

# UMRA U NEWSLETTER

A Communication of the University of Minnesota Retirees Association

MAY 2007

## Annual banquet May 22 will feature music, dinner, U Vice President Barceló

Come to the West Wing of the Campus Club on May 22 for another smash-hit, year-end grand finale with the following points of interest:

- Reception and cash bar at 5 p.m. Music by the Reid Kennedy Jazz Trio with Dakota Jazz Club regulars Chris Lomheim on piano and Graydon Peterson on bass.
- Dinner at 6, wine included. When you make your reservation, **please indicate your choice: chicken, beef, vegetarian.**
- Brief business meeting, election of officers, and inauguration of President Gayle Graham Yates.
- After-dinner talk by Vice President Nancy “Rusty” Barceló

Reluctant evening drivers are encouraged to call the U Retirees Volunteer Center, 612-331-2145, weekdays 9 to noon, for a ride.

### VP “Rusty” Barceló and U’s vision for access, equity, and diversity

When our banquet speaker Dr. Nancy “Rusty” Barceló was named the 1969

outstanding social work senior by Chico State College (CSC), it was clear she was destined for greatness. This was borne out in 2004 when she was awarded the Mexican government’s prestigious Ohtli Award for furthering Mexican-United States relations.



After earning her B.A. at CSC in California, she moved on to graduate work at the University of Iowa, where she was the only Chicana student.

By 1980 she had a Ph.D. in higher education administration and was working her way up through an array of positions. She came to Minnesota in 1996 to serve as associate vice president for Multicultural and Academic Affairs and chair of the Chicano Studies Department. A few years later she was hired away by the University of Washington, as a full-fledged vice president, and given the charge to ensure that UW become a leader in the promotion of diversity.

Rusty’s commitment to diversity was widely recognized, and when our institution wanted to reinvigorate its commitment to equity and diversity, it had to look no further than its own recent personnel records. Rusty has been hailed as a leader for transformational change, an astute visionary practitioner, and the moving force behind National Initiative for Women in Higher Education.

In June 2006 Rusty returned to the U as vice president for Equity and Diversity, responsible for developing and implementing a systemwide strategic plan for access, equity, and multicultural affairs.

At the UMRA luncheon in September President Robert Bruininks spoke about his vision for the University transforming itself to meet the needs of the 21st century. Access, diversity, and equity are foremost among these needs, and we shall warmly welcome Dr. Rusty Barceló at our May banquet to speak about her vision for reaching these ambitious goals.

## UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

### MAY BANQUET AND ANNUAL MEETING

Tuesday  
May 22, 2007, 5–9 p.m.

#### Featured Speaker

Dr. Nancy Barceló,  
vice president and vice pro-  
vost for Equity and Diversity,  
University of Minnesota  
“A Vision for Access, Diversity,  
and Equity at the University”

#### Location

West Wing of the Campus Club  
Fourth Floor of Coffman  
Memorial Union,  
East Bank Campus, U of M

#### Cost

\$30 per person (tax included)

#### Reservation Deadline

Noon, Thursday, May 17

To reserve your place(s), please **designate your choice of entrée: chicken, beef, vegetarian**, and 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](mailto:zimme003@umn.edu).

Reservations requested after Thursday, May 17, will be on a waiting list. Cancellations must be received by noon May 17.

#### Parking

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

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

The magnolia adorning the front stoop has dropped its blossoms already and hundreds of lissome “caterpillars” appear to be dangling from the branches of the birch sheltering the rear deck. Spring has arrived with a flourish, and we of UMRA are looking forward to the May banquet, our last event of this academic year (see article on page 1).

It has been a privilege and a pleasure to serve you as president. Better than that, it has been “interesting.” Even better that *that*, it has been great fun to reconnect with old (whoops, that word is taboo), I mean long-time friends; to make new friends; and to explore the mysterious avenues of bureaucracy in our hallowed institution (see photo).

I have been blessed to work with a thoughtful, supportive, and congenial board. Some members even exhibited a well-honed and humane tolerance for my jokes. A vast amount of humdrum labor is needed to keep an organization humming along. The people who keep UMRA on track are Secretary Ben Zimmerman, Treasurer Judy Howe, Database Manager Carl Jessen, Webmaster Ron Anderson, membership chair Pat Tollefson, and Al Linck, who does the mailings to prospective members in fair weather and foul. Their diligence and efficiency benefit us all, especially me. All these good folks are, of course, volunteers.

The reason that the newsletter looks so good is that publisher/editor Ginny Hanson has such an eagle-eye for aesthetic and literary infelicities. I have also consulted with her about organizational dynamics, a domain in which she has a lot of “street smarts.”

A year ago in this space, then-president Warren Ibele said that the president-elect had “absorbed the unwritten and unspoken practices common to all organizations.” As the months passed, I began to realize how much I had learned from him and how much I was trying to follow his example of thoughtful and graceful leadership.

At the banquet the president will pass an invisible gavel to Gayle Graham Yates. Last September she pitched right in and did more than her share of the work. That a proposal for enhanced recognition of retirees is working its way toward the University Senate is largely the result of her ideas and energy. If Gayle’s service as president-elect has any predictive value, the coming year is going to be a great year for UMRA.

—Frank Miller



Photo by Cynthia Abbott Cone

UMRA president metaphorically exploring the “mysterious avenues of bureaucracy” (see president’s message).

### Parking discount continues

We are pleased to announce the continuation of the parking discount as a benefit for UMRA membership. All rates are going up, so the UMRA rate will also be increased to \$4.50, but again, that is for any length of time, 24/7, except during special events, which includes the Gortner Ramp during the State Fair.

This rate is available only at the East River Road Garage (East Bank), Lot 86 beside the Law School (West Bank), and the Gortner Avenue Ramp (St. Paul).

We thank Parking Services for offering this special discount for UMRA members only. This benefit is not available to all retirees, and it is available only at the three venues mentioned above. We ask members to play by the rules and not demand the discount at other facilities or during events.

— Frank Miller, President

## U volunteer center aids 4-H fundraising, takes on Red Cross educational events

The University Retirees Volunteer Center has been involved in two projects that are a bit different than our usual fare.

Completed: the 4-H Schwan's Fundraiser. We were involved only in the last stage: collating, alphabetizing, and organizing the paper work. Sounds dull, but it was a pleasant and satisfying chore. Those of you who worked on it will be happy to hear that the 4-H members throughout the state raised \$124,837, to be divided among the 4-H Foundation, 4-H programming, and the individual clubs.

Still on the books: The Red Cross is looking for people to staff tables at community and school events, to hand out

materials, and answer questions. Because a certain degree of knowledge about the work of the Red Cross will be necessary, a two-hour training session is required. These sessions will be held in both Minneapolis and St. Paul, some 10 a.m. to noon, and some 5 to 7 p.m.

If you are interested in helping to spread the word about the good work of the Red Cross, call the U Retirees Volunteer Center, 612-625-8016.

— Helen Briggs, URVC

## Looking to earlier times: models of civility for a nation deeply divided

At a time when debate over the Vietnam War reflected deep divisions in American society, a notice appeared on the office doors of two political science professors. Mulford Sibley had a large sign which read "Advice to Conscientious objectors." Harold (Hal) Chase posted a notice "Advice to ROTC candidates.

Mulford and Hal held fundamentally opposed views on the war and publicly defended their positions. Yet they remained friends, could talk civilly (although not frequently) about their differences, participated jointly in the affairs of the department and the university. At the core they were both deeply committed civil libertarians and never questioned each other's right to express openly and forcefully their very different views. Who were these professors who were in some ways so different, but in fundamental positions were so close together?

Mulford was born and raised in Oklahoma and, after completing a B.A. and M.A. in that state, came to the University where he completed his Ph.D. in 1938. He taught for 10 years at the University of Illinois and came back to the University of Minnesota as an associate professor in 1948. He was a committed pacifist and a conscientious objector during the Second World War. He volunteered to participate in the dietary research projects (popularly called the "starvation studies") conducted by Ancel Keyes.

Hal was a New Englander who attended Phillips-Andover Academy and completed a A.B. at Princeton in 1943. He immediately went into the Marine Corps where he was commissioned a second lieutenant. When discharged, he stayed in the Marine Corps reserve and began graduate work at Princeton. While Mulford was actively protesting the Korean War, Hal volunteered for active duty. After two

years he returned to Princeton and received his Ph.D. in 1954. In 1957 he came to Minnesota as an associate professor where he and Mulford became friends.

Mulford continued to be involved in unpopular causes, and his defense of free love raised the hackles of the community. He actually got into a formal public debate on the topic with a member of the St. Paul city council. Some members of the legislature called for his dismissal for advocating doctrines that would corrupt the youth. Mulford was flattered, as any student of Socrates would be. Hal was his outspoken defender.

Hal taught an undergraduate seminar in civil liberties at the time of the controversy over the sale of *Lady Chatterley's Lover*. Hal had all the students read the novel, and they all felt it was a violation of the first amendment to keep it off the bookstore shelves. Hal then went to a store where some things were sold under the counter and picked-up a set of graphic illustrations depicting in exquisite detail the most scintillating passages of the novel. He passed them out to his class, who found them horrifying and disgusting. Hal said quietly, "I just wanted to see how far your commitment to freedom of expression really went."

When the Vietnam War came, both remained true to their values. Hal volunteered for active duty in Vietnam and served as a colonel in a marine corps amphibious assault battalion. He also was a part time visiting professor at Hue University where he taught a course on constitutional government and democracy. He rose to the rank of major general in the Marine Corps reserve, but resigned his commission to take a position of Assistant Secretary of Defense in the Carter administration.

— Continued on page 4



## Models of civility — continued from page 3

Mulford participated actively in demonstrations against the war and spoke with passion and eloquence against the policies of the government. For the rest of his life he was a reasoned advocate of pacifism both as a way of life and as a principle on which government policy should be based.

Both Hal and Mulford were brilliant teachers; each won University prizes in 1961 for distinguished teaching. In addition they were dedicated scholars. Mulford was devoted to classical political theory; his article on the “Legitimate Spell of Plato” is still well worth reading. But this classical politi-

cal theorist was also a Fellow in the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

Hal’s great scholarly love was public law; his casebooks reflect a deep knowledge of the law combined with an understanding of pedagogy.

Each participated actively in the affairs of the department and the University. Hal served a brief term as Academic Vice President. They were both model democratic citizens and always treated others with civility no matter how much they might disagree with positions that they took. They were leaders in nurturing these aspects of the University’s traditions that we cherish so much.

— Robert Holt, member of the UMRA Board of Directors

### As summer approaches...

...you’ll be wanting to renew your UMRA membership, of course. Watch for the membership renewal mailing in late June or July. Note: Your UMRA cards are valid for discount benefits until the end of August.

The next Newsletter will come out in September.

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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, [mille005@umn.edu](mailto:mille005@umn.edu), or 979 18th Ave. S.E., Mpls 55414

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2. Cut out this form **and address label**.
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