

# **2021-2022 UMRA Program Committee Annual Report**

Submitted by Ron Matross

September 1, 2022

## **Committee Members**

Ron Matross (chair)

Suzanne Bardouche

Bob Bruininks

Frank Cerra

Bill Donohue

Cherie Hamilton

Jan Morlock

Julie Sweitzer

Barb Shiels

Paul Shandfield

The 2021-22 program year was the third affected by the COVID pandemic. All our programs were virtual Zoom webinars until we returned for an in-person luncheon in May. We started with producing three webinars per month: a Forum, a Living Well Workshop and an extra forum called UMRA A.M. After the fall, we stopped doing the UMRA A.M. programs because the workload was too burdensome for our production volunteers.

The production team, an ad hoc group of volunteers dealt with all the logistical and technical aspects of making our virtual programs happen, including scheduling, scripting, , monitoring and trouble shooting. The team included producer Kris Mortensen, technical directors Virgil Larson and John Anderson, and question moderator Mary Koppel.

In preparation for our return to in-person events, we appointed a Hosting Team to take care of registering attendees, working with the venue and welcoming attendees. This group was chaired by Diane Young, and included Diane Gihl, Char Greenwald, and Nancy Helmich.

For our in-person May meeting, we experimented with a hybrid production, with a live Zoom broadcast of our meeting. After hiring a consultant and doing the hybrid meeting, we determined that continuing to do so was not feasible given our present circumstances. Our venue, the Campus Club West Wing, is not well-equipped for live broadcasts; the equipment needed was cumbersome and obtrusive, and our Zoom attendance was low, too low to justify the expense.

The plan for the 2022-23 program year is to do six monthly luncheon forums in person, with no live streaming, but likely recording for post-hoc viewing. In January and February, we will have no luncheons, and our forums will be virtual, because of the difficulty of winter travel. Our eight workshops will be solely virtual. We recognize that a number of members cannot make in-person presentations and prefer virtual ones, while others find the camaraderie of in-person meetings invaluable. Thus we are offering programs for both groups.

We were pleased with how the year went and believe that our programs provided diverse and topical content, offered by some excellent and knowledgeable speakers, including a special extra program with MN Governor Walz. Our programs were as follows:

**2021-2022**

**Forums**

- June, 2021** John Gordon, Executive Director, MN ACLU  
Voter Suppression: We Need to Talk
- September, 2021** Tadd Johnson, Senior Director, American Indian Tribal Nations Relations; Professor, American Indian Studies, UMD  
Minnesota Tribal Nations and the University of Minnesota
- Jay Kiedrowski, Senior Fellow, Humphrey School  
The Vote on the Minneapolis Charter Amendments
- Jacob Tolar, Dean UMN Medical School, Vice President for Clinical Affairs  
How we became a speedboat in a time of crisis: The UM medical school and the pandemic
- October, 2021** Rick Beeson, Regent Emeritus and Former Chair of the UM Board of Regents  
Observations on the University and the Regents
- Lee Frelich, the University of Minnesota Center for Forest Ecology  
Could Climate Change Turn Minnesots into the New Kansas?
- November, 2021** Meredith McQuaid, University Dean of International Programs  
What does It Mean to be a Global Campus
- Garry Jenkins, Dean, UMN Law School  
Five Lessons in Leading in a post-George Floyd World
- January, 2022** Phyllis Moen, Professor of Sociology  
Encore Adulthood: The Changing Life Course in Tumultuous Times
- February, 2022** Tim Walz, Governor of MN and Joan Gabel, UMN President  
In Conversation
- Louis Mansky, Director, UM Institute of Molecular Virology  
mRNA technology: Fundamentals and Possibilities
- March, 2022** Tom Fisher, Director, Minnesota Design Center  
The Post-Pandemic University
- April, 2022** Tim Marx, President Emeritus of Catholic Charities  
Advancing the Public Good Through Housing
- May, 2022** John Coleman, Dean of CLA  
The Liberal Arts and CLA in 2022

Workshops

- July, 2021** Drew Horton, Research Enologist, UM Dept. of Horticultural Science  
Discovering Minnesota Wines
- October, 2021** U of M Human Resources  
2021 Health Care Workshop: How to be a Good Consumer of Health Insurance
- November, 2021** Alice Larson, Prof. Biomedical Sciences  
Workshop: Fostering Your Creative Capital
- January, 2022** Pam Schreiner, Director Center for Human-Animal Relationships  
Benefits of Human-Animal Interactions
- February, 2022** Julie Schumacher, Department of English Creative Writing Program,  
Thurber prize-winning author  
How to Ignore Your Inner Critic and Write without Fear
- March, 2022** Catherine Van Hoecke and Jason Caitlin, Fidelity, Inc.  
Financial Planning for Retirees--Nice or Need to Have?
- April, 2022** Eric Van Kuijk, Chair of Dept. of Ophthalmology  
A Tour of the Aging Eye
- May, 2022** Arielle Courtney, Partnership Development Consultant, MN Dept.  
of Natural Resources  
MN State Parks: Portals to Health and Happiness