



## UMMRA INFO

THE UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA, MORRIS RETIREES ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

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

VOLUME XIV, NUMBER 1, SUMMER 2011

### LETTER FROM OUR NEW 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 our web-site, [www.morris.umn.edu/UMMRA](http://www.morris.umn.edu/UMMRA), to learn more about UMMRA.*

*This being my first year as president of your organization, I realize I have much to learn and some very large shoes to fill. Fortunately, Dian Lopez continues on the board of directors for one more year and can keep me on the right path.*

*I wish to encourage each of you to consider looking at the UMMRA Mini-Grant program available to you. A short article is included later in this newsletter along with a web-site where you can find the application criteria. Two years ago, three awards of \$300 each were given to UMMRA members to pursue an interest. These included learning about Chinese brush painting, translating the journals of a young woman written in Germany in the 1930s, and interviewing women in their 70s about what makes their lives meaningful. Think about projects you've wanted to undertake and consider applying for UMMRA support this year. The application deadline is August 1. Last year we had no applicants. Hopefully, some of you will have interest in this program again this year.*

*I also remind each of you to clip the last half of the final page of this newsletter and return it to Joan Reicosky along with your annual dues. Just a note: During your first year of retirement, your dues are waived, but you still must return the form so that we know you want to be a part of UMMRA and to receive the newsletter and other communications. While filling in the form, please consider telling us what you have been doing. The Board is also asking for suggestions for future programs and/or services you'd like to see UMMRA offer its members. Let's make this an enjoyable year together.*

Lynn Schulz

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!



Photo courtesy of University Relations

Retirees left to right: Judy Van Eps, Ron Kubik, Jenny Nellis, Randy Wenz, Margaret Larson, Joyce Amborn, Neil Leroux  
Not pictured: Jim Anderson, Katherine Benson and Paul Keitzman

### DATES TO SAVE

#### UMMRA Events

September 1: Our opening fall potluck will be held in the beautiful outdoor Horticulture Gardens and shelter beginning at 11:45 a.m. Bring a dish to pass. Steve Poppe will speak and lead a tour of the gardens.

September 30-October 2: UMM Homecoming.

October 20: Quarterly Business Meeting. See box below.

November 3: First Thursday Luncheon, Main Street Brewery, Alexandria, 11:45 a.m. Roger Boleman will talk about *Prairie Yard and Garden* and its future.

December 1: Holiday Party, 6:00-8:00 p.m. Prairie Inn, Gazebo Room. Bring a white elephant to exchange.

*For rides or information, contact Lynn Schulz at [lynn@morris.umn.edu](mailto:lynn@morris.umn.edu) or call him at 589-1796. An email will be sent out before events.*

#### UMMRA FALL LUNCHEON BUSINESS MEETING

When: October 20, 2011, 11:45 a.m.

Where: Prairie Inn, Gazebo Room, Morris. Order from the menu.

Speaker: Joel Tallaksen will discuss the biomass project.

Other quarterly meetings currently are scheduled for February 16 and April 19.

#### 2011-2012 UMMRA Board.

President: Lynn Schulz (2 year term)

Past-President: Dian Lopez (1 year term)

Secretary-Treasurer: Joan Reicosky (2 year term)

Member-at-large: Dennis Johnson (2 year term)

Member-at-large: Judy Riley (1 year term)

Editor, *UMMRA INFO*: Karla Klinger (appointed)

Volunteer Coordinators: Bernice Erdahl and Cathy Kemble

UMRA TC Representative: Laird Barber

## SAD NEWS

Serge Lisk, husband of Chancellor Jacquie Johnson., died on May 16 after a courageous fight with an aggressive form of lymphoma. Private services were held in Michigan. Serge was a strong supporter of UMM's green energy initiatives.

Our sympathy to Jacquie and her family.

## 2010-2011 RETIREES

**Joyce Amborn**, Executive Officer & Administrative Specialist, Campus Police, since 1986. Retired January 7.

**Jim Anderson**, Operating Engineer, Plant Services, since 1989. Retired September 1, 2010.

**Katherine Benson**: Associate Professor of Psychology, since 1978. Retired May 13.

Dennis Johnson, WCROC professor and dairy scientist, since 1968. Retired August 2010.

**Paul Kietzman**, Custodian, Plant Services, since 1988. Retired December 17, 2010.

**Ron Kubik**, Office Coordinator and Senior Communications Technician, Instructional and Media Technologies, since 1986. Retires January 2012.

**Margaret Larson**, Briggs Library, 1968-1972; 1978-1999; LaFave House Manager since 1999.

**Neil Leroux**, Professor, Communication, Media and Rhetoric, since 1990.

**Jenny Nellis**, Professor of Studio Art since 1977. Retires December 2011.

**Judy Van Eps**, Office Support Assistant, Division of Humanities, since 1998. Retires January 11, 2012.

**Randall Wenz**, Delivery Services Driver, Plant Services since 1973. Retires in January, 2012.

## 2010-2011 IN REVIEW

### Board Business

The Board plans UMMRA programs and agendas for the year, including three quarterly meetings, picnics at the beginning and end of the year, First Thursday luncheons when there are no quarterly meetings, and the reception at the LaFave House prior to the annual recognition dinner. UMMRA membership increased to 119 individuals in 2010-2011. The Board oversees membership, membership benefits, the budget, and the award of mini-grants. There were no applicants for mini-grants this past year. The Board provides general oversight to the UMMRA website and for the *UMMRA Info* newsletter. The Board supported extending the newsletter from one to two back-to-back pages between fall 2009 and June 2011 to feature the 50th anniversary of UMM and the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the West Central School of Agriculture. UMMRA volunteers read to residents at West Wind Village and often help 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**.

## UMM Quarterly Programs

The fall, winter and spring business meetings were held at the Prairie Inn in the Gazebo Room beginning at 11:45.

October 21: Author Mike Heikes, brain injury survivor, discussed "Helmets for Kids." The Board voted to make a contribution to his efforts. Mini-grant recipients **Ferolyn Angel**, **Karla Klinger**, and **Dolores Lammers** gave reports on their mini-grant projects.

February 17: **Mimi Frenier**, History Professor Emeritus, shared her experiences from six trips to Vietnam. She provided insights on the way of life of the middle to upper class Vietnamese people during the 1990s.

The association approved changes in the UMMRA By-Laws to make clear that UMMRA membership is open to all retirees from University of Minnesota units in this area as well as to their partners. These units include WCROC, Continuing Education, University Extension, and UMM.

April 21: Chancellor Jacquie Johnson reported on the state of UMM. Enrollment numbers look good. Numbers are up for paid applicants as well as for returning students. UMM is becoming increasingly green as the second wind turbine is operating, and recently the campus had a day when power energy was carbon neutral. In 2010-2011, UMM stayed within budget, coming out in the black. UMM still has to make an 8 % budget cut for this next year to make up for previous years' deficits. Retiring President **Dian Lopez** passed the gavel to incoming President **Lynn Schulz**.

The association voted to contribute to UMM in memory of current members who have died and whose dues were paid, as well as previous members who have paid for a single or dual membership for a period of 5 or more years. These contributions will begin in 2011-2012.

## UMMRA KUDOS

**Ferolyn Angel** received grant funds from UMMRA in the TC to continue her project to translate a family journal.

**Neil Leroux** has received the Distinguished Faculty Research Award.

**Tom McRoberts** received posthumously the UMM Alumni Association's Distinguished Alumni Award.

## MINI-GRANT AWARDS

UMMRA awards a maximum of three **mini-grants**, of up to \$350 each, in support of an UMMRA member's learning activity, whether research, assistance for a project, or travel reimbursement. Criteria, suggestions for proposals, and application forms can be found at: <http://www.morris.umn.edu/ummra/UMMRAMiniGrants.pdf>. Send applications by August 1 to Joan Reicosky, Secretary-Treasurer, 24 Brook Street, Morris, MN 56267.

## UMM a TOP VALUE COLLEGE

*Consumers Digest* has ranked 100 colleges and universities as "top values" from among more than 2,000 U.S. institutions that offer four-year degrees. Among 50 public institutions cited, UMM scored second in the nation. [*Brief*: XLI, #18, May 11]

*This final four page issue completes UMMRA Info's special recognition of the 50th and 100th anniversary celebrations. The following quotations are taken from transcripts of interviews conducted with Gemini researcher, Susan Granger, in preparation for the anniversary video, "Promise of the Prairie: Education in Three Acts," by Roger Boleman, Mike Cihak and Chris Butler and are used by permission of Media Services.*

### **On UMM Buildings and Landscape**

**Christopher Butler:** What qualities did [Clarence] Johnston [architect] want his buildings, architecture to evoke?

**Susan Granger:** One of the neat things about UMM is its design cohesiveness among the buildings. Clarence Johnston was here for 20 full years. ... His last building was the gymnasium, built in 1930... at the end of his career. But because he was here for so many years, the buildings really work together. The materials are very similar. The designs are very similar. And he was able to achieve, working with the landscape designers, Morrell and Nichols, a cohesiveness. If you stand in the middle of the mall and you look at the buildings across the whole circle, all the buildings that face the mall... Their water-table line, which is the stone line at the top of the foundation, is the same all the way around. The floors of the porches line up. The windowsills of the building line up.... And the cohesiveness is one of the things ... that makes UMM so special ... and compelling and that people really like about the campus. One of the cool things about a campus of this age is that you get this layering of history. You can see the signs of the people that were here before you. And the MRC building has, in the brickwork, on the sidewalls especially, names scratched into them, graffiti essentially. But it's students writing their names and the years they were here. ... Johnston designed institutional buildings that didn't feel institutional. ... [He] used the ... Arts and Crafts style, which was hipped roofs, broad overhanging eaves, lots of windows, the windows opened, porches on the buildings. They're not elitist. They're not Ivy League. They're not pretentious, ostentatious. They're very approachable buildings meant to be lived in, worked in.... A person's interaction with the outdoors and their environment was very important and the inherent belief in the skills and talents of individuals as opposed to any kind of a hierarchy. You notice the buildings at UMM. There is no real hierarchy in their design. You can't tell which building is the most important. They really work as a unit together, and that's a very intentional design device that he did.

[Morrell and Nichols were Minnesota's premier pioneer landscape architecture firm.]

**Susan Granger:** Morrell and Nichols really transformed the campus, in the same way that Johnston did, from the pioneer sort of beginnings. If you look at the old photographs of the campus, it was an ungodly place. There were no trees. It was harsh. The prairie winds were blowing through. And what particularly A.R. Nichols did was to bring a sense of enclosure, shelter, urbanism, formality to the campus. His design is very interesting because it's formal, which is a wonderful contrast to the harshness, openness of the prairie environment. It has a wonderful sense of welcome, which is the 4th Street entrance, and a real sense of enclosure. He worked with Clarence Johnston to site and design the buildings around the mall. UMM has a center that many, many campuses do not have.... But the center of UMM is both the design center of it and the physical center of it and actually a huge gathering place, like a public square. And that was very intentional in the design. They brought an urbanity to the campus. If you look at the early photos, the trees went in immediately. Hundreds of trees were planted on the boulevards. They gave the campus a series of boulevards, sidewalks, curves, straight lines, formal lamp standards and then these beautiful boulevard trees. And they defined open spaces with large conifers, on the corners, again, to create a sense of shelter and welcoming to the campus. Their plan was so successful that it served for 50 years, from 1911 until 1965, when Gay Hall was built. That was the first interruption in the campus plan. In other words, it was very successful.

If you talk to the administrators, they will say that, until the early 1990s, it was always assumed that many of the early campus buildings would be demolished... In the early 1990s, UMM engaged in a master-plan process. HGA architects and planners were involved, and Frank Martin was one of the planners. He came here, to UMM, and did a participatory-photography project. He passed out cameras to faculty, staff and students and asked them to photograph their favorite places on campus. The results were surprising ... to most people, including the administrators. The things that people were responding to, at UMM, were some of the historical, cultural values. People loved the barn for example. They loved the old buildings. They loved the porches. They loved the sheltering trees, the human scale. They loved the quiet places. ... And until that point, historic preservation just wasn't even on the radar screen.... They were going to make things new and modern, and they really would've lost something I think. But that 1995 master-plan process, the UMM community really spoke out and said these are the things that attract us to UMM, this is its heart, this is where its alumni loyalty comes from, these are the things that we love about it, the layers of history and the sense of place that UMM has. And so it was in that master plan process, in the mid-'90s, that UMM started to say maybe we should preserve some of our buildings and start using them again rather than planning for their demolition.

# UMM RETIREES ASSOCIATION (UMMRA)

To potential and present members of UMMRA:

This is a call to join or renew membership in the UMM Retirees Association (UMMRA) for the 2011-2012 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 119 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 \$350 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 2011-2012 season. During your first year of retirement, your dues are waived, but you still need to return the form below. 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)

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**UMMRA MEMBERSHIP DUES, 2011-12**

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, 2011-June 30, 2012) for \_\_\_\_\_ person(s) @ \$10 per person or \$15 per couple. Please make check payable to UMMRA. Dues waived for 2010-11 retirees; however, please fill out the form and mail it to Joan Reicosky to activate the waiver.

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

What other kinds of services or activities would you like to see UMMRA provide? Please indicate your choices.

- Group attendance at UMM events (e.g., plays, performing arts, concerts) or \_\_\_\_\_
- Group trips/ tours out of town (e.g., Twin Cities theatre, museums) or \_\_\_\_\_
- Opportunities to volunteer (e.g., orientation and graduation guides) or \_\_\_\_\_
- Garden and landscape projects or \_\_\_\_\_
- Continue monthly luncheons? Yes No Add short programs to luncheons? Yes No
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

*Please use additional sheets if necessary.*