



NEWSWATCH

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University Club changing, free to retirees



As part of their retiree benefits, IU retirees enjoy a free annual membership in the University Club, but that membership must be renewed annually. The deadline is Aug. 1. The membership application must include name, address, telephone number, email, former

department, and former title. Email your request to uclub@indiana.edu or call 812-855-1325.

Major changes are coming to the University Club's physical presence. The university will take over management of the space on both floors of the IMU. The space on the main floor of the IMU will continue to be called the University Club, but the doors will be open to everyone. The club will be given priority for scheduling events in the President's Room, however, and the university will provide office space and staff support for University Club activities.

Because it is relinquishing the space on the second floor that included the faculty room, billiard room, reading room, and library, the club's board of directors approved donating the faculty room piano to Constellation Stage & Screen, the new organization that will be managing the John Waldron Art Center. Constellation is a merger of Cardinal Stage, Bloomington Playwrights Project, and Pigasus Pictures.

With a June 1 deadline to vacate the second floor, Kathleen Boggess, University Club house chair, says artworks, cue sticks, china, and silver serving pieces are available for purchase. If you are interested in any of these items, email her at Kboggess44@gmail.com or call the club.

The University Club will continue to offer a wide array of interest groups, which many consider the heart of the club. Kate Kroll, a University Club

member for more than 60 years, says, "I've met my best friends through the club." She is a member of the international friendship interest group and co-chairs the Great Decisions group, go.iu.edu/great-decisions.



Kate Kroll stands front and center at the University Club's Valentine's Day dance in the President's Room.

President Whitten outlines priorities

IU's priorities must be serving students, bolstering scholarship, and improving life for people throughout Indiana. President Pamela Whitten, who became IU's 19th president on July 1, 2021, outlined how she approaches these priorities and answered questions at a joint meeting of the IURA and Emeriti House on May 4 at the IU Foundation's Showalter House.

IU serves 91,000 students on eight campuses.

Students deserve support so they can be successful, President Whitten said. Strong retention numbers are important, as is graduating in a timely fashion. Every extra semester costs students money in terms of debt as well as lost wages. President Whitten also wants to strengthen experiences outside the classroom. To encourage success, she has appointed Julie Payne-Kirchmeier to a new position, vice president for student success, starting Aug. 1. The new vice president, who will be part of the president's cabinet, will be an advocate for student interests on all campuses. Payne-Kirchmeier is currently vice president for student affairs at Northwestern University. She is one of nine cabinet-level appointments the president has made in her first nine months.

Scholarship means discovering, finding, and creating amazing things, President Whitten said. The university is a unique environment because of its commitment to scholarship. When Sue Talbot praised her for introducing distinguished and titled faculty members at basketball games, President Whitten responded, “If students are the heart of the university, the faculty are its soul.”

Regarding the third priority, **improving life for Indiana residents**, President Whitten pointed out that IU, through its schools of medicine, nursing, public health, social work, dentistry, and optometry, produces almost all of the state's health professionals. Yet Indiana ranks 45th to 48th in every health indicator. IU must take the lead in changing these numbers. “If we don't do it, who will?” she asked.

During the question period, Bruce Jaffee asked the president to identify the biggest challenges she faces. She said that for years IU has been spending beyond its means. She has cut \$70 million from the budget without touching any academic units.

IU's budget model creates silos, President Whitten believes. “I have never seen a university so siloed,” she said. Because a school generates its income through the courses it offers, it has an incentive to discourage students from taking courses outside its purview. Gerardo Gonzalez, dean emeritus of the School of Education, and Tony Mobley, dean emeritus of what is now the School of Public Health, both said they believed the academic environment, the relationship among schools, has become less collaborative and more competitive.

Harlan Lewis said that state funding is woefully low, but President Whitten pointed out that every state has disinvested in education. The logic is, “If the consumer will pay for it, why should the government?” She has charged Dwayne Pinkney, the new executive vice president for finance and administration, with examining tuition and fees. “We can't balance the budget on the backs of the students,” she said.

As for the graduate student strike, President Whitten said perspective is important. Of the 10,000 IUB graduate students, 2,500 are teaching assistants, and about a thousand are involved in the strike. Student pay is determined by each school or department, and support varies widely. “There are issues to be addressed,” she said, “but a union is not the way to

go.” She pointed out that teaching assistants have received a 5 percent raise across the board.

Tim Londergan asked what IU is doing to retain students. President Whitten believes that the family feel at IU draws and keeps students. “But we haven't been good at using data,” she said. A new office of institutional research will create a team for centralized data analytics across all IU campuses.

Just about 100 retirees attended the session, 45 in person and at least 53 on Zoom. Afterward, Don Granbois, Tom Hustad, and others gave the new president high marks for forthrightness, honesty, and a realistic outlook.

A Zoom recording of the meeting can be accessed from the Events page of the IURA website, <https://iura.indiana.edu>.

Remembering our friends

At least twice a year since 2008, Newswatch memorializes members who have died since the last listing. Obituaries for Doris Brineman, Marylou Brown, Barbara Bush, Bob DeVoe, Janice Harste, Jennifer Hubbard, Marty Joachim, Susan Lovell, and Trina Mescher appeared in the April issue. Some obituaries had to be postponed. Because of space limitations, only IURA members can be included. A complete list of obituaries is on the IURA website. Please notify the editor (jschroed@indiana.edu, 812-332-5057) of any omissions.

Ronald G. Jensen died in Bloomington on April 29, 2022. He was 87. Born in St. Paul, he graduated from the University of Wisconsin at River Falls and received a master's degree from Northern Illinois University. He moved from classroom teaching to working with teachers' associations. In 1971 he began nearly 10 years as head of the Indiana State Teachers Association. In 1981 he joined IU as assistant to the dean of the School of Optometry and earned an Ed.D. in 1984. In 2003 Ron was elected to the board of the IU Annuitants Association, the predecessor of the IURA, and was president in 2005-2006. A devoted Rotarian, he was president of the Bloomington Rotary Club, assistant governor of the district, and one of the founders of Teachers Warehouse. Ron was an active member of First Presbyterian Church, serving in leadership roles at the local and regional level. Mary, his wife of nearly 67 years, survives.

JoAnne Robb Namy died in Bloomington on Nov. 16, 2021. She was 78. Born in Pittsburgh, Joanne earned a bachelor's degree at Northwestern and did graduate work at Duquesne University. She was a Girl Scout leader at Childs School and served on the board of trustees of the Monroe County Community School Corp. from 1986 to 1988. JoAnne worked at IU for 38 years. She first served in the Instructional Systems Technology graduate program at the School of Education. Then she moved to the Kelley School of Business as the first director of its living-learning center. She also worked with honors and direct-admit Kelley students. She enjoyed reading and handicrafts.

James A. Peterson died in Bloomington on Dec. 30, 2020. He was 95. Born in Elkhart, Ind., he served in the Marine Corps in World War II. He earned Little All-America honors in football at Hanover College. After receiving a master's degree in park and recreation administration at IU, he launched a career in recreation administration, which included stints in Missouri, Kansas, and Indiana. In 1967 he accepted a joint Purdue-Indiana appointment, working with extension agents in 92 counties while teaching at IU. He was coauthor of *Risk Management for Park, Recreation, and Leisure Services*, a classic that went through seven editions. Jim served as president of the Kansas and Indiana park and recreation associations. He served two terms as a board member for the American Recreation Society and received the National Distinguished Professional Award from the National Recreation and Park Association. Janice, his wife of 38 years, survives.

Stephen J. Stein died Jan. 12, 2022, in Indianapolis. He was 81. Born in Chillicothe, Mo., he earned degrees at Concordia College and Seminary before receiving a master's and Ph.D. at Yale. Steve joined the faculty of IU's religious studies department in 1970, serving as chairman for 10 years. He also held appointments in history and American studies. He was editor of the three-volume *Cambridge History of Religion in America* and wrote extensively about alternative religious movements, including *The Shaker Experience in America*. Before his retirement in 2005, Steve received many awards for his teaching, including the IU Trustees Award for Teaching Excellence. He enjoyed camping, nature, and being outdoors at his 80-acre retreat in Greene County. He was passionate about IU basketball. Devonia, his wife of 57 years, survives.

Alfred Strickholm died in Bloomington on Sept. 2, 2021. He was 93. Born in New York, he served in the military during World War II. He earned a bachelor's degree at the University of Michigan, a master's at the University of Minnesota, and a Ph.D. at the University of Chicago. In 1966 he joined IU's medical sciences faculty in Bloomington. He retired in 2000, becoming professor emeritus of physiology in the School of Medicine and of neural science in the cognitive science program. Al developed a technique known as the patch clamp, which allowed the observer to examine single ion channel behavior. He was also a pioneer in the field of plant-based nutraceuticals and received NIH funding to research their use in treating breast cancer. He enjoyed camping, backpacking, canoeing, and traveling. He was a 50-year member of Bloomington's Unitarian-Universalist Church. Lee, his wife of nearly 70 years, survives.

Shirley Gardner Watkins died Nov. 12, 2020, in Bloomington. She was 82. Born in Greene County, Shirley was a CPA and owner, with her husband, of Watkins Accounting. She was a charter member of the Monroe County High Hopes Extension Club. Fred, her husband of 64 years, survives. Fred worked as an accountant at IU for 38 years, retiring as business manager of the athletics department.

Allen R. White died Dec. 6, 2021, in Bloomington. He was 82. Born in Boston, Al received a bachelor's degree in music from IU before joining the U.S. Army Band and Chorus. Returning to IU, he earned a master's degree and was appointed to the School of Music faculty. He spent the next 38 years teaching and designing lighting for musical presentations, including performances in Israel, Germany, Austria, and the Czech Republic. Upon retirement in 2004, he continued event planning for the IU Foundation, Alumni Association, Athletics Department, and President's Office. In 2020 he received the university's Bicentennial Medal. Al also worked in event planning at IUPUI and the International Violin Competition of Indianapolis. He sang in the choir at First Christian Church and was a volunteer at IU Hospital Bloomington's Welcome Center, Buskirk Chumley Theater, IU Dance Marathon, Little 500 Bike Race, and Meals on Wheels. Nancy, his wife of 60 years, survives. She served on the board of the IU Annuitants Association, the precursor of the IURA, from 2005 to 2008.

**IU Retirees Association
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Emeriti House art exhibit opens

The 18th annual Emeriti House/IURA art exhibit opened with a splash on Friday, April 29. About 50 people gathered in outside tents for catered munchies and a cash bar. The works submitted by 24 artists are



Beau Vallance's photograph, "Oregon Greenery," is one of the works on exhibit at the Emeriti House.

on display at Emeriti House. The exhibit will run for a full year, until the 2023 exhibition is installed.

This year's art exhibit was dedicated to the memory of past chairman and longtime contributor John Woodcock. The organizing committee, chaired by B.J. Irvine, included Wendy Bernstein, Jerry Chertkoff, Audrey Heller, Ruth Miller, Sue Stryker, Larry Thibos, Beau Vallance, and Peggy Woodcock.

The exhibit reception was the first in-person event since the Oct. 29 farewell party for longtime Emeriti House coordinator Nat McKamey, who retired after 17 years. Mara Cohen is the new coordinator.

Because of the pandemic, most Emeriti House events are being held online. They are open to all IURA members. The building, at 1015 E. Atwater, is expected to resume regular hours in August. See the website at www.emeritihouse.indiana.edu.

About this newsletter

At its April 6 meeting the IURA board authorized funds for the printing and mailing of an additional newsletter in May. Editor **Judy Schroeder** writes *Newswatch* eight times each year (10 in 2021, 9 in 2022). For comments or corrections, please contact her at jschroed@indiana.edu. To correct your address, please contact database manager **Doris Wittenburg** at dwittenb@indiana.edu.