

## ERA wants to be part of your retirement journey

By President Linda Major

As most ERA members can attest, retirement marks the end of one journey while launching the beginning of another. A campus is not just about teaching, research and service but also the relationships it fosters among its faculty, staff and students. The UNL Emeriti and Retirees Association (ERA) believes that retirement is not a farewell but an opportunity to stay connected, engaged and involved with an extended network of former colleagues and friends with whom you interacted.

If you are a new member, welcome. We are excited to greet you at any of the upcoming events or lunch meetings for the fall semester. Thanks to the ERA Program Committee for confirming an outstanding fall presentation schedule culminating with a December lunch with newly appointed Chancellor Rodney Bennett on Dec. 12.

Take a tour of the newly redesigned and updated ERA website ([emeriti-retirees.unl.edu](http://emeriti-retirees.unl.edu)) for more information, including access to a calendar of multiple UNL events under Programs/Activities at [emeriti-retirees.unl.edu/unl-calendars.pdf](http://emeriti-retirees.unl.edu/unl-calendars.pdf). Thank you to Alfred Stark, Alice Henneman, Nancy Mitchell and Don Weeks, who contributed their time and talent to this summer project.

Over the next several months, we will continue our quest to reach \$60,000 in the ERA Scholarship Fund, allowing the organization to support two fully endowed scholarships. The UNL Office of Scholarships and Financial Aid will select the first scholarship recipient whom we hope to introduce at an upcoming meeting.

I am excited to announce that under a new agreement with OLLI (Osher Lifelong Learning Institute), ERA members will receive a \$10 membership discount for the 2023-2024 academic year. In addition, the two organizations are collaborating on a pop-up social event scheduled for Sept. 28. More information is included elsewhere in this newsletter.

Finally, I am grateful to two outgoing members of the ERA Board of Directors who shared a wealth of experience and expertise with the organization over the years: Lloyd Ambrosius, chair of the Awards Committee, and Sue Gildersleeve, chair of the Benefits Committee. While their leadership will be missed, I am pleased to announce that Pat Crews and Roshan Pajnigar graciously volunteered to assume those posts.

I hope to see you this fall. If you are interested in becoming a member of the board or serving on a committee, please feel free to contact me at [lmajor1@unl.edu](mailto:lmajor1@unl.edu). A brief description of each committee is posted on the ERA website at [emeriti-retirees.unl.edu/board](http://emeriti-retirees.unl.edu/board).



Linda Major, ERA 2023 president

- President's message
- Welcome, new members
- ERA scholarship donor thank-you
- Civic Leadership Award winner
- Wisherd Award winners
- Member profiles
  - Julie Albrecht
  - Larry Dlugosh
  - Doug Jose
- Walking the Camino de Santiago
- ERA members' favorite books
- OLLI update
- Discount on OLLI membership
- "Sip and Learn" Pop-up Social Event
- OLLI instructors wanted
- East Campus ice cream and gardens
- Lied tour – and more
- ERA member volunteers in action
- Cooking for one or two
- Luncheon speech highlights
- Upcoming luncheon meetings schedule
- Programs/activities
- Calendar of UNL events
- Your ERA board
- Big10 Retirees meeting report
- NU names new chief lobbyist



The University of Nebraska does not discriminate based upon any protected status. Please see [unl.edu/nondiscrimination](http://unl.edu/nondiscrimination).

## Welcome, new Emeriti and Retirees Association members!

by Don Weeks, Membership chair

Welcome to these new ERA members who have joined since those welcomed in the Spring 2023 newsletter through July 20, 2023. If you have joined in the past months but do not see your name, please contact me at [dweeks1@unl.edu](mailto:dweeks1@unl.edu) so that we can include you in the next newsletter.

**Sylvana Airan**, College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources

**Odessa H. Anderson**, University Press

**Sandra G. Benson**, Nebraska Forest Service

**Donna Bode**, West Central Research Extension and Education Center

**Craig A. Boden**, Athletics

**Connie Boehm**, Student Affairs

**Roger D. Buchholz**, University Press

**Elizabeth S. Burke**, English

**D'vee Buss**, College of Business

**Patrick H. Carlin**, Housing Facilities Maintenance

**Julie Davids**, NeBIS

**Ana M. Domant**, Custodial Services

**Daniel J. Duncan**, Nebraska Innovation Campus

**Allen L. Dutcher**, School of Natural Resources

**Marijane Look England**, Management

**Thomas E. Garvin**, USMARC

**Jill D. Gifford**, Food Processing Center

**Ronald D. Green**, Office of the Chancellor

**Michelle "Shelley" Harrold**, Office of the President

**Gary L. Hein**, Entomology

**Debbie Hendricks**, Student Affairs

**John R. Hibbing**, Political Science

**Joe L. Holbert**, Building Systems Maintenance

**Connor R. Husa**, Husker Hub

**Catherine Johnson**, UNL Extension

**Ronald F. Kallhoff**, University Television

**Ann Koopmann**, Computer Science

**Maria Dolores Lorenzo**, Modern Languages and Literatures

**Walter R. Mason**, Sheldon Museum of Art

**Allison R. Miller**, Animal Science

**Ginger A. Mills**, Animal Science

**Greta A. Mulligan**, NeBIS Technical Support Team

**David D. Oberle**, Building Systems Maintenance

**James G. Ocker**, Custodial Services

**Fernando Osorio**, School of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences

**Maria C. Osorio**, Housing Facilities Custodial

**Deb Pearson**, Libraries

**Gary D. Pepin**, Athletics

**Oscar Pereira**, Modern Languages and Literatures

**Ngu Phan**, Selleck Dining Service

**Joni B. Piccolo**, Massengale Res Center Dining

**Daniel K. Pickerel**, Building Systems Maintenance

**Craig B. Potter**, Landscape Services

**Patricia L. Potter**, Dining Service

**Sarah Effken Purcell**, Eastern Nebraska Research, Extension and Education Center

**Judith E. Sasso-Mason**, Scholarships and Financial Aid

**Irvin Schleufer**, Agronomy

**Jennifer L. Schrodt**, Nebraska Center for Virology

**Judith Shutts**, College of Business

**Michael D. Uldrich**, USMARC

**Richard L. Wahl**, Landscape Services

**Michelle R. Waite**, Office of the Chancellor

**Tamera D. Ward**, College of Business

**Michael E. Wesely**, Information Services

**Allan R. Vyhnaek**, Agricultural Economics

**Catherine "Cay" Yamamoto**, TRIO Programs

**Gary Y. Yuen**, Plant Pathology

**Michael E. Zoubek**, Husker Genetics

# Donations continue to ERA UNL student scholarship

## THANK YOU!

The 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.

### Thank you to ERA Scholarship fund contributors

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 Feb. 1 through July 15, 2023.

Some donors gave more than one time; however, donors are listed only once rather than separately for each form of 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 Feb. 1 through July 15, 2023.

Raul Barletta

Charlyne and Dennis Berens

Linda and David Boeckner

John and Nancy Comer

Patricia and David Crews

Larry and Janice Dlugosh

Pamela Edwards

Priscilla and Edward Grew

James Griesen

Kim Hachiya and Thomas White (in memory of  
David Fitzgibbon)

Connie Hancock

Alice Henneman and David Palm

Julie and Dennis Johnson

Doug Jose and Kay Easley (in memory of Mary  
Schkade)

Donald and Rita Weeks

Rita and Joseph Kean

Jason and Jaci Klein

Marjorie and David Kostelnik

Robert Kuzelka

Andrea and Joel Lonowski

Linda and Gary Major

Lois Mayo

Nancy and Roger Mitchell

Tom Piper

John and Claudia Reinhardt

Rosanne Samuelson

Linda Schwartzkopf and Michael Fultz

David and Peggy Stenberg

William Skocpol

Alfred and Linda Stark

Harriet Turner



NEW! You can now donate to the UNL Student Scholarship anytime at:  
[emeriti-retirees.unl.edu/donate](https://emeriti-retirees.unl.edu/donate)

# ERA member Dr. Colleen Jones receives the JoAnn Martin Civic Leadership Award

Dr. Colleen Jones received the JoAnn Martin Civic Leadership Award on May 2 from the Lincoln Community Foundation. The award recognizes an individual who has demonstrated a strong commitment to civic leadership through volunteer community service, including leadership with nonprofit and civic organizations.

Jones has spent her career in academia, mostly at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln where she taught human resource management, leadership and minority issues at the UNL College of Business. She retired as an associate professor of practice in Management.

The Community Foundation's nominating committee identified approximately 20 unique instances of Dr. Jones' community service, including volunteer leadership roles with the Sheldon Gallery, the Lied Center, the United Way, Leadership Lincoln, Friendship Home and the Lincoln Community Foundation.

Foundation president and CEO Alec Gorynski told the Lincoln Journal Star in May that, as the nominating committee compiled information for the award, they often heard, "Of course, Colleen is involved in everything."

In 2004, Jones established the Melvin W. Jones Scholars learning community at UNL in honor of her late husband who had been a UNL vice chancellor. Almost 20 years later, she continues her involvement with the students in the community, helping to mentor them and help them navigate the university and professional environment.

The Lincoln Community Foundation concluded its recognition of Jones on its website with these words from her:

"When Melvin died, I was reminded of a Maya Angelou quote: 'You may not control all the events that happen to you, but you can decide not to be reduced by them,'" she said. "It was not difficult for me to step up and become more visibly active in Lincoln because the perspectives of Black people, women and 'transplanted' new Nebraskans are essential to the health, growth and future of this community."

The civic leadership award was first presented to the late JoAnn Martin, former CEO of Ameritas, in the fall of 2021 by a group of community leaders who also established an endowment at the Lincoln Community Foundation to sustain Martin's leadership legacy. Jones is the second recipient of the JoAnn Martin Civic Leadership Award.



**Dr. Colleen Jones holds her award from the Lincoln Community Foundation. Photo by Kelly Burken**

# 2023 Maude E. Wisherd Awards announced

By Lloyd Ambrosius, awards committee chair

The Wisherd Awards Committee has selected Alison Stewart and Julie Thomas to receive grants of \$2,000 each to support their research, scholarly and creative activities.

Stewart, professor emeritus in Art History, will use her grant to support her research on Renaissance art in Germany. “My research and book will benefit general knowledge by expanding the prevalent view of Albrecht Duerer as Renaissance genius and by increasing the importance of Sebald Beham and printed book illustrations for Renaissance art,” she said. “My study rethinks these two artists and printed book illustrations for Renaissance art.”

The other research grant will support Julie Thomas, professor emeritus in Child, Youth and Family Studies, as she continues her work on Nebraska naturalists and their living legacies. “This Wisherd Award will provide me with a unique opportunity to move forward on translating my research-based writing style to match the needs and interests of a more general audience (in magazines such as Lincoln 55+),” she said, “and to pursue a longer-term, popular press book publication initiative.” Thomas said the grant will help her gather relatable stories of notable naturalists’ early years and use these stories for teaching children.

Julie Johnson, professor emeritus in Child, Youth and Family Studies, will receive the Wisherd Award for Outstanding Community Service. In her letter of nomination, Pat Crews noted that “Julie retired in 2011 and has volunteered at Rousseau Elementary School ever since. For more than 12 years she has assisted three days a week with math, language arts, spelling and other projects in a third-grade classroom at Rousseau.” Crews added, “Julie does other volunteer community service through her church as well.” In addition to her service to the community, Julie has devoted many hours of service to the UNL Emeriti and Retirees Association.

Jake Kirkland, Jr., emeritus assistant to the Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs, was chosen to receive the Wisherd Award for Outstanding Service to UNL. In her letter of nomination, Linda Major observed, “His ongoing post-retirement commitment to working for a more equitable and equal society on the campus and in the Lincoln community makes him an outstanding candidate for recognition.” Major added, “Following his 30 years in student services at UNL, Jake continues to support student intellectual, personal and professional development through the Melvin W. Jones Scholars program as a co-advisor. The learning community is home to first-year students in any major interested in social justice and diversity. As co-advisor, he serves as both an educator and a mentor, helping participating students understand and navigate a changing world.”



**Alison Stewart**



**Julie Thomas**



**Julie Johnson**



**Jake Kirkland, Jr.**

# Member profile: Julie Albrecht

By Julie Albrecht

After 27½ years as a professor and Nebraska Extension food specialist in the Nutrition and Health Science Department, I retired in 2017 to travel, read, quilt, travel more and get involved in volunteer projects. Professionally after retirement, I served on the national Food Safety Committee for the Conference for Food Protection for six years. In this capacity, I was able to travel to Washington, D.C., once a year. In addition, I serve on the Lincoln-Lancaster County Food Policy Council.



**Julie Albrecht**  
**Emeritus professor**  
**Nutrition and Health Sciences**

I started my travel journey with two volunteer assignments with Winrock International to Guinea and Senegal, which involved teaching women entrepreneurs food processing/preservation. Judging food preservation for 4-H at the Nebraska State Fair keeps me up to date. An Alaska cruise and a trip to Georgia (former USSR member nation) followed retirement. Joining a book group through the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Women's Club and OLLI helped to keep my mind stimulated.

Before COVID (BC), I was involved with lots of volunteer projects and events. My favorite volunteer experiences include ushering at the Lied Center for Performing Arts and making quilts for the cuddle quilt program through the Lincoln Quilt Guild. During COVID (DC) the quilting projects kept me busy. The quilts are given to many children in Lincoln. Also, a number of events/activities occurred on Zoom, like OLLI, Kiwanis and our book group, which helped keep me connected.

After COVID (AC), I am able to travel again since COVID has eased up: Portugal, Iceland, Israel, Jordan, Croatia and Slovenia (including short day trips into Bosnia and Montenegro). Wow, that's a lot of pictures to sort! To date, I have been able to work on my projects I planned for retirement.



**Marilyn Schnepf (left) and Albrecht ride a camel in Israel.**



**Albrecht sails on the Sea of Galilee.**

# Member profile: Larry Dlugosh

by Larry Dlugosh

My wife, Janee, and I love to travel. We have been to six continents and 42 countries. In February of 2024, our adventure will take us to Antarctica, the last to round out the continental goal on our bucket list.

I retired from UNL in 2011 after 46 years in public education: 24 years in preschool-to-12 schools as a science teacher, high school principal and superintendent of schools and 22 years with the College of Education and Human Science at UNL where I was a professor and department chair. My time and energy are now devoted to family, friends, church council, Bryan College of Health Sciences, the UNMC Board of Counselors and the UNL Emeriti and Retirees Association. I also facilitate strategic plans for preschool-to-12 schools and serve as a trustee for the Council of Nebraska Independent Colleges Foundation. So retirement is what I envisioned it to be: active, focused, busy and purposeful.

Janee and I have been married for 58 years as of June 2023, and we agree that it seems to be working out all right. We have two adult children and three grandchildren whom we enjoy immensely. Add to that the friends we have made and enjoy the world over, and it stacks up to lives well lived – at least in our minds.

Life has been a blessing. For that I am eternally grateful. I am continuously amazed at how quickly the years have gone by and how much there is left to do. It is also hard to believe that I am still just 22 years old in my head. (My body begs to differ.) Whatever is left to come will be met enthusiastically and in the spirit of service. If, during our lifetimes, we can say we may have made things better for others, then our journey has been worth it.

Collecting quotations from others, famous or infamous, is a long-time practice of mine, so I'll close with an anonymous quote about aging: "Aging is an extraordinary process whereby you become the person you always should have been."



**Larry Dlugosh**  
**Emeritus chairperson/professor**  
**Educational Administration**



**Larry and Janee Dlugosh hike in Machu Picchu, Peru.**



**Larry Dlugosh poses with a guide on the English River in Manitoba, Canada, during an annual fishing trip with friends.**



**These little vehicles the Dlugoshes encountered on the streets in Lisbon, Portugal, sold wine by the glass or bottle.**

# Member profile: Doug Jose

By Doug Jose

An acquaintance in USDA made me aware of an open position in the Agricultural Economics Department at UNL. I applied and after interviewing was offered the position.

There was a small problem: I was a Canadian citizen. I was grateful for the patience of the department during the 10 months it took for U.S. Immigration to approve my appointment. My wife, kindergarten-aged daughter and I arrived in Lincoln in January 1980. What fun, moving from Western Canada to Nebraska in the winter! But it worked out.

To join an agricultural economics faculty in the early '80s as an extension farm management specialist was challenging, albeit rewarding. It was a stressful time for agriculture. Interest rates were high. (Do you remember interest rates of 20%?) Many farm and ranch operations experienced financial stress. To help farm and ranch families work through their financial alternatives, my colleagues and I developed a program called "Managing for Tomorrow." We worked one-on-one with 1,000 farm and ranch families in the state.

Retirement activities have been stimulating and rewarding. My late wife and I had the opportunity to continue our desire to travel. We were privileged to experience the shared beauty, history, culture and friendship of more than 50 countries.

A resident of the Bennet area, I serve the community as a member of the Bennet Community Fund, the last 10 years as chair. The Oral History project of the ERA is a fascinating project. I conduct video interviews with retired faculty and staff. I am also a volunteer host for the Live and Learn program of Lincoln's Aging Partners agency. It airs on the local city TV channel.

A member of OLLI since I retired, I have taken at least six classes each year. The OLLI program is vibrant and enlightening. Participating in classes and activities keeps your mind active and provides opportunities for social interaction, a beneficial element to maintaining psychological wellbeing. Currently, I serve on the Contemporary Issues Subcommittee of the Curriculum Committee. This has given me the opportunity to develop a class on contemporary agriculture I will facilitate this fall.

In a workshop organized by the Nebraska Community Foundation a few years ago, we were asked to develop a theme or goal in seven words or less. Mine was "Learn from your grandchildren's creativity and imagination." Try it. It will keep your mind young and active.



**Doug Jose**  
**Emeritus Professor**  
**Agricultural Economics**



# Walking the Camino de Santiago – the Way of Saint James

by Charlie Francis, former senior director, Housing and Dining

The Camino is a network of pilgrims' ways, or pilgrimages, leading to the Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela in northwestern Spain, where tradition holds that the remains of the apostle Saint James the Great are entombed. This ancient footpath has been traversed by pilgrims for over a thousand years. My Camino started in a small village in France, Saint Jean Pied de Port, at the base of the Pyrenees.

I followed the Camino Frances for 500 miles to Santiago de Compostela, which translates as "Saint James Under a Field of Stars." This 33-day journey of over 1.3 million steps took me through four Spanish provinces: Navarra, Rioja, Castile de Leon and Galicia. I walked with two friends from the U.S. – another joined us for the last 200 miles – and we quickly found a rhythm to the days.

We would wake at 6 a.m. and be walking by 7 a.m. Most days we stopped for breakfast one or two hours into the morning's hike, after which we would walk another hour or so and make a second stop for a meal/snack. The goal was to finish walking by mid-afternoon when we would shower, have more food and a cold beverage, do any needed laundry and have time to journal and/or visit with our group or with other pilgrims.

Our daily average was 15 miles, and our longest day was just under 20 miles – a 50K step day for me, which was a personal record. We met people from all over the world: Australia, New Zealand, Canada, Germany, Italy and the United States. It was wonderful to get to know others and have this shared experience.

People walk the Camino for many reasons. I knew I wanted to experience Spanish culture, history and architecture. I left Spain with a bigger

appreciation for all that, along with its people and food.

Many say that the Camino changes the pilgrim and their outlook on life. I had read that there would be a spiritual component to the walk but didn't realize the impact it would have on me personally.

This pilgrimage has given me a deeper connection to my faith. I can honestly say it was one of the hardest things I've ever done in my life but one of the most rewarding.



From left, John Makinson, Bill Ashworth, Charlie Francis and Luther Heckman in front of the Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela at the end of the Camino.



Travelers from all over the world gather for a meal along the way. Francis is second on the right.



A sunrise that Francis' group enjoyed on Day 25 leaving Molinaseca.



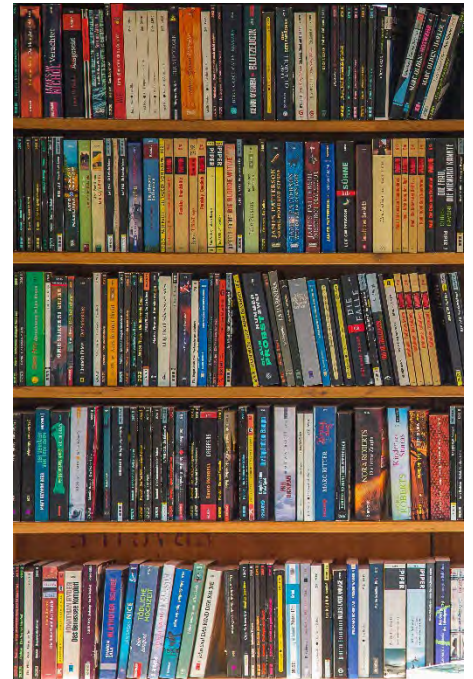
Pilgrims travel along "The Way."

# ERA members share their favorite books

By Alice Henneman, ERA Newsletter managing editor

When we asked ERA members to tell us about one of their favorite books and why they liked it, we received a library shelf full of responses. So browse and consider which books you might check out. Note: These books represent individual recommendations and are not a reading list developed by the ERA or the university.

- **“Whisper of the River” by Ferrel Sams.** *Submitted by: David Cochran*  
**Why you liked it:** About an Alabama boy going off to college in the late '30s, the book is semi-autobiographical.
- **“The Code Breaker” by Walter Isaacson.** *Submitted by: Don Weeks*  
**Why you liked it:** The new gene editing technique called CRISPR is revolutionizing the speed with which biological discoveries can be made and applied in agriculture and medicine. Isaacson’s book provides an easy-to-understand description of this technology and an insightful description of how it was discovered and developed, a colorful overview of the personalities of the scientists involved and a careful analysis not only of the promises of this powerful tool but also of the practical and ethical issues involved in its implementation for the benefit of society.
- **“This is Happiness” by Niall Williams.** *Submitted by: Charlyne Berens*  
**Why you liked it:** Set in Ireland in the 1950s, this novel is anything but an action thriller. Instead, the book is about people and relationships, family and community. The story touches your heart, and the writing is wonderful.
- **“Slow Birding” by Joan S. Strassman.** *Submitted by: Julie Thomas*  
**Why you liked it:** Promoting the fascinating everyday world of the most common U.S. birds, this animal behaviorist shares portraits of birds and the scientists who studied them along with approaches to learning more about interesting species in a nearby park or one's own backyard. I've been a birder for as long as I can remember, but, on Strassman's suggestion, I now have two new wren houses for rent.
- **“Demon Copperhead” by Barbara Kingsolver.** *Submitted by: Gregg Wright*  
**Why you liked it:** This engaging tale is told in the often funny, often tragic voice of a young, poor, Kentucky kid who faces poverty, drugs and a realistic journey through a failed child welfare system not unlike that in every state including our own.
- **“Lincoln Highway” by Amor Towles.** *Submitted by: David Palm*  
**Why you liked it:** So many parallels with today.
- **“Lucy by the Sea” by Elizabeth Strout.** *Submitted by: Nancy Mitchell*  
**Why you liked it:** It’s an interesting look at a divorced couple who reflect on their lives as they are stuck together during the pandemic. Also, I’m in the middle of reading “Jane Eyre” by Charlotte Brontë, which I read probably 50 years ago. I’ve enjoyed being reminded why it is a classic. Great writing! Wonderful descriptions and insights into human behavior.
- **“The Brilliant Life of Eudora Honeysett” by Annie Lyons.** *Submitted by: Pat Crews*  
**Why you liked it:** One of my favorite recently read novels.



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

- **“Enlightenment Now: The Case for Reason, Science, Humanism, and Progress.”** *Submitted by: Pat Crews*  
Why you liked it: One of my favorite nonfiction books.
- **“Jesus Calling” and “Jesus Always” by Sarah Young.** *Submitted by: Carol Plate*  
**Why you liked them:** In these days of uncertainty, all of these give me hope for the day and future.
- **“Death at La Fenice” by Donna Leon.** *Submitted by: Bob Diffendal*  
**Why you liked it:** This is the start of the Guido Brunetti Venice police novels. Anne and I both enjoy them. La Fenice is the Venice opera house. When we visited Venice some years ago, we saw an opera there. Wonderful opera; wonderful city.
- **“The Black Echo” by Michael Connelly.** *Submitted by: Bob Diffendal*  
**Why you liked it:** This is the start of the Harry (Hieronymus) Bosch LA police novels. These are nice police procedurals that are compelling reads.
- **“The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People” by Stephen R. Covey.** *Submitted by: Alice Henneman*  
**Why you liked it:** While the title makes this book sound like a manual for business people, it is for everyone. I especially liked and continually need to revisit Habit 7, Sharpen the Saw. The illustration behind sharpening the saw is of a man working long hours to cut down a tree with a dull saw. Taking some time out to “sharpen the saw” might get the tree cut sooner. I think of this whenever I feel I’m too busy to put away my saw and say “yes” to a fun activity.
- **“Undaunted Courage” by Stephen E. Ambrose.** *Submitted by: Gary Hergenrader*  
**Why you liked it:** This book has been a favorite of mine for a long time. It is a true story of the Lewis and Clark expedition and the hardships and experiences they encountered on their expedition. The work of pulling a large keelboat up the Missouri River was extremely taxing. One fact in the book that has stuck with me was that each man ate nine pounds of meat per day supplied by the hunters on the expedition – buffalo, deer, beaver and whatever else they could find. They also ate dogs that they purchased from the Indians.
- **“Maverick” by Jason L. Riley.** *Submitted by John Reid*  
**Why you liked it:** The book is a biography of Thomas Sowell. He started out as an outstanding economist, but his long career dived into many social issues of our day.
- **“Original Intent and the Framers’s Constitution” (2000) and “The Emergence of a Free Press” (1985) both by Leonard W. Levy.** *Submitted by: John Bender*  
**Why you liked them:** In the first book, Levy examines the difficulties of discerning what the framers of the Constitution and the Bill of Rights intended and how the Supreme Court has often distorted what evidence there is about the framers’ intent. The second book looks at the problem of interpreting the First Amendment’s speech and press clauses and whether the framers meant by “freedom of the press” anything more than freedom from prior restraint. Given the current arguments over the Constitution and the Bill of Rights and their meaning, these two books are as important now as they were when written.
- **“A Thousand Splendid Sons” by Khaled Hosseini.** *Submitted by Julie Johnson*  
**Why you liked it:** I found this book to be riveting as it told about Afghan history and a beautiful story of love and family. “The Kite Runner” by the same author is equally excellent. Also, I like all the books by Thrity Umrigar. “The Space Between Us” and “The Secrets Between Us” are just two of those that she wrote. These are about two different families in India and their interactions.
- **“My Antonia” by Willa Cather.** *Submitted by Cay Yamamoto*  
**Why you liked it:** The book gave me the chance to remember wonderful times with my grandmother. She was a

"Swedish hired girl," and she told stories that were very similar to the experiences portrayed in the book. I wrote a master's thesis on the book because I was fascinated by the narrative layering of the stories in the book.

- **"Old Jules" by Mari Sandoz.** *Submitted by Kay Rockwell*

**Why you liked it:** I chose "Old Jules" by Mari Sandoz as my most favorite book. Despite the fact that that my Grossnicklaus heritage comes from Bern, Switzerland, I can find no blood relationship to Jules Sandoz. But there definitely are ties to his family. I believe I was at a family reunion that included his sister when I was in first, second or third grade. I wish I had asked my mother about this before she passed away.

Jules Sandoz, born in Bern, Switzerland, immigrated to the U.S. as part of a group that settled in Osceola, Neb. However, he soon left that settlement and moved northwest, near Valentine, and roamed the area southeast from there. He was primarily responsible for populating the area with the homesteaders he encouraged to settle there. His daughter Mari took up writing, an occupation he considered worthless. First published in 1935, "Old Jules," the portrait of her father, is unquestionably Mari Sandoz's masterpiece. It's a valuable historical document giving glimpses into the struggles the pioneers endured.

- **"Home Front" by Kristin Hannah.** *Submitted by Rita Kean*

**Why you liked it:** I have several favorite books, but I just finished reading "Home Front" by Kristin Hannah for my book club. I found it fascinating to read about a military helicopter pilot — Jolene — who was deployed to Al Anbar province during the Iraq War. She left her husband and two young girls behind, which at first was problematic for her husband, an attorney, and her older daughter, a teenage girl.

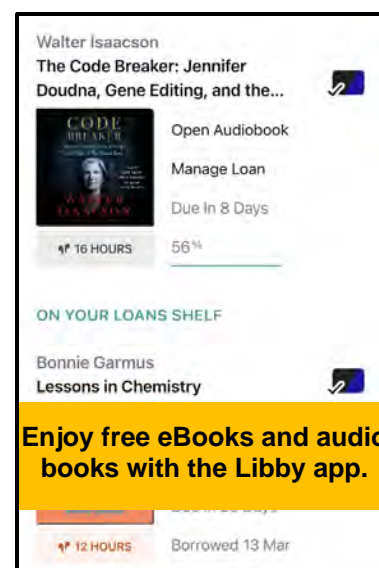
Jolene's best friend, Tami, was her co-pilot. When they were in battle, their helicopter was shot down. Tami and another of Jolene's crew died. Jolene lost her leg, and upon her return to the United States she had to undergo intense physical and psychological therapy. I did some background checking about women serving in the U.S. military and found a very interesting and informative article by Danielle Simone, "Over 200 Years of Service: The History of Women in the U.S. Military" at [uso.org/stories/3005-over-200-years-of-service-the-history-of-women-in-the-us-military](https://uso.org/stories/3005-over-200-years-of-service-the-history-of-women-in-the-us-military)

## Download free eBooks and digital audiobooks with the Libby app

The free Libby app lets you download free books and audiobooks for up to 21 days. All you need is a library card.

Find directions for downloading Libby on your phone, iPad and other Apple and Android devices, Amazon Fire tablets and Windows/Mac computers and Chromebooks at [help.libbyapp.com/en-us/6103.htm](https://help.libbyapp.com/en-us/6103.htm). This link also answers these questions:

- How do I get a library card?
- How do I navigate the app?
- What is Libby?



# OLLI offers learning for the love of learning

By Patricia Saldana, OLLI communications associate

Are you retired, or are you transitioning into retirement? Then the OLLI program may be for you. “Curiosity never retires” isn’t just OLLI’s slogan; it’s a lifelong ambition.

The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (OLLI at UNL) is a program aimed specifically at adults 50 years old and older. OLLI members enroll for the love of learning. There are no tests and no grades.

As a special benefit, ERA members receive an OLLI \$10 membership discount. (See page 15 for more information.)

ERA members can enjoy a variety of course offerings and learning opportunities in the arts, science and math, literature, health and wellness, contemporary issues, lifestyle, religion and philosophy, diversity and history – more than 50 courses in each of five six-week terms each year, some of which include tours of local venues.

OLLI members may also join interest groups centered on sports, woodworking, politics and other topics. And multiple travel options are provided each year. OLLI is a great way to make new friends and build lasting relationships.

Part of what makes OLLI special is the exchange of ideas inside and outside the classroom. People can participate in OLLI courses in person or on Zoom. Or people can learn at their own convenience with courses offered on demand.

An OLLI membership is \$75 per year. A one-session class costs \$10, and a six-session course costs \$35.

“What’s great about OLLI is there are so many options available to learn and engage. Every individual’s experience is unique,” said Bob Michl, OLLI director. “It’s up to the individual to decide how much and how deeply they want to engage and become involved with OLLI.”

## Fall symposium to focus on ‘Misinformation and Conspiracy Theories’

OLLI’s annual fall symposium is open to members and non-members. This year’s symposium, scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 14, focuses on “Misinformation and Conspiracy Theories: Why People Believe Them and How to Address Them.”

This is a thought-provoking event designed to shed light on the complex web of falsehoods that permeate our society and explore strategies to mitigate their impact in an age of instant communications.

Presenters include: Andy Norman, director, Dietrich College of Humanism Initiative, Carnegie Mellon University; Eric Oliver, professor, Political Science, University of Chicago; Aaron Duncan, associate professor, Communications Studies, UNL; Patrick Marley, news reporter, Washington Post.



**OLLI members learn about the work being done at Boys Town on a day trip to Omaha last spring.**



*Continued on next page.*

The \$20 in-person cost includes lunch and the symposium; cost is \$15 for those attending via Zoom. Registration will begin online in early fall.

## Sneak peek at fall Term 1

- **The Politics and History of American Civil Religion** – Jonathan Redding, assistant professor, Religion, Nebraska Wesleyan University (in-person and on Zoom)
- **Artificial Intelligence: Friend or Foe?** – Rich Sincovec, professor emeritus, Computer Science and Engineering, UNL; Zach Wrublewski, Ph.D. student, Department of Philosophy, UNL (in-person and on Zoom)
- **Ted Carter: From Top Gun Aviator to Higher Education Leader**, president, NU (in-person and on Zoom)
- **Day Trip: Cultural Landmarks in North Omaha Tour**

Check the catalog for more learning opportunities. Register for membership and courses/events at [oli.unl.edu](http://oli.unl.edu).

## OLLI in action: highlights from previous OLLI courses and events



Sheryl Rinkol, Titanic researcher, addresses common myths about the 1912 sinking of the Titanic.



OLLI biking enthusiasts gather to ride local bike trails in and around Lincoln.



Pickleball is America's fastest-growing sport and is very popular among OLLI members like these.

## Get your \$10 discount on an OLLI membership

ERA members can purchase a yearly membership (value \$75) at a discount rate of \$65 when they join or renew their membership using the OLLI online process at [olli.unl.edu](https://olli.unl.edu). Click on the red tab at the top of the web page labelled "Register Online." This discount is available now through the end of the day on Tuesday, Oct. 17, 2023 (first day of registration for OLLI Term 2 courses) by applying this promo code: **emeriti24**.

**IMPORTANT: Once you've entered the promo code, make sure you choose the "Apply" button to activate the discount.**



**Save \$10 on OLLI membership with discount code!**

## OLLI seeking instructors for future courses

Are you looking for new ways to be involved now that you're retired? The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL) is looking for your expertise/passion. OLLI is an adult learning membership program for women and men age 50 years plus.

OLLI at UNL provides stimulating and varied learning opportunities and is an affiliated program within the College of Education and Human Sciences.

Each year, OLLI offers more than 300 non-credit courses and events over five terms in a variety of formats: in-person; on

Zoom; a multi-format combination of in-person and Zoom. Or learn at your own convenience with courses online on demand. Each term is six weeks in length. Courses meet once a week for up to 90 minutes per session and are offered during the day or evening, Monday through Saturday. Courses may meet one time or six times or anything in between.

Instructors are experts in their field or have a passion they wish to share. They are volunteers who love giving their time and staying involved.

If you are interested in teaching a course to OLLI members or are interested in finding out more about what's involved, please contact Jeanette Wellsandt, OLLI program coordinator, at [jwellsandt2@unl.edu](mailto:jwellsandt2@unl.edu) or 402-472-9891. Find additional information at [olli.unl.edu](https://olli.unl.edu). Download and complete the "OLLI Course Proposal" from the ERA website at [emeriti-retirees.unl.edu/OLLI-Course-Proposal.docx](https://emeriti-retirees.unl.edu/OLLI-Course-Proposal.docx) and email to [jwellsandt2@unl.edu](mailto:jwellsandt2@unl.edu).



**OLLI instructors may teach in-person, via Zoom or in multi-format, a combination of in-person and Zoom.**

# Let's meet at 'Sip and Learn' pop-up social event co-sponsored by ERA and OLLI

Mark your calendar for Thursday, Sept. 28.

Register and join us for a Pop-Up Social that day from 4 to 6 p.m. for up to 60 guests at a social gathering at Whispering Winds Vineyards and Tasting Room, located inside Rock 'n' Joe Coffee Shop at 5025 Lindberg St. in Lincoln. Come make and meet friends in a relaxed, stress-free environment, co-sponsored by ERA and OLLI.

You'll also get a chance to find out more about the upcoming 2023 OLLI Fall Symposium on "Misinformation and Conspiracy Theories: Why People Believe Them and How to Address Them."

Guests will be required to register for the social with a registration deadline of Monday, Sept. 25, at 3 p.m.

Whispering Winds offers 16 different Nebraska wines available in their automated wine dispensers – everything from dry reds, to rosé, to sweet whites. They also have a couple martini options (white chocolate raspberry and chocolate hazelnut), wine and rum smoothies along with a selection of beers. Their craft beer selection varies by season, but they try to have something for everyone's taste. There is a nice outdoor patio area to enjoy your drink of choice as well as a selection of food, including charcuterie boards.



Sign up for the "Sip and Learn" Pop-Up Social Event co-sponsored by ERA and OLLI held at Whispering Winds Vineyards and Tasting Room.

## Whispering Winds Vineyards and Tasting Room

5025 Lindberg St., Lincoln

4 to 6 p.m.

**No registration fee. Attendees purchase their own drinks. Light snacks will be provided.**

**Maximum limit: 60**



If you plan to attend, help us gauge numbers. Sign up online by Monday, Sept. 25, by 3 p.m. at: [emeriti-retirees.unl.edu/popup](https://emeriti-retirees.unl.edu/popup)

# See you at the pop-up!





# Treat yourself to ice cream and gardens on UNL East Campus

by Alice Henneman, ERA newsletter managing editor

Did you know UNL East Campus Gardens and the UNL Dairy Store are nearly next door to each other? This fortunate co-location provides a delightful opportunity to meander in the gardens as well as to enjoy some of the tastiest ice cream in Lincoln. You could even take your cone or dish of ice cream to one of the seating areas within the gardens. Here's a map of the East Campus Gardens: [unl.edu/bga/tours/east](http://unl.edu/bga/tours/east). Pictured below are some of the many garden spots.



A convenient turnoff to the gardens and Dairy Store is "Dairy Store Drive" on Holdredge Street.



This part of the Maxwell Arboretum (east of the Dairy Store) includes a variety of trees and shrubs plus 15 varieties of lilacs. It is especially beautiful when the lilacs bloom in the spring.



Jeanne Vierk Yeutter Garden offers perennials, roses and conifers. It is directly east of the Dairy Store. Yeutter was a UNL graduate and the wife of former U.S. Agriculture Secretary and Nebraska native Clayton Yeutter. Her volunteer activities included supporting the work of the National Arboretum and the National Grove of State Trees and volunteering for the Forest Service.



The Perin Porch, in a western part of the Maxwell Arboretum, is a reminder of the Perin House that was the focal point of East Campus in the early days. Learn the charming story behind the porch at: [unl.edu/bga/tours/east/Porch.shtml](http://unl.edu/bga/tours/east/Porch.shtml)

## Digest this Dairy Store trivia

When the Dairy Store opened in 1917 on the East Campus of the University of Nebraska–Lincoln, it served all-you-can-drink milk for a nickel to those who brought their own cups ([ianr.unl.edu/growing/dairy-store-celebrating-100-years-tradition](http://ianr.unl.edu/growing/dairy-store-celebrating-100-years-tradition))



Continue to the next page for an additional UNL garden visit, a stop at the UNL Dairy Store for its most popular ice cream flavor and to see parking options.



The far eastern edge of the Maxwell Arboretum is a lovely place for a picnic or just sitting and visiting with friends at one of the picnic tables scattered throughout the area. Maxwell Arboretum's trees and shrubs provide the greatest diversity of plant species on the UNL campuses. There is something in bloom from March through October. Check specific plants and trees at [unl.edu/bga/tours/east/maxwell/maxwell\\_brochure.pdf](http://unl.edu/bga/tours/east/maxwell/maxwell_brochure.pdf)



Next stop: The newly remodeled and expanded Dairy Store is open every day of the week with the exception of certain holidays. And it stays open longer during the late spring and summer months, typically until 9 p.m. Currently, it opens at 10 a.m. daily.

Check the website for further information about days and hours: [dairystore.unl.edu](http://dairystore.unl.edu).

Ice Cream		Today's Flavors			
	Mini	Single	Double		
Dish	\$2.74	\$3.66	\$5.03	4-H Clover Mint	Fab 50
Cone	\$2.74	\$3.66	\$5.03	Blue Raspberry	Lemon Custard
Waffle		\$4.66	\$6.03	Butter Brickle	Margarita Sherbet
Toppings (Candy, Nuts or Syrup) \$.55				Butterscotch	Nina's Orange Dream
				Caramel Cashew	Scarlet & Cream
				Cherry Almond	Sweet Corn
				Cherry Husker Ice	Vanilla
				Chocolate	White Chocolate Lavender

All ice cream is made by UNL. Enjoy your ice cream with a variety of fresh-brewed coffee drinks from Lincoln's own "The Mill Coffee & Tea" ([dairystore.unl.edu/coffee](http://dairystore.unl.edu/coffee)).



The most popular ice cream flavor, Scarlet & Cream, was introduced in 2007 to showcase UNL's colors. Strawberries provide the red swirl.

## Consider these East Campus parking options

If you don't have a campus parking permit, you can park FREE at any parking meter (but not in any "letter-designated" lot) **at times when meters are not enforced.** "Meters are enforced from 7 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. Monday through Friday and 7 a.m. to noon Saturday" ([parking.unl.edu/parking-meters](http://parking.unl.edu/parking-meters)). Thirty-minute meters are directly to the south of the Dairy Store. The meters a little farther to the west and east of these meters and also along the East Campus Loop are four-hour meters. The next closest meters are those in the parking lot to the north of the Nebraska East Union and are four-hour meters. Pay at meters with coins (quarters only; one hour for 50 cents) or use the Passport Parking app.

View a map of all parking, including metered areas, at: [parking.unl.edu/maps/East-Campus-Parking-Map.pdf](http://parking.unl.edu/maps/East-Campus-Parking-Map.pdf). More nearby open parking may be available during the weekend along 38th Street south of Holdrege Street. NOTE: "Any vehicle that is registered to or used by faculty, staff or student may not park in visitor-designated parking areas, including East Campus Union guest parking meters" ([parking.unl.edu/visitors#visitor-parking](http://parking.unl.edu/visitors#visitor-parking)).

# ERA members enjoy Lied Center backstage tour – and more

by Nancy Mitchell / photos by Bruce Mitchell

Lied Center staff treated 43 ERA members and guests to a behind-the-scenes look at one of the state's premier entertainment venues on May 16. Many thanks to the Lied's Holden Franken for organizing this event, along with co-presenters Mark Moore and Steve Pearson, who related inside stories about the facility. Those included describing the great acoustics, the transition to LED lighting and the unique items in artists' contracts that even included one artist's request that an iced bath be available after performances. ERA members sat in the seats, went onstage, behind the stage and into dressing rooms as well as into the adjacent Carson Theatre. After the tour, Lauren Silverman Durban previewed a highlight reel for next season, and Casey Sigrist talked about opportunities to support the efforts to bring world-class productions to Lincoln while ERA members had coffee and cookies in the Lied Commons.

## Act 1: Tour behind the scenes at the Lied



## Act 2: Learn about the upcoming season



## Act 3: Enjoy coffee and cookies with friends



# ERA members volunteer at UNL's 'The Big Event'

by Alice Henneman, ERA Newsletter managing editor



UNL students, faculty, staff and ERA members gather to begin "The Big Event" with a kickoff lunch and a keynote speaker before traveling to volunteer locations to do acts of service.

In 2006, UNL proudly adopted a one-day service project as a way to say "thank you" to the surrounding community for its support of the university. UNL's Big Event has engaged 40,000 volunteers since its beginning. The Association of Students of the University of Nebraska (ASUN) plans and hosts the event that involves students, faculty and staff and included volunteers from ERA at the April 15 event. Several community sites are chosen for volunteer activities. Rita Kean, ERA's Campus Engagement Chair, organized and led a group of ERA members who participated in this activity. Meet our volunteers on the next page.

## Follow along with ERA members during 'The Big Event'



Chancellor Ronnie Green greets the volunteers and thanks the students, whom he calls the "best students in the Big 10," for their work in organizing this year's "Big Event."



Keynote speaker T.J. McDowell (assistant to the mayor and former UNL assistant vice chancellor for student affairs) tells the audience that, "One of the fundamental purposes of education is to increase our capacity to serve."



View ERA's volunteers in action on the next page.



Back row, from left: Pam Edwards, Alice Henneman, Pat Crews, Roshan Pajnigar, Rita Kean and Linda Major and, front, David Crews volunteered at the Center for People (formerly named Center for People in Need).



Pat, left, and David Crews sort and place donated automotive items on shelves.



Roshan Pajnigar (left) and Linda Major inspect donated medications and health-related supplies to assure they aren't beyond their expiration dates.



Alice Henneman sorts diapers and places them on a rack for distribution. In March 2023, CFPIN distributed 34,900 diapers to 550 children, ages 0 – 3 years.



Pam Edwards (left) and Rita Kean place clothing donations on hangers.

### Here's what ERA volunteers said about participating in 'The Big Event'

*"As a new ERA member, it has been so much fun for me to reconnect with UNL folks and also meet new friends, and yesterday was certainly a perfect opportunity for both."* – Pam Edwards

*"I gained so much information about this organization and how it provides services to the deserving in our city."* – Roshan Pajnigar

## Cooking for one or two

# Favorite kitchen pans, equipment and utensils

By Alice Henneman, ERA Newsletter managing editor



For the fall newsletter, members responded to the question, “Which kitchen utensil, gadget, equipment, pan, etc. is the most helpful to you in cooking for one or two?” Some items have special memories attached to them.

### From Carol Plate:

**Small cast iron skillet.** My favorite cooking utensil is my grandmother's small cast iron skillet. It is perfect for cooking for one or two. My other favorite item is my microwave oven. When mine died in December, I went to town and bought a new one the same day.

### From Harriet Turner:

**Frying pan.** My most helpful cooking utensil is a good frying pan.

### From Kay Rockwell:

**Rolling pin.** My favorite kitchen utensil is my rolling pin, which aided and abetted making delicious pie crust. When the children were small, apple pies made with the soft green apples off the trees on my family farm near Platte Center provided a nutritious breakfast they eagerly ate before heading off to school. The principal, critical of my ways of raising children, habitually called me into her office. But my apple pie with a piece of cheese was a much more nutritious breakfast than sugary cereal. And, years later the kids still remind me that they had “pie for breakfast.” Amen!

### From Alice Henneman:

**Quarter sheet pan.** These pans measure about 13 x 9 x 1 inches and are a perfect size for cooking for one or two. Two pans fit on an oven shelf, making it easy to bake two foods simultaneously if they are cooked at the same temperature. For example, I bake two servings of cod on one pan and French fries on the other.

They're easy to handle because of their size. I line them with foil or parchment paper for quick cleaning. Note that parchment paper linings usually don't withstand a temperature above 450 degrees F and shouldn't touch the oven rack.



**A quarter sheet pan is the perfect size for preparing many foods for one or two, such as these roasted beets.**

**Ten-inch frying pan.** As they are for Carol and Harriet, a skillet or frying pan is another personal favorite of mine. (The words skillet and frying pan are often used interchangeably, with skillets usually having deeper sides,) My 10-inch frying pan seldom leaves my stovetop. (To measure a frying pan, place the pan right side up and measure across the center from the inside of one rim to the inside of the other.)

A 10-inch frying pan works well for one-dish meals; one or two servings of meat or fish; fried or scrambled eggs; sautéed vegetables; two smaller pancakes; and two smaller or one large, toasted cheese sandwich cut in half.



**A 10-inch skillet works well to cook a variety of foods for one or two people.**

# 2023 monthly luncheon speeches cover variety of topics\*

## April

- **Topic:** Your University of Nebraska 2023 Legislative Update
- **Speaker:** Heath Mello, vice president of University External Relations and a former Nebraska state senator and public policy strategist
- **Overview:** Mello shared his insights into Nebraska state government, the Unicameral and the legislative process. He described the uniqueness of the Unicameral, which has allowed it to be considerably more effective and efficient than other state legislatures. He encouraged us to use the new online platform which allows people to share their views with all the senators at once. He described the filibuster issue this year and its impact on the process.
- **View on YouTube:** [youtu.be/8JjDj62OuWI](https://youtu.be/8JjDj62OuWI)



## March

- **Topic:** The Unicameral — Nebraska's Unique Institution
- **Speaker:** Charlyne Berens, emeritus professor and associate dean, College of Journalism and Mass Communications. Berens has written two books on the Nebraska Unicameral.
- **Overview:** Nebraska is unique in having a one-house legislature. A bill introduced in the 2023 session proposed returning to a two-house, partisan legislature, but Berens said research indicates most Nebraskans are opposed to that. She argued that, despite its shortcomings, the one-house model still works and is worth preserving. The video provides more information on the Unicameral's history, how it functions and the impact of term limits on the Legislature.
- **View on YouTube:** [youtu.be/2VQKafOP4Ac](https://youtu.be/2VQKafOP4Ac)



## February

- **Topic:** USDA Center for Resilient and Regenerative Precision Agriculture Project
- **Speaker:** Michael Boehm, IANR vice chancellor and NU vice president
- **Overview:** Boehm gave a brief history of IANR, which is celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year, concurrent with the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the College of Agriculture. He talked about the planned U.S. Department of Agriculture-Agricultural Research Service National Center for Resilient and Regenerative Precision Agriculture that is planned for Nebraska Innovation Campus and will also be a national hub. Boehm also spoke about efforts to attract and keep young people to and in Nebraska through partnerships with schools and investments in health care, technology/internet rural infrastructure, childcare, entrepreneurship and ecotourism.
- **View on YouTube:** [youtu.be/zWQQgsehRJK](https://youtu.be/zWQQgsehRJK)



## January

- **Topic:** The Student Experience at UNL
- **Speakers:** (from left) Laurie Bellows, vice chancellor of UNL Student Affairs; Ryan Lahne and Kelli King, assistant vice chancellors of UNL Student Affairs
- **Overview:** Facing major challenges associated with learning at a rapid pace and adjusting to an entirely new lifestyle away from the comfort and support of home, many UNL students struggle to adjust and cope. The speakers detailed how UNL has developed numerous programs and activities to help students through what is often a rough initiation into college life and the ongoing challenges young people face as university students. The video highlights the many things Student Affairs is doing to support the needs of today's students.
- **View on YouTube:** [youtu.be/Vybl733wkd4](https://youtu.be/Vybl733wkd4)



\*Overviews of luncheon speeches are adapted from information provided by members, meeting minutes and YouTube video transcripts.



Topics, speakers and video links are posted about a week after the presentation at:  
[emeriti-retirees.unl.edu/presentations](https://emeriti-retirees.unl.edu/presentations).

# Fall 2023 Luncheon Meetings



ERA members hear from Mike Boehm, vice chancellor of IANR, during a live luncheon meeting in February as the presentation is shared with additional members via livestream and recorded for viewing on the ERA website at [emeriti-retirees.unl.edu/presentations](https://emeriti-retirees.unl.edu/presentations).

Members and a spouse, partner or guest are invited to attend 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](https://emeriti-retirees.unl.edu/meetings). More details include:

- **Livestream option.** Meetings are now offered in person and via livestream when the meeting location can be set up for an online presentation. When it is possible to livestream a meeting, we will email the link about a week before the meeting with a reminder the day before the meeting.
- **Missed meetings.** If you miss a meeting, check [emeriti-retirees.unl.edu/presentations](https://emeriti-retirees.unl.edu/presentations) for a link to a video of the presentation.
- **Questions?** Contact Larry Dlugosh, Program chair, with questions and suggestions at [larrydlugosh@gmail.com](mailto:larrydlugosh@gmail.com)

**Sept. 21 (Thursday)**     **Speaker:** George Ayoub, adjunct professor at Hastings College  
**Topic:** “Navigating the Disinformation Super Highway”  
**Location:** East Campus Union – Arbor Suite

**Oct. 17 (Tuesday)**     **Speaker:** Dr. Sherry Jones, dean of CEHS  
**Topic:** “The Future of Education”  
**Location:** Carolyn Pope-Edwards Hall on City Campus, CEHS Commons plus a tour

**Nov. 16 (Thursday)**     **Speaker:** UNL Professor Julia Torquati  
**Topic:** “The Need for Early Childhood Education”  
**Location:** East Campus Union – Arbor Suite

**Dec. 12 (Tuesday)**     **Speaker:** Chancellor Rodney Bennett  
**Topic:** “Meet the Chancellor”  
**Location:** The Cornhusker Hotel



# Programs / Activities



ERA members tour behind the scenes at the Lied Center.

## 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.



From left, Joan and Dee Griffin enjoy a Coffee House Chat with Jim Griesen at The Landing.

## 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 chats.

## Retirees/OLLI International Affairs Discussion Group meetings



Retired UNL History professor David Cahan talks about “Germany Today” at the International Affairs Discussion Group.

The International Affairs Discussion Group meets the first Wednesday of September through May from 3 to 4:30 p.m. The group 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](mailto:plevitov1@unl.edu)) with questions, comments and suggestions.

# Check these UNL calendars of events

by Alice Henneman

Looking for something to do? UNL is a major force in the arts, culture and sports scenes in Lincoln and the surrounding area. Browse through these UNL calendars of events to find a variety of possibilities to enjoy. The calendar also is posted on the ERA website under Programs / Activities (direct link: [emeriti-retirees.unl.edu/unl-calendars.pdf](http://emeriti-retirees.unl.edu/unl-calendars.pdf)).

	<b>UNL Events Calendar</b> (Incorporates many events held at the following venues plus additional exhibits and presentations housed at other sites on campus.) <a href="http://events.unl.edu">events.unl.edu</a>
	<b>UNL Husker Team Schedules</b> <a href="http://huskers.com">huskers.com</a>
	<b>Mary Riepma Ross Media Arts Center</b> <a href="http://theross.org/ross-events">theross.org/ross-events</a>
	<b>Sheldon Art Museum</b> <a href="http://sheldonartmuseum.org/exhibitions">sheldonartmuseum.org/exhibitions</a>
	<b>Great Plains Art Museum</b> <a href="http://unl.edu/plains/gallery/currentexhibits.shtml">unl.edu/plains/gallery/currentexhibits.shtml</a>
	<b>School Of Art, Art History &amp; Design Events</b> <a href="http://events.unl.edu/art/upcoming">events.unl.edu/art/upcoming</a>
	<b>The Lied Center for Performing Arts</b> <a href="http://liedcenter.org/events-page">liedcenter.org/events-page</a>
	<b>Nebraska Repertory Theatre</b> <a href="http://nebraskarep.org/season-schedule">nebraskarep.org/season-schedule</a>
	<b>Glenn Korff School of Music</b> <a href="http://arts.unl.edu/music/full-event-calendar">arts.unl.edu/music/full-event-calendar</a>
	<b>University of Nebraska State Museum (Morrill Hall)</b> <a href="http://museum.unl.edu/programs-events">museum.unl.edu/programs-events</a>
	<b>Mueller Planetarium</b> (located inside Morrill Hall) <a href="http://museum.unl.edu/planetarium/now-playing.html">museum.unl.edu/planetarium/now-playing.html</a>
	<b>International Quilt Museum</b> <a href="http://internationalquiltmuseum.org/exhibitions">internationalquiltmuseum.org/exhibitions</a>
	<b>Lester F. Larson Tractor Museum</b> <a href="http://tractormuseum.unl.edu">tractormuseum.unl.edu</a>
	<b>Robert Hillestad Textiles Gallery</b> <a href="http://cehs.unl.edu/textilegallery">cehs.unl.edu/textilegallery</a>
	<b>E.N. Thompson Forum on World Issues</b> <a href="http://enthompson.unl.edu">enthompson.unl.edu</a>
	<b>The Peter J. Hoagland Integrity in Public Service Lecture Series</b> <a href="http://polisci.unl.edu/hoagland-lecture-series">polisci.unl.edu/hoagland-lecture-series</a>
	<b>Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI)</b> <a href="http://olli.unl.edu">olli.unl.edu</a>

# Your 2023 Emeriti-Retirees Association Board



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

## ERA officers

**President:** Linda Major

**Vice president/president-elect:** Larry Dlugosh

**Secretary:** Kim Hachiya

**Treasurer:** Earl Hawkey

**Past president:** Pat Crews

## Directors (elected board members)

Gary Heusel 2023\*

Rita Kean 2023\*

David Wilson 2024\*

Roshan Pajnigar 2024\*

Nancy Mitchell 2025\*

Tom McFarland 2025\*

\*Term ends

## Chairs of standing committees

**Awards:** Pat Crews

**Benefits:** Roshan Pajnigar

**Bylaws and Policy:** James Griesen and Julie Johnson, co-chairs

**Campus Engagement:** Rita Kean

**Digital Communications:** Alfred Stark

**Educational Activities:** Nancy Mitchell

**Membership:** Don Weeks

**Oral History Project:** Doug Jose

**Programs:** Larry Dlugosh

**Publications:** Alice Henneman

**Scholarships:** Earl Hawkey

**Social Events:** Jane Zatechka and Jim Griesen, co-chairs



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

# Ideas abound at 2023 BIG10 Retirees' Association conference

by Larry Dlugosh

*ERA president-elect Larry Dlugosh represented UNL at the BIG10 Retirees Associations' annual conference at the University of Wisconsin-Madison in July and submitted this report.*



Larry Dlugosh

Representatives of 13 of the 14 BIG10 Retirees Associations gathered in Madison, Wis., this summer to share ideas about programming, membership engagement, finance, communications and other topics.

The UW-M Retirees Association planned an excellent agenda with a variety of presentations by faculty and friends of the university. The presentations centered on the Wisconsin Idea, formulated in 1904. This public philosophy put forward the concept that education should influence people's lives beyond the boundaries of the classroom. Presenters said it is a philosophy that is alive and well at UW-M.

A slate of round-table discussions allowed attendees to compare and contrast the similarities and differences among the various associations, and the dialogue provided new ideas for everyone.

The following bullet points serve as a synopsis of issues covered:

## Major issues

- The recruitment, retention and engagement of members – the Number One issue
- Programming that appeals to all members and the delivery of programs to members
- How to finance retirement associations (dues only, dues and donations, university support)
- Understanding the needs of retirees and how to address those needs
- Communications (online, newsletter delivery, regular phone calls or e-mails to members)
- Understanding the mission of a retirement association and addressing that mission so all members are served
- The connection of the retirees' association to the university, which varies among member schools from direct support to little or no direct support
- Life after the pandemic and the return to face-to-face and hybrid meetings

## Membership

- The number of members ranges from 650 (Northwestern) to 5,700 (Michigan State).
- About half of the universities have retiree associations for emeriti only and a separate association for all other university employees.
- Engagement by members in association activities ranges from 5% to 20%.
- Eligibility for membership varies from age 62 (even if working) to actual retirement date.



**The Big 10 Retirees Association conference participants gather and share ideas about programming, membership engagement and many other topics.**



**Continued on next page**

## University involvement

- The University of Iowa provides a .25 FTE administrative assistant to the retirees' association.
- Purdue University offers insurance benefits to retirees and spouses of association members.
- Seven of the Big10 universities have formal relationships with their institutions through memoranda of understanding; many of those universities provide office space or administrative assistants.
- The primary liaison for 12 of the Big 10 universities is centered in the Provost's Office or the Human Resources Division. Nebraska, Wisconsin and Northwestern do not have a named university liaison.

## Communications

- Newsletters serve as the primary method to distribute news about the association to members. The distribution ranges from twice a year to 12 times per year. Almost all associations are migrating to online only delivery. Some associations send regular e-mail updates for members.

---

**“Newsletters serve as the primary method to distribute news about the association to members.”**

---

## Finances

- Dues are the primary source of financial support followed by donations and contributions. (At Michigan, 16 businesses pay a \$600 annual fee to the retirees association for access to membership meetings. The agencies include financial planners, insurance carriers and retirement communities.
- Dues range from \$25 to \$45 per year. Maryland suggests a \$50 annual donation in lieu of dues, but they are moving toward a dues structure.
- Annual operating budgets range from \$5,000 to \$63,000. (Nebraska's operating budget is \$17,000.)

## Meetings/events

- All of the associations hold luncheon meetings with speakers eight to 12 times per year plus many special interest group meetings and coffees. Minnesota offers a “Cabinets of Curiosity” opportunity where members visit seldom-viewed laboratories, historic sites, museums, etc. It sounded similar to some of our visits such as the Back Stage at the Lied Center tour.
- ERA Nebraska is the only association that offers joint programs with OLLI. (Most associations said they are eager to explore such a relationship.)
- Twelve of the associations hold an annual membership meeting for the purpose of electing officers, examining bylaws and conducting a business meeting.
- Six of the associations said annual picnics are an increasingly popular activity.

The 2023 gathering was the first for the University of Maryland. Rutgers did not attend. Future members include UCLA and USC, both of whom have asked for membership once the Big 10 approves their admission to the conference.

In July of 2024, The Ohio State University will host the annual retirees' associations meeting in Columbus, Ohio. An online meeting of Big 10 Retirees Associations is scheduled for February of 2024.

# Kristen Hassebrook named chief university lobbyist

by Jackie Ostrowicki, UNL assistant vice president, external relations

University of Nebraska System President Ted Carter announced in July that he named Kristen Hassebrook, a Nebraska attorney with more than a decade of experience in advocacy and policy, as NU's new chief lobbyist and associate vice president for government relations.

Hassebrook, formerly an associate at Mueller Robak LLC, a lobbying and government relations firm in Lincoln, began her university role on Aug. 16. She reports to the president and oversees engagement with local, state and federal officials across the NU system's four campuses. She replaces Heath Mello, who left NU for a different position.

A native of Laurel, Hassebrook earned bachelor's and law degrees from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. She has been admitted to practice law in Nebraska since 2011.

Before joining Mueller Robak, Hassebrook was executive vice president for legislation and policy for the Nebraska Chamber of Commerce and Industry. She also served as vice president for legal and regulatory affairs for the Nebraska Cattlemen.

Hassebrook is a former development director for the University of Nebraska Foundation, where she helped raise philanthropic support for the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources. She also lectured at UNL in agriculture and natural resources ethics.

Hassebrook lives with her husband and two daughters in Raymond.

## A message from Kristen Hassebrook

As I reflect on my first month at the University of Nebraska System, I would like to thank the UNL Emeriti and Retirees Association for your partnership and support. Your engagement has been important in the past and will continue to be critical.

As a two-time graduate of the University of Nebraska, I never dreamed I would one day have the opportunity to serve as a leader at the most impactful higher education institution in the state of Nebraska. Representing the University of Nebraska System is the privilege of a lifetime.

I cannot tell you how excited I am to begin this journey. In the coming months, I look forward to connecting with you as we continue the work of ensuring that affordable, accessible education is available for all Nebraskans. Thank you for welcoming me into the University of Nebraska family. I hope you are excited about the future of your university. I know I am.



**Kristen Hassebrook  
named chief university  
lobbyist**

**I look forward to connecting with you as we continue the important work of ensuring affordable, accessible education is available for all Nebraskans.**