



## UMMRA INFO

THE UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA, MORRIS RETIREES ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER  
VOLUME VII, NUMBER 1, SUMMER, 2004

### BEST WISHES TO SAM

Chancellor Sam Schuman was injured while biking at the Blue Ridge Parkway in North Carolina. He and Nancy returned to Morris on Tuesday, June 29. He is recuperating at home and plans to slowly work into his usual schedule as he mends. Sam has been very generous to UMMRA with his time, giving us an office space, and helping finance this newsletter. We wish him a speedy recovery. His address is 521 East Fourth Street, Morris, MN 56267.

### 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. Yearly dues are \$10 per person (\$15 a couple) payable on July 1, 2004. Please include information about yourself with your payment—members are a curious and friendly group who like to read about their friends and former colleagues.

### RETIREES REUNION/ANNUAL MEETING

The annual reunion luncheon was held at Prairie Inn on Thursday, April 29, as the start of a day long celebration. Election of board members was held and their names are listed below. The membership approved the revised by-laws as submitted by the board and copies were handed out. Because the election committee was unable to submit a name for the second member-at-large, a motion was made to table the item until a person is found. Dr. John F. Schwaller, Vice-Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Dean, stood in for Chancellor Schuman. He gave an update on UMM affairs and answered many questions from the group. We thank him for visiting with us. Jack and Lucy Imholte from St. Paul and George and Pat Fosgate from Oregon were lively out-of-town additions to the meeting.

The afternoon was spent at WESTMOR Industries LLC, which truly is a local Morris industry. Tim Esterling spoke to us about the history of WESTMOR, products offered, and the industries/markets served. They manufacture and sell petroleum and liquid handling equipment nationally and internationally. We then toured the administration building and the manufacturing plant. An employee took a huge sheet of iron and fashioned it into a cylindrical tank as we watched. Thank you to the WESTMOR employees who gave a great show!!! People were then free to have coffee and conversation at the Common Cup Café where Mary Ellen Grossman had reserved a table. A very successful reception followed at the LaFave House, given by UMMRA for staff, faculty and retirees. The final event was the Faculty-Staff Recognition Dinner in Oyate Hall, where the University gave

awards and honored the following new retirees: Mariam Frenier (Social Science), Ray K. Sibil (Humanities), Marlys Buntje (Bookstore), Barbara Valnes (Business Office), Ardath Larson (Library), Rose Thompson (Residential Life), Vernon Mohr (Plant Services), Bruce Wakefield (Plant Services), Ron Cline (Carpenter Shop), Roger McCannon (CERP), Virginia Schmidgall (Buildings and Grounds), Helen Kolden (Buildings and Grounds). Congratulations to each of them. Kudos to Mary Ellen Grossman, member-at-large, for planning and carrying out a big day. Next year she will be in charge of the fall and winter luncheon meetings. Mary Ellen was assisted by Harold Fahl, retiring member-at-large, and Bernice Erdahl and Cathy Kemble, volunteer committee.

### 2004-2005 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President – James Gremmels (1 more year)

President-elect – Janet Ahern (1 year)

Secretary – Treasurer – Arden Granger (1 more year)

Member-at-large – Mary Ellen Grossman (1 more year)

Member-at-large – not filled (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

Arden Granger takes notes at every board meeting and they can be viewed in the office files.

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

Many thanks to retiring board members, Harold Fahl, who did a bang-up job as a member-at-large, and especially to Fred Farrell, who served as president for two years and as past-president for one year.

### UMMRA E-MAIL INSTRUCTIONS

The instructions for e-mail use have been changed. To access the UMMRA listserv, the address is [ummra@lists.umn.edu](mailto:ummra@lists.umn.edu)

Individuals with e-mail can be added to the list by contacting Mark Van Overbeke at Computing Services. To check membership you also need to contact someone in the computing office.

### YEAR IN REVIEW

Luncheon Meetings – The fall luncheon meeting was held at Prairie Inn on October 8, 2003, with Roger McCannon, Center for Small Towns, as speaker. On February 11, 2004 the winter luncheon was held at Prairie Inn. The group was treated to a trip through Alaska in a motor home with a dog named Chase. The presenters were Arden and Steve Granger who used many maps and pictures as props. The spring luncheon is covered above.

**Car Trip** – Nineteen hungry UMMRA folks broke the “cabin fever” of January by visiting The Café Bella in Glenwood. Amid an Italian atmosphere and the aroma of garlic bread, people enjoyed large servings of Italian food, carafes of wine, laughter, talk, and a shared soup platter of a decadent chocolate dessert. One end of the table heard stories about service in Korea, perhaps instigated by Jack Imholte’s trip.

**Learning Unlimited** – Fred Farrell, LU Program Director, wrote the introductory page of the April LU newsletter. The newsletter, compiled by Anne Schwaller, is a gold mine of information for area adults. The 2004 series is “At Home and Abroad: Horizons and Perspective” and runs through December. The May program, “The New China: Three perspectives over 30 years time” was presented by Bettina Blake, Phyllis Gausman and Laird Barber. They shared their living and travel experiences that covered the rapid changes in China over recent decades. They each focused on a ten year period with photos and slides. Excellent!!

#### REGIONAL FITNESS CENTER

It is not known at this time if there will be a contribution toward RFC memberships for retired employees from the University. Call Mary Zosel, 320-589-6022, the second week in August for the current information and procedures. Check at the desk for many summer program offerings.

#### UMRA (TWIN CITIES) UPDATE

The University of Minnesota Retirees Association in the Twin Cities will host the annual conference of the Big Ten retirees associations on August 20-22. If you want more information about this big event, call John Howe, 651-645-2584.

#### SAD NEWS

Peter Whelan, assistant professor of geology at UMM, died on April 17 at Abbott Northwestern Hospital after suffering a stroke. He is survived by daughter, Serena, and wife, Diane. Peter joined the UMM faculty in September, 1983.

David Leuthard died on March 25 at the SCMC Courage Cottage. He worked for the West Central Research and Outreach Center from 1987 to November, 2003. He is survived by his wife, Nancy and four sons.

#### BITS AND PIECES

-Bernice Erdahl was honored by the Volunteers of the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) for her service to Stevens County. The speaker listed many of Bernice’s “good works” but failed to mention what she and Cathy Kemble do as the Volunteer Committee for UMMRA, which includes being the two classiest hosts at our annual reception.

-Jim Gremmels was the subject of a great commentary in the Morris Tribune about the Prairie Gate Press on the UMM campus. He is the managing editor and has agreed to speak to us about the press at the winter luncheon. A tour of the facility at the April reunion will be planned.

-Many retirees attended the 2004 Spring Ball in Glenwood with music provided by the UMM Big Jazz Band. Proceeds

go to three projects: John Q. Imholte Scholarship, the Humanities Phase III project, and the Lakeside Ballroom Fund.

-Helen Kill (Fred) was one of the speakers at the outdoor Memorial Day 2004 observation.

-If out of state or outside of Morris retirees are willing to give overnight accommodations to traveling UMM students please call Tom Mahoney, 320-589-6462.

-The 25 Years Ago column in the Morris Tribune reported on a meeting to discuss alcohol and drug abuse in Stevens County. A steering group was formed to help coordinate activities of involved organizations. The group included Mary Ann Scharf, Joyce Taffe (Charles), and Dolores Lammers. Could that be the meeting where a member of the League of Women Voters suggested that alcoholism is a disease and should be treated at the local hospital?

-The publication Contributions wrote memorials for three deceased faculty members Florence Eystad Gahm, Dimitra Giannuli, and Clemens Brauer. Memorial awards have been set up for each of them. Information can be gained by calling UMM External Relations, 320-589-6386.

-The West Central Research and Outreach Center’s display garden was honored by All-American Selections as the Category I Exemplary Education Award winner. All-American Selections, a non-profit organization founded in 1932, provides an opportunity for AAS Display Gardens to achieve national recognition.

Travels:

-Gremmels (sightseeing, live theatre, Ibsen’s Rosmersholm, in Lanesboro, MN.—great troupe)

-Grangers (Alaska, Independence, MO., Texas Gulf Shore, back through New Mexico, Colorado and Black Hills)

-Fosgates (Caribbean Cruise, New Orleans, Mazatlan, Cozumel, Orlando, Minnesota, commercial for American West Steamboat Co. on Columbia River.)

-Ordway (drove to California on Interstate 80 out and county roads through Montana back—very little traffic)

-Imholtes ( family Caribbean cruise, Lucy/Jack trip to the barrier islands and areas located off the Carolina coastline, Korea for Jack)

-Barber (in fall, extended European trip, Amsterdam to Germany, Prague to Dordogne, France; spring, Egypt, then England, France, sailing on the English Channel, back to England for concerts and theatre, more in office file)

-Blake (Columbia-Harvard tour around the Black Sea-gave a talk on the Sisters of Mercy, more specifics in office file)

Because of space, several photo news stories from the Morris Tribune will be covered in the fall newsletter.

#### DATES TO REMEMBER

-October 8-10: Homecoming UMM, “Funkadelic Flashback”

-Wednesday, October 13: Fall Luncheon, Doug Rasmusson, Hancock writer and poet, speaker

-Wednesday, February 9, 2005: Winter Luncheon, Jim Gremmels, Prairie Gate Press, speaker

-Thursday, April 28, 2005: Spring Luncheon/reunion