

UMMRA INFO

THE UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA, MORRIS RETIREES ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER
VOLUME XI, NUMBER 3, WINTER 2009

NOTE FROM THE UMMRA PRESIDENT



UMMRA

Board:

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L. Anderson
D. Lopez
M.A. Scharf
C. Kemble
B. Erdahl
D. Lammers
Away:
J. Reicosky
Photo:
K. Klinger

Winter has settled in with a vengeance! Personally, I measure the winter by the number of times my neighbor, Chuck Lesmeister, comes to plow me out! As of January 7, he has been here five times – a new record for my 46 years on Wintermute Lake – with three more snow months to go. The Board is pleased with the Web site Andy Lopez has been working on these past months. Andy will present it at our February Business meeting for approval and input. Also ready for member approval is a new mini-grant project UMMRA is funding. Janet Ahern and Laird Barber developed a wonderfully simple format that offers paid members an opportunity for research support. I also want to recognize our Volunteer Coordinators, Bernice Erdahl and Cathy Kemble, for their dedication in encouraging UMMRA members to be a resource in this community. One of their efforts with Evergreen Readers is to find people to read to residents in West Wind Village. Bernice found it difficult to find readers in December. The third time she read that month, an Alzheimer's patient thanked her for the wonderful stories. This was an unexpected response, and Bernice glowed the rest of the day. Please consider reading for a half-hour session several times a year. Bernice (589-9007) or Cathy (795-2290) would love to hear from you. Do it today! Stay warm and hope you can join us on February 19.

Mary Ann Scharf

UMMRA MINI-GRANTS

UMMRA members will vote in February on whether to approve a Board recommendation to award three mini-grants annually of up to \$350 each to support an individual UMMRA member's research or research-connected travel or both. The deadline for 2009-2010 will be August 1, 2009. If approved, explanations about the application process and criteria for the award will be posted on the new UMMRA Web site.

UMMRA WINTER LUNCHEON BUSINESS MEETING

When: Thursday, February 19, 2009, 11:45 a.m.
What: Lowell Rasmussen, Vice Chancellor for Finance and Facilities, will discuss *Energy and Being Green at UMM*. Tour of Biomass Facility follows.
Where: 4th Floor, UMM Food Service, Morris
Food: Go through the food line.
For more information, call Mary Ann Scharf at 589-4688 or write <mscharf@dishmail.net>. Chancellor Johnson has been invited to speak at the April 16 Annual Meeting.

1ST THURSDAY LUNCHEONS & MEETINGS

January 8: Chokio Café in Chokio, 11:30 a.m.
February 5: DS Lageson in Benson, 11:45 a.m.
March 5: T Vincents in Starbuck, 11:45 a.m.
April 2: Forbord's Sustainable Farm south of Starbuck. Lunch served at Forbord home, 11:45 a.m.
April 16: Annual meeting. Ranch House.
April 30: UMMRA Faculty/Staff Reception at LaFave House in Morris.
June 4: Potluck Picnic at East Side Park with Sarah Granger and the Seeing Eye Dog Program
If you would like to car-pool, e-mail Mary Ann Scharf at <mscharf@dishmail.net> or call 589-4688.

LEARNING UNLIMITED 2009 PROGRAMS

Programs at Senior Center, 1 p.m. Phyllis Gausman presides.
January 14: *Minnesota Climate Change in the Next 100 Years*. Associate Professor of Biology Peter Wyckoff.
February 11: *Minnesota Voices: A Cornucopia of Poets*. Athena Kildegaard, Poet and UMM Teaching Specialist.
March 11: *Human Evolution*. Rebecca Dean, Archaeologist and Assistant Professor of Anthropology, and Joseph Beaver, Paleolithic Anthropologist
April 17: *Heritage Days*
May 13: *Childhood Interrupted: City under Siege*. Anne Lauer and Marynel Ryan.

AN UMMRA WEB SITE

Check out the UMMRA Web site being prepared by Andy Lopez at www.morris.umn.edu/ummra. Andy will introduce the site at our February business meeting. Bring your suggestions with you to the meeting.

SAD NEWS

Joe Jesseph fell at his residence in Cambria and died in California on October 18. Joe was director of Counseling at UMM during the 1970s and later counseled in the Morris community

- **Ray Strand** died December 17 at West Wind Village in Morris from complications from Multiple System Atrophy disease. Scientist, lab tech, builder of unique furniture, Ray worked for a time in the UMM Theatre Department. He is the husband of UMM Registrar, Clare Strand.
 - Services were held at Faith Lutheran Church in Morris on August 7 for **Margaret Wirtjes**, who cooked in Food Services from 1967-78.
- Our sympathy to their families.

UMMRA CONTRIBUTORS IN PROFILE

Ernie and Cathy Kemble have designated gifts to the UMM Psychology Endowment “to support research apprenticeships for students to work with psychology faculty.” Ernie and Cathy came to UMM in 1966.

Dwight and Jeanne Purdy have established the Dwight Purdy Graduate School Application Fund, the Dwight Purdy Conferences Fund, and the Dwight Purdy English Award to benefit UMM English students.

BITS AND PIECES

- **Laird Barber** traveled to Crete and Cyprus this fall and will go to Australia in February. In December, he led a Learning Unlimited discussion of Biblical Archaeology.
- **Bernice Erdahl** and Dennis Johnson are pictured in the December 17 Morris *Sun Tribune* at Common Cup, demonstrating techniques used to make lefse.
- **George and Pat Fosgate** celebrated their 50th anniversary. **George** continues to act and **Pat** helps her daughter with Catering by Laurie. Fosgates were in Morris in October as part of the award of the Fosgate Theatre Scholarship. They also traveled to Cancun.
- **Phyllis Gausman**, director, and **Steve Granger**, board member, were featured in the fall 2008 Learning Unlimited community newsletter.
- **Sue Gooch**, master gardener and popular host of UMM’s “Prairie Yard and Garden” show on television, retired after 16 years. A garden party in her honor was held at the West Central Research Gardens on August 21.
- **Steve and Arden Granger** visited several state and county parks in their RV in late summer and fall. Stops included Sibley and St. Croix state parks and Ft. Sisseton.
- **Jim Gremmels** was one of 10 Minnesota electors who participated at the State Capitol in December to cast Minnesota’s electoral votes for Obama and Biden.
- **Chuck Grussing** performed in the UMM production of “Our Town” and sang in the Morris Kiwanis Quartet in several events this fall. A CD by the quartet is available at Sarlette’s Music and Willie’s Super Valu.
- **Helen Kill** appears in photos in the October 29, November 22 and November 29 Morris *Sun Tribune* in her role as president of the VFW Auxiliary.
- **Judy Nord Johnson** is retiring after 24 years as Stevens County Coordinator on Aging.
- **Mike Miller**, Coordinator for the Multi-Ethnic Student Program, retired from UMM in December. A special day honoring his service was held in Oyate on December 10. Mike has been with MSP since 1987.

□ **Dwight and Jeanne Purdy** report from Louisiana in the fall *Profile* that they are gardening, lecturing, editing, reading, and enjoying live music and family gatherings.

□ **Mary Ann Scharf** was re-elected to represent district #5 on the board of the Stevens Soil and Water District.

□ The Stevens County Historical Society is establishing a Hall of Honor in the museum gallery summarizing the life stories of those in whose honor \$5000 has been donated. Included are **Rod Briggs, Thelma Gilbert, Harley Hanke, Jack Imholte, and Lucy Imholte.**

□ **Ray Sibul** appears in the Fall *Profile* with alumni from a 1984 study abroad experience in Kassel, Germany.

□ According to the December 10 Morris *Sun Tribune* “50 Years Ago” column, the Legislative Interim Commission on Higher Education approved a recommendation to establish a college-level branch of the **University of Minnesota at Morris**. Many civic organizations joined in the West Central Educational Development Association’s fundraising drive to support this effort.

These and other fall references are filed in UMMRA Archives.

MEMORY TOURS OF UMM—Dian and Andy Lopez

Getting a call from Jim Olson in June 1970, we came from Michigan to Morris, Minnesota to interview for a position to teach mathematics, teach computer programming and to create a computer center. We stayed at Morris’ most luxurious hotel, the Morris Motel. On a tour of Morris, Jim Olson pointed out the theatre and mentioned that the shows were a bit old – glancing at the marquee, we saw ‘Gone With The Wind’ was playing. Gasoline was \$.25 per gallon.

Since only graduate schools had computers in those days, the job took some vision. A small closet in the Science Building was refitted as the first computer center. An ASR-33 Tele-type was located there along with a chair and a manual for the commands needed to talk with a computer in Chicago. This machine was used by the first programming students to type in their programs and then wait for results. We faced skepticism about computers and their usage on a daily basis.

Pomme de Terre Food Co-op was established in those first years in the basement of Pine Hall. The UMM community plus Morris townfolk would bring containers, take what they needed, and leave money in the moneybox, honor system.

We bought our first home from a UMM faculty member – no real estate agents involved. Milk was delivered to a box on our porch in glass bottles. Memories of snowstorms: kids walking from the snow banks onto the roof of the house. A party at Raymond’s which lasted three days because of a blizzard. Other memories: riding the Amtrak double-decker train from Morris to Montana and then taking a Greyhound Bus up to Canada, parties at 900 Arizona, becoming airplane pilots, driving U cars with no amenities (e.g., air conditioning) because UMM had to accept the lowest bid, eating mushrooms from the science lawn cooked in a faculty office and the many great people who made us feel welcome at UMM and in Morris.