

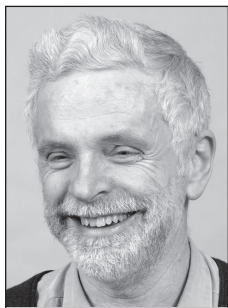
# UMRA NEWSLETTER

*A Communication of the University of Minnesota Retirees Association*

OCTOBER 2010

## Peter Hudleston takes on earthquakes, volcanoes, and tsunamis, October 26

Among the headlines of the past year have been reports from Haiti, Chile, China, New Zealand and Iceland. Just the names of these places should focus your thoughts on earthquakes and volcanoes! Although we may think this an unusual year because of so many events, in the history of the earth these have just been the normal result of the steady shifting of the tectonic plates of the earth's mantle.



Our speaker this month, Professor Peter Hudleston of the Department of Geology and Geophysics, will remove some of the mystery behind these recent events by putting them into the

context of what is now known about the gradual and continual changes that are occurring in the earth's surface.

The study of geology has made great strides forward since the adoption of the concept of plate tectonics about 40 years ago. Large numbers of earthquakes occur every year. Most are small and go unnoticed. Others are large enough to be felt by people as tremors though they may not recognize the cause. Large ones in populated areas are unmistakable and receive great attention. Seismographs record them all, and identify their location and magnitude.

The general public tends only to hear about those that cause massive damage and loss of life. For example, everyone knows about the San Francisco earthquake of 1906, which caused much devastation and loss of an es-

timated 3,000 lives. Historic volcanic eruptions include Vesuvius, Krakatoa, and more recently, Mount St. Helens. The Boxing Day devastation around the Indian Ocean in 2004 made the word tsunami familiar to millions. Depending upon circumstances, these natural events are sometimes accompanied by after effects of mud flows and temporary changes in climate, which also can be devastating for humans and the infrastructure of our societies.

Professor Hudleston received his Ph.D. degree in 1969 from Imperial College, London. He joined the Department of Geology and Geophysics at the University of Minnesota in 1970. He has been very much involved in instructional issues. In addition to advising numerous Ph.D. students, he served several years as associate dean of the Institute of Technology and is the current chairperson of the University's Council on Liberal Education.

We look forward to Professor Hudleston's discussion of some of the extraordinary earthly events that had have such devastating effects on human kind.

— John Anderson, UMRA President

### Invite a retiree to lunch

This year, resolve to get in touch with your retired and retiring colleagues and University friends. Invite them to join you as a member of UMRA! And, invite them to the next luncheon meeting. When you make your reservations, just call in to tell us that you want to bring a prospective member, and UMRA will treat them to their first luncheon program.

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

OCTOBER  
LUNCHEON MEETING

Tuesday  
October 26, 2010  
11:30 a.m. – 2 p.m.

**Featured Speaker**  
U Professor Peter Hudleston  
“Earthquakes, Volcanoes, and  
Tsunamis: Shifting Tectonic  
Plates”

**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, October 21  
To reserve your place(s) 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 October 21 res-  
ervation date; if cancellations are  
necessary, please let us know  
by noon October 21.

**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

I began this column in September commenting upon the changing face of the University of Minnesota. This month I would like to share a unique and perhaps unfamiliar location of the University of Minnesota. I'd like to introduce you to the Itasca Biological Station and Laboratories located entirely within Itasca State Park about a mile from the headwaters of the Mississippi River.

Established in 1909 as a forestry field station, it has since been transformed into a biological field station, a unit of the College of Biological Sciences. Its relatively remote location is one of its greatest attributes...but more about that in a minute.

Geologically, the entire region is a moraine left from the gigantic glaciers that covered the region more than ten thousand years ago. The land surface exposed after the melting of the glaciers was pock marked with many depressions filled with water surrounded by uneven terrain of sand, gravel, and occasional boulders, which eventually was colonized by plants that could survive in the nutrient-poor soil. Today the plant life is dominated by coniferous trees, some deciduous trees, and an abundant understory of woodland plants. Especially breathtaking are stands of red pine—the Minnesota state tree—with smooth reddish trunks extending far up toward the sky where branches stretch out bearing long curved needles.

The Itasca Biological Station campus includes about 70 buildings—student and faculty cabins, laboratory buildings, library, and assembly hall with dining facilities. The campus can accommodate about 125 people. Student cabins are bunk style; faculty cabins are equipped for basic family living.

The summer season is a busy time at the Itasca Station. For many years Itasca has hosted summer session courses

in field biology and related topics. A number of faculty have had long-term research projects studying the rich assortment of biology available in the region—limnology, bogs, mammals, birds, and phytoplankton to name a few.

Many academic programs from the Twin Cities campus use Itasca for introducing students to their discipline and to each other. The unique remote location removes alternative distractions and promotes interpersonal relationships. For example, the neuroscience graduate program, which involves faculty in more than a dozen departments scattered among four colleges in both St. Paul and Minneapolis, initiates all incoming graduate students with a four-week-long introduction to basic laboratory techniques and various aspects of neuroscience at Itasca. The result has been a remarkably tightly knit coterie of students and faculty that has provided a solid foundation for the program. Other graduate programs have also made use of the Itasca station in a similar fashion.

A more recent example is the Nature of Life program. Begun in 2003, the program requires that all incoming first-year students in the College of Biological Sciences participate in a three-day session at Itasca with half-day academic modules and three plenary sessions to introduce them to student life and University traditions. CBS students report feeling much more a part of the University community when they begin their first semester here.

Although located 225 miles away from the Twin Cities campus, Itasca provides great opportunities for research, for study, for relationship building, and for recreation. To look further into Itasca and the programs there, go to [www.cbs.umn.edu/itasca](http://www.cbs.umn.edu/itasca).

—John Anderson, UMRA President  
[ander049@umn.edu](mailto:ander049@umn.edu) or 651-489-4330

### 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:

Edwin Gary Joselyn, University Counseling Services, d. August 29, 2010.

Ana Martinez-Tapp, Department of Medicine, d. February 23, 2010. Spouse Robert B. Tapp continues as an UMRA member.

### Welcome a new member

Please give a hearty welcome to a member who recently retired and has joined UMRA. Greet her at the next lunch program and add this information to your 2009–2010 directories.

Jean D. Kinsey, Dept. of Applied Economics,  
2168 Ferris Lane, Roseville, MN 55113-3876  
651-636-8636; 612-625-2744  
[jkinsey@umn.edu](mailto:jkinsey@umn.edu)

Jean is the spouse of Francis F. Busta, Food Science and Nutrition, an UMRA member since 1999.

## Professional Development Grants for Retirees program begins third year

Arrangements are under way for launching cycle three of the Professional Development Grants for Retirees program. UMRA's grants committee is working with Vice Provost Tim Sullivan and Associate Dean for Research Frances Lorenz to make arrangements for publicizing the competition, appointing a committee of retirees to review proposals that are submitted, and announcing the award winners in late February or early March.

The 2010-11 Call for Proposals will go out mid-October; with a submission deadline of December 10. Ten grants or more of up to \$4,000 will be awarded. The competition is open to faculty, P&A, and civil service retirees from the

Twin Cities and coordinate campuses. A copy of the new Call for Proposals, as well as information concerning the outcome of cycles one and two of the program, is available on the UMRA website, [www.umn.edu/umra](http://www.umn.edu/umra).

UMRA members are encouraged to apply for a grant and to call this opportunity to the attention of retired colleagues. This will be the final year of soft money support for the program provided by President Bruininks and his vice presidential colleagues. Conversations are under way concerning the program's financial future. If you have questions concerning any aspect of the program, contact John Howe via e-mail at [howex002@umn.edu](mailto:howex002@umn.edu) or by phone at 651-645-2584.

## New committee to plan luncheon menus

Four UMRA members have volunteered to form a new committee—the Luncheon Committee—to work with the Campus Club in reviewing menu options and offer suggestions for UMRA's monthly meetings. If you have concerns or ideas about our menus, please forward your thoughts to one of the committee members: Jan Hogan-Schiltgen, chair; Joanne Eicher, Paula Knutzen, and Paul Quie.

## UMRA seeks transportation coordinator to assist members who need rides

Some of our faithful UMRA members may be at a stage in their lives when they no longer drive, but they would still like to attend UMRA activities. We are seeking a volunteer to be a transportation coordinator—someone who would be willing to receive requests from those who need a ride and match them with those volunteers who are willing to provide a ride to another UMRA member. Those who offer to provide rides can be sorted by zip codes, allowing for matches in the same geographic area. If you would be willing to serve as the coordinator this year, please contact John Anderson at 651-489-4330 or [ander049@umn.edu](mailto:ander049@umn.edu).

## UMRA — it's your organization

And, you should have something to say about what it does and how it functions. Do you have ideas about improving the experience of belonging to UMRA?

Within the next few weeks, you will be invited to respond to a survey to give feedback to UMRA leadership and committees. Please start thinking now about what more your organization could do and the activities in which you would enjoy participating. The survey will first come out as an e-mail, but if you would like to be called, please let us know by getting in touch with John Anderson, UMRA president, at [ander049@umn.edu](mailto:ander049@umn.edu) or 651-489-4330.

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## You are invited to a party October 22

UMRA member Joanne Eicher, chief editor of the just completed *Encyclopedia of World Dress and Fashion*, invites you to a "Launching Party" on October 22 in McNeal Hall. The 10-volume print edition and its online portal, [www.bergfashionlibrary.com](http://www.bergfashionlibrary.com), is the first comprehensive reference to explore all aspects of dress and fashion. Program, 4:30 to 6:30; reception follows. Event is free but space is limited. Register by October 14 at [z.umn.edu/encyclopedia](http://z.umn.edu/encyclopedia), and celebrate with Joanne and the College of Design.

## News from UMRA's discount partners

**Campus Club:** *Day of the Dead Dinner* – Thursday, November 4 at 5:30 p.m., co-sponsored by the Office of International Programs. Executive chef Beth Jones and sous chef Jorge Ortega will provide insights into the importance of food on the Day of the Dead. Menu: Vegetarian or Turkey Tamales with Mole Negro, Pork Posole, Jicama, Radish and Orange Salad, Red and Green Chile Rice, Pan de Muertos, Pabassinas (Raisin Nut Cookies), and Spiced Hot Chocolate. \$25.99. Non-members are welcome; make reservations in advance — call 612-626-7788.

**Osher Lifelong Learning Institute:** As this new academic year begins, OLLI reminds you that UMRA members are entitled to a one-time year's membership in the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at a discount (\$175 rather than the usual \$195). The membership is good for one calendar year from when you join. OLLI offers more than 250 courses, trips, and activities. Check them out at [cce.umn.edu/olli](http://cce.umn.edu/olli). For further information call 612-624-7847 or send an e-mail to [ollimlb@umn.edu](mailto:ollimlb@umn.edu).

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3. Mail both to the address above.

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Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail \_\_\_\_\_  
Other Info \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**UMRA Photo Club meets Oct. 12, Nov. 9**

You are invited to attend the fall meetings of UMRA's Digital Photo Club on Tuesday, October 12, 4:30 to 6 p.m. and on November 9 for two special sessions on "Photo Composition and Situational Photography." The club meets at 1666 Coffman near the St. Paul campus.

In October, guest speaker University photographer Patrick O'Leary will discuss composition and some techniques involved in taking photos of people at special events and activities. Participants will practice between sessions, and in November, the group will again gather to see the results.

A photographer for almost 25 years and for University Relations since 2004, O'Leary is also an instructor in the College of Education. His training and skills include visual communications, videography, studio lighting, multimedia, and commercial photography.

Club members began meeting last spring to learn more about digital photography, exchange information, and share photographs. It is free and open to all UMRA members and their friends. If interested in attending, contact Ron Anderson (rea@umn.edu) for more information and directions.

**News from Discount Partners—Continued from page 3**

**Center for Spirituality & Healing:** New offering, free to the public— "Healing on Purpose: Growing through the Narrow Spots," November 4, 9 a.m. to noon. Speaker Ruth Bachman, wife, mother, grandmother, educator, and global adventurer—and cancer survivor, will join Richard Leider, whose work inspired her new career path, for this new half-day workshop at the McNamara Alumni Center.

Diagnosed with soft tissue sarcoma in her left arm in 2003, Bachman is sharing her story and insights with audiences across the country. She is also advancing research to explore the integrative medical practices that played a powerful role in her own healing. With her husband, Dale, Bachman has established The Hourglass Fund within the Minnesota Medical Foundation to support researchers affiliated with the Masonic Cancer Center and the Center for Spirituality & Healing. For more information, including registration, visit [www.mmf.umn.edu/goto/healingonpurpose](http://www.mmf.umn.edu/goto/healingonpurpose) or call 612-625-5682.

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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](http://www.umn.edu/umra)

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