



UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

UPDATE **to the University of Illinois Board of Trustees** July 2016

UIAA BOARD RETREAT & MEETING

The Board of Directors held a retreat and meeting June 23-24 in St. Charles, IL. During the retreat, which was the first of its kind for this group, we had a very productive discussion about who we are as an organization, how we can provide value to our alumni and the University, and how we can work together to achieve our goals of connecting, inspiring and celebrating University of Illinois alumni. The retreat was led by an outside facilitator, Larry Pearlman, who is an alumnus of the Urbana University. The Board identified several priorities that will require further discussion and action, especially in light of the extremely difficult budget situation that we are facing. We look forward to working with our Board to addressing these items and continuing to make progress on our goals.

During the Board meeting, Trustee Jill Smart, President Tim Killeen, UI Foundation President & CEO Jim Moore and Secretary of the Board of Trustees and of the University Dee Dee Williams all delivered remarks. In addition to regular Board business, the Directors engaged in a debrief discussion of the retreat which occurred the previous day.

In addition to the retreat and meeting, the UI Alumni Association hosted an alumni reception for more than 125 alumni representing the Urbana-Champaign, Chicago and Springfield Universities. The next Board meeting will be held in Urbana on **Friday, September 9**. We welcome any Trustees who are interested in attending. Please contact Courtney Grussing at cgrussin@uillinois.edu if you would like to attend.

LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY ACTIVITY

Illinois Connection – the UI Alumni Association’s legislative advocacy network – recently sent a mass email on behalf of President Killeen encouraging the University community and alumni to express their concerns to our state’s leaders. The call to action resulted in nearly 1,200 people sending almost 3,500 emails to elected officials through our Illinois Connection platform. Additionally, more than 500 people have signed up to be Illinois Connection advocates, for a total of 15,000+.

Since March 2015, Illinois Connection Advocates and other U of I supporters have sent 62,500+ emails to the General Assembly advocating for higher education funding. To sign up to be an Illinois Connection advocate, visit <http://illinoisconnection.org>.

ALUMNI AWARDS

The UI Alumni Association strives to enhance all three Universities (Urbana-Champaign, Chicago and Springfield) by connecting, inspiring and celebrating its highly diverse, global alumni base in an innovative, disciplined and measurable manner. The UI Alumni Association's awards program is an important mechanism to promote alumni and their accomplishments.

The award nomination form is now available online. Please visit the links below for a description of each award, to view a list of past recipients or to submit a nomination.

Illinois Alumni: <https://illinoisalumni.org/alumni-awards/>

UIC Alumni: <https://uicalumni.org/alumni-awards/>

UIS Alumni: <https://uisalumni.org/alumni-awards/>

The nomination deadline for all awards is **August 31, 2016**. Please considering nominating your fellow alumni who are deserving of one of our alumni awards. Thank you for all that you do to connect, inspire and celebrate University of Illinois alumni!

URO REVIEW

In January 2016, President Killeen charged a committee with improving the alignment of university related organizations (UROs), specifically the University of Illinois Alumni Association (UIAA) and University of Illinois Foundation (UIF). The task force, which was composed of current and former UIAA and UIF Board leaders, including current Board Chair Bill Stratton and Vice Chair Steve Van Arsdell, assessed and provided insight and recommendations on how the two organizations can work more collaboratively and cohesively with each other, the campuses, and the University.

President Killeen has shared the committee's report and recommendations with the UIAA and UIF Boards. There are still many details to be discussed and finalized by an implementation team chaired by UIS Chancellor Susan Koch and UIC College of Nursing Dean Terri Weaver. Senior Vice President & Chief Operating Officer Andrea Ballinger will represent the UI Alumni Association on the implementation team which expects to have all work conducted in the next six weeks.