University Archives takes the spotlight for September 27 luncheon and tour

We kick off our program year with a real treat for all for whom preserving research and history is paramount—or just plain interesting. Let me introduce Kris Kiesling, director of the Elmer L. Andersen Archives and Special Collections, who will be speaking at our luncheon about the experience of curating the many collections in the University archives. After the luncheon she will lead UMRA members on a tour at the Andersen Library to see not only some of the collections, but also the famous caverns created to store a vast variety of materials.

—Kathleen O’Brien, Program Committee

Did you know?

• The University of Minnesota Libraries’ Department of Archives and Special Collections has 17 distinct collecting areas?
• There are two caverns beneath Andersen Library containing over 120,000 cubic feet of archival materials and over 1.2 million volumes?

Special Collections and Rare Books curator Tim Johnson and I look forward to meeting you on September 27. Our goal is to whet your appetite to learn more about Archives and Special Collections and our amazing holdings, which support both disciplinary and interdisciplinary research for K-12 and University of Minnesota students, as well as scholars from around the world. We are one of the largest special collections departments in an academic setting in the country, and our collections are both broad and deep. Our curatorial staff generates a dynamic mix of collection development, teaching, research, and outreach.

Recent successes in the collections include an award to the Tretter Collection in GLBT Studies—the American Library Association GLBT Roundtable’s inaugural Newlen-Symons Award for Service to the GLBT Community. The work of the Tretter Collection fulfilled all four of the award’s criteria: innovation, impact, sustainability, and advocacy.

In addition, the Givens Collection of African American Literature has received several grants over the last three years to develop Umbra: Search African American History, a federated search application and website that has gathered over 400,000 digital objects from 1,000 institutions across the country relating to African American history and culture.

After the luncheon presentation at the Campus Club, we will welcome you to tour the Andersen Library for a more in-depth look at some of our world-renowned collections, and an even deeper look into the caverns that are the state-of-the-art storage facility for the collections.

—Kris Kiesling, director of the Elmer L. Andersen Archives and Special Collections

See page 3 for information on signing up for the tour and requesting a seat on the shuttle.


**Summer Retreat discussions...**

Over the past few years many of us have had conversations about the future of UMRA and what the organization does for U of M retirees. Should there be a strategy to grow more members and become a much larger organization with eventually a possible need for hired staff? Should it maintain the current membership level with possible small growth using only volunteers to accomplish the mission? And of course, what else might UMRA offer to members in the way of programs, activities, and benefits is always an important topic.

The UMRA Board, under President Jean Kinsey’s leadership, held a daylong retreat in mid-August to discuss these questions with the goal of arriving at direction for the Board’s future deliberations. The focus of the discussions was on membership strategy, involvement, and outreach to the larger community.

The Board jointly agreed that a key outcome of UMRA membership should be a sense of community and camaraderie. Creating that community should be a guiding principle for the Board’s work. Involved are communications, lunch meetings, and interest-centered groups.

The monthly newsletter and the website are our primary means of communication. The website has been revamped and can now accommodate up-to-date announcements and has the capacity for blogs.

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**FROM THE PRESIDENT**

The survey that was sent to all members prior to the Board retreat showed that members value the monthly luncheon as one of the most important activities for this sense of community. However, some lunch attendance has been at or above current capacity, which means we can’t always accommodate everyone who wants to come, and the room has become quite crowded. The board plans to review the luncheon format.

Several members have agreed to look for other activities and events that would help to build community and perhaps also ease some of the pressure on the luncheons. Currently UMRA has a photo club and one book club, which are interest-centered. Members might be interested in other, less formal, activities, such as: happy hour gatherings, less formal lunch get-togethers, another book club, a travel club, and opportunities for off-campus gatherings such as attending plays or concerts together. Committees are being formed to investigate both creating additional engagement opportunities and identifying alternative venues for the UMRA luncheon-speaker events.

Please know that as members you are welcome to join any of the work groups that will be addressing the issues of how to create a strong community for our University retirees. In future newsletters I will highlight the Board’s discussion at the retreat regarding UMRA’s relationship with the University.

— Donna Peterson, UMRA President, 2016–17
dcp@usfamily.net

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**Have you renewed your membership yet?**

This summer you received a renewal request by e-mail or by U.S. Mail. This is a reminder that memberships expired on August 31. Don’t miss out on new benefits, the newsletter, and notice of upcoming UMRA activities.

**Membership renewal goes online**

As many new and renewing members know, our new website (https://umra.umn.edu) began accepting online credit card payments through PayPal, starting this past July. To date, approximately half of new and renewing 2016-17 members have used this feature. If you haven’t yet renewed, or have questions, contact Virgil Larson, UMRA data manager, at larso071@umn.edu; 651-644-4562.

In addition, now that all membership records have been converted to the online database, which is part of the website, members will soon be able to review and update their own membership records. Still to come are two more features. Online luncheon reservations will be added this fall; we are not sure of the exact date. Next after that will be an online, members-only, searchable directory to supplement the current print or downloadable directory.

— David Naumann and Cathy Lee Gierke, co-webmasters

**Who do you know who’s retiring?**

If one or more of your colleagues, friends, or neighbors has retired recently or is even thinking of retiring from the University, be sure to share the good news that membership in UMRA is waiting for them.

The Membership Committee will have brochures at the sign-in table at every meeting for you to pick up to use in interesting your friends.
Board the bus for a ride or enjoy a stroll across the bridge to a tour at Andersen Library

At the close of UMRA’s luncheon meeting, September 27, UMRA members will be treated to a unique tour of some special archival collections as well as the storage caverns at the Andersen Library.

Sign up for the tour when you make your luncheon reservations so the tours can be staffed accordingly. And, if you want a ride to the Andersen Library, please indicate that when making your reservation so we can save you a seat on the shuttle bus.

The Elmer L. Andersen Library is located at the northwest end of the Washington Avenue Bridge. The distance is walkable, but the Program Committee has also arranged for a shuttle bus, which will pick up from Coffman Union on Ground level at the door toward the River Plaza (Delaware Avenue) at 1:30 p.m. and return there after the tours.

What you can see on the tour

The special collections you can see at the Andersen Archives include original manuscripts and artwork from children’s books (Goodnight Moon, anyone?), rare maps, architectural drawings, materials relating to immigration and social welfare history, literary and performing arts materials, artists’ books, records from the University’s history, and much, much more.

Our knowledgeable curatorial staff will be on hand to talk about their collections and answer questions. No matter what your interests may be, we have collections that will delight and excite. And they’re yours to explore!

You’ll also have an opportunity to see our current exhibits—“The Misadventures of Sherlock Holmes” (we have the world’s largest collection of materials relating to the famous consulting detective), and “K is for Kiss-Me-Over-the-Garden-Gate,” a botanical alphabet from the rich collections of the Andersen Horticultural Library at the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum.

And finally, we’ll take you on a tour of the caverns—80 feet below ground and two football fields long—our state-of-the-art collection storage facility. This is one UMRA meeting you won’t want to miss!

— Kris Kiesling, Elmer L. Andersen director of Archives and Special Collections

Submit your application for the grants for retirees program before December 15

The Professional Development Grants for Retirees (PDGR) program is entering its eighth year. Grants of up to $5,000 will be awarded. The deadline for submitting applications for the 2017–2018 grants is December 16, 2016. Please consider submitting an application for funding. All U of M faculty, professional and administrative, and civil service staff from the Twin Cities and Coordinate Campuses of the University who will be fully retired by July 1, 2017, are eligible to apply.

The grants are designed to assist retirees pursue projects related to their scholarship. See examples of grants awarded in past year and the guidelines for applications on the UMRA website: https://umra.umn.edu.

The Office of the Provost, the Office of the Vice President for Research, and the University of Minnesota Retirees Association (UMRA) collaborate to make these grants possible for retirees pursuing projects related to their research, instructional, outreach and/or creative interests that contribute to the mission of the University.

Questions should be addressed to the chair of the UMRA Professional Development Grants for Retirees Committee, Janice Hogan, jhogan@umn.edu.

Mark your calendars for upcoming program

October 25: Research Project Sampler — Panel of past PDGR grant recipients talk about their experiences and report results.
Welcome new members to UMRA

Please give a hearty welcome to 24 new members who have recently joined UMRA. Greet them at luncheon meetings, and help introduce them to other members.

Lee and Elizabeth Anderson, School of Architecture, Faculty 1846 Lincoln Ave., St. Paul, MN 55105 651-699-8438; 551-470-1571; landerso@umn.edu

Eric and Jean Bauer, Cell Biology and Neuroanatomy, Faculty 209 Bedford St. SE, Minneapolis, MN 55414-3630 612-379-7380; bauer001@umn.edu

Lee and Elizabeth Anderson, School of Architecture, Faculty 1846 Lincoln Ave., St. Paul, MN 55105 651-699-8438; 551-470-1571; landerso@umn.edu

Eric and Jean Bauer, Cell Biology and Neuroanatomy, Faculty 209 Bedford St. SE, Minneapolis, MN 55414-3630 612-379-7380; bauer001@umn.edu

Kristine Bettin, 10740 Wren St. NW, Coon Rapids, MN 55433-4027 763-427-6266; betti002@umn.edu

Mark P. Bjork, School of Music, Faculty 4950 Harriet Ave., Minneapolis, MN 55419 612-822-6410; bjork001@umn.edu

Robert M. Brambl, College of Biological Science, Faculty 510 Groveland Ave #522, Minneapolis, MN 55403 612-625-7080; brambl@umn.edu

Sally V. Dischinger, Northrop Concerts & Lectures, P & A 12081 Pastoral Rd., San Diego, CA 92128 612-270-1061; disch002@umn.edu

Scott Elton, Fiscal Admin/Facilities and Capital Planning, P & A 5636 Aldrich Ave. S., Minneapolis, MN 55419 612-423-0683; selton513@gmail.com

Cynthia Gillett, AHV and OVPR, P & A 5 Battle Creek Rd., St. Paul, MN 55119 651-731-5173; gille002@umn.edu

Stephen and Roxane Gudeman, Anthropology, Faculty 112 Groveland Terrace, Minneapolis, MN 55403 612-377-3125; gudeman@umn.edu

Jo-Ida Hansen and John Campbell, Psychology, Faculty 1291 12th Ave. NW, New Brighton, MN 55112 651-633-5947; hanse004@umn.edu

Debra Hartley, Center for Writing, P & A 1214 Ravenswood Ct., Shoreview, MN 55126 651-486-8439; hartley@umn.edu

Eric Hockert and Jane Doyle, Office of Technology Commercialization, P & A 26 Pine Rd., North Oaks, MN 55127 651-528-8099; enhockert1@gmail.com

Diana Martenson, U of M Extension, P & A 991 Amble Rd., Shoreview, MN 55126-2216 651-231-7925; marte002@umn.edu

Andrea Mortensen, U of M Foundation, P & A 4017 York Ave. S., Minneapolis, MN 55410 612-360-9962; kristinemortensen@umn.edu

Debra Olson, School of Public Health, Faculty 5140 Queen Ave., Minneapolis, MN 55410 612-927-9343, olson002@umn.edu

Riv-ellen Prell and Steven Foldes, American Studies, Faculty 2700 Glenhurst Ave. S., St. Louis Park, MN 55416 952-922-7014; 952-201-0836; prell001@umn.edu

Paula Rabinowitz and David Bernstein, English, Faculty 33-43 14th St. #14B, Long Island City, NY 11106 763-607-3309; rabin001@umn.edu

Terry and Carol Roe, Applied Economics, Faculty 2551 150th Ave. NE, Ham Lake, MN 55304 763-434-8831; troe@umn.edu

Naomi Scheman, Philosophy, Faculty 533A Laurel Ave., St. Paul, MN 55102 651-224-9399; 612-750-8050; nschema@umn.edu

Dennis Schlutter, Physics, Civil Service 4627 Ellendale Rd., Minnetonka, MN 55345 612-730-1350; schlu002@umn.edu

Eileen Sivert, French and Italian, Faculty 5240 York Ave. S., Minneapolis, MN 55410-2131 612-929-5310; esivert@umn.edu

Susan P. Wagner, College of Liberal Arts, Civil Service 4925 York Ave. S., Minneapolis, MN 55410 612-408-1410; wagne029@umn.edu

Why didn’t my parking discount coupon work at check-out?

Thousands of U of M parking discount coupons have been distributed to UMRA members and successfully used over the past five years. However, from time to time, a number of us have encountered instances in which the coupons failed to work at the check-out stations. Such failures are likely due to deactivation of the magnetic strip by exposure to a magnet, perhaps on a purse closure or a cell phone speaker. To maintain the effectiveness of your discount coupons, please guard them from magnets of all kinds.

On the subject of parking coupons...

UMRA coupons reduce all-day fees to $6, with the exception of special events parking. Members can obtain coupons: (1) at any UMRA luncheon; (2) when you renew your membership; (3) by sending a request and self-addressed, stamped envelope to John Anderson, 1332 Como Blvd. E., St. Paul, MN 55117.
UMRA Photo Club is open to all UMRA members who have an interest in photography

The UMRA Photo Club welcomes photographers of all abilities. Most of us are struggling amateurs who like to take pictures and want to get better. We benefit from the kind help we get from each other and the fun we have together.

This year the Photo Club will be meeting on the second Friday of each month. Through the fall we will be meeting at the Washburn Library, 5344 Lyndale Ave. South in Minneapolis, 1–3 p.m.

Photo Club members usually gather before the meetings at a nearby restaurant for lunch and conversation.

Please contact Sheri Goldsmith <golds009@gmail.com> or Craig Swan <swan@umn.edu> to be added to the Photo Club e-mailing list.

For those interested in using a digital camera, check out the Photo Club web page, which now includes a number of hints and suggestions. The material was developed by the Photo Club in preparation for a workshop last April. Go to https://umra.umn.edu/content/photo-club.

Emeritus faculty, staff can assist programs for international students and scholars

As U retirees we have much to offer...are you holding it in reserve for just the right opportunity? Can this be it?

The International Student and Scholar Services (ISSSS) will be greeting 1,800 new international students, undergrad and graduate, to the University in September. You have likely received Vice President Meredith McQuaid’s statement about the services the University provides to these students, and scholars who will visit the University during the year.

In what ways can we support the ISSSS programs and satisfy our own desires to offer our capacities to international students? Here are two ISSSS programs for your consideration:

**Culture Corps** is a program for international students to develop projects and initiatives to bring global perspectives to the U of M campus. Would you volunteer to serve as a mentor/advisor for such projects?

**Cross-Cultural Discussion Groups** is a program that gathers small groups of international students and scholars in an intimate environment to explore their cross-cultural experiences and perspectives. Would you participate in a group, or offer to hold it in your home?

I strongly welcome any further suggestions you may have. Mentoring students in your discipline, perhaps? I will be meeting with ISSSS Assistant Dean Kappler in September to discuss options that can use retirees’ assistance.

The University Retirees Volunteer Center (URVC) already has projects for improving English conversation in one-on-one meetings with international TAs, and group meetings as well. We need more facilitators for these projects. Contact URVC at urvc@umn.edu to explore your interests.

— Alan L. Kagan, Prof. Emeritus, Ethnomusicology
Project Director, University Retirees Volunteer Center
Campus Club membership offers UMRA members best available rate

Retirees are an important part of the University community, and the partnership between the Club and UMRA is a long-standing tradition. I am always delighted to see the UMRA group at the Campus Club for monthly meetings and lunches. Did you know that UMRA members can also join the Campus Club and take advantage of the Club’s beautiful spaces, convenient location, great food, and social events?

Some of you know us just for our restaurant lunch service, but there are more reasons to join the Club. I know many of you are volunteers and sit on boards for different organizations. The Campus Club has a variety of meeting and conference rooms, some of which are free to members. The Club is a great place for family gatherings and celebrations like a grandchild’s wedding, a 50th anniversary, or a memorial. We have professional events staff on site who will help you organize your event from start to finish.

The Campus Club also hosts social events for members, many of which are focused on the type of food and beverages we serve. Wine classes are taught by sommelier Jason Kallsen who will lead you on virtual tours of wineries. Come to a Scotch tasting or a sample night and see how Minnesota distilleries are winning national awards for their unique, handcrafted spirits. From cooking classes to Wednesday morning yoga to summer Jazz Happy Hours, there are a lot of options for entertaining, socializing, and relaxing at the Campus Club. But, most of our events are only open to Campus Club members and their guests.

The Club tries to make it feasible for retirees to join. Regular membership dues are $217 per year. The regular retiree rate is $120 per year. But UMRA members pay just $96 per year, our lowest rate.

Please call me at 612-624-6626 or e-mail me at acholt@umn.edu if you have any questions, or are ready to join! I look forward to seeing you at the first UMRA meeting of the academic year on September 27th!

— Ann Holt, Executive Director, Campus Club

Looking to publish an idea or opinion? JOIE journal reaches worldwide audience.

We would like to remind members that UMRA is a co-sponsor with the University of Minnesota Libraries of the Journal of Opinions, Ideas and Essays (JOIE). This online journal publishes a wide range of topics by authors from the University family of faculty, professional administrators, and retirees.

Readership of the journal is worldwide. Articles are accessible to anyone via a topic web search with browsers such as Google. To date, articles from JOIE have been downloaded over 800 times by readers from 61 countries on every continent except the Antarctic.

You may wish to consider JOIE as an outlet for a pet project you have been thinking of publishing. You can learn more about JOIE and sample its articles by going to its website: pubs.lib.umn.edu/joie/

— Bud Clawson, JOIE Editor-in-Chief

“From the Bookshelf” needs your input

For the past year or so, the UMRA Cares committee has taken responsibility for the “Bookshelf” column which printed recommendations from UMRA members on interesting reading. The series last year mainly dealt with books on health and aging, although any book was welcome.

Cares Committee and the newsletter editor think this series has value as a way for members to share good reads; however, we need a little of your time and effort for it to survive. If you found a book that you want to recommend to others, please take a moment and share your discoveries with us.

UMRA has a phone number for all general questions about our organization that gets checked daily. UMRCares has an email address that is checked weekly.

If you leave a message at either place, your book recommendation will be shared with the UMRA Book Club and the Cares Committee for follow up contact. Both groups are very interested in your reading discoveries.

The current year (2016) has seen many interesting new books. Please let us know of your personal memorable book “finds” by calling UMRA at 612-626-4403 or sending an email to umracares@umn.edu. Thanks.

— Earl Nolting
May’s Annual Meeting featured election, good conversations, grapes and apples

UMRA Care Guides continue to be available to members in 2016–17

In the coming year, if you face a difficult decision about a health emergency, especially involving long-term care, UMRA Care Guides may be of assistance. Care Guides are UMRA member volunteers who have been trained and are supervised by the University Center on Aging. Care Guides will offer help in thinking through the issues, considering goals, and locating options and resources. All conversations are confidential.

To speak with an UMRA Care Guide, call the Center on Aging, 612-624-1185.

Look for an announcement for a workshop on health care being planned for this coming fall.

Need a ride to an UMRA meeting?

The recent survey of UMRA members found several comments about problems in transportation: some members said their involvement with UMRA is limited by inability to drive due to medical issues, age, traffic congestion, etc.

UMRA Cares about this problem for our members. We want to address it with articles in the UMRA newsletter (because a post-luncheon workshop isn’t going to reach people who don’t have transportation to the luncheons).

Our intrepid community researchers quickly found 12 transportation options for senior non-drivers, and we would like to hear if you have had experience (positive or negative) with services such as UBER, LYFT, HourCAR, iHail, Roseville Senior Program, NorthEast Senior Services, VEAP, or other transportation help providers.

We will gather your experiences and report, or review, the services for others in an article for this Newsletter.

Besides your experience, we would like to know if there were special qualifications or technology requirements or advantages you found when using ride services. Thanks much, we look forward to hearing from you.

— Earl Nolting, enolting@umn.edu or 651-633-4333.

Thank you to the University of Minnesota Foundation for its sponsorship of UMRA's September Newsletter.

Tax Efficient Giving from your IRA

The now permanently extended IRA charitable rollover law allows individuals 70½ or older to give up to $100,000 directly from their traditional or Roth IRA to qualified charities and avoid paying federal income tax on the withdrawal. Distributions made directly to charity under this law can be used to satisfy the individual’s required minimum distribution. Gifts to the University can be directed to any campus, college, or program.

Contact our University of Minnesota Foundation planned giving representative, Lynn Praska, at 612-624-4158 or lpraska@umn.edu, for information on making a gift to the University.
In Remembrance

We report the passing of UMRA members as we learn of losses to our UMRA community. Since the Newsletter was published last May, we have received news of the following.

Mary Corcoran, faculty, Ed. Psych., died July 24, 2016. She had been an UMRA member since 2011.

James Fuchs, faculty, Biochemistry, Molecular Biology and Biophysics, died May 9, 2016. An UMRA member since 2011, he is survived by his wife, Sandra Fuchs, who is also an UMRA member.

Rosemary McHugh died April 25, 2016. She was an UMRA member from 1986 to 2011.

Lee D. Stauffer, dean emeritus, Public Health, died July 21, 2016. He had been an UMRA member since 1993.

UMRA Cares Committee is here for support

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

Also, if you learn of someone who is facing a difficult life challenge, please contact the UMRA Cares Committee.

Thank you to the College of Continuing Education and its LearningLife program for sponsoring the UMRA September Newsletter. CCE also offers a 15 percent discount to UMRA members. See below for a message about their fall sampler.