



UMMRA Info

A quarterly publication of the University of Minnesota, Morris Retirees' Association
<<http://www.morris.umn.edu/ummra>>

Volume XVII, Number 1

Summer 2014

Dear UMMRA members,

Welcome to the 2014 spring season. A little bit colder, a little bit wetter and always full of surprises.

All the nominees for the UMMRA Board were elected at our April 3 annual meeting at the Prairie Inn in Morris. Margaret Larson was elected president elect; she will assume the presidency in summer 2015. Bonnie Tipcke was elected secretary and Ken Hodgson was elected member at large, each of them for the 2014-16 biennium. Judy Riley is assuming the position of editor and historian effective with this edition of UMMRA Info. Retiring from the Board are former president Lynn Schulz (4 years of service), secretary Joan Reicosky (6 years of service) and Karla Klinger (8 years of service). Thank you very much to these dedicated individuals for their many contributions to UMMRA. We look forward to seeing you at upcoming UMMRA events.

Our UMMRA organization was well represented at UMM's graduation on May 10. By my count at least eight of us assisted with directing visitors to their destination on a very busy day at UMM. Our final event of the 2013-14 academic year was a potluck lunch on June 5 at 11:45 a.m. The Stevens County Historical Society graciously hosted us at the last minute due to rain. Our speaker at this meeting was Lowell Rasmussen, UMM vice chancellor for facilities and finance. He brought us up to date on projects and plans for the campus.

The first event for the 2014-15 academic year be a potluck lunch at Van and Sue Gooch home on Echo Lake in Douglas County about 30 miles northeast of Morris. Sue and Van will show us all the beautiful energy efficient features of their recently constructed home. This event will take place on September 4 at 11:45 a.m. Their address is 9329 Rachel Shrs SW, Farwell. Directions and carpooling plans will be available later this summer. To see a preview of Gooch home go to:

<http://www.captureminnesota.com/users/vangooch9?page=1>

Check our website (<http://ummra.morris.umn.edu/>) for other upcoming events. Meantime enjoy your summer. It appears like it will be very short.

Andy Lopez

UMMRA President 2013-15

alopez@morris.umn.edu 320-760-4416



Retirees who attended the 2014 Faculty and Staff Recognition Dinner: l-r, Judy Kuechle, Dave Raths, Jane Harstad, Roger Boleman, Tom Rach

UMMRA congratulates all 2014 retirees:

Roger Boleman, director, Instructional and Media Technologies, since 1968

Richard Busch, building and grounds worker, since 1973

Vicente Cabrera, professor of Spanish, since 1987

Cathi Halbe, building and grounds supervisor, since 1986

Jane Harstad, senior building and grounds worker, since 1990

Judy Kuechle, associate professor of education, former interim vice chancellor of Academic Affairs and dean, since 1988

Pat Nelson, executive office and administrative specialist, since 1975 (WCES), 1988 (UMM)

Ginger Nohl, executive operations/student services specialist, since 1982

Tom Rach, maintenance carpenter, started 1981

David Raths, building and grounds worker, since 1973

Ann Marie Vangstad, senior building and grounds worker, since 1986

Michael Vangstad, maintenance & operations supervisor, since 1980

SAD NEWS

•A Celebration of Life Service was held April 8 for Kate Livingston, wife of UMM employee **Dale Livingston**. Kate passed away March 28. She was the founding president and a member of the Friends of the Morris Wetland Management District. She also worked as financial secretary of First Lutheran Church.

•UMMRA members were among those who attended services April 25 in St. Paul for **Chancellor Emeritus John Q. (Jack) Imholte** who died April 20. Professor of History Roland Guyotte and former Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Gary McGrath share their memories of Dr. Imholte elsewhere in this issue.

•Funeral services were held May 2 for **Pearl Johnson**, former clerical worker in the Career Center and Alumni Office, who died April 26 at the West Wind Village in Morris. Pearl started at UMM in Food Services before moving to the Alumni and Placement Office, which later became the Career Center. She retired from UMM in 1990.

UMMRA BOARD YEAR IN REVIEW, 2013-2014

The UMMRA Board plans UMMRA programs and agendas for the year, including quarterly meetings, picnics, First Thursday luncheons and a reception at LaFave House prior to the annual campus Recognition Dinner. The Board oversees membership, membership benefits, budget, and the award of mini grants. In addition, the Board addresses specific issues as they arise.

• **Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Sandy Olson-Loy and T.J. Ross, Residential Life**, spoke during the Fall Quarterly Meeting in October about the Green Prairie Community residence hall. UMMRA members were invited to tour the facility following the meeting.

• **Chamber of Commerce Executive Director and UMM alumna Rhoda Smith** spoke during the February Winter Quarterly Meeting about the town and campus working together for Morris and Stevens County. The Chamber partners with UMM student interns in projects such as updating the Chamber's website.

• **Thirty UMMRA members** attended the April Spring Luncheon and Annual Meeting during which Chancellor Johnson presented a campus update.

• In other action...

- The Board voted to contribute money to the UMM scholarship program on behalf of members who have died this year.
- Meetings between incoming and current Board members will be held in the spring.
- The Board continues to review and draft functional descriptions of Board positions.

•The Celebration of Life Memorial Service for **Leona Classen** was held May 27. Leona was a member of the UMM Education Faculty from 1970 until her retirement in 1985. After her retirement from UMM, she started a storytelling group in Morris, the Saga Spinners. Storytelling was always a hobby of hers and she shared stories for many years with many organizations often using puppets. Leona died May 14 at the age of 94 years. Most recently she was a resident of Copperleaf Senior Living Community Center in Willmar.

COMING EVENTS

Sept. 4:

Fall Picnic, Van and Sue Gooch home, 9329 Rachel Shrs SW, Farwell, 11:45 a.m., all UMMRA members welcome

Oct. 2:

- Quarterly Meeting, Mi Mexico, City Center Mall in Morris, 11:45 a.m., all UMMRA members welcome
- Rose Ensemble public performance, Assumption Church, 7 p.m.

Chancellor Emeritus Jack Imholte, 1930-2014

84, of St. Paul, died April 20. Jack was the son of Lucille and Herbert Imholte and was born and raised in St. Paul. A 1948 graduate of Cretin High School, he served as an artillery spotter in the Korean War. Jack received a BA from Washington and Lee University in Lexington, Virginia, and a PhD in history from the University of Minnesota. He was part of the original faculty of the University of Minnesota, Morris. He was the chair of the history discipline, provost and later, chancellor. He retired and returned to St. Paul in 2000. Jack was an avid rower and active historian and was the author of the book, "The First Volunteers: History of the First Minnesota Volunteer Regiment, 1861-1865." He was a volunteer with the Fort Snelling Memorial Rifle Squad.

Professor of History Roland Guyotte and former Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Gary McGrath share their memories of Jack Imholte below.



Roland Guyotte, UMM professor of history

Jack held employment at UMM and the University of Minnesota from 1960 to 2000. He served as professor of history, chair of the Division of the Social Sciences, provost, and chancellor of UMM with an additional stint as interim vice president for Student Affairs at the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities, where he took his Ph. D. degree. Jack's founding leadership at UMM, along with other early faculty and staff pioneers, helped launch and sustain the campus as a liberal arts college, a steadfast advocacy from which Jack never wavered.

Notably, he oversaw several substantial curricular revisions, created the Minority (now Multi-Ethnic) Student Program, and incorporated students and staff into UMM governance.

Among the many memories that flood in, two come to mind. I first met Jack in May 1969 when he drove me from MSP to Morris for my interview to be a one-year replacement faculty member. It was daunting for a 23-year-old who had barely acquired his M. A. to be greeted by UMM's chief executive officer, who was also ferrying two students, Dan Studelska, and Sarah Odermann (subsequently Wilkinson) back from the UMTC campus where one had been to a committee meeting and the other did research. During the long (I kept wondering, 'when will we get there?') ride the four of us conversed avidly with everyone (me too after awhile) referring to the driver as "Jack." This was not the academic world I knew, but it inspired an immediate sense of 'I might like this place.'

A second recollection bookends the first. Sometime in the 1990s after Jack had returned to the history discipline after leaving Behmler, we both attended a Fall Faculty Retreat in Glenwood. One activity was a personality test that purported to sort us, based on the pattern of our answers, as one of four 'types.' There were fancier titles for these classifications that I forget, but a 'one' was a poet, a 'two' a scholar, a 'three' an engineer, and a 'four,' was an entrepreneur. Not surprisingly to me the bulk of the faculty taking the test scored 'threes' or 'fours.' Those are the folks who attend Faculty Retreats. Jack was almost the only person who scored a 'one' (full disclosure, my score was on the borderline between 'two' and 'one'). Perhaps that's one reason we got along so well. And maybe a reason he was such an outstanding leader for UMM.

Gary McGrath '68, director of Student Activities 1968-1972, UMM Alumni Association president 1980-82, vice chancellor for Student Affairs 1986-1999

Jack Imholte was one of the original 13 faculty members who were hired to offer collegiate-level instruction at the West Central School of Agriculture. This experiment was to see if there was enough student interest in having a college in Morris. Jack had been working on his Ph.D. in history at the University of Minnesota. He had been offered a faculty position at DePauw University in Indiana as well

as an offer from Rod Briggs to teach at Morris. Jack chose Morris as he liked the idea of being part of a potentially new college, and his wife Lucy liked the idea of staying in Minnesota close to family and friends. Jack and Lucy with their two young daughters moved to Morris to prepare for the start of classes in fall 1960. It was the beginning of a long and successful relationship between Jack Imholte and the University of Minnesota, Morris.

Jack went on to become the first chair of the social science division, the first academic dean and the second provost succeeding Rod Briggs. The University changed the title of provost to chancellor in 1985 during Jack's tenure. I was a history major as a student at UMM, and Jack had the misfortune of having me in a number of his classes. I suspect the experience of having me as a student made it easy for him to decide to become an administrator.

Jack served as the provost and the chancellor from 1969 until 1990 when he returned to his first love of teaching. The time that Jack served as chancellor was a challenging and critical time in the development of UMM. In the late 1960s and early 1970s students sought to participate in campus governance and protested against the war in Vietnam. The Minority Student Program was initiated and the student body became more diverse. Jack remained committed to supporting students of color through some difficult times. The women's movement evolved on campus, and students became concerned about the environment. Jack made himself available to meet with students. His calm and patient demeanor was a great help in trying to find effective ways to address student concerns.

The 1970s and 1980s were also challenging economic times for college graduates and support for higher education. The value of a liberal arts degree was questioned as recent graduates experienced trouble in finding employment. UMM experienced difficulty in attracting and retaining students. Minnesota public colleges and universities faced legislative budget cuts. There was talk of closing campuses. Jack remained firmly committed to UMM continuing as a public liberal arts college. He did his best to preserve academic programs in spite of budget cuts. While I do not think many people knew this, during one period when Jack was told to cut the UMM budget, he offered to cut his salary by 20%. I don't believe University administrators on the Twin Cities campus wanted to start that precedent!

To attract and retain more students, business management and computer science majors were approved after a great deal of campus discussion to affirm these majors were compatible with the liberal arts curriculum. Director of Admissions and Financial Aid Robert Vikander came up with a freshman merit scholarship program to attract students who were in the top 5%, 10% and 20% of their high school class. Jack personally went to community leaders and raised the money to support the scholarships. The result was freshman enrollment increased dramatically and the quality of those students based on high school class rank went up significantly. A federal grant written by Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Steve Granger in the 1980s provided the funding to develop a long-range campus plan and improve academic services among other initiatives. As luck would have it, the consultant involved in the grant was contacted by a reporter about colleges that should be known as "best buys." He mentioned UMM. The story in Kiplinger's Personal Finance was the start of other articles in national publications over the years touting UMM.

Jack was an incredibly decent man. He had a wonderful sense of humor and did not take himself too seriously. One day I noticed that some students from the Saddle Club went in to see Jack. I knew the students had been having some trouble with a local parent of a former student who had insisted on continuing to board his daughter's aging horse on campus. Jack said the students had asked him to be the Saddle Club faculty adviser and he had agreed. I asked Jack what he knew about horses. Jack thought for a moment and admitted he did not know anything about horses but he had been called a horse's patootie on more than one occasion.

Jack genuinely liked students and he was proud of UMM alumni. He regularly drove to the Twin Cities to attend Saturday Alumni Association meetings. Who can forget Jack and Lucy annually hosting a reception after the homecoming game at their house for all faculty, staff and alumni? I often wonder how the house carpeting and furnishings survived over the years.

I feel very fortunate to have known Jack Imholte. He was a very positive influence in my life as he was for so many. Thanks to Jack's leadership, the UMM experiment was a huge success.



During Jack Imholte's tenure, UMM became recognized as one of the premiere public liberal arts institutions in the country. In 2005, UMM honored the Imholte legacy by renaming its Social Science Building (where Imholte taught history for many years) John Q. Imholte Hall. An acrylic on canvas portrait of John Q. Imholte, by Bob Menzhuber '76 hangs on the right-hand wall as one enters the building. Additional displays on the first floor include a copy of Imholte's book, "The First Volunteers: History of the First Minnesota Volunteer Regiment - 1861-1865," along with photos and other memorabilia.

Alumni remember Chancellor Emeritus Jack Imholte...

Mike Galegher, '72

I was involved in student government during my years at UMM. Jack was one among many wonderful mentors who guided me as an undergraduate. As provost, he had an open door policy and was almost always available to discuss student concerns. He put a friendlier face on an already friendly campus. Decades later, after his retirement, I would bump in Jack in the Highland Park area. He always stopped and took a few minutes to chat.

Chris Wenner, '99

Jack Imholte was a scholar, friend and patriot...[my] having served in Korea for a year and deployments brought a whole new perspective to class and he appreciated the military jargon only a soldier will understand. He was a friend of [UMM]; respected by his peers and students alike. His memory will live on in the many books he donated to the library and the endowment he has provided for current and future students of UMM.

Editor's Note *This issue of UMMRA Info marks my first as its editor. Many thanks to Karla Klinger for her years as UMMRA's dedicated editor/historian in addition to her support and guidance as I begin this new role. I welcome your input and suggestions at rileyjk@morris.umn.edu.*

-Judy Riley