



### *UMMRA Info*

A quarterly publication of the University of Minnesota, Morris Retirees' Association  
<http://www.morris.umn.edu/ummra>

**Volume XVII, Number 10**

**Fall 2016**

*Welcome to all UMMRA members and all other readers throughout the communities we serve. We are happy to have you on board with us!*

*As in my fall letter of last year, we have once again experienced changes! Ken Hodgson agreed to serve as our Member-at-Large, as did Roger Boleman. We had no one come forth to act as President-Elect or Secretary, so those in office have agreed to continue on in their present capacity until someone can be found. And, Roger (and Joan) Boleman will be leaving us soon as they prepare to leave the area, so we need a replacement for him, too! Please help us!*

*In June we had lunch at Buddies in Hancock, then toured Anderson Acres--and did some serious shopping! The Board met in August to arrange the fall agenda, and on September 1 we met at LaFave House and enjoyed a potluck lunch and socialized. We did not have a quorum for our Board meeting, but those present spent some time putting together a questionnaire. It will come to you complete with a self-addressed and stamped envelope, so please fill it out and return it to us. This will help us determine how we proceed in the future, and it will be completely anonymous. In October we will meet at 11:45 at the Stevens County Historical Society--once again a potluck lunch! Our speaker will be Kate, the new director at the Museum! We will have no meeting in November, but arrangements have been made for a December 8 "beginning of the holidays" at Grandstay Hotel from 5-7 p.m. We will not meet in January, but LaFave House has been secured for our February meeting; stay tuned for details.*

*Have a relaxing fall season, and let us know if you are willing to serve on our Board.*

Maggie Larson  
UMMRA President 2015-2017

### **COMING EVENTS**

*All UMMRA members are welcome to attend meetings and events. Watch your UMMRA email for additional details.*

**Oct. 6** — 11:45 a.m., Potluck, Stevens County Historical Society and Museum. Museum executive director Kate Sauers is our speaker. All are welcome!

**Dec. 8** — 4 p.m. Board Meeting followed by Holiday Party Potluck, Grandstay Hotel in Morris. Bring a hors d' oeuvres to share. All are welcome!



**Thanks to Sylke Boyd (physics faculty) for this enchanting photo: baby barn swallows prepared for their annual flight in the science tunnel as the semester began at the University of Minnesota, Morris. Welcome back, UMM students, staff and faculty!**

## FACULTY AND STAFF NEWS

**Brenda Boever** is the first director of the Office of Academic Success (OAS).

**Lauren Torvi** has been named the 15<sup>th</sup> head coach in the history of the University of Minnesota, Morris volleyball program. Torvi comes to UMM from Colorado College, Colorado Springs, Colo. There she served as first assistant coach in a standout volleyball program boasting 18 consecutive NCAA Tournament appearances.

**Matthew Hoekstra** serves as coordinator of the Disability Resource Center in the Office of Academic Success. Matt was most recently coordinator of Academic Assistance.

**Jennifer Zych Herrmann** is the new admissions director replacing Ben Iverson who returned to a new position at Augustana College. Jen was a finalist during the original director's search.

**Cheyenne Marlin** is the new success coach for the Native American Student Success Program. Cheyenne earned her Master's Degree in Student Affairs Leadership from Grand Valley State University in Allendale, Michigan. She works with first year Native American students providing success coaching and other skill building activities.

**Pramila Devkota** is the principal office and administrative specialist in the Division of Education. Pramila holds a B.A. in English and M.A. in Rural Development from Tribhuvan University in Nepal. In addition to managing front desk operations, she provides faculty support for classes and work.

New staff, Office of Financial Aid and One Stop Student Services: **Nick Skulan** supports the work of both departments, serving as the student services specialist. **Lauren Combellick** will serve as a One Stop counselor.

**Josey Fog** is the new success coach in Summit Scholars - TRIO Student Support Services. He provides individualized success coaching support to freshman through senior students involved with the Summit Scholars program.

**Naomi Skulan** is the new metadata and technical services coordinator in Briggs Library. She manages the UMM Digital Collection of historic and contemporary campus photos and the Digital Well, the institutional repository for scholarship, campus governance, e-journals and campus documents.

**Kirsten (Kitty) Mahoney** is the charge nurse/RN supervisor role in Health Service. She assumes the role held by Corrine Larson who retired in May after 27 years. Kitty has 11 years of experience as a Registered Nurse. Her work includes part-time work as a general staff nurse in Health Service for six years and at Stevens Community Medical Center in all departments.

Staff who have announced their retirement are **Liz Spohr**, costume and publicity shop supervisor, theatre; and **Mick Rose**, maintenance and operations supervisor, Facilities Management.

## UMM Chancellor Search Update

*Search committee members:*

- **Peh Ng**, professor and chair, Division of Science and Mathematics, committee chair
  - **Sarah Buchanan**, associate professor, Division of Humanities
  - **Jennifer Deane**, professor, Division of Social Science
  - **Barry McQuarrie**, associate professor, Division of Science and Mathematics
  - **Austin Tipper**, UMM student
  - **Bernard Gulachek**, interim vice president and chief information officer, Office of Information Technology, Twin Cities campus
    - **Jane Kill**, office manager, Office of Student Counseling
    - **Hilda Ladner**, assistant to the chancellor for Equity and Diversity
    - **Jason Lina**, Morris attorney
    - **Susan Schmidgall**, chief development officer
- Committee staff:*
- **Jon Steadland**, Office of the President, University of Minnesota system
  - **Carrie Grussing**, Office of the Chancellor
- Sarah Buchanan and Austin Tipper are the replacements for two members of the prior search committee.

*Planned timeline for the search process:*

**Through mid-Sept, 2016:** Aggressive national recruitment targets potential candidates; materials are reviewed.

**Week of Oct 3:** Off-site Interviews of semifinalists  
**Oct 26-Nov 4:** Anticipated dates for on-campus visits of finalists

**Nov 28-Dec 2, 2016:** Anticipated dates for announcement of new chancellor information, future updates, and nominating procedures available at the search committee's web page, <http://committees.morris.umn.edu/chancellor-search>.

## HATS OFF TO UMM

The following alumni will be honored during the Distinguished Alumni Award and Cougar Hall of Fame Banquet October 7, held in conjunction with Homecoming October 7-9.

Distinguished Alumni Award recipients are **Tom Mahoney '70**, **Mark Schuller '96**, and **Sharon Stewart Reeves '68**.

Cougar athlete inductees to the 2016 Cougar Hall of Fame are:

**Roger Schnaser '67** was the first Morris player to be named to the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics District 13 Team in 1965-66.

**Brad Svea '73** was a three-time Northern Intercollegiate Conference (NIC) All Conference athlete, in 1969-70, 1971-72, and 1972-73. He was the only Cougar—and the only freshman—named to the 1969-70 all-NIC team. Svea worked in Facilities Management at Morris until retiring in 2016.

**Rebecca Witters Gunn '04** holds the fourth all-time NSIC record for women's soccer career goal assists with 21 and NSIC's 11th-place record for single-season scoring with 2.67 points per game in 2000. She majored in sport management and served as assistant women's soccer coach for a year after graduation.

**Mari Sandom Destache '05** holds Morris' career high-score record in women's soccer. She received Morris' Willis Kelly athletic award in 2005. She majored in management and earned a master of arts in human resources from Saint Mary's University.

**Donnay Green '05** finished his Morris football career with 3,281 rushing yards, 38 rushing touchdowns, and 232 career points—the most in Morris history. In 2003 Green rushed for 267 yards and six touchdowns, a school record. Green also set several other Morris rushing records. He received the Arnold Henjum Scholar Athlete award in 2005. Green earned his undergraduate degree in speech communication. He is a past president of the Morris alumni association and currently serves on the board of directors.

*See a complete list of Homecoming events at <http://alumni.morris.umn.edu/opportunities-connect/homecoming-2016>.*

**Campus Police** has moved from Camden Hall to new offices in 6 Behmler Hall.

## SAD NEWS

**Wilbert H. (Bert) Ahern**, Horace T. Morse-Alumni Distinguished Professor Emeritus, passed away July 6 of cancer. Bert held a doctorate in U.S.

history from Northwestern University. He accepted a faculty position in history at UMM, from which he retired in 2010. While at UMM, Bert earned numerous teaching and service awards, including the 2010 University of Minnesota President's Award for Outstanding Service, and was known for his tireless work in teaching and campus leadership. He was Acting Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs (1978-79, 1992) and Division Chairman of the Social Sciences (1987-1995). Bert spearheaded the recruitment and support of underrepresented groups at UMM, developed and taught the college's first class in African-American history, and led the development of the Native American Studies major. His research on UMM's early history as an "Indian School" won him the Solon J. Buck Award from the MN State Historical Society's journal, *Minnesota History* (1984-85). In addition, he led the development of the UMM research archives center, the major reorganization of the UMM General Education Program, and the development of UMM's Faculty Center for Teaching and Learning. Upon his retirement, he and wife Janet started the Bert and Janet Ahern American Indian Studies Enhancement Fund. Later in his career, Bert also consulted as a Tribal Program officer for the Bush Foundation, visiting tribal colleges across the U.S. to build and assess their faculty development programs.

**Marion DeWall** died July 24 in Austin, Texas. Funeral services were held in Morris August 6. Marion and husband Bob played a founding role in establishing UMM by helping lead a citizens' effort to persuade the University of Minnesota Board of Regents to establish the campus in 1959.

## Opening convocation—

### A summary of Chancellor Johnson's remarks

As this edition of UMMRA Info goes to press, the Chancellor Search Committee's work has resumed, and Jacquie Johnson has agreed to remain as chancellor at Morris for a few more months. She is, in her words, "...feeling a little like Cher, I am now on what will be my first and last farewell tour." A new chancellor is expected to be in place January 1.

Jacquie spoke of the longstanding campus mission, which showcases award-winning faculty and award-winning students, including those who participate in an athletic division of scholar athletes. She noted last fall's football team win during Homecoming, the first in 10 years.

### • National recognition

"We ARE eclectic and we ARE recognized," said Jacquie. Morris is nationally ranked, from *Forbes*

and *Money* magazines—for return on investment; to *Fiske* as most interesting; to *US News and World Report* as among top 10 public liberal arts; to *Winds of Change* to *Princeton Review* to *Military Friendly*.

Morris boasted a record-setting year with:

- \$3,126,999 in private giving support
- bequest gift for a first-ever endowed professorship, likely in environmental sciences
- gift to commission and fund an outdoor sculpture to celebrate UMM's special sense of place as well as reflect our American Indian heritage
- in-kind gift from **Paulette Fairbanks Molin, '66**, a member of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe from the White Earth Reservation and UMM's first Native American graduate, with books, articles, and scholarly materials that represent the life's work of the noted author, educator, and museum consultant.

Morris is mid-way through the University of Minnesota's 10-year fundraising campaign. Although still in the quiet phase with public launch planned for late fall 2017, UMM is on pace at just over half of its working goal of \$21 million.

#### • **Renewable energy**

The campus continues to work with Morris City Manager Blaine Hill and Morris Mayor Sheldon Giese, both of whom embrace the concept of resilient communities and are looking for ways to make the city more energy efficient and to become a leader in the state. Part of the effort involves a partnership with a small town in North Rhine Westphalia, Germany—Saerbeck--a town that has become an international magnet for tourists because of its work in sustainability and renewable energy—powered by wind, biogas, and the sun, the community models a new way to use local natural resources to solve basic human needs. Morris has recently been named a finalist for the 2016 Clean Energy Community Award, sponsored by the Minnesota Department of Commerce.

The Office of Admissions will be rolling out a new suite of publications still grounded in the same brand platform.

#### • **Enrollment**

- Increased numbers overall
- Increases in numbers of students of color and American Indian students and international students in line with UMM strategic plan.
- Stable ACT scores

- Not reached goals either for new students, in particular new high school students, or for returning students.

- Need to work on enrolling new students (recruitment) and re-enrolling each student each semester that they are here (retention).

### **Edward J & Helen Jane MORRISON GALLERY Schedule**

Through October 14

Out of the Box: Printmakers and the Portfolio Exchange

October 20-November 23

Judy and Kevin Flicker: Retrospective

Opening Reception: Thursday, October 20, 7-9 p.m.

December 1-3

Art Club Holiday Art Sale

January 19-March 10

Jason Ramey: Transitio

Opening Reception: Thursday, January 21, 7-9 p.m.

Gallery Talk: January 26, 4 p.m.

March 23-April 8

Annual Juried Student Art Exhibit

Opening Reception: Thursday, March 23, 7-9 p.m.

April 13-20

Stuck Up: 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Washi Tape Drawing Pop-up Installation

Pop-up Reception: Thursday, April 13, 7-8 p.m.

April 27-May 14

Annual Senior Exhibit

Opening Reception: Thursday, April 28, 7-9 p.m.

*Gallery hours: Mon-Thurs, 9 a.m.-8 p.m., Fri, 9 a.m.-6 p.m., Saturday, 1-4 p.m.*

For questions, comments or information about this publication, contact:

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