



August 2023

Volume 48 - Issue 1

Retired Faculty of the University of Florida

RFUF Newsletter



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2023-2024

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Rick D'Alli

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Membership Records:

John Foltz

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

When I retired from the University of Florida in 2016 after 26 years, I was eagerly looking forward to lazy days watching old classic movies and maybe sleeping until Noon on Sundays. Well, *au contraire!* That didn't happen. Instead, I've had the opportunity to travel to Ghana and Nigeria to deliver research papers at professional conferences, publish a chapter in a book on the 50 years of the African American Studies Program at UF, serve as conference organizer and co-editor of a soon-to-be published book in the UF Center for Arts, Migration, and Entrepreneurship, serve on the Boards of several community organizations—and now as President of the Retired Faculty of the University of Florida.



I am not unique among retired faculty members. Many have done much more than I since retirement. Our current RFUF roster of over 300 members includes retired faculty from UF, Santa Fe College, and other esteemed institutions throughout the country. RFUF serves as one meeting place for our members to continue learning and interacting with dynamic speakers. Topics have included thrilling football highlights from a championship coach now UF ambassador and insights into cardiothoracic anesthesiology from a UF alumnus now division chief in the College of Medicine. RFUF members may have "officially" retired, but most continue to contribute their knowledge, experience, and expertise to The Academy, the local community, and to society at large. And, maybe, take a break to watch a movie in their limited spare time...

President's message contd.....

Welcome to the Academic Year 2023-2024

RFUF will continue to serve the interests of our members and will expand our services. We met with the UF Alumni Association to reinforce ways to collaborate in their outreach to faculty, staff, and area residents. We are excited about sharing ideas and programs with the retired faculty & staff association in the UF Institute of Food & Agricultural Sciences (IFAS). We have joined AROHE, Association of Retirement Organizations in Higher Education, which supports a wide range of activities and benefits to universities throughout the country. Our educational institutions throughout the state and the nation continue to face challenges which RFUF will seek to address and help resolve.

We will continue to tackle issues that affect retired faculty as well as the university community as a whole. We publicly spoke out on the ill-conceived Florida House Bill 999 that impacted free speech and education (see RFUF Statement in this newsletter). We will approach issues and concerns proactively and positively: service of retiring faculty on graduate student committees, equitable compensation for teaching university courses, library privileges at consortium institutions, etc. We will continue making positive input within our communities.

Welcome to the Fall 2023 Schedule of Speakers

President-Elect Rick D'Alli has literally been working overtime to put together an exciting schedule of speakers. We will kick off the Fall Roster with new UF President Ben Sasse on September 6. Rick's Roster includes astronauts and artists, a recap of local history, discoveries on the planet Mars, research into Parkinson's disease. We will also tour the Santa Fe Teaching Zoo. And, that's not even half of the line-up from September 6 to December 6. RFUF meets weekly on Wednesday mornings (except before Thanksgiving Day) at the beautiful Harn Museum on the UF campus. Our Annual Fall Luncheon is September 20, at Oak Hammock and features Maestro Evans Haile, Musical Director and Conductor of the Gainesville Orchestra. This is a ticketed event so reserve your place early. You will receive instructions via email.

•**The Fall 2023 Speakers Schedule is included in this newsletter. (Page 7).**

In addition to the regular meetings, we listened to our members and are planning additional events such as social receptions and informative tours of interesting places in this area. Continue to give us ideas and suggestions.

I look forward to working with our team of elected RFUF Officers for 2023-2024:

President-Elect Rick D'Alli, Past President Saeed Khan, Secretary George Hochmuth, and Treasurer Bram Hartzema; as well as our distinguished Board of Directors.

A special thanks to Saeed Khan, who led this ship last year and now assumes the official title of Past-President. Another shout-out to Hunt Davis, past Treasurer who kept our finances in order.

Membership is open to retired faculty and staff from any educational institution. Dues are \$25 annually and may now be paid electronically. (see p8).

Members may park free in the UF Cultural Plaza (museum area) on Wednesdays during the Academic Year. Please request your free Parking Permit from President-Elect Rick D'Alli.

Cheers to all of us working together in the coming year!

Barbara McDade Gordon, Ph.D.

RFUF President

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Alix Baxter
UF Medicine
Psychiatry

Barbara Rothstein
FIU
Biology

Jeff Baxter

UF

Gerard Shaw
UF Medicine
Neuroscience

Ross Dealy
St Johns Univ.
History

Christopher Silver
UF Design, Construction & Planning
Urban & Regional Planning

R. Paul Duncan
UF PPHP
HSRMP/Health Services Research

Isabel Silver
UF Libraries
Library Administration

Margaret O. James
UF Pharmacy
Medicinal Chemistry

Dorothy Smiljanich
UF Alumna
English

Steven Kirn
UF Business Administration
Marketing

Terry Smiljanich
UF Alumnus
Law

Vivian Washington Filer
Nursing Administration
Santa Fe College

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.

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

Institute for Learning in Retirement (ILR), based at Oak Hammock at UF:

<https://www.oakhammock.org/ilr>

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 Association-USA, Gainesville chapter: <https://www.una-usagainesvillefl.org/>

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

IN MEMORIAM

Raymond C. Andrew
UF IFAS
Agricultural Education
Died 14 Jun 2023.

Robert L. Bailey
UF Engineering
Electrical Engineering
Died 23 May 2022

Frank N. Blanchard, Jr
UF CLAS
Geology
Died 22 Dec 2022.

Kenneth L. Campbell
UF IFAS
Agricultural and Biological
Engineering
Died 22 Feb 2023.

Philip Clark
UF Education
Educational Administration
Died 21 Feb 2023.

Mary Kay Dykes
UF Education
Early Childhood Ed.,
Special Ed.
Died 25 Apr 2023.

Franz Epting
UF CLAS
Counseling Psychology
Died 19 Jun 2023.

J. Howard Frank
UF IFAS
Entomology &
Nematology
Died 21 Jan 2023.

Paul H. Holloway
UF Engineering
Materials Science &
Engineering
Died 6 Jun 2023.

Sheldon R. Isenberg
UF CLAS
Religion
Died 14 Jun 2023.

Nicklaus J. Minden
UF Dentistry
Operative Dentistry
Died 7 Feb 2023.

Theral O. Moore
UF CLAS
Mathematics
Died 15 Jan 2023.

Nicholas Muzyczka
UF Medicine
Molecular Genetics and
Microbiology
Died 6 Jan 2023.

Katherine N Scott
UF Medicine
Radiology
Died 16 Jan 2023.

Lawrance N. Shaw
UF IFAS
Agricultural & Biological
Engineering
Died 22 Dec 2022.

Rachel B. Shireman
UF IFAS
Food Science & Human
Nutrition
Died 7 Mar 2023.

Gregory E. Smith
UF Dentistry
Operative Practice
Died 1 May 2003.

Fred J. Taylor
UF Engineering
Electrical & Computer
Engineering
Died 19 Feb 2023.

Leo K. Tennant
UF HHP
Physical Education
Died 13 Jan 2023.

John W. Wright II
UF Journalism
Telecommunications
Died 31 Dec 2022.

RFUF Statement re Florida House Bill 999

The Board of Directors of the Retired Faculty of the University of Florida is deeply disturbed by proposed Florida HB 999. We take great pride in our contribution to the University having helped elevate it to its current high ranking and national prominence. HB 999 will seriously threaten both faculty recruitment and retention, thus seriously diminishing the university's reputation and the quality of education.

The detrimental elements are: (1) dictating what the faculty can and cannot teach; (2) vesting ultimate faculty hiring decisions to the politically appointed Board of Trustees and (3) giving this Board dominant authority over faculty tenure.

(1) The proposed bill mandates a "curriculum that promotes citizenship in a constitutional republic," the vagueness of which could promote questionable requirements for instructional content in numerous areas. It explicitly dictates that the university must "remove from its programs any major or minor that is based on or otherwise utilizes pedagogical methodology associated with Critical Theory, including, but not limited to, Critical Race Theory, Critical Race Studies, Critical Ethnic Studies, Radical Feminist Theory, Radical Gender Theory, Queer Theory, Critical Social Justice, or Intersectionality, as defined in Board of Governors regulation, or any major or minor that includes a curriculum that promotes the concepts listed in s. 1000.05(4)(a)." Censorship of the curriculum in such a manner is not only a violation of academic freedom, but also undermines freedom of thought and speech, a constitutional right.

(2) The bill states: "Each state university board of trustees is responsible for hiring full-time faculty for the university. The president of the university may provide hiring recommendations to the board...The president and the board are not required to consider recommendations or opinions of faculty of the university." This has the potential to politicize hiring and undermine or eliminate faculty input, thus leaving hiring decisions to an academically unqualified board and threatening the principles and practices through which institutional excellence is achieved and maintained. The professional credential of prospective hires is best evaluated by those who have the most experience and knowledge in their fields through peer review.

(3) Equally concerning is the bill's statement on faculty tenure: "Each state university board of trustees may, at the request of its chair, review any faculty member's tenure status." This unprecedented stipulation would undermine the basic concept and practice of tenure and instill a climate of uncertainty throughout the university, potentially deterring high-quality faculty from accepting a position and encouraging current faculty to accept offers from universities in other states.

Through its assault on academic freedom, hiring, and tenure, the passage of HB 999 will negatively impact the quality of the faculty and of education and the national and international standing of UF. It will certainly undermine the ability of the university to maintain its current ranking. The decline in the university's ranking and reputation resulting from adoption of this bill is likely to be far more rapid and precipitous than was its long ascent.

Signed by Board Members, Retired Faculty of the University of Florida:

President Saeed R. Khan, President-Elect Barbara McDade Gordon, Past President Carmen Diana Deere, Secretary George Hochmuth, Treasurer Richard H. Davis.

Board Members: Leon Couch, John Foltz, Alison Gerencser, Pushpa Kalra, Jim Kurtz, Lucinda Lavelli, Richard Phillips, Robin Poynor.

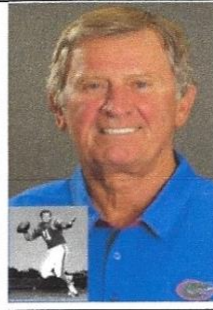
The above faculty members are from the Colleges of the Arts, Engineering, Law, Liberal Arts and Sciences, Medicine, the Institute of Food & Agricultural Sciences, and the Library.

The RFUF Statement was sent to relevant members of the Florida Legislature, UF President, President of the United Faculty of Florida. It appeared in the *Florida Times-Union* (4/30/2023) and *The Gainesville Iguana* (May/June 2023)

Images from our Speakers and Activities in 2022-2023



Rhonda Wilson,
 Founding Director, Star
 Center Theatre.
"An Artist's Journey"



Coach Steve Spurrier,
 Ambassador, Florida
 Gators Athletic Dept.

*"My Career and Coaching
 Highlights"*



*"The Establishment of
 Kanapaha Botanical Gardens"*

RFUF members on nature tour led by **Dr. Don Goodman,** Founder and Director Emeritus of Kanapaha Botanical Gardens. He and wife, Jordan, began working on the project in 1978.

Dr. My T. Thai. Professor, Computer &
 Information Science & Engineering.
"Explainable AI: The Art of Explanation"



Dr. Albert Robinson III. UF Alum 1997. Division
 Chief, Anesthesiology, College of Medicine.

*"A Window into the World of
 Vascular and Cardiothoracic Anesthesiology"*

Nicole Nesberg, Professor, Indian History, SFC.
"Indigenous Florida"



Robin Lewy, Director, Rural Women's Health
 Project. *"30 Years of Health Justice Work in
 North Central Florida"*

RFUF LECTURE SCHEDULE: Fall Semester 2023

Samuel P. Harn Museum of Art, UF campus**, WEDNESDAYS 10.00AM

- September 6 **Ben Sasse**, President of the University of Florida:
"UF: Big Challenges, Bigger Opportunities"
- September 13 **Amy J Williams**, Assistant Professor, UF Department of Geological Sciences:
"The Curiosity to Explore and the Perseverance to Rove: A Decade of Discoveries on Mars"
- September 20** **Annual Fall Luncheon Meeting at Oak Hammock**
Maestro Evans Haile, Musical Director and Conductor, The Gainesville Orchestra: *"Musical Droppings...a few thoughts on connecting the dots, the Arts, and late nights on a bike"*
- September 27 **Norman Thagard**, former NASA Space Shuttle astronaut and current Professor, FSU College of Engineering: *"My Life in Space"*
- October 4 **Kaitlyn Hof-Mahoney**, Executive Director, Matheson History Museum:
"Gainesville and Alachua County: From Frontier to Mid-Century"
- October 11 **Sean Adams**, Professor, UF Department of History: *"Business History is Your History: The Inquire Capitalism Program at UF."*
- October 18 **Stephanie Lyng**, Artistic Director, Hippodrome Theater: *"Spotlight on Hippodrome's New Season and Navigating Post-Pandemic Challenges of North Central Florida's Premier Professional Regional Theatre"*
- October 25 **Michael Okun**, Professor and Executive Director, UF Health Norman Fixel Institute for Neurological Diseases: *"Ending Parkinson's Disease"*
- November 1 **Mary Wise**, Head Coach, UF Women's Volleyball:
"Gator Volleyball: How it Started...How it's Going"
- November 8 ** **Jon Miot**, Professor and Director, Santa Fe College Teaching Zoo: *"Santa Fe College Teaching Zoo: Community connections to a world of conservation"*
Meet at the Teaching Zoo for talk and guided tour
- November 15 **Bahar Armaghani**, Associate Professor and Director, UF Green Building Learning Collaborative: *"A post-Covid focus on sustainability with regard to human health and well-being"*
- November 29 **John Hardeman**, Associate Professor and Interim Chair, Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, UF College of Dentistry: *"Saving Face: The OMFS spectrum of changing faces and changing lives"*
- December 6 **Carol Lewis**, Associate Professor, UF Department of Psychiatry:
"The Art and Science of Mindfulness"

OPTIONS FOR PAYING RFUF ANNUAL DUES

This fall you will have new options for paying our annual dues.

Watch your inbox for the Membership form and full details of the payment options.

Traditional Options

- Mail Membership form and payment to **PO Box 141592** (note the new number), Gainesville FL 32614-1592
- Hand deliver form and payment to the Treasurer at the Wednesday meeting

Electronic Transfer Options

Step 1: Email membership form to RFUF-Membership@cox.net

Step 2: Send electronic payment

- Option 1 – Campus USA member-to-member transfer
- Option 2 – Bank-to-bank ACH transfer