ACCEPTANCE SPEECH

FOR

ANITA INGRAM

Hello everyone!! I am thrilled to be here today to accept this gavel and continue to uphold and expand the context, goals and outreach of URMIA. I want to thank all of you in URMIA for demonstrating your faith in me and I pledge to do whatever I can to maintain the mission of this fine organization while supporting all of you, our members, in realizing further understanding, unprecedented growth, and recognition for the work we all do in risk management and its related fields. (**If there are any people that you particularly want to thank, do so here**). I would like to take a moment to acknowledge and thank (**Outgoing President?**) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ for the fine work and strong foundation we have to build on. To \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, I want to express my appreciation for your support and guidance.

The Italian writer and philosopher, Machiavelli, once said, “Entrepreneurs are simply those who understand that there is little difference between obstacle and opportunity and are able to turn both to their advantage.” For those of us in the field of university risk management, every day we face opportunities and obstacles. It takes a keen eye and a well-honed sense of the dynamic involved to be able to discern between the two and to turn the former into the latter, but we know, as professionals, that it is possible to find the opportunity in just about every situation. As risk managers, we do just that-we hold the well being and potential of great institutions in our hands and the more support and insight each one of us has to guide us and encourage us to do our jobs as effectively as possible, the better off we, our clients and their future impact will be. I eagerly accept the challenge of the office of Presidency of this organization, I understand the mandate, and I have a vision for its future health and sustainability that I want to briefly share with you today. I don’t have to remind you that we live in thrilling yet challenging times and as President, I want to encourage all of us to work together and within the context of URMIA as we leverage the innovations and technologies that are more and more prevalent each day, while learning to navigate the uncertain challenges facing our global and local societies and economies. During my tenure at URMIA, it is my intention to work with the foundation that has been established and build on it to advance the strategic plan, reinforce the organization’s mission, expand its scope and breadth, and set up systems and networks designed to act as an even stronger and broader matrix for growth and effectiveness well into the future.

URMIA was founded in the 60’s-a time of social change and upheaval. It was a time when the younger generation questioned the establishment and the new establishment sought a way to bridge that gap and prepare for the future. We are now experiencing a new kind of social, technological and economic revolution and upheaval, and in order for us to be optimally effective at what we do, awareness, participation, and professional as well as social connection is essential. With that in mind, our goals for the coming year and beyond include enhancing higher education risk management, working with the assets of URMIA-namely each one of you as well as its connections and strategic placements, to promote, facilitate and improve the dissemination of crucial information through improvements and upgrades to the organization’s website and library, insuring that URMIA will be a living and breathing resource ready to be tapped to make a substantial and significant resource base available, organic, and most of all optimally useful, for the risk management industry. Our plans include implementing a professional development plan that will offer the opportunities for and knowledge of the techniques available for its members to work on skill building. We will explore and strengthen strategic alliances with peer organizations such as (**name 2 or 3 such organizations**) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ where we will work to optimize the synergies between such organizations to build and expand on mutual benefits for both entities. We will focus on broadening our connections by continuing our exploration of and partnership with known and new groups to advance best practices and further knowledge of those issues and topics that have the most effect and impact on the risk management for higher education. It is our goal within the modernized and updated URMIA to provide its members broader and more time sensitive access to resources and critical information and news that would have immediate impact on current and future strategies-and we will do so on an expanded and more varied platform. Each one of us has discovered the techniques and programs that serve us to provide information and support, and in this day and age of ever expanding technology, we are able to share an unprecedented database of knowledge and ideas across a growing variety of information streams.

Consider this as well-so many times, we hear of stories of mothers or fathers or caretakers that consider their charges before they take care of themselves. In modern folklore, that caretaker or nurturer would be thought of as selfless and single minded with perhaps a teeny bit of martyr thrown in. Now imagine those traits exhibited in a context or an organization whose purpose it is to inspire and maintain an atmosphere of growth, unity, and proper anticipation for the future. That is why, as President of URMIA, a main goal for my tenure is to reinforce and maintain unprecedented degrees of organizational sustainability. We will continue to meet the needs of our current community of members without compromising the ability to meet future needs by building a sound financial plan for the organization. We will prioritize the programs and the services that have the greatest impact on our current and future security and we will demonstrate, through our actions and experience of past endeavors, what it takes to keep this organization thriving so that in turn we can encourage and inspire our constituents to do the same in their own unique fields of risk management. If we’re not strong and sustained, we cannot support your sustainability and I pledge that will not happen to URMIA.

As we progress into my term, we will continue to evaluate and analyze the association’s finances and we will consistently ask the question, “What are the financial decisions that have to be made in order to achieve and sustain the short and long term goals of this organization? We will look at what needs to be implemented in order to regularly communicate the organization’s financial positions and reserves. We will take into consideration what will be the most effective and far reaching methods of contact in order to maximize reporting the status of URMIA’s finances and we will gladly leverage member suggestions and participation in order to meet our financial goals and results.

We will consistently and continually assess and streamline operating policies and practices, and of course, we will do what is needed to target new member growth and active participation in all categories currently served by URMIA. We will also look at neighboring synergies as we use our skills and experience to practice looking beyond our traditional collective scope of comprehension. We will encourage our members to find the tools to streamline their particular processes in their professional sectors and we will encourage our membership to do the same within the organization. After all, as Robert Browning taught us, “A man’s reach should exceed his grasp….” All of us stand on the shoulders of those who have walked the path before us, and as Ralph Waldo Emerson advised many years ago, “Do not go where the path may lead, go instead where there is no path and leave a trail.” Many have left trails for us and it’s time for us to discover new courses to success.

I cannot imagine a more exciting time to find those new trails to success, effectiveness and connectivity. We live in an era that is, as I said earlier, experiencing it’s own social revolution and although the game morphs and evolves every day, there is a wealth of knowledge and benefits to be gained from jumping in to the social pool and learning how to effectively navigate its waters. The time has never been more ripe and ready to maximize URMIA’s brand awareness and impact as a respected and credible source of knowledge and information dedicated to the advancing awareness of all phases of risk management in higher education. Occasionally we may tend to take our duties in the academic world somewhat for granted, but I have a feeling that if you asked a handful of lay people and strangers about the function of risk management in higher education, more than a few would not be aware that this sector of business even exists. It is time to consider that we may operate in a bubble, and it’s time for that bubble to expand, assimilate, and be part of the national conversation. Establishing, reinforcing, and promoting URMIA as a brand will serve to promote each one of you as well. With an identifiable logo inextricably bound to an important and valuable message, our profiles will be raised to new heights and as we establish an even firmer base for our industry, we will find the ways to tap into new resources to insure future successes and sustenance for our respective institutions of higher learning. As we grow and self-identify, we will have the natural benefits of being more accessible and recognizable to other associations affiliated with higher education, more institutions and universities and new and varied media outlets. Let’s face it- in this techno-centric world we live in, it’s all about content, connectivity, and community.

URMIA will also work to support its members by providing an effective network interface and user friendly website to insure an organic and supportive forum for discussion, effective problem and situation solving, and extensive communication no matter if you are external or internal constituents. We will leverage and encourage speaker/presenter opportunities as we invite respected members of our community and beyond to share fresh ideas and experiences that will encourage discussion, inspire new avenues of thought, and enforce best practices throughout all aspects of our mandated duties. URMIA will continue to be a living and breathing database and resource platform dedicated to informing and educating its members about the ever-changing roster of federal legislation and regulations.

(**Name the people that inspired you to participate in URMIA**) I am dedicated to the sustainability and long-term health of this organization because of the members who nurtured and guided me as I found my way in this fine association. I have been in the business of risk assessment for \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ years and I have been a member of URMIA for \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ years. I remember being so impressed and thankful for the intelligence and guidance of several people that have mentored me. I want to acknowledge \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. These people gave-and give tirelessly of themselves, their knowledge, experience and patience to see to it that URMIA’s present and future are insured. I can’t even begin to quantify all of the benefits I’ve gained as a member of URMIA and its impact on my professional life and relationships is tremendous. My participation inspires me to continually encourage and work with others to grow a strong member base while identifying, nurturing, and advancing association governance. I am honored to contribute my time and equity to work with you to evolve, re-form and inform the potential of this organization and I want you all to know that all of us that stand before you are actively seeking to identify our next generation of leaders. Every member has the potential to leave a lasting impression on this group. To the seasoned professionals, we honor your tenacity, your wisdom and your strength discovered through years of trials and triumphs. To those of you who have been around for a few years- or more, we applaud your sense of community and willingness to try something new, offer services and suggestions we might not have thought of, and provide a core constituency offering administrative and practical services to encourage organization and growth. To all of you that have recently entered our field and have joined us to “check us out,” Welcome!! We are thrilled to be the object of your curiosity and questions and we want you to feel free to engage anyone of us in conversation for the purpose of advice, insight, counterpoint and anything that would inspire your further participation.

We have big goals for the coming year as I’ve mentioned. As we stretch, our collective reach will exceed our grasp as we all work together to build URMIA into a world-class organization. Together we have the brains, experience, intuition and dedication to encourage new levels of impact for this group. As we expand, we’ll have new opportunities to deal with “bigger problems.” As we conduct job task analyses, we’ll find ways to identify even greater opportunities for increased collaborations and we will look to take our knowledge base global as we begin to focus on issues of international risk management. As the world “gets smaller,” our potential impact will increase as we learn to address the risks facing incoming students from around the world while learning to manage issues of risk concerning students, faculty and staff with regard to global travel, insurance, and other issues that may arise as we expand our outreach.

I am thrilled to take on this new roll and I am eager to learn as much as possible to create and hold the context of an effective, sustainable, inspirational and impactful URMIA for all of us. Ultimately we hold the wellbeing of the country in our hands. Higher education must evolve with the times and our institutions of learning must be prepared for the future-whatever it may look like. It’s our job to ensure that longevity and security and I am more ready than ever to roll up my sleeves and get to work. I welcome your participation at every level. Let’s get started together and really establish URMIA as an organization to be admired, respected and inspired! Thank you all!