

## **University of Iowa Retirees Association 2017-2018 Program Committee Report**

The tradition of great programming for UIRA has continued this year, with a wide variety of excellent speakers and programs to appeal to our varied UIRA membership. The Program Committee members were Lucille Heitman, Billie Townsend, Dave Martin and Sue Otto (Chair); and these folks were especially effective in brainstorming ideas for programming and working on details for scheduling the events.

Our programs included Joan Schnabel on Iowa raptors, Dr. Christine Grant on the history of Title IX, Erin Thomas Lewis on the merger of the UI Alumni Association and the UI Foundation, Dr. Dan McGehee on automated driving, Dr. Peter Damiano on healthcare reform in the U.S., Professors Lena and Michael Hill on the history of African Americans at Iowa, and Dr. Tom Schulein on the history of the Pentacrest. In May Rabbi Esther Hugenholtz will speak on the EU and Brexit. As has become tradition since his arrival at Iowa, President Bruce Harreld gave a retrospective on the past year at the university. Attendance has ranged from 50-76 members. Ideas for topics come from many sources, but this year we had excellent ideas from the past and present UIRA presidents as well as ideas from the Program Committee members themselves. There was never a shortage of great ideas. As has been tradition, made an effort to avoid scheduling conflicts with Senior College classes and the Emeritus Faculty Council lectures. Most UIRA presentations have been held in the Schwab Auditorium at the Coralville Public Library.

As in past years, tours of campus facilities always attract many people. This year to date we have had two tours of new campus buildings. The first was breakfast and a tour of Catlett Hall, the newest and largest residence halls on campus, and a talk about life in residence halls—past and present—by Dr. Von Stange, Assistant Vice President for Student Life and Senior Director of University Housing and Dining. Our second tour was new Engineering Annex with featured speakers Dean Alec Scranton, who spoke about the new annex and how it reflects the vision for the College of Engineering, and Professor Nicole Grossland, who talked about the Biomedical Engineering program, which is housed in the new annex. The Catlett event drew 75 people and the Engineering event was attended by 62 people.

UIRA has in the past sponsored a flu vaccination clinic in collaboration with the Visiting Nurse Association of Johnson County in October and a UI benefits information session in collaboration with the UI Benefits Office in late October or early November. We held these sessions again this year, holding the flu vaccination clinic at the Hills Bank in Coralville (61 members took advantage of this opportunity) and the benefits session at Park View Church (with approximately 110 people attending).

As an additional special event this year, we experimented with offering a special group block of tickets (at a greatly reduced per-ticket rate) for the February 4 women's basketball game. This was a modest success, with 40 tickets sold—10 more than our originally reserved block of 30.

A complete listing of events along with details about the speakers and the presentations for the 2017-2018 year can be found at: <https://uira.org.uiowa.edu/programs-and-events>. The feedback we have received on all events has been overwhelmingly positive.

Sue Otto  
April 5, 2018