



UMMRA INFO

THE UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA, MORRIS RETIREES ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER
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Outgoing president Mary Ann Scharf with incoming president Dian Lopez at the spring meeting.

NOTE FROM THE UMMRA PRESIDENT

Greetings UMMRA members!

Fall is almost here and the beautiful fall colors are already beginning to show. UMM is underway and the new freshmen are busy finding all their books, rooms, and professors. We wish them well on their journey and look forward to four years from now when they graduate as confident and successful young men and women.

UMMRA has exciting events planned for the fall and winter seasons. Roger and Carol McCannon have the perfect setting for our opening picnic – we'll see you on Thursday, September 3rd! Dr. John Stock will speak on Sleep Apnea, a timely topic for many of us, at our October 15th quarterly meeting. And we'll have a great home cooked luncheon at Lillehaugen's Bed and Breakfast on November 5th. We'll end the year in the new Gazebo room at the Prairie Inn exchanging white elephant gifts at our holiday party.

2010 will be a special year in our history as we celebrate 50 years as a UMM campus and 100 years since the beginning of the West Central School of Agriculture. Roger Boleman and Chris Butler are preparing a one-hour documentary. From next August through mid-October, the Art Gallery will feature artifacts from the last 100+ years of campus history. We are looking for historical documents, pictures, furniture, clothing, etc. For example, we already have a restored '55 Chevy. If you know of any artifacts we can borrow for the exhibit, please contact Melissa Weber at 320-589-6414 or me at 320-287-1517 or send emails to weberm@morris.umn.edu or lopezdr@morris.umn.edu. Stay tuned for other special events to be announced in the Winter newsletter.

Hope to see you next week.

Dian Lopez

FIRST THURSDAY CASUAL LUNCHEONS

UMMRA Potluck, September 3. Join us!

September 3, 11:45 a.m.: Fall Potluck at Roger and Carol McCannon's home, 46501 Wintermute Lane, Morris. Roger will update us on *Stevens Forward*. Bring a dish to pass. Beverages, plates and utensils will be provided. For directions, call Dian Lopez at 287-1517.

November 5, 11:30 a.m.: Lillehaugen Inn and B & B, 440 70th St. NE, Benson. To reserve, call Mary Ann Scharf at 589-4688 or email <mscharf@dishmail.net> She will also provide directions.

December 3, 6 - 8 p.m.: Holiday Party. Gazebo Room, Prairie Inn, Morris. Order from the menu. Bring a wrapped white elephant gift again this year.

January 7, 11:30 a.m.: Pizza Ranch. Morris.

For rides or more information, contact Dian Lopez on her cell phone at 287-1517 (local in Morris). An email will be sent out before events.

UMMRA FALL LUNCHEON BUSINESS MEETING

When: Thursday, October 15, 2009, 11:45 a.m.

Where: Prairie Inn, Gazebo Room, Morris. Order from the menu.

Speaker: Dr. John Stock will discuss Sleep Apnea.

Other quarterly meetings are currently scheduled for February 18 and April 15 (or 22).

LEARNING UNLIMITED FALL PROGRAM

Please note differing locations and times.

September 9: "Show Me How to Get Out of Here." Lawrence Owen will read and discuss poems that evoke an out-of-body experience. Morris Public Library, 1:00 p.m.

October 7 (tentative): Intergenerational National Issues Forum – "Coping with the Cost of Health Care. How Do We Pay for What We Need?" Morris Area Elementary School, 8:30 a.m.

November 11: "American Indians and the U.S.: New Perspectives." Julie Peletier and Bert Ahern. Stevens County History Museum, 1:00 p.m.

December 9: "The Genealogy of Jesus" Laird Barber will trace Jesus' ancestry through the Gospel of Matthew. Morris Public Library, 1:00 p.m.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

UMMRA members read to residents of West Wind Village through the Evergreen Reading program. Contact Cathy Kemble or Bernice Erdahl to volunteer.

UMMRA MINI-GRANTS

The UMMRA board received three requests for mini-grants which will be reviewed this summer by a committee of Bernice Erdahl, Barbara McGinnis and Tom Mahoney. Recipients will report on their projects in upcoming *UMMRA Info* issues.

A SPECIAL COURSE ON LIFE REFLECTIONS

Seniors again are invited to participate in the UMM class "Adulthood and Aging" to be taught at UMM by Professor Jacqueline Greenwood-Julien. Five seminars on aging will begin on October 26 for five Mondays, from 10:30 – 11:30 a.m. Contact Wendy Hyatt at 589-6276 for information, to register or to ask about transportation.

SILVER SNEAKERS

Check out the Regional Fitness Center's *Silver Sneakers* programs geared to seniors for Stretch, Strength and Splash. Call Sandy Grove, 320-589-6864, for information

BITS AND PIECES

Janet Ahern and Bert visited Venice as well as their son Jim's dig sight in Croatia. They met Jim's Croatian colleagues and explored gorgeous beaches with their grandsons.

Ferolyn Angel is a new retiree. She began teaching Dance at UMM in 1984 and joined the Academic Assistance program in 1989. She and husband Dan Allenspach attended a gathering of international relatives in London this summer and then explored southern France by train and by bus.

Doris Benson, Mimi Frenier, Barbara McGinnis, and Mary Ann Scharf are ombudsmen for the Department of Human Services Elder Care program.

Bernice Erdahl attended a wedding reception in Salt Lake City, followed by a family reunion of her relatives on her father's side in Graceville--attended by 218 relatives!

Sue Gooch traveled to Vermont for her 50th high school reunion and visited friends out East.

Andy Lopez's cousin settled in Spain following the Cuban Revolution. Andy and **Dian** had a reunion with his cousin and her daughter at Andy's brother's home in Rockford, Illinois.

Several scholarships have been established to honor three UMM retirees. The endowed **Jim "Doc" Carlson** Jazz Fund will be matched by UM President Robert Bruinicks to support the UMM jazz program. The **James Van Alstine** Geology and Environmental Sciences Scholarship Fund will support majors in Geology or in Environmental Science. The **Clyde Johnson** Music Scholarship Fund provides private music lessons for talented UMM musicians. See the summer *Profile*.

Jooinn and Claire Lee will have a family reunion in September on board an Alaskan cruise ship. Last December, they took a Mexican Riviera cruise as part of Joe's 55th high school reunion. Joe is enjoying gardening,

reading and socializing. Claire, retired from the UM Law Library, works two days a week at the public library.

Barbara McGinnis, her children and their families held a reunion in July at Peters Resort, followed by a Coy/Quigley reunion in Hutchinson.

Nancy Schuman reports that **Sam** has written two new books, one out in May on leading branch campuses and another out this December on religious colleges. Nan broke her arm, but she is still able to pick up their newest and third granddaughter. Sam and Nancy will travel to London this fall to take in some plays (perhaps at the Globe), visit relatives, and then go on to Copenhagen and perhaps to Hamlet's Elsinore. They send greetings to all.

Ruth Thielke and co-author Bridget Volden took part in discussions here and in the region of their book *If Only the Rod Had Been Round*. Bridget's story was featured in the June 27 and July 1 *Morris Sun Tribune*.

Ted and Judith Underwood will visit daughter Tamara and family in NY this month. Ted is active in the health care debate. He is reading U.S. History ("more than is good for me!") in his "vacation home on a hillside in the tiny fishing village of Bodega Bay overlooking harbor, bay and ocean beyond." He continues with another round of cancer treatment. Judith gardens year-round and again will substitute-teach. They participate in the rich cultural life of the San Francisco area.

NOTES FROM THE OPENING CONVOCATION

Following are some of the points made by Chancellor Johnson in her remarks to faculty and staff on 8/20.

- The administration is very optimistic about positive upward trends in student enrollment.
- UMM student satisfaction continues to be high.
- Revenues from tuition will surpass state support for the first time in our history. Federal stimulus funds will be used for "buying down tuition" and for "compensation costs to bridge to a lower recurring base." Students will pay less this year than last.
- A million dollar gift was received in honor of former WCSA teachers Ted and Tone Long. Ted also taught at UMM. Philanthropic giving to UMM was up 24.6%.
- The economic challenges of the past year resulted in work-force reduction and reorganization.
- The renovated Community Services Building will be ready for occupancy in January 2010.
- In February 2010, UMM will begin celebrating its 50th anniversary and the 100th anniversary of the West Central School of Agriculture.
- The campus is preparing for an accreditation visit in April 2010.

Karla Klinger, UMMRA Info Editor

Throughout the anniversary years, the 50th for UMM and the 100th for the West Central School of Agriculture, UMMRA Info will feature stories about the early years. Those of you who were here in the 1960s and early 1970s are invited and encouraged to contribute. Contact Karla Klinger at klingerk@hometownsolutions.net.



UMM's first three campus CEO's are pictured on the far left at Pat Tanner's retirement: Rod Briggs (rear) 1960-1969, Jack Imholte (right), 1969-1990, and Dave Johnson (left), 1990-1998. Pat (left center) served as executive secretary for all three. Helen Briggs is pictured at the right.
Submitted photos.

Memories of UMM by Helen Briggs

Fifty years ago, we moved to Morris to start a college. A handsome campus already existed, home to the West Central School of Agriculture. These state-run boarding secondary schools were being closed, no longer needed.

Rod's assignment: phase out the secondary school, and phase in a college. But quietly -- the state legislature had not given permission for the change, and of course, they hadn't funded it either. It was, however, considered a certainty: it was being heavily lobbied by some of the powers of Western Minnesota -- the Eds, among others. -- Ed LaFave and Ed Morrison.

We moved into the lovely home on campus where the theater now stands. It was like living in a park. Happy times. Our four children ranged in age from 1 to 13 years. David, who was about 6, lost a treasured cowboy boot in the mud under Edson Hall (the archaeologists will wonder about that!). The Vienna Boys Choir appeared in Edson Hall, and Andy, who was maybe 18 months old, refused to stay home with the baby sitter -- I listened to that wonderful concert standing at the back of the hall, holding him, asleep on my shoulder. No problem -- home was right across the street!

In 1961, when the college was officially recognized and funded by the state legislature, the buildings on campus were divided between the Experiment Station and the college. The lovely house stayed with the Experiment Station; Rod was with UMM. We moved out to the home on Lake Crystal where we spent the rest of our stay in Morris.

Beyond the ongoing activities of the school and the research station, the planning was beginning for the proposed establishment of the college. All night meetings, sometimes -- I wasn't there, and I'm not sure who was, but between the expertise from the Twin Cities campus and the hands-on skills of the local mavens, a virtual campus took form. By the time that the legislature gave permission for an experimental one-year trial for the college, they were ready to go.

A faculty had to be hired. Rod traveled to institutions around the Midwest, scouting for prospects. First person hired was Dr. Stephen Granger, a most fortunate choice. He was followed by so many other dear people, competent academicians that characterized him as "enthusiastic." It was the third or fourth time he'd been called that. "Is that all I am, enthusiastic?" he asked. It was most decidedly NOT all he was, but it surely helped. He was

recruiting people to come to a small prairie town, to a new and perhaps uncertain program. To us, it was exciting, and the fact that he managed to transmit our eagerness helped greatly.

Rod and I, under 40 years old, were among the oldest of this very young group. Mostly they were just out of graduate school, which usually means broke. When a new faculty member was arriving in those early years, there'd be a crew of faculty to help them unload and move in. There were also the beer runs, the purpose of which was to send a station wagon to whatever town gave them the best price on beer, and load up. This amused me.

A student body had to be recruited. Many of the students in that initial student body were the first in their families to go to college. One young man explained that he just couldn't face driving that tractor back and forth for the rest of his life. Rod made a point of getting to know each of the students. He claimed he knew each and every one -- actually, I doubt it, but I'll accept that each and every face was familiar.

One year, a significant portion (I think maybe 6) of the faculty wives was pregnant, me included. (That was Amy.) Christmas parties for the kids were held in the gym. (Wonder if they're still happening?) Time came when there were enough youngsters of preschool age that we needed a nursery school, and there was none in town. Karla Klinger and Anne Uehling pretty much honchoed that; I hear it's still a going concern.

The social life was great. I don't remember where the parties were held, but in the beginning, we were still few enough that we could fit into small and frequently quite interesting areas. Later we moved to more conventional venues, like the country club. Some dancing, a good deal of drinking, and chips and dip, everything delicious and everything calorie-laden. Alas.

And then there was the movie series held in Edson Hall. Mostly foreign films, as I recall, movies I would otherwise never have seen, some of the great classics of that era, images of which are still lodged in my brain though I have forgotten the names of the movies.

It was a time of warmth and companionship and purpose. Rod's dream was of a small, top-notch liberal arts college. I believe it is a dream that has come true.

Helen Briggs

Related notes from the editor:

The July 1 "Looking Back" column of the *Morris Sun Tribune* notes that 50 years ago "Mr. And Mrs. Rodney A. Briggs and four children came to Morris . . . to take up their residence on the campus of the West Central School and Experiment Station, with Mr. Briggs officially starting his duties July 1 as the new superintendent of the school and station."

The July 25 *Morris Sun Tribune* reports that UMM is featured in the *Fiske Guide to Colleges*. "The resource book covers 330 of the 'best and most interesting colleges and universities in the US and Canada.'" The August 19 *UM Brief* reports: "UMM HAS BEEN RECOGNIZED NATIONALLY BY FORBES [caps theirs] for the magazine's 'America's Best College Buys' list, with a ranking of 78 in the top 100. UMM is the only Minnesota school to make the list."

Throughout the summer, the *Morris Sun Tribune* reported UMM's efforts at using alternative energy sources. Helen said in the fall 2008 *Profile* that Rod would have been thrilled with campus plans for energy independence.