

UMRA UNIVERSITY NEWSLETTER

A Communication of the University of Minnesota Retirees Association

SEPTEMBER 2006

President Robert Bruininks to speak about his vision for the University

A few years back, when the University was looking for a president, Robert Bruininks offered an unusual array of qualifications. Not only had he served the U for 33 years as professor, dean, and executive vice-president and provost; he also has an entry in the Guinness Book of Second Places. Fishing in a canoe in northern Minnesota, he



landed the second largest walleye in the recorded history of the state, and he did it without a net. I have heard that he privately thinks it would have been the largest if it had been weighed sooner.

Several years he decided to realize a life-long goal of learning to ride a horse so that he could go riding with his wife, Dr. Susan Andrea Hagstrum. He learned so well that he started competing, even entering State Fair competition. He consistently wins ribbons competing against people much younger and with much more experience. And, anybody who can manage a five-gaited horse can manage a many-gaited university.

Robert Bruininks earned a bachelor of arts from Western Michigan University and M.A. and Ph.D. degrees from George Peabody College (now part of Vanderbilt University). In 1968 he joined the University as assistant professor of educational psychology, where his work centered on human

development, policy research in education and social services, and accountability in K-12 and higher education.

Anybody who has paid attention in recent years knows that President Bruininks has never been satisfied with second place in accountability. His work in administration has been a model of responsible stewardship and transparency, which is no surprise to those who know him. What may be a bit of a surprise is the stunning scope of his vision for change in our complex and sprawling institution and the harmony that characterizes the major restructuring now occurring.

Many UMRA members will endorse Regent David Metzen's prediction in March 2006 that Bob Bruininks will go down in history as one of the "finest presidents the University has ever had."

At the luncheon on September 26, President Bruininks will speak about his vision for the University and how it is transforming itself to meet the needs of the 21st century.

— Frank Miller

Gentle Reminder

to renew your membership

\$20 per year; \$25 per couple

Please send your check made payable to UMRA to our database manager Carl Jessen, 2161 Folwell Ave., St. Paul 55108. Questions? you can phone him at 651-645-1220, or reach him by e-mail: c-jessen@umn.edu

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

SEPTEMBER
LUNCHEON MEETING

Tuesday
September 26, 2006
11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Featured Speaker

Robert Bruininks, President of the University of Minnesota
"A Vision for the University"

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, September 21

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 Sept. 21 will be on a waiting list. Cancellations must be received by noon Wednesday, Sept. 20.

Parking

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

Board Meeting at 10 a.m.

UMRA NEWSLETTER

FROM THE PRESIDENT

In the waning days of summer, UMRA is off to a stunning start. This fall the first two speakers will be U president Robert Bruininks, on his vision for the University, and Kenneth Keller on technology policy. If Gabriel Garcia Márquez were to write a novel about UMRA in the fall, we hope he would call it *Autumn of the Patriarchs*, not *One Hundred Years of Solitude*.

Serving as president-elect this past year has been increasingly intensive on-the-job training for me. I learned what I should have realized: UMRA officers have no executive associates or research assistants. We do all the work ourselves with help from board members and committees.

I want to thank Warren Ibele for his engaging and enlightened leadership. He took care of multifarious arrangements, notably luncheon speakers, and conducted board meetings with a twinkle in his eye. Warren even laughed (or at least smiled) at the wisecracks ventured by certain board members (they know who they are). As he moves into the status of past president, I shall continue to rely on him for wise counsel and good humor.

Past President John Howe was a constant inspiration and exuded a blithe confidence that we would be able to implement his many good ideas. Even from his temporary bailiwick of Washington, D. C., we will

recognize his influence as a Senior Elder. We are all fortunate that Secretary Ben Zimmerman and Treasurer Judy Howe will continue to serve. Since Judy will be operating from a certain eastern bailiwick, former secretary Dave Wark will help out locally. Judy also arranged for Carl Jessen to manage the data base and for Ron Anderson to be webmaster. Ron is planning to revise the web site and he would welcome suggestions, which you may send to rea@umn.edu.

More good news as we go forward from last spring is that Gayle Graham Yates was elected president-elect. I greatly look forward to working with her and refer you to the related article in this newsletter.

Two priorities this year are to continue our enhanced efforts to attract new members, and to think about that effort in relation to a broader strategy to improve communication among members. I am pleased to announce that Pat Tollefson will chair the newly-established Membership Committee. Those who know say that the best way to recruit is face-to-face interaction, and that's where you can help. I urge you to invite potential members to a reception planned for November 17 (watch for details in the October Newsletter).

As the tee shirts at a popular bistro say, "Eat well, laugh often, and live long" ...and attend UMRA luncheons.

Frank Miller, President

Small grants program proposed

Inspired by a program of grants at the Andrew Mellon Foundation, John Howe and Kim Munholland, both retired from the history department, drafted a proposal for a small grants program for retirees. The grants would support research, artistic activity, or program development. Although brief, the proposal addresses many specifics about eligibility, award amounts and terms, application process, and post-grant reporting.

After meeting with Frank Miller, the group decided to bring the idea to the board in September. Kim will be present to discuss it and the board will decide on next steps.

Wide discussion of the idea is encouraged. Contact Kim at munho001@umn.edu if you want to see the draft and perhaps volunteer for a potential planning committee.

You are invited to seek satisfying work

Whatever your skills and interests, the U Retirees Volunteer Center will welcome you. Some reasons to volunteer:

- 1) Most assignments are pleasant and some are even fun.
- 2) Even those which are quite mundane, like envelope-stuffing, offer the company of your fellow retirees.
- 3) Free tickets to Rarig and Ted Mann Theaters...
- 4) ...and free parking!
- 5) The warm glow of smug satisfaction that comes from doing good!

And if you don't like the sound of an offered assignment, you can always say no. Call 612-625-8016. We'll be delighted to hear from you.

Helen Briggs,
Retirees Volunteer Center Communications Chair

Tutoring opportunities to consider

The Retirees Volunteer Center has been promoting tutoring and mentoring activities this past year. Our success has prompted additional institutions to request our assistance; however, we need more volunteers who wish to fill these needs by engaging in weekly tutoring or mentoring.

The opportunities are wide ranging in location and student age — children, teenagers, University teaching assistants and families from other countries, and adults. Give this serious consideration. You can make a real difference. Call the office or use e-mail. 612-625-8016 / urvc@umn.edu

Tutoring and Mentoring Projects – Fall 2006

(Interviews are required for all but “Partners-in-English”)

University of Minnesota “Partners-In-English”

Conversations with International Grad Students

- 1) One-on-One: arrange weekly schedule with student
- 2) Wednesday group setting with families, St. Anthony Park Library, 2–4 p.m.
- 3) Tuesday group setting with families, McNamara Alumni Center, 4–6 p.m.

Community Center

Liberty Plaza Resource Center (near Dale and I 94, St. Paul)

Assist urban 4-H intern with teenagers: homework and leadership enrichment, Tues. and Thurs. weekly, 4–6 p.m. (Two volunteers could split the days.)

Private School

Risen Christ Catholic School, Powderhorn Park area, Mpls.
Weekly during school hours; preschool and K-12

Assist English reading/speaking for Spanish-speaking children, as well as math tutoring and general tutoring

Public Schools

- 1) Dist. 282 “Bridge Builders,” St. Anthony/New Brighton
Weekly during school hours, preschool and K-12
Tutor in variety of subjects: mentor gifted children or give an individual class lecture in subject of your choice
- 2) Minneapolis Adult Basic Education
Five locations: Uptown, Broadway, Prospect Park, Anderson Open, Abbott Northwestern
Assist teachers in English usage, GED topics, and teaching basic computer skills

Two-hour training at Hubbs Ctr., 1030 University Ave. W., St. Paul on Sept. 21, 6–8 p.m.

Three-hour orientation and training session at Lehman Ctr. Sept. 27, 9 a.m.-noon

Introducing Gayle Graham Yates, UMRA’s president-elect

At the May banquet, after Dan Wascoe enlivened the cocktail hours with piano renditions from the great American songbook and before Robert Pepin’s fascinating talk about comet dust collected by NASA’s Stardust mission (I can’t recall whether Dan played Hoagy Carmichael’s “Stardust”), we held our annual election. By unanimous vote, Gayle Graham Yates became president-elect of our association.

For a long time, I had known that Gayle’s academic career has been a distinguished one. It took a copy of her c.v., unearthed in archival research for this article, to reveal just how much she has accomplished. After a B.A. from Millsaps College in Jackson, Mississippi, and a M.A.T. in American literature from Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tennessee, Gayle earned a Ph.D. in American studies here at the U.

Her first book, *What Women Want: the Ideas of the Movement* (Harvard University Press 1975), was a reworking of her dissertation, written under the direction of the estimable Mulford Q. Sibley. Her most recent book, her fourth, is *Life and Death in a Small Town: Memories of Shubuta, Mississippi*. A reviewer in *Southern Scribe* lauds the book and concludes that “Yates has contributed to the demythologizing of the South....”

Deeply involved in local and national beginnings of women’s studies and founding chair of the program here, Gayle shifted to American Studies in 1983 and is now professor emerita. In the later years of her career, Gayle particularly enjoyed a stint as director of graduate studies in American Studies as well as her roles as a founding mentor to entering undergraduates in Residential College, as chair of the Scholarly and Scientific Advisory Board, and as board member at the Weisman Art Museum.

In retirement she enjoys time with her husband, Wilson, and her family at their lake cabin in Wisconsin. Gayle confesses that becoming a “no-holds-barred, doting grandmother...surprises me as much as it surprises lots of other people who knew me in another stricter, sterner life.” Perhaps a strict, stern academic transformed into a doting grandmother is just the ticket for UMRA.

— Frank Miller

University of Minnesota Retirees Association — leadership for 2006–07

Keep this list as a handy reference throughout the year. UMRA encourages your active participation in UMRA affairs. To facilitate communication within the association, we offer this list of officers and others to contact.

OFFICERS

President: Frank Miller, 612-331-2145,
E-mail: mille005@umn.edu

President-elect: Gayle Graham Yates, 612-920-2501,
E-mail: graha001@umn.edu

Secretary: Ben Zimmerman, 651-645-1662,
E-mail: zimme003@umn.edu

Treasurer: Judy Howe, 651-645-2584,
E-mail: j-howe2@umn.edu

Past President: Warren Ibele, 612-377-1075,
E-mail: ibele001@umn.edu

MEMBERSHIP and COMMUNICATIONS

Members database manager: Carl Jessen, 651-645-1220
E-mail: c-jessen@umn.edu

Membership chair: Pat Tollefson, 763-781-9747
E-mail: p-toll@umn.edu

Webmaster: Ron Anderson, E-mail: rea@umn.edu

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Marty Dworkin, Evelyn Franklin, Robert Holt, Sally Jorgensen, Gene Mason, Earl Nolting, Marty Rossman, Burt Sundquist, Pat Tollefson, Dave Wark, Yang Wang

EX OFFICIO, EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

Jacqueline Singer

LIAISONS

Morris Campus: Laird Barber

Retirees Volunteer Center: Alan Kagan

UMRA REPRESENTATIVES

Alumni Association: Sally Howard

Board of Regents: John Imholte

Campus Club: Hy Berman

Senate Committee on Faculty Affairs: Ted Litman

Senate Subcommittee on Retirement Plans: Burt Sundquist

Benefits Advisory Committee: Ted Litman, Rodney Loper

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

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

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