace and bliss
Pulling us in like a sweet lover's kiss

Books that give us hope, and give us wings so we can fly
Across planets and deserts and mountains so high

Friends who make us laugh so hard that it hurts our bellies
Who share memories and moments – magical, fun, and silly

Nature who beckons us to open our eyes
And never fails to delight with bold earthly surprises

Pets who provide comfort during turmoil and storms
With slick wet noses and furry tummies so warm

Family who's shaped who we are today
Who cheer for us and encourage us all the way

Where do we go when our hearts break like the dawn?
To the comforts that propel us to keep carrying on

Annual Meeting Minutes

Were you unable to attend the annual meeting, but you're interested in knowing what happened? The PowerPoint from the meeting serves as the minutes, and it can be found on the UIRA website at <http://tinyurl.com/uky8uude>.

IOWA

UI Retirees Association Board of Directors 2024-2025 (year term on board expires)

Evalyn Van Allen-Shalash	President (2026) van-allen-shalash@uiowa.edu
Lois Cox	President-Elect (2027) lois-cox@uiowa.edu
Deb Cobb	Past President (2025)
Cathy Wilcox	Secretary (2027)
Todd Stewart	Treasurer (2027)
Diana Lundell	Director and Editor, <i>The Gray Hawk</i> (2026)
Rachel Stewart	Director and Webmaster (2027)
Michael Barron	Director (2026)
Chris Peterson Brus	Director (2025)
Jean Florman	Director (2026)
Mike Hovland	Director (2025)
Cindy Seyfer	Director (2027)
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 third 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>