



UMMRA INFO

THE UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA, MORRIS RETIREES ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

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

VOLUME XVI, NUMBER 1, SUMMER 2013

CONGRATULATIONS, NEW RETIREES!

See page 3 for photos and names

Greetings from your new UMMRA President. I am looking forward to a couple of years of sharing UMM information with you and having fun in our retired life. As many of you know, this is my 43rd year of association with the University of Minnesota, Morris and I have enjoyed the challenges that we have lived through. The physical plant, academic programs, staff and students keep on getting better and better every year. It was very rewarding to see all the founders of UMMRA (with the exception of Dean Blake who lives on the East Coast) at the UMMRA Reception and UMM's Recognition Dinner in April. It is very nice that UMM continues to invite us, as retirees, to many campus events at no cost to us. Next time that you see the Chancellor, make sure to thank her for their hospitality.

At our April Annual Meeting, Chancellor Jacquie Johnson brought us up-to-date on the many events and developments at UMM. At that meeting we also approved the revised by-laws which split the Secretary/Treasurer's position into two separate positions, added the Webmaster to the board and clarified the roles of other members of the board. Once the by-laws were approved, we proceeded to elect Ron Kubik to a two year term as Treasurer, re-elected Dennis Johnson as Member-at-Large and re-confirmed Joan Reicosky as our Secretary until 2014.

Starting this fall you will have a choice of how you will receive your UMMRA newsletter. If you like to save paper, you will be able to receive an e-mail directing you to where you can read your newsletter electronically as soon as the editor releases it. If you wish to receive a hard copy of the newsletter, you will be able to read it as soon as the editor releases it, the printer prints it, someone stamps it, and the mail-person delivers it to you.

The board has not finalized our events for the fall, but I expect that we will continue with our monthly luncheon on the first Thursday of the month, a Quarterly meeting and luncheon at the Prairie Inn on October 3 at 11:45 A.M. and a Christmas event in the evening on December 5 at a location to be determined. Check our website, <http://morris.umn.edu/ummra> for the latest information.

If you have suggestions for events that you think UMMRA should sponsor, e-mail me at alopez@morris.umn.edu.

I look forward to seeing you at the next UMMRA event. Since you probably had a challenging winter, you deserve a nice relaxing summer. Enjoy!

Andy Lopez, UMMRA President 2013-2015

THE PRESIDENT'S GAVEL IS PASSED



Lynn Schulz turns over the president's books to Andy Lopez
Photo by Judy Riley

2013-2014 UMMRA BOARD

Note: The changes in the board structure were approved by the membership in April and these officers were elected: The amended by-laws are posted on the UMMRA Web (see address in heading).

President: Andy Lopez (2 year term)

Past-President: Lynn Schulz (1 year term)

Secretary: Joan Reicosky (1 year remaining)

Treasurer: Ron Kubik (2 year term)

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

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

UMRA TC Representative: Laird Barber (appointed)

Editor, UMMRA INFO: Karla Klinger (appointed)

Webmaster: Andy Lopez (appointed)

Volunteer Coordinators: Bernice Erdahl and Cathy Kemble (appointed)

UMMRA Events

June 6: June potluck picnic, East Side Park, 11:45 a.m. Come and bring a dish to pass. Rande Hokanson, Stevens County Historical Museum, will speak.

September 5: Our opening event is a fall potluck held in an outdoor location and begins at 11:45 a.m.. Come and bring a friend! An e-mail announcement will be sent out and the details will be posted on the UMMRA web-site.

October 3: Quarterly meeting and luncheon. 11:45 a.m.

December 5: Evening holiday party, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

The full schedule will be printed in UMMRA INFO in September.

MINI-GRANT OPTIONS

UMMRA awards a maximum of three **mini-grants** of up to \$350 each in support of an UMMRA member's learning activity. Application forms can be found at: <http://www.morris.umn.edu/ummra/UMMRAMiniGrants.pdf>. Submit them throughout the year to Ron Kubik, 101 1st Street, Morris, MN 56267-1401. The Twin Cities UMRA program makes larger research grants of up to

MINI-GRANTS (continued)

\$1400. See <http://www1.umn.edu/umra/grants.php> for the application process.

UMMRA KUDOS

Jim “Doc” Carlson is one of three recipients of the 2013 UMM Alumni Association Distinguished Alumni Awards. **Tom Turner** was initiated into the Order of the Discoverers, one of the highest honors of Sigma Delta Pi, for outstanding service in Hispanic scholarship, teaching, and the promotion of good relations between English- and Spanish-speaking countries.

UMMRA 2012-2013 IN REVIEW

The UMMRA Board plans UMMRA programs and agendas for the year, including the quarterly meetings, picnics at the beginning and end of the year, First Thursday luncheons, and the reception at the LaFave House prior to the annual recognition dinner. The Board oversees membership, membership benefits, the budget, and the award of mini-grants, and it addresses specific issues as they arise.

This year’s UMMRA quarterly business luncheons were held on October 4 and February 7 in the Gazebo Room at the Prairie Inn and on April 4 in the Prairie Inn’s Cougar Room. Meetings began at 11:45 a.m. We scheduled speakers at these meetings in addition to social interaction. Morris Officer Ross Tiegs talked about “Identity Theft and Scams.” UMM senior Naomi Wentz reported on the enrichment internships in which she has been involved during her years at UMM. Of special interest was her research on sanitation problems in Cambodia and the activities she since has initiated to raise funds for purchasing toilets for the area in Cambodia she visited. In April Chancellor Johnson provided us with an update of happenings at UMM. [See *UMM News* on the right.]

UMMRA members also got together for First Thursday lunches during most months when other UMMRA events were not scheduled. The opening fall potluck was held in the West Central Horticulture Gardens in September with Steve Poppe describing different plantings. Deb Nelson spoke about the Lakeland Hospice in November. A holiday party took place at the Prairie Inn on December 6. We attended a choral concert on campus together in March and held a reception for faculty and staff at the LaFave House before the Recognition Dinner. Rande Hokanson, Stevens County Historical Museum, is scheduled to speak at the June potluck picnic.

The by-laws were amended by the membership. The single Secretary-Treasurer position was changed to become two positions, secretary and treasurer, because of the increased amount of work in those roles. The webmaster was added as an ex-officio board position. The Board oversaw the UMMRA website, the *UMMRA Info* newsletter, and proposed making the Newsletter available electronically beginning next fall to those who want to receive it that way. UMMRA volunteers read to residents

at West Wind Village and contributed to campus events. UMMRA will donate to the UMM General Scholarship Fund in memory of UMMRA members who died during the academic year. UMMRA has 118 members and a bank balance of \$2991.51.

BITS AND PIECES

- The 27th Annual French Poetry Contest, named in honor of **Edith Farrell**, was held on Tuesday, April 2, in Oyate.
- **Harold and Elizabeth Hinds** plan to move to Portland, OR in June to be near their families.
- **Gail Hockert’s** retirement on May 20, 2013 was announced recently.
- **The Jooinn Lee Lecture**, scheduled in March, was postponed twice because of snow. It will be given in fall at a time to be announced.
- **Sam and Nancy Schuman** recently returned from Argentina and will attend the International Nabokov Association meeting in Paris in June.
- **Bonnie Tipcke** and her family invited the campus to join them at Old #1 on April 19 to celebrate her retirement
- A group of admirers of **Jim Togeas** interrupted his last class to say a few words of thanks for his over 7000 lectures and 50+ years at UMM. Jim will continue to teach honors courses during his retirement.
- A concert by the Symphonic Winds dedicated to the memory of **Ralph Williams**, who died on February 2, was performed on April 21 in the HFA Recital Hall. J. Wesley Flinn’s “Plains and Pines, a fantasia based on [Ralph’s] UMM Hymn,” had its first performance.

UMM NEWS

● **The HFA Gallery** has been named in honor of Edward J. and Helen Jane Morrison in recognition of seven decades of generous support for UMM and their recent philanthropic commitment to the renovation and endowment of the gallery. Ed was owner and publisher of the *Morris Sun and Morris Tribune* for many years. Helen Jane established the first concert series which grew into the Performing Arts Series. Thank you, Ed and Helen Jane.

● **Chancellor Johnson** reported to the campus community that applications from new high school students and offers of admission are at a thirteen-year high. Retention of first year students also “looks very positive.” She is “cautiously optimistic,” since applications and offers are only reasonably good predictors of enrollment.

● Though the snow kept coming, progress was made in completing much work on the inside of the new dormitory, “Green Prairie Hall.”

● **UMM’s 50th Commencement** was held in the P.E. Center on May 11 with nearly 350 seniors graduating. U.S. Senator Al Franken gave the commencement address. This year’s Commencement also was streamed on-line.

● **UMM** has again been included in [The Princeton Review’s Guide to 322 Green Colleges](#) based on a 2012 survey of administrators at over 800 four-year colleges. The *Review* commends Morris for its “deep roots in agriculture and land stewardship.”



From left to right. Jim Togeas, Doug Williams, Sharon Van Eps, Bonnie Tipcke, Dianna George and Ken Hodgson.
Not pictured: Thomas Bengstrom, Gail Hockert, Michael O'Reilly, Tap Payne. Photo by Karla Klinger

2012-2013 RETIREES

Thomas Bengston, Parking Enforcement Officer with the UMM Campus Police, retired December 11. At UMM since December, 1978.

Dianna George, Executive Office and Administrative Specialist, retired after spending more than 39 years of service at the UMM bookstore.

Gail Hockert, Senior Counselor, Counseling Office, retired May 20, 2013. At UMM since 1996.

Ken Hodgson, Associate Professor of Music, retired January 1, 2013. At UMM 34 years.

Michael O'Reilly, Professor of Mathematics, retired January 1, 2013. At UMM since 1986.

Tap Payne, Professor of Theater Arts, retired May 12, 2013. At UMM since 1979.

Bonnie Tipcke, Executive Office and Administrative Specialist, UMM Multi-Ethnic-Student Program, [now Equity, Diversity and Intercultural Programs] retired April 23, 2013. At UMM over 43 years.

Jim Togeas, Professor of Chemistry. At UMM from fall 1961 to May 12, 2013.

Sharon Van Eps, Executive Office and Administrative Specialist, Academic Center for Enrichment, with previous assignments with Center for International Programs, Academic Assistance Center and the Registrar's Office. At UMM from January 1980 to June 7, 2013.

Doug Williams, Computing Services Resnet administrator, has worked in Morris for 25 years, the first 10 years with the West Central Experiment Station before assuming the Resnet role in 1998.

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 2013-2014 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 units in the Morris area, i.e., WCROC, Minnesota Extension, Continuing Education, etc., as well as UMM. Membership includes faculty and all other staff (including bargaining units) and spouses. At present we have 118 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. 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 2013-2014 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 Treasurer. We look forward to hearing from you.

(Tear here)

(Tear here)

UMMRA MEMBERSHIP DUES, 2013-14

Ron Kubik, Treasurer

101 1st Street, Morris, MN 56267-1401

Date _____

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

e-mail: _____ Telephone # _____

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

Enclosed is \$_____ for dues for one year (July 1, 2013-June 30, 2014) for _____ person(s) @ \$10 per person or \$15 per couple. Please make check payable to UMMRA. (Dues waived for 2012-13 retirees; however, please fill out the form and mail it to Ron Kubik [see address above] to activate the waiver and your membership.)

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

What kinds of services or activities would you like to see UMMRA provide?

How do you want to receive the UMMRA Newsletter? (check one)

_____ electronically _____ through regular USPS mail

If electronically, please provide your e-mail address: