

# UMRA U NEWSLETTER

*A Communication of the University of Minnesota Retirees Association*

MAY 2009

## UMRA closes year with festive luncheon, annual meeting, and investment seminar

UMRA members are invited to enjoy the May Festive Luncheon with your choice of three enticing entrees (see page 3), to participate in the organization's Annual Meeting, and to explore the intersection of spirituality and art with a presentation by Dr. Wilson Yates, United Theological Seminary.

The day's activities on May 26 will culminate with a seminar program focusing on investment strategies for retirees.

### Wilson Yates will give virtual tour of religious art housed in the MIA

President emeritus Wilson Yates of the United Theological Seminary in the Twin Cities will take UMRA members on a "virtual tour" of religious works that are housed in the Minneapolis Institute of Art.



Dr. Yates will discuss the works of Fra Angelico, Daddi, Costa, Rembrandt, El Greco, Goya, van Gogh, Beckman, Brancusi, Rouault, Kandinsky, Moore and Mondrian.

Works from the Buddhist, Muslim, and the Judaica collections will also be considered.

When asked about his presentation, Dr. Yates wrote, "The intersection of religion and art has existed since the beginning of the human community, and the subject of spirituality and art has a contemporary significance and attention that invites exploration. We will treat works of art, both secular and religious in subject matter, that reveal religious meaning and invite spiritual

contemplation in a powerful and engaging fashion."

Dr. Yates joined United Theological Seminary in 1967, became professor of Religion, Society, and the Arts in 1987, served as dean for eight years, and then as president from 1996-2005. He is a graduate of Southeast Missouri State University, Vanderbilt University Divinity School, and holds a Ph.D. from Harvard University. He has been a visiting scholar at Cambridge University on three occasions and also at Yale Divinity School. Last fall he was a visiting professor at Pacific School of Religion in Berkeley, California.

**Continued on page 3**

### UMRA sponsors seminar on asset allocation strategies for retirees

The current economic downturn has had an impact on the investments many of us are counting on to provide for our retirement years. Aware that a program on investment strategies may be helpful in addressing the specific concerns U retirees may have, the UMRA board appointed a task force in February to arrange for such a seminar.

UMRA is pleased to announce that on May 26 from 2:30 to 3:45 p.m. we will present a seminar for discussions regarding the investment market and asset allocation strategies.

The seminar, titled "The State of the Market and Typical Asset Allocation Strategies for Retirees," will be convenient for those who attend the May 26 luncheon, as it will

**Continued on page 3**

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

MAY FESTIVE  
LUNCHEON and ANNUAL  
MEETING

**Tuesday**  
**May 26, 2009**  
**11:30 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.**

**Featured Program**  
"Intersection of Religion and Art"  
Dr. Wilson Yates, Professor Emeritus of Religion, Society, & the Arts

**Location**  
Conference Room ABC  
Campus Club, Fourth Floor  
Coffman Memorial Union

**Cost**  
**Prepayment**, \$25 per person;  
\$27 at door for those not prepaid.  
**Please indicate your choice of  
entree with your reservations.**  
(see page 3 for details)

**Reservation Deadline**  
**Thursday, May 21**  
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

**Investment Seminar**  
From 2:30 to 3:45 p.m. Free for  
all retirees, but please RSVP your  
intent to attend.

**Parking**  
Parking is available in the East  
River Road Garage at UMRA's  
membership discount,  
\$5 for the entire day.

**Board Meeting at 9:30 a.m.**

UMRA NEWSLETTER

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

### *After we have let our lives speak*

Recently I have been reading *Let Your Life Speak* by Parker Palmer of the University of Wisconsin, Madison. The book is probably most useful to young people who are trying to get a bead on what careers they should follow. But the book has some usefulness to those of us who have embarked on a new vocation as well: retirement.

Whatever led us to the vocations we chose and the influences that brought us to the University of Minnesota, retirement has, to some extent, silenced our voices. Most of us remember when those nearing 68 faced mandatory retirement, and then it was 70. Some went peacefully, but some didn't, trying to hold on to the place where they could continue to let their lives speak in the way to which they had become accustomed. One of my friends, after a few weeks of retirement from the University told me, "I knew what I was retiring from, but I didn't know what I was retiring to." From a position of influence where his life was important to many people, he went to a place where it wasn't.

When Social Security set the time for retirement at 65, there wasn't much time left in a person's life to find a new voice. That has changed. As I was writing this piece, a brochure came from the College of Continuing Education advertising "Encore! A Learning Life Fest." It goes on to ask: "What will I do for my Second Act? Keep Working? Invent my own Retirement? Make a Differ-

ence?" One of the featured speakers has written a book: *Encore: Finding Work That Matters in the Second Half of Life*. Looking at the demography and life expectancy of retirees, the end of our University careers doesn't mean that our lives can't speak any more.

That brings me back to *Let Your Life Speak*. Palmer makes the point that one should rely on one's inner voice as the guide to vocation rather than on external voices and the expectations of others. One chapter "Now I Become Myself" begins with a poem by May Sarton:

"Now I become myself.  
It's taken time, many years and places.  
I have been dissolved and shaken,  
Worn other peoples' faces...."

At this stage in our lives we have been dissolved and shaken and tried to live with the expectations of others—"worn other peoples faces." Now we are free to explore our own identity, what Palmer calls "the true self within every human being that is the seed of authentic vocation."

Back to my friend. He has used the time of his retirement to find new spheres of influence—new ways to let his life speak. All of us are on this quest with new work, time with extended family, and public service—new ways to let our lives speak in the days that are before us.

— Hal Miller, President

## A chance meeting offers an opportunity to convey a greeting from a familiar friend

On Sunday, May 3, when I was in Boston to hear my son sing in *The Bartered Bride*, I attended services in Old South Church. As much as anything, I was attracted to its role in history, "gathered" as it was in 1669. As I was entering the church, I saw a familiar face—a University of Minnesota retiree from Morris—Dr. Bettina Blake. We exchanged greetings, sat together, shared a hymnal, and visited for some time after the service. We saw each other again that afternoon at *The Bartered Bride*.

Dr. Blake came to the University of Minnesota, Morris, from Wellesley College in the late 1980s to be the academic

dean of that campus where she served as chief academic officer for 16 years. Those of us who remember her may also remember that she was helpful in establishing the University of Minnesota Morris Retirees Association (UMMRA).

After her time at Morris, she moved back to Boston and, among other things, is active in Old South Church and is a regular at Opera Boston performances. Although somewhat hampered physically by a recent stroke, Bettina is as bright, warm, and chipper as ever. She sends her greetings to all of her friends in Morris and the Twin Cities.

— Hal Miller

## Investment Seminar—Continued from page 1

be held in the Campus Club, Rooms ABC following the Annual Meeting luncheon.

With the assistance and support of University Employee Benefits, UMRA has engaged Securian representatives Matthew Osterhus, Leah Recken-Mahoney, and Blake Seigert, who will make the presentation and respond to questions. Blake Seigert is the manager of University of Minnesota Retirement Plans at Securian. Securian's General Account and General Account Limited is the home for many University faculty members' retirement plans, but the presentation will be broadly based and general in scope. The presentation will not include market projections or forecasts, nor will the speakers provide any individual investment advice.

Admission to the seminar is free and is open to all UMRA members as well as other retirees, on a space available basis. Please indicate your desire to attend or invite guests when you respond to the invitation to the Annual Meeting so we can arrange for chairs at the seminar. Thank you.

Our thanks goes to the task force—Burt Sundquist, Ron Anderson, Rod Loper, and Bob Holt—for joining in the planning for this seminar.

— Hal Miller, President

---

## May Program —Continued from page 1

Dr. Yates is active on several boards and professional societies that concentrate on the intersection of religion and the arts. Throughout his years at United Seminary he has taught in and is now teaching and advising in its religion and arts program

His publications over the past 15 years include editing *Arts, Theology, and the Church*, Pilgrim Press, 1985; *Theological Reflection on the Grotesque in Art and Literature*, Erdmanns, 1987; "Sacred Imagination, The Arts and Theological Education" in the *Journal of Theological Education*, Autumn, 1994, to name but a few. He has written many articles and essays that have been published in the journal *Arts, the Arts in Religious and Theological Studies*. His current writing projects include the Religious Life and Work of Kaethe Kollwitz and Religious Iconography in the Work of 20th Century Artists.

We look forward to what promises to be an enlightening and engaging presentation from this scholar and teacher who has spent much of his career in drawing these two fields together.

— Hal Miller, President

## Annual Meeting Festive Luncheon features your choice of entree

(And, please be sure to indicate your selection when you send in your reservations.)

### Social

Come early and mingle with friends and colleagues.

Wine and refreshment bar opens at 11:30;

Lunch will be served at noon

### Menu

Opener: Campus Club signature salad of baby greens, gorgonzola, and walnuts served with an apple vinaigrette

Then, it's your choice from among three entree choices:

- 1) Herb-Roasted Pork Tenderloin with rhubarb relish and mashed potatoes
- 2) Almond Crusted Walleye with herb butter and wild rice, or
- 3) Vegetarian entree of Grilled Polenta with Spring Ratatouille (mushrooms, asparagus) and French Feta.

Dessert: Flourless chocolate cake with white chocolate cream sauce and coffee or tea

## UMRA officer and Board nominees

The 2009 UMRA Nominating Committee made up of Richard Caldecott, Jan Hogan, Frank Miller, Vern Jensen, and Gayle Graham Yates, chair, has completed its task of nominating officers and board members. UMRA by-laws call for a president-elect to be nominated to serve one year as president-elect, the next year as president, and the third year as past president. Other candidates are board officers secretary and treasurer, each without term limits, and four new board nominees elected for three-year terms each.

The nominees are:

- President-elect—John Anderson
- Secretary—Corinne Ellingham (re-election)
- Treasurer—Earl Nolting (re-election)
- Board members—Kim Munholland, Paul Quie, Richard Skaggs, Jane Starr

This spring Ron Anderson was elected by the board to fill a vacancy, and this will be considered the beginning of a three-year term for him. Other returning board members are Jan Hogan ('11), Calvin Kendall ('11), Meredith Poppole ('11), Earl Scott ('11), Robert Scott ('10), Burt Sundquist ('10), and Pat Tollefson ('11).

Robert Holt succeeds as the incoming president.

— Gayle Graham Yates, Past President and committee chair

## Renew your membership this summer

Watch for the membership renewal mailing in late June or early July. Your UMRA cards are dated and remain valid for discount benefits until they expire in August. Discounts continue at University bookstores, intercollegiate and on-campus sports events, and at three selected parking areas—the East River Road Garage (East Bank), lot C86 near the Law School (West Bank), and Gortner Avenue Ramp (St. Paul). These three are the only facilities where the discount is available to UMRA members.

A new directory for 2009–2010 will be printed in the fall. Please be sure to send us on any changes of address, e-mail, and phone numbers so we can update our records. Use the form on the mailing label or contact John Anderson, data manager, at [ander049@umn.edu](mailto:ander049@umn.edu).

## In Memoriam

Yang Wang died on April 5. He had been an UMRA board member and attended board meetings and luncheons faithfully until he became very ill the summer before last. He was a cardiologist in the Medical School, a specialist in fitness and heart health. Our condolences to his family; his wife, Helen, is a member of UMRA.

## Welcome new members

The following are new members of UMRA who have not been reported previously in the UMRA Newsletter. Please give them a hearty welcome and add their contact information to your 2007–2009 directories.

Roger and Jane Arndt, Civil Engineering,  
1820 N. Ham Lake Drive, Ham Lake, MN 55304  
763-355-7081

Arlene M. and Robert L. Bennett, Biomedical Engineering,  
11371 Eidelweiss St. NW, Coon Rapids, MN 55433  
763-427-7047

Patrick Keenan, Medical School,  
200 Logan Parkway NE, Fridley, MN 55432  
763-569-6226

Virgil Larson, Surgery,  
2270 Carter Ave., St. Paul, MN 55108  
651-644-4562

Jesse F. Richardson, University Libraries,  
1030 23rd Ave. NE, #2, Minneapolis, MN 55418  
612-825-9781

---

The next Newsletter is in September, keep current by  
visiting UMRA's website: [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**  
*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 \_\_\_\_\_

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