

UMRA UNIVERSITY NEWSLETTER

A Communication of the University of Minnesota Retirees Association

APRIL 2012

April 24 program features insider stories from prominent sexuality researcher Ira Reiss

After 60 years of research and writing on sexuality in America, Ira Reiss has stories to tell about people he knew on a first-name basis: Kinsey's associates, Masters and Johnson, and famed psychologist Albert Ellis, with whom he wrote a book in 2002.



A pioneer in the field of sexual science, Professor Reiss pioneered gender equality long before it became popular, and he was a leader in the sociology of the

family. Among his many books is one of the most popular textbooks on "the family."

Professor Ira Reiss was recruited to the University of Minnesota sociology department in 1969 to become the second director of the Family Study Center. He is the author of 150 academic articles, four monographs, and 14 books, all published from 1953 to 2011. His book titles include *Premarital Sexual Standards in America*, *The Social Context of Premarital Sexual Permissiveness*, *Journey Into Sexuality: An Exploratory Voyage*, and *Solving America's Sexual Crisis*. His voluminous writings are archived in the Ira L. Reiss Collection at the Kinsey Institute.

Now professor emeritus, Reiss is the former president of the International Academy of Sex Research, the National Council on Family Relations, Midwest Sociological Society, and the Society for the Scientific Study of Sexuality. In 1990, he received the

Kinsey Award for Distinguished Scientific Achievement.

Ira and his wife Harriet have endowed "The Ira and Harriet Reiss Theory Award" for the author(s) each year who published the best article, chapter, or book in the previous year focusing on theoretical explanations of human sexual attitudes and behaviors. Ira and Harriet Reiss have been happily married for 56 years and together they have raised three children in Crystal, Minnesota.

At UMRA's April 24 luncheon, Ira Reiss will not only tell stories from his latest book, *An Insider's View of Sexual Science Since Kinsey*, he will also trace the history of research on human sexuality and how it interwove with feminism, responses to HIV/AIDS, child and adolescent sexuality, and the movement toward a Ph.D. in sexual science. His insights will provide an understanding of American society and its future.

—Ron Anderson, UMRA president-elect

Plan to attend

**UMRA's first "Living Well in Later Life" workshop following the luncheon meeting
April 24, 1:30 to 2:30 p.m.**

This first in a series of interactive workshops will be led by Professor Emerita Pauline Boss and will focus on "Surviving the Psychological Journey of a Loved One with Memory Loss." Dr. Boss is the author of the widely acclaimed book *Loving Someone who has Dementia*.

For more details, see article on page 2.

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

APRIL
LUNCHEON MEETING

Tuesday

April 24, 2012

11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Featured Speaker

Professor Emeritus Ira Reiss
"Insider's View of American Sexual Science"

Location

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

Reservations Required

Cost: \$14 per person when prepaid (see below); \$16 at door for reservations that are not prepaid.

Reservation Deadline

Thursday, April 19

To reserve your place(s) by prepaying, send a check, payable to UMRA, to UMRA Reservations, c/o Judy Leahy Grimes, 1937 Palace Ave., St. Paul, MN 55105. Or, arrange to pay at the door by contacting her before the deadline at 651-698-4387 or jleahy4654@aol.com

Please honor the reservation deadline date; if cancellations are necessary, please call by April 19.

Parking

Parking is available in the East River Road Garage, with UMRA's membership discount coupons—\$6 for the entire day. (Coupons will be available at the meeting.)

Board Meeting at 10 a.m.

UMRA NEWSLETTER

FROM THE PRESIDENT

UMRA is a work in progress. Take for example the interest groups springing to life, formed by our active members—the book club, led by Pat Tollefson, and the photo club, which I have eagerly profited from.

Years of walking the path at our local lake taught me where to look for the earliest spring wild flowers. It's a wooded patch of high ground, 20 feet or so above the water, just short of a great oak that our resident eagles use as their observation post. On a Thursday afternoon, nothing. Friday, there they are! Tiny blossoms of purple (blue-eyed grass) and white (bloodroot), lifting up an inch or so above the rotting leaves. I find myself mentally composing a shot, framing it, debating whether it's better to try an extreme close-up or to back off and rely on "cropping" on a computer program to achieve the same effect. Next day, Ellie and I are there, cameras in hand (Ellie's hand still stained red from the juice of the bloodroot stem I brought home the evening before). Where there were a dozen blossoms, there are now hundreds. I carefully lift a purple blossom with a stick while she leans in on her macro-setting to take the perfect picture.

Both of us have been snapping photos for years. Ellie has an artist's eye for composition; I point and shoot. But neither of us ever had any formal guidance or instruction,

until we joined the photo club. To garble Mr. Pope, "a little training is a marvelous thing." The group meets on a monthly basis; since Vic Bloomfield took on leadership from Ron Anderson, winter meetings have been held on the St. Paul campus. In good weather we meet outside in places like the Arboretum or Como Park for a "shoot."

Among the regulars there are near professionals, rank beginners, and every shade in between. It's an education in itself to see what retirees who are inveterate travelers choose to photograph in exotic places—locales ranging from Antarctica to the Norwegian fjords to the Atacama desert of Chile—and to discuss the techniques they use to get their pictures. We have had sessions on particular topics: rules of thumb for composing pictures; getting the most out of standard features of digital cameras; using computer programs like PhotoShop and iPhoto to improve pictures already taken. It's been great fun and a wonderful stimulus for Ellie and me to get out and put our newly acquired expertise to the test.

The photo club and the book club welcome new members any time. Or, maybe you have in mind another interest group to form. Go ahead; it's all part of being in UMRA!

— Calvin Kendall, UMRA President
kenda001@umn.edu

Ambiguous Loss is topic of first UMRA "Living Well in Later Life" workshop April 24

Following the luncheon meeting on April 24 Pauline Boss will give an interactive workshop on "Surviving the Psychological Journey of a Loved One with Memory Loss." Dr. Boss is professor emerita of U of M Family Social Science and author of the widely acclaimed book *Loving Someone who has Dementia*, 2011, as well as the classic text *Ambiguous Loss*, published in 1999.



Although she no longer teaches classes, she consults with agencies around the world regarding their use of her program on Ambiguous Loss. In this connection, she received the Humanitarian Award for "dedicated and

compassionate work with the families who lost loved ones in the World Trade Center attacks on September 11, 2001." She also coordinated the Minnesota - New York Ambiguous Loss Project, in which the University of Minnesota teamed with the Service Employees International Union, 32-BJ, to

provide mental health services to their union members. She works with many Minnesotans who have a loved ones with Alzheimer's, helping them define their goals, find role models and caregiving resources, so that they and their loved ones can have a higher quality of life. For further information, see her website: www.ambiguousloss.com

Time and Format: This workshop, as well as those in upcoming the Living Well in Later Life series, will be held from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. after our UMRA luncheon meeting. After about a 30-minute presentation, participants will divide into small groups to discuss thoughts stimulated by the presentation, and to prepare questions for the speaker. After discussion, groups may offer comments and questions for the speaker.

Participation is free to all. If interested, **please RSVP** by one of three methods: Go to website: <http://umra.anyvite.com/zkbtbw8ih>; send an e-mail to Ron Anderson, <rea@umn.edu> noting "April workshop RSVP" in the subject line; or if you don't have e-mail, call 612-963-6660 and leave a message.

Professional Development Grants program awards eight fourth-cycle grants

On February 27 a committee of retirees appointed by Vice President Tim Mulcahy met with Associate Vice President Frances Lawrenz to review 20 applications for the fourth cycle of Professional Development Grants for Retirees (PDGR). The committee recommended eight applications for funding. In early March Vice President Mulcahy announced the awards. Of the winning proposals, one came from the Duluth Campus, CLA; others from the following Twin Cities campus colleges: CSE (IT); CCE; CLA; Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences; and the Medical School. Descriptions of winning grants are listed on the 2011 Awards Abstracts page of the UMRA Development Grants web page: www.umn.edu/umra/grants12.php.

Added to the grants program this past year is a link to the Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program (UROP). One of this year's PDGR recipients is now in conversation with the UROP office concerning such arrangements.

— Judd Sheridan, PDGR Committee

Professional Development Grants for Retirees, 2012–13

- Fred M.B. Amram, CCE Degree & Credit Programs; “An Examination of British Patents Granted to Women, 1617 – 1816”
- Edward M. Griffin, Department of English, CLA; “Final Preparation and Publication of Manuscript Letters Written by Members of a Boston Loyalist Family”
- Richard Hoffman, Department of Biobehavioral Health and Population Sciences, Medical School; “Neuropsychological Consequences of Chronic Khat Use”
- Peter A. Jordan, Department of Fisheries, Wildlife, and Conservation Biology, CFANS; “Continued Studies of the Impact of Moose Feeding on Forage Plants on Isle Royale and New Studies of the Impact on Seedling Survival by Invasive Earthworms”
- Philip O. Larsen, Department of Plant Pathology, and Fred Bergsrud, Department of Bioproducts and Biosystems Engineering, CFANS; “Support for air travel to provide volunteer support for the Institute of Agriculture at Tumaini University, Iringa, Tanzania”
- Carol Miller, American Studies Program and Department of American Indian Studies, CLA; “Shape Shifter and Trickster Were Going Along: A Critical Analysis of Thomas King's CBC-sponsored Dead Dog Café Comedy Hour”
- Roger H. Stuewer, School of Physics and Astronomy, CSE (IT); Support for travel to international conference to present invited lecture on “The Seventh Solvay Conference: Nuclear Physics, Society, Politics, and Influence” and attend American Association of Physics Teachers

- Eileen M. Zeitz, Department of Foreign Languages and Literature, CLA, U of M, Duluth; “Contemporary Cuban Fiction: Fiction of Jorge Angel Hernández Pérez”

Funding the program: The UMRA Board has established a committee to solicit funding for the grants program from our membership and other University retirees. While the grants program has the support of President Eric Kaler and Vice President Tim Mulcahy, the Board believes that it is wise to have a fund at the Foundation for long-term support of the program. Learn more about contributing to the PDGR at www.umn.edu/umra. Address questions to Jan Hogan-Schiltgen (jhogan@umn.edu).

Nominations are open for UMRA leadership

In anticipation of the election of new officers and board members at the UMRA annual meeting in May, a nominating committee, consisting of John Anderson, chair; Gerhard Weiss, Gayle Graham Yates, Ben Zimmerman, and Julia Wallace, will be seeking candidates for leadership positions. If you have suggestions for candidates, or would like to serve on the board or become involved in leadership, please contact any of the committee members listed above.

Securian investments strong in 2011

Many U of M retirees who have assets in Securian Financial Group will be interested in the discussions of their 2011 financial results with the University of Minnesota Retirement Committee on March 5. Securian reported that expanded sales of life insurance and other products during 2011 enabled them to increase their financial reserves. They were also successful in strengthening their investment portfolio.

Securian's financial strength and claims-paying ability, rated by Best, Fitch, Moody's and Standard and Poor's, ranks 15th out of 300+ insurers rated by all four of the agencies.

The General Account assets are highly diversified (with more than 950 credit exposures) and of high quality (95% rated investment grade, up 0.8 percent from the end of 2010). Two percent of the portfolio has European Exposure, mostly in Great Britain, but no exposure to either European Banks or the troubled economies of Southern Europe.

In summary, Securian's ability to meet its financial obligations was strong at the close of 2010 and became stronger over 2011. The portfolio of investments became stronger in 2011. Finally, Securian's leadership is committed to remaining as a nonpublic mutual holding company. As a nonpublic company they are under no pressure to deliver short-term, incremental returns that often come with undue risk.

— Vern Eidman, Liaison, Senate Retirement Subcommittee

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E-mail _____
Other Info _____

Welcome new members to UMRA

Please give a hearty welcome to new members who have recently joined UMRA. Greet them at the next lunch program, and add them to your UMRA 2011-13 Directory.

Gordon B. and LaNay F. Davis, Carlson School, Faculty
2148 Folwell Avenue, St. Paul, MN 55108-1305
651-645-4787, gdavis@umn.edu

Deborah Warren, School of Public Health, Civil Service
3115 E. 25th Street, Minneapolis, MN 55406-1449
612-721-5006, djw@umn.edu

Lois A. Stuedemann, University Libraries, Civil Service
2446 Aldrich Ave S. # 203, Minneapolis, MN 55405
612-201-2419, l-stue@umn.edu

Bill and Kathi DeJohn, Libraries/Minitex, P & A
412 Juniper Avenue W., Northfield, MN 55057-1315
507-301-8049, w-dejo@umn.edu

Donna M. Gustafson, College of Science and Engineering,
Civil Service
12613 – 88th Place North, Maple Grove, MN 55369
763-425-0446, dgustafson2012@gmail.com

Andrew Phelan, Environmental Health and Safety, P & A
2325 Minneapolis Avenue, Minneapolis, MN 55406
612-724-3699, andyph@umn.edu

Visit the association's new and ever-expanding
web site: www.umn.edu/umra

Spring and summer volunteer opportunities

For more information or to sign up for any of these volunteer opportunities, contact the Volunteer Center by e-mail at urvc@umn.edu or call the office staff at 612-625-8016.

- Research participants – “Kinaesthetic Sensitivity,” Kinesiology and Speech, Language, Hearing Depts. Evaluate speed and angle of arm movements. Ages 40 to 75.
- Ushers (mid-April) at Rarig Theater: “Spring Awakening,” an exciting, controversial 19th century social drama
- “Volunteer officials” needed for Young Inventors Fair, 3rd through 8th graders; Mall of America, May 5. (Registration required immediately.)
- Volunteer assistants for Young Authors Conference, 4th through 8th graders; at Bethel U.; May 29 - June 1 (pick one or more days) Registration required by May 1.
- Projects for Refugee Services: a variety of on-going projects as described in the March UMRA Newsletter.
- Summer volunteers for Caponi Art Park in Eagan. Enjoy a summer day or evening assisting two sets of programs:
For children, Tuesdays (9–11 a.m.), June 5 to Aug. 28;
For all ages, music and theater programs on Sundays (5–7 p.m.), June 3 to Aug. 19.
- Summer tutoring programs and gardening projects. Contact the URVC office for schedules and information.