

UNL Emeriti and Retirees Association

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

UNL Emeriti and Retirees Association Newsletter

Spring 2020

ERA board launches new initiatives

by Don Weeks, ERA president

The UNL Emeriti and Retirees Association (ERA) is blessed this year with a highly motivated board of directors who are vigorously moving forward in supporting our regular schedule of monthly luncheon meetings (with an outstanding list of speakers), tours of noteworthy buildings and facilities at UNL and in the Lincoln community, and coffee chats at a variety of interesting venues.

We are also embarking on several new initiatives designed to enrich the lives of UNL retirees and make ERA membership a valued asset for each member.

Initiative 1: Automated registration for meetings In the past, we have relied on cumbersome email and telephone responses from members registering to attend luncheon meetings, tours, and other events. Thanks largely to the efforts of Al Stark and Kim Hachiya – and starting with our January 2020 luncheon meeting – we have instigated an online registration system that allows members to register online and provide their meal and drink preferences. Starting with the February meeting, members who register online also receive an immediate email confirmation.

This same registration system will be used for ERA tours and perhaps for Coffee Chats as well. Although we will always welcome members to our events with or without registration, we strongly encourage use of the automated registration system because it allows us to better judge the number of attendees coming to our events and to plan accordingly.

Initiative 2: Share-a-ride A number of our members have given up driving and are no longer able to attend our meetings and tours. Because we would like to encourage their continued participation, the ERA board is considering establishing a "share-a-ride" program that would allow members to request a ride to meetings with another member and, conversely, for members who can drive to offer transportation to those desiring a ride. With the automated registration system described above, it may become possible to more easily establish such a share-a-ride program.

Stay tuned for more information in the near future. In the meantime, if you like this idea or have suggestions regarding how best to implement it, please let me know at dweeks1@unl.edu.

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Don Weeks, president

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ERA board launches new initiatives *(continued from page 1)*

Initiative 3: Retirement transition assistance As UNL employees approach retirement age, they are faced with numerous, sometimes life-changing, decisions. By definition, our members have been through (or are going through) such transitions and may be in a good position to help pre-retirees through some of the challenges. The ERA board is considering what activities, programs, and information we, along with the UNL Human Resources staff, can provide to better assist individuals or couples in planning and preparing for life as retirees. Sue Gildersleeve is leading this effort for the board. If you have ideas or wish to help, please contact her at sgildersleeve1@unl.edu.

Initiative 4: Membership survey It is important to know what the members of an organization think about the activities and goals of the group and how the organization can better serve its clientele. It has been almost four years since we last surveyed our membership. Thus, Kim Hachiya has volunteered to lead an effort to assemble a new questionnaire that aims to ferret out your opinion of the operation of the association and how it can be improved to provide a more enriching experience for everyone. If you have specific questions or suggestions for the survey, please contact Kim at kim.hachiya@gmail.com.

Initiative 5: Non-profit status for ERA The UNL Emeriti and Retirees Association has no official legal status. Neither do we have legal ties to the University of Nebraska. Although this has not been a problem so far, there may be instances in the future where having an official legal standing might be useful – or even necessary – to accomplish a desired action. Jim Griesen is exploring the options ERA has and will lead the board as we consider potential action.

Initiative 6: ERA activities supporting students The ERA has always supported a limited number of activities aimed at helping UNL students educationally and/or financially. However, we have learned through interactions with Connie Boehm, director of Student Resilience, and others that the needs of current students go far beyond the classroom and the bursar. We also know that many of our members are eager to help students but are unsure of the opportunities that exist.

Linda Major has volunteered to compile a list of potential activities/programs in which ERA members can be of assistance to students. Once this list is compiled, we will provide it to members on our website and through other means of communication. We also will offer assistance in matching the member to a person or office that can facilitate the member's participation in the chosen activity. If you have questions or suggestions for Linda, please drop her a note (lmajor1@unl.edu).

Initiative 7: Potential additions to Coffee Chat meetings The ERA's Coffee Chats have become an excellent opportunity for members to gather on a monthly basis at a variety of local venues to share a cup of coffee and get to know one another on a more personal level. Conversations at these get-togethers often center around issues of mutual interest to retired individuals and couples: What are the ins and outs of hospice care? Is my will comprehensive and up to date? Should I consider a retirement community and how soon?

Some of these questions need answers from people with specific expertise. Thus, the board is considering whether to invite an expert to discuss one of these issues and lead an informal discussion with interested members in a 30- to 40-minute session after the usual 45-minute Coffee Chat is over. Ideas are still very much in the formative stages, and the board welcomes your input. Please contact by Jane Zatechka (janezatechka@gmail.com) or Rita Weeks (rweeks@aol.com).

Initiative 8: Expansion of volunteer opportunities for ERA members Many of our members perform volunteer service for university and community organizations. However, we are aware that some have not yet found a good match for a volunteer activity that will be highly rewarding and, at the same time, fit their available schedules and energy reserves.

Vi Schroeder has agreed to assist the ERA in assembling an extensive list and description of volunteer activities in the Lincoln area that are available to people of our age and varied interests. If you know of such activities – and especially if you have information or contacts of value – please touch base with Vi (vianns Schroeder@gmail.com).



Association president,

Don Weeks
and vice president,
Kim Hachiya!

**Looking forward to a
great year!**



**John Hay demonstrates the latest
type of solar panels.**

Solar energy getting cheaper, easier

Adapted from the material developed by John Hay

The cost of solar electric equipment is dropping, and the incentives for individual home and business owners to put electricity back into the grid are rising.

That was the message delivered by F. John Hay to the October meeting of the Emeriti and Retirees Association. Hay is an extension educator from the Department of Biological Systems Engineering.

Hay said the cost of all solar equipment and especially the solar panels themselves has dropped dramatically in recent years, making solar systems more affordable and increasing people's interest in adopting them for homes and businesses. He said federal law allows customers to sell electricity back into the grid, and most states offer additional incentives to promote adoption.

Explaining the basics of using solar equipment, Hay said solar systems need to be facing south for best year-round performance. Panels should be tilted at about 35 to 40 degrees for optimum performance in Nebraska. He added that systems that track the sun increase production but at the cost of greater maintenance.

Hay said anyone considering solar should carefully examine their goals for the system. For example, if the goal is purely a financial investment, then the system should be compared to alternative opportunities. But if a home or business owner's goal is energy independence or decreasing reliance on fossil fuels, then the financial element is only part of the system's value. A system with moderate to poor return on investment may still be reasonable under those circumstances.

Nebraska Extension, in partnership with Ohio State Extension, offers extensive written and video resources on solar investment analysis, Hay said, and has helped many farmers, businesses, and homeowners analyze proposed systems.

<http://extensionpublications.unl.edu/assets/pdf/ec3008.pdf>.



Farritor: measure once, cut twice

by Don Weeks

As implied by the title of his talk, Shane Farritor believes that old ways of thinking and acting may no longer be fully effective. Instead, he said, researchers must be willing – even compelled – to explore new paradigms and approaches.

Farritor, Lederer Professor of Engineering at UNL, told members of the Emeriti and Retirees Association on Nov. 22 about his work developing surgical robots. He emphasized the potential of these new instruments to greatly improve patient outcomes in a wide variety of surgeries in both traditional and nontraditional medical settings.

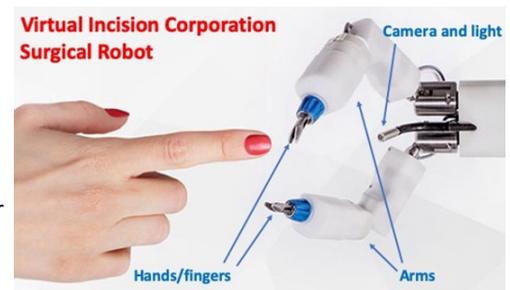
Shane Farritor describes his surgical robot at the ERA's November meeting.

A native Nebraskan who grew up in the town of Ravenna about 40 miles from Kearney, Farritor said his interests in things mechanical was fostered by the fact that his parents owned the local hardware store and that he was curious about how things worked.

Farritor earned his undergraduate degree at UNL and his master's and doctoral degrees at MIT. His early research centered on developing mobile robots in collaboration with NASA. He returned to UNL in 1998 as an assistant professor in the Department of Mechanical Engineering and began working with Dr. Dmitry Oleynikov at the University of Nebraska Medical Center in Omaha, exploring how robots might be employed to improve surgical procedures.

Years of experimentation with numerous types of devices led to development of a robotic arm that can be inserted into a single small incision in the skin to allow access to an internal organ or tissue that needs to be removed or repaired.

The technological methods and devices Farritor and his colleagues developed have been patented by the university through NuTech Ventures and licensed back to a new startup company, Virtual Incision Corporation (VIC). This company, founded by Farritor and Oleynikov, has raised several million dollars in financial support and has produced potential commercial versions of a device that has undergone extensive testing on animals in 30 trials across the U.S. The data accumulated during the research and testing will soon be submitted to the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for evaluation.



Farritor pointed out that up until the advent of laparoscopic surgery in the 1980s, surgeons needed to make at least one large incision across multiple muscles so that their hands would have access to tissues or organs in a patient's body cavity. The large incisions resulted in prolonged and painful recovery times.

By allowing a surgeon to make an incision just large enough to insert medical instruments, laparoscopic surgery greatly improved this situation but often required multiple small incisions to allow access by various instruments and cameras into the body cavity.

The current most successful commercial robot for minimally invasive surgery is called da Vinci, a refrigerator-sized device with multiple arms – and a hefty price tag. The new device developed by Farritor and Virtual Incision Corporation allows easy access through a single, 3 centimeter, opening and removal or repair of infected or diseased tissues using a variety of minute “hands” and “scissors.” (See photo.) Removal of cancerous growths and subsequent re-sectioning of colon tissues is the most immediate use anticipated for the VIC surgical robot. The small size, easy mobility, relative low cost and potential for remote control may also be useful to provide immediate surgical care near battlefields and in rural or remote areas – operated remotely by skilled surgeons located anywhere on earth.

Farritor also introduced his audience to another of his “inventions,” the Nebraska Innovation Studio (or makerspace) on the Nebraska Innovation Campus. This facility contains woodworking and metal shops, 3D printers, quilting machines and numerous other state-of-the-art devices. The studio is open to the public through a modest membership fee and has been highly successful⁴ in allowing students and craftspeople to produce an astonishing array of innovative products, Farritor said.



Susan Fritz, executive vice president and provost, University of Nebraska system, speaks at the Jan. 13 luncheon

Yes, that college degree is worth it

by Kim Hachiya

Is a college degree worth the time and costs? Data collected by the University of Nebraska with a variety of partners say yes. On average, Nebraskans who hold bachelor's degrees earn \$19,000 more annually than those without, and this "degree premium" adds up to more than \$1 million over an individual's lifetime.

That was the message Susan Fritz, executive vice president and provost for the University of Nebraska system, and Kristin Yates, assistant NU vice president and director of institutional research and planning, delivered at the Jan. 13 luncheon of the UNL Emeriti and Retirees Association.

Fritz, who was interim president from July through December 2019, said her focus long has been on workforce development and helping students complete degrees.

Since 2010, Fritz has worked to formalize an effort to collect and track student achievement. An interlocal agency composed of representatives from the university, state colleges, community colleges, the state departments of education and labor, and the governor's office developed ways to track students, particularly identifying the types of jobs and industries students land in after graduation and linking those jobs back to majors.

Yates said the group looked at 18,643 freshmen students (aggregated from different Nebraska institutions) in 2004 to 2006. Some 58 percent graduated within six years, and 70 percent stayed in Nebraska. Their degree premium resulted in \$1.6 billion added to the state's economy.

She also noted the costs of non-completion; those folks tended to earn \$9,000 to \$12,000 less annually than their peers with bachelor's degrees, and they tended more often to fall behind on loan payments.

Yates demonstrated a website, <https://data.nebraska.edu/data-reports/workforce-reports/nu-workforce-outcomes>, that shows industries where students are getting jobs and what majors those students had. "The good news," she said, "is that English majors are getting jobs."

The effort also has proven the long-held belief that 70 percent of graduates stay in Nebraska, and many do return to rural communities.

Said Fritz: "For those of us who are social scientists and could look at data all day, we can now offer facts rather than hunches or intuition. We can now say that 70 percent do stay, and we know now that 30 percent of our non-resident students end up staying in Nebraska. So that leads to the questions of should that affect how we recruit non-residents and should we scholarship them more?"

The project was donor-funded, Fritz said, but efforts are underway to win permanent funding from the Legislature.

This kind of information helps students make decisions about their educational choices, Fritz said, and it helps the state make better decisions about resource allocation.



Kristin Yates, assistant NU vice president and director of institutional research and planning, delivers an important message about the value of an NU education.

Foundation hosts September luncheon

All retirees who are members of the UNL Emeriti and Retirees Association (ERA) were invited to a special Foundation Luncheon held on Sept. 23, 2019 on Innovation Campus. Five speakers welcomed the group and spoke briefly about the happenings in their area of expertise and their ideas for the future. These speakers included Ronnie Green, chancellor; Amber Antholz, NU Foundation; Judy Walker, associate vice chancellor; Shelley Zaborowski, director of the Nebraska Alumni Association; and Jeff Keown, 2019 president of ERA. Pat Crews, awards committee chair, presented the Outstanding Community Service Award to Melinda Holcombe, emeritus professor of Child, Youth and Family Studies.



Ronnie Green, chancellor



Amber Antholz, NU Foundation



Judy Walker, associate vice chancellor



**Shelley Zaborowski, director
Nebraska Alumni Association**



Jeff Keown, 2019 ERA president



**Pat Crews, left, and
Melinda Holcombe**

Association presents service, research awards to five faculty

Five retired faculty were honored with awards funded by the Maude E. Wisherd Fund when the UNL Emeriti and Retirees Association met on Monday, Sept. 23, at Innovation Campus. An additional award was made to another retired faculty member given by the Nebraska Alumni Association.

The awards for service and research give the association a chance to focus attention on retirees' volunteer work, promote the association and encourage other retirees to consider ways they might be of service to their community.

Wisherd Award for Outstanding Community Service

Melinda Holcombe received the 2019 award for Outstanding Community Service. A professor emerita in Child, Youth and Family Studies, Melinda "has a passion for education and learning and for helping children learn to read and do mathematical thinking," according to the letter nominating her for the award.

She began volunteering weekly at Clinton Elementary School 25 years ago, even before she retired. Among other things, she has used her own resources and also raised money from friends "to buy books for the children and even winter coats." She asked that the \$400 award money be donated to the school.

The nominating letter also noted that she has also been a regular volunteer at Matt Talbot Kitchen.



Melinda Holcombe received the Outstanding Community Service Award.



Jane Zatechka, accepts the award for Outstanding Service to UNL posthumously to her husband, Doug Zatechka.

Wisherd Award for Outstanding Service to UNL

The award was made posthumously to Doug Zatechka, who was director of university housing at UNL for 34 years. He retired in 2011, but, his nominator said, Doug's "love for the university kept him involved as an always-available resource for his successor administrators and former staff members."

After he retired, Doug became chair of the UNL Emeriti and Retirees Association benefits committee and its board of directors. He also remained active in community service with the Tabitha Health board of directors, the Lincoln Children's Zoo, First Lutheran Church and the Williamsburg Homeowners Association. "Everything he did as a volunteer leader in Lincoln enhanced the university's town-gown relations," the nominator wrote.

The Zatechka family asked that the \$400 honorarium be donated to the Emergency Aid to Students at UNL program. His wife, Jane, accepted the award on his behalf.

Wisherd Research Grants

Thomas Carr, David Forsythe and Sylvia Wiegand received the Wisherd Research Grants this year.

Tom Carr, the emeritus Harold E. Spencer Professor of French, will use his grant to support publication of a biography about Marie Andre Duplessis. She was an 18th century nun who guided the oldest hospital in the Americas north of Mexico City and also was one of the most important women writers in colonial French Canada.

Tom writes that Duplessis has been neglected because prior biographies of nuns primarily focused on those who were named saints or who founded religious orders. Tom's department chair's letter of support noted that his manuscript had been accepted for publication by one of the most important English-language presses in Canada, the McGill-Queen's University Press.



Tom Carr received a Wisherd Research Grant.

Association presents service, research awards to five faculty

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David Forsythe received a Wisherd Research Grant

David Forsythe, emeritus professor of political science, used his grant to support his research into the current clash among officials regarding the policy and future of the International Committee of the Red Cross. He traveled to Geneva to meet with individuals on both sides of the political controversy. Both the academic journal "Global Governance" and the ICRC itself have asked him to submit an essay for coming publications.

In supporting Dave's nomination for the Wisherd grant, his department chair wrote that "Dave's research continues to bring national and international recognition to our college and university." Another supporter wrote, "Among political scientists, Dave is the godfather of international human rights as a scholarly pursuit. ... His work on the International Committee of the Red Cross is known across the globe."

Sylvia Wiegand used her Wisherd Research Grant to support publication research and travel for face-to-face collaboration with her coauthors on a manuscript accepted by the American Mathematical Society's Monograph Series. Her department chair's letter of support noted that Sylvia "is among our department's most distinguished emeriti," and he pledged a \$500 match from the department if she received the award.

Sylvia is a fellow of both the American Mathematical Society and the Association for Women in Mathematics. In the past year alone, she has given six invited talks at universities or conferences internationally.



Sylvia Wiegand received a Wisherd Research Grant



Shelley Zaborowski, executive director of the Nebraska Alumni Association, presented the association's Doc Elliott Award to John Janovy.

John Janovy received the 2019 Doc Elliott Award for exemplary service from Shelley Zaborowski on behalf of the Nebraska Alumni association.

A faculty member at UNL from 1966-2011, he held the Paula and D.B. Varner Distinguished Professorship. He is known for his prolific scholarship, including 15 books by major publishers and more than 100 scientific papers and book chapters as well as a screenplay for the televised version of his book, "Keith County Journal."

Janovy is also known for teaching semester after semester of General Biology and General Zoology as well as other undergraduate and graduate biology courses and numerous honors seminars. He earned the University of Nebraska Distinguished Teaching Award in 1970, the State of Nebraska Pioneer Award in 1983, and the Lincoln Mayor's Arts Award in 1988 as well as numerous other awards for teaching and scholarship.

ERA members visit Morrill Hall's renovated fourth floor

(adapted from information developed by *Caroline Clements*, public relations coordinator at the University of Nebraska Museum)

Dr. Susan Weller welcomed ERA members to the renovated fourth floor of the University of Nebraska Museum, now called Cherish Nebraska, for the group's 2019 October meeting. Weller, the museum director, explained what the visitors would see as they toured the new exhibits.

The \$11.4 million project was entirely donor funded and includes nine exhibits, each of which tells a story. The exhibits combine old and new with fossils, displays, tactile experiences, and digital interactives. Art is incorporated to set the scenes in many exhibits.

Exhibits feature the work of scientific illustrator Mark Marcuson and photographs from Joel Sartore and Michael Forsberg, all Nebraskans. There are 31 monitors, five interactive games, and a 5-foot digital projection globe.

The dung beetle exhibit highlights how different creatures, large and small, play important roles in our eco-system. The touchscreen and video in this exhibit incorporate different materials to meet the needs of varying learning styles.

The science exploration area offers hands-on learning for people of all ages but especially those in middle school through high school and in undergraduate studies. People are encouraged to open drawers, handle objects, and engage in science and learning.

The visible lab allows a person to watch scientists and students working on real projects and specimens. They answer the public's questions as they work. Each of the museum divisions rotates through this space.



Susan Weller, director



Visitors to the parasite table can play games on touch screens.

The 8-foot parasite table lets visitors play games on touch screens. Visitors can work alone or in groups on the variety of programmed activities. Above the table is the model of a 100-foot tapeworm found inside a blue whale. The museum is home to the H.W. Manter Laboratory of Parasitology, one of three national resource centers for the discipline.

The Transforming the Prairies display tells the story of humans and the prairies, from Paleoindian eras to modern Nebraska. It contains one of the museum's most popular games: building an ancient weapon, the atlatl, to hunt and gather food for a family group.

The bison model on display is true to the size of bison that used to roam North America. This model was brought in as three pieces, then reassembled at the museum.

The Sustainable Earth display features a digital projection globe which examines the effects of human activity in warming our planet. It rotates through three custom programs: climate, ice ages, and biodiversity.



A full-sized model of a bison dominates its exhibit.



The sabertooth cat model illustrates the animal's remarkable jaw.

A sabertooth-like cat, called, *Barbourofelis* (pronounced barberfeeliss) roamed the region 7 million years ago. He was a poor runner with short legs and caught his prey by ambushing them. The interactive exhibit allows people to see how wide the animal's mouth had to open for it to bite prey.

For the Landscapes through Time exhibit, museum scientists and artists worked together to recreate what lived in Nebraska during various land mammal ages spanning 16 million years. We know elephants, camels and other creatures roamed the plains because Nebraska soil preserves one of the most complete terrestrial fossil records spanning 36 million years. The

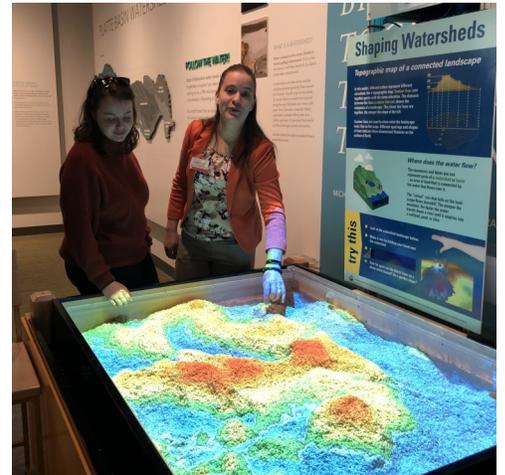
museum's vertebrate fossil collection is second in size only to the American Museum of Natural History. This exhibit features work being done here in Nebraska, including that at Ashfall Fossil Beds.

ERA members visit Morrill Hall's renovated fourth floor

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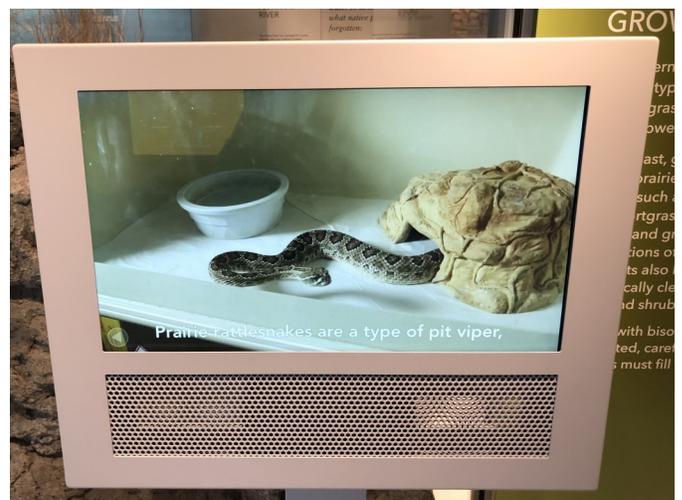
Nebraska Modern Landscapes explains how Nebraska spans a dozen ecoregions. The gallery focuses on three: prairie grasslands, Platte River and its watershed, and the Nebraska Sandhills. The exhibit features interactive opportunities like crawling through a prairie rattlesnake den or a cottonwood log.

Part of the exhibit includes a large interactive watershed table, and a game allows visitors to examine the relationship of water quality and quantity. Visitors can learn about the underground aquifer. Often misunderstood as underground lakes, aquifers are more like sponges: bodies of rock saturated with water. Giant bluestem roots highlight what needs to happen underground to support life – like prairie chickens – above ground.



An interactive exhibit helps visitors learn more about watersheds.

ERA members explore state-of-the-art exhibits at the newly remodeled fourth floor of the State Museum during an October visit.



Life after retirement — What are they doing now?



Member profile

Gwendolyn Newkirk, Education and Human Resources

by Julie Johnson

At age 93, my friend Dr. Gwendolyn Newkirk continues to remain active and involved.

The former chair of Education and Human Resources (now Child, Youth and Family Studies), Gwen has been retired since 1991. While she has slowed her active pace somewhat, she remains involved in many groups and activities. She is proud that she still lives in her own home.

When she first retired, Gwen was still a member of the General Mills Board of Directors, so she took monthly trips to Minneapolis for their meetings. The trips were exciting, she said, and kept her “foot in the game” for some time after retirement.

As a former national president of the American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences (formerly American Home Economics Association), she remained active in national meetings and other professional activities for many years. I attended many of those meetings, too, and remember how Gwen would introduce me to her many professional colleagues. I will always remember her kindness and support.

In 1991 Gwen received the Distinguished Service Award from American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences, something she said will always be one of her special memories.

Gwen is an active member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Psi Omega chapter, an international sorority that promotes professional development, service, advocacy, and social change. It was the first minority sorority in the nation, formed with nine women in 1908 at Howard University. The group honored Gwen for her Diamond membership – 75 years – in 2019.

Gwen is involved in many of the 300,00-member group’s activities. On Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, she participated in the sorority’s day of service, painting the nails of the elderly. She plans to attend the group’s national meeting this year in Oklahoma.

Gwen continues to be an active member of St. Mark’s United Methodist Church in Lincoln where she has served on the church’s Foundation Board. She is also part of Monday Munchers, a lunch group of seniors who eat at different restaurants on Mondays. Her favorite restaurants are the Venue and Olive Garden. Reading had always been a pleasure for Gwen, and she enjoys belonging to the book club at St. Mark’s. They read 12 books each year.

She has been an active member of Home Economists in Home and Community, Delta Kappa Gamma, and the UNL Emeriti and Retirees Association since her retirement. She also is a member of a breakfast/lunch group made up of Kathleen Lodi, a former student and colleague, and former colleagues Melinda Holcombe and me. We meet to catch up on what is happening at the university and department and recommend books to each other. Gwen is always a source of inspiration for new books.

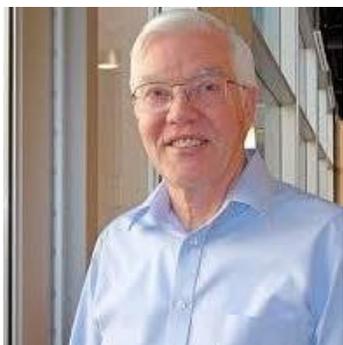
Gwen said the best thing about retirement is making your own schedule. A hard thing is losing people you know and care about. She has two pieces of advice for new retirees:

- Set a clear goal for what you want to do and not what others have in mind for you. Don’t get too involved because then your schedule won’t be your own.
- Don’t accumulate material possessions. Start now to sort through your belongings because it will be more difficult as time goes on.



Members of Alpha Kappa Alpha honor Gwendolyn Newkirk for her 75 years of membership and service.

Life after retirement — What are they doing now?



Member profile

Alfred Stark, Information Technology and Communications

One goal I had when I retired was to continue to participate with a number of community activities that I had enjoyed for quite some time, while also learning and engaging in some new ones. I also wanted to spend more time with family and friends.

I have really enjoyed the UNL Emeriti and Retirees Association. It provides the opportunity to reconnect with longtime friends and to make new friends while also learning about current UNL projects and activities from the people who are making them happen.

I am a Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation (JDRF) advocacy volunteer and TeamMate mentor. I serve on my church board and various committees, neighborhood association board and most recently Emeriti and Retirees Association board as membership chair.

I attend multiple OLLI classes each term, sing in two vocal choirs, play in a handbell choir, golf in a UNL league and capture/edit video of family and friends' events. I also mess around with still photography. Many of my activities and projects involve significant hands-on computer time.

My wife, Linda and I, intend to take some time to travel since our role as caretakers for aging in-laws has ended. There are so many places we have yet to visit and several we would like to go back to, to take in what we missed the first time.

We have three grandsons – two in Lincoln and one in St. Joseph, Mo. Linda and I really enjoy attending their activities and also visiting regional tourist sites with them and their parents. I especially enjoy just messing around with “the guys” and their friends. I certainly continue to learn many interesting things from the youth we are engaged with in various activities.

My advice for new retirees is to take time to assess what you really want to participate in. You will be asked many times to join and assist in many good projects and activities. However, you still have only 24-hour days.

Also, remember to find some enjoyment in each and every day. As we all know, life is too short.

Quotable Quotes

"Knowledge is not power, it is only potential. Applying that knowledge is power. Understanding why and when to apply that knowledge is wisdom." Takeda Shingen - Daimyo (Japanese Lord) (1521 - 1573)

"When you arise in the morning, think of what a precious privilege it is to be alive - to breathe, to think, to enjoy, to love." Marcus Aurelius - Roman Emperor (121 -180 AD)

There is nothing on this earth more to be prized than true friendship." Thomas Aquinas - Philosopher (1225 - 1274)

"Reflect upon your present blessings - of which every man has many - not on your past misfortunes, of which all men have some." Charles Dickens

How to minimize inheritance conflict

by Mark Accettura, American Association of Individual Investors

Abstracted with the author's permission

aaii.com/journal

The most valuable and enduring asset an individual has is family. Family is truly the gift that keeps on giving. The family dynamic that you had a hand in creating will survive you, impacting your children and grandchildren. Although many of the events that went into forming your family as it now exists have already occurred, your family is not set in stone. How you live your life from this point forward and how you structure your estate at death are new opportunities to reinforce the healthy aspects of your family, correct past wrongs, and leave a lasting legacy of fairness, compassion, and love.

There is no single silver bullet that will prevent inheritance disputes. Instead, prevention requires a multi-faceted approach that combines psychology, good lawyering, a lot of self-awareness, and a good dose of common sense. Following are recommendations to help minimize inheritance conflict:



1. Address personal property separately from wills and trusts.

Leave a separate list of cherished personal property with instructions as to who should inherit each item. A separate list can be handwritten or typed but must be signed and dated. The list should be of sufficient detail to effectively describe each item being gifted.

2. Update estate plan regularly.

Make estate planning changes when there has been a change of circumstances like the death or divorce of a child or the illness, addiction, or incapacitation of any beneficiary.

3. Hold an open discussion on special assets.

There are situations where family input is advisable. Issues like care for a handicapped child, succession of a family business, or continued enjoyment of a vacation home require parents and children to be on the same page.

4. Properly fund trusts.

All assets should be funded or appropriately re-titled into a trust to avoid probate and confusion as to the testator's intent. For example, if the will or trust leaves assets equally among the testator's children, all life insurance policies and annuities should name the trust as beneficiary.

5. Avoid joint ownership.

Joint ownership (i.e., placing a child's name as a joint owner of a parent's asset) is an inefficient method of passing assets at death and can produce unintended results. Adding a beneficiary as an owner of assets, like real estate, confers significant and sometimes irrevocable lifetime rights, which expose the donor to the co-owner's liabilities and limits the donor's ability to change his or her mind in the future. The most efficient and predictable plan is to fund all assets into a trust.

By carefully and thoughtfully planning your estate, you can protect your most important legacy.

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. The following names were announced or received in 2019.

Hazel Anthony, Home Economics

Jack Schinstock, Biological Systems Engineering, associate dean of CASNR

Roy Arnold, IANR Vice Chancellor

Alan Seagren, Educational Administration

Ann Baker, spouse of Maurice Baker, Agricultural Economics

Greg Snow, Physics and Astronomy

Michael Combs, Political Science

Robert Carl Sorensen, Agronomy

Cecilia Daly, Computer Science

Anthony F. Starace , Physics

Kate Kane, Library

David Swanson, Holland Computing Center

David Keith, Entomology

Wieslaw Szdlowski, Mechanical Engineering

Lowell Moser, Agronomy

Mary Lynn Tuck, spouse of George Tuck, Journalism and Mass Communications

Don Nelson, Engineering

John Turner, Classics and Religious Studies

Wanda Omtvedt, spouse of Irv Omtvedt, vice chancellor of IANR

James "Al" Williams, Sociology

Margaret Ottoson, spouse of Howard Ottoson, Agricultural Economics

Douglas Zatechka, Housing

Loretta Riveland, spouse of Arvin Riveland, Civil Engineering

Memories

Memories

Memories



A visit to the Landing on November 13

During the Coffee House Chat at the Landing, old and new friends shared coffee and conversation, then toured of two different residences at the retirement community. Participants also started gathering coats for the Student Resilience office's winter garment drive to help UNL students. That drive ultimately led to donations of more than 120 coats and other winter garments..



**Coffee House
Chat**



UNL Emeriti 2020 Spring Tour

Thursday, March 26, 2020

HuskerVision in a nutshell...



HuskerVision is the production arm of the Nebraska Athletic Department, working side by side with all varsity sports and many Olympic sports. HuskerVision also works closely with the Big Ten Network to broadcast games nationally online.

Student workers receive hands on training with professional camera and editing equipment, as well as gain real world experience in live event productions while working in a fun environment.

A number of UNL graduates who worked at HuskerVision have gone on to work for major sports production facilities, including NFL teams such as the Chiefs, Lions, and Broncos; the Boston Celtics basketball team; NFL Films; Rock Chalk Video at the University of Kansas; and video production at other major Division 1 universities.



PLACE: Memorial Stadium at the training table. Enter through the middle doors in west stadium.

DATE: Thursday, March 26

TIME: 9:00 a.m. – Coffee and têtê-a-têtê. Please bring a few goodies to be shared by all.

9:45 a.m. – Introductory remarks by Bill Moos, UNL athletic director

10:00 a.m. - Guided tour by Keegan Wilson, video services coordinator

PARKING: Designated area in Champion Club's parking lot, just west of the stadium

Invite a former colleague to join our association



Do you know others who have officially retired from UNL, are 55 years old and have at least 10 years of service? Invite them to join.

They can go to <http://www.emeriti.unl.edu> and click on Become a Member to complete the online application.

Do it today!

Coming Events

Luncheon Meetings

If you have changed your email address in the past few months, please send your new email address to rkirby1@unl.edu so the list can be updated.

Please note the day of each luncheon. All luncheons will be at the Lancaster Extension Education Center, 444 Cherry Creek Road.

- Friday, February 21, 11:30 a.m.** Constance Boehm, director of student resilience, Office of Student Affairs
"Big Red Resilience"
- Thursday, March 19, 11:30 a.m.** Chuck Hibberd, dean and director, University of Nebraska Extension
"University of Nebraska responds to flooding"
- Tuesday, April 21, 11:30 a.m.** Megan Elliott, founding director, Johnny Carson Center for Emerging Media Arts
"Johnny Carson Center for Emerging Media Arts"

Coffee House Chats and Other Social Events



Social Events

- Wednesday, February 26** 9:30 a.m. Rock N Joes, 5021 Lindberg Street, Lincoln, NE 68516
- Thursday, March 26** 9 a.m. HuskerVision, Memorial Stadium at the Training Table
- 9:45 a.m. Introductory remarks by Bill Moos, UNL athletic director
- 10 a.m. Guided tour by Keegan Wilson, video services coordinator

See additional details on page 15.

Coffee chats are the 4th Wednesday in months when no tour is scheduled. The upcoming dates are April 22, May 27th, June 24, July 22, and September 23. Venues will be announced. A holiday party is being planned for December. The date will be determined by the host/hostess.

Tours are tentatively being planned for August and October. Dates, times and places will be announced.



A special thanks to Dr. John Comer for his years of dedicated service as both president and long-serving, highly interactive ERA Board member. John always provided insight and leadership during his tenure on the Board. He has decided to move on to other adventures but perhaps we'll see him at the luncheons, tours and chats.



John Comer, Political Science

Thanks for your service John!

Selected OLLI courses open to association members

Even if you are not an Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) member, you can enroll in two co-sponsored courses or events per year if you belong to the UNL Emeriti and Retirees Association. Watch for registration deadlines on the OLLI website. While it is too late to register for registration this term, keep alert for email announcements about courses for next term.

OLLI is a program for adults age 50 years plus who value lifelong learning and social interactions. OLLI offers non-credit courses, events and travel to its members. OLLI members say they enjoy the opportunities to keep on learning and also appreciate connecting with peers who share common interests – and making new friends.

For more about OLLI membership benefits and costs, see the organization's website (www.ollu.unl.edu) or contact the office directly: 402-472-6265 or ollu@unl.edu



Call for nominations/applications for the service awards and research grants

by Patricia Cre

The UNL Emeriti and Retirees Association annually sponsors two service awards for members, one for outstanding service to the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and one for outstanding service to the community. The \$500 recognition awards are funded through the Maude E. Wisherd Fund.



Please nominate an individual deserving recognition for his or her volunteer activities. Your letter (maximum two pages) should explain why the nominee should be considered for the award and whether or not the person has been informed of the nomination. The individual's contact information, address, phone number, and e-mail address should be included.

The letter of nomination must be emailed (pcrews1@unl.edu) or postmarked no later than March 15, 2020.



In addition, the Maude E. Wisherd Fund funds research grants for ERA members. The grants provide support for research and scholarly or creative activities. Please consider applying or encourage others to apply.

A maximum of \$2,000 may be awarded to any one person within a given year.

An application or nomination form may be printed from the association website (emeriti.unl.edu). The specific addresses for each form are as follows:

<https://emeriti.unl.edu/Docs/2019/ComServiceAward.pdf>

<https://emeriti.unl.edu/Docs/2019/Service%20to%20UNLaward.pdf>

[https://emeriti.unl.edu/Docs/2019/Grant%20ApplicationRevised\[4\].pdf](https://emeriti.unl.edu/Docs/2019/Grant%20ApplicationRevised[4].pdf)

If you are interested in applying for a grant or nominating an individual for an award and are a member of the UNL Emeriti and Retirees Association, please complete the form and send it via email or postal service with accompanying materials to the address on the form.

UNL Emeriti Association

Wick Alumni Center
1620 R Street
Box 880216
Lincoln, NE 68588-0216

Completed applications must be emailed or postmarked no later than March 15, 2020.

I look forward to receiving your nominations for service awards and grants. If you have questions, please don't hesitate to contact me via email (pcrews1@unl.edu).

2020 Officers/Board of Directors

Don Weeks, president
Kim Hachiya, vice president
Jeff Keown, past president
Sue Gildersleeve, secretary, benefits committee
Earl Hawkey, treasurer
John Bernthal, board member
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Pat Crews, awards committee
Kay Rockwell, educational events committee
Jane Zatechka, social events committee
Rita Weeks, social events committee
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Julie Johnson, publications, bylaws and policies committees
Doug Jose, publications committee
Charlyne Berens, publications committee
Rita Kean, OLLI Liasion

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

**Do you have ideas
for stories or advice
that would make the
newsletter better?**

Please contact a
member of the
Publications Committee:

Doug Jose
hjose1@unl.edu

Charlyne Berens
cberens@unl.edu

Julie Johnson
jjohnson1@unl.edu

**UNL Emeriti and Retirees Association
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University of Nebraska-Lincoln
Lincoln, NE 68508-1651**

PLACE
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