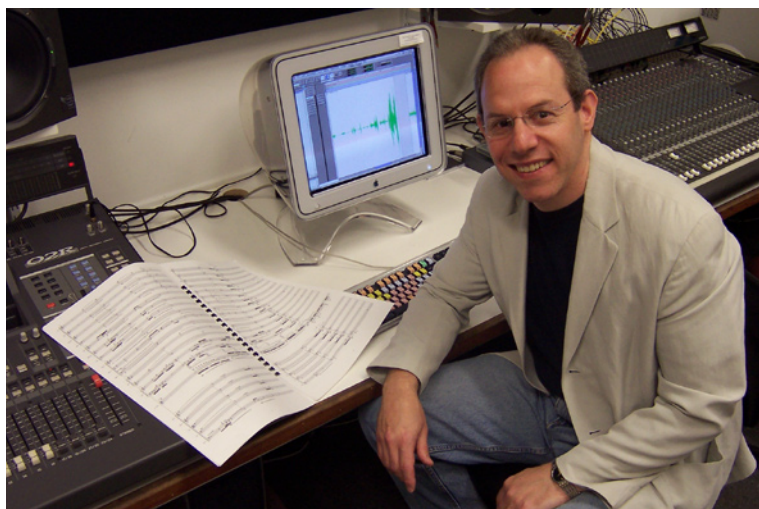


JANUARY 2005

New director for School of Music to speak at January luncheon meeting

Exciting things are afoot these days in the West Bank Arts Quarter at the University. Over recent years, a critical mass of artists, teachers, students, scholars, and performers—reaching across the Department of Art, the Department of Theatre Arts and Dance, and the School of Music—has been assembled, and new facilities now provide space for endless creativity and interaction. In June of 2004 an important piece of that creative mosaic fell into place with the appointment of Noel Zahler as the Music School's new director.

A composer of a wide range of vocal, instrumental, multimedia, and electroacoustic works, Professor Zahler has won numerous prizes and awards—among them a Fulbright-Hayes Fellowship, an Aaron Copeland Foundation Grant, a National Endowment for the Arts Consortium Commission, a National Endowment for the Humanities Faculty Scholarship, and an Italian Research Council Award. His compositions have been performed by a variety of ensembles in this country and abroad.



Professor Zahler comes to the University from Connecticut College where he was Sylvia Pasternak Marx Professor of Music. Born and bred a New Yorker, he took bachelor's and master's degrees at Queens College/CUNY. Following an interlude at Princeton for an MFA, he returned to the city for a Doctor of Musical Arts at Columbia.

his thoughts about its ties to other programs in the Arts Quarter, and his reflections on the School's place in the larger Twin Cities music community. We look forward to welcoming him. For more about the School of Music and West Bank Arts Quarter, go to www.artsquarter.umn.edu or type "west bank arts" in the search box on the University's home page.

At the time of his appointment, Professor Zahler declared his enthusiasm at joining the "exceptional community of students, faculty, staff, and alumni" that together constitute the University's School of Music. On January 25th, he will share with us his plans for the Music School's future development,

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

JANUARY
LUNCHEON MEETING

Featured Speaker

Noel Zahler, director,
University of Minnesota School
of Music

"Future Plans for the School of Music"

When

Tuesday, January 25, 2005
11:30 a.m.

Location

Conference Room ABC
Campus Club, Fourth Floor,
Coffman Memorial Union,
East Bank Campus, U of M

Cost

\$12 per person (tax included)

Reservation Deadline Thursday, January 20

To reserve your place(s),
send a check, payable to the
University of Minnesota Retirees
Association, to David Wark at
1313 5th St., SE, Mpls, MN,
55414; call 612-379-3854; or
e-mail him at wark@umn.edu.

Reservations requested after
January 20 will be placed
on a waiting list.
Cancellations must be received
by noon Wednesday, Jan. 19.

Free Parking

For two hours of free parking in
the East River Road or Weisman
Museum garages, bring your
ticket in for validation.

Board Meeting at 10 a.m.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

During December, UMRA goes into brief hibernation while holiday happenings occupy our time and energy. With the New Year upon us, however, it's time to be back in touch. As you've already noted from the Newsletter's front page, we begin our 2005 programming with a flourish by welcoming Professor Noel Zahler, recently appointed director of the University's School of Music. The creative and performing arts are alive and well on the West Bank campus. Noel will bring us up to date on what's happening there, as well as his ambitious plans for the Music School's future development.

Other articles of interest in this month's Newsletter detail the Board's continuing efforts on behalf of our members' interests, as well as the interests of University retirees more generally. Most important is our newly negotiated arrangement, now securely in place, with the University Bookstore to provide significant, ongoing discounts to UMRA members on a wide variety of Bookstore merchandise. Read the story carefully for information on how to take advantage of the new program. We're also in conversation with Parking Services and Intercollegiate Athletics about arranging similar discounts at those two venues. More news will be forthcoming as those ventures develop.

Several other initiatives should also bear fruit in the months ahead. In one, we're gathering information on the wide array of educational opportunities presently available at the University for retirees and seniors. Once that process is completed, we'll explore ways in which such opportunities might be expanded. The second initiative focuses on two important but little known documents: the "Faculty Bill of Rights" passed by the Senate in April 1998, and the Regents policy on "Faculty Emeriti" adopted in June 2000. We'll soon be calling those documents to the attention of faculty retirees and college administrators, as well as seeking to discover how effectively they've been implemented. We're also exploring the idea of recommending that comparable documents be created for civil service and P&A retirees. 2005 promises to be a busy and productive year for UMRA. The Board and I invite your support as we press ahead.

Cordially,

John Howe, President

Interim directors named to Board

UMRA By-Laws specify that the Board shall consist of 12 elected directors, serving staggered, three-year terms. At the time of our annual meeting last spring, when such elections occur, three directors' positions remained unfilled. Inspired by the belief that a full complement of directors will more adequately represent the membership, be better able to attend to association business, and comply with the By-Laws mandate, the Board has appointed three members to fill the open slots on an interim basis. They are Martin Dworkin and Jan Hively (two-year terms expiring in 2006) and Russ Hobbie (one-year term expiring in 2005).

You may wish to add their names to your copy of the Board roster, which was published as an insert in the September Newsletter.

Retain your U Card and e-mail account during retirement

There are many reasons why you should retain the familiar maroon and gold U Card during retirement. The card identifies you as a retired faculty or staff member, and is your key to a variety of campus services and facilities. For example, it enables you to check out library materials, enter the rec sports centers on the Minneapolis and St. Paul Campuses, and verifies your status at the University Golf Course. It assures discounted ticket prices at selected events and determines your eligibility for arts ticket discounts at Northrop. The card can also serve your banking and ATM needs through TCF Bank, or as a telephone calling card in partnership with C-COM.

Your U Card never expires and thus remains active after you go off salary, even if you move away from the Twin Cities. If you happen to lose, destroy, or damage the card, you can secure a replacement for \$15 at the U Card's main office in Coffman Union (room G-22), at the University Recreation Center or the St. Paul Gym. For further information call the U Card Office at 612-626-9900, or visit the Web site at www.umn.edu/card.

Staff and faculty retirees may also retain their University e-mail/Internet services accounts. If yours has lapsed, you can reactivate it. There is no charge for maintaining your account, and it provides ready access to a variety of TechMart, library, and other services. Just ensure that your employee status in the University's PeopleSoft data base lists you as "retired." Please direct questions concerning your status to your department or college office.

Board initiates discount program for UMRA members with University Bookstores

As part of ongoing efforts to serve the interests of UMRA members more fully, the Board has negotiated an agreement with the University Bookstores to secure discounts for association members. The new program is now in place at the Bookstores in Coffman Union and the St. Paul Student Center.

One feature of the program launch is a one time, one-to-a-customer discount of 30 percent on Minnesota clothing (sweatshirts, teeshirts, and caps). To enjoy your savings, simply clip the coupon at the end of this article and present it to a University Bookstore cashier, together with some form of ID. This coupon will be good through spring until June 30, 2005.

More important, ongoing discounts of 10 percent will be available throughout the year to all UMRA members on most in-store merchandise. The only excluded items are textbooks assigned for specific classes, electronics, medical reference books, academic caps and gowns, and college rings. As with the 30 percent off, one-time discount, the 10 percent markdowns will be taken at the cashier's desk when you identify yourself as an active UMRA member or spouse sharing a joint UMRA membership. Cashiers will check against the current UMRA membership list for eligibility. Discounts are not available to other family members, may not be combined with other discounts or U Bookstore offers, and do not apply to special orders.

In the near future, UMRA discounts will also become available when ordering items from the Bookstore Web site. For questions concerning eligibility or other issues, contact Martha Hoppe at the University Bookstore.

Thanks go out to Bob Crabb, director of the Bookstore, and his colleagues for responding so positively to our initiative and making the new discount program possible. Enjoy your savings, and let the Bookstore staff know how much we appreciate their service to UMRA and its members.

Vern Jensen steps down as Alumni Advocacy Committee representative

Vern Jensen, long-time UMRA member, who has been so generous in giving his voluntary time to work as an officer and past president of UMRA, recently asked to be relieved from his most recent post as UMRA representative to the Alumni Association's Advocacy Committee.

The advocacy committee monitors a variety of University and public policy issues, and often serves as an alumni focus group. In recent years, the committee has offered advice on the proposed University football stadium, plans to merge men's and women's intercollegiate athletics, and the University's strategic planning initiative. Through it all, Vern has seen that the concerns of University retirees were carefully considered, and he has kept the Board up to date on committee activities.

As Vern departs, we're happy to report that Sally Howard has agreed to serve as our new representative on the Advocacy Committee. All of us who know Sally will attest that she'll bring University-wide savvy, gained through long experience in University affairs, and fine judgment to the task.



Save 30%

On your purchase of any one
Minnesota sweatshirt, tee, or
cap at the U of M Bookstore

Offer good for an in-store purchase at the U of M Bookstore at Coffman Memorial Union or the St. Paul Student Center through 6-30-05. One coupon per customer. No other discounts apply.

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
Bookstore

At Coffman Memorial Union 625-6000 • www.bookstore.umn.edu

Celebrate creative and vital aging through the arts on January 15

You are invited to participate in “Creativity, Arts, and Aging: A Town Hall Meeting and Celebration” on Saturday, January 15, 8:15 a.m. to 4 p.m., at the Bloomington Center for the Arts. This highly interactive event will showcase models, invite ideas, and encourage networking to expand activities, programs, and public policies that foster artistic expression in older adults. Shepherded by the University of Minnesota’s Vital Aging Network (VAN), the event has been planned by a team of volunteers as a step toward organizing a statewide Creative Arts and Aging Network.

The conference will be held in conjunction with “The Art of Aging: Creativity Matters,” a national campaign recently launched by the National Center for Creative Aging (NCCA). Dr. Stuart Kandell, director of San Francisco’s Stagebridge, the first nationally recognized senior theater, will introduce the campaign and discuss recent research confirming the benefits of arts activities for older adults. Among other presenters and performers will be Kairos Dance Theatre, Larry Long (Elders’ Wisdom, Children’s Song), the Runestone Rockettes from Alexandria, and the Bloomingtones choral group.

The cost for the day is \$40, or \$25 (for those of limited means). You can download a flyer with a registration form from the VAN Web site, www.van.umn.edu.

To register, send a check, payable to Minnesota Creative Arts and Aging Network, to Sharon Anderson, 6544 Promontory Drive, Eden Prairie, MN 55346. Call the VAN information line at 612-626-5555 if you have questions.

News of another UMRA centenarian

We really are living longer these days! During a recent telephone check of UMRA members we had not heard from at membership dues renewal time, we called Dorolese Wardwell, a long time UMRA member. She is 101 years old, cannot see well, but is happy to receive phone calls.

Ms. Wardwell prides herself on having played an instrumental role in founding an operation called Educational Research, jointly funded by the Medical School and College of Education. She reports that her first project was to establish a process for systematizing admissions decisions for the Medical School.

Although she did not teach, she regularly advised students and served on a variety of faculty committees. She welcomes phone calls (612-870-1464) and would especially enjoy chatting about the old days with other retirees from the College of Education.

University of Minnesota
McNamara Alumni Center
Room 264, Suite 250
200 Oak Street S.E.
Minneapolis, MN 55455-2002

UMRA
Retirees Association
University of Minnesota

1. Print new information below.
2. Cut out this form **and address label**.
3. Mail both to the address above.

**Have you changed your
address, e-mail, or phone?**

Name _____
Address _____
City, State _____
Zip _____
Phone _____
E-mail _____
Other Info _____

First Class
U.S. Postage
PAID
Mpls., MN.
Permit No. 155