

The University of Arizona Retirees Association
2014-2015 Annual Report of Activities
by
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Many organizational changes, events and activities highlighted the 2014-2015 UARA fiscal year. At the beginning of the year, a new location for Advisory Council meetings had to be found when the Vine Annex Building became unavailable. The first three meetings were held at the Arizona Health Sciences Center. Recognizing the physical inadequacies of the room assigned, however, the three remaining meetings were moved to the Himmel Park Library.

In October, financial and in-kind support was received from the UA Office of University Relations for the publication of UARA newsletters and revisions of its brochure. That support was greatly appreciated and much needed to provide ongoing informational services to UARA members.

In March, after 12 years of occupancy in the off-campus Sun Building, the UARA office was relocated to the Babcock Building, one of the most historic buildings on campus. Previous occupants of that office space were scientists associated with the Jane Goodall Research Foundation. The move did not occur without some difficulties and ultimately required development of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between UARA and the UA Office of University Relations. Creation of the MOU was facilitated by Teri Lucie Thompson, Senior Vice President for University Relations and formally recognizes the UARA as an affiliate of that office.

In May, UARA members elected the following as 2015-2016 officers: Ruth Eskesen, President; Jim Barrett, President-elect; Tom Rehm, Treasurer; and Felicia Hermann, Secretary. The membership also approved revisions to the bylaws which changes the method for electing members to the Executive Committee and UARA officers in the future.

Recognizing that a major UARA milestone would be reached in 2015, the Executive Committee and Advisory Council planned events and other activities to celebrate UARA's 35th anniversary year. In March the first of two celebratory luncheons was held at the Lodge on the Desert with 77 members and their guests attending. Dr. John Schaefer, UA president emeritus was guest speaker for the event. As UA president at the time UARA was founded, Dr. Schaefer provided financial support in that effort. Planning for the second 35th anniversary luncheon to be held in October 2015 has been underway since the beginning of the year.

In addition to the two luncheon events, the decision was made to undertake a UARA history project. A four page summary appeared in the fall 2015 UARA newsletter. A full version is available on the UARA website and printed copies can be obtained from the UARA office. Leadership in researching and preparing the historical document was assumed by Roger Caldwell and Trudy Jacobson.

In addition, to the 35th anniversary spring luncheon, members enjoyed two other luncheons during the year. Attended by 65 UARA members and their guests, Hacienda del Sol was the venue for the fall event held in late in October. Teri Lucie Thompson, Senior Vice President for University Relations was guest speaker at the event. The winter luncheon was held in January at Tanque Verde Ranch with 93 in attendance. Arrangements for the three luncheons were made under the leadership of Jane Dugas, UARA's luncheon coordinator.

Two well- attended educational seminars were co-sponsored with Tucson Medical Center Senior Services and held at TMC's El Dorado campus. In November 2014 a seminar entitled "Navigating the Health Care System as We Age" was presented by four panelists: Mindy Fain, MD, Co- Director of the Arizona Center on Aging; Lynn Heskett, SHIP Coordinator, Pima Council on Aging; Merri Miller, RN, Director Clinical Utilization at TMC; and Ronald Zack, JD. The February 2015 spring seminar was entitled "Guarding Your Wallet—Preventing Scams, Fraud and Financial Exploitation." Guest speakers presenting at the seminar were Linda Phillips, RN, PhD. an expert in the field of elder abuse, and John Evans, JD, Assistant U.S. Attorney. The two seminars were free of charge and open to the public. Attendance was 55 and 60 respectively and included many non-UARA members.

Jim Barrett and the Activities Committee were very busy during this past year. In November a group of 16 UARA members and their guests toured the Laboratory of Tree-Ring Research and enjoyed 'Dutch-treat' lunch at the new Bear Down Kitchen, located on the 4th floor of the Lowell-Stevens Football Complex. In March, 50 UARA members/guests enjoyed a ride on the Sunlink modern streetcar which included an informative tour of the streetcar maintenance facility. Dave Heineking, Director of UA Parking and Transportation, hosted the tour. Following the tour attendees enjoyed 'Dutch-treat' lunch at O'Malley's on Fourth. The Activities Committee also obtained group rate tickets for two UA sporting events: a women's basketball game in February and the annual UARA Day at the Ballpark in May.

Two recipients of the Irving Yall Book Scholarship were selected by Betty Atwater's Scholarship Committee and introduced to UARA members in the fall 2014 newsletter. The recipients were Jennifer Salazar and Callie Wong. Jennifer is a pre-physiology student from Yuma and hopes to attend medical school after completing her undergraduate degree. Callie is majoring in psychology and plans to pursue a career in health care either as a nurse or physician.

UARA was well represented at the annual UA Human Resources Retirement and Awards dinner in May. Copies of the spring newsletter and letters inviting attendees to join UARA were distributed and Past President Suzanne Van Ort spoke to the new retirees about the benefits of joining and becoming involved in UARA. During a spring UA Human Resources seminar, Tom Rehm represented UARA and provided information about UARA to UA employees considering retirement.

During this past year, in addition to his work on the UARA history project plus maintaining and updating the UARA website, Roger Caldwell represented UARA as its liaison to the University Club planning group. Roger will report on the progress made toward establishing a University Club sometime during the spring of 2016.

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