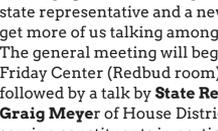


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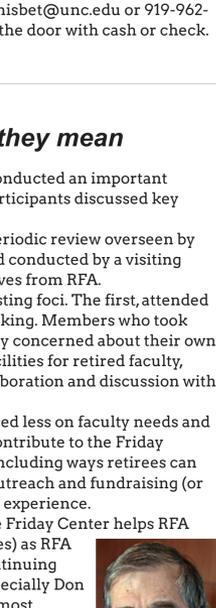
RFA Newsletter
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
Vol. 11, No. 1, February 2018

Get the legislative scoop, then join the discussion

Coming up in our meeting on **Friday, Feb. 16**: A talk by “our” state representative and a new discussion format designed to get more of us talking among ourselves.

The general meeting will begin with lunch at 11:30 a.m at the Friday Center (Redbud room) followed by a talk by **State Rep. Graig Meyer** of House District 50, serving constituents in portions of Orange and Durham counties, including Chapel Hill. Meyer has held the seat since 2013 and is one of only two trained social workers in the General Assembly. Meyer will speak about issues in our state and in the legislature. Then each luncheon table will be asked to come up with a question or two to pose him for discussion in the last quarter-hour or so of the meeting. We’ll adjourn about 1 p.m.

Please let us know you’re coming by following [this link](#) or by contacting Cecily Nisbet at cecily_nisbet@unc.edu or 919-962-1124. Pay for your luncheon (\$17) at the door with cash or check. Oh, and bring a friend!



The President’s Letter **Our events and what they mean**

Two events from last fall:

- President-elect Patricia Pukkila conducted an important exercise at our general meeting. Participants discussed key functions of RFA.
- The Friday Center underwent a periodic review overseen by Vice Chancellor Carol Tresolini and conducted by a visiting team that interviewed representatives from RFA.

The two events emphasized contrasting foci. The first, attended by members of RFA, was inward looking. Members who took part in Pat’s exercise were especially concerned about their own needs, such as health insurance, facilities for retired faculty, benefits and opportunities for collaboration and discussion with colleagues.

The Friday Center discussion focused less on faculty needs and more on ways retired faculty can contribute to the Friday Center and the wider community, including ways retirees can enrich continuing education and outreach and fundraising (or friend-raising) that build on faculty experience.

Obviously, the two foci interact. The Friday Center helps RFA (e.g., by providing space and facilities) as RFA helps the Friday Center (e.g., by continuing education). Past leaders of RFA (especially Don Boulton) and of the Friday Center (most recently Director Robert Bruce and now Interim Director Jessica Brinker) have built strong relations between RFA and the Friday Center. RFA members are key to sustaining this relationship.

Lessons for us, then, are to be aware of this relationship, to seek ways to enrich it, and thus to work for a stronger RFA and Friday Center while also responding to needs of retired faculty.

While doing these things, we must recognize both resources and limitations. Resources are many. Key ones are the Friday Center, our home at UNC; our continuing relationship to UNC-CH, for example, through representation on the Faculty Council by Andy Dobelstein and Patricia Pukkila; and our link through the Friday Center to the various academic initiatives overseen by Vice Chancellor Carol Tresolini.

Limitations include money, time and energy, as well as staff. Re money: RFA is solvent and its funds are carefully overseen by treasurer Jim Allen. These funds derive primarily from dues by RFA members, which are modest (\$25 per year or \$150 for a lifetime membership). Staff support derives primarily from the Friday Center, especially Cecily Nisbet. But Cecily’s primary focus is on fundraising for the center. Energy must flow from the rest of us and, happily, does! Volunteers are essential, and we welcome volunteers to initiate and/or assist in our activities.

Three events for this spring:

- State Rep. Graig Meyer’s appearance at our upcoming general meeting. (Please see the details above.) At a later date, Professor Ferrel Guillory has agreed to join us for an informal “salon” to follow up to Meyer’s discussion. Stay tuned for details.
- The Friday Center reception for RFA in March, which features Chancellor Folt. (See below.)
- Our April general meeting. Items of note are election of new officers for RFA, transition of President-elect Patricia Pukkila to president and presentation of the Howes award and other awards.

Continuing activities:

- ARLIS, (Academic Retirees as Liaisons to International Scholars), chaired by Don Stedman and Bobbi Lubker. It focuses on mentoring international scholars and their families.
- Old robes for new faculty. If you have a robe that you no longer use, consider lending it to the Office of Faculty Governance for borrowing by a faculty member who wants to join the academic processions at Commencement or University Day but does not wish to incur the high cost of renting or buying a robe. Contact Katie Turner (919-962-2146 or katie_turner@unc.edu) at the office of faculty governance in Carr building, who will receive, store and lend your robe.
- Publishing out-of-print but in-demand books by retired faculty and perhaps others. Concerning out-of-print but in-demand books, contact John McLeod at UNC Press (919-962-8419 or john.mcleod@uncpress.org).

— Jim Peacock

We’re taking your advice ...

We asked for your opinions, you opined, and we listened! When the RFA met for a discussion lunch last November, nearly 40 people gathered around tables in the Friday Center to discuss the RFA mission, their own interests and potential strategies and activities for the RFA. What we learned was that we should put high priorities on having multiple voices on campus to influence what is going on (including advocating for needs of retirees), using a space in the Friday Center for discussions with retired colleagues and offering advice about retirement to our campus colleagues. The Executive Committee has started to implement your suggestions:

- See elsewhere in this newsletter for reports from the Faculty Council, including some nice commentary about our own Andy Dobelstein’s address.
- We plan to hold our first “salon” in the Mengel Conference room (Friday Center, second floor) later in February. The topic will be a follow-up to Rep. Graig Meyer’s session at the luncheon.
- We have started to reach out to new members in an organized way. If you joined the RFA this year, you can expect an email message or call from an Executive Committee member to learn more about your interests and to suggest ways that you might contribute.

We look forward to being with you on Feb. 16 for lunch, a conversation with Rep. Meyer and discussion at your tables.

—Pat Pukkila, president-elect, and the Executive Committee

Coming soon: Friday faculty reception

Please save the date for the Friday Center’s annual Retired Faculty Appreciation Reception from 5 to 6:30 p.m. on March 5. All retired faculty are invited to bring a guest and come enjoy this social event. Chancellor Carol Folt will make remarks. Invitations will be sent soon. If you have questions, please contact Cecily Nisbet at Cecily.Nisbet@unc.edu or 919-962-1124.

Other Friday Center events:

- The center will honor Black History Month with a free performance by Mary D. Williams, gospel singer, educator and historian, presenting “Voices of Freedom: Music and the Civil Rights Movement,” from 3 to 5 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 25. Admission is free, but registration is requested. Email conferencecenter@unc.edu or call 919-962-3000. For information, go to this site: <http://fridaycenter.unc.edu/noncreditprograms/bhm/>
- Daytime enrichment courses in March and early April are open for registration: <http://fridaycenter.unc.edu/noncreditprograms/daytime-classes/>

In one program, Herman Greene, who gave a popular presentation at an RFA meeting last year, will lead a four-part class about global warming and the environment. UNC Retired Faculty Association member discount: All classes are \$5 each. RFA members must identify at the time of registration to receive the benefit.

Dobelstein puts life into RFA for members of the Faculty Council

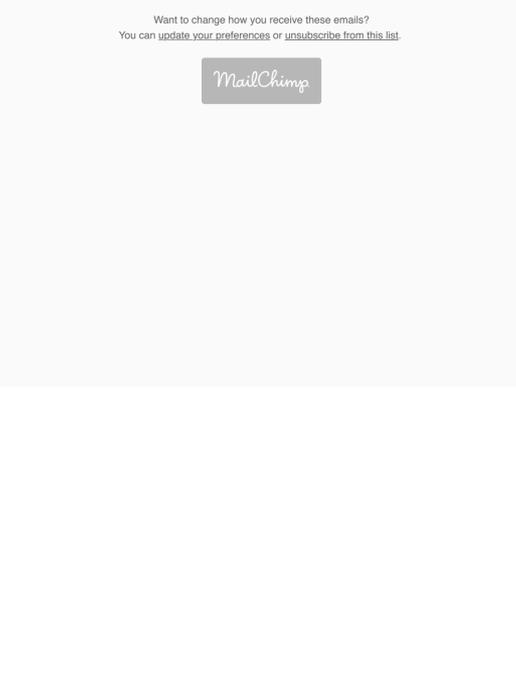
When Andy Dobelstein speaks, people listen. Here’s what he told the Faculty Council about RFA at the council’s Oct. 13 meeting, as reported in the Proceedings of the Faculty Council: “Professor emeritus Andy Dobelstein said UNC-CH is unique in providing the opportunity for continued interaction between retired faculty, active faculty and the community. The present University has been built on the work of retired faculty members. Many retired faculty want to give back and seek opportunities to do so. The UNC Retired Faculty Association (RFA) is contributing to the Capital Campaign by soliciting support from all retired faculty. Professor Dobelstein asked Faculty Council members to explore how the relationship between retired and active faculty can improve the educational value within their schools and departments.

“Professor David Zvara (Medicine) said he did not know that the RFA existed and suggested that information be sent to departments to promote the work of RFA.

“Professor Dobelstein said there is a wide array of activities that retired faculty are involved in, and the RFA is an untapped resource.

Professor Ron Strauss said once a year the Provost’s Office produces a list for the Office of Faculty Governance and the Retired Faculty Association of all faculty who have retired.

“Chancellor Folt said one of the first groups she met with was the retired faculty. Retired faculty have served on committees and task forces. Chancellor Folt said their insights have been incredibly valuable, and it is wonderful that retired faculty are contributing to the Capital Campaign.”



Lifelong learning and teaching at Duke

The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) at Duke University is inviting Tar Heels to join in its activities both as learners and teachers. The institute describes itself as a “place to explore, learn, teach and connect while discovering potential new paths for retirement.” It offers over 120 classes in its fall and winter terms and 80 classes in the spring term.

Although it is based in Durham, it has many members and instructors from UNC and the surrounding communities. For general information about courses, instructors, events and activities, please visit the website www.olliatduke.org.

When prompted for a password, please enter OLLI (all caps). To learn more (without obligation) about opportunities to teach in one of the 10-week fall and winter terms or in the six-week spring term, please contact Beth Anderson, chair of OLLI’s curriculum committee, at curriculum@olliatduke.org.

She can answer your questions and tell you about upcoming instructor opportunities for fall 2018. Curriculum planning begins in early March.

For a print version of the OLLI catalog or to answers to questions about membership, contact Kathy Parrish, assistant to the director, at 919-681-3476 or kathy.parrish@duke.edu.

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