

MAY 2020

Commissioner Myron Frans to keynote UMRA's first-ever meeting via Zoom

With the Campus Club closed until the end of June, UMRA's May 19 luncheon meeting in the West Wing Dining Room has been canceled. But our keynote speaker, Minnesota Commissioner of Management and Budget Myron Frans, has generously agreed to speak to us through the magic of Zoom. And University President Joan Gabel has generously agreed to introduce him.



An invitation to our UMRA Forum webinar will be emailed to UMRA members by May 1, or go to z.umn.edu/UMRA-Forum-May to register in advance. Once registered, you will receive a confirmation email with instructions for joining the Zoom webinar on Tuesday, May 19, starting at 12 noon.

Myron Frans is the Commissioner of Minnesota Management and Budget (MMB). This makes him the chief financial officer, chief accounting officer, and state controller, and the head of human resource management and employee insurance for more than 50,000 state employees. He is responsible for developing and presenting to the governor the budget for the state and the appropriations legislation, which is then submitted to the Legislature. He also reviews submissions by the University for both funding and bonding.

Fiscal impact of the pandemic

Commissioner Frans will speak to us about the state's response to the coronavirus pandemic and its fiscal impact; the results of the legislative session, which should be concluded by then; and his perspective on the University as part of the long-term success plan for the state. He is an interesting and engaging speaker who is well informed about the state and the university.

Frans was first appointed to his position by Governor Mark Dayton in 2015 and reappointed by Governor Tim Walz. Prior to his service at MMB, Frans was the commissioner of revenue for four years; served as president of Leeds Precision Instruments, a manufacturing and distribution company in Golden Valley; and for 27 years was a tax attorney and partner at two major Minnesota law firms. He is both deeply experienced and extraordinarily talented.

If you would like to submit a question for Commissioner Frans in advance, please email it to donohue@umn.edu.

Join us via Zoom on May 19 for this very special meeting!

—Bill Donohue, UMRA president

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Editor's note

It's been long enough since I first heard the terms *novel coronavirus*, *COVID-19*, and *PPE* that I no longer recall when they first caught my attention.

Since then, all our lives have been upended in countless ways. For example, I have learned—like you, I imagine—to wash my hands like a surgeon, and I wonder if I'll ever shake hands again.

This issue of the UMRA newsletter includes articles by two guest contributors taking a broader view of the pandemic from distinct perspectives: its impact on public health and on the economy. Craig Hedberg is an expert on infectious disease outbreaks and public health preparedness. V. V. Chari is a professor of economics and an adviser to the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis. We are grateful to both for taking the time to communicate with us directly.

The pandemic has compelled many of us to learn how to Zoom, and UMRA is excited to announce that our May 19 meeting will be convened as a Zoom webinar. An invitation to register will be emailed to UMRA members by May 1. You can also register for the free webinar via z.umn.edu/UMRA-Forum-May.

—Kristine Mortensen, editor

FROM THE PRESIDENT

UMRA in the time of the coronavirus

With apologies to Gabriel García Márquez, we are operating in a time that is rife with peril and risk for our herd of senior retirees. We have cancelled UMRA's



in-person May meeting. However, through the magic of electronics and the generosity of our guest speaker, Minnesota Commissioner of Management and Budget Myron Frans, we will be hosting a webinar presentation via Zoom on Tuesday, May 19, starting at

12 noon. University President Joan Gabel will introduce Commissioner Frans.

Please register at z.umn.edu/UMRA-Forum-May or via the invitation to be emailed to UMRA members by May 1 and join UMRA's first collective foray into this interesting new technology.

Please also mark your calendars for another UMRA webinar via Zoom on June 16, featuring Jon Christianson, a professor in the School of Public Health with expertise in aging, health care markets, and health insurance. For a preview of his presentation, see page 1 of UMRA's March newsletter.

On July 21, Medaria Arradondo, chief of the Minneapolis Police Department, will join us via Zoom to talk about the complex role of a present-day urban police chief. We are also working on programming for August and will announce all our summer Zoom webinars through the UMRA website and by email notification to our members.

Annual Meeting and election

Our Annual Meeting in May is also the time for UMRA to elect new officers and board members. The nominees are described beginning on page 3 of this month's newsletter and reflect a marvelous effort by Jerry Rinehart and the Nominating Committee.

This year's election is particularly important because both Carl Adams, our treasurer, and Lynn Anderson, our secretary, have decided to step down. We applaud both of them for their great work and dedication on behalf of the Retirees Association. Thank you!

Because we will not be meeting in person, we need to conduct the election differently. Our experience has been that the candidates put forward by the Nominating

Committee and approved by the UMRA Board have been elected by acclamation by the members attending our May meeting. Our bylaws provide for additional nominations to be made from the floor (with the nominees' consent), and go on to state, "Election shall be by acclamation, except if there is more than one nominee for each position." So, if you have a nomination for a position *and* the consent of the individual, please email the nomination to me at donohue@umn.edu by May 8.

If there are additional nominations, we will conduct a ballot for the contested positions by email. If there are no additional nominations, I will email our membership about electing the proposed nominees by acclamation.

Finally, this is my last letter to you as president of UMRA. I want to thank you for the honor of serving as president for the last year. It has been fun, exciting, and, for the last three months, unusually challenging. I particularly enjoyed our creation of a December holiday party, our interactions with the new regents, and having President Joan Gabel speak at our November meeting.

What I have learned is that running our little organization is a team sport and we have a really good team. My thanks in particular to president-elect Frank Cerra for his support and counsel, Kris Mortensen for her incredible work on our newsletter, past president Jerry Rinehart, who taught me well, and to numerous others who make UMRA a reality. Thank you all.

—Bill Donohue, president

Participants needed for COVID-19 social isolation study

CATSS, the Center for Applied and Translational Sensory Science at the U of M, is developing a study of social isolation during the COVID-19 pandemic. The center intends to recruit participants ages 60 years and older, with and without hearing loss and/or low vision, who normally reside in either independent living or retirement community situations. The study would involve a series of 10-minute interviews by phone or video meeting, which participants will complete from home.

Please email Chris Curry at curry134@umn.edu for additional details if you might be interested in participating.

Election of UMRA's 2020–21 Board to be held by email

With the cancellation of our May Annual Meeting due to COVID-19, UMRA's annual election will be conducted by email. The Nominating Committee presents the following candidates for approval. Please see the letter from the president on page 2 of this month's newsletter for details on how the election will be conducted.



Frank Cerra, president (automatically moves from president-elect to president), joined the U of M in 1981 as a trauma critical care surgeon. He has more than 350 peer-reviewed publications in basic research in liver cell metabolism and

transitional nutritional/metabolic support of the critically ill and injured, and in interprofessional education.

Entering administration as department head in surgery, he became dean of the Medical School and then served 15 years as the senior vice president for health sciences and services. In 2011, he became a part-time senior advisor to the National Center for Interprofessional Education and Collaborative Practice. He now serves on governing boards and does consulting work.



Jan Morlock, president-elect, served until retiring in 2017 as director of community relations for the Twin Cities Campus, coordinating the U's engagement in local and regional and government and planning initiatives. She

and her husband recently moved to Wisconsin, where they are converting part of an old dairy farm to pollinator habitat. Noting the need to take good care of connections with others, she writes: "UMRA and the U have made my life a richer experience, and I want to see what I can do to keep our organization growing, engaged, and responsive to our members and prepared to make the most of whatever surprises and opportunities are ahead."



Gary Engstrand, secretary, retired in 2016 as senior fellow in higher education in the College of Education and Human Development (CEHD). Between student years and staff appointments, he has been at the U since Winter Quarter 1970. After

working for the dean of CLA, Engstrand worked for 11 years in the Office of the Vice President for Administration and Planning (on sex discrimination in athletics) and 27 years as secretary to the faculty, moving to CEHD for the last two years. His swansong was the "Six

Presidents" event in 2015, but he is more likely remembered for long committee minutes. He earned three degrees from the University.



Gregory Hestness, treasurer,

concluded his 40-year police career in 2015. After serving his first 28 years with the Minneapolis Police Department, he joined the U as assistant vice president for Public Safety and police chief. Greg is

a U of M graduate, as are his wife, Barbara (who holds a degree in social work), and most of his family. He holds a BA in sociology with emphasis on criminology and deviance, and a master's in management from St. Mary's University. Hestness looks forward to being active in UMRA as a way to continue to be of service and as a lifelong learner. He and Barbara live in Minneapolis.

New board members (for three-year terms)



B. Jan McCulloch joined the faculty in 2003 as department head of Family Social Science, a role she held until 2013. She also taught several family social science courses and an orientation seminar and conducted research focusing on rural

aging, depression among older adults, and older women's health decision-making. Her committee service includes the Faculty Consultative Committee; Women's Faculty Cabinet; University Centennial Committee; and the Children, Youth, & Family Consortium Advisory Council. For 10 years, she served on the Metropolitan Area Agency on Aging Board, including as president and in other leadership roles. Since retiring in 2014, she has been active in the UMRA Photo Club.



Barbara Shiels retired in 2019 after serving as an attorney in the Office of the General Counsel (OGC) since 1983. Her initial work there focused on student affairs and data practices legal issues. From 1994 to 1997, she was associate

general counsel in the University hospital (now part of M Health Fairview). From 1998 through retirement, she specialized in human and animal research regulatory issues and health sciences student and resident matters, and served as the OGC contact on immigration matters. She is proud to have served the University her entire legal career, working on complex and challenging legal issues with administrators, faculty, and colleagues all deeply committed to the mission of the U.

See **ELECTION** on p. 9 ...

TWO VIEWS OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Two experts from the University of Minnesota offer their candid and sobering views of the COVID-19 pandemic from distinct perspectives: its impact on public health and the economy.

Forced to make cruel choices

By V. V. Chari

In the last five weeks, more than 26 million Americans have filed for unemployment benefits. To put this number into context, note that in February about 160 million Americans were employed. In a matter of a month, well over 13 percent of employed Americans lost their jobs. *These staggering losses are 10 times bigger than anything we've ever seen in American economic history in this short a time.* And the economic pain is surely just starting. If current rates persist, we could soon be in a situation where upwards of 30 percent of the workforce is unemployed, a number greater than during the Great Depression of the 1930s. But ignoring the virus could lead to the death of millions of Americans. The pandemic forces us to make cruel choices among unhappy alternatives.

Current public policy can fairly be described as incoherent. The original rationalization for the mass



quarantines in which we have engaged was to allow the virus gradually to infect a large fraction of us, in the hope that we would achieve herd immunity. The process was intended to be gradual to prevent the health care system from being overwhelmed.

Ironically, the health care system as a whole is extremely far from being overwhelmed. This system is now operating well under capacity, with many hospitals facing bankruptcy because they do not have enough paying patients. Despite this evidence, the current rationale is that we will extend mass quarantines long enough to eliminate all infections, or until we find a vaccine. This policy has horrific costs which we are only now beginning to see.

The only sensible solution is dramatically to expand testing capacity, to trace potentially infected people and to isolate them. All this can be done along with a drastic relaxation in government restrictions on economic activity. But the number of tests we are conducting has been stable for a week, with no signs that we are willing to invest in dramatic expansions of testing and tracing. The population most at risk consists of old people, especially

those with other comorbidities. The political system clearly puts a huge weight on saving older people, who, as always, seem to exercise disproportionate political power.

Biggest losers

It is worth asking every grandparent how much additional risk they are willing to take to ensure a better life for their grandchildren. Let us make no mistake in understanding that the biggest losers from current policies are the bright 18-year-olds whose lives will be ruined if we enter into another Great Depression. Where are the grandparents willing to ask the political system to change its policies?

No matter how the virus turns out, it is clear that the new world that we are creating will be very different from the old one. We will have to get used to the idea that economic activity will shift away from restaurants to home-delivered food, from cruises to remote camping sites, from movie theaters to Netflix and Hulu. Some industries will see decline; others, growth.

The adjustment process will be painful. While this adjustment occurs, we should all anticipate considerable turbulence in our retirement portfolios. The usual advice financial planners give will be even more relevant for retirees: Stay the course and be prepared for large movements in stock and bond markets.

The most important advice for all of us: Maintain social distancing and personal hygiene—and stay safe!

V. V. Chari is the Paul Frenzel Professor of Liberal Arts in the University of Minnesota Department of Economics and an adviser to the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis.

Amazing scientific response

By Craig W. Hedberg, PhD

The COVID-19 pandemic has come to dominate our lives. Although Professor Michael Osterholm and others had warned of just such an event for many years, the political will to develop and maintain the public health infrastructure needed to rapidly identify and respond to such an emergence never fully developed. Fledgling efforts to develop capacity and test response systems were not maintained. Heroic efforts are now being made across the globe to mitigate the individual and population effects of this novel corona virus. The responses of scientific communities to this pandemic have been amazing. The virus was rapidly isolated and sequenced.

The high degree of concordance with the [2003] SARS corona virus helped guide initial control recommendations and identify potential drug treatments. Available sequences were rapidly used to develop diagnostic tests that were quickly employed by public health officials to track the spread of the emerging pandemic.



Clinical trials of treatments and vaccines have been planned and implemented. Models of epidemic spread in China and elsewhere have formed

the basis for the stringent control measures that have been implemented almost everywhere.

The virus behind COVID-19 uses the same ACE2 [enzyme attached to the outer surface of cells] to enter cells that is used by the SARS corona virus. The rich supply of these ACE2 “receptors” in respiratory tract and lung tissues accounts for much of the clinical impact of COVID-19, as well as its transmission. It is spread by way of respiratory droplets, which settle out of the air within a few feet, and likely by droplet nuclei which may disseminate much further. Because this is a novel corona virus, the entire population is susceptible to infection.

Most infections appear to involve mild to moderate illness with fever and respiratory symptoms, with 25 to 50 percent of infections being asymptomatic. A high proportion of severe illnesses and deaths have involved elderly persons and persons with underlying

health issues such as a history of smoking, cardiovascular disease, diabetes, and obesity. Males appear to be at greater risk than females.

Continued vigilance will be essential

Epidemiologic studies of cases, transmission models, and the characteristics of the virus have all contributed to the formation of public health control measures. Social distancing was invoked to keep people at least six feet away from each other, to avoid droplet transmission. However, because of spread from asymptomatic infections and spread of droplet nuclei over distances more than six feet, reducing spread in the community required the closure of all public settings that bring people together.

Continued vigilance to public health recommendations and adherence to good hygiene and handwashing practices are essential. We must be patient to avoid becoming patients.

When it is clear that communitywide transmission has been suppressed to low levels, and the availability of test results permit rapid, sensitive, case detection and contact tracing, resumption of more normal work and social lives will be possible without undue risk for continued, uncontrolled spread of COVID-19. Short of that, we await the arrival of a safe and effective COVID-19 vaccine.

For additional information and to follow new developments, check out cidrap.umn.edu, the U of M’s Center for Infectious Disease Research and Policy website.

Dr. Hedberg is professor and interim division head of the U of M School of Public Health Division of Environmental Health Sciences.

“If we underestimate the virus, it will find us.”

—Donald G. McNeil Jr., science and health reporter
“The Coronavirus in America: The Year Ahead”
The New York Times, April 18, 2020

HELLO, my name is Marjorie Savage

Hometown? Belleville, Michigan, a small town about 30 miles west of Detroit.

When did you join UMRA? As soon as I was eligible! In 2016.

What was your very first job? When I was 16, I was hired as a waitress at a Kentucky Fried Chicken restaurant on the shore of Belleville Lake. The restaurant was in a building that also housed a shoe store, a teenage nightclub, and a marina. Any day at that job might include waiting tables, packing buckets and barrels of chicken, selling shoes, cleaning the nightclub, or pumping gas for boats. (We washed our hands frequently.)

What was your occupation when you retired from FT work? Director of the Parent Program in the Office for Student Affairs—working with parents of undergraduates.



Marjorie Savage, seen collecting macroinvertebrates at the Long Lake Conservation Center in Palisade, Minnesota, enjoys volunteering as citizen scientist.

Where were you in 1969 when Apollo 11 landed on the moon? I watched the moon landing in my boyfriend's apartment in Ann Arbor, Michigan, with all my roommates and all his roommates.

If you could learn a new skill, what would you like it to be? Last fall my son refurbished a dulcimer for me, and I've been trying to learn to play it. I'm a terrible musician, but it's a beautiful instrument, and it has a lovely tone.

Do you have a favorite place on the U of M campus? The Horticultural Display Gardens on the St. Paul campus provide a quiet and peaceful block of color, and they are a great place to get ideas for my garden.

What is a fun fact about you we might not know? The first house my husband and I bought was a one-room schoolhouse in Allegan, Michigan, that had been unused for about 20 years. We bought it on a sealed auction for \$1,812 (bid number inspired by the war and the overture). It came complete with a flagpole and a hitching post in front of the building and blackboards on the walls.

In the spring, the entire perimeter of the property bloomed with tulips and daffodils planted by generations of children. Many of those former students stopped by to tell us their stories of attending the school.

What is something you currently enjoy doing with your time? I am embracing retirement as a chance to be a "citizen scientist." I signed up for the U of M Extension's Master Naturalist course (like becoming a master gardener, only "woodsier"). Among my volunteer projects are monitoring bluebird nests and participating in a wetlands health evaluation project.

Leadership transition for UMRA Grants Committee

The Professional Development Grants for Retirees (PDGR) program has been a major success for UMRA and the awardees of this annual, competitive process. The program, launched by UMRA in 2009, awards grants of up to \$5,000 each for research and professional development.

For the past three years, the PDGR program has been led by Richard "Dick" Poppele, PhD, as chair of the UMRA Grants Committee. A professor emeritus of the Department of Neuroscience, Poppele is a major supporter of the U and has held a number of leadership positions, including department chair of physiology, founding director of graduate studies in neuroscience, and chair of the Faculty Senate Judicial Committee.

UMRA thanks Poppele for his years of service as both a member and chair of the UMRA Grants Committee and as a member of the UMRA Board of Directors.

With Poppele's retirement from UMRA leadership, the PDGR program is transitioning to a new leader, John Bantle, MD, a professor of medicine and former director of the Division of Diabetes, Endocrinology and Metabolism at the U of M Medical School.

Bantle has had an outstanding career, including serving as principal investigator for several landmark diabetes trials and studies, all at the U. He continues to be an active researcher and has served on the UMRA Grants Committee. UMRA is delighted that he is assuming the chairmanship of this committee and will be joining the UMRA Board as an ex-officio member.

The September meeting of UMRA will have the UMRA Grants Program as its focus.

—Frank Cerra, UMRA president-elect

My Grecian coronavirus odyssey

While we're all stuck at home, I am glad to finally arrive home. On February 19, I left for Greece to work with [Starfish Foundation](#) and refugees on the island of Lesbos.



The foundation wanted someone to redesign their website.

Starfish provides support for both refugees and island locals. More than 20,000 asylum seekers live on Lesbos in Moria refugee camp, originally meant for around 3,000 people. Wide stretches of island coastline are overwhelmed

by marine litter from tens of thousands of abandoned inflatable boats and life jackets. Both locals and refugees bear the shared brunt of powerful forces beyond their control.

About a month after I arrived, the U.S. suspended travel from Europe. I had planned to be there for three months. Then the U.S. Embassy in Greece started sending out regular notices of diminishing flights and I began to realize I could be stranded for an indefinite period—on a small island with 20,000 refugees who have no options for self-isolating, let alone washing hands.

After hours of searching online, I succeeded in putting together four flights to get home. Following several days of worry, I arrived home safely after 40 hours of travel. I was especially grateful for all the airport and airline employees still working in Mytilene, Athens, Zurich, Newark, and Minneapolis who made it possible for me to get home!

I had to self-quarantine from my 75-year-old husband. My room is small, but cozy, and the TV is in English, not Greek. My favorite luxuries are that the hot water is always hot, I have central heat, and I can throw my toilet paper in the toilet. Travel gives new appreciation for things we take for granted at home.

I continue to work with Starfish remotely. You can learn more about the increasingly dire situation on Lesbos by listening to “[Refugees can't practice social distancing](#),” a PRI interview with Douglas Herman, cofounder of the nonprofit [reFOCUS Media Labs](#), or watching “[Coronavirus: Protecting yourself in a migrant camp](#)” from the BBC. Herman is a Starfish collaborator and teaches videography to refugees in Moria.

—Cathy Lee Gierke, UMRA webmaster

... IN REMEMBRANCE from page 10.

John Kim Munholland died on March 29, 2020. A professor emeritus of modern European history, Dr. Munholland was a valued teacher, mentor, and respected scholar who led several study tours to France. After his retirement from the history faculty, he continued to teach in the University honors and continuing education programs until November 2019. He is survived by his wife, two children, and their families.

Lanny D. Schmidt died March 27, 2020. A regents professor emeritus, Dr. Schmidt was a valued mentor and a distinguished scholar who was recognized for his work in surface science, microkinetics, chemical reaction engineering, catalysis, and renewable energy, with many awards including membership in the National Academy of Engineering. *Scientific American* named him one of the 50 most outstanding American scientists in 2014. He is survived by his wife, sister, two daughters, and four grandchildren.

Shirley Zimmerman died in March 2020. A professor emeritus of family social science, she served as a teacher, researcher, and writer on family policy until her retirement in 2000. Dr. Zimmerman was committed to social justice and active in politics and civic life. She is survived by her four children and their families.

—Kathleen O'Brien, UMRA Cares Committee



John and Anne Munholland enjoyed the buffet served for UMRA's 2019 Annual Meeting.

UMRA Cares supports members

If you learn of someone who is facing a difficult life challenge, or for assistance and support in the event of the death or serious illness of an UMRA member or family member, please email us at umracares@umn.edu or call 612-626-4403 and leave a message for UMRA Cares.

Teaching aspiring health professionals

For the past five years I've had the rewarding experience of volunteering as a community teacher through the U of M's IHealth Community Teacher Program. This educational program pairs medical, pharmacy, occupational therapy, social work, and nursing students with volunteers who share stories of their personal health challenges. Teams of three to four students and volunteers meet three times during the academic year.

Fortunately, my health issue, primary biliary cholangitis or PBC, is managed with meds and I continue to be asymptomatic and healthy. But it's my decade-long experience of accessing medical and pharmaceutical care that makes me a good participant in this program.



Jeanne and Michael Markell enjoyed the vibe at UMRA's 2019 holiday party.

Health professional students and their community teachers get to know each other by engaging in meaningful conversations. Together they explore ways interprofessional teams can collaborate to better understand a client's strengths, needs, and opportunities for well-being. Students experience the value of looking for more holistic care. For community teachers, it's the satisfaction of contributing a real-life story to augment what's happening in the classroom.

This is not a burdensome volunteer commitment. Time invested is minimal, involving online communication with the student team for scheduling meetings plus three 90-minute meetings. It's been so inspiring every year to meet a new team of bright, dedicated, diverse students and help them understand their future challenges from beyond an academic or clinical setting. I applaud this program, support its objectives, and plan to continue for as long as I can.

I urge you to consider becoming a volunteer, too. I'm open to your conversations and questions.

—Jeanne Markell, marke002@umn.edu

Firsthand | Experiences with aging

By Ron Anderson

For many years my wife and I have enjoyed a trip to Florida or California in January and a timeshare week in Mexico in March. Because I am approaching 80 and travel has become more work, we agreed that this year would be our last to take winter vacations. We decided to splurge: A month in San Diego and two weeks in Mexico.

We found a perfect condo rental in San Diego with a beach view. For months we dreamt of warm walks by the ocean. Upon arrival we found poor heaters, broken windows, stained carpets, and dirty floors. Our greatest shock came from discovering the ubiquitous staircases. We knew there were stairs to the bedroom, but we had no idea that *entering* the condo required going up a steep, 15-step staircase. My knees let out little yelps each time I took a step up.

So much for winter vacations

We had spent a lot of time senior-proofing our primary living space—no staircases, grab bars in the bathroom, etc.—but we neglected to think about these in vacation planning. We resolved the staircase challenge by cutting short the vacation by two weeks.

Our Mexico trip posed a totally new challenge: Travel during a pandemic. Over our two weeks (March 1–14) in Cabo, at the southern tip of Baja California, we nervously followed the daily news. We almost returned early because I had less than a month's supply of meds and we worried that the U.S. might halt flights from Mexico. The tension made it hard to enjoy the sun.

We had flown into MSP airport hundreds of times, but never before had our landing felt as wonderful and secure as it did this time.

Two weeks later we read about a travel group of 70 who chartered a plane to Cabo San Lucas the week we left. Over half of them were later reported to have caught the coronavirus while in Cabo. During our stay, there were no reported cases; the next week there were 42. This is a true story! Boy, did we feel blessed.

We may never travel for a winter vacation again, but if we do, we will plan for frailties, possible quarantines, and viral super-spreading.

... ELECTION from page 3.



Cathrine Wambach retired in 2016 as associate professor in the College of Education and Human Development (CEHD). Her PhD (from the U) is in counseling psychology. She started her career in General College, researching best practices in teaching and supporting underrepresented students, which she continued when she joined CEHD. She also served on numerous University Senate committees and task forces, chaired the Senate Committee on Educational Policy, and is a past president of the Minnesota Association for Developmental Education. Cathrine received the Morse-Alumni Distinguished Teaching Award for her work in curriculum development, program evaluation, and teaching. Retirement is providing more opportunities to spend time with family and friends, travel, and go to the cabin.

Board members nominated for second terms

Vern Cardwell retired in 2010 after 45 years of teaching and research in the Department of Agronomy and Plant Genetics, with his last decade devoted to undergraduate teaching and advising. He taught 28 different courses, including four team-taught interdisciplinary courses. He served two terms on the College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences Faculty Consultative Committee and is a Fellow of AAAS, Crop Science Society of America, and American Society of Agronomy, serving as president of the latter two societies. After retirement, Cardwell worked seven years for Compatible Technology International and last year for Habitat for Humanity. As an OLLI member, he has taught or team-taught five courses. He and his spouse enjoy winter month trips, most recently to Mexico and Colombia.

Cathy Lee Gierke, a native Minnesotan, has been the UMRA webmaster since 2014, succeeding David Naumann, with whom she helped develop the UMRA site. As a Univac programmer, she validated new mainframe and hardware designs using several computer languages. In the Peace Corps, Gierke learned how to repair personal computers and organized an international web-based network that provided computers to Jamaica. At the Carlson School of Management, she managed the first web-based automated recruiting system at the U. In 2014, she received an UMRA Professional Development Grant Retirees award to analyze time-series for periodicities. She studies biological rhythms with the U's Halberg Chronobiology Center and spends her free time traveling and volunteering.

—Julie Medbery, editor

Book notes: *Inheritance*

In 2016, author Dani Shapiro submitted her DNA to a genetic testing service for analysis. The results shocked her: She learned she was not the biological daughter of the man she always knew as her father.

Shapiro's memoir, *Inheritance*, documents her journey to discover how this was possible and to construct her new identity. She identified strongly as Jewish. Both her parents were Jewish, and through her father's parents they were part of a large Orthodox Jewish clan. Although as an adult she was no longer religious, Shapiro held a "romantic sense" of her family and its past and thought of these ancestors as "the foundation upon which I built my life."

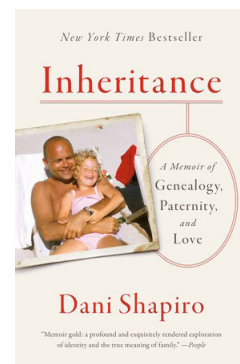
From a conversation with her mother, Shapiro knew that she was conceived using artificial insemination at an institute in Philadelphia. Following up on the conversation 35 years later, the author sets out to find the institute and discover who ran it. She learns that donor sperm was used along with her father's sperm. This raises a new question: Did her father know about this?

Shapiro's search continued as she tracked down her biological father. Her book chronicles this search, her contact with this man and his family, and how she tries to make sense of it all.

The UMRA Book Club readers thought the parts of the book that revealed the ethical and science issues of sperm donation and artificial insemination in the 1960s were the most interesting. Many felt the author was obsessive and self-indulgent in her quest to find her biological father and did not show enough allegiance to the father who raised her. Most said they were glad to have read *Inheritance* and might not have selected it on their own.

We met in mid-April via Zoom to discuss the book. The meeting worked well, and we will continue to meet this way until it is safe to reconvene in person.

—Kathy Cramer, Book Club member



UMRA University of Minnesota Retirees Association

University of Minnesota
McNamara Alumni Center
Room 264, Suite 250
200 Oak Street S.E.
Minneapolis, MN 55455-2002
612-626-4403 | umra.umn.edu

Upcoming events via Zoom

- May 12 Photo Club
May 15 Book Club
May 19 UMRA Forum:
Myron Frans
June 16 UMRA Forum:
Jon Christianson
July 21 UMRA Forum:
Medaria Arradondo

Summer event details will be announced to members via email and posted on the UMRA website.

Thank you to the University of Minnesota Foundation for sponsoring our May newsletter and forum.



Tax-efficient giving to the U

If you're 70½ or older, you can give up to \$100,000 directly from your IRA to charity, without paying federal income tax on the withdrawal. If you'd like to make a gift to the U or pay off a pledge, consider this tax-wise giving option.

PHONE 612-624-3333

EMAIL plgiving@umn.edu

WEB give.umn.edu/waystogive



*The U of M Foundation does not give tax or legal advice.
Please consult your professional advisor before making a gift.*

In remembrance

We report the passing of UMRA members as we learn of these losses to our community. Our condolences to the families and friends of our colleagues.

Jerome “Jerry” Hammond died on August 8, 2019. He was professor emeritus in the College of Agriculture, Department of Applied Economics. Dr. Hammond's teaching and research focused on price and marketing policies in the U.S. and developing countries. He is survived by his wife, three children, and their families.

Mary Elizabeth “Manna” Ibele died March 23, 2020. She was a social worker, resort owner, streetcar conductor, and homemaker. She is survived by her husband of 72 years, Warren Ibele, professor emeritus of mechanical engineering and former Graduate School dean; four children, and their families.

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