



### UMMRA Info

A quarterly publication of the University of Minnesota, Morris Retirees' Association

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

Volume XVII, Number 4

Spring 2015

*From your outgoing President,*

*First of all let me thank Past UMMRA President Lynn Schulz and President-elect Maggie Larson for handling the UMMRA presidency while I have been away for the winter months in 2014 and 2015. They did an outstanding job and kept me in the loop. I also should thank the computing staff at UMM and UMTC that have helped me maintain our website while I was away. When you are outside of the U of M network, you have to jump some extra hoops in order to make changes to websites, mailing lists, etc that are secured inside the U of M network.*

*This spring we invite you to many UMMRA events:*

*Our spring meeting with Chancellor Johnson as our speaker plus the election of UMMRA officers (treasurer and member-at-large) was held on April 2.*

*The UMMRA Reception at the LaFave House will begin at 4 p.m. on April 30 followed by the annual Recognition Dinner at 6 p.m.*

*We have volunteered to assist the UMM staff during the graduation ceremonies on May 9 and we will wrap up the UMMRA's events for the academic year with a trip to the Maritime Museum in*

*Alexandria and a pot luck lunch at our house on Lake Ida, just a few miles northwest of the museum.*

*We look forward to seeing many UMMRA members around for these events. More details about the upcoming events will be found elsewhere in this newsletter, come and join us!*

Andy Lopez  
UMMRA President 2013-15

#### Coming Events

*All UMMRA members are welcome to attend these meetings and events. Watch your UMMRA email for details.*

**April 30: (note change of date)** Annual Faculty and Staff Recognition Dinner, 6 p.m. Oyate Hall. Retiree reception at LaFave House precedes the dinner.

**May 9:** UMM Commencement. Contact UMMRA to volunteer for this campus event.

**June 4:** Leave Morris by car at 10 a.m. Tour Alexandria Maritime Museum. \$5 per person. Lunch at Andy and Dian Lopez home, Alexandria.

#### SAD NEWS

• Memorial services for Plant Services retiree **Vern Mohr** were held February 25. Vern died February 20 at his home in Morris.

• Edward Walters, father of **Dave Jones**, buildings and grounds, passed away February 14. Services held at Fort Snelling Cemetery.

#### FACULTY, STAFF AND STUDENT NEWS

**Kaopua Sutton** '15, Hilo, Hawaii, has qualified for the 2015 National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Indoor Track and Field Championships in the shot put. Sutton currently ranks 15th in the country in the shot put. She is the first Cougar to compete in the NCAA Indoor Championships since the team moved to NCAA Division III.

**Natalie Hoidal** '15, Forest Lake, is one of two recipients of the Katherine E. Sullivan Scholarship from the University of Minnesota will spend the 2015–16 academic year in Copenhagen, Denmark.

Recipients for the 2014 - 2015 Outstanding Support Staff Awards are: **Melody Veenendaal**-AFSCME; **Nancy Erdahl**-Civil Service; and **Gail Boe**-Teamsters. Each recipient will be recognized at the April 30 Faculty/Staff Recognition Dinner.

**Sarah Buchanan**, associate professor of French, and **Ted Pappenfus**, professor of chemistry, have been awarded the Horace T. Morse-Alumni Award for Outstanding Contributions to Undergraduate Education. As award winners, Sarah and Ted will also be named members of the Academy of Distinguished Teachers.

Associate Professor of Theatre Arts **Siobhan Bremer**, Assistant Professor of Theatre Arts **Craig Moxon**, and students **Rosa Goerdt** '16, Iron; **Matt McDonough** '15, Saint Paul; and **Rose Peterson** '16, Minneapolis, were recognized for their accomplishments in theatrical teaching and design at the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival Region V.

**Jim Cotter**, professor of geology, has received the 2015 University of Minnesota, Morris Alumni Association Teaching Award. The award honors faculty members for outstanding contributions to undergraduate education by calling attention to educational philosophies, objectives, and methods.

**Bart Finzel** has accepted the position as vice chancellor for academic affairs and dean. A member of the UMM faculty since 1989 and a winner of the University's Horace T. Morse award for distinguished teaching, Bart served a two-year term as interim dean in 2011 and extended that appointment for another two years. With colleagues in the grants office and the Briggs Library, he initiated what has become an annual celebration of faculty scholarship. With faculty colleagues in the humanities he has worked to revise UMM's writing requirement, implementing the Writing for the Liberal Arts program, among other initiatives. As a longtime resident of the Morris community, Bart has advanced positive town/gown relationships.

**Jess Larson**, professor of studio art, is a 2015 recipient of the University of Minnesota John Tate Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Advising. Since 1986 the Tate Awards have served to recognize and reward high-quality advising at the

University of Minnesota. Larson's nominators describe her as "a deeply knowledgeable, highly accessible advising resource, with ambitious, adaptable ideas about commitment to student success." Her advising work, they add, has been marked by not only her commitment to advisees, but also her work as a Master Advisor and her service to campus governance, Academic Alert, the first-year seminar, and the Academic Center for Enrichment.

### **HATS OFF TO UMM!**

*Information compiled in part from the UMM News Service. Read more at*

*<http://www.morris.umn.edu/newsevents/>*

- The Minnesota Department of Education has nominated the Morris campus for the U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools (ED-GRS) award. Morris is the State's first and only nominated institution of higher education.

- The Arbor Day Foundation announced that UMM has earned 2014 Tree Campus USA recognition for its commitment to effective urban forest management. Tree Campus USA is a national program created in 2008 to honor colleges and universities for effective campus forest management and for engaging staff and students in conservation goals.

- UMM has been named to the 2014 President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll. This is the highest federal recognition an institution of higher education can receive for its community service work. "We are all more successful when we're working together," said Argie Manolis, Office of Community Engagement (OCE) coordinator. "This national honor reflects how welcoming the Morris community has been to our students, and how much our students have learned and grown through community engagement opportunities. It is also a testament to how engaged our students are in wanting to make a difference regionally."

- UMM was featured on Twin Cities Public Television's (tpt) "Integrated Energy Solutions" that premiered March 1. The program also aired March 8 on tpt's Minnesota and Life channel.



**Joyce Sutphen**

Minnesota Poet Laureate Joyce Sutphen is the Commencement speaker for UMM's 52nd

Commencement to be held at 1:30 p.m. Saturday, May 9, on the campus mall, weather permitting. Sutphen was appointed as Minnesota's second Poet Laureate by Governor Mark Dayton in August 2011. As Poet Laureate, Sutphen is the state's primary spokesperson, supporter, and promoter of poetry. Sutphen is also a professor of English at Gustavus Adolphus College, where she teaches classes in British literature, creative writing, and contemporary women's poetry. Prior to teaching, Sutphen received a PhD in Renaissance drama from the University of Minnesota. Sutphen also has published several award-winning poetry collections. She won the Barnard Women Poets Prize for her first poetry collection, *Straight Out of View*, and the Minnesota Book Award for her collection *Naming the Stars*. She also co-edited a 2006 anthology of Minnesota women's poetry, *To Sing Along the Way: Minnesota Women Poets from Pre-Territorial Days to the Present*, and appeared on Garrison Keillor's A Prairie Home Companion radio program in 2014.

### **Rural Arts and Culture Summit**

The 2015 Rural Arts and Culture (RAC) Summit will take place Tuesday-Thursday, June 2- 4, at UMM. This year's theme, "From the Ground Up: Cultivating Creative People and Places," will highlight the important role of art and culture in shaping the rural narrative. The RAC Summit is a joint project between the University of Minnesota, Morris Center for Small Towns and Springboard for the Arts.

### **Gallery exhibition is part of Rural Summit**

The Morris campus Edward J. & Helen Jane Morrison Gallery will feature exhibition *POP< 5000* June 2-30. The exhibition, to be held in conjunction with the Rural Arts and Culture Summit, will showcase contemporary artists who reside in Minnesota communities with populations less than or equal to 5,000. Opening will be Tuesday, June 2, at 6:30 p.m., in conjunction with the welcome reception for the Summit.

### **AARP Smart Driver Safety Program**

The AARP Smart Driver Safety Program announces its class in Morris for April 2015. A four-hour refresher class will be offered in Morris at

5 p.m. Wednesday, April 15. Drivers over 55 years old completing these courses will be eligible for a 10% discount in their automobile insurance. Classes are held at the Morris Senior Center, 603 Oregon Ave in Morris. Please call 320-208-6600 to register. The fee for each individual in any of these classes is \$15 for AARP members (bring your current AARP member card) and \$20 for other attendees. All fees are payable at the door and checks payable to AARP are preferred. Instructors for each class have been certified by AARP.

### **Mini Grant Awards**

UMMRA awards a maximum of three mini-grants, up to \$350 each, in support of an UMMRA member's learning activity, whether research, assistance for a project, or travel reimbursement. Criteria, suggestions for proposals, and application forms can be found at: <http://www.morris.umn.edu/ummra/UMMRAMiniGrants.pdf>. Deadline for applications is at least three months prior to the proposed date for the beginning of the project. Send applications to Bonnie Tipcke, UMMRA secretary, 311 W. 7<sup>th</sup> St., Morris, MN 56267.



**Andrea Singleton**

**Morris Area Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Carolyn Peterson introduced the Chamber's new marketing coordinator Andrea Singleton during UMMRA's First Thursday on March 5. Singleton is a 2010 graduate of the University of Minnesota, Morris, with a double major in English and Spanish. Post graduation, she worked as an on-air host at KMRS/KKOK radio station in Morris before landing a job as a TV Producer at Pioneer Public Television in Appleton in 2012. As an enthusiastic member of the Morris community, Andrea has taken an active role in the Morris Area Women of Today, the Morris Theatre Cooperative, and the board of the Regional Fitness Center. Peterson and Singleton gave an update on the work of the Chamber as well as new and ongoing projects taking place within the Morris community.**

*EDITOR'S NOTE: UMMRA Info is looking for Morris campus faculty and staff (including retirees) who would be willing to write a short piece for future publication in this newsletter about their UMM experience during the 1970s, 1980s or 1990s. Please contact UMMRA Info editor Judy Riley for details.*