

Big Ten Retirees Association Annual Meeting Report  
August 15-17, 2008  
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

The 17th annual meeting of the Big Ten Retirees Association was held August 15-17, 2008 on the Urbana-Champaign campus of the University of Illinois. There were 29 representatives from the member campuses of the Big 10 Retirees Association with only the University of Minnesota not represented. They were joined by 29 individuals from the sponsoring association, the University's chapter of the State Universities Annuitants Association of Illinois.

On Friday, the participants registered and stayed at the Illini Union at the center of the Urbana-Champaign campus. Those who arrived early had a chance to take a walking tour of the campus or visit the Illini Union Bookstore to use the gift certificate that was part of the registration packet. They were then bussed to the President's House for a reception and light meal. Afterwards, they were entertained by "The Other Guys" who are the University's premier men's a cappella singing group.

On Saturday morning, the group had a continental breakfast at the Union followed by the program. The three presentations were on topics felt to be important for academic retirees. They were:

"Maintaining a Healthy Mind and Brain," Arthur Kramer, Professor, Department of Psychology, the Beckman Institute, and the Institute of Aviation

"Finance 101 for Retirees," Stephen D'Arcy, Professor, Department of Finance and John C. Brogan Faculty Scholar of Risk Management and Insurance

"The Changing Academy: Universities in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century," Stanley Ikenberry, President Emeritus, University of Illinois and Past President, American Council on Education

Lunch was held in the Ballroom at the Union. The speaker was Rick Beard, the Executive Director of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum in Springfield, Illinois. His talk and the accompanying slides presented an excellent picture of this facility.

The afternoon bus tour was led by Melvin Skvarla, the Campus Historical Preservation Officer. There were stops to visit and hear presentations at the Beckman Institute for Advanced Science and Technology; the Krannert Center for the Performing Arts, and the new Activities and Recreation Center. Saturday evening, the group moved to the I Hotel, another new facility on campus, for dinner. We were greeted on behalf of campus Chancellor Richard Herman by Peg Rawles, Associate Chancellor. The evening's entertainment was provided by comedian (and University of Illinois administrator) Tony Clements.

Breakfast on Sunday morning was again at the Illini Union. This was followed by a session at which delegates from each association described the activities and challenges facing their group. Several sponsor health fairs, some organize trips, and all publish newsletters. Many brought newsletters and other materials for distribution. This was followed by a brief business meeting. The delegates from Iowa reminded the group that the 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Association will be at the University of Iowa on August 14-16, 2009. The meeting adjourned at about noon and box lunches were provided for the trips home.