



### *UMMRA Info*

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

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

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**Spring 2017**

*I hope that "spring has sprung" and that we can finally see evidence that green will soon be in our future!*

*Our last meeting was Thursday, April 6. We met at LaFave House at 11:45 with UMMRA buying our lunch! (We had a basket available for those wishing to contribute.) This was a quarterly meeting.*

*In February we considered moving to a quarterly meeting regimen, based on the questionnaire that we sent to all members in November. However, we did not have a quorum for the Board to approve this process, so it is still an open question. At this time our next meeting will be held on October 5, at LaFave House, and Chancellor Michelle Behr will attend our meeting! Please mark this date on your calendar! Chancellor Behr will address our group and will be available to answer any questions you might have. Please be aware that this will be our first meeting (IF the Board approves our new meeting schedule) since the Recognition Dinner, SO PLEASE BRING A RETIREE!! We will meet at LaFave House at 11:45 a.m. on that date; if there is a change in the schedule, I will let you know via email.*

*On May 4 we will have our Retiree Recognition Event at the American Legion from 5-7 p.m. UMMRA will have a small buffet of treats available, along with coffee and water. Alcoholic beverages and pop will be available in the attached bar. May 13 is graduation, and UMMRA has historically assisted with that.*

*Based on what the Board decides in April, we may not meet again until October. Watch your email for updates, and remember to bring a retiree on October 5 when Chancellor Behr will address the group.*

### **COMING EVENTS**

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

**April 4, 7 p.m., Oyate Hall** 31<sup>st</sup> Annual Edith R. Farrell French Poetry Contest

**April 7-8, 7 p.m., Edson Auditorium** 39<sup>th</sup> Annual Jazz Fest performances

**May 4, 5-7 p.m. Morris American Legion** Retiree Recognition Celebration. Light refreshments will be available. Alcohol and non-alcoholic beverages available from the bar.

**May 12, 5 p.m. HFA Recital Hall** Honors Recital

**May 13, 1 p.m.** Commencement

**October 5, 11:45 a.m., LaFave House** UMMRA meeting. Chancellor Michelle Behr is the speaker.

### **FACULTY AND STAFF NEWS**

**Robert Thompson** retired February 24 after 44 years as engineer/project manager in Facilities Management.

**Janet Ericksen** will be appointed the next chair of the Division of the Humanities in July. "In her prior term as division chair (2007-12) and as interim chair of the Social Sciences Division (2014-15), Janet proved to be a capable and creative administrator who is fair-minded, efficient, and a strong spokesperson for liberal learning," said Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Dean **Bart Finzel**.

## SAD NEWS

*On behalf of UMMRA, our sympathy to the families and friends of these loved ones.*

Professor Emeritus **Nat Hart**, 86, passed away January 16 at West Wind Village in Morris. Nat joined the faculty at UMM in 1961, as it began its second year of operation. During the course of his career at UMM, in addition to teaching in the English discipline, he served as coordinator of College Writing (1968-70), coordinator of the English discipline (1971-72 and 1977-80), chair of the Division of the Humanities (1980-85), and director of the Faculty Center for Learning and Teaching (1994-1997). Nat retired in January 2001, during his 40th year at Morris, and his 45th year with the University of Minnesota.

**Daniel Noble**, vice chancellor for finance from 1969 to 1989, passed away at age 79 from complications of Parkinson's Disease.

Constance E. Michealson, mother of **Dale Michealson**, duplicating services, died January 26 at PioneerCare Suites in Fergus Falls.

Elizabeth (Betty) Hoyer, mother of **Garrett Hoyer**, boiler operator, passed away January 19.

## KUDOS

UMMRA member **Ardath Larson** received the Pay It Forward Stevens County volunteer award in January. As a longtime volunteer in the Morris community, Larson has done some heavy lifting.

"I have carried an anvil," Larson said of her volunteer work at the Stevens County Historical Museum. "Put that on your bucket list."

"All the things (Larson) does as a volunteer help the local community be a better place," **Barbara McGinnis** wrote in her nomination letter. In addition to her work at the museum, Larson volunteers at UMM's Briggs Library, for the Sons of Norway and at the West Central Research and Outreach Center's horticulture garden. She has volunteered for the Miss Morris event and served on the Museum's high tea committee. Larson retired from the UMM Briggs Library in 2004.

Associate Professor of Anthropology **Rebecca Dean** is the 2017 recipient of the University of Minnesota, Morris Alumni Association Teaching Award. The selection committee said that Rebecca stands out for her

creative and highly effective pedagogy, her incorporation of community outreach into her teaching and research with students, and her leadership in re-designing the anthropology curriculum to emphasize service learning. The nomination documents Rebecca as "a highly skilled, creative and rigorous instructor." Students praise her work as an adviser: "Rebecca cares very deeply...and is extremely kind and easy to talk to." The file also contains evidence of Rebecca's significant impact on the wider campus.

A collection of recently-translated family letters became the inspiration for a dance film project that former UMM dance instructor **Ferolyn Angell** describes as "an exploration of the shadow that's cast by the knowledge of the Holocaust." The letters reveal almost-lost details about the family's forced separation during WWII. Angell, who retired in 2009, said she often thought about ways to tell these stories through dance. The 30-minute film, "In the Shadow," was shown January 23 at the Morris Public Library.



**Ravi Norman**

**Ravi Norman '98**, chief executive officer of Minnesota's largest minority-owned business, THOR Construction, will speak during the 2017 Commencement Saturday, May 13, at 1:30 p.m. on the campus mall. The public is invited to attend the commencement ceremony or to watch it streamed online at [morris.umn.edu](http://morris.umn.edu). Additional information is available at [morris.umn.edu/commencement](http://morris.umn.edu/commencement).

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