

From: UNC RFA rfa@unc.edu
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RFA Newsletter

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

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A time of iov

Graduating senior Shreya Shah celebrating on the Tar Heel Towers Giant Swing on May 5 at the Outdoor Education Center.

(Johnny Andrews/UNC-Chapel Hill)

RFA members stay active, connected in spring semester

Even during times of pandemic and social isolation, RFA members remained active and found ways to keep connected. Here are four of the projects RFA was involved in during spring semester.

Faculty Conversation Group

A new RFA project, the Faculty Conversation Group, made its debut in April and was co-hosted by RFA members Joanne Gard Marshall (Information and Library Science) and Robert “Bob” Peet (Biology). The project was inspired by the retired faculty seminar that had been hosted by the Institute of Arts & Humanities for several years. The current conversation group lets retired faculty get to know retired colleagues from different parts of the UNC campus and to engage in discussion of topics of common interest related to transitioning to retirement, whether that means

Friday Center Enrichment Groups

The Friday Center runs its daytime enrichment program twice a year. The programs provide participants with opportunities to discover a new interest, discuss compelling subjects with peers and scholars, and gain insights to apply to your day-to-day life. Due to pandemic restrictions, courses have been held online, and the program recently completed its spring short courses via Zoom. RFA member Ned Brooks conducted one of the courses, titled “Ethics/Smethics: Ethics in an Age of Lies and Deceit.” Ned provides this summation of the course: “Want a taste of what we talk about? How

continuing to write research articles or books, engaging in hobbies in greater depth, exploring new areas of interest or finding ways to be of service to others. The group provides the opportunity to hear other's ideas and experiences and to widen awareness of the range of possibilities in retirement. The RFA will offer additional conversation groups in the fall semester. Watch for announcements.

Correctional Education Program

UNC-CH's Correctional Education Program brings for-credit UNC-CH courses to students in North Carolina prisons, both face-to-face in six prisons and in self-paced correspondence form to students in prisons across the state. The correspondence component is termed the Outreach Program. Outreach students complete their work alone in difficult academic conditions, and we have created a mentoring program to provide them support and connection, deepening the rewards of being UNC-CH

about this: You and your best friend, Joe, are watching the lottery drawing on TV. Joe leaped from the couch, waved his ticket, and yelled, 'I've got the winning number.'

Suddenly he clutches his chest, keels over, and dies on the spot. You are the only person who knows that Joe, not you, bought the winning ticket. If you substitute his ticket for yours, you will be \$20 million richer. Joe's only living relative is a filthy rich distant cousin whom Joe despised. If you don't take Joe's ticket, the cousin will inherit the \$20 million. Do you switch tickets?"

This little scenario has produced a seemingly infinite number of rationales for taking the money.

If you're interested in being involved in future enrichment programs check the Friday Center's [website](#) or contact rfa@unc.edu.

Intergenerational Philosophy Program

In the spring semester, RFA partnered with the philosophy department at UNC to create a space for

students. Mentors send students monthly check-in letters, review and provide feedback on student work, provide research materials and writing and study guides, and provide advice on success as a UNC-CH student and in other academic pursuits. Each mentor is assigned one student, and the mentoring relationship is entirely anonymous. It is a 1-2-hour monthly commitment for 13 months, the length of an Outreach course. All correspondence goes through UNC-CH. We currently have over 50 mentors and seek more for our next student cohort. If interested, please contact Raphael Ginsberg, associate director, CEP, at trapido@email.unc.edu or contact rfa@unc.edu.

intergenerational learning and discussion about philosophy. Beginning in mid-February, RFA members met regularly with UNC undergraduates via Zoom to reflect on fundamental human values, commitments and practices. Our hope is to see this program continue in future semesters.

We encourage members of RFA who would be interested in the program to contact the director of outreach, Michael Vazquez, of department's Parr Center for Ethics (michael.vazquez@unc.edu) or contact RFA rfa@unc.edu.

The President's Letter

Putting a troubling year behind us

To say that it's been a challenging year would be an understatement. During the past academic year, not only have we continued to deal with the pandemic and its associated limitations and restrictions, but as a society we've also continued to be plagued by discrimination and violence toward

people of color, gun violence, climate change, natural disasters and economic hardship.

Despite the challenges, and associated stress, institutions and organizations continue to function — including RFA. Although it's not ideal, we have managed to stay connected through virtual meetings and communication, and we look forward to a time hopefully in the near future when we can return to our in-person interactions.



We welcome new members of the RFA Executive Committee: Thom Ziemiecki, Secretary; Connie Eble, and Catherine Marshall, members at large, who were elected at our spring meeting in April, and Lynne Vernon-Feagans, representative to the Faculty Council, who was recently elected by the Division of Retired Faculty. (See more about our leaders [here](#).)

At the same time that we welcome our new Executive Committee members, we take time to thank our outgoing members, Bruce Carney, Tom Clegg and Barbara Wasik, for their dedication and service to RFA. Their work is greatly appreciated.

And we would like for more of our RFA members to become involved. This is your organization. We are here to work for you. Send us your comments and suggestions, and If you're interested in participating in RFA leadership, let us know that, too. Contact us at rfa@unc.edu.

In the meantime, don't forget to renew your membership — and if you are not yet a member, consider joining. We'll look forward to seeing you at our next general meeting, scheduled for Sept. 16.

— Donna Falvo

It's time to join up or renew

If you're an annual member of the Retired Faculty Association, it's time to renew your membership for 2021-

2022. If you want to become a life member of RFA, go to [rfa@unc.edu](#)

2022 — or to become a life member of RFA so there are no more annual dues to pay. If you're not already a member, it's time to join.

This coming year, we hope we can resume our in-person meetings and lunches, beginning with our Sept. 16 general meeting.

To renew annual membership, to become a lifetime member or to join RFA, go to [this link](#). Again, we look forward to seeing you at Retired Faculty Association events during the coming year!

Jill Moore named secretary of the faculty

The April 16 final meeting of the Faculty Council for the academic year was highlighted by the election of the first female secretary of the faculty, professor Jill Moore, of the School of Government. She will fill a five-year term, replacing professor Vin Steponaitis.

Like all council meetings this year, this one was largely preoccupied with ramifications of the COVID-19 pandemic and its impact on the university. Provost Bob Blouin, for example, noted that the Together Testing Program at UNC had tested 160,000 COVID-19 samples.

Blouin wanted to correct concerns communicated from the Graduate School about “financial cuts,” adding that the administration has addressed these issues and that “the majority of the concerns about budget cuts related to the graduate program have been fixed.”

Executive Vice Provost Ron Strauss reported that the Board of Trustees has allowed faculty an extension of one additional year in the “tenure clock,” in addition to the two years already extended by the Faculty Council.

The Committee on the Status of Women stated that the committee had found that male faculty earn 20% more than women faculty. The committee had produced new data on



gender pay equity and had recommended steps to achieve it.

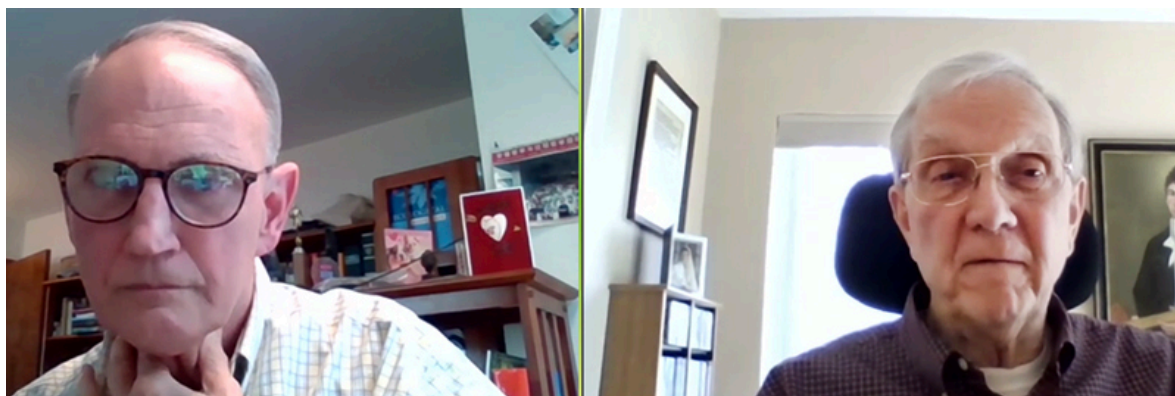
March 19: Chair of Faculty Mimi Chapman introduced a resolution calling for the Faculty Council to “condemn anti-Asian and Asian-American bias, including violence and hatred ... whenever and wherever it occurs.” The motion passed by unanimous consent.

Chancellor Guskiewicz said that planning for the fall semester is underway and “our goal” is for a much larger number of in-person classes and a more normal number of students to occupy the residence halls. The budgets for the various academic centers on campus have been refunded, and the moratorium on hiring fixed-term faculty has been lifted.

Feb. 19: Chair of Faculty Mimi Chapman opened the meeting with an affirmation of support for Chancellor Guskiewicz in the light of a recent petition from the local AAUP, signed by 70 members, calling for the resignation of the chancellor. (The petition questioned the statements made by the chancellor in which he denied his personal involvement in the deliberations with the UNC Board of Governors who had entered into negotiations with the N.C. Sons of Confederate Soldiers to take custody of the Silent Sam monument. In his own remarks, Chancellor Guskiewicz reiterated that Clayton Sumers, vice-chancellor for public affairs for UNC-CH, made him generally aware of the negotiations, the chancellor himself never participated in the negotiations nor was his advice sought.

There was no discussion.

— **George Lensing**



The emergence of earth law

Herman Greene (left, with RFA President-elect Pete Andrews), founder and president of the Center for Ecozoic Studies, a research and education center for an ecological age, was the speaker at the April 8 RFA meeting. He presented an overview of natural history and its evolution, the interconnectedness of human and natural history, and how human activity changing the Earth's biosystem. He introduced the concept of earth law, an emerging body of law as an approach for protecting, restoring and stabilizing functional interdependence at the local, regional, national and global level.

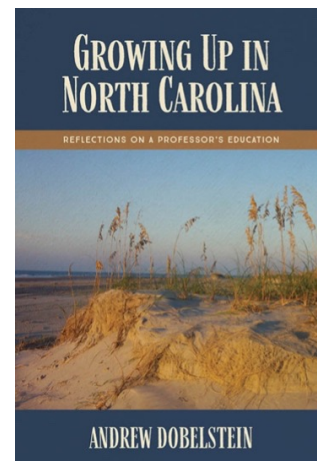
RFA members have books published

Retirement doesn't mean that scholarly activity diminishes, as evidenced by the recent publication of books by two of our RFA members.

Andy Dobelstein

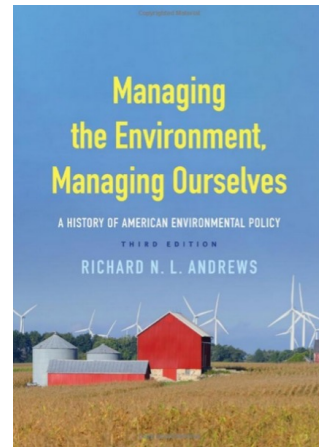
When he came to North Carolina in 1968 to teach in the University of North Carolina's School of Social Work, Andrew Dobelstein discovered a sleepy Chapel Hill, an undeveloped social work curriculum and a state with overflowing racism. As his career developed, his relationships with well-known North Carolinians guided his growth as a respected faculty member, and his work with poverty issues brought recognition for his leadership.

Dobelstein recounts his experiences with Ellen Winston, William C. Friday, Betty Baker, Eleanor Kinnaird, L.M. (Bud) Baker, John B. Turner and other deans and faculty in the School of Social Work, woven throughout adventures of flying a small airplane in and out of the Chapel Hill airport, encountering mountain moonshiners, hiking North Carolina mountains and struggling to help North Carolina implement its 1996 welfare reform. The book is available through [Amazon Digital Services](#).



Pete Andrews

I am delighted to announce that Yale University Press has recently published the third edition of my history of American environmental policy (*Managing the Environment, Managing Ourselves: A History of American Environmental Policy*, 3rd edition). In addition to the overall history of environmental policy from the colonial era to the present, this edition includes a detailed discussion of the modern environmental policy era beginning about 1970, with chapters on the Environmental Protection Agency and pollution control policy, public lands and wildlife policy, agricultural and urban environmental policy, energy policy, and the U.S. role in international environmental policymaking, updated through the Obama and Trump presidencies. It's available on [Amazon](#), [Barnes & Noble](#), or [directly from Yale University Press](#).



Meet an RFA member

Our RFA members are doing amazing things in retirement. Everyone has a story to tell. We want to know yours. Colleagues are interested in what you're doing in retirement, whether it be volunteering, writing, traveling, tutoring, mentoring, teaching, doing research ... or pursuing a brand-new interest. Send a brief, 250-word, summary of your accomplishments, adventures or activities in retirement. Send your summary to dfalvo@email.unc.edu.

Michele Hoyman

I joined RFA as a life member, even though I'm in phased

retirement as an associate professor in the department of political science. I received my Ph.D. in political science from the University of Michigan and joined the faculty at UNC in 1998. In addition to my faculty appointment, I've also held the position of adjunct professor in the School of Government's Master of Public Administration program.

Over my career, my teaching has included a variety of political science courses at both the graduate and undergraduate level. I have been president of the Industrial Relations Research Association. I have been listed on the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Services roster of arbitrators for over 30 years.

In retirement I've been able to engage in volunteer activities I didn't have time for before. I do volunteer work for the Y (annual campaign) and in party politics like voter registration. I also threw



myself into phone banking for the election during the summer. Although with Zoom, it was easier to do phone banking (from home), I did miss the door-to-door canvassing I did in prior years. My heart is in “retail politics.”

Since I was a recipient of an American Association of University Women fellowship as a student, I've been inspired to give back and have become active in the Chapel Hill Chapter of AAUW, serving first as membership chair, then program chair and currently as president of the Orange, Durham, Chatham branches of AAUW. For more information about AAUW click [here](#).

Retirement isn't all work and no play, however. I now have time to read things outside my field for the first time in decades, including finishing the monthly book for book club and reading the Sunday New York Times, a true mark of leisure. Most importantly, I have time to make trips to Asheville to visit my lively grandson and my daughter and son-in-law. Finally, the combination of COVID-19 restrictions and retirement has enabled me to re-connect with friends from yesteryear with whom I'd lost touch. We've taken up right where we left off.



