

JANUARY 2006

## Dean Fisher to talk about the U's new College of Design at January 24 meeting

*Design/di-zin/vb: To create, fashion, execute, or construct according to plan: devise, contrive.*

One approach to the history of human evolution is the study of the solutions our forbearers devised to address the problems confronting them. The hard, clean, flint tools and weapons of the Ice Age were



instruments created for surviving the harsh rigors of that early period. The 20th century was marked by an explosion of technological creations and innovations, which not only improved the

standard of living of a growing population but also provided a level of comfort and luxury that could hardly have been imagined at the beginning of that period.

Currently, we find ourselves in a new electronic age and, through the Internet, being steadily connected to an increasing portion of the world's population. It is also the case that the problems we are encountering and their solutions are growing in complexity and sophistication.

Solutions to problems through invention and innovation involve the following:

- Problem definition and characteristics
- Generation of solutions
- Criteria for choosing likely solutions
- Verification/Testing of most promising solution(s).

These activities comprise the essence of the design process, a process engaged in across an astonishingly broad spectrum of human endeavors—artistic, scientific, technological, and political. As a result, we are surrounded by the end products of design efforts.

The homes in which we dwell, the appliances they contain, the conveyances in or on which we move about, the infrastructure of municipal service systems—heat, light/power, communication, sanitation, roads/bridges, news, and entertainment—are all the result of conscious design. On a personal level, our apparel, visual and audio corrective devices, medication, and biomedical devices are “designed” to address our specific status and condition. Beyond the personal, there are extensive projects affecting large areas, the country (e.g., electrical grid) or the entire globe (e.g., Internet).

In 1999-2000, the University established the Design Institute to better focus, coordinate, and foster the extensive design activities among the departments. The institute was lodged in the College of Architecture and Landscape Architecture. The most recent reorganization of the University, designed to better position the U for the strategic improvement of its programs, creates the new College of Design. This college will be led by Dean Thomas Fisher.

Dean Fisher was educated at Cornell University in architecture and Case Western Reserve University in intellectual history.

Continued on page 2

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

JANUARY  
LUNCHEON MEETING

Tuesday  
January 24, 2006  
11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

**Featured Speaker**  
Thomas Fisher, Dean of the College of Design at the University of Minnesota  
**“The New Design College in the New Design Economy”**

**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 19**  
To reserve your place(s) send a check, payable to the University of Minnesota Retirees Association, to Ben Zimmerman at 2225 Folwell Avenue, St. Paul, MN 55108; call him at 651-645-1662; or e-mail him at zimme003@umn.edu.

Reservations requested after Jan. 19 will be on a waiting list. Cancellations must be received by noon Wednesday, Jan. 18.

**Parking**  
Parking is available in the East River Road Garage at UMRA's membership discount, which is \$4 for the entire day.

**Board Meeting at 10 a.m.**

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

---

December is the month during which, according to wise tradition, UMRA members turn their attention to the holidays, family, and friends. I hope all of you enjoyed the holidays and are looking forward to an interesting new year. It is my pleasure to welcome you back to participate in the interesting programming UMRA has planned for 2006.

As you have seen on the Newsletter's front page, our first program in 2006 begins with Dean Thomas Fisher, who leads the new College of Design at the University. This new college is an important element in the University's overall effort to strategically reposition itself for further academic improvement. You will recall that Provost Thomas Sullivan spoke to us about this last April.

Upcoming in March, on the 28th, President Robert Bruininks will provide a further account on aspects of this on-going repositioning effort and what it might promise for the University's future.

Members will be pleased to know that an ad hoc committee on membership, chaired by Past President John Howe, has met twice to discuss and explore means by which UMRA can sustain and increase its membership. The UMRA Board will be discussing the committee's findings and recommendations, and the results, including any initiatives, will be conveyed to you in subsequent newsletters.

The Board remains alert to such familiar concerns as changing health care benefits. We look to Ted Litman for advice and counsel in this important and ever-changing area.

We welcome, at all times, your comments and suggestions about how we might do things better, and we particularly appreciate knowing of interests that UMRA may be able to serve by expanding its mission.

Please feel free to contact me or any member of the Board.

Cordially,  
Warren Ibele, President

## Volunteer in After-School Programs for Urban 4-H Youth Development

Learning coaches are needed for an innovative after-school program at Andersen School Community Education and Green Central Community Education

Urban 4-H is looking for adults who enjoy being with and working with young people. Adult volunteers are needed to coach K-8 students in an after-school learning program. The program requests only one hour of your time (plus commuting time) weekly for at least one quarter of the year. Specific projects will be announced in February.

The Urban 4-H Youth Development program is a part of the Minnesota Center for 4-H Youth Development and the University of Minnesota Extension Service. Urban 4-H works on behalf of youth living in the Minneapolis and St. Paul area, including surrounding suburban communities, to measurably improve their learning through educational programs and applied research.

This is a great way to make a positive difference for youth and the community, with well-organized support from Urban 4-H staff. For more information or to sign up to participate, contact the University of Minnesota Retirees Volunteer Center by calling 612-625-8016 or by e-mail at [urvc@umn.edu](mailto:urvc@umn.edu)

---

## College of Design dean to speak Jan. 24

Continued from page 1

Earlier, he served as the regional preservation officer at the Western Reserve Historical Society in Cleveland, historical architect of the Connecticut State Historical Commission in Hartford, and the editorial director of *Progressive Architecture* magazine in Stamford, Connecticut.

His extensive writing includes numerous major articles in magazines and journals, book chapters and books. Two recent books published with the University of Minnesota Press are titled: *In the Scheme of Things: Alternative Thinking on the Practice of Architecture* and *Salmela, Architect*.

We look forward to having Dean Fisher join us at lunch on January 24. He will speak to us about "The New Design College in the New Design Economy."

—Warren Ibele

## Alumni and retirees sought for consulting for scientific intellectual property law firm

The Altera Law Group home based in Eden Prairie, Minnesota, is seeking highly skilled technical consultants to provide flex-time assistance in many diverse technical and scientific areas, including but not limited to electrical and mechanical engineering, semiconductor device and process engineering, nanotechnology, optical physics, polymer chemistry, and medical specialties including cardiovascular, neuroscience, medical devices, and human physiology.

Altera Law is an intellectual property law firm specializing in patent and other intellectual property protection for its clients both in the United States and throughout the world. Altera's in-house team includes a group of highly experienced attorneys with technical backgrounds as well as Ph.D. scientists and engineers who assist in drafting patent applications.

Interested parties should contact

Dr. Steve Furlong, Vice President, Altera Law Group  
6500 City West Parkway, Suite 100  
Eden Prairie, MN 55344  
Phone: 952-253-4141; e-mail: sfurlong@alteralaw.com

## Retirees relate stories about their experiences and the joys of volunteering

*With this issue we begin a series of articles written by retired colleagues who will share some of their experiences with the volunteer assignments they are enjoying. The volunteers made their connections with assignments through the University Volunteer Center. The first in this series is from Walter and Harriet Johnson who volunteer for the College of Pharmacy.*

Hello. My wife, Harriet, and I have been involved in a volunteer effort in the College of Pharmacy for the past several years. We were originally recruited through the University Retirees Volunteer Center, but now the arrangements are made directly by the college.

Our volunteer assignment is to act the part of patients for pharmacy students. An interaction between "patient" and student occurs as part of a laboratory course for second-year students in a teaching laboratory located in Weaver-Densford Hall on the campus on the East Bank.

A short script is given to the actor-patient that describes a health condition and medication for the "patient." The interaction occurs in a small room equipped with a video

## Identifying symptoms of stroke

In the interest of providing useful information, and information that may enable us all to save lives, we offer the following:

Sometimes symptoms of a stroke are difficult to identify, especially for the person who is experiencing it. But when people nearby recognize these symptoms, a victim may be saved from the brain damage that results from a stroke.

Doctors say a bystander can recognize a stroke by asking the individual to perform three simple tasks:

- Ask the individual to **smile**.
- Ask him or her to **raise both arms**
- Give the person a **simple sentence to speak**, such as: "It is sunny out today."

If the person has trouble with any of these tasks, call 911 immediately and describe these symptoms to the dispatcher.

Researchers, who discovered that non-medical volunteers could identify facial weakness, arm weakness, and speech problems with these simple questions, have urged widespread use of this test to enable prompt diagnosis and treatment of strokes. Share this with your friends. Awareness can save lives.

camera and recorder to make a record for later review. One or two second-year students spend about 20 minutes interviewing the patient about his health conditions and current medications. The course instructors later review the tape for the student's interview style, thoroughness and completeness of his or her characterization of the patient's health condition, and the recommended changes in the medication.

Typically, a volunteer is interviewed by three or four student groups in an afternoon. Usually different patient scripts are used for each of the three or four interviews.

Participating in this program gives my wife and me the opportunity to interact with bright, young pharmacy students in a manner that benefits both parties. In the process, students are involved with an age group that usually is not part of their lab experience. We find that it is a great volunteer experience that has given us a continuing contact on the campus.

—Walter Johnson

## University Retirees Volunteer Center welcomes your participation

Whatever your skills and interests, we'll welcome you to join in our many ongoing projects. Please call the Volunteer Center office at 612-625-8016, for more information or to register your interest.

—Helen Briggs, Communications Chair

---

**For additional information about UMRA and its activities, visit the association's Web site at [www.umn.edu/umra](http://www.umn.edu/umra).**

---

## Do you need help retaining or retrieving your U of M e-mail account?

In the past two years, UMRA has worked with University Human Resources to secure continuing access to the University's e-mail system for retired staff as well as faculty.

If you or anyone you know has had difficulty retaining a University e-mail account, please get in touch with UMRA president, Warren Ibele. If you are a retired faculty or staff colleague whose account has lapsed, and you would like to reinstate it for reasons of convenience or cost, contact Warren. Any retiree, whether UMRA member or not, is eligible to retain access to a University e-mail account.

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

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City, State \_\_\_\_\_  
Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail \_\_\_\_\_  
Other Info \_\_\_\_\_

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

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