



UMMRA INFO

THE UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA, MORRIS RETIREES ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER
VOLUME X, NUMBER 2, FALL, 2007

GREETINGS FROM THE CHANCELLOR

As we begin another school year, I am reminded daily of UMM's unique features. As a public liberal arts institution, we provide the kind of quality living and learning environment that is typically reserved for our private counterparts. We are quickly assuming a national leadership role in our efforts to develop a sustainable community and in our groundbreaking work related to the environment. We provide an education for a diverse group of undergraduate students, who are more engaged in community building and civic enterprises than any group of students I have encountered elsewhere.

I treasure the opportunities to interact with them, with our alumni, and, of course, with all of you—UMM's retirees. Your dedication to UMM is present in the legacy you have left us, which we will continue to work hard to live up to in the years ahead.

I know how busy you all are, even in retirement, but I do hope you will find time to stop by campus this fall. Attend a lecture, a cultural or a sporting event. Stop by the art gallery--it currently hosts an impressive exhibit. If you haven't been in Imholte Hall since its remodeling, it is well worth the trip. Check out the biomass plant site. Our fall sports are fully underway; and the campus is at its most beautiful right now.

I have greatly enjoyed the chance to get to know many of you during the past year and to learn of the role you played in shaping UMM's future. My best wishes for a wonderful fall.

Jacquie

DATES TO REMEMBER

1ST THURSDAY CASUAL LUNCHEONS

September 6: Marty Kroening's farm, rural Morris, noon potluck

October 4: John O's Dinner Theatre in Brooten (off MN Hwy. 55), 11:45 a.m., \$8 buffet. Tour Glacial Woods Products after lunch with Harold Fahl.

November 1: Valentino's in Montevideo, 11:45 a.m.

December 6: Cozy Café in Cyrus, 11:45 a.m.

January 3: Buddy's in Hancock, 11:45 a.m.

If you would like to attend or to car-pool for the October event, call Janet Ahern at 589-2474 or e-mail <ahernjt@morris.umn.edu>. For other months, call Mary Ann Scharf at 589-4688 or e-mail <mscharf@hometownsolutions.net>.

UMM HOMECOMING

Friday, September 28: Distinguished Alumni Award Banquet, University Room, 6:00 p.m.

Saturday, September 29: UMMAA post-game reception, LaFave House, 4:00 p.m.

LEARNING UNLIMITED PROGRAMS

Morris Senior Center, 1:00 p.m. Call 589-4394, ext. 7.

Wednesday, September 12: National Issues Forum 2: *Crime and Punishment . . . And Justice for All.*

Wednesday, October 10: Update on *Design Morris*. David Fluegel and Carolyn Peterson.

Wednesday, November 14: National Issues Forum 3: Inter-generational Forum with Morris 9th graders on *Environment and Global Warming*.

Wednesday, December 12: *The Bible as Literature*. Laird Barber, Professor Emeritus of English

Wednesday, January 9: National Issues Forum 1: *The Farm Bill and its Effects on Families*.

SAD NEWS

□ **Harold Classen**, husband of Leona Classen, former Associate Professor in Education, died on July 20 at the VA in St. Cloud from complications from war injuries.

□ **Arden Heins**, UMM employee since 1973 and recently Science Custodian, died August 3.

□ **Hertha Schlefer Roshal**, widow of former Professor of Biology Jay Roshal, died in Virginia on Jay's birthday, August 27. A memorial service will be held in her home on October 7. Contact Barbara McGinnis, 589-1326, for details.

□ Our sympathy to their families and friends.

UMMRA FALL LUNCHEON BUSINESS MEETING

When: Thursday, October 18, 2007, 11:45 a.m.

Where: Stevens County Historical Museum

What: Tina Didreckson will discuss the Morris Theatre Project

Food: Lunch will be catered. Pay \$7 at the door.

To make a lunch reservation, contact Mary Ann Scharf at <mscharf@hometownsolutions.net> or call her at 589-4688 by October 15. The February 21 meeting will feature Eagan Heath, UMM student body president. Chancellor Johnson has been invited to speak at the April 24 meeting.

PRESIDENT'S NOTE

The new UMMRA Board is an enthusiastic group. See the plans for the year in this newsletter and try to join us for a luncheon, quarterly meeting or event in 2007-08!

Our First Thursday late summer picnic was held at Marty Kroening's lovely farm site, attended by many UMMRA members. I loved the cozy niches for reading/relaxing.

The RFC UMMRA memberships are in transition. You will receive a letter by the end of October about whether a subsidy for RFC membership will be available beginning in 2008. Call Mary Zosel at 589-6022 for information.

Dolores Lammers called to say that a proposal from UMRA/TC for enhanced recognition of retirees is going to the University Senate this fall. Check out the proposal at www.umn.edu/umra.

Volunteers are still needed to read to residents of West Wind Village. Call Cathy Kemble at 795-2474 or Bernice Erdahl at 589-9007. I just began doing it and the interchange is fascinating. Mary Ann

A COURSE TO CONSIDER

“Church Tours: Architecture and History”

Laird Barber, Professor

October 8 and 15 (3:00 to 5:00 p.m.) and

October 22 (12:30-5:30 p.m.)

Sponsored by UMM Lifelong Learning and
Community Education District 206 in Alexandria. \$20.

Call Karen Cusey at (320)-589-6461.

BITS AND PIECES

□ **Vern Chandler** is pictured in the summer *Profile* with Gary McGrath, former VC for Student Affairs, at a February UMM Alumni gathering in Arizona.

□ **Laird Barber, C.F. Farrell, Mimi Frenier, Phyllis Gausman, Steve Granger and Karla Klinger** are UMM retirees on the Learning Unlimited Board.

□ **Harley Hanke** won the Stevens County Fair's grand prize drawing in August for a trip to Hawaii.

□ Former Chancellor **Dave Johnson** had surgery in August at Abbott Northwestern Hospital to repair a leaky mitral valve in his heart. After hospitalization and some days in rehab, he's home and will be recovering there for a month or two. He's reachable by email at <johnsond@umn.edu>.

□ The August 25 “40 Years Ago” column in the *Morris Sun Tribune* mentions that then-Dean Rod Briggs had named **John Imholte** an Assistant Dean. In the 60's, this was a rough equivalent to the current Dean and Vice-Chancellor for Academic Affairs.

□ **Ardath Larson** was recognized by Stevens County for contributing over 400 hours of volunteer time to non-profit organizations affiliated with the Retired and Senior Volunteers Program during 2006-2007.

□ The July 25 “25 Years Ago” column reports that **Mary Ann Scharf** was elected chair of the Morris School Board. **Lois Burnes** was clerk. This was the first time two women served on the school board at the same time or served as officers.

□ **Ruth Thielke** is back from Montana where she interviewed Bridget Volden for a book she is writing about Bridget's life. Bridget started and ran a large mission for Native Americans in downtown Minneapolis for ten years. Her father-in-law, Ed Volden, taught at the West Central Ag School.

□ **Ida Stewart** has resumed work on her dissertation in Critical Pedagogy at the U of St. Thomas after treatment for retinopathy.

These and other fall references are filed in UMMRA Archives.

MEMORY TOURS OF UMM—JOOINN LEE

When I arrived at UMM in 1961 to teach Political Science, the student population had grown from 230 to 460 and the number of faculty from the original 13 to 33. A small group of students from the Agricultural High school were still completing their high school diplomas. The dining room was in what is now Behmler Hall. Freshmen wore beanies. We were a close-knit community of students and faculty. I burned the midnight oil to complete my doctoral dissertation. Students came by with questions in the wee hours of the morning. Others rode around the campus mall late at night making raucous noise--unthinkable nowadays.

Many of our social events and official functions were held at the Pomme de Terre Country Club, which burned down in December, 1983. I noticed at faculty family gatherings that virtually every faculty spouse was pregnant, symptomatic of a young institution with young faculty. I think it snowed more and was much colder. One year, I walked to campus when it was 21 degrees below zero. When I got to my office, my cheeks were burning and smarting. I learned about frost bite the hard way. I remember one March blizzard with 70 mile whipping winds and an 83 below zero wind chill. One year, the houses around Crystal Lake were buried under snow. People made snow tunnels to get out of their front doors. To my disbelief, two earthquakes occurred, one of them putting a crack in my office wall.

Morris had two major hotels (all shortly demolished) where many UMM faculty and students were housed--the Merchants Hotel on 6th and Atlantic and the La Grand Hotel, across the railroad tracks. The other faculty bachelors and I got around to the Morris restaurants--the Del Monico on Atlantic, Shorty's next to the Morris Theatre--and the steak house in Clontarf, the best in western MN. I fondly recollect those Good Old Days.