



UMMRA



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THE UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA, MORRIS RETIREES ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER VOLUME IX, NUMBER 1, SUMMER 2006

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Greetings from UMMRA, the UMM Retirees Association. This summer copy of UMMRA INFO is sent to all retirees of any Morris unit of the University. The fall, winter and spring issues are sent only to paid members. See the *Dues* section and attached letter from Arden Granger for information about joining UMMRA and its benefits. This year three UMM staff retired: Eric Klinger, Peter Orr and Sam Schuman. There will be more information about each of them in this newsletter and those that follow. This is a time of change for UMM, as Chancellor Sam Schuman and Nancy as well as Vice Chancellor and Dean John Schwaller and Anne leave for new challenges. It should be noted that Nancy and Anne have made many unsung contributions to UMM as well as to the community. Our new Chancellor, Jacqueline Johnson, assumes her role on August 1. UMMRA INFO has been funded by Sam, and we thank him for his support. We asked him for one last message.

CHANCELLOR'S THANKS AND FAREWELL

Chancellorial greetings, one final time, to UMMRA. Later this summer, Nancy and I will be slowly working our way down to Albuquerque, New Mexico, where next year I will be serving as "Garrey Carruthers Distinguished Visiting Professor in Honors." This is a pretty daunting title, but the actual work next year looks inviting. I'll be teaching a few classes and giving some public lectures at the University of New Mexico. Nancy is planning to learn a bit about the Southwestern flora and fauna, and to make dramatic improvements in her speaking Spanish. We have enjoyed our work with UMMRA over these past 11 years, and my respect for the organization has grown steadily. UMMRA members continue to make varied and important contributions to the college and the community. Thanks for all your support over these past years, and very best wishes for the future.

2006-2007 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: Janet Ahern (1 year remaining)
Past President: None this year
President-elect: Mary Ann Scharf
Secretary-Treasurer: Arden Granger
Members-at-large: Bill Stewart, Jim Tanner
Bernice Erdahl & Cathy Kemble: Volunteer Committee
Phyllis Gausman: Learning Unlimited representative
Trip coordinator: Open
Laird Barber: UMMRA Representative, *ex-officio*, appointed
Karla Klinger: Newsletter Editor, *ex-officio*, appointed

Special thanks to Jim Gremmels, Roger McCannon, Wes Gray and Dolores Lammers for their service to the Board. Notice of cancelled meetings and their new dates will be announced over KMRS or sent on e-mail. The UMMRA Office is in the Faculty Center East Annex.

DUES—MEMBERSHIP

Enclosed is a letter from Arden Granger, UMMRA treasurer, explaining our purpose and activities and inviting you to join UMMRA. In UMMRA you will be in touch with many of the people you've worked with over the years. Yearly dues are \$10 per person (\$15 a couple), payable on July 1, 2006. Please include information about your activities and any address changes. If you have an e-mail address, please enclose it.

2006-2007 DATES TO REMEMBER

SUMMER POTLUCK August 3

UMMRA members are invited to a picnic provided by Bert and Janet Ahern and Jim and Pat Tanner at the Ahern's lake cabin near Park Rapids, 2 ½ hours from Morris. If you wish to sign up, would like directions or information about ride-sharing, or if your plans have changed, contact Cathy Kemble at 795-2474 or Bernice Erdahl at 589-9007.

FIRST FALL CASUAL LUNCHEON September 7. Terrace Mill.

E-mail Janet Ahern at ahernjt@morris.umn.edu or leave a message on her Morris phone, 589-2474, if you plan to attend.

RESCHEDULED ARBORETUM TRIP, Chaska, October 5

UMMRA 2006-07 QUARTERLY MEETINGS

October 18, February 14, April 26

SPRING REUNION/ ANNUAL MEETING

The annual reunion meeting was held on Thursday, April 27th, at the Prairie Inn. Election of officers was held; names are listed below. Former President Jim Gremmels gave retiring Chancellor Sam Schuman Shakespeare volumes from UMMRA. Janet Ahern presented Sam and Nancy with a Prairie Home Companion door mat. Janet read a thank you note from Phyllis Gausman to Evergreen Readers, particularly to coordinators Cathy Kemble and Bernice Erdahl, who find readers. Janet reminded the group about the monthly casual luncheon series. Guest Speaker Sam Schuman mentioned two important UMM initiatives: 1) wind energy (increasing the number of turbines to three and the possibility of a wind farm in partnership with the Mille Lacs Band of Objibwe) and 2) expansion of UMM's international programs to emerging nations. Currently 50% of this year's graduating seniors have had experience abroad.

Following the meeting, Ward Voorhees of the Stevens County Museum Board provided a tour of the museum and its addition. Four UMM students told about their enriching educational experiences. UMMRA hosted the reception for new retirees at the LaFave House that preceded the Annual Faculty/ Staff Recognition Dinner.

FIRST THURSDAY INFORMAL LUNCHESES in 2005-2006

November 3: Lakeside Ballroom in Glenwood

December 1: Cozy Café in Cyrus

January 5: Common Cup in Morris

February 2: Torgy's in Glenwood

March 2: Café Bella in Glenwood

April 6: Potluck at Lammer's lake home in Villard

May 4: Berries and Marigolds in Starbuck

15-18 retirees have attended each luncheon.

2005-2006 QUARTERLY PROGRAMS

October 19: Lowell Rasmussen discussed changes to UMM's physical plant, particularly the bio-mass plant. The two million dollar wind generator is providing 55% of the campus total electrical needs. The project will be a demo site to replace natural gas with corn stalks as a fuel source. UMM is one of 11 sites nationally to receive a USDA \$1.8 million grant. The new football field will seat 1500 and have safer artificial grass that doesn't freeze. Social Science will be finished in August.

February 15: David Nelson of UMM Student Activities explained the *Adopt a Grandparent* program. A UMM Improvisation Group under Ray Schultz of the Theatre Department provided amusing skits based on audience participation.

April 27: See Spring Annual Meeting summary.

RELATED PROGRAMS THAT WELCOME YOU

Many UMMRA members participate in two programs related to UMMRA. LEARNING UNLIMITED (LU) sends information about its programs through its newsletter to all UMMRA members. Phyllis Gausman is the current president. Anne Schwaller provided staff support to LU; Elaine Simonds-Jaradat is her successor. The program theme for January-December 2006 is *Our Community—Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow: A Century of On-Going Concerns and Interests*. Topics for fall will include discussion with local experts of energy independence, a bus tour of Morris, highlighting changes in architecture and landscape over the years, a forum on the challenges of immigration, and a presentation of holiday traditions in small towns. GREAT DECISIONS sponsors five to six programs a year to discuss major issues in world affairs. Mimi Frenier is the local coordinator. This year the group chose to study foreign affairs, including China, the war in Sudan, and Darfur. The community is invited to attend. For information, call Elaine Simonds-Jaradat at 320-589-4394.

SAD NEWS

□ Bruce Burnes, Professor of Education and department chair at Minot State University and long-time faculty member at UMM, died on May 17 in Red Wing, after a three-year struggle with multiple myeloma. Bruce taught in UMM's Division of Education from 1968-1986 and retired from teaching and administration in 1998. Bruce is survived by his wife, Lois, four children: Paul, Jan, Amy and Richard, and five grandchildren.

□ Janet M. Glasgow, Assistant Professor of Music, died in Oakland Park, Florida, at her home. Janet taught piano and music history for UMM in the mid-1970's.

□ Mercedes Ballou, Associate Professor of Elementary Education, wrote from Estero, Florida, that her husband, Bill, died in June 2005. Mercedes taught in the Division of Education from 1985-1998. She has moved to a condominium.

□ Our sympathy to the loved ones of Bill, Bruce and Janet.

BITS AND PIECES

□ A photo of the Rodney A. Briggs Library Associates Board in the March 25 *Sun Tribune* includes Ardath Larson, Laird Barber, Ellen Ordway, and Joanne Hagstrom.

□ The March 29 *Morris Sun Tribune* "10 Years Ago" Column reminded us that the 1996 portrait of Betty Crocker was painted by John Stuart Ingle, UMM Professor of Studio Art.

□ Kenneth and Audrey Evink, pictured in the April 29 *Sun Tribune*, were honored as the Salvation Army's Divisional Family Volunteers of the Year.

□ Mary Ann Scharf and Mimi Frenier visited China in April with representatives from UMM and the City of Morris. Mary Ann is shown in the May 3 *Sun Tribune* meeting school children.

□ The May 13 *West Wind Village News* featured photos of some of the Evergreen Reading volunteers: Bernice Erdahl, Fred Farrell, Arden Granger, Cathy Kemble, Jim and Pat Tanner. Bernice also appears in a May 20 *Sun Tribune* photo as one of the servers at the annual Syttende Mai breakfast.

□ Phyllis Gausman and Fred Farrell are pictured in the May 17 *Sun Tribune* for their participation in a Learning Unlimited panel discussion.

□ Helen Kill and Liz Ascherman are featured with other VFW Auxiliary officers in the May 20 *Sun Tribune*.

□ The May 24 *Sun Tribune* "25 Years ago" column says that UMM celebrated its 21st birthday with a concert by the UMM Concert Band featuring guest conductors Ralph Williams and Clyde Johnson. Ralph founded the band in 1960; Clyde directed it from 1961-1978.

□ The June 3 *Sun Tribune* "40 Years ago" column noted that Herb Croom, UMM Director of Student Services, presented the address at the Cyrus High School Commencement.

MEMORY TOURS OF UMM

Peter Orr began working in landscape maintenance 32 years ago, replacing former grounds keeper Wes Gray. He has seen many changes over that time. His first assignment, given to him by Steve Granger of UMM Administration and Harold Fahl, then Plant Services Supervisor, was to work with the state during construction of the by-pass east of Morris. As a result, the east entrance to UMM from the by-pass was created. Prior to that, the entrance had been a little road extended from Second Street. He noted, *There weren't many trees when I came*. Then, too, Dutch Elm disease was rampant, and many of the campus elms needed to be replaced. He said, *I learned about the soil...that it is high alkaline. Trees such as birch won't grow well on the campus*. Hybrid elms and other trees resistant to disease were planted instead. One of his passions and a source of pride was the planting of around 1500 trees on campus during his UMM years. Lowell Rasmussen, Associate V-C for physical plant and planning, credits Peter for *a wonderful tree canopy throughout the campus that would not have existed without the dedication and vision of Peter*. Peter's time at UMM also spanned improvements in recycling and transportation. Last year UMM recycled 20% of its solid waste and saved about \$14,000 for recycling aluminum, paper, cardboard and other refuse. The income offsets some of the operational cost. The old Cougar Bus has been replaced with 15 passenger and mini-vans, and fuels are used that are *environmentally friendly*. Peter also remembers a time when decisions were set through a handshake rather than a contract or committee. He and his wife plan to move to Houston, Minnesota in early July.

Excerpts taken with permission from Judy Riley's feature about Peter in the May 27 *Sun Tribune*