



## UMMRA INFO

### THE UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA, MORRIS RETIREES ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER <<http://www.morris.umn.edu/ummra>> VOLUME XVI, NUMBER 3, WINTER 2014

#### LETTER FROM OUR PRESIDENT

*Happy New Year!*

*You are about to read an outstanding UMMRA Winter 2014 newsletter. As many of you know, Karla Klinger has been our newsletter editor since June 2006 and will be retiring after the spring issue of the UMMRA Newsletter. She has put together a very comprehensive report on the latest news about UMM and several of the significant members of the UMM staff in its early years. They were indeed pioneers in bringing a public liberal arts campus to west central Minnesota.*

*But, do not fear, we have another very talented newsletter editor lined up to take over Karla's position. Judy Riley, a retiree from UMM University Relations fame, will be our newsletter editor starting with the June edition of the UMMRA INFO. Thank you, Karla, for your excellent work and thank you, Judy, for agreeing to serve in this role for the UMMRA Board.*

*My last point in this welcoming message, is that we need VOLUNTEERS to serve on the UMMRA Board. This Spring Joan Reicosky is retiring as Secretary and Judy Riley will be taking over the Historian-Editor position so we will need a new Secretary, Member at Large (to replace Judy) and President Elect for the 2014-15 academic year. In addition to these elected positions, the UMMRA Board has the option to appoint individuals to assist us with activities like Webmaster, Event Coordinator, Database Administrator, Publicity Coordinator, etc. If you are interested in any such assignments, please contact me to discuss your interests.*

*Stay warm. Drive and walk safely. Remember that winter has JUST begun and we have many things to look forward to in 2014.*

*Andy Lopez*

*President 2013-15*

[alopez@morris.umn.edu](mailto:alopez@morris.umn.edu) 320-760-4416

#### UMMRA WINTER LUNCHEON BUSINESS MEETING

**When:** Thursday, February 6, 11:45 a.m.

**Where:** Prairie Inn, Gazebo Room, Morris. Choose from the menu.

**Speakers:** Chamber of Commerce representatives Carolyn Peterson and Rhoda Smith will provide an update on Town Gown Relationships.

April 3: Spring Annual Meeting, Cougar Room, Prairie Inn. Chancellor Johnson will provide an update on development at UMM. 11:45 a.m.

April 24: Annual Reception for Faculty and Staff. LaFave House. 4:00 p.m.-5:30 p.m. Faculty and Staff Recognition Dinner, Oyate, 6:00 p.m.

May 10: UMMRA members assist with UMM graduation (tentative)

June 5: Potluck Picnic, East Side Park, 11:45 a.m. Lowell Rasmussen will update us on the campus facilities, including the bio-mass project, etc.

#### SAD NEWS

Charles Moore Allaben, Jr., 89, father of **Alisande Allaben**, passed away Friday, October 25, in Ithaca, NY. A memorial service is planned for a later date.

**Lisa Daleo**, member of the psychology faculty from 1990-1996, died after a motor vehicle-train crash in Morris on December 11.

**Colleen Frances Frey**, 58, former UMM employee, died on November 30 in the Milan area. Colleen was a blues queen and she played with the band Queen Colleen and the Frey Daddies.

**Richard Friesen**, 80, was employed by **WCROC** for 37 years. He died in Morris on October 17 due to a farm accident. He loved the outdoors.

**Stephen Granger**, 81, died at his home in rural Morris on October 5. Steve was Rod Briggs' first hire in 1960, served as Rod's second in command, and had a major voice in shaping UMM. A celebration of his life was held at the LaFave House on

October 13. He bequeathed his body to the UM Medical School to aid in biomedical device design.

Pearl Marie Kubik, 87, mother of UMM retiree **Ron Kubik**, died on Thursday, November 7, in Iowa with her family at her side.

Elena D. Ripley, mother of UMM retiree **Joyce Amborn**, died at the age of 88, Monday, December 9, 2013, at Pioneer Care in Fergus Falls, Minnesota.

**Donna Scarborough**, 88, formerly of the Health Services Staff, died in St. Paul on November 5 after a brief illness. After her husband Bill's death, she moved to Hudson, WI, where she became an active and beloved volunteer.

**W. Donald Spring**, 88, one of the 13 original UMM faculty members, died in North Oaks, MN on October 1. He chaired the Division of Humanities for many years and played pivotal roles in the development of the college.

**Gertrude "Trudy" Strinden** of rural Pelican Rapids, 88, died on October 16 in Arden Hills. She held a position in food management and teaching with WCSA from 1947-1952 and later was an administrator in the UMTC College of Home Economics.

*Our sympathy to their families.*

#### **BITS AND PIECES**

□ **Carol Backman**, Student Personnel Worker in Financial Aid, retired on December 13<sup>th</sup> after 14 years of service. An informal reception was held in 130 Behmler Hall on December 12<sup>th</sup>.

□ **Roger Boleman**, Director of Instructional and Media Technologies, will retire from UMM on January 3, 2014. Roger has been with UMM since 1966. A retirement recognition will be held January 31 from 2:30-4:30.

□ In fall, **Laird Barber** toured Spain, Portugal and Gibraltar by ship. He was awed by the architecture of Antoni Gaudi in Barcelona, now world heritage sites.

□ **Katherine Benson** recently returned from a family and cultural visit to Denver, Colorado. She attended performances in Denver's new performance hall, saw the premier of a play, and particularly enjoyed St. Marten's Chamber Choir program of Old World and New 16<sup>th</sup> Century Music.

□ "Reflections on **Lisa Daleo**," a tribute in the December 21 *Morris Sun Tribune* from UMM graduate Tom Hiatt, characterizes her service, her beauty and her free spirit.

□ The third *Celebration of Scholarly Accomplishments* opened on November 6 in Oyate, featuring the research and creative work of over 40 UMM staff and faculty including UMMRA members **George Fosgate, Ernest Kemble, Eric Klinger, and David C.**

**Johnson**. See posters of all participants' work at: <http://www.morris.umn.edu/grants/accomplishments/posters/>.

□ **George Fosgate**, Professor Emeritus of Theatre Arts, and his wife, **Pat**, are featured in the *Report on Giving 2013* by the Office of External Relations. Their gift created and supports the Fosgate Theatre Scholarship.

□ On October 26<sup>th</sup>, the Stevens County History Museum staff presented documentaries on the lives of **Rod Briggs** and **John Scharf** and six others as part of their *Men and Women of the Land Hall of Honor Series*. **Helen Briggs, Mary Ann Scharf** and several members of their families were present, as well as friends **Barbara McGinnis, Jim and Pat Tanner, Eric and Karla Klinger** and others. The museum benefits from the volunteer contributions of several UMMRA members: **Avis Brandt, Marlys Bundtje, Bernice Erdahl, Joanne Hagstrom, Gail Hockert, Shirley Kleespie, Ardath Larson, and Barb Valnes**.

□ **Ken and Linda Hodgson** are leading hymn sings in Morris area churches on December 15, January 12, and Feb 9 at 2:00 p.m.

□ The celebration of **Steve Granger's** life in October and the dedication of the Ed and Helen Jane Morrison Gallery brought back to campus many town and gown members who contributed significantly to the establishment of the college in the late 1950s and '60s. Among those UMMRA members who signed Arden's guest book at the Granger event are: **Dave Aronson, Laird Barber, Helen Briggs, Fred Farrell, Nat Hart, Irene Henjum, Jody Huntley, David C. Johnson, Pat Kahng, Ernie and Cathy Kemble, Craig Kissock, Eric and Karla Klinger, Maggie Larson, Roger and Carol McCannon, Tom Mahoney, Jim and Nancy Olson, Ellen Ordway, Lynn Schulz, Bill Stewart, Ruth Thielke, Jim Togeas, Bonnie and Tip Tipcke, Martha Williams**.

□ **Carole and Dennis Johnson** catered the main course of the UMMRA Holiday party held December 5 at the Senior Center. Profits from the dinner were donated to the Stevens County Food Shelf. Johnsons also chaired First Lutheran's annual Norwegian dinner in November and were featured in a Pioneer Public TV special, *Scandinavian Christmas Traditions*. Last October they pursued their interest in sustainable food systems with a U of MN agriculture alumni group in Italy and Normandy.

□ **Barbara McGinnis** totaled her car December 5 on icy roads just east of Benson. She was not seriously injured but is still sore, recuperating in Morris under the care of her daughter, Mara. She plans to leave January 3 to spend the winter months in California.

□ In fall, **Jenny Nellis** participated in a 3-week tour of Turkey sponsored by Overseas Adventure Tours. She spent 7 days in Istanbul, 4 nights on a small yacht along the Aegean coast, an overnight with a farm family, visited museums, explored ruins, had her first balloon ride, and had political and cultural discussions with English speaking guides, her hosts, and fellow travelers.

□ **Joan and Don Reicosky** will spend 10 days in Costa Rica in winter in conjunction with professional talks Don is giving.

□ **Judy Riley's** December "Sunspots" article in the *Morris Sun Tribune* features **Bonnie and Tip Tipcke** and their tradition of decorating their Victorian home each Christmas with 24 Christmas trees.

□ Other retirees who visited UMM this fall are **Bert and Janet Ahern**, who attended the awards banquet at Homecoming, and **Anne Uehling** who attended UMM's largest Scholarship Jubilee on November 16.

### IN MEMORIAM

*Ed: The UMM campus has benefited from having a few of the "first 13" faculty among us to guide us through a good portion of our first 50 years. This past October, within days of each other, UMM lost both Steve Granger and Don Spring, two members of that group. The summaries that follow suggest a few of their contributions.*

**Stephen Granger** (1932-2013) was Rod Briggs' first hire. Serving as Briggs' counselor and second-in-command, he helped shape the new college as a major voice in institutional decision-making. He played a key role in developing UMM's Minority Student Program and was particularly interested in institutional research, publishing numerous institutional studies. He is credited with mentoring a generation of UMM staff from all levels of the administration, including chancellors. During his 34 years at UMM, he served as Director of Counseling, Assistant Provost, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, and Special Assistant to the Dean. He also taught *Psychology of Individual Differences* for many years. Steve loved every aspect of UMM from processing the initial students as the first counselor to watching over the construction of the earliest new buildings to the expansion of UMM's programs and activities and especially meeting and, with his wife, Arden, entertaining new faculty and staff members. He was a hunter, traveler, reader, pilot, outdoorsman and host. In retirement, he frequently volunteered for projects: writing grant applications, consulting, advising committees. In collaboration with his

daughter, Susan, his research and writing about the physical plant paved the way for the core of the UMM campus to be listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2003. In 2010 Steve received the University of Minnesota Outstanding Service Award for exceptional commitment and service to the University.

*Excerpts taken from the program for A Celebration of Life.*

**W. Donald Spring** (1925-2013) played an important role in the start and continuation of the UMM Campus. He was chairman (now known as the chair) of the Division of Humanities for eighteen years until about 1982. He continued to teach in the Division until his retirement from UMM in 1995. The importance of the division chairs' meetings is indicated by one staff member's remark that the division chairs are "where it's at." Within the Division, Don taught several courses—including Shakespeare, Emily Dickinson, Chaucer, and the History of the English Language, a course which he conceived and taught to hundreds of students, most significantly to those preparing to teach in the secondary schools. Accounts agree that he was and outstanding teacher. As an administrator, he never failed to keep track of the many elements of divisional life. He set precedents in how internal matters could best be dealt with—colleagues' responsibilities, teaching assignments, and tenure and promotional reviews. The time required for fulfilling all these tasks probably prevented him from completing his own Ph.D.—a circumstance which can be regarded as a sacrifice for the good of the Division of Humanities and UMM.

*Guest contribution by Laird Barber, Professor Emeritus of English*

### UMM IN THE NEWS

Accolades: UMM receives more accolades each year. One of the most recent is the June 2013 Midwestern Higher Education Compact rating UMM as "the most effective and efficient" of Minnesota's four year schools, based in part on the six year graduation rate. Recent national rankings are posted on a new UMM web-site: <[www.morris.umn.edu/about/rankings](http://www.morris.umn.edu/about/rankings)>.

You will find ratings from *U.S. News and World Report*, *Washington Monthly*, *Winds of Change*, *Sierra Club*, *Forbes*, *Princeton Review* and *Kiplinger's Personal Finance*. Cost, financial aid availability, sustainability, and value are four of the areas in which UMM excels.

## **HISTORY TOURS OF UMM by Fred Peterson**

Ed's note: Fred Peterson, Professor Emeritus of Studio Art hired in 1961, was no longer at UMM in 2010 for the 50th anniversary interviews. In a recent visit, I asked him for his memories of the early 1960's. In addition to sending a small 1962 directory of faculty, staff and students for our UMMRA Office, he sent these memories.

In the spring of 1961, when I was completing my degree at the University of Minnesota, Rod Briggs interviewed me for a position at UMM to initiate the art history and studio art disciplines. He offered an exciting opportunity to begin and build a liberal arts college of the University in a rural area of the state. During those first years at Morris, faculty and staff were united to accomplish that one task, believing each emerging discipline to be one part of the whole.

A variety of long term projects and short term tasks greeted faculty every day. A list for art history and studio art would include creating a slide collection (photo-copying from illustrated books - developing film, binding and labeling and cataloguing slides), drawing plans for studio furniture and visiting Stillwater prison where inmates built easels, sculpture benches, and drawing horses, print photographs of works of art for students' review, order books and materials for the book store inventory, and, of course, prepare lectures for art history classes and create visual examples for guiding students in the basic studio course, and begin a collection of art history resources in the library. I joked that if I taught mathematics, I would need only a blackboard and pieces of chalk. I needed much more including studio sinks.

In 1962, Lois Hodgell joined the faculty to teach studio art. By 1964 Bruce McGrew was hired as a part-time instructor in studio art. His charisma generated enough energy for a full time position. I had colleagues! The identity of a discipline among the others was developing.

Secretarial assistance in this pre-computer era was limited to typing requisitions and invitations to artists to exhibit their work in the first UMM art gallery - the narrow corridor on the east side of what was then Edson Hall. I made at least fifteen trips a year to pick up and return works that were exhibited on campus. Some days were so windy, I could not carry large paintings from the Humanities building to Edson. The prairie winters ruled.

Everyone was multi-tasking. I was chair of the convocations committee for five years operating with a budget of \$500.00. I became a Danforth Associate for the campus, charged to create an informal

inter-disciplinary discussion group of students. While acting as a member of other committees, I became chair of the Continuing Education and Extension committee. The All-University Senate membership involved more drives to the "main" campus.

Student enrollment in 1961 was about four hundred and fifty. Only a few students were from the Twin Cities. Most came from the eight county area around Morris. They were intelligent, eager to learn, and grateful that the university was there for them to be the first in their family to earn a college degree. From 1965 to 1973, four students who graduated with an art history major went on to earn the doctorate in the field at Pennsylvania State University. Each continued to fulfill significant positions in the profession. Early on I learned that nurturing students had a generational impact that contributed to the vitality of the culture of our nation. The campus at Morris was beginning to have an impact beyond the prairie.

During the sixties the town and gown relationship developed as we became adjusted to being in a rural, agricultural community while the residents of Morris began to enroll in evening courses offered through the UMM Continuing Education and Extension office. Studio art offerings were popular from the beginning. Through this kind of interchange, we on campus eventually learned that there were deep rooted traditions in "out-state" Minnesota and we were becoming a part of that culture. Through periods of retrenchment and reallocation, we successfully created a quality, affordable liberal arts college on the prairie. As folks say in Minnesota, "Heck-of-a-deal!"

## **Choosing white elephants at our holiday party**



Photo by Judy Riley

***We wish you a Happy and Healthy 2014!***