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**MORRIS**

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**U President's contribution earmarked for LaFave House renovation for guest suite**

*Summary:*

(November 29, 2004)-The University of Minnesota, Morris has received a generous, unsolicited contribution of \$55,000 from University of Minnesota President Robert Bruininks, in order to provide a guest suite at LaFave House. LaFave House, located at 305 College Avenue, will undergo further renovation to the first floor, with improvements to the master bedroom, bathroom, hallway, study and screened porch. This project is scheduled to be completed in time to provide accommodations for UMM's Distinguished Visiting Professor in the Liberal Arts, Dr. Bernice Johnson Reagon (see story elsewhere in this issue).

The renovation funds are private gift dollars that were contributed to the University through Campaign Minnesota and earmarked for the President to use as he wishes for special projects such as this one. At the same time, the president also allocated \$15,000 to enhance the visiting professorship. No funding from any UMM operating budgets will be used for the renovation.

"This is an exciting extension of the plan to make LaFave House a useful and attractive facility for UMM and the community," said Nancy Schuman, chair of the LaFave House Advisory Committee. "The creation of a guest suite will be a step forward in efforts to link the campus and the Morris community more closely."

The LaFave House guest suite will provide a short-term residency opportunity for visiting scholars and distinguished guests who will benefit from being housed on campus due to the close nature of their work within the campus community. The suite is not intended as a general substitute for accommodations that are provided by area hotels and motels. The majority of campus overnight visitors will continue to utilize local hospitality providers and other businesses, as they now do.

The renovation, which will be done by UMM's Plant Services staff and will include materials supplied by local firms, began in October and will be completed in early 2005.

Generous gifts and donations to LaFave House from other sources have made it possible to continue to provide other improvements to the property. A special gift from the West Central School of Agriculture and UMM Alumni Association Boards provided funding for the landscaping. Annual gifts from the Friends of LaFave House contributed deck furniture, an entry table, a humidifier for the piano, dishes, utensils and glassware. Sodexo Campus Services supplied an outdoor gas grill, warming oven and refrigerator/freezer.

"A broad regional base of support is generating income for furnishings and other ongoing needs of LaFave House," added Schuman.

For more information about LaFave House or the Friends of LaFave House organization, contact Maggie Larson, UMM coordinator of special events and LaFave House manager, at 320-589-6053.

Through personal and academic discovery, the University of Minnesota, Morris provides opportunities for students to grow intellectually, engage in community, experience environmental stewardship and celebrate diversity. A renewable and sustainable educational experience, Morris prepares graduates for careers, for advanced degrees, for lifelong learning, for work world flexibility in the future, and for global citizenship. Learn more about Morris at [morris.umn.edu](http://morris.umn.edu) or call 888-866-3382.