Diametrically opposed
The presidential candidates present dramatically different personalities, and their visions for our country are diametrically opposed. The contest reflects a division in the country that may affect how we continue to operate as a democracy.

Professor Pearson joined the University of Minnesota faculty in 2004 and is a distinguished scholar whose research focuses on the United States Congress, congressional elections, political parties, and women in politics. Her research has been published in *The Journal of Politics*, *Perspectives on Politics*, *Legislative Studies Quarterly*, *Political Research Quarterly*, and *Politics & Gender*. Her book titled *Party Discipline in the House of Representatives* was published in 2015 by the University of Michigan Press. She is a recipient of the Morse Alumni Award for Outstanding Contributions to Undergraduate Education.

Professor Pearson received her doctorate from the University of California, Berkeley and her BA *cum laude* from Claremont McKenna College. This will be her third presidential election analysis for UMRA (following 2008 and 2012). Please join me in welcoming her back.

—Bill Donohue, past president

UMRA A.M.

The quest for a vaccine
It feels like everyone is holding their breath for the development of a vaccine that can help to free us from the grip of the coronavirus pandemic. For most of us not involved in research, we wonder what it takes to find a vaccine that’s safe and effective. What are the challenges in making it widely available and accepted by enough of us to break the grip of this disease? And what are researchers and clinicians at the University of Minnesota doing related to this quest to get through the pandemic?

Timothy Schacker, MD, an infectious disease specialist at the University of Minnesota Medical School, is a leader in this effort.

You are invited to join Dr. Timothy Schacker for an eye-opening UMRA A.M. on Tuesday, November 10. Dr. Schacker will be introduced by UMRA President Frank Cerra, MD, former U of M Medical School dean and senior vice president for Health Sciences.
Greetings, I hope you are safe and well

Our October UMRA Forum with Dr. Josie Johnson, recipient of a Professional Development Grant for Retirees (PDGR) award, was both inspiring and enlightening. The conversation addressed social injustice and systemic racism and our need to be engaged in the conversation. I urge all to read her book, *Hope in the Struggle: A Memoir*.

Speaking of the PDGR program, our crowdfunding effort to raise funding for 2021–22 is underway. Please visit our crowdfunding page and make a gift to support the grant program. Your gift will be matched thanks to two generous donors, both members of UMRA. If you contribute by credit card via the website, your gift will be added to the “real time” tally. If you donate by another means, it will take longer to show up on the display.

Our monthly programs—UMRA A.M., Living Well Workshop, and UMRA Forum—now via Zoom, continue to be well attended. Given the University’s fiscal challenges, the Office of Information Technology will start charging UMRA in December for the OIT services that are making these events run smoothly. In the meantime, UMRA is wrestling with how to continue financing these programs and has started an effort to identify UMRA volunteers who may be interested in mastering the technical aspects of Zoom to support the production of these monthly events.

Your leadership team has updated the UMRA Bylaws, and the Executive Committee and Board have approved them. The UMRA Operating Manual has been updated to reflect these changes and current practice. Both will be placed on the UMRA website.

As you all know, the general election is on November 3. I trust you will express your preferences either in person or by mail. The guest speaker for our November 24 Forum will be Dr. Kathryn Pearson from the Department of Political Science. She will present her analysis of the election and answer our questions.

Stay safe and well, and let the leadership know your recommendations for the continued vitality of UMRA.

—Frank Cerra, UMRA president

**Current efforts underway**

Dr. Schacker will talk about the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic and the multifaceted approach that has been used to diagnose, treat, and prevent COVID-19, and he will highlight the current efforts underway to develop, test, and distribute a vaccine to prevent infection.

In addition to his role as a professor of medicine and director of the U’s Program in HIV Medicine, Dr. Schacker is vice dean for research in the Medical School. After receiving his MD from the University in 1986, he completed a residency in internal medicine at the Oregon Health Sciences University and an infectious disease fellowship at the University of Washington. He joined the U of M faculty in 1996.

Dr. Schacker has been named one of the Best Doctors in America (twice) and a Top Doctor by *Minneapolis-St. Paul Magazine*.

Please register and join us for this Zoom webinar on November 10 at 9 a.m.

—Jan Morlock, UMRA president-elect and Program Committee chair
Welcome new members to UMRA

Please give a hearty welcome to six new members who have joined UMRA since early September.

- **Mark Baumgartner**, University of Minnesota Foundation, assistant dean for development, College of Liberal Arts (CLA)
- **Gina Deveney**, Medical School, Department of Surgery, surgical education administrator
- **Marianne Lauwagie**, Office of Human Resources, payroll professional
- **Jan K. Nyberg**, CLA, Hubbard School of Journalism and Mass Communication, library assistant
- **Paul Schanfield**, Medical School, Department of Neurology, volunteer physician teacher and clinical professor of neurology
- **Christopher Sullivan**, Medical School, assistant professor of medicine

For contact information, visit the Member Login page at umra.umn.edu (login required).

University’s *Driven* campaign is in the home stretch

During this final year of the University’s 10-year capital campaign, UMRA member Chris Mayr and I have served on a Faculty Staff Campaign Advisory Committee. We helped University of Minnesota Foundation (UMF) staff find effective ways for informing faculty, staff, and retirees on ways to support programs, centers, departments, or colleges that hold special interest for them; for example, financial aid for students, support for research and publication, expanded service activity, or improved outreach and community engagement.

The *Driven campaign* is nearing its $4 billion goal, and gifts of all kinds are welcome. Regarding campaign priorities, 92 percent of the student-support goal has been reached; 91 percent of the faculty and research goal has been achieved; and the University initiatives goal has been exceeded by 21 percent.

Of special import for UMRA members is our Professional Development Grants for Research (PDGR) program, which needs funding this year due to the University’s budget shortfalls and belt tightening. We welcome contributions designated for the PDGR fund, which supports University retirees pursuing their research and professional development goals.

Faculty, staff, and retirees have already contributed generously to the *Driven campaign*: $169 million by more than 14,600 faculty, staff, and retirees, with UMRA members contributing $29.8 million. As the campaign enters its final months, we urge our members to continue their generous support of our University, its students, and its essential programs. Thank you for all you have done for our University and the state of Minnesota. Keep it up!

—John S. Adams, UMRA president (2013–14)

**Food for thought**

“If not us, then who? If not now, then when?”

—John Lewis, 1961
On being maroon and gold, and Black

The UMRA News is offering colleagues across the University an opportunity to share with us some of their experiences on being maroon and gold, and Black. Amelious N. Whyte Jr., PhD, is director of public engagement in the College of Liberal Arts Office of Institutional Advancement, and previously worked in the Board of Regents office and served as senior associate vice provost for Student Advocacy and Support. Read the full interview at umra.umn.edu—Kristine Mortensen, editor

What year did you come to the University of Minnesota? What brought you here? I came to the University of Minnesota in the fall of 1990 from Brooklyn, which is my home. I came for what was supposed to be a two-year stint to complete a master’s degree in public affairs.

What was something about Minnesota that surprised you when you got here? In my first year I lived in what was then a brand-new apartment building for students called Dinnaken House, located on Washington Avenue in Stadium Village. I remember that the building managers had to remind students not to leave their car doors unlocked. I was shocked that someone had to be reminded of that. As a New Yorker, I never leave anything unlocked.

Describe an experience that exemplifies what it is like for you today to be maroon and gold, and Black. I am usually the only African American (and the only non-white person) in a meeting unless it is a meeting about diversity. This means that I often am the only one in the room who seems to be thinking about diversity with regard to the topic being discussed, and I have to think about whether others will say to themselves, in response to my raising an issue when no one else does, “Of course he would mention that.”

And ironically, although there are relatively few African American males in leadership roles at the University outside positions focused on diversity, equity, or inclusion, some people at the University are challenged to tell us apart. For example, I walked out of Morrill Hall one day while a protest was occurring outside and one of the staff members who was protesting said, “That’s Jones,” referring to Robert Jones, who was then the senior VP for Systemwide Administration. If you know Robert, you know that we don’t look anything alike. On another occasion, I was at an Alumni Association event and a former dean who was familiar with me because our paths crossed in various ways over the years, including serving on a search committee together, saw me on the other side of a food table and said, “Hi, Rickey,” referring to Rickey Hall, then an assistant vice president in the Office of Equity and Diversity. We look nothing alike.

What’s life like for today’s University students? Stressful. College can be a stressful time for undergraduate students under normal circumstances but add COVID to the mix and that stress is magnified. While many students have adapted well to online learning, that is not the case with all students. Many are struggling with finding the motivation to focus on their courses, in addition to feelings of isolation. For students who suffer from depression, anxiety, or other mental health challenges, these conditions can become more acute.

Another issue of concern for many of our students is food and housing insecurity. We have a number of students who lack the financial resources to meet their basic needs with regard to food and housing. We have students who are homeless, or who have living situations that change regularly. We have some students who have to make use of an on-campus food pantry or community resources in order to have enough food to eat, or they go without.

All of this notwithstanding, many if not most University students are making the most of the current situation and continue to work toward their goals.

As a scholar of education, human development, and public affairs, and as a Black man, how do you see the impact of racism and discrimination in the U.S.? Within education, these issues impact student achievement in K–12 and limit who can obtain a higher education or find a good job.

See MAROON AND GOLD on page 8 ...
Grant application deadline reminder

December 11 is the application deadline for next year’s awards from the Professional Development Grants for Retirees (PDGR) program. Approved proposals will be announced in March 2021; grants will start on April 1 and extend to June 30 of the following year.

All University of Minnesota retirees from the Twin Cities and Coordinate Campuses who are eligible for University retirement benefits and who will be fully retired by the time of their award may apply for grants of any amount up to $4,000. The Application Instructions provide information about project requirements and how to apply. The total to be awarded in 2021 will be $20,000 which, because of pandemic-related University budget reductions, is less than in most previous years.

UMRA recently initiated an ambitious campaign with the goal of building a substantial reserve fund for our PDGR program. Two generous long-time supporters of the program have each offered to match $10,000 in contributions 1:1, so $20,000 in matching funds are available this year.

One can make a contribution online or support this fund with a future estate gift. For more information about an estate gift, please contact Lynn Praska at the University of Minnesota Foundation, LPraska@umn.edu or 612-624-4158.

A summary of some of the things accomplished with previous awards can be found at PDGR Impact Study. Anyone with other questions or suggestions should contact John Bantle, MD.

—John Bantle, MD, UMRA Grants Committee chair

Time for a radical re-thinking of age

We are living at a time of age revolution. With people routinely living longer than ever before, the post-retirement stage of life can be almost as long as the working years. It’s time for a radical re-thinking about this stage of life.

Using a combination of research, practical information, personal stories, and vivid illustrations, this workshop will show how our older years can be the best time of lives.

Our presenters are Lucy Rose Fischer and her husband, Mark Fischer.

Lucy Rose Fischer had a 25-year career as an award-winning teacher, researcher, and writer. She has a PhD in sociology with a specialty in the study of aging. The Gerontological Society of America honored her as a fellow for “outstanding achievement and exemplary contributions to the field of aging.” She then developed another side of her talents, becoming an artist and speaker.

Her art has been in more than 100 exhibits and is on permanent display in private collections and public institutions. Twin Cities Public Television featured her in two documentaries and her book, I’m New at Being Old, received a Midwest Book Award and an Independent Publishers Gold Award.

Mark S. Fischer, PhD, MBA, CFP, CPRC, had a long career as a financial and life planner. He is now a certified professional retirement coach and author of the book Serious About Retiring.

Please register for what promises to be an engaging and thought-provoking workshop via Zoom at 11 a.m. on November 17.

—Ron Matross, chair, Workshop Committee
HELLO, my name is Sally Kohlstedt

Hometown: Ypsilanti, Michigan. It was a short-term home while my father worked in wartime manufacturing in nearby Dearborn. When he was drafted, my mom returned to live on her parents’ farm about 20 miles from Bay City in the “thumb” of Michigan. I have great memories of that traditional farm with chickens, pigs, cows, and even an old horse that had sustained her family during the Depression.

When did you become a member of UMRA? In 2018. Just as I entered phased retirement, I found I was eligible to become a member. (I am still teaching and advising in the Program in History of Science, Technology, and Medicine.) I was keen to join colleagues who knew the retirement ropes and might share their experiences. I have not been disappointed!

What is something you currently enjoy doing with your time? Sharing tutoring time with my husband, David, as we engage with our eight-year-old twin granddaughters in math and reading, using Zoom. This starts our day positively even as we give their parents time to organize their own workdays at home before they supervise at-home instruction. COVID has made 2020 a year to be remembered!

Sally Kohlstedt has been working since age 12 — and still is!

What was your very first job? The oldest of five children, I was very much in demand as a babysitter from about the age of 12. My family experience meant I could wrangle youngsters, and the bonus for parents was that I always cleaned up the house after the children went to bed. The day after I turned 16, I got a job at J. C. Penney in order to start saving money for college. I have not been unemployed since then.

What is the name of the first record you bought? With limited funds, I often just listened to the Top 40 on Flint radio. However, quite early I purchased a Ravi Shankar album after reading Kahlil Gibran, and I still have it.

Do you have a favorite place on the U of M campus? The Campus Club. Having been involved in its renovation, I am well aware of the role it plays for faculty and staff (and occasionally as a treat for students and visitors). From the subtle acoustical tile ceiling to the sustainable sapele wood features and Minnesota granite on the bar, the club’s details reflect the teamwork that help undergird this successful venue.

Sharing family history

Lynn C. Anderson and Craig Swan offered a presentation on preserving and sharing family history to UMRA members via a Zoom meeting on October 7. The presentation covered three main topics:

- you may have more family history than you know
- where to find missing information
- why and how to share information

The meeting was well attended and received and included a lively Q & A session and discussion. The Family History Presentation can be found on the UMRA website along with an accompanying handout that includes links to a variety of resources available online (Governance > Archives > Past Event Slides).

If you are interested in further discussion related to family history, please contact either Lynn C. Anderson at boundarywaters07@gmail.com or Craig Swan at swan@umn.edu.

Mapping prejudice was the topic addressed by public historian Kirsten Delegard for October’s UMRA A.M. You can find the link to a video recording of her eye-opening presentation at Program Webcasts on the UMRA website.
Volunteer Spotlight

Committed | Fran Linhart

“The U is my best friend,” says retiree Fran Linhart. “When I retired, I looked for meaningful activities and found them at the University of Minnesota. The U offers so many wonderful opportunities for retirees.”

Committed to life-long learning and volunteering, Fran is taking advantage of the U of M Senior Citizen Education Program this semester by taking two classes online: Jazz Theory and Music History. Although she took similar classes 50 years ago when she was a student at DePaul University, Fran says “taking a course at 69 is very different than at 18.”

Fran volunteers as an English-language tutor for international students enrolled in the Minnesota English Language Program (MELP). Over the past three years, Fran has helped U of M students from China, Peru, and Thailand to not only improve their English proficiency skills but also to learn more about the culture of the U.S.—and Minnesota, in particular. Since MELP is now virtual, Fran continues to connect with her students via Zoom.

Putting her music training in action—she is a professional musician—Fran directs a senior citizens’ choir. In the 12-track recording studio located in her home, she arranges computerized recordings for virtual church services.

A global traveler

COVID-19 has not stifled Fran’s interest in diverse cultures, gained, in part, through her previous work in management positions at HID Global, Questar Assessment, ACT, and various education publishing companies. Fran is a worldwide traveler, having spent considerable time in England, Morocco, and Spain. She is eagerly waiting to pack her bags once again.

To learn about tutoring opportunities in K-12 schools and the University offered through URVC, contact URVC Tutoring Coordinator Alan Kagan at kagan001@urvc.com or 612-625-8016

—Deanne Magnusson, URVC Communications

In remembrance

As we learn of the passing of UMRA members and University leaders, we share this information with our community. We send our condolences to the families and friends of these colleagues.

Richard “Rick” Heydinger died at age 78 on September 26. He joined the U of M faculty in 1977, taught and conducted research in higher education administration, served as chief of staff to President Ken Keller, and as vice president of External Relations. As a member of the Public Strategies Group (1993–2006), he helped to reinvent local and state governments and higher education administration. After his “retirement,” he devoted himself to his community, helping to found Ujamaa Place and Frogtown Farm. He co-led a dozen groups to New Orleans for post-Katrina rebuilding and to Selma for the 50th Anniversary of the Pettus Bridge Crossing. Dr. Heydinger was a teacher, mentor, and activist tirelessly committed to racial justice.

Dudley Riggs died at age 88 on September 22. He is survived by his wife, UMRA member Pauline Boss, professor emerita of family social science. A comedic showman, he is best known as the owner and producer of the Brave New Workshop, the nation’s oldest improvisational sketch comedy troupe. From 1955 to 1997, he operated the Workshop as it served as the launching pad for many comedians including Louie Anderson, Lizz Winstead, Pat Proft, and Al Franken.

—Kathleen O’Brien, UMRA Cares Committee

UMRA Cares supports members

For assistance and support in the event of the death or serious illness of an UMRA member or family member, please email umracares@umn.edu or call 612-626-4403 and leave a message for UMRA Cares.
Within predominantly white colleges and universities, these issues can create campus climates that are unwelcoming for some based on their racial identity, and a faculty and staff composition that fails to match the demographics of the community or the student body. Within public affairs, racism is sometimes embedded in public policies that result in disparate outcomes based on race. It impacts who is around the table and whose voices are valued in the policy-making process.

There is also a tremendous emotional toll for those who have to contend with racism and discrimination as they try to live their lives or are reminded of how these issues impact others. Many of my Black family members, friends, and co-workers have commented on the feeling of mental exhaustion they have felt over the past few months, particularly with regard to well-publicized examples that demonstrate what many of us already knew. I would put myself in that same bucket. There is also a tremendous financial cost related to racism and discrimination. Citicorp recently estimated that discrimination against African Americans over the last 20 years has cost the U.S. economy more than $16 trillion dollars.

What gives you hope? In the wake of George Floyd’s death, I noticed that many of my white friends who rarely commented on social media about instances of blatant racism and discrimination are now choosing not to remain silent. Many have expressed a commitment to educating themselves and to serving as allies around these issues, and a willingness to challenge others when needed. That gives me hope, because it means that the burden to do this work is not solely on the shoulders of those who are members of marginalized communities in the United States.

What can members of UMRA do to make Minnesota a better place for all? For those who need to, commit to learning about the lived experience of those who do not share your identity and be an active advocate within your spheres of influence, including at the U of M, to ensure they are welcomed, included, and sufficiently represented in all the places where they should be. We are in a unique time in our history where there is more discussion and awareness about issues of race and the racial disparities that exist in various parts of our society. We cannot be complacent and assume that these issues will fix themselves simply as a result of increased awareness. These issues will only be fixed if a critical mass of people is committed to fixing them.