

UMMRA INFO

THE UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA, MORRIS RETIREES ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER
VOLUME XI, NUMBER 1, SUMMER 2008

LETTER FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Greetings from UMMRA, the UMM Retirees Association:

We congratulated and welcomed new retirees on May 1st: Dave Dylla, Chuck Grussing, Dave Hoppe, Craig Kissock, Dian and Andy Lopez, and Jean Sasek. UMMRA holds three luncheon/program/business meetings a year in October, February and April. Many in the area enjoy getting together more often and the First Thursday lunches evolved. Editor Karla Klinger has provided a 2007-2008 review which gives a summary of this organization's activities.

After a year as president, I have learned UMMRA members come for various reasons. Some come for the camaraderie and checking-in with former colleagues. Some come for the mind-stretching as we check out various local topics and places. And some come for the delicious food, especially the potlucks! As the Board has discussed, we would like to offer more depth in local/area issues, especially increased use of locally grown foods, community sustainability and our role as citizens. This would include field trips connected with the topics to understand first hand the connection to the Morris campus and area. We live in an exciting place where the bio-mass burner at UMM will provide all the heating and cooling needs on campus this 2008-09 academic year. . . just reported on the morning news today . . . saving the campus budget \$400,000 and more in the next year of anticipated higher fuel prices. Best of all, the four issues of the UMMRA INFO newsletter are well worth the membership fee. We have received messages, calls and notes from many of you with information about your retirement activities and news. We really enjoy that and pass it on to the membership. Thank you and hope to see or hear from you in this upcoming year.

*Mary Ann Scharf,
President.*

The summer UMMRA Newsletter is sent to all retirees. Other issues are sent only to paid members. See the attached letter from secretary/ treasurer, Joan Reicosky.

CHANGES IN COMPUTER DIAL UP – AND TRASH

Mark Van Overbeke of Computing Services has notified the campus that UMM dial-up service is scheduled to end on December 31. If you have stored messages in your Trash folder, please move them now, since the TC Internet

Services group may soon begin to empty large sent-mail folders over 90 days old.

CONGRATULATIONS, NEW RETIREES!



Dave Hoppe, Jean Sasek, Chuck Grussing, Dian & Andy Lopez
Missing are Craig Kissock and Dave Dylla. Photo by Judy Riley.

2008-2009 DATES TO SAVE

First Thursday Casual Luncheons

September 4, Noon. Marty Kroening graciously has invited us to have a potluck on her farm, as we did last September. Mark this on your calendar for an enjoyable event with other UMMRA members! More information about carpooling will be available by email toward fall. Contact Mary Ann at <mscharf@dishmail.net> or leave requests on her Morris phone, 589-4688.

Opening of the 2008-09 Academic Year

August 24. Contact Maggie Larson to volunteer to welcome new students and their parents. Email Maggie at <mlarson@morris.umn.edu

2007-2008 IN REVIEW

Board Business

The Board reviewed drafts of each upcoming Newsletter, agreed on restaurant locations for First Thursday luncheons, planned the quarterly programs and annual reception for retirees and active faculty and staff, and heard reports on membership and on volunteer needs. The Board is considering setting up a grant program to provide financial support to UMMRA members to participate in life-long learning activities. Laird Barber and Janet Ahern will draft an application process and suggest award criteria for membership consideration.

First Thursday Noon Luncheons

We began with a September potluck at Marty Kroening's farm and ended with a June 5 potluck at Skyview Plaza hosted by Ray and Dolores Lammers. In between, we

lunched in Brooten, Montevideo, Cyrus, Hancock, Morris and Glenwood. Come and join us!

Quarterly Programs

October 18: At the fall luncheon/ business meeting held at the Stevens County Historical Museum, the membership voted to give \$1000 to the UMM general scholarship fund. Speaker Tina Didreckson, manager of the Morris Theatre, explained the history of the Morris Theatre, its new status as a community cooperative, and estimated costs for needed improvements.

February 21: At the winter meeting held at Old #1 in Morris, Eagan Heath, Student Body President and Truman Scholarship recipient, presented a student's perspective of UMM. Plans for spring events were discussed.

April 24 annual meeting: Board members were elected for the Vice-President and At-Large positions and appreciation was expressed to outgoing board members Janet Ahern and Bill Stewart. Speaker Chancellor Jacquie Johnson updated us on the new "green" initiatives that will make UMM self-supporting for its energy needs: the new wind turbine, a "green" dormitory, and the biomass project to be erected this fall. In her recent testimony before the U.S. Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, she talked about UMM's projects and described how students and colleges are leading efforts in energy conservation. Testifying with her were Dr. Richard Levin, President of Yale, and Dr. Robert Birgeneau, Chancellor of the University of California, Berkeley. Not bad company! Jacquie also updated us on student recruitment and budget issues. She reported that Community Services will be renovated to become the new Gateway Center, housing those offices with most contact with the public. The governor has since signed the bonding bill. Music was provided by the UMM jazz group *Opposite Day*.

SAD NEWS

Mavis Drange Hamilton Jaynes, Assistant Registrar at UMM for 18 years, died on June 22 at Maranatha Village, an Assembly of God retirement community in Springfield, MO. She was a WAVE in WWII, a mezzo soprano, and an active worker in her church.

Wes Gray, retired West Central Research and Outreach Center Horticulturalist and West Central School of Agriculture (WCSA) teacher, died on June 6 in Alexandria. The Wes Gray Backyard Garden was dedicated in his honor last July. Wes helped start the *Prairie Yard and Garden* show as well as the statewide master gardeners' program.

Bardella Jost, a longtime food services employee who retired from UMM in 1976, died April 14 in Morris. Bardella was a graduate of the WCSA.

Mary Perkins died at the Belle Plaine Lutheran Nursing Home on April 14. Mary began working at the WCSA in the food service department in 1951 and later served as UMM head dietician until the mid-1990's.

Larry Stillwell, Fargo, campus food services director in the 1970's, passed away this spring.

Our sympathy to their families.

BITS AND PIECES

The June issue of *Profile* features recent retirees **Dian and Andy Lopez and Craig Kissock**. You can access *Profile* under University Relations on the UMM web-site.

Jim Gremmels spoke at the Minnewaska High School graduation this spring. He was also a delegate to the state DFL convention in June. He says he is enjoying preparing to teach *Moby Dick* at UMM in fall.

Liselotte Gumpel donated works by artist Katerina Wilczynski to the Weisman Museum's permanent collection. A reception for her was held at the museum in May in appreciation. Liselotte and **Barbara McGinnis** are pictured at the event in a photo in the June *Profile*.

Several retirees are recovering from surgery: **Arlene Beseman** from hip surgery, **Harold Fahl** from femoral artery surgery, **Pat Kahng**, just back from several months in Hawaii, from knee and eye surgery, and **Barbara McGinnis** from hip surgery. We wish you well.

Ardath Larson has been appointed to the Morris Public Library Board. She also served on it in the early 1990's.

Lois Lovig of Alexandria, an active volunteer, is a Red Cross Gray Lady. She was deployed to Biloxi, MS, after Hurricane Katrina. She also works with Habitat for Humanity, tutors and teaches workshops, and performs with other women over 60 in the Runestone Rockettes, providing entertainment and a positive image of aging.

Jean Sasek, executive office and administrative specialist in Continuing Education, Regional Programs and Summer Session, retired in May. Jean began work at UMM in 1985. She and her husband plan to move to Texas to be nearer to her family.

Former Chancellor **Sam Schuman** referred a colleague at the University of North Carolina-Ashville to UMM about how to set up a retiree organization!

In the spring *Profile*, alumni mention several faculty with appreciation: **Arnie Henjum, Ernie Kemble, Eric Klinger, Bill Peterfi, and Don Spring**.

Other references to retirees are filed in the UMMRA archives.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS for 2008-2009

New Officers

Vice-president: Dian Lopez (1 year term)

Member-at-Large: Dolores Lammers (2 year term)

Continuing Board members:

President: Mary Ann Scharf: (1 year remaining)

Secretary/ Treasurer: Joan Reicosky (1 year remaining)

Member-at-Large: Llea Anderson (1 year remaining)

Editor, *UMMRA INFO*: Karla Klinger (appointed)

Coordinators of Volunteers: Bernice Erdahl and Cathy Kemble

UMRA TC Representative: Laird Barber
Learning Unlimited Representative: Phyllis Gausman

MEMORY TOURS OF UMM: Arden Granger

We were living in 1960 in St. Cloud where Steve was a counseling psychologist at the St. Cloud VA Hospital. In early spring that year he drove to Morris for an interview. Rod Briggs, UMM's chief administrative officer, had asked Steve's U of M advisers to recommend someone. After two days Steve came home and said we were moving to Morris. I asked "Where's that?", having never heard of it. He was totally sold by Briggs' enthusiasm and the exciting opportunity of starting a new liberal arts college out on the prairie. He started work April 15, 1960, to begin processing the first UMM students. In late April I was invited to visit Morris, attend a deadly Chamber of Commerce dinner in the Assumption Church basement, and tour the campus and the U's farm facilities, including pastures, with Briggs. It had been raining for a week and the entire county was a sea of mud and depressingly ugly; Rod saw nothing but wonder and promise. I was depressed but moved to Morris the next month. We were incredibly well taken care of in Morris, particularly by banker Ed LaFave, who told us there were only two houses for rent in town and we should take the one on First Street because it was bigger. (He knew we were expecting our second child, Sarah, who was born the month UMM began classes.) LaFave also told Steve he must join the Kiwanis Club to meet the townies and we must join the Morris golf club, also to be a part of the community.

That summer and fall of 1960 were exciting and fun. New faculty and staff members were arriving, with various stories of how they came to arrive in Morris. The first few years, in fact, were incredible. The excitement of creating a new college, babies being born - almost everyone was in their mid-twenties to early thirties - all of us socializing as a group. At first almost everyone went to every event- the football games, the basketball games, the concerts, the theatre productions, the foreign films, and after each event we would gather at someone's home for beer and soft drinks and talk about.....the UMM students! Really! Even the wives, most of whom were staying home raising babies, knew about the students. And babysitters were 25 cents an hour so we were always on the go. Originally a big city girl from St. Paul, I was dubious about small town living, but eventually the quality of life won me over and soon, like Steve, I wouldn't consider moving.

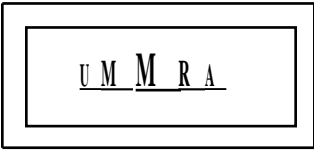
UMM

UMM Now: Kiplinger's Best Value Top 100 Colleges

The 2008 Kiplinger Best Values in Public Colleges survey ranks **UMM** among the top 100 colleges nationally as a best value for in-state and out-of-state students based on top academics and affordable costs. UMM and the UMTC campus are the only two colleges in the state to make the list.

UMM 40 Years Ago

The March 22 "40 Years Ago" column of the *Morris Sun Tribune* notes that the Board of Regents approved presenting to the Legislative Building Commission requests for over \$4 million in new buildings and development at **UMM** to include the second phase of the new library and the first phase of the Humanities-Fine Arts building.



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA, MORRIS
RETIREES ASSOCIATION

To potential and present members of UMMRA:

This is a call to join or renew membership in the UMM Retirees Association (UMMRA) for the 2008-2009 fiscal year. If you are still on the staff or have previously been so, you are eligible to join your colleagues and fellow staffers in UMMRA. Our membership consists of both retired and not-yet-retired members of any University of Minnesota unit, primarily those in the Morris area, i.e. WCROC, Minnesota Extension, Continuing Education, Regional Programs, and Summer Session, etc., as well as UMM. It includes faculty and all other staff (including bargaining units) and spouses. At present we have 81 members.

UMMRA functions not only as a social organization where members occasionally meet with old friends, but also helps members make the transition to retirement a bit easier. Members receive our newsletters and communications, such as e-mail, about special lectures, events, or activities both on campus and in the community, as well as those sponsored by UMMRA.

We offer retired members certain benefits, such as free UMM parking permits, and information on their "perks" as University retirees, such as how to be maintained in the University data base (at present this is not automatic), and how to obtain a retiree "U-card" for continued access to libraries and other University facilities. We serve as a link to the administration, and are continually defining and trying to upgrade benefits for retirees, especially in the Morris area. We also have an UMMRA representative on the all-University Retirees Association Board in Minneapolis (UMRA).

We hope that you will join UMMRA for the 2008-2009 season. Our dues are \$10.00 per year per person, \$15.00 per couple. Please fill out the section below and return it with your check to our Secretary/ Treasurer. We look forward to hearing from you.

(Tear here)

(Tear here)

To: Joan Reicosky, Secretary-Treasurer, UMMRA
24 Brook St., Morris, MN 56267

Date _____

Name(s): _____

e-mail _____

Address _____

Tel # _____

_____ Was at University from _____ to Retirement in _____

Retired from (Unit, Department, position, etc.) _____

Enclosed is \$ _____ for dues for one year (for the period July 1, 2008- June 30, 2009) for _____ person(s) @ \$10.00 per person, \$15 per couple. (Please make check payable to UMMRA)

Check here if you wish to be removed from our mailing list.