



UMMRA Info

A quarterly publication of the University of Minnesota, Morris Retirees' Association

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

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Summer 2016

Summer Greetings to all! I hope you'll find some time to read, garden, relax--whatever makes you happy!

It's been a busy time within UMMRA. On April 7, we held our meeting at the Gazebo in Hotel 200. Chancellor Johnson addressed the group on "what is happening at UMM" and noted, with sadness, that it will be yet another "last" for her as she looks toward retirement. Following her remarks we held our Annual Meeting. Ken Hodgson will continue as our member-at-large, via unanimous vote, but the positions of president-elect and secretary lacked names from the Nominating Committee. Therefore, it was agreed that Joan Reicosky would continue as is, and president-elect will remain unfilled at this time.

On May 19, we held our own "retiree event" at the American Legion Club Rooms. Mary Van Horn, Legion bar manager and caterer, made hors d'oeuvres for us, and a good time was enjoyed by all.

On June 2, UMMRA traveled to Buddies in Hancock for lunch, followed by a trip to Anderson Acres for a tour and some shopping.

The Board will meet on Wednesday, August 17, at LaFave House to plan our activities for the coming year. If you have ideas or suggestions for us, please feel free to contact any Board member with your suggestions!

Enjoy your summer!

Maggie Larson
UMMRA President 2015-2017

COMING EVENTS

All UMMRA members are welcome to attend meetings and events. Watch your UMMRA email for additional details.

Wednesday, Aug. 17 – 2-4 p.m., UMMRA Board meeting, LaFave House



2016 retirees who attended this year's Recognition Dinner gathered for a photo: **Jacqueline Johnson**, chancellor; **Chris Cole**, biology; **Vicki Graham**, English; **Dale Livingston**, Facilities Management; **Corrine Larson**, Health Services. (University Relations photo) Others retiring this year are: **James Barbour** and **Brad Svea**, Facilities Management; **Debora Campbell**, Dining Services; **Joel Eisinger**, art history; **Nancy Erdahl**, Post Office; **Henry Fulda**, Res Life/Student Counseling; **Vince Kehoe**, Campus Police; **Shirley Miller**, Briggs Library; **Timothy Soderberg**, chemistry.

FACULTY AND STAFF NEWS

Ferolyn Angell, emeritus lecturer in dance, is a recipient of the 2016–17 professional Development Grant for retirees for her project, *Production of a Theatrical Dance Film of Family During the Nazi Reign in Germany*.

Recipients of 2015- 2016 Outstanding Support Staff Awards are: **Lacey Fahl**, AFSCME; **Marie**

Hagen, Civil Service; and **Delores Rathke**, Teamster.

Michael Lackey, English, has been selected as a recipient of the University of Minnesota's Distinguished McKnight University Professorship for his significant scholarly accomplishments. He is one of seven recipients University-wide and the only faculty member recognized from one of the System campuses. He is the first Morris faculty member to have been so recognized. Lackey also received the UMM Faculty Distinguished Research Award.

Judy Korn, Registrar's Office, is the recipient of the 2016 MASA Academic Staff Award. She was recognized for her professionalism, care and thoroughness, ability to deal with complex situations, skill in helping students during difficult circumstances, and for providing clarity and integrity that advances the academic mission of Morris.

Additional award recipients this academic year are: **Heather J. Peters**, psychology, Horace T. Morse-Minnesota Alumni Association Award for Outstanding Contributions to Undergraduate Education and UMM Alumni Association Teaching Award; **Stephanie Ferrian**, Academic Center for Enrichment, Mary Martelle Memorial Award.

Jessica Porwoll was selected as lead success coordinator in the Office of Academic Success. This new position will primarily support first-year students as they transition to the University learning environment. She will also manage the academic alert system at UMM. Jessica has served in UMM's Office of Equity, Diversity and Intercultural Programs office.

Donna Chollett traveled in April to Ecuador where she spent a week in the Galapagos Islands, observing the giant turtles, iguanas, and birds such as Frigates, Red-footed, blue-footed, and Nazca Boobies on seven different islands. She also enjoyed hiking and snorkeling with tropical fish and sea turtles. Despite a 7.8 earthquake that caused much damage to the Ecuadoran population, she completed her trip to the Amazon rainforest. After a trip from the highlands to the Amazon lowlands, the group flew to a Huaorani indigenous community, then a canoe trip to the Huaorani Ecolodge, interacting with community members and hiking in the forest along the Shiripuno River, the Auca Road and canoeing on the Napo River.

SAD NEWS

Jeanne Purdy, wife of Professor Emeritus Dwight Purdy, passed away March 25. Jeanne taught college writing, grammar, poetry, and Greek mythology classes, part time from December 1985 through December 2004, and was a strong advocate and leader in the Women's Studies Program. A celebration of life was scheduled for a later date.

Martha "Marty" Kroening passed away May 25 at age 94. Marty was a teacher, singer and member of the United States Marine Corps Reserves. She worked in the Executive Office of President Kennedy and Vice President and Senator Humphrey. She retired as secretary in University Relations at UMM.

Memorial services for Thomas Deseth, father of **Mike Deseth**, UMM community services officer, were held May 3.

HATS OFF TO UMM

2016 Distinguished Alumni Award recipients are: **Thomas W. Mahoney '74**, former director of the Grants Development Office, University of Minnesota, Morris; **Sharon Stewart Reeves '68**, former director of library services at the San Diego Union Tribune; **Dr. Mark Schuller '96**, associate professor, anthropology and NGO leadership and development, Northern Illinois University.

After reaching the UMAC Tournament for the first time since 2007, the **baseball Cougars** had five players named UMAC All-Conference. **Chandler Erickson, Jackson Gessell** and **Joey Hyde** were named to the First Team. **Tyler Hannan** and **Zach Kuefler** were named to the second team.

A Year of Lasts: Chancellor Johnson To Retire *by Judy Riley*

In an academic year that Chancellor Jacquie Johnson dubbed her "year of lasts," this might be considered a first. After serving 10 years as chancellor of the Morris campus, Jacquie joined the ranks of University of Minnesota retirees at the end of this academic year.

"I'm moving to the Twin Cities. The town's not big enough for two chancellors. The new chancellor needs to own [Morris] and the town him." She'll also be moving closer to two of her five children and she'll have better access to an airport.

Firsts seem second nature to Jacquie. After she earned a college degree, she was hired as the first woman in the anthropology and sociology department at Grand Valley State University in Michigan, an institution, while not historical like Morris, “it was the same age as Morris with a momentum to expand.” She met husband Serge there and they married in the 1970s.

“I always loved school. As a child when we played school I was always the teacher. My mother had a high school education. My father left school in the eighth grade. But they both believed strongly in the role of education.

“I also loved teaching and students. I intended to major in English until I took a sociology course that changed my world. The discipline is so interesting...it opens the mind and creates a joy of discovery. I had to explain my choice to my parents.”

After 20 years of teaching at Michigan, Jacquie filled a need for a department chair. “I gained a different viewpoint and challenge as an administrator.” She was also program director of general education there, followed by four years as chief academic officer at St. Martins College. “I feel really good about what I did there, and very lucky. I loved the Benedictine community and I loved academic administration.”

While at Buena Vista University, “I developed the sense that I could be the CEO, and that it wouldn’t be a bad way to complete my career.” She was hired in 2006 as the first female chancellor at Morris and the rest, as they say, is history.

Despite initial campus financial woes coupled with harsh economic times, the campus has continued to create a modern learning environment and emerge into national recognition as a sustainable community. “I love best how much I’ve learned.”



As Jacquie looks forward to yet another “first”—moving to the Twin Cities—she faces “the great unknown. I don’t know what it will be like without the imposed rhythm. The things I love to do are the things that I already do. I’ll re-immense myself in sociology and retool my technological skills “ in preparation for teaching online courses through UMM.

She’ll also enjoy time with her five children—Sebastien, Chai, Kassia, Simeon and Nadia—along with three grandchildren and golden doodle Hank. Sebastien and Nadia live in the Twin Cities area. Husband Serge passed away five years ago.

As for the legacy she’ll leave with Morris: “It will be for others to judge the collective legacy of the work that we have done. We’ve made great strides in sustainability. People are talking about us. We’ve become good at marketing and telling our story. I leave with a clear sense of what it is to live a life of purpose. I’m aligned with the history of this place.”

Among more tangible memorabilia, Jacquie will take with her a gift from longtime Morris resident and farmer, the late Dick Stephens: a T-shirt imprinted with a picture of Dick’s pot-bellied pig, Eddie.

The infatuation that Jacquie felt for Morris from the beginning has only increased. “Each year has been better than the one before it. Everything I thought I would find here, I’ve found. The vision continues to be realized. The quality of the liberal arts that one finds here has been consistent over time. It will be exciting to have new leadership.”

Editor’s Note: As UMMRA Info went to print, University President Eric Kaler announced the immediate re-launch of the search for the next chancellor at Morris. Chancellor Jacqueline Johnson, who announced her retirement and who was expected to step down July 1, has agreed to remain in her role through at least the fall 2016 semester.