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2024-2025

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WELCOME MESSAGE FROM RFUF PRESIDENT RICK D'ALLI

Welcome to spring semester with my most sincere wish that all of us will enjoy a happy, healthy, and rewarding New Year in 2025! As we all experienced, 2024 was a tumultuous year for the University of Florida, from the abrupt and spurious departure of Senator Sasse from the office of UF President to the departure



of Scott Angle, a true friend and supporter of RFUF, from his position as Provost only to resume his extraordinary leadership of UF IFAS and tenure as Senior Vice President for Agriculture and Natural Resources. UF President Emeritus Kent Fuchs returned as UF Interim President to lead UF into 2025 and perhaps beyond, while Provost Emeritus Joe Glover has returned to UF to serve as Interim Provost. Nevertheless, 2024 drew to a close for RFUF in a heartwarming and memorable way with a celebration of the Golden Anniversary of our founding as a collegial organization when almost 100 of us gathered at Emerson Alumni Hall on the evening of December 5 for the RFUF 50th Anniversary gala of fellowship and joy.

The 50th Anniversary gala began at Celebrating 50 Years 5:30 pm as members assembled in the spacious entry level of Emerson Hall, renewing old friendships, strengthening new ones, reflecting on past events, and kindling fresh plans and hopes for the future. Conversations were struck up all around while we sipped our favorite beverage and were treated to the classical strings of the School of Music student Graduate Quartet of the University of Florida playing pieces by Beethoven, Mozart, Handel, and Haydn. Later the swinging sounds of Basie, Ellington, and Jobim offered up by the Jon Jackson Jazz Trio, whose leader is the drummer for the Gainesville Big Band, led us upstairs to a ballroom where we enjoyed hors d'oeuvres, fruit, desserts, coffee, and tea and browsed through a dozen copies of the 50th Anniversary Year Book compiled and edited by Robin Poynor and Anna Calluori Holcombe over this past summer, filled with vignettes of the academic successes and pleasures of retirement written by nearly 90 of our members.

At 7:00 pm it was my pleasure to open a program of special guests to complete the celebration. First, UF Provost Emeritus Scott Angle spoke of the incalculable value of the retired faculty to the University, only hinting that in the not-too-distant future he is likely to join us as a member. Next, UF Interim President Kent Fuchs spoke of the challenges to our great university that lie ahead with an optimistic view given the enormous talent of faculty and energy of students. At the end of the interim president's address our ceramicist-in-residence, professor emeritus Anna Calluori Holcombe, presented her own handcrafted RFUF 50th Anniversary Commemorative Plate to Dr. Fuch's who indicated that he would find a place of honor for it in Tigert Hall. Continuing in that theme, UF President Emeritus Bernie Machen stirred us all to the goal of ensuring that going forward the topmost leadership of UF must be entrusted to no one less than a highly accomplished and dedicated academician. Finally, we were treated to inspiring words from former Mayor Pro-Tem of Gainesville, District I Commissioner Desmon Duncan-Walker, who presented to RFUF a Proclamation declaring by the authority vested in Gainesville Mayor Harvey Ward that December 5 shall be Retired Faculty of the University Florida Day in the city. The program concluded with a sneak preview of the new-for-2025 RFUF website, designed and in production by Ms Olivia Campbell, a UF graduate student in Mass Communications with concentration in Web Design. When fully operational later in 2025, the new website, with a format and attractiveness matching if not surpassing all current UF websites, will include Robin and Anna's 50th Anniversary Year Book in its entirety.

A SPECIAL THANK YOU The winter holiday season would not be complete without a performance of Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky's 1892 ballet *The Nutcracker*, based on the 1816 short story *The Nutcracker and the Mouse King* by E. T. A. Hoffman. Thanks to the kindness and generosity of RFUF Board of Directors member and dean emerita Lucinda Lavelli, who has also served on the Board of Directors of the Dance Alive National Ballet, 60 RFUF members were treated to complimentary tickets to Dance Alive's spectacular run of *The Nutcracker* at the UF Curtis M. Phillips Center for the Performing Arts in December. A huge THANK YOU goes out to Lucinda for making this unforgettable experience possible for so many of our members.

FORGING CONNECTIONS The Executive Committee met with Scott Angle on August 23 during his last week as Provost before leaving office to discuss a variety of topics. We were assured that he would strongly support incoming Interim Provost Joe Glover's continuing approval of the \$7,500 annual grant from the Provost's budget to help offset the rental cost of Harn Museum classroom space. Despite RFUF's advocacy for reconsideration of President Sasse's egregious punishment of six students for demonstrating in the Plaza of the Americas over the tragedy unfolding in Gaza, he explained that there was little he could do to reverse the decision but remarked that nothing would prevent the students from appealing to incoming Interim President Fuchs on their own. Regarding a prohibition upon retirement of UF faculty participating in uninterrupted academic support of graduate students for a period of 6 months (or longer), it was his understanding from the UF Attorney's office that this prohibition has been rescinded. Dr. Angle was helpful in quickly reactivating free access to the new Microsoft 365 applications, the migration to which by UF IT in the fall without considering the impact to retired faculty temporarily disabled their ability to work.

A small RFUF working group (Barbara McDade Gordon, Jerry Kidder, George Hochmuth, John Foltz, and myself) has completed revision and updating of the RFUF Bylaws and has received approval from the Board of Directors to present the 2025 version of the Bylaws for membership approval. I have only begun to arrange small group conversations with selected Deans of colleges to explore opportunities for our retired "brain trust" to participate more actively in ongoing research and service efforts in areas of mutual interest, especially in student centered programs. The first such conversation was held with the Interim Dean of the College of Medicine, Dr. Jennifer Hunt, and her chief of staff, on November 1, along with Pushpa Kalra, Saeed Khan, Tom Pearson, and myself. Dean Hunt was very excited about exploring plans to greatly improve high quality mentoring and guidance of applicants to the College of Medicine. Plans are underway to approach the Deans of the Colleges of Engineering and Liberal Arts and Sciences, whose leaders have expressed interest in meeting with RFUF members. Any member with an academic career in engineering or in CLAS is strongly encouraged to contact me, if interested, in meeting with those Deans.

On December 2 the Executive Committee met with Interim Provost Joe Glover for the first time in Tigert Hall for the purpose of introduction. The first order of business was to confirm the continuity of financial support for Harn classroom lecture space, which he did in the affirmative. Dr. Glover reiterated what we heard from Dr. Angle that

the problem of prohibiting newly retired faculty from actively continuing to support graduate students has been solved. Regarding other RFUF member collaboration with the University, Dr. Glover suggested that we contact Dean Nicole Steadman, especially in the case of rules that disallow hiring students from certain countries. Dr. Glover's interest in AI is explained in an entertaining video called "Cup o' Joe" attached to the UF Office of the Provost website: https://mediasite.video.ufl.edu/Mediasite/Play/2c4e038df02f46d795caca68cb5736791d. Dr. Glover further suggested that RFUF approach Mark Kaplan of the Office of Government and Community Relations toward developing and maintaining relationships with individuals, government, and business communities for collaboration in areas of mutual interest. We asked about the possibility of developing real office space for RFUF and Dr. Glover suggested that we approach Maria Martin Gutierez, VP of Advancement for guidance. Finally, regarding the official role of RFUF in the University, Dr. Glover suggested a detailed review of historical RFUF records and archives as well as the preparation of a "white paper" to describe a formal, clarified role. Secretary George Hochmuth has already laid extensive groundwork for compiling archives and is in the process of working with the Smathers Library to catalog the history of RFUF. Anyone with an interest in the past 50 years of RFUF with an eye toward refocusing our efforts today and into the future should contact George without the slightest moment of hesitation. I am sure he would appreciate all the help he can get.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS The spring semester weekly speaker series opens on January 8, 2025, at 10:00 am in the Harn Museum of Art at the University of Florida, with, as usual, a social half hour starting at 9:30 am in the Camellia Court Café just across from the seminar classrooms. President-elect Pushpa Kalra has again assembled a fascinating schedule of talks, including a genuine UF IFAS astronaut, a visit by the CEO of the Gainesville Chamber of Commerce with a sneak preview of the future of GNV, a UF geologist with a partial megasolution to the climate warming crisis, a field trip to Santa Fe's Kika Silva Pla Planetarium, and many other captivating topics. Please see the complete schedule listed below. The spring semester of RFUF meetings concludes on April 16 with our Spring Luncheon and Business Meeting, election of next year's slate of officers and rotating Board of Directors members, and announcements. The location will be The Village where last spring's luncheon was held. We anticipate the charge will be, again, \$25 per person.

MEMBERSHIP As a reminder, annual membership dues for the 2024-2025 academic year are now \$35. The RFUF fiscal year officially runs from October 1 to September 30. For new members who have joined after September 30, 2024, and have not yet paid the \$35 annual fee, Treasurer Bram Hartzema will be happy to accept payment in person at a Wednesday morning meeting. Please complete the **RFUF Invoice for Membership form** at the end of the Newsletter (page 12). Full instructions for electronic payment or mail options are included. Only paid members are granted the privilege of continuously attending the speaker series at the Harn Museum, either in person or via zoom. By the way, if you need a magnetic name tag for the first time or need to replace a lost one, please contact Bram at <u>hartzema@cop.ufl.edu</u> who will order one for you for \$18. FYI, as of this printing, John Foltz, our database coordinator, tells me that our fully paid membership for 2024-2025 stands at 246. However, John will be contacting about 40 additional RFUF retirees regarding membership to bring our total paid membership up to 286.

TOWARD FINANCIAL STABILITY We continue to carefully manage our resources under the leadership of Treasurer Bram Hartzema. A long overdue audit of income and expenditures has been recently completed. In brief, we are in good shape thanks to comfortable savings and checking accounts (nearly \$11,000 combined) at Campus USA Credit Union as well as generous member contributions to Past President Barbara McDade Gordon's "\$50 for the 50th" campaign (see page 11), which currently stands at nearly \$3,500. Harn rental space charges for the spring semester as well as the balance of charges for the 50th Anniversary Gala are already paid.

OUR LEADERSHIP TEAM I remain so grateful to our Executive Committee, President-elect Pushpa Kalra, Past President Barbara McDade Gordon, Treasurer Bram Hartzema, and Secretary/Archivist George Hochmuth, for the gracious help and advice for the past 8 months. Thanks to the advice from the Board of Directors ensuring that our activities this year have gone well. Let me repeat as we enter the second halfcentury of RFUF my wish that we continue to celebrate not only how far we have come but also how much farther we may go toward expanding life-long learning experiences, academic engagement, recognition of members for their continuing contributions in their fields of expertise, and increasing social interactions.

Rick D'Alli, RFUF President

A NEW YEAR'S WISH FROM A MEMBER

Here are warm thoughts Barb Rothstein wants to share with

everyone:

I wish for all of us in the coming year that we help each other to increase our enjoyment of life by exploring entertainment in our area and finding self-fulfillment by finding ways to use our abilities to improve our community.









PICTURES FROM THE RFUF 50th ANNIVERSARY GALA CELEBRATION







RFUF Speaker Schedule, Spring Semester 2025 Samuel P. Harn Museum of Art, Wednesdays, 10:00 am Preceded by social gathering, Camellia Court Café, 9:30 am

- January 8 **James B. Flanegan**, Professor Emeritus and former Chair, Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology. *Challenge of Developing Next Generation Vaccines for Poliovirus Eradication*
- January 15 Andrew Zimmerman, UF Professor of Geological Sciences Biochar: Can Charcoal Save the World from Climate Change?
- January 22 **Scott Darius**, Executive Director, Florida Voices for Health An update on Florida's Healthcare Landscape
- January 29 **Nancy Denslow**, Professor, UF Department of Physiological Sciences, College of Veterinary Medicine. *Impact of Exposures to Environmental Contaminants*
- February 5 Leslie Hendeles, Professor Emeritus, UF College of Pharmacy *Why did Sudafed Stop Relieving Stuffy Noses?*
- February 12 **William Troy Donahoo**, Professor and Chief, UF Division of Endocrinology, Diabetes, And Metabolism. *The Neurohormonal Underpinnings of Homeostasis and How a Hormone Eclipses the "Eat Less Exercise More" Adage*
- February 19 **Roger Fillingim**, Distinguished Professor and Associate Dean, UF College of Dentistry. *Individual Differences in Response to Pain and its Treatment*
- February 26 Field trip Kika Silva Pla Planetarium at Santa Fe College, James Albury, Director Meet at Santa Fe College parking for the planetarium, 11:30 am
- March 5 **Eric Godet,** CEO, Gainesville Chamber of Commerce. The Greater Gainesville Chamber of Commerce: A Global Hub of Talent, Innovation, and Opportunity and RFUF, An Untapped Resource
- March 12 **Rob Ferl,** UF Distinguished Professor of Horticultural Sciences and Inaugural Director, Space Institute at the University of Florida. *Flying to Space as a Scientist-Yes, the time has come for Researchers to go to Space*
- March 19 **Carol McCusker**, Curator of Photography, The Harn Museum of Art *A Brief History of Photography*
- March 26 Student Presentations—ILR at Oak Hammock
- April 2 **Steve Gird**, Senior Director Research and Development, (Retired) Jim Beam Company. *Bourbon: What is it? How do they make it?*
- April 9 **Donald McGlothlin**, Dean Emeritus, UF College of the Arts and **Lucinda Lavelli**, Dean Emerita, UF College of the Arts. *The Rise of the Arts in American Higher Education: A 50th Anniversary Celebration of UF's College of the Arts*
- April 16 Spring Luncheon and Business meeting at The Village, Gainesville, 11:30 am

Welcome New Members Fall 2024

Name	Institution	Department	
Joanne Buhl Auth	UF Student Health Center	Health Education	
Fiona Barnes	UF Business	Business Administration	
Stuart Basefsky	UF Law	Law	
Jacqueline Basha	Barry Univ	Marketing, Advertising, Business Development	
Mark L Brantly	UF Medicine	Molecular Genetics and Molecular Biology	
Abdol Reza Chini	UF DCP	Construction Management	
Jane B Finley	Belmond Univ & Florida Southern	Accounting and Information Tech	
James B. Flanegan	UF Medicine	Biochemistry and Molecular Biology	
Mark J Flannery	UF Business	Finance	
Joan Flocks	UF Law	Social Policy	
Robert G Frank	UF Public Health and Health Professions	Psychology	
Claire Germain	UF Law	Law	
Galia Hatav	UF CLAS	Linguistics	
Adeline Hofer	UF DCP	Architecture	
Frederic J Kaye	UF Medicine	Thoracic Oncology	
Stanley Kaye	UF Arts	Theatre + Dance / Design + Tech	
Kurt Kent	UF Journalism & Communications	Journalism	
Suzanne Beville Kiker	UF Libraries	Acquisitions	
Stuart L Klein	UF Medicine	UF Health Proton Therapy Institute	
Maurice D Levy	Oak Hammock		
Sue McGorray	UF Medicine & PHHP	Biostatistics	
Mary McLean	UF Education	Early Intervention/Early Childhood Spec Ed	

Martha C Monroe	UF IFAS	Forest, Fisheries and Geomatics Sciences
Karen Moore	George Mason University	Social Psychology
Mary G. Newell	Santa Fe College	English
Kellie Roberts	UF CLAS	Digital Center for Speech & Communication Studies
Ann E Russell	Iowa State University	Resource Ecology and Management
Gail Sasnett	UF Law	Student Affairs
Scot Smith	UF IFAS	Remote Sensing and Geographic Information System
Robin Wright	UF CLAS	Religion
William Zeile	UF Medicine	Biochemistry and Molecular Biology
Henry Zmuda	UF Engineering	Electrical Engineering



We regret to announce the passing of these esteemed, retired colleagues. We extend our deepest condolences to their family and friends.

First and Last	Institution	Department	
Shirley Bloodworth	UF Nursing	Clinical Research Center	Died 24 Oct 2024
Clifford O. Hays, Jr	UF Engineering	Civil and Coastal Engineering	Died 30 Jul 2024
Owen J. Holyoak	UF Health and Human Performance	Physical Education	Died 2 Aug 2024
Clyde F Kiker	UF IFAS	Agricultural & Biological Engineering	Died 18 Aug 2024
Joe Little	UF Law	Local, State, and U.S. Constitutional Law	Died 23 Oct 2024
Alvin F Moreland	UF Veterinary Med	Small Animal Clinic Science	Died 28 July 2024
Richard H Pettway	UF Business Administration	Finance Insurance and Real Estate	Died 14 Oct 2024
Arthur Sandeen	UF Administration	Student Affairs	Died 21 Sep 2024
Susan E. Webb	UF IFAS	Entomology & Nematology	Died 29 July 2024

HELPFUL LINKS OF INTEREST

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

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

Institute for Learning in Retirement (ILR), based at Oak Hammock at UF: https://www.oakhammock.org/ilr

UF Health/ElderCare of Alachua County: https://eldercare.ufhealth.org/senior-recreation-center/

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

United Nations Association-USA, Gainesville chapter: https://www.una-usagainesvillefl.org/

Welcoming Gainesville and Alachua County: https://welcominggainesville.wordpress.com/

Extra! Extra!

For those of you feeling an activist spirit in 2025, our new member and newest addition to the Communications Committee Jacquie Basha was kind enough to assemble the following media contacts for RFUF. Feel free to exercise your First Amendment energies on issues of importance to you, UF, and the Gainesville community this year.

- The Independent Florida Alligator
 Main number: (352) 376-4458
 Editor in Chief: Siena Duncan <u>sduncan@alligator.org</u>, <u>editor@alligator.org</u>
 Senior News Director: Nicole Beltran <u>nbeltran@alligator.org</u>
 Copy Desk Chief: Isabella Sanin <u>isanin@alligator.org</u>
- Mainstreet Daily News (A Gannette Publication) Main number: (352) 313-3192 Senior Editor: C. J. Gish <u>cj.gish@mainstreetdailynews.com</u>
- Gainesville Sun (Gannett, Halifax Media Group Publication) Main number: (800) 443-9493 Editor: Alan Festo <u>alan.festo@gvillesun.com</u> Reporter: Voler Thomas <u>vthomas@gannette.com</u> Reporter: Cleveland Tinker <u>Ctinker@gannette.com</u>
- WCJB-TV 20
 Main number: (352) 377-2020
 News tips/stories: tv20news@wcjb.com
 Questions/comments: tv20frontdesk@wcjb.com
 Anchor/Executive Reporter: Robert Bradfield robert.bradfield@wcjb.com
- WUFT Radio 89.1/90.1 Operations Manager: Keith Gretter Main number: (325) 392-5551 Newsroom: (352) 392-6397; (352) 294-1553 Press releases: news@wuft.org; info@wuft.org; <a h

2024 RFUF Kudos

A new Newsletter section for 2024-2025 we call "Kudos" highlights any member who has received special recognition or awards from professional or private organizations for their scholarship and/or service during this academic year.

In June 2024 professor emeritus **Paul Gibbs** of the College of Veterinary Medicine, Department of Infectious Diseases and Immunology, received the **2024 K.F. Myer-James H. Steele Gold-Headed Cane Award** from the American Veterinary One Health Society. The award is given annually to recognize lifetime achievements for outstanding contributions and distinguished service to improve the health of animals, people, plants, and/or the environment.

(For medical history buffs: The tradition of the Gold Headed Cane originated in 1689 with John Radcliffe, personal physician to King William III, who had asthma. Dr. Radcliffe began the tradition of passing the cane to a successor, whom he considered to be the greatest English physician of his time. The original cane is in the Royal College of Physicians in London.)

We announced in our August Newsletter that on August 9, 2024, professor emeritus **Robin Poynor** was one of only two individuals in the world presented with the 2024 prestigious Triennial Leadership Award of the Arts Council of the African Studies Association (ACASA) during their conference in Chicago for a lifetime of accomplishments in teaching, mentoring, curating, publishing, artistic production, and services to the advancement of African and African diasporic expressive arts. Further celebrating Robin's honor, the UF Center for African Studies has established a **Robin Poynor Student Travel Fund** to support travel and research in Africa for two undergraduate or graduate students every year into the foreseeable future. The Center will determine award recipients.

Since 1899 Marquis Who's Who® in America has chronicled the lives of highly accomplished individuals and innovators across many fields including politics, business, medicine, law, education, art, religion, and entertainment. In May 2024 professor emeritus **Robert E. (Bob) Ulanowicz**, UF Department of Biology, was presented with the **Albert Nelson Marquis Lifetime Achievement Award** for his extensive work and publications in the areas of theoretical ecology, ecological network analysis, information theory in ecology, metaphysics of ecology, and dialogue between science and religion.

Professor emerita **Marianne Schmink** has been a volunteer Energy Coach since 2008 with the <u>Community</u> <u>Weatherization Coalition</u>. In December 2024 she was honored for being the first CWC volunteer to carry out over 100 home energy and water audits, which save residents an average of 10% on their utility bills or an estimated \$26,000.

Congratulations to professor emerita **Barbara McDade Gordon** who was just elected to the **Board of Directors of The Association of Retirement Organizations in Higher Education** (AROHE). I refer readers back to the August RFUF Newsletter, where Barbara describes the mission of AROHE and RFUF's role in it.

Congratulations to professor emeritus **Jacob U'Mofe Gordon** who was presented on the occasion of his 85th birthday celebration on October 25, 2024, in Houston, TX, a special recognition award given by Your Black Matters, a non-profit organization whose mission is to uplift, amplify, and inspire the Black race (see https://yourblackmatters.com/). The award reads: "*In recognition of your remarkable life and outstanding contributions to the Black race. Your wisdom, dedication and leadership continue to inspire us.*" The signatories to the award were Dr. Francesca Fajinmi and Rev. Oluwabukola Fajinmi.



Dear RFUF Members,

As you know, this year we're celebrating our 50th Anniversary!

Thank you for your ideas on how to commemorate this milestone and for your suggestions for moving forward into the future. We hear you! And, working together, we will continue to progress.

This past year you called for greater presence on campus and in the community.

The following are ideas that YOU suggested to President Rick D'Alli and our Board of Directors:

- Mentoring Undergraduates from our wealth of experience and expertise
- Supporting some publication costs for post-retirement research
- Creating short-term summer enrichment activities
- Members Yearbook: Who We Are & What We're Doing (it's in progress!)
- Seminar Series: "Creating the Life that You Love" in retirement

RFUF can accomplish these goals with <u>your</u> commitment. Now more than ever—we need funding to sustain our presence and expand our involvement. Therefore...

We are reaching out to you today to <u>Kick Off</u> the \$50-for-the 50th Campaign. Each RFUF member is asked to donate \$50 during our 50th Anniversary.



Thank YOU,

Badara

Barbara McDade Gordon, Chair, *\$50 for the 50th Campaign* Past President, RFUF Questions or need more information: Email me at <u>bmcdade07@gmail.com</u>

Payment Options

Check: Write check to: <u>*RFUF \$50 for 50th.*</u> Mail to: <u>RFUF. P O Box 141592</u> Gainesville FL 32614
 ACH bank-to-bank transfer.

Enter this Recipient ID: <u>Retired Faculty of UF, POB 141592</u>, <u>Gainesville FL 32614</u> Enter Routing Nbr: <u>263178478</u>. Account Nbr: <u>2167551-0091</u>

•Note: If your payment is not acknowledged in 2 weeks, send an email to: RFUF-membership@cox.net

Retired Faculty of the University of Florida

Invoice for \$35 Membership, Sep 2024-Aug 2025

Name	a dine a second second second as a second as a second second second second second second second second second s
	You may skip the section below if there are no changes
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City, Zip	
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Retired from: Univ./Colleg	e
Dept./Discip	line
Would you like	to order an RFUF magnetic name tag? If so, please add \$18.
Badge Name	

Payment Options

- Traditional. Mail the membership form and your \$35 check to the new PO Box: RFUF, P O Box 141592, Gainesville FL 32614. Or hand deliver the form and payment to the Treasurer at the weekly meeting.
- 2. Electronically. Email the PDF membership form to <u>RFUF-Membership@cox.net</u> and pay \$35 electronically by one of the following methods:
 - Member-to-member transaction at the Campus USA Credit Union Recipient Acct No: 216755; Share ID: 0090; Account type: Checking; First 3 Characters: RET
 --- or ---
 - ACH bank-to-bank transfer Recipient ID: Retired Faculty of UF, POB 141592, Gainesville FL 32614 Routing No: 263178478; Acct No: 1090000216755; Acct type: Checking

Please notify RFUF-membership@cox.net if your payment is not acknowledged within 2 weeks.