



UMMRA INFO

THE UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA, MORRIS RETIREES ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER
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NOTE FROM THE UMMRA PRESIDENT

At the most recent UMMRA board meeting, we were evaluating the past fall's UMMRA activities. There were two events that stood out: the September picnic at Marty Kroening's farm home with thirty-plus attendees and the October visit to Brooten hosted by Harold Fahl. Marty has maintained the Kroening family home for her siblings and families as a place to recall the past, connect with rural Minnesota, and give the family a place to call "Home." It brought back memories for many of us who grew up on farms. In Brooten, we were surprised to see a wood business where professional baseball bats are made and a restored old theatre building that has become a fabulous eating place. It makes us appreciate again the life in west central Minnesota! I like getting together for the UMMRA Casual First Thursday Luncheons, but I want to learn something from/with this vibrant group of retirees! I attended a January Learning Unlimited program in Morris. The presenters, the VanDerPol family, shared the idea of eating locally and re-connecting directly with where our food is produced. Terry VanDerPol said, "It takes an average nine calories of fossil fuel to get one calorie of food to us" (most of that going to transportation). With oil at \$100 a barrel, it makes sense not to bring food to our table from 1500 miles away. Locally, Pride of the Prairie is an effort to provide locally grown fruits, vegetables, meat and poultry products from within a 50-mile radius to residents of west central Minnesota. Few to no chemicals and pesticides are used. The UMM campus and some area schools are working with this program to connect directly with the farmer/grower. Stay tuned as we plan upcoming UMMRA events on changes in food, energy supply and sustainability in living in west central Minnesota. The Winter Quarterly Meeting, to be held February 21 at the Prairie Inn, will feature a vibrant, community-minded young man who is the UMM student body president. Eagan Heath will share insights into campus life and connecting with the City of Morris. Your input and suggestions for programming are appreciated! Contact me at the numbers below.

Happy New Year! Mary Ann Scharf

1ST THURSDAY CASUAL LUNCHEONS

January 3: Buddy's in Hancock, 11:45 a.m.
February 7: NONE. Attend February 21 Lunch Meeting.
March 7: Old Number One in Morris, 11:45 a.m.
April 3: Lakeside Ballroom in Glenwood, 11:45 a.m.
If you would like to car-pool, e-mail Mary Ann Scharf at <mscharf@dishmail.net> or call 589-4688.

UMMRA WINTER LUNCHEON BUSINESS MEETING

When: Thursday, February 21, 2008, 11:45 a.m.
Where: Prairie Inn, Morris
What: Eagan Heath, UMM Student Association President, will discuss "A Student Leader's Insights about the Campus."
Food: Order from the menu
To make a lunch reservation, contact Mary Ann Scharf at <mscharf@dishmail.net> or call her at 589-4688 by February 15. Chancellor Johnson has been invited to speak at the April 24 Annual Meeting.

LEARNING UNLIMITED 2008 PROGRAMS

All programs are at 1:00 at the Morris Senior Center. Phyllis Gausman presides.
January 9: National Issues Forum 1 – *The Farm Bill and its Effect on Families*. Implications for families and prospects for rural development. Terry, Jim and LeeAnn VanDerPol.
February 13: *Muslim White Females: Creating Balance, Claiming Rights*. A first-hand account that challenges conventional wisdom about Muslim women. Elaine Simonds-Jaradat.
March 12: National Issues Forum 2 – *Issues in Contemporary Religion*. How does religion figure into our increasingly pluralistic society?

A COURSE TO CONSIDER

Church Tours: Architecture and History will be taught in Alexandria in April 2008 by Professor Laird Barber, with tour sites in Sauk Centre, Albany and Meire Grove. Call Karen Cusey, UMM Lifelong Learning, at (320)-589-6461 for information about times and registration.

SILVER SNEAKERS

For those living near Morris, check out the RFC *Silver Sneakers* programs geared to seniors: *Yoga Stretch*, MW from 9:15-10 a.m., *Muscular Strength and Range of Movement*, TTh from 9:15-10 a.m., and *Silver Splash*, MW from 8-9 a.m. Call Sandy Grove at (320)-589-6864 for information.

GOING GREEN

UMM will have a new residential life facility in 2009 for 80 undergraduates. It will be called the Green Prairie Community and will incorporate green building design, resource conservation, and real-time energy monitoring.

Blakely Hall, now a residence hall, will be redesigned to support academic programs instead. The biomass gasification reactor, planned for completion in spring '08, will convert agricultural residues into syngas, a clean energy that burns like natural gas.

BITS AND PIECES

- The November Barber Lecture, featuring English and Comparative Literature scholar Jonathan Culler of Cornell University, was made possible through gifts from **Laird Barber** and his late wife, Dorothy Barber.
- The fall *Profile* has a photo of **Leona Classen** with the recipient of the Classen Family Scholarship.
- **Dave Dylla** retired as HFA custodian in October 2007 and has moved to Cooks Beach, Whitianga, New Zealand.
- According to the November 7 *Morris Sun Tribune* "25 Years Ago" column, a potato-sausage fund-raising supper held at First Lutheran Church, featured the gourmet talents of **Harold Fahl**, who used a Swedish recipe combined from both sides of his family.
- **Arden and Steve Granger** enjoy volunteering at the U.S. Wetlands Management headquarters at Morris. Steve has assembled bluebird houses, wood-duck boxes, etc., while Arden works with data from wetlands research.
- **Jim Gremmels** has made a total recovery from his recent stroke and is teaching and coaching again.
- The October 27 and January 5 issues of the *Morris Sun Tribune* include environmental articles by **Nat Hart**: "On This Earth: Reduce, reuse, recycle," and "On This Earth: A site out of sight."
- Photos of **Helen Kill** appear in several fall issues of the *Morris Sun Tribune* for her work with the American Legion and VFW Auxiliaries and Genealogical Society.
- In October, **Eric Klinger** participated with other leading psychologists in the field in a round table, sponsored by the Philoctetes Society in New York City, on "Daydreaming, Night-Dreaming and Stimulus-Independent Thought."
- The fall issue of *Profile* describes the Dr. **Jooinn Lee** Political Science Lecture Series recently established in Lee's honor. Scholars and prominent Political Science practitioners will be invited to campus. Lee is also pictured with former Chancellor **Sam Schuman** and the Distinguished Alumni Awardee, Minnesota Associate Justice Lorie Gildea '83, at homecoming.
- **Roger McCannon** coordinates the Stevens County Stewardship Initiative to launch and help attain county-wide development initiatives.
- The November 24 *Morris Sun Tribune* reports that 15 years ago **Fred Peterson** published Homes in the Heartland, a study of balloon frame constructions used to build farmhouses from 1850-1920.
- Ten years ago, **Bill Stewart** was named Educator of the Year by INROADS Minneapolis-St. Paul, Inc., a national program to prepare minority youth for leadership.

□ Twenty-five years ago, *Changing Times*, a Kiplinger publication, named **UMM** one of 50 colleges throughout the nation "that offer high academic standards and below average prices."

□ Joe and **Marvel Wagner** celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary with their family on August 27. Joe has been in the Good Samaritan Nursing Home in Hoffman since September 12.

These and other fall references are filed in UMMRA Archives.

MEMORY TOURS OF UMM—PEARL JOHNSON

Pearl Johnson moved to Morris in 1967 from Kensington where she managed a restaurant in the bowling alley. Ruth Goodwin, then with food services, invited her to apply for a job at UMM. As soon as she returned from her interview, *I received a phone call saying I was hired!* For the next two years, Pearl supervised the cafeteria. Though she had wondered how dependable student workers would be, her first student helper, Lynn Schulz, *showed up every morning at 6 a.m. and never missed a day. We are friends to this day.* In 1969 she accepted a clerical position in the Placement and Alumni Office, then on the first floor of Edson. She worked with the first director, Herb Croom, until his death in 1973, and then with Gary Donovan in Career Planning and Placement Services in the Community Services Building until her retirement in 1990. *I had two of the greatest bosses who always treated me well. Part of my job was to prepare five sets of credentials for each graduating Education and Liberal Arts student to send out with their applications. In the first years, I typed each set of credentials myself, including all letters of recommendation for each student. We never used carbons. Later, student workers Xeroxed copies for me. For the alumni portion, I faithfully kept cards on all graduates, but when the alumni responsibilities were assigned elsewhere, the next office began keeping records on computer and threw all the cards away! I still hear from some of my student help; they got to be like family.* Gary reports that he and his staff are sometimes asked by work-study students who this Pearl is whose name shows up in office documents. They say, 'She's a legend!' Pearl reflects: *Most of what I did has gone out the window, since career centers are no longer sending out credentials. That's progress, I guess.* Pearl has 5 children, 13 grandchildren and 28 great grandchildren. All the change she has lived through makes her wonder: *What will the world be like for the next generation?*