

**IRU FALL CONFERENCE**  
**September 12-14, 2004**

**CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS**

From all indications, this year's Fall Conference from September 12-14 at the Equinox Resort in Vermont was a great success. Rumor has it that the program and facilities were first rate, as always, and provided the attendees with food for mind and body.

With much regret, your Journal editor was absent from the conference, due to the looming presence of Hurricane Ivan which forced him to stay close to home. As it happens, Ivan was the only one of the 3 Florida hurricanes to actually miss the Orlando area, but who knew!?

In any event, I was quite disappointed to miss the very well presented topics on such issues as the evolution of the California Worker's Compensation market; an A.M Best rating perspective; commentary on Vermont's expanding Captive environment; medical malpractice issues; prospects for TRIA implementation; an overview of E&O issues pertaining to the construction industry; and an excellent panel discussion of current issues arising from reinsurance contracts.

For those who attended the conference, details of the various presentations were included in the various links contained in the IRU's e-mail dated September 21. Those who missed the meeting are left to plead with Mary K. for access to that material.

A little birdie (my dear editorial colleague "Robin" Kelly) filled me in on the following additional items of interest:

1. Tony Joseph, newly designated head of Lloyd's West Coast activities in the U.S., has assumed the Presidential baton from John Reinman who served the IRU with great distinction during his term in office.
2. Wendy Baker has agreed to take on the Herculean role of Program Chair, and the IRU conveys its thanks to Bill Jewett for his own exemplary service in that capacity.
3. Jay Johnson (Axiom Re) and Mike Gregorio (TPF&C) have joined the IRU Board.
4. The IRU will henceforth accept advertising for the Journal of Reinsurance, but only on the inside of the front and back covers. Details of the advertising parameters can be found on the IRU's website.
5. Michael Davis, a Junior majoring in Business Administration at Olivet College, has been named as the IRU's Intern of the Year. Mike's award winning paper, entitled "Adding Value and Helping to Grow Your Client

with Surplus Notes and Trust Preferred Securities,” will be published in the Winter issue of the Journal.

Finally, it is certainly probable that the old Chinese curse (“may you live in interesting times”) may apply to this year’s renewal season, but I do hope that the renewal environment does not prove to be too “interesting” for each of you.

Regardless, I am sure you will all be ready to have some batteries recharged when the Spring Conference rolls around next March. So mark your calendars and plan to attend our session from March 13-15, 2005 at the Loews Ventana Canyon Resort in Tucson.

Paul Walther  
Editor, Journal of Reinsurance