



UMMRA INFO
THE UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA, MORRIS RETIREES ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER
<<http://www.morris.umn.edu/ummra>>
VOLUME XIII, NUMBER 4, SPRING 2011

The Passing of the Gavel



**Lynn Schulz and Dian Lopez, soon-to-be
UMMRA President and Past President**

NOTE FROM THE OUTGOING PRESIDENT

Greetings UMMRA members and soon-to-be members! It has been a long winter but grass is peeking out among the snow drifts!

Look forward to an exciting UMMRA Spring meeting with Jacquie's State of UMM remarks and our election of officers. We welcome our new President, Lynn Schulz, and our two new board members. They will be busy helping plan a great 2011-2012 year for you. The Board is looking for your input on what activities you would like to see happening in UMMRA: Dances, classes, parties, programs, eating (of course), field trips (we are planning one for next fall), picnics?... let us know!

Check out the early social life of UMM and other great tidbits of history in this newsletter. I'll be making a 'beer run' for our annual Retirees Reception at the LaFave House on April 28th. Come join us!

This is my last newsletter column – the years have really flown by and I am looking forward to many more UMMRA events, which our very capable and enthusiastic board members will plan for us.

Dian Lopez

**UMMRA ANNUAL SPRING LUNCHEON
BUSINESS MEETING**

When: Thursday, April 21, 11:45 a.m.
Where: Prairie Inn, Gazebo Room, Morris. Choose from the menu.
Speaker: Chancellor Jacqueline Johnson will bring us up to date on what's new at UMM.

ANNUAL MEETING & ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Attendees at the April 21 business meeting will vote on the proposed slate of board members for 2011-2012.

Secretary-Treasurer: Joan Reicosky (2 year term)

Member-at-large: Dennis Johnson (2 year term)

Member-at-large: Judy Riley (1 year term)

Continuing on the board (already approved):

President: Lynn Schulz (2 year term)

Past-President: Dian Lopez (1 year term)

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

Volunteer Coordinators: Bernice Erdahl and Cathy Kemble

UMRA TC Representative: Laird Barber

Thanks to Llea Anderson for her board service.

UMMRA EVENTS

April 21: UMMRA Annual Meeting. See box above.

April 28: UMMRA reception for retirees. LaFave House, 4:00-5:30 p.m.

April 28: Recognition Dinner, Oyate, 6:00 p.m.

RSVP to Maggie Larson, 320-589-6053, by April 22.

May 14, Commencement. 1:30 p.m., UMM Mall.

June 2, Spring Picnic, East Side Park, Morris, 11:45 a.m.

For rides or information, contact Dian Lopez on her cell phone at 287-1517 (local in Morris). An email will be sent out before events.

FINAL LEARNING UNLIMITED PROGRAM

Please check before event for latest time and location.

The final program of Learning Unlimited will be held on Wednesday, April 13, at the Morris Public Library Community Room at 6:30 p.m. Norman Gronwold will discuss the U.S. monetary system and how it keeps us in debt.

SAD NEWS

Doris Benson of Morris, 78, died at University Hospitals in Minneapolis on March 27. She worked at UMM in the Business Office from 1965-1995. Since her retirement, she has enjoyed her family, traveling, raising flowers, being active at Faith Lutheran Church, and serving for 10 years at nursing homes as an Ombudsman Advocate.

Robert "Bob" Smith, 61, a 1974 UMM alumnus, died unexpectedly on February 17 at his home in Lake George. A paraplegic since 1996, he built a career helping others with and without disabilities. He served UMM briefly as a Disabilities Coordinator. An open house to celebrate his life was held on February 23.

Ida Stewart, 79, died on January 27 at the Stevens Community Medical Center. Ida held an appointment with the Division of Education from 1972-74, and for an additional four years was Education Coordinator for the Minority Student Program. A lifelong educator, role model, mentor and advisor, she established Cultural Heritage Week as well as the Women of Color Student Organization.

Our sympathy to their families.

ADDITIONAL 2010-2011 RETIREES

Joyce Amborn, Executive Officer & Administrative Specialist, Campus Police, since 1986, Retired January 7

Paul Kietzman, Custodian, Plant Services, since 1988, Retired December 17.

Neil Leroux, Professor, Communication, Media and Rhetoric, since 1990.

Margaret Larson, Conferences and Special Events, LaFave House manager, since 1968.

The full list of retirees will appear in the June issue of UMMRA Info.

BITS AND PIECES

□ **Janet Ahern** was interviewed for a story in the winter/spring issue of *Profile* magazine about Karin Wolverton '97, professional opera singer. *Profile* can be found on-line on the UMM web-site.

□ Board members of the Friends of the Library for its initial year in 1996 included **Ruth Evans**, **Ardath Larson**, **Barbara McGinnis**, and **Jeanne Purdy**.

□ **Liselotte Gumpel** and her two sisters were among 669 Jewish children who escaped from Czechoslovakia in 1939 just before the outbreak of World War II in Europe. Their rescuer was Nicholas Winton, a British stockbroker. Liselotte's story is featured in the Variety section of the March 27 *Star Tribune*.

□ Rick Hargrave '71, math and philosophy graduate and current CFO of Sandusky International, identifies several faculty in *Profile* who greatly influenced his career: **Sen Fan**, **Gill Gallagher**, **Joe Jesseph**, **Donald Norris**, and **Jerry Wangness**.

□ The second edition of the *Handbook of Motivational Counseling* (Wiley), edited by Miles Cox (UMM faculty member 1978-85) and **Eric Klinger**, of which they wrote six of 26 chapters, is to be released April 15. A chapter also was written by two UMM Psychology faculty members, Kevin Stefanek and Heather Peters.

□ The 2011 **Jooinn Lee** Lecture, featuring Dr. Sarah Binder, will be delivered on April 14, 7:30- 9:30 p.m. in 109 Imholte Hall. Binder, a Brookings Institution senior fellow and George Washington University professor of Political Science, specializes in Congress and legislative politics. Her address, "Inside Congress: Legislating in Polarized Times," is free and open to the public. A reception follows.

□ **Andy and Dian Lopez** (Puerto Rico), **Eric and Karla Klinger** (NC, TX and CA), and **Barb McGinnis** (CA) were among UMMRA members who were snow birds this winter. **Nancy and Sam Schuman** graciously helped Eric and Karla find their way around Asheville, NC, a city known for its music and arts.

□ Short remembrance pieces about **Tom McRoberts** and **John Ingle** appear in the winter/spring issue of *Profile*. **Tom** bequeathed his books to both the Briggs Library and the Morris Public Library. A display was featured at the downtown library during March.

□ *Profile* also featured photos from fall 2010 events. Several photos of the **Lammers** Proscenium Theatre dedication are included in the Homecoming photo recap, including **George Fosgate** performing. Photos of the Retirees Luncheon and History Panel are included in the Founders Weekend recap.

□ According to the February 5 "Looking Back" column of the *Morris Sun Tribune*, the **USDA Soils Lab** shifted its focus from basic research to applied research and technology transfer 15 years ago.

□ A **second wind turbine** has been erected near the first. The two turbines are expected to produce 70% of the campus' electricity.

Kiplinger's ranks Morris as Best Value in Public Colleges 2011 list

Kiplinger's Personal Finance has announced its national ranking of the 100 Best Values in Public Colleges. UMM and the Twin Cities campus were the only Minnesota institutions chosen for the honor.

During the remaining two issues of this anniversary year, UMMRA Info will continue to feature stories about the early days. The following quotations are taken from the transcripts of interviews conducted in the preparation of the anniversary video, "Promise of the Prairie: Education in Three Acts," by Roger Boleman, Mike Cihak and Chris Butler and are used by permission of Media Services. The interviewees spoke in answer to questions.

Of young faculty members' attraction to UMM

Steven Granger: I think the thing that attracted most faculty and staff was the simple message: "Come and develop a college as you would like it to be," because the first round and second round faculty were clearly invited to do that. As more were hired and we moved toward a more discipline-area approach, the message was "Come and develop your courses and develop the discipline the way you would like to see it developed," and so on. And, of course, as the faculty grew and the curriculum became more established less and less of that was available comes the rise of professionalism among the faculty, a concern not just for the college, not just for the excitement of it, but my own career. So in the process the nature of the faculty changed some and, in addition, we lost some very good people who moved on in their career for their own professional gain.

Eric Klinger: [Rod Briggs] described a college that was superior academically with a good faculty--a really superior faculty--and great students recruited from a wide area dedicated to the liberal arts with good facilities. And he and I both understood [1962] that that didn't actually exist yet. This was his vision of UMM, but he was so great in embellishing this image and assuring me that this was really going to happen. It sold me enough so that I came out to interview, and when I saw it, I have to say I had some trepidation, because this really was remote. But I understood the vision and I saw the possibilities and so signed on.

On UMM's first leaders

Pat Tanner: [On Rod Briggs, John Imholte, Steve Granger, and Dave Johnson]
But what all four of those men had in common [was] their fierce loyalty to UMM, their dedication, their accessibility, which was very important. Anyone coming into the office, whether it was faculty, student, staff member or a person from off campus, if they were not in a meeting or on the phone, they were available. And that was very important

On moving to Morris

Chris Butler asks what it was like for spouses to move to Morris.

Arden Granger: It's quite a story of how we came to Morris. We were living in St. Cloud where Steve was a counseling psychologist at the VA Hospital there--and he got a call from Rod Briggs, who evidently had contacted his-- Steve's --adviser at the University's Minneapolis campus to get an idea of who might like to come. Anyway, Steve went out to interview in Morris and ... came back and said we were moving to Morris and I said, "Where is Morris?" And I think he started the next week to work full time. It was April 18th, I believe, of 1960 and a couple weeks later ... I was invited to come out and spend the night and see the town. No spouses ever went along on interviews in those days. I went out to see the town and ... [to] a Chamber of Commerce dinner in the basement of the Assumption Church. ... I was pregnant with second daughter Sarah who was born the first month of UMM, and it was [difficult to sit through], but everyone was so wonderful 'cause they all ... had worked so hard to get the university here, and they so wanted to meet me and the rest of us. And then Briggs took me on a tour of the campus and then the fields and pastures. ... I think it had been raining for a week and everything was a sea of mud. He was enthusiastic about what was going to go on in this and that field and all I could see was mud. It was really very depressing, the whole town, the area, but I moved there, I think two weeks later, May 15th, and been here ever since, and it's been wonderful.

Chris Butler: After this spectacular introduction to the town, what did you say to your husband?

Arden Granger: Well, he was so enthusiastic-- Rod was so enthusiastic ..., that you couldn't be otherwise, and the minute you came here you were enthusiastic. The people of the town were fantastic. I was invited to endless coffee parties ... and then many, many townspeople had all of us faculty people to dinner parties in their homes. It was just great. The enthusiasm of starting the new college was wonderful.

On the early social life in Morris

Chris Butler: The early years for faculty here I've been told were marked by a very active social life. Tell me a little bit about that. Is that true?

Eric Klinger: Yes, absolutely. You have to understand Rod himself was still about to turn 40, I think, but he was still probably 39 when this all started, a very young man, and almost everybody that was hired in those first years was in their 20s or maybe 30s . . . I think there were only a couple of people in their 40s on this campus during those first couple of years and it was a small group. There were only 13 the first year and . . . I think there were only about 50-some when I got here . . . [I]t was a small enough group so that you could have a party that included everybody and staff, too, and that's what happened--that there was this young energetic bunch of people excited by their project who were eager to get together . . . and, heaven knows, imbibe and listen to good music and dance and eat and do all kinds of things together. . . . [M]any of [the parties] took place in Rod and Helen Briggs' house--Helen played a large role socially in all this--and Steve Granger's house, our house, a number of other houses that were big enough to have a pretty good sized party.

Ruth Gremmels: And in the early days the faculty was so close. We were like one big family and we all had similar problems and little children and young marriages and lots of parties. We had a good time.

Arden Granger: As far as entertaining, we had a social committee. It was Lucy Imholte and Barb McGinnis and I and when we first came to town there were no dial phones, but Barb McGinnis and I were on a party line, and this continued when dial phones came in, so one of us could call Lucy at a pre-arranged time and the other one pick up and we would have our three-person social committee meetings over the phone most of the time. . . . We had formal teas with tea service--a silver tea service and everything for all of the faculty wives and female faculty in the Imholte home. I . . . think we planned three--one party every quarter--and frequently it was out at the country club at the golf course before it burned down. Clyde Johnson had a wonderful dance band, so these frequently were dinner parties with dances and then in between, like we needed anything else, we had house parties all the time and most of the time dancing to records back then, LPs. Baby-sitters were 25 cents an hour [and] everyone was poor, too, because salaries weren't very big. And for many years, everyone brought their own beer or whatever they wanted to drink. . . . It was great. . . . If people had basements we danced in the basement and we thought nothing of getting home at 4 or 5 a.m., and we all had little children, had to get up in the morning. It was incredible.

On the beer run

Chris Butler asked questions about the notorious beer run.

Lucy Imholte: I think Jay Roshal was probably in it. He was usually in on everything. There must have been maybe six or seven of us. And yes, we drove all kinds of places to show the Morris Liquor Store that we could get beer someplace else. It didn't bother them a bit. We probably spent more on gas than we saved on beer. But it was the thing. Jim Gremmels was the one that got us started. He was the one who was irate, because I don't think Glenwood had a liquor store at that time, so that he used to buy it in Morris. And I think he was one of the instigators . . . we did it for what, four years? Slow learners is what we were. They didn't care at all.

Ruth Gremmels: [Jim] was a good German man and drank lots of beer. They would shop around. This would be [Don] Spring . . . and Clyde Johnson, I remember. And they'd take turns after they found the cheapest liquor store, and then they'd load up a station wagon with beer and then deliver it to the various faculty members, and they would pay their amount. Sometimes the case of beer would be under \$5. Some local breweries wanted their business so they would charge very little for a case of beer, bottled beer. . . . They were little stores. For instance, do you know the city of Johnson? Well they'd go out to Johnson, to the Bear's Den it was called, get 25 cases or something.

In this together

Chris Butler: One of the things I love about these stories when you take them all together, is that it really comes through even though no one says it outright, is that there is a real sense of we're in this together, with the original faculty.

Lucy Imholte: It's our school.

Christopher Butler: Yeah. Yeah. Do you think, is that true?

Lucy Imholte: Oh, I think it was very true.