



## UMMRA INFO

THE UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA, MORRIS RETIREES ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER  
VOLUME VIII, NUMBER 3, WINTER 2006

### A WARM WELCOME TO 2006

Weatherwise, this January is the warmest January in Minnesota since 1901 when they started keeping temperature records. The past year, 2005, was the warmest since 1944; we will see if 2006 breaks that record. Also, this January a spacecraft called New Horizons was sent into space for the first close-up look at the planet, Pluto, discovered in 1930 by astronomer Clyde Tombaugh. (One report said his ashes were on the spacecraft.) If successful, the mission will complete the initial exploration of all nine planets of the solar system. The journey will reach Pluto in nine and a half years, 2015. Will UMMRA INFO still be in existence to report on it?

### WINTER LUNCHEON

The winter luncheon meeting will be held at 11:45 a.m. at the Prairie Inn on Wednesday, February 15, 2006. Theatre Professor Ray Schulz and some of his students will join us for lunch and provide the program. The agenda will include the need for the names of two members willing to serve on the board for the next two years—president-elect and one member-at-large. The election will be held at the spring meeting which will be held at the Prairie Inn on Thursday, April 27, 2006.

### BOARD MEETING

An UMMRA board meeting was held on January 9 at LaFave House. Besides the regular housekeeping items, discussions were held on ideas that could use feed-back from the membership: 1. The need for an Advocacy Committee as set up by the Twin Cities UMRA that would look out for the common good of UMM retirees, both members and non-members. We could have a member from Morris on the Alumni Advocacy Committee and on the U of M Benefits Advisory Committee (health insurance). 2. Various ideas on policies for earmarking the dues balance in the bank account. Scholarships? Print a publication containing the first year experiences of the early staff and faculty now covered as Memory Tours in the newsletter and contain the history of UMMRA, not yet complete. Other ideas?

### FIRST THURSDAY CASUAL LUNCHEONS

The three luncheons already held were very enjoyable and well attended. The following places have been scheduled by President Janet Ahern: February 2, Café Bella, Glenwood; March 2, Torgy's, Glenwood; April 6, Lammers Cabin, (Villard) potluck. Time is 12:00 noon and details are on e-mail or call Janet at 320-589-2474 if you plan to attend or need to car pool.

### VOLUNTEER COMMITTEE

Bernice Erdahl (320-246-3393) and Cathy Kemble (320-795-2290) have scheduled readers at West Wind Village for January but could use readers through May. They arranged baby sitting for the children of Charlie Company when they returned from Iraq so the families could attend special meetings set by the Guard. The names of all volunteers will be listed in the summer newsletter.

### LEARNING UNLIMITED

UMMRA member Phyllis Gausman is the Program Director of the 2006 Learning Unlimited series held monthly at the Morris Senior Center. This year's program, "Our Community—Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow: A Century of On-Going Concerns and Interests", is designed to explore the way in which Morris and Stevens County have changed and evolved over the last century and how their citizens have addressed issues of local importance. The time, date, and place of each meeting are printed in the 769 Tiger Tracks and will be covered in the Morris Sun Tribune. Phyllis' overview of the year's program was published in the January 3, 2006 Morris Sun Tribune. Her number is 320-589-2299 if you need more information.

### SAD NEWS

-This year for the first time Gene Bowers wrote the Christmas letter for their family. His wife, Dovie Bowers, died on March 16. His letter was a sad and beautiful tribute to Dovie. Gene was a teacher and scene designer in the UMM theatre department from 1968 to 1978. Gene was instrumental in designing the two theatres and shop areas in the UMM Humanities Fine Arts Building on campus which is scheduled to receive another award in the near future.

- Norris Kolden, a carpenter at UMM from 1964 to 1985, died on October 25, 2005 in Glenwood. Norris is survived by his wife, Laura, and four children.

### BITS AND PIECES

The Fall 2005 issue of Profile had pictures of several retirees: Ruth and Jim Gremmels and Ellen Ordway at the LaFave House Garden Party, JoAnne Hagstrom with a group of other Library Associates board members, Barbara McGinnis at the Garden Party being recognized with a Founders Society Plaque for establishing the UMM McGinnis Family Scholarship. Profile also covered the West Central School of Agriculture all-school reunion which is held each July on campus. A list of WCSA

alumni and friends was included in the article. WCSA was located on campus from 1910 to 1963 (see Memory Tours below).

-The November 3, 2005 St. Cloud Visitor, a publication of the Diocese of St. Cloud, carried a full page letter written by Maria Luisa Rodriguez Lee, Professor Emerita of Spanish, UMM. It is on file in our archives. Also, an October issue of the Visitor noted the celebration of Bill and Ida Stewart's 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary hosted by the University of Minnesota-Morris Minority Alumni. Bill Stewart was also pictured in the October 1 Morris Sun Tribune with Henry Parker who taught in the Humanities Division at UMM from 1961 to 1965.

-Two articles in the Morris Sun Tribune covered the dedication and renaming of the social sciences building as John Q. Imholte Hall. The October 12 article covered Jack's background and some of his many accomplishments. The picture of October 26 included Jack, UMMRA member and former chancellor David Johnson and current chancellor Sam Schuman. It was a beautiful day and brought back many memories—reminded everyone how important Jack and Lucy have been in our lives at UMM.

-Madeleine Lammers, granddaughter of Ray and Dolores Lammers, returned to Tulane University in New Orleans when it reopened the middle of January. With credits from the Carlson School at the U of M and an extra month this summer she'll graduate in May. The life experience of living through Hurricane Katrina should be on her resume.

-Ellen Ordway took a cruise on the Sea of Cortez to look for whales and explore the plants and wildlife of Baja, California. Last summer she attended a big family reunion in Salem, Mass.

-Bettina Blake is nicely settled in her apartment on the eighth floor of The Residences at Copley Place in Boston. She returned to Morris for the Imholte dedication. We hope she makes the trip to Morris at least a yearly event.

-Laird Barber takes the award for the most travels this past year. So we'll just list them—theatre trip to London, Norwich, St. Austell in Cornwall, Exeter, Buenos Aires, South Africa (Cape Town), Zambia, New England (five of the six states).

-Fosgates tie or come in second—Cancun, Alaska cruise, Venice, Dubrovnik, Croatia, Athens, Greece, Italy.

-Jack and Lucy Imholte took a week-long ship tour from New York City to Nova Scotia and back stopping at cities along the way.

#### MEMORY TOURS -Ralph Williams

Our first year in Morris we rented a cottage on Lake Minnewaska, then rented a house on West Sixth Street and then built our current home on Northridge Drive. Our son, Brian, started kindergarten. Rodney Briggs and I were both teachers on the St. Paul campus. Briggs had been hired to be Provost at the new campus at Morris. One day while eating at the dining hall someone across the room shouted "Hey, Ralph, I would like to talk to you." We got

together after lunch and he asked me to be a faculty member at Morris and organize the music groups. He couldn't hire me until he hired a counselor. That man was Steve Granger. My first assignment from Rod was to write a UMM hymn. We had a little over 200 students. I organized a choir, band, orchestra and men's chorus. I recruited some string players from Morris and surrounding towns to help in the orchestra. Jim Carlson, a senior at Glenwood High School, helped out in the band with his trumpet. Kay (Joranger) Carlson, a senior at Morris High School, helped out the group as a piano accompanist. Both of them later became UMM faculty members. Edson Hall was packed for every concert. The music groups did a lot to make UMM known. The School of Agriculture still had some years to go before it was closed so some of the faculty became faculty at UMM. Also, some of the students joined the music groups so the two schools sort of blended together. Everybody helped, including spouses, when some help was needed anywhere on campus. My wife, Martha, played violin in the orchestra. The first year students all wore maroon beanies. When they wore their maroon beanies they helped spread the word that there is a University of Minnesota at Morris.

The first year was an exciting and memorable year!!!!

#### DATES TO REMEMBER:

First Thursdays: Casual luncheons

Wednesday, February 15: Winter meeting.

Thursday, April 27: Spring meeting/reunion



*"Without Sam at UMM, how will I satisfy my need for an occasional bit of Shakespeare's humor and wisdom?"*