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Retired Faculty of the University of Florida

RFUF Newsletter



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2021-2022

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Happy New Year and welcome to the Spring 2022 program of the Retired Faculty of the University of Florida (RFUF). We had hoped to return to in-person meetings at the Harn this spring, but, alas, the appearance and spread of the new Covid variant Omicron made that alternative seem too risky. Moreover, the Harn Auditorium is still not well equipped to handle hybrid meetings. Hence, the decision by the RFUF Board of Directors to continue to hold our weekly meetings via Zoom during Spring 2022.



Thanks to the efforts of Program Chair, Saeed Khan, we once again have a very strong list of speakers planned; please see the schedule on page 4. The weekly sessions will begin on Wednesday, January 12, 2022, at 10:00 am.

I am delighted that we were able to hold our Fall 2021 Luncheon in-person at Oak Hammock Retirement Community and that so many of you were able to attend. It was the first time that many of us had the opportunity to either meet each other for the first time or see each other in person after almost two years. We are grateful to Oak Hammock for hosting us.

We hope to be able to hold an in-person Spring 2022 Luncheon in April and will keep you apprised as plans develop.

Included in this newsletter (page 3), is a copy of the statement regarding academic freedom and related matters which was sent to President Kent Fuchs and members of his special Task Force this past November by the RFUF Board of Directors. It was published in the *Gainesville Sun* on November 21, 2021.

This is the time of year when the Chair of the RFUF nominations committee, Past President Abe Goldman, begins to put together the slate of candidates for next academic year. He will be recruiting candidates for President-elect (who acts as Program Chair), and two Directors for 3-year terms as well as a Webmaster to serve on the communications committee. The RFUF very much depends on the efforts of its members and we hope you will consider serving in one of these positions. To express interest or to nominate someone, please contact Abe at agoldmn@ufl.edu.

I also want to acknowledge and thank the current RFUF officers, directors and committee chairs listed on this page for their hard work on behalf of RFUF.

President's message (cont'd.)

Finally, we want to welcome the many new members who have joined RFUF this year and who are listed on page 5. We sadly say farewell to those whom we have lost this past year (see page 6) and send our sympathies to their families.

Saeed and I look forward to seeing you virtually at our weekly meetings this spring.

Carmen Diana Deere
RFUF President

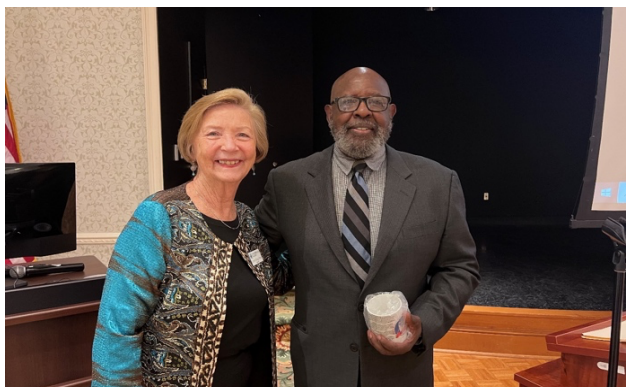
Scenes from the Lunch meeting at Oak Hammock December 8, 2021



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3



4

1. President Carmen Diana Deere with past Presidents David Silverman and Abe Goldman
2. Speaker James Lawrence
3. President Deere with Speaker James Lawrence
4. Members at lunch in Oak Room

Statement of RFUF Board of Directors

November 10, 2021

TO: President Kent Fuchs

The Retired Faculty of the University of Florida (RFUF) Board of Directors is concerned with reports of interference by state politicians and donors in the free speech of faculty as well as in university policy and hiring decisions. This has already resulted in substantial harm to the governance and functioning of the University, the good name of UF in the state and nation, and the wellbeing of students, staff, and the general public.

UF has recently been ranked in the Top 5 of US public universities, accomplishing this after years of dedication to quality teaching, research, and service. Perception that outside actors are manipulating UF's participation in ongoing discussions on health, elections, and civil rights and in faculty hires could certainly yield negative results for all.

While we appreciate that President Fuchs has rescinded the decision to ban professors from testifying in court on voter rights restrictions in Florida, and while we agree with the decision to activate an investigation into the issues, as retired faculty of the University, we question the decision-making process that led to this crisis about academic freedom and political interference. As a state institution, teaching, research, and service must be on behalf of all Floridians, whether or not it serves the specific interests and objectives of the state government or of powerful individuals and interest groups within the state.

Faculty members must have the academic freedom to conduct research, teach, and communicate to the public facts and ideas stemming from their academic explorations and there should be no political interference in university hiring decisions. We are concerned that the composition of the newly created task force to review UF's practice regarding requests for approval of outside activities is unrepresentative of broader faculty and university concerns, and we recommend that as a first step, the task force be expanded to include designees of the UF Senate president and the UFF president.

Carmen Diana Deere (IFAS), RFUF President, 2021-2022

R. Hunt Davis Jr. (CLAS)

John Foltz (IFAS)

Alison Gerencser (Law)

Abraham Goldman (CLAS)

George J. Hochmuth (IFAS)

Pushpa S. Kalra (Medicine)

Saeed R. Khan (Medicine)

James L. Kurtz (Engineering)

Richard Phillips (Libraries)

Robin Poynor (Arts)

Harry B. Shaw (CLAS)

Ann P. Smith (Nursing)

RFUF SPEAKER SCHEDULE
SPRING SEMESTER 2022
Wednesdays 10.00 am via Zoom

- January 12 **William Winter** Department of Pathology
What is Blood and What is the Function of Blood in our Bodies
- January 19 **Carl Van Ness** University Historian, Smathers Library
Why is the University of Florida in Gainesville?
- January 26 **Lisa J. Merlo** Department of Psychiatry, Director Wellness Program
Increasing Resilience with Cognitive Restructuring and Mindfulness
- February 2 **Benjamin Soares** Center for Global Islamic Studies, Dept. Religion & Center
for African Studies
Religious Encounters in West Africa
- February 9 **Sam Stafford** Judicial Hearing Officer 8th Circuit Court, and Levin College of Law
*Maintaining Longevity and Respectful Control During Times of Rapid and Prolonged
Uncertainty*
- February 16 **Kim Tanzer** College of Architecture, University of Virginia & University of FL
The Design of Our City
- February 23 **Samantha Brooks** Equine Physiology, UF IFAS
Genomics for the Horse: Galloping into the Future
- March 2. **Wendell Porter** Agricultural and Biological Engineering
Issues Concerning the New Central Energy Plant at UF
- March 16 **Irene M. Estores** Department of Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation
Becoming an Integral and Integrative Physician
- March 23. **Burton C. Singer** Emerging Pathogens Institute
Navigating Life for Patients with Multiple Chronic Conditions
- March 30 **Bruce A. Goldberger** Maples Center for Forensic Medicine
Emerging Drug Threats-Morbidity and Mortality
- April 6 **Robin Poynor** Center for African Studies
50 Years Later: Spirit Bodyguards of Owe Big Men
- April 13 **Gwendolyn Simmons** Department of Religion
From Freedom Now to Black Lives Matter
- April 20 **Karim G. Oweiss** Electrical and Computer Engineering and Neuroscience
*From Biological Intelligence to Artificial Intelligence and Back: Interrogation
of Neural Circuit Function and Dysfunction*

USEFUL LINKS

Past RFUF weekly lectures: <http://retiredfaculty.ufl.edu/meetings/>

The organizations listed below offer programs that may be of interest to retired faculty. Check their websites for information on their activities and to get on their mailing lists to receive regular announcements:

Gainesville for All: <http://gnv4all.org/>

Institute for Learning in Retirement, based at Oak Hammock: <https://ilr352.org/>

Senior Recreation Center of Gainesville: <https://eldercare.ufhealth.org/senior-recreation-center/>

Sister City Program of Gainesville, Inc.: <https://steve4994.wixsite.com/sistercityprogram/>

United Nations Organization-USA, Gainesville chapter: <https://www.una-usagainesvillefl.org/index.php>

Welcoming Gainesville: <https://welcominggainesville.org/>

WELCOME

Fall 2021 New Members

Member	Institution	Department
Rosemary Barnett	UF IFAS	Family, Youth, and Community Sciences
Diana Boxer	UF CLAS	Linguistics
David L. Day	UF Admin	Office of Research
Alice Freifeld	UF CLAS	History / European Studies
Nancy Hardt	UF Medicine	Pathology / Ob-Gyn
Faye V. Harrison	UF CLAS	Anthropology / African American Studies
James W Jones	UF IFAS	Agricultural & Biological Engineering
Lucinda Lavelli	UF Arts	Theatre + Dance
Joseph E Lowry Sr	Assoc Member	Financial Consultant
Judith Page	UF CLAS	English / Women's Studies
Deanna K. W. Pelfrey	UF Journalism & Communications	Public Relations
Glenn Willumson	UF Arts	Art History / Museum Studies

IN MEMORIAM

Kenneth Anusavice
UF Dentistry
Dental Biomaterials
30 Sep 2021.

Wayne Losano
UFCLAS
English
9 Mar 2021

Douglas A. Bonneville
UF CLAS
French
16 Sep 2021.

William M Murphy
UF Medicine
Pathology
27 Aug 2021

Ray A. Bucklin
UF IFAS
Agricultural Engineering
23 Oct 2021.

Michael J Phillip
UF Academic Affairs
Graduate School
12 Aug 2021

Richard B. Crandall
UF Medicine
Microbiology & Immunology
6 Aug 2021.

Donald R Price
UF Research Foundation
Engineering
18 Sept.2021

Robert J Hanrahan
UF CLAS
Chemistry
30 Aug 2021.

Ludwyk H.S. VanMierop
UF Medicine
Pediatrics
17 Oct 2021

Donald W. Hearn
UF Engineering
Industrial & Systems Engineering
9 Jul 2021.