

SEPTEMBER 2011

Preview the new Weisman expansion with Lyndel King on Wednesday, September 28

Mark your calendars for UMRA's first fall meeting, scheduled for **Wednesday** instead of the usual fourth Tuesday this month.

Our guest speaker is Lyndel King, director of the U's Weisman Museum, speaking on "Expanding Place, Creating Space: From the Little Gallery to WAM."

Few museum directors get to work with world renowned architect Frank Gehry once and even fewer twice. Lyndel King may be the only museum director who has had the opportunity to work on two museum building projects with Gehry.

What will museum visitors see and experience in the new Weisman? What will be in the new galleries? King will give us a preview of the new Weisman, reopening October 2.



Lyndel King has been director and chief curator for the U's art museum since 1981. She is also an adjunct professor in art history and professor of museum studies. She teaches courses in museum studies and on Victorian art.

She earned an undergraduate degree in microbiology and was a chemist and virology researcher before completing her Ph.D. in art history. Prior to her work with the art collections of the University, she worked as director of exhibitions and museum programs for Control Data Corporation and as an exhibition coordinator at the National Gallery of Art in Washington, D. C.

At the Weisman's first opening in 1993, King said, "The mission was to build an art museum that students could not ignore and was such a dynamic and inspiring building that it would put the University's art museum on the map." Few can doubt that these goals have been achieved.

Of the museum, Gehry said, "The Weisman is special because it was the beginning of a new design direction for me." The Weisman is the first art museum Gehry designed from the ground up. In his 1993 review of the museum, Herbert Muschamp of the *New York Times* said, "It invites a closer view of the kinship between art and architecture," and he noted that it had "five of the most gorgeous galleries on earth."

When talking about the role of a university art museum, Lyndel King says, "I just want students to have the same opportunity to learn to love art as they have to learn to love football. Not everyone will turn out to be an art fan, not everyone will be a football fan, but they should have an equal opportunity to learn about both!"

The American Association of Museums has recognized Lyndel King's professional service with an outstanding service award, and she has received several awards from the American Association of Architects, Minnesota chapter, for her contributions to design. Recently she has presented international seminars on museum management as a volunteer for the Fund for Arts and Culture in Central and Eastern Europe.

—Craig Swan, Program Committee

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

SEPTEMBER
LUNCHEON MEETING

Wednesday
September 28, 2011
11:30 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Featured Speaker
Lyndel King, director,
Weisman Museum, U of M
"Expanding Place, Creating
Space: Little Gallery to WAM"

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 22
To reserve your place(s) send a
check, payable to UMRA, to
UMRA Reservations, c/o Ben
Zimmerman, 2225 Folwell Ave.,
St. Paul, MN 55108.
Contact him at 651-645-1662 or
zimme003@umn.edu.

Please honor the September 22
reservation date; if cancellations
are necessary, please let us know
by noon September 22.

Parking
Parking is available in the East
River Road Garage, with UMRA's
membership discount coupons,
\$6.00 for the entire day.

Board Meeting at 10 a.m.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Welcome to another new academic year! This screed comes to you from the presidential retreat in the heart of the air-conditioned Green Mountains of Vermont, where rumors reach us of intolerable heat in less favored parts of the country. By the time you read it, however, refreshing autumnal breezes will have wafted in an exciting line-up of fall luncheon events, beginning with September's program with a talk by Lyndel King (see page 1).

This summer has been an unusually busy time for the many volunteers who keep UMRA running smoothly, even in the absence of its president. Hard on the heels of the disruption on campus caused by the May closure of Washington Avenue for construction of the Light Rail Transit system, came the announcement of a new automated payment system by Parking Services. UMRA officers had to devise a way of administering a coupon voucher system for UMRA discounts, and to acquaint the membership with it, all in a matter of weeks. By now most of you will have received the coupons you requested with your membership renewals. That this was accomplished so smoothly and expeditiously was due to the efforts of John Anderson with the tireless help of the Membership Committee, to whom we all owe much thanks.

UMRA's Professional Development Grants program begins its fourth year this fall. This program, which is unique in the country, has been generously funded with bridge money by the University. But, given the U's tightening budgetary constraints, the grants committee, spearheaded by John Howe, has spent the summer exploring possible ways of securing more permanent funding. John reports elsewhere in this Newsletter about their efforts and the upcoming grant process. I will have more to say of the initiatives of this committee and other UMRA committees in the coming months.

A final word—volunteers to work on UMRA's various committees are always needed and welcome. If you are new to UMRA, it's perhaps the best way to get to know other members. If you are interested, please get in touch with me or any of the officers or members of the board. Come on in, the water's fine!

— Calvin Kendall, UMRA President
kenda001@umn.edu

After years of fiscal frugality, the time has come for UMRA to increase lunch prices

With the Campus Club imposing a 10 percent increase in the price per plate this term, and after several years of barely managing to get by, UMRA must consider raising its lunch program prices. Last year expenses for lunches fell short of income by well over \$2,000. This year, if we were to take no action, the shortfall would be an unsustainable \$3,500.

At the September meeting the executive committee will recommend to the Board that we increase the price of lunches by \$2— from \$12 to \$14 (prepaid) and \$16 (at the door). If the increase is approved, it will take effect in October.

— Calvin Kendall, UMRA President 2011-2012

New parking pay technology requires coupons to deliver UMRA member discount

Automating its payment system, Parking and Transportation Services now requires UMRA members to use parking discount coupons to obtain the discounted parking rate of \$6 for the day. And, although the rate has increased this year, the good news is that the parking places you can use with your discount have also increased. Your UMRA discount is now available at all ramps and some surface lots.

So far, 3,000 coupons have been distributed to UMRA members who requested them to fulfill their anticipated needs of the coming year. If you need additional coupons, we will make them available at UMRA luncheons throughout the year. Alternatively, you may send your request with a self-addressed, self-stamped envelope to John S. Anderson, 1332 Como Blvd. E., St. Paul, MN 55117. (More than 21 coupons requires extra postage.)

— John Anderson, Past president

Web site helps beat construction challenges

Due to the closure of Washington Avenue and light rail construction, routes to destinations on campus this fall may require some planning. To make your journey to campus and UMRA luncheons more trouble-free, start with this handy University web site — campusmaps.umn.edu/tc/.

Caregivers' support and meditation groups start

UMRA will help facilitate two new informal special interest groups this fall. The Caregivers' Support Group will share and discuss challenges of providing care for family and friends in need. A "Mindfulness Meditation" group will share experiences or interests in different meditation practices and stress reduction as taught by the U of MN's Center for Spiritual and Physical Healing. Experienced meditation teachers may be invited to lead some sessions. For details, contact Ron Anderson at rea@umn.edu or 952-473-5910.

Professional development grants for retirees begins fourth year

This fall UMRA's Professional Development Grants for Retirees Committee will again work with Vice President Tim Mulcahy and his colleagues to mount cycle four of our highly successful grant program. As in past years, the Call for Proposals will be distributed in early October to UMRA members and the larger retirees communities of the Twin Cities and coordinate campuses. The deadline for submissions will be in mid-December.

The committee invites UMRA members to consider applying for a grant and to help publicize the the program among friends and colleagues. Full information about the program and previous awards is available on the UMRA web site at www.umn.edu/umra.

Again this year, the program will be supported by temporary funding provided by the University's central administration. Future funding, however, remains uncertain. The Professional Development Grants Committee plans to present a proposal for addressing the program's financial future to the UMRA Board at its September meeting. Additional information will be forthcoming shortly afterward.

—John Howe, UMRA PDGR Committee

UMRA book club welcomes new members

The new book club has met at 2 p.m. on the third Friday of every month since April in the library at 1666 Coffman. Books we've read so far include *Song of the Lark* by Willa Cather, *Stranger in the Forest: On Foot Across Borneo* by Eric Hansen, and three books set in northern Minnesota by Minnesota authors Peter Geye, Sarah Stonich, and Danielle Sosin. Geye and Stonich were guests at May and June meetings. The book for September is *Walking Across Egypt* by Clyde Edgerton. The book club welcomes new members. If you are interested in more information, call or write Pat Tollefson: 763-781-9747; P-toll@umn.edu

Have you renewed your membership?

Have you noticed? Your UMRA card is dated, and it expired on August 31. With all the benefits of membership, as well as discounts for parking and so many interesting University venues, surely you will want to renew.

Letters with renewal information were sent in July. If you did not receive yours, or if a move has displaced your renewal form, please contact Virgil Larson, membership records manager at larso071@umn.edu or 651-644-4562.

And, during the year, please let us know of changes by sending in the form that's printed on page 4 of every issue.

Volunteer opportunities – make a difference

The University Retirees Volunteer Center starts the fall season with a variety of projects. Help the University, the community, as well as yourself – psychologically, physically, socially, and intellectually. This is the best investment you can make! Here are some current projects in need of volunteers. Volunteers can sign you up immediately or discuss some options. Write to urvc@umn.edu or call 612-625-8016.

- Medical school research study: memory, problem solving
- Ushering at Ted Mann Concert Hall and Rarig theaters
- Red Cross: greeters and canteen workers for the blood donor centers and bloodmobiles (you can select locations convenient to home)
- Hospitals and Augustana Health Care Center
- Hosting an international high school student (full year or short stay)
- Tutoring for adult basic ed., elementary schools, or conversational English with international TAs at the U.
- Food shelf jobs at St. Paul Salvation Army
- Scientists and engineers needed to assist Minnesota Education and Bakken Museum staff in visiting 4th graders in Minneapolis schools.

Help needed to plan survey of U retirees

UMRA recently obtained some demographic data on the 2,065 U of M TC employees who retired between 2002 and 2010. We would like to plan and direct a survey to retirees about their participation in U retirement organizations (UMRA, URVC, and OLLI) and community organizations like the Vital Aging Network, and to get their opinions on the retiring and aging process. UMRA is looking for University retirees with survey research experience to help plan the survey, apply for IRB approval, manage the survey, and interpret the findings. If you can help with this, please contact Ron Anderson (rea@umn.edu or 952-473-5910).

Upcoming Campus Club offerings

Friday, September 23 — “Urban Gardening and the Good Food Revolution” with Will Allen. Allen is a MacArthur fellow and a charismatic leader of the urban gardening movement. Open to the public. Get more details at the Women's Environmental Institute website: <http://w-e-i.org/> or by calling 651-583-0705.

Thursday, October 20— Mark Seeley and Don Breneman will present their new book, *Voyageur Skies*; the Club will offer a regionally focused buffet dinner. Call 612-625-1442.

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

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3. Mail both to the address above.

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City, State _____
Zip _____ Phone _____
E-mail _____
Other Info _____

Welcome New Members

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

Elizabeth S. and Peter Belfiore, Classical/Near Eastern Studies, Faculty (Peter is a new spouse member)
9 North 4th Ave. #102, Minneapolis, MN 55401
612-359-6934; esb@umn.edu

Victor A. Bloomfield, BMBB, Faculty
165 Western Avenue N #506, St. Paul, MN 55102
651-228-9583; 612-625-2268; victor@umn.edu

Patrick J. Brophy, Acad. Support Res./Ofc. of Student Finance, Civil Serv.
1123 Dodd Road, Mendota Heights, MN 55118
651-457-3262; broph003@umn.edu

Arvonne S. and Donald M. Fraser, Humphrey Inst., Sr. Fellow (Donald is a new spouse member)
821 7th. St. SE, Minneapolis, MN 55414-1331
612-379-9451; arvonne.fraser@gmail.com

John. E. Hallamek, Facilities Mgmt, Civil Serv.
4031- 75th Street E, Inver Grove Heights, MN 55076
651-455-4516; m.d.hallamek@netscape.net

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

Alexander A. and Lucy K. Levitan, Fam. Prac./Comm. Hlth., Faculty (Lucy is a new spouse member)
2051 Long Lake Road, New Brighton, MN 55112
651-633-2081; levit008@comcast.net;
llevitan@comcast.net

Robert and Christine Seidel, CEMS, Faculty
5625 Woodlawn Blvd., Minneapolis, MN 55417
612-722-7531; 612-624-8003; rws@umn.edu

Richard J. Zeyen, Plant Pathology, Faculty
and Carol B. VanWhy, new spouse member
1666 Coffman St #332, Falcon Heights, MN 55108
651-917-1995; richz@umn.edu

In Remembrance

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

Herbert Johnson died May 22, 2011, in Sun City, AZ.
Emeritus faculty, Agronomy Plant Genetics

Judy Nolting died August 2, 2011.
Spouse of Earl Nolting, CEE Counseling, P&A, who continues as an UMRA member.

Philip Raup died July 21, 2011, St. Paul.
Emeritus faculty, Ag. Econ.

Jessie F. Richardson died April 6, 2011, Minneapolis.
Emeritus faculty, University Libraries