

UNL Emeriti and Retirees Association

“Your opportunity to explore new ideas, be engaged, and stay connected to UNL”

This newsletter is archived at: emeriti.unl.edu

Fall 2022

ERA successfully raises funds for endowed student scholarship, sets new goal

By President Pat Crews

The UNL ERA reached an exciting goal this year: We raised \$30,000 to endow an annual \$1,250 scholarship from the organization. Our next goal would be to reach the \$60,000 mark by the end of 2022 so we can award *two* student scholarships each year in the future. Wouldn't that be wonderful? Kudos to Earl Hawkey and Jim Griesen for spearheading this effort.

Regular monthly programs continued during the past year thanks to the flexibility of our speakers and members. Like other associations and service organizations worldwide, we modified programming and activities and adjusted to the “new normal.”

We temporarily went back to Zoom meetings in January and February when a new, highly contagious Coronavirus variant led to rising case numbers in our community. Thankfully, we were able to return to in-person meetings in March. We now record our luncheon meetings and make them available on the ERA website so those who cannot attend in-person have the opportunity to hear the speakers virtually anytime, anywhere.

President-elect, Linda Major, has worked diligently to put together an outstanding line-up of speakers for our fall membership meetings. A list of the speakers and their topics is provided on page 14 in the newsletter.

Programming also benefits from the work of Jim Griesen and Jane Zatechka, co-chairs of the Social Activities Committee, who set up several coffee chats to give members a chance to reconnect and socialize this spring, and Don Weeks (outgoing chair of the Educational Activities Committee), who arranged a very well-attended HuskerVision tour with a welcome by Trev Alberts, UNL athletics director, in March. Watch for announcements of upcoming tours and coffee chats, which will be emailed to you in the coming months.

Thanks to the diligent efforts of our new managing editor, Alice Henneman, and the able assistance of Doug Jose and Charlyne Berens, you have the latest edition of the newsletter before you. In these pages you will see that the pandemic has not kept our association and members from engaging in a range of activities to benefit ourselves and our communities. Julie Johnson deserves special mention and a huge thank you for the countless hours she devoted to producing our informative newsletters (fall and spring) for the past eight years. The Spring 2022 newsletter was her last.

We are always looking for new ways in which to serve our members, UNL, and our community. If you have ideas for speakers or activities that you feel will enhance the goals and objectives of ERA, please let us know by contacting me (pcrews1@unl.edu), Linda Major, or Nancy Mitchell, new Educational Activities Committee chair.

I look forward to seeing you this fall.



Pat Crews

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Wisherd award recognizes Griesen's contributions

By Lloyd Ambrosius, chair, Wisherd Awards

James Griesen is the recipient of the 2022 Wisherd award for Outstanding Service to UNL. The Maude E. Wisherd Awards Committee of the ERA chose Griesen in recognition of his contributions to the university during his retirement.

In her letter of nomination, Kim Hachiya noted Griesen's continuing dedication and service to UNL. As president of ERA, he worked to expand its membership to include non-faculty retirees. He also provided leadership for ERA on its constitution/bylaws and policies/procedures committee.

At the same time, as a member of the social committee, Griesen launched a series of "Zoom socials" during the pandemic. He also played a key role in creating and promoting the Emeriti and Retirees Association scholarship fund at the NU Foundation. These post-retirement contributions continued the pattern of exemplary service to UNL he established as vice chancellor for student affairs from 1986 to 2006.

As a first-generation college student himself at The Ohio State University, Griesen knew how important it was to provide all students with the support necessary to succeed. As the Daily Nebraskan observed at his retirement in 2006, "Few administrators have spent as much time acting as a voice for students in the administration."

The DN noted that Griesen and his wife even invited students and faculty members into their home for holiday meals and worked tirelessly to make both students and faculty members feel a part of the university community.



James Griesen



Learn more about the Wisherd Award and past winners at emeriti.unl.edu/awards

Thoughts for the Day

"You cannot get through a single day without having an impact on the world around you. What you do makes a difference. You just have to decide what kind of difference you want to make."

- Jane Goodall

"The meaning of LIFE is to find your GIFT.

The purpose of life is to give it AWAY."

- Pablo Picasso

After scholarship fund hits initial goal, ERA aims to double the total

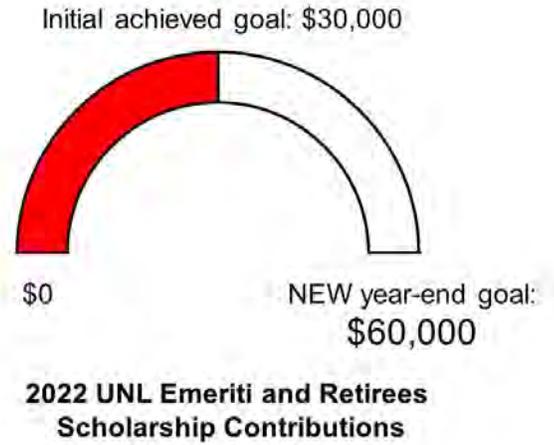
By Earl Hawkey and Jim Griesen, Scholarships Committee co-chairs

UNL ERA members enthusiastically gave to the fund drive announced last December to support a scholarship for UNL students. In fact, the response was so positive that the fund reached its goal early.

Our initial goal was to raise \$30,000 by the end of 2022 to endow one scholarship annually. We achieved that goal in August. Thanks to all of you who made this possible.

Our new goal is to raise another \$30,000 by the end of the year so that we can permanently secure another student scholarship. We could then award two scholarships annually in the amount of \$1,250 each.

The scholarships are 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 will make the selection of the student scholarship recipient.



Thank you to ERA Scholarship fund contributors



The UNL Emeriti and Retirees Association extends grateful thanks to the following individuals who have contributed to the ERA Scholarship fund. Special thanks go to Earl Hawkey for his generous lead and matching gifts and to Jim Griesen for teaming with Earl to help set up the scholarship. We have raised the \$30,000 that was required in 2021-2022 to endow the scholarship. Thank you all for your support.

These individuals have made gifts as of July 21, 2022. Many were made during Glow Big Red in February. Note this list came from the NU Foundation and only lists one name per family. If you made the gift in the name of yourself and your spouse, the list does not indicate that. Those who made multiple gifts are listed only once.

Linda S. Boeckner
Gertrude L. Burge
Ronald G. Case
Kenneth Cassman
Patricia C. Crews
Susan M. Gildersleeve
James V. Griesen
Kim H. Hachiya
Larry D. Haisch
Connie K. Hancock
Paul E. Harmon
David Harwood
Earl W. Hawkey
Alice C. Henneman

Charles A. Hibberd
Linda L. Hoegemeyer
Julie M. Johnson
M. Colleen Jones
Douglas Jose
Robert D. Kuzelka
Gary M. Major
Lois T. Mayo
Allison M. McGinn
Rita C. McKenna-Kean
Nancy D. Mitchell
Sarah E. Purcell
Benjamin G. Rader

Vishnu G. Reddi
Linda K. Schwartzkopf
Robert C. Shearman
Alfred Stark
Judy Trimbo
Donald P. Weeks
Timothy G. Wentz
Marcia A. White
Myra S. Wilhite
John C. Wiltse
Doyle R. Wolverton
Arthur I. Zygielbaum
UNL Emeriti and Retirees Association

UNL provides services to students with military connections

By Tom Hoegemeyer

Joe Brownell and Tom Allison explained the UNL Military and Veteran Success Center's five pillars of excellence when they spoke to the ERA on Feb. 17. Brownell is a UNL and ROTC graduate who served for 29 years in the U.S. Air Force. Allison worked with Career Services for 15 years prior to joining the UNL MVSC.

The center serves about 1,600 students who have a connection to the U.S. military. Sixty-four percent are military dependents, 23 percent are veterans, and 13 percent are active duty, National Guard, and Reserve members. Brownell and Allison said the MVSC sees 30 to 40 students per day.

The speakers highlighted the center's five pillars of excellence:

1. **Educational benefits.** While they don't directly certify students with Veteran's Affairs, the center is a "one stop shop" to help the students obtain the benefits they have coming. Some benefits are paid to UNL directly, and some are directed to individuals.
2. **Academic support.** Computers, printers, and tutoring are directly available to students. Tutors provide help in math and science, English, writing, Spanish, and engineering. The center also contracts as needed with tutors in other academic fields.
3. **Student services.** The change from a regimented lifestyle to far more personal responsibility for time management and other obligations can be very challenging for someone leaving the military. Center employees work with the Veteran's Administration to set up appointments and referrals for medical or other benefits for students. Medical resources are available to help students transition from military to civilian student life for one year.
4. **Career services.** The center connects students with companies that support employees with military ties. Center employees also do career or program-of-study counseling and help students build resumes and prepare



Joe Brownell, director, and Tom Allison, senior advisor and program coordinator, explained the UNL Military and Veteran Success Center's five pillars of excellence.

application letters as they seek employment opportunities.

5. **Outreach.** The center works with faculty/staff on campus to help them understand the challenges and disabilities – often not obvious – that these students may have. For example, the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities is helpful in educating faculty about the needs to extend testing times, the speakers said.

Students who have been part of the military often don't fit with their undergrad cohort's age, may no longer fit with former high school/college friends, and have a different set of life experiences, the speakers said. Most veteran students need different social interactions than traditional students.

The Student Veterans of America chapter at UNL is very active and an important support system for veterans, Brownell and Allison said. The UNL chapter cooperates with the Iowa chapter to do a "Ruck March" to the Iowa-Nebraska football game to support suicide awareness, carrying a ruck sack with 22 items in it to memorialize the 22 veterans who take their own lives every day.

'The center serves about 1,600 military'



View a video of the presentation online at: bit.ly/era-vetsuccess

Learn more about the UNL Military and Veteran Success Center at vetsuccess.unl.edu

UNL Honors Program boosts Afterschool Clubs

By Linda Major

UNL students are helping to meet the expanded learning needs of area youth through an innovative program established by the campus Honors Program.

Inspired by her daughter's experience as an afterschool leader while attending UNL, Honors Program director Patrice McMahon recognized that Honors Program students are well-positioned to engage, excite, and inspire area youth enrolled in expanded learning programs at local public schools. Research suggests that youth who participate in expanded learning opportunities demonstrate an improvement in course work and grades, a reduction in negative behavior, and an increase in school attendance, according to *Beyond School Bells, 2022*.

A formal partnership between the UNL Honors Program and Lincoln Community Learning Centers, established in 2018, supports student-led semester-long clubs in 20 locations across the community. The clubs are designed to provide enrichment opportunities before and after school hours and during the summer months based on the passion and/or academic interest of the students.

Each participating honors student completes a two-part class focused on curriculum development, providing them with the skills necessary to create age-appropriate material that includes engaging activities and facilitated discussion.

A panel of five participating students described their experience in a 30-minute presentation for ERA members in late April. Motivation for their participation in the program ranged from managing stress to career affirmation, skill



Honors Program students and staff shared their experiences working with Afterschool Clubs. Pictured are: Patrice McMahon, Ph.D., Honors Program director, standing front left; Malvika “Mal” Vijju, Kelly Wong, Annie Nelsen, Abriana Wilson, and Anna Carlson, Honors Program students, seated; Amelia-Marie Altstadt, Honors Program coordinator, standing in back.

development, and making money while having fun.

- **Kelly Wong and Annie Nielsen**, who co-led a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) club for high school students, said the experience reinforced and strengthened their friendship and provided a creative outlet to help reduce their academic burnout.
- **Malvika Vijju** said her experience reaffirmed her love for teaching but also taught her she was better suited to work with older students.
- **Abriana Wilson** told the audience her experience gave her a deep appreciation for youth committed to making a difference in their community.
- **Anna Carlson**, who led an Afterschool leadership club, learned the importance of adapting and tailoring curricula based on the emerging interests of youth, including an increase in engaging activities followed by group processing.



Patrice McMahon, Ph.D., is Dean's Professor of Teaching and Learning and Honors Program

Honors students also serve as Afterschool coaches, providing mentoring and support for UNL students new to the program. Completed curricula are uploaded to a website and made available to anyone interested in the content. To date, over 7,000 users in 20 different countries have downloaded curricula.

Naturally curious, Wong and Nielsen wondered about the impact of the Afterschool Club experience on the participating college students. Their interest resulted in an undergraduate research project based on the self-consciousness scale which measures social anxiety. Preliminary analysis suggests that in addition to skill development, participating students gained self-confidence, especially regarding speaking in front of others.

Program evaluation research is limited, but Honors Program staff are assessing the impact on outcomes such as recognizing the depth and breadth of diversity in the community, awareness of professional and interpersonal skill development, and career confidence. McMahon and Amelia-Marie Altstadt, Honors Program coordinator, have submitted a journal article for publication based on their findings.

Grant funds are currently used to pay student stipends, and program coordination has been assumed by a staff member with multiple other responsibilities. Long-term plans include program expansion and a full-time coordinator.



View a video of the presentation online at: bit.ly/era-honorsprogram

Learn more about the program at honors.unl.edu

Member Profile: Roshan Pajnigar



Roshan Pajnigar, Human Resources
Former director, Compensation and Employment

I retired from UNL with mixed feelings in 2016. I enjoyed my work in Human Resources that provided me many opportunities to serve and help the university community. UNL has been my second home.

Setting goals is the foundation of any job, but as I retired, I found that setting goals impromptu in a more relaxed state of mind is so much easier and gives more joy and satisfaction. Before I retired, I was an early morning visitor to Campus Rec. But my goal to always stay healthy is now more fun due to the time flexibility retirement allows.

Reading brings much joy. I am catching up on lost time doing this and dabbling in some writing myself. A visit to Greece to spend time with my sister is still on my bucket list.

We have always enjoyed traveling. The day following retirement, my husband, Kersi, and I left for a two-month visit to India. The safari and our visit to the Taj Mahal were amazing. Seeing new places and making friends along the way is always an adventure.



Roshan says traveling with her husband is a big part of her retirement life, including this trip to Arches National Park in Utah.

We have almost completed our goal of visiting every state in the USA. Trips to several national parks have given us a further appreciation of our beautiful country.

Of course, the most important part of retirement is being able to spend more time with our family and six grandkids. Fortunately, they live in Kansas City and Omaha, so we visit them as often as we want, which is never enough.

Helping others is a priority and gives me a sense of fulfillment, a basic principle that guides me as a Leadership Lincoln alum. I love to volunteer in a community that was so welcoming to my family when we immigrated to the States over 40 years ago.

I serve as a counselor for Nebraska Senior Health Insurance Program/Senior Medicare Patrol, helping seniors with their Medicare options. Being an appointed member on the Mayor's Citizen Police Advisory Board is also very fulfilling. I volunteer at UNL commencements and stay active in UNL's professional organizations.

It's up to each of us to build a life that is enjoyable, regardless of our employment situation, working or retired. Retirement is a big change, and many retirees miss the structure a job provides.

Staying active can build a bridge from work to an enjoyable leisure-filled life. Since we spend the majority of our lives making a living, it is now time to focus on making a peaceful and contented life. Creating a network of good friends prior to retirement and staying connected is the key to this. Having many interests, establishing satisfying daily routines, and trying new things always helps. But above all, remember that health is everything, so always take care of yourself.



Roshan poses with her twin grandsons, James and Thomas Pajnigar, who graduated from Gross Catholic High School in Omaha in May 2022.

Member Profile: Julie Johnson



**Julie Johnson, professor emeritus
College of Education and Human Sciences**

I retired for the first time in 2011. I have not regretted that decision for a minute.

I admit, however, that I worked part-time at UNL until 2020. After my first retirement, I taught a course titled Life Skills, initially designated for UNL athletes. About 15 faculty members from across the campus each designed and recorded a unit that could be taught online. I organized, implemented, and managed this course for three years as the instructor of record with more than 150 students each semester.

At the same time, I was asked to mentor new department chairs in the College of Education and Human Sciences. I mentored seven new chairs over a seven-year time span. It was rewarding to help the new chairs envision the future of their department with their faculty and to develop the strategies they would use to accomplish department goals. In addition, the new chairs worked with me on identifying and addressing issues that would arise with faculty, staff, and students.

‘I decided to retire for the second and final time’

My last three years of part-time work were as the coordinator of national awards for the college. In this role I helped faculty find and apply for national awards that they richly deserved.

In 2020, when the pandemic hit, I decided to retire for the second and final time. The earlier part-time work helped to prepare me for a more relaxed lifestyle, while keeping me active and involved in the college.

I have been an active volunteer since I retired in 2011. In 2012, I started to volunteer two to three days a week in a third-grade classroom, which still gives me a lot of pleasure — along with a lot of hugs from these 9-year-olds. I have developed “Granny’s

Garden of Grammar,” which includes worksheets and activities that connect to the unit the students are studying. Students come to me in small groups to learn more about grammar and other related topics, while other students work with the teacher or are engaged in seat work.

I have been active in ERA, holding the offices of vice president, president, and past president. I was the managing editor of the newsletter for eight years before recently turning that responsibility over to Alice Henneman. After reviewing her early drafts for the newsletter, I applaud her creativity and the positive and attractive changes she is making in the publication. I currently serve on the ERA bylaws committee with Jim Griesen.

I have been on the Sheridan Lutheran Church Council for three years and have taught an adult Bible study class for more than 20 years. I enjoy many other church-related activities.

In between my activities, I enjoy my family: two grown and married children who live in Lincoln, plus four grandsons, ages 7 to 22. I attend many of their concerts and sports activities. We’ve taken a three-week family vacation every year at Okoboji, Iowa, and have taken a number of whole-family vacations to Denver and Phoenix.

All in all, life after retirement has been very good. I would recommend it.



Julie and Dennis Johnson were married May 27, 1962, in Nashua, Iowa.



Please continue to page 8 to read about and view photos from Julie and Dennis’s “nostalgia trip” to celebrate their 60th anniversary.

Member Profile: Julie Johnson *continued from page 6*

‘We celebrated our 60th wedding anniversary with a “nostalgia trip”’

On May 27 my husband, Dennis, and I celebrated our 60th wedding anniversary. We took a “nostalgia trip,” visiting Iowa State University where we spent the first years of our marriage. We traveled on to Clear Lake, Iowa, where we honeymooned, and to Nashua, Iowa, where we were married at the Little Brown Church. (A family tradition: my grandmother, aunt, and sister also were all married there.) We also visited art galleries and museums in the area. The National Tractor Museum in Charles City, Iowa, was of particular interest to Dennis since he is a toy tractor collector. We visited the “Field of Dreams” movie site in Dyersville, Iowa, and learned how the movie was made.



Dennis accused Julie of trying to get him “cultured” by visiting art galleries during the couple’s trip.

The “nostalgia trip” included a visit to the Little Brown Church.

Sixty years later, Julie and Dennis visited the church where they took their marriage vows.



Julie and Dennis visited the Dubuque County, Iowa, site where “Field of Dreams” was filmed and reflected on their lives. Most of their dreams have come true.



Julie visited her college friend Barb Winters to talk about the years when they were both first married.



Iowa natives Julie and Dennis agree with the “Field of Dreams” sentiment regarding their home state.

***‘All in all, life after retirement has been very good. I would recommend it.’
- Julie Johnson***

Member Profile: Alice Henneman

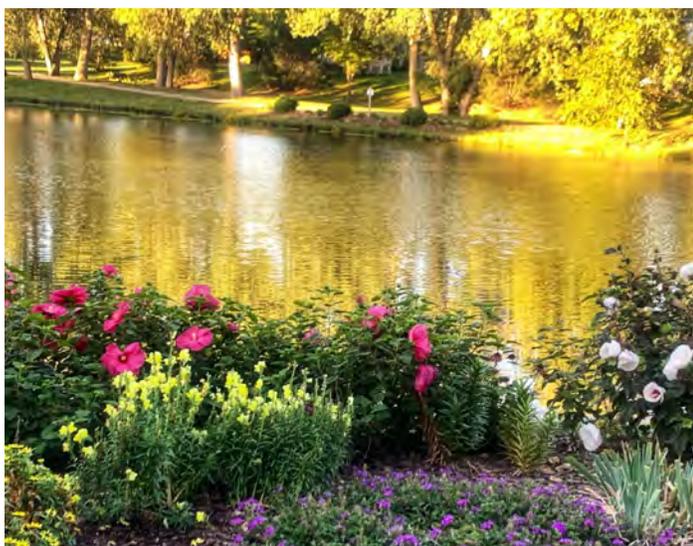


**Alice Henneman, extension educator emeritus
Food, Nutrition and Health
ERA newsletter managing editor**

As the new ERA newsletter managing editor, I look forward to getting to know you all better as I become more involved in the UNL Emeriti and Retirees Association.

I was born and raised in Nebraska and grew up on a farm near Hooper. Much of my life has centered around the University of Nebraska where I was a student, taught, and worked with Nebraska Extension. Here's what I'm doing now.

Favorite activity Number 1: I love to walk. During the pandemic, I built my almost daily walk up to 5 miles. I spent several months exploring Lincoln's trail system. Ultimately, I found my Happy Place to walk to ... a section on a trail in the Williamsburg area that features a man-made lake. It is about a 2.5 mile hike each way. I've set a goal of walking the equivalent of a minimum of 1,000 miles this year.



I like to walk to my "happy place" in the Lincoln Williamsburg area.

Favorite activity Number 2: As a registered dietitian (50 years as of this spring!), I enjoy searching for and trying new recipes that are quick, easy, and taste great. My husband has to follow a low-sodium diet, so if anyone would like some tips for this type of cooking/eating that other family members also would enjoy, email me at ahenneman1@unl.edu.

Travel: I was fortunate to marry a man, Dave Palm, who also likes to walk and to travel. My favorite countries include New Zealand, Greece, Spain, Iceland, and Italy. I also enjoy traveling in the southern part of the continent of Africa. I have two sisters who also share a passion for travel. Our most recent



My husband, Dave, and I have traveled and hiked in Germany and many other nations.

trip was to Maine this spring.

Photography: I like to dabble in iPhone photography. One of my projects during the pandemic was organizing photos of 10 international trips with my husband into a Shutterfly photobook. My favorite photo editing app is Snapseed. It's free and provides a great way to pass the time working on photos during long airport layovers or airplane flights. Flowers especially catch my fancy as photo subjects.

Technology: While working with Nebraska Extension, I had the opportunity to lead a team in creating its Food website plus launch two electronic newsletters. Working on this newsletter for the ERA is a fun way for me to recapture the excitement of sharing information and ideas electronically.

Favorite saying: "If you want to go fast, go alone; but if you want to go far, go together." I've enjoyed working with and learning from others throughout my life and career. As the new managing editor of our association's newsletter, I look forward to learning new communication techniques and gathering feedback and suggestions from members.



Trev Alberts welcomes ERA

By Charlyne Berens (*Photos by Roger Mitchell*)

Trev Alberts spent more than half an hour talking with members of the Emeriti and Retirees Association at Memorial Stadium on March 16. The UNL athletic director talked about results of the stadium fan survey, the new “name, image, likeness” rules for student athletes, and the outlook for a number of Husker teams before taking questions from the audience.

The session with Alberts was followed by a tour of the HuskerVision facilities in the West Stadium, led by HuskerVision staff.

Trev Alberts, Huskers athletic director, speaks to ERA.



About 50 members enjoy coffee and pastries in the Training Table dining room in West Stadium.



ERA members have a chance to see the HuskerVision headquarters at the stadium.



Athletics Department staff talk with ERA visitors on the field at Memorial Stadium.

Welcome, new members!



Welcome, new Emeriti and Retiree Association members!

Welcome to these new ERA members who have joined since those mentioned in the Spring 2022 newsletter through July 31, 2022! If your name is missing, please contact Alice Henneman at ahenneman1@unl.edu so we can include it in the next newsletter. View the entire membership on the emeriti.unl.edu website at bit.ly/era-members

John Bender	Anita Hall	Bridget Robbins
Mary Jane Bruce	Wayne Jensen	Janet Salvati
Stan Campbell	William Jonas	Carol Ann Speth
Rosalind Carr	Michel Kocher	Amy Struthers
Jessica Coope	Ann Koopmann	Joe Turco
Laura Damuth	Hugh McDermott	Denise Wally
Keith Glewen	Leo "Tom" McFarland	Randy Wehling
Dicky Dee Griffin	Ron Nelson	



Did you know about these ERA membership benefits?

1. Members are welcome to bring a spouse, partner, or guest to the monthly (September through April) luncheon meetings which feature speakers from UNL, from various organizations around the state, or who are outstanding independent professionals. The meetings are listed on the ERA website at emeriti.unl.edu/meetings as well as announced through emails to the membership email list.
2. The association sponsors special events and field trips, regular "Coffee House Chats," social gatherings, and an International Affairs Discussion Group. The latest details on these are announced through the ERA email list. Members may bring a spouse, partner, or guest to these.
3. Courtesy memberships are provided to surviving spouses and partners.

Share this information with a potential ERA member!



The first year is free!
Thereafter, the dues are \$25 per calendar year.

Who can join the Emeriti and Retirees Association?

- Persons holding emeriti status from UNL.
- Persons holding emeriti status from another university or college and now living in Nebraska.
- UNL professional, office, and service personnel who are 55 years or older and qualify for UNL retirement benefits*.
- Any spouse or partner of a retired or deceased member.

How do I join?

- Complete and submit a short membership form found on the ERA website: emeriti.unl.edu/enjoy-benefits-membership

* Eligibility for University of Nebraska retirement benefits includes the following:

- Employees age 55 or older with over with 10 years of service.
- Employees age 62 or older with no service requirement.



The ERA ‘Team’ makes things happen!

“Talent wins games, but teamwork and intelligence win championships.”
- Michael Jordan

The Emeriti and Retirees Association officers, directors, and committees, together with the support and participation of the members, create a championship team.

ERA Officers and Directors 2022:

President: Pat Crews

Vice president/president-elect: Linda Major

Secretary: Kim Hachiya

Treasurer: Earl Hawkey

Past president: Kim Hachiya

Directors (Elected Board Members):

Nancy Mitchell/Viann Schroeder*

Rita Kean/Monica Norby*

David Wilson

Chairs of Standing Committees:

Awards: Lloyd Ambrosius

Benefits: Sue Gildersleeve

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

Campus Engagement: Rita Kean, chair, and Linda Major

Digital Communications: Alfred Stark

Educational Activities: Don Weeks and Nancy Mitchell, co-chairs

Membership: Don Weeks

Publications: Alice Henneman, chair, Doug Jose and Charlyne Berens

Scholarships: Earl Hawkey and Jim Griesen, co-chairs

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

Members::

Check out our current “members” who complete our total “team” under the “Membership” link at emeriti.unl.edu

* Nancy Mitchell agreed to complete Vi’s term when Vi resigned in April. Rita Kean agreed to complete Monica’s term when Monica resigned in March.



Do you have ideas for stories that would make the newsletter better? Please contact a member of the Publications Committee:

- Alice Henneman, managing editor, ahenneman1@unl.edu
- Doug Jose, special features editor, trilliumgrove@windstream.net
- Charlyne Berens, copy editor, cberens1@unl.edu

“Alone, we can do so little; together, we can do so much.”

- Helen Keller

“No one can whistle a symphony. It takes a whole orchestra to play it.”

- Halford E. Luccock

“The strength of the team is each individual member. The strength of each member is the team.”

- Phil Jackson

“Great things in business are never done by one person.”

- Steve Jobs

“Many ideas grow better when transplanted into another mind than the one where they sprang up.”

- Oliver Wendell Holmes

“If you want to lift yourself up, lift up someone else.”

- Booker T. Washington

“Find a group of people who challenge and inspire you, spend a lot of time with them, and it will change your life forever.”

- Amy Poehler

“We rise by lifting others.”
- Robert Ingersoll

OLLI aims to satisfy lifelong learners

By Patricia Saldana-Neumann, communications associate for OLLI



Just because you've retired doesn't mean you've lost your love of learning. OLLI at UNL offers a wide array of opportunities to keep on learning and satisfying your curiosity by taking non-credit courses. It's all the fun of school – but with no papers and no tests and no grades.

The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, otherwise known as OLLI at UNL, is designed for adults 50 years and older. OLLI's purpose is to promote lifelong learning and continued intellectual and personal growth for retirement-age individuals.

Here are a few of the courses on the fall OLLI schedule:

- What If: Climate Solutions Scenarios with En-ROADS, an interactive group exercise guided by a trained instructor where people work together to test solutions for addressing climate change.
- Women of the Bible, which will explore critical theories of feminist, womanist, and gender studies alongside their application to biblical studies.
- "The Earth Spinner," looking at Anuradha Roy's carefully crafted fifth novel, which intricately combines themes of love, loss, and longing.
- The American Civil War, Causes and Consequences: More than You Think
- A Native Plant Garden: Planning, Planting, and Butterflies
- Tai Chi for Better Balance
- Cooking and Eating Well for Diabetes
- Turn Friday into FriYay with Friday Fitness Club

Also on the schedule for fall are events with UNL Athletics, Lincoln theatre productions, and tours.

OLLI at UNL is all about choices, including lectures, one-day field trips, events, interest groups, and travel opportunities in the U.S. and abroad.

Fall includes two six-week terms, and more than 70 courses are scheduled for the first fall term, which begins late August and runs through early October. And with most courses offered in person and many live on Zoom or on demand, members have the option of joining others in the classroom or participating from the comfort of their own homes.

OLLI at UNL is part of nationwide network of more than 125 campus-based programs, joined by a common commitment to learning for the love of it. Volunteer instructors share their expertise and passions in courses spanning the arts, science, finance, healthcare, politics, current affairs, history, physical fitness, retirement planning, and more. The environment is casual and informal.

 To learn everything OLLI has to offer visit olli.unl.edu.

Some past OLLI activities



OLLI members participated in a 2021 "Fossil Walk" of mosaic pictures of fossils on the floor of the Nebraska State Capitol rotunda.



The UNL Maxwell Arboretum was the site of a 2022 OLLI tour.



An OLLI group met for a birding experience in 2022.



Calendar of Events

Fall Luncheon Meetings



Members and a spouse, partner, or guest are invited to attend our meetings. Unless otherwise noted, meetings are held from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. We pay close attention to directed health measures for our 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 a Zoom link if it is felt safer to hold a virtual meeting.

Thursday, September 20 Location: Lancaster County Extension, 444 Cherrycreek Rd

Speaker: Dr. Margaret Jacobs, Charles Mach Professor of History; director, Center for Great Plains Studies

Topic: The Genoa Indian School Digital Reconciliation Project

Tuesday, October 18 Location: Great Plains Room, Nebraska East Union

Speaker: President Ted Carter

Tuesday, November 15 Location: International Quilt Museum

UNL Emeriti and Retirees Luncheon sponsored jointly by the NU Foundation and the Chancellor's office

Speaker: Chancellor Ronnie Green

Tuesday, December 15 Location: Great Plains Room, Nebraska East Union

Speaker: Jacob Schlange, assistant director of Experiential Learning and Global Initiatives, University Honors Program

Topic: History of redline policies from a national, state, and local perspective

What members say about our events

"I love Coffee House Chat events. It gives me a chance to meet new people or chat with old friends."

- Julie Johnson

"The visit with Trev Alberts and tour of the HuskerVision facilities was most interesting. Alberts presented a very personal and heartwarming commitment to UNL Husker Athletics programs and our student athletes. Then we toured the HuskerVision studio that solidly portrays our Huskers and coaches to their fans in our digital world."

- Larry Schulze

"The monthly luncheons are a great opportunity to eat with others and hear great programs. This past year we met in different places around East and City Campus, or at the Lancaster County Extension office. Spouses/partners and friends are welcome at luncheon and other ERA events."

- Linda Boeckner

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Calendar of Events *continued from page 14*

Coffee House Chats



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

The first Coffee House Chat is at 9:30 a.m. on September 29th on the deck at Wilderness Ridge. Please mark your calendar and plan to join colleagues and friends for conversation, coffee, and donuts. The First

Tours/Educational Activities



The 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.

UNL Retirees/OLLI International Issues Discussion Group



The International Issues Discussion Group meets the first Wednesday of September through May from 3 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. and usually meets at Stauffer's Coffee and Pie Shop at 5600 South 48th Street. 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 is sent to the membership. Contact Peter Levitov (plevitov1@unl.edu) with questions, comments and suggestions.

Some past activities



The group viewed the remodeled Nebraska East Union.



We toured the Dinsdale Learning Commons on East Campus.



Participants learned from Trev Alberts about the latest in athletics and toured the HuskerVision facilities.

"The beautiful thing about learning is that nobody can take it away from you."

- B.B. King

2022 Big Ten Retirees Association Conference highlights



August 2022 conference participants outside Northwestern's Plant Biology and Conservation Program facility at the Chicago Botanic Garden

By Linda Major, incoming ERA president

The Northwestern Emeriti Organization at Northwestern University served as host for the August 2022 Big Ten Retirees Association Conference. Both ERA president Pat Crews and incoming president Linda Major attended the conference on behalf of the association. They were joined by 21 colleagues from 11 of the Big Ten institutions. Representatives from The Ohio State University, the University of Maryland, and Rutgers University did not attend.

Over the course of two-and-a-half days, conference participants discussed topics of common interest, engaged with Northwestern faculty representing a variety of disciplines, and unanimously agreed to a set of updates to the association's by-laws.

Conference highlights and key discussion points:

- Maintaining momentum during the pandemic posed a significant challenge for retirement associations. Although Zoom proved to be a useful technology for monthly meetings and programs, most retirees missed face-to-face interactions with former colleagues and friends. Once it was determined safe to reconvene, most institutions offered live streaming as an option for members unable to attend and also posted recordings on their respective websites for up to one year.

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Linda Major

- All Big Ten retiree associations plan to remain flexible for the upcoming fall in anticipation of possible COVID outbreaks. Most will offer hybrid programming and meetings, allowing members to choose between face-to-face or virtual participation. Wisconsin has elected to host virtual meetings, programs, and association activities for the fall semester.
- Some associations invested in easy-to-use audiovisual equipment so that meetings are accessible for homebound members or those who live outside the area. A corps of their membership is trained to operate the audiovisual equipment so that video production does not depend on one volunteer alone.

2022 Big Ten Retirees Association Conference highlights

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- Two associations receive technical and administrative support from their respective foundation offices. The provost's office at Northwestern provides financial and administrative support for their emeriti organization.
- Getting access to retirees' names and contact information from university HR departments prior to employee retirement remains a significant challenge for many of the member organizations. All eligible retirees are automatically enrolled in the institution's retiree association at the University of Michigan, Michigan State University, and Northwestern University (emeriti faculty only).
- The association newsletter serves as an important vehicle for creating community among retirees. Key components include but are not limited to: messages from the association president and the administration; member-generated art, photographs or poetry; recently published books and/or journal articles; information about upcoming tours and events; and useful news such as updates from campus departments, software updates, and information about member benefits. Wisconsin and Michigan secure sponsorships to help underwrite the cost of printing and mailing their association newsletters.
- The size, scope, and focus of each association vary but participation appears to be consistent across the cohort. Regardless of the number of retirees, most reported a core of 100 to 150 active members. Only two of the 12 associations providing profile data prior to the conference are affiliated with OLLI (Nebraska and Wisconsin). The remaining 10 are responsible for developing and offering activities of interest to their members including tours, book clubs, interest groups, and educational programming.
- Beyond the business meeting, conference participants joined student-led tours of the campus and attended faculty presentations focused on prison education, soft electronics for the human body, town-gown relationships, translating research onto the stage and into film, and the state of global affairs on campuses. We also toured Northwestern's Plant Biology and Conservation Program facility at the Chicago Botanic Garden in Glencoe.



Northern view of the Northwestern University campus

- The 30th annual Big Ten Retirees Conference, hosted by the University of Wisconsin-Madison Retirement Association, is scheduled for July 26-28, 2023, in Madison, Wisconsin.

‘The association newsletter serves as an important vehicle for creating community among retirees.’

- Conference highlight
