

UMRA UNewsletter

A Communication of the University of Minnesota Retirees Association

NOVEMBER 2013

Professor Deborah Swackhamer to speak on Minnesota Waters, November 19

It's in the news and in our e-mail boxes on a regular basis...WATER is one of Earth's most important and oft-neglected resources.

Our luncheon speaker for November is Deborah L. Swackhamer, professor of Science, Technology, and Public Policy in the Hubert H. Humphrey School of Public



Affairs, and co-director of the University's Water Resources Center. She also is professor of Environmental Health Sciences in the School of Public Health.

She studies the processes affecting the behavior of, and exposures to, toxic chemicals in the environment, and she works on policies to address these potential risks.

Professor Swackhamer received her B.A. in chemistry from Grinnell College, Iowa, and her M.S. in water chemistry and limnology as well as a Ph.D. in oceanography from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. After two years of post-doctoral research in chemistry and public and environmental affairs at In-

diana University, she joined the Minnesota faculty in 1987.

She completed a four-year term as chair of the Science Advisory Board of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in 2012, and currently she is a member of the Science Advisory Board of the International Joint Commission of the U.S. and Canada. She recently served on the National Research Council, National Academy of Sciences committee addressing sustainability linkages in the federal government.

Dr. Swackhamer is a governor-appointed on the Minnesota Clean Water Council and was president of the National Institutes of Water Resources in 2011–12. She is a member of the Editorial Advisory Board for the journal *Environmental Science & Technology*, and is a fellow in the Royal Society of Chemistry in the United Kingdom.

In 2007 she received the Harvey G. Rogers Award from the Minnesota Public Health Association, and in 2009, the prestigious Founders Award from the Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry for lifetime achievement in environmental sciences. She was the 2010 recipient of the University of Minnesota's Ada Comstock Award.

In her luncheon presentation on November 19, she will discuss "Minnesota Waters: Enough for Future Generations?"

— John S. Adams. UMRA President

More November 19 Activities

9:30 a.m.—UMRA board, 411 CC

1:30 p.m.— Workshop: UDC (see page 3)

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

NOVEMBER LUNCHEON MEETING

Tuesday, November 19, 2013
11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Featured Speaker

Deborah L. Swackhamer, professor of Science, Technology, and Public Policy, Humphrey School of Public Affairs

"Minnesota Waters: Enough for Future Generations?"

Location

Conference Room ABC,
Campus Club, Fourth Floor,
Coffman Memorial Union

Menu

Beef Bourguignon over Pappardelle noodles. For vegetarian or gluten-free options, please request when making reservations.

Reservations ARE Required Deadline: Thursday, November 14

Prepayment of \$16 per person; annual prepayers **must** also make reservations.

To reserve your place(s), send your check payable to UMRA 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. 14.

Parking

Parking is available in the East River Road Garage; with UMRA's discount coupon — \$6 for the day.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

What about Our Histories?

Patricia Hampl's September presentation on memoir writing triggered thoughts about how retired faculty members and staff might undertake certain writing projects...before it's too late: (1) personal memoirs; (2) personal or scholarly autobiographies; (3) University department histories; (4) college histories; (5) histories of lines of research in one's discipline or scholarly field; and (6) oral histories of colleagues' work at the University, as Clarke Chambers recorded from many of us.

Personal Memoirs and Autobiographies

A memoir is a type of autobiography, typically involving a public portion of the author's life as it relates to a person, historic event, or thing. The text covers personal knowledge and/or experiences of the author, whereas an autobiography covers the author's entire life to the present, including details about one's public and private life. A biography is someone's life story written by another, but retirees could also do that, perhaps writing about parents, grandparents, or a colleague.

I began an autobiography several years ago—blocking out 20 chapters and beginning writing. I've drafted four chapters and 110,000 words so far, discovering that an enormous volume of stuff is packed away in my memory. When you begin writing about one thing, you recall things that you haven't thought about for decades. It's all there waiting to be dredged up, mulled over, and written down. I once wondered how Tolstoy could generate 560,000 words for *War and Peace*. I wonder no more.

Department and College Histories

Given the decades you may have spent in your department, who's better qualified to draft its history than you? Some years ago, our political science department produced *A History of the Department of Political Science, 1872-1994*. Early chapters drew on Charles McLaughlin's account of department evolution to 1977, prepared for a department self-survey. Remaining chapters were written

by former chairs about their times chairing the department. Retirees from other University departments could do likewise.

Intellectual Histories

As far as college and library histories are concerned, these would be complex undertakings—but well worth it as contributions not only to the history of our University but also as assessments of how our work has tracked, contributed to, and responded to developments in American science, scholarship, and higher education generally, especially within recent decades.

Our University enjoys a long and distinguished reputation for contributing to the history of science, technology, and medicine, and to the philosophy of science. Retired scientists and scholars are in an excellent position to reflect upon and write about the professional worlds they lived in and contributed to, telling their stories about the advancement of knowledge in their disciplines and professional fields, discussing what they did and why they did that rather than something else, and reflecting on what it has meant to them personally and to their fields. Our new UMRA-sponsored, on-line *Journal of Opinions, Ideas & Essays* (JOIE) at [<https://www.lib.umn.edu/joie>] stands ready to receive such accounts.

Oral Histories

Finally, obtain a tape recorder and interview colleagues from your department, college, center, or lab. Record personal histories and assessments of the evolution of units within the University. Digital transcripts of these valuable accounts are welcome in the University's Digital Conservancy [www.conservancy.umn.edu].

Archives

And by the way, move your professional files to the University Archives and save your kids the headache of figuring out what to do with them later.

— John S. Adams, UMRA President
adams004@umn.edu

CORRECTION

In the October issue featuring UMRA's Book Club, Pat Tollefson's e-mail was published incorrectly. If you are interested in joining discussions of the book club, which meets at 1666 Coffman on the third Friday afternoon of each month, contact Pat at p-toll@umn.edu.

Mark your calendars!!

UMRA meetings are generally held on the fourth Tuesday of the month; however, this month, we meet on November 19 (a week earlier). There is no meeting in December. After the new year, mark your new calendars for fourth Tuesdays, January through May.

November 19 Workshop: Opportunities for retirees in the U's Digital Conservancy

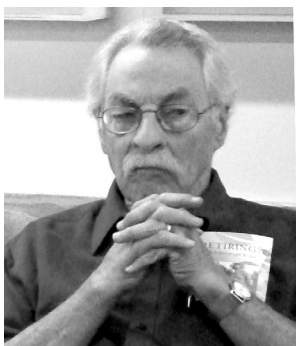
The University of Minnesota's Digital Conservancy (UDC) is a massive website designed to electronically preserve and make accessible written documents and images produced by University organizations, employees, retirees, and students. The UDC is maintained by the University Libraries for long-term preservation and open, searchable access to written and visual products, as well as audio and databases, from persons associated with the University.



The first portion of the workshop will be led by Erik Moore, University archivist and co-director of the UDC. He will give an overview of the UDC and explain the service it offers for retirees in addition to employees and students. Some UMRA members will be surprised to learn that their reports and other documents are already stored and retriev-

able on UDC, and we will all learn the process of installing additional reports.

Next, Regents Professor Emeritus of Ecology, Evolution, and Behavior Eville Gorham will explain how he put up 128 written works organized with an index. In 2010, he received a PDGR grant to install his "Collected Works for Global Access." Regents Professor Gorham pioneered a way to organize one's scholarly work so that he and many others at the University of Minnesota can use it to manage and disseminate their work. He will discuss the major considerations in such a project, and how to make it successful.



Finally, the workshop will feature an UMRA project initiative, the *Journal of Opinions, Ideas and Essays* (JOIE). Under the leadership of Professor Emeritus Martin Dworkin, JOIE is a new, digital journal sponsored by the University of Minnesota Retirees Association (UMRA), mounted on the

University Digital Conservancy, and intended for the entire University of Minnesota community. Its main webpage is: <https://www.lib.umn.edu/joie>. Professor Dworkin, editor-in-chief, will review the journal's goals, show us the first issue, and describe the process of submitting material for future issues.

Time and Format: The workshop will be held from 1:30-2:30 p.m. in the ABC room (East Wing) of the Campus Club shortly after the UMRA luncheon on Tuesday, November 19. Following the three presentations, there will be 20 to 30 minutes for participants to ask questions of the speakers or bring up relevant topics of their own for discussion. John Adams, UMRA President, will introduce the speakers.

— Ron Anderson, chair, UMRA Workshop Committee

Retirees can attend the U's Health Benefits Fair for help in UPlan decisions, flu shots

This year, the Health Fair and Benefits Fairs are scheduled for **November 12, 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.**, in the North Star Ballroom, St. Paul Student Center; and **November 13, 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.**, in the Great Hall, Coffman Memorial Union. Experts will be on hand to answer questions about UPlan benefits and the Wellness Programs. Free flu shots will also be available.

UMRA members receive two-for-one discount for Opera Theatre productions

UMRA members will receive two for the price of one tickets for University Opera Theatre's production of Bedrich Smetana's *The Bartered Bride*, which runs from Thursday, November 21, to Sunday, November 24, at Ted Mann Concert Hall.

Follow the comical story through twists and turns to find out what becomes of the bartered bride. A satire full of spontaneous charm. Dance music, choruses, and dazzling orchestral interludes. Directed by David Walsh.

Reserve your tickets now! Adults: \$20; Students and children: \$5. Box office: online at opera.umn.edu or 616-624-2345.

UMRA members will also receive two-for-one tickets to University Opera Theatre's production of Leos Janacek's *The Cunning Little Vixen*, which runs from Thursday, April 10, to Sunday, April 13, at Ted Mann Concert Hall. Directed by David Walsh. Reserve your tickets now! Adults: \$20; Students and children: \$5. Box office: online at opera.umn.edu.

See the newsletter online, delve into the photo archives,
and stay current on news for retirees —
There's always something new on UMRA's
ever-expanding website: www.umn.edu/umra

Second annual reception welcomes newcomers

A popular event initiated by the Membership Committee last year looks to become a tradition. Before the October luncheon UMRA members who joined within the past year were invited to a reception in the Campus Club Lounge. Twenty-one newcomers met each other and UMRA Board members, and heard about the organization's plans for activities in the year ahead.



Membership committee member Earl Nolting kept things moving as he deftly emceed the informational segment of the reception.



Top: New members Ann Stout and Bill and Carolyn Easter chatted at the newcomers reception.

Above: President-elect Hal Miller greeted Vincent and Mary Kay Hunt.

Test Your Pronunciation

If you can pronounce at least 18 of the following words correctly and with confidence, you could be a volunteer audio reader for the blind. Test yourself.

- | | |
|------------------|---------------------|
| 1. ambivalence | 11. queue |
| 2. gubernatorial | 12. bacchanalian |
| 3. nuclear | 13. choreography |
| 4. hallucinatory | 14. bureaucracy |
| 5. niche | 15. deficit |
| 6. dichotomy | 16. irrelevant |
| 7. rhetoric | 17. acclimate |
| 8. unanimity | 18. pseudonym |
| 9. obsequious | 19. barrage |
| 10. recidivism | 20. ophthalmologist |

You may be able to use your voice to record readings for the State Services for the Blind audio transcription service, or Radio Talking Book.

If this volunteer assignment interests you, you will first need to audition with extensive oral reading tests. A minimum three-hour weekly commitment (barring vacation or illness) is required for a year. Recording is done at studios in St. Paul's Midway area or in your home.

If this work interests you, contact the University Retirees Volunteer Center urvc@umn.edu for the audition reading criteria and application.

— Alan Kagan, URVC Programs director

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 UMRA Directory.

Thomas and Mary Krick, BMBB (Biochem), Civil Service
2118 Knapp St., St. Paul, MN 55108
651-644-2738; krick001@umn.edu

Muriel B. Ryden, School of Nursing, Faculty
11484 Fairfield Rd. W. #301, Minnetonka, MN 55305
952-542-2593; ryden001@umn.edu

Discount parking for UMRA members

Campus parking discount coupons are greatly appreciated by many UMRA members. Thanks to Parking and Transportation, coupons reduce all-day fees to \$6, with the exception of special events parking. Members can obtain coupons: (1) at any UMRA luncheon; (2) when you renew your membership; (3) by sending a request and self-addressed, stamped envelope to John Anderson, 1332 Como Blvd. E., St. Paul, MN 55117. Up to 21 coupons requires one Forever stamp; 22 to 42 coupons require 66 cents.

Professional Development Grants for Retirees program calls for proposals, 2013-14

The sixth cycle of grants to help retirees pursue projects related to their scholarship has been announced by the Office of the Vice President for Research and UMRA. All faculty members, professional and administrative, and civil service retirees from the Twin Cities and Coordinate Campuses of the University are eligible to apply for the grants (up to \$5,000). Last year, faculty and professional and administrative members with diverse interests received grants and the recipients represented five colleges.

The guidelines for grant applications were sent to UMRA members via e-mail in October and are available at www.umn.edu/umra/grants.php. **The deadline for applications is December 10, 2013.**

Awards will be announced on March 1, commence on April 1, 2014, and end on June 30, 2015.

Eligible expenses include travel and per diem costs related to research trips and conference participation, stipends for

undergraduate and/or graduate research assistants, photocopying, the purchase of books, computer, software, and other relevant costs. Ineligible expenses include salary for the applicant and institutional overhead charges. UROP, the Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program, has agreed to fund the cost of undergraduate assistants who work with grantees. Details about the UROP opportunity are in the guidelines.

For information about past awardees and the application process, please see www.umn.edu/umra/grants.php.

If you have questions, please contact the chair, Janice Hogan, jhogan@umn.edu, or committee members: Judson Sheridan, Martin Dworkin, Richard Caldecott, Calvin Kendall, Kim Munholland, Joanne Eicher, Russell Hobbie, Craig Swan, John Adams, Paul Quie, Hal Miller and John Howe. Contact information is listed in the grant guidelines.

— Jan Hogan-Schiltgen, chair, PDGR Committee

Colleagues gathering offers prospective retirees a glimpse of UMRA membership

On a sunny autumn afternoon in October twelve retirees from the College of Biological Sciences (CBS) gathered at the J. S. Anderson home to reminisce and partake of light refreshments. Of the twelve, six are current or new members of UMRA and six have shown an interest in joining.

A recently prepared UMRA promotional video/slideshow made its debut at this event. UMRA brochures were distributed followed by remarks about the Professional Development Grants for Retirees program.

One of the prospective members in attendance is the current dean of the college, who recently announced his forthcoming retirement in June 2014. This news, coupled with a recent announcement that the provost is appointing a committee to consider a possible merger of CBS with another college, generated much discussion. A good time was had by all, and everyone had a chance to experience the benefits of UMRA membership.

This event was a first—the pilot run of an initiative that the Membership Committee would like to extend to other communities within the University. The casual atmosphere of a gathering in a home makes it enjoyable for everyone. Besides being a

great opportunity to reconnect with colleagues and former co-workers, we hope such an event will encourage other retirees, and soon-to-retire faculty and staff to join UMRA.

If you are interested in hosting such a recruitment event for your former unit or a group of related units, please contact John Anderson, chair of the Membership Committee (ander049@umn.edu). He and his committee will be glad to help with the planning, program, and coordinating.



Left to right: CBS Dean Bob Elde (neuroscience), Pat Cleary (microbiology), Stu Goldstein (genetics, cell biology and development), Bob Herman (genetics, cell biology and development), and Tom Krick (biochemistry, molecular biology and biophysics).

Photo by Frank Barnwell

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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 _____

In Remembrance

We report the passing of UMRA members as we learn of losses to our UMRA community. Since the Newsletter was published last month, we have received news of the following. Our condolences to the family and friends of:

Elnore A. Beckman, U of M Personnel office, civil service, died in January 2013.

Bernard W. Lindgren, Statistics faculty, died November 4, 2012. He had been a member of UMRA since 1998.

Ruth B. Loewenson, Neurology & Biostatistics faculty, died October 12, 2013. She had been an UMRA member since 1990.

UMRA Cares about you

For assistance and support in the event of the death or serious illness of an UMRA member or family member, please email the UMRA Cares committee at umracares@umn.edu or call 612-626-4403 and leave a message for UMRA Cares. We will call you back.

—Earl Nolting, UMRA Cares committee member

The Board of Directors and members of UMRA wish to thank the University of Minnesota Bookstores for sponsoring UMRA's November Newsletter. U Bookstores also offers a 10 percent discount to UMRA members throughout the year.

Holiday Sale
Save 25%
 on almost everything in-store
 & online during our 4-day sale event*
November 26-27 & 29-30

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 exclusions apply.