

UNL EMERITI & RETIREE ASSOCIATION

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

UNL Emeriti and Retirees Association Newsletter

Fall 2017

Welcome to new members and the exciting fall programming

A special welcome to all our new members who are officially retired from UNL. Whether you are a former faculty member, administrator, support staff, or one of the many former employees of UNL, we welcome you and we hope you find a welcoming atmosphere in our association's activities.

Fall is always an exciting time. To me, it means new beginnings. New students are coming to campus; children and grandchildren are starting school and our lives just seem to "gear up" for whatever the future holds for the remainder of this year and next. Even though I have been busy as your president since January, I am eager to begin our fall activities and continue our work. I am excited about our new members, the fresh opportunities we are exploring, and new activities we will be experiencing before the end of the year.

The NU Foundation Luncheon, was held at the Cornhusker Marriott on Thursday, September 28, and opened our fall programming. Chancellor Ronnie Green, Shelley Zaborowski, executive director of the Nebraska Alumni Association, and Joe Selig, senior vice president for UNL Development, welcomed members and spoke briefly about new initiatives for the coming year.

On October 17 Mike Boehm, Harlan Vice Chancellor for the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources and the University of Nebraska Vice President of Agriculture and Natural Resources, will speak at our monthly luncheon in the East Campus Union. Dr. John Woollam, George Holmes Distinguished University Professor, will speak at our November 16 meeting about why a professor would start a business. Both presentations will offer the intellectual stimulation our luncheons are known for.

Our social calendar for the fall offers interesting tours and fun social events. A Love Library tour combined with hearing the Chiara String Quartet will be on October 11. This will be followed by a Halloween Coffee on October 30, a tour of Nebraska Innovation Studio on November 7, and a holiday party on December 14.

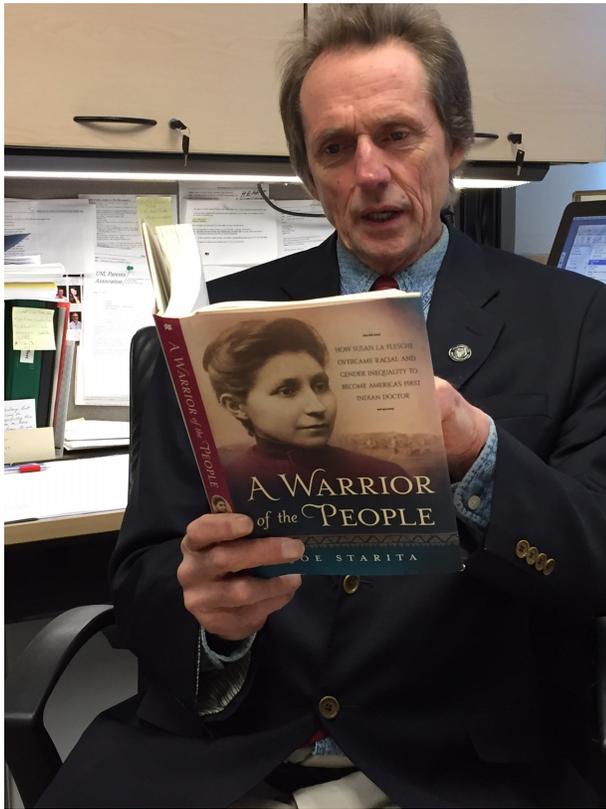
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Julie Johnson, president

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Joe Starita

The brilliance and commitment of Susan La Fleche

Susan La Flesche broke new ground in multiple ways during her life in Nebraska. She is the subject of Joe Starita's book, "A Warrior of the People," and Starita talked about her at the March 16 luncheon meeting of the UNL Emeriti and Retirees.

La Flesche was a member of the Omaha tribe and first Native American medical doctor in the United States. She graduated at the top of her class from the Medical College of Pennsylvania in 1889, the only medical school in the nation at the time that admitted women. Women were considered ill-suited for the rigors of college or the demands of training in the professions, let alone the challenges in the field of medicine.

Starita described how La Flesche, smart, focused, and dedicated, overcame extraordinary racial, gender, and cultural barriers. Because she was not only a woman but a Native woman, the way she navigated a male-dominated and, in many respects, alien culture is all the more compelling, Starita said.

Following graduation from medical school, La Flesche returned to the Nebraska prairie where she was the sole provider of health care to the Omaha nation. Traveling hundreds of miles, by day or by night, she visited more than 1,200 patients scattered over 1,350 miles. La Flesche ministered to the poor and sick whose last hope was a young woman who spoke their language and knew their customs.

After the release of the book, Starita was asked by a reporter to describe La Flesche in one sentence. Starita replied that he could do it in two: "The purpose in life is not to avoid pain and suffering. The purpose in life is to find a purpose and live out that purpose."

Starita added that "La Flesche is the embodiment of every value Americans cherish."

La Flesche's inspirational life is the subject of the PBS documentary "Medicine Woman," released in November 2016 and based on Starita's book.

by John Comer

Welcome to new members and exciting fall programming *(continued from page 1)*

Past President Jim Griesen, President-Elect Rita Kean and I have visited with Chancellor Green twice this past year and also with President Bounds and Provost Susan Fritz. All of the meetings were extremely positive. Suggestions and support were offered, and each administrator was very pleased with our work. The administrators said they thought our moving to include more retirees in our association was an important step.

Your board has developed new brochure this year with the help of students from Jacht (a Journalism and Mass Communications sponsored group). We are proud to have a new brochure available to give all recent retirees and other interested individuals or groups.

Again, welcome back from summer activities. I know we'll have a great fall! See you soon.

Julie Johnson, president



Shawn Eichorst

There Is no student-athlete experience like the one at Nebraska

“Integrity, trust, respect, teamwork and loyalty.” Those are the core values of UNL’s Athletic Department, Shawn Eichorst, the former UNL athletic director, told attendees at the association’s Feb. 23 luncheon meeting.

The Athletic Department’s goal is to provide student-athletes with the resources and support needed to be successful in academic, athletics and life, Eichorst said. On their very first day on campus, UNL athletes are asked, “What are you going to do over the next four to five years at UNL to put yourself in a situation to be successful for the rest of your lives?”

To help them reach their life goals, student-athletes are required to enroll in the Husker Life Seminar, which focuses on skills like servant leadership. Student-athletes gave 2,500 hours in community service on 400 community projects last year. In place of a study abroad experience, student-athletes led service abroad trips to Guatemala and the Dominican Republic.

Unique to UNL’s Life Skills and Outreach Program is the opportunity for eligible students to participate in the Post Eligibility Opportunities Program. Students in this program receive funding to complete an internship or study abroad program or attend graduate school.

Eichorst said 2016 was an excellent year in academics for UNL athletes. A total of 109 student-athletes earned degrees – a graduation rate of 86 percent – and the cumulative grade point average was 3.21.

Nebraska leads the nation with 327 Academic All-Americans, including 17 NCAA Top 10 Award Winners. The goal is for UNL to increase the graduation success rate to 90 percent by 2018, which would put it in the top tier of the Big Ten Conference.

On the athletics side, Eichorst reported that UNL teams made 10 NCAA post-season team appearances in 2015-16. Seven teams finished in the Top 10. UNL had 49 All-Americans. Altogether, 1.3 million fans attended athletic events, and 10 programs finished in the top 15 in attendance in the country. He said alumni attendance is crucial to those numbers.

UNL’s Athletic Department leads the Big Ten in the amount of money it donates to the university and is number two in the nation behind only the University of Texas. The Athletic Department receives no taxpayer, state, or university financial support, nor does it benefit from UNL student fees.

Eichorst credits the people and culture of the university, the Lincoln community and the State of Nebraska for the Athletic Department’s success in recruiting, retaining and graduating student-athletes.

by Rita Kean

Luncheons

October 17, 2017

Mike Boehm, Harlan Vice Chancellor for the Institute of Agriculture & Natural Resources and University of Nebraska Vice President for Agriculture and Natural Resources

November 16, 2017

John Woollam, George Holmes Distinguished University Professor of Electrical Engineering

January 18, 2018

Donde Plowman, executive vice chancellor and chief academic officer

February 20, 2018 — to be announced

March 20, 2018 — to be announced

April 19, 2018 — to be announced

May 2018 (date to be announced) *President’s Luncheon*

September 2018 (date to be announced) *Foundation Luncheon*

October 16, 2018 — to be announced

November 15, 2018 — to be announced



Robert F. Diffendal

Understanding the geology of the Great Plains

Robert F. Diffendal, UNL emeritus faculty member and author of the recently published book “Great Plains Geology,” talked about this land of wide-open spaces at the April emeritus luncheon.

Diffendal presented a geologic history of the Great Plains and how its formation intertwined with the development of the rest of the earth. He said the Great Plains were formed via ancient cratons and collisions of tectonic plates, changes in the sea level, and the role of ice ages and volcanoes.

Not everyone agrees on the boundaries of the Great Plains, and Diffendal showed a map with 50 different boundaries that have defined the region. Most people agree that the western boundary line is the eastern slope of the Rocky Mountains. The northern boundary is in the southern parts in the Canadian Prairie Provinces, Alberta and Saskatchewan. The southern boundary borders the faulted basin range/Rio Grande rift, which lies mostly in west Texas. The eastern boundary is the most difficult to define because it does not have a major structural break.

Diffendal said the Great Plains includes relatively few trees except along rivers and uplifts in places such as the Black Hills. It is an area that is usually short of water, but he added that Nebraska has a major aquifer under its surface. He also said the Great Plains can look markedly different at any one place depending on the time of day and quality of light.

He addressed questions such as: Why do the Great Plains tilt downward toward the east? Why do the Black Hills stick up in the middle of the flat lands? Why is the High Plains Aquifer thickest and most widespread in Nebraska and thinner to the north and south? Where did the sand in the Nebraska sand hills and the sand dune area of the Great Plains come from?

Diffendal includes in his book 57 interesting research sites in the Great Plains with each identified as having geological, paleontological, archeological, and ecotourism interest. He and his wife, Anne, have visited all of these sites, and he showed pictures of several sites including the Head-Smashed-In Buffalo Jump and Dinosaur Provincial Park in Alberta, Ashfall Fossil Beds State Historical Park in Nebraska, the confluence of the Pecos River and the Rio Grande, and Seminole Canyon State Park in Texas.

Diffendal was a recipient of a small grant from the Maude E. Wisherd Fund from the UNL Emeriti and Retirees Association to help support the book, which was published by University of Nebraska Press.

by John Bernthal



Coffee House Chats and Tours

We hope to see you there!



October 11, 10:30 to 12: 45 p.m. — Adele Coryell Learning Commons tour and Chiara Quartet Performance at Love Library

October 30, 9:30 a.m. — Halloween Coffee at Lee and Kay Rockwell's home, 2101 S. 66th Street

November 7, 8:30 a.m. — Pre-tour Coffee at the Mill on Innovation Campus .

November 7, 9 a.m. — Tour, Nebraska Innovation Studio (Maker's Space), 2021 Innovation Drive, Entrance B.

December 14, 9:30 a.m. — Holiday Coffee at Jeff and Gail Keown's home, 9340 Whispering Wind Road

Campus Recognition of Emeriti

UNL Housing's office complex named for Zatechka

Doug Zatechka, who served as director of University Housing for 34 years, was honored May 11 when the university announced it will name Housing's new office complex for him. He retired in 2010.

At a reception that day, Dr. James Griesen, retired vice chancellor for student affairs and immediate past president of the UNL Emeriti and Retirees Association, praised Zatechka's commitment to saving student money through his discerning eye for deals and astute negotiation tactics.



In his remarks, Zatechka paid tribute to the staff members he worked with during his tenure as director, describing them as "phenomenal people." He said the university's practice of treating service workers well makes the institution more nurturing and more profitable. He also praised the collaboration and interaction between academics and housing. During his career, he worked regularly with Academic Affairs to develop residential learning communities and establish a housing master plan.

Zatechka has been the UNOPA Floyd S. Oldt Boss of the Year and was the only non-faculty member to earn the George Howard-Louise Pound Award for exemplary service to the university.

Excerpts were taken from the UNL website.

Massengale honored on East Campus



The new university housing unit on East Campus has been named the Massengale Residential Center in honor of Martin Massengale. The new hall replaces both Burr and Fedde Halls on UNL's East Campus. It has traditional and apartment-style rooms and will house both freshmen and upper-class students. It is located just north of the C.Y. Thompson Library building. It welcomed its first students this fall.

In 1976, Massengale came to Nebraska as vice chancellor of the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources. He was the second person to take the reins of IANR after it was created by the Nebraska Legislature in 1973.

Massengale became University of Nebraska-Lincoln's 16th chancellor in 1981, a post he held for 10 years. He was both interim president of the University of Nebraska and chancellor of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln from August 1989 until his permanent appointment as president in 1991. The Center for Grassland Studies was formed within IANR in 1994, with Massengale serving as founding director.

Excerpts were taken from the UNL website.



Purdue conference offered ideas for Big 10 retirees associations

Advice about retiree associations' relationships with their universities, association financing and association membership growth led the agenda at the 2017 Big 10 Retirees Association conference at Purdue University Aug. 25-27.

"Purdue organized a very fine program of presentations and discussion for the attendees," said Rita Kean, UNL's association vice president. She and Doug Zatechka, association Board member, represented UNL at the conference, whose theme was "Together We Soar – Best Practices and Ideas for Growing Your Retirees Association."

The schools represented at the conference shared the different ways in which they are affiliated with their universities. Representatives shared examples of ways associations can advocate for their institutions and provide input into university and faculty governance initiatives.

Financing models also vary among the associations, but all include some membership fees or dues on a one-time or recurring basis. Several institutions also provide endowments and grants for their retiree associations.

Regarding marketing the association and recruiting new members, Kean and Zatechka learned that many associations have trouble soliciting enough volunteers to carry out the group's goals and objectives.

They also learned that health care and associated costs continue to be major issues for retirees at member universities.

Representatives from Purdue and the other Big 10 universities complimented UNL's association on the excellent conference it hosted in 2016. They said UNL conference planners had set the bar high for future meetings.

Purdue did an exemplary job of hosting the conference, Kean said. The university's hotel, which is part of its student union, has been recently updated, and staff were friendly and accommodating.

The conference highlighted some of Purdue's best-known alumni, including a welcome event centered on Neil Armstrong and two other astronauts who were Purdue graduates. Conference attendees also visited the large collection at the library related to Amelia Earhart, another alum, as well as a brand new 24-7 Learning Center. They also visited the aeronautics flight training program, one of the largest in the nation on a university campus.

Next year's Big Ten Retiree's Association Conference will be held at Penn State University August 3-5, 2018.

For additional information about this year's conference at Purdue, go to the UNL Emeriti and Retirees Association website: <http://emeriti.unl.edu>

by Rita Kean and Doug Zatechka

For more information about the Big Ten Retirees Association go to this website:

<http://umra.hr.umich.edu/big10/index.html>

Members are engaged on campus and in community

Two-thirds of the membership of the UNL Emeriti and Retirees Association who responded to an April survey indicated they have been active volunteers for non-profit organizations in the community since they retired from UNL. The table below summarizes some of the other survey findings.

Activities of members and percentage responding 'Yes'	Percent
Attend some or all Association meetings	66%
Member of the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI)	32%
Served as an OLLI volunteer in last five years	26%
Is a member of the Nebraska Alumni Association	51%
Has had UNL post-retirement academic activities in the last five years	57%
Has had professional publications since retirement in the last five years	34%
Has been Involved in professional association(s) since retirement	59%
Has served on community non-profit board(s) since retirement	40%
Has volunteered for non-profit organization(s) since retirement	66%
Has been a member of a community service organization since retirement	24%
Makes an annual contribution to the NU Foundation	49%
Has the NU Foundation in their estate Plan, will or insurance policy	18%
Belongs to one or more UNL "Friends" organizations	39%
Attends Lied Center events	57%
Attends UNL lectures or seminars	52%
Attends UNL athletic events	55%

Members were asked what interest group topics, beyond the Association's International Affairs Discussion Group cosponsored with Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) they would have an interest in. The following topics were specified the most:

Book Group – 18 percent

Financial Investments – 16 percent

Photography – 12 percent

Cooking – 12 percent

Gardening – 11 percent

The survey was distributed by email to approximately 450 active members of the Association and 182 completed surveys were returned for a 40 percent return rate. The board of directors will utilize the results of this survey in future planning decisions. The results will also be shared with UNL administration to demonstrate the continued involvement of retirees in the UNL community. We anticipate the survey will be repeated every two or three years.

by Jim Griesen

Life After Retirement — What are they doing now?



Emeritus Profile — Twyla Lidolph

Retirement has been great! I recommend it highly. But you do need to have hobbies and activities to enjoy it.

I retired in 1990 after working 30 years with the University of Nebraska as an extension agent, now called an extension educator. My hobbies include sewing, quilting, oil painting, going to plays and musicals, and playing bridge and pitch. I also enjoy time with my two children and their spouses, four grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

After graduating from college in 1950 I joined the extension service and trained in Saunders County. I was then assigned to Howard County three-fourths time and the surrounding counties one-fourth time. Al also graduated in 1950. We were married in October of 1950 and moved to St. Paul. Al was able to get a job teaching agriculture for veterans in Howard County. Being in the Nebraska Sandhills was a new experience, and I loved it.

My husband, Al, was called into service and left for Korea in May 1951 where he served for two years. Upon his return he tried several different jobs and then decided to return to college. Our first child, a boy, was six weeks old when Al started in Veterinary Medicine at Kansas State. He graduated at the top of his class in 1959. He worked for Norden Labs, now Smith Kline, for 26 years. He died in 1998.

In 1964, the Nebraska Extension Service contacted me to see if I would be interested in being the Home Extension Agent in Lancaster County. I decided it was a great opportunity even though I was busy with two children in school and building a new home on an acreage. I worked in Lancaster County until 1990. I worked with the 4-H program and specialized in sewing and interior design and loved my work. Helping at the 4-H camp near Gretna was a special experience.

My husband and I celebrated our 25th wedding anniversary by taking a trip down the Danube River in 1975. This got us excited about travelling, so we decided to take more trips while we were still young. We subsequently took trips to England, Germany, Norway, Sweden, France, Panama Canal, New Zealand, Australia and Switzerland and most of the U.S. states.

After my husband died, I moved to a townhouse in southeast Lincoln, and my son and his family moved to my acreage. My neighborhood is great. Four associations join forces to have monthly lunches, an annual picnic, a book club, bridge club and a quilt group that I organized. I enjoy taking OLLI classes and attending programs at Lied, SWHS, Wesleyan, Lincoln Playhouse and Hickman Theater. I also sub on a bowling team and even played ping pong at my grandson's home at East-er.

My advice for retirement is to keep busy. Enjoy every minute with hobbies, family and organizations.

Thoughts for today and tomorrow

"Friendship improves happiness and abates misery by the doubling of our joy and the dividing of our grief."

Marcus Tullius Cicero (106-43 BC)

Neither a lofty degree of intelligence nor imagination nor both together go to the making of genius. Love, love, love, that is the soul of genius."

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756 - 1791)

"Learn something new from an old friend."

Dove Chocolates

International Affairs Discussion Group

The International Affairs Discussion Group, which meets monthly from September through May, announces topics to be discussed via the UNL Emeriti and Retirees Association listserv. Resources relevant to the topic are included in the email. Topics are timely and provocative.



Attendance runs from 45 to 50 and is open to new participants at any time. No registration. No fee. Just show up on the first Wednesday of the month at 3 p.m. at Stauffer's Café and Pie Shoppe, 5600 South 48th Street and enjoy coffee and pie during the informative and lively discussions.

Another moderator has been added to join David Forsythe, Jerry Petr and Peter Levitov. Beth Ann Brooks, a retired professor of psychiatry and practicing psychiatrist, will also serve as moderator to the discussions.

Ideas for topics in the future can be emailed to plevitov1@unl.edu.

Invite a friend/former colleague to join our association

Do you know other individuals who have officially retired from UNL (age 55 with at least 10 years of service)? Invite them to join our association. Direct them to the UNL Emeriti and Retirees Association website:

<http://www.emeriti.unl.edu>

Then click on *Become a Member*
and complete the online application.

Do it today!

New members

The following 36 individuals have completed membership applications and are now new members in the association. Congratulations on becoming a new member. Welcome to our association.

Jeanne Andelt, Nebraska Forest Service
Bill Caldwell, 4H
Veva Cheney, Students with Disabilities
Gregory Clayton, Benefits and Risk Management
Alma Crockett, Agricultural Leadership and Communications
Ruth Diedrichson, Animal Science
Keith Dietze, Business and Finance
Dora Dill, Agricultural Research Division
Leta Powell Drake, Nebraska Educational Television
Peg Filliez, Research and Economic Development
Jessye Goertz, Extension
James Guest, Health Center
Kim Hachiya, University Communications
Aldine Harmon, Education and Human Sciences
Wilbur Hass
Earl Hawkey, Student Information Systems
Judy Hofeldt, Education and Human Sciences
Ardis Holland, Education and Human Sciences
Ken Jensen, CEHS Instructional Design Center

John Kelty, Physics and Astronomy
Diane Mohrhoff, Agricultural Research Division
Rodney Moore, Registration and Records
Susan Nichols, Extended Education and Outreach
Foster Owen, Animal Science
Roshan Pajnigar, Human Resources
Patricia Rathe, Office of the Registrar
Marilyn Scheffler, Special Education and Communication Disorders
Viann Schroeder, University Communications
Glen Schumann, Housing
Diane Sealock, CEHS Student Services
Karen Timmerman, Online and Distance Education
Gerry Van Ackeren, Student Affairs
Sue Voss, Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources
Dell Weed, Environmental Health and Safety
James Yankech, Health Center
Judy Yeck, Journalism and Mass Communications

Rosanna Johnson, Communication and Information Technology

The following 42 individuals are on the official list to receive emeriti status this year, therefore, they will be offered membership in the association. Congratulations on receiving emeriti status. We look forward to welcoming you as a new member.

Don Adams, Animal Science
Julie Albrecht, Nutrition and Health Sciences
Allen Ball, Marketing
Dennis Bauer, Extension
Patrice Berger, History
A. John Boye, Electrical and Computer Engineering
Gail Brand, Extension
Michael Carlson, Veterinary and Biomedical Sciences
Dan Crawford, Classics and Religious Studies
Malinda Eccarius, Special Education and Communication Disorders
Craig Eckhardt, Chemistry
Edward Foster, Durham School of Architectural Engineering and Construction
Marilyn Fox, Extension
David Hardin, Veterinary and Biomedical Sciences
Mark Harrell, Nebraska Forest Service
Lawrence Harshman, School of Biological Sciences
Paul Hay, Extension
Scott Josiah, School of Natural Resources
Shripat Kamble, Entomology
Istvan Ladunga, Statistics
Craig Lawson, Law
Daniel Leger, Psychology

Stephen Mason, Agronomy and Horticulture
Dennis McCallister, Agronomy and Horticulture
Kenneth Merkel, Durham School of Architectural Engineering and Construction Management
Ian Newman, Educational Psychology
Alexander Pavlista, Agronomy and Horticulture
Reece Peterson, Special Education and Communication Disorders
John Richmond, Glenn Korff School of Music
Debra Schroeder, Extension
Robert Shirer, Modern Languages and Literatures
Paul Shoemaker, School of Accountancy
Gary Stauffer, Extension
Janice Stauffer, Theatre and Film
Paul Swanson, Extension
Wieslaw Szydowski, Mechanical and Materials Engineering
Steven Tonn, Extension
Cho Wing To, Mechanical and Materials Engineering
Larry Walklin, Broadcasting
Thomas Wandzilak, Teaching, Learning and Teacher Education
Ellen Weissinger, Educational Administration

Duane Lienemann, Extension
Richard Lombardo, Graduate Studies

2017 Officers/Board of Directors

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Rita Kean, vice president
Jim Griesen, past president
Vi Schroeder, secretary
Earl Hawkey, treasurer
John Bernthal, board member
Roger Kirby, membership
Doug Zatechka, benefits committee
John Comer, website & newsletter committee
Al Seagren, awards committee
Pat Crews, awards committee
Kay Rockwell, member relations committee
Don & Rita Weeks, coffee house chats liaison
Jeffrey Keown, Faculty Senate liaison

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

Do you have ideas or comments?

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