

UMMRA Info

A quarterly publication of the University of Minnesota, Morris Retirees' Association

<http://www.morris.umn.edu/ummra>

Volume XVII, Number 2

Fall 2014

Welcome to all UMMRA members and all other readers throughout the communities that we serve.

During the 2012-13 year the Board worked on a variety of changes to its publication and to its composition. The Board, with the approval of the membership, decided to split the position of secretary/treasurer into two positions. Each of the positions, elected on alternate years, is to serve a two-year. Ron Kubik was elected treasurer in the Spring of 2013 to serve from 2013 through 2015. Joan Reicosky continued as secretary through the 2013-14 academic year. In the Spring of 2014, Bonnie Tipcke was elected secretary, Maggie Larson was elected president-elect and Ken Hodgson was elected member at large. At about the same time, the Webmaster position was added to the UMMRA Board.

Starting with the Fall 2013 edition of the newsletter, the INFO newsletter has been available in electronic and printed form. Let us know if you wish to switch the version of the newsletter that you wish to receive. To receive the electronic form of the newsletter, you will need a computing device and access to the Internet.

This spring and summer, a group of Board members (Ken Hodgson, Bonnie Tipcke, Joan Reicosky and Andy Lopez) have worked on preparing position descriptions for all of our Board positions. We think this will help us immensely during our Board members' recruiting efforts in the late winter and early spring. In the Spring 2015, the treasurer and one of the member at large positions will be open. Let us know if you would be interested in serving in either of those positions.

If you have any suggestions, questions or concerns about UMMRA, drop me a line at alopez@morris.umn.edu or call me at 320-760-4416. I look forward to seeing many of you at one of our events during the 2014-15 academic year.

*Andy Lopez
UMMRA President 2013-15*

Coming Events

All UMMRA members are welcome to attend these meetings and events.

September 15:

Driggs Lecture: "The Law in the Lives of Medieval Women," Ruth Mazo Karras, history, UM-Twin Cities, HFA Recital Hall, 7:30 p.m.

October 1:

Barber Lecture: Know Your Food: Turnips, Shakespeare's Titus Andronicus, and the Local, Francis E. Dolan, English, U of California, Davis, HFA Recital Hall, 7:30 p.m.

October 2:

- Quarterly Meeting, Mi Mexico, Morris, Ron Kubik speaker, 11:45 a.m.,
- Rose Ensemble, Assumption Church, 7 p.m.

October 3-5:

Homecoming, *some events listed on page two*

October 7:

Lee Lecture: Dr. Michaelle Browsers, political science, Wake Forest University, Imholte Hall 109, 7 p.m.

October 28: Health resource event, Morris Area Elementary, *watch Morris media for details*

November 6:

First Thursday of the Month Luncheon, Ferolyn Angell speaker, Old No. 1, 11:45 a.m.

December 4:

Holiday Potluck, Bonnie and Tip Tipcke home, 311 W Seventh St, Morris, 4-7 p.m. Bring dish to pass, choice of beverage, and free will monetary donation for charity.

December 9:

Chancellor's Holiday Party, Oyate Hall, 2-4 p.m.

SAD NEWS

• Raymond Hottovy, father of **Cindy Poppe**, passed away July 10. Services were held July 14 at Assumption Catholic Church in Morris.

• A Celebration of Life for **Robinson Abbott** was held July 13 at his residence in Morris. Robinson (Robie) Shewell Abbott passed away July 5. In 1961, he became one of the early professors at UMM. He taught general biology, plant ecology, plant morphology, plant taxonomy, and oceanography. He served as acting chair and chairman of the Science and Math Division in the 60s and 70s and on numerous committees at both the Morris and Minneapolis campuses, retiring in 1991 after 30 years of teaching. He is survived by wife Rose Marie, four children and eight grandchildren. Memorials were given to the Alzheimer's Association.

• A Celebration of Life was held July 15 for Patricia Maxeiner, mother of **Maddy Maxeiner**. Memorial contributions were sent to Adoption Option Council of Minnesota.

• Services for **Vilem Vavra's** father, Warren A. Vavra, Donnelly, were held August 14. Warren died August 9 in Wheaton.

• **Vicente Cabrera Funes**, professor of Spanish, passed away on July 6. Author of several books and contributor to international journals and newspapers, Vicente was honored with the UMM Distinguished Faculty Research Award in 2003. He taught numerous courses in Spanish and Latin American literature and film. Donations may be given in his memory to the American Cancer Society.

FACULTY AND STAFF NEWS

• **Nancy Volker**, Duplicating Services, retired June 19. Start date April 11, 1988

• **Mickey Hickman**, Rodney Briggs Library, retired July 3. Start date August 16, 1999

HATS OFF TO UMM!

Information compiled from UMM News Service

• One of *Sierra* magazine's top 40 "cool schools" for 2014. The Sierra Club's official publication ranks universities that lead sustainability initiatives and strive to protect and preserve the environment. Morris was ranked #31 in the nation, its highest ranking to date.

• Ranked one of "America's Top Colleges" by *Forbes* magazine. Rankings are based on an institution's success in the areas of student satisfaction, post-graduate success, graduation rate, and academic success. In terms of cost, Morris ranked fourth lowest in the Midwest and seventh lowest nationally among non-military institutions for which figures were reported. The campus was also the least expensive of the 18 Minnesota colleges on the list, with total annual costs of \$23,206. Overall, Morris was ranked 93rd in the Midwest and 396th in the nation.

• The U.S. Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association (USTFCCA) announced its 2013-14 Track and Field All-Academic Team honors, and the Morris women's squad was recognized for having a 3.27 GPA. It is the second consecutive year in which the Cougars have earned this honor.

Homecoming 2014 • October 3-5

Celebrate 50 years of the UMM Alumni Association during Homecoming. A partial list of events is included here. For a complete list of Homecoming events and updates, visit <http://www.morris.umn.edu/alumni/events/homecoming/2014/>

Friday, October 3

- 3–5 p.m. Celebration Remembering John Q. Imholte and Alumni Gathering, LaFave House
- 4:30–6:30 p.m. Briggs Library Photo Identification Project, Student Center
- 6:30 p.m. Cougar Hall of Fame/Distinguished Alumni Award/Networking Banquet, Oyate Hall
- 8:30 p.m. Phi Mu Delta 50th reunion gathering at Northland Prairie Inn

Saturday, October 4

- 9 a.m. Start time for Cougar Homecoming 5K
- 9–10:15 a.m. Alumni Women's Basketball Game(s)
- 9:30 a.m. Campus Tour, meet at the Welcome Center
- 11 a.m.–5 p.m. University of Minnesota, Morris Bookstore open
- 11 a.m. Cougar Volleyball vs. Northland College, PE Center

- 10:30 a.m.–12 p.m. Tailgate Party, west of Big Cat Stadium (Dining Hall rain site)
- 12 p.m. Cougar Football vs. Westminster College, Big Cat Stadium
- 3–5 p.m. Alumni Gathering at LaFave House
- 3–5 p.m. Briggs Library Photo Identification Project, LaFave House

Sunday, October 5

- 11 a.m. Alumni Softball game, Cougar Softball Fields
- 1 p.m. Alumni Baseball Game, Cougar Field
- 2 p.m. Performances by Symphonic Winds, Concert Choir, University Choir and Jazz Ensemble. HFA Recital Hall
- 3:30 p.m. Post Concert Reception, HFA

Opening Convocation Remarks by Chancellor Jacqueline Johnson

As a public land-grant institution, UMM is a center for education, culture and research for the region, nation and world. UMM is committed to outstanding teaching, dynamic learning, innovative faculty and student scholarship and creative activity, and public outreach. Our residential academic setting fosters collaboration, diversity, and a deep sense of community.

“I feel really lucky to be part of a campus that has a mission like this. I feel really fortunate to have spent my entire adult life doing work that I consider to be meaningful, work that matters. And I think that feeling of purpose and mission is duplicated in all of you who are here. There is great and good energy as we come into this academic year and I hope that we can retain that.

“This academic community does have a particular and distinctive mission; we occupy a particular sector in American higher education. We ARE a public liberal arts college. I’ve lately been describing us to prospective students as a public private—helps people understand who we are within the U of MN system; within the state; how we are like the private residential liberal arts colleges, but different in the value we place on access and affordability. Having said that, I recognize that we’re not cheap; that many in the state no longer view education as a public good; no longer view public education as a public good; that state funding for our purpose and mission continues to decline. We have our work cut out for us...but our value proposition is high, and I believe we have to get better collectively and individually at translating that value—that is, the value and relevance of the liberal arts—to our constituents.

“Once again we received a bounty of unsolicited national rankings. We’ll receive the Climate Leadership Award in early October in Boston. (See UMM’s award-winning video at <http://www.planetforward.org/content/climate-leadership-awards-2014>)

“We opened Green Prairie on time and on budget. Through a state grant program called Made In Minnesota, we are installing a collection of solar panels that will provide electricity for this facility.

“Peter Agre, Bloomberg Distinguished Professor and director of the Johns Hopkins Malaria Research Institute, will spend several days on the Morris campus in late September. In 2003 he shared the Nobel Prize in Chemistry for discovery of the aquaporins, the “plumbing system for cells.” He is a member of the National Academy of Sciences and the Institute of Medicine, holds 17 honorary degrees and more. Very distinguished, very impressive and supported for a fund privately endowed by one of UMM’s benefactors.

“If there is one enormous challenge for us going forward, it is that we have GOT to get better at translating the liberal arts and their meaningfulness and their relevance for our publics; for our constituents. And we have GOT to connect the work that students are doing here to the work that they will do when they leave—a proposal about how we might better make these connections is coming forward at some point this fall, so stay tuned.

“On the topic of relevance and meaningfulness and the liberal arts and accountability—we establish that relevance through recognized measures of performance and through the stories that bring these measures to life.”

Following Chancellor Johnson’s remarks, **Pete Wyckoff** talked about his research as presented to the regents, and student **Dan Stoterau** recreated his talk, given first in February to families and students during the campus Community of Scholars event, about helping prospective students witness what they can do with a UMM education.

Visit the courtyards behind the Welcome Center...

The two courtyards—the new Legacy Courtyard and the DeWall Courtyard with the pond as its centerpiece — complement one another and “add an outdoor gathering space and a new opportunity for reflection and artistic appreciation,” said Chancellor Jacquie Johnson.



A sculptural piece, titled “Double Möbius Strip,” was created by Chicago-based artist Plamen Yordanov. The piece, complemented by native plantings and wooden benches crafted by UMM staff members, commemorates two distinct eras of campus history.

“This new sculpture speaks to the past, present, and future legacy of the campus,” said Chancellor Johnson. “It will energize and beautify the space, honor the West Central School of Agriculture, and support the 21st Century mission of the University of Minnesota, Morris.”

The Welcome Center’s Legacy Courtyard was renovated last spring thanks to philanthropic commitments by the families of Lily and Walter “Slim” Hokanson ’30, Hollis Dyer ’51, the West Central School of Agriculture Alumni Association, and the Morris Class of 2013.

