



2015-2016 President's Report by Beverly Robalino

The goal of retirees is to have a healthy and purposeful retirement and UIRA is an organization that continually fosters that goal.

Some highlights of the past year include:

Programs: The program committee chair, Nancy Hauserman, and committee members have done an outstanding job in bringing us some excellent programs this year. The monthly programs have been very informative, fun and controversial. Having a reception for the UI President Harreld and touring the new Hansen Football Performance Facility are just some highlights of this year's programs.

New Member Reception: A UIRA new member reception was held last September. Members who recently joined UIRA were introduced to the association's programs, special interest groups, special members' awards and photo contest as well as to the Senior College. New members were invited to offer suggestions for future services and programs.

UIRA Scholarship: I'm especially happy UIRA initiated a student scholarship fund. The UIRA Board voted to match the first \$5,000 donated to the fund. This match money will come from UIRA's reserve funds. If you have not done so, I urge you to contribute to this good cause.

Special Interest Group: In addition to last year's three special interest groups that focused on film, Latin American issues and international events and politics, a new group called The Gray Hawk Steppers was initiated in October. Once a week the Steppers meet at the Coral Ridge Mall to walk. Members walk in small groups at their own pace.

Big Ten Retirees Association Conference: I had the pleasure to represent UIRA at the annual Big Ten Retirees Association Conference on August 14-16 at Michigan State University. The conference is a great opportunity to share information and learn from the other associations.

Service Awards: Two service awards were created last year, one for outstanding service to the Community and the other for outstanding service to the University. The plaques for these awards now have a permanent home in the east lobby of the IMU main lounge. A new President's Recognition Award was created this year to recognize a UIRA member for extraordinary service toward advancing the goals and objectives of the UIRA.

Travel Photo Contest: With Ken Starck's hard work in managing the photo contest and the continued support from Keith Jones of Hills Bank and Trust, the contest is in its third year.

Services: The annual Flu Shot Clinic administered by the Visiting Nurse Association was held at Hills Bank and Trust in October. An annual UI health benefits program presented by UI Benefits was also held in October to discuss the status of retirees' UI health benefits.

UI Email: Last but not least, I need to mention University email. For those members who are still using their University email or alias, it has been quite a year. I like to think UIRA's involvement with the University's Information Technology Services (ITS) helped persuade the University to maintain retirees' email and calendar services. We did express our concerns with ITS regarding the University's proposed changes to our email addresses.

Finally: It has been my great pleasure to work with the Board of Directors and I would like them to please stand and be recognized. I would also like to thank all our members for your continued support.