

From: John Bantle, Chair PDGR

Re: Professional Development Grants for Retirees (PDGR) Program Report

Last year we again received only one PDGR application. This was from Wayne Potratz, Professor Emeritus, of the Art Department. Professor Potratz asked for support for materials, supplies, and assistance to make a series of cast iron tiles and to support travel to present his work at a national conference in South Dakota and an international conference in Germany. His project was approved. It is not clear why we received only two PDGR applications in the past two years but, almost certainly, the pandemic was a major factor.

This year we had the good fortune to have the Office of the Executive Vice President and Provost reestablish annual funding for the program. To encourage more applications, potential awards will be increased to \$5,000. In addition, we will attempt to better publicize the program. Applications in 2022 for funding in 2023 may be submitted starting October 1, 2022.

Jonathan Ravdin, a key member of the PDGR Committee, died earlier this year. In addition, there were two retirements from the PDGR Committee in 2021 so new members are needed. Anyone interested should contact John Bantle at bantl001@umn.edu. All UMRA members are encouraged to support the PDGR program as funding above the base supplied by the University is necessary to make the program prosper. UMRA members can make financial contributions at <https://crowdfund.umn.edu/index.cfm?fuseaction=donorDrive.personalCampaign&participantID=1034>.