

UMRA News

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UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
RETIREES ASSOCIATION

UMRA FORUM

The impact of the U.S. Supreme Court's recent 'blockbuster' case decisions

Over its past two terms, the U.S. Supreme Court has issued several decisions in what many legal experts, including University of Minnesota Professor Jill Hasday, consider to be "blockbuster" cases. From its seminal abortion decision in June 2022, to its June 2023 decisions involving affirmative action and other closely watched matters, the court's conservative majority has left an indelible mark on American jurisprudence.

To discuss the meaning and impact of these blockbuster cases, UMRA welcomes Professor Hasday as the guest speaker for our September 26 luncheon forum. Hasday will discuss four cases in particular: the abortion decision, *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*; the affirmative action decision, *Students for Fair Admissions v. Harvard College*; the Christian web designer case, *303 Creative LLC v. Elenis*; and the student loan forgiveness case, *Biden v. Nebraska*. In all these cases, the conservative majority prevailed.

Hasday will share her perspective on these cases and, during the Q & A period following her presentation, will answer questions about these and other Supreme Court cases that may be on your mind.

Hasday is a Distinguished McKnight University Professor and the Centennial Professor of Law at the U of M Law School. She teaches and writes about anti-discrimination law, constitutional law, family law, and legal history. Hasday graduated from Yale College and Yale Law School. After law school, she clerked for Judge Patricia Wald of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit.

Hasday's law review articles and legal books are recognized nationally. Her book *Intimate Lies and the Law* won the 2020 Scribes Book Award "for the best work of



Jill Hasday

legal scholarship published during the previous year," and the Foreword INDIES Family & Relationships gold award. You may have heard Hasday speak on Minnesota Public Radio or other media outlets, as she is a frequent commentator sharing her insights on the latest Supreme Court decisions.

UMRA is fortunate to have Professor Hasday as our September forum speaker. Please [make your reservation](#) today and join us at 11 a.m. on Tuesday, September 26, at Midland Hills Country Club in Roseville to kick off our UMRA forum series for the 2023–24 academic year.

—Barbara Shiels, UMRA Program Committee

SEPTEMBER 19 LIVING WELL WORKSHOP

Hearing, healthy aging, and OTC hearing aids

Hearing loss is a major area of interest to the UMRA membership, and we are fortunate to have a team of University of Minnesota experts in this area to present our first Living Well Workshop for UMRA's 2023–24 program year, on September 19.

Meredith E. Adams, MD, is chief of the Division of Otology and Neurotology in the Medical School. Peggy Nelson, PhD, is professor of audiology in the Department of Speech-Language-Hearing Sciences and newly appointed associate dean for social sciences in the College of Liberal Arts (CLA). Together, they will discuss hearing, healthy aging, and new developments in over-the-counter hearing aids.

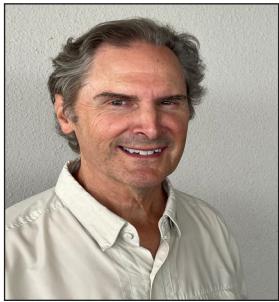
Professor Nelson served as the inaugural director of the Center for Applied and Translational Sensory Science in CLA from 2015 to 2022. During 2021–22, she also served as interim department chair for the Department of Classical and Near Eastern Studies (now Classical and Near Eastern Religions and Cultures).

See **WORKSHOP** on page 10 ...

From the President

A path to happiness

There are many paths to happiness. Examples include positive social relationships, service to others, and physical and intellectual exercise. I invite you to take part in some or all of what UMRA has to offer to help you lead a more fulfilling and happy life.



Eric Hockert

Our in-person forums, interest groups, and social events provide opportunities to connect with others. The University of Minnesota Retirees Volunteer Center (URVC) provides opportunities to give back to others, at the University and in the community. Our hiking, photo, and book clubs are a wonderful way to get that exercise we all want and need. These and more offerings are available to you as an UMRA member.

There are many people who have worked to create the vibrant organization we have today. In particular, I'd like to thank Past President Ron Matross for his leadership, his idea for the Silver Gopher Service Corps that URVC implemented, and the many other things he did to move UMRA forward.

I'd also like to thank the members of the Program Committee, the Host Team, and our Zoom webinar moderators and production team for all their work to make our in-person and online forums and workshops a success this past year.

During my seven years since retiring from the University, I've taken part in many UMRA activities. I've also seen the great work done by our many volunteers. These include President-elect and Program Committee Chair Julie Sweitzer, Treasurer Kristy Frost-Griep, Secretary Laurie Coffin Koch, URVC Council Chair Jerry Rinehart, and many others.

A force for good

I plan to build on the foundation developed by my predecessors to increase the engagement of our 800-plus members in UMRA's many activities, and to increase UMRA's engagement with the University. Our membership represents more than 25,000 years of combined work experience! That's a force for much good in the world. I'll share my thoughts on ways we can do this over the next several months.

I joined UMRA because a friend—John Anderson, an active UMRA member and past president—cared enough to invite me. I have found and developed many new friendships during my seven years in UMRA and URVC. Every new friend has improved my life, and I hope I've contributed in some small way to improving theirs.

I ask you to care enough about a University retiree friend to invite them and their spouse or partner to join UMRA. It will help you and it will help them. It helped me.

—Eric Hockert, UMRA president, ehockert@umn.edu

Membership renewal reminder

New membership cards for 2023–24 were mailed by mid-August to those who have renewed their UMRA membership for the coming year. The cards include the QR code for one of the great benefits that comes with UMRA membership: a discounted rate of \$1 per hour in University parking facilities. The parking discount is good through June 2024.

Forgotten whether you've renewed your UMRA membership? You can check online at umra.umn.edu.

At the upper right on the UMRA home page, click on "Member Portal" and choose "Renew Membership" from the drop-down box (login required). This will take you to a form that shows your membership information. Review and make changes if needed, scroll down to the bottom, and click "Save Changes & Renew." This will take you to a form to complete your renewal. At the top of this form, you'll see a message telling you the last date you renewed. If you've already renewed, you're good to go. If not, please complete the form and pay.

UMRA membership reflects the spectrum of talent that is vital to the life of the University:

- 25 percent bargaining unit and civil service
- 30 percent faculty
- 29 percent professional and administrative
- 16 percent spouses and partners.

Our leaders work to provide a range of programs and activities. If you have questions or ideas you'd like to share, please contact any member of the UMRA Board of Directors.

2024 Grants for retirees

UMRA's Professional Development Grants for Retirees (PDGR) program is an annual competition with applications accepted October 1 to December 31. It provides financial support for University retirees to continue scholarship or pursue new projects. Retirees from all five campuses within the U of M System are eligible whether or not they are members of UMRA. Funding of up to \$5,000 per grant is available.

Since 2009, PDGR grants have been awarded to more than 110 retirees. Recent award recipients have focused on projects as varied as insect biodiversity in Ecuador, Minnesota's human rights stories, and temper outbursts in psychiatrically referred youth. You can find more information about the program, including the instructions for applying for 2024 funding, at umra.umn.edu > Serving You > [Grants for Retirees](#). Please consider making an application.

If you have previously contributed to the PDGR program, thank you for your support. If you have not yet contributed or, if you would like to make another tax-deductible contribution, you can do so online at z.umn.edu/PDGR.

You can also make a tax-efficient gift from an IRA if you are age 70½ or older. Contact Lynn Praska, senior planned giving officer, U of M Foundation, at lpraska@umn.edu or 612-624-4158.

Contact John Bantle, MD, PDGR Committee chair, at bantl001@umn.edu if you have questions or suggestions for the grant program.

ARMCHAIR TRAVELER

From northern Spain to western Africa

UMRA's first Armchair Traveler program of 2023–24 will take us from the *Camino de Santiago* in northern Spain to Sierra Leone in West Africa on Wednesday, September 20, from 10 to 11 a.m. via Zoom.

We will have two fabulous presenters, both UMRA members. Here is a preview, including descriptions by the presenters.

Nanette Hanks will take us to the *Camino de Santiago*, a network of pilgrimage trails leading to the shrine of the apostle James in the *Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela* in Galicia, Spain.

"Pilgrims have been walking to *Santiago de Compostela* in northern Spain for thousands of years, but its popularity has swelled in the last 20. The scenery along this unique and historic 500-mile trail is breathtaking, passing through fields, forests of eucalyptus, small villages, big cities, and tiny hamlets."

Thomas O'Toole will take us to Sierra Leone, where he served in the Peace Corps in 1963. Those interested in an intimate look at a lesser-known African country ought to think about a visit. Its palm-fringed white beaches and warm people are most welcoming. You will gain a deep appreciation for Salone as people share their zest to tell you about their story of struggle, resilience, and hope."

The Zoom link for the meeting will be emailed to UMRA members one month and also one week before the program. I hope you can join us.

—Lynn C. Anderson, Armchair Traveler program chair



In June 2023, Returned Peace Corps Volunteer Thomas O'Toole led a group of travelers from Minnesota, including Marie McCush, to Sierra Leone. The journey included a reunion with members of three generations of O'Toole's Sierra Leone "family." Photo by Jim Parsons.

Welcome new members

Please give a hearty welcome to 50 new members (and partners) who have retired from the University of Minnesota Twin Cities, unless otherwise noted, and joined UMRA as of August 1, 2023. For contact information, go to umra.umn.edu > Member Portal > Member Search.

Ferolyn Angell, University of Minnesota Morris (UMN Morris), Division of the Humanities, lecturer

David Aronson, UMN Morris, Plant Services, project manager

Barbara Blacklock (and Tom Bosman), Disability Resources, program coordinator

James Borgestad, Office of the President, special assistant to the president

Stephen Collins, College of Education and Human Development (CEHD), Academic and Information Technology, assistant director

Val Cremin, College of Pharmacy, Pharmaceutical Care & Health Systems, graduate program coordinator

LeAnn Dean, UMN Morris, Briggs Library, library director

Jerry Froelich (and Joie Froelich), Department of Radiology, Nuclear Medicine Division, professor emeritus

Kate Haugen, CEHD, Student Services, coordinator of enrollment services

Terri Hawkinson, UMN Morris, Division of Social Science, executive administrative specialist

Rosemary K. Heins, Extension, Family Health and Wellbeing, Extension educator

Karl Isely, University Libraries, Collection Management and Preservation, library associate 2

Elverse Jordan, University of Minnesota Foundation, Marketing, senior user interface designer

Jane Kill, UMN Morris, Student Counseling, program/project specialist

Dixie Lewis, Masonic Cancer Center, Clinical Trials Office, trial program developer and clinical research coordinator

James Litsheim, University Services, Capital Project Management, project manager

Larry Micek, Office of the Vice President for Research, Office of Technology Commercialization, technology licensing officer

Elizabeth Penland Miller, School of Public Health (SPH), Division of Epidemiology & Community Health, research coordinator

Peter Christian Moe, College of Food, Agricultural, and Natural Resource Sciences (CFANS), Minnesota Landscape Arboretum, director

Jim Neaton (and Linda Neaton), SPH, Division of Biostatistics, professor

Patricia Nelson, UMN Morris, Division of Education, executive office and administrative assistant

June Nobbe, Office for Student Affairs, assistant vice provost

Sally Noll, CFANS, professor emeritus and Extension poultry specialist

Lena Norrman, College of Liberal Arts (CLA), Department of German, Nordic, Slavic & Dutch, senior lecturer

Jan O'Brien, Carlson School of Management, Undergraduate Program, director of student services

Deb Parker, University Relations, Marketing Communications and Creative Services, executive office and administration specialist

Jean Kathleen Quam, CEHD, School of Social Work, dean and professor emeritus

Barbara Reid, CLA, Department of Theater Arts and Dance, associate dean and professor emeritus

Bob Rubinyi (and Wendy Rubinyi), Office of Distributed Learning, senior analyst for online learning



The Como Lakeside Pavilion in St. Paul provided a sublime setting for UMRA's 2023 Summer Social in July. Jerri and Bill Sudderth along with KaiMay and Joseph Terry (foreground, left to right) appeared to enjoy the challenging geography quiz that followed lunch. Photo: Ginny Hanson

Julie Schneider, Medical School and SPH, principal lab technician

Julie Showers (and **Eric Showers**), Office for Equity and Diversity, associate vice president

Dennis Skovsted, Internal Audit, IT audit manager

William Smyrl (and **Donna Smyrl**), College of Science and Engineering, Department of Chemical Engineering and Materials Science, professor emeritus

Frances Spalding, Sponsored Projects Administration, training coordinator (not retired)

Carol Starkey, College of Continuing and Professional Studies, principal accountant

Tim Starr, Medical School, Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology and Women's Health, associate professor

Lois Stuedemann, University Libraries, library manager

Gary Summerville, University Services, Capital Project Management, director

Barbara Valnes (and **Robert Valnes**), UMN Morris, Business Office, principal accounts specialist

Roger Wegner, University Services, Capital Project Management, senior project manager

Ann Williams, UMN Morris, Facilities Management, buildings and grounds staff

Margaret Wolff, University Relations, community relations associate

Board chooses Midland Hills

UMRA will hold five of its in-person luncheon forums at Midland Hills Country Club in Roseville this program year (September, October, November, March, and April). The forums in January and February 2024 will be virtual events via Zoom. The May 2024 Annual Meeting and Luncheon Forum location may be either Midland Hills or the Campus Club in Coffman Memorial Union. The UMRA Board selected Midland Hills for the following reasons:

Cost. Estimates from Midland Hills were considerably lower.

Positive feedback. In our surveys, those who attended last year's forums at Midland Hills gave it high marks for its food and service, and easy and free parking.

Uncertainty about the Campus Club. Ongoing discussions between the Campus Club and the U of M provost have left the future of the Campus Club in doubt. While the Campus Club would like to have our business, they told us it was not crucial to their survival.

Midland Hills has roots in the University and is considered by some to be part of the larger University community. The University Women's Club and several other University organizations meet there today.

Reservations for our 2023–24 luncheon forums are now open. Go to umra.umn.edu > Member Portal > Forum Reservations where you can make reservations and pay for individual or multiple programs.

We hope to see you in person soon!

—Ron Matross, past president, and Julie Sweitzer, president-elect and Program Committee chair

September Luncheon and Forum

Tuesday, September 26

Midland Hills Country Club
2001 Fulham Street | Roseville MN 55113

10:45 a.m. Check-in
11:15 a.m. Luncheon and forum

Featured speaker

Jill Hasday, professor

University of Minnesota Law School

Menu

Lightly breaded and baked walleye pike served with lemon and tartar sauce. Roasted baby red potatoes, zucchini and yellow squash.

*Vegetarian, gluten-free and dairy-free options available.
(Please request when making your reservation.)*

Reservations, payment, and refund requests are due by September 16

\$30 per person

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

Parking and entrance

Free parking is available in front of the clubhouse. Enter the building through the door to the far right (east end), where there is also a guest drop-off area.

HELLO, my name is Joni Mitchell

Hometown: St. Paul. The first years were near the Cathedral and then [we moved] to Grand Avenue.

When did you become a member of UMRA?

When I retired in 2015.

What was your very first job? My dad had a photography business in our home. After school, I worked the business—making proofs, putting wedding albums together, paying bills, and waiting on customers.

What was your occupation when you retired from FT work? I was an accountant in the College of Pharmacy.

Have you ever met or seen the other Joni Mitchell in concert? No, not in person. But that's how my husband proposed. He said, "Just think, you'd be Joni Mitchell!"



Joni Mitchell with three of her favorite people, grandchildren Julian, Quinn, and Leighton Webb.

If you were an Olympic athlete, what would you like your sport to be? I played tennis for a good part of my life, and now I enjoy watching the Tennis Channel. So, I think I'd like to be a tennis Olympian.

Do you have a favorite place on the U of M campus? I love looking out over Northrop Mall from the balcony at the Campus Club.

What is a fun fact about you we might not know? I met and married my husband in nine weeks' time. It was a whirlwind, and that was 28 years ago!

What is something you currently enjoy doing with your time? I like to travel, hike, read, play cards, entertain, and spend time with family. In the spring I make a list of all the restaurant patios I want to visit throughout the summer. Sometimes I can't get to all of them! I'm a member of the UMRA Book Club, too.

Big Ten conference was collegial, productive

Both the weather and the collegial discussions were warm at the 2023 Big Ten Retirees Association conference held at the University of Wisconsin–Madison in late July. Current and past UMRA presidents Eric Hockert and Ron Matross represented UMRA and enjoyed exchanging ideas and practices with representatives from the other Big Ten associations.

The conference attendees discussed a number of issues. One that was of interest to all was the issue of how to help current members become more deeply involved in their associations so that leadership revolves.

We also spent time sharing information about our programs. Of particular interest to our sister schools were UMRA's Cabinet of Curiosities series and the Silver Gophers Service Corps. Both discussions gave us several ideas worth pursuing.

The conference was also a chance for the UW–Madison Retirement Association to showcase its campus and faculty. We heard excellent presentations about land-grant universities, sustainability at UW–Madison, and how higher education can serve the underserved. These were a fine complement to our roundtable discussions.

Next year's conference will be at Ohio State University in Columbus. Minnesota will host the 2026 conference, and we need to assemble a planning group right away. Please contact Eric Hockert at ehockert@umn.edu if you're interested in being the leader of this group or if you're interested in being a member.

—Eric Hockert, UMRA president, and Ron Matross, UMRA past president (2022–23)



Ron Matross, left, and Eric Hockert took a break from the 2023 Big Ten Retirees Association Conference to strike a pose with the new "Bucky on Parade" statue unveiled July 26 at the UW–Madison Memorial Union to mark the university's 175th anniversary.

VOLUNTEER CENTER

Campus Sneak Preview Days

Would-be freshmen and their parents often fear getting lost on the large University of Minnesota Twin Cities campus. So, the Office of Admissions sets out to make sure sons and daughters, moms and dads, even grandparents, can experience friendliness and helpfulness on the campus. Thus, when one family participating in this summer's Campus Sneak Preview Days couldn't find their way from the Molecular and Cellular Biology building to Nicholson Hall, UMRA volunteer and President-elect Julie Sweitzer personally walked the family across campus.

That story is one indication of the Sneak Preview program's success. Numbers are another. This year, more than 2,200 visitors, including 850 prospective students, attended one of the six sessions.

Sneak Preview Days have been happening at the University for many years. Admissions staff provide in-person tours, which include a general information session highlighting academics, campus life, student resources, and the admissions process.

This year, adding 18 UMRA Silver Gopher Service Corps volunteers put a new twist on the welcome. Who

better to provide a friendly greeting and lend a helping hand than those of us who have spent our careers at the University?

"I think they really enjoyed meeting someone who was enthusiastic and positive about the U," Silver Gopher volunteer Nanette Hanks said.

The Silver Gopher volunteers greeted participants and gave directions. Shannon Anderson, Minnesota Freshman Admission Counselor, worked closely with University Retirees Volunteer Center leaders Jerry Rinehart and Deanne Magnusson to recruit and organize the volunteers' participation. "The Silver Gopher Service Corps volunteers did more than fill in the gaps. They added value," Anderson said.

Silver Gopher volunteer opportunities this fall will include U of M Welcome Week, food packaging for underserved youth, and landscape and pollinator restoration projects in the area. Go to urvc.umn.edu to learn more and register to receive information related to your areas of interest.

—Peggy Mann Rinehart



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EBENEZER



Leisurely Lake Minnetonka hike

UMRA Board member KaiMay Terry has invited the UMRA Hiking Club for a 3.5-mile, slow-paced walk on the Three Rivers Dakota Rail Regional Trail, starting at 9:30 a.m. on Monday, September 11. This scenic paved trail is just a five-minute walk from KaiMay's beautiful home overlooking Lake Minnetonka. KaiMay has generously offered her home as a start and end point, and will provide light refreshments after the walk!

To sign up for this hike and/or our hikes on September 25, October 2 and 16, go to umra.umn.edu > Programs & Events > [Annual Calendar](#) and search by the date.

Questions? Contact Bev Moe at amoegirl@gmail.com.



Members of the UMRA Hiking Club enjoyed a sunny, mid-July morning hike along Minnehaha Creek in Minneapolis. Photo: Nanette Hanks

September 12 Photo Club meeting

All UMRA members with an interest in photography are welcome to attend the in-person meeting of the UMRA Photo Club at the Hennepin County St. Anthony branch library starting at 12:30 p.m. on Tuesday, September 12. “Fences” is the theme for September.

What is a Photo Club meeting like? We share and discuss pictures, ask questions, and laugh a lot. The meeting will start with members sharing their theme pictures, and then move on to other pictures of their own choice.

We welcome photographers of all abilities. If you are interested in meeting for lunch together first, come at 11:30 a.m. to the Great Dragon Buffet, across the parking lot from the library.

“Light” will be the theme when the Photo Club meets on Tuesday, October 10.

For more information, contact Sheri Goldsmith May at golds009@gmail.com or Craig Swan at swan@umn.edu.

Book Club I to meet September 15, October 20

Judy Helgen will lead the discussion of *Lessons in Chemistry* by Bonnie Garmus when the UMRA Book Club meets via Zoom at 2 p.m. on Friday, September 15.

On October 20, also at 2 p.m. via Zoom, Mary Jane Towle will lead the group's discussion of *The Dictionary of Lost Words*, another debut novel, by Australian writer Pip Williams.

Email Pat Tollefson at p-toll@umn.edu for more information. To read summaries of the book club's discussions, go to umra.umn.edu and search for “[Book Notes](#).”

FF Book Club to discuss classic short stories by Herman Melville

UMRA's Fourth Friday Book Club will discuss three classic short stories by the great 19th-century American author Herman Melville when it meets from 2 to 3 p.m. on September 22 via Zoom.

“Billy Budd, Sailor” and “Bartleby, the Scrivener” are two of the most revered shorter works of fiction in history. Melville’s 1855 novella “Benito Cereno” was hailed by novelist Ralph Ellison as the most piercing look at slavery in all of American literature.

On October 27, the meeting will discuss the autobiographies of Frederick Douglass. Read one of these: *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, My Bondage and My Freedom*, or *Life and Times of Frederick Douglass*.

The Fourth Friday Book Club welcomes all UMRA members! For more information, please contact Dorothy Marden at marden@umn.edu or Maggie Catambay at m-cata@umn.edu.

Cyber tips & tricks—using search, and UMRA governance documents

History and best practices for UMRA officers and committees are preserved by UMRA's Organizational Continuity Committee. Most of these tips and tools are stored at umra.umn.edu on the [Governance Documents](#) page under Resources. The search field, found in the top right corner of every UMRA web page, can help you find information. Simply enter a keyword and click the magnifying glass icon.

CABINETS OF CURIOSITY

Travel back in time at the James Ford Bell Library

The James Ford Bell Library is a special collection that holds a treasure house of historical hand-colored maps, rare travel journals, and artifacts from the 16th to the 19th centuries. UMRA's next Cabinets of Curiosity tour, on Tuesday, October 3, from 1 to 3 p.m., will be led by Marguerite Ragnow, the Bell Library curator, and her assistant, Anne Goode.

They will begin with two exhibits, "Eyes on the World: Cartography in the Age of the Sail" and "Curious Strangers: Views of the Other on Early Modern Maps." They will then provide direct access to several of the rare, artistic, and informative maps that undergird the era of global exploration from the 15th to the 18th century, as well as illuminated letters of James I of England to the emperors of China and Japan, and an early 19th-century book of costumes of China, illustrating people in various walks of life.

Join the tour at the Wallin Special Collections Research Center on the ground floor of Elmer L. Andersen Library, which is located on the West Bank of the Mississippi River on the University of Minnesota Twin Cities campus. Personal items will go into lockers. The

closest parking is in Lot 86, north of Mondale Hall. After the tour, those interested will convene for conversation at the nearby Town Hall Brewery.

Go to umra.umn.edu > Programs & Events > Annual Calendar > October 3 to register. The group size is limited, so [please register soon](#).

Questions? Contact Sally Kohlstedt at sgk@umn.edu.



1550 map of the Americas. Image courtesy of the James Ford Bell Library.

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... WORKSHOP from page 1.

She has been a recipient of federal research funding from the National Institutes of Health, the National Science Foundation, and the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research for her work on hearing loss and hearing devices.

Nelson also serves the greater Minnesota community of persons with hearing loss as a governor's appointee at large on the Minnesota Commission of the Deaf, DeafBlind & Hard of Hearing.



Peggy Nelson

Dr. Adams completed her medical education, residency, and fellowship at the University of Michigan and earned an MS in clinical research at the University of Minnesota. Her clinical practice focuses on the medical and surgical treatment of disorders of the ear, including hearing loss and cochlear implants.

Her research program is focused on improving the diagnosis and management of ear diseases through clinical and health services research, novel hearing implant development, and the study of human otopathology.



Meredith Adams

Adams has received research funding from the National Institutes of Health, U.S. Department of Defense, and foundations. She serves on the Otology and Neurotology Education Committee for the

American Academy of Otolaryngology—Head and Neck Surgery.

If you would like to submit a question in advance by email, you can do that when you register for the workshop.

Go to z.umn.edu/UMRA-workshop-September-2023 to register for this free Zoom webinar at 11 a.m. on Tuesday, September 19.

—Frank Cerra, MD, UMRA Program Committee

Thank you to the University of Minnesota Bookstores, Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, and The Pillars of Prospect Park for sponsoring UMRA's September-October 2023 newsletter and the University of Minnesota Foundation for sponsoring the newsletter and UMRA's September 2023 Forum.

Upcoming Programs

October 19 Workshop: University Health Plans

As has been our custom, UMRA's October workshop via Zoom will feature staff from the University's Office of Human Resources discussing the features and changes in the University's retiree health plans for the coming year. The workshop will likely include additional content on health and health insurance issues. Note the date is THURSDAY, October 19.

October 24 Forum: Book banning in U.S. schools and libraries.

If the growing movement to ban books is of concern to you, please plan to attend UMRA's October luncheon forum. It will feature Lisa Von Drasek, curator of the U of M Kerlan Collection of Children's Literature, and Maggie Snow, director of Minitex, the University-based, state-funded resource service for all Minnesota libraries. They will talk about book banning in Minnesota and across the nation and efforts underway to combat book banning.

Both programs will start at 11 a.m. Full descriptions of the workshop and forum will be published in the October *UMRA eNews* and on umra.umn.edu in the coming weeks.



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Invitation to write about resilience

As retirees, we are all learning to adapt to a world that seems to change on a daily basis. So, the editorial committee of the *Journal of Opinions, Ideas & Essays* (JOIE) is inviting UMRA members to share their thoughts on resilience via a short essay. The essays (maximum 1,000 words each) will be collected into a single document that will be published in the open-access, UMRA-sponsored e-journal. JOIE is intended for a general audience and is hosted by the University of Minnesota Digital Conservancy.

Suggested topics for the essay:

- Are you concerned about artificial intelligence? Why?
- Are you finding value in social media (Facebook, YouTube, X, etc.)?
- How are you learning to live in a politically divided country and/or family?

Please email your essay to Kris Bettin at betti002@umn.edu by October 15. Submissions will be edited for length and clarity.

FAMILY HISTORY

Growing up Revell

Please join us for the first meeting in 2023–24 of UMRA's Family History Interest Group (FHIG) on Wednesday, October 4, from 10 to 11 a.m. via Zoom. The FHIG is open to any UMRA member interested in learning how to explore and document their family history. We also welcome members who are willing to share insights and resources related to their family history projects.

Our October meeting will feature Marilyn DeLong, who retired from the College of Design and joined UMRA in 2022. Here is how she describes the focus of her presentation:

“Growing Up Revell—a Family Reunion Project” is about sharing family stories and learning about surprising family connections. Recently, when I hosted a family reunion, I asked everyone to write an essay, prior to coming, about growing up in the Revell family. The compilation of essays from three generations that was distributed at the reunion has become a family keepsake.”

The Zoom invitation and link for the meeting will be

emailed to all UMRA members one month and also one week before the program.

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



Revell family gathering in 1953. Marilyn (DeLong) is fourth from left in the second row.

In remembrance

Based on notification from the U of M Office of Human Resources, published notices, and surviving next of kin, the UMRA Cares Committee informs our membership of current and past UMRA members who have died, and sends condolences to families. Join me in remembering our friends and colleagues. Also, if you learn of the passing of an UMRA member and would like to share that information, please let me know. —Jeanne Markell, mark002@umn.edu, UMRA Cares Committee chair

Catherine E. Asher, d. April 14, 2023. Department of Art History. (She joined UMRA in 2017.)

Robert J. Bowman, d. April 26, 2023. Department of Pathology. (2009)

Richard J. Goldstein, d. March 6, 2023. Department of Mechanical Engineering. (2018)

Margaret M. Jordan, d. March 13, 2023. Department of Laboratory Medicine and Pathology. (2007)

Edward “Ed” Kaplan, d. March 18, 2023. Department of Pediatrics. (2013) His wife Irene is an UMRA member.

David I. Kopf, d. April 8, 2023. Department of History. (2007)

Terry Roe, d. August 2, 2023. Department of Applied Economics. (2016) His wife Carol is an UMRA member.



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA RETIREES ASSOCIATION

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

September programs and events

- 11 Hiking Club
- 12 Photo Club
- 15 Book Club I
- 18 Executive Committee meeting
- 18 Finance and Legal Group
- 19 Living Well Workshop
- 20 Armchair Traveler
- 22 Fourth Friday Book Club
- 25 Board meeting
- 25 Hiking Club
- 26 Luncheon Forum

For a listing of October and all future programs and events, go to umra.umn.edu > Programs & Events > [Annual Calendar](#).

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

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