

# UMRA U NEWSLETTER

A Communication of the University of Minnesota Retirees Association

NOVEMBER 2008

## November meeting features Larry Jacobs, analysis of 2008 elections and beyond

By the time this newsletter reaches you, the American President and the next Congress will have been elected, and we will all know who won. By mid-November we will also have heard hours and hours of analysis, mainly in 30-second sound bites, of the election from dozens of pundits.



By November 25, when UMRA meets for its monthly luncheon and program, most of the pundits will have moved on to other things. But Minnesota's favorite analyst of

elections Professor Larry Jacobs will have the time to tell us some things about the election that reflect his well-considered insights into the political process and this historic election.

Professor Jacobs holds the Walter F. and Joan Mondale Chair for Political Studies and is the director of the Center for the Study of Politics and Governance at the University. His areas of expertise are presidential and legislative politics, American political history, Midwestern swing states, third-party politics, Social Security and health care policy. He also co-edits the "Chicago Series in American Politics" for the University of Chicago Press and has published seven scholarly books on the American political scene. In addition, he has authored articles in leading journals.

Many of his publications have received major awards from such organizations as the American Political Science Association, the American Sociological Association, and the International Communications Association. He has received a prestigious Robert Wood Johnson Investigator Award in Health Policy Research.

In addition to these publications, Dr. Jacobs has been active in mass media outlets including the BBC, National Public Radio, Minnesota Public Radio, CBS News, CNN, MSNBC, the *New York Times*, *Los Angeles Times*, and the *Wall Street Journal*, just to name several. Locally, he is frequently seen as a political analyst for WCCO.

Larry Jacobs has spoken to UMRA before, most recently analyzing the election of 2006. His popular presentations have always given new insights into what we are experiencing in the political scene. It is our pleasure to welcome Professor Lawrence Jacobs to our November meeting of UMRA, and we look forward to hearing him again.  
— Hal Miller, President

### Reservations, please

We welcome Becky Hurst to UMRA membership and thank her for taking on the volunteer task of reservation management. Please show your appreciation by making her task easier—send your checks for reservations well before the deadlines to make sure you have your place secured. Believe me, I don't know how Ben Zimmerman did it all those years! Thanks, Ginny Hanson

## UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

### NOVEMBER LUNCHEON MEETING

Tuesday  
November 25, 2008  
12:30 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.  
Note Time Change

#### Featured Speaker

Larry Jacobs, Professor of Political Science, U of M  
"Analysis: 2008 Elections"

#### 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, November 20

To reserve your place(s) and to take advantage of prepaid price, you must send a check, payable to UMRA, to UMRA Reservations, c/o Becky Hurst, 1794 Roxanna Lane, New Brighton, MN 55112 before the deadline date. You may contact Becky at 651-636-5568; e-mail: [rebecca.hurst@comcast.net](mailto:rebecca.hurst@comcast.net)

Reservations requested after Nov. 20 will be on a waiting list. Please let us know about cancellations by noon, November 20.

#### Parking

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

Board Meeting at 10:45 a.m.

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

### *Keep Your Emeriti Close*

That was the headline of a “Heads Up” column by Gary A. Olson in the August 20 edition of *The Chronicle of Higher Education*. Ted Litman sent the piece to me and I thought it was interesting enough to share with you.

Gary Olson is dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at Illinois State University. His article starts out recounting a conversation with another dean who asked his advice about how to “handle” retired professors. This dean said of retired faculty members: “They’re like the proverbial bad penny. They keep coming back around, and they interfere in departmental business as if they still worked here full time.”

She was, as Olson tells it, “incredulous” when he explained that his college “makes a special effort to embrace emeritus faculty members and to involve them in the life of the college.” At Olson’s university all retired faculty members are designated, as he describes it, “emeritus.”

He goes on to describe ways in which some departments in his university keep retired professors close: shared offices on campus, maintaining laboratory privileges, keeping retirees on a speakers bureau, and inviting them to all department events and, in some cases, daylong conferences in honor of a retiring faculty member.

We all know that this already goes on in varying degrees at the University of Minnesota. But in the last two years

we have seen efforts to institutionalize these initiatives come to fruition. Last year, UMRA’s past president, Gayle Graham Yates, and the UMRA Board expanded the occasional departmental and college support for retirees to an institution-wide commitment through a Senate Resolution on Retiree Benefits. This has proven to be an important document and has had good response from the central officers, led by President Bruininks.

As evidence, we are anticipating the appointment of a University-wide committee to study the feasibility of a University of Minnesota Retirement Center as described in the Senate document. This appointment will come from the office of Provost Sullivan. Also, as Professor Emeritus John Howe has reported, we have had good response from the central officers to appeals for funding the first three years of our small grants initiative. Again, President Bruininks has led by encouraging continued funding from the vice presidents for the initial three years of this program.

These responses are heartening, but if we are to see their potential realized, it will require continuing efforts by UMRA, the URVC, OLLI and other entities committed to advancing the cause of the retired members of the University. It will be good for the retirees and it will be good for the University of Minnesota.

—Hal Miller, President

## Introducing Robert Holt, UMRA’s president-elect

At UMRA’s festive luncheon in the Weisman last May, Robert Holt was nominated for the position of president-elect. Immediately a full-throated chorus of questions bombarded the nominating committee. Is he ready to become president on Day One? Does he have the experience to be the leader of the only remaining retiree superpower at the University of Minnesota? Perhaps the most telling question was posed by a distinguished white-haired gentleman: We can be sure that our enemies will test him—can he protect UMRA against the combined forces of Osama bin Laden and the Minnesota Legislature?



The nominating committee responded that Professor Holt grew up in real Minnesota small towns where his father was a Methodist minister active in the civil rights movement even before it had a name. After graduating magna cum laude from Hamline in 1950, he entered Princeton’s Woodrow Wilson School, took two years off to serve in the U.S. Army, and still received the Ph.D. in 1957.

At Minnesota Bob became a full professor of political science in 1964, and three years later the founding director of the Center for Comparative Studies in Technological Development and Social Change. After serving as chair of political science, he was a highly successful dean of the Graduate School, 1982-91, after which he retired.

Continued on page 4

## Funding established for small grants program

As you know, UMRA's Small Grants Committee has been in conversation with officers of the University's central administration and the Graduate School concerning our program of Professional Development Grants for Retirees.

Funding is now in place to support 10 grants of up to \$3,500 in each year of the program's three-year trial run. The Graduate School has agreed to administer the program. The call for proposals, including application procedures and deadlines, has been posted on both the UMRA and Graduate School web sites.

Procedures are posted on the UMRA web site, [www.umn.edu/umra/Grants.html](http://www.umn.edu/umra/Grants.html) (note the capital G) or the Graduate School, [www.grad.umn.edu/home](http://www.grad.umn.edu/home), and click "more info."

Please note that not only UMRA members but all faculty, P&A, and civil service retirees from the Twin Cities and coordinate campuses are eligible to apply. This message is to invite you to consider applying for a grant and to ask your help in calling the grant program to the attention of other retired colleagues. If you have questions concerning eligibility or other issues, please get in touch with one of the Small Grants Committee members. Their names and e-mail addresses are provided at the bottom of the call for proposals.—John Howe, Chair, UMRA Small Grants Committee

## Volunteer for U Admissions work

The University Retirees Volunteer Center has been engaged to seek volunteers as readers of undergraduate applications to the University. As you are likely aware, the number of applications is overwhelming at a time when the University has raised its admissions standards, and seeking the best high school graduates. This is a tremendous opportunity to serve the University and to use those academic attributes with which we are skilled.

The work will be done December through January at a Williamson Hall reading center. Ten hours of training will be given in late November. Applications will be read on computer so basic computer skills are required. Before the training, a personal interview will determine if your interests, skills, and availability meet the needs of the position.

This project is proposed as a volunteer activity without financial payment. Volunteer hours may be used as a tax deduction. (When available, paid, part-time employment as a readers may be applied for. See Human Resources web site.)

To submit your name or that of a friend for consideration, contact the University Retirees Volunteer Center 612-625-8016 or e-mail Alan Kagan, [kagan001@umn.edu](mailto:kagan001@umn.edu).

**Reminder Note for your datebook:  
The UMRA luncheon meeting on November 25 will  
begin at 12:30 p.m. rather than 11:30 a.m.  
In January we'll be back to normal hours.**

## Welcome new members - Add to your directories

Ever the cost-efficient organization, UMRA publishes its directory every other year—the next directory will come out in November 2009. In the meantime, the Newsletter will become your source for adding new members and their contact information to your directory listings. Please welcome the following new members, who have joined us since spring 2008.

- Cline, Charles H. (Education)  
1054 Wedgewood Ln S., Eagan, 55123; 651-687-0671
- Eidman, Vernon R. and Betty J. (Appl. Econ.)  
90 Mid Oaks Lane, Roseville, 55113; 651-644-5094
- Gunderson, Keith R. and Sandra Riekkii (Philosophy)  
1212 Lakeview Ave S, Mpls, 55416; 612-374-4339
- Herman, Robert and Carol (Genetics, Cell Biol. & Dev.)  
2195 Hendon Ave., St Paul, 55108; 651-646-6613
- Hokanson, Joan M. (CLA-Fiscal Admin.)  
742 Torchwood Ln S., New Brighton, 55112;  
651-633-3914
- Hurst, Rebecca (Cont. Edu. & Ext.)  
1794 Roxanna Ln, New Brighton, 55112; 651-636-5568
- Lanyk, Christine M. (CSOM Fin. Services)  
1295 Shryer Ave. W., Roseville, 55113; 651-647-9091
- Lundell, Judy A. (Rec Sports)  
2848 40th Ave. S., Mpls, 55406; 612-724-9281
- Reicosky, Joan E. (Social Sci. - Morris)  
24 Brook Street, Morris, MN, 56267; 320-589-2069
- Schumi, Winifred A. and Joseph R. (Ofc.VP for Research)  
990 Winston Cir., Mendota Hhts, 55118; 651-552-9957
- Van Drasek, Barbara J. (Univ. Metro Consortium)  
5045 Penn Ave. S., Mpls, 55419; 612-925-4930
- Walter-Marchetti, Claire (Ofc. Univ Women)  
and John J. Marchetti  
11761 Able St. NE, Blaine, 55434; 763-757-6167
- Zaidi, Mahmood A. and Ingrid Werk (Industrial Relations)  
528 N. Mississippi River Blvd , St. Paul, 55104;  
651-647-9896
- Zeyen, Richard J. (Plant Pathology)  
1666 Coffman St. #332, Falcon Hts, 55108;  
651-470-3212

## Introducing Robert Holt—continued from page 2

His many books include *The Political Basis of Economic Development*, an instant classic.

Bob and Shirley Holt have three daughters—one of whom is Ann Holt, the adept manager of the Campus Club—and six grandchildren.

One of my privileges in life has been the opportunity to observe Bob holding his own, downing shots of tequila with Mexican factory workers and debating development issues with anthropologists, economists, political scientists, and sociologists.

Amid shouts of “analyze, baby, analyze” and “yes, you can,” Robert Holt was elected by acclamation. He opened his acceptance speech by asking, “What is the difference between a political scientist and a pit bull?” No one could answer, so he said, “I don’t know either, but it sure as heck ain’t lipstick.”

—Frank C Miller, past-president  
and beloved UMRA humorist

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**For additional information about  
UMRA and its activities, and to see photos of  
past events, go to [www.umn.edu/umra](http://www.umn.edu/umra).**

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## You are encouraged to bring guests—

### UMRA offers FREE Lunch to prospective members

Invite a prospective member to join you for lunch this year. It’s UMRA’s treat! Just call in to alert us and make your reservations—and tell us your guests’ names for the nametags. UMRA will cover the cost for their lunches 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 and is poised to do even more. Besides fascinating programs and social events, UMRA members enjoy discounts at three campus parking facilities, at University Bookstores, and Intercollegiate Athletic events. Urge your retired friends to obtain these advantages and join us!

More to come from a very active 2008-09 membership committee chaired by Harlan Hansen!

## Reserve Early for November Luncheon

UMRA lunch programs have been drawing capacity attendance this fall, and the November 25 luncheon will surely be no exception. Larry Jacobs and his discussion of the political scene is always a “sell-out.” So be advised to reserve your place(s) early by putting a check in the mail to the reservations manager well before the deadline of November 20.

University of Minnesota  
McNamara Alumni Center  
Room 264, Suite 250  
200 Oak Street S.E.  
Minneapolis, MN 55455-2002

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

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

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