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University of Minnesota, Morris Retirees' Association

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UMMRA INFO

THE UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA, MORRIS RETIREES ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER
VOLUME VII, NUMBER 4, SPRING, 2005

SPRING LUNCHEON/ANNUAL MEETING/REUNION

Wes Gray has made the final plans for the UMMRA spring celebration on Thursday, April 28, 2005. The schedule:

11:45 a.m. Luncheon in the Cougar Room at Prairie Inn followed by the annual meeting that includes election of the 2005-2006 board members. As always, we will order pay-your-own from the menu. Our guest, Chancellor Sam Schuman, will report on the status of UMM; a talk that is always appreciated by the membership.

1:30 p.m. A tour of the home of Jenny Nellis and Charlie Fowler at 403 E. Seventh Street—we will go as a group.

3:30 – 5:00 p.m. Reception at the LaFave House hosted by UMMRA for new retirees, current faculty and staff.

5:30 p.m. Faculty/Staff Recognition Dinner, Oyate Hall, UMM Campus – make reservations with Maggie Larson, 320-589-6053.

7:30 p.m. Public lecture by Dr. Bernice Johnson Reagon, Distinguished Visiting Professor in the Liberal Arts.

ACTION ITEM AT ANNUAL MEETING

The proposed slate for 2005-2006 board members is as follows:

Past President: Jim Gremmels – one year term

President: Janet Ahern – two year term

Secretary/Treasurer: Arden Granger – two year term

Member-at-large: two year term –nominations from the floor
The term of Wes Gray as member-at-large continues for one more year, the Liaison to Twin Cities UMRA (Laird Barber) and Historian/newsletter editor (Dolores Lammers) are appointed by the President. Cathy Kemble and Bernice Erdahl are chairs of the volunteer committee; Avis Brandt is travel coordinator.

Many thanks to Mary Ellen Grossman who has completed her two year term as member-at-large. Good job!

NEW RETIREES

Congratulations and welcome to UMMRA to:

Dwight Purdy, English

Jeanne Purdy, English

Karla Klinger, Advising, CERP

Ruth Thielke, Registrar

COMMENCEMENT 2005

Commencement ceremonies for the 2005 graduates will be held on Saturday, May 14, at 1:30 p.m. Retired faculty are invited to march in the procession; the gathering time is 12:30 p.m. in HFA. If participating, call Maggie Larson, 320-589-6053, so your name can be in the program. Gowns can be ordered from the Bookstore.

T-SHIRTS

There are still about 10 UMMRA maroon and gold tees for sale at \$9 each. They will be on display at the spring luncheon if you're interested. No more can be ordered.

NEW OFFICE LOCATION

The UMMRA office has been moved to the east temporary building south of Pine Hall within the Faculty Center building. The key is on the front desk in the Faculty Center office; their office hours are usually from 8 am to 4 p.m.

ART RAFFLE FOR THE LAFAVE HOUSE

A drawing for the raffle prizes was held at the winter luncheon meeting on February 23. Carla Riley, director of alumni relations at UMM, drew the following names: Lucy Imholte, the Nellis bronze; Jim Carlson, the Flicker pottery; Fred Farrell, the Hodgell print. President Gremmels deserves a big thank you for organizing the raffle and selling the tickets. More than \$1000 was collected and donated to the LaFave House Decorating Fund.

UMRA TWIN CITIES

Ted Litman, the UMRA representative to the Benefits Advisory Committee (Twin Cities), wrote in the February 2005 UMRA newsletter about health benefits for retirees in 2006. He gave pessimistic news about changes in employers' willingness (both public and private) to fund improvements in sharing cost of health premiums. He also expressed apprehension about the impact the new Medicare Prescription Drug Benefit may have on the University health plan. He plans to sit in on the Employee Benefits Committee meetings and will keep retirees informed through the UMRA newsletter. UMM faculty retirees are eligible to join the UMRA organization and thereby receive the newsletter.

SAD NEWS

Kenneth Bolling died on January 31, 2005. He worked at UMM, Buildings and Grounds, for 24 years and retired in 1987. Our sympathy to his wife, Karen; sons Peter, Daniel, and Edward; and daughter, Pamela.

DISTINGUISHED VISITING PROFESSORSHIP

Renowned historian and scholar, Dr. Bernice Johnson Reagon, is the inaugural holder of UMM's first Distinguished Visiting Professorship in the Liberal Arts. Dr. Reagon is scheduled to be at UMM from April 26 through May 5. She will teach courses and work with the UMM choirs, give two public lectures, and present a public performance on May 3 at Assumption Church in Morris. The Distinguished Visiting

Professorship is made possible through a Campaign Minnesota contribution by Bettina Blake and matched by the University of Minnesota's Permanent University Fund. We cannot be surprised by Bettina's generosity in giving this gift to UMM and the people of Morris, as she has been so generous with her time and talents while she has lived among us. Thank you, Bettina.

HISTORY OF UMMRA INFO

The University of Minnesota, Morris Retirees Association newsletter, UMMRA INFO, was created and named by Bettina Blake in the summer of 1998 to be used as an avenue of information to the members. Robinson Abbott designed the logo that tops every copy. The newsletter has been published four times a year with printing being done at UMM Duplicating Services. The summer edition is sent to all University retirees; all four editions (summer, fall, winter, and spring) are sent to paid members, certain members of the Morris community, and also distributed throughout the UMM campus. Bettina Blake wrote and distributed the newsletter until spring of 2000 when Dolores Lammers became Editor/historian. The full board acted as proofreaders (which is vital) until 2003 when Arden Granger added proofreader to her duties as secretary/treasurer. Chancellor Schuman has taken care of the printing and mailing costs. All past copies of the newsletter are in the UMMRA office file cabinet and are a great source for research about the happenings of UMMRA and UMM since 1998. Next fall we'll tackle the history of UMMRA itself.

BITS AND PIECES

--In the winter 2005 M, Marty Kroening was interviewed about Argie Manolis' writing project at West Wind Village. Marty visits the residents and enjoys watching the residents being involved in the project.

--The winter issue of Scan, a publication of the College of St. Catherine in St. Paul, included a picture of Lucy Gibbs Imholte celebrating with her class of 1954.

--Mary Ellen Grossman was pictured in the Morris Sun Tribune accepting a donation from Pamida for the Stevens County Food Shelf.

--Avis Brandt was also pictured in the Morris Sun Tribune with two local young men who attended the Skogfjorden Norwegian Language Camp. Avis is co-president of the Norskfodt Lodge of the Sons of Norway of Morris.

--Mary Ann Scharf was featured with the rest of the Stevens Soil and Water Conservation District board members in the February 23, 2005 SWCD Annual Review published by the Morris Sun Tribune. Included was an article about Scharf's service on the statewide SWCD board.

--St. Francis Health Services of Morris holds a cooking contest each December during their annual meeting at the West Central Research and Outreach Center. The entrants are the administrative staffs of nursing homes for the aged and group homes for the developmentally disabled and mentally ill, that SFHS manages. The contest has a UMM "flavor"—

Twig Webster, a UMM 1972 graduate, Director of Marketing for St. Francis has organized and emceed the events; Dolores Lammers has served as a judge for three years and Aaron Wise, former employee at Food Service, judged for two years. The winner takes home a giant Magic Chef statue (looks somewhat like Luverne Hoffman, CEO of SFHS) that is passed on to the winner of the next year's contest, similar to the traveling Little Brown Jug in football. Since 1984, when the organization was established, many UMM people have served as chairs or members of the boards of St. Francis, and its subsidiaries, West Wind Village and Prairie Community Services. People that come to mind: Evelyn Spring (Donald, English), Wes Gray (WCROC), the late Ralph Lesmeister (Plant Services), Dian Lopez (Science and Math.), Dolores Lammers (Ray, Theatre and Speech), the late Jean Johnson (Chancellor Dave), Ruth Roquette (Bimal, Science and Math.), Arlene Beseman (Business Office), Adele Cotter (James, Science and Math.), Nancy Schuman (Sam, Chancellor). To bring these people up to date, SFHS now manages 8 nursing homes and 70 group homes. They have 1800 employees and 1400 clients (the most vulnerable citizens of our state). Luverne Hoffman and SFHS recently received the 2005 Innovator of the Year award from the Minnesota Health and Housing Association. It is for innovation in living space design in senior housing.

--Ellen Ordway was pictured in the fall issue of Profile with a group of prairie aficionados enjoying a walk through the Stahler Prairie, which was a gift to UMM from Bonnie and the late Judge Tom Stahler.

--In the same publication, Clyde Johnson was pictured with the two students who were awarded the Clyde E. Johnson Music Scholarships for the 2004-2005 school year.

All pictures and articles are kept in the office file.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

I have usually, alas, been caught by Robert Frost's axiom, "Always fall in with what you've been asked." So when asked to be president of UMMRA, I fell in. Whatever messes I have made of the job result from the corollary, "Take what is given, and make it over in your own way." I wish Janet Ahern well as our new president.

Jim Gremmels, President

DATES TO REMEMBER

--April 28, 2005 Spring luncheon/annual meeting/reunion

--April 26-May 5, 2005 Dr. Reagon on UMM campus

--May 14, 2005 Commencement

NOTE FOR TODAY

The wisdom of a 2000 B.C. "cardiologist":

"If we could give every individual the right amount of nourishment and exercise, not too little and not too much, we would have found the safest way to health."

--Hippocrates

