

ERA offers tours, programs, opportunities to see old friends and make new ones

By President Larry Dlugosh

It is a great time to be retired and to enjoy the benefits of a truly remarkable time of life. Retirees today are vibrant, interested and engaged in all kinds of innovative and stimulating activities. Most retirees want to expand their knowledge by engaging with other curious individuals to explore new scenarios. Retirement is the beginning of a very exciting time where the workday gives way to "my day" and all the prospects that brings to mind.

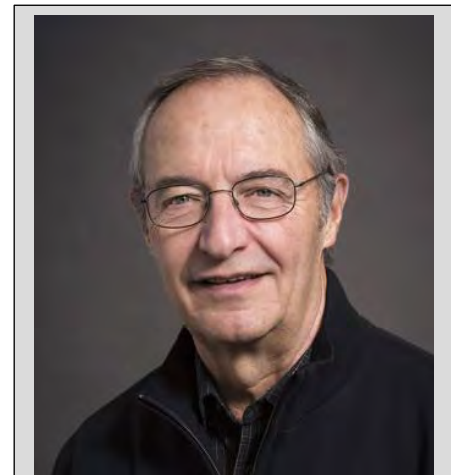
The UNL Emeriti and Retirees Association provides members with opportunities to stay connected and enjoy the camaraderie of colleagues by becoming engaged in the many activities offered by their retirement association.

- The ERA Program Committee schedules interesting speakers for the monthly general membership luncheons and has planned a great lineup for this coming winter and spring.
- The Educational Activities Committee schedules outstanding tours of UNL spaces as well as tours beyond the borders of UNL.
- ERA coffees attract a large number of members who enjoy touching base with each other in a relaxed setting.

In addition to luncheons, tours and coffees there are plenty of possibilities for involvement, and we hope you will take advantage of them. You can keep up to date by using the ERA website (emeriti-retirees.unl.edu) for more information.

I am pleased to announce that the ERA Scholarship Fund has exceeded its \$60,000 goal, which allows the organization to support at least two fully endowed scholarships. Additionally, at its December 2023 strategic planning session, the ERA Board of Directors set a new goal to establish a need-based scholarship, which will allow the ERA to fund even more scholarships for UNL students.

A heartfelt thank you to Linda Major for her positive leadership as president of the ERA in 2023 and to outgoing board member Alice Henneman, who provided direction for the ERA newsletter and conducted a survey of members to collect



Larry Dlugosh, ERA 2024 president

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Please continue to page 2 for more of the President's Message and the board's five goals for 2024.

ideas about their wants and needs. Alice was an engaged and attentive board member. I also want to acknowledge and welcome four new board members, Pam Edwards, Connie Boehm, Marjorie Kostelnik and Vicki Highstreet. Pam is the 2024 vice president; Connie will become the editor of the ERA Newsletter; Marjorie will serve as co-chair of the ERA Awards Committee; and Vicki will serve as chair of the Campus Engagement Committee. Additional thanks go to all the ongoing board members who continue to provide thoughtful leadership for the organization.

We hope to see you at one of the ERA activities this winter and next fall. If you are interested in serving on a committee or becoming an ERA board member, please contact me at larrydlugosh@gmail.com. A brief description of each committee's responsibilities is posted on the ERA website at emerit-retirees.unl.edu/board. Please continue to make us part of your 2024 plans.

2024 ERA goals

At the December 2023 strategic planning session, the ERA Board of Directors prioritized five goals for 2024. They are:

1. Increase the diversity of the ERA membership to reflect UNL programs, disciplines, race, gender and national origin.
2. Implement an electronic dues and registration payment system.
3. By the spring of 2027, provide a need-based scholarship fund. (The immediate goal is a minimum of \$90,000.)
4. Validate a "brand" for ERA that will assist in the promotion of the organization.
5. Mentor and connect with pre-retirees and early retirees.

The ERA Board will add a measurability factor to each goal and identify actions to ensure the completion of the goals. It will be necessary to form action planning committees to provide a blueprint to carry out the goals. My hope is to engage members to help put the final touches on the goals. I invite you to let me know if you are interested in working on the action planning team for any of the goals. Please contact me at larrydlugosh@gmail.com. We welcome your expertise.

'My hope is to engage members to help put the final touches on the goals.'

I am interested in several additional ideas such as expanding committee membership numbers, increasing the visibility of the ERA within the university and the community and increasing the number of members in ERA activities. It will be a busy year with lots of great activities already planned and more on the way. Thanks for being a valued member.

Welcome, new Emeriti and Retirees Association members!

By Don Weeks, membership chair



Welcome to these new ERA members who joined from July 21, 2023, through December 31, 2023. If you joined during that time period but do not see your name, please contact me at dweeks1@unl.edu so that we can include you in the next newsletter.

- Jonis Agee**, English
Sylvana M. Airan, College of Agricultural Science and Natural Resources
Lonnie S. Albers, Athletics
Tekeste Alem, University Operations Custodial Services
Rachel F. Allison, Nebraska Forest Service
Michael J. Arthur, Athletics
Kristie L. Baack, Student Leadership, Involvement, Community Engagement
Kristi K. Barmore, Facilities Planning and Construction
Laurie H. Bellows, Student Affairs
Jeffrey W. Bergman, Animal Science
Paul H. Blum, School of Biological Sciences
Robert W. Bodfield, University Operations Print and Mail Services
Christina Brantner, Modern Languages and Literatures
Bruce W. Brodersen, Veterinary and Biomedical Sciences
Donald L. Buresh Sr., University Operations Landscape Services
Robert A. Burton, Athletics
David A. Cassada, Water Center
Kenneth Cejka, Animal Science
Catherine P. Chia, School of Biological Sciences
Lavergne L. Chramosta, University Operations Custodial Services
Roy L. Cole, Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture
Linda K. Cole, Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture
Marian Coleman, Residence Life
Kevin E. Collier, Dining Service
Kathleen P. Cue, Cooperative Extension Division
Charles Daniel, School of Computing
Sharon K. Devor, Housing Facilities Custodial
Marko Djukic, Housing Facilities Custodial
Lynn M. Doser, Sheldon Museum of Art
Katherine S. Ellis, AVE Business Center
Gregory A. Florea, University Operations Print and Mail Services
Thomas G. Franti, Biological Systems Engineering
Mitchell B. Gerlach, University Operations Husker Energy and Power
Herman Gesch Jr., Athletics
Richard E. Goodman, Food Science and Technology
Patrick Jay Goracke, Nebraska East Union
Marilyn L. Grady, Educational Administration
William M. Grange, Johnny Carson School of Theatre and Film
Rhonda S. Griess, School of Biological Sciences
Jelena P. Gude, Office of the Executive Vice Chancellor
Debbie S. Haas, Financial Services
Larry S. Haisch, UNMC College of Dentistry
Bruce W. Haley, VP for Business and Finance
Ralph E. Hammack Jr., University Television
Kathryn J. Hanford, Statistics
Kevin E. Herbel, Athletics
Mark A. Hoistad, Architecture
Barb Hoppe, Agricultural Economics
Kempton M. Horken, Veterinary Diagnostic Center
Denise L. Howell, Athletics
Cynthia A. Hruza, Payroll Services
Thomas E. Hunt, Entomology
Sheri L. Hurlbut, Teaching, Learning and Teacher Education
Robert W. Hurlbut, University Operations Custodial Services
Robert W. Hutkins, Food Science and Technology
John Ingram, Athletics
Barbara J. Jackson, Munroe-Meyer Institute Education and Child Development
Scott D. Jacobson, Athletics
Larry S. James, Informational Technology Client Services
Susan M. Jensen, Management
Mary Ann Johnson, Nutrition and Health Sciences
Marilyn Patricia Johnson, Mathematics
Randy D. Jones, Informational Technology Infrastructure Services
Tommi F. Jones, Animal Science
Stephen D. Kachman, Statistics
Bev Kellor, Undergrad Admissions
Debra A. Klimes, Center for Science, Math and Computer Education
John P. Knape, University Television
Cynthia M. Krittenbrink, Nebraska Center for Research on Youth, Family and School



Continued on next page

Debra D. Kuligowski, Dining Services
Danny L. Ladely, Mary Riepma Ross Media Arts Center
Rebecca L. Lamphiear, Nebraska Extension
Engagement Zone 6
Meg Lauerman, University Communications
Lidia Leija, Housing Facilities Custodial
Emily Levine, Nebraska Forest Service
Jim Lewis, Mathematics
Gentry L. Lewis, Veterinary and Biomedical Sciences
Vicki L. Lill, College of Law
Randy J. Markwardt, Nebraska Forest Service
Robert Mathiasen, Graduate Studies, Online
and Distance Education
Michael G. McCaugherty, University Operations
Custodial Services
Lance J. Meinke, Entomology
Samuel J. Meisels, Buffett Early Childhood Institute
Connie L. Mendoza, Lied Center for Performing Arts
Joan Marie Mendoza-Gorham, TRIO Programs
Ali Moeller, Teaching, Learning and Teacher
Education
Massoum Moussavi, Civil and Environmental
Engineering-Omaha
Rodney Moxley, Veterinary and Biomedical Sciences
Hoa T. Nguyen, University Operations Custodial Services
Rex A. Nielsen, Panhandle Research and Extension
Center
Steven W. Niemeyer, Nebraska Extension Engagement
Zone 2
Jennifer S. Nixon, Nebraska Extension Engagement
Zone 1
Soheila Nouredini, Payroll Services
Rick W. Patrick, Panhandle Research and Extension
Center
Diana J. Pilson, School of Biological Sciences
Katherine A. Pinkerton, Research-Responsibility
Animal Care
M. Kathleen Prochaska-Cue, Child, Youth and Family
Studies
Joanne M. Puchalla, Scholarships and Financial Aid
John W. Raible, Teaching, Learning and Teacher
Education
Dawn M. Rammaha, Program in English as a
Second Language
Brett C. Ratcliffe, Entomology
Rebecca G. Richardson-Carlson, Plant Pathology
Terrance Riordan, Agronomy and Horticulture
Mary Ann Rittenhouse, Nebraska College of Technical
Agriculture
Clifford D. Ritz, Informational Technology Infrastructure
Services
Mark J. Robertson, University Police
Martha L. Rowe, Agronomy and Horticulture
Michael Ruhrdanz, Information Technology Services
Michael J. Scheel, Educational Psychology
James Schiefelbein, Career Services
Robert F. Schopp, College of Law
Ellin Siegel, Special Education and Communications
Disorders
Lisa M. Spilker, 4-H Youth Development
Suzanne R. Stroud, Bursar
Kathryn Swanson, Athletics
Thomas F. Swanson, University Press
Thomas J. Trompeter, Knoll Residential Center-Willa
Cather Dining
Christopher Y. Tuan, Civil and Environmental
Engineering-Omaha
Fred Urdiales, IANR Media
Chung T. Van, University Operations Custodial Services
Joseph Weber, Journalism
Steve R. Westerholt, Statistics
Luree Wiese, Agronomy and Horticulture
Richard Wiese, Agronomy and Horticulture
Emily Wilber, Career Services
Michael Wilford, USMARC
Wayne Woldt, Biological Systems Engineering
Nancy S. Woodward, University Operations Print
and Mail Services
Richard L. Woollen, Nebraska Forest Service
Robert J. Wright, Entomology
John A. Yerger, University Operations Print
and Mail Services
Ronald E. Yoder, Biological Systems Engineering
Gerald A. Zeiszler, Instructional Technology Application
and Development
Tianjing Zha, Animal Science
Cynthia E. Zluticky, Cooperative Extension Division

ERA UNL student scholarship donations reach goal

Over the past years, ERA members' contributions pushed the scholarship fund total over the endowment threshold. That means one \$1,000 scholarship can be awarded this year to a UNL sophomore or junior. With current donations at over \$60,000, ERA can award two scholarships in the future.

The \$1,000 ERA UNL student scholarship is need-based and awarded to a sophomore or junior, recognizing that there are fewer scholarship opportunities for second- and third-year students than for freshmen. The Office of Scholarships and Financial Aid selects scholarship recipients.



At the ERA 2023 annual luncheon meeting, Chancellor Bennett expressed his appreciation for the ERA endowed scholarship and said that for some students even a scholarship as small as \$300 may be the deciding factor in whether a student can afford to go to college.

Dozens of ERA members build the scholarship fund

The UNL Emeriti and Retirees Association extends thanks to this list of donors provided from the NU Foundation. The list includes donors who contributed for the first time or made additional contributions during the period of February 1 through July 15, 2023.

As little as \$300 may be the deciding factor in whether a student can afford to go to college
– UNL Chancellor Bennett

Some donors have given more than one time during this time period; however, donors are listed only once rather than separately for each individual donation. If a donation was designated as a memorial, that is listed next to the donor's name.

NOTE: Donors do not appear on the Foundation list until they have been processed, regardless of when donations were received. The list includes donors who were processed by the Foundation as of July 16 through January 15.

- Linda and David Boeckner
- Dr. and Mrs. Kenneth Cassman
- Larry and Janice Dlugosh
- Pamela Edwards
- Sue Gildersleeve
- James Griesen
- Connie and Donald Hancock
- Paul and Aldine Harmon
- Earl and Stacey Hawkey
- Alice Henneman and Dave Palm
- Vicki Highstreet
- Doug Jose and Kay Easley
- Lois Mayo
- H. Darlene and Neal Pohlman
- Gordon Scholz
- Dr. Harriet Turner
- UNL Emeriti and Retirees Association

Grace Nguyen is ERA's first scholarship winner

The first individual selected to receive a \$1000 scholarship. UNL Emeriti and Retirees Association Scholarship is Grace Nguyen. A resident of Lincoln, she is a UNL sophomore and a graduate of Pius X High School. Grace is currently admitted to the Explore Center on a pre-medicine track. The ERA members extend their congratulations to Grace.



NEW! You can now donate to the UNL Emeriti and Retirees Association scholarship fund anytime at: emeriti-retirees.unl.edu/donate

Member profile

Kim Hachiya keeps writing, editing, volunteering

By Kim Hachiya

Since fully retiring from the university in 2014, I have contributed as either a writer or editor to three different University of Nebraska Press publications: “Big House on the Prairie,” 2016; “Dear Old Nebraska U,” 2019; and “The Nebraska Sandhills,” forthcoming in 2024.

I am affiliated with Platte Basin Timelapse in the School of Natural Resources as a volunteer editor/mentor, and I help teach a conservation storytelling class. In 2019, I earned a Nebraska Master Naturalist certification, which involved spending a week at Cedar Point Biological Station, taking classes about the natural world.

That certification led me to engage with the Platte Basin Timelapse group. (<https://plattebasintimelapse.com/>)

The renovation and restoration of the Japanese Hall in Scottsbluff, Nebraska, into a museum in nearby Gering has consumed a lot of my energy for several years. The hall was built in 1928 by Japanese immigrants in Scottsbluff and was one of several halls used as community centers in the Panhandle. It operated until 2016 in downtown Scottsbluff but closed as the few remaining Japanese Americans in the area were dying. The person who owned the land wanted to demolish the building, so a group raised money to move it 12 miles to the Legacy of the Plains Museum near Scotts Bluff National Monument and develop it as a museum. It moved in December 2019.

The hall has been renovated, and we are working with a Kansas company to develop exhibits. Our grand opening will be in June 2024. Because our team includes people from Kearney, Scottsbluff, Lincoln, Omaha, Wahoo, Hawaii, Colorado, Wyoming, Oklahoma and Kansas, we have met almost entirely over Zoom since 2020.

By the way, the story is NOT my family story – my Japanese American father was raised in California and came to the University of Nebraska from an incarceration camp in 1942 – but I find the story of Japanese immigration to be interesting and worth telling.



**University Communication/
Nebraska Public Media
Writer and Editor**



The entry hallway at the museum features an informative display.



Japanese Hall, located on the Legacy of the Plains Museum campus in Gering, will open in June 2024 as a museum about Japanese and Japanese Americans in the Nebraska, Wyoming and Colorado area.

Member profile

Stark uses his tech expertise to help OLLI, ERA

by Alfred Stark

I grew up on a farm near Ponca. My wife, Linda, a Pennsylvania native, and I met as undergraduates at UNL and married after graduation. We have two married daughters, two grandsons in Lincoln and one grandson in St. Joseph, Mo. Our oldest grandson is a first-year student at UNL. We have enjoyed attending and being involved in their many activities.

My first exposure to computing was during my sophomore year at UNL. I attended a late Friday afternoon informal presentation by Jim Kendrick, ag economics professor. His topic was something like “Computers: what are they, and what can they do for us?” That presentation was the first step that led to my seeking to work with him as a student worker. He was later my master’s advisor and then my supervisor in my first full-time position at UNL’s AGNET.

The majority of my 40-year computing services career was within IANR. I was with Information Technology Services when I retired. During that entire time, I worked on many projects, including development of apps and services accomplished by partnering with other UNL units, other universities and state/federal agencies. While I did enjoy working on the technical aspects, I enjoyed even more working as a team member with so many incredibly talented people.

Before retirement I was active in my church, serving on multiple committees and in a handbell and two vocal choirs. I also got involved with JDRF (Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation) and my neighborhood association, organized only for entertainment purposes.

Since retiring, I became a TeamMate mentor, an extremely rewarding experience. I have remained active with my church and JDRF and also have become involved with OLLI, the UNL Emeriti and Retirees Association, Justice in Action (20+ communities of faith in Lancaster County working on justice concerns) and Ecumenical Legislative Briefing Day (multi-denominational group working on state legislative justice concerns).

Spending time with family and friends and attending music and theater performances and sports events, whether at the university, in the community or at local schools, is often the highlight of the week.



Alfred Stark



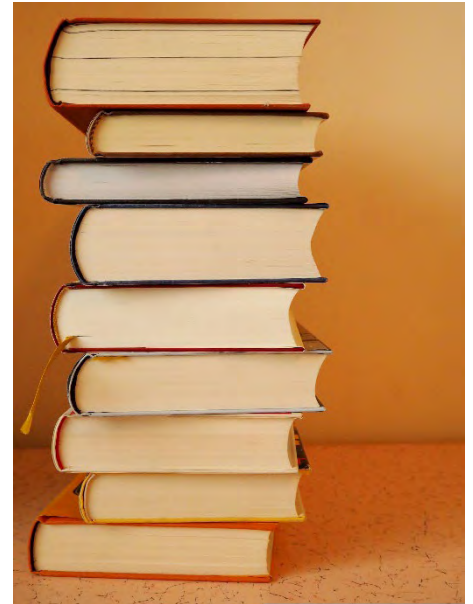
Alfred Stark continues to donate his computer and technical expertise to many community volunteer activities. In this photo, he is livestreaming and recording an ERA luncheon meeting.

“While I did enjoy working on the technical aspects, I enjoyed even more working as a team member with so many incredibly talented people.”

ERA members share favorite books they've read lately

By Alice Henneman, ERA Newsletter managing editor

We asked ERA members to tell us about a book they read (or listened to) in the past year and why they liked it. Read on and you may find the book(s) that you want to read next. Note: These books represent individual recommendations and are not a reading list developed by the ERA or the university.



ERA members shared a variety of recently read favorite books via the book survey.

- **“The Wager: A Tale of Shipwreck, Mutiny and Murder” by David Grann** *Submitted by Joseph Weber*

Why you liked it: This fictionalized account of a real 1740 shipwreck and the fate of its crew vividly recreates the astonishing ups and downs of the crew, getting into personalities and motivations remarkably well. The account of life at sea in those days seems realistic and perilous. The global politics and greed of nations is also sketched out well. Quite interesting and one of Grann’s best.

- **“A Duty to the Dead” by Charles Todd** *Submitted by Charlyne Berens*

Why you liked it: Actually, if you like engrossing mysteries set in Britain, any of the Charles Todd books is a good pick. The stories are well crafted with main characters you get to know well and crimes that, while awful, are not dwelled upon. Instead, the focus is on the detective’s starts and stops and failures and successes. These books may not be “great literature,” but they are fun to read.

- **“The Covenant of Water” by Abraham Verghese**
“Lessons in Chemistry” by Bonnie Garmus
“American Prometheus” by Kai Bird and Martin J. Sherwin
Submitted by Larry Dlugosh

Why you liked them: Janee and I listened to “The Covenant of Water” and “Lessons in Chemistry” as audio books when we were on road trips; the problem was both books would have required driving all the way across the United States – 30 hours for “Covenant of Water” and 20 hours for “Lessons in Chemistry.” We finished them at home. Verghese narrated his book, and it was very much worth the listen.

“American Prometheus” is best understood when the reader can delve into the political environment and societal issues at the time of Oppenheimer’s life. It also helps to have some knowledge about all the world-renowned scientists with whom he worked.

Each of these books was a long read or listen – packed full of details. All good!

- **“Old God's Time” by Sebastian Barry** *Submitted by Michael F. James*

Why you liked it: This past summer I read Sebastian Barry's Booker Prize 2023 longlisted novel, “Old God's Time,” and found the writing so beautiful and lyrical (in the way of the great Irish literary tradition) that I recently listened to the spoken word version, read by Irish actor Stephen Hogan. His interpretation took Barry's brilliant "cold crime" story to another level, deepening the grief and sorrow that float through the tale and giving real resonance to its plays with memory and dreamtime and how the two are sometimes confounded. Tom Kettle's character is beautifully drawn, and his efforts to figure out who he is in retirement and how to accommodate the

enormous emotional baggage that he hasn't yet fully confronted are deeply poignant. My plan now, a few months down the line, is to re-read the physical book while simultaneously listening to Hogan's narration. Great lessons in writing delivered both ways.

- **“Horse: A Novel” by Geraldine Brooks** *Submitted by Alice Henneman*

Why you liked it: This book has a fascinating story line and is about much more than a horse. It also encompasses race and art.

Though labeled as historical fiction, it is based on a true story of the record-breaking horse, Lexington. It is written with three main characters in three-time frames: (1) Kentucky, 1850, and a slave named Jarret who is a groom for the racehorse, Lexington; (2) New York City, 1954, and gallery owner, Martha Jackson; and (3) Washington, D.C., 2019, and Theo, a Nigerian-American Ph.D. student who is researching the unsung Black horsemen who were critical to Lexington's success. Jarrett and Theo are fictional characters in the book. I listened to the audio version during my walks, and it also made housecleaning, while not fun, less tedious.

- **“History” magazine” published by Geographic (discountmags.com/magazine/national-geographic-history)** *Submitted by N. Brito Mutunayagam*

Why you liked it: (1) I subscribe to History magazine and have enjoyed reading the copies every two months. My daily reading and study materials relate to artificial intelligence and machine learning applications in design and planning. **(2)** Reading material about artificial intelligence and machine learning are primarily from selected/highly recommended sources on the internet. **(3)** From the magazine, I have learned more about people, histories of past civilizations, myths, legends, folklore, on-going explorations and new discoveries in places that I have visited or would have loved to visit in various parts of the world. I am also amazed by and have so much more to learn from the rapidly evolving transformation of contemporary professional practices of design and planning, impacted and influenced by AI and ML.

- **“You Look Like a Thing and I Love You: How Artificial Intelligence Works and Why It's Making the World a Weirder Place” by Janelle Shane** *Submitted by Kevin Cole*

Why you liked it: The author explains machine learning by training artificial intelligence algorithms for actual tasks and then reporting on the outcomes. Many tasks are silly, such as naming new ice cream flavors or writing new pickup lines, which is where the book's title comes from. Smart and entertaining.

- **“The Silent Patient” by Alex Michaelides** *Submitted by Ellen Paporozzi*

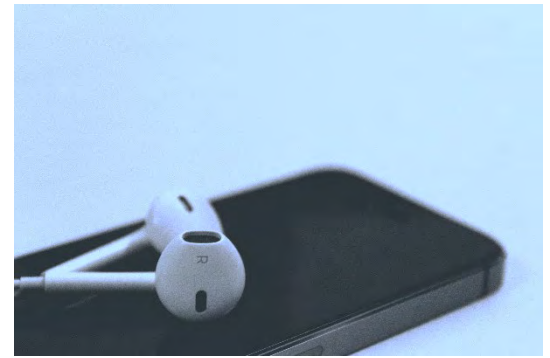
Why you liked it: If you like mystery stories with plot twists a la Agatha Christie, then read this book.

- **“Murder in the Rose Garden,” “Murder in the Blue Room” etc. A series of books by Elliot Roosevelt** *Submitted by Ellen Paporozzi*

Why you liked them: The names and national/international situations are historically accurate, and Elliot gives you an inside view of the Roosevelt White House years.

- **“Code of Silence” by Lise Olsen** *Submitted by Duane A. Olsen*

Why you liked it: It showed a lot of flaws with silence surrounding judges. Showed strength on the part of the whistle blower and actually ended the career of one particularly crooked judge. The book was written by Lise Olsen, my daughter, who is a graduate of UNL College of Journalism and Mass Communications.



Some members listen to books through their car's sound system or use ear buds to enjoy a book while walking or working around the house.

- **“Albion’s Seed” by David Hackett Fischer** (Albion is the ancient Greek name for the British Islands.) *Submitted by Don Weeks*
Why you liked it: For those who would love to explore in detail how British colonial America was populated and how four distinct waves of settlers in four separate regions established cultures and behaviors that still permeate our country, I highly recommend “Albion’s Seed” by David Hackett Fischer. Fischer’s voluminous tome (950 pages) contrasts and compares in depth more than two dozen separate folkways of the migrant groups coming from East Anglia to Massachusetts (1629-1641), from the South of England to Virginia (1642-1675), from the North Midlands to the Delaware Valley (1675-1725) and from the Scotch/English Borderlands to the Backcountry (1717-1775). Comfy and enlightening reading for a cold winter’s evening.



Recommended favorite books ranged from older classics to more recent publications.

- **"Braiding Sweetgrass" by Robin Wall Kimmerer** *Submitted by Tom Hoegemeyer*
Why you liked it: I really enjoyed this book. The author is both a Ph.D. botanist who obviously has extensive training in observing and studying nature AND is a Native American who was raised to think about the reciprocal relationships between people, plants and animals and the environment. As a metaphor, she weaves together indigenous wisdom, modern scientific knowledge and her personal journey through life – braiding sweetgrass. It encourages us, both as individuals and as a society, to reconnect with nature, be grateful for (and act graciously toward) the gifts of the earth and explore the relationships between science and traditional wisdom.
- **“All the Light We Cannot See” by Anthony Doerr** *Submitted by Alison Stewart*
Why you liked it: This fascinating book has two children – one blind – at its center during WWII in Germany and France. I enjoy books that allow me to travel abroad, and this one makes clear the devastating effects of war, no matter how far away one is able to get. It was made into a Netflix series, released Nov. 2, that makes it even more interesting.
- **“The Weight of Ink” by Rachel Kadish** *Submitted by Alison Stewart*
Why you liked it: London and Amsterdam in the 1660s (Rembrandt’s last decade) set the scene for the plague and 17th-century Jewish documents found in a newly bought house. Transcription and translation by history prof and grad student today result in the identification of the document writer as Jewish woman who had to flee the plague. The history and document transcription were fascinating.
- **"Three Pines" by Louise Penny** *Submitted by Marijane Look England*
Why you liked it: Last spring, I saw a mystery series on Amazon Prime TV called “Three Pines.” It was excellent. Following that, I looked for books by Louise Penny and discovered her series featuring Armand Gamache, the chief inspector of the Quebec Surete Homicide Division. I am now on book 13 of the 18-book series. I highly recommend it for readers who enjoy character development as part of a series. The crimes are less brutal in their description, and the mystery is solved with understanding facts and emotions. The first book in the series is "Still Life" by Louise Penny.
- **“Braiding Sweetgrass” by Robin Wall Kimmerer** *Submitted by Jenny Nixon*
Why you liked it: I enjoyed the way she meshed the scientific investigations with Native American cultural values. It is a short, easy read and very much brings insight to the need to cherish and preserve Mother Earth.

- **“The Man Who Loved Dogs” by Leonardo Padura** *Submitted by Fernando Osorio*

Why you liked it: While I read it in its original Spanish version, check for a recent good edition in English on Amazon at <https://amzn.to/47DqT2C>

This is a historical novel written by a highly awarded Cuban novelist and journalist. This is probably one of the best works of Padura for which he received many prestigious awards in Spain and other Spanish-speaking countries and others. The plot of “The Man who Loved Dogs” consists of a fascinating parallel narrative about one of the most dramatic episodes that occurred during the first half of 20th century: the Joseph Stalin-

directed plot and assassination of Leon Trotsky during Trotsky’s exile in Mexico City. The plot was consummated by Ramon Mercader, who was a Catalan communist recruited as spy by the Soviets. The involving narrative is very factual and rich in details and follows the lives of killer and victim for more than 20 years. In the 700+ pages of this book there are multiple contrasts or comparisons between the terrible years of Stalinist terror and the contemporary overtones that can be applied to modern Putin’s Russia as well as the frustration of entire generations of Cuban intellectuals who live in the island nowadays. Remarkably Padura, who lives and writes in Havana, is frequently a sharp critic of the frustrated revolutionary ideals in Cuba. However, Padura is still tolerated by the current Cuban government. Indeed, all his reflections about the Stalin-Trotsky drama apply to our 21st century reality.

- **“A Fever in the Heartland: The Ku Klux Klan’s Plot to Take Over America, and the Woman Who Stopped Them” by Timothy Egan** *Submitted by Pat Knaub*

Why you liked it: Enjoyment would not be the descriptor I would choose for this book, but it was very interesting and difficult to put down. Remarkably well sourced, the segment of Midwest history is told through the actual characters, the primary one being a grifter from Oklahoma. My reaction was, why didn’t I know this before?

- **“West with Giraffes” by Lynda Rutledge** *Submitted by Carol Easley*

Why you liked it: Based on true events, this fictionalized book truly touches the reader’s heart. Rutledge develops each character (even the giraffes) with intrigue and depth to create a masterfully written story.

- **“The Count of Monte Cristo” by Alexander Dumas** *Submitted by John Hibbing*

Why you liked it: It is lengthy but worth it for the combination of adventure and moral reflection. (Can even a well-deserved desire for revenge end up going too far?)

- **“We Have Always Lived in the Castle by Shirley Jackson”** *Submitted by Bob Spreitzer*

Why you liked it: Gothic strangeness, otherness, isolation, feminism. Perhaps Shirley Jackson’s greatest novel, which warrants much thought and discussion.

- **“Backstage” by Ron Hull** *Submitted by Ruth Diedrichsen*

Why you liked it: A delightful tale of "Stories from My Life in Public Television."

**The MORE that you READ,
the more things you will
KNOW. The MORE that
you LEARN, the more
places you’ll GO.
- Dr. Seuss**



Learn how to download FREE eBooks and digital audiobooks with the FREE Libby app in our Fall 2023 newsletter. (Page 12 at emeriti-retirees.unl.edu/newsletters/Fall2023.pdf)

Why do you attend ERA Coffee House Chats?

By Alice Henneman, ERA Newsletter managing editor

ERA's Coffee House Chats, typically held monthly at 9:30 a.m. at various Lincoln locations, are attractive for more reasons than just the coffee. A popular fall setting is the outdoor deck at Wilderness Ridge restaurant. We asked two groups of members chatting on the restaurant's deck in early October why they attend these events.

Group One Responses

- **Lyda Snodgrass** said she likes Coffee House Chats because they are fun for visiting with others and she enjoys the environment.
- **Linda Schwartzkopf** described them as an opportunity to see former colleagues and catch up.
- **Connie Boehm**, a new member, said the chats are a way to meet new people, get out and about and learn new things.

Group Two Responses

- **John Comer** said he enjoys the fellowship and seeing people he hasn't seen for a while.
- **Bill Avery** said he likes the chance to see his former colleagues.
- **Craig MacPhee** said that, even during a period when he lived out of state, he planned trips to Lincoln when there was an ERA activity so he could see UNL colleagues.

Spouses, partners and guests are welcome

Did you know that you can bring your spouse or partner to a Coffee House Chat? Just sign them up when you respond to the email request to register for the event. Likewise, you are welcome to bring a guest to a Coffee House Chat; just include their information when you submit your reservation. Registration of all attendees is important for planning amounts of coffee and related beverages and goodies.



“Coffee with a friend is like capturing happiness in a cup.”

- Author unknown



Jane Zatechka and Jim Griesen, ERA Social Activities Committee co-chairs, are responsible for planning chats.



From left, Lyda Snodgrass, Linda Schwartzkopf and Connie Boehm told us why they attend Coffee House Chats.



From left, John Comer, Bill Avery and Craig MacPhee talked about why they attend Coffee House Chats.



Spouses, partners and guests can attend Coffee House Chats. Dave and Linda Boeckner said they enjoy attending these events together.

Why people believe in misinformation and how to help stop the spread

By Alice Henneman, ERA Newsletter managing editor

“A lie can travel halfway around the world while the truth is still lacing up its boots,” said Charlyne Berens as she opened a symposium on “Misinformation and Conspiracy Theories: Why People Believe Them and How to Address Them.” How ironic that this statement, often attributed to Mark Twain, is more likely descended from a line published by Jonathan Swift centuries ago!

Here are some highlights from speakers’ presentations at the symposium, sponsored by OLLI (Osher Lifelong Learning Institute) at UNL on Oct. 14. Learn more about OLLI, one of the ERA’s campus affiliates, at olli.unl.edu

- Many Americans engage in “magical thinking” and may believe in conspiracy theories, distrust science and believe in paranormal events.
- Magical thinking serves emotional needs, often occurring when uncertainty is high, stakes are high and emotions are salient.
- Intuitionism (decisions based on intuition) and rationalism (decisions based more on logic) are two approaches to life. A correlation between education and rational thinking may not be as strong as thought because rationalism doesn’t offer as many emotional benefits.



Eric Oliver, professor of political science, University of Chicago

- Conspiracy theories get more clicks and views on social media in part because they are entertaining. People can get pushed down a rabbit hole on YouTube and TikTok through algorithms feeding more of the topics they started researching.
- Misinformation is sometimes spread by “flooding the zone” by putting out so much bad information that some will get through. A lie repeated enough times can become believable.
- You can only invite people to persuade themselves. Duncan re-posts articles on Facebook but does not either praise or deride them. Instead, he says, “Interesting article about ...”
- Two helpful fact-checking websites are snopes.com and politifact.com.



Aaron Duncan, associate professor of practice, Communications Studies UNL



Continued on next page

Andy Norman helps people develop immunity to bad ideas and is the author of “Mental Immunity: Infectious Ideas, Mind-Parasites and the Search for a Better Way to Think.”

- “Prebunking” may be more effective than “debunking.” Prebunking tries to head off misinformation by warning people about it before they see it.
- Avoid providing a list of “myths” and then trying to counter them. Instead, give accurate factual statements that do not repeat the myths.
- Avoid watching “angertainment” programs that provoke negative emotions in the audience.
- For more information, visit the Mental Immunity Project at mentalimmunityproject.org.



Andy Norman, director, Dietrich College Humanism Initiative, Carnegie Mellon University

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- News in the 20th century consisted of three nightly newscasts. The 21st century Information Age includes AI, online publications, cable TV/24-hour news cycle and social media. As a result, the media stream is fragmented.
 - America is divided and distrustful with information silos and political polarization and less confidence in news sites, institutions, election officials. Many are exhausted by the flood of information.



Patrick Marley, national reporter, Washington Post

A graphic featuring a world map in shades of blue and black against a dark background with white stars. A white-bordered box is overlaid on the map, containing a quote in white text.

**“A lie can travel halfway around the world while the truth is still lacing up its boots.”
– Often attributed to Mark Twain**

Levin turned a passion into a lifelong journey – and is sharing it via OLLI courses

By Patricia Saldana, OLLI communications associate

Carole Levin, Willa Cather Professor Emeritus of History at UNL, discovered her lifelong passion for history at the age of 10 through the public library. Her fascination with England's Queen Elizabeth I, a female historical figure of the Renaissance period, shaped her academic journey. Levin's exploration of Elizabeth I and the eras in which she lived and of women's history in general guided her through a career that spanned almost 25 years at UNL. She retired in January 2022 but continues to find ways to share her passion.

History, as a storyteller of the past, has a unique way of illuminating the present. Levin's extensive body of work includes 20 books, including "The Heart and Stomach of a King," which delves into Queen Elizabeth I's navigation of gender roles during her reign. By narrating the stories and challenges of historical women, Levin contributes to the understanding of contemporary gender politics.

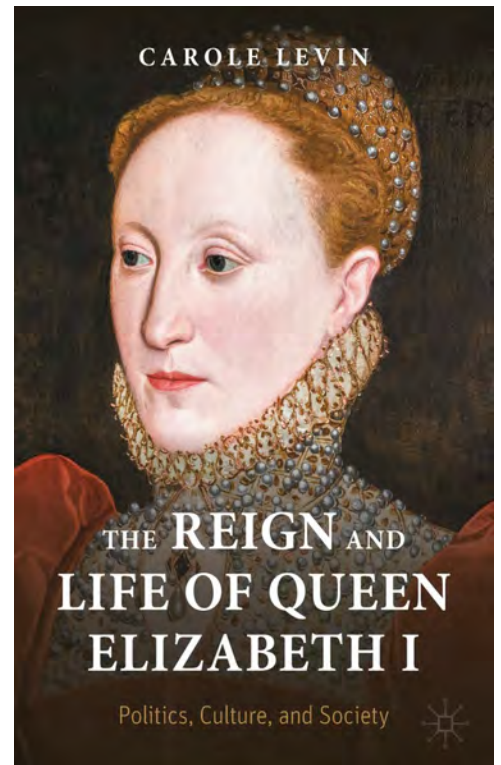
Expressing her love for teaching, Levin emphasized the joy she found in instructing diverse courses, conducting research and engaging in creative endeavors related to her scholarship. In addition to her books, she has authored short plays and a full-length play centered around Queen Elizabeth I. Throughout her career in education, Dr. Levin developed numerous courses, with a notable favorite being "Saints, Witches and Mad Women." This specific course explores gender stereotypes from the Middle Ages to the present day. A derivative of this class took shape as "Something Wicked this Way Comes: Witchcraft in Europe and America," which she offered in fall 2023 as a course for the OLLI, the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at UNL.

Levin taught her first OLLI course in March 2010. Since then, she has taught numerous courses, including a recent exploration of Shakespeare's First Folio. She said teaching for OLLI brings her joy; she appreciates how engaged OLLI students are, and she's happy to teach a class that doesn't require her to assign grades.

Retirement marks a new chapter in Levin's academic journey. She is currently collaborating with three other scholars on a collection of poems, short stories and creative non-fiction based upon historical and literary retellings with scholarly introductions, due for publication in 2025. Another upcoming book, "Changelings, Bastards and Fantasy Children," examines the fertility of queens and explores the impact of propaganda and rumor on royal lives. Additionally, she is co-writing a new play based on her course, "Saints, Witches and Mad Women."



Carole Levin, Willa Cather Professor Emeritus of History at UNL



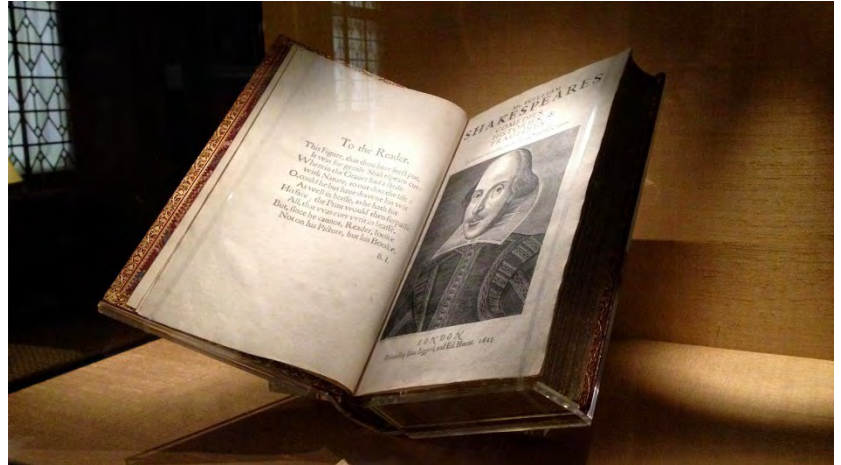
Levin's "The Reign and Life of Queen Elizabeth" offers an accessible yet detailed survey of the events of Elizabeth's life and reign, followed by an exploration of the key aspects of her time in power.



Continued on next page

Levin's enthusiasm for continuous learning and sharing is evident in her writing style. She believes her works cater to a broad audience, from undergraduates to those who simply find history fun – as so many OLLI members do.

In retirement, Levin remains committed to teaching and learning. She encourages potential OLLI instructors to explore the program, offering flexible opportunities to develop courses on subjects of personal interest. The OLLI program, designed for adults aged 50 and older, emphasizes the joy of learning without the stress of grades or exams.



The University of Nebraska-Lincoln Libraries has a strong collection of materials relating to Shakespeare and his works. The Shakespeare First Folio is the premiere volume in the collection that also includes rare publications from the 1600s and 1700s. Over the years, Levin has taught numerous OLLI courses, including a recent exploration of Shakespeare's First Folio.

“The Secret History of England and Elizabeth I Defeated the Spanish Armada” by Levin is a sweet fantasy about how a young Princess Elizabeth grew up to be the great Tudor queen. It’s designed for children ages 8 and up and for adults who love Queen Elizabeth I.

An OLLI mid-year membership costs \$50 and is valid from January 1 through July 31, 2024. To learn more about the OLLI program, visit olli.unl.edu. Those interested in teaching an OLLI course should contact Jeanette Wellsandt at 402-472-9891 or email jwellsandt2@unl.edu.

OLLI/ERA International Affairs Discussion Group

10 years together and still going strong

by Peter Levitov, group moderator

The monthly International Affairs Discussion Group started as one of the OLLI interest groups in September 2014. The original moderators were retired UNL faculty David Forsythe (political science), Jerry Petr (economics) and Bill Avery (political science), although before the first session, Peter Levitov (International Affairs) joined them, and Bill Avery opted out due to his Legislative schedule. Soon the group offered the ERA (then the UNL Emeriti Association) the opportunity to be a co-sponsor. The group met and continues to meet on the first Wednesday of each month from September through May.



Peter Levitov opens a session of the International Affairs Discussion Group.

The goal of group discussions

The aim was to bring together folks with an interest in current/contemporary issues on the world stage to discuss – not hear lectures about – these timely topics. Each of the moderators took responsibility for a session, briefly introducing two or three topics and facilitating a discussion on them. We met at Stauffer's Café & Pie Shoppe so those attending could have coffee and pie during the discussions. It worked so well that at the very first session there were upwards of 30 folks, and we had to end the session after the 90 minutes Stauffer's allotted us. On occasion, we would bring in guest speakers who spoke and took questions following their presentations. Soon the sessions attracted 40, 50 and even more participants, eager to hear about and discuss these issues, which were announced to both OLLI and ERA members, often with links to relevant background articles.

Topics explored over the years

Over the years topics have ranged from specific countries and/or regions to themes that transcend the globe. A few examples are China (many times), Russia, Mexico, India, the Middle East, migration, humanitarian relief and drought. Guest speakers have included members of the greater Lincoln community as well as local faculty, both retired and active. Participation by those who attend has been robust, to say the least. While few are experts, most of them are well-read, well-traveled and generally current on world affairs. Not everyone chimes in, but many do every month.

Guest speakers have included members of the greater Lincoln community as well as local faculty, both retired and active.

Changes during and following the Covid pandemic

When Covid came, we were unable to meet in person but continued the series by Zoom with a balance of guest speakers and sessions led by the moderators. Beth Ann Brooks (psychiatry/ NU Medical Center) replaced Jerry Petr, who retired from moderating. Some sessions drew upwards of 60 Zoomers. After we were able to meet face-to-face again, we



More on next page



David Forsythe, moderator, addressing the group in their new location at the Gere Library at a face-to-face meeting after the group had met via Zoom during the pandemic.

changed our venue to Gere Library and adopted an annual cycle of six moderated discussions and three guest speakers, which has worked out well. Last July we even had a special summer gathering to discuss the Russian invasion of Ukraine that was occupying the news every day. About 65 attended. (Sessions are always free.)

Current discussion group details

This year Wes Peterson (Agricultural Economics) and Roger Lempke (former Adjutant General of the Nebraska National Guard) joined the moderators when Beth Ann Brooks stepped down. The group still meets every month at Gere Library, South 56th Street and Normal Boulevard, and welcomes more participants. There is no advance registration, and no fee is required. Both OLLI and ERA members can learn what topics will be discussed at forthcoming sessions in their group's respective email announcements. Please join us.

Recent International Affairs Discussion Group speakers



Political science professor and director of the University of the University Honors Program, Patrice McMahon speaks on "Contemporary Poland."



Political science professor Sergio Wals speaks on "Recent Developments in Central and South America."

ERA and OLLI members mingle at Sip and Learn social event

by Nancy Mitchell / photo by Bruce Mitchell

ERA and OLLI members kicked off the fall season with friends in September. It was a full house at Whispering Winds Winery on September 28 for the first-ever social co-sponsored by ERA and OLLI.

About 60 members of both UNL affiliates joined in for the late afternoon event, tasting wine and sampling items from charcuterie boards as they chatted.

Bob Michl, director of OLLI, spent a few minutes telling everyone about the benefits of joining OLLI – opportunities to travel, take courses, attend events and participate in interest groups – and invited ERA members to join with the advantage of a discount offered for a limited time. He also encouraged people to sign up for the October 2023 OLLI Symposium on misinformation and conspiracy theories.



UNL ERA and OLLI members socialize, sip and learn about upcoming OLLI programs and events from OLLI director Bob Michl, standing in the background.



For more information, see olli.unl.edu or look under “Affiliates” on the ERA website at emeriti-retirees.unl.edu.

Creating our legacy with philanthropic planning

By Doug Jose

Have you thought about the legacy you are creating? Do you feel you have the power to make changes in your community or in a particular aspect of society that will contribute to your legacy?

A legacy is the long-lasting impact of actions during our lifetime. When we create our legacies, we pass on our values as well as our resources. It is the total of our beliefs, values and life experiences put into action. The legacy we create not only preserves memories and teaches life lessons but also is a source of pride and motivation to inspire and help others.

Additionally, it brings self-satisfaction. Our values and beliefs support both tangible and intangible aspects of our legacy.



Doug Jose

How do we go about creating the tangible aspects of our legacy? Recently, I had the opportunity to interview Alec Gorynski, president of the Lincoln Community Foundation, for the Live and Learn TV program produced by Lincoln's Aging Partners agency. We discussed establishing a legacy through philanthropic planning. He pointed out how a person's legacy supports the community and causes they choose – not just in the short term, but in perpetuity.

One approach to philanthropic planning he identified is to ask yourself "if you could live your life over what problem would you solve?" He said people can use the resources they have generated in a lifetime to help solve a problem. By identifying that problem or issue and taking action, you make changes in your community.

Philanthropic planning is, in fact, similar to career planning: reflecting on what interests us and what motivates us.

Alec identified two additional questions for philanthropic planning. They are: "What troubles us?" and "What inspires us?" We answered one aspect of the "what inspires us" question, at least subliminally, when we chose our career path. As our lives have progressed, we have been inspired by additional opportunities, by people who have crossed our paths and by issues that we have recently recognized or issues that have arisen during our lifetime.

Our inspirations lead us to serve others by sharing our time, talents and treasures. Volunteer activity is sharing our time and talents, and it projects our values and beliefs. A local example of sharing time and talents for seniors is organizing and/or teaching OLLI classes. This sharing creates an intangible legacy.

Sharing our treasures has benefits for others and benefits for ourselves, too. It takes our values and puts them into action through a tangible charitable or philanthropic plan. In his book, "A Spectrum of Legacies," Mark Weber points out a number of benefits of a charitable plan based on our core values¹:

1. You will feel a genuine sense of self-fulfillment in addition to relief.
2. You will increase your sense of happiness, which will help you live longer.
3. You will accumulate more net worth by the time of your death.
4. You will live in a state of abundance, confident that you have done all you can for you family and your community, all the while earning their respect.

Think about your motivations and how they may have changed or expanded over time. It may be difficult to itemize our core values, but, going back to Gorynski's comment, what problem would we like to solve? Identifying the issues, programs or topics that interest us the most will result in tangible and intangible contributions we can make to our community and family.

An estate planning attorney can help with the many tools and strategies available for a charitable plan. I discussed some of those tools in the Spring 2023 ERA Newsletter. It is available on the ERA website.

(page 8 at emeriti-retirees.unl.edu/newsletters/Spring2023.pdf)

¹ *A Spectrum of Legacies*, Vinton Street Press, 2021, pp. 156-157

ERA Oral History project adds value to research findings

by Doug Jose

New insights and more context are the goals of the ERA's Oral History project.

Civilizations traditionally have recorded their history by telling stories and orally chronicling events and activities that had impacted their lives before written languages were developed. With the development of electronic information technology, recorded oral histories now contribute to a variety of research endeavors.

The Oral History project of the ERA records some of the behind-the-scenes history of the university. Faculty communicate their research findings in published scholarly reports. But those reports don't tell the story of what motivated the faculty member to undertake their research or what inspired them in their teaching or service work.

Similarly, details of the development and delivery of university services can become lost.

The purpose of the Oral History project is to capture some of those insights and background information. The project team – with me as the interviewer and Alfred Stark as the videographer – conducts audio and video interviews with retired faculty and staff. Topics include what attracted the individual to the university, a discussion of their university activities, impacts of their work on the university and their profession, recognitions they received and some of their most enjoyable and gratifying experiences.

An example is a recent interview I did with professor emeritus Terry Riordan. The interview recorded his experiences as the first director of the professional golf management major in CASNR. He explained how he helped establish the program and the extended interaction he had with the PGA to get the program approved and accredited. His turf grass geneticist profession and his enthusiasm for golf were a natural fit. He shared examples of the varied careers now available to graduates of the program. UNL Libraries stores these interviews in its archives, and ERA makes them available on the ERA website.

The Riordan interview is currently being processed for web viewing. The Digital Communications Committee will email the ERA mailing list when the video is available. Until then, you can access all 40-plus videos that are currently available at emeriti-retirees.unl.edu/oral-history.



Doug Jose (left) interviews Robert Hillestad, professor emeritus, for an oral history about his experiences as a professor in the Department of Textiles, Clothing and Design both as a design educator and a textiles artist.

ERA members tour Carolyn Pope Edwards Hall and discover how it is ‘making learning visible’

by Alice Henneman, ERA Newsletter managing editor / Photos by Alice Henneman

“Making learning visible” is the theme for the Carolyn Pope Edwards Hall, the new home for the College of Education and Human Sciences (CEHS) at UNL. It is named in honor of the late Carolyn Pope Edwards, a faculty member at Nebraska for 18 years and an expert in early-childhood education.

The building is organized around three “clusters” or hubs: classrooms at one end, faculty, staff and graduate students at the other end and a community cluster in the middle that promotes collaborations among people.

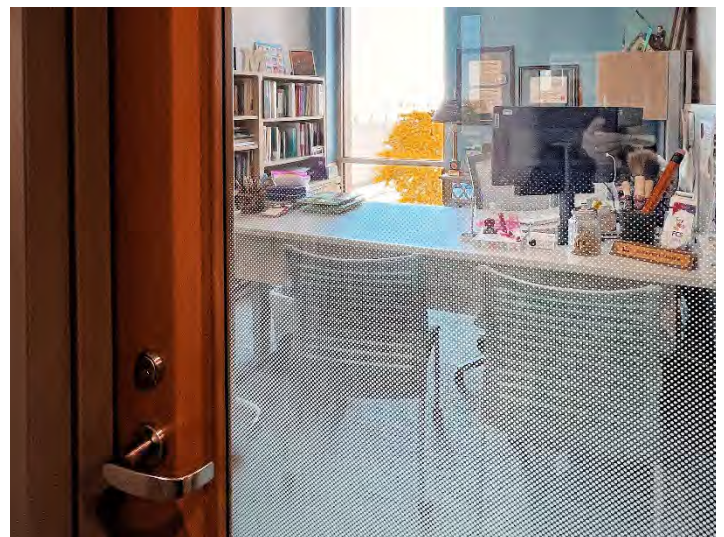
There is an emphasis on natural light throughout the building. The floor plan and structure feature large windows, both to the outside and within the facility. Visitors to the hall are welcomed by a 20-foot-tall sculpture, titled T.I.E. (Transformation, Illumination and Effort) that signals a deeper meaning about what the hall means to UNL and CEHS. Visitors can actually enter the sculpture and sit inside it.



The 20-foot T.I.E. sculpture was recently installed outside the hall.



ERA members walk through corridors brightened by natural light from the building’s many windows.



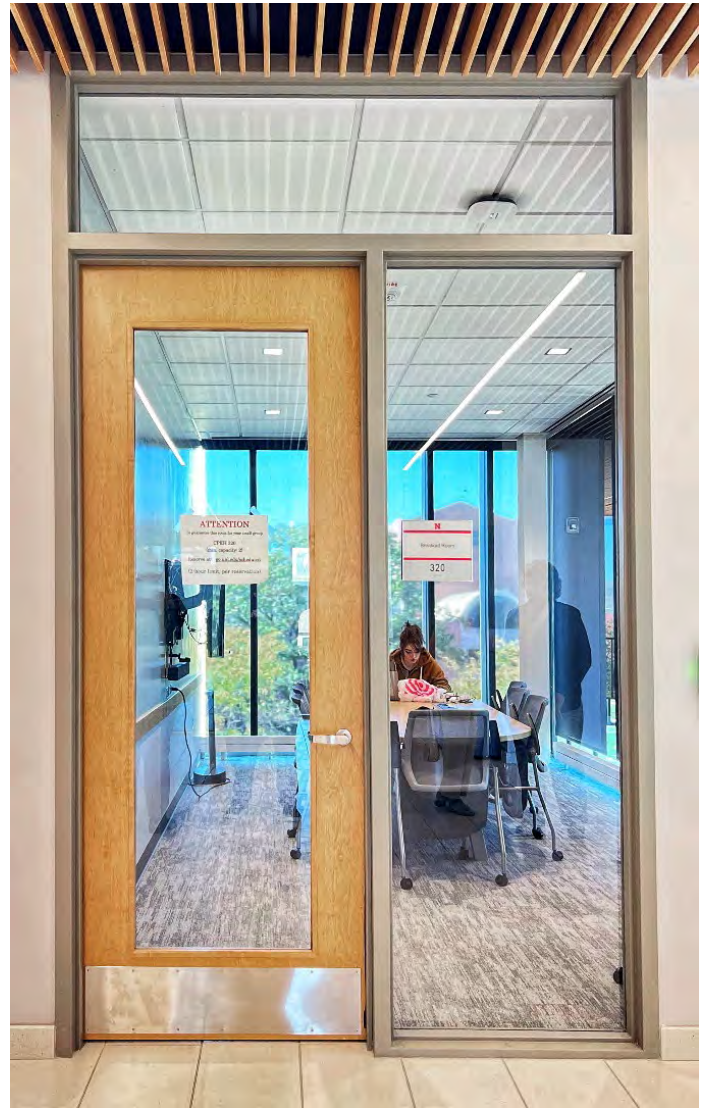
Faculty offices feature large windows to let in outside light and hallway windows so people can see into the offices.



Chairs and tables are placed in several locations in the central section, encouraging interaction among building occupants.



The “living room” is a central hub between the offices and classrooms and functions as a crossroads for faculty, students and visitors.



Enclosed breakout rooms are scattered throughout the building, allowing students to work in small groups close to their classrooms.



The new building features a 380-seat auditorium with lots of technology options. All classrooms include advanced teaching technology, helping to motivate tomorrow’s teachers to lead in the use of such tools.



Classrooms are designed with several possibilities for collaboration, such as these movable table-and-chair arrangements. The tables also function as whiteboards.

7 reasons to visit the updated and improved ERA website

By Alice Henneman, ERA Newsletter managing editor

During the past year the ERA's website underwent a major housecleaning that included rearranging items and sprucing everything up. And then new items were added.

The first rearranging of the “furniture” was to name the six items on the navigation menu to align with ERA activities more closely. (UNL web structure permits only six topics on the main navigation menu.) Then all the other items in the “house” were sorted or added according to the “room” where they were most likely to be used. The final six rooms/tabs are:

1. Home
2. Luncheon Meetings
3. Programs/Activities
4. Membership
5. Donate
6. Affiliates

Why visit the ERA website

The following seven scenarios highlight reasons for visiting the ERA website:

- **Reason 1:** *“I lost the email giving the luncheon meeting location.”* **Solution:** Go to the “Luncheon Meetings” section on the website, and you can be on your way. emeriti-retirees.unl.edu/meetings
- **Reason 2:** *“I had a medical appointment and had to miss a luncheon speaker that I had been looking forward to hearing.”* **Solution:** Go to the “Luncheon Meetings” section, click on “Videos of Past Speaker Presentations.” Relax and enjoy the speaker whenever it fits your schedule. emeriti-retirees.unl.edu/presentations
- **Reason 3:** *“I know that emeriti and retirees are entitled to certain benefits, but I can’t find a list and how to access them.”* **Solution:** The ERA Benefits Committee researched retiree/emeriti benefits. Go to “Membership,” click on “List of Benefits” and learn about how you can access savings on computers, meals at UNL Dining Services and more. emeriti.unl.edu/benefits.pdf
- **Reason 4:** *“I would like to donate some of my Required Mandatory Distributions (RMDs) to the ERA Scholarship Fund. However, I missed donating during the last donation drive.”* **Solution:** Quickly and easily donate at any time. Visit the “Donate” link and click on “ERA Scholarship Fund” to find more information and a direct link to donating. emeriti-retirees.unl.edu/donate
- **Reason 5:** *“There was an article in a past newsletter that I wanted to re-read, but I can’t find the email announcing the newsletter.”* **Solution:** Access “Newsletters” under the “Home” item on the navigation menu. emeriti-retirees.unl.edu/newsletters
- **Reason 6:** *“I would like to keep up with activities happening on campus, but information on these is scattered all over.”* **Solution:** Visit “Programs/Activities” on the navigation menu and click on “UNL Calendars” for direct links to the schedules of activities at 17 campus venues. emeriti-retirees.unl.edu/unl-calendars.pdf
- **Reason 7:** *“I’d like to know more about what other university retirement associations are doing.”* **Solution:** Visit our new menu item “Affiliates” and click on “Big Ten Retirees Association.” emeriti-retirees.unl.edu/big-ten-retirees-association



Visit the updated ERA website at emeriti-retirees.unl.edu.



Visit the ERA website at emeriti-retirees.unl.edu or use your favorite search engine and look for UNL Emeriti and Retirees Association.

Call for nominations for the Maude E. Wisherd Service Awards and Research Grants

By Pat Crews, Awards Committee chair

Two awards named for Maude E. Wisherd and to be granted to ERA members are seeking applications.

Members may apply for a Wisherd Research Grant to support their research, scholarly or creative activities. Grant funding up to a maximum of \$2,000 is available for members' projects. A grant application pdf is available on the ERA website at: emeriti-retirees.unl.edu/wisherd/grantapplication.pdf.

Deadline for *Wisherd Grant Fund applications* is **March 15**.

Three Wisherd Service Awards are also available, and members are invited to nominate a fellow member for one of the three:

- Outstanding Service to UNL.
- Outstanding Community Service.
- Outstanding National/ International Humanitarian Service.

The eligibility criteria and nomination guidelines are available on the ERA website at: emeriti-retirees.unl.edu/awards.

Deadline for *Wisherd Service Award nominations* is **May 15**.

The awards selection committee includes Robert Diffendal, Rita Kean, Jake Kirkland, Jr., and Marjorie Kostelnik and Patricia Crews, co-chairs. More information about these awards is available on the ERA website <http://emeriti.unl.edu/awards> or by emailing pcrews1@unl.edu.

Did you know this about Maude Wisherd?

Compiled by Alice Henneman from ERA Website

Maude was an acquisitions librarian at UNL from 1926 to 1955. In the era when Maude retired, faculty pensions were extremely small. When Maude's sister Zelma died in November 1981, Zelma left 20% of her estate to the NU Foundation with the stipulation that the interest be used to benefit emeriti. Initially the fund was used primarily for medical insurance and expenses. As these expenses became less of a problem and retirement resources improved, the fund was revised to support scholarly pursuits and other emeriti activities.



Maude Wisherd

For more information about Maude Wisherd

- History (of ERA): emeriti-retirees.unl.edu/history
- Wisherd Family: emeriti-retirees.unl.edu/wisherd-family
- Comments at the Zelma Wisherd Grave Marker Ceremony: emeriti-retirees.unl.edu/comments-zelma-wisherd-grave-marker-ceremony

How my UNL experiences prepared me for volunteer opportunities in Kenya, Africa, and helping to impact lives across the wide ocean

By Kay Rockwell, professor emeritus, Department of Agricultural Leadership, Education and Communications and ERA member

Volunteering for the Farmer-to-Farmer (F2F) program in USAID took me to Kenya in East Africa in 2006 for a three-week assignment. Staff at the F2F program contacted me because I had a successful experience teaching a three-credit hour course on Program Planning and Evaluation to 16 students, half from Moscow State Agro-Engineering University and half from the U.S. Therefore, F2F staff asked me to conduct a two-week training session on program planning and evaluation for 10 staff at the Catholic Diocese Educational Unit at Kitui, Kenya.

Exiting the plane at Nairobi's International Airport at 10 p.m. was an eerie experience. Kenya truly was a developing county. However, as I met the Governor and his staff, the Catholic Bishop and the Sisters at the Diocese, the Extension Educators in my one-week class, subsistence farmers eking out a living, those living with HIV and the orphans and their care givers as well as children in both primary and secondary schools, I saw a society that had many needs but cared for each other through social programs, taught each other, had support groups and welcomed me into their midst.

'I saw a society that had many needs but cared for each other through social programs, taught each other, had support groups and welcomed me into their midst.'

Humanitarian project #1

Thus, Shadrack Matuku Musyoka, my host for the F2F training decided to work with me, to support humanitarian projects addressing the needs state above. Over several years, we first built a preschool at the Inland Protestant Church at Chuleni, giving the children a "leg up" before they entered school. Next, we built a community library that also served as a parsonage.

These humanitarian projects have been funded through the Gifts of Hope Marketplace, an ongoing yearly activity the first weekend in December at First Lutheran Church, Lincoln. The community can purchase alternative gifts in honor of loved ones, such as buying goats to give to HIV orphans. Drinking nutritious goat milk improves the health of HIV positive (HIV+) orphans. Selling goat milk also brings in resources to purchase school uniforms, shoes and other items children need to be able to attend school. And goats survive on the brush in the infertile soil.



Charles Matuku (left) and Kay Rockwell give goats to an HIV orphan cared for by his grandmother. The goats will give birth to twins twice a year building a flock of 16 goats to maintain the mission. The orphan is obligated to give one goat to another needy orphan to show appreciation for the gift and help other HIV orphans.

Humanitarian project #2:

Kenya is considered a water scarce country. Kenya's per capita water availability is less than 600 cubic meters, well below the global threshold of 1,000 cubic meters per capita. But capturing the roof water in the rainy season and storing it in tanks will provide fresh, safe water for domestic use in the dry season. Despite these advances, slow implementation and low technology adoption is hampering its realization. Water scarcity is a critical constraint to the country's socio-economic development and is exacerbated by climate change and increasing water demand due to population growth and urbanization.



AIC Kithukulu's Primary School teaches 8th graders the value of harvesting rainwater in a demonstration classroom using Gifts of Hope funds.

The Lincoln church-based Gifts of Hope Marketplace raised funds to construct a demonstration classroom on AIC Kithukulu Primary School's campus. The goal of the demonstration classroom is to teach 8th grade youth the value of harvesting rainwater for domestic use in both rural and urban neighborhoods. In addition, the funds supported designing the classroom's curriculum along with a brochure for students to use as they teach



Judy Matuku, (left adult) and the demonstration classroom's teacher with 8th graders at AIC Kithukulu Primary School's campus constructed with Gift of Hope funds.

others about implementing and using the process. The classroom can also be used as a demonstration site for other educational groups or organizations in the community. And it serves as a model for other agencies and organizations.

AIC Kithukulu Primary School is about five miles from Kitui, Kenya, where Shadrack (who died in December 2021) and Judy's family live.

Emeriti and retirees share fellowship at annual luncheon meeting

by Alice Henneman ERA Newsletter, managing editor



ERA members attend the December 12 luncheon at the Lincoln Marriott Cornhusker Hotel. (Photo by Alice Henneman)

Participants enjoyed food and fellowship at the annual Emeriti and Retirees luncheon sponsored by the Chancellor's Office, NU Foundation and Nebraska Alumni Association. The program included remarks by Chancellor Rodney Bennett and the presentation of the Doc Elliott Award and four Wisherd awards. Approximately 165 individuals registered for the event.

Chancellor Bennett greets ERA members and thanks them for their support of UNL

Chancellor Bennett expressed his appreciation for the active role the ERA has had in building a strong foundation for UNL. He said the ERA has worked since its founding in 1961 to help UNL elevate the university and support students and community.

He said he appreciated the ERA's endowed scholarship and said even a \$300 scholarship may be the deciding factor in whether a student can afford to go to college. The first ERA scholarship will be awarded to a student in fall 2024.

Bennett said he thinks that UNL can do big things for the state and that there are many opportunities for the future. He said the university and its supporters should focus on looking through the front windshield versus the rear window. Watch a video of Chancellor Bennett's remarks at youtu.be/jlVSR3dkt_w.



Chancellor Rodney Bennett
(photo by Bruce Mitchell)

Doc Elliot Award recognizes Julie Johnson

The Nebraska Alumni Association honored Dr. Julie Johnson, emeritus chair of the Department of Child, Youth and Family Studies, with the 2022 Doc Elliott Award. Established in 1986, the award honors a retired UNL faculty member who has shown a record of exemplary service, whose caring has made a difference in the lives of students and alumni and who has gone beyond traditional expectations. Recipients must be former faculty members of UNL who have been retired at least five years.

 Continued on next page.

In presenting Johnson with the award, Shelley Zaborowski, executive director, UNL Alumni Association, outlined highlights of her career:

Dr. Johnson's career as a faculty member at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln spanned 31 years. She joined the faculty at Nebraska in 1980, rose to the rank of professor and served as chair of the Department of Child, Youth and Family Studies from 2000 to 2011. During her tenure at UNL, she worked on a number of initiatives including building online, inter-institutional degrees, most notably an online master's for Family and Consumer Sciences educators. She was the recipient of multiple awards, including the Outstanding Scholar Award, Outstanding Professor Award and Distinguished Teaching Award from the College of Education and Human Sciences as well as the People Who Inspire award from Mortar Board, an IANR Extended Education Team Award and the Floyd S. Oldt Boss of the Year Award, given by UNOPA.

Even after her retirement in 2011, Julie continued to impact the college by mentoring new leaders and assisting faculty in nominating and submitting materials for national awards.

In 2013, Julie joined the board of the UNL Emeriti and Retirees Association, where she served as president in 2017 and as editor of the newsletter for eight years. She currently co-chairs the Bylaws and Policies Committee and is a member of the Publications Committee.



Julie Johnson

Watch your email next summer for the next call for nominations for the Doc Elliot Award.

2024 Maude Wisherd Awards presented at meeting

Pat Crews, chair of the Awards Committee, presented four Wisherd Awards at the luncheon meeting. The three categories of Wisherd Awards given this year, and the winners are:

- **Outstanding Community Service:** Julie Johnson, professor emeritus in Child, Youth and Family Studies.
- **Outstanding Service to UNL:** Jake Kirkland, Jr., emeritus assistant to the Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs.
- **Research, Scholarly and Creative Activity:** Alison Stewart, professor emeritus in Art History, and Julie Thomas, professor emeritus in Child, Youth and Family Studies.



Julie Johnson



Jake Kirkland, Jr.



Alison Stewart



Julie Thomas



For more information about the winners, see “2023 Maude E. Wisherd Awards announced” on page 5 at emeriti-retirees.unl.edu/newsletters/Fall2023.pdf

Disinformation, the future of higher ed and concerns for early childhood educators addressed in fall luncheon speeches*

September 21

- **Topic:** Navigating the Disinformation Superhighway
- **Speaker:** George Ayoub, adjunct professor, Hastings College
- **Overview:** Ayoub said \$78 billion is the total cost of misinformation and the spread of fake news, according to Statista 2020. In the weeks before the 2020 presidential election, nearly 68 million Americans visited untrustworthy websites 1.5 billion times from Oct. 2 through Nov. 9, according to Stanford researchers, causing concerns for 2024. The “illusory truth effect” describes how people often believe something is true simply because they hear the same false information repeated again and again -- even when they know better. The Dunning-Kruger Effect occurs when those least competent in a subject area may not possess the skills needed to recognize their own incompetence. Artificial intelligence may become another cause for concern.



After describing these and additional challenges, Ayoub talked about “an essential disinformation starter kit” of activities and resources to help people better navigate the “disinformation super highway.”

- **View on YouTube:** youtu.be/odAMH4L-_E8

October 17

- **Topic:** The Future of Public Education
- **Speaker:** Sherry Jones, vice chancellor for Research and Economic Development
- **Overview:** A new Gallup Poll released in July 2023 shows that Americans’ confidence in higher education has reached a new low with only 36% expressing a “great deal” or “quite a lot” of confidence and 62% expressing “some” or “very little” confidence. Many factors have contributed to a bleak outlook for higher education including declining state/federal investments, rising costs of tuition, political/social climate and higher education’s resistance to change.



This session focused on some of the challenges and also explored the opportunities for transformation to sustain the promise of postsecondary education, meet the needs of lifelong learners, engage in innovative ways to address complex challenges and keep education thriving well into the future.

- **View on YouTube:** youtu.be/xeVTjbsv1vc

November 16

- **Topic:** Early Childhood Care and Education
- **Speaker:** Susan Sarver, associate professor Department of Child, Youth and Family Studies and director of workforce development at the Buffet Early Childhood Institute
- **Overview:** The workforce program takes on the critical issues that affect the quality and quantity of early childhood professionals in Nebraska, such as professional preparation and qualifications, workforce compensation, funding and public commitment



Sarver described how 92% of Nebraskans believe quality, affordable childcare and early learning are an important part of keeping Nebraska a great place to live and raise a family. She provided data on how the childcare crisis in Nebraska is costing \$745 million in direct losses per year. Her presentation gave some possible solutions and statistics to use in support of quality, affordable childhood care and education.

- **View on YouTube:** youtu.be/hW9dF_4ZHsA

December 12

UNL Chancellor Rodney Bennett introduced himself to the ERA members at a luncheon hosted by the Chancellor's Office, University of Nebraska Foundation and Nebraska Alumni Association.

View on YouTube: youtu.be/jIVSR3dkt_w

* **Overviews of luncheon speeches are adapted from information provided by the ERA meeting announcement, members, meeting minutes and YouTube videos/transcripts.**



Topics, speakers and video links are usually posted within a few weeks after the presentation at: emeriti-retirees.unl.edu/presentations. The posting is announced via the ERA email list.

Fall ERA activities included tours, chats, learning



The T.I.E. (Transformation, Illumination and Effort) sculpture welcomes ERA tour members at the entrance to the College of Education and Human Sciences' Carolyn Pope Edwards Hall.

Tours/educational activities

The UNL Emeriti and Retirees Association offers a number of programs and activities in the interest of building and sustaining relationships and community among retired UNL personnel and current faculty and administrators. Email notifications provide members with information about scheduled programs and activities.



ERA members socialize on the Deck of Wilderness Ridge Restaurant at a Coffee House Chat in October.

Coffee House Chats

Informal Coffee House Chats are typically held once a month at 9:30 a.m. at various locations. Email notifications to members provide details about specific events.



Patrice McMahon, political science professor and director of the University of the University Honors Program, speaks on "Contemporary Poland."

ERA/OLLI International Affairs Discussion Group meetings

The International Affairs Discussion Group meets the first Wednesday of September through May from 3 to 4:30 p.m. at Gere Library. The group, cosponsored with OLLI, the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, grapples with current topics from all corners of the globe. Participants share diverse perspectives and often bring their own expertise and/or personal experiences to the conversations. Just drop in; no signup or registration is required. A monthly email reminder and information about the upcoming program and location is sent to all members. Contact Peter Levitov (plevitov1@unl.edu) with questions, comments and suggestions.

Spring 2024 speakers announced



ERA members hear from George Ayoub, adjunct professor at Hastings College, during a luncheon meeting in September. See “What happens at the back of the room during ERA luncheon meetings” on page 33.

Members and a spouse, partner or guest are invited to attend monthly ERA meetings. Unless otherwise noted, meetings are held from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. The group pays close attention to directed health measures from the city and university, and the meeting location may change accordingly. Meeting details are announced by email prior to each meeting and include any location changes or an online link if the decision is to hold a virtual meeting. The most recent meeting dates also are posted at: emeriti-retirees.unl.edu/meetings.

- If you miss a meeting for any reason, check emeriti-retirees.unl.edu/presentations for a link to a video of the presentation. Videos are usually posted about a week after the meeting. Members are notified via email when the video is posted.
- **Questions?** Contact Pam Edwards, program chair, with questions and suggestions at pamelajedwards@gmail.com.

January 23 (Tuesday)

Speaker: Frances Hayes, director of communications and public relations, Water for Food Global Institute

Topic: “Ensuring Food and Water Security for All: Daughtery Global Water for Food Global Institute at the University of Nebraska”

Location: East Campus Union

February 20 (Tuesday)

Speaker: Heather Rasmussen, Ph.D., RDN, LMNT, associate professor, director, Professional Studies in Dietetics graduate program

Topic: “Nutrition and Brain Health ”

Location: East Campus Union

March 21 (Thursday)

Speaker: Tyler White, Ph.D., associate professor of practice, director, National Security Program, UNL Political Science,

Topic: “Global Affairs at a Crossroads - The Future of Freedom”

Location: East Campus Union

April 16 (Tuesday)

Speaker: Jeffrey P. Gold, chancellor, University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC)

Topic: University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC) Update

Location: East Campus Union

No Meetings in May, June, July or August

What happens at the back of the room during ERA luncheon meetings

by Alice Henneman, ERA Newsletter managing editor/ Photos by Alice Henneman

Do you know what is going on at the back of the room at Emeriti and Retiree Association luncheon meetings? What is happening may double or more the number of people able to hear what the speaker has to say. Those people in the back make it possible for members to view videos of luncheon speakers later on demand. Follow along and take a peek beyond the last row of chairs.



1. You are likely to see Alfred Stark (below, in blue shirt in lower left of photo), chair of the ERA Digital Communications Committee, at the back of the room. He is setting up to record the program for later posting on YouTube.

2. At this program, Bruce Mitchell (below) is helping Alfred by focusing the camera on the speaker, George Ayoub, to record the YouTube video of the presentation. You can turn on closed captions when viewing many of the YouTube videos at emeriti-retirees.unl.edu/presentations.



3. Alfred (left), amid the cameras and cords he brings to meetings, is helping assure that members have later access to the meeting through an online video version.

Remember: If you can't attend a luncheon meeting in person, view the video option after it is posted online at emeriti-retirees.unl.edu/presentations. Videos typically are posted a week after the meeting, and members are emailed when they are posted.

Your 2024 Emeriti-Retirees Association Board



From left, top row: Connie Boehm, Pat Crews, Larry Dlugosh, Pam Edwards, James Griesen, Kim Hachiya, Earl Hawkey, Gary Heusel; middle row: Vicki Highstreet, Julie Johnson, Doug Jose, Rita Kean, Marjorie Kostelnik, Linda Major, Nancy Mitchell, Tom McFarland; bottom row: Roshan Pajnigar, Alfred Stark, Don Weeks, David Wilson, Jane Zatechka

ERA officers

President: Larry Dlugosh
Vice president/president-elect: Pam Edwards
Secretary: Kim Hachiya
Treasurer: Earl Hawkey
Past president: Linda Major

Chairs of standing committees

Awards: Pat Crews and Marjorie Kostelnik, co-chairs
Benefits: Roshan Pajnigar
Bylaws and Policy: James Griesen and Julie Johnson, co-chairs
Campus Engagement: Vicki Highstreet
Digital Communications: Alfred Stark
Educational Activities: Nancy Mitchell
Membership: Don Weeks
Oral History Project: Doug Jose
Programs: Pam Edwards
Publications: Connie Boehm
Scholarships: Earl Hawkey
Social Events: Jane Zatechka and Jim Griesen, co-chairs

Directors (elected board members)

David Wilson 2024*
 Roshan Pajnigar 2024*
 Nancy Mitchell 2025*
 Tom McFarland 2025*
 Gary Heusel 2026*
 Rita Kean 2026*

*Term ends

View a description of the standing committees and all the committee members at: emeriti-retirees.unl.edu/board



Alice Henneman
ahenneman1@unl.edu

Goodbye and hello to these board members!

The first **“goodbye”** is personal. After enjoying two years as the publications chair/managing editor of the ERA Newsletter, I will be leaving this position. **“Hello”** to **Connie Boehm** as my successor.

“Hello” to **Pam Edwards** who joins the board as president-elect.

Rita Kean is leaving as Campus Engagement Chair but is remaining as an ERA director. **“Hello”** to **Vicki Highstreet** as our new Campus Engagement Chair.

“Hello” to **Marjorie Kostelnik** who will be joining Pat Crews in co-chairing the Awards Committee.



Memory Moments



The UNL Emeriti and Retirees Association board mindfully watches obituaries and posts information on the website regarding deceased emeriti and retirees who are honored with a moment of silence at meetings. The following names were announced or received in the past year. According to board policy, a \$500 contribution will be made each year to the UNL Emeriti and Retirees Scholarship fund in honor of the ERA members who have died that year.

Donna Aksamit, College of Education and Human Sciences
Loraine Amack, Teacher's College
Ezekiel Bahar, Engineering
Dorothy Josephine Bernhardt, College of Education and Human Sciences
Larry Bitney, Agricultural Economics/Extension
James Blackburn, Accounting
Lambert Bright, Information Technology
John Brumbaugh, School of Biological Sciences
Dotti Callahan, Extension, Douglas County
Curtis Cheney, spouse of Veva Cheney, Services for Students with Disabilities
Jim Cook, Institutional Research and Planning
JC Cranfill, Extension
Steve Danielson, Entomology
Betty Dasenbrock, widow of Wilbur "Bud" Dasenbrock, Landscape Services
Barbara Di Bernard, Women and Gender Studies
Harold DeGraw, Conservation and Survey Division, School of Natural Resources
John W. Doran, Agronomy and Horticulture
Barbara Duncan, NE Union
Marilyn Fagerstrom, Physical Education
Quentin Faulkner, School of Music
Dave Fitzgibbon, University Communications (*not a retiree but also remembered*)
Adonna "Donna" Fleming, University Libraries
Robert Florrell, Extension
Jeannene Flotree, University Health Center
Merwin "Mern" Frey, Veterinary Science
Milan Frey, University Housing
Steve Gaines, Nebraska Public Television
Todd Georgi, Biology
Irma Gillespie, College of Arts and Sciences
Jeffery John Gottula, Conservation and Survey
John Gross, NE Unions
Pam Hanson, Accounting
Paul Hay, Extension
Ron Hull, Nebraska Public Media
Izetta Jones, Ruth Staples Child Development Laboratory
Dieter Karch, Modern Languages and Literatures
Joe Kean, spouse of Rita Kean, Textiles, Merchandising and Fashion Design
Ann Louise Keller, University Health Center
Roy Fred Keller, Computer Science and Engineering
Margaret Case "Ann" Landfield, wife of Dr. Alvin Warner Landfield, Psychology
Jessica Kennedy-Matthews, Alumni Association

Susan Kirkland, College of Law
Rick Konecky, spouse of Jean Latta, University Libraries
Raymond Marquardt, Agribusiness
Kay Frances Shoemake Maxwell, wife of Billy Maxwell, Husker Athletics
Billy Maxwell, Husker Athletics
Charles Messenger, NU State Museum
Michigan State University Campus Community (*not a retiree but also remembered*)
Alan Moeller, Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources
Wanda Mowry, Extension
Dan Neumeister, Food Processing Center
Tracy Oehlerking, University Operations
Betty June Olson, Women's Physical Education Department, College of Education and Human Sciences
Clarice Orr, College of Engineering Communication
Joseph "Joe" Pospichal, University Purchasing
Joan Reist, School of Music
Joanne Rice, Nebraska Extension and widow of Duane Rice, Nebraska Extension
Darlene Richards, Purchasing Department
Lyle Gene Robeson, Animal Science
Douglas Ross, Art
Merle Schaal, Accounting
Mary Schkade, spouse of Tony Schkade, University Registrar's Office
Edie Schleiger, Student Accounts
Bill Seiler, Communication Studies
Jean Earl Schultz, Agronomy
Jean Riley-Shultz, School of Accountancy
Tom Slocum, Photographic Services/University Communications
June Splichal, Chemistry
Donald Steinegger, Agronomy and Horticulture
M. Jane Stewart, Business Education
Maribeth Stodola, Equity, Access, and Diversity
George Tuck, College of Journalism and Mass Communications
Steven Tucker, Ag Technology
Richard Voeltz, University Libraries
Lynn Walsh, partner of Deb Mullen, College of Education and Human Sciences
Patrick Wells, School of Pharmacy
Norma Wiegert, University Housing
Kristin Peterson Wulser, spouse of Kurt Wulser, Chemistry
John Wunder, History
Albert William Zechmann, Mathematics

University of Nebraska Legislative Update

by Kristen Hassebrook, University of Nebraska System associate vice president for external relations

As I reflect on my first year at the University of Nebraska, I want to thank the UNL Emeriti and Retirees Association for your partnership and engagement. I also want to provide a brief legislative update.

January 3, 2024, marked the beginning of the 108th Legislature for the State of Nebraska. State senators are convened at the Capitol for 60 working days, where they will address key issues facing the state. In January, the Nebraska Legislature welcomed newly appointed Senator Fred Meyer, held a hearing on proposed rule changes and started introducing new legislative bills.

The arc of this year's legislative session includes moving through bill introduction and hearings in January, committee hearings and floor debate on bills in February and March, with any veto overrides at the end of the session in April.

Next year's legislative session will be a long session (90 working days) and will include setting the University of Nebraska budget for the next two years. The biennial budget is particularly important because there are only two sources of revenue that fund our day-to-day activities: tuition and state appropriations.

I am excited to begin hosting virtual legislative briefings to update you on legislative developments that may impact the University of Nebraska system and our four campuses. These monthly engagements are designed to provide you with timely updates on the pivotal day-to-day workings of the Nebraska Unicameral and their implications for our university.



Kristen Hassebrook



The Nebraska State Capitol's Norris Chamber, where the Nebraska Legislature convenes as a body. Photo: Nagel Photography/Shutterstock.com

“Your engagement will continue to be critical as the University of Nebraska System continues to help our state grow stronger for the future.”

During these sessions, I will share updates on the NU System's official legislative agenda, offer insights into the major issues currently facing the Nebraska Legislature, and discuss how we plan to navigate this year's legislative landscape. To sign up for legislative updates, including details on our legislative briefings, please visit nebraska.edu/advocates/signup.

Together, we have the opportunity to demonstrate to the Nebraska Legislature that Nebraskans believe in our university's ability to address major challenges facing our state. Thank you for your ongoing support of accessible and affordable higher education in Nebraska.