



Shirley Ort will receive the RFA Leadership Award.

RFA to kick off the new year with a doubly important program

Shirley Ort, the creative genius and implementor of the widely praised and emulated Carolina Covenant, will receive the 2018 RFA Leadership Award at the RFA meeting starting at 11 a.m. on Thursday, Sept. 20. Also at the meeting will be Chancellor Carol Folt, who will discuss the Campaign for Carolina and also take part in a Q & A session. Joining Folt will be her leadership team: Provost Bob Blouin, Arts & Sciences Dean Kevin Guskiewicz and Vice Provost Stephen Farmer.

As for Shirley Ort, seldom do you have the chance to work with a brilliant person like her who persuades others of her vision and makes the campus a better place for everyone. Many of us have "Shirley stories" to tell. Even Frank Bruni included a wonderful Covenant Scholar story in his New York Times Aug. 17 opinion piece described in the President's Column below.

If you haven't sent in your RSVP for the RFA meeting, please do so right now [at this link](#).

The President's Letter (Part 1)

How to get the most out of RFA ...

Greetings, and welcome to the start of a new academic year. I always see the energy of new beginnings as our students return to campus and we welcome new undergraduate and graduate students to our intellectual communities.

I had many conversations over the summer with RFA members and supporters on the topic: "What do you like best about the RFA?" The overwhelming consensus is "the membership." Your willingness to remain engaged with the campus and continue to contribute even after your many years of service, your delight in finally having the time to get to know colleagues from departments across the campus and your appreciation of opportunities to participate in stimulating and significant discussions with experts are energizing for the RFA Executive Committee, and we thank you for your enthusiasm.



Recently, UNC's own Frank Bruni wrote an excellent New York Times opinion piece titled "How to Get the Most Out of College" (Aug. 17). When he quoted Eric Johnson, of UNC-Chapel Hill's Office of Scholarships and Student Aid, about the importance of building social capital "to widen the circle of human beings who know you and care about you," I began to see many parallels between ourselves and our newest students.

Together, we are central to one of the most valued resources in our world — higher education — with its emphasis on inquiry, discovery, creativity and communication. We are needed now more than ever before (see below). I hope you will participate in our scheduled events (see below), invite your retired colleagues to join us, and continue to suggest new program ideas (Brunches at Breadmen's? A multidisciplinary mini-program? Opportunities to apply for grants to support professional travel or publication?). Please send along your ideas and comments to make the RFA even more attractive (pukkila@unc.edu), and I look forward to seeing you in September.

— Pat Pukkila

Your invitation to a special event

Nancy MacLean, William H. Chafe Professor of History and Public Policy at Duke University and author of *Democracy in Chains*, will speak and lead a discussion on her assertion that radical libertarianism has engaged in a 30-year strategy to reshape the American political and economic landscape. Just TWO people, James Buchanan and Charles Koch, were the architects of a plan that is astonishing in its influence, she says.

Nancy says, "I have long thought of trying to reach UNC retired faculty," and now we have a chance to connect. The RFA is co-sponsoring this event with the Lakeshore Lane Political Salon at the Chapel Hill Public Library, Sept. 16 from 12:30 to 2 p.m. There is no need to register—just come and invite your friends.

Nancy is deeply knowledgeable and an engaging speaker. The room holds 80. Flyleaf Books will be on hand to sell paperback copies, which Nancy is happy to sign.

I cannot overstate how important her message is. I also believe that UNC-Chapel Hill could play an important role in crafting an attractive alternative to the Buchanan-Koch dystopian view. For newcomers to the issues: Let's get educated and get started. For long-time activists, please come to share your experiences and receive our thanks and support for your efforts.



Who: Nancy MacLean, author of *Democracy in Chains*

What: Talk and discussion co-sponsored by the RFA and the Lakeshore Lane Political Salon

Where: Chapel Hill Public Library

When: Sept. 16 from 12:30-2:00 p.m.

FREE and open to the public. Please invite your friends.

— Pukkila

Chances are, your 2018-2019 dues are due!!

For new members, please visit <http://uncrfa.web.unc.edu/>, select the "Membership Application" link on the right side-bar, and follow the instructions.

For those renewing their membership, please either bring your check to our Sept. 20 meeting or mail it to:

UNC-CH Retired Faculty Association

The Friday Center

Campus Box 1020

Chapel Hill, NC 27599-1020

Annual dues: \$25

Lifetime membership: \$150. Please consider becoming a lifetime member. The list of lifetime members on the RFA website has inspired many to join us, and we would love to add your name to the roster

roster

Enrichment courses at the Friday Center

This fall, create, connect, and explore in the Friday Center's Daytime Enrichment Courses. All courses are held on Wednesdays or Thursdays at the Friday Center and range from \$15-\$25. Visit [the Friday Center website](#) for more information and to register. The course schedule:

- **Oct. 3:** The Children of Harvey Milk: How LGBTQ Politicians Changed the World
- **Oct. 3:** Move It or Lose It: How to Stay Physically Active throughout Your Lifespan
- **Oct. 4, 11:** Passport to Retirement: Real-World Financial Education for Current Retirees & Those Contemplating Retirement
- **Nov. 8, 15:** Passport to Retirement: Real-World Financial Education for Current Retirees & Those Contemplating Retirement
- **Oct. 4, 11, 18:** Life Fully: Recruit Your Whole Self to Create Your Life
- **Oct. 4, 11, 18:** Zentangle Expanded!
- **Oct. 10, 24:** Ethics, Smethics! Ethics in an Age of Lies and Deceit
- **Oct. 11, 25:** Paris on a Vertical Axis: From the City Beneath to the City Above
- **Oct. 18:** The Archaeology of Qumran and the Dead Sea Scrolls
- **Oct. 18, 25, Nov. 8:** Write Your Life
- **Oct. 25:** Holiday Strategies for Wine Success – Gifting and Entertaining
- **Nov. 8:** American Music: Deep Roots and Sturdy Branches
- **Nov. 8:** 42nd Street (1933): Busby Berkeley and the Depression-Era Musical
- **Dec. 5:** Movies in the Morning Holiday Edition: The Shop Around the Corner

The President's Letter (Part 2)

... The Confederate Monument

"Whether you think you can, or think you can't—you're right"

— attributed to Henry Ford

I imagine that many, if not most, of you are following the story of the toppling of Silent Sam, part of the Confederate Monument on campus. While the act of civil disobedience itself, reactions to it, what might and "should" happen next, and alternative courses of action that might have been pursued are all worthy topics of conversation, I would like to focus on an alternative topic that I raised at this fall's Faculty Council retreat near the end of a long discussion with the chancellor and the provost.

I was inspired by an article from the Center for the Study of the American South, especially "... removing the statue will not, by itself, erase attitudes of white supremacy, eliminate racial violence in our society, provide equal protection to immigrants who enter lawfully, or redress the other injustices that are standing in the way of our nation's progress. Removing a toxic symbol from our campus, however, will free the University of North Carolina to fulfill its promise to facilitate research, knowledge, ideas, and frameworks that do address these problems. Taking Silent Sam down opens the door for reconciliation and will allow UNC to declare itself a true home for all." We have 90 days under the law, starting from Aug. 20 that will be "Sam-free" for sure, and with any luck, many more Sam-free days to follow. So how might we best focus the intellect, multiple areas of expertise and deep concern on the part of historically and retired faculty to address the underlying problems at our "Historically White Male University (HWMU)"?

How might we act in creative ways to catalyze some needed changes in ourselves, in our community and in campus policies and procedures to help ensure that all can thrive here? As retired faculty, we spent our life devising approaches to, tackling, and then solving complex problems, and our campus colleagues have the same drive. Together with the administration, we have at least until Nov. 17 to craft a vision and implementation plan for the campus that we want to become, without the presence of the toxic symbol that might undermine our efforts.

— Pat Pukkila

Save the dates

Special event: Nancy MacLean, *Democracy in Chains*, Chapel Hill Public Library, Sunday, Sept. 16. 12:30 p.m.-2 p.m.

General Meetings of the RFA in the Friday Center:

Sept. 20, 2018, 11:00 a.m.-1 p.m.

Nov. 15, 2018, 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

Feb. 14, 2019, 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

April 11, 2019, 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

Volunteers needed for walking study

Two volunteers are needed for a study in the department of exercise and sport science that is examining the relationship of aging muscles and walking.

Specifically, the study is examining how the quality of your muscles influences how your muscles change size when they contract and how this may influence how fast you walk.

Interested in taking part? [Click here](#) for details.

