



URAA ANNUAL REPORT 2020/2021 by Christine Niemczyk

Last year, we introduced succession planning which means we have an elected executive in the positions of president, and two vice presidents, a past president to assist with the day-to-day volunteer duties, while working alongside and guiding a dedicated board of directors. This model certainly helps with history of our alumni association – where URAA has been – what we’re doing now - and what we want to do in the future.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE PAST YEAR

October 22: Fall 2021 Convocation: Monica Deters, URAA Past President will address the graduating students, and stress the pride and importance of being part of URAA and the U of R Alumni Family. URAA ordered and paid for new lapel pins with magnetic backing for the graduates for Fall 2021 and Spring 2022 Convocation, to be attached to a U of R Alumni and URAA Card with website and virtual yearbook information for graduates.

October 6, 2021: URAA presenting sponsor of the 2021 Alumni Crowning Achievement Awards (ACAA) plus acquiring talent of U of R alum for design of 5 awards which were also paid for by URAA. We have also committed to present and fund the 2022 ACAAs, plus fund design of 5 awards from new U of R Alum.

September 18, 2021: Breakfast meeting with Dr. Keshen and ACE staff re: brainstorming ideas and opportunities to involve and promote our valued alumni.

September 2, 2021: Informal introductory meeting with Dr. Jeff Keshen and Christine Niemczyk in the President’s Office. Dr. Keshen invited to attend future URAA Board Meetings as our guest and to share U of R highlights.

September 2021: Welcome week/weekend sponsorship with U of R and with URSU.

Spring 2021 Convocation: Christine Niemczyk provided a congratulatory video for the virtual ceremony. URAA provided congratulatory decals to be part of the convocation package.

May 2021: Sponsored the U of R Cougar Women’s Alumni Golf Tournament which is annual fundraiser.

March 3, 2021: URAA supported the virtual edition of the Inspiring Leadership Forum.

March 2021: New! URAA is sponsor of an annual \$25,000 CCE grant exclusively for U of R alumni to continue their lifelong learning with the Centre for Continuing Education.

March 2021: URAA was recognized as a Green Level sponsor for the 2021 President's Breakfast for Athletics.

February 2021: The 2020 ACAAs Awards were rescheduled to Feb. 2021 due to the pandemic as a Virtual event, co-hosted by Dr. Tom Chase, Interim President and Christine Niemczyk, President, URAA. We acknowledged our five outstanding recipients and award winners. URAA was pleased to have two of our board members participate in the review and selection process and that the awards are created, designed, and produced by a U of R Alum.

Winter 2021: U of R Career Fair. A URAA Board Member with Human Resources experience presented virtually on Linked In to share her U of R student experiences.

Fall 2020 Convocation: Video by URAA president Christine Niemczyk included as part of convocation ceremony. URAA provided congratulatory decals for grad packages sent by of R alumni relations team.

Fall 2020: Welcome Week. Provided virtual U of R Bookstore gift cards to current U of R Students as part of "Welcome Week 2020."

Fall 2020: URAA Logo Rebrand: We rebranded the URAA logo to make it more visually identifiable, unique, and distinctive as a University of Regina member-based, alumni organization.

ONGOING SUPPORT

- Continued support of 15 Scholarships by URAA
- We have oversight of the Alumni's Affinity partners that include BMO MasterCard and TD Home and Auto Insurance
- URAA currently in the 3rd year as part of a total financial commitment of \$100 K for the Darke Hall/College Avenue Campus Renewal
- Frame sales – URAA sponsored graduates with a shipping discount for the past few convocations, as frames required to be shipped, and not available for pick up due to COVID-19

In closing, I have thoroughly enjoyed my first year as URAA President and as a contributing Board Member. I am prepared to be elected for my second year and work with existing board and new board directors as we collaboratively engage in new ideas and projects.

Although the COVID-19 pandemic has slowed our progress slightly and put some of our plans on hold for the time being, the transition to virtual has allowed us to engage some of our alumni across the Country and world, which is very positive.