

# UMMRA INFO

THE UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA, MORRIS RETIREES ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER  
VOLUME VI, NUMBER 3, WINTER, 2004

## HAPPY NEW YEAR – 2004

It seems the majority of people are glad to see the end of 2003 with all its sadness, worry and uncertainty. However, so far 2004 has been good to us in one instance. On Day three of the landing of NASA's Spirit rover on Mars we saw a 3D "postcard" giving us the first picture from another planet. To look at further pictures you can reach NASA's Mars Rovers Web site by clicking on

<http://marsrovers.jpl.nasa.gov/home/index.html>.

Weatherwise, the winter has had above average temperatures, below normal snowfall, and one below-zero night and day.

## ONE DAY CAR TRIP

Would you enjoy dining at the new Italian restaurant, Café Bella in downtown Glenwood, with a group from UMMRA? We have planned a Saturday afternoon visit on January 31. We will meet at the north parking lot at UMM at 12:30 p.m. and share rides. Reservations will be made for 1:30 p.m. so we will need a head count. If you'd like to join the group, call Avis Brandt at 320-589-3304 or Dolores Lammers at 320-589-1083. All reports say that there is a good menu selection, tasty food, and a "big city" atmosphere. It also gives us a chance to celebrate Franklin D. Roosevelt's 122<sup>nd</sup> birthday.

## WINTER LUNCHEON MEETING

Harold Fahl has scheduled our winter meeting for Wednesday, February 11, 2004 at 11:45 a.m. in the Cougar Room at Prairie Inn. The agenda will include discussions on the LaFave raffle and the August UMRA conference. We will order pay-your-own lunch from the menu. The program will be presented by Steve and Arden Granger reliving their trip to Alaska in a motor home with their dog. The title is "Travels With Chase". Put a check on your calendar now so you won't forget.

## SPRING LUNCHEON/ANNUAL MEETING/REUNION

Mary Ellen Grossman has made plans for the big day on April 29, 2004. The complete day long schedule will be in the spring UMMRA INFO. Election of officers and approval of the by-laws amended by the Board at their December meeting will be on the annual meeting agenda. Preliminary plans include Chancellor Schuman's annual update of UMM and an afternoon tour of Superior Industries. An added attraction will be a contest called "Name that Former UMM Person". Susan Granger has many photographs from the early years of UMM that need to be identified. President Jim has promised a small prize to the person who puts a name to the most faces.

## REGIONAL FITNESS CENTER UPDATE

The RFC is providing a free one-week pass that may be used to try most of their programs. The offer expires on 1-31-04

and can be explained to you at the front desk. The noon water exercise is no longer available, but they still offer the 4:40 to 5:30 p.m. class on Mondays and Wednesdays. The morning swim time (8:00 to 9:00 a.m. on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays) is well attended by senior men and women. There is no leader so you can create your own exercise program. A schedule of events is enclosed to area members.

## NEWS FROM UMRA (TWIN CITIES) – LAIRD BARBER

Next summer from Friday, August 20, to Sunday, August 22, 2004, the University of Minnesota Retirees Association (UMRA) – retirees from the Twin Cities Campuses – will be hosting a meeting of representatives from the retiree organizations of the other Big Ten Universities. These meetings are annual and move from campus to campus, and hosting one of them is a major effort for UMRA. A rough outline of events is as follows:

Friday, 8/20 – reception at the Campus Club in the Coffman Union, followed by dinner.

Saturday, 8/21 – meetings during the morning at the Alumni Center; tours of the Twin Cities Campuses or of the Twin Cities area in the afternoon, followed by a banquet.

Sunday, 8/22 – breakfast followed by another round of meetings; lunch and the departure of the representatives for their homes.

UMRA would be glad to welcome colleagues from UMM, either as attendees or, perhaps, as volunteers who could do various chores. More definite plans will be announced at the UMRA Board of Directors' meeting on Tuesday, January 27, 2004. For the present, UMRA merely wants their colleagues at UMM to be aware of the dates of these meetings and consider whether they might wish to attend some or all of the events.

## POETRY FEST

A Poetry Fest offered by Learning Unlimited will be held on February 11, 2004. An open invitation is given to regional poets to participate in the celebration. You can register as a participant or submit poetic offerings by calling Anne Schwaller at 320-589-4394. The deadline for submissions is February 2, 2004. The overall theme is "A Celebration of West Central Minnesota, Past, Present and Dreams".

## ACCOMMODATIONS NEEDED

When UMM students attend conferences or do research off campus, they look for ways to cut their expenses. Tom Mahoney in Continuing Education and Regional Programs is putting together a list of alumni and retired faculty, outside of Morris, who are willing to put up a student for a couple of nights. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact:

Tom Mahoney  
 University of Minnesota, Morris  
 Continuing Education and Regional Programs  
 Morris, MN 56267 Ph. 320-589-6462  
 e-mail: [mahoneyt@mrs.umn.edu](mailto:mahoneyt@mrs.umn.edu)

#### VOLUNTEER COMMITTEE

Bernice Erdahl (320-246-3593) and Cathy Kemble (320-795-2290) and their volunteers have completed their Evergreen Circle Reading sessions at West Wind Village up to Christmas time. They are setting up the schedule for January through April, so give them a call if you have an hour or so to help. This last semester they scheduled readers to record textbooks at the UMM library for college students with disabilities. UMM emeritus professor of education, Leona Classen, has started an Evergreen Circle Reading Group at Skyview Court in Morris where she now lives.

#### LEARNING UNLIMITED

Learning Unlimited is a local program that is an out-growth of Heritage Preservers that was created by UMMRA individuals and interested community members. Fred Farrell is the program director and Anne Schwaller is the coordinator. The series has been expanded to monthly events as follows:

Wednesday, February 11, 2004, at 1:00 p.m., Morris Senior Center. A Poetry Fest: Past, Present and Dreams (see above)

Wednesday, March 3, 2004, at 1:00 p.m., Morris Senior Center. National Issues Forum: News Media and Society: How to Restore the Public Trust, Part 1, (What's broken?) with Phyllis Gausman, moderator.

Wednesday, March 17, 2004, at 1:00 p.m., Morris Senior Center. National Issues Forum: News Media and Society: How to Restore the Public Trust, Part 2 (How to fix it.) with Phyllis Gausman, moderator.

Wednesday, April 14, 2004, at 1:00 p.m., Morris Senior Center. Barn Again—An American Icon with Randee Hokanson, Director, Stevens County Historical Museum. An overview of the Smithsonian Museum Traveling Exhibit on the art and architecture of agricultural buildings with an emphasis on local connections. The Morris Senior Center is located at 603 Oregon Avenue, Morris, MN.

#### SAD NEWS

--Bernice Erdahl's son, Bruce Erdahl, died at the St. Cloud Hospital on October 9, 2003. Our sympathy to Bernice, her daughter-in-law, Sue, and her grandsons, Brian (Ann), Josh, and Aaron.

--Janet Ahern's father, James Turbyne, died in Morris on January 6. Our sympathy to Janet, her family, and her mother, Clara Turbyne.

--Charles (Chuck) Bruning died on September 25, 2003. Chuck was a faculty member at UMM in its early years, was instrumental in establishing the teacher education program at UMM and served as the first chair of the Division of Education. Chuck moved to the Twin Cities campus in 1968. He was preceded in death by his wife, Corinne.

--Louis Tangen of Cyrus died on November 10, 2003. Louis worked at UMM for eleven years and retired in 1977. He is survived by his wife, Gudrun, and daughter, Margaret.

--Dimitra Giannuli, associate professor of history at UMM, died on June 3, 2003 in Thessalonika, Greece. An annual award in her memory for history students has been established at UMM. Contributions may be sent to UMM External Relations, 312 Behmler Hall, 600 East Fourth St., Morris, MN.56267.

--Lee F. Hermsmeier died on November 19, 2003 in Brawley, California. Lee was an agricultural engineer at the Agricultural Research Service from 1958 to 1968. He is survived by his wife, Mary, and sons, Glen, Bruce and Mark.

#### BITS AND PIECES

This issue lists newspaper articles and photos about retirees that point out that they are a vibrant part of the community. The next issue will cover their travel adventures. Please call 320-589-1083 with your travel news.

-The person kissing a dolphin in last fall's newsletter was our past-president, Fred Farrell. It helps explain why his granddaughters enjoy visiting with him.

-Judy Nord, Avis Brandt, and Bernice Erdahl were in a Morris Tribune photo of the Sons of Norway organization serving a Syttende Mai breakfast at the Legion Club.

-Bettina Blake was pictured in the December 9 Morris Tribune as a volunteer at the annual Community Thanksgiving Dinner.

-Mary Ellen Grossman, Director of the Morris Food Shelf, spoke at the MPIRG's Hunger Banquet held on campus on November 20. She made it clear that hunger also exists in Stevens County as her volunteers serve 70 families monthly.

-Arden and Steve Granger were featured in the November 18 Morris Tribune with Dr. John Schwaller at the second program of Learning Unlimited. Dr. Schwaller is one of the few scholars of the Aztec language in the United States.

-Pat Kahng and Judy Nord were in an October 9 photo in the Morris Tribune as part of the annual "Crop Walk". Profits go to buy food for people in Third World countries.

#### PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Two items that might be of interest.

First, we are continuing to work on the raffle project to raise money for finishing the guest suite at the LaFave House.

Second, there are a number of May session courses abroad that might be of interest to you. The deadline is coming up quite soon. Contact Karen Ellis at [elliskj@umn.edu](mailto:elliskj@umn.edu) or 320-589-6463 for more exact information.

I hope to see you at the Café Bella in Glenwood.

James Gremmels, President

#### DATES TO REMEMBER

Saturday, January 31—Lunch at Café Bella

Wednesday, February 11-- Winter luncheon

Wednesday, April 29 – Spring luncheon