

NOVEMBER 2012

Kathryn Pearson will present postmortem of the 2012 elections at November luncheon

The polls will have closed, the votes cast, and most, if not all, elections will have been decided by the time we meet November 27. Although she is not a medical pathologist, our November speaker, Associate Professor of Political Science Kathryn Pearson, will share us with us her “Political Postmortem of the 2012 Elections.”

Pearson is a distinguished member of a distinguished department. Elections and the role of political parties are an important part of her award-winning research and teaching.



Hers is also a familiar face on TV screens in the Twin Cities; she has probably appeared on every local television station to provide political commentary.

Pearson did her undergraduate work at Claremont McKenna College in California. She then went to work in Washington, D.C., where she worked across the aisle, serving on the staff of two congresswomen, one Democrat and one Republican. Returning to California, Pearson earned her M.A. and Ph.D. degrees from the University of California, Berkeley. Her thesis received the Carl Albert Dissertation Award from the American Political Science Association for the best dissertation in the area of legislative studies. Subsequent work and presentations have received similar recognition.

Her work on Capitol Hill informs her teaching and research, adding a perspective that not all political science faculty have. This includes the time her boss, a member of Congress who was planning to vote against her party on an important bill, climbed out of her office window to avoid discussing the vote with a party leader, leaving Pearson to hem and haw an excuse.

Women and politics is a special focus of Pearson’s work, at both the state and national level. Examining the success of women running for the Minnesota legislature, Pearson and her co-authors concluded that “When women run in Minnesota, women win. But the number of women legislative candidates is too low to ensure great progress in women’s representation.” With other colleagues she has documented a similar “gender gap in political ambition” at the national level.

This spring Pearson received the Morse-Alumni Award for Outstanding Contributions to Undergraduate Education, one of only five faculty so recognized from across all campuses of the University that year. Common themes in student letters for this award include how “her passion for political science is absolutely infectious” and how her belief in the ability of individual students to succeed has been so instrumental in their lives.

One student even went so far as to say, “She is the kind of professor who actually inspires you to watch C-SPAN, which speaks for itself.”

—Craig Swan, Program Committee

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

NOVEMBER LUNCHEON MEETING

Tuesday, November 27, 2012
 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Featured Speaker

Kathryn Pearson, U of M political science department, “A Postmortem of 2012 Elections”

Location

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

Menu

Mustard Crusted Chicken with Spinach Pesto over Campus Club Pilaf; vegetarian option available

Reservations Are Required

Deadline: Wednesday, Nov. 21
 Options: Prepayment of \$14 per person; \$16 at door for reservations not prepaid. Annual prepay-ers must also make reservations.

To reserve your place(s), prepay with a check payable to UMRA; and send to UMRA Reservations, c/o Judy Leahy Grimes, 1937 Palace Ave., St. Paul MN 55105-1728

Or, contact her before the deadline at 651-698-4387; e-mail: Jleahy4654@aol.com.

Please honor the reservation deadline date; if cancellations are necessary, please call by Nov. 21.

Parking

Parking is available in the East River Road Garage, with UMRA’s membership discount coupons—\$6 for the entire day.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Discovery of Like-minded Friends

Attending the AROHE (Association of Retiree Organizations in Higher Education) at their bi-annual meeting in October in Chapel Hill was like discovering a lost twin. About 100 retirees were running around sharing notes, giving presentations, and crying on each other's shoulders about the challenges of being college and university retirees while trying to improve our status on campuses.

Bob Holt and Gayle Graham Yates have attended and reported on previous meetings of AROHE, but I was not prepared for the wealth of ideas I acquired in 24 hours. (I had to leave early to return to lead the UMRA October board meeting, luncheon, and workshop.) Last year I attended the Big Ten Retiree Association meeting, but AROHE was a much larger event, with many concerned about retiree centers and other issues that UMRA has been wrestling with. About 100 institutions belong to AROHE, including the U of M. For more information about the organization, go to <http://arohe.org/wp/>

Here are some interesting things that I learned:

- Almost every campus representative expressed that their greatest challenge is on-campus recognition that retirees are great resources. Some retiree associations promote themselves with typical slogans or tag lines such as: "Colleagues for Life" or "Remaining Lifelong Members of the University Family."
- All campuses have struggled with how best to integrate retirees from both staff and faculty. Lots of different solutions have emerged. I like USC's solution the best. They have both a staff association and a faculty association of retirees, but in addition, they have a huge retiree center, called the "Emeriti Center." They are quick to explain that they use the word "emeriti" in its broad meaning—as "those who are honored." Thus,

everyone from filing clerks to distinguished faculty are free to be members of the USC Emeriti Center and to use its services.

- Leaders of UMRA have proposed that we create a way to help departments find retirees with specific skills to serve as volunteers or as part-time employees. The USC Emeriti Center has a program called "Trojan Encore" that does just that. The program maintains a large database of retiree-supplied information about skills and experiences, then works with "hiring managers" in departments to help them find a retiree who fits their human resource needs.
- The American Council on Education (ACE) has a project called "Faculty Retirement Transitions Project." One of their accomplishments is a 3,300 faculty survey across the nation. Among their findings: about 50 percent of all existing faculty feel less than satisfied about the value placed on senior colleagues by the school administration.
- About 25 of nearly 100 AROHE institutions have retiree centers, most of which have been formed within the past 10 years. The USC Emeriti Center has the most helpful materials for retirees that I have found. Their website on resources is very helpful. See <http://emeriti.usc.edu/programs/>
- One idea, which I think can work here, is what some call "regional or neighborhood socials." This is something I hope we can get organized this coming year by our Social Committee.

Coming up in 2014, UMRA has agreed to host the Big Ten Retiree Associations meeting in the Twin Cities. Past President John Anderson is heading up the arrangements committee. This opportunity will be a great time for learning and sharing and to be reminded that we do not work away on our challenges alone.

—Ron Anderson, UMRA President (rea@umn.edu)

Mark your calendars for 2013

This is the last issue of the UMRA Newsletter until January. Happy holidays, and we look forward to seeing you at the first meeting of the new calendar year.

January 22— Speaker: Charles Schultz, professor and head of the Department of Psychiatry, University of Minnesota, whose topic is "Leading-edge Research on Early Detection of Schizophrenia"

Reminder: grant applications due Dec. 10

Grant applications must be submitted electronically by December 10, 2012. For details, see links at www.umn.edu/umra/grants.php. **Note:** you should send a single pdf or doc file of your entire application (cover page, body, etc.) attached to an e-mail with the subject line "Professional Development Grant Application," to facgrant@umn.edu. We look forward to receiving your application.

— Judd Sheridan, sheri012@umn.edu,
chair, PDGR Committee



New members, Vina and Prem Khera, enjoyed the October luncheon. They were among 17 new UMRA members who came early to the Campus Club lounge for a get-acquainted meeting, coffee, and conversation. This event was initiated by the UMRA Membership Committee to welcome new members and provide information about UMRA's activities for U retirees.

Welcome new members to UMRA

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

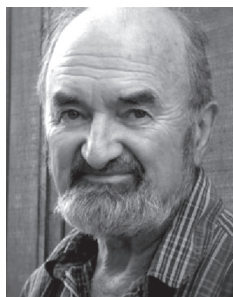
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November's Living Well Workshop — “Aging and Becoming: Insights from poetry”

This month's workshop, which follows the luncheon meeting on November 27, features insights provided by poetry.

Poems often contain “word medicines” in the form of metaphor, story, insight, declaration, or modeling. As a result, many find poems—read or heard—helpful as they story and re-story their own lives. You can keep going “as long as the jewel in your left side of your chest/doesn't lose its luster” (Nazim Hikmet, Turkish poet).

In this workshop, three poets and collectors of poems will share poems that address aging and becoming—family, living fully, dying, life review, nostalgia, sadness, joy, regret, insight, and legacy. “A book for one thought/A poem for one line/ A line for one word.” (Eugene McCarthy). Presenters and participants will be invited to engage in commentary about the poems.



Michael Dennis Browne is a professor emeritus of English at the University of Minnesota, where he taught for 39 years. His most recent publication is *What the Poem Wants: essays on poetry* (Carnegie Mellon, 2008). As a librettist, he has written many texts for music, working principally with composer Stephen Paulus.

Ted Bowman is an educator, poet, and editor who specializes in change and transition and the resulting loss and grief. He has taught Family Educator courses at the University of Minnesota since 1981. Ted became an adjunct instructor in Social Work at the University of St. Thomas in 2006. He is co-editor with Elizabeth Bourque Johnson of *The Wind Blows, the Ice Breaks: Poems of Loss and Renewal* published in 2010.



Elizabeth Bourque Johnson, Ph.D., is retired from the University's English department, where she taught writing and literature. Her poetry has won various local and national awards, and she has written for *Second Opinion*, a journal of medical ethics. She developed and teaches a class called “Writing Through Grief” and speaks to various groups on the subject of grief and writing. Johnson is also a nurse.

Retiree Encores

This list is an excerpt from reports by UMRA members, which were collected in a web survey, Aug. 24-27, and again in October 25-29. It documents retiree professional contributions, especially service to the U of M, and remarkable events of special interest to fellow retirees. The UMRA Board endorsed this ongoing compilation of information. With limited space, we regret that we cannot print full entries. The full report can be viewed at www.umn.edu/umra.

Awards, Special Recognition

Edward Foster: Serves on advisory board for Heller-Hurwicz Economic Institute, and as Minnesota representative to Board of Directors of National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER).

Willard Miller was co-winner of the 2012 Best Paper Prize, *Journal of Physics A, Mathematical and Theoretical* and was co-chair/invited speaker at the Special Session on Superintegrable Hamiltonians, International Colloquium on Group Theoretical Methods in Physics, in Tianjin, China, August 2012.

Roger G. Schroeder, Donaldson Chair Emeritus, Carlson School of Management, received an award as co-author of one of the Top-10 most-cited articles in the *Journal of Operations Management*, 2007-2011.

Richard Zeyen was awarded a regional Emmy for his role as historic consultant and his appearance on the Twin Cities Public Television/Department of Plant Pathology documentary "Saving Wheat: Rusts Never Sleep." Sept. 29.

Publications (and Creative Exhibitions)

David Guay: Book accepted for publication (to be published April 2014): *Rails to No Man's Land: History of the Canadian Railway Troops in the Great War (1914-1918)*. Railfare DC Books, Montreal, Quebec, Canada.

Willard Miller published the papers: "Structure theory for extended Kepler-Coulomb 3D classical superintegrable systems," with E. G. Kalnins; and "Structure relations for the symmetry algebras of quantum superintegrable systems," with E. G. Kalnins and J. M. Kress.

Joseph E. Schwartzberg, Distinguished International Emeritus Professor: Book: *Creating a World Parliamentary Assembly: An Evolutionary Journey* (foreword by Daniele Archibugi); Berlin: Committee for a Democratic U.N., June 2012.

Contributions to the U of Minnesota and community

Bill Sudderth: lectures at 1. Columbia University, June 2012—"Probability, Control, and Finance: a Conference in honor of Ioannis Karatzas" 2. Stony Brook, NY, July 2012—The 23rd International Conference on Game Theory.

Articles: 1. "Invariance, model matching, and probability matching" (with M. Eaton). *Sankhya*, to appear. 2. "Two-person, zero-sum stochastic games with lower semicontinuous payoff" (with R. Laraki and A. Maitra). *Dynamic Game and Applications*, to appear.

Clifton Ware: Teaching ongoing community education voice classes in St. Anthony Village.

New Volunteer Work

Ron Anderson represented UMRA at the Association of Retiree Organizations in Higher Education (AROE) Oct. 21-23 in Chapel Hill. AROE has more than 100 institutional members as well as individual members.

Faith M. Clover: President, St. Paul Optimist Club Conference Committee; North American Wheat Weavers Volunteer in education; American Swedish Institute Education Committee; American Society of Botanical Artists.

Beulah Holmes Gray: volunteer at Veterinary Clinic, Caldwell, ID
Harlan Hansen: As past president for the National Association of Early Childhood Teacher Educators (NAECTE) is directing a \$20,000 Foundation Fund Drive to support graduate student research awards over the next five years. He presented an OLLI lecture and discussion on "We're Educating Our Children Upside Down" in response to current education problems.

Jan Hively: developing an online curriculum to prepare senior service providers as advocacy leaders for positive aging through the Life Planning Network.

Jan Hogan is working with volunteers from 40 faith communities to open a shelter for homeless families in Washington County. "Hope for the Journey Home" shelter is located at Guardian Angels Catholic Church in Oakdale.

Margaret Jordan: DAR volunteer genealogy.

Karen Lilley is VP Communications for a Uganda orphanage, the Blue House, with roots in St. Paul (hopemultipurpose.org). Founded, 2004, by the late Beatrice Garubanda, M.A., U of M

Josef Mestenhauer continues to work with the office of GPSA, and Czech and Slovak Cultural Center.

Kim Munholland: Second Harvest, volunteer for URVC.

Joe Rust: weekly over-night shift at a homeless shelter.

Clifton Ware: Founder and coordinator for Insight Forum: Activist for environmental and social causes; Offers free educational classes in Understanding and Preparing for a Future of Converging Crises; monthly community sustainability meetings.

Gayle Graham Yates: granny-nanny for 2-year-old Skylar Yates and sister Sage Yates (10) and as "nurse-caregiver" for husband Wilson, incapacitated this past summer for some weeks.

Ben Zimmerman volunteered at the State Fair for the Sierra Club.

Remarkable Travel and Other Events

John S. Adams represented UMRA at Big 10 Retirees Association Conference, Aug. 2012 at Ohio State University. UMRA will sponsor this annual conference in 2014.

Ron Anderson & Nancy Kehmeier: conferences in Buenos Aires, Argentina, and Telluride, CO; vacation in Cabo San Lucas.

Victor Bloomfield and Elsa Shapiro traveled to Mongolia in July.

Faith M. Clover: Learning Abroad trips to Sweden.

Beulah Gray: tennis tournament in Indian Wells, CA—10th year.

Jan Hively: Bilbao, Spain—attended the kick-off for European Voices for Active Aging—her project involves World Cafes encouraging older adult engagement in six European countries.

Robert and Margaret Patterson: Ethiopia, Tanzania, and Uganda
George Rapp: Presented paper at the International Assn. of Sedimentologists meeting in Austria, September 2012

Frederic Steinhauser: Antarctica, TransSiberian RR, Amazon River

David Wark: Galapagos Islands; Machu Picchu, "climbing the big mountain at Wyapicchu on my birthday. According to the log at the entry, I was the oldest guy on the mountain by 5 years."

Gayle Graham Yates and Wilson Yates went to Boston in July for the international Arts and Christian Enquiry conference.

UMRA Needs You — as committee members and representatives

UMRA has openings for official representatives to the Alumni Association, the P&A Senate, and the Civil Service Senate. If you attend (or would like to attend) key meetings of these organizations, please let Ron Anderson or any Board Member know of your interest in serving UMRA.

In addition, there are openings on a number of UMRA Committees

1. Luncheon Committee is responsible for taking reservations, welcoming luncheon attendees, and menus.
2. Membership Committee recruits new members and builds awareness of UMRA around the University.
3. History Committee assembles historical stories from

Health benefits for retirees UPlan open enrollment, information continued

Last month, in preparation for the beginning of this year's open-enrollment period which will run until November 30, we reported that, on the average, the overall monthly premium cost per enrollee for retiree medical care coverage under the U Plan next year will decline an average of 6.5 percent. This is largely due to the Blue's U of M Retiree Plan, which, at \$278.68, is down 17.5 percent and Medica's Group Prime Solution, at \$255, down 2.3 percent. U Care for Seniors and Health Partners Freedom and National plans, at \$249, are going up slightly—2.6 percent.

Although differences in the monthly premium rates are useful in narrowing down one's choice of coverage, a better measure and reflection of the impact such changes may have on our members' pocketbooks are the annualized costs. For example: while Blue Cross Blue Shield remains the most expensive plan option offered at \$3,344.16 per enrollee, current members will be pleased to find that their annual premium cost for individual and couple's coverage will be down \$708.84 and \$1,417.68 respectively. Annual costs for Medica's Group Prime Solution is \$3,060 per enrollee; Health Partners Freedom and National plans and U Care for Seniors are all at \$2,988 per enrollee.

Note: if you are not contemplating making any changes in your medical and dental coverage next year, there is nothing you need to do during open-enrollment and your current coverage will continue.

— Ted Litman, UMRA Representative to the Benefits Advisory Committee

UMRA archives to help leaders understand UMRA's past and to highlight the life histories of interesting members.

4. Service Engagement Committee – a new committee to initiate service projects that UMRA members can do jointly to benefit the University community, such as integrating retirees with student service learning activities.
5. Social Committee – a new committee charged with facilitating social functions that bring members together.

As a committee member you become an UMRA “key person” and contribute in important ways to the common good of UMRA. If you might be interested, please contact Ron Anderson (rea@umn.edu or 952-473-5910).

Volunteer to mentor college students

As University retirees, we have a career-long engagement in mentoring skills and there is no reason to put them behind us. Here are projects that will involve you with college students in ways that explore your potential to inspire them and develop the cognitive skills that have been valuable in your own lives. The University Retirees Volunteer Center is facilitating the link between University retirees and these programs. Contact us at urvc@umn.edu. Thank you, Alan Kagan, URVC Ofc Mgr.

Senior to the Third Power

This is a new project for intergenerational civic engagement. A “senior” (you) will be paired with a college senior and a high school senior to organize a high school club designed to engage high school students in civic action. This is a project of the University of Minnesota Youth Development Leadership Program and is led by Professor Rob Schumer in the School of Social Work. One goal of this after-school program is to drive participation in civic engagement activities through service-learning and other civic actions. Team members will receive a small stipend to cover travel and activities (\$50 for retiree seniors).

Mentors for College Students

A national organization, StudentMentor, pairs volunteer professionals with college students. You can impart your life-long learning and experience to college students in your field. These mentorships are highly flexible and convenient; you decide the duration of the mentorship and have the flexibility of meeting in-person, by phone, or online. StudentMentor's innovative national mentoring program is based on its pioneering technology platform. Through it, students can conveniently find and collaborate with mentors from diverse professions to achieve their academic and career goals. Use your communication and coaching skills to make a difference in a young person's life.

Reminder, if you haven't already done so, remember to get your flu shot, and as they say, “Take one for the Herd.”

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1. Print new information below.
2. Cut out this form **and address label.**
3. Mail both to the address above.

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 Zip _____ Phone _____
 E-mail _____
 Other Info _____

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:

Willard Cochrane, Department of Applied Economics, died March 5, 2012.

Ruth E. Franzen, an UMRA member since 1991, died November 16, 2011, in North Newton, Kansas. She was on the faculty for Design, Housing, and Apparel.

Frederick Goetz, M.D., known for his work in diabetes research, died August 28, 2012, at age 90. He was a member of UMRA until 2010.

Richard P. McDermott, Speech, Language, and Hearing Science, died in September 2012. He was a member of UMRA since 1989.

Henrietta Miller, Biochemistry admin., an UMRA board member 1997–2002, died July 1, 2012, at age 96. She had maintained her membership until 2010.

Donald Pusch, Food Science/Health Service, died July 21, 2012. His wife, Joyce, continues as a member.

Vera Schletzer, 92, director of Women’s Continuing Education Program for many years, died September 12, 2012.

Visit the association’s new and ever-expanding website: www.umn.edu/umra

The UMRA Board thanks University Bookstores for their support of the November Newsletter and reminds members that UMRA members receive discounts at U Bookstores.

Holiday Sale
Save 25%
 on almost everything in-store & online during our 4-day sale event
November 20-21 & 23-24

Plus!
 Receive a \$10 U of M Bookstore Gift Card for every \$50 in eligible merchandise you purchase

Enjoy free gift-wrapping on all in-store purchases
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*Some good or ill will books, movies, supplies & general books. See www.bookstore.umn.edu for details.