

# UNL EMERITI ASSOCIATION

Emeriti Association Newsletter

Fall 2015

## From the President

Summer is almost over, but I expect we will see some hot days in September. I hope your summer activities have gone well.

With the fall season, UNL Emeriti Association luncheons will resume in October on East Campus with a lineup of interesting and engaging speakers (See listing on page 3.) There will also be the NU Foundation luncheon in September. You should have received an emailed invitation.

The *International Affairs Interest Group*, a joint venture of the UNL Emeriti Association and Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI), will resume its monthly discussions in September led by Peter Levitov, David Forsythe, Arlen Etling and Jerry Petr. The Executive Committee met with several OLLI leaders recently to explore other opportunities for cooperation. Look for these in the coming months. (See this website for OLLI Special Interest Groups: <http://olli.unl.edu/special-interest-groups>)

We continue our close relationship with the UNL Alumni Association. Emeriti Association members will be informed regarding Alumni Association meetings and events and invited to assist the Alumni group from time to time in various ways. I encourage you to take advantage of these opportunities. The Emeriti Board continues to meet monthly in the Wick Center and has a newly upgraded office, part of the recent remodel, courtesy of the Alumni Association.

The Planning Committee for the 2016 Big Ten Retirees Association conference is working on an impressive array of potential events.



*President, Duane Eversoll*



**UNL Emeriti Learn about Innovation Campus**

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**Dan Duncan, director of Innovation Campus, gives Emeriti important information.**

## **Learning about Nebraska Innovation Campus by Jim Sheppers**

Emeriti were treated to an interesting and informative tour of facilities at the Nebraska Innovation Campus in April. The former 4-H building, constructed in 1931, has been remodeled as a conference center and a place for innovation to be explored.

Breakout rooms are on the east half of the lower level and a fabrication shop is located on the west half. The shop is equipped with common woodworking machines plus special devices like 3-D printers and computer-controlled laser cutting tools and router systems. Metal fabrication tools are limited, but facilities for constructing circuit boards and building electronic components are available. Students, faculty, and emeriti will be able to use the shop for a monthly fee.

The upper level of the former 4-H building (east end) includes a state-of-the-art conference hall. This theater-style auditorium seats 400 with Wi-Fi and electrical power under the table at each seat. Telecommunications are provided between the auditorium and the NETV facilities at 1800 N. 33<sup>rd</sup> St. The auditorium is equipped with two 10-by-16-foot screens and two flat-screen TV-style displays. Adjacent to the auditorium is a banquet hall that seats 400. (Those who have attended the Nebraska State Fair in the past will be interested to know the auditorium area was the former livestock exhibition pavilion.)

This fall, the lower level of the former Industrial Arts building became home to the teaching and research programs of the Food Science and Technology Department. This will include a joint food processing facility in collaboration with ConAgra Foods.

*( continued on page 3)*

### **From the President (continued from page 1)**

Jim Griesen and Roger Kirby represented the Emeriti at the Big Ten Retirees Association meeting at Michigan State University Aug. 14-16. (See page 7.)

During the year, the Emeriti Coffee Chats have been meeting every month. The Chats provide members opportunities to meet and visit informally at various Lincoln locations.

The Emeriti Association has also made an effort to meet and recruit recent retirees. In addition to personal contacts, the Association has produced a new and attractive brochure for distribution highlighting the activities and benefits of Emeriti membership.

It has been an exciting year, and it is only half over. I encourage your participation in UNL Emeriti Association activities and look forward to working with you as we move forward.



**Dan Duncan  
director of  
Innovation Campus**

Dan began his tenure with UNL in 1987 as operations manager at the Panhandle Research and Extension Center in Scottsbluff. In 1991 he moved to administer the Nebraska Agricultural Research and Development Center at Mead. He moved to his current position in 2011.

## Upcoming Activities

### September 15

Luncheon hosted by the  
Chancellor, Nebraska Alumni,  
and NU Foundation  
Welcome to new Emeriti.  
Nebraska Champions Club

### Please Note

Beginning in October lunches will be \$15/person, reflecting the increased cost — still less than actual cost of \$18/person.

### October 20

NU President Hank Bounds  
“Challenges and Opportunities”  
East Campus Union

### November 17

Richard Dienstbier  
“Building Resistance to Stress and  
Aging”  
East Campus Union

Future luncheons for your  
2016 calendar!

January 19

February 18

March 22

April 21

May (TBA)

\* \* \* \* \*

### Donors Needed

If you can help underwrite the Big Ten Retirees conference at UNL in 2016, please send your tax-deductible contribution to University of Nebraska Foundation Fund #13266.

## Learning about Nebraska Innovation Campus

*(continued from page 2)*

Ultra-modern greenhouse facilities are located east of the former 4-H building. Complete lighting and climate control is available in the two greenhouses. A unique feature of the greenhouse is the automated plant phenotype system that quantifies plant growth on a daily basis using a series of special cameras and lighting arrangements. Plants are grown in pots that move on a serpentine conveyor within the greenhouse. Each pot contains a soil moisture sensor used to measure plant water status. Water will be automatically added to maintain the desired growing conditions. Pots will be weighed daily to document growth before entering the photography chambers that were imported from Europe. Both Pioneer Hi-Bred International Incorporated and Monsanto have similar facilities that can also handle full-sized corn plants. Space is available to construct additional greenhouses for contract research.

The master plan for Nebraska Innovation Campus includes a restaurant and lodging facilities. The Water for Food Institute is now located in a new building north of the former 4-H building.

## Big Ten Retirees Association to Meet at UNL Next Year

UNL will host the 2016 conference of the Big Ten Retirees Association next August at the Van Brunt Visitor's Center.

The Big Ten Retirees Association, open to retiree groups from Big Ten universities, is designed to enhance the groups at each school by sharing information, primarily at the yearly conference, which rotates among member institutions. The 2015 conference was held at Michigan State University.

Next year's conference theme is *Healthy, Wealthy, and Wise Retirements and* will include topics of cognitive and financial issues and how the information presented can be used in association programming. As the host school for the conference, we will have an opportunity to showcase some of UNL's unique programs and facilities for our Big Ten colleagues. Each member association is entitled to two representatives on the governing board that convenes once a year at the annual conference.

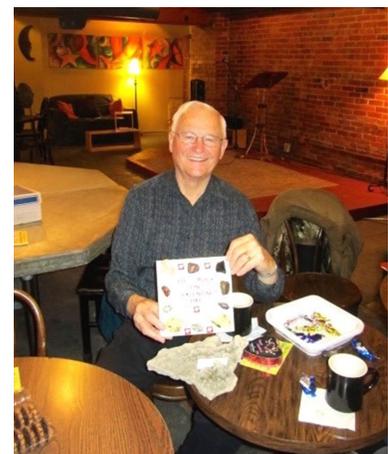
Typically members of the hosting institution have made contributions to help fund the conference. To help underwrite the 2016 conference, with an estimated budget of \$23,000, members of the UNL Emeriti Association Board have pledged to make personal contributions of \$100 per Board member.

The Board is also asking the members to consider a tax-deductible contribution to help support the conference. Donations can be made to: NU Foundation Fund #13266.



## Having Fun

**Valentine's Day.** Emeriti attended a Valentine's Day celebration at the Crescent Moon Coffee House in the Haymarket in February. Everyone provided an unsigned Valentine and voted for the one they liked best. The winning Valentine was brought by UNL Emeriti Association President Duane Eversoll. Reflecting on his professional expertise as a geologist, the caption on his Valentine read, *You Rock on Valentine's Day*. The message was mounted on a piece of Ogallala Formation, that was found in Southwestern Nebraska.



**Duane Eversoll shows off his Valentine.**

### *Congratulations and way to go, Duane!*

**St. Patrick's Day.** The March Emeriti luncheon fell on St. Patrick's Day and the group celebrated with Donal Burns, retired UNL physics professor and Emeriti member, sharing his family history growing up in his native Ireland. He also talked about St. Patrick, designated Bishop to the Irish by the Catholic Pope in 430 A.D. Patrick was a slave on the Emerald Island who escaped and then returned with the charge of converting the Irish to Christianity. He is credited with establishing 700 churches, including the very first one in Ireland.

Sharing the spotlight with Burns were Thomas Westfall and Barbara Zach. Westfall, a graduate of the New England Conservatory of Music and vocal performer with the Boston Symphony and New York City Opera, sang a number of Irish favorites including "Tura-Lura-Lura," "When Irish Eyes Are Smiling," and "Danny Boy." Zack, a graduate of UNL's School of Music, accompanied him on the piano. (See page 5.)



**Donal Burns shares information about St. Patrick.**



**Thomas Westfall shares his operatic gift focusing on Irish favorites at the monthly UNL Emeriti Association Luncheon in March.**



## **Have You Been on Campus Lately?**

On March 26, a chilly, sunshiny spring day, 14 Emeriti faculty stopped by the new UNL Outdoor Adventure Center on North 14th Street for coffee and a tour. Time was spent getting acquainted and hearing from Kay and Lee Rockwell about their recent trip to Cuba. (See *Country of Contrasts: Personal Reflections on Cuba* on page 6.) Following their talk, Jordan Messerer, assistant director for Outdoor Adventures, shared information with the group about Center activities and the outdoor equipment available for rental by students, faculty, staff, and retirees.

The Center sponsors trips, about 50 a year, and conducts academic courses. During spring semester, UNL students were kayaking, hiking, enjoying the great outdoors in California, New Mexico, Tennessee, and Utah and earning college credit.

The new facility on campus includes a climbing wall that several Emeriti faculty were tempted to climb—but then decided to pass.

Maybe next time.





**Che Guevara, depicted the side of this Havana building, helped overthrow the dictator Batista and is still a symbol of the communist revolution in Cuba.**

## ***Country of Contrasts: Personal Reflections on Cuba*** **by Lee Rockwell**

In March Kay and I participated in a fascinating Road Scholar trip to Cuba. To my surprise, we discovered six of our friends visiting at about the same time. In retrospect, it perhaps should not have been unique. It reflects the serious interest Americans have in the changing relationships between our two nations, and in taking an opportunity to visit Cuba before more changes take place as a result of inevitable U.S. investments.

I admit I carried a certain bias about this trip. I expected to see a landscape dotted with Soviet-style gray apartment buildings from the '50s and '60s. And indeed, we did. But we also saw the colorful architectural styles associated with this country, some badly in need of repair but a few that were new and modern.

I expected to see streets lined with ancient rusting Russian automobiles. And, we did. But we also saw many beautifully restored, colorful American automobiles cruising the streets of Havana. A ride in a '67 Ford convertible was a little like being stuck in a *Happy Days* time warp.

In short, I expected to see an old style Communist society that was stuck in the '60s. Instead, I saw a fascinating society with certain limitations, but one that is working hard to move ahead. As one Cuban told me, "We are a First World country socially and artistically, but a Third World country economically."

Conflicts between the First and Third World were evident throughout Cuba. Cubans have free healthcare, but many medicines are in short supply or nonexistent. Havana is a city with modern amenities, but it is not unusual to see horse-drawn carts in the countryside. Privately owned Particulars (B and B's) are comfortable and attractive, but Havana's classic government-owned Hotel Nacional would probably rate a three-star classification. At a national elementary and secondary

## **Adventures Abroad**



**Kay Rockwell  
having fun in Cuba.**

school of the arts, we saw talented performances, yet the facilities were old and tired. Government and private Paladars (restaurants) offer extensive menu offerings mainly for visitors, while Cuban citizens face food rationing.

The contrasts which are so apparent are what make this country fascinating. It's worth a visit, especially before the American investments start flowing. At the same time, the Cuban infrastructure appears to be ill-prepared right now to handle large numbers of American visitors. But, patience coupled with a sense of adventure will go a long way to enjoying a visit to our southern neighbor.



***"In Cuba] we also saw many beautifully restored, colorful American automobiles cruising the streets of Havana," Lee Rockwell noted.***

## **2015 Big Ten Retirees Association Conference**

Jim Griesen and Roger Kirby represented the UNL Emeriti Association at the 2015 Big Ten Retirees Association conference, hosted by Michigan State University (MSU) Aug. 13-15. The theme of the conference, "Drivers Impacting Our Retirement Years," focused on the economic, intellectual, health and financial drivers affecting Big Ten university retirees.

MSU President Lou Anna K. Simon shared her views on issues affecting our universities today and responded to thoughtful questions from the audience. Saturday's speakers covered the four focus areas of the theme, and the afternoon concluded with a bus tour of the MSU campus, which is reported to be the largest physical campus in the country.

The Sunday morning session was dedicated to reports from representatives of the participating universities. Many schools brought documents (newsletters, recruitment brochures, activities descriptions, etc.) to share.

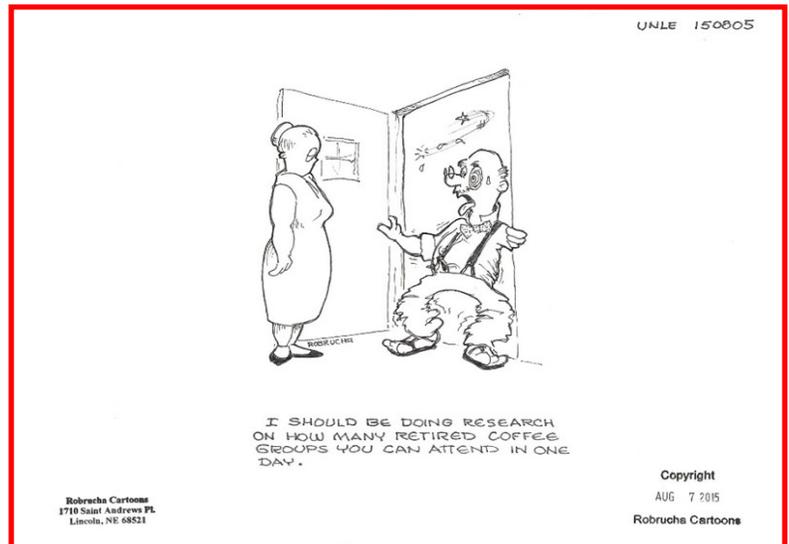
It should be noted that some of the universities have associations that include all the retirees from the institution, i.e., faculty, administrators, clerical and custodial staff or any long-term university employees. The reports and discussions over the two-day conference will be shared with the Board to help in developing new programs and activities for the UNL Emeriti Association.

UNL's representatives extended a special invitation to attend the 2016 conference in Lincoln Aug. 5-7, 2016, and described the planning taking place for the event.

The full program for the 2015 conference can be seen at <http://hr.umich.edu/umra/big10>. Just click on the Big 10 Retirees Association logo. This website also offers links to each of the member associations, although the two newest Big 10 institutions, Maryland and Rutgers, are not yet listed.

**How many new retirees are there this year? Anyone you know?**

*See welcome on page 9.*



## What are they doing now?



### **Emeriti Profile—CYNTHIA STRASHEIM**

Upon retirement from UNL Extension in 2013, I read books that were on my shelf for years. They would have made great resources for my work in Extension if I had read them BEFORE retirement!

I continue to teach *Co-parenting for Successful Kids* online. The course is approved by the Nebraska Supreme Court for families who are going through custody procedures for divorce, modification, or paternity cases. I am happy to teach this course because families gain an immediate awareness of best practices. Parents focus on the children's needs with greater clarity and enhanced parenting skills.

My teaching the course reminds me how important it is to give time to my children and grandchildren. We have had many family encounters filled with pure UNHURRIED joy! The oldest of seven grandchildren just graduated from high school, heading to UNO. The youngest is headed to pre-school.

My husband and I have traveled to Maine, Hawaii, Arizona, New York, Missouri, Kansas, Illinois, California, and Oklahoma. We will travel to England for 21 days in 2016 to visit Hastings, London, Canterbury, Stonehenge, and then to Wales. I find little, well-spaced trips with rest in between keeps me anticipating the next opportunity.

When the time comes for your decision to retire, I hope you will anticipate all the opportunities that lie before you.

*Cynthia Strasheim is Professor Emeritus in UNL Extension.*



### **Emeriti Profile – RICK WALDREN**

I retired in 2009 and my wife, Sue, retired in 2010. We exemplify the adage, "I'm so busy I wonder how I ever had time to work." I finish at least two crossword puzzles daily including the NY Times and LA Times, and read about a book a week, mostly science fiction and mystery thrillers. I am the Treasurer of the Northeast Kiwanis Club and participate in many Kiwanis projects serving youth, including the Child Advocacy Center, school bike rodeos, and the LPS Backpack Program. The rest of my time is spent with our children and nine grandchildren who live close by.

We love to travel and have been to Europe several times including trips to Ireland and Italy, and a boat trip from Amsterdam to Budapest; an Eastern Caribbean cruise; and a cruise through the Panama Canal with stops in Colombia, Costa Rica, and Mexico. We have made numerous road trips across the U.S. to the Great Smoky Mountains of Tennessee, Arizona, Nevada, Utah, Texas, and the Rocky Mountains. We love to hike trails and enjoy the scenery.

I revised my textbook, "Introductory Crop Science" and plan to revise another textbook "Principles of Field Crop Production." I also review on-line lessons that accompany textbooks from a major publishing company. All these activities as well as keeping up with friends and family enable me to say that retirement is everything I thought it would be.

*Dr. Richard (Rick) Waldren is Professor Emeritus from the department of Agronomy and Horticulture in the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources.*

## Welcome New Retirees

Lloyd Ambrosius, History  
Verne Anderson, West Central Research & Extension Center  
Alan E Baquet, Agricultural Economics  
John Paul Barton, Mechanical and Materials Engineering  
Donald H. Beermann, Animal Science  
Gary C. Bergman, Cooperative Extension Division  
Robert L. Bolin, University Libraries  
Allan B. Bond, School of Biological Sciences  
Jennifer I Brand, Engineering Research Center  
James R. Brandle, School of Natural Resources  
\*Miles T. Bryant, Educational Administration  
Thomas M. Carr, Jr., Modern Languages & Literature  
Mary E. Cassner, University Libraries  
Paul M. Clark, NE College of Technical Agriculture  
Dennis M. Conley, Agricultural Economics  
Patricia C. Crews, Textiles, Merchandising & Fashion Design  
Mary Jo Deegan, Sociology  
Steven R. Dunbar, Mathematics  
Carol R. Easley, Textiles, Merchandising & Fashion Design  
Carolyn Pope Edwards, Psychology; Child, Youth & Family Studies  
Dean E. Eisenhauer, Biological Systems Engineering  
Michael H. Epstein, Special Education & Communication Disorders  
Patricia J. Fairchild, Agricultural Leadership, Education and Communication  
Patricia W. Freeman, School of Natural Resources  
Betsy Shofstall Gabb, Interior Design  
Ronald J. Goble, Earth and Atmospheric Sciences  
\*James V. Griesen, Educational Administration  
\*M. Susan Hallbeck, Mechanical & Materials Engineering  
\*E. Charles, Healey, Special Education & Communication Disorders  
Gary W. Hergert, Agronomy & Horticulture  
\*Gwendolyn Hines, Mathematics  
Mary Anne Holmes, Earth and Atmospheric Sciences  
Kenneth G. Hubbard, School of Natural Resources  
\*Scott E. Hygnstrom, School of Natural Resources  
Evelyn M. Jacobson, Modern Languages & Literature  
\*Stacy James, Journalism & Mass Communications  
Clinton J. Jones, Veterinary and Biomedical Sciences  
M. Colleen Jones, Management  
Alan C. Kamil, School of Biological Sciences  
Rita C. Kean, Textiles, Merchandising & Fashion Design  
Ann M. Kleimola, History  
Nathan S. Krug, Architecture  
Eileen M. Krumbach, Southeast Research & Extension Center  
Mark S. Kuzila, School of Natural Resources  
\*John David Logan, Mathematics  
Fred Luthans, Management  
\*Gary D. Lynne, Agricultural Economics  
Karen V. Lyons, English  
David B. Marx, Statistics  
Allan L. McCutcheon, Survey Research & Methodology and Statistics  
Thomas M. McGowan, Teaching, Learning and Teacher Education  
John C. Meakin, Mathematics  
Gary Meers, Special Education & Communication Disorders  
Thomas Jack Morris, School of Biological Sciences  
David Moshman, Educational Psychology  
Noel L. Mues, Cooperative Extension Division  
Jeanne C. Murray, Cooperative Extension Division  
P. Maureen Neal, Art & Art History  
Merlyn K. Nielsen, Animal Science  
\*Barbara P. Ogg, Southeast Research & Extension Center  
James O'Hanlon, Education & Human Sciences  
Anne Parkhurst, Statistics  
Keith E. Pedersen, Durham School of Architecture, Engineering & Construction  
Robert C. Reid, Special Education & Communication Disorders  
Thomas E. Rinkevich, Classics & Religious Studies  
Linda V. Ruchala, School of Accountancy  
Miluse Saskova-Pierce, Modern Languages & Literatures  
Barbara J. Scharf, West Central Research & Extension Center  
Marilynn Schnepf, Nutrition and Health Sciences  
Phyllis Schoenholz, Cooperative Extension Division  
Terrence C. Sebor, Cooperative Extension Division  
David P. Shelton, Northeast Research & Extension Center  
Linda J. Shipley, Journalism & Mass Communications  
Ellin B. Siegel, Special Education & Communication Disorders  
\*\*David P. Smith, Technical Agriculture  
Robert J. Spreitzer, Biochemistry  
\*\*Lavon J. Sumption, Animal Science  
Delmar C. Timm, Chemical & Biomolecular Engineering  
Hendrick F. Van Den Berg, Economics  
Diane C. Vigna, Textiles, Merchandising, & Fashion Design  
Donald P. Weeks, Biochemistry  
Victoria P. Weisz, Center on Children, Families & the Law  
Donald E Westover, Nebraska Forest Service  
\*Leslie B. Whitbeck, Sociology  
Brian L. Wilcox, Psychology  
Susan N. Williams, Cooperative Extension Division  
Kathleen M. Wilson, Teaching, Learning & Teacher Education  
Robert G. Wilson, Jr., Agronomy & Horticulture  
Susan K. Wunder, Teaching, Learning & Teacher Education  
Michael G. Zeece, Food Science & Technology  
\*retired in 2014      \*\* retired earlier than 2014

## 2015 Officers

Duane Eversoll, president  
James Griesen, vice president  
Delivee Wright, secretary  
Jack Goebel, acting treasurer  
John Comer, past president & newsletter  
John Bernthal, board member  
Julie Johnson, board member & newsletter  
Roger Kirby, board member & membership  
Doug Zatechka, benefits  
Al Seagren, Wisherd awards  
Kay Rockwell, member relations  
Jeffrey Keown, board member & Liaison to Faculty Senate  
Rita Kean, board member

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

## Contact Us

**Let the newsletter committee know what you think about the newsletter and share ideas for stories and improvements.**

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PLACE  
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