

UNL Emeriti and Retirees Association

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

UNL Emeriti and Retirees Association

Spring 2022

ERA Priorities for 2022

by President Pat Crews

I am honored to serve as the president of the UNL Emeriti and Retirees Association for 2022 and look forward to the opportunity to interact with more ERA members and the board during the coming year.

I would like to express a special thanks to Kim Hachiya for her leadership this past year that marked the 60th anniversary of our association, to Don Weeks for his steady guidance, and to the board for its vision and resolve as we navigated through the uncertainties and challenges of the ongoing pandemic. Our monthly programs featuring a range of topics (COVID vaccines to honey bees to Nebraska vines and wines) were well attended whether via Zoom (January to September) or in-person (October to December).

We are fortunate that Kim will continue to share her talents on the board for the coming year in her advisory role as past president. In addition, she has agreed to serve as secretary for the association to fill the void that arose when our acting secretary, Linda Major, was elected vice president/president-elect.

I would also like to extend a special thanks to Alfred Stark, website and technical coordinator. He has worked tirelessly to make our meetings and coffee chats via Zoom run smoothly. In addition, he single-handedly set up the technology to make our October, November, and December luncheon meetings available on Zoom for those who were not able to join us in person. We could not have offered the fall luncheon meetings via Zoom were it not for Al's expertise and willingness to devote the additional hours necessary to make it happen.

Jim Griesen and Earl Hawkey deserve special recognition for drawing up guidelines for our newly established, need-based scholarship fund for UNL students. Earl made a generous leadership gift and has agreed to match up to \$5,000 in subsequent gifts. It is exciting to launch this new scholarship program. Through it, for decades to come we will help students with unmet financial needs continue their college education at UNL.

Many thanks to the Social Events Committee of Jane Zatechka, Jim Griesen, and Rita Weeks for planning several very enjoyable coffee chats last year (some in-person – Wilderness Ridge and Mill @Telegraph – and several via Zoom). Planning is underway for coffee chats in a variety of locations and formats for the coming year.

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Pat Crews

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We welcome two new board members this year – Monica Norby to complete the term of Chuck Hibberd (2021-2023), who resigned, and Dave Wilson to replace Tom Hoegemeyer (2019-2021), who completed his three-year term. Many thanks to Tom and Dora Dill who served as co-secretaries during 2021.

Our vice president, Linda Major, is developing a wonderful array of speakers for the coming year. We plan to hold luncheons in person whenever UNL guidelines and public health conditions allow but will pivot to a virtual format when they do not. (Please review the spring program offerings presented elsewhere in this newsletter.) Please contact Linda if you have a topic or speaker to suggest. (lmajor1@unl.edu)

Priorities for 2022:

- Grow the endowment for the newly established scholarship fund. We need \$30,000 to fully endow this need-based scholarship for a sophomore or junior UNL student. Please consider making a contribution to this scholarship fund. Wouldn't it be fantastic if we reached the \$30,000 mark in 2022?
- Increase membership involvement in activities of the organization. This may be accomplished in a variety of ways including: 1) additional email announcements and reminders of luncheon meetings and social events; 2) recruiting more volunteers to assist with technology at meetings; and 3) recruiting additional members to help maintain and update the website and track luncheon meeting registrations.
- Continue to help support students through mentoring opportunities, volunteering and donating goods to the Husker Pantry, volunteering at commencements, ushering at Lied Center events, and other activities.
- Continue to work with the university administration to implement a mechanism to allow surviving spouses of faculty to have temporary access to email accounts in the event of the faculty member's death or incapacity. This will allow family members time needed to transfer those accounts and their contents to a non-university email system. The university is currently exploring a way to make this happen.
- Increase awareness of the Wisherd Service Awards and the Wisherd Research, Scholarly and Creative Activity Awards, as well as the number of nominations for each.

There are still many unknowns as we move toward recovery during this pandemic, but we are a vibrant group with a desire and the means to enrich and strengthen the life of our community. With our actions, individually and collectively, we can make a difference in the lives of UNL students, our fellow retirees, and the community at large.

I look forward to working with you during 2022 to advance the mission and priorities of our association and to make a difference in our community.



Coffee House Chats

Have you missed going to coffee house chats? The current health issues have made it unwise to have these informal gatherings at this time.

Hopefully, these will return later in the year. Stay tuned.

Luthans, Moeller, and Berens receive awards

Three award winners were featured when the UNL ERA met in a special Zoom meeting on Sept. 23.

Fred Luthans was honored as the winner of the 2021 Doc Elliott Award, which recognizes a retired UNL faculty member



Fred Luthans
Doc Elliott awardee

who “has exhibited a record of exemplary service, whose caring has made a difference in the lives of students and alumni and who has gone beyond traditional expectations.” The award is presented by the Nebraska Alumni Association.

Luthans spent his entire 50-year academic career at UNL. He is retired from the College of Business where he was University and George Holmes

Distinguished Professor of Management.

In their nomination, some of Luthans’ former students talked about the lasting effects he had on them as they joined the business world. They remembered the energy he conveyed in the classroom as he shared insights about organizational leadership skills.

In 1973, Luthans wrote the first book on organizational behavior, now in its 14th edition. He also wrote more than 275 academic articles and chapters. His work has been cited more than 100,000 times, placing it in the top 1 percent of citations for researchers in all fields. In retirement, Luthans continues to present seminars for managers and is involved in campus activities.

Many of Luthans’ former students have become top leaders in successful business of all sizes. Others have gone on to teach in business programs at major universities.

The recipients of the 2021 Wisherd service awards were featured in a video presentation developed by Al Stark, website and technical committee chair, and Lloyd Ambrosius, awards committee chair. The Wisherd awards are sponsored by the Emeriti and Retirees Association.



Alan Moeller
Outstanding Community Service Awardee

Alan Moeller received the Wisherd Award for Outstanding Community service. In nominating Moeller for the community service award, Tom Hoegemeyer described Moeller’s involvement in the Nebraska Elder Climate Legacy, a group that promotes “understanding and action for sustainable use of resources and defense of the environment.”

Moeller was responsible for drafting and lobbying

for the passage of LB243 in the Nebraska Legislature in 2019. The bill established the Nebraska Soil Health Task Force. Moeller was a driving force in its successful launch in 2020, Hoegemeyer said. Moeller also was key in drafting another legislative bill that would direct UNL to develop an evidence-based and data-driven strategic action plan to deal with the impacts of climate change.

Charlyne Berens received the Wisherd Award for Outstanding Service to UNL. She was recognized for her work with OLLI, the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at UNL. She is co-chair of the OLLI curriculum committee, which oversees development of several hundred courses each academic



Charlyne Berens
Outstanding Service to UNL Awardee

year. She also regularly develops and teaches courses herself.

Nominator Dick Dienstbier noted that Berens is also one of the founding members of the Let’s Talk Alliance, which grew out of the OLLI Diversity Committee’s efforts to reach out to people of color in Lincoln. She also serves on the UNL Emeriti and Retirees Association newsletter committee.

Nebraska Community Foundation focuses on Greater Nebraska

By Don Weeks

Many Nebraska towns are achieving their dreams with the help of the Nebraska Community Foundation (NCF).

That was the message K.C. Belitz, chief operating officer of NCF, and Chuck Hibberd, a member of the NCF board of directors – and an ERA member – brought to the Emeriti and Retirees Association on Oct. 19.

The two said NCF's goal is to unleash abundant local assets, inspire charitable giving and connect ambitious people to build stronger communities and a stronger Nebraska. With focus primarily on towns in Greater Nebraska, the NCF engages with individuals who wish to make their hometowns more attractive both for current residents and for those looking for a better lifestyle environment.

Toward this end, NCF helps local groups of community-minded individuals organize and raise money that goes into a foundation from which the community can finance programs and facilities recognized by that particular community as important needs. The Nebraska Community Foundation provides the institutional capacity and financial stability for small communities to embark on new projects without having to build their own fund-raising organizations from scratch. The money raised by each town goes into what is called an "affiliated fund" of the NCF, and payouts from this unrestricted endowment are used to create positive changes that otherwise might not occur.

At present 271 communities in 83 counties benefit from the affiliated funds created through NCF. These local entities, with NCF assistance, inform people in the surrounding area of their goals and encourage support of these goals through direct gifts or through more long-term bequests. NCF guides these community-led and community-owned organizations to make incremental progress that creates positive changes that stick.



K.C. Belitz, CEO of NCF, and Chuck Hibberd, member of the NCF board, share information about how to build stronger communities.

Belitz provided several examples of successful projects in communities throughout Nebraska and described the positive impacts these projects have had on individuals and their communities. He said NCF endowment assets, along with planned gifts to grow endowments, have risen from \$50 million in 2010 to \$165 million in 2021. Likewise, the amount of unrestricted endowment for community-based affiliated funds grew from \$12 million to \$67 million. These funds have made 47 disbursements of \$10,000 or more and 17 disbursements of \$50,000 or more as of 2021. The present total assets of the Nebraska Community Foundation are approximately a quarter-billion dollars with \$425 million dollars reinvested in communities since 1994.

Hibberd emphasized that it is local leaders who make the case for investing locally. They encourage potential donors to envision new possibilities for improving their towns and surrounding areas and join in the group effort to make those goals a reality.

He noted that in rural Nebraska each year there are significant transfers of wealth as properties pass from one generation to the next or are sold to new owners. It is a goal of NCF to encourage those planning for such transfers of wealth to consider how a modest gift from proceeds of the transfer could have a significant impact on the people of the area in which they have personally prospered.

Nebraska Community Foundation focuses on Greater Nebraska

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Finally, Belitz and Hibberd pointed out that if key improvements continue to be made, rural communities in Nebraska could become increasingly attractive to younger generations from throughout the country. A recent survey that asked young people to identify the most important and least important factors determining what constitutes an ideal community brought eye-opening results. While jobs or business opportunities were, as expected, high on the list, quality-of-life issues appear to be of growing importance to the younger generation – especially items such as low crime rates and the availability of good schools.

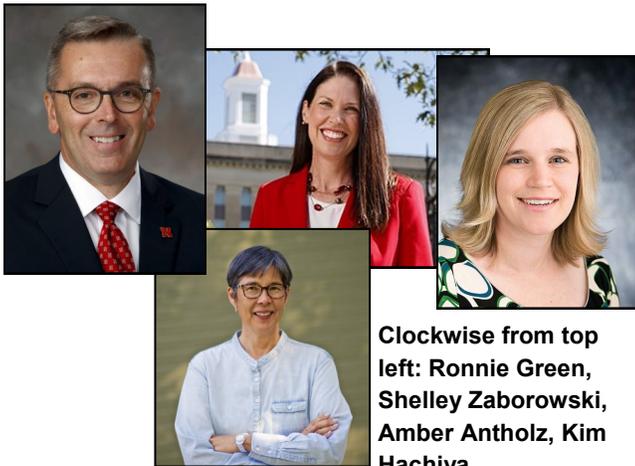
The Nebraska Community Foundation aims to be one of the key players in efforts to retain Nebraska youth and attract even more newcomers to Nebraska’s Good Life, the speakers said.

For more information see <http://nebcommfound.org>

Luthans, Moeller, and Berens receive Awards

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Before the awards presentations, four speakers addressed the group, offering updates in their areas of responsibility and sharing ideas for the future. They were: Ronnie Green, chancellor; Amber Antholz, assistant vice president for UNL development for the NU Foundation; Shelley Zaborowski, director of the Nebraska Alumni Association; and Kim Hachiya, 2021 ERA president.



Clockwise from top left: Ronnie Green, Shelley Zaborowski, Amber Antholz, Kim Hachiya.



Invite a former colleague to join our association.

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

Invite them to join.

Go to <http://www.emeriti.unl.edu> and click on “Become a Member” to complete the online application.



Paul Read, professor of horticulture/viticulture, shares information about the wine industry.

Nebraska: the next Napa Valley?

By Rita Kean

When Cuthills Vineyard opened at Pierce in 1994, it was the first winery in Nebraska. Today there are 37 wineries throughout the state.

Paul Read, professor of horticulture/viticulture, told the ERA group on Nov. 15 about the Nebraska wine industry from its beginning in the 1880s to the present day.

Five thousand acres in eastern Nebraska were devoted to growing grapes in 1910, but the industry's growth was stunted when the nation passed the 18th Amendment in 1919, prohibiting the production and sale of alcohol in the nation. When the amendment was repealed in 1933, each state was assigned the responsibility for managing alcohol within its borders.

The development of center pivot irrigation after World War II fostered the development of vineyards, and the Nebraska Legislature approved the Farm Wineries Act in 1985, allowing a winery to produce up to 50,000 gallons of wine a year but with the stipulation that any amount over 15,000 gallons must be sold through a distributor, not by the winery directly.

UNL established a viticulture program in 1997. At the same time, the Nebraska Legislature passed two bills, the first allowing consumption of wine on the winery premises and the second permitting the shipping of Nebraska wines. In 1998, UNL established its own vineyards. In 2000, the UNL viticulture program established a working relationship with James Arthur Vineyard north of Lincoln for purposes of research.

The growth of the wine industry has contributed to economic growth of small communities across Nebraska, Read said, drawing people visiting the wineries to also shop at small businesses in the adjacent towns.

A 2017 Economic Impact Report conducted by John Dunham and Associates of New York indicated that "the production, distribution, sales and consumption of wine in Nebraska generates close to \$893.3 million in total economic activity. This ultimate value-added product preserves agricultural land, provides American jobs, attracts tourist, generates taxes, and enhances the quality of life." Nebraska wines are able to compete on the national stage due to good soil, water, and sunshine during the growing season, and Nebraska wines have been recognized nationally, Read said.

Read said viticulture research at UNL focuses on: cover crops and vineyard floor management; rootstock studies; cold hardiness; weed management; potential for organic production; fertilizer and nutrient studies; cultivar variety evaluation; field days or "tailgates."

Read is optimistic about the future of the industry; however, he said attention must be directed to increased mechanization to control production expenses and to prevent herbicide spray drift from one field to another.



Significant changes and audacious thinking about libraries

By Patricia Crews

In her December presentation to the UNL ERA, Claire Stewart, dean of UNL Libraries, described how the landscape for libraries is radically changing and how “audacious thinking” is required to address these changes. Although libraries have been in a constant state of reinvention since their formation millennia ago, change has escalated during the past 10 to 20 years.

One of the most significant changes has been a switch from information scarcity to information abundance, Stewart said. At one time you had to go into a library building to access the information held in the volumes stored there. Now many of those volumes are digitized and available on-line. Today, instead of a scarcity of information, vast amounts of information and misinformation are available. Misinformation, she noted, is nothing new; propaganda has been around for centuries. But now information can be produced and distributed easily and rapidly and by almost anyone.

Dean Stewart came to UNL in August 2019 from the University of Minnesota, where she served as associate university librarian for research and learning. Prior to Minnesota, she held several positions at Northwestern University.

Stewart said universities have harnessed the power of digitization along with electronic access and distribution. What is missing, she said, is peer-reviewed, scientific research information. Why? Because the information is locked away behind publishers’ paywalls. Scientists, scholars, congressional staffers, and others cannot freely and readily access the most credible information online because publishers make a person pay to view articles published in most scholarly journals.

The situation is ridiculous, Stewart said, because the research findings (often paid for by federally-funded research grants) are handed over to the publishers for free by the authors (professors). Then the publishers charge university libraries annual subscription fees for the journals before also charging those who view the articles. Stewart said the situation is embedded in the academic system requiring professors to “publish or perish.” Therefore, she said,



Claire Stewart, dean of UNL Libraries

“This is not a library problem to solve; it is an academy problem.”

In the meantime, publishers have raised the price of journal subscriptions 6 to 10 percent each year for several decades, a period during which most university budgets have declined. At UNL the libraries have not had a budget increase for collections for over a decade. This means they have not even been able to retain all their journal subscriptions, much less add new ones.

On a more positive note, Dean Stewart reported that UNL Libraries hold approximately 3 million titles and have worked hard to digitize and make many of those volumes available. Having digitized, full-text articles available to download is a huge aid to students, scholars, and scientists who can access them anytime, anywhere.

Once Google and the University of Michigan announced in 2004 that they were going to digitize Michigan’s entire collection, all Big Ten universities joined in. Digitizing every book in each Big Ten school’s library would have resulted in needless and expensive repetition. Consequently, in 2008 the Big Ten universities and the University of California system formed the HathiTrust, a not-for-profit collaboration to establish a repository to archive and share their digitized collections. Incidentally, Dean Stewart is chair-elect of the HathiTrust board. The HathiTrust now preserves and makes accessible 17+ million digitized items.

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Significant changes and audacious thinking about libraries *Continued from page 7*

When the pandemic locked UNL down in March 2020, the library stacks were closed. University librarians convinced lawyers to allow temporary, emergency access to everything on HathiTrust. Instantly almost 50 percent of UNL's book collection became available digitally to any UNL student anywhere in the world. This emergency access ended 15 months later when most students were able to return to campuses. However, research libraries across the U.S. and around the world are fighting to retain the right to make digital access to the volumes in their collections available at least one at a time via controlled digital lending.

In addition to serving as chief administrative officer for the Libraries, Stewart is chair of the University of Nebraska Consortium of Libraries and co-sponsors, with the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, the Center for Digital Research in the Humanities (CDRH).

The CDRH is at the forefront of digitization of archives nationally. Among its most notable accomplishments are

the Willa Cather Archive and the Walt Whitman Archive.

Recently Margaret Jacobs and UNL Libraries were awarded a National Endowment for the Humanities grant to digitize the Genoa Indian School archives. The [Genoa Indian School Digital Reconciliation Project](#) was founded to tell the stories of the American Indian families affected by the displacement of children to the Genoa school, often through force or coercion. This project is part of a major national effort to reveal a more complete history surrounding American Indian boarding schools.

Stewart noted that UNL Libraries continue work to transform library spaces. The Adele Hall Learning Commons on City Campus and the Dinsdale Family Learning Commons on East Campus are two examples. In addition, plans are in the works to relocate the Archives and Special Collections, which include things like the 1623 edition of Shakespeare's works, from the basement of Love Library to a safer location.



DN Hall of Fame display supported by Wisherd funds

Graduates who worked at the Daily Nebraskan, UNL's student newspaper, during their college years are honored in the DN Hall of Fame display in the Nebraska Union's first floor rotunda. Current DN staffers designed the artwork on the wall and slides on the screen, which shows the current issue of the DN, alternating with stories or photos of each of the DN Hall of Famers.

Dan Shattil, general manager emeritus of the student newspaper, was awarded the ERA Wisherd grant in 2020 to support the creation of the display.

Education must be diverse and inclusive, Barker says

By Kim Hachiya

As a public land grant institution with a statewide presence, UNL recognizes it must be sure the education it offers is both diverse and inclusive. That was the message from Marco Barker, the university's inaugural vice chancellor for diversity and inclusion, when he spoke via Zoom to the UNL ERA on Jan. 25.



Marco Barker
Vice chancellor for diversity and inclusion

Barker said UNL's efforts are premised on the idea of "inclusive excellence," which he defined as active, intentional, and ongoing engagement with diversity, and on recognition of the importance of the various communities through which individuals connect to each other and to UNL. Both these ideas must permeate both curricular and co-curricular experiences, he said.

By focusing on our various connections, we learn about our differences and our points of unity, Barker said. And we develop cognitive sophistication, greater empathy, and a greater understanding of the complex ways people interact within systems and institutions.

"It is ongoing work," he said. "I wish it could happen by osmosis. But it is complex, increasingly so."

Barker noted a key concept is striving for equity and the well-being of a democratic culture where every person feels they can fully participate. A goal is to identify and remove structural barriers to that participation.

"We can't be excellent unless we are inclusive; those go hand in hand," he said.

Barker said UNL's efforts are research-based and will provide

educational benefits, create supportive environments, create a sense of belonging, and create strong faculty and staff teams working toward common purpose.

Barker noted that UNL has seen declining enrollment, especially of international students and Native and Indigenous students. Black enrollment is stagnant. But overall numbers of students of color have increased due to higher numbers of Hispanic, Latinx, Asian, and multi-racial students.

"This tells us there are places we are connecting but other places we need to work on," he said, noting UNL is last in the Big Ten in terms of enrollment of students of color. He added that is partly due to our location and state demographics.

Barker said UNL is seeing gains in hiring of managerial-professional staff who identify as people of color (POC). About 77 percent of faculty are white; 23 percent are POC.

He said UNL needs to hire faculty who are committed to diversity and inclusion, and, he added, "We need to be thoughtful about our recruitment and selection practices to ensure we are not doing things that exclude or discourage. We must be proactive so that all people see UNL as an employment location of choice."

Barker said that more thought is needed to understand why faculty of color often seem to stall at the associate level. "We must think about retention," he said. "We are at the bottom of the Big Ten, so in my mind, we have nowhere to go but up." Barker said he hesitates to give number or percentage targets but said his idea of success is to see the lines consistently trending up.

Barker said both the NU system and UNL take diversity and inclusion seriously. The NU system has a chief diversity officer; UNL lists diversity and inclusion as top priorities in the N2025 Grand Challenges; and the Journey for Anti-Racism and Racial Equity project is gathering momentum.

His office is working to help groups empower themselves so that diversity and equity are not the task of just a single office or individual. "We must integrate diversity and inclusion throughout the institution and not think of it as an add-on," he said.

Education must be diverse and inclusive, Barker says

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Alumni and groups like the Emeriti and Retirees Association also have roles to play, he said. Among them are specifically supporting diversity and inclusion initiatives and partnerships.

Emeriti and Retirees Association members, in particular, can help lead discussion groups, assist with student and faculty recruitment, invite folks like Barker and others to present to various organization, attend events, and support efforts via scholarships.

Barker recommended people visit the website, <http://diversity.unl.edu>, for more information.

After Barker's talk, Pat Crews, ERA president, thanked him and noted that in lieu of a speaker's gift, an honorarium will be sent in his name to the UNL Libraries Development Fund.

New Rules for IRA accounts in 2022

By Doug Jose

Americans are living longer, and that fact affects how the government requires us to manage our IRA accounts.

The 2019 Secure Act raised the age at which distributions from IRAs are required from 70½ to 72.

A second major change, going into effect this year, is a revision of the life expectancy factors. This means the required percentage withdrawal rates are lower. For example, the life expectancy factor for age 72, formerly 25.6 is now 27.4, an increase of 7 percent. The withdrawal factor is the inverse of the life expectancy factor. For age 72, the life expectancy factor of 27.4 results in a withdrawal rate of 3.65 percent.

An IRA's balance on Dec. 31 is the base for the RMD (required minimum distribution) for the following year. The life expectancy factor used to calculate the RMD is the age the IRA owner attains in the tax reporting year. Example, for a person turning 72 during 2022 with an IRA balance of \$100,000 on Dec. 31, 2021, the calculation is:

$$\text{RMD} = \$100,000 \div 27.4 \text{ OR, } \$100,000 \times .0365 = \$3,650.00$$

The IRA owner must withdraw this amount sometime during calendar year 2022. It could be in one or two lump sums or on a monthly basis, for example.

There is one caveat on the change in age at which RMDs are required. If you turned 72 in the second half of 2021 you have until April 1, 2022, to make your 2021 withdrawal, but you must use the 2021 life expectancy tables to calculate the



amount. That means you must use the 25.6 factor from the example above.

The CARES Act, passed early in the pandemic, waived the requirement to take RMDs but for 2020 only. Congress created this option in response to a large dip in investment balances at the beginning of 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This waiver is now void.

An IRA owner may withdraw more than the RMD. That decision should be based on cash flow needs that take into account other income sources, debt payments, and living costs during the year.

One other note related to federal government financial regulations: the cost-of-living adjustment this year for Social Security and other federal government annuity payments is 5.9 percent.

Information on the new RMD rates and calculation procedures is available on financial company websites and on the following AARP website:

<https://www.aarp.org/work/retirement-planning/required-minimum-distribution-calculator.html>



**Linda Major, ERA vice president, president-elect
Assistant to vice chancellor
for student affairs, emeritus**

Member profile: Linda Major

My goals for retirement focus on family, community service and personal enrichment.

My husband, Gary, and I have 10 (soon to be 11) grandchildren. Retirement offers the chance to more actively participate in their lives.

I'm an avid reader with a preference for non-fiction and news.

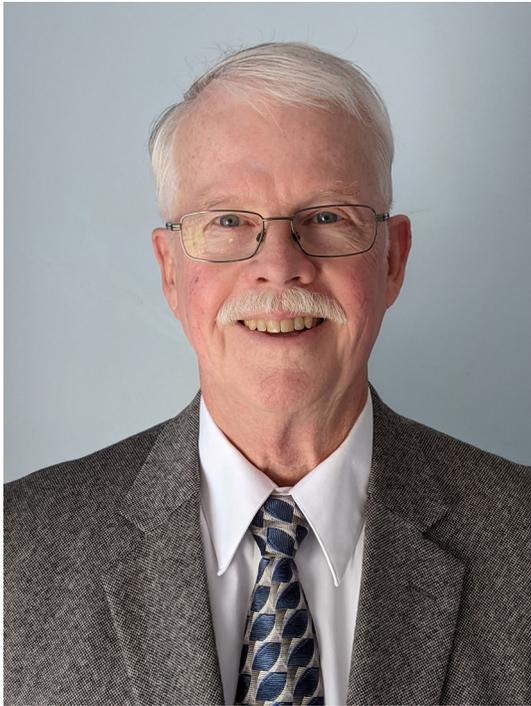
Through community service I am able to share my time and talents while giving back to the communities important to me.

I love to read, golf (although not so well), and travel. I've combined the last two with an ambitious goal of playing one round of golf in every state. I'm currently sitting at 25.

In addition to the ERA, I serve on the following boards: the Lincoln Community Foundation board of directors, Voices of Hope, the We Care Endowment, and the UNL Honors Program advisory board. I co-taught in the UNL Honors Program this fall and served as the co-director for the Mandela Washington Fellowship (MWF) Program last summer. MWF, hosted by UNL's Global Strategies, is the U.S. State Department's flagship program for young African leaders from Sub-Saharan Africa.

As a family, we love to cook as well as try new cuisine. I have a food club with our grandchildren who are old enough to read a menu. We try a different ethnic restaurant each month. Through food we explore different regions/countries around the world. Hopefully, it will encourage an interest in travel as well as an appreciation for different cultures.

My advice for retirement is don't take on too much too quickly. Give yourself time to make the transition and reflect on how you want to spend your time.



Tom Hoegemeyer, former ERA board member
Professor emeritus,
Agronomy and Horticulture

Member profile: Tom Hoegemeyer

After I retired in 2015 I wanted to write some of my childhood memories for the family, particularly grandchildren — mostly to show them the change that has occurred in our lifetimes. That's still a work in progress.

Another of my goals was to spend some time with siblings and cousins. We seemed to drift apart somewhat during our careers.

My wife, Linda, and I also wanted to travel both in the U.S. and abroad. We have been to a number of the national parks in the Southwest/West (Bryce Canyon, Zion, Grand Canyon, Arches, Rocky Mountain, Yellowstone) and several in other areas (Great Smoky and Acadia). We have also been fortunate enough (pre-Covid) to visit Germany, France, Spain, Italy, and Greece.

A big goal has been to spend some time with grandchildren. We have traveled around Nebraska showing them some family history and some of the wonderful sights in our state. Several of them really appreciated the Sandhills region and the “digs” at Ashfall State Park.

Covid-19 has curtailed our travels. However, we were able to visit sites closer to home. The “Nebraska Passport” includes a myriad of potential day trips. Several of the grandchildren enjoy fishing, so we have done lots of fishing (and even some catching) in the lakes in eastern Nebraska. It's a great way to get them away from their “screens” and into nature, providing opportunities for serious conversation.

I enjoy simple woodworking. Since retirement, I have built a hallway table as well as both outdoor and indoor end tables for our house, an outdoor buffet for our screened-in porch, lots of cutting boards, charcuterie boards, etc. My largest project so far was a 6-foot diameter round dining room table, which I made out of native elm wood. Some of our lesser appreciated native tree species are beautiful.

I have been active on a few UNL committees, done some consulting with a large ag company, and have been active in the Elder Climate Legacy group, which is working toward sustainable ag, establishing climate plans, and encouraging forward-looking public policy.

Some retirement advice: If you want to travel, don't wait. Your health – and the general public health – can quickly change what is possible or safe. Take time to plan (with your spouse or significant other) what you want to do and see. And find a hobby that you can maintain for a decade or more.



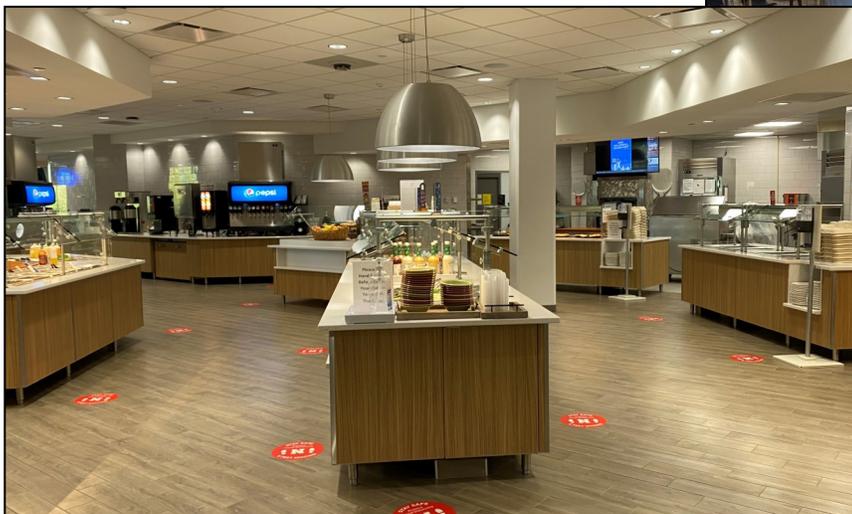
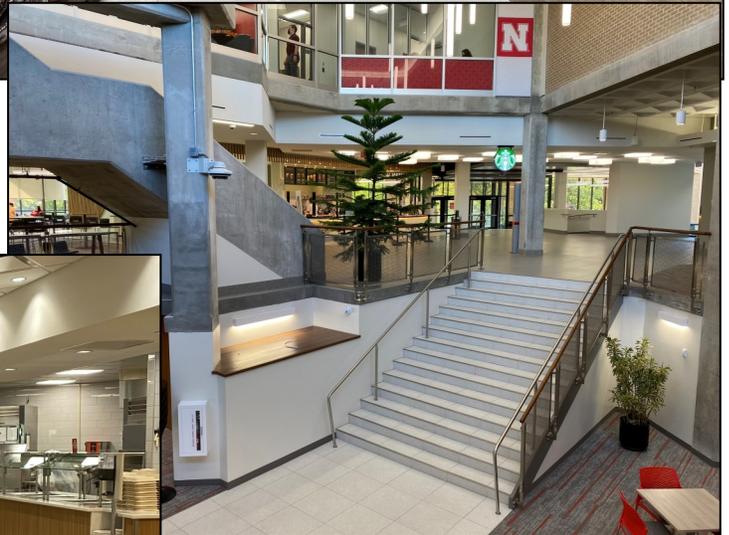
Do you recognize the newly renovated Nebraska East Union?

Members toured the newly remodeled Nebraska East Union on Oct. 19. Many participants commented that they didn't recognize the facility.

The Nebraska East Union opened in 1977. The needs of students, faculty and staff had changed since that time which led to this recently completed \$285 million renovation that began two years ago.

Highlights of the renovation included:

- The Great Plains room was expanded.
- Dining moved to first floor with expanded food and seating options for the whole campus community.
- The Bowling Center was upgraded and expanded.
- A new Starbucks was located at the new south entrance, connected to Legacy Plaza. (outdoor seating and patio with a fireplace).
- New lounges and study rooms were designed to help build community.

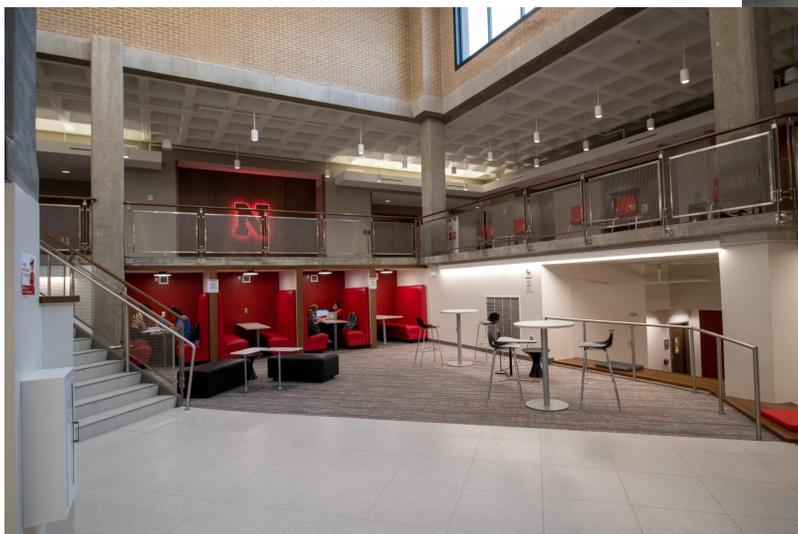


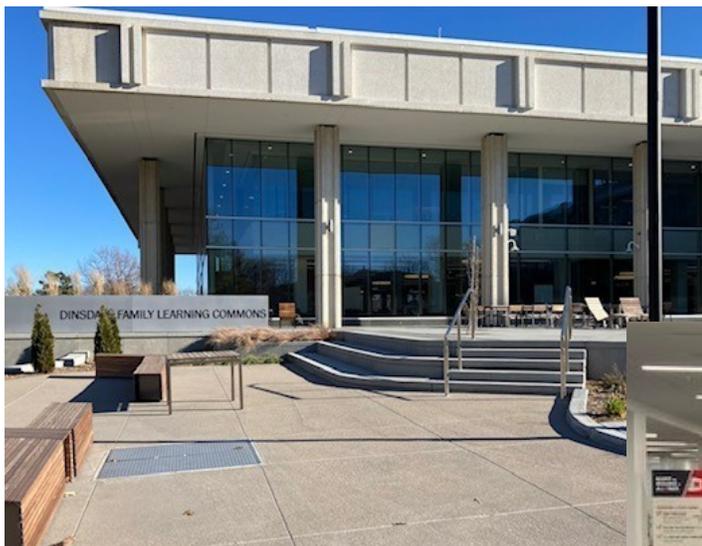


Newly renovated Nebraska East Union

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Administrative offices (Room 331), student services and student study spots in the newly renovated Nebraska East Union are shown in the pictures here.





Members tour Dinsdale Learning Commons on East Campus

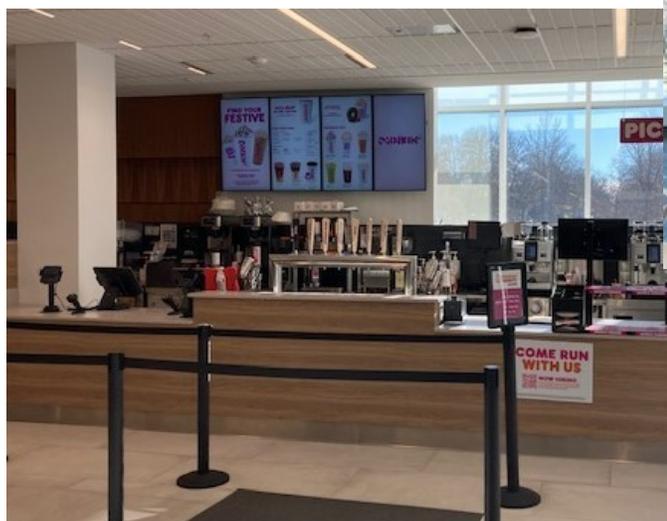
A group of ERA members toured the Dinsdale Learning Commons on East Campus after the Dec. 16 meeting that focused on the UNL Libraries.



Regina Flowers, Commons and events coordinator, explained the various area for student use in the Dinsdale Learning Commons including specific study spaces like the Sibert Study Room..



Dunkin Donuts (at left) offers students a chance for coffee and treats while studying in the Learning Commons.





Be a part of the ERA tour of HuskerVision on March 16

Plans are underway for a tour by Emeriti and Retirees Association (ERA) members of the HuskerVision facilities in Memorial Stadium on March 16 at 9:15 a.m. Our tour group will be greeted by UNL athletic director, Trev Alberts, and then escorted by members of the Athletic Department to see HuskerVision facilities and learn about its operations on gameday.

You will be receiving more detailed information in the next few weeks. Parking will be provided in the Champions Club parking lot just across the street from the stadium. In a future email message, you will have an opportunity to sign up for the tour. This will allow us and the Athletic Department to plan for accommodations and an appropriate number of tour guides for the event. If you have questions, please contact Don Weeks at dweeks1@unl.edu.



Trev Alberts, UNL vice chancellor of athletics, and College Football Hall of Famer, will greet the ERA tour group on March 16.



HuskerVision in action.
<http://huskervision.com>

Support Glow Big Red Feb. 16 and 17.

By Kim Hachiya

UNL Emeriti and Retirees Association Scholarship is part of the University of Nebraska Foundation's annual Glow Big Red. Now in its 4th year, Glow Big Red 2022 runs from Noon Feb. 16 to noon Feb. 17.

Your Glow Big Red contribution will help the Association fully endow our new scholarship, and will enable a worthy UNL student to make progress toward graduation.

We have an incentive for you to participate. Jim Griesen has made a matching gift, and when 20 individuals have contributed, that will unlock Jim's money. To participate, go to glowbigred.unl.edu and search for UNL Emeriti and Retirees Association Scholarship. See page 17 for more information about the scholarship.

There are dozens of worthy UNL organizations participating in Glow Big Red. Please consider supporting them.

Thank you for supporting a University of Nebraska-Lincoln student through your gift to the UNL Emeriti and Retirees Association Scholarship. Be assured your gift will enable a student to make progress toward their degree. **Glow Big Red and Go Big Red.**

Board approves UNL scholarship

By Jim Griesen

The Emeriti and Retirees Association Board approved a plan at its November meeting to annually award a scholarship to UNL students. The plan, developed by Earl Hawkey and Jim Griesen, has the following provisions.

- A \$1,000 scholarship will be awarded annually to a UNL undergraduate student who has successfully completed 27 credit-hours.
- The recipient must have unmet financial need.
- The UNL Office of Scholarships and Financial Aid will administer the scholarship.

To fund this \$1,000 annual award the board established a new account at the NU Foundation and transferred \$1,000 from the association's general fund account. The new scholarship account was established as an endowment fund under development. The ERA must grow the account corpus to \$30,000 within five years. Until that goal is reached, current year contributions will be used to fund the scholarship, and the first award will be given in March of 2022 for use during the 2022-23 academic year.

The ERA board asks all members to consider including the ERA Scholarship Fund in their charitable giving. And to encourage donations, treasurer Earl Hawkey has offered to personally match all contributions up to maximum of \$5,000. The NU Foundation fund number for our new scholarship account is 01157580, and there are three easy ways in which you can help build our scholarship endowment:

- To donate online click on this link:
<https://nufoundation.org/fund/01157580/>
- To donate by check please complete the "Gift Form" found on the NU Foundation website at
<https://26kqacz6uux2oad11ab2pis-wpengine.netdna-ssl.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/Nebraska-Medicine-Gift-Form.pdf> and mail it with your check to the Lincoln office address printed on the form.
- To make a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) from an Individual Retirement Account (IRA), contact your IRA plan administrator to arrange a direct transfer of funds, and then also complete and mail the "Notice of QCD Distribution" included at the end of this newsletter.

The members of the board are excited to be launching this new UNL ERA Scholarship program, and we hope you will consider joining us in making contributions to build our new scholarship endowment account at the NU Foundation. For years and decades to come we will be helping students with unmet financial need continue their college education at UNL.

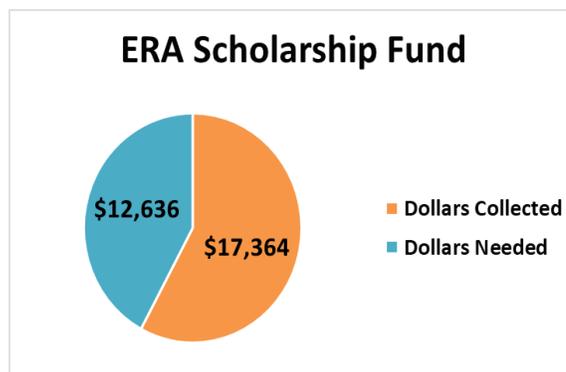
Celebrate our 60th anniversary: donate to the new scholarship fund.

What a great way to celebrate ERA's 60th year by helping a student in need!



Please consider donating today to the new ERA scholarship fund. Perhaps you might use the 60th anniversary as a prompt for your gift and contribute \$60, \$600 or even \$6,000. As of February 4, the fund is at \$17,364. See pie chart below.

Two donations of \$6,000 or 20 of \$600 would almost meet our goal. Wouldn't it be nice to have the scholarship fully funded by the end of this semester?



Consider giving to the **GLOW BIG RED** campaign on Feb. 16-17. Take Jim Griesen's challenge to get 20 donors to give to the fund to unlock an additional \$500.

[Give to UNL Emeriti and | Glow Big Red — 24 Hours of Husker Giving](#)

Donate to the ERA scholarship today!

Future meetings schedule

The UNL ERA board hopes you can remain flexible again this year. We pay close attention to directed health measures for our city and university, and our plans for the location of the meetings change accordingly. Members will be informed of the meeting location and/or Zoom link by email.

We are still working on offering ALL meetings both virtually and in person; details will be finalized during this year. In the past, when meetings were offered on-line, we had representation from a larger geographic area. It is exciting to think we can connect with retirees from across the nation and around the globe.

**Mark your calendars now and save these dates for the ERA meetings.
All luncheons and/or Zoom meetings will be held from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.**

Thursday, Feb. 17	Connect by Zoom. Joe Brownell, director for UNL Military & Veteran Success Center, and Tom Allison, the Center's senior advisor
Tuesday, March 15	Platte River Room, Nebraska Union, City Campus. "Steps to reveal climate history beneath Antarctic ice." Dr. David Harwood, professor and Stout Chair in Stratigraphy, Earth and Atmospheric Sciences
Thursday, April 21	Willa Cather Conference/Dining Center, City Campus, Room-Red Cloud B-C. Dr. Patrice McMahon, Honors Program director, and a panel of students participating in the UNL Honors Program After-School Clubs
Sept. TBA	Location TBA. Chancellor Ron Green, NU Foundation and Nebraska Alumni Association and ERA awards
Tuesday, Oct. 18	Nebraska East Union, Great Plains Conference Room. President Ted Carter
Tuesday, Nov. 15	Location TBA. "History of redline policies from a national, state, and local perspective." Jacob Schlange, assistant director of experiential learning and global initiatives, University Honors Program
Thursday, Dec. 15	Location TBA. "The Genoa Indian School Digital Reconciliation Project." Dr. Margaret Jacobs, Charles Mach Professor of History and director, Center for Great Plains Studies

Take advantage of this opportunity with OLLI



Emeriti and Retiree Association members who are not members of the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) may still enroll in one course delivered via Zoom or participate in one OLLI event during Term 3, which began in late January.

It's not too late to register for some of the classes. To access the catalog and more information about OLLI, go to the OLLI website <https://olli.unl.edu>. You can view or download the catalogue.

If you are not an OLLI member, you will have to either mail in your registration and make note that you are an Emeriti/Retiree or call the OLLI office at 402-472-6265 to register.

In addition, OLLI invites ERA members to volunteer to teach an OLLI course, either building on expertise from their academic field or simply sharing a passion.

Contact the OLLI office if you have any questions.

About OLLI

OLLI at UNL is one of 124 Osher Lifelong Learning Institutes across the United States and is the only OLLI in Nebraska. Offering adult learning opportunities for people 50 years old and older, it is an affiliated program within the College of Education and Human Sciences.

Each year, OLLI offers more than 250 courses and events over five terms, each six weeks long. Courses typically meet once a week for up to 90 minutes each time during the day or evening, Monday through Saturday. Courses can meet anywhere from one time to six times.

The courses cover multiple topics: the arts, contemporary issues, health and wellness, history, language and literature, lifestyles, religion, science, and diversity. Volunteers develop and organize the courses.

The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (OLLI at UNL) is an adult learning membership program for men and women age 50 years plus.

Curiosity never retires!

Call for nominations for the Maude E. Wisherd Awards

By Lloyd Ambrosius

Members of the UNL Emeriti and Retirees Association are encouraged to nominate others for one of three Wisherd Awards: for Outstanding Service to UNL, for Outstanding Community Service, and for Outstanding National/International Humanitarian Service.

Deadline for nominations is May 15.

Members also are encouraged to apply for funding from a Wisherd grant for research, scholarly, and creative activities.

Deadline for applications for the research, scholarly, and creative activities award is March 15.

The awards selection committee includes Robert Diffendal, Rita Kean, Jake Kirkland, Jr., Katherine Walter, and Lloyd Ambrosius, chair.

More information about these awards is available on the ERA website <http://emeriti.unl.edu/awards> or by emailing lambrosius1@unl.edu.

Help Wanted Ad

Volunteer positions

Managing editor of ERA newsletter

Looking for a person who has a reasonable amount of computer skills, enjoys being creative and putting pieces together in a cohesive, attractive whole. The newsletter articles are written by ERA board members and others; each article and the newsletter is edited as a whole by an experienced journalist. The managing editor only puts the pieces together. She/he can be trained by the current managing editor.

Are you this person? Or, do you know this person? If so, contact jjohnson1@unl.edu

Electronic media committee member

Looking for a person who enjoys working with electronic media and has skills in this area. If you are this person or know of someone, contact alfredstark.ne@gmail.com

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 meetings. The following names were announced or received in the past year. According to a new board policy, a \$500 contribution will be made each year to the UNL library fund in honor of the ERA members who have passed away that year.

Fred Baxendale, Entomology Extension and Outreach

Kenneth Beason, Facilities

Carolyn Kay Beltz, widow of Rod Dillon, Electrical Engineering

Eric Berg, Nebraska Forest Service

John Bernthal, Education and Human Sciences

Phil Bom, spouse of Carol Bom, Landscape/Business Services

Jack Botts, Journalism and Mass Communication

Joan "Pedie" Bryant, widow of Don "Fox" Bryant, Athletics

Eunice May Green Buck, University Health Center

Jim Danielson, Nebraska Public Media, Journalism

Leta Powell Drake, Nebraska Public Television, Theater Arts,
Journalism

John Dzerk, Custodial Services

Shirley Ebeler, International Admissions

Carolyn Johnsen Fowler, Journalism & NET; spouse of David
Fowler, Math Education

Clarence "Gene" Frederick, Transportation Services, widower of
Joan Frederick, Agronomy

Nicole Frerichs, CASNR Dean's office

Reginald "Reg" Gartner, Dentistry

Wendell Gauger, Biological Sciences

Lee Allen Graham, Chemistry, NU Central Administration IT

Amy Jo Greving, Landscape Services

Margaret Griesen, spouse of James Griesen, Student Affairs

C. C. Hudson, Teachers College

Lois Johnsgard, widow of Paul Johnsgard, Biological Sciences

Paul Johnsgard, Biological Sciences

Ellen Kapperman, Housing

Leendert Keerstin, Engineering

JoAnn Kimball, NU Central Administration

Mark Koller, spouse of Rebecca "Becky" Koller, Central
Administration

Norman Krivosha, Law

Vernon Kuhn, Custodial Services

Alice Lane, UNL Libraries

Lori Leonard, Landscape Services

Frederick Luebke, History

Jean McBride, widow of Jack McBride, University Television

Michael Molvar, Dentistry

Barry Moore, Athletics

Roberta "Bobbie" Myers, Nebraska Scholars Institute/UNL
Guidance Lab for Gifted and Talented

Martha Lynn Nickol, spouse of Brent Nickol, Biological Sciences

Howard Norland, English

Mary Ourecky, International Quilt Museum

Alfred "Bud" Pagel, Journalism and Mass Communications

Charles Chuck Piper, Journalism and Mass Communications

David Rapkin, Political Science

James Ray, spouse of Reshell Ray, Student Affairs

Kenneth Schmale, Athletics

Patricia Selig, spouse of Joe Selig, Athletics and NU Foundation

Warder "Gus" Shires, Cooperative Extension

Bonnie Sittig, spouse of Robert Sittig, Political Science

David Skoug, Mathematics and Statistics

L. Dennis Smith, University of Nebraska President, Emeritus

Therese "Tracy" Soukup, Registration and Records, widow of
Rodney Soukup, Engineering

Virginia Stevens, widow of Harold Stevens, Nebraska Extension

Sharlyn Stock, Admissions

Linda Tesch, Agricultural Economics

Buren "Skip" Thomas, Mathematics

Ralph Thorp, Teachers College

Joan Wadlow, Political Science, Academic Affairs

Jean Elaine Weygint, Procurement Services

Memories

Memories

Memories



Notice of Qualified Charitable Distribution

Individual Retirement Account

Date: _____

University of Nebraska Foundation
Attn: Steve Hill
1010 Lincoln Mall, Suite 300
Lincoln, NE 68508

Dear Mr. Hill,

I have requested a direct transfer from my Individual Retirement Account payable to the University of Nebraska Foundation as described below:

IRA Plan Trustee/Administrator Name: _____

Account Number: _____

Distribution Amount: _____

Foundation Fund(s) to receive distribution(s):

_____ Amount \$ _____

_____ Amount \$ _____

It is my intention that this gift constitute a qualified charitable distribution. Accordingly, when payment is received from my trustee/administrator, please send me a contemporaneous written acknowledgement that includes the amount of my gift, that no goods or services were transferred to me by the University of Nebraska Foundation in consideration for this gift, and that my gift will not be placed in a donor advised fund or supporting organization.

Finally, by signing below, I acknowledge having reviewed the University of Nebraska Foundation's Disclosure Statement for Donors at nufoundation.org/legal. Thank you for your attention to this request.

Sincerely,

(Signature) (Signature Date)

(Printed Name) (Mailing Address)

Quotable Quotes

Vietnamese monk, Thích Nhất Hạnh, who passed away on January 22, 2022, at the age of 95, was one of the foremost teachers of Zen Buddhism, mindfulness, and meditation. The quotes below might give you cause for reflection.

Breathing in, I calm my body. Breathing out, I smile.

Walk as if you are kissing the Earth with your feet.

From time to time we look at each other and smile. It is the smile of awareness.

It proves that we are happy; that we are alive.

If we take good care of ourselves, we help everyone.



Celebrate membership in the Emeriti and Retirees Association!

Please welcome these new members who have joined since last August:

Patrick Shea, Natural Resources

Leslie Crandall, Nebraska Extension

Paul Staswick, Agronomy and Horticulture

The UNL ERA celebrates all of its 450+ members!

2022 Officers/Board of Directors

Pat Crews, president
Linda Major, vice president, volunteer activities
Kim Hachiya, past president, acting secretary
Dave Wilson, board member
Monica Norby, board member
Don Weeks, educational events and membership
Nancy Mitchell, educational events
Sue Gildersleeve, benefits committee
Earl Hawkey, treasurer
Viann Schroeder, board member, volunteer activities
Al Stark, website and technical coordinator
Lloyd Ambrosius, awards committee
Jane Zatechka, social events committee
Rita Weeks, social events committee
Jim Griesen, social events, bylaws and policies committee
Julie Johnson, publications, bylaws and policies committees
Doug Jose, publications committee
Charlyne Berens, publications committee
Rita Kean, OLLI relations, UNL faculty/staff relations

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
trilliumgrove@windstream.net

Charlyne Berens
cberens1@unl.edu

Julie Johnson
jjohnson1@unl.edu