

UNL EMERITI & RETIREE ASSOCIATION

UNL Emeriti and Retiree Association Newsletter

Spring 2017

Welcome, UNL Emeriti and Retirees

What an eventful and exciting year for our Association! Under the capable direction of past president, Jim Griesen, we achieved several important goals. UNL hosted the first Big Ten Retirees Association conference. By all accounts this conference was extremely successful. A second milestone was an expansion of our membership to include all official retirees of UNL. This action will expand our potential membership and necessitated a change in our name to the *UNL Emeriti and Retirees Association*. A heartfelt thanks goes to Jim for his great leadership .

Our president-elect, Rita Kean, has developed a wonderful array of speakers for spring semester. The series started in January with a great presentation on *The Evolving Role of the Nebraska State Museum* by Dr. Susan Weller, director of the museum. In February our attention will turn to athletics with Shawn Eichorst speaking. March and April meetings will focus on newly published books. Joe Starita, will discuss his book, *A Warrior of the People*, about America's first Native American woman doctor. In April Robert Diffendal will focus on *Great Plains Geology*. In addition to our luncheon meetings/speakers there will continue to be coffee house chats, international discussions, campus tours and holiday celebrations.

As a result of the expansion of membership, ten new collegial members have been approved by the Board, including James Guest, University Health Center; Earl Hawkey, Registration and Records; Glen Schumann, University Housing; Vi Schroeder, University Communications; James Yankech, University Health Center; Aldine Harmon, Education and Human Sciences; Judy Hofeldt, Education and Human Sciences; Roshan Pajnigar, Human Resources; and John and Patricia Staver, Professors emeriti from Purdue. Welcome these individuals as you see them at our meetings/activities. If you would like to recommend officially retired individuals or emeriti from other institutions living in the Lincoln area, please send me their names, affiliation, and contact information.

An ambitious program of work is planned for 2017. The major goals for 2017 are as follows:

- Continue to explore a partnership with the Alumni Association.
- Develop a new brochure for the association.
- Investigate service by members to the (1) University and (2) community.
- Investigate award possibilities and establish new awards.
- Identify potential collegial members and invite them to become members.

I look forward to working on these goals. I encourage you to communicate ideas you have to strengthen and improve the association.

Julie Johnson, President



President, Julie Johnson

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Chancellor pleased with progress but preparing for more growth *by Roger Kirby*

UNL's enrollment is growing, and so is the diversity of the student body. Furthermore, this year's freshman class came in with higher test scores than usual.

All of that makes UNL's new chancellor, Ronnie Green, proud. He was happy to share his enthusiasm about UNL's achievements and his plans to keep the university growing when he spoke to the Oct. 18 luncheon meeting of the Emeriti Association at the International Quilt Study Center.

Green said fall enrollment was 26,000 students, 33 percent of whom are not residents of Nebraska. He attributed part of the growth in out-of-state students to UNL's membership in the Big Ten Conference and the resulting increased visibility in other Big Ten states.

The campus continues to become more ethnically diverse and also to attract more students from a variety of states and nations and with diverse backgrounds in family income and religious affiliation. He added that UNL is already a Big Ten leader in providing academic and other support for its students of all backgrounds.

But Green is not satisfied to rest on this year's merits. One of his prime goals for the future is to increase enrollment to 35,000 by the year 2025. That will require substantial increases in faculty numbers and in infrastructure, but it will move the university's size close to that of the other Big Ten institutions.



Chancellor Ronnie Green

Green said the university reached a new high of \$280 million annually in research expenditures under the leadership of the late Prem Paul, vice chancellor for research and economic development from 2001 until his death in early September. Green said Paul's death was a great loss to the university but said he believes UNL can maintain its trajectory and reach \$600 million in research expenditures by 2025.

Green also noted that the Board of Regents approved naming the former junior high building on Vine Street, as the Prem S. Paul Research Center at Whittier School. The renovated building is home to several major university research programs and also houses some of the Office of Research and Economic Development offices that support the university's research.



Dr. Dona-Gene Barton

Political scientist examines why voter polls missed the outcome of 2016 election *by John Comer*

Right up to Election Day, the majority of polls and pundits were predicting that Hillary Clinton would defeat Donald Trump to become America's next president. But they were wrong.

Dona-Gene Barton talked about the difference between the predictions and reality at the Emeriti Association's luncheon on Nov. 17. Barton, UNL associate professor of political science, said experts seem to have overlooked some signs that signaled a Trump victory.

For example, going into the election, 61 percent of those surveyed said they believed the country was on the wrong track, suggesting that many people were looking for a change in leadership at the top. *(continued on next page)*

Political Scientist (continued from p. 2)

Besides that, polling indicated that public trust in the national government was at an all time low, signaling widespread dissatisfaction with Washington.

Both factors produced a falloff in enthusiasm for voting, but the effect was stronger among Democrats than Republicans, Barton said. While turnout in the election matched that of 2012, voting among Hispanics and African Americans was lower in 2016 than 2012, a situation that Barton said hurt Clinton.

While nationwide polls had Clinton up by about 1 percent, a figure that ultimately turned out close to the actual popular vote, statewide polls in swing states missed badly. Barton said early analysis after the election suggested that many people, especially many women, were reluctant to acknowledge they were going to vote for Trump. That contributed to the polls' underestimating Trump's support. She added that many people are reluctant to participate in polls at all, which may have skewed the sample of voters surveyed.

A separate but perhaps more important question is what does a Trump victory mean for the country. Barton said that 30 percent of respondents in one post-election poll said that Trump has an electoral mandate: voter approval to enact the policies he campaigned on. Of course, that means 70 percent of those surveyed said otherwise.

Barton said her best advice is to wait and see.



Julie Johnson, president, congratulates and thanks Jim Griesen for a job well done as the 2016 president of the association. UNL successfully hosted the Big Ten Retirees Association annual conference under Jim's leadership. He was instrumental in working to include all retirees in the association and changing the name to the UNL Emeriti and Retirees Association.



Dr. Susan Weller

State museum's new director talks about its emerging role *By Doug Zatechka*

Because of our association with UNL, members of the emeritus group are probably more aware than most people that the Nebraska State Museum is truly one of the crown jewels of the university. Commonly known as Morrill Hall or even Elephant Hall, its influence extends throughout the campus and across the state and region. And it is well known in academic and scientific circles and to the public across the nation and in many parts of the world.

At the association's February luncheon, Dr. Susan Weller, recently appointed director of the museum and professor of entomology, talked about the museum's high profile and the emergence of new programs, collections, and exhibits. Dr. Weller, former director of the Bell Museum at the University of Minnesota, said the museum staff and programs will continue

to support the university's academic core through teaching, research, and extension/public outreach activities.

As the ninth ranked campus-based science museum in the nation, UNL's fully accredited museum houses between seven and 13 million items in its collections, depending on how the count is taken. These items are grouped into six general categories: anthropology, botany, entomology, invertebrate paleontology, vertebrate paleontology, and zoology. At any one time only about 1 percent of the items in collections are on exhibit.

Nebraska's collection of vertebrate paleontology, miocene mammals, is second only to that at the American Museum of Natural History. Its parasitology program is second only to the program at the Smithsonian, and the museum is a Smithsonian Affiliate, one of the few so designated in Nebraska.

The museum offers internship opportunities through hands-on research at several sites, including the recently discovered Ashfall Fossil Beds in northeast Nebraska, a National Landmark where the general public can view the processes associated with excavation. The Trailside Museum at Fort Robinson also provides an additional site in western Nebraska for benefit and enjoyment of those in that region of our state. Interns also work in marketing, communications and many other areas of the museum.

Scientists connect to the public through "Sunday with a Scientist" and "Dinosaurs and Disasters" and through virtual field trips using distance education technology and kits for hands-on activities. For a small fee, the public can participate in Science Café and the Mueller Planetarium. The museum also hosts numerous field trips for many elementary and middle school students throughout the region.

The fourth floor of Morrill Hall, closed to the public for some time, is now set to undergo a major renovation to showcase the theme "Cherish Nebraska." Displays will include Nebraska ecoregions, diversity science, how the earth has evolved and changed in this region over millions of years, as well as displays from collections presently in storage.

Dr. Weller invited anyone interested in supporting the museum to take part in one of the many volunteer opportunities available: serving as a member of the Advisory Board or the Friends of the Museum or even helping to prepare items for exhibit. More information is available at <http://www.museum.unl.edu>.

Luncheons

January 19

The evolving role of the Nebraska State Museum

Dr. Susan Weller, director

February 23

Shawn Eichorst, director of athletics

March 16

A Warrior of the People

Joe Starita, professor of journalism

April 18

Great Plains Geology

Dr. Robert Diffendal, professor of the School of Natural Resources

May (date to be announced)

President's Luncheon

September (date to be announced)

Foundation Luncheon

October 17

Michael Boehm, Harlan Vice Chancellor and University of Nebraska Vice President for Agriculture and Natural Resources

November 16

To be announced

We hope to see you there!



**Coffee House Chats
are coordinated by
Don and Rita
Weeks**

Wednesday, February 15, 9:30 am Crescent Moon Coffee House

Bring a valentine or a "day after" valentine if you're so inclined.

Tuesday, March 14, 9:30 am Crescent Moon Coffee House

April — no coffee chat scheduled

Wednesday, May 10, 9:30 am

**Rita and Don Weeks home
6610 W Shore Drive**

**Campus tours are
coordinated by Kay
Rockwell**



Tours

February 8, 10 am

Great Plains Art Museum

"Bridges: Sharing our Past to Enrich our Future" — part of Nebraska's 150th Sesquicentennial.

***Stay alert for coffee/tour at
Prairie Pines in early summer,
possibly in June.***

What are they doing now?



Emeritus Profile — Priscilla Grew

In 1993, I left my position as director of the Minnesota Geological Survey and professor at the University of Minnesota to start a new career at UNL as vice chancellor for research. In 1999, after six years in the administration, I returned as professor to what is now called the Department of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences at UNL, thinking that I would just finish out my career in teaching and research, expecting to retire from the University at age 65 in 2005.

However, Prem Paul, the late vice chancellor for research, unexpectedly intervened after the budget cuts in 2003 and appointed me three-fourths time director of the University of Nebraska State Museum. After a year I was made full-time

director but continued afterward with teaching “Geology of National Parks,” my undergraduate course for non-majors. Finally, 10 years later than I had expected, I retired at age 75 in October 2015.

Prem was a truly remarkable mentor who continuously challenged me to stretch my goals for the State Museum way beyond anything I would ever have considered possible on my own. By the time I retired, we had raised \$12.3 million in gifts for the Museum plus another \$2 million in endowment. In April 2016 came the exciting news that the Nebraska Environmental Trust would fully fund the \$1 million proposal I wrote just before retiring. The Morrill Hall renovations and enhancement of educational programs are now well underway.

The big decision upon retiring, of course, was whether I would move to Maine to join my husband Ed Grew, who is research professor in the School of Earth and Climate Sciences at the University of Maine in Orono. It was a very difficult choice for us, but the reasons I decided to stay on in Lincoln are the amazing support structure and network of friends – many of them emeriti – and activities that I have been enjoying here since 1993. So we continue our commuter marriage of 41 years and counting.

As director and professor emerita, I continue to volunteer as UNL’s Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act coordinator, an unpaid position I have held since 1998 to maintain UNL compliance with the federal act. I am a faculty fellow of the Water for Food Institute and a trustee of the Nebraska State Historical Society, the Nebraska Chapter of the Nature Conservancy and the American Geosciences Institute. I have also helped to start the new Dance Circle at the Lied Center for Performing Arts.

In 2016 I became the first woman to be nominated by the U.S. national committee to run for president of the International Union of Geological Sciences. Although I was not elected, I had a great time being the U.S. nominee, attending the European Geosciences Union General Assembly in Vienna in April (plus three operas) and serving as one of the eight voting members of the U.S. Delegation to the 35th International Geological Congress in Cape Town, South Africa, in August. The photo shows me on an excursion to Table Mountain above Cape Town.

What are they doing now?

Emeritus Profile — John Janovy

When UNL offered buyouts in 2010, my tax accountant said, “Jump on it!” So I did; my wife Karen, curator of education at the Sheldon Museum of Art, also retired that summer.

At the time I had one-year, five-year, and 10-year goals, all related to writing:

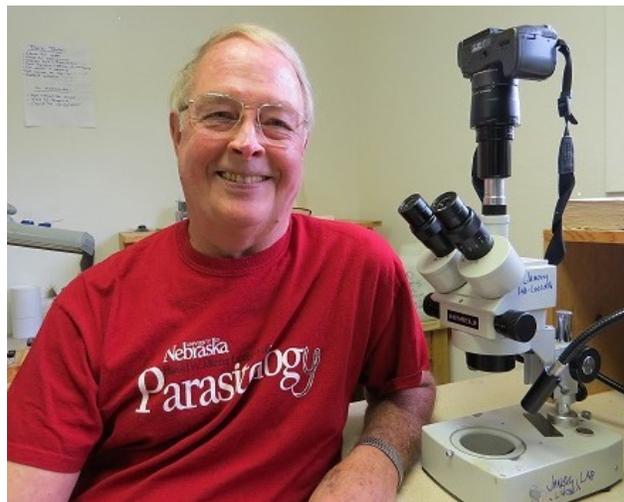
- The one-year goal was to get that textbook project (Roberts, Janovy, and Nadler, 2013. “Foundations of Parasitology,” 9th ed., McGraw-Hill) off my desk; accomplished!
- The five-year goal was to get one piece of fiction published by a legitimate publisher; done, sort of, but not really. DGLM, my literary agent since the early 1980s, had started an e-book program so picked up the mysteries in that format. (More on this topic below.)
- The 10-year goal was to get rich and famous; hasn’t happened yet.

I also ended up as senior editor of a multi-author volume on the last century of parasitological research (Janovy and Esch, eds., 2016. “A Century of Parasitology: Discoveries, Ideas and Lessons Learned by Scientists who Published in the Journal of Parasitology, 1914-2014,” Wiley.) Would I edit such a project again? Never!!!

Karen and I traveled to Alaska in 2011, Botswana in 2013, and Tanzania in 2015, the latter two trips with groups from the Lincoln Children’s Zoo. The African trips resulted in a book manuscript, “Africa Notes: Reflections of a Semi-Educated Tourist,” that will be published sometime in 2017 by the Center for Great Plains Studies.

We still have relatives in Oklahoma and Texas, so we’ve done quite a bit of driving through the prairies (at least 300 trips across Kansas since 1966). We both now read a lot, and I still spend a “creativity hour” writing in the Union every working day, just like I’ve done since the early 1970s.

In the fall of 2012, I was having coffee with another faculty member and some grad students, and one of the students mentioned National Novel Writing Month (50,000 words in 30 days). I thought: If a grad student can do that, so can I.



Thus was born the Gideon Marshall Mystery Series, set in a fictitious small liberal arts college in Iowa and using intellectual property as a unifying thread. I’m also working on new editions of previously published books (“Outwitting College Professors” and “Ten Minute Ecologist”), so I’m staying busy at the computer. Click on www.johnjanovy.com for more info on these titles.

When I joined the faculty in 1966, it quickly became obvious to me that our university’s most valuable resources walk into our front door by the thousands. In the years since then, many of those students ended up working in my lab, publishing, and helping attract excellent grad students from afar. Watching these young people develop intellectually, especially as a result of working at the Cedar Point Biological Station, has been the most rewarding part of my career. Having the University of Nebraska State Museum and Sheldon right on campus, so that I could easily use them both as teaching resources in large introductory biology classes, is also a highlight of my time at UNL.

As for advice, Otis Young told me once to get up and get out of the house every day, so I try to do that. Looking back, I consider myself extremely lucky to have been hired at UNL and given such freedom to develop as a teacher and scholar.



USS Arizona benefits from Nebraskans' engineering expertise

By Donald L. Johnson

Landlocked Nebraska may not be the place one would expect to find expertise to help preserve a battleship, but UNL College of Engineering graduates and emeritus faculty are providing exactly that for the sunken *USS Arizona* at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.

Researchers with UNL connections made presentations at a *USS Arizona*-Preservation Science symposium in early December on Ford Island, Pearl Harbor. They are Dr. Dana Medlin and Dr. John Makinson, graduates of the Department of Mechanical and Materials Engineering, and emeritus professors Dr. James Carr and the author. Dr. Robert DeAngelis was unable to attend.

The UNL experts joined staff from the National Park Service, the World War II Valor in the Pacific National Monument, the National Institute of Standards and Technology and the U.S. Coast Guard Academy at the symposium, sponsored by the Submerged Resources Center, a unit within the National Park Service. The ultimate objective is to help the Park Service work with the U.S. Navy to better understand how the ship is being preserved and how it is decaying.

The symposium was designed to summarize research to date and map a way forward for another round of preservation research science on the sunken battleship. Symposium participants compiled key questions and identified potentially productive avenues for future research.

The Submerged Resources Center was formally declared a permanent entity in 1980 and charged with the mission of surveying, mapping, investigating, and protecting the shipwrecks and sites that constitute America's sunken heritage. It has been identified as America's most elite underwater archaeology research team.

Metallurgists and chemists from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln were invited to join the team in 2000 to evaluate corrosion processes occurring on the *USS Arizona* structure. These technologies are presently being tested and applied to other shipwreck sites on the west coast of Central America, western and eastern seaboard regions of the United States, the North Atlantic, and the North Sea.

USS Arizona (Continued from p.8)

Dr. David Conlin, chief of the Center, told those attending the symposium: “The University of Nebraska, via its engineering staff, active and retired, has donated hundreds of thousands of dollars in scientific expertise that will help preserve the remains of USS *Arizona* for at least another 100 years. I am proud of the work we have completed together and proud of the partnership that we have assembled around this icon of American history.”

Supported by the National Park Service and the UNL team, the author was named the George Hartzog National Park Service volunteer of the year in 2005 for development of non-destructive corrosion technologies pioneered on *USS Arizona*.

International Affairs Study Group

This group meets at Stauffer's Café and Pie Shoppe at 3:00 pm on the 1st Wednesday of the month. No registration or fee. Just drop in and join the discussion. These are some of the topics which were scheduled for discussion this past year.

- Foreign Policy in the 2016 Election
- The Question of Palestine
- End of Pax Americana? Or, Globalization v. Nationalism? Or, Rules Based IR v. Power Politics?
- The Obama Legacy, Round Two
- Fidel Castro
- The End of Globalization
- Arab Winter

Join them for a lively discussion!

Reporting from the Faculty Senate

by Jeff Keown

Some items discussed by the Senate Executive Committee in the fall included:

- The Nebraska Now program—high school students taking college classes.
- Ad hoc Academic Honesty Committee—Committee to put together a survey for faculty and students about academic dishonesty. Chairs will also be interviewed. Only the severe cases go to the Dean of Students.
- Ad hoc Committee on Diversity and Inclusiveness— This committee will focus on minority students on campus, including LGBTQTA groups. Interviews about student experiences will be conducted.
- Concerts and parking.
- University Health Center Flu Shots and the filing of insurance claims.
- Committee will develop best practices for non-tenure track faculty –salaries, workload, evaluation, committee membership, voting, orientation, honors and awards.

December Holiday Fun





**Halloween
Celebration**

***Serious
Discussions
and
Silly People***



Memory Moments

The UNL Emeriti and Retiree Association Board mindfully watches obituaries and posts information on the website regarding deceased emeriti and retirees who are honored with a moment of silence at luncheon meetings. In addition, the University provides the Association with names of the deceased. Following are the names listed in 2016.

Memories

Memories

Memories



Beryle Irene Adams, spouse of Charles H. Adams, Animal Science

Walter Thaine Bagley, Forestry

John Ballard, Industrial Engineering

Earl B. Barnawell, Biological Sciences

Mary Ellen Ahler Chambers Bodman, Interior Design

Dona Brockly, Student Health Services

Shirley May Clifton, Agronomy; widow of Don Clifton, Educational Psychology

Michael R. Cook, Chemistry

Theresa Dolezal, UNL Admissions

Earl Ellington, Animal Science

Charles Godwin, Teaching, Learning and Teacher Education

Robert Hansen, Conservation and Survey

Jacqueline I. Heelan, Arts & Sciences

Fred Holbert, Criminal Justice

Charlotte Marie Holm, widow of William Holm, Engineering

Vonnie L. Ives, Custodial Services

Anne Johnson, Agricultural Communications

Robert M. (Bob) Koch, Animal Science

Charlotte Mae Kramer, Nebraska Alumni Association

Barbara A. Kuhn, Modern Languages

Peteris Lipins, Institutional Research

Allan McCutcheon, Statistics and Survey Research & Methodology

Prem Paul, Vice Chancellor for Research and Economic Development

Arlene J. Rash, Philosophy

Betty Schmersal-Carlile, Agronomy

Wilfred Schutz, Biometrics and Information

Dennis Schneider, Music

Orba L. Schreurs, Denistry

Alice Stillwell, retired in 1991

Beverly Sundeen, Athletics

Thomas Thompson, Microbiology

Marley Tobian, Dental Hygiene

Inge Worth, widow of Manfred Keller and Peter Worth

Identified by University Administration

Glen Axthelm, UNL Experiment Station, North Platte

Judith Bauman, Exp. Food & Nutrition Program, Grand Island

Norma Bosley, Admissions

Norman Brown, Extension

Katherine Earnest, UNL Health Center

Charles Fenster, Extension

Ramona Heins, Extension

Anita Leininger, Agriculture

Thomas Sullivan, Poultry Science

Ralph Vigil, Institute for Ethnic Studies

2017 Officers/board of directors list

Julie Johnson, president
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Jim Griesen, past president
Vi Schroeder, secretary
Jack Goebel, 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
Doug Jose, newsletter committee
Don & Rita Weeks, coffee house chats liaison
Jeffrey Keown, Faculty Senate liaison

This newsletter comes to you as a member of the organization which is free for the first year and only \$25 a year for continued membership. For information on the UNL Emeriti Association, go to: <http://emeriti.unl.edu>

Do you have ideas for stories? Contact a member of the newsletter committee.

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PLACE
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