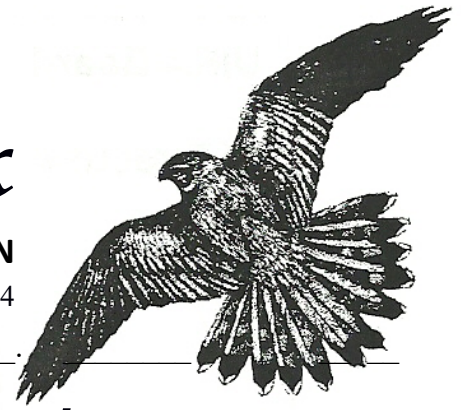


The Gray Hawk

UNIVERSITY OF IOWA RETIREES ASSOCIATION

December 2024 • Vol. XXXI, Issue 4



December UIRA Programming

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. 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](#).

- “Trends in Children’s Literature” (November 12 program)
- “Deaccession and Restitution” (November 21 program)

Explorers

Please RSVP to attend December’s walk by emailing one of the coordinators: Lesanne Fliehler, lesanne-fliehler@uiowa.edu, or Alice Atkinson, amatkinson@mchsi.com. Details about the walk will be emailed to registrants a day or two in advance.

- **December 12** (Thursday), 10:00 a.m., Terry Trueblood Recreational Area



Angela Pilkington (left), Children’s Services coordinator at the Iowa City Public Library, and Molly Roberts (right), Prairie Lights children’s bookseller, shared information about popular children’s books (yes, even graphic novels) that UIRA members could give this holiday season.

From UIRA President Evalyn Van Allen-Shalash

Share Your Knowledge & Experience as a Mentor

Is it just me, or does it seem that time flies faster in retirement than in our former work week? It's hard to believe it is already December.

I recently attended an all-day conference on "Mentoring Students," sponsored by the Division of Student Life and the Office of the Provost. It was an engaging day with a wide variety of topics addressed. There were hundreds of participants, including faculty, staff, and alumni, all committed to the crucial role of guiding students toward personal and professional growth. Because UIRA is a large group of experienced and savvy former employees who bolstered and sustained this educational institution, I wanted to learn how retirees might best contribute to the cause. I was met with enthusiasm for our involvement.

Members of panel discussions spoke candidly about their career paths, highlighting the struggles and mistakes they made along the way, juggling potential job opportunities, and how they faced a new life of employment and responsibility. An overarching suggestion was to convey to the student that they are not alone on their journey.

Presenters encouraged mentors to discuss realistic opportunities for students in their planned career path, and, where appropriate, to broaden their thinking about job possibilities. A starter conversation might include suggesting that students "self-analyze" and ask, "What do you value?" "What kind of work environment would you enjoy?" Some suggestions for stress management are also welcomed.

I believe pursuing this mentoring exchange with students would be a very positive and rewarding experience for retirees. For more information, visit the [UI mentoring website](#). Let me know if interested, and I'll share a list of names with the staff there.

There were some specific opportunities presented to me at the conference, including the "John Deere Scholars High School Program: Unlocking Opportunities" for 20 qualifying high school seniors from Davenport who plan to attend the University of Iowa. They will be selected in January 2025 and the organizer welcomes retiree participation in the mentorship of the students. There will be opportunities when they visit campus, but I do not have any dates yet. Others include a variety of biology topics for undergraduates in laboratories. There's a need to gauge where students are and where they want to go. And, within Political Science, it was encouraged to help identify student interest and diverse pathways for career possibilities.

As always, you are encouraged to **submit personal reflections** to share with other members. Also, **if you would like to nominate someone for us to highlight in a future newsletter**, please let us know.

Best wishes for a season filled with joy and peace, surrounded by loved ones.

Senior College Lineup for Spring Semester 2025

The 12 Senior College courses for spring semester will cover a range of topics. There's a course for everyone—from the history of Jerusalem to American landscape art, from brain myths to a Shakespeare play.

Registration Details

Monday, January 6: Course descriptions, dates, times, and instructor information will be available on the [Senior College webpage](#).

Monday, January 13: Registration opens at 9:00 a.m.

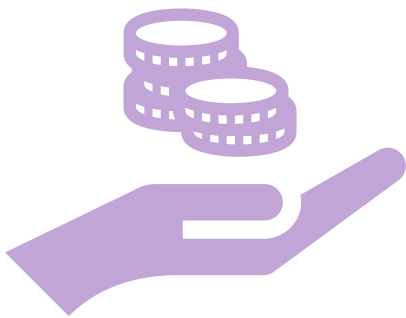
End-of-Year Giving Suggestions

Hunger and lack of basic needs shouldn't stand in the way of being a successful Hawkeye. If you're considering end-of-year contributions, consider helping UI students.

Food Pantry: Of the students who use the Food Pantry, 58% report being hungry but not having eaten due to lack of money for food. The UI Food Pantry provides nutritious food and necessities to UI students, faculty, and staff. The pantry is in need of hygiene products, pet food, and non-perishable items. Monetary donations are always welcome. Learn more on [the pantry's website](#).

Clothing Closet: The Clothing Closet provides students with access to quality, new or used, professional clothing at no cost. Please ensure all donated items do not have stains, rips, etc. If you don't have any clothes of your own to donate, you can purchase items through its Amazon Wish List. Learn more on [the closet's website](#).

UIRA Scholarship: UIRA members give approximately \$2,000 annually to the need-based UIRA Scholarship Fund during One Day for Iowa event in the spring, but there's no reason not to contribute now. Our fund has typically been given to at least one, if not two, students each year. To donate, visit the [Center for Advancement webpage](#). Click on Make a Gift, then select Student/Campuswide Support, and scroll down to the UIRA Scholarship Fund.



New UIRA Members

Welcome to our new members this month! We hope to see you at one of our upcoming events soon!

Joni Kinsey, Art History and Design

Karen Reiland, UIHC Nursing Service



Gray Hawk Writers

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 lbsbws@gmail.com.

'Twas the Night Before Christmas

By Judy Terry

(With Apologies to Dr. Clement Clarke Moore)

'Twas the night before Christmas and all through the house
ALL the creatures were stirring, especially the mouse.
Their stockings were hung by the chimney with care.
Hoping Santa soon would be there.

The children, now grown, snuggled their loves in the beds,
No visions of sugar plums danced in their heads.

And Dad in his tux and mom in her gown
Were having an evening out on the town
They would be home by dawn, full of good cheer,
Credit the champagne, the wine, and the beer.

Back at the house, Head Mouse, Luther called for the family,
It was safe to come out, he said, let's have some candy!
They gathered around the tree, singing, eating, and being free!

When out on the lawn there was a soft noise
Santa's sleigh landed with the greatest of poise
His team was small, but very strong.
He called them by name and never was wrong.

Whoa, Mighty, and Minnie, Mickey and Jerry and
three blind ones in front, Susie, Larry and Harry.
The mice in the house gave a big cheer.
Christmas had come, presents, Santa was here.

There was Gouda for all, Swiss, too,
Lindberg for Grandpa, for Grandma her favorite blue
The children loved cheddar and cottage was just great
For making snowballs, the best fun to date.

Then singing was heard, it gave them a fright
Santa gathered his team and said I must take flight
He called "Happy Christmas"
and flew into the dark night.

The singing went on, it must be a carol
But they didn't remember one ending with barrel.

Footsteps were heard on the stairs, then, all was still.
The mice went to sleep, having eaten their fill.

'Twas the night before Christmas! But now all through the house.
Not a creature was stirring, not even that mouse.

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
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Diana Lundell	Director and Editor, <i>The Gray Hawk</i> (2026)
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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](#) [Website](#)