



APRIL 2021

UMRA A.M.

Are we exporting our environmental problems?

We want electric cars, and we want solar power and wind turbines to generate electricity. But what about the raw materials needed to produce them? We like our smartphones, computers, and TVs. But what are the environmental consequences for the locations, often outside the U.S., where the critical metals and other materials used to make them are found? Are we exporting our environmental problems to other countries?

These are questions Professor Emeritus Jim L. Bowyer will discuss for UMRA A.M. on Tuesday, April 13. In a fast-moving presentation, Bowyer will address population and economic growth, consumption, raw material needs, the environment, ethics, and even a bit of politics. Based on his recent book, *The Irresponsible Pursuit of Paradise*, the focus will be on environmental policy. Bowyer retired from the U of M Department of Bioproducts and Biosystems Engineering in 2006.



Jim Bowyer

A feeling of environmental superiority

What the cumulative result of high consumption, resistance to domestic raw material extraction, and a lack of interest in recycling on the part of many means for the U.S. is that consumers here are able to enjoy the benefits of high consumption with minimal exposure to the environmental impacts of that consumption—especially in the case of metals. Moreover, these same consumers are able to bask in a feeling of environmental superiority over nations whose environments are not as pristine as those in the U.S. In Bowyer's view, it is an ethically bankrupt position.

But there are also reasons other than ethics that require self-examination of current practices. Many countries exporting raw materials are now experiencing their own rapid economic growth and becoming competitors for the raw materials coveted by the most economically developed countries. In addition, rapid increases in consumption worldwide have triggered concerns about the potential for conflict as resource competition intensifies.

See **UMRA A.M.** on page 12 ...

APRIL 20 WORKSHOP

The mystery of the Minneapolis 'megamurder'

Our April workshop will be a lot of fun. Our presenter will be Sharon Stiteler, aka the "Birdchick."

A National Park Ranger, author, and radio/TV personality, Stiteler's books include *Disapproving Rabbits*, *City Birds/Country Birds*, and her latest, *1001 Secrets Every Birder Should Know*. She has appeared on MPR's *All Things Considered* and the *NBC Nightly News*, talking birding. She blogs at birdchick.com.

Stiteler will tell us about the opportunities for birding and wildlife viewing in the 72-mile Mississippi National River and Recreational Area, a 54,000-acre protected

corridor that stretches from the cities of Dayton and Ramsey in the north to just south of Hastings.

Her vehicle for telling us about the park will be a murder mystery.

If you've walked along the river gorge between Minneapolis and St. Paul this past winter, you may have encountered a mysterious spectacle: huge groups of crows flying around cawing in a wild cacophony. Why are they there? What are they up to?

See **WORKSHOP** on page 8 ...

From the President

“How not to sound old.” I hope you joined this [UMRA workshop](#) in early March. I found it enlightening, and I practice my voice exercises every morning.

This year’s annual meeting will be held on May 25 via Zoom. Our guest speaker will be Ken Powell, outgoing chair of the Board of Regents. The business part of the meeting will include voting for UMRA officers and board members. The slate of candidates will be presented in the May issue of the *UMRA News*. There will be an opportunity for nominations “from the floor.” Also on the agenda: review and approval of changes made to the UMRA Bylaws and previously endorsed by the Executive Committee (EC), Board, and via email to the membership. Voting will occur via the polling feature of Zoom.

At UMRA’s February EC meeting, the new Organizational Continuity Committee (OCC, see page 6) was approved. The UMRA History Committee was discontinued, and history became part of the OCC. If you are interested in joining the new committee, contact co-chairs Jerry Rinehart or Chip Peterson.

JOIE, the Journal of Opinions, Ideas & Essays, is back up and running and accepting publication submissions [see page 3], including several already under

review. When you have an item you believe to be of interest, please send it to the editor, Kris Bettin, at betti002@umn.edu.

The question of what UMRA programming might occur this June, July, and August (when UMRA has traditionally observed a summer break) has been raised by several members. The Program Committee is working on one program a month for two months and a potential outdoor get-together in late Summer. A survey of the membership will also be done regarding attitudes about attending an outdoor get-together.

Please note the new masthead on the *UMRA News*. This is a very helpful addition; thank you Kris Mortensen, our news editor.

The Campus Club, planning on reopening soon, has received notice of a loss of its University subsidy and is seeking input, from UMRA and other stakeholders, into developing a new business model. Please read “The Campus Club needs help” on page 10.

Stay safe, be well, and seriously consider taking the vaccination when offered.

—Frank Cerra, MD, UMRA president

Nominating Committee update

At its February meeting, the UMRA Board approved the membership of this year’s Nominating Committee and authorized it to get ahead. This is an annual process that seeks volunteers to serve on the board. These volunteers are responsible for directing our organization and promoting our programming. All board members and officers are UMRA members. The nomination process culminates in an election by our members during the UMRA Annual Meeting in May.

This year, there are at least two open board seats and the position of president-elect to fill. The members of the Nominating Committee are:

- Jeanne Markell
- John Romano
- Peggy Mann Rinehart

- Barbara Shiels, current board member
- Jan Morlock, current president-elect
- Bill Donohue, past president

The committee has been hard at work for several weeks and expects to present its recommended nominations in the May 2021 UMRA News.

—Bill Donohue, Nominating Committee chair

2021 Annual Meeting and election

Save the date: Tuesday, May 23, 12 noon. This meeting via Zoom will feature guest speaker Ken Powell, outgoing chair of the Board of Regents. We will also elect officers and directors to the board, approve the 2021–22 budget, and attend to other business of the Retirees Association.

Preparing professionals for educational equity

Minnesota faces deep challenges with educational equity. What are the toughest challenges and where are the signs of hope? When UMRA member and former University President Bob Bruininks was asked whom we should invite to talk with us about education equity, he said, “Get Michael Rodriguez!”

Professor Rodriguez has said that the principles of educational equity have been available for decades, yet often are misunderstood or simply ignored. By acknowledging that learning is *a social activity*, we center the role of the sociocultural context of teaching and learning.

Through explicit and intentional integration of academic, social, and emotional learning, we can make real gains—including newer efforts to employ cultural and linguistic responsive instruction and assessment, according to Rodriguez. All of this has important implications for how we prepare education professionals in the University’s College of Education and Human Development.



Michael Rodriguez

Michael Rodriguez, PhD, is a professor of educational psychology and holds the Campbell Leadership Chair in Education and Human Development at the U. He is founding co-director of the Educational Equity Resource Center, and directs the Minnesota Youth Development Research Group. His teaching and research focus is on educational equity, educational testing and assessment, social and emotional learning, and youth development.

Rodriguez has been a partner with the Minneapolis Foundation in a project called Reimagine Minnesota, looking at how to disrupt the patterns of racial and economic inequities in education in our state.

Please [register](#) and join fellow UMRA members and guests to welcome Michael Rodriguez to the UMRA Forum on Tuesday, April 27, at 12 noon.

—Jan Morlock, UMRA president-elect and Program Committee chair

Taking action on property covenants

Homeowners in six metro-area cities including Minneapolis can now take action to remove discriminatory language from their property titles with help from the new [Just Deeds Coalition](#).

Building on data from Mapping Prejudice, a University of Minnesota Libraries project, the coalition provides free legal and title services to help homeowners find discriminatory covenants and discharge them.

UMRA members learned about Mapping Prejudice in a presentation by Project Director Kirsten Deleard for UMRA A.M. on October 13, 2020. Deleard shared the history and tragic impacts of these covenants, which restricted home ownership to whites and enabled segregated neighborhoods, redlining, and limitations on economic growth for communities of color. Although no longer legal or enforceable, these covenants remain associated with many properties.

“We have seen a tremendous awakening around this history in the aftermath of George Floyd’s murder,” Deleard said when asked about the Just Deeds Coalition. “Mapping Prejudice seeks to do more than build a new dataset. Our project is designed to spur action. We are so grateful to our volunteers and community partners for connecting the past to the present in ways that will power meaningful change.”

—Wendy Pradt Lougee, University librarian and dean of libraries (retired)

Re-launching UMRA’s online, open-access journal

The current *Journal of Opinions, Ideas & Essays* (JOIE) collection shows a depth, breadth, and diversity of subjects that is a positive reflection of the University community. I think [JOIE](#) has great potential as a resource for scholars of all types—to enjoy reading and/or writing contributions that may be outside their professional spheres.

I think the most critical need now for the success of JOIE is increased visibility. This may be accomplished in myriad ways, including a twice annual “call for papers” and promoting the journal in multiple locations outside the UMRA website.

See [JOIE](#) on page 10 ...

On being maroon and gold, and Black

Professor Emeritus John S. Wright has done his part to shake up the University of Minnesota for nearly 60 years. He is a distinguished writer, scholar, and educator, but is perhaps best known in University lore for his high-profile activism, including his seminal role in the student takeover of Morrill Hall in 1969. —Kristine Mortensen, editor

“African American life is like all the truest stories of the human condition: it is a blend of the marvelous and the terrible, the joyful and the painful, the ugly and the beautiful.”

—John S. Wright, BEE '68, MA '71, PhD '77

What year did you come to the University of Minnesota and what brought you here?

I came as a freshman in the fall of 1963, at age 16. I had graduated from Robbinsdale High School, then the largest high school in the state with more than 3,000 students. I was the only Black student in a graduating class of 800. Because I was fortunate to be part of an accelerated cohort, I graduated early. But I was not the first generation in my family to come to the University. My father, Boyd Wright, and his younger sister, my Aunt Martha Wright, had come to the University in 1934. He entered the School of Mortuary Science, and she what was then called the School of Technology.

Was there something that nevertheless surprised you when you got here?

Well, I had come thinking that I was going to encounter Black folks on a significant scale. Instead, there were just a handful of Black students on campus—fewer than 100 that we could count at the time. And I was the only Black student in all of my engineering classes.

Let's go forward to the events of 1969. What was it like for you at that time to be maroon and gold, and Black? I have a hard time making that jump you just made, because those were tumultuous years. One of my signal memories from my freshman semester in the fall of '63, of course, was the assassination of John Kennedy in Dallas. In April of 1967, Martin Luther King, Jr. gave an address on the St. Paul campus to a crowd of over 4,000. Our student organization, called STRAP—an acronym for Students for Racial Progress—brought Dr. King here. The following month we brought Stokely Carmichael, one of the most charismatic leaders of the Black Power Movement, to campus, and he gave an

address to a packed Williams Arena.

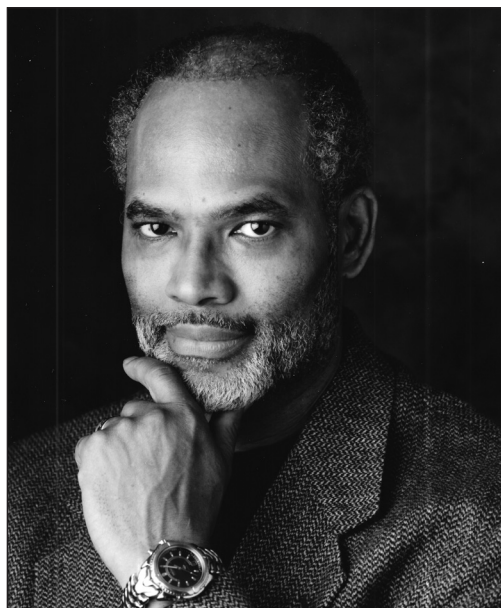
The years in between had been filled with the battles that led to the passage of the Civil Rights Act and the Voting Rights Act of 1964 and 1965. And because of the pervasive influence of the Vietnam War, we—we young men, anyway—all lived under the shadow of the military draft and the specter of being drafted into that onerous and, for me, unconscionable war in Southeast Asia. Those were also years in which the old imperialist colonial system was crumbling, and newly independent nations were emerging all across Asia, Africa, the Caribbean, and the rest of the Third World. So, our consciousness was being forged by events occurring off campus, which were channeled into our campus experience at the same time.

How has that changed, or not changed, in the 50 years since the Morrill Hall takeover?

The specific genesis of the Morrill Hall takeover lay in the assassination of Dr. King on April fourth in 1968, a Friday. The country exploded and there were major urban rebellions in over 100 cities. The National Guard and the Army had to be called out because the country was in turmoil.

Our Black student organization met early that following week to decide what kind of response we could make that would be constructive—that would both honor Dr. King and contribute to progressive change at the University. The group asked me to draft a response, which I did. It was in the form of seven demands that we presented to the Malcolm Moos administration at the end of that week. The University mounted a task force, as might be expected.

See **MAROON AND GOLD** on page 5 ...



John Wright

... **MAROON AND GOLD** from page 4.

But over the next eight months, the task force worked in the labyrinthine, serpentine ways that Universities do. And when we again met with the administration in January of '69, it was clear that little progress of any substantive, satisfactory sort had been made. That's when we decided that we had no alternative but to employ non-violent direct action in the spirit of Dr. King and take over the administration building, which we did in mid-January of '69. Looking back now, after over half a century, that event helped transform social and academic life at the University in a variety of ways.



The student occupation of Morrill Hall in 1969 led to the creation of a series of new academic programs, including the Department of African American & African Studies, one of the first in the U.S.
Photo courtesy University of Minnesota Archives.

Where do you think the University is today, seen through that lens? We have made significant progress. But most of the programs and departments that came out of that process are still understaffed and underfunded. The ambivalent and sometimes schizophrenic response of Minnesotans to the issues of race and cultural diversity and economic disadvantage still affect public life broadly across this state, and on the University campus as well.

As we approach the one-year anniversary of the killing of George Floyd, what do you think, or hope, the lasting impact will be? Ultimately, statutory reforms to eradicate the legal impunities and longstanding courtroom exonerations of police misuse of deadly force against unarmed citizens. And more humane police training. The fact that two of the four officers involved are graduates of the University's criminal justice program suggests that the University training in that regard is still inadequate to prevent such atrocities from taking place. If police officers can continue to justify acts of murderous atrocity simply because they can say they are afraid or feel threatened, there will never be an end to such horrors.

What is something members of the Retirees Association could do to help make Minnesota a better place for all? One of the warmest memories that I have, in terms of my extra-classroom activities during my undergraduate years, involves my participation in a

student group called the Panel of Americans. It brought together students from different racial, religious, ethnic, and national backgrounds to talk about issues of American pluralism, which we did both on campus and with off-campus communities. We've got to find ways now to create some kind of context in which young people can have programmatic and protected arenas for those kinds of exchanges.

Another thing I want to emphasize is that too often discussions of the experiences of students of color, of African Americans in particular, get mired in the mistaken notion

that these stories and experiences are all "sackcloth and ashes"—endless misery and pain and suffering. That's a gross distortion that denies the ongoing resourcefulness of the human spirit and imagination. African American life and history is like all the richest stories of the human condition. It is a blend of the marvelous and the terrible, the joyful and the painful, the ugly and the beautiful—always in a complex and oftentimes contradictory mix. That's the essence of the blues tradition at the root of so much American popular culture, of learning to laugh to keep from crying or, as Zora Neale Hurston put it, how to "hit a straight lick with a crooked stick."

If this audience is looking for varied, empathetic guidance about African American life that will open that worldview to them, I heartily recommend a wonderful book published years ago by *QBR: The Black Book Review* called *Sacred Fire: 100 Essential Black Books*.

To read a longer version of this interview, which includes the story of Jack Trice, an Iowa State football star who died from injuries suffered in a 1923 game against the Gophers, go to umra.umn.edu.

HELLO, my name is John Anderson

Hometown: Kearney, Nebraska

When did you join UMRA? In 2007, six months after I retired.

What was your very first job? I grew up on a farm and was involved in farm work as soon as I was able. My father died when I was a sophomore in high school. Then my work as a farmer/rancher increased tremendously. My mother and I entered into an agreement with my cousin's husband to work and manage our two farms cooperatively. There was no paycheck. Classes in vocational agriculture in high school required keeping records of income, expenses, and hours worked. One year showed that I had lost about 25 cents for every hour worked. This prompted me to consider alternative career options!

What was your occupation when you retired from FT work? At the conclusion of my 39 years on the biochemistry faculty I was busy teaching biochemistry and also a high-enrollment course in biology that fulfilled a liberal education requirement. Especially satisfying was the development of an online course in biochemistry which, over a period of 6 years, reached more than 200 students in 25 states and 6 foreign countries. I also served as director of the general biology program.

Do you have a favorite place on the U of M campus? The Itasca Biological Station and Laboratories located in Itasca State Park. I participated in Nature of Life, the program of the College of Biological Sciences that welcomes and introduces incoming freshman students in the college to the collegiate experience. Until the pandemic, 17 years of this program welcomed more than 6,000 students at Itasca. One can't help but enjoy this place where the pine trees tower overhead and the wild rice and water lilies grow in the shallows of the lake.



John Anderson

If you could learn a new skill, what would you like it to be? It would be fun to renew and expand my acquaintance with playing the piano.

What is a fun fact about you we might not know? One summer when I was an undergraduate and doing farm work, I used a farm tractor and a two-bottom plow to form about 8,000 feet of terraces which now, 60 years later, are clearly evident in the satellite view of the farm where I grew up. I left my mark on the earth!

Continuity Committee has an ambitious agenda

In volunteer-run associations, especially those made up of retirees, turnover can be rapid and organizational amnesia problematic. Past policy decisions are easily forgotten; how-to expertise is lost as positions turn over; large gaps occur in written records; organization of those records that do exist is often haphazard; and important documents may reside only within individual members' archives. The sudden departure of a key figure can cause disarray.

To address these issues, UMRA President Bill Donohue in October 2019 created a small task force to investigate and provide recommendations. The task force's final report, reviewed and endorsed by the UMRA Board in February 2021, includes guidance for archiving materials, updating the website and key organizational documents, sustaining leadership in committees and interest groups, tracking and posting policy decisions, and documenting our organizational history.

The Board also approved establishment of an Organizational Continuity Committee (OCC) to oversee the implementation of these recommendations. Chip Peterson and Jerry Rinehart are serving as co-chairs; the other members are Gary Engstrand, Cathy Lee Gierke, Jean Kinsey, Jan Morlock, and Julia Wallace.

To maintain a vibrant organization

OCC activities during the coming months will include continuing efforts to assemble and standardize formats of UMRA Board policy decisions, working from the present back to our foundation in 1976. In addition, the committee will encourage and support the efforts of officers, committee chairs, and interest group leaders to develop "tool kits" for their positions to ease transitions and ensure that best practices are sustained.

See **CONTINUITY** on page 8 ...

Welcome new members to UMRA

Please give a hearty welcome to 42 new members who have joined UMRA since early February. For contact information, visit the [Member Login page at umra.umn.edu](#) (login required).

Brenda Boever, University of Minnesota Morris, Office of Academic Success, director

Mary Jo Brazil, School of Dentistry, clinical administrative specialist

John Butler, University Libraries, associate librarian

Hugh Chester-Jones, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences (CFANS), professor

Edward Craig (and Kathryn Davis Craig), Department of Orthopedic Surgery, faculty

Michele Dunning, Department of Surgery, senior scientist

James Ed, Information Technology, software developer

Julie Ed, School of Dentistry, registered nurse

Gary Gardner, CFANS, Department of Horticultural Science, professor

Linda Greve, University Libraries, program director for community outreach and grants coordinator

Joe Hallgren, College of Design, IT developer

Jeffrey L Johnson, CFANS, Minnesota Landscape Arboretum, horticulturist

Jennifer Kaczmariski, Capital Project Management, project coordinator

Mary Knatterud, Medical School, Department of Surgery, editor-writer

Mary Kosowski, College of Science and Engineering, finance professional

Alice Larson, College of Veterinary Medicine, professor

Leslee Mason, Extension, human resources director

Meredith McNab, University of Minnesota Foundation, director of medical and development communications

See **NEW MEMBERS** on page 8 ...

WE'RE GROWING TOGETHER AND DEEPENING OUR ROOTS

WITH INTERGENERATIONAL CONNECTIONS

We have current availability and are now accepting enrollments for Child Care as well as move-ins for Senior Living. Choose an apartment in Senior Living, Assisted Living or Memory Care and enjoy award-winning programming with The Pillars Child Care!


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EBENEZER

... **NEW MEMBERS** from page 7.

Jodi Nelson, Department of Food Science and Nutrition, senior laboratory services coordinator

Kristin A. Nygaard, University Honors Program, Office of Undergraduate Education, office manager

Margaret O'Neill, Medical School, Center for Bioethics, graduate program coordinator

Bill O'Neill, University Services, Facilities Management, associate director

Helen Ofstad, Medical School, Department of Medicine, civil service

Steve Olson, Medical School, Department of Psychiatry, associate professor

Linda Peterson, College of Continuing and Professional Studies, graphic designer

Ray Phillips, Office of Information Technology, analyst

Karen Pumper, Office of Admissions, office supervisor

Mike Reichenbach, Extension, Natural Resources, extension educator

Diane Reinking, School of Nursing, director of human resources

Ann Sather, Medical School, research grant administrator

James Schaar, University of Minnesota Crookston, Department of Humanities, Social Science and Education, lecturer

Debra J. Schmidt, Carlson School of Management, finance manager

Greg Scott, Auxiliary Services, Housing & Residential Life, general mechanic

Arlen Severson, Medical School, Duluth Campus, Department of Biomedical Sciences, professor

Karen Smith, University of Minnesota Foundation, director, executive communications and speechwriting

Maureen Smith, College of Pharmacy, academic technologist

Theresa Taylor, Carlson School of Management, financial generalist

Michelle Trudeau-Spanjers, College of Veterinary Medicine, animal diagnostician

Choy Wong, University of Minnesota Press, finance professional

Garry E. Yazell, AHC, Research Animal Resources, supervisor

... **WORKSHOP** from page 1.

Stiteler will help us solve the mystery. Why is it a murder mystery? Because the proper term for a group of crows is a “murder,” just as a group of geese is called a “gaggle.”

Please register and join us at 11 a.m. on April 20 for this UMRA workshop.

—Ron Matross, chair, Workshop Committee



Crow roost. Photo courtesy Sharon Stiteler.

... **CONTINUITY** from page 6.

Another role for the OCC is to coordinate the collection of annual reports from UMRA leaders. To maintain a vital and vibrant organization, we need to know where we've been, understand how we got to where we are today, and develop an infrastructure that supports decision-making and planning for the future.

We wish to thank the members of the task force—especially Gloria Williams, retiring chair of the UMRA History Committee—for their expertise, many hours of work, and thoughtful contributions to this effort.

If you have suggestions or questions, please let us know.

—Chip Peterson and Jerry Rinehart, OCC co-chairs and UMRA past presidents,
c-pete@umn.edu and g-rine@umn.edu

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Academic Integrity Matters

The Academic Integrity Matters (AIM) program is offered by the U of M Office for Community Standards to address student academic misconduct. A panel of community volunteers (faculty, instructors, students, retirees) meets with students in violation of the U's policy on academic honesty. The goal is to help these students better understand academic integrity and the impact of academic misconduct on themselves, their classmates, their families, and the University.

AIM needs volunteers. Over the past year, according to AIM Associate Director Katie Koopmeiners, faculty reported incidences of academic dishonesty among U of M students has nearly doubled. National data are similar.

Koopmeiners suggests the impact of COVID-19 and the shift to e-learning may have influenced this rapid increase in academic misconduct: students, especially undergraduates, report feeling stressed and isolated from on-campus academic resources, and unproctored take-home exams have increased.

An “explosion” of online websites, through which students can upload and share course information and materials without instructor approval, has occurred. Some of these websites also provide access to online “tutors” who may provide answers to submitted assignments and exam questions. Koopmeiners says that students—and sometimes parents, in an effort to help—buy subscriptions to these websites.

Understanding the student experience

“An AIM volunteer needs to have an understanding of the student experience, have an open mind, and be able to listen and suspend judgement,” Koopmeiners says.

The AIM program offers volunteers the opportunity to make a significant impact on a student's development while at the University and potentially beyond. The program is flexible; volunteers choose as few or as many “virtual” student review panels on which to participate.

To volunteer or learn more, contact Katie Koopmeiners at communitystandards@umn.edu or 612-624-6073, or the University Retirees Volunteer Center at urvc@umn.edu or 612-625-8016.

—Deanne Magnusson, URVC Communications

ARMCHAIR TRAVELER

Travel the Muir Trail and to Ecuador's indigenous ecolodges

UMRA's next Armchair Traveler program, on Tuesday, April 6, from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., will feature two great presentations, on the John Muir Trail in California and Ecuador's Amazon rainforest. Please save the date; the link to join the Zoom webinar was emailed to UMRA members on March 6 and will be sent again a few days before the event.

Along the John Muir Trail

Craig Swan, economics professor emeritus from the University of Minnesota Twin Cities, will present on the John Muir Trail. Travel 211 miles along the trail from the Yosemite Valley to the top of Mt. Whitney, from 4,000 to 14,500 feet. Cross 11 passes, 6 of them at 12,000 feet or higher. Get a glimpse of the grandeur and glory of the High Sierra to understand why the Muir Trail is among America's premier mountain backpacking experiences.



Marie Lake lies along the John Muir Trail in the southern Sierra Nevada in California.

Ecuador's Amazon ecolodges

Donna Chollett, anthropology professor emeritus from the University of Minnesota Morris, will take us on a journey to the Amazon rainforest in Ecuador, where she spent time in indigenous communities, learning about rainforest ecology and indigenous culture. Her presentation will include three parts: the Huaorani Ecolodge, the Kichwa Añangu community, and a “toxic tour” of oil exploration sites in the region.



A Huaorani family in Ecuador.

—[Lynn C. Anderson](#), chair, Armchair Traveler

The Campus Club needs help

On March 5, I received a communication from Mary Ford, UMRA's representative to the Campus Club, regarding a letter she had received that was written by CC President Amelious Whyte after conversations with CC board members and Executive Director Ann Holt.

The CC is seeking input from some of its largest stakeholders—deans on the Twin Cities campus, development officers, the Retirees Association, and Regents professors—regarding a notification the CC received from the University stating that, due to the tremendous financial challenges at the University, the University's yearly subsidy to the CC will be discontinued at the end of the next fiscal year, on June 30, 2022, a subsidy the CC has received since 1978.

The CC needs to develop a new, sustainable business model and would like input from its important stakeholders, including UMRA.

The CC would like answers to the following questions:

1. How does the CC contribute to UMRA's efforts to accomplish the University's mission and vision?
2. What elements of the CC are important to maintain as the club considers a new business model?
3. What new or missing services could the CC provide that would further assist UMRA in meeting its goals?

The CC may use some of the responses to these three questions should there be need for continued financial support from the University under a new business model.

Until the changes brought about by the coronavirus pandemic, UMRA has been a major user of the CC for our monthly luncheon forums and workshops.

If you have suggestions/recommendations as you think about the three questions, please send them to Mary Ford at fordx045@umn.edu by April 12; she will collate them. Mary will be attending the UMRA Executive Committee meeting on April 19 when this CC request will be discussed, and a response will be prepared.

Thank you for your attention to this request.

—Frank Cerra, UMRA president

... **JOIE** from page 3.

To make the JOIE homepage more visibly enticing, the JOIE Editorial Committee is in the process of adding more clearly defined descriptions and instructions, possibly adding a “Welcome from the editor-in-chief,” perhaps even photos of the committee to humanize the review process.

I think another critical need is to clarify that the journal welcomes contributions on a wide range of subjects and formats, and that all retired and active University employees are encouraged to contribute articles.

In addition to contributors, there is a critical need for additional editorial committee members to assist in reviewing articles submitted to JOIE for publication. There are now six members of the committee, one currently on hiatus. A larger group of perhaps nine would allow each submission to be reviewed by three members, rotating the review requests so the burden is not so great as with a smaller group.

I look forward to serving as the hub for “re-launching” JOIE and, hopefully, expanding its reading audience and cadre of contributors.

Please contact me if you have questions or suggestions.

—Kristine Bettin, UMRA member and JOIE editor-in-chief

Update on campus parking discount

Parking and Transportation Services (PTS) has installed new equipment to collect parking fees on the Twin Cities campus. PTS still provides UMRA members a discounted rate, but the way to obtain the discount has changed.

Beginning this fall, your 2021–22 UMRA membership card will carry a barcode which, when scanned at check-out, will grant you the discount. Until the new membership cards are issued, press the “Help” button when you are about to pay, and tell the attendant that you are a member of UMRA.

License plate readers are in use. If you complete payment before you return to your car, the gate should rise when your car approaches the exit.

—John S. Anderson, chair, UMRA Membership Committee

Photo Club to meet April 13

“Looking down” will be the theme when the UMRA Photo Club meets at 12:30 p.m. on Tuesday, April 13, via Zoom. Newcomers are welcome!

Submit up to 10 pictures to Dick Kain at kain@umn.edu by noon, Monday, April 12. You are free to decide on how many should be “Theme” and how many should be “Photographer’s Choice” pictures.

For “theme” pictures, the subject line of your email should read **April UMRA Theme Pictures**. For “choice” pictures, the subject line should read **April UMRA Photographer’s Choice Pictures**. If your files are so large they do not all fit into one email, just send additional emails, but please use the correct subject line for each.

For your pictures to be shown together, please put your name or initials at the front of each file name. If you want them shown in a particular order, add a number to indicate the order. For example, Mary Brown 1, Mary Brown 2; or JD1, JD2.

If you want your pictures posted on the Photo Club’s Shutterfly page, cc Craig Swan on your email to Dick.

“Social justice” will be the theme for the Photo Club meeting on May 11.

Contact Craig Swan at swan@umn.edu if you have questions or to get the link for the April 13 meeting via Zoom.

—Craig Swan, UMRA Photo Club



“I’ve got a secret.” Photo by Marilyn Erickson.

Book Club II to meet April 23

The Fourth Friday UMRA Book Club will meet at 2 p.m. Central Time on Friday, April 23, via Zoom to discuss *Red Pill* by Hari Kunzru. New members are welcome!

A bold novel about searching for order in a world that frames madness as truth, *Red Pill* is an allegory about how well-meaning liberals have been blindsided by big-ots with substantial platforms.

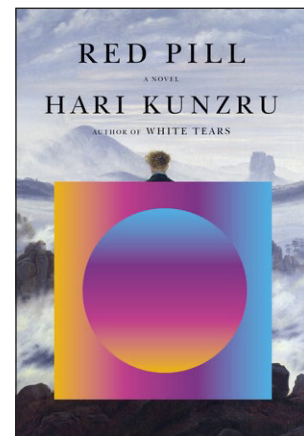
The *Red Pill* narrator relocates to the Berlin suburb of Wannsee after receiving a prestigious fellowship. Wannsee is a place full of ghosts, including the villa where the Nazis planned the Final Solution and the grave of the Romantic writer Heinrich von Kleist, who committed suicide in despair that “... no happiness is possible on earth ...”

After watching a violent cop show, the narrator fears that he is a party to a cosmic Darwinian battle that exposes him to an ugly, violent, alt-right world view.

An interesting side note: Among the noteworthy events is the date in November 2016 when friends gathered to celebrate the U.S. presidential election outcome, and Trump is declared the winner.

Hari Kunzru is not a familiar name for most U.S. readers, despite the fact that his books have been translated into 21 languages. His short stories and journalism have appeared in numerous publications, including *The New Yorker*, *The Guardian*, and *The New York Review of Books*; and *Red Pill* was cited among “Notable Books of 2020” by *The New York Times*.

Zoom information will be emailed with reminders in advance of the April meeting. Please contact Dorothy Marden at marden@umn.edu or Margaret Catambay at m-cata@umn.edu for more information or to be added to the mailing list.





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RETIREES ASSOCIATION

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April 2021 events via Zoom

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- 13 UMRA A.M.
- 13 Photo Club
- 16 Book Club I
- 19 Executive Committee
- 20 Living Well Workshop
- 23 Book Club II
- 26 Board of Directors
- 27 UMRA Forum

Share upcoming events anytime by emailing the UMRA webmaster at leegi001@umn.edu. Include event title, date, time, a brief description, and contact information.

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These realities, coupled with changing global demographics, suggest a need to rethink our relationship with the rest of the world and to reexamine the U.S. approach to environmental protection.

Upon retiring from the University, Bowyer founded a consulting firm focused on helping organizations to improve environmental performance, and became an associate in Dovetail Partners, Inc., a Minneapolis-based environmental nonprofit.

Bowyer has published widely on the topics of life-cycle assessment, carbon tracking and reporting, bioenergy, green building standards, and environmental policy; and for many years has been a frequent speaker nationally and internationally on these topics. *The Irresponsible Pursuit of Paradise*, his latest book, was a 2017 Midwest Book Award finalist.

Please [register](#) and join us for UMRA A.M. starting at 9 a.m. on Tuesday, April 13, via Zoom.

—Eric Hockert, member, UMRA Board and Program Committee