

UMMRA INFO

THE UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA, MORRIS RETIREES ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER
VOLUME VIII, NUMBER 1, SUMMER, 2005

DUES—MEMBERSHIP

This summer issue of UMMRA INFO is sent to all retirees of any Morris area University unit from the UMM Retirees Association (UMMRA.) The newsletter is published four times a year, but the fall, winter and spring issues are sent only to paid members. Enclosed is a letter from Arden Granger, UMMRA treasurer, which explains our purpose and activities and invites you to join our organization. Yearly dues are \$10 per person (\$15 couple) payable on July 1, 2005. Please include information about yourself—members are a curious and friendly group who like to read about their friends.

SPRING REUNION/ANNUAL MEETING

The annual reunion meeting was held on Thursday, April 28 at the Prairie Inn. President-elect Ahern presided in the absence of President Gremmels. Election of officers was held; the names are listed below. Janet presented a check to Nancy Schuman from the sale of raffle tickets for furnishings for the LaFave House. Special guest Lucy Imholte, who had won the Nellis bronze in the raffle, presented the sculpture to Nancy for the LaFave House. Chancellor Schuman, our guest speaker, brought us up to date on the legislative bonding bill, the Social Science renovation, faculty salaries, and the Founders Fund. In response to questions from the audience, he shared his enthusiasm for his April trip to China and the various exchange options with Chinese universities.

At 1:30 we visited the new home of Jenny Nellis and Charlie Fowler. What a grand tour—the leaf decorated cement floors, bright walls, a multitude of art works and a lively cat hanging upside down on the arm of a dark carved chair watching people walk by. Our thanks go to Jenny and Charlie. Every year we are treated to an event as good as the previous one. The reception at the LaFave House was artistically done and received many compliments. Congratulations to all concerned with the event—especially Wes Gray, member-at-large, who chaired the reunion day celebration.

2005-2006 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President – Janet Ahern (2 years)

Past-president – Jim Gremmels (1 year)

Secretary-Treasurer – Arden Granger (2 years)

Member-at-large – Wes Gray (1 more year)

Member-at-large – Roger McCannon (2 years)

Laird Barber, UMRA Representative, and Dolores Lammers, Historian and Newsletter Editor, are ex-officio and at the President's discretion.

Bernice Erdahl, Cathy Kemble – Volunteer committee

Avis Brandt – Trip coordinator

Notice of cancelled meetings will be broadcast over KMRS radio and sent on e-mail. Rescheduled meetings will be announced at the same time.

YEAR IN REVIEW

Luncheon Meetings – The fall meeting was held at the Prairie Inn on Wednesday, October 13. Doug Rasmussen, Hancock writer and poet was our speaker. He told stories in his special way and read poetry from the books he and his wife, Louise, have published. They are for sale at the Morris Sun Tribune office. Sadly, Doug died this spring after many years of writing, speaking and doing a weekly column in the Hancock Record and Morris Sun Tribune newspapers. They did a marvelous job of eulogizing him. Our sympathy goes to Louise, their children and his many friends. The winter meeting was held on February 23, 2005 at the Prairie Inn. James Gremmels, managing editor of the Prairie Gate Press at UMM, gave a talk about the history of the press and conducted a tour of the facility. Mary Ellen Grossman was in charge of the two luncheon meetings and we thank her for her time on the board.

UMMRA held a raffle for three pieces of art and donated the proceeds to the LaFave House (covered in the spring newsletter). Jim Gremmels deserves credit from UMMRA for all his work and time.

UMMRA helped Bettina Blake host a party at her home in December, 2004, before she dismantled her house for her move to Boston.

Volunteer Committee --Cathy Kemble and Bernice Erdahl had a busy year with their volunteer committee. They would like to thank the following people for their help:

Evergreen Readers at West Wind Village – Laird Barber, Bettina Blake, Joanne Hagstrom, Fred Farrell, Roger McCannon, Doris Benson, Avis Brandt, Jim and Pat Tanner, Curtis and Genevieve Gunvalson, Arden Granger, Janet Ahern, Bernice Erdahl, Cathy Kemble. Sessions are held from the first Thursday of September to the last Thursday in May.

Ice Cream and Lollipops – Arden Granger, Curtis and Genevieve Gunvalson, Gladys Henricks, Barbara McGinnis, Pat Kahng, Judy Bluth, Bernice Erdahl, Cathy Kemble.

They also thank the people who provided food for the reunion reception at the LaFave House. It helped to keep our bank account healthy.

UMRA (TWIN CITIES) UPDATE

The University of Minnesota Retirees Association of the Twin Cities newsletter contained information on Medicare Part D, the new drug insurance from Medicare that becomes available on January 1, 2006. Employee Benefits staff, along with Ted Litman, UMRA board member and Retiree Subcommittee representative to the Benefits Advisory Committee, continue to monitor information from Medicare. It seems that the University offers better prescription coverage through their four medical plans available to retirees. For additional

information about UMRA and its activities you can visit their web site at www.umn.edu/umra. Another web site you might enjoy visiting is www.csh.umn.edu. "Taking Charge of Your Health" is a resource from the University of Minnesota Center for Spirituality and Healing.

HISTORY OF UMMRA

In the spring 2005 UMMRA INFO we gave the history of the newsletter and promised a history of the UMMRA organization in the next publication. Good idea but involves a lot of time to complete. A short background is that Bettina Blake in 1990 sent a memo to Fred Farrell suggesting a need for some sort of organization for the upcoming big group of retirees. Farrell took it from there with help and ideas from Laird Barber, Ellen Ordway and Barbara McGinnis. Ellen Ordway, using her secretary notes as a model, put together a history from the fall of 1993, to the present. In May, Ellen, Barbara and Arden Granger met at the UMMRA office and sorted through all notes and memos that were kept since 1991. Ellen's history, alone, was four pages long so more editing and additions will have to be done like adding the names of all retirees each year. The plan is to finish it by October and send copies to all paid UMMRA members with the fall newsletter. Might be worth the cost of the yearly dues.

BITS AND PIECES

-Clyde Johnson was pictured in the May 18 Morris Sun Tribune with the recipient of the annual Betty Peterson Memorial Accompanying Award.

-Janet Ahern was shown in the spring 2005 Profile with Karen Wolverton, '97, after Karen's performance in Donizetti's "Maria Padilla," a Minnesota Opera production. Janet was also pictured in Profile with Ann Michels, '92, after Ann's performance in "Anything Goes" at the Chanhassen Dinner Theatre.

-An article and photo of Bettina Blake were in the spring 2005 Profile covering the presentation of the prestigious U of M President's Award for Outstanding Service to Bettina from President Robert Bruininks. A more thorough coverage appeared in the May 14 Morris Sun Tribune.

-Out-of-town visitors should be impressed by the sight of the newly-commissioned 230-foot wind turbine located at the West Central Research and Outreach Center that is generating 60% of UMM's electricity.

-The May 21 Morris Sun Tribune's "Looking Back" column reminded readers that on May 11, 1965, UMM held an 8-day Arts and Letters Festival. Organized by the Humanities Division, it included lectures, drama, art, music and films. The outdoor Garden Theatre was the site of a performance of "Electra" directed by Ray Lammers. Lou Ann Barsness from Starbuck portrayed Electra and Steve Farver from Morris was Orestes.

-Barbara McGinnis, Mary Ann Scharf and Bill Stewart were photographed attending a lecture at the Symposium on Small Towns at UMM which appeared in the June 11 Morris Sun Tribune.

-The April 30 Morris Sun Tribune had a picture of Mary Ellen Grossman accepting a donation of 231 pounds of food that had been contributed at Helen Staples 80th birthday open house. Mary Ellen welcomes gifts of food for the shelves.

-The April 30 Morris Sun Tribune pictured Gladys Henricks and Helen Kill selling poppies for the VFW and Legion Post Auxiliaries.

-Fred Farrell, Learning Unlimited Program Director, is looking for ideas for the 2006 programming. You can call him at 320-589-4190 with input or if you're willing to serve on the Steering Committee of Learning Unlimited.

-On June 15, Bettina Blake made her last trip to Boston as a Morris resident. As a lover of old films, even westerns, this editor says "Happy Trails to You", Bettina.

MEMORY TOURS OF UMM

This is a new addition to the UMMRA INFO newsletter. It will contain memories of faculty and staff of their first year at UMM. We will start with Barbara McGinnis, edited for space reasons with her approval. The unedited writings will be kept in the archive file in a special folder

"We came to Morris on a very hot July in 1961 and the only house for rent was a tiny two-bedroom on West Tenth Street. Pat finally found a house in the country that the owner used for his daughter's family when they came to spend the summer. After two weeks in the tiny house, some of the '61 faculty members (Don Spring, Nat Hart, Jack Imholte, Jim Gremmels, etc.) moved us out to the farm. Pat and Nat had been office mates in Minneapolis. Pat was to teach 17th century literature. His first office was on second floor of Social Science with a fine viewing of the countryside. Our fourth child was born on September 14 and Don Spring took me to the hospital because Pat was in Minneapolis for a meeting. Son, Colin, was shown off to the faculty at our first party, an Octoberfest with lots of beer, wine and German food. Heretofore, the parties had BYOB but we weren't aware of that. The sheep on the farm kept the grass looking like a park, trimming the grass and eating the trees as far as they could reach. With spotlights in the trees, it was quite lovely. We bought a house on East Fifth Street in March of 1962. To move us the snowplows opened the farm road to bring in two trucks, then plowed it again so they could get out. Pat found UMM a wonderfully exciting place to teach. To be on the founding and growth of a new college of the University of Minnesota made the long faculty meetings and difficult decisions worthwhile. He was diagnosed with leukemia in the summer of 1964 and finally was granted his Ph.D. degree in June of 1966. Pat died that August leaving Catherine 9, Clare 8, Mara 6, Colin 4 and Tim 3."

DATES TO REMEMBER

-October 19, 2005 -- Fall Luncheon

-October 21-23, 2005 -- Homecoming

-October 22, 2005 -- Ceremony renaming Social Science the John Q. Imholte Hall

-February 15, 2006 -- Winter Luncheon

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