Celebrating 20 Years of Service to University and Community

The Latest about UI Benefits
Assistant Vice President for Human Resources Saunders
Will Discuss Changes at UIRA Program November 6

Big changes are underway in the UI’s Benefits program, and Richard Saunders, UI assistant vice president for Human Resources, will discuss these changes with UIRA members November 6 (Thursday) at 9:30 a.m. at Parkview Church Worship Center, 15 Foster Road, Iowa City. Ample parking is available.

The biggest change involves the UI offering to retired faculty and staff some Medicare Advantage plans. Also present at the meeting will be vendors associated with newly available plans. Saunders (pictured) has suggested some of these may be less expensive than UI Choice, which will remain unchanged in costs and benefits. Changes also will be taking place in the dental plans.

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Planning Ahead: Check Out These Coming UIRA Programs

January 9, 2015—‘Magic Mythical Tour: In Search of the Beatles’

UI Music Lecturer Donna Parsons will stir nostalgia when she presents a program, “Magic Mythical Tour: In Search of the Beatles,” January 9 (Friday), 2015, from 1-2 p.m. in Meeting Room A of the Coralville Public Library.

For the past 11 summers, Parsons has traced the sites that influenced the Beatles’ songs as well as where the Beatles honed their craft. Parsons says the foundation for the Beatles’ sensitivity and creativity can be found in their childhood experiences in Liverpool, England. She has traced the development of the Beatles’ rise from just another Merseyside band to the most influential, innovative pop group in history.

Parsons will chart the Beatles’ road to stardom from their childhood neighborhoods and coffee bars to church halls and auditoriums and will show memorabilia she has collected.

February 17, 2015—Flood Archaeology Discoveries on the UI Campus

John Doershuk, state archaeologist and director of the Office of the State Archaeologist (OSA), will present a UIRA program on recent archaeological finds at UI February 17 (Tuesday), 2015, from 10 a.m. to noon in Meeting Room A of the Coralville Public Library.

Doershuk, an adjunct assistant professor in the UI Department of Anthropology, will discuss discoveries from the School of Music construction site and Hubbard Park. He has been principal investigator or project archaeologist for more than 1,200 archaeological projects throughout the Midwest. Doershuk will show some of the artifacts from the UI excavations.

Established in 1959 with one employee, OSA now has 25 full-time with a mission “to develop, disseminate, and preserve knowledge of Iowa’s human past through Midwestern and Plains archaeological research, scientific discovery, public stewardship, service, and education.”
Two Members to be Recognized for Service

UIRA Board Approves Establishing an Awards Program
For Outstanding Contributions to Community, University

The UIRA Board voted unanimously at its monthly meeting October 14 to establish an awards program that annually will recognize two UIRA members for outstanding voluntary service—one for contributions to the community and another for contributions to the University. The program has three purposes: (1) to recognize UIRA members for their service; (2) to draw attention to contributions that retirees make; and (3) to encourage retirees to offer their talents and skills in ways that benefit the community and University.

Details of the awards are still being worked out by the Board, though an outline of the program is emerging. To be eligible, nominees must be retired for at least two years. Any UIRA member may nominate a UIRA member, including him/herself. Award recipients will be announced at the annual spring business meeting. The Board will appoint a five-person selection committee comprised of two staff, two faculty members and the UIRA president. Deadline for submitting nominations to the UIRA president has been set for January 31, 2015.

Watch The Gray Hawk and email for further details.

Second Annual Travel Photo Contest Invites Entries;
Rules Similar to Last Year with December 31 Deadline

The deadline for submitting entries in UIRA’s second annual Travel Photo Contest is December 31.

Rules are much the same as the past year. Photos must be submitted in digital format and will be judged on originality, creativity and photo quality. There is no entry fee. Current UIRA members are eligible to participate. Entrants may submit no more than three photos in one or more of the three categories. The three categories are photos taken (1) in the state of Iowa; (2) in the USA outside Iowa; and (3) outside the USA.

Send contest photos to: uira.photo.contest@gmail.com

Photos taken over the past two years can be entered. When submitting photos, an entrant must include (1) his/her name, (2) email address, (3) number of photos submitted, (4) category in which each photo is to be judged and (5) brief captions for each photo (or group of photos).

Complete contest details are posted at: www.uiowa.edu/~uira/pdf/travel-photo-contest.pdf.

Winners of the contest will receive cash awards. This year’s contest is being sponsored by Hills Bank and Trust Company. Last year’s winning photos can be found at: uira.shutterfly.com/pictures/396#396.

UIRA SURVEY RESULTS have been distributed to all UI administrators. The survey, conducted by Board member Gene Spaziani, was designed to assess the extent and kind of contributions retirees make to the UI. Additional information, including results, can be found at UIRA’s website at this link: www.uiowa.edu/~uira/news.htm#survey-2014-10.

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UIRA WILL BE OBSERVING the twentieth anniversary of its founding during the coming year. The association came into being October 19, 1995, with the adoption of bylaws which stated as its purpose “to facilitate support of the University of Iowa by retired faculty and staff members and to promote the interests and welfare of those retirees.” UIRA’s first president was Arthur Canter, a retired clinical psychiatrist and professor emeritus of psychiatry. Canter, 93, and wife Miriam have lived in Iowa City for more than 50 years. Both were students at UI, where he completed his Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology and was invited to join the faculty of the Department of Psychiatry in the College of Medicine.

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WATCH FOR UI SENIOR COLLEGE course offerings at www.iowalum.com/srcollege/.
‘Construction Concerto’

David Gier: UI’s New Music Building Will Become Campus’ ‘Most Complex’

UI’s new music building under construction in downtown Iowa City will become the “campus’ most complex building,” David Gier, director of the UI School of Music, told retirees October 6 in the University Capitol Center recital hall at a UIRA program attended by nearly 50 retirees.

The program, titled “Construction Concerto: Composing a New Home for Music at Iowa,” featured progress reports by Professor Gier and Jason McKane of Mortenson Construction and Kevin Monson of Neumann Monson Architects.

Noting that the new building, with its main entrance at the southwest corner of Burlington and Clinton, is coming about as a result of the devastating 2008 flood, Professor Gier told the group that the new facility represented an opportunity for the music program to fulfill several goals, including supporting the School of Music, serving the public and being sensitive to acoustics, beauty and sustainability. The building will retain the name from the old building, the Voxman Music Building, honoring the legacy of Himie Voxman, long-time director of the School of Music and prominent in the field of music who died in 2011 at the age of 99.

The high-performance building will have more than 160 locations acoustically isolated. Other features include: largely glass exterior, second-floor balcony looking toward downtown, 700-seat concert hall, 200-seat recital hall, organ performance hall, opera and chamber music rehearsal spaces, faculty studios, classrooms and individual rehearsal spaces. The projected completion date is spring 2016.

Welcome, New UIRA Members

Regina R. Arthur  Holden Comprehensive Cancer Center
Michael Barron  Provost – Admissions
Terry Boles  Tippie College of Business
Kelley J. Donham  College of Public Health
Jean Donham  Spouse
Donna Farley  College of Pharmacy
Twila Finkelstein  Research – Human Factors
Mary E. Greenleaf  Nursing
Nancy Hauserman  Tippie College of Business
Lance Heern  Emergency Medical Services/UIHC
Christine Hochstedler  Pathology
Leanne Horner  Financial Aid
Pat Kenner  Human Resources
Dennis D. Miller  Accounting
Sally Miller  Spouse
Martha Monick  College of Medicine
Mary Nace  Nursing
Sue Newton  UIHC – Patient Financial Services
Tom Newton  Spouse
Sandra Osborn  Health Information Management
Kathleen Renquist  UIHC – Joint Office for Compliance
Dave Reynolds  College of Dentistry
Harriet Reynolds  Spouse
Tommie J. Schropp  VP – Finance and Operation
Julie Weidler  Spouse
Jane Zukin  UI Health Care

Check out the UIRA photo report at: uira.shutterfly.com/pictures/478
UIRA Calendar: 2014-15

November 6 (Thursday)—Updating of UI Benefits, Richard Saunders, UI assistant vice president for Human Resources, 9:30 a.m., Parkview Church Worship Center, 15 Foster Road, Iowa City. Ample parking available.

December 31 (Wednesday)—Deadline for submitting entries in the 2014 Travel Photo Contest. Complete contest details are posted at: www.uiowa.edu/~uira/pdf/travel-photo-contest.pdf.

January 9 (Friday), 2015—“Magic Mythical Tour: In Search of the Beatles,” Donna Parsons, lecturer in the UI Honors and Music Department, 1-2 p.m., Meeting Room A, Coralville Public Library. Ample parking available.

February 17 (Tuesday), 2015—“Archaeological discoveries on the UI Campus,” John Doershuk, state archaeologist and director of the Office of the State Archaeologist, 10 a.m.-noon, Meeting Room A, Coralville Library. Ample parking available.


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University of Iowa Retirees Association

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The UIRA Board of Directors meets at 1 p.m. in the Buffet Room (#427) of the Levitt Center on the second Tuesday of every month except July and August. Visitors are welcome.

All members of the UIRA Board of Directors and its officers are volunteers. The UIRA is grateful for their commitment and invites others to become active in promoting UIRA’s mission. Contact any Board member for more information.