

UMMRA INFO

THE UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA, MORRIS RETIREES ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

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

VOLUME XIII, NUMBER 1, SUMMER 2010

LETTER FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Greetings from UMMRA, the UMM Retirees Association, and a special welcome to our new retirees.

We invite all previously retired, newly retired or nearly-retired employees from any University of Minnesota unit in or near Morris to join UMMRA. Join over 100 of your friends and former co-workers and enjoy the many activities your organization plans for you. Visit the UMMRA website, www.morris.umn.edu/UMMRA to learn more about UMMRA, to read earlier newsletters, enjoy pictures of your colleagues, and to learn the many benefits of UMMRA membership.

UMMRA INFO helps us to keep up with each other and also gives us dates and events to mark on our calendars. And Memory Tours are always very special. Our First Thursday Luncheons have been a real treat this year, from a beautiful country setting to the Garrison Keillor type picnic complete with rhubarb pie and many delicious hot dishes that we had last week. There are many 2010 Celebration events this summer listed--check them out. I am especially excited about the "Gardens of Yesteryear" to be displayed during Horticulture Night. There are more celebrations coming. Your next newsletter this fall will have all the details.

The UMMRA Grants are again available to all members. Learn something new and UMMRA can help, Details inside! Enjoy this beautiful summer,
Dian Lopez

THE 2010-2011 UMMRA BOARD

President: Dian Lopez (1 year)
Vice-President: Lynn Schulz (1 year term)
Secretary/Treasurer: Joan Reicosky (1 year term)
Members-at-Large: Llea Anderson (1 year term)
Member-at-Large: Tom McRoberts (2 year term)
Editor, *UMMRA INFO*: Karla Klinger (appointed)
Volunteer Coordinators: Bernice Erdahl, Cathy Kemble
UMTC UMRA Representative: Laird Barber
Learning Unlimited Representative: Phyllis Gausman

The summer UMMRA newsletter is sent to all retirees. Other issues are sent only to paid members. See the attached letter from Secretary/Treasurer, Joan Reicosky.

CONGRATULATIONS, NEW RETIREES!



Tom Swenson, Bert Ahern, Van Gooch and Art Kunde

Not pictured are Ron Kussatz and Tom McRoberts.

Photo courtesy of University Relations

2010-2011 DATES TO SAVE

UMMRA Events

September 2: Our opening fall potluck will be held in a beautiful outdoor location to be announced, beginning at 11:45 a.m.

October: Quarterly Meeting, Prairie Inn, Morris, in the new Gazebo Room addition, 11:45 a.m.

Anniversary Celebration Calendar

June and on-going: Stevens County Historical Museum exhibits related to agriculture: "Reaping What We Sow," "Line of Duty," "Hearts of the Home"

July 9: 4th annual "Horizontal Grandeur" opening; artists' reception at 6:30 p.m. SCHM

July 16: West Central Research and Outreach Center Field Day celebration and WCROC Centennial Center Day

July 17-18: West Central School of Agriculture all-school reunion

July 29: WCROC Horticulture Night: "Gardens of Yesteryear;" WCROC Building Dedication

August 25: Celebration Exhibit, HFA Gallery

September 23-26: Founders Weekend Celebration Documentary Premier, Edson Auditorium, 7:30 p.m. Reception to follow in Oyate.

September 25-26: Anniversary events beginning each day at 11:00 a.m.

October 8-10: Homecoming

Opening of the 2010-11 Academic Year

August 22, 2:00 p.m.: Contact Dave Swensen to volunteer to guide new students and their parents to the welcome ceremony. Email Dave at <dswenson@morris.umn.edu>.

SAD NEWS

- Clarice Brustuen of rural Alberta, mother of **Melody Veenendaal**, died on March 28. She was 88.
- **Gigi Ingle** died at her home in Minnetonka on May 20. A memorial service will be held at 2:00 p.m. on June 19 at West Wind Village, where Gigi was activity director for many years. Gigi, born in Brussels, came to Morris with her husband, **John**, in 1966.
- Kolleen Kill, 28, wife of **Jeremiah Kill**, died on May 7 from injuries sustained in a car accident in St. Cloud.
- Bertha Schmidt, mother of **Carla Riley**, died June 8 at the age of 91.
- Clara Louise Cool Turbyne, mother of **Janet Ahern**, died at West Wind Village on May 15 at the age of 96.

Our sympathy to their families.

2010-2011 IN REVIEW

Board Business

The Board plans UMMRA programs and agendas for the year, including quarterly meetings, First Thursdays, and special events. The Board oversees *UMMRA Info* and the UMMRA website, determines whether the mini-grant program to support members' learning activities will be implemented, gives money to worthy causes as relevant, and appoints committees as needed. Grants of \$300 each were awarded to **Ferolyn Angell**, **Dolores Lammers**, and **Karla Klinger** to pursue learning projects. UMMRA volunteers read to residents at West Wind Village and helped guide parents and new students at orientation and graduation. Particular thanks to our web master, **Andy Lopez**, and volunteer coordinators, **Cathy Kemble** and **Bernice Erdahl**.

First Thursday Events

Carol and Roger McCannon hosted the September 3 picnic on their lovely grounds. Roger talked with us about "Stevens Forward." We also met at Lillehaugen Inn near Benson, the Pizza Ranch and Bello Cucina in Morris, and the Lakeside Ballroom in Glenwood. The Friends of the Briggs Library invited us to help identify photos from the archives, providing lunch in February and cookies in April. We held a successful holiday party in December, reception in April, and potluck at East Side Park in June.

Quarterly Meetings/ Programs

October 15: Margaret Kuchenreuther, Professor of Biology and Environmental coordinator, explained the differences between the new UMM Environmental Science and Environmental Studies majors.

February 18: Dr. John Stock and Alfredo Altamarina presented a helpful power point on Sleep Apnea.

April 15: Chancellor Johnson provided a UMM update. The celebration of UMM's 50 years has begun. The move to the Welcome Center is complete. HECB has invited UMM to adopt the theme "Practicing the Liberal Arts" in its upcoming review. Enrollment was up 100 students in 2009-2010, and enrollment data are up for next year.

MINI-GRANTS FOR UMMRA MEMBERS

Mini-grants of \$300 each will be awarded to up to three UMMRA members to pursue learning interests. The deadline for applications is August 1. For application criteria, go to <<http://www.morris.umn.edu/ummra/>>.

UMMRA KUDOS

- Both **Bert Ahern**, Professor of History, and **Steve Granger**, former Vice-Chancellor for Student Affairs, received the 2010 President's Award for Outstanding Service. A reception in honor of recipients was held at Eastcliff on June 8 with a contingent of UMM staff attending. The award is presented to active or retired faculty or staff "who have gone well beyond their regular duties and have demonstrated an unusual commitment to the University Community."

CONGRATULATIONS!

- In April, the PE Center basketball court was named in honor of **Jim Gremmels**, Professor Emeritus of English and UMM's first basketball coach
- The Proscenium Theatre in HFA will be renamed in honor of **Ray Lammers**, Professor Emeritus of Theatre Arts. The Raymond J. Lammers Award in the Language Arts, given for the first time in 2010, was established to honor outstanding seniors majoring in Theatre, English, foreign language, or communication, media and rhetoric.

BITS AND PIECES

□ Check out the winter/spring *Profile* on the UMM website for stories on **Bert Ahern** and **Van Gooch** and for tributes to **Jim Gremmels**, **Ray Lammers** and **Clemens Brauer**. The cover shows a young **Tom McRoberts** in 1967 with other student leaders.

□ **Bettina Blake** and a friend spent 5 days in NYC jointly celebrating their 80th birthdays. She was a guest of honor at the National Association of Women Artists and spoke (unexpectedly) about her mother's contributions to saving NAWA from bankruptcy in the Great Depression.

□ **Joan and Don Reicosky** will be traveling to Brazil and New Zealand in the next 6 months for both business and pleasure.

□ Several events were sponsored in spring through the legacies and generosity of UMM faculty emeriti.

▫ At the **Jooinn Lee** Lecture Series on April 7, Dr. Michael Armacost, former undersecretary of state for political affairs, spoke about the implications for the US of the shifting balance in Northeast Asia.

▫ The 24th Annual **Edith R. Farrell** Poetry Reading Contest was held on campus on April 17.

▫ The **Laird and Dorothy Barber** Lecture Series on April 26 featured Dr. Siegfried De Rachewiltz speaking on the last of the German troubadours.

ANOTHER HIGH RANK FOR UMM

UMM has been named a Top 10 Best Value Public University in a nationwide ranking by Parents and Colleges, a resource for parents of college bound students.

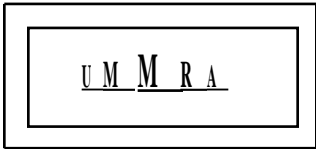
As a part of the upcoming celebrations of UMM's founding almost 50 years ago, UMMRA members are invited to share their memories of the early years. The following article is excerpted from a letter that Ted Underwood wrote to Bert Ahern on the occasion of Bert's retirement this year, talking wryly about life in Morris in the late 1960s. The excerpt appears with permission from both Bert and Ted.

Memories of UMM by Ted Underwood

In 1967, Social Sciences Division Chair Jack Imholte (later Dean, then Provost, then Chancellor – he had trouble holding a steady job) made one of the best decisions of his distinguished administrative career – to hire two new young historians. One was you, Bert, coming to Morris from Long Island via Oberlin, Ohio and Evanston, Illinois. But Morris was not then the modernized thriving town of today. Housing was hard to find and there were two dilapidated hotels (soon mercifully demolished) where a few courageous faculty and students lived. For *haute cuisine* one went to the Country Club, where when you once asked the waitress for more catsup, she took the near-empty bottle, poured in some water, shook it up, and handed it to you with “Here ya go!” The dining out mainstay was the downtown Del Monaco Café with a wide variety of offerings and modest prices. For a more lively night out one went to the Red Dot Café that offered a bar, pool table, juke box, and heavily populated fly-paper spirals hanging down from the ceiling over the dining tables. The only thing stickier than the dinner plates was the floor at the Morris Theater.

What Morris then lacked in amenities it more than made up for with an abundance of “diamonds” among the population. There were bankers who were more interested in giving sound financial advice than selling financial instruments, M.D.s who would interrupt their golf game to deliver your baby or even make a house call, a dentist who at his own expense provided a year of free dentistry in a poor African country, police who pulled you over just to ask how you liked the new car you were driving, grocery store owners who eagerly special-ordered artichokes or okra or mangos or other high-falluten fruits, and hardware store clerks who would graciously show city-slicker UMMers how to screw in a light bulb. And there were friendly neighbors happy to pull your car out of a snow bank, advise you how to survive in a blizzard, and invite you to “lunch” (coffee and cookies) and potlucks to which you were to “bring a dish to pass.”

Retirement celebrations acknowledge the rich contributions of retiring staff. Ted concludes by enumerating the many ways in which Bert, “in these acres of diamonds,” contributed to the Stevens County Historical Society, co-founded the UMM Historical Research Center, and went on to make “innumerable significant contributions to the campus, the community, the wider university, and beyond.... “



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA, MORRIS
RETIREES ASSOCIATION

To potential and present members of UMMRA:

This is a call to join or renew membership in the UMM Retirees Association (UMMRA) for the 2010-2011 fiscal year. If you are still on the staff or have previously been so, you are eligible to join your colleagues and fellow staffers in UMMRA. Our membership consists of both retired and not-yet-retired members of any University of Minnesota unit, primarily those in the Morris area, i.e. WCROC, Minnesota Extension, Continuing Education, Regional Programs, and Summer Session, etc., as well as UMM. It includes faculty and all other staff (including bargaining units) and spouses. At present we have 109 members.

UMMRA functions not only as a social organization where members occasionally meet with old friends, but also helps members make the transition to retirement a bit easier. Members receive our newsletters and communications, such as e-mail, about special lectures, events, or activities both on campus and in the community, as well as those sponsored by UMMRA.

We offer retired members certain benefits, such as free UMM parking permits, and information on their "perks" as University retirees, such as how to be maintained in the University data base (at present this is not automatic), and how to obtain a retiree "U-card" for continued access to libraries and other University facilities. We serve as a link to the administration, and are continually defining and trying to upgrade benefits for retirees, especially in the Morris area. We also provide mini-grants up to \$300 to members who want to pursue special interest projects. UMMRA also has a representative on the all-University Retirees Association Board in Minneapolis (UMRA).

We hope that you will join UMMRA for the 2010-2011 season. Our dues are \$10.00 per year per person, \$15.00 per couple. Please fill out the section below and return it with your check to our Secretary/ Treasurer. We look forward to hearing from you.

(Tear here)

(Tear here)

UMMRA MEMBERSHIP DUES, 2010-11
Joan Reicosky, Secretary/Treasurer, UMMRA
24 Brook St., Morris, MN 56267

Date _____

Name(s): _____

e-mail: _____ Telephone # _____

Address: _____

Worked at UMN from _____ to _____ Retired from (Unit, Dept.) _____

Enclosed is \$ _____ for dues for one year (July 1, 2010-June 30, 2011) for _____ person(s) @ \$10 per person or \$15 per couple. (Please make check payable to UMMRA.) Dues waived for 2009-10 retirees; however, please fill out the form and mail it to Joan Reicosky.

List activities, travels, or significant events you have been involved in during this past year.

() Check here if you wish to be removed from our mailing list.