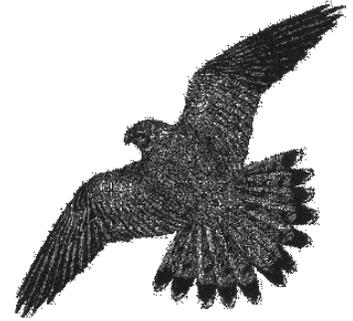


THE GRAY HAWK
NEWSLETTER OF
THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA RETIREES ASSOCIATION



Volume XII, Issue 6

February 2009

**Don't Forget
Hall of Fame
Program
On Feb. 18**

Don't forget the UIRA program at the **UI Athletics Hall of Fame** on **Wednesday, February 18**, from **1:30 to 3:30 p.m.** Jane Meyer, Senior Associate UI Athletics Director, will tell us about athletic facilities projects that have recently been completed, as well projects that are currently under way or being planned. Also, Dale Arens, director of the Athletics Hall of Fame, will talk about the Hall itself. Those attending will have an opportunity to explore the facility after the presentations. The Athletics Hall of Fame is in the Roy G. Karro Building, 2425 Prairie Meadow Drive, off Mormon Trek Boulevard. Parking will be available on the west side of the building.

**Senior
College
Sessions
Still Open**

There is still space available in several of the Spring 2009 Senior College courses sponsored by the Emeritus Faculty Association and the UIRA with support from the UI Alumni Association. Classes cover a broad range of subjects. (*For more details, see page 3.*)

**March 24
Program
To Focus
On Islam**

The UIRA March program will feature Shams Ghoneim, addressing the topic of "*Understanding Islam: Commonalities of the Three Abrahamic Religions*". Ms. Ghoneim is the coordinator for the Iowa Chapter of the Muslim Public Affairs Council, and is a well-respected writer and speaker on Islam. Her presentation is scheduled for **Tuesday, March 24**, from **1:00 to 3:00 p.m.** in **Meeting Room B (lower level)** of the **Coralville Public Library**, 1401 5th Street, Coralville. Free parking will be available in the parking ramp directly east of the Library.

**Memoir
Writers
Wanted**

Your memoirs and personal essays can be a cherished gift to future generations of your family. Two UIRA memoir writing groups have been proving this for nearly 10 years – and most of their members had never written a word of this kind of history before.

These aren't full-scale autobiographies. What we write are "snippets" of memories out of our lives at various stages from childhood to retirement. By choosing diverse and interesting ways to tell our stories, we prime each other's memory banks, inspiring us to express ourselves in a way that keeps our readers and listeners engaged.

There's room for at least a couple more members in one group, which meets every other Thursday from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. If you think you might be interested, please call John Hudson, who chairs the group informally, at 341-7166, or e-mail him at **John.B.Hudson@att.net**.

UIRA Board Of Directors	Dick Stevenson 351-5134 richard-stevenson@uiowa.edu	President
	Penny Hall 338-8169 penelope-hall@uiowa.edu	President Elect
2008-09	Dick Dustin	Secretary
	Joseph Joynt	Treasurer
	Dwight Jensen	<i>Gray Hawk</i> Editor
	Jon Cryer	Director
	LaVonna Gaunt	Director
	Jane Jakobsen	Director
	Marion Johnson	Director
	Lee Shope	Director
	Nancy Williams	Director

Following is another in The Gray Hawk's series of biographical sketches of UIRA officers and directors.

LaVonna Gaunt

LaVonna retired in 2001 from the UI Business Office, where she was Associate Director of Accounting Services. She is currently serving as the UIRA's membership officer.

LaVonna and her husband, Dennis, who retired from the University Hygienic Lab in 2004, have two children and two grandchildren. Daughter Kris is a medical editor at University Hospitals, and son Michael is a registered landscape architect in West Des Moines.

Since 2004, LaVonna has worked for the Johnson County Auditor's Office for most elections. This includes serving as a precinct election official for early voting and on election days. Her other interests include genealogy, gardening and bowling.

Annual Meeting Set For April 16

Mark your calendars! **Thursday morning, April 16**, is the date set for the UIRA Annual Meeting -- complete with a *Brunch Buffet* and the opportunity to meet UI's new Provost, Wallace Loh. Watch for the Reservation Form coming in your copy of the March *Gray Hawk*!!

UIRA Still Needs Web Site Volunteer

UIRA President Dick Stevenson still does not have a volunteer to update the association's web site and keep it current. If you are interested, know someone who might be interested or someone who has a tech savvy grandchild who would enjoy the challenge, contact Dick at 351-5134 or by e-mail at richard-stevenson@uiowa.edu.

Pilot Study Of E-Mailing Newsletter Begins

This is the first issue in the UIRA's pilot study to determine whether it will be feasible to distribute *The Gray Hawk* newsletter to members by e-mail in order to reduce printing and mailing costs. We are pleased that more than 115 of you have volunteered to participate in the study, and you will receive this issue by e-mail. Other members will receive this issue by regular mail as before. As always, your feedback is important.

**New Law
Waives
RMDs
For 2009**

Required Minimum Distributions (RMDs) generally are minimum amounts a retirement plan owner must withdraw annually starting with the year he or she reaches 70½ years of age.

On December 23, 2008, President Bush signed into law the Worker, Retiree, and Employer Recovery Act of 2008. One provision of this Act is that 2009 RMDs from Individual Retirement Accounts (IRAs), 401(k) plans, 403(b) plans like TIAA-CREF, and various other retirement plans ARE WAIVED.

If you reach 70½ during 2009, you do not have to start taking RMDs until 2010. If you are already receiving RMDs on a regular basis and do not want to receive any during 2009, you will need to contact your retirement plan, such as TIAA-CREF, to stop the RMDs during 2009.

If you have already taken a withdrawal that qualifies as a 2009 RMD, you may be able to rollover (reinvest) this money in a retirement plan within 60 days. This would avoid having to pay taxes on this money during 2009. Since the retirement area of the tax law is especially complex, you might want to consult a qualified financial or tax advisor on these matters.

The Act does NOT waive any 2008 RMDs nor is there currently any legislation that would extend the RMD suspension beyond 2009.

**UI Senior
College for
Spring 2009
Begins**

Classes have begun in the spring term of the UI Senior College, but there are still openings in six courses. Classes meet for two hours once a week for four weeks and are open to anyone interested. Registration is \$30 for each course.

Following is a brief list of the courses still available, by title, date of first class, and instructor:

- **Up with a Shout: Engaging the Book of Psalms.** February 27, J. Kenneth Kuntz.
- **Baseball Stories.** March 23, David A. Jepsen.
- **Shakespeare's *Richard III*.** March 24, Miriam Gilbert.
- **Buddhist Art and Religion.** April 2, Nancy Barnes-Kohout.
- **To Be or Not to Be: What Does Physics and Astronomy Tell Us About Existence?** April 3, Ken Gayley.
- **Controversial Issues in Traditional and Non-Traditional Healthcare Therapies.** May 20, Karen Baker.

More information about courses, instructors, time and place of classes, availability and registration can be obtained from the Alumni Association at <http://www.iowalum.com/srcollege/> or by calling Jane Kirsch at 319/335-3294 or 800/469-2586. A brochure is available upon request.

**UIRA
Welcomes
New
Members**

Please welcome our Association's newest members.

Phillip Cummins

Dept. of Philosophy

Dorothy Finke

Internal Medicine

**Deadline
For March
Gray Hawk
Copy**

Friday, February 20, is the deadline for submitting items for the March issue of *The Gray Hawk*. Please send them to Dwight Jensen by regular mail at 13 Lakeview Drive NE, Iowa City, IA 52240 or via e-mail at **dpjensen@mchsi.com**