

# UNL Emeriti and Retirees Association

*"Your opportunity to explore new ideas,  
 be engaged, and stay connected to UNL"*

UNL Emeriti and Retirees Association

Spring 2021

Hello, emeriti and retirees!

It's my honor to be the 2021 president of the UNL Emeriti and Retirees Association. Many thanks are owed to those who have filled this position before. I especially thank **Don Weeks** for his leadership in 2020. Don stepped into the role somewhat unexpectedly in late 2019, and he kept us on even keel.

I am tired of the words "unprecedented," "pivot," and "pandemic," yet they are entrenched in our language now, thanks to COVID-19. I applaud the association board and our membership for being flexible and gracious as we waded through closures, lockdowns, shutdowns, masks and now, we hope, the prospect of a vaccine that will allow us to cautiously find a new normal. In the meantime, we will continue to meet via Zoom format to keep us safe.

The good news to report is that your leadership team had very productive meetings with both **Chancellor Ronnie Green** and **NU President Ted Carter**. We are lucky to have visionary thinkers at the university, and both have expressed interest in working with an engaged Emeriti and Retirees Association to help advance the university as we all move forward.

We also had great association meetings this past fall with interesting speakers. And, as usual, we honored several faculty with Wisherd Awards.

Kudos to **Rita Kean**, who helped craft an agreement with OLLI to allow our members to take their online classes during certain course periods without being OLLI members. And thanks to **Al Stark**, who has done wonderful work on our webpage, listservs, and other IT-backshop work that keeps the association running smoothly. **Julie Johnson, Doug Jose, and Charlyne Berens** do a tremendous job on the newsletters. We have, alas, placed our coffee house chats on hold; **Jane Zatechka** and **Rita Weeks** were doing a great job organizing those.

We also said thanks to **Kay Rockwell**, who this year has retired from the board. Since her retirement from UNL more than 10 years ago, Kay organized tours of various university buildings and programs, which were popular and fun for ERA members.

Thanks also to **Jim Griesen** and **Julie Johnson** for their work on updating our bylaws. We welcomed to the board **Lloyd Ambrosius, Dora Dill, Chuck Hibberd, and Tom Hoegemeyer**. And we bade farewell to past president **Jeff Keown**, who has been a steady presence, and to **John Bernthal**, who have completed their terms.



Kim Hachiya

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## President Hachiya's letter *(continued from page 1)*

We have a few priorities for 2021.

- We continue to work with the university to find ways to allow surviving spouses of faculty to have temporary access to email accounts in the event of the faculty member's death or incapacity. This will allow family to transfer those accounts and their contents to a non-university email system. **Don Weeks** is heading this effort.
- We are exploring a seminar or workshop series to help colleagues transition to retirement and find new identity and meaning as retirees. Often, retirement planning looks at the important facets of financial security, insurance, and similar elements, but the mental and emotional preparation for this big change are equally important to make a successful move into retirement.
- And we will continue to explore ways to work with the university to help support students, perhaps through mentoring opportunities and through Big Red Resilience. **Linda Major** is championing this initiative.

Finally, giant applause and thanks to **Pat Crews**, who not only did a great job managing the Wisherd Awards process but who also graciously accepted nomination as president elect. Part of that job is organizing our monthly meetings.

On Tuesday, Jan. 19, we heard from Dr. James Lawler, associate professor at the University of Nebraska Medical Center, about the COVID-19 vaccines.

The schedule for the remainder of spring semester is below. Watch your email for the Zoom links. We will, as usual, have a short business meeting prior to hearing the speaker and will open the Zoom room early to allow for conversation. The speaker start times are flexible, depending on the business meeting agenda, but the goal is to keep those business meetings short.

**Tuesday, Feb. 16**, Zoom room opens at 11:00 a.m., business meeting at 11: 45, speaker to follow

**"Nebraska Extension Responds: Floods, Blizzards, Droughts, and Pandemics" – Dr. Charles Hibberd**, dean and director emeritus, Nebraska Cooperative Extension, IANR

**Thursday, March 18**, Zoom room opens at 11:30 a.m., business meeting at 11: 45, speaker at noon

**"Climate Change," Dr. Don Wilhite**, professor and director emeritus, Drought Mitigation Center, UNL School of Natural Resources

**Wednesday, April 14**, Zoom room opens at 11:30 a.m., business meeting at 11: 45, speaker at noon

**"The Buzz about Bees: Research Updates and Education Efforts across Nebraska and Beyond," Dr. Judy Wu-Smart**, extension and research entomologist, CASNR

I hope to see many of you this spring as we Zoom through the semester.

Kim Hachiya, president,  
UNL Emeriti and Retirees Association

**Invite a former colleague to join our association**

Do you know others who have officially retired from UNL, are at least 55 years old and have at least 10 years of service? Invite them to join.

Go to <http://www.emeriti.unl.edu> and click on "Become a Member" to complete the online application.



Ryan Sothan, outreach coordinator at the Nebraska Attorney General's Office, said those over 60 years of age may be a target for scams.

## Expert offers advice to avoid scams and fraud

By John Bernthal

Maybe it's because our society generally sees senior citizens as kind people who are willing to help that the 60+ age group tends to be a big target for scams and fraud.

Ryan Sothan, outreach coordinator at the Nebraska Attorney General's Office, raised that point when he spoke at the Emeriti and Retirees Association meeting on Tuesday, Oct. 20.

Sothan said people 60 and older make up 19 percent of the population but file 37 percent of fraud complaints. In Nebraska, that's over one-third of the 750 to 1,100 complaints filed with the Nebraska Attorney General's office each month.

The two most frequent fraud complaints, Sothan said, are imposter scams and identity theft, each of which accounts for about 20 percent of the complaints. Other frauds include mail fraud, telephone and mobile services, home repair, bank lenders, prizes and sweepstakes.

Sothan identified six popular imposter scams:

The caller says they represent a government agency such as the IRS or Social Security; however, neither of those contacts citizens by phone.

The scammer congratulates the target for something that is too good to be true.

The scammer tells the target they will lose access to all their computer data or the computer will be infected with a virus if the target does not send money.

The caller reports a fake family emergency, often a story about a grandchild who is in deep trouble and needs help and money.

The scammer reports irregular or fraudulent activity to one of the target's accounts and says a security update must be applied immediately.

The caller establishes a relationship with the target and then asks for cash to meet a short-term emergency; these are sometimes called "romance scams."

Imposter scammers usually tell their targets they must immediately make payment in the form of a pre-paid credit card, a wire transfer, or a debit card. They often try to obtain enough information to perpetrate identity theft, opening debit or credit card accounts in the target's name.

Sothan said red flag warnings that a call may be a scam is when the caller offers something that is too good to be true – a lottery win – or too bad to be believed – a Social Security account has been compromised. Callers may also threaten arrest if payment is not made immediately to the IRS or another agency.

On the related subject of elder abuse, Sothan said several agencies are available to help, including social services, law enforcement, legal authorities, Aging Partners, Adult Protective Services, and the Attorney General's office.

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## Expert offers advice to avoid scams and fraud *(continued from page 3)*

Other red flags are calls that tout a miracle cure or treatment or an experimental vaccine. Sometimes the caller suggests a person has been in contact with someone infected with COVID and asks for personal information, money, or a Social Security number. Sothan added that COVID contact tracers never require personal information.

Regarding identity theft, Sothan said it has been a leading method of fraud for more than 20 years but increased significantly in 2019. Identity thefts are associated with personal loans, auto loans and leases, and student loans.

He suggested a person ask the three major credit bureaus to set a default on their account that requires a person's consent for the release of their credit record. The default can be

requested via phone, online, or by mail without charge. He also suggested similar instructions to the National Consumer Telecom and Utilities Exchange.

Sothan said recent federal legislation, the TRACED Act, will assist in stopping at least some scam calls. When the act is implemented in coming months, it will require call authentication, blocking most robocalls by default. It includes sizable fines for violators.

For more information relative to fraud email, go to [ago.consumers@nebraska.gov](mailto:ago.consumers@nebraska.gov) or to this website: [ProtecttheGoodLifeNebraska.gov](https://ProtecttheGoodLifeNebraska.gov). Or call (402) 471-2682. A consumer protection kit is also available from any of those sources.

## Wisherd grants help fund publication, research travel

Sylvia Wiegand, Thomas Carr and David Forsythe received 2019 Wisherd Research Grants made by the UNL Emeriti and Retirees Association and have used the funds to support a number of projects.

- **Dr. Sylvia Wiegand**, emeritus professor in the Department of Mathematics, received a Wisherd Research Award to support an extensive revision of the book "Integral Domains Inside Noetherian Power Series Rings: Construction and Examples." It was joint work with co-authors William Heinzer of Purdue and Christel Rotthaus, retired from Michigan State.

The book is now in review by the American Mathematical Society. It is intended as a reference for researchers in commutative algebra and could also be a graduate text. The application of Noetherian rings has many practical uses such as in the design of airplanes.

- **Dr. Thomas Carr**, emeritus professor in the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures, received a Wisherd Research grant to support publication costs for his forthcoming book, "A Touch of Fire: Marie-André Duplessis, the Hotel-Dieu of Quebec, and the Writing of

New France." It was published in 2020 by the prestigious McGill-Queen's University Press.

The book is the first biography of Duplessis. In it, Carr examines the life and work of an enterprising leader and major woman author of early Canada. He analyzes how she navigated, in peace and war, the unstable, male-dominated colonial world of New France. Dr. Carr acknowledged the support of the UNL Emeriti and Retirees Association in the Acknowledgements section of the book.

- **Dr. David Forsythe**, emeritus professor in the Department of Political Science, received a Wisherd Research grant that supported his research on the International Committee of the Red Cross. Currently, there is a clash among officials regarding policy and future direction of the organization.

Forsythe's Wisherd grant supported his travel to Geneva for face-to-face meetings with individuals on both sides of the policy controversy so that he can write a balanced historical account. His long-term book project is progressing. The preface and introductory chapter are drafted.



Dona-Gene Barton, UNL associate professor of political science, shares thoughts on the Nov. 3 election.

## Political scientist puts election in context

By Kim Hachiya

When Dona-Gene Barton spoke to the UNL ERA on Nov. 19, 2020, it was two weeks after the Nov. 3 election. Joe Biden had been declared the winner of the presidential election, but then-President Donald Trump was refusing to concede.

At the time, Barton, UNL associate professor of political science, said the election demonstrated how deeply divided the country is and that the division is a long-term trend. She also noted that a huge percentage of voters supporting each candidate believed that if the “other side” won, it would cause lasting, grave damage to the country.

Trump voters, she noted then, believed what Trump was telling his followers: that there was rampant fraud (despite zero evidence) and that the election was “stolen.”

I called Professor Barton on Jan. 25, (the first snow day) to get her take on events since Nov. 19, particularly the Jan. 6, 2021, insurrection and the former president’s apparent attempts to get the Georgia Secretary of State to “find” votes.

Barton said political scientists saw a lot of foreshadowing of those events. So while it was shocking to see, it was not completely surprising. She noted that in 2000, when the Supreme Court eventually ruled in favor of George W. Bush, Al Gore conceded defeat, and the legal process moved on as it has traditionally.

When asked on Nov. 19, “What if Trump refuses to go?” she responded, “I hope we don’t see that. I would hope Republican leadership would be persuasive.” On Jan. 25, she noted that the traditions and legal processes worked to ensure the transition to a new administration but at great expense. Trump has never conceded and only obliquely mentions the Biden administration. Barton said Trump’s rhetoric and comments by other Republican “elites” fanned the flames and contributed to the Jan. 6 events at the U.S. Capitol.

“Americans take our institutions for granted,” she said. “We assume a smooth transition and adherence to long-standing norms,” and Trump’s violation of norms wrenched the process and contributed to the Jan. 6 events.

When I asked her how she thinks the Biden Administration will fare, she said, “Think of the millions of people who voted for Trump. People’s partisan lenses will shape their views of Biden’s actions. I hope that as time passes, some of the rancor and instability will dampen a bit. But it’s naïve to think or expect it to all go away. I really hope we don’t see continuing violence. But people’s various viewpoints don’t give politicians much leeway to negotiate while still retaining their bases.”

The pandemic has curtailed the hallway banter among her Poli Sci colleagues, she said, but generally they all hope for more stability in the government and a better handle on the pandemic. That’s a feeling many, if not most, of us share.



Megan Elliott, founding director of the Johnny Carson Center for Emerging Media Arts, shared the dream and vision of the Center.

## Dream bigger

By Vi Schroeder

*"Talent alone won't make you a success." Johnny Carson*

"Dream bigger" is the mantra of the Johnny Carson Center for Emerging Media Arts. Its founding director, Megan Elliott, shared the dream as well as the center's vision in her presentation to ERA's December 2020 Zoom meeting.

Elliott was enthusiastic about the ground-breaking new academic program and her commitment to redesigning and augmenting both vision and program – even, and especially, during COVID. She gave those attending the meeting her view of the future potential of emerging media technology.

A \$57 million partnership between the Hixson-Lied College of Fine and Performing Arts at UNL, the Johnny Carson Foundation, and numerous private industry partners began in 2017. In the ensuing four years, this unique program has developed at the 13th and Q facility that was formerly Nebraska Bookstore. The building was renovated, innovative faculty were recruited, and an impressive advisory council of local/national/international

leaders and innovators in new media was established. The first students were welcomed in the fall of 2019, and programming was reimagined by COVID in 2020.

Elliott said the center is transformative, imagining and reinventing the future by combining the technologies of emerging media with the humanity of media arts. She showed video clips of emerging media, which includes animation, motion graphics, 3D modeling, virtual reality, augmented reality, combined virtual, augmented and mixed reality technologies, artificial intelligence, wearable technologies, and much else yet to be developed.

The center's goal is to become the premier destination for creative students who will use technology to innovate, solve global-scale problems, entertain, and tell spellbinding stories. Elliott said the center's work is not just about the arts but is about innovation in any college or industry. Students are carefully chosen based upon creativity, ability to tell stories, desire to engage with emerging media, and passion for innovation. They learn early on that they are developing their own programs and skill sets as they collaborate in the learning process.

Flexibility is the key word describing the center facilities. The size and function of learning/creating spaces can adapt on a daily basis, and students are responsible for making sure spaces meet their needs and the needs of the story they are developing.

Elliott talked about one of the center's first projects in the fall of 2019. The first class of first-year students created Story City, an opportunity for anyone with a phone, headphones, and a free app to "see" Lincoln through geolocative projects (<https://go.unl.edu/story-city>).

And while Elliott admitted COVID had had a negative impact on traditional classroom learning, she said she was excited about the new opportunities it provided to use emerging media to support and encourage its students.

The Carson Foundation gave each student a powerful new laptop to allow access to social media, apps, and the experiential web so media projects could be developed off-site. Since there were no face-to-face class meetings where students could share their work, Open Studio 2020 was created. Each student has a "room" where people from all over the world can view their work.

What will we remember from Megan Elliott's enthusiasm? Dream bigger. Use radical imagination. Inspire storytelling. Leverage emerging technologies. Create new careers. Carson Center for Emerging Media Arts.



James Lawler, associate professor of Internal Medicine at UNMC, urges patience with COVID vaccines.

## Lawler hopeful about COVID vaccines but says we still need masks

By Rita Kean

While the fight against the coronavirus is proceeding, the nation has a long way to go.

That was the message Dr. James Lawler gave when he spoke with the UNL ERA on Jan. 19 via Zoom. Lawler is associate professor in the Department of Internal Medicine and executive director of International Programs and Innovation for the Global Center for Health Security at the University of Nebraska Medical Center.

As of the date of his presentation, Lawler said, 24.1 million Americans had been diagnosed with COVID-19, including 182,587 cases in Nebraska. During the first weeks of January, he added, the numbers of those afflicted with the virus had decreased by 7 percent nationwide and 18 percent in Nebraska. Deaths attributed to COVID-19 had decreased 21 percent across the nation and 27 percent in the state.

Although the vaccination process had begun in December 2020, Lawler said it would be a long time before the greater population would have immunity. For one thing, he said the number of vaccines needs to be increased.

By mid-January, several vaccines were in use worldwide. In the U.S., vaccines manufactured by Pfizer and Moderna had been approved. Lawler said estimates were that 200 million doses of each would be available in the U.S. by the end of 2021, with additional vaccines making it possible to vaccinate the entire population before the end of the year.

Pfizer and Moderna vaccines are each given twice, Lawler said: an initial injection followed by a second shot three or four weeks later. Although some people who received the vaccination had some temporary discomfort, such as fatigue, headache, muscle and joint aches, severe adverse effects occurred at the same rate as in placebo groups.

Lawler said Nebraska has a three-phase plan for administering the vaccine:

Phase 1A. Health care personnel and the staff and residents of long-term care facilities

Phase 1B. Those 65 and older; those 18 and older with medical conditions; first responders; educators and educational staff; correctional facility staff; critical infrastructure staff

Phase 1C. Other vulnerable populations (disabled, those in congregate living, etc.)

Lawler said that, even as people get the vaccines, everyone should continue to wear face masks, keep a safe distance from others, and keep up to date about the vaccine. To learn more about the vaccine, he suggested visiting the CDC website [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov) and downloading the app [www.cdc.gov/vsafe](http://www.cdc.gov/vsafe). This app will enable anyone who suffers side effects from the vaccine to report them.

Lawler concluded his presentation by answering a myriad of questions about the virus and the vaccines.

## Life after retirement — What are they doing now?



**Gary Heusel**

### **Member profile — Gary Heusel**

My first job after college was as a county agent. After 34 years working with 4-H members, staff, and volunteers, I gained emeritus status in 2003.

Before resigning my position with Nebraska 4-H at the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources, I discussed retirement with a counselor. The counselor assured me I would be fine, and although I have failed retirement multiple times since then, life has been satisfying.

Just days after I became emeritus, I was on a plane to Armenia to help that country start its 4-H program, something that was not allowed when it was part of the Soviet Union. USDA asked me to take on this interesting task, and I spent eight months establishing the program nationwide, working with local volunteers and the Peace Corps. I left after we found a young Armenian to become the country's 4-H leader.

In addition to the work experience, I brought two Armenians home with me. They now both have master's degrees from the University of Nebraska.

Back in Lincoln, UNL Student Services offered me a position as director of the Midwest Consortium for Service-Learning in Higher Education. I worked with multiple colleges and universities in three states for five years. I resigned when Hawaii 4-H asked me to be their state 4-H leader.

Working with county staff, 4-H members, and volunteers made it possible to rebuild the Hawaii program that had lost 50 percent of its membership. When my mother and our son were having serious health problems in 2014, my wife, Karen, and I returned to Nebraska, one of six states in which we have lived. Nebraska is the only state from which we have moved and returned.

Time in Hawaii, combined with positive experiences with International 4-H, Partners of the Americas, Winrock International, and church mission trips kept us involved with international visitors and travel. I went to Bangladesh to help them start the 4-H program after I returned from Hawaii. I continue to program for the Lincoln Council for International Visitors, which hosted more than 100 international visitors in 2019. I serve on the international board of directors for Partners of the Americas.

Family, church, and travel have been the priorities during retirement. We typically take at least two extended trips each year. In addition to visiting every state, we have been to more than 30 countries. My service on the Partners International board takes us to the Southern Hemisphere often. In 2021 we will travel in the U.S. to visit family and friends and on three international trips.

We have found that staying busy with family, church, and community gives purpose to our lives. Karen and I often wonder how we ever managed to work regular jobs. If you identify and get involved with pursuits that are important to you, I think you will enjoy retirement. You, too, can enjoy an encore career!





**Lloyd Ambrosius**

### Member profile — Lloyd Ambrosius

After my retirement in 2015, my wife, Marge, and I traveled to Turkey where we enjoyed over two weeks on guided tours of Istanbul and throughout the country. We stopped in Germany on our way home to visit friends in Heidelberg and Aachen. I'm happy we could take that trip at that time since Marge died in late January 2018 after nearly three months in the hospital and at home under hospice care. Retirement allowed me to spend every day with her.

After two years as vice president, I served in 2015-2017 as president of the Society for Historians of the Gilded Age and Progressive Era (SHGAPE) and then two more on its council. I also completed a book, "Woodrow Wilson and American Internationalism" (Cambridge University Press, 2017).

I have attended SHGAPE annual meetings and those of the Organization of American Historians and the Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations (SHAHR). This year I contributed a paper on a panel at the (virtual) annual meeting of the American Political Science Association. It will be published in the January 2021 issue of *Passport*, the SHAHR newsletter.

Except this year, I have traveled to visit my sons and their families in Winston-Salem, N.C., and Nashville, Tenn. My grandson is a second-year student at Amherst College; my granddaughter is a first-year student at Johns Hopkins University.

With various members of my family, I have enjoyed trips to Florida, twice to national parks in Utah and Wyoming, and to Ireland. I continue to be active in several ways at the Saint Paul United Methodist Church and also to serve on the Council on Finance and Administration of the Great Plains Conference (Kansas and Nebraska) of the United Methodist Church.

My advice for retirement is to do only those things that are most meaningful. In my case, these involve activities with family and friends, with my academic life as a historian, and with my church.

### Gratitude in time of stress

The pandemic has created a time of stress thanks to isolation and to concern about contracting the disease. But even in these traumatic times, we have many things to be thankful for. Gratitude benefits our physical and emotional health, resulting in increased happiness, less depression, better sleep, reduced fatigue, and increased feelings of self-worth.

Ways to practice gratitude:

- Keep a journal. Write down one or two things you are thankful for and periodically review and reflect on those items.
- Use gratitude language.
- Take time to express your thankfulness to others for things they do.
- Think of creative ways to express your gratitude.

Summarized by Doug Jose from an article by Susan Harris, Nebraska Extension.



## Michl named new OLLI director

By Bob Michl

Bob Michl is the new director of the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) at the University of Nebraska. He replaces Dee Aguilar, who retired in mid-January after 15 years with OLLI.

Michl, pronounced "Mickle," had been the curriculum coordinator at OLLI since March 2018.

While Michl grew up on a farm west of Lincoln, he said he always knew he wanted to be an educator. He earned four degrees from UNL: a bachelor's degree in 1983, master's in 1995, education specialist in 2002, and doctor of education in 2006.

Michl spent 17 years in the high school classroom at Gretna where he taught journalism and college prep English courses and coached basketball, volleyball, and golf. He then served as the high school principal and curriculum coordinator at Freeman Public School in Adams for another 17 years before retiring from the public school system in June 2017.

Bob Michl, new director for OLLI , follows Dee Aguilar.

Michl said that while OLLI class offerings via Zoom have been received well during the COVID-19 pandemic, he's looking forward to getting back to offering some courses face to face. He said the social value of "in person" courses is important and that getting people back together will be a primary focus moving forward.

But Michl said he also will continue to explore the benefits of Zoom for course delivery and will seek ways to offer more courses via Zoom and face to face simultaneously.

"We can't look to getting back to normal," Michl said. "Instead, we have to move forward by looking at what is a 'new normal' after the COVID pandemic is more under control."

Michl encourages those who have not renewed their membership and those who have waited to join OLLI to do so now because "Curiosity Never Retires." A mid-year membership is only \$50.

Thanks to the two groups' partnership, which began in 2006, ERA members have been able to enroll in one designated OLLI course each term, even if they are not OLLI members, simply by paying the course fee.

But beginning in 2021, all ERA members may enroll in any OLLI courses or events offered via Zoom during Term 3, late January through early March, and again during next fall's Term 1, late August through early October – simply by paying the fee for the courses

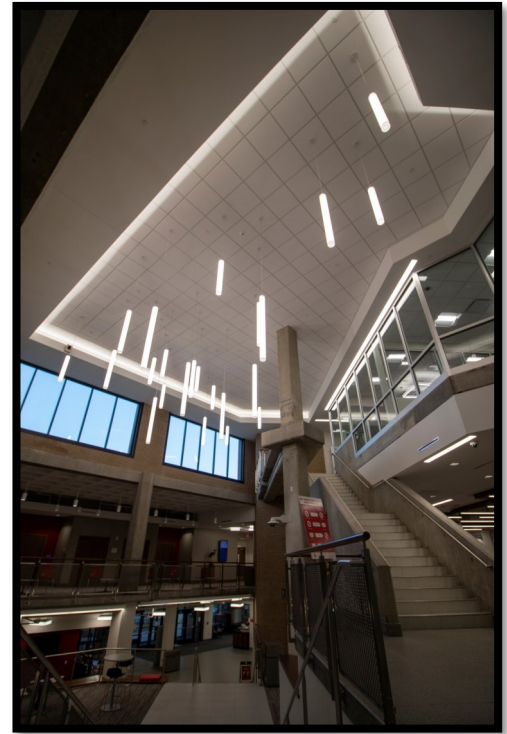
The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (OLLI at UNL) is an adult learning membership program for men and women age 50 years plus.

**Curiosity never retires!**



## Nebraska East Union offers transparent architecture and increased study space

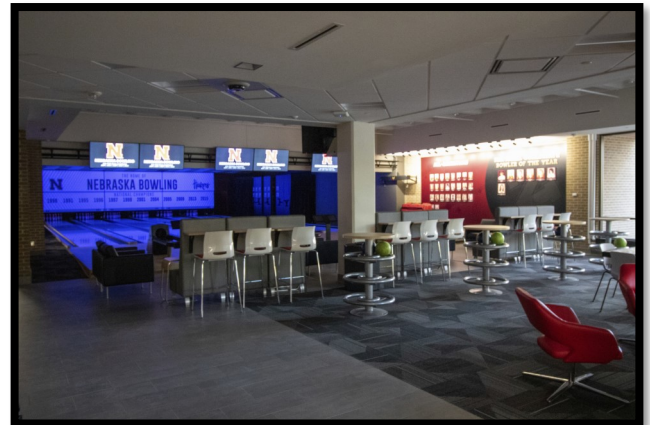
One of the of the goals of the newly renovated Nebraska East Union was to create open spaces.



The Great Plains Room, which has been the setting for many ERA luncheons, has been expanded and renovated and its lighting updated. The ERA plans to hold some fall 2021 meetings in this room.

The bowling center in the East Union is home to the UNL women's bowling team, which has won seven national titles since 1977. The area has also been renovated.

The Union renovation was also designed to create a diversity of spaces and to increase the places for students to study. The result is indoor and outdoor spaces, study rooms, and a balcony space where students can congregate and study.



The new dining facility, formerly on the second level, is now on the main floor, and a new Starbucks coffee bar is located on the second floor.



A student takes advantage of some study time in the Dinsdale Family Learning Center, the new name of the renovated former C.Y. Thompson Library.

## Learning commons opens on East Campus

Renovation of the C.Y. Thompson Library on East Campus is complete.

The Dinsdale Family Learning Commons is now open in the former C.Y. Thompson Library. One of the first changes visitors will notice is the natural light that flows through windows that run from roofline to ground level. The spacious,

glass-walled Kimmel Foundation Room, a focal point of the first floor, can be reserved by the campus community for educational opportunities.

Dave and Sharron Stock provided support for the Stock Seed Farms Family Room, a large second-floor, interactive classroom designed for faculty and students to develop greater critical facility with all forms of information.

In the center of the building, a feature called the Learning Stair is equipped with integrated technology and a sound system for pop-up programming, tours, studying, and collaboration.

The first floor includes a digital exhibit for the Nebraska Hall of Agricultural Achievement, a University Police substation, and a One Button Studio for recording lectures and presentations. The Engler Agribusiness Entrepreneurship Program occupies two-thirds of the second floor, with five classrooms and a makerspace.

The lower level retains the name of Charles Yoder Thompson (1875-1970), an NU alumnus and agricultural expert who served 24 years on the Board of Regents. Accessible through a new entrance on the east, the lower level includes the East Campus Exam Commons with 36 computer stations and three private rooms for student testing.

The completion of the Dinsdale Family Learning Commons connects the building via its new west entrance to the Legacy Plaza, an East Campus green space project launched under the direction of Chancellor Ronnie Green while he served as vice chancellor for the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources.

The \$22.5 million renovation was funded entirely by private donors. Husker alumni and philanthropists Ruth and Bill Scott of Omaha provided a challenge gift to encourage others to invest in the project and to offer the option for naming the new student commons. The Dinsdale family of Nebraska responded with a major gift commitment in honor of Roy G. Dinsdale and the late John “Jack” A. Dinsdale.

Several other individuals and organizations supported the project through gifts to the University of Nebraska Foundation. Four study spaces are named for donors: Mark and Debra Classen, B. Keith and Norma Heuermann, Thomas and Linda Hoegemeyer, and Frank Sibert and his late wife, Shirley Sibert.

(This piece summarizes a story that ran in Nebraska Today:

<https://news.unl.edu/newsrooms/today/article/dinsdale-family-learning-commons-opens-jan-27/>)

## **E.N. Thompson lectures focus on climate, environment**

By Linda Major

The E.N. Thompson Forum on World Issues has brought a diversity of viewpoints on international and public policy issues to the university and the residents of the state to promote understanding and encourage debate. The series is sponsored by the Cooper Foundation and UNL, and the 2020-21 series features authors and activists speaking about the environment.

Lectures are live-streamed at <http://enthompson.unl.edu> and are available on Lincoln City and Education TV channel and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's KRNU Radio 90.3 FM

Two lectures remain in this year's series.

### **"Naming the Beast: Climate Change and our Youth Taking Action," Youth Panel**

Feb. 23, 7 p.m.

Focused on solutions and action, today's youth are not afraid to face problems that threaten their future. This Cooper Conversation will feature and be hosted by youth activists who seek to inspire the broader community.

### **"No Horizon is So Far," Ann Bancroft, polar explorer, climate advocate, philanthropist**

March 31, 7 p.m.

Bancroft is one of the world's preeminent polar explorers and an internationally recognized educator who is dedicated to inspiring women and girls around the world. Through her various roles as explorer, educator, speaker, and philanthropist, Bancroft shares stories related to outdoor adventure to inspire a global audience to pursue their individual dreams.

## **UNL's spring 2021 COVID-19 policies include emeritus faculty**

To comply with the university's comprehensive plan to combat the COVID-19 pandemic, all emeritus faculty who plan to use campus facilities during the spring 2021 semester are required to participate in the saliva-based testing program and to show a building access pass that indicates they are eligible to enter.

For more information about the policy, how to get the access pass and how to participate in testing, go to <https://covid19.unl.edu/spring-testing>.

## Meeting schedule

Because of COVID-19 precautions, some membership meetings will be conducted via Zoom webinar. Hopefully, by fall we will be able to meet in person, but you will be notified by email where the meeting will be located. You will receive links to the Zoom webinar a few days before each meeting. If you have changed your email address in the past few months, please send your new email address to [astark@inebraska.com](mailto:astark@inebraska.com).

## Spring 2021 schedule

**Tuesday, Feb. 16, 11:30—1: 00 p.m. Nebraska Extension Responds: Floods, Blizzards, Droughts and Pandemics**

**Dr. Charles Hibberd**, dean and director emeritus, Nebraska Cooperative Extension, IANR

Zoom meeting space opens at 11:00 a.m., business meeting will begin at 11: 30 with the speaker to follow.

**Thursday, March 18, 11:30 — 1:00 p.m. Climate Change — Dr. Don Wilhite**, professor and director emeritus, Drought

Mitigation Center, UNL School of Natural Resources

Zoom meeting space opens at 11:00 a.m., business meeting will begin at 11: 30 with the speaker to follow.

**Wednesday, April 14, 11:30 — 1:00 p.m. The Buzz about Bees: Research Updates and Education Efforts across**

**Nebraska and Beyond** **Dr. Judy Wu-Smart**, extension and research entomologist, CASNR

Zoom meeting space opens at 11:00 a.m., business meeting will begin at 11: 30 with the speaker to follow.

## Fall 2021 schedule

**September Foundation Luncheon** — Date, program, and location to be determined

**Tuesday, October 19** — Nebraska East Union, program to be determined

**November**— Date, program, and location to be determined

**Thursday, December 16** — Nebraska East Union, program to be determined

All coffee house chats, social activities, and tours have been suspended until it is safe to gather in person. We look forward to seeing you when these resume.

### Coffee House Chats



### Social Activities



### Tours



## Memory Moments

The UNL Emeriti and Retiree 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 luncheon meetings. The following names were announced or received in 2020.

Dewaine Alcorn, Special Education  
and Communication Disorders

Norma Alcorn, spouse of Dewaine, Special  
Education and Communication Disorders

Jim Alfano, Plant Pathology

Douglas Amedeo, Geography, School of Natural Resources

Jamie Bauman, Veterinary Diagnostic Center

Deloris Berg, Student and Family Housing

Loren Bonneau, Teachers College

Wilbur (Bud) Dasenbrock, Landscape Services

Richard DeLorm, Engineering

Gary Fouraker, Athletics

Margaret Fuller, Physics

Rafael (Ralph) Francisco Grajeda, English

Joyce Hall, Lancaster County Extension

Mark Hendricks, Nebraska Extension

Ramona Hill, Ag Finance and Personnel

Jay (Phil) Holman, Agriculture and  
Home Economics Communication

Shirley Honvlez

Lisa Jasa, Agriculture Communications

Stanley Jensen, Plant Pathology

Steve Kalish, College of Law

Roger Kirby, Physics

Robert Krejci, Dentistry

Carren Miller, spouse of Tice Miller, Theatre Arts

Donald Nelson, Chemical Engineering

Joseph Palensky, Facilities Management

Joyce Peters, Registration and Records

Lynn Peterson, Nebraska Extension

Homer Puderbaugh, Jr., Architecture

Ann Rawley, spouse of James Rawley, History

Judy Riordan, spouse of Terry Riordan, Agronomy and  
Horticulture

Lucille Rolfes, College of Law

David Routon, Fine Arts

Ann (Hink) Sahs, spouse of Warren Sahs, Agronomy

James (Jimmi) Smith, Multicultural Affairs

Cho Wing Solomon To, Mechanical Engineering

Byron (Bud) Stolzenburg, Nebraska Extension

William (Terry) Tallon, Payroll Management

Daniel Vasgird, Research Compliance Services

Robert Wahl, UNL Garage supervisor

Naomi Wayne, spouse of Bill Wayne, Earth and Atmospheric  
Sciences

William (Bill) John Wayne, Earth and Atmospheric Sciences

Ronald White, Food Services

John F. Young

Memories

Memories

Memories



## Call for nominations for the Maude E. Wisherd Awards

Members of the UNL Emeriti and Retirees Association are encouraged to nominate others for one of three Wisherd Awards: for Outstanding Service to UNL, for Outstanding Community Service, and for Outstanding National/International Humanitarian Service.

**Deadline for nominations is May 15.**

Members also are encouraged to apply for funding from a Wisherd grant for research, scholarly, and creative activities. Deadline for applications is March 15.

The awards selection committee includes Robert Diffendal, Rita Kean, Jake Kirkland Jr., Katherine Walter, and Lloyd Ambrosius, chair.

More information about these awards is available on the ERA website ([emeriti.unl.edu/awards](http://emeriti.unl.edu/awards)) or by emailing [lambrosius1@unl.edu](mailto:lambrosius1@unl.edu).

## Quotable quotes

*You can tell by looking at me that I've got more miles behind me than I've got in front of me. When you reach that point, if you've got some good years left, you want to make certain you use them wisely.*  
Tom Osborne

*Know that you are the perfect age. Each year is special and precious, for you shall only live it once. Be comfortable with growing older.*  
Louise Hay

*She gazed deeply into my eyes and said, "Say those three little words that I like to hear so much, and say it like you mean it." I wrapped my arms around her and held her tightly, and I yelled, "GO BIG RED!"*  
Author unknown

## 2021 Officers/Board of Directors

Kim Hachiya, president  
Pat Crews, president-elect  
Don Weeks, past president  
Dora Dill, co-secretary  
Tom Hoegemeyer, board member, co-secretary  
Sue Gildersleeve, benefits committee  
Earl Hawkey, treasurer  
Chuck Hibberd, board member, website committee  
Viann Schroeder, board member  
Al Stark, membership, educational events, website committees  
Lloyd Ambrosius, awards committee  
Jane Zatechka, social events committee  
Rita Weeks, social events committee  
Jim Griesen, bylaws and policies committee  
Julie Johnson, publications, bylaws and policies committees  
Doug Jose, publications committee  
Charlyne Berens, publications committee  
Rita Kean, OLLI liaison  
Linda Major, student affairs liaison

For information on the UNL Emeriti and Retirees Association, go to: <http://emeriti.unl.edu>

## Do you have ideas for stories or advice that would make the newsletter better?

Please contact a member of the Publications Committee:

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Julie Johnson  
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