

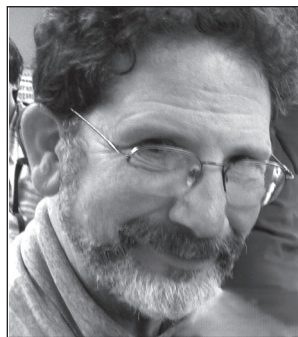
UMRA U NEWSLETTER

A Communication of the University of Minnesota Retirees Association

OCTOBER 2011

“A Whole Lot of Nothing: Our Current View of the Universe” with Larry Rudnick, Oct. 25

Are you bedazzled by the stars? Have you been wondering about what's out there? What is this “dark matter” and “dark energy” that dominates the evolution of the universe? And where do we fit in? At the October luncheon Professor Lawrence Rudnick of the Minnesota Institute of Astrophysics will provide guidance and insight into some of the remarkable aspects of the heavens as well as a perspective on our place in the Universe.



Professor Rudnick is an observational astrophysicist who is studying both supernova remnants and large-scale structures in the Universe. He

uses a wide variety of ground- and space-based telescopes in the radio, X-ray, infrared and optical portions of the spectrum.

Long involved in public outreach activities, Rudnick was a founding member of the Minnesota Planetarium Society, which has now merged its operations with the Bell Museum. This merger is expected to provide astronomy and space education across Minnesota. Some of us will remember Rudnick's appearances on public television, when, for 14 years, he was a consultant and on-screen expert for the Newton's Apple programs. Rudnick also conducts workshops on science communication and teaching in departments across the University.

Professor Rudnick's classes in astronomy inspire students year after year. His outstanding teaching abilities have been recognized by several awards including the Institute of Technology's Outstanding Teaching Award in Astronomy, the George Taylor / IT Alumni Distinguished Teaching Award, and the Morse-Alumni Award for Outstanding Contributions to Undergraduate Education. He has also been recognized with the University's Award for Outstanding Community Service.

At the UMRA luncheon Professor Rudnick will tell us about the surprising conclusions of modern observational and theoretical astrophysics that has led us to a universe far removed from our everyday experiences. Everything that we know, experience, and see is just the tiny detritus of a universe filled with enormous energy, which controls our very existence. After looking at some of the key discoveries and our interpretations of them, Professor Rudnick will wax somewhat philosophical and reflect on the scientific speculations about why the universe is so remarkably fit for human life.

— John Anderson, Program Committee

Invite a retiree to an UMRA lunch

If you know someone who is recently retired or will be soon, invite them to the October lunch. Prospective members receive a complimentary meal, just so they can check us out! When you make your reservations, 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 25, 2011

11:30 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Featured Speaker

Larry Rudnick, Minnesota
Institute of Astrophysics
“A Whole Lot of Nothing”

Location

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

Cost

Prepayment: \$14 per person;
\$16 at door for reservations that
are not prepaid.

Reservation Deadline

Thursday, October 20

To reserve your place(s) and
prepay, send a check, payable to
UMRA, to UMRA Reservations,
c/o Judy Leahy Grimes, 1937
Palace Ave., St. Paul, MN 55105.
Contact her at 651-698-4387 or
jleahy4654@aol.com

Please honor the October 20 res-
ervation date; if cancellations are
necessary, please let us know
by noon October 20.

Parking

Parking is available in the East
River Road Garage, with UMRA's
membership discount coupons,
\$6.00 for the entire day. (Coupons
will be available at the meeting.)

Board Meeting at 10 a.m.

UMRA NEWSLETTER

FROM THE PRESIDENT

A month ago, I wrote to you from Vermont. Now Ellie and I are happily back in Minnesota. Our transit from New England to the Upper Midwest was not without drama. Days before our scheduled departure, Hurricane Irene fizzled out in New York City, but wreaked havoc farther north. In a period of about 12 hours, nine inches of rain accumulated in my rain-gauge. In mountainous terrain all that water has to go somewhere—fast. The small towns of Vermont and their connecting roads are mostly built along valley streams fed by mountain brooks. Houses, bridges, and highways were swept away or cut. North-south travel in the central part of the state was impossible. We had to find an alternate route on the other side of the Green Mountains to make our way back home to Minnesota.

We were greeted by a beautiful Minnesota day in mid-September, and by the U's new First Lady, Karen Kaler, graciously hosting a reception at Eastcliff to honor volunteers of the University Retirees Volunteer Center (URVC), UMRA, and the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI). Al Levitan, URVC president and member of UMRA, presided over the gathering. Al reminded his audience of the strong cooperative relationship between these three great organizations that provide avenues for retirees to explore new areas of interest, to engage with the latest thinking in academic disciplines, and to volunteer their services in a variety of University-supported projects. As he noted, the University administration has been a staunch supporter of these efforts for which we all are grateful.

As September waned, the sumacs donned their mantles of maroon and gold in time to pay homage to the inauguration of President Eric Kaler. Maples, oaks, ash, and birch, now eager to join the chorus, greeted UMRA's photography club as they recorded nature's celebration with an outing to the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum.

On September 28, 94 members braved unfamiliar routes to the Campus Club to enjoy Lyndel King's dynamic talk about the newly renovated WAM (Weisman Art Museum) at our first luncheon of the year.

In October, Larry Rudnick will turn our attention to the skies above. I look forward to seeing you Oct. 25.

— Calvin Kendall, UMRA President
kenda001@umn.edu

UMRA Tuesday luncheons— priced at \$14

With last year's expenses for lunches falling short of income by more than \$2,000, and the Campus Club raising costs by 10 percent this year, UMRA was faced with raising the price of its luncheons for the first time in almost a decade. At the September meeting the executive committee recommended and the Board passed an increase in the price of luncheons. Going forward, for some time we hope, the price of lunches will be \$14 (prepaid) and \$16 (at the door).

— Calvin Kendall, UMRA President 2011–2012

Open Enrollment for U Retiree Health Plans

Open enrollment will be November 1–30 this year. Watch for information in the mail. UMRA will post more news on our web site as soon as it becomes available.

Big Ten Retirees Associations Conference

Eleven Big Ten universities were represented at the Big Ten Retirees Associations Conference convened at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, August 12-14. The Emeriti Association of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln was welcomed as a new member of the Big Ten.

Attending on behalf of UMRA were incoming president-elect Ron Anderson, Nancy Kehmeier, and past president John Anderson and Becky Anderson.

Volunteering on campus was a major focus of the conference. The session began with brief reports of a feasibility study done at Wisconsin (community-based research to create buy-in), how the URVC functions at Minnesota, and recruiting, training, and recognizing volunteers at Michigan State. Focus groups discussed aspects of organizing and operating a volunteer center. In another session Sarah Schutt of Wisconsin talked about the ageing brain and suggested how keeping the brain active and alert contributes to better health, greater quality of life, and increased longevity.

An afternoon tour of the Madison campus was capped by a visit to the newly opened Wisconsin Institutes for Discovery, a magnificent complex of public and private spaces beautifully designed to foster intellectual interaction and cross-disciplinary research involving biotechnology, computer science and nanotechnology.

Extensive discussions followed about issues member groups face and ways in which other groups handled similar issues on their campuses. Unique materials provided by each campus group were shared with all in attendance.

Ohio State will host the Big Ten retirees conference next year followed by the University of Michigan in 2013 and the University of Minnesota in 2014.

Grants committee launches funding mechanism through endowment campaign

The association's Committee on Professional Development Grants for Retirees has been busy in recent weeks. Some of the committee's work has focused on launching Cycle Four of the grants program, as was reported in the September UMRA Newsletter.

The committee has also turned its attention to the important task of ensuring the program's fiscal future. While we believe that temporary funding from Central Administration will continue for a few more years, the program's longer term financing remains uncertain. In response to that reality, the committee has recently proposed, and the Board has approved, an ambitious campaign to create an endowment sufficient to assure the program's future.

Recent conversations with outside consultants, University administrators, and officers of the University Foundation have indicated that we would be well advised to begin the process of building an endowment at home. Following that advice, members of the Grants Committee and the Board have, in recent weeks, pledged generous, individual contributions to the campaign. In the near future, all association members will receive a letter describing the campaign and asking their support of this important effort to ensure the program's future.

Then in the following months, a similar appeal will be made to the larger community of University retirees who also benefit from the program. Once members of UMRA and the University community have demonstrated their support, the capital campaign will reach beyond University boundaries to engage individual and foundation donors from the Twin Cities community.

These are challenging times for many of us. Yet our commitment to strengthening the grants program for retirees continues. Its goals are commendable and its operation is sound. Members of the Board and grants committee invite you to join in ensuring the future of this unique and successful program. If you have questions or advice, please contact John Howe at 651-645-2584 or howex002@umn.edu.

—John Howe, UMRA PDGR Committee

Watch for Call for Proposals for fourth grants cycle

E-mails have gone out to all UMRA members and all P&A and faculty retirees of record with the invitation to submit grant proposals. The final deadline for submissions is December 9, 2011. For more details and to download information, see www.umn.edu/umra/grants.php

Your help will make UMRA stronger

As you probably have guessed—UMRA doesn't run by itself. Officers, board members, and committee members all work to support your organization's endeavors. What you may not realize is that there are many ways in which you can participate, quite painlessly, in making UMRA great and at the same time, enrich your own life and friendships.

Help with lunch reservations for a month. Contact Frank Miller, 612-331-2145 or mille005@umn.edu.

Volunteer to initiate or lead a special interest group. We currently have a photography club and a book discussion group. What's next? What can you share with others?

Join an UMRA committee and forward your ideas into action for programs and special events, lunch menu planning and reservations, grant program funding, membership building and marketing communications. Whatever ideas or talents you have to offer, contact President Cal Kendall, kenda001@umn.edu to discuss channeling your interests.

Do you have experience in survey research? Help UMRA plan and manage a survey about ageing, apply for IRB approval, or interpret the findings. Contact Ron Anderson at rea@umn.edu or 952-473-5910.

Volunteer to usher at Rarig and Ted Mann

University Retirees Volunteer Center provides ushers for concerts, theater, and dance. December offers exciting pre-holiday events at both venues. See and hear the amazing talent of the University students in performances that will enervate your senses and intellect. Select a date for ushering now before they are filled:

U Theatre presents a Chekov festival with performances of two plays: *Uncle Vanya*, Dec. 1, 3, 4 (matinee), 8, 10; *The Cherry Orchard*, Dec. 2, 3 (matinee), 4, 9, 10 (matinee). The Dance Department presents contemporary choreography in "Dance Revolutions" in Rarig, Dec. 8–11.

University's School of Music ensembles perform in Ted Mann: Nov. 29 –Wind Ensemble Chamber Music; Dec. 1 –The Symphonic & University Bands; Dec. 3 – Holiday Choral Concert: "Sounds of the Season"; Dec. 5 – Jazz Bands #1 & 2: "Salute to Big Bands"; Dec. 7– Concert Band; Dec. 12–University Symphony Orchestra plays Brahms, Adams & Britten; Dec. 14 –Campus Orchestra.

Give your time for volunteer ushering and URVC will provide free parking as well as a great experience. E-mail urvc@umn.edu or call the office 612-625-8016 for more information and to verify the availability of ushering for specific events. Choose your dates and URVC will confirm.

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
Twin Cities, MN.
Permit No. 90155

**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 _____

UMRA book club invites you to join

The book club welcomes new members. The group meets at 2 p.m. on the third Friday of the month in the library at 1666 Coffman. Book topics vary; discussion is lively. If you are interested in more information, call or write Pat Tollefson: 763-781-9747 or p-toll@umn.edu

Welcome new members to UMRA

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.

Paul C. Rosenblatt and Sara E. Wright,
Family Social Science, Faculty
1712 Eldridge Avenue, Roseville, MN 55113
651-636-8114; 612-625-3120; prosenbl@umn.edu

Melvin Jay Baughman, Forest Services, Faculty
1564 Vincent Street, St. Paul, MN 55108
651-645-9409; baughman@umn.edu

In Remembrance

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

Jerome Beker, Social Work faculty, died August 13, 2011.
Spouse Emily Beker continues as a member of UMRA

New directory goes to print in November

Have you renewed your membership? You can still make it into the new directory if you renew this month. 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.

Renew now to receive all the benefits of membership, as well as discounts for parking and many interesting U venues.

Are you changing any of your contact information soon? Please let us know of any changes you will be making by sending in the form that's printed on page 4 of every issue. The directory is only printed every other year, so help us make it as up-to-date as possible.

October program at theCampus Club

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.

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
