



UMMRA INFO

THE UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA, MORRIS RETIREES ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

<<http://www.morris.umn.edu/ummra>>
VOLUME XIV, NUMBER 2, FALL 2011

LETTER FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Greetings to all UMMRA members!

I hope you have survived the heat and humidity these past months. This was definitely NOT a typical Minnesota summer. I want to encourage every one of our members to attend the UMMRA meetings, picnics and luncheons this year. Also, when one of our board members calls on you to consider volunteering, please say 'yes'. This is your organization and it can only get better if everyone gets involved

Just one item of interest I wish to pass along in this newsletter. Two of your board members were asked to meet with Campus Security and VC Lowell Rasmussen this past month to discuss parking permits for our members. The recent Retirement Incentive Option offer and number of people retiring in December and January have caused some concerns about when members are eligible for their free parking permit. The matter has not been totally resolved at this point, but we anticipate a satisfactory solution for all parties involved soon.

The unusual timing of the RIO this year has also caused some record keeping problems for your board as well. We have not received comprehensive retirement lists from HR. We try to get everyone on our mailing lists, but should we happen to not include someone, please notify me or Joan Reicosky, and we'll get you added immediately. Let's have a good UMMRA year this year.

Lynn Schulz

OPENING CONVOCATION NOTES (more on page 2)

Following are points made by Chancellor Johnson at the August 17 opening convocation. Compiled from notes provided by Dian Lopez and reviewed by the Chancellor.

- UMM has over 1800 degree seeking students this year, the highest number in 8 years.
- Of the entering first year class, 11% are out-of-state, 1.9 % are international, 22.8 % are students of color, and 34.6% are first generation college students.
- Given the increase in students, residence hall occupancy is up. Blakely is back in use temporarily, and in some instances, three students will share a room. We need the new Green Prairie Living and Learning Center and will make a request again this year.
- UMM now has two wind turbines, and on a good day they produce more electricity than the campus consumes.
 - The 2010-2011 anniversary year broke records for philanthropic giving. UMM friends, students and alumni contributed 2.2 million dollars.

UMMRA FALL LUNCHEON BUSINESS MEETING

When: October 20, 2011, 11:45 a.m.

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

Speaker: Joel Tallaksen will discuss the biomass project.

Other quarterly meetings currently are scheduled for February 16 and April 19.

FALL DATES TO SAVE

September 1: Our opening fall potluck will be held in the beautiful outdoor Horticulture Gardens and shelter beginning at 11:45 a.m. Bring a dish to pass. Steve Poppe will speak and lead a tour of the gardens.

September 30: Distinguished Alumni Award and Networking Banquet, 6:30 p.m., Oyate Hall

September 30-October 2: UMM Homecoming.

October 3: Driggs Lecture, 7:30, HFA Recital Hall

October 10: Barber Lecture, 7:30, HFA Recital Hall

October 20: Quarterly Business Meeting. See box above.

November 3: First Thursday Luncheon, Main Street Brewery, Alexandria, 11:45 a.m. Roger Boleman will talk about *Prairie Yard and Garden* and its future.

December 1: Holiday Party, 6:00-8:00 p.m. Prairie Inn, Gazebo Room. Bring a white elephant to exchange.

Watch also for UMM Theatre and Music productions, as well as events at the Stevens County Historical Museum.

For rides or information, contact Lynn Schulz at lynn@morris.umn.edu or call him at 589-1796. An email will be sent out before events.

SAD NEWS

Richard Grant, 84, Professor Emeritus of English, died at his home in Morris on August 9th. Dick came to UMM in 1962 and retired in 1992.

Jason K. Johnson, 33, son of **Mark Johnson**, died in Minneapolis June 3, surrounded by his family and friends. He was a gifted cartographer.

Helen C. Bergman, 63, mother of **Brook Miller**, died on June 13 a day after suffering cardiac arrest during a triathlon. For over 35 years, she was an advocate for people with mental illnesses.

Albert Payne of Starbuck died June 30, 2011. He is the husband of **Betty Payne** and father of Dan Payne.

Our sympathy to their families.

CONVOCATION NOTES, (continued from page 1)

• UMM Athletics won UMAC conference titles in women's golf and basketball and men's track and field and five Coach of the Year awards. Three students were All American--one All American, one honorable mention, and one Academic all-American.

• UMM has been included in the *Fiske Guide to Colleges 2012* which provides profiles of over 300 colleges and universities in the U.S. Canada, and Great Britain

• *Forbes* magazine ranks UMM as a top 100 best buy, as 10th in the country among public schools, as 16th in "Best in the Midwest," and as 90th of 650 undergraduate institutions overall in "America's Top Colleges."

See <http://www.morris.umn.edu/newsevents/view.php?itemID=11809> for Forbes and Fiske ratings.

NEW RETIREES

Edith Borchardt, Professor of German, retired in May 2011. At UMM since 1985.

Dorothy DeJager, Transfer Specialist in the Office of the Registrar and Scholastic Committee administrative support, will retire in January 2012. At UMM since 1969.

Harold Hinds, Professor of History, will retire in January 2012. At UMM since 1970.

BITS AND PIECES

□ **Bert and Janet Ahern** are about to leave for Alaska on a trip with a grandson.

□ Our new and about-to-be-retired members have been wonderfully productive. **Katherine Benson** gave two papers at Oxford University and originated UMM faculty "brown bags;" **Edith Borchardt** designed the new interdisciplinary German Studies major; and **Harold Hinds** published *Crafting a Personal Family History*.

□ **Bettina Blake** sponsored the 350th birthday celebration of the James Blake House (1661), the oldest house in Boston, on June 24 and 25.

□ **Fred** and **Luisa Farrell** spent time in Peru this winter.

□ **Elizabeth Hinds** managed the Mental Health Drop-In Center and was DFL Precinct Chair.

□ This summer's *Profile* features **Neil Leroux**, recipient of the Morris Faculty Distinguished Research Award, and includes a photo of **this year's retirees** and awardees.

□ In addition to work in theatre and TV, **George** and **Pat Fosgate** have traveled to Mexico, Las Vegas and the Caribbean. They both work for 'Catering by Laurie.'

□ **Barbara McGinnis** won two nights in Las Vegas from Pioneer Public TV. She spent the winter in California.

□ **Judy Riley's** story in the July Morris *Sun Tribune* is about Mary Huebner's son Jon's fight against leukemia and Heather Aagesen-Huebner's difficult pregnancy. Both are UMM grads and Heather worked at UMM a few years.

□ **Mary Ann Scharf** is moving to St. Peter in mid-September to live closer to her family.

□ Between September and January, **Sam and Nancy Schuman** will travel to England and Wales, then New Mexico and Arizona, and finally to New Zealand. Sam will be teaching at UNC Asheville second semester.

□ **Ted** and **Judith Underwood** spent two weeks with family in New York in June. Judith and son Mark took a two week tour of Turkey in April.

□ **Randy Wenz** takes annual west coast motorcycle tours.

□ **Anne Uehling** spent four days with her granddaughter in New York, seeing musicals and the opera.

□ **Lila Watson** spends six months each year in Florida.

□ **Jerry Wright** was president of the Lutheran Campus Ministry Morris Board of Directors. He and Sue traveled to Norway last fall.

MEMORY TOURS OF UMM-JIM TOGEAS

The quotations are taken from transcripts of interviews conducted for the award winning video, "Promise of the Prairie: Education in Three Acts" by Roger Boleman, Mike Cihak and Chris Butler and are used by permission of Media Services.

Chris Butler asked about early chemistry facilities.

Jim Togeas: [T]here really was no Science building. Chemistry was housed in the Community Services Building [now Welcome Center.]. We called it Engineering in those days. And the rest of Science was housed in the ...Humanities office building... Chemistry...had that large space where the carpenters' shop had been...We had a small stockroom in the back of that, and then a big open space for lab. We had two small hoods that didn't work. The benches came from a lab in St. Paul, which had gotten rid of them...[T]hese were labs that had been intended for agricultural students and really weren't suitable for chemistry. They had, for example, metal pipes, and in those days, all the waste went down the pipes. And so what happened to the waste? About half of it wound up in the sewer ponds here and half of it wound up on the floor 'cause the acids ate through the pipes. So it was a poor facility, very poor. [Ed: Jim talks about Chemistry getting much of the top two floors of the second Science building when it was built.] And so we got a new building but they ran out of money... So we built a rather obsolete lab from scratch...[B]y the late '90s, for example, when it became possible to think in terms of a new Science building, that space was really bad....And the notion that we would ever get a building [Science 3] like this was really beyond my wildest imagination. The reason we got it, I think, was through the vision of Dave Johnson, who was chancellor then. I know that conventional wisdom was ask for something modest because you won't get anything beyond something modest, and you might not get that. But Chancellor Dave wouldn't hear of that and he insisted that we were gonna go for something grander. And so he really brought it to pass, I think. I suspect that certain key legislators got to know his face better than the one in the mirror. Dave lived down there. I hear these stories about him going to Sears to buy necessary clothing, just underwear or socks 'cause he was down there so much. So the notion that we would get such a beautiful facility, it was just inconceivable at any time. And the fact that we got it certainly is an enticement for this old guy to keep going.