

UMRA U NEWSLETTER

A Communication of the University of Minnesota Retirees Association

APRIL 2009

James Pacala to speak in April on model health care delivery for older Americans

How do we take care of old people? Our April luncheon speaker, Dr. James Pacala, is well qualified to answer this question. His writing, lectures, and clinical teaching engage medical professionals and lay audiences alike in the challenges facing health care delivery today. His work has inspired



UMRA representatives to the University Health Benefits Advisory Committee to press for geriatric competence in the providers of our retiree health plans.

Dr. Pacala, a board-certified family

physician and geriatrician, is associate professor and Distinguished University Teaching Professor in the Department of Family Medicine and Community Health at the University of Minnesota Medical School.

He received his baccalaureate degree from Carleton College and his M.D. from the University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry. After completing a residency in Family Medicine at the University of Wisconsin/Madison, Dr. Pacala obtained a master's degree in chronic disease epidemiology from Brown University, and completed two fellowships, one in Health Services Research in Gerontology (at Brown) and the other in clinical geriatrics (at the University of Connecticut). He has been on the faculty at the University of Minnesota since 1992.

Dr. Pacala has performed research and published extensively on models of care delivery to geriatric populations and on innovative teaching methods. Currently a member of the American Geriatrics Society board of directors, he is also a co-author of the AGS practice handbook, *Geriatrics At Your Fingertips*, which is now in its 10th edition, and which has sold more than 200,000 copies. He is extensively involved in medical student education, having served as chair of the Medical School's Education Council and as director of the Year One "Physician and Society" course.

Dr. Pacala has received several awards for his research, teaching, and clinical care, including the American Geriatrics Society's Outstanding Achievement for Clinical Investigation Award (2002), the University of Minnesota Medical School's Outstanding Teacher of the Year Award (1999), and the University of Minnesota's All-University Postbaccalaureate, Graduate, and Professional Education Teaching Award (2002).

We hope to see you on April 28 for another great talk in our luncheon series.

—Rod Loper, Program Committee

Reminder: invite a prospective member to lunch with UMRA

Encourage your retiring friends to sample UMRA's hospitality and programming. You will be adding to the collegiality of UMRA events and helping fellow retirees enjoy the benefits of UMRA membership.

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

APRIL
LUNCHEON MEETING

Tuesday
April 28, 2009
11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Featured Speaker

Dr. James Pacala, associate professor, University of Minnesota Medical School
"Challenges facing Health Care Delivery Today"

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, April 23

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

Reservations requested after April 23 will be on a waiting list. Please let us know about cancellations by noon, April 23.

Parking

Parking is available in the East River Road Garage at UMRA's membership discount, \$5 for the entire day. Come early and visit campus in the spring.

Board Meeting at 10 a.m.

UMRA NEWSLETTER

FROM THE PRESIDENT

On the Heels of the Greatest Generation

I was 10 years old when the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor and launched World War II. That put me eight years behind what Tom Brokaw called the greatest generation of young men and women who fought and died in that war. I had no brothers, but my sister had just married a young mail carrier in eastern Colorado in April of 1941, and in January of 1942, he was off to join the Air Force and fight in Europe. Many of our local young men and women in my small Wyoming community joined the various services and went to the theaters of war in the Pacific and in Europe.

Today we are losing those veterans at a rate of 1,000 a day. Their sacrifice and commitment to America is fast becoming a memory.

But we know of many who have since responded to their country's call for help—in other wars and in peace as well. John F. Kennedy launched the Peace Corps with a challenge to self-commitment in his famed 1960 inaugural address: “Ask not...”

These challenges were taken up by young people, and we usually expect that youth will bear the burden of commitment and sacrifice. But I have been an admirer of former President Jimmy Carter's work after his presidency. In 2002, twenty-two years after he left the White House,

President Carter was honored with the Nobel Peace Prize for work he had done as a mediator between countries and people in conflict.

Gunnar Berge, in his speech presenting the Peace Prize to Mr. Carter, said:

Most of us become more conservative as we grow older. With Jimmy Carter the opposite seems to be the case. In this respect he is an atypical pensioner, growing with the years more and more radical and critical of society. Jimmy Carter will probably not go down to American history as the most effective President. But he is certainly the best ex-president the country ever had.

[He] has evidently taken the advice of his favorite poet, Dylan Thomas:

*“Do not go gentle into that good night,
Old age should burn and rave at the close of day.”*

We don't have to burn and rave to make contributions as we age. There are many opportunities for us to make our mark.

As UMRA approaches the time when we look for people to serve as officers and committee members, we can step up to offer some time and effort to contribute to the common good—even for the modest work of UMRA.

— Hal Miller, President

UMRA has a variety of roles for you to play — and yes, work can be play!

The Norwegian poet Kolbein Falkeid wrote: “Do not hang splendid moments up on the walls in your thoughts and gild them with your longing. Drive your crowbar hard under scarred working days and force them up. One by one. That is why life has you on its muster role.”

We have all had our scarred working days along with the memories that accompany them—for good or not. But memories aren't enough to make satisfactory lives for some of us. Life has us on its “muster role.”

For additional information about
UMRA and its activities, and to see photos of past
events, go to www.umn.edu/umra.

And, UMRA is now looking for volunteers for its muster role: to serve on committees, as officers, and as members of our Board. Yes, your organization needs you, your wisdom, and your talents. Someone may soon be calling you to ask you to serve in one of these roles. Please be ready to say yes.

Or, if you're inclined, let some of us know that you will be willing. Maybe it's time to hang some new “splendid moments on the walls in your thoughts.”

—Hal Miller, President

To let us know of your interest, please contact Hal Miller, president, e-mail: miller@umn.edu, phone: 612-824-5213; Bob Holt, president-elect, e-mail: holt@umn.edu, phone: 612-377-5419; or Gayle Graham Yates, past president and Nominating Committee chair, e-mail: graha001@umn.edu, phone: 612-920-2501.

Grants program gets off to a smooth start with funding for 12 grants

In mid-March, Graduate School Dean Dubrow announced completion of the first cycle of awards offered under the new Graduate School/UMRA Professional Development Grants initiative. The \$3,500 grants are intended to “support retirees who require financial assistance to pursue projects related to their research, instructional, or other work history, and that contribute to the educational, scholarly and academic missions of the University.”

As reported earlier, 42 completed applications were received by the December 15 deadline. A seven-person committee of pre- and post-retirement colleagues, appointed by Dean Dubrow, discussed the applications and recommended 12 for funding. Dean Dubrow reviewed those recommendations and informed the 12 individuals of their good fortune. Among the winners, one is from the Duluth campus and the remainder from the Twin Cities. Of those, four are from CLA, with one from each of the following colleges: CBS, IT, Design, the Medical School, Public Health, and the Law School. The final recipient is from the University Libraries. A listing of the winning projects is printed at the end of this article and on the UMRA website at www.umn.edu/umra.

We began the Small Grants initiative persuaded that significant numbers of University retirees continue to do important scholarly and professional work that merits support. The number and quality of applications in this first cycle confirms that belief. We look forward to maintaining the same high standards during the remaining two, “experimental” years of the program.

Volunteering — good for you and good for those you help

Consider becoming a volunteer by contacting the University Retirees Volunteer Center. Many choices of activity are available, both at the U and at nonprofit community agencies. Studies have shown that volunteering not only benefits the receivers of aid but provides both physical and mental advantages for the volunteer.

Everyone is welcome to participate. Find out more by contacting the center at urvc@umn.edu or 612-625-8016. The office is staffed from 9 a.m. to noon, weekdays. At other times, you may leave a message and someone will get back to you. Volunteering is rewarding and enjoyable!

—Judy Rosenblatt, board member and volunteer, URVC

Anyone having questions or comments about the program, is invited to contact members of the Small Grants Committee: John Howe, Kim Munholland, Marty Dworkin, Dick Caldecott, and Hal Miller.

—John Howe, Chair, UMRA Small Grants Committee

Professional Development Grant Awards, 2008-2009

Ronald Anderson, professor emeritus—Department of Sociology, College of Liberal Arts; “Comparative Social Well-Being during Financial Crisis”

Leonard Banaszak, Deitrich Professor emeritus—Department of Molecular Biology and Biophysics, Medical School; “The Role of Water in Structural Biology”

Henry Blackburn, professor emeritus—Division of Epidemiology and Community Health, School of Public Health; “Preventing Heart Attack: The Origins and Early Era of Research”

Mary Lou Fellows, Everett Fraser Professor of Law, emerita—Law School; “Spiritual Wills and Worthy Women”

Donald Clay Johnson, Ph.D., librarian, retired—Ames Library of South Asia; “South Asian Embroidery Traditions”

P. T. Magee, professor emeritus—Department of Genetics, Cell Biology and Development, College of Biological Sciences; “Chromosome Loss in the Pathogenic Yeast *Candida dubliniensis*”

Roger Martin, professor emeritus—Department of Landscape Architecture, College of Design; “Illusion in Exterior Space: Perception Manipulation and Place Making on the Land”

John Kim Munholland, professor emeritus—Department of History, College of Liberal Arts; “The ‘Gravediggers of France’ at the Chateau d’Itter, 1943–1945”

George (Rip) Rapp, Regents Professor emeritus—Department of Geological Sciences, College of Liberal Arts, Duluth; “Publication of ‘The Shang in Context: Yinxi, Huanbei, and Beyond.’”

Michael Stoughton, associate professor (retired)—Department of Art History, College of Liberal Arts; “Research in the Historic Archive of the Bank of Naples and the Painting of Giovanni Battista Caracciolo (1578-1635)”

Paul Weiblin, professor emeritus—Department of Geology and Geophysics, Institute of Technology; “Characterization of Rocks Recently Discovered on the Gunflint Trail that Formed from 1850 Million-year-old Meteorite Ejecta”

Jack Zipes, professor emeritus—Department of German, Scandinavian and Dutch, College of Liberal Arts; “The Enchanted Screen: De-Disneyfying the Fairy-Tale Film”

Regents study U budget challenges

At its March meeting, the Regents took a hard look at the effect of Governor Pawlenty's budget recommendations as well as the possibilities afforded by the federal stimulus bill on the University's operating budget for the next biennium.

The brighter side: The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) includes more than \$21 billion in research funding opportunities with additional funding going to NIH, NSF, Energy, and Education. Student affordability will benefit with an expanded Hope Scholarship tax credit of \$2,500 that will reach at least 80 percent of the U's undergraduate students. ARRA also raises the maximum Pell Grant from \$4,731 to \$5,350, as well as investing additional money in work-study programs. ARRA runs out in 2012.

The darker side: Even though the Stimulus Package would provide some bridge funding for the University, by 2012, daunting cuts to the University's state base budget appropriation and recurring obligations are expected to severely challenge the University's strategic position through the years ahead. The "takeaways" from the presentation were: "We must continue to stabilize and strengthen the U's financial model to address future needs," and "Since tuition dollars are essential, we must continue to find creative ways

to discount the cost of education in relation to financial need." Much is in flux, especially in state support, but the University Administration is making good efforts to inform the Regents of the options ahead.

—Hal Miller, UMRA President and liaison to Regents

Welcome new members

Please give a hearty welcome to new members who have joined UMRA recently. Please welcome them at the next lunch program and add their contact information to your 2008-09 directories.

Russell G. and Cherie Y. Hamilton, Spanish & Portuguese
3151 Dean Ct. #1003, Minneapolis, MN 55416-5505
612-929-0233

Paula M. and Nels E. Knutzen, Surgery
2046 Highland Parkway, St. Paul, MN 55116-1309
651-699-1515

Sharon M. Lewandowski, Plant Pathology
14930 - 70th St. S, Hastings, MN 55033-9140
651-436-5664

Donald J. and Joyce Pusch, Food Science/Health Services
1408 Hythe St. #5, St. Paul, MN 55108
651-645-6294

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

**Have you changed your
address, e-mail, or phone?**

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

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

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