UIRA Program Committee Report

2022-2023

Programs for the 2022-2023 year were offered by Zoom, in person, and hybrid about a wide variety of topics. Programs were available from September through June. Zoom programs covered informational topics that lent themselves to a lecture/question and answer format and were available in the winter months. In person programs were outdoor activities in September and May and tours in the fall and spring. Attendance ranged from 16 to 62. A total of 13 zoom, two in-person tours, two hikes, and one hybrid program totaled 18 programs for the year.

Experts from the University and Iowa City communities educated members about a rich variety of topics in their areas of expertise. A summary of programming includes:

* Health Care—SHIPP Counselor Gary Schwartz provided information about “Making the Right Health Care Decision.” Rebecca Olson and Anne Thurston provided details about the two University health care options available to retirees: UI Choice and Health Alliance. These two programs were the best attended of all UIRA programs.
* Research--Professor and Chair of the Department Psychological and Brain Sciences Mark Blumberg presented the latest research conducted in his lab on sleep.
* The Museum of Art—Director Lauren Lessing introduced us to the newly open Stanley on a Zoom talk. Our members attended in person tours especially for UIRA in the fall. Five tours were led by docents for this popular in-person event.
* Hancher—New Director Andre Perry talked about his visions for Hancher, and docents led an in-person tour in the spring.
* The University—President Wilson gave her annual state of the university address. Vice President Rod Lehnertz previewed the 10-Year Facilities Plan for the University. Paula Jantz shared the history of Title IX and 50 Years of Women’s Athletics at the University. Basic Needs Coordinator Stephanie Beecher described ways we can support students to have a successful college career. Director Eric Bush entertained us with the history of the Hawkeye Marching Band complete with YouTube videos.
* Community—David McCartney and Royceann Porter gave a historical lecture with photographs of Lulu Merle Johnson, the new namesake of Johnson County. Michelle Kenyon, executive director of Food to Family, described how we may create a more resilient food system. Superintendent Matt Degner gave a state of the Iowa City Community School District address.
* We had two opportunities to get outdoors and hike at the Two Horse Farm and Phebe Timber, recent acquisitions of Johnson County.

Providing this diverse collection of programs was possible thanks to the efforts and commitment of the program committee members: Alice Atkinson, Sam Cochran, Ellie Herman, Lesanne Fliehler, Nancy Langguth, Billie Townsend, and Evalyn Van Allen Shalash. Working with this outstanding group was truly an honor and a privilege.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn Wanat,

Program Committee Chair