



UMMRA INFO

THE UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA, MORRIS RETIREES ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

<<http://www.morris.umn.edu/ummra>>

VOLUME XVI, NUMBER 4, SPRING 2014

NOTE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Welcome to Spring 2014. By all accounts, we have had a challenging winter season in Minnesota this year. Let us all look forward!

The UMMRA Board is planning four major events this spring. On Thursday April 3, we will have our Annual Meeting including the election of new officers. The nominating committee, chaired by Lynn Schulz, has come up with a slate of very capable nominees: Maggie Larson for President-Elect, Bonnie Tipcke for Secretary, and Ken Hodgson for Member-at-Large. Let me remind you that the Board has already appointed Judy Riley as the Newsletter Editor-Historian to replace Karla Klinger, who is retiring after 8 years of service. Chancellor Johnson will speak at our Annual Meeting.

On April 24, we will have the UMMRA Reception at the LaFave House in conjunction with UMM's Recognition events. Reservations for the complimentary dinner are required. See the April 24 "Other Events" entry for more information. On May 10, we will be volunteering to assist with the UMM graduation events. The details about volunteering are explained in the next column as part of the May 10 entry. On June 5, we will have our Spring Picnic at the Morris East Side Park Shelter. Lowell Rasmussen, UMM Vice-Chancellor for Finance and Facilities, will be our speaker. He will bring us up-to-date on physical plant and energy projects at UMM.

We are looking forward to working with all of the University of Minnesota 2013-14 retirees in our area. If you fall in this category, remember that your attendance at your first luncheon meeting is on us. Just give your bill to our Treasurer. If you are wondering how you can help UMMRA, talk to our Volunteer Coordinators, Cathy Kemble and Bernice Erdahl.

Andy Lopez

UMMRA President 2013-15

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UMMRA ANNUAL SPRING LUNCHEON BUSINESS MEETING

When: Thursday, April 3, 11:45 a.m.

Where: Cougar Room, Prairie Inn, Morris. Choose from the menu.

Speaker: Chancellor Jacqueline Johnson will bring us up-to-date on what's new at UMM.

Business: Election of officers

OTHER EVENTS

April 3: Spring Annual Meeting, Cougar Room. Prairie Inn. 11:45 a.m. See box above.

April 24: UMMRA Annual Reception for Faculty and Staff, LaFave House, 4:00-5:30 p.m.

April 24: Chancellor-sponsored UMM Recognition Dinner, Oyate Hall, 6:00-8:00 p.m. Reservations for you and a guest are required for the complimentary dinner. RSVP by calling Laura Walton at 320-589-6053 on or before April 18 if you plan to attend.

May 10: UMM Graduation: Division Receptions 11:00 a.m. -12:30 p.m.; Graduation on the mall at 1:30 p.m. Rain site is the PE Center.

Contact Dave Swenson at (320) 589-6080 by May 3, if you would like to volunteer to welcome guests to campus and to distribute programs. Volunteers attend an orientation at 10 a.m. on commencement day. You are free to leave after the ceremony begins.

June 5: UMMRA potluck at East Side Park, 11:45 a.m. Bring a dish to pass. Lowell Rasmussen will speak

SAD NEWS

Linda Joyce "Joy" Macintosh, wife of **Aubrey Macintosh**, died in Morris on January 30, shortly after her 72nd birthday. Earlier in her life, this compassionate and "eclectic redhead" was active in child protection, and worked to end racial segregation and domestic violence.

A SPECIAL INVITATION

UMRA Twin Cities has invited UMMRA to participate in hosting the AROHE Conference in Minneapolis August 10-12, 2014. AROHE stands for the Association of Retirement Organizations in Higher Education. The conference will explore connections among and between retirees and higher education institutions. Contact Andy Lopez if you would like to attend.

UMM KUDOS

- UMM is rated #2 by editors of *Kiplinger's Personal Finance* in the publication 25 Best College Values Under \$30,000 a Year and #10 among small public colleges in 30 Best Values in Small Colleges, the only MN school listed.
- UMM, one of four baccalaureate colleges recognized, is a finalist in the 2014 Second Nature Climate Leadership Awards.
- UMM is ranked #17 on BestColleges.com's list of 50 greenest universities, the only MN college on the list.

BITS AND PIECES

- The 28th Annual **Edith Farrell French Poetry Contest** will be held on April 7th.
- **Craig Kissock**, now living in Montgomery, Texas, is the U.S. director of Educators Abroad, a global network of professional educators. The program has relationships with institutions in over 60 countries and “provide[s] personalized professional development worldwide for prospective and employed educators who are fluent in English.”
- The “45 Years Ago” column of the February 22 *Morris Sun Tribune* shows then sophomore **Tom Mahoney** pondering the “intricate campus workings” of the newly installed new computer teletype-writer.
- **Ginger Nohl**, Executive Operations/Student Support Specialist, retired February 11 after 32 plus years of dedication to UMM, and, in particular, to the Advising office. Though she requested no public reception, friends gathered at Brenda Boever's home February 6 to show their appreciation.
- The 2014 winter/spring issue of *Profile* includes summaries of the lives of **Steve Granger** and **Don Spring**, along with photos of Don, **Arden Granger** and Steve, and a 1960s group photo of **Rod Briggs**, Steve, and the four division chairs at the time: **Chuck Bruning**, Don, **Jack Imholte** and **Robinson Abbott**. On page 32, Chancellor Emeritus **David Johnson** is featured with his recent book, *Shtels to Shipsides*.

Jim Togeas appears on page 2 with the recipient of the James and Bertha Togeas Chemistry Scholarship.

□ **Tom Rach**, Maintenance Carpenter, retired from Facilities Management on March 3 after 33 years of service. Respecting his wishes, a departmental gathering was held.

□ Since January 2012, The Center for Small Town and the UMM Data Service Center, along with a committee representing four townships near the Boundary Waters in northeast MN, has been gathering data to “provide a clear picture of the region's economic landscape.” Their January 2014 report shows that both the permanent and seasonal residents “keep the economy afloat and support a vibrant community.” **Anne Uehling**, who lives near Ely, initiated the project and was a member of the Four Townships Economic Survey Committee.

□ WCROC Web weather charts show that the Morris area had 49 days below zero between January 1 and March 4, including 28 consecutive days between January 20 and February 17. It WAS a harsh winter.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR RETIREES

► JOIE (NEW!)

The Journal of Opinions, Ideas and Essays (JOIE) is a new on-line journal sponsored by the U of MN and operated by UMRA members. JOIE is a digital journal providing the opportunity for past or present members of the UM community to submit work that reflects their creativity and intellect but may not be suitable for peer-reviewed journals. The review/submission process along with a copy of the inaugural issue is at www.lib.umn.edu/joie.

► Fulbright Lectureship applications (faculty and professionals)

Applications must be U.S. Citizens and have a Ph.D. or equivalent professional terminal degree. See <http://www.cies.org/eligibility#ssthash.y9ZtMj2G.dpuf> for more information.

► UMRA Grants

UMRA provides Professional Development Grants of up to \$5,000 each to support faculty, P & A and civil service retirees for projects related to the retiree's “research, instruction, or other work history.” For details see <http://www1.umn.edu/umra/grants.php>.

► UMMRA Small Grants

UMMRA awards up to three grants of up to \$350 each to support a retiree's project of enrichment. For full information about the application, go to <http://ummra.morris.umn.edu/Programs.html>, click on “Mini-Grants.”

UMMRA Info has featured retirees' stories about their experiences in the 60s. This article by Professor Vicky Demos, Sociology, is the first essay reflecting on the 70s and 80s. She has condensed it to meet space requirements. If you would like to read the full essay, please contact me at <klingerk@morris.umn.edu>.

MEMORIES OF THE SEVENTIES AND EIGHTIES—by VICKY DEMOS

I came to UMM in September, 1977, during the second wave of feminism (1960s to 1980s) when there were only two other women in the Division of the Social Sciences, Mimi Frenier in history and Ellen Robert in sociology/anthropology. I was the third hired in the division; the next year, Katherine Benson became the first tenure track woman in Psychology. Throughout the country, the hiring of women faculty was controversial. Virtually all institutions in society had been modeled in line with the 1950's idealized gendered white middle-class division of labor. Men were supposed to be gainfully employed, while women belonged in the home caring for the needs of their families. Attitudes about women coming into the workplace ranged from welcoming women as equals to a concern that women were not truly qualified to take a position on the faculty.

I belonged to the second generation of UMM faculty--the first having come to Morris to build a liberal arts program on the prairie--and to the early baby boom cohort of people who came of age in the 60's intent on changing the world. For me, this meant working for racial equality in the classroom, on campus and in society. Among the first courses I taught at UMM was one on prejudice, directed towards the study of relations between Whites and Blacks in the United States. I introduced the idea that systemic discrimination can occur without prejudice. Later as the area of race and ethnicity developed, I introduced the idea that in addition to racism, there was sexism and homophobia. The course began to be known as "Prejudice and Discrimination in American Society" and then as "Prejudice, Discrimination and Systems of Oppression."

In my third year at UMM I began to develop a formal academic interest in women's issues. At the time, the sociological study of women was taught as a course in "Sex Roles," based on the idea that there were changes occurring in the idealized gendered division of labor, among which were women's mass entry into higher education and their entry into the labor force. The debates in the academy and society at the time were framed on one side by feminists such as Betty Friedan and Gloria Steinem, who called for women's liberation from confinement to the home, and on the other side by conservatives such as Phyllis Schlafly, who viewed women's natural place as in the home. In time, as second wave feminism lost its momentum under criticisms that it overlooked the issues of women of color, GLBTQ individuals and others, third wave feminism emerged. Other issues needed redress, such as violence against women. The very categories of female and male were questioned, and the notion of compulsory heterosexuality was challenged. As the concept of sex roles lost its explanatory power, the title of the course was changed to the Sociology of Gender.

It was in my first years at UMM, too, that the women's studies minor was introduced. Mimi Frenier created the minor which was made possible through courses she taught, my course in Sex Roles and Katherine Benson's contribution. The introduction of the minor provoked debate regarding its academic rigor and value. To Mimi Frenier's credit, her patience and perseverance, the women's studies minor and later the major were implemented.

The student body at UMM has been predominantly White with some Native American, Black, and International students. With the exception of university staff, there were virtually no Blacks living in the Morris area, and at the time the Black student body was primarily recruited from Chicago. For many first generation and urban Black students, UMM was a source of culture shock, the turnoff from the road at Sauk Center, a frightening one. Overtime the campus context became more hospitable to them, thanks to the critical presence of Bill Stewart, Director of the Minority Student Program, who provided basic moral and emotional support to minority students on campus, the hiring in sociology of two Black scholars, Anthony Lemelle and Solomon Gashaw, respected and honored by both Black and White students, and the outstanding efforts of other faculty including Bert Ahern. The development of minority programs and the presence of and talks given by major Black leaders including Julian Bond, the Rev. Joseph Lowry and Angela Davis were additionally important to the support of Black students.

In the classroom there also was controversy over the very language we used in talking about people. I began teaching at the time it was recognized that certain practices, such as using the term “mankind” to refer to all human beings and using masculine pronouns when the gender of a person is unknown, were sexist. A few students reacted negatively to the request that they eliminate such practices from their writing, indicating they felt the request was a product of an irrational feminism.

As I look back to my time on campus, I can now see how changes outside the campus resonated with changes inside it. Nontraditional students, mostly older women, appeared in our classrooms with special needs. Also, talking about a subject that was formerly invisible or taboo could excite students and validate them. This was certainly the case in talking about gender and race, but it was, also, clear in talking about GLBTQ issues. A few students spoke to me about their own GLBTQ issues only after I spoke about these issues in class. What a liberal arts education should do is to provide a well rounded education and foster critical thinking, but it should, also, fortify the individual, enabling the individual to feel comfortable with and accept her/him self.

March 2014

Lovely Garden Spots

It’s almost time for flowers! The 4th Street entrance to campus and the bountiful gardens between Spooner and the MRC grow more beautiful each year. Since 2009, several beauty spots have been added to lend grace to the grounds. Next time you’re on campus, take time to check out the east side of Camden, the areas behind and in front of the Welcome Center, the north and south sides of the Student Center, and the entrance to Big Cat Stadium. In every nook and cranny you’ll find exquisite landscaping, flowers and grasses, and sometimes benches built through donations. Notice the large flower pots that can be moved wherever they are needed. At the Student Center you will find Junipers, Russian Sage, Black-eyed Susan, Overdam Feather Reed Grass and Fall Blooming Feather Reed Grass. Behind the Welcome Center you will find Purple Coneflower, Orange Butterfly Weed, Dwarf Bush Honeysuckle and more. Plants and grasses are selected that have extended bloom time, add color, and do well with minimal amounts of water. They also cater to bees and butterflies. Mieka Jo Hoffman, UMM Gardener and Arborist, provided the information above and credited the entire grounds crew, engineers, carpenters, electricians, the administration, students, WCROC, and area nurseries, citing many by name. Thanks to all of you for making the grounds so beautiful



Student Center



Camden



Behind the Welcome Center

Note: If you would like to read the full version of “Lovely Garden Spots,” please contact Mieka Jo Hoffman at <hoffmann@morris.umn.edu>.

Editor’s End Note *What makes this age meaningful to me, in addition to family, friends and travel, is having projects that use my skills. Editing UMMRA Info four times a year has been such a project, keeping me focused and productive. Thanks to those of you who helped make it happen. UMMRA Info has had three editors, Bettina Blake, Dolores Lammers, and me. With the next issue, Judy Riley assumes the editor’s role. Judy, I hope you will have as much pleasure editing the newsletter as I have had.*

Karla Klinger