

## The President's Report 2016-2017: Nancy Hauserman

The past year included two major projects for UIRA. First, the successful endowing and awarding of the first scholarship created by UIRA for a deserving undergraduate student. Our first recipient will be introduced at the annual meeting. The second new project was a survey of the entire membership of UIRA to better understand the preferences of our membership. Some results are reported below.

Activities of the past year included:

**Continuation of Fine Program Offerings:** A talk on "Optimistic Aging" by Margit Cox Hendersen, a tour of the new Voxman Music Building, the annual update on retiree benefits, a talk about the first year of being President of the University of Iowa by President Bruce Harreld, a talk on the perils of dying without a will, and many fine talks by UI retirees as a part of the Emeritus Faculty series. We were fortunate to continue the flu vaccine program and the annual picnic (coming up again soon...don't forget!).

We are so glad to be able to continue recognizing some of our members with awards including the President's Award and the Volunteer Service Award and this year will introduce our first UIRA scholarship winner!

Our Travel Photo Contest received many outstanding submissions. The Contest was supervised this year by **John Moyers** who enlisted the help of a number of fine photographers in the Iowa City community to be our judges.

We also conducted a survey of our membership to assess the level of satisfaction with UIRA and to determine what we might provide our members beyond our programming and other efforts to date. The survey was sent to all members including those who receive mailings via US mail. Of our 655 members, 237 returned the survey. The range of membership dates ranged from 6 months to 30 years. 93 respondents were male and 144 were female. When asked if they had attended any UIRA events or programs in the prior year, 164 said yes and 73 said no. The most frequently attended programs were the tours of the Hansen Football Performance Facility (32.10%), Hancher (58.02%), Voxman Music Bldg. (32.7% as well as the programs on Benefits (37.65%), President Harreld's remarks (29.63%) and the Annual Business Meeting (32.72%). An overwhelming majority (87.34%) said they were satisfied with the programming. Those who were dissatisfied commented on the days or times of programs and a lack of political discussions while others noted a need for more programming! Several people specifically asked for more programs on environmental issues, tours of more places including the new Animal Shelter and the Engineering Annex, and more consideration of diversity, financial, political and historical issues. (There were at least 50 wonderful suggestions for programming! ALL of which will be shared with the incoming President and President-Elect!)

When asked about whether UIRA should offer day trips, e.g., to Des Moines Arts Center or Museum, or the Figge, 41.56% said yes, 48.92% said maybe and only 9.52% said no. (start looking for those buses!!) When we asked about our special interest groups, only 6.52% of our membership belongs to Gray Hawk Steppers or the World Events discussion group. But many of you had ideas for new groups including groups focused on music, books, politics, movies, theatre, dining, sports, e.g., bicycling, pickleball, golf, racquetball, cross country skiing, photography, music, ballet and bridge. LOTS of great ideas!

We were pleased that 51.98% of the respondents supported the UIRA scholarship in theory and some in giving. 33.92% were unsure about the project and 14.10% did not think support the effort (support was not defined in the survey so it could be literally as in giving or supported the idea of same). All of us were glad to see that 92.11% of respondents read The Grayhawk regularly. We received a few suggestions of items we might add to the newsletter including notable events in the community that are of interest to retirees and recognitions or achievements in the lives of members.

97.82% are satisfied with the amount of communication received from UIRA. When asked about overall satisfaction with UIRA membership 44.35% said they liked it a great deal, 40% liked it a moderate amount, 6.52% said a little and 9.13% were neutral. No one disliked their UIRA membership **but it will be great to figure out how to get 55% to like a great deal!**

**THANKS TO ALL OF YOU WHO TOOK THE SURVEY.** You surely know that you are the heart and soul of UIRA....and your officers and Board want to hear from you anytime with or without a survey!

Nancy Hauserman  
UIRA President