

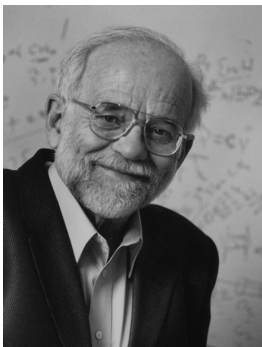
# UMRA UNIVERSITY NEWSLETTER

A Communication of the University of Minnesota Retirees Association

SEPTEMBER 2008

## Regents Professor speaks on renewable energy at first fall luncheon meeting

Regents Professor Lanny D. Schmidt will speak at the UMRA luncheon on September 30. His topic will be “Does Renewable Energy Make Sense?”



Dr. Schmidt is a professor in the University's Department of Chemical Engineering and Materials Science.

Professor Schmidt's research focuses on various aspects of the chemistry

and engineering of chemical reactions in situations with technological applications. Reaction systems of recent interest are catalytic oxidation processes to produce products such as hydrogen, syngas, olefins, oxygenates, and HCN by partial oxidation. Technological applications include direct conversion of alkanes and renewable fuels into chemicals, the production of hydrogen and syngas, and biomass reforming for fuel cells and for chemical and fuels production.

These interests and research efforts have given Professor Schmidt a worldwide plat-

form in the discussions of new sources of alternative energy.

Dr. Schmidt grew up in Zion, Illinois. He received his Ph.D. in chemistry from the University of Chicago and came to Minnesota in 1966 as an assistant professor of Chemical Engineering and Materials Science. Since coming to Minnesota he has taught undergraduates and graduate students, supervising approximately 85 Ph.D. and 15 M.S. theses. He has published more than 340 papers in refereed journals and is a member of the National Academy of Engineering.

In 2004, *The Scientific American* included Dr. Schmidt as one of its 50 “Research Leaders of the Year,” naming him as the top researcher in the field of energy.

Lanny Schmidt and his wife, Charlotte, have lived in South Minneapolis since they arrived in the Twin Cities in 1966. They have two daughters and four grandchildren.

Please join us in welcoming Regents Professor Lanny Schmidt to our September 30 luncheon.

— Hal Miller

### Invite your friends and colleagues to lunch and to join UMRA this year!

Invite a prospective member to join you for lunch this year. It's UMRA's treat! Just call in to reserve a place and tell us your guest's name for the nametags. UMRA will cover the cost for their lunch so they can sample UMRA's hospitality as well as a luncheon program.

Remind your friends that UMRA is doing good things for U retirees. Besides fascinating programs and social events, remember to tell them about the discounts that are offered to members at three campus parking facilities, at both University Bookstores, and Intercollegiate Athletic events.

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

SEPTEMBER  
LUNCHEON MEETING

Tuesday  
September 30, 2008  
11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

#### Featured Speaker

Lanny Schmidt, Regents Professor, Chemical Engineering and Materials Science, U of M  
“Does Renewable Energy Make Sense?”

#### Location

Conference Room ABC  
Campus Club, Fourth Floor  
Coffman Memorial Union,  
East Bank Campus, U of M

#### Cost

Prepayment: \$12 per person.  
\$14 at door for those not prepaid.

#### Reservation Deadline

Thursday, September 18

To reserve your place(s) and take advantage of prepaid price, send a check, payable to UMRA, to UMRA Reservations, c/o Ginny Hanson, at 7707 Victoria Circle, St. Louis Park, MN 55426. Contact Ginny at 952-925-3063; or e-mail: hanson045@umn.edu.

Reservations requested after Sept. 25 will be on a waiting list. Please let us know about cancellations by noon, September 25.

#### Parking

Parking is available in the East River Road Garage at UMRA's membership discount, \$5.00 for the entire day.

Board Meeting at 10 a.m.

UMRA NEWSLETTER

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

As I begin my term as president of UMRA, I am impressed with the achievements of this association. Organized as a body to advocate for the interests of retired faculty and staff members, it has carried out this mandate for all the years of its existence.

Just over the past 12 months, several UMRA projects have been completed: Senate approval of the UMRA proposals for the enhancement of the status of retirees, a report on the idea of a retirees' center, and the beginning of a small grants fund. These projects have had a rather long history of development and support from previous UMRA leadership.

On November 29, 2007, the University Senate approved the "Resolution on Retiree Benefits." The resolution was a follow-up to an earlier document on rights of retirees, also supported by UMRA. The Senate Committee on Faculty Affairs developed the resolution in consultation with UMRA representatives and Board. The initiative was stimulated by then-president Frank Miller and followed through to completion by Gayle Graham Yates.

Provisions of the Senate action urged the University to:

- Develop a systemwide process to invite all retiring employees to contribute their skills to the University after retirement
- Extend the provision of several benefits to retired faculty, civil service, and P&A employees
- Coordinate and facilitate the service of retirees in several areas
- Ensure that retirees are listed in directories and their achievements noted in University publications

- Host an annual reception for all employees who have retired in the previous twelve months
- Consider the establishment of a University-supported Retirement Center.

President Gayle Graham Yates spoke to the motion and answered questions. The motion was passed with near-unanimous U Senate approval.

Following the Senate action, President Graham Yates began the process of "considering the establishment of a retirement center." She appointed a committee under the leadership of Professor emeritus John Howe to bring a proposal to the board. By spring, the Howe committee had concluded its work. The Board approved the committee's recommendation that the Provost's office establish a retirees center committee to be drawn from the various constituencies who might have an interest in such a center. The University Retirees Volunteer Center and the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute have both expressed their support of the proposal. It will now go forward to Vice Provost for Faculty and Academic Affairs Arlene Carney, who has the portfolio on UMRA matters.

The Small Grants Proposal, passed in May by the Board with an investment of \$10,000, has had great success. As can be seen in Professor Howe's report (page 3), the summer months have seen a gratifying response from several central officers and deans. In the near future, UMRA members, deans of the various colleges and campuses, and organizations outside the University will be solicited to support this effort.

It is an honor to be asked to work together with the membership of this vital and prestigious organization. I am grateful for your support of UMRA.

Hal Miller, President

### Gentle Reminder to renew your Membership

Membership renewal letters were mailed this summer. Dues this year are \$25 per year: \$35 per couple. If you have not already done so, please send your check, payable to UMRA to John Anderson, 1332 East Como Blvd, St. Paul, MN 55117. If you have questions, you may contact him at 651-489-4330 or [ander049@umn.edu](mailto:ander049@umn.edu). Membership cards with discount privileges expired on August 31.

### Coffman Unit Available

Unit #227 at 1666 Coffman — 3-Bedroom, 1304 square feet, in choice Southwest corner. List price: \$289,900. If interested, contact Joan Osgood Realty at 651-644-0745.

— Jane Lindberg, Chair,  
1666 Coffman Promotions Committee

## Small grants initiative will be up and running for 2008-09

At its May meeting, the UMRA Board approved the creation of a three-year Small Grants Initiative intended to support the continuing professional work of faculty, P&A, and civil service retirees. In support of this trial initiative, the Board committed \$10,000 from the Association's savings and agreed to launch an additional fund-raising effort among UMRA members in the early fall.

The Board's \$10,000 proved effective seed money. During the summer, the Small Grants Committee met with various University vice presidents to explain the initiative and seek their support. Without exception, they applauded our efforts. More than that, they together have offered financial support amounting to more than \$40,000 dollars. Graduate School Dean Dubrow has committed an additional \$10,000 and has agreed that the Graduate School will administer the grant-making process by advertising the initiative, organizing a committee to review applications and make recommendations for funding, and announcing the final awards—thus lending the initiative increased legitimacy.

Our committee will carry the Small Grants Initiative to the Council of Deans at its September meeting and seek the support of that group as well.

Finally, Jerry Fischer and Bob Burgett at the University Foundation have agreed to establish a Small Grants Fund and dispense the awards. At a stroke, that relieves UMRA of additional tasks that it is less qualified to handle, and it assures individual contributors that their donations will be tax deductible—not a small issue in fund-raising!

Though the contributions to date are of soft, rather than permanent money, they will enable us to get the Small Grants Initiative under way during the 2008-2009 academic year, gather evidence of its value both to retirees and the University, and begin the search for permanent funding.

Over the summer, it's become gratifyingly clear that administrators value retirees' continuing contributions to the University and are ready to support those contributions financially, even during these fiscal hard times.

Anyone having questions or suggestions about the initiative is invited to contact me or any other member of the committee: Kim Munholland, Marty Dworkin, Hal Miller, and Dick Caldecott.

—John Howe, Chair,

Committee for the Small Grants Initiative

## Volunteer to aid admissions process

This fall the University Retirees Volunteer Center (URVC) is initiating a new and extremely important project to assist the undergraduate admissions office. Each application must be read by three readers. The office is overwhelmed! (See front page article, "True To U," *Star Tribune*, August 17.)

Those of us who have read student papers throughout our careers are perfect for this assignment. As a start, we are seeking University retirees to read applications for students applying for the honors program. A volunteer must commit to weekly hours (at home) through the fall quarter. URVC will make a more detailed announcement on the UMRA listserv in early September. For more details now, please call the URVC office (612-625-8016) or send an e-mail to [urvc@umn.edu](mailto:urvc@umn.edu).

—Helen Briggs, URVC Communications

## Active Learning - Participate with OLLI

Are you interested in stretching your mind? Do you enjoy being with engaged, vibrant people? Do you like travel with learning, attending the theater and concerts, visiting museums with knowledgeable docents, or exploring local ethnic restaurants with new friends? How about jazz, language conversation groups, book groups, birding, biking? Is there a course you have always wanted to teach?

Members of the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute of the University of Minnesota (OLLI) are excited about being at a stage in their lives when they are able to stretch their minds and pursue new challenges. No class credits, grades, tests, or writing papers! OLLI is about exploring new topics, and this coming year, OLLI members will choose from more than 230 courses, trips, and activities taught and led by volunteer current and emeritus faculty from the U of M, local colleges; community experts; and OLLI members. All this for an annual membership of \$195! No additional tuition costs.

A few comments from current OLLI members: *"A feast of learning! A huge part of my life—keeps my mind active! Positive, stimulating, expands boundaries! I can't believe \$195 covers the cost of all these great classes and activities! This is the best value in the Twin Cities!"*

Check out the OLLI Web site at [www.cce.umn.edu/olli](http://www.cce.umn.edu/olli). To receive a newsletter by mail, call 612-624-7847 or e-mail [ollimlb@umn.edu](mailto:ollimlb@umn.edu).

**Ask about the Fall Information Fair on September 9!**

—Steve Benson, OLLI Programming Director

# University of Minnesota Retirees Association — leadership for 2008–09

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:** Harold Miller, 612-824-5213  
E-mail: miller@umn.edu

**President-elect:** Robert Holt, 612-377-5419  
E-mail: holt@umn.edu

**Secretary:** Corrine Ellingham, 952-835-1276  
E-mail: ellin002@msn.com

**Treasurer:** Earl Nolting, 651-633-4333  
E-mail: enolting@umn.edu

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

## MEMBERSHIP and COMMUNICATIONS

Members database manager: John Anderson, 651-489-4330  
E-mail: ander049@umn.edu

Membership chair: Harlan Hansen, 612-623-4105  
E-mail: hhansen@aol.com

Reservations manager: Ginny Hanson, 952-926-3063  
E-mail: hanso045@umn.edu

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

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

John Anderson, Ginny Hanson, Jan Hogan, Calvin Kendall, Rodney Loper, Meredith Poppele, Earl Scott, Robert Scott, Burt Sundquist, Pat Tollefson, Yang Wang, Dave Wark

## EX OFFICIO ON BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Jacqueline Singer, Employee Benefits  
Richard Oriani, University Retirees Volunteer Center

## UMRA LIAISONS and REPRESENTATIVES TO:

Alumni Association: to be appointed

Board of Regents: Hal Miller

Campus Club: Hy Berman

Morris Campus: to be appointed

Retirees Volunteer Center: Robert Holt

1666 Coffman: Burt Sundquist

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](http://www.umn.edu/umra).**

---

University of Minnesota  
McNamara Alumni Center  
Room 264, Suite 250  
200 Oak Street S.E.  
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?**

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

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