



UMMRA Info

A quarterly publication of the University of Minnesota, Morris Retirees' Association
<http://www.morris.umn.edu/ummra>

Volume XVII, Number 11

Winter 2017

Happy New Year to all! I hope it brings happiness and good health to each of you.

We did not meet in November, and in December the Board met at 4 p.m. at Grandstay Hotel. Following the meeting we enjoyed a Christmas Party with 20 people in attendance. Hors d'oeuvres were aplenty, as was our now annual collection of goods and money for the Stevens County Food Shelf.

A couple of items of business follow: The results of the questionnaire that the Board sent to all members has been tabulated, with an excellent return rate of about 50 percent! A report will be issued at the quarterly meeting to be held at LaFave House on February 2 (this will be a potluck luncheon). Beginning time is 11:45 a.m. with the luncheon and the quarterly meeting to follow. PLEASE try to attend this meeting! There are a few changes based on the results of the questionnaire and your vote is needed! The Board has approved these changes, but your vote is required as some of these changes will involve the Constitution of UMMRA.

We are also still in need of a president elect and secretary! Could this be YOU???

Hope to see you on February 2!

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.

Thursday, Jan. 19, 7:30 p.m. HFA Recital Hall
O. Truman Driggs Distinguished Lecture: *The Walls Go Up, A History of the First Global Migration Crisis*. Erika Lee, director of the Immigration History Research Center and the Rudolph J. Vecoli Chair in Immigration History, University of Minnesota, Twin Cities

Thursday, Jan. 26, 7 p.m., Imholte Hall 109 – Lecture on the symbolism of winter by Daniel Chartier, professor, University of Quebec at Montreal. In conjunction with French Club's Winter Festival.

Jan. 27 – 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. Governor Dayton's 2017 Water Summit

Feb. 2, 11:45 a.m. LaFave House UMMRA quarterly meeting

Sunday, Feb. 26, 3 p.m. HFA Recital Hall Symphonic Winds Concert

Monday, Feb. 27, 7:30 p.m. HFA Recital Hall Chamber Orchestra Home Concert

Friday, March 3, 7:30 p.m. HFA Recital Hall Concert Choir/U Choir Combined Concert

March 13 - 17 – Spring break on campus

March 27 - World Touch Cultural Heritage Week begins

May 4, 5 p.m. Retiree Recognition Celebration, Morris American Legion

FACULTY AND STAFF NEWS

Ken and Linda Hodgson received the Pay It Forward Stevens County award in October for their volunteer work in music and other areas for the Morris community.

Brad Gibson will oversee the areas of carpentry, painting, grounds and fleet management. Brad has worked in the paint shop and prior to that, in the carpentry shop and grounds. Brad has a BA in Fine Arts from the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities and has graduate coursework at Augsburg College. He was a contractor before joining UMM in 1999.

Troy Ostby began his career at Morris as a student worker and part time assistant football coach. In

2008, Troy was hired first as a part time, then moved to full-time painter. Troy will oversee the areas of Custodial, Recycling & Compositing, and the Post Office.

Dean Olsen has been named health and safety professional. Dean is a Certified Safety Professional (CSP) with 22 years of previous work experience as the safety and health coordinator for the Osseo Area Schools, District 279.

Congratulations to recent and soon-to-be retirees **Rose Murphy** (Sept. 30, 2016), **Elizabeth Spohr** (Oct. 3, 2016), **Diane Schmidgall** (Nov. 7, 2016), **Wendell Erdman** (Feb. 1, 2017), **Ron Rosen** (Feb. 3, 2017).

Fred and Luisa Farrell spent Christmas and New Years holidays in Peru as they did last year.

Liz Spohr helped to make 200 kits filled with school supplies to donate to Lutheran World Relief. She traveled to Tanzania October 18 to November 2.

Donna Chollett traveled to Galapagos Islands, the Ecuadoran Amazon Rainforest, Spain and Morocco during October-November 2016.

Eric and Karla Klinger moved to Portland, Ore., in mid-September.

Michael O'Reilly and Marie O'Reilly visited family in Ireland and England in October.

Ferolyn Angell traveled to England, Sweden and Norway in Summer 2016. She has filmed dancers in HFA Black Box Theatre for a film dealing with long-term effects of the Holocaust.

Lowell Rasmussen is living in Brandon, Vermont.

Lois Norby writes: "I turned 90 years of age in March 2016. My family had a big birthday celebration for me. I'm doing great; play lots of bridge and my health is good."

Jonathan Anderson, maintenance carpenter, was named 2016 Firefighter of the Year. The honor acknowledges "performance beyond normal duties, appreciation of the work, having a positive impact, and being an all-around good person." Anderson has been a member of the Morris Fire Department for nine years and currently serves as ladder captain.

SAD NEWS

Former publisher of the *Morris Sun Tribune* and *Hancock Record* Edward J. Morrison, 96, died Wednesday, Jan. 4 at his home in Scottsdale, Ariz.



Ed and Helen Jane owned the *Sun and Tribune* and *Hancock Record* for many years before the newspaper was sold in 1999 to the Forum Communications Company of Fargo, N.D. The *Morris Tribune* had been owned by the Morrison family since 1898. The family had owned the *Morris Sun* since 1947.

Morrison was a founder and former president of the West Central Educational Development Association, an organization which provided vital support to the Morris Campus in its earliest years. Wife Helen Jane joined him in his efforts to secure the campus, and additionally served as organizer of Morris's very first concert series, leading eventually to the founding of today's performing arts series. They contributed generously to scholarships over a long period, in addition to their gifts for the renovation and endowment of the art gallery that bears their name.

KUDOS

Elijah Mayfield '09 is listed among *Forbes* magazine's 30 Under 30 (Education 2017). At 27, Elijah is vice president of New Technologies for Turnitin. Out to improve student writing skills using machine learning, language processing and intelligent tutoring algorithms. Mayfield sold LightSide Labs, which he cofounded with grants from the Gates Foundation, McGraw Hill and the College Board, to plagiarism-prevention giant Turnitin in 2014. LightSide is helping 250,000 students in about 500 middle and high schools in over 30 states. Mayfield left a Carnegie-Mellon Ph.D. program to found LightSide in 2013. He was awarded a 2013 IBM Ph.D. Fellowship, and is an author/co-author on more than 25 peer-reviewed publications on language technologies and human-computer interaction. He holds a master of arts from Carnegie Mellon University and a bachelor of arts in science from UMM.

Morris has been named to *Kiplinger's Personal Finance's* list of the Top 300 Best College Values of 2017. This is the ninth consecutive year in which the campus has been included on the public colleges list, which acknowledges academic quality and affordability.

A 10-passenger van has been added to UMM's fleet. Rental rates are: \$55/day and \$.56/mile. Reserve it here: <http://www.morris.umn.edu/facilities/transportation/reserve/>

Michelle Behr named new chancellor

Melissa Vangness, University Relations



Michelle Behr, Ph.D., has been named the sixth chancellor of the University of Minnesota, Morris effective February 6, 2017.

“I am thrilled that we are able to attract a leader of Michelle’s caliber,” said University of Minnesota President Eric Kaler. “Michelle’s broad experience in the liberal arts, deep commitment to students and engagement in the broader higher education community make her an ideal person to lead the Morris campus.”

Dr. Behr is currently the provost, senior vice president for Academic Affairs, and dean of the College at Birmingham-Southern College (BSC) in Birmingham, Ala. Prior to her arrival at BSC, she served in various roles—as a faculty member, department chair, university assessment coordinator, and college dean at several public institutions of higher education.

“It is a great privilege to have been selected as Morris’ next chancellor. I am committed to its mission as a public liberal arts college and as I immerse myself in the campus and its culture, I expect my passion for the university will only deepen. I am excited to collaborate with the university community and friends to further the great work already taking place at Morris and

together ensure a vibrant future for UMM,” said Behr.

Dr. Behr earned her baccalaureate degree in anthropology with honors from the University of California, Santa Cruz, and her master’s and doctoral degrees from Arizona State University in anthropology and geography, respectively. She is a three-time Fulbright Scholar and was selected an American Council on Education Fellow in 2005-2006.

Dr. Behr succeeds Jacqueline R. Johnson, who retires after more than 10 years at Morris.

Town Hall Water Summit

Governor Mark Dayton and Lt. Governor Tina Smith will host a Town Hall Water Summit on the campus of the University of Minnesota, Morris. The Summit will bring together local government leaders, farmers, students, environmental groups, and businesses, to focus on water challenges and solutions in Greater Minnesota.

“Communities in Greater Minnesota face special challenges to ensure that their citizens have access to clean water for drinking, washing, agriculture, business, and recreation,” said Governor Dayton. *“These challenges are everyone’s responsibility, and everyone’s opportunity. I invite all Minnesotans to join us in seeking solutions, at the Town Hall Water Summit in Morris.”*

“I am pleased that Governor Dayton has selected the University of Minnesota, Morris as the location for this year’s water summit,” said Chancellor Jacqueline R. Johnson. *“Powered by the wind and sun and fueled by local biomass, the campus is nationally recognized as a leader in environmental innovation. Summit participants will not only contribute to a vitally important conversation, they will also have the opportunity to experience a campus that is a model for sustainable living.”*

Register for Governor Dayton’s Town Hall Water Summit at the University of Minnesota, Morris **here:**

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/governor-daytons-town-hall-water-summit-tickets-30934148872>

Register to participate via a satellite viewing location **here**

<http://z.umn.edu/umnsatellitewatersummit>

UMMRA QUESTIONNAIRE SUMMARY

Number of questionnaires sent: approx 100
Number of questionnaires returned: 50
Numbers below represent those who responded in each category. Not all members provided a response in all categories.

STRUCTURE OF UMMRA OK:

Yes	13
Sometimes	5
No	0

FREQUENCY/TIME OF MEETINGS:

Quarterly	7
Monthly	5
Annual	1 (1/2 day event)
Bi-monthly	2
Once a semester	1
Bi-annual	1

Other: don't like time (1) Wednesdays at noon (1) early evening (1) happy hour (1)

REASONS TO BELONG:

**Reflects reasons other than those included on questionnaire*

Newsletter	26
Stay connected	23
Benefits/Discount	23 (16-benefits; 7-discount)
Parking Permit	16
Social	8
*See old friends	1
*Library privileges	1

DUES AMOUNT OK:

Yes	18
No	1

SPENDING:

Newsletter	18
Scholarships	10
*1-increase scholarships to \$500	
Grants	4
Other	10

Suggestions include: PRCA (1), campus orgs for specific projects (1)

GENERAL COMMENTS (not included above):

Less board members	
Continue giving to scholarship fund	1
No meeting minutes online since early 2015	1
Like newsletter annual report and notices	1
Many respondents indicated they live out of town	
No meeting	1
Report and notices	1



Campus beauty in the bleak mid-winter

Photos by Hailey LaMont

BOOKSTORE DISCOUNT: *UMMRA members receive a 10% discount at the University of Minnesota, Morris bookstore location **with an UMMRA membership card**. This discount is good on apparel, insignia gift items, general books and supplies. The bookstore discount **excludes** textbooks, computer hardware and software, graduation items, class rings, medical reference books and medical supplies. Savings are not valid in combination with other coupon or membership offers.*

For questions, comments or information about this publication, contact:

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