

UMRA NEWSLETTER

A Communication of the University of Minnesota Retirees Association

APRIL 2010

J. Brian Atwood to speak at April meeting: American foreign aid in this new century

Our speaker for the April meeting, J. Brian Atwood, has been dean of the Hubert H. Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs at the University since 2002.

Before coming to Minnesota he had a distinguished career in foreign affairs. For six years during the Clinton administration he was the administrator of the Agency for International Development (AID), the most



important foreign aid position in the United States government. He preceded that by heading the transition team in the State Department following Clinton's victory

in 1992 and then serving a brief term as undersecretary of state for management. When he left the government in 2001 he served on UN Secretary General Kofi Annan's Panel on Peace Operations.

During the Carter Administration he was assistant secretary of state for congressional relations. In the 1980s he worked for two years as dean of Professional Studies and Academic Affairs at the Foreign Service Institute, and from 1986 until 1993 he was the first president of the National Democratic Institute for International affairs.

From the time of the Marshall Plan until the collapse of the Soviet Union, American foreign aid programs lived in the shadow of Cold War tensions. Mr. Atwood was the person who led AID into a new century in

which foreign aid had to be adjusted to an entirely new environment with a reformulated focus and the development of new programs.

Nobody is more qualified than Brian Atwood to talk about American foreign aid in the 21st century. We are most fortunate to have him as our guest speaker on April 27.

—Robert Holt, UMRA President

What a great time to invite a friend to lunch – and maybe to join UMRA

Add to everyone's fun by encouraging fellow retirees to sample UMRA's programs and collegial luncheons. 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.

UMRA Digital Photo Club to meet Wednesday, April 14, 6:15 to 8 p.m.

The photo club launches its first meeting at the Augustana Apartments social room, hosted by Lorraine Berger. The address: 1509 10th Ave. S., near Elliot Park, Mpls.

Members plan to learn more about digital photography, exchange information, and share photographs. A half-hour educational program will be followed by photograph sharing and time for socializing and making new friends. For more details, visit UMRA's web site or contact Ron Anderson, rea@umn.edu.

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

APRIL LUNCHEON MEETING

Tuesday
April 27, 2010
11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Featured Speaker

Brian Atwood, dean, Humphrey
Institute of Public Affairs
“United States Foreign Aid”

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, April 22

To reserve your place(s) and
take advantage of prepaid price,
send a check, payable to UMRA,
to UMRA Reservations, c/o
Corinne Ellingham, 9371 Nesbitt
Rd., Bloomington, MN 55438.
Contact her at 952-835-1276 or
ellin002@msn.com.

Reservations requested after
April 22 may be on a waiting list.
Please let us know about cancella-
tions by noon, April 22.

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

After addressing other times and other places in this column, it is time to come home and take a look at good old UMRA. Most of you know UMRA through our newsletter and some through our monthly meetings. But there is a lot that goes on behind the scenes that is important both to the retirees and to the University.

Our liaisons with other organizations keep us abreast of matters that directly affect retirees. Board member Burt Sundquist regularly attends the meetings of the Senate Subcommittee on Retirement Plans and alerts the Board to any items that would be relevant to retirees. At the Board meeting in March, for example, he reported that officials from Securian had reported to the committee and presented evidence of its financial strength.

Ted Litman and Rodney Loper are our liaisons with the Senate Committee on Faculty Affairs. Several years ago UMRA drew the committee's attention to the fact that a number of universities have special retiree's centers with professional staffs that serve retirees. That committee then recommended to the Senate that the University consider establishing such a center at Minnesota, and the Senate supported a motion to establish a committee to look into the matter. Just this year the provost appointed a committee to investigate the desirability and feasibility of such a center here. Gayle Graham Yates, an UMRA past president, is serving on that committee.

You all know about the research grants program for retirees that UMRA, under John Howe's leadership, instituted last year. We have funding from the President Bruininks and U vice presidents to hold this competition for three years. We are now trying to get financing to keep this program going for a long time. We are the only university in the country to have such a program.

We think there are many other ways we can respond to the interests and needs of our members. Our session on computers attracted about 25 members and Ron Anderson is now testing the waters to see if there is any interest in having an informal photo group in UMRA.

And, if the University does set up a Retiree's Center with good space and a staff, there probably are many other things that could be done.

We are always interested in your ideas and your participation in making UMRA even more central to your lives. This is also the time when the Nominating Committee and incoming president are looking for Board members, officers, and committee members. If you are interested in getting involved in the running of UMRA, let us know. We can always use your talents and ideas.

— Robert Holt, President, 612-377-5419

and President-elect John S. Anderson, 651-489-4330
Past President Harold Miller, 612-824-5213

Nominating Committee begins work

At the March Board meeting the following members were approved to serve as the 2010 Nominating Committee: Chair Hal Miller, immediate past president; board member Ron Anderson; and non-board members Gayle Graham Yates, Julie Medbery, and Dick Caldecott.

Hal Miller reports that the committee members are at work contacting persons of interest to serve in officer and board positions in the coming year, and their work is almost complete. But don't wait for them to call you. If you are interested in working with friends, old and new, for your UMRA organization, please give Hal a call at 612-824-5213 or send him an e-mail at miller@umn.edu. Put your name on the list of those interested in committee or task force work, also. Take part in an organization that is definitely "going places."

Watch the May Newsletter for the slate of officers and board members to be voted upon at the Annual Meeting, May 25.

U Benefits Committee seeks your feedback on Delta Dental Plan offerings

The Benefits Advisory Committee is currently reviewing the performance of the various plan options available under the U Health Plan. As part of that process, we are interested in receiving feedback and comments (positive or negative) on the experiences retirees have had regarding coverage, provider choice, cost, claims processing, etc. with the Delta Dental Plans over the course of the past two years (2009-2010). Your response will of course be treated in strictest confidence. We look forward to hearing from you. Send your response to:

Ted Litman, UMRA Representative Benefits Advisory Committee at litma001@umn.edu
or Program in Healthcare Administration, D262 Mayo Memorial Bldg., 420 Delaware S.E., Minneapolis, MN 55455

Winners announced for 2009-2010 professional grant awards for retirees

On February 26, a committee appointed by Vice President Tim Mulcahy met to review applications for the second cycle of Professional Development Grants for Retirees. This year's committee consisted entirely of retirees, several from UMRA and others from the larger university community. The 25 applications represented a decline from last year's list, but committee members were pleased that the quality of proposals remained strong. After a spirited discussion, once again facilitated by Jana Pitstick and Myrna Smith from the Graduate Fellowship Office, the committee recommended 14 proposals for funding. Vice President Mulcahy sent letters of congratulations to the grant recipients in early March. A full listing of awards, including single paragraph descriptions of the winning projects is available on the UMRA website at www.umn.edu/umra.

Neil Anderson, Department of Plant Pathology, College of Food, Agriculture, and Natural Resource Sciences, TC: "The Bronze Leaf Disease"

Morris Eaton, School of Statistics, College of Liberal Arts, TC: "Probability Matching and the Right Haar Prior"

Eville Gorham, Department of Ecology, Evolution and Behavior, College of Biological Sciences, TC: "The Alexandria Project: Recording Collected Works for Global Access"

Russell Hobbie, School of Physics and Astronomy, Institute of Technology, TC: "Redefining the Introductory Course in Physics"

James Howard, Department of Biochemistry, Molecular Biology, and Biophysics, Medical School, TC: "Evaluation of Dynamic Protein-Protein Interactions during Nitrogenase Catalytic Cycle"

Joyce Kramer, Department of Sociology-Anthropology, College of Liberal Arts, UM-Duluth: "Lucien Fontenelle and the American Fur Trade, 1800-1840"

Alan Lathrop, University Libraries, TC: "The Practice of Medicine in the United States War in the China-Burma-India Theater"

Roger McCannon, Center for Small Towns, UM-Morris: "U of M, Morris, Outreach in Small Towns"

J. Ernesto Molina, Department of Surgery, Medical School, TC: "Thoracic Outlet Syndromes"

Richard Ojakangas, Department of Geological Sciences, College of Science and Engineering, UM-Duluth: "Ancient (2.7 Billion Year Old) Glaciation in Southern India: An Uncommon 'Mega-Event' of Possible Value in Intracontinental and Intercontinental Correlations"

Deon Stuthman, Department of Agronomy and Plant Genetics, College of Food, Agriculture, and Natural Resources, TC: "A New Paradigm for Oat Crown Rust Breeding"

James Tracy, Department of History, College of Liberal Arts, TC: "Venice, Dubrovnik, and the Ottoman Empire: War and Trade in Dalmatia, ca. 1540-1580"

Judith Lang Zaimont, School of Music, College of Liberal Arts, TC: "Composer Residency and Premier in the School of Music's Wind/Bands Program"

William Zimmerman, School of Physics and Astronomy, Institute of Technology, TC: "Effect of an Intense Electric Field on Lambda Transition of Liquid Helium"

Planning continues for future grant support

UMRA's Professional Development Grants Committee will meet soon to review the outcome of this second cycle of awards and lay plans for the third cycle next year. Assurances are in place that temporary funding will be available for the 2010-2011 academic year competition. While future funding remains uncertain, conversations concerning the program's long-term future are under way. Anyone with questions or suggestions should contact John Howe at howex002@umn.edu, or by phone at 651-645-2584.

Have you heard?

U Libraries policy provides study carrels on a space-available basis for all faculty retirees. The two libraries most likely to have available spaces are Wilson on the West Bank and McGrath, St. Paul. Contact libraries for an application.

Books by fellow retirees, published this year

Clifton Ware—*The Aging Challenge: Making the Most of Life after 500*; Birch Grove Publishing, 2009 — Practical and philosophical topics for "living well," commonly discussed but rarely integrated. See Ware's web site: www.integralifebalance.com

Gayle Graham Yates—*Ethics For Jessica: Meditations on Living*. Reading and book-signing at 4 p.m., Tuesday, April 27, in the bookstore in Coffman Union. In a memoir addressed to her first-born grandchild, Graham Yates presents life lessons for the younger generation that so inspires her.

Welcome new members

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 2009-10 directories.

Halyna Myroniuk, Immigration History Research Center
807 Ottawa Ave., St. Paul, MN 55107
651-224-6992

Thomas Scott, Political Science-CURA
2413 Russell Ave. S., Minneapolis, MN 55405
612-374-1173

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 _____

Discover your inner scientist by volunteering at the Bakken Museum

Breathe new knowledge and experiences into your life with several programs in need of your help. Helping and learning is what volunteering is all about. It is time to “Spring Forward” just as we did when we changed our clocks!

The University Retirees Volunteer Center urges you to consider volunteering for the Bakken Museum, “A One-of-a-kind Museum Exploring the Mysteries of our Electrical World.” “The staff there assures us that expertise in science is **not** a requirement for most volunteer positions. You might like assisting the staff, explaining an exhibit for visitors and classes of youngsters, or working on special events. And, if you find you would like to demonstrate an experiment, training will be provided,” says Alan Kagan, URVC project director.

If this proposal arouses your interest, just pick up the phone and punch 612-625-8016 (URVC office). Mornings are the best time to catch a volunteer in the office, but you can leave a message or send an e-mail to urvc@umn.edu.

Here are some sample Bakken Museum spring projects:

1) LEGO Robotics: a program for 9 to 14-year-old children concluding with a state-wide robot design competition.

No prior experience necessary for volunteers. Teams meet Saturdays; workshops are held Thursdays through May.

2) Inventors’ Club: Volunteer mentors encourage, inspire, and support 9- to 14-year-olds as they explore, experiment, and create inventions to take home. Clubs meet Saturdays through mid-May.

3) Birthday Party Assistants

4) Discovery Cart in the galleries: Facilitate hands-on demonstrations. Saturday shifts after training.

5) Gallery Assistants: Provide visitors with knowledge of exhibits on Saturdays.

Summer Camp Volunteers: Camp for grades 2 through 9 – Assist staff to encourage and inspire young learners. Training begins in May 9 for camp sessions beginning in June, ending in August. Morning or afternoon shifts.

Keep current on UMRA news, programs, and discounts with a visit to the association’s new and ever-improving web site: www.umn.edu/umra
