

UMRA News

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UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
RETIREES ASSOCIATION

NOVEMBER 2021

UMRA FORUM

Five lessons in leading in a post-George Floyd world

UMRA is pleased to welcome Garry Jenkins, JD, dean and William S. Pattee Professor of Law at the University of Minnesota Law School, to our UMRA Forum at 12 noon on Tuesday, November 23, to speak about the challenges and future of legal education. Dean Jenkins' teaching and research interests are in the fields of law and philanthropy, corporate governance, leadership studies, and civil rights.

Prior to becoming the Law School's 11th dean in 2016, Jenkins was associate dean for academic affairs and John C. Elam/Vorys Sater Professor Law at the Ohio State University Moritz College of Law. He also practiced law at Simpson, Thacher & Bartlett in New York, and was chief operating officer, general counsel, and corporate secretary of the Goldman Sachs Foundation.

Jenkins earned a BA from Haverford College, an MPP from the Harvard University Kennedy School, and a JD from Harvard Law School, where he served as editor-in-chief of the Harvard Civil Rights–Civil Liberties Law Review. Upon completion of his law degree, he clerked for Judge Timothy K. Lewis of the United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit.



Garry Jenkins

Held in high esteem

Dean Jenkins currently serves on numerous nonprofit boards and committees, including the Law School Admission Council, Haverford College, the Guthrie Theatre, and Equal Justice Works, an organization that develops and facilitates opportunities for law students and lawyers in public interest law and policy.

Having taught at the University of Minnesota Law School until my retirement from the faculty this past summer, I can personally attest to the high esteem in which Dean Jenkins is held by the Law School community. We are particularly grateful for his leadership in guiding the Law School through the many obstacles posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, and in fashioning the Law School's heightened commitment to racial equity in response to the killing of George Floyd.

Please [register](#) for this Zoom webinar and join us at 12 noon on Tuesday, November 23.

— Stephen Befort, JD, emeritus professor of law and UMRA member

NOVEMBER 16 WORKSHOP

Fostering creative capital

Our presenter for UMRA's November 16 workshop via Zoom will be UMRA member Alice Larson, Professor Emeritus in the College of Veterinary Medicine, Department of Veterinary and Biomedical Sciences.

Over the course of her career as a neuroscientist, Professor Larson became interested in creativity and how people of all ages can enhance their creative powers. She developed and taught courses on the subject for undergraduates, graduate students, and faculty.

See **WORKSHOP** on page 4 ...

From the President

UMRA people

UMRA runs on the energy and inspiration of members who get involved to organize, to lead, to participate. Here's news about some recent personnel changes.

In October, the board elected a new secretary, **Julie Sweitzer**, to complete the one-year term of **Gary Engstrand**, who needed to step down from the role.



Jan Morlock

The board elected Gary to a special term as a board member through June 2022. Gary will also continue in his role as administrator of UMRA's Facebook group.

The Communications & Outreach Committee is a fundamental part of the engine that helps UMRA to attract and retain members and strengthen our brand. **Jean Kinsey** has led the committee for the past three-plus years through a time of many accomplishments and decisions, including the redesign of our newsletter and logo, enhancements to the website, and the addition of the Facebook group that is a private space for University retirees. I'm pleased to say that board member **Eric Hockert** has agreed to serve as the new chair of the committee. Eric recently finished a term as president of the University Retirees Volunteer Center, where he personally reached out to University academic units to connect their retirees with volunteer opportunities through URVC.

UMRA Past President **Jerry Rinehart** was elected to succeed Eric as chair of the board of URVC, and UMRA board member **Cathrine Wambach** has agreed to be appointed as our new liaison to the Board of Regents, succeeding Jerry in that role. The liaison connects UMRA to the work of the Regents and governance of the University. With Jerry continuing as co-chair of UMRA's Organizational Continuity Committee, we get the multiplied benefit of both these outstanding UMRA people.

UMRA people are retirees who worked in all parts of the U, doing all kinds of work, and the UMRA community gets better with the diverse skills and life experiences our members bring to bear. If you're not already participating in an interest group, serving on a committee, or connecting with other UMRA members and would like to consider how to do that, give me a shout, or contact any of our board members or committee chairs. We'd love for you to join in the mix.

—Jan Morlock, UMRA president

Grant application reminder

December 31 is the application deadline for next year's Professional Development Grants for Retirees (PDGR). All University of Minnesota retirees from the Twin Cities, Duluth, Morris, Rochester, and Crookston campuses who are eligible for University retirement benefits and who will be fully retired by the time of their award may apply for grants.

Awards will not usually exceed \$3,000 unless a student mentee is part of the proposal, in which case an award of \$4,000 or more will be considered. The [Application Instructions](#) posted on umra.umn.edu provide information about project requirements and how to apply.

Approved proposals will be announced in February 2022. Awards will start on April 1, 2022, and extend to June 30 of the following year.

UMRA recently initiated an ambitious campaign with the goal of building a substantial reserve fund for our PDGR program. One can [make a contribution online](#) or support this fund with a future gift. For more information about an estate gift, please contact Lynn Praska at the University of Minnesota Foundation, LPraska@umn.edu or 612-624-4158.

"Impact of PDGR program is deep and wide," [a summary](#) of some of the things accomplished with previous awards, can be found on the UMRA website. Anyone with questions or suggestions should email [John Bantle, MD](#).

—John Bantle, MD, UMRA Grants Committee chair

UMRA A.M.

What does it mean to be a global campus?

Study abroad programs provide opportunities for students to immerse themselves in the cultures of other countries. But they are only one part of the larger picture of the robust international education program at the University of Minnesota.

“What it means to be a global campus at home and abroad” will be the topic for discussion when we welcome Meredith McQuaid, associate vice president and dean of International Programs, as our guest speaker for UMRA A.M. at 9 a.m. on Tuesday, November 9, via Zoom. Dean McQuaid has dedicated her career to promoting and furthering international education as an integral part of higher education.



Meredith McQuaid

In her role at the University, McQuaid promotes the global dimensions of teaching, research, and engagement across all colleges and campuses. She also has administrative responsibility for Global Programs & Strategy Alliance (GPS Alliance), which encompasses multiple centers and units involved in international education, including the China

Center, International Student and Scholar Services, and the Learning Abroad Center.

Dean McQuaid will provide a brief overview of the work, philosophy, and goals of the GPS Alliance. We will also learn about the impact of COVID-19, including the hopeful signs of a rebound in students studying abroad as well as international students, faculty, and staff coming to the University.

Shared challenges

“The United States cannot afford to be absent from the world stage,” according to a [joint statement](#) issued recently by the U.S. Departments of State and Education in support of a renewed U.S. commitment to international education. “The robust exchange of students, researchers, scholars, and educators, along with broader international education efforts between the United States and other countries ... are necessary to address shared challenges, enhance American prosperity, and contribute to global peace and security.”

International education should be relevant to the entire University, according to McQuaid, and the program’s priorities may shift over time as University leadership changes. She will outline some actions, including curriculum work, trade delegation involvement, and other pivots the University’s international programs have made over the last five years. She will also preview the University’s new participation in the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals program, which outlines 17 goals for nations to promote prosperity while protecting the planet.

McQuaid’s passion for all things international began as an undergraduate when she was one of the first U.S. students to study Mandarin in China after the country opened to the West. She taught English in Japan for two years after graduation and then traveled the world by motorcycle. She earned a BA in linguistics from the University and a JD from the Law School.

Please [register](#) and join us for UMRA A.M. at 9 a.m. on Tuesday, November 9, via Zoom.

—Barbara Shiels, UMRA Program Committee member

Help wanted: UMRA events hosting team

When UMRA switched to virtual programming last year, we discovered that putting on high-quality Zoom webinars is harder than it looks, and that there are several tasks involved. Fortunately, a group of members stepped up, formed a Zoom team, and figured out all the details.

Now we need to have a similar team come together to work on in-person events. Fingers crossed, we hope to resume our in-person luncheon forums next spring. To do that, we will need a small group of folks to volunteer to do the things that are required for a successful event: booking space at the Campus Club or another venue, choosing the menu, arranging parking, arranging for audio-visual equipment, overseeing the room set-up, printing name tags, greeting people as they enter and checking them in.

If several people divide up the work, as the Zoom team did, the workload for any one person isn’t that much. This would be a nice opportunity for people, especially new members, to become involved and contribute to the organization without having to make a big commitment. Contact Ron Matross, UMRA president-elect and Program Committee chair, at rmatross@gmail.com to learn more.

HELLO, my name is Alan Shapiro

Hometown: The Bronx, the only borough of New York City that is part of the continental United States. The rest is just an archipelago.

When did you join UMRA? In 2009, the year I retired.

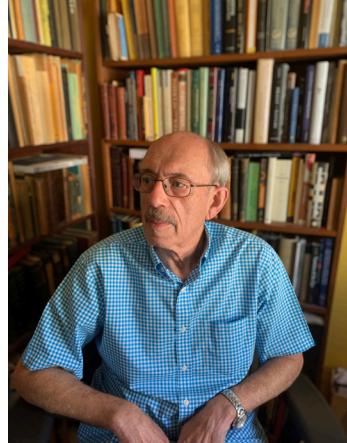
What was your very first job? Delivering the *New York Post* when I was in junior high school. The *Post* was an afternoon paper, and delivering to apartment houses, I was able to deliver a lot of papers in a few hours. For a 12- or 13-year-old in the early fifties, I made a lot of money. I don't at all remember how much I made, but it sure seemed like a lot then.

What was your occupation when you retired from full-time work? Professor of history of science and technology.

What was your first car?

A used Volkswagen Beetle (probably late 1950s), which I bought when I left New York City for graduate school. In my last year of graduate school I was in an accident and the car overturned. (I was in the hospital for a few days, but the accident slowed down the completion of my PhD by only two months.) My accident was four years after Ralph Nader's *Unsafe*

at Any Speed, and two years before he issued his famous warning that that VW Beetles had a dangerous tendency to overturn.



Alan Shapiro

Do you have a favorite place on the U of M campus? The Washington Avenue Bridge connecting the East and West banks. I enjoy the views of the Mississippi River and its banks and pondering how it has continually changed over the last 50 years. The river can be frozen over, rushing in the spring, and tranquil in the summer. I appreciated how much I liked the bridge when, a few weeks ago, I used it for the first time in about two years.

What is something you currently enjoy doing with your time? I enjoy the common treats of gardening, reading, and (pre-COVID) travel, but I spend much of my time doing research. I am still publishing papers and a book, though at a much slower rate than earlier.

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

She describes the rationale for her UMRA presentation as follows:

"Our strategic advantage as humans has been our ability to learn and innovate. Success in many educational institutions focuses only on rote memorization and standardized testing. This fosters the spread of ideas. In stable situations, conformity is a survival advantage—the glue for our culture. But in times of crisis, we need innovation. Creativity leads to new ideas to handle new situations.



Alice Larson with grandson Gage

"On average, societal IQs are increasing but creativity is decreasing. This is important individually because lifetime accomplishment correlates with childhood creativity three times more than with childhood IQ. It's also important for our society. Machines increasingly do the labor and computers the analytical thinking. The challenge is to foster the creative capital that's needed to thrive in these challenging times.

"To strengthen their creative 'muscle,' people need to be curious, ask questions, speculate on answers, and test theories rather than passively observe. This takes more time, is difficult to teach, and challenging to measure."

Larson's presentation will briefly review the obstacles to creativity and outline ways creativity can be developed and applied to everyday life.

To preview what she'll be talking about, you can watch a [two-minute video](#) overview on YouTube of a six-week faculty development course that she led. [Find the link on umra.umn.edu.]

Please [register](#) for UMRA's Living Well Workshop at 11 a.m. on Tuesday, November 16, via Zoom, and join us for what is certain to be a fascinating and timely discussion.

—Ron Matross, UMRA president-elect and Program Committee chair

In remembrance

As we learn of the passing of UMRA members and University leaders, we share this news with our community. We send our condolences to the families and friends of our colleagues.

Sunny (Sundahl) Hansen died on December 21, 2020. She was a professor of counseling psychology, highly respected scholar, valued mentor, and academic leader in the University community who, in 2006, was named one of 100 distinguished graduates of the College of Education. A major contribution to her field was her creation of BORN FREE, a renowned training and development program focused on educating educators on the negative effects of gender-role stereotyping.

Tor Kjaerstad Hansen died on August 25, 2021. A native of Oslo who experienced the Nazi occupation of Norway during WWII, his career as an engineer brought him to Minnesota, where he met and married Sunny Sundahl in 1962. Tor and Sunny Hansen established the BORN FREE Scholarship Fund at the University to honor her legacy as a faculty member and her dedication to the field of career development. He is survived by a brother, his daughter and son, and four grandchildren.

—Kathleen O'Brien, UMRA Cares Committee

UMRA Cares supports members

For assistance and support in the event of the death or serious illness of an UMRA member or family member, please email umracares@umn.edu or call 612-626-4403 and leave a message for UMRA Cares.

FY 2020–21 Financial Report

	6/1/2020	6/30/2021
Bank balances		
Savings account	\$6,972	\$6,972
Savings certificate	10,201	10,243
Checking account	<u>1,009</u>	<u>2,641</u>
Total checking and savings	\$18,175	\$19,856
Revenue		
Membership		\$12,400
Sponsorships		4,500
Savings certificate		<u>42</u>
Total revenue		\$16,942
Expenses		
Newsletter		
Editing, production, and mailing		\$14,050
Memorials		832
Luncheon refunds		76
1099 tax preparation		75
Annual insurance premium		855
AROHE membership dues		<u>120</u>
Total expenses		\$16,008
Net gain		<u>\$934</u>
Comments:		
o	\$1,240 was donated toward potential expenses for Zoom technical support, which members have provided; the cash is in checking.	
o	We established electronic access to our checking and savings accounts. It required issuing a debit card. There has been no need to use the card; it is in our bank file.	
o	Absent in-person forums, it was a relatively quiet financial year.	
—Greg Hestness, treasurer		

Food for thought

“I go to schools and meet with kids. I’ve found they’re smarter than lots of adults, and they’re honest.”

— Gary Paulsen, the late Minnesota-born author of young-adult novels including *Hatchet*

OCTOBER WORKSHOP SUMMARY

Clarifying Open Enrollment options for University retirees

Open Enrollment for 2022 medical and dental benefits available to University of Minnesota retirees is November 1-30. To clarify the bewildering array of insurance options facing us, UMRA and the U's Office of Human Resources co-hosted a workshop in late October. First, representatives from the international consulting firm Willis Towers Watson portrayed the current marketplace in Minnesota for Medicare-eligible seniors. Key points from their presentation were:

- Most Minnesota seniors get their health insurance in the individual market.
- There are many companies offering Medicare supplement plans, ranging from regional non-profits like UCare to national, for-profit corporations like Aetna.
- Policies offered include both Medigap plans that supplement traditional Medicare and Advantage plans that take the place of Medicare.
- Premium costs vary from zero to several hundred dollars.
- The cost of plans purchased on the individual market is generally lower than for those offered by group plans

from employers (such as those from the University).

- More expensive, high-end plans offer more extensive drug coverage, lower copays, broader networks, and more coverage of things not covered by Medicare, including vision, dental, and travel benefits.
- Understanding all the options is a daunting task.
- Insurance brokers are generally well versed in the choices available and can help us think through our individual situations and find a policy that fits.
- If you don't have a referral for a broker from someone you trust, a good place to start is the [Senior LinkAge Line](#) at 800-333-2433.

A longer version of this article, which includes a summary of OHR's presentation on the U's plans for retirees, is posted [on the UMRA website](#) along with a [video recording](#) of the entire workshop and the slides used for both presentations.

—Ron Matross, UMRA president-elect and Program Committee chair

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UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

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Reduce your stress and improve your wellbeing in this online, 8-week class.
Begins in January.

z.umn.edu/MBSR

csh.umn.edu

Welcome new members to UMRA

Please give a hearty welcome to five new members who joined UMRA in September.

Peter Bitterman, School of Medicine, Department of Medicine, professor

Kenneth Keller, various (CSE, HHH, VPAA, Office of the President), President Emeritus and Professor Emeritus

Bonita Sindelir, Office of the General Counsel, associate university attorney

Nevin D. Young, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences, Distinguished McKnight Professor

For contact information, visit the Member Login page at umra.umn.edu (login required).

FAMILY HISTORY

Scanning family photos

The next meeting of the Family History Interest Group (FHIG) will be on Wednesday, December 8, from 10 to 11 a.m. via Zoom.

Our topic is “Scanning Family Photos.” Craig Swan, co-chair of FHIG, will talk about taking pictures (of your family pictures) with a digital camera, and the pros and cons of fee-based services and flat-bed scanners.

David Spear, Professor Emeritus of medieval history at Furman University (and a friend of Lynn’s), will explain the workings of the Epson FastFoto FF 680W photo scanner (a top-feed scanner), with all its strengths and weaknesses, and make a brief comparison to flat-bed scanners. Part of his presentation will be filmed in advance to show how the device works.

After the presentations, there will be time for questions and discussion. A Zoom invitation will be sent to all UMRA members a week before the meeting. We hope you can join us.

—Craig Swan and Lynn C. Anderson, FHIG co-chairs

Photo Club to meet November 9

“Wildlife” will be the theme when the UMRA Photo Club meets to share and discuss pictures at 12:30 p.m. on Tuesday, November 9, via Zoom.

What is wildlife? That is up to each photographer to determine. Meeting attendees are also invited to share and discuss pictures of their own choosing.

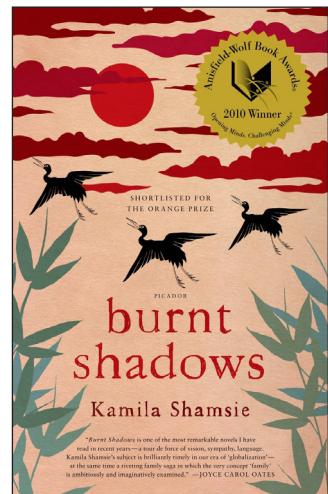
All UMRA members with an interest in photography are welcome to join and participate in the lively discussion and good cheer. Please email Sheri Goldsmith May at golds009@umn.edu or Craig Swan at swan@umn.edu for more information about joining the Zoom meeting.

—Craig Swan, UMRA Photo Club co-chair

Book Club II to meet November 19

UMRA’s Fourth Friday Book Club will discuss *Burnt Shadows* by the British novelist Kamila Shamsie when it meets at 2 p.m. on Friday, November 19, via Zoom.

Burnt Shadows is the fifth of Shamsie’s six novels. It is a vast chronicle of the shared histories of two families, all in the context of several international tragedies in recent history. You could say that all modern life is here: from the final days of World War II in Japan to India on the brink of partition in 1947, political turmoil in Pakistan in the early 1980s, New York City in the aftermath of 9/11, Afghanistan and the ensuing bombing campaigns, and the detention of prisoners at Guantanamo.



Shamsie is a fellow of the Royal Society of Literature and has been recognized with many awards, including the 2017 Man Booker Prize, the 2018 Costa Best Novel Award, and the 2018 Women’s Prize for Fiction.

The Fourth Friday Book Club will also discuss its 2022 program. No December meeting is planned. Contact Margaret Catambay at m-cata@umn.edu or Dorothy Marden at marden@umn.edu for more information. Newcomers are always welcome!



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA RETIREES ASSOCIATION

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

November events via Zoom

- 9 UMRA A.M.
- 9 Photo Club
- 15 Executive Committee
- 16 Living Well Workshop
- 19 Book Club I
- 19 Book Club II
- 22 Board of Directors
- 23 UMRA Forum

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

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA RETIREES ASSOCIATION

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'86, CEHD

Why we support the U of M

"We give to CFANS and the U of M now and through our estates because our blended family believes the best hope for a sustainable future is through research and educating the next generation."

For questions about giving to the U of M, contact Lynn Praska at lpbraska@umn.edu or (612) 624-4158, or visit give.umn.edu/waystogive



Thank you to the Bakken Center for Spirituality & Healing and the University of Minnesota Foundation for sponsoring our November newsletter, and to the Foundation for also sponsoring our November Forum with Garry Jenkins.