



## Our honoree: renowned pathologist, leader in promoting diversity

Joe W. Grisham,  
Howes Award winner

The UNC Retired Faculty Association is pleased to announce the 2018 recipient of the Jonathan B. Howes Lifetime Achievement Award: Dr. Joe W. Grisham, emeritus Kenan Professor and former chair of the department of pathology and laboratory medicine at UNC-Chapel Hill. Grisham will accept the award and speak during the next RFA general meeting, which is scheduled for Thursday, April 12, at noon in the Friday Center. As recognized in the Howes Award citation, Grisham's contributions to UNC-Chapel Hill, the state of North Carolina and national and international scientific communities have "consistently exceeded the professional expectations for faculty." His long tenure as chair of the department of pathology and laboratory medicine clearly demonstrated that Grisham's "judgment, ethical values and courage in the pursuit of worthy goals" have been recognized by his faculty colleagues and by the administration of the School of Medicine and UNC-Chapel Hill. Although in a very different professional field, Grisham's career clearly emulated that of the late Jonathan Howes, in whose honor the RFA created this award. Grisham was recruited to UNC-Chapel Hill from the Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis in 1973. During his 26-year tenure as chair, Grisham was a champion of faculty diversity, encouraging the hiring of women, as well as ethnic and racial minorities. Under his leadership, the number of women in the

department increased at a rate not seen before in the School of Medicine.

### To sign up for the luncheon, [click here.](#)

Inspired by Grisham's efforts, the dean of the Medical School at the time, Dr. Stuart Bondurant, charged a new committee with encouraging diversity in the hiring of new faculty. Grisham also nurtured faculty members toward leadership roles, with four becoming chairs of pathology departments, including Dr. Charles Jennette, who succeeded him at UNC-Chapel Hill. As a researcher, he trained several scholars and published numerous articles in top-tier research journals that are broadly recognized as advancing knowledge on the molecular mechanisms of liver cancer development. As an administrator, he was able in 1988 to recruit to the faculty Dr. Oliver Smithies, UNC's first Nobel Laureate. Examples of public service to the state and the nation include Grisham's contributions as scientific adviser to governmental institutions (the Environmental Protection Agency, the National Institutes of Health) and the North Carolina Governor's Board of Science and Technology. He was elected president of the American Association of Pathologists and the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology. Grisham also served as a consultant for the International Agency for Research on Cancer of the World Health Organization.

### The President's Letter

## A new leader will carry us forward

"Schindler's List," which many recall, is a film that left us with a haunting afterthought. After saving the lives of many, Schindler wished he could have saved still more.

Even in lesser work, many of us share that feeling of wishing we had done more. Fortunately, with RFA, it is not just one who does the work; others step forward to continue it.

Thus, it is a pleasure to welcome President-elect Patricia Pukkila as well as new members and officers while also cherishing the many who continue.

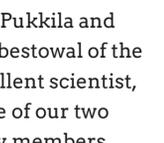
We can lustily greet the spring as a time of new birth! (A joyous song for spring runs, "Der Mai ist gekommen, die Bäume schlagen aus," i.e.

May has come; the trees begin to bud).

Inspiring when sung or heard even when snow comes on May Day, as I experienced in Ithaca, New York, and in Sweden, to remind us of how lucky we are in North Carolina despite climate change.

Back to RFA: Our April meeting will be a time to celebrate several things: succession to the presidency by Pukkila and election of new officers to the executive board; bestowal of the Jonathan Howes award on Joe Grisham, an excellent scientist, pathologist and nurturer of many, including one of our two Nobel Prize laureates and many younger faculty members.

Please note that we've changed our meeting time: Lunch will be served at noon, and the meeting will follow. We plan to be finished by 1:30 p.m.



— Jim Peacock

### It's time to vote for new officers

The Executive Committee is proud to present the following slate of nominees for our spring election. All positions are for 2 years, and those elected will take office immediately after the April 12 meeting.

President-elect: Donna Falvo

Treasurer: Jim Allen

At-large: Ned Brooks

At-large: Marila Cordeiro-Stone

Yes, it is hard to believe, but Jim Peacock's term as president is drawing to a close. We hope for a great turnout for the April 12 meeting, which includes the election, the Howes award presentation by Joe Grisham, and the opportunity to thank Jim for the many ways that he served the RFA during his term.



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## Folt, friends at Friday Center reception

More than 125 retired faculty and administrators heard from Chancellor Carol Folt at the Annual Retired Faculty Appreciation Reception in the Friday Center on March 5. Also on the agenda: conversation with old colleagues.

Spring enrichment classes are underway at the Friday Center. Herman Greene's class on the environment has over 25 participants. On April 4, professor Kimball King will be showing and discussing "Casablana" in honor of its 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary. To sign up, please

visit <https://fridaycenter.unc.edu/noncreditprograms/daytime-classes/>.

### Notes on the RFA

#### Read about RFA's retirement seminar

A seminar on retirement developed by the Retired Faculty Association and the Institute for the Arts and Humanities is highlighted in a feature story in the University Gazette. To date, 24 retired and semiretired academics have taken part in the semesterlong program. To read the article, [click here.](#)

#### Need help with research?

RFA may be able to arrange for a research assistant who can work with members of RFA on their projects. Assistance could include transcribing, editing, library work, etc. If you have some work in mind with which you could use assistance, please let us know what you are seeking. Though we can't yet promise such assistance, we can see what kind of help is needed. Please email [Peacock@unc.edu](mailto:Peacock@unc.edu).

#### Here's a teaching opportunity

Do you have an idea for a lifelong learning course?

The OLLI program at Duke University is holding a workshop for prospective instructors on Thursday, April 12.

The workshop will run from 3 to 4:30 p.m. in the Bishop's House on the northeast corner of Duke's east campus. Prospective teachers will get the opportunity to discuss their teaching ideas with the curriculum committee for OLLI, the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute.

For more information, contact Kevin Frank, [1235panyc@gmail.com](mailto:1235panyc@gmail.com).



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