

UMMRA INFO

THE UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA, MORRIS RETIREES ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER
VOLUME II, NUMBER 1, SUMMER 1999

HERITAGE PRESERVERS

The final three programs in the 1999 Heritage Preservers grant series took place during April and May at the Morris Senior Center. On April 16 about 100 enthusiastic sixth graders crowded in to hear Professor Kevin Byrne, from Gustavus Adolphus College, give an impersonation of Teddy Roosevelt. The young people asked excellent questions and showed they knew quite a bit about the colorful American president.

On May 14 the Saga Spinners sponsored an Irish-American storyteller from St. Paul, Carol McCormick. Professor Laird Barber provided a scholarly context for her, showing the importance of the study of narrative in human culture. Then McCormick captivated her audience with magic, songs, and stories, some of which involved audience participation.

The Stevens County Genealogical Society sponsored the final program of the spring on May 27, when UMM history professor Stephen Gross, introduced by his colleague, Professor Harold E. Hinds, Jr., discussed children's games and what they reveal about peoples' attitudes and values in different historical periods.

Each of the programs attracted a good audience and was well received. UMMRA is grateful to the Minnesota Humanities Commission for making the series possible.

RETIREE PERQUISITES UPDATE

Since the April meeting at which the UMMRA Board discussed retiree "perks" with the Chancellor and the Human Resources staff, Human Resources Officer Sarah Mattson has been working on assembling the lists of perquisites available to different categories of retirees. Nothing is ready for us to look at yet but the project is underway. We have continued to give Mattson suggestions, based on our own experiences. Please feel free to send us your ideas—now is the time! By fall there may be some drafts for us to react to.

THE BIG UMRA/UMMRA EVENT

May 6 was a rainy day but that did not dampen the enthusiasm of the 22 retirees from the University of Minnesota Retirees Association (UMRA) in the Twin Cities who made their historic "MORRIS MIGRATION" on that date. They toured the Campus and Experiment Station (in two vans), interacted with a student panel, greeted UMM faculty and staff colleagues at a campus reception, and then

were received by John and Gigi Ingle at a special reception in John's studio at the Ingle home. Then at an evening banquet back on Campus the Morris retirees presented the Twin Cities visitors with a framed, signed Ingle print as a gift for the University retirees' office in the new Gateway Center in Minneapolis. There was good conversation and conviviality all around. After a night at the Prairie Inn—which UMRA had to share with the rained-out baseball players of the entire NSIC (UMM was hosting the big tournament of the season!)—the Twin Citians were still going strong at breakfast the next morning, as they headed for further sightseeing on the way home.

Many UMMers helped to make this visit a happy and successful one. Thanks to all!! We have received wonderful letters of appreciation from our visitors.

ANNUAL MEETING

UMMRA held its official Annual Meeting as part of the spring quarter luncheon on April 14. The following officers were elected for 1999-2000:

President: Bettina Blake

Secretary/Treasurer: Ellen Ordway

UMRA Representative: Laird Barber

Historian/Newsletter Editor: Dolores Lammers

Directors-at-large: Avis Brandt, Charlotte Eul

It should be noted that a Bylaws change was approved at the Annual Meeting, creating the Historian/Newsletter Editor position.

QUARTERLY LUNCHEONS (Doris Benson)

UMMRA members enjoyed presentations this past year by both faculty and staff members.

On October 14th, the presenter was Carol McCannon, Program Advisor for the Campus Activities Council. She brought us up to date on the 1998-1999 Performing Arts Series, how it was funded and how a committee picked the events.

On February 10th, Lowell Rasmussen, Vice-Chancellor for Physical Plant, presented slides and lots of information on building progress at UMM. This also included questions and answers about the new Science facility, the Regional Fitness Center and the heating plant expansion.

On April 14th, Dr. Peh Ng, Division of Science and Math., told us about the conversion process at UMM from quarters to the semester system. This has entailed a lot of work before the start of the Fall 1999 semester.

These were three very informative and enjoyable programs all held at the Café in the Mall and attended by a good number of retirees.

NEWS ABOUT UMRA (Laird Barber)

Next year, UMRA's office will move to the new Gateway Building. The president will be Professor William Gardner (emeritus). I will continue as UMMRA's representative on the UMRA Board.

Where UMRA will hold its luncheon meeting next year is still a matter for discussion. The top three floors of the Coffman Memorial Union are to be extensively renovated, and the location of the Campus Club is yet to be determined. The amount that the University wants the Campus Club to contribute to the renovation is more than the Club can afford, and so the Club's future is uncertain.

One success enjoyed by UMRA during the past year was the raising of the cap on the pre-1963 Retiree Supplement from \$30,000 to \$32,500. This means that a small number of older retirees whose pensions are very low will enjoy a slightly higher income.

UMRA's rather extensive volunteer program continued to function, as did its program of out-of-town trips.

MAY REUNION (Charlotte Eul)

About fifteen retirees came to our annual retirees luncheon at the UMM Prairie Lounge. Lowell Rasmusson took time from his busy schedule to conduct a walking tour of the new facilities. Seeing them up close makes the completion of these buildings more of a reality. In fact, the Regional Fitness Center is to be completed in September; the Science facility sometime in 2000.

Once again Bettina graciously opened her house for a reception. From all appearances it was a huge success for the 80 to 90 people who attended. Millions of thanks to you, Bettina, for allowing us to invade your house.

The Recognition Dinner activities were emceed by the one and only Tom McRoberts. After the faculty and staff awards were presented, we were entertained by a highly athletic student couple from the Swing Club. An invitation to join them brought forth just one hearty retiree (Ralph Williams) for a brief spin on the dance floor. (Ed.note:He was good.)

CHANCELLOR SEARCH

The search is now underway for a new chancellor for the Morris campus, to be named in 2000. The Search Committee, chaired by Professor of Psychology Eric Klinger, is being assisted by a national search firm, the Academic Consultation Service, which specializes in finding chief executives for liberal arts institutions. Dr. Ted Lewis, former president of St. Mary's College of Maryland, one of UMM's sister colleges in the national Council of Public Liberal Arts Colleges, has been assigned to the Morris

search. He spent a week in Morris at the end of the spring quarter, getting to know the campus and its context. Our own UMMRA member, Arden Granger, is serving as staff to the search locally, keeping everything organized and on schedule.

If you have comments about the search or about the qualities you would like to see in the new UMM chancellor, please send them to Eric Klinger or Arden Granger, c/o Social Sciences Division.

DUES (Ellen Ordway)

Enclosed is a letter regarding dues for 1999-2000. Please take care of them this summer while it is fresh in your mind. Only paid members can be assured of receiving future issues of UMMRA INFO.

FALL MEETING

Already Charlotte Eul has set the October luncheon date, place and speaker. Cindy Perkins from Morris Community Education will join us on Wednesday, October 13 at the Prairie Inn (Cougar Room). More in the September newsletter.

BIG TEN NEWSLETTERS

UMMRA will enjoy an exchange of newsletters with the Big Ten Retirees Associations thanks to Vern Jensen of UMRA and Bettina Blake. Perhaps excerpts can be included in future issues.

LAST MINUTE BULLETIN

At the June 22 annual banquet of the University of Minnesota Retirees Association, UMMRA received a framed Certificate of Appreciation from UMRA, in recognition of our May 6-7 hospitality. The impressive Certificate will be hung next fall in the UMMRA office, Humanities 14.

EDITOR'S NOTES

Condolences to the family of Christopher Goracke whose funeral was held on June 12 in Alexandria. Christy worked in the athletic department at UMM from 1973 to 1985.

Congratulations to new retirees:

Joanne Hagstrom, Library
Patricia Holmes, Bookstore
Clyde Johnson, Professor of Music
Shirley Swenson, Health Services
Ted Underwood, Professor of History

Thanks to Doris Benson for serving a term on the Board. She has a talent for seeing what needs to be done and then quietly doing it.

Welcome to Avis Brandt, the newest board member. Compliments to Arden Granger for orchestrating the "Morris Migration".

Five star kudos to President Blake for all she's done this past year.