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MORRISALUMNEWS

University of Minnesota, Morris Alumni Association

Vol. 14, No. 4, Summer, 1978

Pomp, ceremony mark institution's 15th Commencement June 8 as 230 graduates receive baccalaureate degrees

Approximately 230 baccalaureate degrees were conferred in UMM's 15th annual Commencement June 8 which saw two faculty members taking part for the last time before retirement, retired English and theatre faculty member Ted Long returning to share the evening with former colleagues and Academic Dean Gordon Bopp participating prior to leaving June 30 for a vice presidency at Eastern New Mexico University.

Graduating speaker Mark Williamson of Appleton, chosen class speaker by classmates and faculty and recipient of both the Curtis H. Larson and Allen W. Edson Awards, traced the role of the college in the evolution of students' lives. "Darwin said animals adapt to their environment," he observed, "...and as a result, change over time. We, too, have changed to adapt to the environment at UMM, and are

different because we have been here."

Faculty speaker Mariam Frenier of history examined the changing role of academe. "In the university," she charged, "we see an institution with a long history of the exclusion of people—people with talent and character—because they happened to be born wrong: born poor, or born
(Continued page 2)



SIGHTS OF UMM'S 15TH COMMENCEMENT, JUNE 8—Old faces, new faces and familiar scenes marked this year's graduation ceremonies. This montage shows some of those sights. From left [above] retiring faculty members Bernice Lund [with mace] and Faculty Marshal Ralph Williams behind her, Senior speaker Mark Williamson, recipient of both Allen W. Edson and Curtis H. Larson Awards, with Provost Imholte, and retired faculty member Ted Long of Park Rapids [center of photo]. Bottom row shows Mary Martelle Award winner Pearl Johnson receiving award from Ken Martelle, faculty procession and student winner Bob Pratt.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

The campus is void of students—most everyone has headed home for their three months of summer vacation after Commencement on June 8. This year we had two faculty members retire after several years of service to UMM—Bernice Lund from math and Ralph Williams of music. The second annual Mary Martelle Award was presented to former Alumni Office Secretary Pearl Johnson (now of Placement) and student Bob Pratt of Minneapolis. Congratulations to them both! Just a word on the athletic success at UMM this spring. (As long as I am your president, you **shall** hear about spring sports!) Coach Edlund led his Cougars to third place in the Northern Intercollegiate Conference with a 14-8 conference record. The Cougs were 19-16 overall and were selected to play in the western regional NCAA Division III playoffs. Although they lost two one run ballgames, the first to the national champs, they were pleased to have been there. The men's tennis team, under Jerry Wangsness, garnered a fourth place finish in the NIC tournament. The women's track team closed its season on a positive note, breaking eight school records and qualifying four members for regional competition. The team was coached by Maren Michaelson and Joan Eisenrich. Warren Williams has been our Alumni Association student intern for the past two years and has done an excellent job. He graduated this spring and will be entering the teaching field this fall. A special thank you to you, Warren! Numerous campus committee meetings were held this past year on student recruiting. It seems that the Alumni may be called up for attracting outstanding students in various ways. So, if you have any suggestions as to what we can do to help, please pass them on. In addition to Bernice and Ralph retiring, longtime Academic Dean Gordon Bopp will also be among the missing faces on campus next fall. Gordon resigned, effective June 30, to accept a vice presidency at Eastern New Mexico University in Portales, and we wish him the very best of everything. His eight year tenure at UMM was marked by much hard work, and the advancement of academics generally. The varsity stopped the "old timers" in the annual spring football game recently, and Al Molde is enthused and optimistic that his gridders can extend their 20 game NIC victory streak and winning ways when the season resumes Sept. 9 with the opener in Aberdeen against Northern State. The first home game is Sept. 23 against Dakota State. Homecoming is Oct. 21 against Bemidji State—so mark your calendars now. See you in the fall.

Connie

In Memoriam

Valorie Anderson, 35, ('64) of leukemia in LaCrescent, Minn., where she had been a physical education instructor since 1970. Following her degree from UMM and a year's teaching history in Eagle Bend, she earned another BA in PE from East Carolina College. Survivors include the parents, Dr. and Mrs. M.K. Anderson of Wake Forest, N.C., a son, two brothers and six sisters.

(Continued from page 1)

the wrong religion, the wrong race or the wrong sex."

Mary Martelle Memorial Awards, in honor of the late longtime Student Activities Office secretary, were presented for the second year. Pearl Johnson of the Office of Career Planning and Placement received the Civil Service Award, and Minneapolis junior Bob Pratt, manager of KUMM, was the student recipient.

Provost's Award winners were David Erickson and Monica Schmidt, both of Rochester; Abduhl Ghandi or Sierra Leone; and Thomas Sellnow, Verndale. Brian Bemmels of Fairfax was *Wall Street Journal* Award Winner.

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UMMALUMNOTES

Former Students

David A. Graffunder and wife *Becky* reside in Swepsonville, N.C., where he is a designer and registered land surveyor.

Judy Stoner Sobottka, husband *Thomas* and two sons reside in Tacoma, Wash. where Judy reports "nothing interesting unless you consider striving to be 'Super Mom' interesting" (which we do).

Karen Gahlon Shiman is an executive secretary with *Salomon Brothers* in Chicago. She and her husband, *Richard*, and two sons reside in Wilmette.

Class of 1964

John O. Gilbert received a MBA degree from the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh last December. He and wife *Marilyn* and son *Bradley* live in Appleton, Wisc. where he is Assistant Director - Managerial Reporting and Control for the Aid Association of Lutherans.

Karen Lee Scholtz Harstad is an art teacher for the Kensington and Barrett schools. She, husband *Darrel* and children *Christopher* and *Catherine* moved to a newly purchased 10 acre farmstead this summer.

Edward A. Hennen has been elected to the board of directors and named Cashier of the Independent State Bank of Minnesota in Minneapolis. He and his family reside in Minneapolis.

Gary V. Noehl is program director for the Willmar State Hospital. He, his wife and 18-month-old daughter reside in New London.

Richard A. Schirmer owns and operates *Schirmer's Trading Post* in Alexandria.

Janet Lawler Urbanowicz performed last winter in "A Phoenix Too Many" staged by the Women's Theatre Company of Ames, Iowa. Although she had not acted since her UMM days, Janet conceded that "I never lost sight of it."

Class of 1965

Stanley A. Groff has been appointed to the "Extended Campus Faculty" of Mankato State University. He, wife *Mary* and children reside in Lakeville.

Sharon M. Knutson is a social worker for Stearns County. She, husband *Sam* and children *Nicole Sun Jin* and *Lee Jong Koo* make their home in St. Cloud.

Lynden W. Nelson has been appointed head girls volleyball and head wrestling coach of the newly consolidated *Kerkhoven - Murdock - Sunburg High School*. He and his family reside in Kerkhoven.

David R. Retzlaff is head basketball coach at *Fergus Fall Community College* where he compiled a 40-12 record over the past two seasons.

Class of 1966

Roger Drewicke, holder of the PhD from the University of Minnesota, has been named Handicapped Student Resource Coordinator for the University. His primary responsibility is preparing a report to the federal government regarding handicapped students' access to the University of Minnesota.

Donald Kaddatz is teaching biological sciences and coaching in Mora. he and his wife, the former *Jean Westerman*, and children reside near Mora.

Diane R. Block Knutson is a homemaker in Sauk Centre where she resides with husband *Daniel* and sons *Jeffrey Daniel* and *Jon Michael*.

DuVonne J. Swenson is now a magazine editor for the *Callan Publishing Company* in the Twin Cities.

Class of 1967

Lee A. Boraas is a data processing instructor at the St. Cloud Area Vocational-Technical Institute, and has completed a one year term as president of the Central Minnesota Data Processing Association. The family makes its home in Cold Spring.

James and Joan Stein Herzog are parents of *Matthew James*, born March 8. They have two other children. *Herzog* is an assistant principal at *Owatonna High School*. *Joan* is an SLBP and English teacher at the junior high.

Tessa Mahoney, husband *Dennis* and two sons live in Appleton where she is a substitute teacher.

Robert J. Roers is a middle school instructor in Waseca. He and *Janice* are parents of three sons.

Myrna Anne Itzen Stahman and husband *Bob Stahman* make their home in Boise, Idaho, with daughter *Kayla*. *Myrna* is an assistant attorney general for the Idaho Division of Consumer Protection. *Bob* is an attorney for the Idaho Power Company. The *Stahmans* returned to the United States in October of 1977 after three years with the Army in Germany.

Richard L. Tate is a merchandise manager for *Davidson's Department Store* in Minneapolis. He and wife *Catherine* and son *Matthew* make their home in Bloomington.

James G. Weinman is a math teacher in Elk River. He and his family live near Elk River.

Class of 1968

Thomas L. Aisleben is a quality control engineer for *Wilbrecht Electronics* in St. Paul. The *Aisleben* family makes its home in Hastings.

Loretta J. Seppanen Blahna has been named to the newly created position of Director of Enrollment Management at Lower Columbia College in Longview, Wash. She adds those responsibilities to her other position as Coordinator of Women's Studies. Dr. *Blahna* was selected for the 11th edition of *Who's Who in American Women*.

Gary G. Lickfett heads research and development for a small firm in Danville, Ill. He and wife *Dorothy* and son *Jay Gregory* are living in, and restoring, an 111 year old home in nearby Ridge Farm.

Class of 1969

Mike Benke is teaching in Brandon. He and his wife, the former *Rosemary Maher*, are parents of a son born last January.

Sandra Schulz Hall and husband *Duane* are parents of a son, *Aaron David*, born Feb. 24. *Sandra* plans to return to the elementary classroom in Hutchinson this fall.

Dr. Frederick W. McNelly Jr., Director of Psychological Services for the Children's Development Center in Rockford, Ill., is listed in the current edition of *Who's Who in the Midwest* and has been accepted for professional listing in the National Register of Health Service Providers in Psychology.

Stephen Olson is a librarian at the University of Bergen, Norway.

Dianne Larson Sikkli owns and operates a greenhouse in Iron, Minn. She and husband Ronald are parents of a son and daughter.

Doug and Ardyce Spray reside in Montevideo where both are employed by the schools, he in coaching and as Community Education and Recreation Director and she as a second grade teacher.

Lee Temte has returned to radio station KMRS in Morris as assistant manager and news director.

Class of 1970

Daniel Bjerke is employed by Lutheran Brotherhood in Minneapolis. He and his wife, the former *Debra Haarala*, are parents of a daughter born last February.

Margie Ellen Barz Cooper is vocal music director for the Bird Island schools where she lives with husband Roger.

Douglas and Pamela Klason Dahl reside in Deer Creek. Doug became President of the Security State Bank there last January. The Dahls have a son and a daughter.

Eugene Gjerdingen and wife reside in St. Paul. He is supervisor of data processing at Northwestern College, and recently organized and performed in a tuba quartette called "the Tuba Four." The group composes and arranges its own music.

Gordon J. Haubenschild is a senior associate programmer for IBM in Rochester responsible for performance evaluation of new computer systems. He writes that he and wife Barbara and daughters April Dawn, Amber Rae and Carissa Anne are enjoying life in Rochester.

Al and Mary Silbernack ['72] Schendel are teaching in Prairie City, Iowa. Al's basketball team won its second consecutive conference title last season, and Mary finished her first year of teaching. They have one daughter and two sons.

Class of 1971

Alan C. Colliander and wife Susan and three children live in Hastings where he teaches.

Diane Drewicke and husband James reside near Graceville with their two sons and two daughters.

Polly Croatt Galbraith and husband Roger make their home in St. Paul. Polly has completed her family practice residency and is a physician at a new clinic in Woodbury. Roger is a cost analyst for Sperry Univac.

Don Lifto is a teaching principal in Winona where he resides with his wife and son.

Linda Marzinske is a training specialist with Prudential Insurance in the Twin Cities.

Hazel Mumm, husband Allen and two children reside near Hancock.

Susan Olson, who works for the General College on the University's Twin Cities campus, planned to spend the summer visiting relatives and friends in Norway.

The Rev. *George Sagissor* and wife, the former *Julene Nerenz*, have a new son—their second—born April 4. They live in Finlayson where he a pastor of Peace Lutheran Church.

Christine Spaulding is Head Start Director for Grant, Douglas, Stevens, Pope and Traverse Counties working out of West Central Minnesota Communities Action, Inc. in Elbow Lake. She and husband Robert reside in Hoffman with daughter Gayle.

Bruce and Diane Smith have bought a new home in Brainerd where he teaches and coaches and she is a secretary.

Mike and Jo Tate ('73) are parents of a daughter and a son who was born last November.

Robert Watson is Director of Financial Aid for Saint Mary's College in Winona, and is active in his profession. He has edited publications for the U.S. Office of Education, has served as panelist and chairman for various financial aids meetings and as a committee member or resource person. He was married to the former Jill Callison in December of 1976.

Note: Additional classnotes of graduates from Classes of 1972-78 will appear in next issue.

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