

UMRA U NEWSLETTER

A Communication of the University of Minnesota Retirees Association

SEPTEMBER 2009

Professor Masten will address society's children at risk at first fall luncheon

Our speaker for the September luncheon meeting is Ann Masten, Distinguished McKnight University Professor in the Institute of Child Development.



Professor Masten studies risk and resilience in the development of children, with a focus on processes that lead to positive adaptation and outcomes in young people who are threatened by adversity. She directs the Project Competence studies of risk and resilience, which includes a longitudinal study of 205 children and their families who were recruited in the 1970s from an urban school district and followed for more than 20 years with, remarkably, only a 10 percent dropout rate.

This research has resulted in increased knowledge and understanding of the development of competence, the role of protective factors in resilience, and the roots of adult happiness and civic engagement.

After graduating from Smith College, Dr. Masten worked at the National Institute of Mental Health until she began graduate

work in clinical psychology at Minnesota. She completed her Ph.D. in 1982, with a minor in child development and internship year at UCLA. On the faculty of the Institute of Child Development since 1986, she served as director from 1999-2005. The recipient of numerous honors and teaching awards, she is often invited to speak and consult internationally.

Some of her recent work is concentrated on understanding school success in homeless and highly mobile children and those displaced from natural disasters and war. She collaborates with partners in school districts and shelters as well as local and state agencies concerned about achievement disparities.

Her research informs policies and programs designed to promote positive development and a better future for children whose lives and threatened by adversity.

Today, about 10 percent of the children in Minneapolis schools are homeless. This is a tragedy not only for these children but potentially for our society. There is nobody in the world better qualified to address and help us understand the consequences of this problem and what can be done to help the children cope with the adversity, which they have had no part in creating.

Gentle Reminder: 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 membership list manager, John Anderson, 1332 East Como Blvd, St. Paul, MN 55117.

If you have questions, you may contact John at 651-489-4330 or ander049@umn.edu. Membership cards from (2008-09) with all their discount privileges expired on August 31.

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

SEPTEMBER
LUNCHEON MEETING

Tuesday

September 22, 2009
11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Featured Speaker

Ann Masten, Ph.D., professor,
Institute of Child Development,
University of Minnesota

**Resilience in Children at Risk:
the Power of Ordinary Magic**

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 reservations that
are not prepaid.

Reservation Deadline

Thursday, September 17

To reserve your place(s) and take advantage of prepaid price, send a check, payable to UMRA, to UMRA Reservations, c/o Pat Tollefson, 4210 Polk St. NE, Columbia Heights, MN 55421 Contact Pat at 763-781-9747 or e-mail: p-toll@umn.edu Reservations requested after Sept. 17 will be on a waiting list. Please let us know about cancellations by noon, September 17.

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

A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Welcome! Since most of us still resonate to the rhythms of the academic year, this is the beginning. For those of us who attend with some regularity our monthly meetings, a special welcome to the September lunch – a time for socializing, hearing an interesting and informative talk, participating in a challenging question period, and enjoying some good food.

Even those who are attuned to the academic year know that some things must be done during the summer months. It is our most active time for recruiting new members from among new retirees, and the Membership Committee, under the able and energetic leadership of Harlan Hansen, has been hard at work.

The Small Grants Committee, which is starting its second year of accepting proposals, requires continual effort in seeking funding and making the administrative arrangements for processing applications and getting money in the hands of those who won awards for 2009-2010. John Howe has done yeomen's work through the summer months, and there is no let-up in sight.

It did not take long after assuming the duties of the president that I was reminded that one of the duties of any administrator is to wage war against the ludicrous (on the beaches, on the streets, and in the corridors of the mighty).

The University has informed UMRA that it must have liability insurance covering no less than \$1,000,000, and automobile insurance also covering a minimum of \$1,000,000. When my predecessor informed the University that UMRA owns no automobile, has no intention of owning an automobile, and never rents an automobile in its name, he was told those facts were not pertinent. (I thought he should ask that since we do not own an airplane, should we also have airplane insurance?) UMRA has never in its history been required by the University to have this kind of insurance, and I am hoping to be able to maintain the status quo. (I probably will be accused of being a radical conservative for wanting to maintain the status quo).

One final point: As yet we have no volunteer to take reservations for our monthly luncheon meetings. If any regular attendee (or team of attendees) would volunteer, we will provide the necessary instruction and training. If no one comes forward, we will have to hire someone to do the job and will have to find the money to pay for it. (We did not get included in the federal stimulus package, and we do not engage in deficit financing.)

I await a flood of telephone calls or e-mails inquiring about this opportunity (612-377-5419; holt@umn.edu).

Robert Holt, President

In Memoriam

We report the passing of several members since our last newsletter. As we learn of losses to our UMRA community, we will report them here. Our condolences to the families of

Paul A. Cartwright, Electrical Engineering, d. May 31, 2009; wife Elizabeth is a member. Paul served on the UMRA board beginning in 1992 and was UMRA president, 1994-95

Marian Raup, d. June 9, 2009; husband Philip, Agricultural Economics, is an UMRA member

Genevieve Digangi, d. Feb. 24, 2009; husband Frank, Pharmacy, is an UMRA member

George Warp, Humphrey Institute, d. March 26, 2009

David Merrell, Ecology Evolution & Behavior, d. May 13, 2009; Jessie C. Merrell (date not known)

Jim Maddock, Medical School, d. July 18, 2009

The way you reserve your place for lunch programs makes a difference

UMRA members are reminded that the least expensive option for lunch reservations is to **mail your checks to the volunteer who is listed each month** (on page 1) as the volunteer reservations manager. A quick e-mail will help if you fear your check may not arrive before the deadline date.

The September volunteer, Pat Tollefson, has asked us to remind those who wish instead to pay at the door to please call to make reservations so that a place is reserved for you. We must submit a count for lunch to the Campus Club, several days in advance of the program date.

Thank you — with everyone's help and cooperation, the process will go more smoothly and the volunteer job of reservations manager will be so much easier!

Small grants, cycle 2, gets under way

As reported last spring, the first cycle of Small Grant awards for faculty, P&A, and civil service retirees was a great success. Readers can find information on the number and college distribution of applications, and the profile of awards on the UMRA web site at www.umn.edu/umra/Grants.

Plans are now under way for mounting the second cycle of awards during the 2009-2010 academic year. Once again, UMRA's Small Grants Committee will be working with Myrna Smith and Jana Pitstick of the Graduate School's grants and awards office to distribute advertising, to appoint a committee to review applications and recommend funding, and otherwise see the process for cycle 2 through to completion. Vice President Timothy Mulcahy, recently appointed interim dean of the Graduate School, will announce the awards on or about March 1, 2010. A copy of the Call for Proposals is available on the UMRA web site. The Small Grants Committee invites association members to consider applying for a grant, and urges you all to bring the Small Grants program to the attention of retired colleagues.

The committee has also begun discussions with the UMRA Board, the University Foundation, and others concerning the search for permanent funding of the Small Grants initiative. The committee will keep members informed via the association's newsletter, web site, and list serve as these discussions go forward. If you have thoughts or suggestions on fund raising or any other issue related to the Small Grants initiative, please get in touch with any committee member.

— John Howe, chair, Small Grants Committee

Conference report: Big Ten Retirees

The University of Iowa Retirees Association hosted the annual conference of retirees organizations of the Big Ten on August 14-16. Approximately 50 people from ten of the eleven institutions were in attendance and enjoyed a varied and informative program. Speakers from the host university included the university president, the provost, and the director for campus and facilities planning. A campus tour showed some of the consequences of the June 2008 flood, which affected 22 buildings and did more than \$700 million worth of damage! The view of abandoned art buildings surrounded by chain-link fencing was particularly chilling as was the view of the theatre building, which is on "building support" until they can decide to demolish it or renovate it.

The economic stress of the recession is touching every campus in significant ways as legislative support is diminishing. For most of the public universities, revenue from tuition now exceeds state support. A common goal is to turn the

burden of diminishing financial resources into opportunity, structuring in new ways to achieve synergies while tightening budgets.

The retirees organizations of the Big Ten are generally quite similar in focus although there are substantial differences in organizational structure. Volunteers are key to the success of most of the groups' activities. The Senior College at Iowa (like OLLI at several of the other campuses including ours) encourages retired faculty to engage eager elder learners in short courses on a wide range of topics.

It was a pleasure and a privilege to represent the University of Minnesota at this conference.

— John S. Anderson, President-elect

Volunteer as a museum guide

Two Minneapolis museums have contacted the U Retirees Volunteer Center seeking greeters and guides. They seek people willing to commit on an ongoing basis (at least once a month). Is this for you or someone you know? Everyone is welcome to help out, retiree or not, UM-connected or not.

The Bakken Museum, 3537 Zenith Ave. S., Minneapolis, explores the mysteries of electricity and magnetism and needs weekday volunteers to assist with school field trips. Tour leaders are trained to help school kids discuss our electric body, electric instruments, electric fish, Mary Shelley's Frankenstein's monster, and more. No science background is required. Tours last 75 minutes, with a maximum of 15 students per guide. Groups typically visit 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., Tuesdays through Fridays.

The American Swedish Institute, 2600 Park Ave., Minneapolis, needs volunteers for weekday, evening, and weekend shifts to welcome visitors at the front of the mansion/museum, help with admissions, orient visitors, and circulate to keep an eye on exhibits and share information with visitors. Again, training will be provided.

To find out more about these positions and many other activities, both at the U and at nonprofit community agencies, contact urvc@umn.edu or 612-625-8016. The office is staffed 9 a.m. to noon, weekdays, or leave a message for a return call. Volunteering is rewarding and enjoyable!

— Judy Rosenblatt, board member and volunteer, URVC

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

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Other Info _____

New members as of August 2009

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

Subir K. Banerjee and Manju Parikh, Geology and Geophysics/Institute for Rock Magnetism,
110 Bank St. SE, #701, Minneapolis, MN 55141-3903
612-623-0160

Larry D. Bjorklund, Veterinary Medicine,
14520 Moonlight Hill Rd., Minnetonka, MN 55345
952-935-1281

Robert J. and Janice Bowman, Laboratory Medicine and Pathology, PO Box 358, 9407-96th St. NW, Annandale, MN 55302 — 320-274-3484

Faith M. Clover, Curriculum and Instruction
1849 Goodrich Ave., St. Paul, MN 55105-1510
651-690-1583

Alice M. and Joseph V. de la Cova, OIT / Physics,
945 Lydia Dr. W., Roseville, MN 55113-1923
651-482-8363

Stanley L. Deno, Educational Psychology,
4730 Park Commons Dr., #323, St. Louis Park, MN 55416 — 952-646-6209

Mary K. Greuel, Microbiology,
2321 Glenwood Ave. N, Minneapolis, MN 55405

Robert B. and Sondra W. Howe, Medicine,
135 Chevy Chase Dr., Wayzata, MN 55391
612-626-4072

John H. Kersey, Masonic Cancer Center,
2292 Doswell Ave., St. Paul, MN 55108
651-646-8574

Richard A. Krueger and Mary Anne Casey, MN Extension,
1494 Idaho Ave. W, St. Paul, MN 55108
651-647-4952

Cathleen Ann Marquardt, Office Regulatory Affairs,
1542 Baylor Court, Eagan, MN 55122
612-688-9096

Kathleen S. Nolan, Mortuary Science,
3560 Pilgrim Lane, Plymouth, MN 55441-2469
763-544-5125

Joel L. and Gail Roberts, Mathematics,
1150 Ivy Hill Dr., Mendota Heights, MN 55118
651-690-5889

Philip L. Stedje and Barbara Johnson, CCE-Credit Programs, 4824 53rd St. E, #514, Minneapolis, MN 55417
763-228-3736

E. Kay Swanson, Technology Commercialization,
3300 Greenbrier St., Vadnais Heights, MN 55127
651-699-8602