



# NEWSWATCH

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September 2012

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**Next meeting: IU retiree benefits, 2 p.m., October 10  
Peterson Room, Showalter House, IU Foundation, SR46 Bypass**

## **Next up: The lowdown on retiree benefits**

On Wed., Oct. 10, two representatives from the human resources division will lead a discussion of IU retiree benefits. **Keatrick Johnson**, university director of retirement programs and worker's compensation services, will discuss general investment options and counseling services by TIAA-CREF and Fidelity representatives. Johnson and his wife have two daughters and have lived in Bloomington for four years. **Susan Brewer**, university director of healthcare and welfare programs, will discuss IU retiree status and IU-sponsored retiree benefits such as life insurance, tuition assistance and pre- and post-65 medical options.

"Two of the goals of the Retirees Association are to keep members informed about retirement issues and to advocate for IU retiree benefits," says **Dick McKaig**, vice president of the IURA. "Susan Brewer and Keatrick Johnson are great resources to help us understand the benefits we have available. Both speakers are looking forward to providing us an update and answering our questions."

If you have specific questions you would like our speakers to discuss, please e-mail them to IURA program chairman Dick McKaig, [mckaig@indiana.edu](mailto:mckaig@indiana.edu).

## **IURA 2012-2013 program schedule**

**Nov. 14, 2 p.m.**, IU Foundation: **Tom Morrison**, A campus map for future generations of Hoosiers. Committee contact: **Don Weaver**.

**Dec. 12, noon**, Terry's Banquets and Catering: **Jim Capshew**, A biography of Herman B Wells. Committee contact: **John Hobson**.

**Jan. 16, 2 p.m.**, IU Foundation: **Lee Hamilton**: The new Congress. Co-sponsored with Emeriti House. Committee contact: **Iris Kiesling**.

**Feb. 13, 2 p.m.**, IU Foundation: To be announced.

**April 10, 2 p.m.**, IU Foundation: **Jonathan Michaelsen**, Thrills and chills in theatre and drama — creating productions at Indiana University. Committee contact: **Joan Curts**.

**May 8, 5 p.m.**, IU Foundation: Pitch-in at IUF.

## **Hershey reviews presidential race**

Were the presidential election held today — or, more precisely, on Sept. 12, the date of the IU Retirees Association fall luncheon — President Obama would win by 1 percentage point. "Two percentage points would be a landslide," IU political scientist **Marjorie Hershey** told retirees. The Republicans will retain the House, and the Senate is up for grabs — but the Senate doesn't matter, she said, because for the last eight to 10 years it has ceased to be a functional governing body.

After flirting with "not-Romney" candidates for at least a year, Republicans, with Mitt Romney as their candidate, are framing the election as a referendum on Obama. If the major election

issue is Obama or Not Obama, President Obama may lose the election of 2012. Their strategy may work because younger voters, like Latino and Hispanic voters, are less enthusiastic about Obama than they were in 2008.

Democrats see the election in terms of an embattled incumbent, who is personally more popular than his policies are, running against a vulnerable Republican. The Republican nominating season lasted so long, Hershey told retirees, because of Romney's perceived inability to connect with ordinary voters. Obama's campaign hasn't stressed Romney's inconsistency on major issues because that inconsistency doesn't bother people so much as the candidate's likability.

"We are 50 days away," Hershey told her audience, "from the most expensive set of elections in the world." Twice as much money will be spent on the 2012 election as was spent in 2008, which set a new record. From now on the election will be state to state. Money will be spent where it counts, she said. Ohio and Florida are too close to call. "If one candidate wins both these states," she said, "it's done. If they split these states, it could come down to New Hampshire's four electoral votes." Other states in play include Iowa, Nevada, Wisconsin, and Colorado — and perhaps Virginia and North Carolina. These states will decide the election, emphasized Hershey, who recently won the *Congressional Quarterly* National Award for Innovative Teaching.

Independent spending on campaigns comes primarily from the hospitality, energy, and financial institutions sectors. Money makes a difference in three respects:

1. It helps challengers more than incumbents as they seek to gain name recognition.
2. Attack ads play a role in defining the candidates' identity early in the race, when fewer ads are out there.
3. When races are not being covered in news media, ads may define the message.

The huge explosion of niche-oriented media has increased intolerance and polarization, Hershey said. "It's hard to believe that the *Huffington Post* and the *Drudge Report* are on the same planet," she commented. Our very partisan citizenry believes that bias extends even to fact checking, she said. She cited PolitiFact as one of the most objective and reliable fact checking sites.

The gender gap, Hershey observed, is most affected by parenthood. When they have children, men become more conservative and women get more liberal. In the 1950s women tilted to the Republican Party. Now women — particularly parents, particularly single mothers — are 10 to 12 percent more Democratic than men.

Insofar as Indiana is concerned, Hershey said, "it would be astonishing if anyone other than Mike Pence were elected. He won't be too different from Daniels, but he will be fearless in pursuing his social agenda."

Attendance at the fall luncheon hit a record 164 people because members of the Monroe County Retired Teachers Association, Martha Street, president, joined the Retirees Association. It was not surprising, therefore, that the question arose about the impact of the gubernatorial election on education. "The candidates have very different philosophies and levels of commitment to public education," Hershey observed. The Republicans talk about competitiveness and school choice, while the Democrats emphasize choice among *public* schools.

As for the Indiana Senate race, Hershey said, it is entirely even. "Huge amounts of money are coming in, with two to three times more coming in for Mourdock than for Donnelly," she said. If the race is still hanging fire shortly before the election, "the national parties will pour in dollars."

Hershey concluded her presentation by observing the profound coming changes in the racial, religious, and ethnic composition of the

population. "The face of California is the face of America's future," she said. "That is likely to advantage Democrats," but for the time being, whatever the outcome of the presidential race, she said, we are in for at least two more years of gridlock. The audience groaned audibly.

### Sign up for newsletter e-delivery

E-delivery makes a difference! For the past few years members who signed up for electronic delivery of their newsletter still often found a copy in their mailbox. This strange outcome was the result of IURA having to meet the minimum number of pieces in order to qualify for our use of the lower rate postal permit. Now, due to two larger than usual retirement groups, we meet the requirement without including those who sign up for e-delivery so this year opting for electronic delivery really does help us control printing and mailing costs. If you would like to join the 70-plus people who already receive *Newswatch* and program reminders via e-mail, send a note to [marker@indiana](mailto:marker@indiana). All members will still receive a

hard copy of the member directory, which is mailed in December.

— *Gerald Marker*

### Retirees' United Way goal announced

**Doris Burton, Wain Martin, and Harriet Pfister** will once again lead the 2012-13 United Way campaign for the IU Retirees. At the September luncheon meeting, the three announced that the goal for the retirees will be \$115,000. The community goal is \$1.4 million dollars and the IU goal is \$850,000. The retirees were reminded that again this year the need for assistance is great in the community and everyone present was urged to consider a generous contribution to the campaign. Retirees should expect to receive their United Way letters and pledge cards within a few day. In closing, Wain led the retirees in his familiar chant of "GO RETIREES!"

— *Harriet Pfister*

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## IU Retirees Association 2012-2013 MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name \_\_\_\_\_

For couple membership, spouse's/partner's name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ 9-digit ZIP code \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone\* \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail\* \_\_\_\_\_

\*Telephone number and e-mail will be included in membership directory only if you write them here.

Enclosed is my check, made payable to IU Retirees Association, for:

\_\_\_\_\_ Single membership (\$15)

\_\_\_\_\_ Couple membership (\$20)

Please mail this form with your check to IU Retirees Association  
P.O. Box 8393  
Bloomington, IN 47407-8393

\_\_\_\_\_ I wish to receive the newsletter by e-mail rather than in paper form.

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**P.O. Box 8393**  
**Bloomington, IN 47407-8393**

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### **Why am I getting this newsletter?**

You are getting this newsletter for one of three reasons. Database manager **Gerald Marker** maintains a Big List with more than 900 names.

1. Some are paying members, who pay the costs of printing and mailing *Newswatch* in hopes that others will join IURA.
2. The second group includes 133 people whom Human Resources identifies as retiring during the last year. They will be mailed the newsletter during this academic year.
3. Former members from 2010 and 2011 who have not renewed their memberships will be mailed newsletters until November, when they will be dropped.

To have your name removed from the list, send a message to [marker@indiana.edu](mailto:marker@indiana.edu) with “unsubscribe” in the subject line and your name as it appears on IU records.

### **What’s happening at Emeriti House**

**Oct. 3:** David Kocejka, professor of kinesiology, “Physical Fitness.”

**Tuesday, Oct. 9:** Henry Glassie, professor of folklore and ethnomusicology.

**Thursday, Oct. 11:** Harvey L. Sterns, Susan J. Eklund Honorary Lecturer, professor of psychology, director of the Institute for Life Span Development and Gerontology, department of family and community medicine at the University of Akron. (Lecture 11:15 a.m.-12-30 p.m. at School of Education auditorium,

followed by a reception beginning at 4 p.m. at Emeriti House.)

**Tuesday, Oct. 16:** Life Writing Workshop with John Woodcock, professor emeritus of English. 3-5 p.m.

**Oct. 17:** Nancy Richman, executive director of Volunteers in Medicine Clinic of Monroe County, with Elizabeth “Bet” D. Savich, director of City of Bloomington Volunteer Network.

**Oct. 24:** Al Ruesink, professor emeritus of biology.

**Oct. 31:** Barry Gealt, artist and professor emeritus of the Henry Radford Hope School of Fine Arts.

**Nov. 7:** Bill McGregor, professor emeritus of SPEA, and Carol McGregor, “The Barcelona Model and Overseas Education.”

### **With help from my friends**

I am spending a few days in Bloomington Hospital courtesy of an ankle broken in three places. Thank you to Gerald Marker, Harriet Pfister, and Dick McKaig, and especially to my daughter, Miki Weisstein, for putting the pieces of this newsletter together. The Retirees Association desperately needs a volunteer to fill in for me in October. Please volunteer today.

— *Judy Schroeder, editor*

