

UMMRA INFO

THE UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA, MORRIS RETIREES ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER
VOLUME VI, NUMBER 4, SPRING, 2004

ELECTION YEAR – 2004

It seems like we could reword the lyrics to an old Frank Sinatra song to “Oh, it’s a long, long while from May to November”; however, it makes a good excuse to invest in several sets of classic movies or a PS2 game player.

SPRING LUNCHEON/ANNUAL MEETING/REUNION

The annual meeting/spring luncheon will begin the UMMRA reunion celebration on Thursday, April 29, 2004. Mary Ellen Grossman has planned a full day of activities. The schedule is:

11:45 a.m. Luncheon in the Cougar Room at Prairie Inn followed by the annual meeting that includes election of the 2004-2005 board members. As always, we will order pay-your-own from the menu. (Please recheck that you have paid before you leave.) Chancellor Sam Schuman will be our guest and report on the status of UMM. I think everyone agrees that retirees are interested in the college and look forward to hearing from Sam.

1:30 – 2:15 p.m. A presentation and tour of WESTMOR Industries LLC, South Hwy. 9, Morris. The corporate offices, Tank Shop, and Aviation Building are located there.

2:30 – 3:30 p.m. Common Cup, 501 Atlantic Ave., Morris, to have coffee, dessert, talk and perhaps put names to old photos of UMM if they are organized enough for reviewing.

5:00 – 6:30 p.m. Reception hosted by UMMRA for retirees, current faculty and staff at LaFave House, 305 College Ave., Morris. Remind your former colleagues to join us as the reception is a short walk from their offices.

7:00 p.m. Faculty/Staff Recognition Dinner, Oyate Hall, Student Center, UMM campus. Make reservations with Maggie Larson, 320-589-6053.

Accommodations for out of town people are available at: Morris Motel, 320-589-1212; Super 8 Motel, 320-589-8888 (800-800-8000); Best Western Motel (Prairie Inn), 320-589-3030 (800-535-3035).

ACTION ITEMS AT ANNUAL MEETING

UMMRA members will elect one board member-at-large for a two-year term. The remainder of board members have one more year to serve. Nominations from the floor will be accepted with the nominee’s consent. Also, a vote is needed to approve the amended by-laws that will be distributed. Changes suggested include the cost of annual dues and the addition of the office of president-elect to the board.

VOLUNTEER COMMITTEE

Bernice Erdahl (320-246-3393) and Cathy Kemble (320-795-2290) have completed activities for the year and will be

covered in the summer newsletter. They will have a sign-up sheet for commencement volunteers at the reunion.

NEW RETIREES

Congratulations and welcome to UMMRA to:

Mariam (Mimi) Frenier, Social Science

Ray K. Sibul, Humanities

Marlys Buntje, Bookstore

Barbara Valnes, Business Office

Ardath Larson, Library

Rose Thompson, Office of Residential Life

Vernon Mohr, Plant Services

Bruce Wakefield, Plant Services

Ron Cline, Carpenter Shop

Roger McCannon, CERP

Virginia Schmidgall, Building and Grounds

Helen Kolden, Building and Grounds

COMMENCEMENT 2004

Commencement will be held on Saturday, May 8, 2004 at 1:30 p.m. Retired faculty members are invited to march in the procession. Gathering time is 12:30 p.m. in HFA. Gowns can be ordered from the bookstore by March 31. If participating, please call Maggie Larson, 320-589-6053, so your name can be put in the program.

TWO-DAY CAR TRIP

Plans are underway for a two-day car trip to Lanesboro in southeast Minnesota near Rochester. Plans include a theatre performance of Rosmersholm by Henrik Ibsen at the Commonweal Theatre in Lanesboro. The best time seems to be Sunday, May 2, for a 2 p.m. matinee, dinner at a local restaurant and a one-night stay at a nineteenth century stone building converted to a lodge which is aptly named The Stone Mill Suites. There would be plenty of time to tour historic Lanesboro and perhaps have an Amish buggy ride. Call Avis Brandt (320-589-3304) or Jim Gremmels (320-634-3498) by April 15 if interested. We will meet at 7:00 a.m. at the UMM North Parking Lot and share rides. Cost is \$20 for theatre tickets, and \$90 to \$110 per room, includes breakfast.

RFC UPDATE

The Regional Fitness Center has an addition to senior programs called “Super Senior Shape Up.” It will meet from 10:00-11:00 a.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays from April 6 to April 29. (4 weeks, 8 sessions) The cost is \$20, \$15 for members. Four people are needed to hold the class.

A class not necessarily for seniors but may be of interest is "Fitness Yoga." It will be held on Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9:00-9:45 a.m., March 23-April 29. Cost is \$30, \$24 for members. Register at front desk for both programs.

LEARNING UNLIMITED

The following programs (unless otherwise noted) will be held at the Senior Center, 603 Oregon Ave., Morris, at 1:00 p.m.

- Wednesday, April 14, 2004 Born Again – An American Icon with Randee Hokanson, Director, Stevens County Historical Museum.

- Thursday and Friday, April 22 and 23, 2004 HERITAGE DAYS, Judith Nord, coordinator, (Thursday) Hands on Museum, demonstrating old time skills, (Friday) Native American Cultural Traditions with Dave Flute and the Dakota Club Dancers from the Tiospa Zina Elementary Tribal School, Agency Village, Sisseton, SD.

- Wednesday, May 12, 2004 The New China: Three Perspectives over Thirty Years, Photographs and commentary with Elizabeth Blake, Laird Barber, and Phyllis Gausman.

- Wednesday, June 9, 2004 West Central Research and Outreach Center West Central Research and Outreach Center, Its Background, History, Mission, and Beauty with Dr. Greg Cuomo and Steve Poppe. Shuttle bus transportation provided from the Senior Center.

SAD NEWS

Judy VanKempen died on March 5, 2004. She started working at the Bookstore in 1981 and retired four years ago because of poor health. Along with other pottery, Judy created beautiful, tall vases decorated with one purple iris.

Craig Olson died on January 6, 2004, in Gresham, Oregon. Craig was head wrestling coach and taught at UMM from 1977 to 1987.

Norma Thorp, assistant director of counseling at UMM from 1968 to 1989 died on January 17, 2004, in De Soto, Kansas. The headline in the DeSoto paper read: "Former lawmaker, activist Thorp dies." "She's an inspiration to all educators. She's a good role model and I'm going to miss her" is a quote by the high school principal in the same paper.

BITS AND PIECES

The summer issue of UMMRA INFO will be sent to all retirees, so the travel adventures will be in that issue. Please call 320-589-1083 with your 2003-2004 travel news or mail it to 405 E. Third St. Morris, MN. 56267.

--A student of Jim Gremmels wrote a poem honoring Jim for the Student's Poetry Corner in the University Register. His name was not given but he ended the tribute with: "Sir, you are an intellect, mouthing so fresh and so clean ideas that have turned me to this addiction – and I have been shifting, constantly shifting and perpetually shaping. So for that I thank you". (A copy of the poem is in the office file.)

--A picture in the January 22 Morris Tribune included Judy Nord, Bernice Erdahl, Avis Brandt and Martha Williams. It

was a celebration of the installation of officers for the Norskfadt Lodge of the Sons of Norway.

--The First Lutheran Church in Morris had a concert on Sunday, March 7, 2004 as the start of a year long celebration of their 125 year history. Compositions by UMM Professor Emeritus Ralph Williams were performed that included "Hear My Prayer, Oh Lord" and "This Day We Honor".

RETURN TRIP TO SOUTH KOREA—JACK IMHOLTE

I have been asked to make a few comments about a trip I took to South Korea during November of last year. As some of you may be aware, I was in the army during the last seven months of the Korean War from January to the end of the war on July 28, 1953, and thereafter through March, 1954.

Out of the blue some 50 years later, I heard about an invitation offered to American vets who served during the Korean War to visit Seoul, Korea, the capital, and other sites, including a part of the DMZ (Demilitarized Zone) that still separates the two countries of North and South Korea. Since I only had to pay my airfare, and the Korean government covered hotel, meals and transportation in Korea, I decided to go! I'm glad I did! It was a marvelous adventure, and for me at least, helped to provide a certain amount of closure.

When nobody was looking during our visit to the DMZ, I stepped over the border into North Korea. I also tried to get the attention of two North Korean guards who were a few feet away from me, but they ignored me and continued to stare toward North Korea. I also tried to find a way to visit the area where I spent most of my time during the war, but all of it is now a part of North Korea—so no luck. Seoul, by the way, is a beautiful city of 11,000,000 people. I was impressed by the driving skills of the Koreans. They seldom use a horn and seem to have an uncanny instinct of when to pass a slower car. We American drivers should learn from them – ha!!

PRESIDENT'S CORNER –JIM GREMMELS

Let me call your attention to two events to put on your calendar. First, on Friday, April 16, the Spring Ball will be held at Glenwood Central Square. Dance lessons begin at 7:15 p.m. Funds from the event go to the Lakeside Ballroom Restoration, the Imholte Scholarships, and Humanities Phase III. Second, on Sunday, May 2, UMMRA members plan to see Henrik Ibsen's play, Rosmersholm, and to stay overnight in historic Lanesboro.

I have not given up on the raffle plan to raise money to complete the visitor's suite on the main floor of the LaFave House. I'll have specific information at the spring luncheon.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Friday, April 16 – Spring Ball

Thursday, April 29 – Spring luncheon/reunion

Sunday, May 2 – Trip to Lanesboro

Saturday, May 8 –Commencement

Wednesday, May 12 – New China—Blake, Barber, Gausman

