

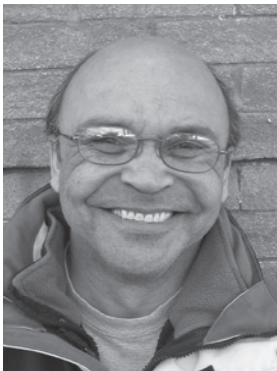
# UMRA UNIVERSITY NEWSLETTER

A Communication of the University of Minnesota Retirees Association

APRIL 2006

## Professor David Wilkins to speak on “Aboriginal Peoples and African Americans”

Most educated Americans know something about *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka* in 1954, when the Supreme Court ruled unanimously that racial segregation in public schools is unconstitutional. But few are aware of the long history of decisions by which the Court established and then reinforced the principle of tribal sovereignty.



If perchance you perceive gaps in your education about these matters, help is on the way.

The University of Minnesota is blessed by the presence of David E. Wilkins, one the nation's

leading specialists on American Indians and the Constitution. At UMRA's April lunch, his topic will be, “Aboriginal Peoples and African Americans: a Comparison of Historical Experiences.”

Professor Wilkins is a member of the Lumbee nation, 55,000 strong, concentrated in North Carolina. They are the largest tribe east of the Mississippi and fifth or sixth largest in the country.

The son of a paratrooper, he spent his early years in the multicultural and multi-racial environment of military bases. As a freshman, at what is now North Carolina State University, Pembroke, he encoun-

tered a life-changing book, *Custer Died for Your Sins*, by Vine Deloria, Jr. A few years later Professor Deloria recruited him to study political science at the University of Arizona, where he received an M.A. degree. After earning a Ph.D. from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, in 1990, he taught political science and American Indian studies at Arizona for nine years.

Wilkins's first major book was *American Indian Sovereignty and the U. S. Supreme Court: the Masking of Justice*, published by the University of Texas Press in 1997. Since then he has authored or coauthored the astounding total of five books and fifteen articles.

He is now professor of American Indian Studies and adjunct professor of Political Science, Law, and American Studies at the University of Minnesota. His presence here has helped to make the Department of American Indian Studies one of the top two or three in the country.

—Frank C. Miller

### Important dates to note on your calendars

**April 21— 2 to 3:30 p.m.**

Reception for prospective members, Dale Shephard Room, Campus Club

**May 18 — 2 to 3:30 p.m.**

Financial planning seminar (see p. 3)

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

APRIL  
LUNCHEON MEETING

Tuesday

April 25, 2006

11:30 a.m. — 1:30 p.m.

#### Featured Speaker

David E. Wilkins, professor of American Indian Studies, adjunct professor of Political Science, Law, and American Studies at the University of Minnesota  
“Aboriginal Peoples and African Americans”

#### 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, April 23**

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](mailto:zimme003@umn.edu).

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

#### Parking

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

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

UMRA NEWSLETTER

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

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The melting snowdrifts and the first green sprouts in the garden announce the end of another Minnesota winter and the beginning of spring. There is a rhythm to the activities in the Office of Human Resources as well, because this time of the year brings a schedule of pre-retirement seminars to prepare University faculty and staff for all the decisions that have to be made to effect their retirement in good order.

I attended one of these events on Monday, March 20 to welcome faculty and staff to the world of retirement and to lend some perspective to the process, based on my experiences and the observations of others who have run the course successfully. Now, fifteen minutes is hardly enough time to even recite a list of all the factors that deserve consideration, let alone comment helpfully on each.

This, of course, is why our association has scheduled a reception for new and recent retirees on the afternoon of April 21 at the Campus Club. There is, in this newsletter, John Howe's article setting forth the particulars for this event. This will be our first effort of this kind to meet prospective members. Some of our officers and members have volunteered to assist with the arrangements for the reception. All of you can contribute by inviting prospective and recent retirees to attend and accompanying them to the reception.

My involvement in the Pre-Retirement Planning Seminars—hardly a “cameo” role—served to crystallize discussions at the Board about programs that will further serve our members. The Office of Human Resources provides a comprehensive and effective program for prospective retirees, which covers all the essential components of retirement.

One of the most important is the financial component and the variety of programs and factors that influence the arrangements we select. However, once these choices have been made, we retirees are “on our own” for the most part. The Office of Human Resources is not able to offer post-retirement advice and counsel in this area.

This suggested to me that UMRA might be able to be of assistance to retirees in this regard. And, the Board agreed that we should arrange a seminar by a professional financial adviser on the principles of post-retirement finances. Another article in this newsletter discusses the details of this seminar, which is scheduled for Thursday afternoon, May 18, at the Campus Club.

Thus it is that UMRA, perhaps in mimicry of spring, is stimulated to grow anew.

Cordially,

Warren Ibele  
President, UMRA

## Extend invitations to retired and retiring friends to attend UMRA reception April 21

As noted in our March Newsletter, UMRA will hold its first reception for new, prospective members in the Dale Shephard Room at the Campus Club on Friday, April 21, from 2 to 3:30 (not 2:30 to 3:00 as originally reported).

Invitations will be sent to lists of recently retired faculty, civil service staff, and P&A colleagues, but we're also eager to reach out to past retirees who haven't yet joined and to folks presently in phased retirement.

That's where you, our active members, come in—because personal contacts are our best recruiting strategy. We all know of friends and former colleagues who would benefit from joining us and who could contribute ideas and en-

ergy to the association. Thus, the Board asks you to take a moment and invite them to attend and look us over.

We'll have a brief program describing the association's purposes and advantages of membership. Of course, we'll provide an opportunity for questions and discussion of the ways that the association can best serve retirees' interests. And, we'll enjoy some refreshments together. No RSVP's are needed. You might also suggest that folks can learn more about what UMRA is and does by visiting our website at [www.umn.edu/umra](http://www.umn.edu/umra), or by calling any of our association officers.

John Howe, Membership chair

## Financial planning during the retirement years — Seminar planned for May 18

In mid-March, I was invited by the Office of Human Resources to welcome the current class of prospective retirees. This was an opportunity for me to observe, with some detachment, the preparations for moving from active to retired status.

For some, this transition is abrupt, from active to retired status in a matter of days. For others, it is gradual, eased by years of phased retirement. In either case, the consensus is that the folks in Human Resources do a comprehensive, professional job of preparing people and reassuring them at a time that can be a bit unsettling.

The two concerns that usually loom largest for a new retiree are health care and financial resource allocation. For some, health care continues through the University. But, financial decisions on resource allocation and management become the retirees' sole responsibility. During the many years of retirement, personal and family

circumstances can change. The state of the economy also changes. The financial plan at the time of retirement may not be optimum after years of retirement.

The UMRA Board discussed this matter and decided that a seminar should be arranged to address this concern.

Thus, plans are being made for a presentation on post-retirement financial planning. The date/time/place particulars are: Thursday, May 18, 2-3:30 p.m., at the Campus Club.

Mr. Andy Petril, current president of the local chapter of the Financial Planners Association, will present and discuss the principles, guidelines, and benchmarks of post-retirement financial planning.

Reservations to attend may be made by contacting the UMRA secretary, Ben Zimmerman. Phone him at 651-645-1662; or e-mail him at [zimme003@umn.edu](mailto:zimme003@umn.edu).

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

*In January we began a series of articles written by retired colleagues who are sharing some of their experiences with the volunteer assignments they are enjoying. The volunteers made their connections with assignments through the University Volunteer Center. The fourth in this series is from Eugene Edie, who enjoys the opportunity to usher at events at University venues.*

I often volunteer through the U of M Retirees Volunteer Center (URVC). There's a good feeling about volunteering, about getting out into the world and experiencing what is happening. I like the sense of still being connected to the University and of being of service to it.

My favorite task is ushering for University events. The supportive and friendly patrons, many of whom have traveled long distances to be present, help stimulate optimal student productions.

Audiences and ushers alike rejoice in:

- 1) hearing superb performances at the Ted Mann Concert Hall by orchestras, bands, choruses and/or opera theatre;
- 2) witnessing excellent acting at the Rarig Center;
- 3) attending commencements and other University celebrations.

I enjoy the interaction with the people in the audience. I like seeing the performances for which I usher and listening to the feedback afterwards. It's usually favorable.

Early in April, *La Boheme* will be presented at the Ted Mann Theater. The ushering list is already filled, I am told. I'm on it.

Later in April, from April 20 to April 29, the Rarig is hosting a University production of *Cabaret*, the musical that was made into a movie starring Joel Grey and Liza Minelli. I am eagerly anticipating ushering at this event, too, and I invite you to join me. If you prefer daytime assignments, the musical will be presented at 1 p.m. on Sunday. Other performances are at 6:30 or 7 p.m.

I am told that there are still openings in the ushering list. If you are interested, call the URVC office at 612-625-8016.

Eugene Edie

## Many volunteer opportunities available with University Retirees Volunteer Center

Whatever your skills and interests, the Volunteer Center will 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, URVC Communications Chair

## UMRA membership benefits

Members are reminded to explore and take advantage of the full range of the benefits of belonging to the University of Minnesota Retirees Association.

These include:

- Continuation of computer and library privileges;
- Retiree rates at University venues such as intercollegiate athletics, and musical and theater performances;
- Discounts at book stores, the recreational sports center, and parking at designated sites.

The UMRA Board continues to be interested in adding to this list and welcomes suggestions from the membership.

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

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Minneapolis, MN 55455-2002

 **UMRA**  
*University of Minnesota  
Retirees Association*

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?**

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