

# UMRA U NEWSLETTER

*A Communication of the University of Minnesota Retirees Association*

NOVEMBER 2009

## John Freeman to discuss democracy in the growing global economy, November 24

Our speaker for the November luncheon meeting is John Freeman, professor of political science at the University. John is a Minnesota boy. He grew up in Richfield, got his undergraduate degree at Macalester, majoring in mathematics and political science. After completing his Ph.D. at the University of Minnesota, he got a position at the University of Missouri. In a few years he moved on to M.I.T. where he stayed until a position in his field opened at Minnesota and the department went out of its way to lure him back home.



John has had a brilliant career at the University. He is a McKnight Land Grant Distinguished Professor; he has been awarded the Dean's medal in CLA, an award made to only one scholar a year. He is also recognized outside the University—elected recently as a Fellow in the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

But John has other accomplishments. He is a brilliant teacher, as acknowledged by the fact that he has won the University's Morse-Alumni award for best undergraduate teaching and also the award for major contributions to graduate and professional education. John teaches a basic introductory course in political science. He also teaches what is probably the most technically advanced graduate course in the department.

Only a couple of students at Minnesota will sign up for this course so John has taught it on a CIC interactive television setup so that students at other CIC universities can take the course as if they were at Minnesota.

John's research focuses on the political implications of the growing globalization of economic transactions. He has built up a large body of empirical data and subjected it to significant and rigorous analysis.

His findings are surprising and they are highly relevant to the world in which America finds itself. And, they are challenging to all citizens who take their civic obligations seriously.

Come and join your friends in what will be an intriguing conversation.  
— Robert Holt, president

### Reminder: invite prospective members to lunch

You can help swell the membership rolls and add to the fun by encouraging fellow retirees to sample UMRA's hospitality and programming. Invite a prospective member to join you for this lunch program.

It's UMRA's treat! Just call in to alert us when you make your reservation; give us their names for the name tags, and help us give them a hearty welcome by introducing them to others.

And, don't forget to tell them about all the benefits of membership, including the rapidly expanding discount program! (See page 3.)

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

NOVEMBER  
LUNCHEON MEETING

Tuesday

November 24, 2009

11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Featured Speaker

John Freeman, professor of  
political science, U of M  
“Democracy and Markets”

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, November 19

To reserve your place(s) and take advantage of prepaid price, send a check, payable to UMRA, to UMRA Reservations, c/o Betty Radcliffe, 806 Carla Lane, Little Canada, MN 55109. Contact Betty at 651-484-5676 or e-mail: bpradcliffe@comcast.net. Reservations requested after Nov. 19 will be on a waiting list. Please let us know about cancellations by noon, Nov. 19.

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

We people in UMRA have a longer personally based perspective on higher education than members of any other group in the University. My personal experience began in 1946 when I entered a small private college in Minnesota, and it continues until the present day with the exception of two years spent in the U.S. Army in the middle of my Ph.D. program (an experience that has made me a strong supporter of compulsory public service for every young man and woman).

As I look back with a comparative perspective, I see some things today that clearly are superior to what I experienced. More is learned in four years today than was learned 50 years ago. But some things are much worse – most notably the abominable costs of higher education today. My tuition was \$500 a year. (At that time three quarters at the University cost less than \$200.) But in the late 1940s it was not difficult to get a job that would pay well over \$500 in three summer months. (I got that job, but first I had to join the Hod Carriers Union and then the Teamsters, which taught me that driving a truck was much to be preferred to carrying hod, and also that it is better to be in an organization led by crooks than by clowns.) I had a full tuition scholarship, so what I earned during the summer plus a few hours of work a week during the academic year kept body and soul together for four years.

Most of my male classmates were going to college on the G.I. Bill – full tuition, full living support. This Federal Government program, fully supported by the tax payers, probably has had the greatest return to invest-

ment of any investment program, public or private, in the 20th century. Why the American people cannot learn from experience is beyond me.

With tuition at four-year public universities now at about \$5,000 (plus or minus a bit), it's the rare undergraduate that can earn that much during a summer, and rather than working a few hours a week during the school year, undergraduates work 20 or 30 hours in an attempt to cover expenses. Even with the large scholarship support programs available today, too many students drop out for financial reasons or graduate with large debts that can burden them and the entire economy for decades. I think this is an abomination.

Thus, my support for a program of compulsory public service. It does not have to be military service, but it has to have some of its features: on call 24-7; a barracks or dormitory living experience in which one lives with a broad cross section of the American people; room and board and health coverage and a small (very small) wage. At the end of two years you are entitled to two years of college with all expenses paid, and you can continue your health coverage with a small payment for a maximum of five years.

This program would make great inroads in solving our unemployment program; it would help solve our health coverage problem; and it would contribute to the building of a highly educated and productive work force.

Good grief!! Think of how much one can learn in 50 plus years? It's downright scary.

Robert Holt, President

### Congratulations to George K. Olson

Professor Emeritus George K. Olson was honored this past summer by the president of the French Republic, Nicolas Sarkozy. Olson was awarded France's highest merit, "Chevalier de la Légion d' Honneur," (Knight of the Legion of Honor medal) for "his decisive role in the liberation of France 65 years ago."

This prestigious award has a long history, having been initiated by Napoleon in 1802, and is "the highest honor that France can bestow upon those who achieved remarkable deeds for France." Olson enlisted in 1942 as a corporal doc-

tor in the medical detachment of the 333rd infantry regiment, participating in the Rhineland and Central Europe campaigns from November 1944 to January 1946.

### In Memoriam

We report the passing of UMRA members as we learn of losses to our UMRA community. Our condolences to the family and friends of:

Maggie Moulton, widow of Robert Moulton, Theatre Arts,  
d. October 5, 2009

## UMAA Advocacy Committee focuses on LRT, seeks input for regent selection

The University of Minnesota Alumni Association (UMAA) Advocacy Committee, on which UMRA has a seat, met on September 30, 2009. Gayle Graham Yates represented UMRA. The Advocacy Committee chooses to support specific matters of concern to the University each year and actively works at legislative lobbying and other means of contributing to the well-being of the University of Minnesota in conjunction with the administration.

Last academic year, and continuing in the year to come, the organization has focused on the University's interest in the Light Rail Transit project, and, at the moment, the lawsuit that the University has pending against the Metropolitan Council in Hennepin County District Court regarding harm threatened to University research in buildings adjacent to the proposed Light Rail line.

The second project adopted at the September 2009 meeting was active participation in the Regent Candidate Advisory Council (RCAC) in its interviewing and recommending candidates for the University of Minnesota Regents. This council, begun in 1988, is appointed by and reports to the Minnesota Legislature, not the University, and has 24 members who serve staggered six-year terms with a two-term limit.

For regents to be appointed in 2011 (who will need to come from Congressional districts 2, 3, 5, 7 and 8) the RCAC will screen nominees from October 2010 to January 2011. Vacancies in the RCAC itself must be filled in January 2010; and, while the new members of the council are appointed by the Senate and House, persons can be recommended by the UMAA Advocacy Committee.

Thus, the Advocacy Committee wants UMAA board members, the Faculty Consultative Committee (FCC), and UMRA to make recommendations both for potential regents and for possible members of the RCAC. Also, it wants FCC and UMRA members to be available to the RCAC to suggest the U's current governance needs for consideration as regents candidates are reviewed.

All such recommendations should be made to the UMAA's Advocacy staff person, Mary Kay Delvo at [delvo003@umn.edu](mailto:delvo003@umn.edu), or to the UMRA representative on the advocacy committee. That representative will now be Paul Quie, appointed recently by UMRA President Robert Holt.

— Gayle Graham Yates, UMRA president, 2007-08

## Discount Program continues to expand

UMRA's discount program continues to expand beyond parking, Intercollegiate Sports tickets, and the Bookstores this year. Your renewal letter mentions the Campus Club, the Landscape Arboretum, and Osher Lifelong Learning Institute. Addition discounts have since come on board.

Newest is **Northrop** with programming that includes "World Class Dance and Music performances." UMRA members will receive a 20 percent reduction on Northrop tickets.

The **College of Continuing Education**: a 10 percent reduction for both the Great Conversations and Compleat Scholar programs.

**The University's Center for Spiritual Healing (CHS)** offers discounts for UMRA Members. Enrich your health and well-being by exploring these innovative programs. Consider *The Purpose Project* with Richard Leider, a one-day workshop, November 16, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Explore alternatives to the conventional notion of retiring. Registration fee of \$145 includes lunch and all materials. UMRA members will receive a 10 percent discount on registration. Call Beth Somerville, 612-626-2395.

**Campus Club** reminds you that UMRA members receive a 20 percent discount (annual dues reduced from \$120 to \$96, payable quarterly or annually) on their Campus Club membership fee. See UMRA's website: [www.umn.edu/umra](http://www.umn.edu/umra). for an application for Campus Club/UMRA members.

## URVC seeks people with macular degeneration for research project

The University Low-Vision Research Lab (in Elliot Hall) continues its project seeking a reading solution for those with macular degeneration. In its first stage the University Retirees Volunteer Center (URVC) provided well-sighted subjects to test training in peripheral vision.

The next stage is to test the method for improving reading by people with this disease. Please help in identifying people with macular degeneration who would like to participate in the research. The lab staff will arrange travel to the campus for one or two visits and follow up by providing a laptop computer for training at home.

If you can recommend someone with this eye condition, contact Alan Kagan (651-457-6586 or [kagan001@umn.edu](mailto:kagan001@umn.edu)), and he will send you the full research statement with criteria for participation.

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

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

**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 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Small Grants application deadline December 15**

Still “driven to discover,” the professional development grant program for retirees is open for proposals with a deadline of December 15, 2009. Ten grants of up to \$4,000 will be awarded during the 2009-2010 academic year.

Recognizing that funding sources are often unavailable for University retirees who wish to continue their professional work, the Office of the Vice President for Research (OVPR) and the University of Minnesota Retirees Association (UMRA) are pleased to announce the second cycle of awards intended to support retirees requiring financial assistance to pursue projects related to their research, instructional, or other work history, and that contribute to the educational, scholarly, and academic reputation of the University.

The call for proposals and all information regarding eligibility is posted on the UMRA web site, [www.umn.edu/umra](http://www.umn.edu/umra) as is information about last year’s first cycle of awards. If you have questions or suggestions concerning the Small Grants program, please let me know.

— John Howe, Small Grants Committee Chair

---

Keep current with a visit to the association’s  
new and improved web site: [www.umn.edu/umra](http://www.umn.edu/umra)

---

**New members as of October 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.

Santa L. Ferraro-Benoit, Boynton Health Service  
3312 E. 50th St., Minneapolis, MN 55417  
612-721-4588

Judy Leahy and Richard Grimes, Humphrey Institute  
1938 Palace Ave., St. Paul, MN 55105-2032  
651-698-9387

Ronald P. Messner, Medicine  
10 Oriole Lane, North Oaks, MN 55127  
651-483-8097

Therese C. Ockenden, Epidemiology  
1475 Evergreen Lane N., Plymouth, MN 55441-4805  
763-557-1789

Robert J. Odegard, University Foundation  
1001 Arbor Lake Drive, #107, Naples, FL 34110-7078  
239-593-7755

Gloria M. Williams, Design, Housing & Apparel  
4254 Basswood Rd., St. Louis Park, MN 55416-3649  
952-920-7553

Jane Wobken, Pediatrics/Neonatology  
2208 Drew Ave. S., Minneapolis, MN 55416  
612-922-2517