



## **OFFICERS** 2025-2026

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### **Summer Events**

Barbara McDade Gordon

## **WELCOME MESSAGE FROM RFUF PRESIDENT PUSHPA KALRA**

Welcome to a new academic year-our 51st year. Established in 1974 we have just concluded our Golden Anniversary celebrations under the enthusiastic guidance of past President, Rick D'Alli. We started our celebrations with a social evening at the Kanapaha Botanical Gardens and held a dinner gala with live music at Emerson Alumni Hall in December. Both events were enthusiastically received by the members, as also were our weekly lectures. Each Wednesday saw a full house of attendees at the Harn Museum of Art for a lecture and discussion. Summer programs, initiated this year under the leadership of Past President Barbara McDade Gordon, were well received. We will continue with new trips and activities every summer.



We plan to continue and grow this enthusiastic support, however, a major change for RFUF this year will be our meeting venue. The planned renovation/construction at The Harn Museum necessitates our relocation. President-Elect Robin Poynor, Past President Rick D'Alli and I scouted several locations on campus and in town this summer. I am pleased to report that we have found not one but two beautiful venues.

Our fall meetings, starting on Wednesday, September 3, will be held at the TREEO Center at 3900 SW 63rd Blvd (east of The Veterans Memorial Park off Tower Rd.) There is ample parking, and no parking permits are required. The weekly rental is one-half of that at the Harn. We are grateful that the provost's office will once again cover this cost. The facility has A-V and Zoom equipment. I am currently looking to hire an intern to operate this smoothly. If you know of any knowledgeable student willing to work for two hours a week, please let me know. Coffee and pastries will be available at 9:30 am prior to the lectures at 10:00am. However, we must prepare our coffee and bring in the pastries. Bear with us as we work out the glitches in this endeavor.

President-Elect Robin Poynor has put together an exciting and interesting series of lectures and a field trip. These are listed on page 3 in this Newsletter. Mark your calendars for the Fall luncheon meeting on September 17 at Oak Hammock. More information on this will be sent out later.

Our website has undergone an overhaul and has been updated by web designer Olivia Campbell in consultation with Rick D'Alli. Check out our beautiful new website at [retiredfaculty.ufl.edu](http://retiredfaculty.ufl.edu). Here you will find recordings of weekly lectures, RFUF position papers and past Newsletters. Also included is the 50th Anniversary Yearbook, a compilation of vignettes written by members and edited by President-Elect Robin Poynor and Board Director Anna Calluori Holcombe.

During the past year the University of Florida has been undergoing an upheaval, both in leadership and in policy. The RFUF Board has written letters to Interim-President Fuchs, the UF Trustees and Florida legislators protesting some of the changes. The letters are posted on our website. Our latest letter protesting the presence of ICE on campus was published in 16 newspapers throughout Florida. It is included on page 11 in this Newsletter. Thanks to Rick D'Alli and Steve Lodle for preparing this letter and to Steve Lodle and Jacqueline Basha for their unrelenting efforts to widely disseminate it. We will continue to make our voices heard in the face of egregious policy changes.

On a brighter note, I am happy to report that AROHE, the national organization of Retirees in Higher Education, has elected to hold their 2026 biennial meeting in Gainesville. Hosting this meeting will bring RFUF national recognition and enhanced prestige. We are thankful to past President Barbara McDade Gordon, AROHE Board member, for her efforts in bringing this about. See Barbabra's note on page 9 in this newsletter.

I am deeply honored to serve as President and will do my best to uphold the traditions of RFUF and UF, our home. I welcome your suggestions and know that I can count on each and every one of you for help.

*Pushpa Kalra*

**RFUF Speakers Schedule: Fall Semester 2025**  
**UF TREEO Center, Wednesdays, 10:00 am**  
**Preceded by social gathering at 9:30 am, TREEO Reception Area**

- September 3 **Maya Stanfield-Mazzi**, Professor of Art History, UF School of Art + Art History. *Searching for the Secular in Potosí, Bolivia, the World's First Global City*
- September 10 **Jeffrey Adler**, Professor of History, UF Department of History. *The Rule of Law and the Shadow of Jim Crow* (via Zoom)
- September 17 **Fall Luncheon at Oak Hammock** with **Don McGlothlin & Lucinda Lavelli**, Former Deans of the UF College of the Arts. *The Rise of the Arts in American Higher Education: Celebrating the 50th Anniversary of UF'S College of the Arts*
- September 24 **Eric Segal**, Director of Education and Curator of Academic Programs, Harn Museum of Art. *Inventing Museum Goers: The Subtle Art of Making Everyone Happy in the Museum*
- October 1 **Field trip to Paynes Prairie (meeting point TBA)**
- October 8 **Richard Heipp**, Professor Emeritus, UF School of Art + Art History. *Public Art / Personal Art : Process, Product and Creativity*
- October 15 **Kim Tanzer**, former Dean and Edward E. Elson Professor of Architecture, University of Virginia School of Architecture. *City of Networks: Gainesville's Urbanism*
- October 23 **Gifford Waters**, Archaeologist and Historical Archaeology Collection Manager, Florida Museum of Natural History. *17th Century Spanish Mission in Our Own Backyard: Archaeology and History of Mission San Francisco de Potano*
- October 29 **Kati Migliaccio**, Dean and Professor, Agricultural and Biological Engineering, IFAS. *The UF AI Blue Sky Initiative*
- November 7 **Veronica Robleto**, Director of the Rural Women's Health Project, Gainesville, Florida. *Current Immigrant Realities in North Central Florida and What I Can Do to Help*
- November 12 **Stan Kaye**, Professor Emeritus, UF School of Theatre + Dance. *Journey on Waves of Light: Theater, Museums, & the Art of Consultation*
- November 19 **Tammy Y Euliano**, Professor of Anesthesiology and Associate Professor of Obstetrics & Gynecology and Physiology & Functional Genomics, UF College of Medicine. *The next chapter: Fiction Writing as an Encore Career.*
- December 3 **Alvaro Lima**, Assistant Professor, UF School of Art + Art History. *Avenue of the People's War: Maputo as Visual Battleground*

## Welcome New Members

Name	Institution	Department
Michael Conlon	UF Medicine	Biostatistics
Li Lu	UF Medicine	Pathology
Brij M. Moudgil	UF Engineering	Materials Science & Engineering
Joanna Peris	UF Pharmacy	Pharmacodynamics
Gail Sasnett	UF Law	Student Affairs
Pierre Sikivie	UF CLAS	Physics

## RFUF Annual Dues for 2025-2026

Annual dues of \$35 per person are now due for the membership year that runs September 1 to August 30. Like last year, you may pay by cash, check, or bank-to-bank electronic transfer (no credit cards). The membership form and payment details will soon be sent via email. Watch your inbox and please reply by September 30.

## LINKS OF INTEREST

**Past and present RFUF weekly lectures:**

<https://retiredfaculty.ufl.edu/meetings/>

**Institute for Learning in Retirement (ILR), based at Oak Hammock at UF:**

<https://www.oakhammock.org/ilr>

**Senior Recreation Center of Gainesville:**

<https://eldercare.ufhealth.org/senior-recreation-center/>

**Sister City Program of Gainesville, Inc.:**

<https://steve4994.wixsite.com/sistercityprogram/>

**United Nations Association-USA, Gainesville chapter:**

<https://www.una-usagainesvillefl.org/>

**RFUF Weekly Zoom Meetings**

<https://ufl.zoom.us/j/99476690144?pwd=1qpyOQ9XSaS41qiOEmlZf2CJcHFtDw.1>

## IN MEMORIAM

We regret to announce the passing of these esteemed, retired colleagues.

We extend our deepest condolences to their family and friends.

Person	Institution	Department	Date of Death
Glenn A. Acomb	UF Design, Construction and Planning	Landscape Architecture	24 Feb 2025
Michael J. Burridge	UF Veterinary Medicine	Epidemiology	21 Mar 2025
Stanley Dermott	UF CLAS	Astronomy	20 May 2025
Donald Dewsbury	UF CLAS	Psychology	26 Mar 2025
David Drake	UF CLAS	Mathematics	14 Feb 2025
William McNair Fox	UF Business	Management and Organizational Behavior	4 Dec 2024
Jack L Fry	UF IFAS	Animal Science	30 Jan 2025
Carol V. Hayes-Christiansen	UF Health	College of Nursing	19 Mar 2025
Chen-Chi Hsu	UF Engineering	Mechanical & Aerospace Engineering	22 Mar 2025
Rolf E. Hummel	UF Engineering	Materials Science	24 Mar 2025
Craig Sims Kitchens	UF Medicine	Internal Medicine	24 Mar 2025
James W. Knight	UF Continuing Education	Correspondence Study Program	22 Feb 2025
Lee J. Mullally	UF Education	Instructional Design	28 May 2025
Frank G. Nordlie	UF CLAS	Zoology	12 Feb 2025
Jill E. Peterson	UF Engineering	Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering	5 Aug 2025
Pete Sherrard	UF Education	Counselor Education	1 Mar 2025
Terrence S. Small	UF Arts	School of Music	21 Feb 2025
David C. Smith	UF Education	Teacher Education	10 Mar 2025
James L. Terhune	UF Journalism	Advertising, Public Relations	30 Dec 2024
Robin Adair Wallace	UF Medicine	Anatomy & Cell Biology	7 Feb 2025

### **Highlights from Summer 2025 Presentations**

I want to salute our Summer Activities Committee: Pushpa Kalra, George Hochmuth, Susan Cooksey, Anna Calluori Holcombe, Barbara Rothstein, Don Goodman, Jordan Goodman, and Bram Hartzema. And a BIG thank-you to Membership Records Chair John Foltz, who designed an effective/easy-to-use RSVP email process, and to Communications Chair Steve Lodle for stepping in to continue it to the final activity. There were eight scheduled events with very good attendance at each. So, if it's your wish, we will have a Summer Activities Calendar 2026. – Barbara Mc Dade Gordon

Kanapaha Opening Event with speaker Robert Hutchinson



GRU Water Reclamation Tour



Matheson Museum Tour





## Appleton Museum Tour



## UF Honeybee Lab



## UF Space Plants Lab



## Historic Haile Homestead Visit



Our final Summer Activity was August 13. We returned to the beautiful Kanapaha Botanical Gardens for a picnic. Instead of outside speakers, we wanted to hear from our own. President-Elect Robin Poynor selected six RFUF members who delivered spirited discourses on the theme, "What I Did This Summer 2025." They were: Marité Rodrigues Haynes, Jon Graham, Regina Bussing, Michael Fields, Jacob U'Mofe Gordon, and Saeed Khan.

End-of-Summer Picnic at KBG



## 2025 RFUF Kudos

A new Newsletter section we call "Kudos" highlights any and all members who have received special recognition or awards from professional or private organizations for their service.

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One of our recently deceased and longtime RFUF members, Shirley Bloodworth, was honored by ElderCare of Alachua County. They established a perpetuity award to honor individuals whose actions Embody Shirley's unwavering commitment to advocacy, community, and care. This annual award ensures her legacy continues to inspire and guide us for generations to come. To celebrate this incredible honor, a plaque will be prominently displayed at the Senior Recreation Center as a lasting tribute to Shirley's remarkable contributions.

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Saeed Khan was given the "Most Read Paper Award" by the journal Translational Andrology and Urology for his paper, "Reactive Oxygen Species, Inflammation and Calcium Oxalate Nephrolithiasis."

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Barbara Rothstein contributed one of the highest volunteer hours served for adult volunteers in the month of May 2025 for the Alachua County Library District for her work at the Micanopy library. She was named the "Adult Volunteer of the Month" by the Library District. She also volunteers at the Micanopy History Museum.

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Martha Monroe was selected to join the National Academy of Science, Engineering and Medicine Consensus Committee on Education for Thriving in a Changing Climate.



## **Statement from Barbara McDade Gordon**

**AROHE (Association of Retirement Organizations in Higher Education) [www.Arohe.org](http://www.Arohe.org)**

*We know that higher education retirees are assets of society who **reinvent**--not retire from-- life; positively impact their communities; and contribute to the greater good."*

AROHE, founded in 2002, supports all phases of faculty/staff retirement through a dynamic member network that links retired faculty/staff associations, retiree and emeriti centers, and campus offices that engage retirees such as human resources, academic affairs, alumni, and advancement/development. AROHE provides resources and connections to increase retirees' value to their colleges/universities, communities, and professions in the areas of philanthropy, advocacy on behalf of the institution, volunteerism, and institutional knowledge and commitment.

The RFUF Board approved our becoming a member in 2023 when I was RFUF president. **FYI:** When we joined, three other Florida institutions were already members: Florida State, Florida International, and Tallahassee State College. In December 2024, our treasurer, Bram Hartzema, nominated me for a position on the AROHE Board of Directors, and I was elected to a 2-year term in January.

### ***Gainesville Selected as Site of AROHE Biennial Conference for Fall 2026***

Because of COVID, the last in-person national AROHE conference was in 2018 at Emory University. Several AROHE members approached me last Spring about holding the first post-COVID Biennial Conference in Gainesville. I brought this to our RFUF Executive Committee, and we formed a conference committee consisting of me, Jacqueline Basha, and Paul Gibbs. We submitted our proposal in June and learned in early August that **Gainesville** was selected for the Biennial Conference in Fall 2026. I hope we all come together to welcome AROHE members from across the U.S. and Canada to Gainesville!

The **A**ssociation of **R**etirement **O**rganizations in **H**igher **E**ducation (AROHE) is comprised of 110 retirement organizations in six regions in the United States and Canada, and an international region. The mission of AROHE complements and strengthens the mission of RFUF: It supports all stages of faculty and staff retirement, the mutually beneficial engagement of retirees with one another and with their institutions, and continuing contributions to campus and community life.

In Spring 2024 many of us attended via Zoom the three-part seminar, Reimagining Retirement: Exploring Your Life Plan. It provided inspiration to consider planning our own seminar specific to RFUF as part of our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary programs and activities.

RFUF recently increased our annual dues from \$25 to \$35. By comparison, annual dues in AROHE member organizations range from \$0 to \$100. The number of members across the 110 organizations varies considerably. Several AROHE member organizations have as many as 2,000 members! FSU has over 1,000 members. RFUF currently has about 250. The AROHE membership directory allows us to compare ourselves with other university retirement organizations (ROs) and find ideas for enhancing our activities and services to our members, to UF, and to our community.

Many universities maintain representation of retired faculty on the university senate and other university committees. Some universities provide designated office space for their ROs. Also provided are discounts at campus venues such as performing arts, bookstores, and athletic events, as well as use of library facilities, computer services, and health benefits. The AROHE research report, Retired Faculty and Staff Engagement Programs (2012), showcased programs at 36 AROHE universities with successful practices for assisting retirees and involving them in university and community life.

I believe that RFUF will benefit from our involvement in AROHE and its member organizations.

**Barbara McDade Gordon**

## **RFUF Media Statement on ICE on Campus**

The Board of Directors of the Retired Faculty of the University of Florida submitted a statement to newspapers around Florida on the topic of ICE on the UF and Santa Fe College campuses.

In their Opinion section the following 17 newspapers printed the RFUF statement: The Palm Beach Post (Trump's local newspaper), the Miami Herald, the Tallahassee Democrat, the Florida Times Union (Jacksonville), Pensacola News Journal, Sarasota Herald Tribune, Ft. Myers News Press, the Naples Daily News, the Daytona News Journal, Florida Today (Brevard County), Winter Haven News Chief, Northwest Florida Daily News (Fort Walton Beach), Lakeland Ledger, St. Augustine Record, The Treasure Coast Palm (S. Florida), The Alachua Chronicle, and The Gainesville Iguana. Notably, the Independent Florida Alligator and the Gainesville Sun did not cover us.

Below is a screenshot of how the Miami Herald printed our statement:



Campus police at Florida's universities have been authorized to cooperate with immigration authorities.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### ICE and UF

The officers and board of directors of the Retired Faculty of the University of Florida (RFUF) are distressed and disgusted regarding state, local and UF's collusion with the outrageous if not unconstitutional visa revocations of international students, faculty and staff at universities across the country, the Florida State University System and the University of Florida specifically.

Particularly distressing is the covert and startling way this action has occurred. UF police have essentially been deputized under the federal ICE 287(g) Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) as "force multipliers" to detain individuals without warrants solely on suspicion of immigration violations. Affected students, faculty and staff have reportedly received little to no formal notice, rationale, or recourse, leaving them confused and in abject terror and uncertainty about their academic futures, legal status and personal well-being.

Allowing the ICE 287(g) MOA to go forward sends an unconscionably perverse message to the university community. Perhaps it may irreversibly erode the trust expected

of the UF Police Department while unnecessarily diverting officers from their primary mission: campus safety.

Even U.S. citizens run the risk of detention if campus police, using cultural profiling as instructed by ICE, take action. Fear of detention could easily prevent a student from seeking medical attention, mental health treatment, or even educational support services. Most disturbing is ICE's authority to access international student data in search of even the smallest infraction to be loosely interpreted as criminal for shameless justification of deportation.

We ask UF Interim President Kent Fuchs to devote the substantial time remaining in his tenure to combat the metastatic symptoms of authoritarian intrusion into the university's internal operations. He must immediately condemn and withdraw from the ICE 287(g) Program. The UF Police Department's published guiding principles are completely inconsistent with and anathema to any activity under an ICE 287(g) MOA.

States such as Vermont, Rhode Island, Delaware and New Mexico have no such MOAs. Furthermore, Connecticut, New Jersey,

Illinois, Washington, Oregon and California have enacted legislation prohibiting such MOAs with ICE.

Fuchs must make public the scope and consequences of UF's visa crisis, including the number of affected students, faculty and staff and the rationales provided for visa revocation. He also must contact all those who have already suffered or are at risk of visa revocation to make certain they clearly understand due process protections and are provided legal or administrative counsel, if necessary. For those who have been compelled to leave the United States, make certain that UF continues to support remote participation in their education or professional role, assuming they joined UF with a valid visa.

Surely, ICE and other federal, state and local law enforcement agencies have sufficient authority and bandwidth to operate independently without conscripting campus police officers. That a UF agency has been authorized to comply in ICE's misguided and indiscriminate attempt to purge our international community is reprehensible.

We greatly respect and appreciate UF's leadership in achieving national preeminence in education, research and public service, which is precisely why

we are appealing to Fuchs to maintain the highest ethical standards and independence and why we stand ready to assist him in this urgently needed action. Our international community of students, faculty and staff deserve nothing less.

— Richard D'Alli (Medicine),  
— immediate past president  
2024-2025,  
— Steve Lodle (Communications),  
— chair,  
— RFUF Communications Committee,  
— Gainesville

### FWC unqualified

Re: the May 22 story, "Two more FWC officers' body cam footage from Pino boat crash deleted, agency says." Now it's four deleted videos. How unprofessional and unbelievable. Until the investigation is completed, it's still a death investigation.

Any professional death investigator knows that nothing is deleted until the state attorney and the medical examiner reach their conclusions. Even then, it should be kept until all civil avenues have been settled. This is pure evidence that FWC has no reason to investigate these matters. As soon as a death occurs, it should be turned over to the Miami-Dade Sheriff's office, which has exceptionally trained investigators with

