

UMRA U NEWSLETTER

A Communication of the University of Minnesota Retirees Association

MAY 2015

Program for Annual Gala features Vern Sutton, “Music of the Ziegfeld Follies”

Dr. Vern (Evert Lavern) Sutton returns to the UMRA stage to speak and perform at our special annual Gala Luncheon May 26.

Vern confesses that from his very early school-year experiences, he learned that he loved to be on stage. As soon as first grade, when he played Baby Bear in the play about Goldilocks, the “roar of the crowd” had hooked him on singing and performing.



Photo: Karen Koepp, Minnesota Orchestra

Throughout his career, he has juggled life, very successfully, both as a professor and performer. Having earned a bachelor's degree from Austin College in Sherman, Texas, and a master's and Ph.D. in musicology at the University of Minnesota, he spent another 36 years (1967-2003) on the faculty of the University's School of Music.

Vern Sutton's contributions to the music scene in Minnesota have been numerous. In 1963 he was a founding member of the Center Opera Company, which later became the well-known and beloved Minnesota Opera. He directed the University's Opera Theater and School of Music for 30 years.

Around town, he appeared as a guest on Garrison Keillor's “Prairie Home Companion” show for 13 years; he acted in the Guthrie Theater's *Christmas Carol* for five seasons and appeared in the Guthrie's *1776* production. In addition he created “Opera on the Farm” and brought opera to many rural communities in the Midwest.

After retiring from the University he became artistic director of Opera in the Ozarks in Eureka Springs, Arkansas.

He is a frequent speaker on a variety of topics from Dickens to Oscar Wilde to the History of Opera. At our May luncheon he will treat us to talk and song about the “Music of the Ziegfeld Follies.”

Come and enjoy this year's annual meeting and program—the capstone to a very successful year of UMRA programming.

— Jean Kinsey, President-elect

Preview of things to come

Watch for your membership renewal reminder in the mail by July. Memberships expire on August 31, and you won't want to miss out on all the great UMRA discounts, stimulating speakers, and practical workshops. Your newsletter and monthly programs will resume in September.

September 22: Janeé Harteau, Minneapolis police chief. **October 27:** Massoud Amin, professor and director, U of M Technology Leadership Institute. **November 17:** Craig Packer, professor, Department of Ecology, Evolution, and Behavior. **Workshops** will focus on healthful exercising and finances.

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

MAY FESTIVE LUNCHEON and ANNUAL MEETING

Tuesday, May 26, 2015

Social time: 11:30 a.m.

Luncheon: noon to 12:45 p.m.

Election and Business Meeting
followed by Program.

Program

Vern Sutton, professor emeritus,
U of M School of Music
“Music of the Ziegfeld Follies”

Location

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

Menu

See entree selections on page 3.
Please request your choice when
making your reservations.

Reservations ARE Required
Deadline: Monday, May 18

Cost: \$30 per person.

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

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

Please honor the reservation
deadline date; if cancellations are
necessary, please call by May 20.

Parking

Ramps and River Road Garage;
with UMRA's discount coupon—
\$6 for the day.

UMRA NEWSLETTER

FROM THE PRESIDENT

On Retirement

Recently representatives of the American Council on Education (ACE) visited the University of Minnesota to conduct focus groups regarding how our University prepares us for the transition into retirement. These conversations with several U.S. universities are part of the research that ACE is conducting in preparation of a second volume on faculty retirement. The first volume is titled *Faculty Retirement: Best Practices for Navigating the Transition*. Funded by the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation, both volumes will have covered both the transition to and the current status of faculty retirement in higher education. Although concentrating on faculty retirement, the studies have implications for staff at the institutions as well.

The first book detailed policies and practices in 15 institutions from small private colleges, such as Carleton and Mount Holyoke, to large public universities such as George Mason, San Jose State, UC Davis, U of Washington, and Georgia Tech. Large private universities included Princeton, Xavier, and the University of Southern California (USC).

One of the most comprehensive pre- and post-retirement programs at large doctoral institutions is the one at USC. Titled “USC Legacy Programs,” they enhance faculty transitions to and through retirement years, helping faculty “create their academic heritage, that is, the tangibles or intangibles transmitted to their academic heirs.” As instruments to achieve this goal, USC operates the Emeriti Center, Emeriti Center College, and the USC Living History Project. Operating as an institution-wide service, the legacy program succeeds, according to the report, only because it is built on a firm foundation of retirement support. This support includes financial contributions to retirement accounts; transition-to-retirement seminars explaining a wide range of retirement options, financial and programmatic; phased retirement; and a policy encouraging retired faculty to return for limited teaching or research with compensation.

The 2012 ACE nationwide survey of faculty members showed that USC had the highest satisfaction scores compared to all other respondents in such categories as legacy programs, culminating projects, retirement transition counseling, ability to phase to retirement, and plans for staying connected with departments and parts of the academic community after retirement.

The new study will concentrate on what institutions can do to support faculty members in accomplishing their goals and alleviating their fears as they transition into retirement and remain active on campus.

Several UMRA members participated in the ACE focus groups conducted on the Twin Cities campus. In the discussions we attended, considerable attention was given to the separate role of UMRA as well as the wide disparity of departmental and collegiate approaches to preparations for retirement and treatment of retirees. This disparity reflects the fact that the University of Minnesota is a decentralized institution with wide-ranging approaches to departmental and collegiate management of resources. Some departments and colleges are effective in establishing and carrying out good practices in managing faculty and staff resources, including retirement planning and post-retirement involvement of retirees. Some are not.

While Minnesota offers some of the institutional support that distinguishes USC in its legacy building—such as good retirement funding, phased retirement programs, and pre-retirement seminars—overall programmatic support is spotty. It is UMRA that has initiated such options as professional development grants to retirees (funded by the VP for Research); the *Journal of Opinions, Ideas and Essays*, (in collaboration with University Libraries); and speakers and workshops on topics of interest to retirees.

The College of Continuing Education (CCE) supports the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, which provides teaching opportunities for retired faculty and staff. CCE also has a relatively new program, “Encore Transitions,” which is aimed at a wide audience of people, not just University retirees, who are planning and living in post retirement. Many other CCE programs have a wide range of teaching faculty and staff, including community persons and retirees.

These efforts, while extensive and successful, do not, as is the case with USC, represent an institution-wide strategy of transition to retirement planning or of thoughtful deployment of the many retired faculty and staff.

UMRA leadership is now pursuing closer connections with the Provost’s office and the Office of Human Relations in order to help define and plan such a strategy.

— Hal Miller, UMRA President

May meeting includes annual election

During the business portion of the meeting on May 26, members will elect next year's UMRA leadership. The nominating committee presents the following for your approval.

For Officers:

President-elect Donna Peterson
Secretary Chip Peterson
Treasurer Carl Adams

For Board of Directors:

Steve Benson
Gloria Williams

Please turn to page 4 or www.umn.edu/umra for profiles of the candidates for officers and new board members.

After election the above members will join in leading the organization with the following continuing officers:

President, 2015-16 Jean Kinsey
Past president Hal Miller

and board members who are continuing to serve out terms: Roger Clemence, Joanne Eicher, Vern Eidman, Virgil Larson, Jeanne Markell, Sherilyn Goldsmith May, David Naumann, and Kathleen O'Brien.

Board members who are completing their terms in May are: Past President John Adams and board members Vandora Linck and Paul Quie.

Please join in the festivities of the May Special Luncheon and annual meeting to celebrate a successful year and to thank these members for their service and leadership.

— Nominating Committee: John Adams, chair; Hal Miller, Gayle Graham Yates, John Anderson, and Nancy Helmich.

UMRA continues Campus Club arrangement

The Board of Directors has agreed to continue our favorable agreement with the Campus Club through the 2015–16 year. The Campus Club will continue to provide specially designed plated lunches at the same price as this year (about half their regular menu price). In addition, we shall continue to have a capstone, gala May luncheon with a choice of three entrées and a cash wine/beer bar.

— Richard Skaggs, Treasurer

Correction:

In this space in the April print issue, the President's message was to continue from page 2. With apologies from Printing Services and your editor, it did not. Please refer to the e-mail version or the Newsletter archives on the UMRA website at www.umn.edu/umra to read the completion of the article.

May Meeting and Festive Luncheon features your choice among three entrées

(Please be sure to indicate your menu selection when you send in your reservations.)

Social

Come early and mingle with friends and colleagues. Wine and beer cash bar opens at 11:30 a.m.; lunch is served at noon. A program featuring Vern Sutton, professor emeritus and "Prairie Home Companion" musician, will follow the brief business meeting.

Menu

All meals are served with fresh baked bread and seasonal vegetables.

Please select one entrée from the following:

- 1. Balsamic Rosemary Chicken:** Boneless, skinless chicken breast marinated with garlic and rosemary. Pan-seared and finished with chicken demi-glace and balsamic reduction. Served over Campus Club pilaf. Gluten-free and dairy-free option.
- 2. Pan-Seared Canadian Walleye:** The most popular Campus Club menu item, the walleye is lightly seasoned and topped with local herb butter and lemon. Served with herbed potatoes. Gluten-free option.
- 3. Rainbow Chard and Wild Rice Dolmades:** Minnesota wild rice mixed with roasted vegetables and herbs and rolled in rainbow chard leaves. Served with dried fruit compote. Gluten-free, dairy-free, vegan options.

Finale for all: Assorted organic cookies, fresh brewed coffee and water will be served.

Deadline for Reservations: Monday, May 18

Please rush your reservations with your entrée selections and check for \$30 for each reservation to:

UMRA May Reservations, c/o Judy Leahy Grimes,
1937 Palace Ave., St. Paul, MN 55105-1728.

See sidebar on page 1 for more contact information.

From the Cares Committee:

Volunteers needed: Regular seven-day newspaper readers of the *Minneapolis Star Tribune*, *St. Paul Pioneer Press*, and the monthly *Saint Anthony Park Bugle* to assist with a project. Please call Earl Nolting (651-633-4333) or Van Linck (651-490-1385) for details. We hope to find at least one regular reader and a back-up reader for one particular section of each newspaper. Thanks for helping.

—UMRA Cares Committee.

Meet the candidates for UMRA's officers and board members to be elected in May

Candidate for President-elect

Donna Peterson, P&A, retired in 2012 after 22 years at the University. She began her U of M career as director of State Relations in 1990, later serving as associate vice president for Government and Community Relations. As the chief liaison for the University at the state capitol, in Washington D.C., and local municipalities, she communicated with members of the Minnesota Legislature, Congress, the governor, and other elected officials.



As associate vice president, Donna oversaw the activities of the directors of federal, state, and community relations, and legislative advocacy initiatives. Prior to Donna's tenure at the University, she was an elected member of the Minnesota Senate and the House of Representatives.

Donna has served on the UMRA Board since May 2014.

Candidate for Treasurer

Carl Adams retired in 2013 from the faculty of Information and Decision Sciences in the Carlson School of Management (CSOM). His expertise includes strategy and structure of information systems/information technology (IS/IT).



His leadership experience includes department chairman for 18 years, special assistant for Planning for Bob Stein and subsequently Nils Hasselmo, and director of the Management Information Systems

Research Center in CSOM for six years. He also served the University Senate in many capacities over 40 years. "I see UMRA as a win-win activity for its members and for the University that I want to be active in supporting." Carl has served on the UMRA Board since May 2014.

Candidate for Secretary

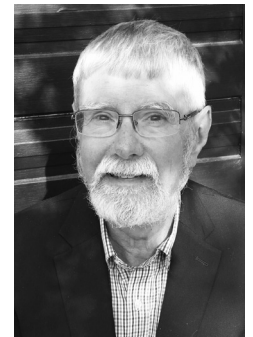
Chip Peterson retired from the Learning Abroad Center in 2012 after a 32-year career in study abroad, including such areas as advising, policy development, academic oversight, program budgeting and management, new program development, curriculum integration, and faculty training. His passion for social justice-focused experiential learning found expression through decades of involvement in both HECUA (Higher Education Consortium for Urban Af-



fairs) and the U of M's MSID (Minnesota Studies in International Development). A geographer and Latin Americanist by training, he has lived a total of seven years in South America (Peace Corps, research on urban social issues, on-site direction of study abroad programs, and a year hitchhiking throughout the continent). He and his wife Rosa María have been UMRA members since his retirement.

Candidates to serve on the Board of Directors

Steve Benson retired in 2013 as the executive director of the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, having also been a founder and executive director of OLLI's predecessor, The ElderLearning Institute. He was a producer/host on Public Radio KUOM for 22 years. During his 41-year career at the University he involved many U of M faculty, staff, and students in broadcast and teaching activities, including many current members of UMRA. "As a lifelong learner and active member of the University community, I am delighted to continue to be of service to UMRA and the broader U of M community."



Gloria Williams retired in 2009 after teaching and research activities for 14 years on the faculty of the Department of Design, Housing, and Apparel, College of Design. She says that the best part of teaching was having graduate students in her classes analyze the structures of knowledge in their subject matter, noting gaps, contradictions, claims, etc., along with the practical applications that made a difference in peoples' lives. In 2013, she received a Professional Development Grant for Retirees to do research on crafting an intellectual biography of Joanne Bulbolz Eicher. She has been an UMRA member since 2009. "Becoming a board member will provide a further opportunity to be involved in giving service to UMRA, its members, and the University community," she said.



Photo Club will shoot spring at Como in May

On Friday, May 15, the UMRA Photo Club will go on location to the Como Zoo and Conservatory for a photo shoot. Bring your camera and discerning eye. We will meet at 1 p.m. at the Visitor Center. Come at noon for lunch at Zöbota Cafe, also located in the Visitor Center.

— Craig Swan [swan@umn.edu]

April program and workshop address the challenges and the future for care-giving

Robert Kane, M.D., director of the University of Minnesota Center on Aging, spoke to an overflow crowd at the April UMRA luncheon. He drew from his books—*The Good Caregiver* and *It Shouldn't Be This Way*, co-written with his sister, Joan West, on their experiences in securing and caring for their mother who needed long-term care later in life.

He spoke eloquently of the many roles and difficulties children, spouses, and other friends and relatives face when debilitating injury or illness develops. And, he provided practical information for meeting such challenges.

Asserting that the care “system” as it exists today is broken and frequently ineffective for the elderly, Dr. Kane is leading a Long-Term Care Rethink Tank, a group committed to improving the future care needs of the aging population in Minnesota. He invited UMRA members to join these discussions and asked interested members to contact him at kanex001@umn.edu.

In the post-luncheon workshop, Dr. Kane led a discussion with two UMRA members, Van Linck and Harlan Hansen, who described their experiences while caring for spouses in their homes. Some of the challenges they encountered were practical problems in learning unfamiliar medical procedures and finding community resources relating to the illness and home care. They stressed the importance of learning about the illness, symptoms, and treatment side effects. A common need was finding ways to modify aspects of the home environment for the patient.

Despite the difficulties of managing the care, a major source of satisfaction was that the illness brought their relationships into focus and that they found that love was a major source of support and comfort for both patient and caregiver.

Dr. Kane and the UMRA Cares Committee will be exploring ways to work together to follow the April meetings with specific supportive opportunities for next fall.

To explore this information further, see:

Kane, Robert L. with Ouellette, J. (2011), *The Good Caregiver*, New York: Avery Press; and Kane, Robert L. & West, Joan C. (2005), *It Shouldn't Be This Way: The Failure of Long-Term Care*, Nashville: Vanderbilt University Press.

—Earl Nolting, UMRA Cares Committee

See the newsletter online, connect to resources for retirement information, and stay current on news for retirees on UMRA's website:
www.umn.edu/umra

Win – Win: retirees and research

Participation in research benefits both retirees and the advancement of scientific discovery. The University Retirees Volunteer Center can connect you with projects such as this.

Be a participant in a research study to discover:

How Should Hearing Aids Sound in Noisy Environments?

The answer is complicated. Dr. Peggy Nelson and colleagues in Speech-Language-Hearing Science (SLHS) are engaged in a study to find out, and they need your help. Most people who wear hearing aids do not like the way they process sound in noisy situations. This study is to discover how to change this by developing technology to allow people with hearing aids to set them for the best sound quality possible.

Requirements for Participation:

Mild to moderate symmetrical hearing loss in both ears due to sensory or nerve damage. No problems with ear infections or history of ear surgery. Age 80 or younger. You do not have to have hearing aids to be in the study. If interested, contact URVC at 612-625-8016 or urvc@umn.edu.

Participants selected for this study will get a free hearing test in SLHS clinic. Compensation: \$15/hour, free parking.

Welcome new members to UMRA

Please give a hearty welcome to new members who have recently joined UMRA. Greet them at luncheon meetings, and add them to your UMRA Directory lists.

Nancy L. Fulton, Ofc of Information Technology, Civil Service
1085 Livingston Ave., St. Paul, MN 55118-1441
651-552-1453; 651-285-6962;
n-fult@umn.edu; nlfulton@gmail.com

Linda Halcón and Scott Williams, School of Nursing, Faculty
5955 Country Club Rd., Excelsior, MN 55331
952-470-4225; 612-382-6142; halco001@umn.edu

Patricia Kelly Hall, Minnesota Population Center, P & A
2220 Midland Grove Rd., #301, Roseville, MN 55113
612-384-8487; 612-626-3489; pkelly@umn.edu

Kathryn Hanna, Biology Teaching and Learning, Faculty
1816 Commerce Blvd., Mound, MN 55364
952-495-8148; khanna@umn.edu

Gilbert B. Huie, Civil Environmental Geo-Engineering, Civil Service
7525 82nd Ave. N., Brooklyn Park, MN 55455
763-400-0965; jukenacobay@gmail.com

Sue and Thomas Marshall, Dept. of Obstetrics, Gynecology, and Women's Health, P & A
738 Parkway Ave. St. Paul, MN 55117
651-788-7880; 612-597-0851
marsh068@umn.edu; omarshall5@gmail.com

New members — Continued on page 6

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

Website: www.umn.edu/umra

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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's phone: 612-626-4403

New Members — Continued from page 5

Susan Rose, Education Psychology/CEHD, Faculty
424 Otis Ave. St. Paul, MN 55104
651-644-4084; srose@umn.edu

John L. Sullivan, Political Science, Faculty
1735 Princeton Ave. St. Paul, MN 55105
651-699-5630; jsull@umn.edu

Dale A. Swanson, Science and Engineering, P & A
8109 W 109th St., Minneapolis, MN 55438-2299
952-941-8300; swanson@umn.edu

In Remembrance

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

Wesley C. Simonton, Library School faculty, died April 7, 2015. He and his wife, Susan H. Simonton, joined UMRA in 1990.

Please assist the work of UMRA Cares Committee

When you become aware of an individual or family in our midst who is in need of assistance or support, please notify the UMRA Cares Committee at umracares@umn.edu or call 612-626-4403, and leave a message for UMRA Cares.

The Board and members of the U of M Retirees Association thank the University of Minnesota Foundation for sponsoring UMRA's May 2015 Newsletter. See their message below.

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA FOUNDATION Estate and Gift Planning Strategies Seminar

Presented by Jane Godfrey, J.D.
Senior Director of Development, Planned Giving and Trusts & Estates

This seminar is being offered in three locations:

Tuesday, May 12, 9 to 10:30 a.m.

Midland Hills Country Club, St. Paul

Thursday, May 14, 6 to 7:30 p.m.

**McNamara Alumni Center, 5th floor Boardroom,
Minneapolis**

Tuesday, May 19, 1 to 2:30 p.m.

Minnesota Landscape Arboretum, Chaska

Complimentary admission to the arboretum included.

For more information,
contact Lynn Praska
at lpraska@umn.edu
or call 612-624-4158.

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