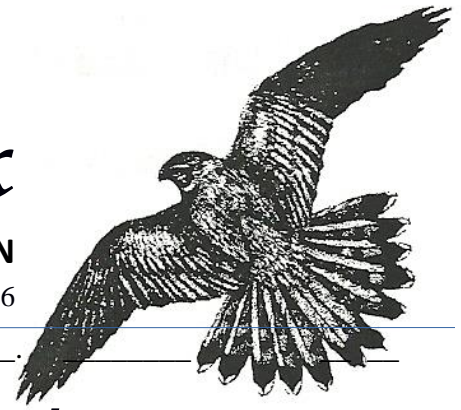


The Gray Hawk

UNIVERSITY OF IOWA RETIREES ASSOCIATION

February 2025 • Vol. XXXI, Issue 6



February UIRA Programming

Money Management for Seniors



Clark Buelt

Tuesday, February 11, 1:00 p.m., 2520-D University Capitol Center (UCC) and via Zoom. *Expect the Zoom link on Sunday, February 9. If you lose the link, contact Lois Cox, lois-cox@uiowa.edu. A light lunch from Oasis Falafel will be served at 12:15 p.m. Please RSVP to Lois Cox by February 8 to attend lunch.*

Clark Buelt, wealth management advisor with TIAA Financial Services, will talk with us about financial decisions retirees make, some of the options open to us, and considerations that might influence our choices. He will draw on his experience working with university retirees, but his remarks will also have a general application. There will be time for questions toward the end of the presentation. Clark would also welcome questions submitted in advance. Please direct such

questions to Lois Cox at lois-cox@uiowa.edu.

Clark Buelt grew up on an Iowa farm and is a graduate of Iowa State University. He has worked in the financial planning industry for almost 30 years in the Cedar Rapids/Iowa City area. He has been with TIAA for about 10 years and works in the Coralville office at Iowa River Landing. At TIAA, he assists clients with investment allocation, retirement income planning, and estate planning. In helping clients to develop retirement strategies, he uses a wide array of investments including stocks, bonds, mutual funds, and annuities. His goal is to help clients find clarity and build confidence in retirement.

Theater in the Corridor

Tuesday, March 11, 1:00 p.m., Riverside Theatre, 119 E. College St. (entrance on the Pedestrian Mall). *Light refreshments will be served.*

Riverside Theatre's Producing Artistic Director Adam Knight will lead a panel discussion of theater professionals from the Cedar Rapids/Coralville/Iowa City area. Panel members will touch on types of theater organizations and theatrical performances in the Corridor, as well as the joys and challenges of working



Adam Knight

in the theater. There will be time for questions and comments from attendees, and a backstage tour will be available at the end of the program.

Adam Knight joined Riverside Theatre in fall 2018, after 17 years in New York City. He was founder and co-artistic director of Slant Theatre Project, an Off-Off Broadway company that produced more than two dozen world premieres, working with a large roster of emerging artists. Past directing includes Alabama Shakespeare Festival, Ensemble Studio Theatre, Folger Shakespeare Theatre, and Williamstown Theatre Festival. He received a bachelor's degree in theater from the University of Evansville.

Coming Attractions

The Program Planning Committee has fun and informative programs planned for April and May, so hold those days and times on your calendar now! Look for details on these programs and more in future issues of *The Gray Hawk*.

■ **Spring Campus Building Update and Bus Tour** with Senior Vice President of Finance and Operations Rod Lehnertz (Tuesday, April 8, starting about 1 p.m.)

■ **Athletic Compliance** with Associate Director of Compliance Andy Banse (Thursday, April 17, 1-2 p.m.)

■ **Campus Tree Tour** with Urban Forest Supervisor Andy Dahl (Tuesday, May 13, 1-2:30 p.m.)

Emeritus Faculty Council Lecture

Going Feral: Animal Studies Scholarship in Retirement and Retrospect

Mary Trachsel

Associate Professor Emerita, Rhetoric

Thursday, February 20, 4:00 p.m.

Kollros Auditorium (101 Biology Building East)

This lecture traces Mary Trachsel's studies on cross-species communication from analyses of ape language research in the early 2000s to investigation of other interspecies language types, such as horse whispering and the telepathy professed by animal communicators. Her current research on human-wild animal relationships has entailed wolf-tracking in Yellowstone, a "women and wolves" workshop in the Boundary Waters, observation of feral horses out west, and visits to wildlife "encounter" sites. Trachsel considers "going feral" a metaphor for her life in retirement.



Mary Trachsel

From UIRA President Evalyn Van Allen-Shalash

Welcome to February 2025!

As we settle into the new year and remembering to write 2025, this month brings a rich variety of celebrations and observances. February is recognized as both [Black History Month](#) and [American Heart Month](#), highlighting both cultural heritage and health awareness. Another notable event is Groundhog Day (February 2), when Punxsutawney Phil arises from his winter slumber. With great anticipation, we hope that it will be a cloudy day and that he does not see his shadow, which traditionally forecasts an early spring.

“February” is derived from the Latin word “februa,” meaning “to cleanse,” inspiring reflection, renewal, and preparation for the year ahead. As we embrace these aspirations, the UIRA is thrilled to move forward with plans to commemorate our 30th anniversary. To make this milestone truly memorable, we encourage members to share ideas and submit reflections on their careers or experiences since retirement.

The Big Ten Retirees Association reports that member reflections are among the most popular features in their newsletters (see **Chris Atchison’s** Reflections submission in the box above). We also hope to spotlight individual members and invite your

Reflections

Submitted by Christopher G. Atchison

“The University of Iowa College of Public Health was established in 1999 with the goal of aligning research and education to produce better health policy. One of the first demonstrations of this vision was marked by Gov. Tom Vilsack making the announcement of his tobacco settlement policy at the college in May 2000. Behind the governor in this photo from left to right were Iowa House Representative Ro Foege, Dean of the College Jim Merchant, and Associate Dean Christopher Atchison.”



Reflections is a new feature in *The Gray Hawk*. 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 newsletter. You may send submissions to Evalyn Van Allen-Shalash at van-allen-shalash@uiowa.edu.

nominations. Please send your reflections or the names and contact information for potential contributors to me at van-allen-shalash@uiowa.edu.

The **Program Planning Committee** is hard at work arranging events for the second semester and several of these will feature lunch and social time. In February we will host Clark Buel, TIAA advisor, speaking on “Money Management for Seniors.” (See details on page 1 with a link to registering for lunch catered by Oasis Falafel.)

Leaders of the **UIRA Membership, Awards, Nominating, and Budget committees** have been named and will be reaching out to invite our members to join one of these groups. I encourage you to accept an invitation to serve on one of these committees. But you don’t have to wait to be invited, let us know if you are interested in being a member of one of the committees! Contributing just a few minutes of your time as a UIRA committee member can be both personally fulfilling and highly beneficial to fellow UI retirees. Your participation would be most welcome.

The **Nominating Committee** is busy identifying candidates for president-elect and two board positions. Please contact **Mike Hovland** to let him know if you are interested in serving or would like to nominate someone for these important roles (michael-hovland@uiowa.edu).

Thank you for your ongoing interest in the UIRA, especially in our quest to share interesting and stimulating information with members and to continue aid in support of student success.

President-Elect and Board Member Nominations

UIRA is accepting nominations for president-elect as well as some three-year positions on the Board of Directors, with terms beginning in fall 2025. Please send names and contact information (for yourself or others) to michael-hovland@uiowa.edu by March 1.

Explorers Walking Group

To all hearty Explorers (and anyone else who would like to join us), we’ll attempt to walk outside in February, so pull out the layers of clothing and join us! Please RSVP to attend by emailing Lesanne Fliehler, lesanne-fliehler@uiowa.edu. Details about the walk will be emailed to registrants a day or two in advance. If the weather isn’t conducive, look for an email about 9:00 a.m. on the day of the walk with information about an alternative location. **Note: These are at 2:00 p.m., hoping it’s a bit warmer in the afternoon**

- **February 6** (Thursday), 2:00 p.m., Crandic Park, 51 Rocky Shore Drive, Iowa City
- **February 25** (Tuesday), 2:00 p.m., Tom Harkin Trailhead, Coralville

UIRA Photo Contest

The 2025 UIRA Photo Contest is now open! We are proud and thankful to say that Hills Bank & Trust Company is our sponsor again this year. Contest rules and procedures are featured below; please review them carefully. We hope you will submit your photos!

☐ Photographs must have been taken within two years before this year's deadline—so between March 15, 2023, to March 15, 2025.

☐ There is no restriction on the content of photos. They may involve people, places, nature, things, etc.

☐ Photographs must be submitted in digital format, JPEG or JPG, 5 megabytes maximum. No print or film submissions will be accepted.

☐ Photos need not be taken with a digital camera; scans of negatives, transparencies, or photographic prints are acceptable.

☐ Minor adjustments, including spotting, dodging, and burning, sharpening, contrast and slight color adjustment or the digital equivalents, are acceptable. Photos may be cropped. Digitally enhanced or altered photos will not be accepted.

☐ Entrants may submit up to four photos in the contest, one in each of the categories.

☐ Disguising or misrepresenting the origin of content is cause for disqualification.

☐ Previously submitted photos may not be entered in subsequent contests.

CATEGORIES

☐ Iowa—photos taken in the state of Iowa

☐ United States—photos taken in the U.S., but outside Iowa

☐ International—photos taken outside of the U.S.

☐ University of Iowa—photos taken on the University of Iowa campus or affiliated areas (e.g., Lakeside Lab, Oakdale campus, Macbride Field Campus)

SUBMITTING PHOTOS

Photos should be sent via email to **Diana Lundell** at dianalundell@gmail.com. Photos will not be accepted through the U.S. mail.

Contest Details

Eligibility: All current UIRA members except those directly involved in managing the contest.

Photo Categories:

- ☐ Iowa—photos taken in the state of Iowa
- ☐ United States—photos taken in the U.S., but outside Iowa
- ☐ International—photos taken outside U.S.
- ☐ University of Iowa—photos taken on the UI campus or affiliated areas (e.g., Lakeside Lab, Oakdale campus, Macbride Field Campus, etc.)

Entry Deadline: March 15, 2025

Entry Fee: None

Sponsors: UIRA, Hills Bank & Trust Co.



When submitting photos, an entrant must include (1) their name, (2) email address, (3) number of photos submitted, (4) category in which each photo is to be judged, and (5) brief captions for each photo. While brief, captions should be complete and accurate and describe the contents of the photos.

Submitted photos are final and may not be modified, edited, or replaced.

JUDGING AND CRITERIA

Judging will be done by professional photographers not affiliated with the UIRA.

There are three criteria:

- Originality—Each photo must be original, that is, the work of the entrant.
- Creativity—Creative photos diverge from traditional methods of presenting ideas and messages, due perhaps to an unexpected angle or focus on a detail usually ignored.
- Photo Quality—High-quality photos are well composed with a clear focal point. Unless special effects are intended, photos should not be blurry or overly dark or light.

WINNERS & PRIZES

Monetary prizes are awarded in each category for 1st (\$40), 2nd (\$25), and 3rd (\$10) places. To honor as many entrants as possible, each entrant may win only one prize.

Winners will be announced after March 31. Winning photos are posted on the UIRA website, published in *The Gray Hawk*, and will be displayed at one or more branches of Hills Bank & Trust.

LIABILITIES & RIGHTS

Entrants retain ownership of and all copyright and other intellectual property rights for their photos.

By entering the contest, entrants acknowledge that submitted photos are original works created solely by the entrant, that the photograph does not infringe on the copyrights, trademarks, moral rights, rights of privacy/publicity or intellectual property rights of any person or entity, and that no other party has any right, title, claim, or interest in the photograph.

The UIRA assumes no liability or responsibility for any loss or harm resulting from any user's participation in or attempt to participate in the contest or ability or inability to upload, download, or otherwise access any information in connection with the contest.



One Day for Iowa

Mark your calendars! One Day for Iowa, the UI's 24-hour online giving day, is Wednesday, March 26, 2025. Each year UIRA members have contributed about \$2,000 to the UIRA Scholarship Fund. More information will be published in the March issue of *The Gray Hawk*.

Nominate Two for UIRA's Service Awards

Each year two UIRA members are honored for their volunteer service post-retirement. The Community Service Award honors a UIRA member for service to the community at large and the University Service Award honors a UIRA member for service to the university. Any UIRA member may submit a nomination.

Nominations are due Wednesday, March 5, 2025, to the Awards Committee via Committee Chair **Michael Barron** at michael-barron@uiowa.edu. Contact Michael for more information and criteria for the nominations.

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 lwsbws@gmail.com.

Nancy, Carolyn, and Me

By Judy Hill Terry

Being the recipient recently of some thirty-five Nancy Drew books, ranging from 1930 to 1959, most with original blue cloth covers, almost all with their original jacket, I knew I was hooked on them, just as I was when I was nine years old and graduated from the Bobbsey Twins to Nancy and George, Bess, Ned, Hannah, and Carson and their creator, Carolyn Keene.

The memory I have of reading these books as a child is admiring Nancy Drew's exciting life, her looks, her blue roadster, and her intelligence, but also admiring Carolyn Keene. I liked that she created this brave, smart, daring girl who flew around town in an open car and got herself in scary places with scary people. Girls were supposed to be shy, quiet, not as smart as boys, and certainly more ladylike than this girl.

I wanted to be Nancy Drew, but I, also, wanted to be Carolyn Keene.

We know now that Carolyn Keene was a pseudonym. Many men and women ghost-wrote under this name, but Iowa's own Mildred Wirt Benson wrote the biggest share of the Nancy Drew mysteries.

Benson grew up in Ladora, Iowa, on a farm, and was adventurous and independent, perhaps the model for this famous character. She was a swimmer, played golf, and even earned her pilot's license. At fourteen she had a short story published.

She was a journalism major at the University of Iowa and in 1927 was the first female to graduate from that program.

Then marriage, graduate school, and a job with a publishing company. She was hired to write the first Nancy Drew book at age 24 and she then wrote 23 of the first 30 books. However, she could not tell anyone. Benson and the other authors were sworn to secrecy so the face behind the author could remain a mystery.

Benson was paid \$125 for her first book, written in 1930. That seems a paltry sum, but this was the depression. Today that would be equal to about \$2800. She was never paid more than \$125 for each book and she wrote her last one in 1953.

Benson said about the character, Nancy Drew that she thought (and I quote) "girls were just waiting for Nancy and waiting for someone to verbalize it."

Mildred Benson lived to be 96 years old and died in 2002. Including the Nancy Drew books, she wrote more than 100 novels, some ghostwritten, some under other pseudonyms and some under Mildred Wirt Benson.



New Members

Janet Findlater, UIHC Department of Nursing

Judy Saluri, UI Office of Admissions

Peter Ylvisaker, Tippie College of Business

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)
Minnetta Gardinier	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](#)