

UMMRA INFO

THE UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA, MORRIS RETIREES ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER
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NOTE FROM THE OUT-GOING PRESIDENT



Time flies in strange ways! It seems only a few years ago that UMM came to life, and John and I enjoyed meeting those new UMM faculty and staff members arriving in Morris. Now we will be celebrating 50 years

of UMM in 2010. When Janet Ahern gave me a file folder two years ago, I saw UMM in a different way, as retirees adjust to a more relaxed time and enjoy the casual learning and social gatherings. Together, with a dedicated group of UMMRA Board members, we have made an effort to strengthen the educational part of UMMRA, to find new and interesting area places to enjoy our casual lunches, to review and organize the history and roles of UMMRA for the new Web page, and to develop a mini-grant program to benefit the continued learning of UMMRA members. Remember when . . . Harold Fahl gave us a tour of a baseball bat factory in Brooten, . . . the trek over meadow and woods to explore the unique Barsness Family Cemetery tucked in the hill of Pope County . . . the fun of regrouping in September with a picnic at Marty Kroening's restored farm home. Thank you to the UMMRA Board - a wonderful team to work with! Best wishes to an enthusiastic Dian Lopez, as I hand off the indexed black notebook to her!

Mary Ann Scharf

Photo: February meeting at UMM Food Service -
Presenter Lowell Rasmussen, Janet Ahern, Mary Ann Scharf

ANNUAL MEETING ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The proposed slate for 2009-2010 board members will be voted on for another two year term on April 23.

Secretary/Treasurer: Joan Reicosky (2 year term)

Member-at-Large: Llea Anderson (2 year term)

Continuing on the board (already approved):

President: Dian Lopez (2 years)

Past President: Mary Ann Scharf (1 year term)

Member-at-Large: Dolores Lammers (1 year term)

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

Volunteer Coordinators: Bernice Erdahl and Cathy Kemble

UMRA TC Representative: Laird Barber

Learning Unlimited Representative: Phyllis Gausman

Special thanks to Mary Ann Scharf for serving the past two years as President, and to Joan Reicosky, Secretary-Treasurer, and Llea Anderson, Member-at-Large, for their two years of service.

SPRING EVENTS

April 23: UMMRA Luncheon and Annual Meeting

Join us in the Cougar Room at the Prairie Inn in Morris

at 11:45 a.m. In addition to the business meeting, Chancellor Johnson will provide an update on UMM. We

will order from the menu.

April 30: UMMRA Annual Reception for Retirees, Faculty, and Staff will be held from 4:00–5:30 p.m. at the LaFave House prior to the Recognition Dinner. Great food and fellowship!

April 30: Faculty/ Staff Recognition Dinner is being provided again this year at no charge through the gracious support of the Chancellor's and the Special Events' budgets. Invitations with more information will be sent out soon. For reservations, call Maggie Larson at 320-589-6053 or email her at larsonmt@morris.umn.edu.

CALENDAR OF FIRST THURSDAY LUNCHEONS AND LEARNING UNLIMITED EVENTS

April 3: UMMRA 1st Thursday luncheon at Lillehaugen Bed and Breakfast south of Starbuck, 11:45 a.m. Check your email for directions and car-pooling.

April 17: Learning Unlimited Program: Heritage Days speaker Gordon Fredrickson, farmer and author, will present real life details of farm family life in bygone days. Elementary School Concert Hall, 1:30 p.m.

May 13: Learning Unlimited: Ann Lauer, "Childhood Interrupted: London Under Siege." Ann, a Graceville librarian, will share her experiences growing up under constant bomb threats. Marynel Ryan, European historian, will provide commentary. Senior Center, 1:00 p.m.

June 4: UMMRA Casual Potluck Picnic Lunch at East Side Park, 11:45 a.m.

June 14: Flag Day Celebration. East Side Park. 6:30 p.m. *If you would like to car-pool, e-mail Mary Ann Scharf at <mscharf@dishmail.net> or call 589-4688.*

PARTICIPATION IN COMMENCEMENT MAY 17

Commencement ceremonies for the graduates of 2008 will be held on Saturday, May 17, at 2:00 p.m. on the Campus Mall (rain site PE Center). Retired faculty are invited to march in the procession. **TO WEAR AN ACADEMIC ROBE AT THE CEREMONY**, you must order it through the Bookstore by April 23. Commencement volunteers should call Maggie Larson at 320-589-6053 or email her at larsonmt@morris.umn.edu.

NEW RETIREES 2009

Jim Carlson, Music. At UMM since 1978.
Kay Carlson, Music, 1979.
Carol McCannon, Student Activities, 1976.
Tom Mahoney, UMM Grants Development, 1972.
Mike Miller, Multi-Cultural Student Program, 1987.
Retired in December 2008.
Lynn Schulz, Computing Services, 1974.
Tim Ray, Media Services, 1978.
Judy Riley, External Relations, 1988.
Jim Van Alstine, Geology, 1974.
Watch for events in April & May honoring these retirees. Check the UMM Calendar on the Web.

SAD NEWS

Mary Ruth Cox, Assistant Academic Dean at UMM between 1991-1993, died in December 2008 at her home in Fargo, under the care of Hospice. Mary Ruth, a Professor of English, also held academic administrative positions at Oklahoma Wesleyan, North Carolina Wesleyan, and Hobart and Smith Colleges in New York.
Brian Curtis Brummond died of cancer on January 7th in Morris. Brian was the sports information director in the Office of Athletics since 2000. Prior to that, he was an on-air personality on KMRS/KKOK.
Our sympathy to their families.

WHAT'S NEW IN UMMRA?

In February, the membership approved the annual award of a maximum of three **mini-grants**, of up to \$350 each, in support of an UMMRA member's learning activity – whether research, assistance for a project, or travel reimbursement to a learning event. Applications are due August 1. For details about the mini-grant or about UMMRA history and events, check our **new Web-site** at <<http://www.morris.umn.edu/ummra/>> Thanks to Andy Lopez for posting it for us.

CLIPS FROM THE PAST

From Morris *Sun Tribune* "Looking Back" columns:

February 27, 1959: A resolution requesting the Regents to establish colleges of the University of Minnesota in Morris and Crookston was unanimously approved by the Minnesota House University Committee and referred to the House Appropriations Committee. Note: UMM will celebrate its 50th anniversary in 2010.

January 14, 1969: Librarian **Russell DuBois** announced the introduction of a pilot program of the Minitex teletype system providing rapid service between twelve representative college libraries. In 2009, LeAnn Dean reports that Minitex, for which Russ was a prime mover, has grown into one of the most effective library consortia in the nation, serving libraries and users in ND, SD and MN.

December 31, 1968: "The third major winter storm – and the second blizzard – to hit the Upper Midwest in a 10-day period had the area facing the most severe digging out operations thus far this winter. In the three storms during

the 10-day period, more than 28 ½ inches of snow have been measured at the West Central Experiment Station."

February 4, 1969: **Sam Evans**, weather observer, noted that 60.1 inches of snow had fallen by January 31. The next highest snowfall by that date was 1887-88 when 46.1 inches fell. Note: Our total through January 2009 has been 34.1 inches, with an additional 10.3 inches in February.

AN UMMRA CONTRIBUTOR

Pat Kahng and her daughter, Grace, have added \$13,000 to the memorial scholarship fund named to honor **Sun Kahng**, UMM Economics Professor who died ten years ago. Pat says, *Sun came to this country with his bare hands, worked hard and educated all of his children. I am grateful to UMM. It is time to pay back.*

BITS AND PIECES

- **Laird Barber** will again offer his course on *Church Architecture* in Alexandria in April. Call District 206 Community Education at (320) 762-2149 to register.
 - Retirees **Jim Carlson, Kay Carlson and Jim Van Alstine** will be featured in the upcoming issue of *Profile*.
 - On Saturday, April 4, a pre-concert reception will be held at 5 p.m. in Turtle Mountain Café to honor **Jim and Kay**. This precedes the 25th anniversary performance of the Alumni Jazzers.
 - **Ardath Larson and Bernice Erdahl** are pictured in the Feb Morris *Sun Tribune* as Support Directors of the Sons of Norway Norskfodt Lodge.
 - **Nat Hart's** article "On This Earth: Of the People, By the People, For the Planet" was published in the Jan 24 Morris *Sun Tribune*.
 - The inaugural lecture of the **Jooinn Lee** Lecture Series will be held at 7 p.m. on March 25 in the HFA Recital Hall. The series is featured in *Profile*.
 - **UMMRA members on the go: Andy and Dian Lopez** spent ten days in Puerto Rico in fall and will return there in April. **Cathy and Ernie Kemble** are back from their annual winter trip to Mexico. **Mary Ann Scharf** spent a week with **Barb McGinnis** in California this March. **Ted and Judith Underwood** spent two weeks in northern India in January. He wished us all a Happy St. Urho's Day!
 - **Mike Miller and Ida Stewart**, members of the Morris Human Rights Commission, appear in a photo in the January 3rd Morris *Sun Tribune*.
 - **Tom and Doris Straw** were at UMM for Mike Miller's retirement event in December. They spent many years on the road but are now settled in Onamia.
 - A hog roast will be held on May 23 for **Jim Val Alstine** from 3:00 p.m. till dark at Pomme de Terre Park. RSVP is not necessary, but if you plan to come, a call to 589-6066 would be appreciated.
- These and other references to UMMRA members' activities not cited here are filed in the UMMRA Archives.

In the next issue, Memories of UMM will feature Jim Olson's memories of 1959-60, the year before UMM began instruction.