

# URVC NEWS SNAPS

September 2023, Issue 3

## ABOUT URVC

The University Retirees Volunteer Center (URVC), an affiliate of the University of Minnesota Retirees Association, invites you to Issue 3 of URVC News Snaps. Here you can learn about URVC, new volunteer opportunities and interesting ways volunteers are applying their knowledge, skills and experience.

## MISSION

Since 1987, the University Retirees Volunteer Center has had a history of service to the University and our metro community with an ongoing mission to:



1. Provide opportunities for service that are rewarding for volunteers
2. Gather, assess, and deliver relevant information about opportunities for volunteer service within the University and the Twin Cities communities at large.
3. Act as a referral service for University units and community agencies seeking volunteers.

Many of our URVC projects include community projects, University research studies, and ranges from onsite to virtual volunteering. Today, URVC has approximately **500** registered volunteers, and has added new volunteer opportunities, including **33 University** projects and **37 community** projects. Volunteers have continued to actively participate in-person and virtually, completing approximately **8,418** reported hours of volunteer work within the past year.

## WHO ARE UNIVERSITY RETIREE CENTER VOLUNTEERS?

URVC volunteers are retired University of Minnesota faculty, staff, spouses, or partners representing the various academic, administrative, and service units of the University of Minnesota. URVC volunteers **also include non-retired and retired community members** interested in volunteer service opportunities offered through URVC.

## University of Minnesota Retirees Volunteer Center

### Launch of the UMRA/URVC Silver Gopher Service Corps

Volunteer service and community are vital to the success and operation of UMRA and URVC and it is our mission to provide support and bridge communities. Our UMRA members have frequently expressed interest in teaming up with colleagues on volunteer activities, and in response, the Silver Gopher Service Corps was launched in April of 2023.



Figure 1: Silver Gopher Service Corp T-shirt Logo

Silver Gopher Service Corps volunteer projects have included Future Gopher New Students Admit Day, UMN Sneak Preview Days, Every Meal Food Packing Program, and the upcoming Great River Greening restoration and Experience Minnesota events.

### Silver Gopher Service Corps Volunteers in Action



Future Gopher Admit Day Volunteer Jerry Rinehart



Sneak Preview Silver Gopher Service Corps Volunteers, Kristy Frost, Grip, Mike Austin, Scott Elton, and Peggy McCarthy.



Future Gopher Admit Day Volunteer Peggy Rinehart

“We welcomed students and guests to campus from all across the US for all 6 Sneak Previews. We received many comments from families that mentioned gratitude for the smiling faces of volunteers helping to navigate campus. Each volunteer helped make our campus community more accessible and feel like the home that it may be for many! We cannot thank each volunteer enough for your collaboration and the joy this has brought.”

--Anna Loken & Shannon Anderson  
Project Coordinators of Sneak  
Preview Day

## URVC Volunteers in Action Partner Kate Teece



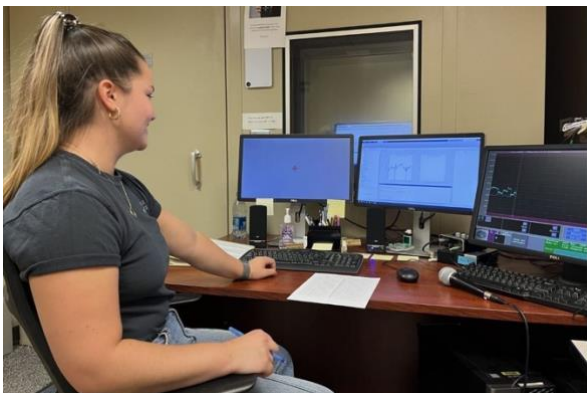
Katherine (Kate) Teece Aud.D is a research audiologist and lab manager in the Department of Speech, Language, Hearing Sciences, Shevlin Hall.

The research studies of Kate and her colleagues focus on speech perception, which measures and compares listening perception between people with normal hearing and those who wear hearing aids or have cochlear implants.

Kate says that volunteer recruitment and participation are a very important aspect of the speech perception research studies. “The volunteers with the URVC have been so helpful as [study] participants. The URVC volunteer response has been overwhelming.”

Inspired by her grandfather, who experienced hearing loss, Kate pursued a Aud.D degree at the University of Minnesota. Before her current position at the University of Minnesota, Kate worked as a clinical audiologist at Mayo Clinic for 8 years, where she conducted hearing testing, hearing aid fitting, and worked in the cochlear implant center.

Kate feels that the University of Minnesota is a great place to work. “I think this is a fantastic place to be.” During her free time, Kate loves to read, go running, travel and attend baseball games with her family.



*Student Brynn Hesselberg at the Speech Language Hearing Sciences Lab*



*Shevlin Hall, Location of the Speech Language Hearing Sciences Lab*



## Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities

August, September, October 2023

### **Experience Minnesota**

Experience Minnesota is a high-energy, once-a-year multicultural event that gives prospective students and families the chance to experience a day in the life of a Golden Gopher. Volunteers will assist the Office of Admissions in welcoming prospective students and families to campus for a sneak preview into what being a Golden Gopher can look like. Click [HERE](#) to sign up.

### **Every Meal Food Packing for School Children**

Every Meal is a nonprofit organization that strives to fight child hunger through community and school partnerships. The organization focuses on filling the food gaps K-12 students and their families face on weekends, extended breaks, and summer. Every Meal volunteers assemble individual bags of food at the Every Meal Warehouse and organize them for distribution. Click [HERE](#) to sign up.

### **Great River Greening**

Great River Greening's mission is to inspire, engage, and lead local communities in conserving and caring for the land and water that enrich our lives. Volunteers will work alongside Great River Greening staff in restoration projects such as removing invasive species and plant native trees, flowers, and grasses at more than 350 sites. Click [HERE](#) to sign up.

### **Future City Mentoring Program**

Future City is a national program of Discover Engineering, a nonprofit dedicated to providing global resources, programs, and connections between K-12 students and engineers and STEM professionals. Volunteers will mentor student teams participating in the Future City Competition. Click [HERE](#) to sign up.

### **Bakken Museum Tour Guide**

The Bakken Museum welcomes thousands school students each school year with their onsite field trip program. Tour Guides and Facilitators serve as an inviting presence in galleries. Volunteers will help welcome and guide visitors through galleries and exhibits. Click [HERE](#) to sign up.

## Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities

August, September, October 2023

### **Connected for Change: Marketing Day**

The Connected for Change is a program coordinated by Hands On Twin Cities that pairs up nonprofits in need of support to a team of experts in their related fields. Volunteer specialists for Fall 2023 will join a team of volunteer collaborators to consult nonprofits focusing on marketing issues. Click [HERE](#) to sign up.

### **Ted Mann Usher Training**

The Ted Mann Concert Hall, under the UMN School of Music, provides a concert venue for performances of student ensembles as well as visiting musicians and local organizations. Ted Mann volunteers usher for, and enjoy, School of Music concerts and opera, and non-University performance. Click [HERE](#) to sign up.

### **Lego Tournament**

High Tech kids is a Minnesota nonprofit that supports FIRST LEGO League Jr, FIRST Lego League and FIRST Tech Challenge teams in Minnesota by offering training, tournament opportunities, volunteer coordination and community outreach. Volunteers can sign up to be referees or judges at tournaments. Click [HERE](#) to sign up.

### **Reader/Writer Program (7<sup>th</sup>- 8<sup>th</sup> grade)**

Reader/Writer is a literacy initiative that pairs public school adolescents with writing-proficient adult volunteers. Each volunteer serves as a writing coach for metro area public middle or high school students in a writing exchange **conducted through the mail**. Click [HERE](#) to sign up



### **WANT TO LEARN MORE?**

If you are interested in developing a department, program, or community volunteer opportunity in collaboration with URVC, contact the URVC office staff for more information at [urvc@umn.edu](mailto:urvc@umn.edu) or call us at 612-625-8016.