

UMMRA

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THE UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA, MORRIS RETIREES ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER
VOLUME I, NUMBER 1, SUMMER 1998

REUNION

The University of Minnesota, Morris Retirees Association held its first-ever Spring Reunion on Wednesday, May 20, 1998, at UMM, on the same day as the annual Faculty-Staff Recognition Dinner. UMMRA Board member Ellen Ordway organized the Reunion (super job!) with Special Events Coordinator Maggie VonHellwig, who was handling the dinner.

About twenty people attended the opening event, a luncheon in the Prairie Lounge of the UMM Student Center. Chancellor David Johnson was the invited speaker. He discussed past, current, and future activities of the campus and answered many questions, including inquiries about his own retirement plans.

After an afternoon of visiting with former colleagues and observing some of the changes on the campus, the retirees came together again in the late afternoon for a reception at the home of Bettina Blake to which all faculty and staff--current and retired--had been invited. Then it was on to the Faculty-Staff Recognition Dinner in Oyate Hall of the Student Center. Many people were honored at the dinner, including several of the new retirees (see below).

NEW RETIREES

Among the UMM retirees in 1997-98 are the following colleagues (there may be others, too--please let us know who's missing):

Mercedes Ballou, Education
Bettina Blake, French
David Johnson, Chancellor
Joseph Latterell, Chemistry
William Stewart, Minority Student Program
Maurice "Tip" Tipcke, ORL Buildings/Grounds
Sinmin Wu, Mathematics.
Congratulations to all and welcome!

UMMRA OFFICERS FOR 1998-99

The 1998-99 Board of Directors is composed as follows:

President: Bettina Blake
Secretary-Treasurer: Ellen Ordway
Representative to the All-U UMMRA and Past President: Laird Barber
Doris Benson
Charlotte Eul
Dolores Lammers.

Everyone is welcome at Board meetings, which occur whenever we think a meeting is needed. The Board is eager to have your ideas! If there is something you think UMMRA ought to be doing, please let the Board know about it.

LIAISON WITH THE ALL-U RETIREES

Our linkage with the larger University of Minnesota Retirees Association is assured through Laird Barber, Professor Emeritus of English, who serves on the UMMRA Board of Directors. The Crookston and Duluth campuses also have a representative on the Board, so that *all* the University's retirees can make their voices heard. There has been much activity in the past year on issues related to health care and other benefits.

HERITAGE PRESERVERS

In the fall of 1997 the UMM Retirees Association joined with several other senior citizen groups in the Morris area to bring some humanities-related programs to Morris with a grant of \$3000 from the Minnesota Humanities Commission. Judy Nord, Stevens County Coordinator on Aging, and a small steering committee organized three programs during the spring of 1998.

The Stevens County Senior Citizens sponsored the first program on April 21 in conjunction with its annual Heritage Days for Morris sixth grade children. Michael Lucio, from the Lower Sioux Agency in Morton, and Bert Ahem, UMM professor of history, presented the Conflict of 1862 as seen by Native Americans and by the European-origin settlers. Then members of Lucio's family demonstrated the major Indian dance forms, wearing traditional dress, while Lucio commented and answered questions.

The second program was sponsored by the Saga Spinners, a local storytelling group. On May 15 they presented Mattie Clark, a well-known African-American storyteller from Saint Paul. Laird Barber, UMM Professor Emeritus of English, emphasized the centrality of storytelling as *the* human craft, illustrating his remarks from the Bible and Greek mythology, and Clark then told her vivid tales, drawing the audience into participating in traditional fashion.

The third and final program, on June 11, was sponsored by the Stevens County Genealogical Society. Leland Meitzler, editor of *Heritage Quest* magazine, was the speaker, introduced by Harold Hinds, UMM professor of history, who is also the current vice president of the SCGS. People interested in genealogical research from all over the region came to meet and hear Meitzler and also to purchase materials from his extensive traveling bookstore.

Even with little publicity the three programs stimulated considerable interest. The steering committee is now preparing a second grant application for programs in winter/spring 1999.

PLANS FOR 1998-99

We are making plans to continue the UMMRA pay-as-you-go luncheons during the 1998-99 academic year, at noon at the Cafe in the Mall in Morris or at another convenient location. We are thinking of scheduling them on the second Wednesday of October, February, and April. Is there another day of the week that you would prefer? We have some especially interesting campus speakers in mind--stay tuned!

In May of 1999 we hope to hold an even bigger and better Retirees Reunion, so make your plans now to be in Morris in mid-May. Please keep in mind that all retirees are included--those from the WCSA days, those from WCES, those from every kind of on-campus responsibility.

PRIVILEGES AND PERKS

Membership in UMMRA has its privileges! There is now a *permanent* plastic campus parking tag, with "UMMRA" on it, for members of the Association. You can also get a mail slot at the Faculty Center in the Humanities Annex, if you wish, and receive the *UMM Weekly Bulletin* and other official publications.

As a retiree you are eligible for an identification card, the "U CARD," which allows you to use the University's libraries and also identifies you when you travel. To get one, you need to call the UMM Business Office at 589-6125.

With football season on the horizon and the UMM Performing Arts Series starting up again in the fall quarter, think about getting your tickets early so that you can help support campus activities while treating your friends and family to some fun. For more information, call the Student Activities Office at 589-6080.

DUES ARE DUE

Membership in the UMM Retirees Association is a real bargain at only \$5.00 per person--but you mustn't forget to pay! Now is the time to send your dues to the new Secretary-Treasurer, Ellen Ordway. Robie Abbott has set up a simple but very effective system, for which we thank him heartily, and our organization is financially sound, though the cost of postage makes the distribution of occasional newsletters and announcements a big item of our budget.

Please send your dues by September 15 to:
Ellen Ordway, UMMRA Secretary-Treasurer
915 West Fourth Street
Morris, MN 56267.

NEWS, NEWS . . .

Dave Johnson, Chancellor Emeritus, is in Norway, trekking among the fjords, and Dean Sam Schuman has taken over as Interim Chancellor of UMM. Many major projects are in prospect, with construction getting underway soon on the Science Center and the Regional Fitness Center, and the transition to semesters coming up in 1999, along with preparation for campus reaccreditation by the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools in 2000. Chancellor Schuman needs our support, both within the campus and in the larger community. We need to speak up for UMM whenever and wherever we can.

Are you aware that a memorial evergreen tree has been planted by the UMM Commission on Women in honor of Edith Farrell? A dedication is planned for this coming fall. There is now a "Memorial Grove" of trees, at the north end of the campus near the entrance drive, that contains trees planted in memory of several deceased members of the UMM/WCSA community.

The mention of WCSA is a reminder that you should make a point of visiting the WCSA Memorial Garden in front of the Education Building. It is spectacular this summer!

FINAL NOTE

This newsletter is an effort to keep in touch once or twice a year with all retirees associated with the Morris campus of the University and to communicate on a regular basis with those who are members of the University of Minnesota, Morris Retirees Association. We hope that this will be the first of four newsletters in 1998-99. This one and the January one will go to *everyone* for whom we have an address, at least in this first year. Please let us know whether you like hearing from UMMRA and tell us what you would like to hear about in the future.

TILL SOON,

YOUR UMMRA BOARD

P. S.: SEND NEWS! SEND NEWS!