



# NEWSWATCH

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February 2024

**Next meeting: Wednesday, March 13, at 2 p.m.  
Peterson Room, IU Foundation, SR46 Bypass, or on Zoom**

## Beth Cate to speak on Supreme Court



Few topics are of greater interest in today's political arena than the U.S. Supreme Court. Whenever **Beth Cate** speaks about Supreme Court decision-making, it's standing room only. In fact, the last time she spoke to the IURA, so many people came that she couldn't find a parking place.

As a special bonus – the IURA doesn't usually meet in March – Cate, a clinical associate professor of law and public affairs in the O'Neill School, will share her thoughts on Supreme Court cases past, present, and future. The meeting will be at the IU Foundation at 2 p.m. on March 13. People who pre-register on the IURA website can join on Zoom.

A graduate of Harvard Law School, Cate has taught at the O'Neill School of Public and Environmental Affairs (or SPEA, as it was formerly called) since 2011. She recently completed a two-year leave to serve as Corporation Counsel for the City of Bloomington. Before that, she served as the lead instructor for O'Neill's core undergraduate law course. Cate is also affiliated with the Maurer School of Law.

Before joining the O'Neill faculty, she practiced law in Washington, D.C., clerked for a federal appeals court, and was in-house counsel to Eli Lilly. She was associate general counsel for IU from 1998 to 2011.

IURA program chair **Tony Mescher** recommends car-pooling to the event.

## Retirees vital to United Way campaign

During the 2023 United Way campaign, 208 members of the IU Retirees Association combined to donate or pledge a total of \$280,941. Overall, IU's Bloomington campaign raised \$601,758, with IURA members representing 47 percent of that total. The IU 2023 Campaign reached about 85 percent of its goal, as did the IURA.

Thanks to each member who pledged or gave to the 2023 United Way Campaign. Your contributions are making a difference for our community.

— *Perry Maull*

## Chad Priest: Neighborliness is key in preparing for climate disasters

**WE'VE BEEN IN  
UNPRECEDENTED TIMES  
FOR SOME TIME**

"We've been in unprecedented times for some time," **Chad Priest** told about 40 retirees who gathered on Valentine's Day at the IU Foundation and on Zoom.

The number of extreme weather events with catastrophic impact has soared. Climate-related disasters used to occur on average four times a year. Now disasters of hurricane magnitude occur every 16 days.

Climate affects where people are living and moving. “A massive number of displacements are happening across the world,” Priest said. Many are fleeing despotic regimes and wars, but others are moving because of climate disasters. In recent years, he explained, there have been a record number of billion-dollar emergencies. “The Red Cross is adapting our mission to alleviate suffering from extreme weather,” said Priest, who is vice president of the American Red Cross’s Southwest and Rocky Mountain division.

A key factor in coping with emergencies is resilience, the toughness required to recover quickly from difficulties. Priest outlined five characteristics of resilient communities.

Before the emergency, what was the physical and psychological health of the community? “Your genetic code is less predictive of your health than is your ZIP code,” Priest said. Life expectancy in the United States has fallen to 78.9 years, while in Canada it is 82.1. Even within the same city, life expectancy varies widely. In New Orleans, for example, someone living in the suburbs can expect to live to 80, while an inner-city resident’s life expectancy is 55. The difference in Indianapolis is also striking. Residents in the suburbs to the north have a life expectancy of 83.5, compared to 69.4 for those in the inner city.

The second characteristic is social and economic equity and well-being. Each of us must have agency in times of crisis. Disenfranchised people are disenfranchised in many ways. Individual members of the community should not be viewed as helpless, panicked, and unavoidably reactive in the face of a disaster.

Effective risk communication is vital. “Humans are stupid when it comes to risk,” Priest said. The total number of people who died of Ebola in West Africa is smaller than the number of people who died each day in New York City at the height of the coronavirus pandemic, which some people still do not consider a public health emergency. Priest explained that it’s difficult to raise funds for flood relief because people blame the victim: “You should live elsewhere.”

Integration of organizations is also essential to resilience. The nature of the way humans interact has changed. “Community, when done right, means that

people feel seen and heard, that all voices are respected.”

The final characteristic of resilience is social cohesion, how people are connected. “Cell phones mean we’re often apart even when we’re together,” Priest pointed out. Neighborliness is paramount. It can result in lifesaving intervention.

All communities can strengthen their ability to rebound from climate catastrophes. What can a single individual do to foster resilience? Priest named four actions:

1. Know and care for your neighbor. He gave this action top billing.
2. Volunteer.
3. Give blood. “I’m contractually obligated to say this,” Priest said with a grin. The reality is that only 3 percent of people give blood, and about half of donated blood comes from the Red Cross.
4. Donate – not just to the Red Cross but also to community organizations that are helping people in distress.

IURA President **Joyce Krothe** introduced the speaker, who said he was honored to be invited by his dean and mentor. Priest explained that he was the last graduate in the last class to receive a master’s degree in community health from the School of Nursing. (Although he’s also an attorney, he said he introduces himself as a nurse because “people like nurses more than lawyers.”) He spoke of his deep IU roots. His daughter is a freshman living at Collins LLC.

A video recording of the meeting can be accessed at the IURA website.



**Before the meeting on Valentine’s Day, IURA Vice President Perry Maul, Treasurer Anita Douglas, and President Joyce Krothe smile for a photo.**

## Prepare now for annual Call for Art

Are you making interesting things in retirement? Even if your career wasn't in the arts, consider yourself an artist for the purposes of the annual art exhibit at Emeriti House. Details will come in the annual Call for Art (watch for emails and the March *Newswatch*). The exhibit is a joint project of Emeriti House and the IURA.

Each person may submit (in person, at Emeriti House) up to two works. The deadline is Monday, April 15, and the exhibit opens with a reception on Friday, April 19. Work may be in almost any visual medium: photography, painting, print, collage, quilting, knitwear, sculpture, mobile, ceramics, glass, assemblage, various mixed media, computer graphics. If you made it, it qualifies.

This is not a juried exhibit. No judges will award prizes, and all submissions that fit in the space will be installed (although some editing may be required so that each artist is represented). Artists set prices if a work is for sale. No commission is taken, although monetary donations to the IU Foundation's Emeriti House and IURA accounts are always welcome. Most works reflect lifelong hobbies or post-retirement interests of retirees whose careers were not in the arts.



The exhibit is not installed in a formal gallery but simply decorates the walls on the main floor of Emeriti House, serving as artistic backdrop to Emeriti House events until the following year's exhibit goes up. The committee welcomes more participation by IURA members, including people who have not exhibited in the past. Please think about what you can

submit this spring – artwork you made a while ago, or pieces made specifically for this exhibit.

Questions? Contact me, the exhibit committee chair, at [evallanc@gmail.com](mailto:evallanc@gmail.com).

— Beau Vallance

## Tired editor pleads for HELP!

I think it's time for me to retire – or at least get some help. When I began my term as IURA secretary in August 2007, I became the newsletter editor. Because editing the newsletter was part of the secretary's duties, since the IURA began in 1976, no one had served as secretary/editor for more than three years.

When my term ended in April 2010, the board wasn't able to find anyone willing to be secretary. In 2010-11, therefore, there was no newsletter. By default, database manager **Gerald Marker** provided whatever communication was necessary.

Out of sympathy for Gerald, I agreed to edit the newsletter again, starting in August 2011. The bylaws were rewritten to separate the duties of the secretary and the newsletter editor. Well, 13 years later, I'm still the editor. I've had invaluable proofreading help and occasional guest articles from numerous people, and I'm grateful. But will someone please volunteer to replace – or at least assist – me?

A new editor does *not* have to do it the way I've been doing it for 16 years – and certainly not for the same length of time. The newsletter could have multiple editors, with each person editing a single issue. Or someone could volunteer to report on one month's program. Or responsibilities could be divided between writing and design. I'm open to suggestions. It's time for me to retire – or at least get some HELP!

— Judy Schroeder

## Looking ahead to April, May ...

On April 10, **Glenn Gass**, Jacobs School professor emeritus, will present a program commemorating the 60th anniversary of the Beatles taking America by storm. Emeriti House and University Club members have been invited to join us in the Peterson Room at the IU Foundation and also on Zoom. After the program, the IURA will hold its annual meeting, which includes the election of new board members.

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On May 8, retirees will gather at Meadowood Senior Living Community to celebrate the end of the academic year with a festive luncheon. IURA member **Wendy Elliot** will provide background piano music for the event. Look for reservation forms in future newsletters.

### **One Mail coming: it's more secure**

Ever wonder why some people use an iu.edu address while others use indiana.edu? By the end of next year, you won't have to wonder. Over the next two years, all IU campuses will transition to a single domain: iu.edu.

The One Mail project will improve email security, making it easier to protect users from cyber threats. IU's more than 250,000 valid email addresses receive more than 500 million spam messages each year. According to UITs, using a single email domain across all campuses will radically improve cyber security.

How will this affect you? As of Jan. 1, all new members of the IU community have been offered only iu.edu accounts. If you have an indiana.edu address, your mail is currently being forwarded to your iu.edu inbox. Emails addressed to you at iu.edu will arrive in your indiana.edu inbox until you have made the transition to iu.edu.

If you're an indiana.edu user, it would be wise to move to iu.edu soon and to gradually change your email address with people and organizations that send you email. By the end of 2025, all addresses *must* be changed to iu.edu. At that time, indiana.edu will cease to exist. No emails from it will be forwarded.

To avoid missing email, anyone with an indiana.edu address eventually will need to follow the steps in the Knowledge Base document Prepare for One Mail, <https://kb.iu.edu/d/birs>. More information about the One Mail project can be found at <https://go.iu.edu/onemail>.

### **About this newsletter**

*Newswatch* is published at least eight times each year, nine times in 2023-24. With this issue the newsletter is being sent by email to those who have requested that delivery option. A major portion of the dues of the IURA's 378 members goes to production and mailing costs.

Send address corrections to database manager **Doris Wittenburg**, [dwittenb@iu.edu](mailto:dwittenb@iu.edu). For corrections or suggestions about newsletter content, please contact writer/editor **Judy Schroeder**, [jschroed@iu.edu](mailto:jschroed@iu.edu). Photos (except Beth Cate's) are courtesy of **Beau Vallance**.