

# UMRA U NEWSLETTER

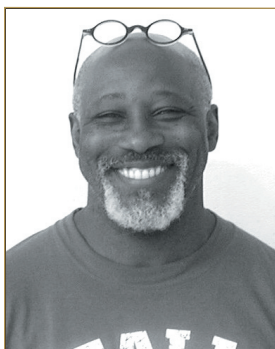
*A Communication of the University of Minnesota Retirees Association*

FEBRUARY 2007

## Artist Clarence Morgan will speak February 27 on a “A Life in Paint”

Clarence Morgan is a magnificent human being. It is an extra that he is a world-class artist as well. Clarence is an enthusiastic and exuberant teacher and leader, who has been an professor at the University of Minnesota since 1992 and chair of the Department of Art since 2004.

He is a man who makes large and boldly colorful abstract paintings and writes and talks about his paintings, print making, and drawings as skillfully as he creates art. His winsome, energetic, and charming personality matches his artistic creativity and intelligence,



and he is much in demand as a visiting lecturer as well as for exhibitions of his paintings.

At the University of Minnesota, Clarence Morgan was awarded the College of Liberal Arts Dean's Medal for 2005-06. He has received Graduate School Grants-in-Aid-of-Artistry, Bush Sabbatical support, and McKnight Awards. For a three-year term, he was a faculty mentor for the Residential College Program and was enormously popular with the students.

Locally, his works are in the collections of the Weisman Art Museum and the Walker Art Center; and he has exhibited recently

in Minneapolis at the architecture firm of Meyer, Scherer & Rockcastle and at Thomas Barry Fine Arts.

An East Coast native, Clarence earned a certificate-diploma in painting from the Pennsylvania Academy of The Fine Arts. His 1978 MFA in painting is from the University of Pennsylvania's School of Design. From 1978 until 1992, he taught at the School of Art, East Carolina University.

He has been a visiting artist at numerous universities and art schools, including Stanford University, University of Washington in Seattle, University of Wisconsin at Madison, University of Akron, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, The Cooper Union School of Art, Yale University, and the University of Alabama.

He has served on gallery boards of directors and has shown his art widely in the United States from New York's Reeves Contemporary to St. Louis's Gallery 210, and from Boston's Kidder Smith Gallery to Santa Fe's LewAllen Contemporary and Philadelphia's Gallery Joe.

Over three years, from 2004, Morgan showed 32 paintings and works on paper titled “Momentum and Stasis” at the Brooklyn Botanic Garden's Steinhardt Conservatory Gallery in New York.

On February 27 we shall welcome him to speak on his own work with the title, “A Life in Paint.”

— Gayle Graham Yates, President-elect

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

FEBRUARY  
LUNCHEON MEETING

Tuesday  
February 27, 2007  
11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

**Featured Speaker**  
Clarence Morgan, chair,  
Department of Art, University  
of Minnesota  
“A Life in Paint”

**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, February 22**  
To reserve your place(s)  
send a check, payable to the  
University of Minnesota Retirees  
Association, to Ben Zimmerman  
at 2225 Folwell Ave., St. Paul,  
MN 55108; call him at 651-  
645-1662; or e-mail him at  
zimme003@umn.edu.

Reservations requested after  
Thursday, Feb. 22 will be on a  
waiting list. Cancellations must  
be received by noon Feb. 22.

**Parking**  
With your UMRA membership  
card, parking is available for  
\$4 all day in the East River Road  
Garage.

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

UMRA NEWSLETTER

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

Last spring I noticed that there was a long line at the check-in table for UMRA lunch meetings, so I suggested that we have two tables, “Pay here” and “Prepaid.” You can help us further speed the process by mailing a check in advance to the secretary, or arriving at lunch with check in hand, or by having cash that is close to exact change. Let me tell you a story about having money in the right form.

In 1980 Cynthia and I, along with seven-year-old Emily, spent several months in San Cristóbal de Las Casas, the central market town of the Highland Mayan region of Chiapas, Mexico, where I had done dissertation research more than 20 years before.

On the long drive through Mexico, we stopped in Cuernavaca to see my old friend Lini de Vries, a North American who had a distinguished career in public health, working with Indian communities. Cynthia told her that she had saved her honoraria to buy a hand-loomed rug for our living room. Lini said, “Go see Isaac Vásquez in Teotitlán del Valle, Oaxaca. He makes the best rugs in Mexico. And please give him my warmest regards.”

On the way south to the state of Chiapas, Cynthia ordered a rug with natural dyes from Don Isaac’s two assistants and arranged to pick it up on the way home in four months. When asked about a deposit, they said, “Doña Lini’s friends don’t have to pay a deposit.”

In San Cristóbal we bought most of our food in the market, a jazzy improvisation of colors and aromas,

and few of the Mayan market women had much change. At the bank I opened a savings account for living expenses and the rug money, but my withdrawals always came in the equivalent of \$20 and \$50 bills, a huge sum in the market in those days. When we asked for smaller bills, the tellers invariably said they were all circulating in the market. So we planned our consumption to get change at commercial establishments.

Upon leaving, I knew that we would have to pay cash for the rug, and I worried about carrying \$2,000 worth of pesos all the way to Oaxaca. When I closed the savings account, the teller disappeared into the office and returned with a sheepish smile and a large grocery sack. “Please forgive me, Señor, we don’t have any *large* bills today.” So I set to work finding hiding places in our old Chevy wagon for \$2,000 in fives and ones! Lest you think me even more obsessive-compulsive than I already am, I hasten to inform you that the remote stretches of main highways in southern Mexico are famous for bandits.

To make a long story shorter than I would like, Don Isaac himself was there when we arrived to pick up the rug. He retrieved a six-inch square and told Cynthia he wanted to be sure she was satisfied with the colors and design. She was thrilled with the colors, and he said they would make the rug within a couple months and send it parcel post. When we asked about payment, he said, “When you get the rug, just send me a check.”

—Frank Miller

## January luncheon is successful in attracting new and prospective members

It was a pleasure to see the enthusiastic response to Eric Utne’s talk at the January luncheon meeting. And he was impressed with what a lively group we are.

It was also the perfect occasion for inaugurating our new practice of asking members to introduce their guests so that they can be properly greeted by all.

We were delighted to welcome nine guests, and two joined on the spot. With some encouragement, perhaps more will soon do the same! Thank you to all who invited guests.

### **Invite a prospective member to the February lunch meeting as UMRA’s guest.**

Join the campaign for new or renewing members by inviting fellow retirees to an UMRA luncheon meeting. Let them see what we’re all about. I urge all members to consider this, for I believe it is the most effective way to recruit new members.

It’s easy: make a reservation with our secretary Ben Zimmerman; give him your friends’ names for the nametags, and UMRA will cover the cost of the guest’s meal.

Your personal contact will make all the difference in helping UMRA to strengthen and grow.

—Frank Miller, President

## The University and its neighbors come together to address concerns

What happens when an urban university starts planning a new 50,000-seat NCAA football facility at the edge of its campus? You might think it would drive a wedge between the institution and its neighbors. At the University of Minnesota, the development of a new stadium certainly has raised concerns among campus neighbors, but the planning process for the new stadium has also become a forum for better communication, and for addressing some longer-term mutual concerns.

Since February 2005, a group of about 30 people have been coming together monthly to touch base on the community impacts of building and operating a new football stadium on campus. In 2004, the University created the Stadium Area Advisory Group (SAAG), inviting each adjacent neighborhood and local government jurisdiction to appoint up to two representatives, volunteers who would agree to convene regularly to exchange information and concerns.

Today, the SAAG is made up of representatives from six neighborhoods, five local governments, four business associations, the Minnesota State Fair, and a student representative. SAAG members meet with University leaders who are responsible for the implementation of the stadium project, including Vice Presidents Kathleen O'Brien and Richard Pfutzenreuter, Athletic Director Joel Maturi, and Associate Vice President for Government Relations Donna Peterson.

The initial charge to the SAAG was to advise the University regarding the development of an Environmental Impact study, but as the Gopher stadium proposal was being developed, the Advisory Group took on some new roles and responsibilities that further connect the University to the surrounding community.

### **Evolving role for the Stadium Area Advisory Group**

Two elements of the Gopher stadium financing bill have brought the University and the neighboring communities into a new kind of relationship. First, a Stadium Good Neighbor Mitigation Fund endowment of \$1.5 million will be created by the University as part of the stadium project costs. The proposed allocation guidelines for this fund are now being developed by a SAAG task force.

The first allocations from the fund may come as early as the end of 2007. SAAG members have suggested that some of the proposals for the uses of funds may include additional crime prevention efforts by the neighborhoods, marketing initiatives for the local business districts on game days at the stadium, and creative programming for youth related to the stadium.

The second innovation is a "neighborhood impact report" jointly developed by the University, the City, and neighborhood representatives from the Stadium Area Advisory Group. The report includes consensus recommendations that include the creation of a more intentional and sustained alliance among the U, the City, and the neighborhoods to ensure that the neighborhoods near campus are "vital, safe, and attractive" places in which to live, learn, visit, and work. The report, to be submitted to the Minnesota Legislature in mid-February, is expected to result in legislative proposals for funding to carry out the report recommendations.

### **University-community partnership aims for sustained communication and cooperation**

Although University-community conversations have been going on for nearly four years now, the dialog is really just beginning. The SAAG community advisers will continue as the University constructs the stadium and begins to plan for how to organize game-day events. Traffic management, public safety, and setting the stage for football fan "culture" will all be important planning topics.

For the life of the Stadium Good Neighbor Mitigation Fund, neighborhood and local business association representatives on SAAG will participate in setting funding priorities and ensuring that this resource is well used for projects that benefit the community.

The alliance that is being recommended in the neighborhood impact report is intended to be a partnership to address the long-term destiny of the campus and the adjacent communities. Joint action to address the more urgent concerns about housing quality and neighborhood "livability," and to market the University community area as a premier place to live and work will require a sustained and deepening relationship. We started with a conversation about a stadium and have moved on to many more fundamental areas of shared interest.

—Jan Morlock, University Relations

*Editor's Note: A final version of "Moving Together: U of M Area Neighborhood Impact Report" and its recommendations is expected to be posted online at the City of Minneapolis web site at [www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us](http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us).*

## Dates to keep in mind

Luncheon meetings with speakers are held in the East Wing of the Campus Club at 11:30 on the fourth Tuesday of each month, September through April (except December).

The May banquet is on the fourth Tuesday at 5:30 p. m.

February 27

Clarence Morgan, professor and chair of the Department of Art (see page 1)

March 27

Barbara Reid, professor emerita of Theatre Arts, "Political Courage in the Theatre"

April 24

Speaker to be announced

May 22

Spring Banquet and brief business meeting;  
Program to be announced

For information, contact UMRA president Frank Miller, 612-331-2145 or mille005@umn.edu

## Volunteering is good for your health

Last fall, in the annual report of the Retirees Volunteer Center, Alan Kagan cited a Health Partners study that indicated volunteering is good for your health. His own experience leads Alan to endorse this claim, and I believe that many other volunteers would agree.

Now, as New Year's resolutions kick in, you might want to take some action...do something for your health as well as for somebody else. Find out what opportunities are available through the University Retirees Volunteer Center. For details call 612-625-8016.

—Frank Miller, President

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For additional information about  
UMRA, visit [www.umn.edu/umra](http://www.umn.edu/umra)  
or contact President Frank Miller  
at 612-331-2145 or <[mille005@umn.edu](mailto:mille005@umn.edu)>

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