



UMRA FORUM

APRIL 2023

UMRA welcomes *Star Tribune* Editorial Page Editor Scott Gillespie

The Retirees Association is pleased to welcome *Star Tribune* Editorial Page Editor and Vice President Scott Gillespie as the guest speaker for UMRA's April 25 luncheon forum at Midland Hills Country Club in Roseville. Gillespie is responsible for opinion content and leads the *Star Tribune* editorial board, which operates independently from the newsroom. The locally owned *Star Tribune* Media Company publishes the fourth-largest Sunday and third-largest daily circulation metro print newspaper in the U.S. and has more than 100,000 digital subscribers.

This is a rare opportunity for us to hear from and ask questions of one of the major thought leaders in Minnesota. He will be introduced by *Star Tribune* editorial writer and columnist Lori Sturdevant. See page 3 for details about the location, menu, and how to make your reservation for this luncheon forum.

Gillespie will speak to us about several subjects, including the editorial board's view of the University as an institution and how the board interacts with the leadership of the University and its faculty.

Gillespie has worked in journalism for more than 40 years in Minnesota and Wisconsin and has been in his current role since 2007. He was the lead editor of "[Not this mine. Not this location.](#)" a 2019 special report on mining near the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness, and "Separate and Unequal," a series of 2015 editorials on underfunded Bureau of Indian Education schools. Both projects were finalists for Pulitzer Prizes. On occasion, Gillespie contributes columns of personal opinion to the *Star Tribune's* op-ed page, as exemplified by "[Another massacre, another failure to lead](#)" published in May 2022 following the mass shooting at the Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, Texas.



Scott Gillespie

Prior to his current role, Gillespie served as managing editor and was responsible for the *Star Tribune's* award-winning coverage of the death of Paul Wellstone, the war in Iraq, and the collapse of the I-35W bridge.

Gillespie earned a bachelor's degree in journalism and political science from the University of Wisconsin–Madison, and has been an adjunct faculty member in the Hubbard School of Journalism and Mass Communication at the University of Minnesota. Please [make your reservation today](#) and join us on Tuesday, April 25, at Midland Hills.

—Bill Donohue, UMRA Program Committee

APRIL 18 LIVING WELL WORKSHOP

College admissions: What you and your grandkids should know about applying for college

Do you have grandchildren or other family members who will soon be applying for college? If so, you should tune into UMRA's April 18 Living Well Workshop via Zoom.

Keri Risic, executive director of admissions at the University of Minnesota Twin Cities, will be our guest speaker.

See **WORKSHOP** on page 7 ...

From the President

Introducing the Silver Gopher Service Corps

UMRA members are great volunteers. We know from conversations and surveys that UMRA folks, as individuals, are volunteering in many places, often with the help of the University Retirees Volunteer Center (URVC). But, up to this point, we haven't done a lot of service projects *as an organization*. I think we should.



Ron Matross

I believe UMRA needs to develop a group service component where members can volunteer as a visible group, serving good causes while enjoying the camaraderie of working together and making our name known. We could volunteer at specific events or at specific places on an ongoing basis.

For some time, a group of us have been talking about this idea and how to make it work. I'm excited to announce that we are now ready to launch the UMRA Silver Gopher Service Corps.

Opportunities to do good and have fun

The purpose of the corps is to give UMRA members opportunities to get together to do good and have fun. We will have t-shirts and maybe other ways to identify ourselves. Any UMRA member can join and participate as often as they want.

Give me credit (or blame!) for the name and championing the idea, but give Jerry Rinehart, Deanne Magnusson, and Will Craig major credit for figuring out how to implement the effort and for arranging our first team-oriented projects. See page 3 for information about the Silver Gopher Service Corps' debut and how to sign up.

I hope to see you soon, proudly wearing your Silver Gopher Service Corps t-shirt and making the organization proud!

—Ron Matross, UMRA president, r-matr@umn.edu



More than two dozen UMRA members gathered for an exclusive, behind-the-scenes visit to the Wangenstein Historical Library of Biology and Medicine on the U of M Twin Cities campus in early March. The visit was hosted by Curator Lois Hendrickson. She and her colleagues Emily Beck (pictured left) and Anna Orskov assembled some 40 items from the library's collection of 73,000-plus volumes of rare books, journals, and manuscripts that span more than 500 years, from 1430 to 1945, and 8,300 artifacts. The event was the second in the new "Cabinets of Curiosity" series of visits to obscure collections on the U of M campus, organized by UMRA members Sally Gregory Kohlstedt, Jan Morlock, and Cathy Lee Gierke. Photo: Kris Mortensen

VOLUNTEER CENTER

Join the Silver Gopher Service Corps

Service to the University and community is a key element in UMRA's mission, and our members have frequently asked about opportunities to team up with colleagues on activities. In response to these queries, UMRA's new "Silver Gopher Service Corps" will be making its debut in April.

The debut coincides with this year's month of service initiative promoted by the University of Minnesota Alumni Association (UMAA). Launched as a "Day of Service" in 2015 as a way for alumni and others to serve the community, this program has grown into a month-long activity.



URVC leaders Jerry Rinehart and Deanne Magnusson together with Will Craig, UMRA's liaison to UMAA, developed three team-oriented projects for this year.

Assisting the U's Office of Admissions with the **Future Gophers: Newly Admitted Students Welcome Day** on April 1. Volunteers will be stationed throughout the Twin Cities campus to help greet and direct 2,300+ students and their families.

On April 20, we are engaging with the Twin Cities-based nonprofit **Every Meal** to pack take-home bags with nutritious food for elementary school students facing weekend food insecurity.

We are also participating with the **Great River Greening** project, which involves removing invasive species and planting native trees, flowers, and grasses. Dates TBD.

To solidify the team aspect of these projects and to enhance UMRA's visibility as a service organization in the community, UMRA participants will have the opportunity to purchase Silver Gopher Service Corps t-shirts for \$15 each.

Information about these and more volunteer opportunities, including History Day Judging and Mock Jury Trials, will be emailed via the UMRA-MEMBERS listserv and posted on the URVC website at urvc.umn.edu.

You can also go to the UMAA website for information about Minnesota, national, and international volunteer opportunities during the month of April. Search for Day of Service and, if you register to volunteer, please indicate that you are a "University Retiree" (if applicable) and UMAA will tally our participation.

Questions? Contact Jerry Rinehart at g-rine@umn.edu, Deanne Magnusson at magnu002@umn.edu, or Will Craig at wrcraig@umn.edu.

April Luncheon and Forum

Tuesday, April 25

Midland Hills Country Club
2001 Fulham Street
Roseville MN 55113

Luncheon forum

10:45–11 a.m. check-in
11:15 a.m. luncheon and forum

Featured speaker

Scott Gillespie
Editorial Page Editor and Vice President
Star Tribune

Menu

Lightly breaded and baked walleye pike served with lemon and tartar sauce.
Wild rice pilaf, amaretto-glazed carrots, and warm rolls.

Vegetarian, gluten-free and dairy-free options available on request.

Reservations due by April 15

Prepayment of \$30 per person.

Go to umra.umn.edu > [Forum Reservations](#) to reserve and pay online or email Diane Young at young054@umn.edu.

Parking and entrance

Free parking is available in the surface lot in front of the clubhouse. Enter the building through the door to the far right (on the east end).

HELLO, my name is Cathrine Wambach

Hometown: Benson, Minnesota. My parents grew up on farms in northwestern Minnesota. I have a cabin on Tulaby Lake close to Itasca State Park.

When did you become a member of UMRA?

I believe I joined not long after I retired in 2016.

What was your very first job? My first paid job was as the organist, and de facto choir director, for our church. I held the position through high school. It gave me confidence to perform in front of people. As an undergrad at the U, I worked in food service and, in the summer, as a lifeguard at the Benson Swimming Pool.

What was your occupation when you retired from FT work? I was an associate professor in the College of Education and Human Development.

What inspired you to pursue a career in higher education and teaching? I started college in CLA honors. My advisor, Roger Page, encouraged me to aim for graduate school. I had no idea what that was! When I was a junior, he found a young PhD counseling psychologist, Stanley Strong, to be my advisor. He later became my graduate school advisor. I worked for him in a Student Affairs think tank called Student Life Studies and as a pre-health science advisor. In 1976, a friend who worked for General College arranged for me to teach an applied psychology course to fill in for a faculty member on leave. The faculty member died, and I became his replacement. I loved the intellectual challenges of teaching and research. General College was a great match with my PhD training. I became committed to developing courses and curriculum that are challenging yet support student success. My GC colleagues and I called this universal instructional design. Also, the politics of higher education were very salient in GC, which sparked my interest in educational policy.

If you could learn a new skill or sport what would you like it to be? As a kid I loved gymnastics, but there were no opportunities to pursue it. In my 20s, I liked downhill skiing. I wish I could still do it!

Do you have a favorite place on campus? My favorite place was my office in Appleby Hall. It faced the river, so I could watch the eagles that tend to fly there.

What is a fun fact about you we may not know?

I like to grow flowers. In the 1980s, my husband and I grew roses and belonged to the North Star Rose Society. Leon Snyder (first director of the Landscape Arboretum) was a member, and we toured his private rose garden. I had to switch to other plants when Japanese beetles arrived in Minnesota.



Cathrine Wambach enjoys spending time outdoors, including bass fishing on Tulaby Lake in north-central Minnesota.

Welcome new members

Please give a hearty welcome to 16 new members who joined UMRA during February 2023. For contact information, visit the Member Search page at umra.umn.edu.

Catherine Bach, Department of Economics

Sherri Gahring, Department of Design, Housing, and Apparel

Kay Kane, University Libraries

Mary Kenyon, Health Sciences

Tim Lahti, Facilities Management

Maureen Lally, Health Sciences

Allen Stuart Levine, Department of Food Science and Nutrition

William Magdalene, University Relations

Francine Morgan, College of Liberal Arts (CLA)

Ann Nordby, Extension Center for Youth Development

Kent Olson, Department of Applied Economics

Elizabeth Ringwelski, Minitex

Shellina R. Scheiner, Department of Experimental and Clinical Pharmacology

Laura Weber, College of Design

Wendy Williamson, Department of Economics

Zhen Zou, CLA Language Center and Department of Asian & Middle Eastern Studies

FAMILY HISTORY

Telling the stories of the living

UMRA members Vicky Gaylord and Lawrence Rudnick will share their experiences with “Telling the Stories of the Living” for the next meeting of UMRA’s Family History Interest Group (FHIG) from 10 to 11 a.m. on Wednesday, April 12, via Zoom.

Vicki Gaylord describes her presentation as follows: “As we explore our families’ histories it’s important to not just focus on past generations. This presentation will share the experience of gathering and preserving a family member’s childhood stories in the midst of a health crisis that created the need to move quickly to record his memories. It will include strategies that can help other family historians navigate the urgency and challenges of saving the stories of relatives whose aging, illnesses, or other circumstances make their futures uncertain, and for mentoring other family members in the story-gathering process.”

Lawrence Rudnick describes his presentation as follows: “He escaped being sent to the front in the Russo-

Japanese war by stowing away on a train.’ ‘She never asked for anything for herself.’ Such snippets formed the bulk of our family’s history; clearly, more was and is needed. I will describe my attempts to assemble a fuller history, still very much a work in progress. My main tools have been taped interviews, assembling a cousins’ group where we share stories, and using Google Docs to at least capture the various pictures and stories people come up with. I’m just hoping the kids and grandkids appreciate it as much as I do!”

After their presentations there will be time for questions and discussion.

The [Zoom link for the meeting](#) will be emailed to all UMRA members the week of April 3rd. We hope you can join us.

—Lynn C. Anderson and Craig Swan, Family History Interest Group co-chairs



FIND YOUR HOME AT THE PILLARS OF PROSPECT PARK

Knowing when it’s time to move is a difficult decision, but new beginnings are possible at the Pillars of Prospect Park. We invite you to join our community where you’ll find endless opportunities to grow, learn, and connect with like-minded individuals looking to continue a meaningful and enriched life. The Pillars is here to support your lifestyle and provide the care you need, when you need it.

Visit the Pillars of Prospect Park and live life as it should be.



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Thank you to The Pillars of Prospect Park for sponsoring UMRA’s April 2023 newsletter and forum.

Take a hike—or two!

April is when the UMRA Hiking Club returns to two hikes a month, on the first and third Mondays of the month. We may still have snow on the ground in April, making urban paved and plowed trails a better option. Wooded trails in our parks will have to wait until May.

Our April 3 hike will be around Lake of the Isles and Bde Maka Ska in Minneapolis, a repeat of our March hike. We will meet at Lake of the Isles Boulevard and 28th Street, on the east side of the lake. The hike should take two to two-and-a-half hours if we hike both lakes (hikers can stop after one lake). Let's go to nearby Isles Bun & Coffee for treats after the hike!

Our April 17 hike will be in St. Paul. We will meet in the parking lot adjacent to the Monument at Summit Avenue and East River Road and walk to Minnehaha Falls and back for an energizing 5.5-mile hike. If enough snow has melted, the falls should be stunning. We did this hike in November 2021, and hikers loved it.

Meet at 9:30 a.m. to begin hiking at 9:40 a.m. Go to the [Annual Calendar on the UMRA website](#) to sign up for these April hikes (required).

—Bev Moe, UMRA Hiking Club

April 11 Photo Club meeting

Members of the UMRA Photo Club will share their pictures of domesticated animals when they gather on Tuesday, April 11, in the meeting room of the St. Anthony branch of the Hennepin County Library, located in the small shopping center at New Brighton and St. Anthony Boulevards. The meeting starts at 12:30 p.m. For those interested in having lunch together first, meet at the Great Dragon Buffet, across the St. Anthony Shopping Center parking lot, at 11:30 a.m. Newcomers are welcome!

Book Club I to meet April 21

Joni Mitchell will lead the discussion of *Elephant Company* by Vicki Croke when the UMRA Book Club meets via Zoom at 2 p.m. on Friday, April 21. Email Pat Tollefson at p-toll@umn.edu for more information, including suggestions for starting a new book club.

To read summaries of the book club members' discussions, go to umra.umn.edu and search for "Book Notes."

ARMCHAIR TRAVELER

Experience the beauty and history of Pavia and Verona, Italy

Pieranna Garavaso and her husband, Lory Lemke, will share images of northern Italy for UMRA's next Armchair Traveler program on Wednesday, April 26, from 10 to 11:30 a.m. via Zoom. Here is a preview of the program as described by Garavaso and Lemke, both members of UMRA:

"We spent two months in Pavia and Verona in the fall of 2022. Pavia is a town of 70,000-plus inhabitants, south of Milan, where Pieranna taught a course at *Istituto Universitario di Studi Superiori* (the University School for Advanced Studies). This part of the presentation will highlight the remarkable quantity of art we saw in Pavia's churches, the castle of the Visconti family who reigned over the town in the past, and the famous Certosa di Pavia, a church and monastery in the outskirts of the town.

"The second part of our presentation will be on our holiday season in Verona. Pieranna was born and raised in Verona until she emigrated to the United States in 1980. The pictures and information we will share on Verona come from our many trips there over the years, in particular its Roman monuments, museums, and churches."

There will be 15–20 minutes after the presentation for questions, comments, and discussion. The [Zoom link for the meeting](#) will be emailed to all UMRA members the week of April 17. I hope you can join us.

—Lynn C. Anderson, Armchair Traveler program chair



The Verona Arena (c. 30 AD), pictured left, stands in stark contrast to the white star holiday decoration and—in the background—Verona's town hall, the Palazzo Barbieri. Photo: Lory Lemke

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

College admissions has become more complex in recent years. Despite declining numbers of high school graduates, applications to flagship universities and prestigious colleges have generally increased. Many high schools have stopped ranking students. Standardized tests are increasingly optional, and the use of ethnicity as a factor in admissions decisions may soon be banned by the U.S. Supreme Court.

A student applying to college now confronts a number of questions: *How many colleges should I apply to? Should I submit test scores, or not? Should I take Advanced Placement courses? Is having a high GPA more important than taking harder courses? Should I get involved in a lot of activities or concentrate on just a few?*



Keri Risic

Keri Risic will help answer these questions and more. In her role as executive director of admissions, she oversees recruitment, admission, and enrollment of freshman and transfer students, including University Honors Program admissions and merit-based scholarship awards. She has more than 24 years of experience in the undergraduate admissions profession.

Risic's professional affiliations include the Minnesota Association for College Admission Counseling, National Association for College Admission Counseling, and the College Board's Enrollment Leadership Academy. She is an alumna of the University of Minnesota Twin Cities and a former Golden Gopher athlete.

Go to z.umn.edu/UMRA-workshop-April-2023 and [register now for this webinar](#) at 11 a.m. on Tuesday, April 18.

—Ron Matross, UMRA president

Food for thought

“The privilege of a lifetime is being who you are.”

—Joseph Campbell (1904–87)

‘Empire Falls’ is FF Book Club selection for April

UMRA's Fourth Friday Book Club will meet April 28 to discuss *Empire Falls*. The once prosperous, fictional town of Empire Falls, Maine, is the setting for this novel by Richard Russo, winner of the 2002 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction. It is a familiar story of shuttered factories, failed businesses, and a diminished civic and cultural community. The perspective of the protagonist, Miles Roby, anchors the narrative. He is an Everyman encircled by dreams, largely unfulfilled.

Called back from college and set to work by family problems, Miles never leaves home again. His obligations are numerous: a pending divorce; a troubled younger brother; and a mysterious, complex partnership with the town's wealthy and powerful Mrs. Whiting.

In the words of one *New York Times* reviewer, “... Russo shows an unerring sense of the rhythms of small-town life, balancing his irreverent, mocking humor with unending empathy for his characters and their foibles.”

Interested UMRA members are welcome to join the Fourth Friday Book Club meeting via Zoom from 2 to 3:30 p.m. Central Daylight Time on April 28. Contact Dorothy Marden at marden@umn.edu or Margaret Catambay at m-cata@umn.edu to learn more.

Mysteries of website navigation

Most websites have standard elements that can make navigation and readability easier. But if you're not aware of these elements, navigation can seem a mysterious art. We tip you off to a few of these mysteries in “[Cyber tips & tricks—mysteries of website navigation](#)”

at umra.umn.edu, including:

- Mastheads that link back to the homepage of a website
- How to quickly make the text larger on a webpage, so it is easier to read
- What breadcrumbs are and what they are for
- A trick to return to the top of a page quickly

—Cathy Lee Gierke and Kathy Jensen



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
RETIREES ASSOCIATION

McNamara Alumni Center
200 Oak Street S.E., Suite 250
Minneapolis, MN 55455-2002

April programs and events

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

In remembrance

*Please join me in remembering our friend and colleague.
—Mary E. Knatterud, UMRA Cares Committee*

Ludwig Spolyar, 92, died February 5. Born in Detroit, he grew up in California and attended San Jose State College before earning his PhD in counseling and guidance at Michigan State University. In 1967, he and his family moved to Minneapolis; he devoted the next 31 years to the Student Activities and Counseling Services at the U of M, founding the Campus Assistance Center in 1971. He was also the founding president of the Minnesota College Personnel Association, which named its Distinguished Service Award after him in 1998.

UMRA Cares

The UMRA Cares Committee informs our membership of the passing of UMRA members as we learn of their deaths from published notices or surviving next of kin. We also send condolences to families of all University retirees who have died, based on notification from the Office of Human Resources. —Jeanne Markell, marke002@umn.edu, UMRA Cares Committee chair

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