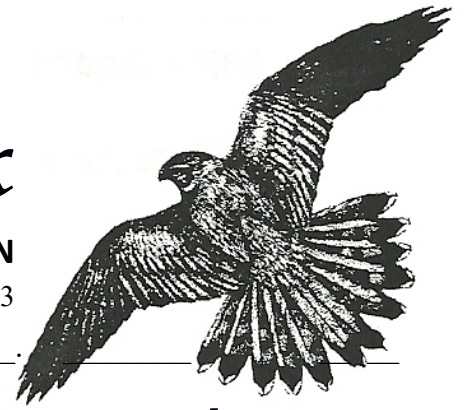


# The Gray Hawk

UNIVERSITY OF IOWA RETIREES ASSOCIATION

November 2024 • Vol. XXXI, Issue 3



## November-December UIRA Programming

### Trends in Children's Literature

Tuesday, November 12, 1:00 p.m., 1117 University Capitol Center (UCC) (**note different location**) and via Zoom. *Expect the Zoom link on Sunday, November 10. If you lose the link, contact Deb Cobb, [deborah-cobb@uiowa.edu](mailto:deborah-cobb@uiowa.edu). A light lunch will be served at 12:15 p.m. Please RSVP to Deb Cobb by Thursday, November 7 to attend lunch.*



Angela Pilkington



Molly I. Roberts

The holidays are approaching quickly! UIRA members with children on their gift lists may be wondering what books those children might enjoy. Angela Pilkington of the Iowa City Public Library and Molly Roberts of Prairie Lights Books will discuss what's new, what's popular, and what's exciting now in children's literature.

**Angela Pilkington** has served as the Children's Services coordinator at the Iowa City Public Library since June 2015 and is responsible for the Children's Room, including outreach to schools and daycares in the community. She received a BA in elementary education from North Central College and a PhD in library and information science from the University of Illinois. **Molly I. Roberts** earned BA degrees in English and journalism from the University of Iowa and has worked as the Prairie Lights children's bookseller since July 2023. A lifelong lover of children's literature, she believes books written for kids can and should be enjoyed by readers of all ages. Her favorite book is *Matilda* by Roald Dahl. She is also a short fiction writer, and her work has appeared in *Jabberwock Review*.

### Deaccession and Restitution (Stanley Museum of Art)

Thursday, November 21, 1:00 p.m., 2520-D University Capitol Center (UCC) and via Zoom. *Expect the Zoom link on Tuesday, November 19. If you lose the link, contact Deb Cobb, [deborah-cobb@uiowa.edu](mailto:deborah-cobb@uiowa.edu).*

Earlier this year, the Stanley Museum of Art became the first museum in North America to return objects in its permanent collection looted by the British from the Benin Kingdom in 1897, directly to the Oba of Benin. The formal restitution took place on July 15, 2024, at the Oba's Palace in Benin City, Nigeria. Museum Director Lauren Lessing and Curator of African

Art Cory Gundlach will discuss the ethical, cultural, and practical considerations involved in this project, and what implications they have for other American museums with collections associated with colonial contexts. (See this *Iowa Magazine* article for more information: <https://magazine.foriowa.org/story.php?ed=true&storyid=2452>.)



Lauren Lessing

**Lauren Lessing** became the eighth director of the University of Iowa Stanley Museum of Art in July 2018. Over the past year, Lessing has shaped an ambitious vision for the Stanley that includes a new mission to transform lives by connecting the University of Iowa community, Iowans, and the world with extraordinary works of art. A native Midwesterner, Lessing earned a BA in fine art at Earlham College and completed her PhD in art history at Indiana University under the guidance of Sarah Burns.

**Cory K. Gundlach** joined the University of Iowa Stanley Museum of Art as curator of African art in 2015. Gundlach holds a BA in fine art from Humboldt State University, a BA in art history from Colorado State University, and a PhD in art history from the University of Iowa. His curatorial work has received support from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, which awarded him and the Stanley's director, Dr. Lauren Lessing, \$400,000 in 2023 to oversee provenance research on the African collection for two years. He was appointed director of Iowa's African Studies Program on July 1, 2024.



Cory K. Grundlach

## A Conversation with UI President Barbara Wilson



Barbara Wilson

Tuesday, December 10, 1:00 p.m., 2520-D University Capitol Center (UCC) and via Zoom. *Expect the Zoom link on Sunday, December 8. If you lose the link, contact Deb Cobb, [deborah-cobb@uiowa.edu](mailto:deborah-cobb@uiowa.edu). A light lunch will be served at 12:15 p.m. Please RSVP to Deb Cobb by Thursday, December 5 to attend lunch.*

**Dr. Barbara J. Wilson** is the 22nd president of the University of Iowa. She earned a BA in journalism and MA and PhD degrees in communication arts from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She came to Iowa having served as the executive vice president/vice president for academic affairs of the University of Illinois System.

Prior to that, she served in several administrative positions, including interim chancellor, at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, where she was a member of the communication faculty for 21 years.

## Recent Zoom Recordings

Two recent program recordings are posted on the UI Retirees Association website at <https://uira.org.uiowa.edu/news-and-events/events-and-programs/past-events-and-programs>

- “UI Health Care Enrollment Options for UI Retirees” (October 17 program)
- “Health Insurance Decisions” (October 8 program)

## Explorers Special Interest Group

Both indoor and outdoor walks are scheduled in November. If there is inclement weather on November 14, we'll alert participants by 9:00 a.m. Please RSVP to attend one of the events below, by emailing Lesanne Fliehler, [lesanne-fliehler@uiowa.edu](mailto:lesanne-fliehler@uiowa.edu), or Alice Atkinson, [amatkinson@mchsi.com](mailto:amatkinson@mchsi.com). Details about each hike are emailed to registrants several days before the event.

■ **November 13** (Wed.), 10:00 a.m., Waterworks Park

■ **November 26** (Tues.), 10:00 a.m., Coral Ridge Mall

## Emeritus Faculty Council Lecture

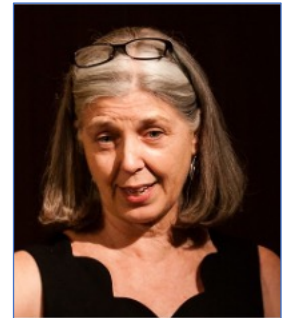
### Why Do We Want to Believe in Cross-Species Utopias— From Noah's Ark to the Latest 'Lion and the Lamb' Videos?

**Teresa Mangum**

Professor Emeritus, Departments of Gender, Women's, and  
Sexuality Studies, and English

Thursday, November 14, 4:00 p.m.

Kollros Auditorium (101 Biology Building East)



Teresa Mangum

The internet mews, barks, growls, and hisses with alleged evidence of cross-species attachment. These stories—from Genesis to Victorian animal painter Edwin Landseer's narrative paintings to the latest videos and memes—entice audiences with the promise that we can bridge and bond across species difference. But they also document what it costs animals for humans to be near them.

### Welcome to Our New UIRA Member!

Three Dog Night sang "One Is the Loneliest Number," but in this case, it's not true, Teresa. You won't be lonely! You are joining 500+ other retired faculty and staff members who are part of the UI Retirees Association. We've had more than 160 members renew their membership this fall. If you haven't, information about renewing is available on the UI Retirees Association website at <https://uira.org.uiowa.edu/membership-and-dues>. Welcome, Teresa! We hope to see you soon at an upcoming program!

**Teresa Mangum**, Departments of English and Gender, Women,  
and Sexuality Studies



*From UIRA President Evalyn Van Allen-Shalash*

## Making Connections Around the University

Greetings UI Retirees:

This communique begins with a huge THANK YOU to Pam Terrill, Steve Scheckel, and our Past President Deb Cobb for a truly wonderful afternoon at the barn party in September. Beautiful weather framed a perfect day for food and fellowship. We will plan similar gatherings in the future.

Since Covid has subsided (but still take care out there!), it's been wonderful to resurface, join the UIRA, move to the board, and now to oversee this year's activities. This position has given me a chance to reconnect with former colleagues and to make new friends.

Part of my renewal has been to meet Erin Brokel, associate director, Constituent Engagement, at the UI Center for Advancement (formerly the UI Foundation). Her sphere includes senior alumni, many of whom have been employed at the UI and are eligible for UIRA membership. I'm honored with her invitation to serve on the selection committee for the center's "Eight over Eighty" award (as seen in the October *Gray Hawk*).

I have also had the pleasure to meet Amy Chastain, executive director, "Global Ties Iowa" (<https://www.globaltiesiowa.org/impact>), and am very excited about her organization. We have provided a description above. Those of you with international experience already under your belts, or who are interested in

### Global Ties Iowa

Founded in 1985, Global Ties Iowa is a community-based nonprofit organization that creates, supports, and sustains citizen diplomacy initiatives in eastern Iowa. For decades, its programs have helped international visitors better understand the diversity of American life and culture, while also providing eastern Iowans with opportunities to better understand the world. Professionals from every corner of the globe visit eastern Iowa through government-supported exchanges. As an organization, Global Ties Iowa arranges meetings and exchange activities with visitors' professional peers, organizes cultural experiences, and coordinates volunteers to assist with all phases of the exchange.

Are you interested in citizen diplomacy and international exchanges? We encourage people of all ages and professions to join our mailing list to stay up-to-date with volunteer opportunities and local events. There are countless ways to get involved, including airport greeter, professional meeting escort, cultural excursion escort, Iowa Table Dinner host, and as a professional resource. We invite you to greet, guide, host, and give in support of a more peaceful and prosperous world!

Learn even more about Global Ties Iowa, how to get involved, and join the mailing list at <https://www.globaltiesiowa.org/volunteer>.

meeting foreign professionals visiting Iowa, may wish to volunteer for some of their activities. Opportunities change from month-to-month..

I have a personal connection to the UI International Writing Program (<https://iwp.uiowa.edu>). My late husband was the very first Egyptian, let alone writer in Arabic, to attend back in 1976. Since then, whenever possible, I have reached out to the new Egyptian writer as each new program begins in autumn. This year has been a particularly unique and superb group of talented writers from many countries who I have had the privilege to meet. If you ever have a chance to attend one of their themed panel discussions or individual readings, it's a transporting experience that I highly recommend.

I recently attended an all-day conference on "Mentoring Students." When I explained that our UIRA members are seasoned, retired faculty and staff willing to share their experiences, I was approached with enthusiasm and prospects for future occasions when you might like to participate in a discussion about your life and career journey. Please visit this site (<https://mentor.uiowa.edu/mentoring-opportunities>) for more information, but I will share details of the conference and mentoring suggestions in a future edition of *The Gray Hawk*. I hope to build a list of names of those interested in this opportunity.

All best wishes as we enter a new season of crisp air and gorgeous colors!

**REMEMBER TO VOTE on or before Tuesday, November 5!!**



Evalyn (front right) hosted a British tea party with International Writing Program participants from Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Brazil, Bangladesh, and friends from Iran and Sudan.

## ***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](mailto:lwsbws@gmail.com).

### **PINE HILL**

*By Deanne Warnholtz Wortman*

1985

After the Vets returned,  
Pine Hill, barracks in rows like corn,  
After the war, Pine Hill became our home,  
With old Fords out front  
Clotheslines strung down the grassy alleys behind,  
Our common backyard,  
Our mothers' gossip fence,  
Our playground,  
Where G.I. Bill kids played Annie-Annie-Over,  
And tag,  
And Hide 'n Seek,  
Ran dirty and shouting,  
Shrill voices mixing with radios,  
And gossip,  
And dancing diapers.

After the war, our fathers, no longer soldiers, we came to Pine Hill,  
To the barracks where men had trained for war,  
To live as families,  
To be converted, like the barracks, to a new purpose.  
Drawn up like Conestogas,  
A palisade of Pines ringing the place where we lived,  
Sighing on the edge of our settlement,  
The Pines, a gentle fence for our Kinder-Garten.

The Pines marked our demense.  
We knew them.  
We knew the ultramarine of their shade.  
We knew the wind sighing in their topmost branches,  
Touching their fingertips to earth.  
We knew the smell of fallen needles, the feel,  
Making thick carpets for secret rooms.  
We knew the Owls,  
Their castings of small bones, reconstructed, produced a perfect mouse for science.

We knew the pathways and where they led;  
Down to the stream and the willows for swinging,  
Along the crest to Monument Hill with its stele shining,  
And all the other hills, each uninhabited.

We knew where the Swamp Mallows, Jewel Weed, Poison Ivy, Tiger Lillies grew.  
We knew how to catch Crayfish and where to camp in Winter.  
We knew unhappy children with strange names who chewed pork chop bones after the meat,  
Who cried tears of gratitude for a gift of clothing,  
Who spoke little English,  
Who had lived in Latvia before,  
Before they were displaced,  
Before they came to live with us,  
Before our fathers had become soldiers  
Before the barracks had been converted to a new purpose.

Now on Pine Hill grass covers our foundations, overgrows the road.  
The ring of Pines breached by silence.  
Black Eyed Susans gambol in the grassy alleys that were our playground.  
Wild grapes hang on the Honeysuckle.  
We are gone,  
The refugees,  
The Fords,  
The clotheslines,  
The gossip,  
The G.I. Bill kids,  
And our fathers.  
On the map there is an empty space where we used to live.

A refugee from another kind of war, you have come to tell me of your loneliness.  
You, too, are a refugee bending to a new purpose.  
You, too, will leave Pine Hill, hemmed in by Pines, inhabited by grasses,  
You too will leave it to the Owls.

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

**Piano Sundays at the Old Capitol**, Sunday, November 3, 1:30 p.m., Old Capitol Museum. This concert is free and open to the public.

<https://music.uiowa.edu/event/143821/0>

**Write at the Stanley: A Generative Writing Workshop**, Sunday, November 24, 2:30-4:15 p.m. Join us monthly to generate new creative writing inspired by works in the Stanley collection. Each session will be led by a different talented writer from our area, who will be offering a new prompt and a new approach to ekphrastic writing (writing inspired by visual art). <https://stanleymuseum.uiowa.edu/event/149301/2>

**Holiday Shopping at Hancher**. Consider doing at least some of your holiday shopping at the Hancher Showcase. The shop features unique gift items, and proceeds support Hancher's educational programs. The showcase is open from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday through the end of the year.

# IOWA

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

Evalyn Van Allen-Shalash	President (2026) <a href="mailto:van-allen-shalash@uiowa.edu">van-allen-shalash@uiowa.edu</a>
Lois Cox	President-Elect (2027) <a href="mailto:lois-cox@uiowa.edu">lois-cox@uiowa.edu</a>
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)
Bernard Sorofman	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](mailto:ui-ra@uiowa.edu)  
Website: <https://uira.org.uiowa.edu>