

UMRA UNIVERSITY NEWSLETTER

A Communication of the University of Minnesota Retirees Association

MAY 2010

UMRA closes the year with festive luncheon, annual meeting, and surprises

We want very much to have the President of the University address the annual meeting of UMRA this May. President Bob Bruininks, as you know, had surgery earlier this year and is now confronting the University's



most difficult budget crisis. As much as he would like to join us, he could not make a firm commitment for the date. So, as this Newsletter goes to press, we continue to be hopeful, but with

the understanding that there is only a small possibility that he will be able to join us.

So, what to do? How could we hold open our invitation and still provide a stimulating program for our annual event? As we contemplated this dilemma, UMRA member Harlan Hansen came to the rescue, offering to step in, if need be, as a last-minute speaker.

Because President Bruininks needs little introduction, we will use this opportunity to acquaint you with our pinch hitter.

Harlan S. Hansen serves as chair of UMRA's Membership Committee, and he is one of UMRA's biggest fans. In conversations with prospective retirees in his college, he urges them to really think about and invent their futures. And, he is a perfect example of a retiree who has done that.



Continuing to contribute to his discipline, Harlan also volunteers where he is needed. But, he also makes the most of enjoyable leisure activities—that's where the "cruise circuit" comes in for Harlan and his wife, Ruth. Every winter, they sign onboard a cruise as speakers—Ruth speaking on memoir writing; Harlan speaking on upcoming ports of call and his love for "collecting."

Harlan the collector appreciates pieces of the past for the stories they have to tell us. Among his collections are children's pencil boxes, ice cream scoops, milk bottles, old sheet music, Glen Yarbrough records, and postcards depicting the U of M of the past. Harlan can bring University history alive with his collection of century-old postcards of the campus and its buildings.

Harlan the professor emeritus was a teacher and researcher in elementary and early childhood education in the U's College of Education for 30 years. There he took a special interest in pre-school learning, which seems only to have accelerated with his retirement in 1998. He and Ruth enjoy summers in Minneapolis and winters in Naples, Florida, where, as volunteer consultants and authors of articles and books, they continue activities on behalf of improving children's learning and teachers' teaching. Harlan also returns to the University of Minnesota to work in teacher credentialing and to teach summer session courses such as "Classroom Management and Discipline."

A Maroon and Gold devotee, Harlan is president of the U of M Alumni group of Southwest Florida and director of the annual U of M Minni-college in Naples.

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

MAY FESTIVE LUNCHEON and ANNUAL MEETING

Tuesday
May 25, 2010
11:30 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Featured Program

U President Bob Bruininks or
fellow retiree Harlan Hansen
A good time to be had by all!

Location

Conference Room ABC
Campus Club, Fourth Floor
Coffman Memorial Union,
East Bank Campus, U of M

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

Wednesday, May 19

Send a check, payable to UMRA,
to UMRA Reservations, c/o Judy
Leahy Grimes, 1937 Palace Ave.,
St. Paul, MN, 55105-2032;
contact her at 651-698-4387 or
jleahy4654@aol.com

Please honor the May 19 reservation date; please let us know about cancellations by noon, May 18.

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

Last week when driving somewhere—I don't remember just where—I heard a news broadcast about the financial problems of the St. Paul schools. In order to help meet the budget shortfall, the administration is going to abolish the fourth- to sixth-grade band in an elementary school. A small point, probably, but one worth reflecting on with some historical perspective—not the kind of history you get from a book, but the kind of history you get from living through it.

We're being told quite often that we're living through a "great recession," the next thing to the Great Depression. Some of us in UMRA can remember living through at least the latter part of the Great Depression.

My father was a clergyman and thus our house was a place where people in trouble thought they might get some help. I can remember the summers of 1934 and 1935 when, virtually every morning, men would knock on our back door and ask if we needed our lawn cut or a pile of wood chopped (our house was heated by a wood-burning furnace) in exchange for something to eat. There wasn't enough work for a half dozen or more every morning, but my Dad would not send a man away hungry. He began going down to the bakery about 6 a.m. every morning to buy a loaf or two of yesterday's bread for a nickle a loaf. He made sandwiches and put them in small brown bags along with a cookie my mother had baked and maybe a carrot or tomato from the garden. A knock on the door always led to a warm good morning and a small, brown bag breakfast.

When I think back on those times from today's perspective, I remember how little money there was then. If you saw a penny by the sidewalk, you picked it up and put it in a piggy bank. Several times a month a farmer would come to the back door with a live chicken in a gunny sack. He told my dad he had nothing to put in the collection plate Sunday morning but that we could probably find some use for what was in the sack. (I didn't realize it at the time, but these were genuine "range-fed chickens"—so revered today.)

When I was in the fourth grade, I wanted to learn to play a horn so I could march in the band. We could rent a shiny, gold-colored baritone for 50 cents a year, and I had two 15-minute lessons from the band master every week. In the seventh grade I got a uniform and joined the marching band. Every Memorial Day we marched down the main street to the armory, playing the *Washington Post March* and then provided the music for a boisterous rendition of the *Battle Hymn of the Republic*. On Armistice Day we marched to *Stars and Stripes Forever* and sat in the armory in awed silence as someone read "On Flanders Field the poppies grow among the crosses row on row that mark our dead...."

As I look back on those days from the perspective of a "great recession" when we have a couple of hundred million dollars to build a baseball park, and maybe a half billion dollars to build a football stadium, but we can't support a band in an elementary school, I wonder: in which period does one witness the most poverty stricken community?

— Robert Holt, President

UMRA looks forward to summer activities

Luncheon get togethers for the 2009-10 term are drawing to a close, but as we look to summer, UMRA activity doesn't go on vacation. In June, new committees will have an occasional meeting to begin planning for next year and the new photo club will continue to meet. And perhaps most important to all members, Membership Committee volunteers will see to it that everyone receives their renewal letters.

Watch for your membership renewal letter

Your UMRA cards are dated but remain valid for discount benefits until they expire in August. Earl Nolting is busy confirming benefits with our discount partners, and at this time, discounts are confirmed with Parking, U Bookstores, athletic events, and many of the other venues UMRA added

this year. Watch for your letter, send in your renewal check, and see UMRA's web site, www.umn.edu/umra for updates.

UMRA to explore Travel/Study program

The University's International Relations Program has invited UMRA to discuss with them a Travel/Study program for retirees. The Board appointed an ad hoc committee of Calvin Kendall, Paul Quie, and Earl Scott to meet with IRP to further explore the possibilities of such an opportunity.

In Memoriam

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

Frank E. DiGangi, Pharmacy; d. March 2, 2010

Bee Hanlon, Veterinary Medicine; d. January 14, 2010

Members will vote for leadership slate and bylaws change at annual meeting May 25

At the UMRA annual business meeting, to be held on May 25, the Nominating Committee will present its slate of UMRA officers and new UMRA Board members. The committee, consisting of Chair Hal Miller, Ron Anderson, Gayle Graham Yates, Julie Medbery, and Richard Caldecott, wish to express their appreciation for the Positive responses and willingness of members to serve the association in these leadership roles.

In keeping with the By Laws of the association, the Nominating Committee and the Board submit the following list of nominees for your consideration.

President-elect: Calvin Kendall (English), serving for one year, then as president and as immediate past president.
Secretary: Corinne Ellingham (Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation), also served in 2008-09 and 2009-10

Treasurer: Richard Skaggs (Geography)

New Board members, to serve for three years:

Thomas Shaughnessy (University Libraries)
Vern Eidman (Applied Economics)
Joanne Eicher (Design, Housing, and Apparel)
Virgil Larson (Surgery)

In keeping with the UMRA By Laws, the following will automatically move into their offices as part of the progression of presidential leadership.

President: John Anderson (Biochemistry, Molecular Biology, and Biophysics)

Immediate Past President: Robert Holt (Political Science)

Proposed amendment to UMRA bylaws

At its January meeting, the UMRA Board of Directors voted unanimously to bring the following recommendation to the Board at its May 25 meeting. Actions to change the bylaws of the Association require a majority vote of the membership present.

A council of the past presidents of UMRA has been meeting informally; the purpose of the amendment is to formalize its existence. The motion as recommended by the Board:

Under Article V, Board of Directors, "The immediate past president shall serve, ex officio, as a member of the Board, with vote, for one year following expiration of his or her term," **add:** *"There shall be a Council of Past Presidents, convened and presided over by the immediate past president. This council shall meet at least twice each year and shall be advisory to the president and the current Board of Directors of the association."*

Annual Meeting Festive Luncheon features your choice among 3 entrees

(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;
The gala lunch will be served at noon.

Menu

Opener: Campus Club salad

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

- 1) Seared **Fresh Salmon** with Dijon Mustard Crust served with steamed herbed potatoes;
- 2) Seared **Duck Breast** served medium rare with Madeira demi-glace over carrot potato puree;
- 3) **Vegetable Turnover** — Fresh vegetables roasted with herbs then baked with feta cheese in a puff pastry shell, served with Minnesota wild rice pilaf

Dessert: Fresh Fruit Galette — rustic fruit tart topped with whipped cream; coffee or tea

The Campus Club needs to have a count for how many of each entree by Wednesday, May 19. Please rush your reservations with entree selections to Judy Leahy Grimes, 1937 Palace Ave., St. Paul, MN, 55105-2032.

Center for Spirituality and Healing programs

Wednesday, May 12, 3:30-5 p.m. — Annual Ruth Stricker Mind-Body Lecture: "Exploring the Importance of Human Connections to our Health & Wellness." Join author and psychiatrist Jacqueline Olds, M.D., as she explores the importance of human connections and community in a current epidemic of social isolation. Mayo Memorial Auditorium; Cost: \$20; UMRA members receive 10 percent discount. Register online at www.tickets.umn.edu, click on the Center's logo.

Fourth annual Ways of Knowing Symposium: "Whole Systems Healing Theories, Integrative Practices, and Applications" — Minnesota Landscape Arboretum, June 1-4. UMRA members will receive a 10 percent discount.

The four-day WOK gathering will be guided by internationally-celebrated experts, Diana Whitney (Appreciative Inquiry) and Alan Briskin (Collective Wisdom). Other facilitators include Paul Schultz, Glenda Eoyang, Wendy Morris, Terry Gips, Eric Utne, and Orland Bishop.

For more information about WOK, contact Cass McLaughlin at 612-626-5319 or mclau033@umn.edu.

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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 _____

Professional Development Grants get “Briefed”

UMRA’s Grants Committee, which has been seeking ways to publicize the outcome of the first two phases of Professional Development Grants for retirees, has achieved one stunning result so far. “Still Driven to Discover,” a story written by Adam Overland, appeared in the electronic version of *Brief* the week of April 14.

Interviewing John Howe and Marty Dworkin, *Brief* editor Overland captured the purpose of the grants program as well as the essence of retirees’ ambitions to continue to contribute to knowledge in their respective fields. To access this article, go to www1.umn.edu/twincities/faculty-staff/brief/index.html, and click on the April 14 issue.

“In the course of our conversation with the editor,” John says, “he was surprised to hear that we and, we thought, many other retirees were not on the *Brief* e-mail list and might want to be.” So, driven to discover, they used UMRA’s listserv to invite members to respond to a questionnaire. The findings? A strong majority do not currently receive *Brief* but would like to. John says, “Adam is intent on making *Brief* available to all retirees who wish to receive it. We are looking into a convenient and expedient way to accomplish that.” Watch for further word about subscriptions over the summer, communicated through UMRA’s membership listserv and web site.

Digital Photo Club’s second meeting May 12

Everyone who is interested in learning more about digital cameras is invited to come to the second meeting of the UMRA Photo Club on May 12. From 6:30 to 8 p.m., club members will help each other with the “Basics of Compact Digital Cameras.” After a brief slide presentation, participants will gather in small groups so that “experts” and “novices” using similar cameras can help each other.

“The first meeting in April was a hit,” reports Ron Anderson. Richard Kain showed before and after photographs as he applied “magical” editing techniques. Nancy Kehmeier showed how she uses iPhoto, MobileMe, with various mobile devices and Macintosh computers.

The meetings are held at Augustana Apartments near Elliot Park near downtown Minneapolis. For further details and a map, go to www.umn.edu/umra/photoclub.php

Please contact Ron Anderson (rea@umn.edu or 952-473-5910) if you are planning to attend and indicate what brand camera you have or are planning to bring.

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
