

UMMRA INFO

THE UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA, RETIREES ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER
VOLUME VI, NUMBER 2, FALL 2003

CHANCELLOR'S GREETING

Greetings to UMMRA at the beginning of the 2003-04 school year.

This should be another interesting year at UMM. On the negative side, we continue to grapple with daunting budget challenges, throughout the University and here in Morris. On a much more positive note, though, we did receive funding for renovation of the Social Science Building, and will spend this year carefully planning that work. As you know, we also have just completed a highly successful fund raising effort, and now we begin to reap the benefits of that endeavor. For example, next year we will begin to launch a three year pilot program which will lead to a universal international experience for each and every UMM student in the May Term of her or his sophomore year. As you may have heard, UMM was recently selected as the #3 public liberal arts college in the nation by USNews.

I look forward to our work together. We are grateful for your past, present and future contributions to our College.

Sam

FALL LUNCHEON MEETING

The fall luncheon meeting of UMMRA will be held at Prairie Inn on Wednesday, October 8 at 11:45 a.m. Harold Fahl has scheduled Roger McCannon as our speaker. Roger will bring us up-to-date on the activities of the Center For Small Towns. We will order pay-your-own lunch from the menu. The Cougar Room at Prairie Inn is also reserved for our winter luncheon on Wednesday, February 11, 2004.

New board member, Mary Ellen Grossman, is planning the annual Spring Luncheon/Reunion which will be held on April 29, 2004, the same day as the Recognition Dinner. If you have ideas for afternoon activities please call Mary Ellen at 320-589-3605 as she realizes it will be hard to top last year's schedule.

DUES—MEMBERSHIP

So far, we have 77 paid members. Remember, UMMRA INFO is sent only to members, but dues can still be sent to our Secretary/Treasurer, Arden Granger, at 42389 180th Street, Morris, MN 56267. The cost is \$10, \$15 per couple.

UMMRA OFFICE AND E-MAIL

Again, just a reminder that UMMRA has office space in the Community Services Building (previous Post Office site). It is the last cubicle on the right side. The computer presently has some problems, but hopefully it will soon be operable so you can read e-mail there if you don't have a computer at home. If you have e-mail through the University but it is not working, call Computing Services at 589-6390.

REGIONAL FITNESS CENTER UPDATE

Enclosed is the fall schedule for seniors at the RFC. As you can tell, they offer a great choice of programs which should meet your needs for exercise and recreation. They did not list water aerobics (now called Water Works) which is held at 4:40 p.m. on Mondays and Wednesdays and at 12 noon on Tuesdays and Thursdays. The classes seem to be more geared for younger people, but you can tailor your effort to your aerobic level. It is a very enjoyable way to get 35 minutes of aerobic exercise. After spending a month with us last summer, our Ithaca, NY grandson added the RFC to his list of reasons to visit Morris. The other three reasons are the chicken at Willies, shopping at Town and Country, and Chinese take-out from the Grand Buffet.

UMRA NEWS

Laird Barber (320-589-4254) is our representative on the UMRA (University of Minnesota Retirees Association, Twin Cities) Board. Their fall luncheon speakers are as follows:

October 28 - Dr. Michael Osterholm, Director, Center for Infectious Disease Research and Policy

November 25 - Dean Steven Rosenstone College of Liberal Arts

January 27 - Dr. Lyndel King, Director, Weisman Art Museum

UMRA will be hosting the Big Ten Retirees Association Annual Conference on August 15-17, 2004. If you have suggestions on how our organization should participate, bring your ideas to the fall luncheon or call our president, Jim Gremmels, at 1-320-634-3498.

HEALTH INSURANCE - 2004

Ted Litman, UMRA Representative, Benefits Advisory Committee, wrote a retiree health benefits update in the September, 2003 UMRA Newsletter. He reported that there will be a modest increase in cost for retirees in 2004. Blue Cross/Blue Shield will increase 2.5%, or annual increase of \$105; Medica Group Prime Solution will decrease 1.6%, or annual decrease of \$48. Also, they will add \$10 co-pay for office visits and add adjustments to drug co-pay. Sarah Mattson, Human Resources, UMM, was kind enough to call the Office of Employee Benefits on the Twin Cities campus. They reported that we could expect our open enrollment packets the second week of October. There will be no informational meeting on campus this year for retirees. Laird Barber and Dolores Lammers have copies of Dr. Litman's report.

ONE DAY CAR TRIPS

Avis Brandt will continue to plan one day car trips; however,

she wants a sign-up list of participants before she finalizes the plans. She would like your ideas on places to visit so the Board will have hand-out sheets at the fall luncheon. Avis and Bernice Erdahl will be enjoying a tour of New England colors on October 8.

SAD NEWS

-Robert Bedel, a carpenter at UMM for 20 years, died on June 28 in Glenwood, MN. He is survived by his wife, Arlene, four children and four step-children.

-Clemens "Johnny" Brauer, a former Associate Professor of Geology at UMM, died on May 30 at Rapid City, SD. He taught at UMM from 1966 to the early 1980's and was fondly called "Doc Rock" by his students. He is survived by his wife, Marian (Mikki) and three children.

BITS AND PIECES

-Does anyone have an address for Bill Peterfi? The newsletter we sent to him in Budapest, Hungary was returned.

-This past year Pat Kahng traveled to St. Petersburg, Florida, Hawaii, San Francisco (twice, to visit a new grandson), Tennessee and North Carolina. She also enjoyed a cruise through the Panama Canal and the Southern Caribbean.

-Nell L. Anderson lives on a 10 acre farmsite south of Lake Hattie. She takes care of her two granddaughters each day, which is "the best job of all".

-Bettina Blake wrote a review of a book on black colleges for a publication called "About Campus". The book was **STAND AND PROSPER; PRIVATE BLACK COLLEGES AND THEIR STUDENTS** by Henry N. Drewry and Humphrey Doermann. The title of her review was "How Do These Colleges Do It?" A copy of the article is in the office file if you'd like to read it.

-The August 22 Morris Tribune featured Wes Gray and two of his daughters enjoying his 80th birthday celebration at the LaFave House.

-Doris Benson took a 17 day trip to Alaska in August traveling by bus, ferry and airplane.

-Jim and Nancy Olson have moved to their new home in Battle Lake, MN. Jim wrote that their grandchild is fine and like most retirees can't find enough hours in a day to get it "all" done.

-A lefse-making demo was held by Bernice Erdahl and Avis Brandt at the Stevens County Fair. A picture of them was in the August 14 Morris Tribune and showed off their Norwegian aprons.

-Lois Hodgell is living at the Prairie Home in Menasha, WI. She enjoys painting, reading and walking. Last summer, Ellen Ordway stopped on her way back from New York and had a pleasant lunch with Lois and her daughter, Pat.

-Shirley Kleespies took a 16 day bus trip to Nova Scotia through Canada to New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island, and then took a ferry to Maine and Niagara Falls.

-An article by Nat Hart, professor emeritus in English, has been accepted for inclusion in a book of critical essays

"Surveying the Literary Landscapes of Terry Tempest Williams." It is scheduled for publication in the fall of 2003 by the University of Utah Press.

-Ted and Judy Underwood have bought a home in Fremont, CA in the San Francisco Bay area.

-The June 17 Morris Tribune announced the election of Bettina Blake to the Minnesota Humanities Commission for a four-year term. The Governor appoints six members and the rest are elected by the Board.

-Freda Johnson, widow of Conrad Johnson, was pictured in the September 16 Morris Tribune celebrating at her 90th birthday party.

-Cathy and Ernie Kemble flew to Alaska in August to visit their daughter and family.

-To celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary Steve and Arden Granger drove their motor home to Alaska during July and August. It seems there should be enough tales to tell for a luncheon meeting.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

T. S. Eliot begins "Gerontion," his poem about old age, with the line, "Here I am an old man in a dry mouth," and concludes with the line, "Thoughts of a dry brain in a dry season."

As your new president, I find myself in the predicament Eliot describes. So, I hope at our first meeting you will water my brain with your thoughts about what our organization can do to help the college and ourselves.

One withered thought that I have has to do with the planned downstairs guest suite in the LaFave House. Can we figure out ways to help complete that project?

Some of you have already shared with me your ideas about some excursions. The sooner we can work out a schedule for these the better.

Hope to see many of you at the October 8th meeting.

James Gremmels, President, UMMRA

CAN YOU PUT A NAME TO THIS PERSON KISSING A DOLPHIN? The answer will be given at the fall meeting and in the winter UMMRA INFO.