



UGARA

The University of Georgia Retirees Association

Staying Informed. Keeping Involved.

University of Georgia

<http://www.uga.edu/ugara>

February 2008

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Greetings from the Chair

The new year is a time of change, signaling recent losses while giving new expectations. Each January I am drawn to the writings of Aldo Leopold in his classic environmental treatise, *A Sand County Almanac*. This little book begins with a brief chronicle of a January thaw on a small Wisconsin farm and proceeds to document the seasonal alternations from winter to spring. I have found it an inspiring reminder that our surroundings change as the seasons proceed, while the broader context of our local environment endures in a familiar and interconnected way that offers a new beginning.

Embarking on a new year as a retired UGA faculty member allows me to reflect on the recent passing of several old friends and colleagues while also observing the latest changes and accomplishments of the University and its staff, students, and faculty. I contemplate two new Rhodes Scholars among our recent graduates, one of whom I had the privilege of teaching. I read of the impending enrollment of medical students on our campus and the possibility of a major federal bio-containment laboratory facility here. UGARA helps keep me focused and involved with the University and enthusiastic about its current activities and future plans. There are challenges to be sure, but I also see opportunities in these changes, and I look forward with great anticipation to what 2008 will bring.

I hope all of you had an enjoyable and productive holiday season and are looking forward to new adventures in the coming year.

Clifton Pannell
UGARA Council Chair



UGARA Welcomes New Life Members

Fourteen new retirees have been invited to join UGARA since November 12, 2007 and six have become life members, bringing our membership to a total of 576 with 499 being life members. The new life members are: Tommie A. Arbeau, Donald R. Lowe, Jo Anne Lowe, Teresa B. Morrison, Vicky D. Smith, and E. Jay Williams. We welcome you all.

In Memoriam

We are saddened to lose two UGARA life members:

Dr. William Horace Waggoner Jr. 10/24/2007

Dr. Billie Winell Wickliffe 12/29/2007

Deciding for Yourself, a SoloSENIORS Conference on Successful Aging

SoloSENIORS is sponsoring a mini-conference for senior citizens who are concerned about their wills, long-term health care, and “final” arrangements—in other words—“burial arrangements.” As we get older, we see more and more of our friends and family members who are now in nursing homes or assisted living facilities. The expenses can easily wipe out our savings if we have not prepared for these things beforehand. We certainly can’t count on Medicare!

Also, laws are changing concerning our wills. Ellisa Garrett, an Athens attorney and a graduate of UGA’s Law School, will speak to us on making a will and the recent changes in the laws regarding inheritances and wills. Louie Wyatt will speak on long-term care options, and Tom Lord will talk about “final arrangements.”

Our conference will be **March 8** at the Georgia Center, starting at 1 p.m. There will be a small charge for the conference to cover the expenses of renting the room at the Georgia Center and some light refreshments.

If you are interested, please contact Nancy Canolty by e-mail (ncanolty@gmail.com) or by phone (706-548-4811) no later than **February 21**. She will then contact you to get you registered for this very important conference. Even if you already have a will, you will want to attend to find out about the new laws. You do not have to be a member of SoloSENIORS or a member of the Alumni Association—which sponsors SoloSENIORS - to attend.

For more information about SoloSENIORS, please visit our website at <http://www.alumni.uga.edu/alumni/soloseniors.html> or call the Alumni Association at 705-542-0080 or 800-606-8786.

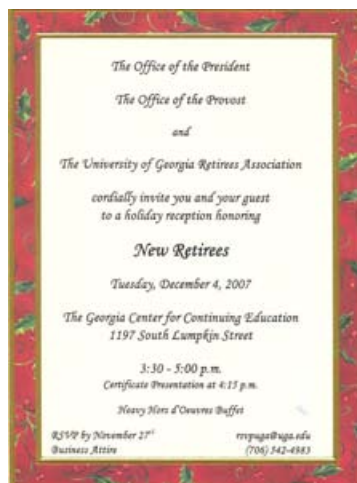
Nancy Canolty

UGARA, the Office of the President, and the Office of the Provost Welcome New Retirees at the December New Retirees Reception

All new faculty and staff retirees were invited to attend a reception with their spouses at the Georgia Center on December 4, where Provost Arnett Mace and Dr. Helen Mills, past president of UGARA, presented attending retirees with certificates honoring them individually for their years of service to the University of Georgia. UGARA members and new retirees enjoyed a buffet and fellowship.



Provost Arnett Mace and new retiree Fran Lane



Opal Haley with Barbara and Louie Wyatt



Linda Brawner, Debra Watson, and Catherine Cooper

To see more photos of this reception, go to <http://www.uga.edu/ugara/album.html>

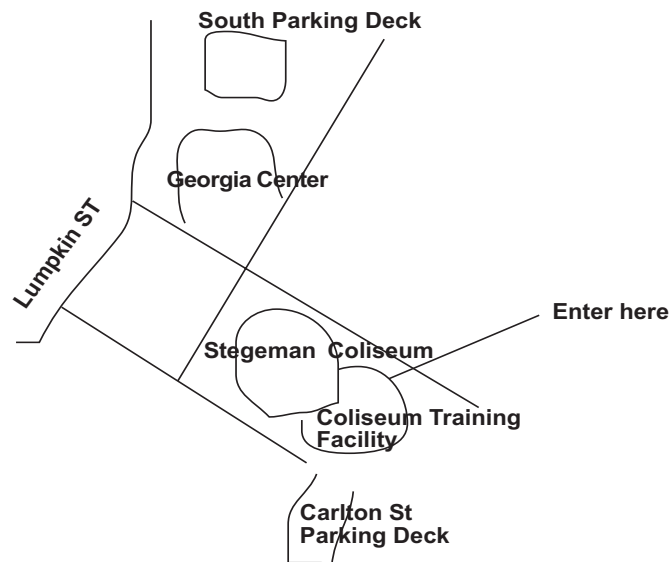
Travel Notes

Visit to the Coliseum Training Facility



The Travel Committee has arranged a tour of the new Coliseum Training Facility for men's and women's basketball and women's gymnastics on **Wednesday, February 27 at 9:00 a.m.** We will meet in the hall in front of the offices. We should be able to tour the entire facility, including the dressing rooms. Parking is available in the South Parking Deck adjacent to the Georgia Center and the Carlton Street Parking Deck located behind the Practice Facility (handling parking this way is much less expensive than hiring a UGA bus).

In order for us to have a general idea of how many will attend, please call **Marcus Jennings** at **706-542-2251** or email him at **mrj@uga.edu** if you plan to attend. This is the only form of reservation this event will have, and there is no charge for it.



Future Events

We are planning to make the Waycross/Okefenokee trip (cancelled last year due to the fires) in mid-May. Detailed information about this with a reservation form will appear in a later newsletter. We have heard that the Okefenokee Swamp is coming back beautifully.

And, put the date **August 17** on your calendar. We are planning to attend "Dial M for Murder" at the Black Bear Dinner Theatre. This will be a matinee performance that will include lunch. Travelers who took our October trip will remember this delightful theatre.

Note:

Anyone who has any suggestions for trips/events for UGARA please get in touch with Gene Michaels (706-543-9661, gmichael@uga.edu) or Marsha Gruner (706-549-6782, cgruner@bellsouth.net).

*Gene Michaels and Marsha Gruner
Travel Co-Chairs*



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Important News from Human Resources

By **April 1, 2008**, all UGA retirees must establish their beneficiaries in the MetLife system. The goal is that by April 1, 2008, MetLife will become the “Custodian of Record” for all UGA life insurance coverage and beneficiary designations, and existing paper beneficiary cards and forms in UGA Human Resources will be archived.

You may establish your beneficiary information in ***either*** of two ways:

1- By using the MetLife Web site: <https://mybenefits.metlife.com/MyBenefits/ssi/commonAccess.do>

OR

2- By calling the MetLife toll-free phone number: 1-866-492-6983

As a UGA retiree, if you have previously designated a life insurance beneficiary by signing a UGA card or form, the paper document is on file in HR and is still in effect. However, we did not provide this beneficiary information to MetLife, because the transferred beneficiary information would not be accepted as a legal designation. This is the reason you should establish your beneficiary information in the MetLife database.

To ensure your intentions are honored, please go to the MetLife Web site and designate your beneficiaries online (or call the toll-free number and get a form to complete and submit it to MetLife). You will then enjoy the advantages of viewing your information 24/7 because it’s available on the MetLife Web site and in the MetLife system.

In addition to this notification, you may soon receive one or more communications from MetLife reminding you to establish your beneficiaries online (or by calling their toll-free number), with the goal of getting all UGA beneficiary information into the MetLife system by April 1, 2008.