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Contact

Melissa Weber, Director of Communications
Phone: 320-589-6414, weberm@morris.umn.edu

Jenna Ray, Editor/Writer
Phone: 320-589-6068, jrray@morris.umn.edu

Bettina Blake is recipient of President's Award

Summary:

(May 11, 2005)-Elizabeth S. Blake, Professor Emeritus of French and former Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs & Dean at the University of Minnesota, Morris, is one of seven recipients University wide of the 2005 President's Award for Outstanding Service.

The President's Award for Outstanding Service is presented each year in the spring and recognizes exceptional service to the University, its schools, colleges, departments, and service units by any active or retired faculty or staff members. Recipients of this award have gone well beyond their regular duties and have demonstrated an unusual commitment to the University community.

Dr. Blake retired from UMM in June 1998. She holds an bachelor of arts degree summa cum laude from Barnard College in New York, a master of arts degree in French from the Middlebury College Graduate School of French in France, and a doctor of philosophy degree in French literature from Columbia University. She is also a former Fulbright scholar.

Her retirement from teaching and administrative responsibilities at UMM did not mean that Blake retired from public life. In addition to continuing campus roles, she is a past president of the UMM Retirees Association, and has served the Morris and west central communities in many capacities. Among them, she has served on the Boards of Directors of the West Central Minnesota Initiative Fund, the Stevens Community Medical Center, the Arts Council of Stevens County, and the Morris Developmental Achievement Center. She is also a member of the University of Minnesota Presidents Club and the Morris Area Chamber of Commerce.

Most recently, a generous Campaign Minnesota contribution by Blake established the Distinguished Visiting Professorship in the Liberal Arts for the Morris campus. The inaugural holder of the Visiting Professorship, Dr. Bernice Johnson Reagon, was a campus guest toward the end of the spring 2005 semester.

"I figure that my giving to UMM is an investment in futures – futures not quoted on the Chicago Board of Trade, but far more crucial to a livable world – the futures of generations of gifted students," said Blake.

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