

Fall 2005

UMMRA Info: Volume VIII, Number 2

University of Minnesota, Morris Retirees' Association

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Recommended Citation

University of Minnesota, Morris Retirees' Association, "UMMRA Info: Volume VIII, Number 2" (2005). *UMMRA Info*. 75.
<https://digitalcommons.morris.umn.edu/ummrainfo/75>

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UMMRA



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UMMRA INFO

THE UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA, MORRIS RETIREES ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER
VOLUME VIII, NUMBER 2, FALL, 2005

CHANCELLOR'S GREETING

Greetings to the UMM retirees association as the 2005-06 academic year begins. As many of you know, after this year I, too, will become a UMM retiree. I am looking forward to this final year as there are a number of important projects and initiatives underway here on campus.

The coming year should see the delayed and much anticipated completion of the renovation of the Social Science building, which we will formally rename for Jack Imholte. This is a fitting recognition of Jack's multitude of contributions over a 40 year career at UMM.

Other construction projects will also be starting up this year. The new high school/college shared football field will, we hope, be ready for the UMM Cougars and the MAHS Tigers by the start of the football season next fall. Our exciting experimental bio-mass heating/cooling plant will also be under construction in the coming months. The bio-mass plant is just the latest in a series of alternative energy initiatives being jointly undertaken by the UMM and the West Central Research and Outreach Center. The most visible of these is surely the wind turbine, which now generates over half of all our campus electrical power. UMM has already been recognized as a national leader in the area of alternative energy and additional projects are now being actively discussed. [Since Sam wrote, UMM has been notified that it is a 2005 Green Power Leadership Award winner on on-site generation. The award will be presented October 24 in Austin, Texas.] The University of Minnesota is well embarked on an all-U strategic planning initiative. UMM is a part of that process and our Campus Resources and Planning Committee is serving as a strategic planning task force for our campus. We do not anticipate any significant changes in our historic mission or our core programs, but this should be a good chance to make some important plans and to reaffirm our core values.

Nancy and I want to thank the many retirees, as well as the UMMRA, for all your support and friendship over the past eleven years. I believe this has been a good decade for our college, and a time filled with challenges, rewards, stimulation and growth for me.

Sam

Samuel Schuman, Chancellor

Editor's note: The members of UMMRA who enjoy reading UMMRA INFO need to thank Sam for his financial support of the newsletter. He has subsidized the printing and mailing costs since its start in 1998. Also, he has been very generous in writing a welcome to new retirees each fall. The August 20 issue of the Morris Sun Tribune reports that Chancellor

Schuman has accepted a visiting professorship, a distinguished chair, in the University of New Mexico honor college at Albuquerque.

FALL MEETING

Wes Gray has made arrangements at Prairie Inn for our 2005 fall meeting/luncheon for Wednesday, October 19, at 11.45 a.m. The board decided to move our meetings to the third Wednesday of the month so we don't conflict with the Learning Unlimited meetings that are held on second Wednesdays. Lowell Rasmussen will be our speaker (further information in Bits 'n Pieces and the President's Corner). We will order from the menu and pay-your-own-way. Wes and Aivy Gray are moving to Alexandria this fall as their two sons now live there. We send our good wishes with them in their new townhouse and many, many thanks for their support of UMMRA and for Wes's year as member-at large.

MEMBERSHIP

Arden Granger reports that we have 78 paid members. Dues can still be sent to Arden or be paid at the fall meeting.

HEALTH INSURANCE ISSUES

As always, the UMMRA newsletter (Twin Cities) has an excellent report on retiree Health Benefits and Medicare Part D. The following are gleanings from that report:

- The University will continue to offer its same four medical plans to retirees in 2006, all of which have prescription drug coverage.

- The drug coverage for each of the four plans is better coverage than that offered through Medicare Part D alone in terms of what is covered and the cost.

- More information will be given to retirees from the University of the changes in the plans—Blue Cross/Blue Shield may change slightly.

- University retirees 65 and older will automatically be enrolled in Medicare Part D as a member of any of the University's medical plans. They will not need to do anything to enroll.

- Medicare estimates that the monthly premium will be around \$32 a month for Part D.

Health Partners 65Plus has been added to the coverage in all Minnesota counties which is a change for Stevens and Pope residents. This information is on page 3 of the September, 2005 newsletter from the University of MN Employees Benefits Office. Meetings for retirees about these changes have been scheduled on the Duluth and Twin Cities campuses, but not in Morris.

HOMECOMING/JOHN IMHOLTE DEDICATION

UMM Homecoming (Viva Las Morris!) is scheduled for October 21-23. A full schedule is available from the UMM Alumni Association Office, 123 HFA. Three events that should be of special interest to retirees:

Friday, October 21, 8:00 p.m.—Fall Ball, a fundraiser for HFA Phase III, Imholte Scholarship Fund, and Lakeside restoration. It will be held at the Lakeside Ballroom, 180 South Lakeshore Drive, Glenwood, MN. -\$15 adult admission. UMM Jazz Band will play for dancing and listening. Free round trip transportation from the UMM Student Center available hourly from 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, October 22, 9:00 - 10:30 a.m.—Reception honoring Jack and his family, Camden Hall Veranda.

10:30 a.m. John Q. Imholte Hall Dedication—Social Science Building will be renamed John Q. Imholte Hall.

BITS 'N PIECES

—The Spring 2005 Profile contains an article with a short explanation of a bio-mass gasification system that Lowell Rasmussen will talk about at the fall luncheon. The system will use local bio-mass products instead of fossil fuels to reduce the use of natural gas and fuel oil. The system could provide up to 75% of campus heating and cooling needs.

—Liz Ascherman and Helen Kill were included in a group picture of hostesses for the July birthday party at West Wind Village that appeared in the August 20 Morris Sun Tribune.

—The September 17 Morris Sun Tribune printed an article about the Minnesota 2005 Student Experience Survey conducted by the Office of Institutional Research and Reporting which is on the Twin Cities campus. The Morris campus had the highest percentage of students completing a B.A. degree in four years, and the highest percentage of students ranking their overall academic program as excellent. Morris students were also “extremely satisfied” and ranked the cost of attendance as “excellent”. Also in that issue, Ernie Kemble was pictured viewing the display at the Learning Unlimited Program held on September 14.

—David Pederson (retired UMM electrician) and his wife have moved to Woodbury to be near their daughter and her husband who are both medical doctors there.

—The 40 Years Ago column in the Morris Sun Tribune recorded that Frederick Farrell, Jr. was appointed an assistant professor of modern languages at UMM. A recent happening in Fred’s life is his marriage to a beautiful lady from Peru. We wish them both a happy life in Morris and Peru.

—The September 24, Morris Sun Tribune had an article about Dr. Henry Parker who will speak and visit the campus on September 28 and 29. Retirees from 1961-65 will remember Henry as a member of the Humanities faculty. He is currently a Cunningham Distinguished Scholar and Professor at the University of Tennessee, Martin. Since 2003 Henry has worked in South Africa, China and Egypt through People to

People International.

—Memory Tours of UMM will return next issue. Also a finished report of the history of UMMRA should be available. We also need to talk about the future of the organization—it seems quite fragile at this point.

SAM SCHUMAN’S BOOK

Judy Riley, campus communications coordinator, provided us with the following information about Sam’s most recent book. The total release is on file and contains information on his background as student, teacher, administrator, author and community member.

Sam Schuman’s new book is titled “Old Main Small Colleges in Twenty-First Century America” (John Hopkins University Press, June 2005). The book draws on Schuman’s experience as an administrator and a scholar to explain how and why, when it comes to colleges, size does matter. “Old Main” profiles the history and development of several small colleges, defined as institutions that enroll between 500 and 3,000 full-time students.

Chancellor Schuman’s book can be purchased at the UMM Bookstore or from John Hopkins University Press via telephone (1-800-537-5487) or fax (410-516-6998).

PRESIDENT’S CORNER

Looking forward... Retirement hasn’t diminished the excitement of seeing the students return to campus for the beginning of the new academic year. Morris literally gets a big dose of energy overnight! This year also began with Chancellor Sam Schuman’s dramatic announcement of his retirement at the end of the year. Sam and Nancy will leave a strong imprint upon UMM. Under Sam’s leadership UMM has strengthened its position as a unique top-rated public liberal arts college. Much more will be said about the Schumans’ contributions in the months to come. But we in UMMRA have a debt of gratitude to Sam for his unfledging support of our organization. All of us will miss his insightful overviews of what is happening at UMM—replete with a few pearls of wisdom from Mr. Shakespeare. We will be proud to have Sam join us as a member of our organization.

Speaking of new members, welcome to our newest retirees. This organization strives to be a happy mix of social interaction, service to the campus and community, and education. Our first meeting is Wednesday, October 19, at 11:45 a.m. at the Prairie Inn. Our speaker, Lowell Rasmussen, will give an update on UMM’s physical changes, especially the bio-mass facility and alternative energy plans. UMM is gaining recognition as being on the cutting edge of this technology. So don’t miss an opportunity to hear about this planning for the future.

We also hope that you can be present on Saturday, October 22nd (Homecoming Weekend) when the remodeled Social Science Building will become John Q. Imholte Hall. Congratulations, Jack!

Janet Ahern, President of UMMRA