



URMIA 50TH

ANNIVERSARY

UNIVERSITY RISK MANAGEMENT & INSURANCE ASSOCIATION



URMIA's Historic Compendium:

The First 25 Years

Foreword: The URMIA Story

In September 2019, URMIA celebrates a remarkable milestone: its 50th Annual Conference. This moment in the association's history deserves recognition, celebration and reflection. We honor our association's past, our members and the impact URMIA has made on the profession and profile of risk management in higher education. We also look to our future as we continue inspiring the most effective risk management practices to manage risk and protect our campuses' most valuable resources.

Now, as in the beginning, our vision has embraced values of community, innovation and education to help our members develop innovative solutions for protecting their institutions' valuable human, physical and financial assets.

This historic compendium shares not only the birth of URMIA as an organization, but also the story of how managing risk became a priority and a profession of great value in higher education.

"We are a new organization, but I think we are blessed with having institutional representatives with common problems and common solutions . . . As I see it, our first major goal is for each of us to become more aware of the coverages and procedures that each have and then see if it is possible to share this information and to develop common concepts useful to all of us."

—Robert Marriott, University of Missouri and Founding Member of the Western Group, 1968



www.urmia.org/50th

Table of Contents

Setting the Stage: The 1960s	2
Identifying the Need for a Risk Management Community	2
The First Meetings: 1966	4
Western Group	4
Eastern Group	5
Establishing UIMA: 1966	6
Second Meetings of Each Group	6
University Insurance Managers Association (UIMA) Is Born	8
The First Combined Meeting: 1969	9
First National Meeting	10
Vietnam War Era: Early 1970s	11
The Early Days of a National Group: 1970s-1980s	12
URMIA: A Focus on Risk Management	13
Building an Association and a Profession	14
URMIA Looking Forward	15
Our Past, Our Present, Our Future	15

**This compendium is adapted from the original text, written in August 1986 by Charles D. Emerson, DRM, University of Kentucky and President of URMIA in 1980-1981. URMIA is grateful for his efforts in recording the history of our association.*

Setting the Stage: The 1960s

Identifying the Need for a Risk Management Community

In the early to mid-1960s, many larger public universities and a few private institutions employed “insurance managers” to administer property, casualty, and, in certain cases, student and employee health insurance plans. They were typically seated in the institution’s business office.

During the 1960s, issues facing colleges and universities were many:

- **Social revolution:** The late 1960s were a time of social revolution, which affected all institutions of American life. Colleges and universities faced student protests opposing the Vietnam War, which sometimes turned violent and destructive. Protest was costly to the university; money was needed for policing, repairs, clean-up, and protection. ROTC facilities were burned along with other university buildings. In response to these events, insurance carriers dramatically increased premiums for property, fire, and liability insurance and forced the tripling and even quadrupling of deductibles.
- **Insurance conglomerates:** Conglomerates had purchased many major insurance companies which created pressure for them to make larger profits and, in turn, increase premiums.
- **Inflation and insurance capacity:** The lack of insurance companies’ capacity to handle all markets coupled with low returns or profits to members or stockholders made the insurance industry a seller’s market.

“I moved on to UW-Madison in July 1962. After being there a year, I felt the need to talk to others like myself who had to handle exposures found in a university. There were no lists or even any names. This was further complicated by the fact that I was not allowed to attempt any direct contact, except through the top business office of our campus. Permission was granted in October of 1963 for me to write to *College & University Business* asking if there existed an organization of insurance persons at the education level. None existed.”
—William Hustedt, University of Wisconsin and Founding Member of the Western Group

All these factors reflected the growing need for college and university risk and insurance managers. However, tight monetary policies at most universities limited travel and time away, which made it difficult to create a national organization. Administrators and business managers were highly suspicious of these new insurance, or “risk,” managers. Any kind of gathering or conference for such new “professionals” appeared unnecessary, unimportant, and, therefore, frivolous.

In October 1963, William Hustedt, University of Wisconsin, wrote to *College and University Business* asking whether a risk management association existed or if one was being organized. The editor knew of no such organization. Hustedt’s request is significant as it reflected the growing need for insurance managers to meet and discuss the critical issues facing colleges and universities.

In early 1964, the insurance managers of the University of Pennsylvania, Rutgers, and Brown met informally and talked about creating an organization consisting of college and university insurance managers. Then in April 1965, *College and University Business* published an article on a new insurance plan by the Insurance Company of North America (INA) for the University of Pennsylvania. This publication led to a series of letters from Hustedt to Rodney Pyfer, the author of the article and risk manager at the

University of Pennsylvania. As they discussed their institutions' insurance policies and programs, they realized they shared common problems. In November 1965, Pyfer sent letters to 12 universities in the Eastern United States with a survey addressing the status of the school's insurance manager, if they had one, and a list of tentative topics that might be discussed at a meeting to be held in the near future.

In a January 1966 communication to Hustedt, Pyfer mentioned that progress was being made on the "seminar idea" for the Eastern institutions. He also suggested that Hustedt and James Gallivan, University of Illinois, start something similar in the Midwest, with both groups merging eventually. Hustedt created a similar letter and questionnaire in 1966. Copies of this were sent to the Big 10 schools, the University of Notre Dame, Marquette University, the University of Chicago, and the University of Missouri. These participating Midwestern institutions became known as the "Western" group.

Both the Eastern and the Western groups felt that an insurance managers' meeting would work best with only a few larger institutions divided between the two geographic regions. The hope was to accomplish a close, personal friendship among the managers and to avoid the potential unwieldiness of bringing together a large group.



An early meeting of the Western Group at Northwestern University, November 1966.

The First Meetings: 1966

Western Group

The first formal meeting of insurance managers took place at the University of Wisconsin at Madison on Tuesday, April 12, 1966, and was hosted by William Hustedt. Those who attended constituted what is referred to as the Western Group. Though this meeting may have been spurred by Rodney Pyfer, Hustedt's vision of some kind of meeting and organization had formed well before any contact between the two men. Founders included:

- ✦ University of Wisconsin – William Hustedt
- ✦ University of Illinois – James Gallivan
- ✦ Purdue University – Thurman Brown
- ✦ Ohio State University – Jim Roesch
- ✦ Northwestern University – Alban “Stormy” Weber
- ✦ University of Michigan – Donald Thiel
- ✦ University of Minnesota – Ray Archer
- ✦ University of Iowa
- ✦ Michigan State University
- ✦ Indiana University
- ✦ University of Notre Dame – Charles Reddy
- ✦ Marquette University – Ward Glazer
- ✦ Stanford University – Bob Beth
- ✦ University of Chicago
- ✦ University of Missouri – Robert Marriott, Sr.



An early meeting of the Western Group at the University of Iowa, October 1967.

Topics included those identified by survey respondents as those items of greatest interest at the time. These six topics were discussed in a period of seven hours, which included lunch. There were no “outside expert” speakers, only discussions among the group’s members. While they could not get into anything deeply, they found the interchange worthwhile and valuable. As was hoped, much personal exchange took place during breaks and lunch. Topics for the meeting included:

- ✦ Risk Management
- ✦ Fire Insurance
- ✦ Manuscript Policies vs. Standard Policies
- ✦ General Liability
- ✦ Medicare
- ✦ Future Meetings

Eastern Group

Meanwhile on the Eastern front, the first meeting of the Eastern Group was held at the University of Pennsylvania in June 1966, hosted by Rodney Pyfer. Founders of the Eastern Group included:

- ✦ University of Pennsylvania – Rodney Pyfer
- ✦ Temple University – George Reese
- ✦ Rutgers University – Stanley Tarr
- ✦ Boston University – John Bulley
- ✦ Princeton University – Harry Riddell
- ✦ Pennsylvania State University – Wilson Carr & Mike Klein
- ✦ New York University – Marty Siegel

The Eastern Group also selected topics of discussion based on responses to its initial survey of insurance managers. Among the issues presented was “The Growth of the Risk Management Concept and Its Implications,” which ranged from informal talks to an open panel discussion with members of the University of Pennsylvania insurance faculty. There were no outside speakers and presentations and remarks came from the risk and insurance managers’ university offices and faculty. All left the meeting feeling that there was great value in this type of association, particularly in providing a venue for one or two schools to privately discuss a mutual problem or concern.

Establishing UIMA: 1966

Second Meetings of Each Group

To some degree, the outcomes of the Eastern Group's seminar and the Western Group's conference influenced the subsequent meetings of both groups. Each group's knowledge of the other's needs, interests, and successes affected their perspective and future plans. In the not-too-distant future the groups would unite, but the immediate early needs of each group differed. Both groups wanted future meetings to follow an informal, simple format; neither group was ready to develop an official combined organization and a corresponding constitution, bylaws, or guidance documents.

The second meeting of the Western Group was set for October 17-18, 1966, at the University of Minnesota. Group members agreed they needed more time for discussion, especially on the evening before the formal meeting's discussions began. At this meeting, the group delved more deeply into a few key topics. The first true "outside expert" speakers also presented at this meeting. These included a presentation on "Electronic Data Processing Coverage" and a panel discussion led by three insurance industry people on "Malpractice Liability Coverage." Though attendees found the ad-

"Going back to the 1960s, we in the Big Ten had some very interesting and sometimes heated discussions about whether to expand or not. We heard about some group on the East Coast who were interested in the same things we were, but they were 'Ivy League' types and, after all, we were the BIG TEN! Most of us were interested in getting more schools on board. Larger numbers usually means more clout! Thank goodness the 'expansionists' prevailed."

—Don Thiel, University of Michigan



Another early meeting at Pheasant Run, IL, October 1968.

dition of outside speakers to be beneficial, it by no means overshadowed the rest of the meeting in importance. As at the first meeting, it was the personal exchange between managers that was of most benefit. After its second meeting the following month, the Eastern Group agreed that its members found great value in networking with colleagues, a trend that continues to this day.

The second Western Group meeting extended to about one and a third days, compared to the seven hours of its first meeting at Wisconsin. Monday and Tuesday were chosen for formal discussion days, giving Tuesday afternoon to those individuals who wanted time to contact other departments on campus. This allowed for travel time and the handling of business affairs on Sunday.

The second meeting of the Eastern Group was held on Thursday, November 17-Friday, November 18, 1966. This took place at the University of Massachusetts. This meeting was similar to the first Eastern Group meeting. No outside speakers were present. Discussion was among the managers and university faculty. Topics included "Factory Mutuals vs. F.I.A.," "Competitive Bidding and the Allocation of Cost Among Departments," "Consultant and Insurance Audits," and "Replacement Value vs. Replacement Less Depreciation." Two professors conducted a colloquium on the various aspects and problems of faculty fringe benefits and pension plans. As a result of the first meeting attendees' interest in captive insurers, the group collected information for a study on the subject. The balance of Friday morning was spent in taking a guided bus tour of the campus – the first tour in URMIA tradition.

"In 1970, I saw a small ad in the *Underwriter's Magazine* about a new organization - the University Insurance Managers Association (UIMA). Response was directed to the venerable Robert Beth of Stanford University. I hurriedly mailed my \$50 check and soon passed the scrutiny of Bill Ryan for membership. I believe treating him to our cafeteria's luncheon special of the day - liver and onions - did the trick. I feel privileged to have had membership in URMIA, as it later became known, and my contact with the membership is most memorable."

—Charles Emerson, *University of Kentucky*

University Insurance Managers Association (UIMA) Is Born

The Western Group began discussing the overall goals and structure of future meetings. One member suggested after the first meeting that an extra half-day be taken to establish the scope, size, and general requirements of the organization. First, it was suggested that, for the time being, the representative of the host university also be the program chairman, rather than have a separate person serve as such. The host chairman could expedite arrangements as he would be familiar with his university's procedures. Second, participants thought it was important and perhaps even necessary to develop some type of constitution for this group of insurance managers if the group was to exist as an official forum. Just who would constitute this group was the major question, and there were many differing opinions. Some thought the group should be limited to the Big 10, the Big 10 and Big 8, or only 20-40 Midwestern schools, while a couple felt membership should be unlimited.

Though all institutions suffered the circumstances of the times, Western Group managers believed they had more common problems and solutions among institutions within their geographic region. For the ease of transportation, the group remained focused in the Midwest.

A Constitution was drafted and approved by the Western Group, launching the **University Insurance Managers Association (UIMA)**. The term "Midwest" was discussed as a prefix to the name but lost on a vote of seven to five. Indeed, there was a feeling that the organization would soon be a national group. The Constitution they adopted was a fairly open document, and it did not confine the members to a regional membership. The purpose, objectives, and function of UIMA as set in the Constitution came from Thurman J. Brown of Purdue University.



*James R. Gallivan,
University of Illinois,
served as UIMA's first
president, 1969-1970.*



Risk managers met at the University of Colorado in the late 1960s.

The First Combined Meeting: 1969

Following the groups' second meetings, group members felt that they needed more time to digest the content from these meetings. The groups agreed that an annual meeting would be more suitable. By this time, Pyfer had received a copy of the Western Group's October agenda and a draft of the UIMA Constitution. It is likely that he had presented or at least mentioned this to the Eastern Group in November 1966.

Noticeable differences between the groups surfaced at their third meetings during Spring 1967. The Western Group had outside speakers for every topic covered, whereas the Eastern Group kept its discussions linked to its managers. The Western Group increased its meeting time to two and a half days from Sunday to Tuesday, while the Eastern Group kept to its two-day meeting time from Thursday to Friday. The Western Group formalized its requirements of membership in a Constitution, while the Eastern Group did not. The Western Group had an enrollment limit and other requirements, which aimed to ensure that representatives would have enough institutional responsibility and knowledge to contribute, as well as learn. The charter members were concerned that if large and small universities were together, the small institutions would generally be learning rather than contributing. The Eastern Group left expansion of membership up to the host institution with the general agreement that only larger institutions would be invited as they would share the problems of general interest and benefit from the applications discussed. Both groups discussed the number of times that their groups should meet, semiannually or once a year. Also, each group invited a representative from the other group to attend its meeting. Hustedt attended the Eastern meeting at Rutgers in May 1967.

"It turned out to be extremely beneficial for me in terms of the wealth of college assistance and know-how and the assurance that, when one needed help, it was readily available. That essential benefit has grown and expanded considerably since the national development of URMIA and its constantly increasing effort to promote the professional development of risk management and the awareness of its important contribution within the educational community."

—Bob Mullen, recalling his first meeting at Princeton University

First National Meeting

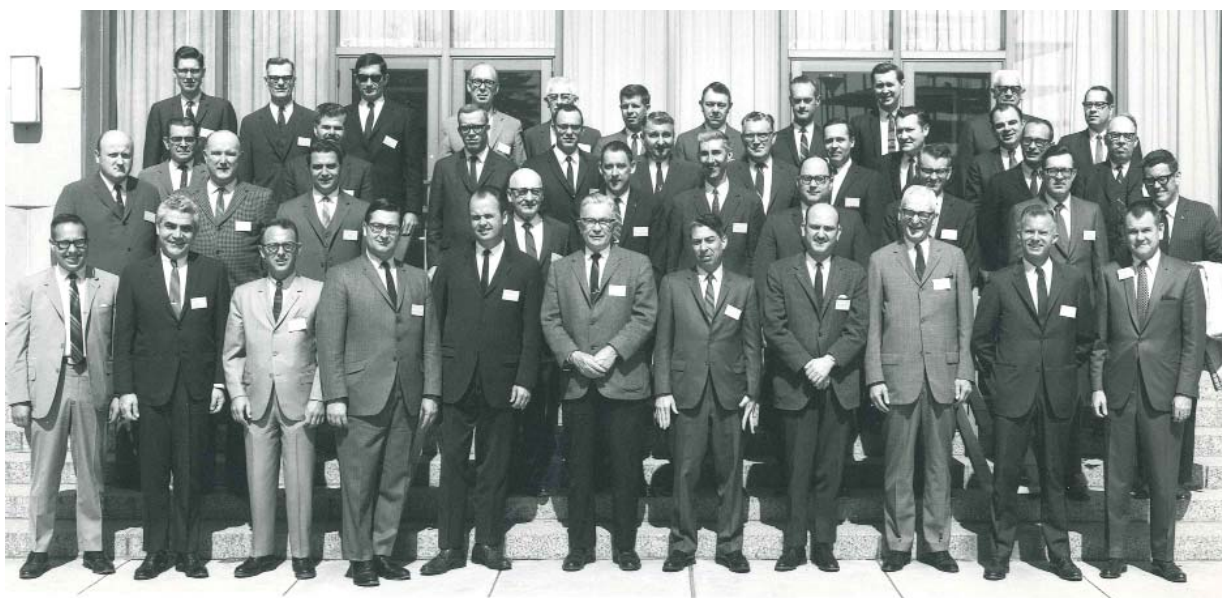
Both groups continued to meet separately for several years until May 1969, when **the first joint meeting of Eastern and Western insurance managers was held at the Pennsylvania State University**. By this time, both groups had seen the benefits and successes of their separate meetings and had established some type of constitution, management methods, and structure for their groups. Both were growing in reputation at each of their meetings. Insurance managers on the Pacific Coast heard about these fabulous soirees and, never missing a celebrity event, also began attending meetings. In fact, Pyfer had contacted M.J. Bowman, California Institute of Technology, and suggested that he “develop an interest in a similar group on the West Coast so we (Eastern, Midwestern, and West Coast) will be in national scope.”

The most important aspect of the Penn State meeting was not so much the discussion topics – though, of course, these were significant – but the matter of joining the two groups into one organization. At this point, the West Coast region, with Bob Beth representing Stanford University, was considered part of the Western Group. This subject was considered jointly and then discussed separately.

Each group planned to further consider merging into one organization. In other words, it was still too soon for union.

“At the beginning of the 1970s, universities still maintained an historical suspicion of each other’s business practices. I remember once asking several university insurance managers (we still weren’t ready for ‘risk managers’) if I could study the medical malpractice provisions of their liability insurance policies. Each of them responded that he could not divulge that information outside his own institution. In frustration, I made copies of the University of Michigan’s entire policies and sent them to my colleagues. Almost by return mail, I received copies of the other institutions’ insurance policies. A few barriers came down.”

—Bill Ryan, University of Michigan



UNIVERSITY INSURANCE MANAGERS' ASSOCIATION

First combined meeting of the University Insurance Managers Association (UIMA) at The Pennsylvania State University, May 1969.

Vietnam War Era: Early 1970s

It was the peak of student unrest. Underwriters would open their newspapers and see story after story about a campus building somewhere being burned. From the news coverage, it probably seemed that all buildings would be hit. James Gallivan, the president of UIMA, attended the meeting of the Eastern Group at Princeton University on May 1, 1970. The Eastern Group felt that universities had not received good press notices from an insurance standpoint. Members believed that more could be accomplished by a national UIMA than by individuals or members of several small groups attacking the insurance industry on their own.

Fresh from the East, Gallivan attended the Western Group's meeting at the University of Notre Dame the following Monday. He reported that he shared this belief and recommended that a single national group should be formed. Alan Weber recommended that UIMA invite the Eastern Group to join in a merger of both groups. Furthermore, he suggested that "a person or persons from each group arrange for another joint meeting to be held in the fall of 1970."

The turbulent times hastened the need for exchange of information and speaking to the insurance industry with a single strong voice. The Western Group decided to change its annual meeting to the fall. This left open the spring for Eastern regional meetings and also gave members of the American Society of Insurance Managers (ASIM) the chance to attend its national conference, hopefully in large enough numbers to form a loose "industry group" of risk managers in education.

The joint meeting was set for October 19-20, 1970, at Purdue University. The Eastern Group of universities merged with UIMA. There were now 65 representatives from 60 universities, encompassing about 90 campuses. The meeting's three main objectives were to:

1. Unite all interested groups into one national group
2. Challenge the insurance industry representatives and complain against their increases in rates and large mandatory deductibles
3. Seek some satisfactory compromise between the industry and universities

The setting for the 1970 Annual Conference is best described in a letter from UIMA President Bob Beth to the presidents of various insurance companies:

In the area of property coverage, universities are now faced with the following: 1) large deductibles of \$100,000 or more; 2) substantial increases in rates; 3) limited markets; and 4) restrictions in existing coverages. We are now concerned that the insurance companies have been misled by the sensationalism in the news media. Will you permit us to present our information, outline possible solutions or alternatives to the existing market problems, and let us know what you can propose to develop viable insurance programs acceptable to all?

Representatives from the Hartford Group, Employers Insurance of Wausau, American States Insurance Company, Royal Globe, Continental Insurance Company, and the Insurance Company of North America participated in a panel discussion. The Insurance Managers felt that the meeting helped to open up communications, but they were also left with the impression that the companies were not willing to make any changes at the time unless all violence, arsons, etc. on the campuses stopped or unless considerable political pressure was put on the insurance industry. The companies said they had no statistical data available on such losses at universities and gave the matter a low priority. It was a rather elucidating discussion.

The Early Days of a National Group: 1970s-1980s

Also presented at the 1970 Annual Conference at Purdue University was the pooling captive insurer idea, which was first discussed at the Eastern Group meeting of 1966. This had evolved into a study by Felix Kloman and others, which recommended the formation of a University Property Pool and a Risk Control Board. While some members had reservations that universities could collectively do any better in the purchase of reinsurance than commercial carriers, there was some indication that prospects were favorable. UIMA appointed a steering committee to coordinate efforts and determine whether the program was feasible. This idea of university captives ground on through 1977, receiving technical assistance from the National Association of College and University Business Officers (NACUBO) and Johnson & Higgins and finally led to the creation in 1980 of an off-shore association captive insurance company comprised exclusively of universities.

Alas, detailed information on conference proceedings ends here, as there is not enough primary documentation to substantiate stories, only spotty correspondence and newsletters. Nevertheless, some URMIA history and observations can be reconstructed.

Now that the Eastern, Western, and West Coast Groups were united into one national group, leaders could set collective goals. Risk management had come into being as a respectable profession at most universities. General growth in universities increased the need for insurance and risk management. The introduction of the Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSHA) of 1970 imposed liability on all institutions, and managers had to carry out provisions of the Act. Increasing attention was given to fire and life safety codes, particularly in dormitories. The mid-1970s brought forth the national medical malpractice crisis. UIMA included malpractice discussions in meetings and in the newsletter.

TREASURER'S REPORT

October 1972 - October 1973

Checking Account Balance	\$ 16.01
Savings Account Balance	<u>1737.89</u>
TOTAL	\$1753.90
Income For Year	
Dues	\$ 840.00
Interest	<u>82.89</u>
TOTAL	\$ 922.89
Expenses For Year	
Newsletter	\$ 508.20
Travel	766.38
Phone	42.03
Misc.	<u>36.91</u>
TOTAL	\$1353.52

TREASURER'S REPORT

OCTOBER 1974 - OCTOBER 1975

Checking Account Balance	\$ 448.44
Savings Account Balance	<u>4234.75</u>
TOTAL	4683.19
Income For Year	
Dues	3060.00
Interest	<u>210.65</u>
	3270.65
Expenses for Year	
Newsletter	702.96
Travel	1261.91
Phone	385.85
HEARS	56.00
Misc.	<u>118.89</u>
	2525.61

UIMA Treasurer's Reports from 1972-1973 and 1974-1975.

URMIA: A Focus on Risk Management

By the early 1970s, Bill Ryan of the University of Michigan had begun laying the groundwork for emphasizing risk management in addition to insurance functions. A few years later at Baton Rouge in 1976, the association's name was changed to the University Risk Management and Insurance Association (URMIA) to reflect this emphasis. The name change was enacted to "more accurately reflect greater involvement of University Insurance and Benefit Managers with Risk Management concepts." According to Beth, "URIMA was a strong second choice but some felt the pronunciation sounded as if it were a kidney ailment, thus URMIA won."

According to the October 18, 1976, membership meeting minutes of the vote, "Resolution one, 'let it be resolved that the name of the association be changed to University Risk Management and Insurance Association,' passed by 2/3 majority in a roll call vote listing 28 members in favor of the changes and 16 opposed." Along with the change of name came a new logo for the association – a circle representing the total circumference of risk management with the light and dark sections representing known and unknown risk.

"If I were asked what in URMIA's history gave me the most pride, I would have to answer adding risk management to the name of the association in the recognition of the universities' acceptance of the then-new profession, leading to the development of real risk management principles on our campuses. The organizational vote barely supported the change, but I am sure that by now all of the members appreciate it."

—Bill Ryan, University of Michigan

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING October 18, 1976

The general membership meeting of the University Insurance Managers Association was called to order by President George Reese at 4:30 p.m. on Monday, October 18, 1976. The purpose of calling the meeting on October 18 was to discuss the following proposals:

1. Change the name of the association to University Risk Management and Insurance Association.
2. To provide for two vice-presidents of the Association, a vice-president for risk management and a vice-president for staff benefits.
3. That the nominating committee established under Section VII.6 be abolished.
4. To split the University Insurance Managers Association into two separate and independent associations, one for risk management, the other for Staff Benefits.

The first item of new business acted upon concerned the four resolutions introduced for adoption by the general membership. Resolution one, "let it be resolved that the name of the association be changed to the University Risk Management and Insurance Association" passed by 2/3 majority in a roll call vote listing 28 members in favor of the changes and 16 opposed. Resolution two, "let it be resolved that Section 4 be amended to provide for a vice-president of risk management and for a vice-president of staff benefits" was defeated in roll call, 17 members voting in favor and 30 members opposed. Resolution three, "let it be resolved that Section VII.6 be deleted from the constitution and that the nominating committee be abolished" was defeated in a roll call vote with one member in favor, the balance being opposed (the number voting against was not tallied). Resolution four calling for the splitting of the University Insurance Managers Association was withdrawn.



During this period, many people could be credited with advancing the discipline of risk management in higher education, but perhaps no one's efforts are more universally recognized than Dr. John Adams of Georgia State University and author of *Risk Management and Insurance – Guidelines for Higher Education*. In the foreword, Dave Baldwin, 1972 Chairman of the NACUBO Insurance Committee, Temple University, lauds the author a "special acknowledgement of the prodigious and selfless work performed by Dr. John F. Adams." In addition to this volume, Adams' Annual Liability Survey culminated in the volume, *Legal Liabilities in Higher Education: Their Scope and Management*.

Building an Association and a Profession

By the 1980s, the disciplines of risk management and employee benefits had been brought together into a cohesive association. And just in time, for the floundering economy and looming federal and state cutbacks to institutions created renewed concern over resources and expenses. At the Chicago conference in 1980, Walter Smith from Rollins, Burdick, and Hunter suggested that risk managers place more emphasis on the management of risk and on loss control. The risk manager had become an important asset in ensuring a safe and secure university.

URMIA has grown vastly in members and experience since its inception. By September 1980, membership increased to 130 institutions. The continual breaking of attendance records at URMIA's Annual Conference reflects not only the importance of the conferences, but it also reveals that members have both an excellent view of their positions and seek to improve their knowledge and skill sets in a profession that is forever changing. URMIA's growth also indicates that the sheer numbers of practitioners of risk management in higher education continue to increase. The inter-school communication, experience, and problem sharing, which was once primarily organized on a regional basis, now takes place at a national and international level. URMIA has cultivated and nurtured a one of a kind community of risk management and insurance professionals in higher education from around the world. Indeed, community, innovation, and education continue to represent URMIA's greatest benefits for members seeking professional development, friendships, and camaraderie.



URMIA members and leaders at the 14th Annual Conference in October 1983 in Washington, DC.

"I gladly accepted the University of Chicago's offer to become its first director of risk management in January 1988. I had been in risk management at two public corporations and a consultant to a variety of other organizations but not a university. I assumed the university job would be easy because universities don't change. I couldn't have been more mistaken. In fact, a great joy of my 25 years at UChicago was the flow of new challenges every day."

—Glenn Klinksiek,
University of Chicago

URMIA Looking Forward

Our Past, Our Present, Our Future

While this Historic Compendium focuses on the birth of URMIA as an association, the number of members and benefits of membership have steadily increased in the years since the association was first imagined. From the creation of a national office to the changing faces of our leadership to annual conferences that break attendance records every year to the inclusion of institutions around the globe to a robust online discussion and resource community, URMIA continues to grow, thanks in large part to the efforts and involvement of its diverse, passionate members.

URMIA has grown as an organization since the early 1980s, most notably through the establishment of a national office and dedicated staff in 1993. From 1993 to 1998, URMIA's first office was located in Washington, DC, through a partnership with NACUBO, which assigned a staff person to URMIA on an as-needed basis. On July 1, 1998, URMIA partnered with United Educators, which hired an URMIA administrator. In 2001, a consulting firm assessed the association's needs. Based on its recommendations, URMIA hired an association management firm in January 2002. The current incarnation of the URMIA National Office, located in Bloomington, IN, began in 2005 with the hiring of Jennifer Whittington, who served first as assistant executive director and became executive director in 2007.



UNIVERSITY RISK MANAGEMENT &
INSURANCE ASSOCIATION



Supporting the next generation of risk managers has been an URMIA tradition for years. Brian Rodgers, University of Alaska, and Mary Breighner, Columbia University, welcome two student scholarship recipients to the 1989 URMIA Annual Conference in Anchorage.



Honorees at the 1989 URMIA Annual Conference in Anchorage included Bob Beth, John Walker, Eugene Marquart, Lee Stenquist and Bill Park.

What does URMIA look like today? A lot different! All it takes is a quick glance at our conference photos to recognize that our membership has grown in both numbers and diversity. In addition to representing public and private institutions of all sizes across the United States and world, URMIA's membership and leaders include people of all races, ethnicities, genders and backgrounds from around the world. We believe the important work we do at institutions of higher education can only benefit by welcoming all to the table, and we are proud of the great strides we have made toward being a more diverse, inclusive association.

URMIA's first 19 presidents were white men. In 1988, URMIA members elected our first female president, Mary Breighner, Columbia University, and since then our membership has elected 11 female presidents. Anita C. Ingram, University of Cincinnati, was the first African-American woman to be elected president in 2013. As of the publication of this compendium, URMIA's Board of Directors and Executive Committee was nearly 50 percent women.

We look forward to sharing more of our members' stories during our celebration of URMIA's 50th Annual Conference in 2019, "Community, Innovation, Education: Celebrating 50 Years of Advancing Risk Management." We take this moment to reflect on our core values and recognize the driving forces behind the association's continued success.



Mary Breighner, Columbia University, was the first woman to be elected as president in 1988 (pictured at the 1988 URMIA Annual Conference).

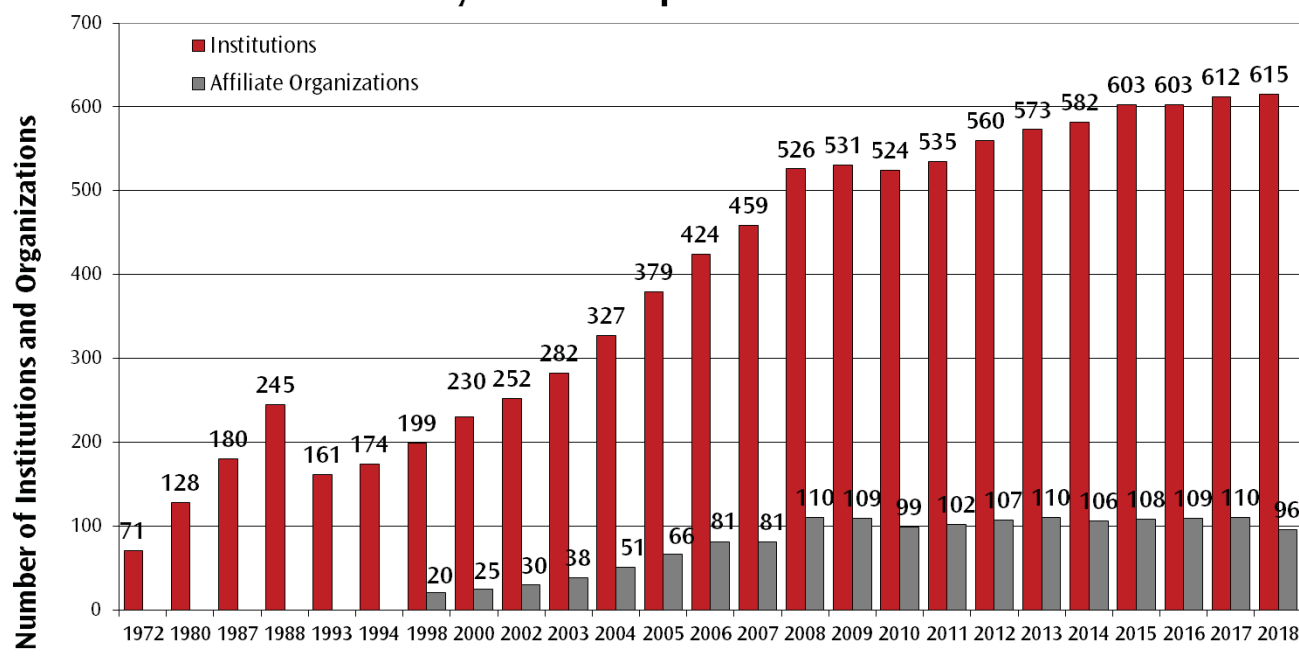


Anita C. Ingram, Southern Methodist University, was the first African-American woman to be elected as president in 2013 (pictured at the 2013 URMIA Annual Conference).



URMIA Board of Directors, 2017-2018

URMIA Primary Membership Counts - 1972-2018



URMIA's membership has grown dramatically since its early days. Our members are the heart of URMIA.

Community

URMIA is the preeminent community supporting higher education risk management professionals. What began as a few individuals from a handful of universities meeting in separate regions of the United States is now a professional association whose members reside throughout North America and beyond. The association has grown into a community of over 2,400 diverse professionals at more than 600 North American institutions of higher education. Members also include international representatives, students of risk management, retirees and individual educators.

URMIA also includes those who serve the needs of higher education risk management, with 100 affiliate member companies and partner organizations. We view our affiliate members as important partners with whom we share ideas, problems, and solutions. URMIA began accepting affiliate members in 1994, and there were 20 listed in the 1998-1999 member directory. We welcome the involvement of individuals from a wide variety of industries so that we can work cooperatively to elevate the role of risk management in higher education.

"I believe a great many of us working in the field in the 80s and 90s felt quite alone. I know I felt like I was pushing a boulder uphill for much of my career. URMIA was a refuge. As colleagues, we understood the challenges, provided support, and shared our successes and failures. In addition to maintaining a membership of extremely intelligent, dedicated, and driven people, the organization is one of genuine care and friendship."

—Julie Baecker Lageson, University of Alaska

URMIA fosters sharing ideas and forging friendships. Those who founded the individual groups that became URMIA wanted to see if they had common issues and could help one another address these shared challenges. They initially held informal meetings, which evolved into more structured annual meetings. Today, URMIA's members connect at multiple regional conferences, an annual conference, on URMIA's social platforms, the URMIA*network* and the member directory.

Innovation

URMIA provides responsive solutions. Fifty years ago, the founders' energies were focused on exploring the idea of creating a professional association. Continuing in that tradition, URMIA recognizes its greatest resource is its members and remains responsive to member needs. For example, newer member benefits include URMIA-sponsored insurance programs covering sports camps and events held on campus.

URMIA is proud of the role it has played in the development of the field of risk management in higher education. A purely volunteer association in its first decades, the organization continues to grow and evolve as a staffed professional association. One thing hasn't changed over the decades: URMIA values having a personal approach, which has moved many members to refer to it as their professional "family" where they have found lifelong friends.

Education

URMIA provides a broad range of professional development opportunities. While those who founded the groups that became URMIA learned from peers and experts at occasional meetings, current URMIA members benefit from more than face-to-face meetings. Members also have access to professional development through the association's workshops, webinars, an extensive resource library, peer-reviewed journal, e-newsletter, beginner's guide for those new to the field, scholarships, personal mentors, a complimentary Associate of Risk Management (ARM) study group and a career center.

"I retired to good times, fun, family and a three-year project management of a new million-dollar town park. I find working with a landscape architect, New York State Parks Division, local town utilities and highway employees, volunteers, scouts and others keeps your mind busy and sharp. Safety, vandalism, alcohol, vehicles, rollerblading, ATVs and snowmobiles have similar concerns in the community as well as in a college. So you see, I never left risk management."

—George Harland, Rochester
Institute for Technology

URMIA's Historic Compendium was published by the University Risk Management and Insurance Association (URMIA), P.O. Box 1027, Bloomington, IN 47402-1027. URMIA is an incorporated nonprofit professional organization.

Additional copies are available along with any associated resources by contacting the URMIA National Office at the address above or at urmia@urmia.org. Membership information is also available.

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URMIA would like to recognize the members of the URMIA 50th Celebration Task Force for their contributions:

50TH CELEBRATION TASK FORCE:

Gisela Adams, retired
Mary Breighner, retired
Paul Clancy, retired
Gregory P. Clayton, retired
Antona Curry, University of the Bahamas
Luke Figora, Northwestern University
Samuel Florio, Santa Clara University
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Marjorie F.B. Lemmon, Yale University
Sandy Mitchell, Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Ronna Papesh, URMIA
Keely Sims, URMIA
Jennifer Whittington, URMIA

Mark Your Calendars

Make URMIA part of your professional development plans in 2019!

Each spring, URMIA's regional conferences provide targeted educational sessions and professional networking opportunities in an affordable, closer to home format. Everyone is welcome.



UNIVERSITY RISK MANAGEMENT &
INSURANCE ASSOCIATION

2019 REGIONAL CONFERENCES

February 12-13, 2019 | Richmond, VA
Eastern Regional Conference

March 4-5, 2019 | St. Louis, MO
Central Regional Conference

April 10-11, 2019 | Providence, RI
Northeastern Regional Conference

May 13-14, 2019 | Portland, OR
Western Regional Conference

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

www.urmia.org/regionals

www.urmia.org/annualconferences

URMIA's 50th Annual Conference

Boston, Massachusetts | September 16-19, 2019

In September 2019, URMIA celebrates a remarkable milestone:
our 50th Annual Conference.

Join us at *“Risk-Ready in a Minute”* and help us celebrate our past, our members, and the impact URMIA has made on the profession and profile of higher education risk management.



Photo courtesy of Kyle Klein Photography.



Community



Innovation



Education

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF ADVANCING RISK MANAGEMENT

Be a part of the celebration!

Visit www.urmia.org/50th

- **CELEBRATION CENTRAL:** Get the latest happenings and first-person stories as we put a human face on the value of higher education risk management.
- **THE URMIA STORY:** This interactive website will be unveiled throughout 2019 to build excitement leading up to the 50th Annual Conference! Learn how URMIA began, discover URMIA's milestones, and get a glimpse of the future - all through our members' voices.
- **ANNUAL CONFERENCE INTERACTIVE MAP:** Click each city to explore past conferences.
- **HISTORIC PHOTOS ALBUM:** A picture is worth a thousand words! This sampling of photos paints a picture of URMIA from its inception to today.
- **SHOW YOUR URMIA PRIDE:** Download the URMIA 50th Anniversary logo and add it to your email footer and other communications.
- **URMIA ON THE BRAIN:** Share your thoughts with a series of polls and surveys.



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