



# NEWSWATCH

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March 2018

**Next meeting: 2 p.m., Wednesday, April 11  
Peterson Room, Showalter House, IU Foundation, SR46 Bypass**

## April meeting to focus on climate change



What better topic to welcome spring than climate change? **Ben Brabson**, IU professor emeritus of physics, has chosen “Climate Change in the Age of Trump” as his topic when he speaks to retirees on April 11 at 2 p.m. The meeting will be in the IU Foundation’s Peterson Room.

“Last summer was a hot one, even here in Bloomington. It would be really useful to know what to expect next year or in the next ten years,” Ben says. “But good science depends on good data. The good news is that our past administration served as an excellent repository of excellent climate data over the past 100 years. The bad news: our present administration in Washington threatens to stop the collection of these valuable climate data. The immediate consequence for reliable climate science would be highly negative. This talk will take a close look at the impact of the administration’s actions.”

Ben earned his bachelor’s degree at Carleton College and his Ph.D. at MIT. He began teaching high-energy physics at IU in 1968. In 1996 his title changed to professor of the physics of climate change. Each fall he teaches P310/P510 Environmental Physics. For more information, see [physics.indiana.edu/~brabson/](http://physics.indiana.edu/~brabson/)

## Londergan appointed hospitality chair

At February’s IURA meeting President **Joanie Curts** announced that the board appointed **Gail Londergan**

to complete the 2017-20 term of **Suzanne Phillips**, who resigned last fall. In her role as chair of the hospitality committee, Gail reported a couple of changes resulting from new policies instituted by the IU Foundation. For safety reasons, no homemade food may be served, and everyone entering the building must sign in.

After 24 years of service to IU, Gail retired in 2014. She earned her Ph.D. in 1992 from what was then the School of Library and Information Science. She is a member of the City of Bloomington Commission on Aging.

## Annual meeting to feature board election

At the April 11 meeting, the nominating committee will present three candidates for three-year terms on the IURA board. The candidates are **Steve Hitzeman, Charlie Matson, and Doug Porter**. Doug’s term on the board expires this year, and he is up for re-election.

- **Steve Hitzeman** directs the Sports Vision Program at the School of Optometry. In 2005 the American Optometric Association named him Sports Vision Optometrist of the Year. Steve earned his bachelor’s degree in biology and his O.D. from IU and served on the School of Optometry faculty for more than 38 years. A consultant to TaylorMade Golf, he worked with the company on the Ghost putter and the R11 driver. He is a consultant to the New York Mets.
- Upon graduating from Georgia Tech in 1970, **Charlie Matson** went to work for Georgia Power. In late 1988 he purchased a small business in Bloomington. In 1990 IU hired him to manage its steam and chilled water plants, and in 1996 he moved into the position of Special Projects Engineer, to manage energy conservation contracts at all IU

campuses. Charlie retired in December 2013 with more than 23 years of service to IU.

• After graduating from the IU School of Business in 1973, **Doug Porter** worked for First National Bank in Cincinnati before joining IU as assistant ticket manager in the Athletics Department. In 1981 he became university parking manager. He retired in June 2014.

Doug Porter chaired the nominating committee, which included **Dick McKaig** and **Suzann Owen**.

**Tom Hustad**, whose term expires this year, has chosen not to seek re-election. **Joanie Curts** has completed her second three-year term but will remain on the board as past president. Other board members are **Gail Londergan**, **Bill McGregor**, **Joe Miller**, and **Ralf Shaw**. **Carol Stokes** recently resigned, and the board will appoint someone to complete her term.

At the April meeting IURA treasurer **Tom Hustad** will present a financial report. Copies of the new HR brochure will be available.

## Peace Corps subject of February meeting

Since the Peace Corps' founding in 1961, nearly 230,000 volunteers have been assigned to 141 countries. Speaking at the Feb. 14 meeting of the IURA, **Joe and Ruth Miller** asked the question, Is the Peace Corps a successful experiment? They talked of their own experiences as Peace Corps volunteers in Nigeria and then discussed how well the Peace Corps has achieved its objectives.

Those objectives, said Joe, were threefold:

1. To provide needed manpower, particularly in meeting the basic needs of those living in the poorest areas of the world;
2. To promote better understanding of the American people to those living in other countries; and
3. To promote better understanding to Americans of those in other countries.

When the Millers went to Nigeria in 1963, the country had only recently achieved independence, and "some of that leftover excitement was in the air," Joe said. Unlike today's volunteers, the Millers could not choose a country or region but were assigned to what is now the most prosperous and most populous (with 186 million people) country in Africa. They

spoke of their experiences in Nsukka, where Joe taught law and Ruth taught French at the University of Nigeria, the nation's first indigenous university. Ruth also taught French at a girls' high school, in an adult evening class, and on a radio program. They lived among rolling hills, palm trees, and red dirt, in Enugu, then the capital of the East Central State and sometimes called the cobra capital of Africa. They ate a typical West African diet, rich in yams, groundnuts (peanuts), plantains, and papaya.

In their era the largest number of Peace Corps volunteers – 41 percent – were, like the Millers, assigned teaching tasks. Twenty percent provided health care, and sizable numbers assisted with agriculture and community development. Many of the volunteers – again, like the Millers – returned to teach in U.S. schools, incorporating their experiences overseas into their careers. Many, Joe said, became leaders in politics, business, and charitable organizations. **Dick Bier**, who spent two years in Turkey as a Peace Corps volunteer in the 1960s, observed, "Many of us were liberal arts generalists. We were thrown into a classroom without ever having taught before. But as my 36 years' teaching English at IU attests, we learned while we taught, and we put our experience to good use."

The 50 or so retirees in attendance were the first group to meet **Vicki Runion**, who recently became IU's first on-campus Peace Corps recruiter in more than 10 years. Vicki pointed out that Peace Corps volunteers now range in age from 20 to 86.

Volunteers may choose a specific job and geographic area where they will work. Short-term assignments – three to 10 months – are available for professionals with at least 10 years' experience. More than 50 positions are currently open: in education, environment, health, agriculture, community economic development, and youth development. See <https://www.peacecorps.gov/volunteer/volunteer-openings/>.

Some programs (Road Scholar, for example) require volunteers to pay their own way, Vicki pointed out, but the Peace Corps provides transportation, accommodations, and living expenses. As part of a special program for people 50 and over, she taught English to fourth- to eighth-graders and provided language stimulation to infants and toddlers in an orphanage. She was based in Onești, Romania, Nadia Comăneci's hometown. The Peace Corps provided

three months of in-country orientation, including language training.

The Peace Corps has changed with the times, Vicki said. More than half of volunteers have daily access to the Internet, and 92 percent have cell phones. In 2017 IU was 21st in the country in active Peace Corps participation, and 1,675 IU alumni have been Peace Corps volunteers. "I am very interested in talking with IU retirees who might be interested in learning more about the possibilities of the Peace Corps," Vicki said. Contact her at 812-855-9257, [vrunion@iu.edu](mailto:vrunion@iu.edu).

"The two parts of the program – the past and the present – provided a succinct synopsis of more than 50 years of Peace Corps activity," **Bonnie Brownlee** commented after the meeting. Retirees shared their impressions of the Peace Corps while sampling treats provided by **Martha Smiley** and **Doris Wittenburg**.

### 16th annual exhibit seeks submissions



**Works by B.J. Irvine and Dick Dever were among the art on display in past Emeriti House exhibits.**

Retirees and their spouses or partners are invited to submit art for the annual Emeriti House/IURA annual art exhibit. The organizing committee welcomes submissions in any art medium. Works in a medium that has been underrepresented in the past – collage, woodwork, sculpture in various materials, pottery, and textiles (including weaving, needlepoint, knitting, and embroidery) – are especially welcome.

Works should be submitted at Emeriti House on Tuesday, April 24, between 9 and 11 a.m. Individual contributors may submit one to three works, although the maximum number accepted for the exhibit from any one person is two works. Art submitted should be ready to be exhibited, ready to be hung if to be shown that way. A label on the back of the piece should state the name of the submitter; if for sale, the price; if not for sale, "NFS"; the medium; and the title of the piece if there is one. Late submissions will not be accepted.

Address questions to **B.J. Irvine**, who chairs the organizing committee, [irvine@indiana.edu](mailto:irvine@indiana.edu), (812) 322-4412. Other committee members are **Jerry Chertkoff**, **Audrey Heller**, **Ed McEndarfer**, **Ruth Miller**, **Bob Talbot**, **Larry Thibos**, **Beau Vallance**, and **John Woodcock**.

The opening reception is Friday, April 27, from 5 to 7 p.m., at Emeriti House, 1015 E. Atwater Ave.

### Host families sought for high schoolers

The American Councils for International Education are seeking host families for high school students participating in their international exchange program. Families will be the host for 10 months while their particular student is enrolled in a local high school.

Students are coming on the FLEX and YES programs through the U.S. Department of State. FLEX has brought over more than 20,000 participants since its inception in 1993. YES began in 2002. Its participants come from countries with significant Muslim populations. Students are 15 to 17 years old and are selected based on language proficiency, academic performance, maturity, and adaptability.

For more information, contact **Addie Block**, [avblock@iu.edu](mailto:avblock@iu.edu). "This is a very rewarding experience," Addie says, "and will enrich a family while making the world just a bit smaller."

### How to best avoid phishing scams? Calarco advises, "Don't take the bait"

"The Black Hats are learning and evolving their ad hoc ecosystem faster than the White Hats," **Dan Calarco** told retirees gathered at the Emeriti House Feb. 7. "Cybercriminals are professional, bureaucratized, borderless, and meticulous," he said, and phishing has become the most common form of

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cybercrime. Dan is chief of staff in the office of the vice president for information technology and chair of the Safe IT Taskforce.

Phishing is a message that invites your response in order to grab your personal information, which then can be used to impersonate you and file false tax returns, steal financial data, scam direct deposits, get lines of credit, and do other mischief. Spear phishing is a targeted message to a small group. Because spear phishing emails are sent in small batches, they are more likely to evade spam filters. Such an email may appear as a message from someone you know or an organization with which you are familiar. One way you can tell whether it is authentic is to let your cursor hover over the name of the sender. If the email address is not what you expect, do not respond.

Data breaches affect billions of accounts. To find out whether your email has been compromised, Dan said, go to [haveibeenpwned.com](http://haveibeenpwned.com). You can see when and how your account has been compromised, and you can ask to be notified of future breaches. If you find a breach, your best defense is to change your password. IU passphrases expire every two years, Dan pointed out, not to inconvenience users but to safeguard them.

“Users in the field of education fall for about one in 10 phishing emails,” Dan said. In response, UITS has created a site devoted to teaching online safety and security. To learn more, go to [phishing.iu.edu](http://phishing.iu.edu).

This site provides helpful, jargon-free safety and security information. When you log in to the site, you can enroll without charge in one of several online courses to learn more about the fundamentals of email security. The courses offered include ones on malicious links, malware, and spear phishing. Each course is about 10 minutes long. A quiz at the end determines how well you have mastered the material.

Dan’s presentation was one of the weekly programs offered at the Emeriti House and open to all IURA members. For information about Emeriti House programs, see [www.indiana.edu/~emeriti/](http://www.indiana.edu/~emeriti/) or call (812) 855-3773 for updated information.

### **Put May 9 on your calendar now**

Meadowood is hosting the IURA spring dinner on May 9 at 5 p.m. Cellist **SeungAh Hong** will provide music. Look for more details in the April newsletter. For years the IU Foundation graciously provided space for the annual potluck dinner but no longer permits homemade food to be served in its facility.

### **About this newsletter**

*Newswatch* is published eight times each year, August through April, except for February. To correct your address, please contact database manager **Doris Wittenburg**, [dwittenb@indiana.edu](mailto:dwittenb@indiana.edu). **Judy Schroeder** writes *Newswatch*. Send corrections or comments to her at [jschroed@indiana.edu](mailto:jschroed@indiana.edu).