

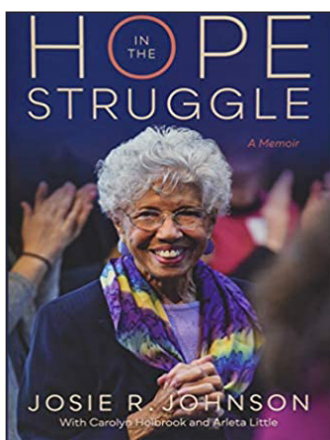


SEPTEMBER 2020

Author, activist, Regent Emerita Josie Johnson to join us “in conversation”

Josie Johnson, EdD, chronicles her life as a civil rights fighter in her memoir, *Hope in the Struggle*, published by University of Minnesota Press in 2019. Much of her “gracious fighting” for civil rights (so characterized by Vice President Walter Mondale, among others) occurred in Minnesota. Her contributions are immeasurable.

Civil rights icon Vernon Jordan has called her “the Sojourner Truth and Harriet Tubman of our time.”



UMRA looks forward to welcoming Dr. Johnson and to being “in conversation” with her, as she likes to say, for our September 29 Forum at 12 noon via Zoom, to learn about her life, her legacy, and her hopes for the future of the civil rights struggle.

Laura Bloomberg, dean of the Humphrey School of Public Affairs, will introduce Dr. Johnson for this hour-long event to be held via Zoom webinar.

In the 1960s, Johnson worked as a professional lobbyist for the passage of bills concerning discrimination in housing and employment. She served as acting director of the Minneapolis Urban League and was a Minneapolis mayoral aide during the African American unrest and challenges in 1968. Her memoir tells of the ways that white supremacy has impacted Black people in Minnesota. Systemic racial bias is clearly addressed. She is hopeful and a positive, inspiring leader.

An important voice for the University

Known to many UMRA members as “Josie,” she has had a long relationship with the University. She worked with other Black activists to create the Afro-American Studies Department (now the Department of African American & African Studies) and was one of its first faculty members. Appointed to the Board of Regents in 1971, she became an increasingly important voice for the University.

She directed the All-University Forum and in 1992 was named associate vice president for minority affairs. In 1998, the University honored her lifelong work with the establishment of the Josie Robinson Johnson Human Rights and Social Justice Award. And in 2018, the Humphrey School established the Josie Robinson Johnson Fellowship to support graduate students with interest in addressing racial inequities and injustice.

In her memoir, Johnson recalls the racism, prejudice, and injustice she experienced growing up in Texas and the way she developed a sense of responsibility to change the system. Her parents graduated from a historically Black college near Houston. They were active in the community, and Johnson recalls going with her father to collect signatures in opposition to a poll tax. He worked as a waiter on the railroad. She earned a BA in sociology from Fisk University in Nashville and an MA and EdD from the University of Massachusetts–Amhurst.

UMRA is proud that Josie Johnson received a 2016–17 Professional Development Grants for Retirees award to support the publication of her memoir. Please [register](#) so you don't miss this very special forum.

—Janice Hogan-Schiltgen, member, UMRA Grants Committee

UMRA A.M.
debuts September 8.
See page 3.



From the President

Looking forward to our new year

Greetings in the new year for UMRA. Actually, UMRA never stopped meeting during the summer months. What did change is that all our meetings are now Zoom based. And that will continue at least through the end



of 2020. There will be a reassessment in the late fall. A survey of our membership was undertaken in May. The respondents strongly favored not meeting in person again until COVID-19 cases and deaths are trending downward and there is a vaccine or curative medication available.

I wish to give a special thanks to Bill Donohue, who has served as UMRA president for the last year. He has exceptional talent as a leader and mentor and is dedicated to the continued success of UMRA. I look forward to working with him as past-president. Thank you, Bill.

The Program Committee, chaired by President-elect Jan Morlock, and the Workshop Committee, under the leadership of Ron Matross, are planning UMRA's upcoming forums and workshops. Forums will be held on the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month, and workshops on the third Tuesday. The schedule of upcoming forums and workshops and list of UMRA personnel for 2020–21 can be found on the UMRA website.


Fiscal challenges

Given the fiscal challenges confronting the University, funding from the University for the Professional Development Grants for Retirees (PDGR) program has gone into limbo. During this time, however, the program, launched by UMRA in 2009 [see "Impact of PDGR program" on page 8], will continue under the leadership of UMRA member John Bantle, MD.

We are also working with the University of Minnesota Foundation to institute a fundraising campaign to support UMRA's PDGR fund at the Foundation. [See "UMRA launches crowdfunding campaign" on page 10.]

As president for this year, I look forward to working with you and hope you will contact me with your concerns and suggestions.


—Frank Cerra, UMRA president



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Frank Busta
Professor and Director Emeritus

Jean Kinsey
Professor and Director Emerita

2020-21 UMRA Board of Directors

Board members are elected to three-year terms and may serve two consecutive terms. All officers serve one-year terms; the previous year's president-elect automatically becomes president; the secretary and treasurer may be reelected annually. New officers and board members elected to new terms are in boldface.

Frank Cerra, president
Jan Morlock, president-elect
Gary Engstrand, secretary
Gregory Hestness, treasurer
Bill Donohue, immediate past president

Vernon Cardwell	Claudia Parliament
Will Craig	Chip Peterson*
Cathy Lee Gierke	Donna Peterson*
Cherie Y. Hamilton	Jerry Rinehart*
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* Former past president may serve up to three additional years, provided such an extension will not exceed the limit of two consecutive three-year terms.

UMRA A.M.

Dealing with history

Will *vergangenheitsbewältigung* become the next German loanword in American English? It means “working through the past,” and it will be the topic for discussion when we welcome guest speaker Henning Schroeder, PhD, director of international programs in the College of Pharmacy and a professor in the Department of Pharmaceutics, for UMRA’s first morning forum at 9 a.m. on Tuesday, September 8, via Zoom.

“In my home country, Germany, the ‘national story’ is anything but linear and has none of America’s fairytale qualities of exceptionalism,” says Schroeder. “The Iron Curtain is long gone but has a lingering effect on people’s minds—just like the Mason-Dixon line. Working through the past is an ongoing project in Germany and has often been as controversial as it is in the U.S. right now.”



Schroeder is a former vice provost and dean of graduate education at the University of Minnesota. In addition to his current roles in the College of Pharmacy, he is also an affiliate professor in the Department of German, Nordic, Slavic & Dutch.

He grew up in West Germany in the 1960s and 1970s and received his doctorate in pharmacology from Heinrich Heine University in Düsseldorf. After a post-doctoral fellowship at Stanford University and the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989, he returned to Europe and joined the faculty at Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg in former East Germany.

Schroeder has been living in Minnesota since 2007 and recently wrote two articles on the resurgence of nationalism in the United States and Europe: “When all the heroes have fallen: Lessons from Germany,” published by the *Star Tribune*, and “Can you return a gift from your Founding Father? (It’s been done in Germany),” published by *The Society Pages*.

Please [register](#) and join us for this first UMRA A.M. forum September 8.

About UMRA A.M.

UMRA is adding a monthly, coffee-time forum this fall on the second Tuesday of each month. UMRA Living Well workshops will continue, on the third Tuesday of the month, as will our monthly noontime forums on the fourth Tuesday of the month, all via Zoom.

—Jan Morlock, president-elect and chair,
Program Committee

SEPTEMBER 15 WORKSHOP

Protecting your online presence

Are you concerned about the safety of your digital data? If not, you should be. The world is awash with people who want your data—and want to do bad things with it. As we spend more time online during the pandemic, the threats have only intensified.

On Tuesday, September 15, at 11 a.m. via Zoom, UMRA will present a Living Well Workshop on cyber security. This one-hour presentation will provide an overview of cyber threats and best practices for protecting ourselves from them.

Be sure to [register](#) for our first fall workshop.

The topics covered will include how to protect yourself from fraudulent email scams, malware, ransomware, and malicious websites; what two-factor authentication is and why you should use it; how to create and manage strong passwords; other safe computing tips, and where to find additional resources online.

Our presenter, Jenny Blaine, is a security analyst with University Information Security. She has worked in information security for more than 11 years and is a member of the University’s security incident response team. Using tools for e-discovery, log analysis, and memory forensics, Blaine works with law enforcement, the Office of Internal Audit, and the Office of the General Counsel on both internal and external cyber investigations at the University.



—Ron Matross, chair, Workshop Committee

On being maroon and gold, and Black

This is the first in a series of interviews being initiated by the UMRA News to offer colleagues across the University an opportunity to share with us some of their experiences on being maroon and gold, and Black. Our first guest, Samuel L. Myers Jr., PhD, is the Roy Wilkins Professor of Human Relations and Social Justice in the Humphrey School of Public Affairs. An economist, he has written and spoken extensively about what he has called “The Minnesota Paradox.” We begin with a brief excerpt from a statement Professor Myers released on June 5, following the killing of George Floyd.
—Kristine Mortensen, editor

“Minnesota is one of the best places to live in America. ... Surprisingly, Minnesota is also putatively one of the worst places for blacks to live. ... Racially discriminatory policies [have become] institutionalized and “baked in” to the fabric of Minnesota life. ... [And] when racism becomes institutionalized, you do not need individual racists for there to be structural racism.”

What year did you come to the University? What brought you here?

My family moved to Minnesota in 1992, when the offer of an endowed chair in the Humphrey School lured me away from my position at the University of Maryland, College Park, where I was director of the Afro-American Studies Program and a professor in the Department of Economics. I came reluctantly because I am a native Marylander, my father’s house was around the corner from mine, and he had planted his fruit trees in my backyard.



Part of the excitement about moving was related to the endowed chair named in honor of Minnesota native son Roy Wilkins, who led the NAACP through the tumultuous years of the civil rights movement from the 1950s through the 1970s. Another exciting aspect of the offer was the more than 200 individual donors—mostly from the local Minnesota community—to the endowed chair. I thought that if I could solve any problems anywhere, Minnesota was the place to be.

What was something about Minnesota that surprised you when you got here?

After one of my first major speeches was covered by the local media, I received some hate mail in my home mailbox. It was vulgar and profane and ended with “We know where you live.” The surprise was not receiving the hate mail. The surprise was the reaction from three high-ranking University officials, including the provost, who came to my house to express alarm and condolences about the racist letter.

To this day, I remain puzzled by why there was a swift and immediate reaction to a single hate letter and not to the broader concerns that leaders in the Black community had raised.

Describe one experience that exemplifies what it is like for you today to be maroon and gold, and Black.

I am extremely proud of the fact that the Humphrey School has a seminar room called the “Wilkins Room” named after the University of Minnesota graduate Roy Wilkins, who was the night editor of the *Minnesota Daily* in 1926. The seminar room is adorned with pictures of Roy Wilkins and Hubert Humphrey, Martin Luther King Jr., Whitney Young, and even Wilkins’ young Omega Psi Phi fraternity brothers on the campus during the 1920s.

Please explain the difference, as you see it, between racism and discrimination.

Racism is a belief in the inherent inferiority of an individual because of racial group membership. Racial discrimination is differential treatment of equally endowed individuals because of their racial group membership. Racism is about beliefs. Discrimination occurs when one acts on those beliefs. Note that there can be racism without discrimination, and discrimination without racism.

How do you, as an economist, see the impact of discrimination on individuals and society?

Some measurable part of most racial disparities can be explained by legitimate or economically relevant factors. But determining the unmeasured part or the unobserved part is [also] relevant for anti-discrimination enforcement policies.

One of the major achievements of the civil rights movement was to make racial discrimination in most markets illegal. But, if we don’t believe that the cause of a racial disparity is discrimination, then we won’t focus on enforcing anti-discrimination laws!

See **MAROON AND GOLD** on page 9 ...

Committed to becoming an Age-Friendly University

As UMRA's representative on the University of Minnesota's Age-Friendly University (AFU) working group, I would like to give you a brief overview of this exciting project.

The global network of Age-Friendly Universities was started at Dublin City University in Ireland in 2012 and now includes more than 62 universities in 10 countries. These universities have endorsed the 10 AFU principles and have committed to becoming more age-friendly in their programs and policies.

Minnesota AFU Case Statement (highlights)

July 1, 2020

The University of Minnesota, founded in the belief that all people are enriched by understanding, is dedicated to the advancement of learning and the search for truth; to the sharing of this knowledge through education for a diverse community; and to the application of this knowledge to benefit the people of the state, the nation, and the world. [See Board of Regents Policy: Mission Statement.]

Background. Today, there are more older people than children in Minnesota. This demographic reality is here for the long term and will impact the core of work in all sectors. As Minnesota's Land Grant University, we have a commitment to serve an age-diverse population.

Vision. The University of Minnesota is a leader in age-friendly work; older adults are fully integrated into University and community life; and our students, faculty, staff, alumni, and community members are fully prepared to both embrace opportunities and address challenges.

Value. Lifelong learners bring experience and perspective that enrich education. Diversity, equity, and inclusion are central pillars to all the work we do. Ageism is a pervasive form of bigotry that must be challenged and eliminated.

Professor Joseph Gaugler, a member of our working group, spoke about the AFU movement during UMRA's November 2019 Living Well Workshop, as many of you may recall.

Please email me if you would like to read the full case statement, and/or have ideas to offer.

—Lynn C. Anderson

Welcome new members

Please give a hearty welcome to 10 new members who have joined UMRA since early March.

- **Wendy Pradt Lougee**, University Libraries, University librarian and dean
- **Lawrence Rudnick**, College of Science and Engineering, Minnesota Institute for Astrophysics, School of Physics and Astronomy, distinguished teaching professor
- **Robert Thomas Kudrle**, Humphrey School, professor
- **Nick E. Biondich**, Carlson School of Management, Accounting, senior lecturer
- **William O. Beeman**, College of Liberal Arts, Anthropology, professor
- **Bradley G. Clary**, Law School, clinical professor of law
- **Erica Stern**, Center for Allied Health Programs, Occupational Therapy, associate professor
- **Jeanne Pfeiffer (and Reese Pfeiffer)**, School of Nursing, clinical professor
- **Lori Rathburn**, School of Nursing, faculty

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



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HELLO, my name is Mary Koppel

Hometown: Mansfield, Ohio. Claim to fame? It is where *The Shawshank Redemption* was filmed, at the old Ohio State Reformatory.

When did you become a member of UMRA? In 2019, after returning from a sojourn in Southern California.

What was your very first job? I was a waitress at Perkins after my junior year in high school and got the job by convincing the manager that I wasn't going to return to high school in the fall. He hired me again after I graduated, as he was certain I wouldn't be going off to college. Neither was true.



UMRA Zoom webinar moderator and former TV newswoman Mary Koppel still has fantastic hair.

What was your occupation when you retired from FT work? My last position at the University was as the associate vice president for public affairs in the former Academic Health Center, working with one of the most talented teams of people in my career.

What was the first record you bought? Emerson, Lake & Palmer's *Pictures at an Exhibition*. My mother was a piano teacher, and that's the first album she would let me play over and over on the stereo in the den.

If you could learn a new skill, what would you like it to be? I would love to take up ballroom dancing. Unfortunately, that's not a solo activity and my partner of nearly 40 years has absolutely no interest.

Do you have a favorite place on the U of M campus? I love the 4th floor Terrace of the Campus Club, overlooking Northrop Mall. It provides the quintessential image of a peaceful college campus of substance.

What is a fun fact about you we might not know? In the early 1980s, I spent a year as the female half of a news team in Scottsbluff, Nebraska, where I covered all topics of interest to that Western Nebraska farming and ranching community. The station received weekly calls complaining, "That girl on TV needs to fix her hair!"

UMRA FY 2019-20 Financial Report

Bank balances	7/1/19	6/30/2020
Savings Account	\$6,972	\$6,972
Savings Certificate*	10,000	10,201
Checking Account	<u>1,009</u>	<u>1,002</u>
Total checking and savings	\$17,981	\$17,568
Revenue		
Dues and Prepaid Luncheons		\$21,812
Dues		3,908
Luncheons**		7,078
Sponsorships		6,750
Donation		<u>500</u>
Total revenue		\$40,048
Expenses		
Luncheons		\$23,964
Newsletter		9,303
Communications		828
Conferences		1,817
Memorials		984
Insurance		794
Misc. (incl. honorarium & adj. \$-2)		1,986
Luncheon refunds		<u>380</u>
Total Expense		\$40,056
Net loss		<u>\$8</u>
* Interest income of \$201 not included in operating revenue		
** Includes ~\$3,000 in member donations of prepaid March-May luncheon fees		

... **MAROON AND GOLD** from page 4.

What is one thing members of UMRA can do to make Minnesota a better place for all?

Contribute to the Josie Robinson Johnson Fellowship. Once that is fully funded, I want to help endow a Roy Wilkins Prize for Scholarship on Racial and Ethnic Economic Inequality. I also want to raise funds for a Roy Wilkins Post-Doctoral Fellowship that acknowledges recently minted PhDs who show great promise in contributing to policy analysis on race and inequality.

Professor Myers' most recent book is *Race neutrality: rationalizing remedies to racial inequality*, coauthored with Inhyuck Ha and published by Lanham, Lexington Books in 2018.

Feeling grateful, despite the pandemic

UMRA members continue to demonstrate their resourcefulness when it comes to coping with the coronavirus. [See “[Making lemonade](#)” in the April newsletter.] Here is a sampling of the responses to our most recent informal survey.

What is something you’ve been doing to maintain your sense of resilience?

Golfing at least twice a week with friends. I’ve also investigated the statistical information surrounding the virus. The absolute numbers grab attention, but the percentage numbers provide a bit of reassurance.—Eric Hockert

Volunteering at a Red Cross Blood Donation Center has been a great experience for me. I’m so grateful for my health and for everyone I love. The pandemic has really made me see how lucky I am.—Bev Moe

I have been exchanging thoughtful emails with friends, reflecting at length on the world, our lives, our kids’ lives, the wreckage of the economy and its effect on so many people. I’m also exchanging emails with my son, age 29, on the same topics.—Gary Engstrand

I’m back to swimming laps at Lifetime Fitness.
—Pat Tollefson

Photographing a beautiful garden where I live, walking my two dogs every morning, inspirational readings and journaling in the mornings, and reading lots of fiction (it helps to rise above the chaos).—Jan McCulloch

Resilience has meant learning to search online for entertainment, religious services, classes, and magnifying priorities in order to accomplish simple tasks such as sending a birthday card, logging into an UMRA Forum, or turning on the dishwasher. Most of all, resilience has been maintained by talking with friends and relatives.
—Jean Kinsey and Frank Busta

What is a new ritual you’ve established to brighten your day?

When we take our daily walk around the neighborhood, the people we meet are much friendlier than they used to be before the virus, more like Mr. Rogers’ neighborhood. Another day brightener is that my sister who lives in Montana suggested discussing short stories on the phone once a week. This is something to look forward to and is expanding our reading horizons.—Pat Tollefson

See **FEELING GRATEFUL** on page 11 ...



My wife, Carol, and I are doing music from the grass to the balconies of nursing homes. On Mondays and Fridays, weather permitting, we do songs at Johanna Shores Presbyterian Homes where there are people we have known for years. On Thursdays we go to Adagio’s Pizza Factory to hear Vinnie Rose, the best guitar player in the Twin Cities. On occasion we do music for Missions, Inc., the only all-men’s nursing home in Minnesota, on their beautiful campus along the shores of Medicine Lake. We also go to Crooners Lakeside Café in Fridley. Here’s a link to [videos](#) of our Grass to the Balcony music. —Andy Whitman

Impact of PDGR program is deep and wide

By Will Craig, member, UMRA Board of Directors

The Professional Development Grants for Retirees (PDGR) program is the only grant program in the United States to offer funding to retirees who want to continue their intellectual work. Whether in their academic field or starting something fresh, PDGR grant recipients can stay engaged for personal fulfillment and also for greater academic and societal benefit. Since 2009, the PDGR program has awarded more than 130 grants. To date, these grants have helped to generate nine books, 48 journal articles, and an untold number of public and professional presentations. In addition, a mix of videos, websites, public exhibits, software, and educational material has been produced. Many are used nationally and internationally, thus enhancing the reputation of the University of Minnesota.

Most grant recipients (71 percent) said the program was their only source of funding. More than half the others said their PDGR awards helped them to leverage additional funds.

Engineering Professor Emeritus Patrick Brezonik received nearly \$680,000 in National Science Foundation and other grants. He said, “I am convinced that none of these grants would have been obtained without the seed funding the PDGR provided.”

Gaining new knowledge

In a survey, 2014 to 2019 grant recipients cited the benefits of gaining new knowledge and expanding professional networks. Many received recognition, requests for keynote presentations, and offers to organize sessions or write (or edit) a book on topics originally supported with a PDGR grant.

Strikingly, more than two thirds of the projects have benefited society at large, both in the United States and around the world.

2014-19 PDGR-supported projects

Here is a sampling of the projects supported over the past five years. A complete listing since 2009 can be found under [Grants for Retirees](#) on the UMRA website.

Art. A dance film based on a refugee’s memoirs of Nazi Germany; new metal sculptures, displayed worldwide.

Early modern history. Evidence of global trade through a study of dress and textiles in Nigeria; foreign travelers’ views of slavery in 15th and 16th century Iberia.

Education and learning. A new approach in learner social identity for people acquiring a second language; a multicultural video series showing parent-child interaction, and a new company to disseminate the videos.

Environment. Determining water quality in lakes through remote sensing; how Spanish fishermen controlled the mainstay tuna population in the 14th to 16th centuries; a video series on the critical importance of mining to the U.S. economy and national security.

Exemplary achievement. A biography of a woman who contributed to the successes of Planned Parenthood and the Boundary Waters Canoe Area; folk and fairy tales of a forgotten folklorist; early American Indian writers—the “founding mothers” of Native American literature.

Health. Using biostatistical data to develop approaches leading to better outcomes for younger AIDs patients; analyzing circadian rhythms in chronomics.

Minnesota history. Interviews with women in local government 1970–2000; archiving historic documents on campus religious organizations; collecting an oral history of early lesbian organizations in Minnesota.

The human condition. Suffering and quality of life; evolutionary developmental psychology theory on personality and how individuals respond to the environment.

Racial equity. Josie Johnson’s civil rights memoir; a history of the U of M’s early racial housing policies; an online anti-bias course for New York police.

Statistics. Summarizing large amounts of data with a single number; game theory.

“[The PDGR grant] enabled me to begin a successful post-retirement trajectory of scholarship.”

—Emeritus Professor of History William D. Phillips Jr.

TRAVEL BACK IN TIME

Armchair Traveler

Our next Armchair Traveler program, featuring two presentations, will be offered on Tuesday, September 1, from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., via Zoom.

Ryan Mattke, map and geospatial information librarian at the John R. Borchert Map Library, will talk about the University of Minnesota Libraries' Campus History digital collection, which includes 160 years of building footprints, historical maps, and aerial photographs. His presentation will include buildings that no longer exist, and a description of how the interactive digital map was created.

UMRA member and sociology Professor Emeritus **Ron Anderson** will share photos and stories from Ethiopia. Ron grew up in Ethiopia, until age 13, when his father served there as a missionary and doctor for Emperor Haile Selassie. Ron, with his wife, returned in 2000 to revisit. He has lots of photos and stories to share about this very unusual country.



Ron Anderson (left) and siblings Rosalie and Merlin with Queen Asfew and Emperor Haile Selassie in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 1949.

If you would like to attend, please email me and I'll send you the Zoom invitation.

If you are interested in presenting at our February 2 or April 6, 2021, programs, please let me know. Both will be offered via Zoom.

—Lynn C. Anderson, chair, Armchair Traveler Program

In remembrance

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

Richard "Dick" Caldecott died on May 29. The founding dean of the College of Biological Sciences, he was a professor of genetics and cell biology and was credited with bringing the Freshwater Biological Sciences Institute to the University.

William "Bill" Gardner died on February 16. He taught high school social studies in St. Louis Park and was a St. Louis Park School Board member before joining the U's College of Education faculty, serving as dean from 1977 to 1991. His social studies curriculum was widely used, and he was a respected scholar and prolific author who consulted worldwide.

Robert "Bob" Holt died on April 25. He joined the political science faculty in 1957, was a distinguished scholar and author, generous mentor and teacher, and a respected administrator. He was dean of the Graduate School from 1982 to 1991 and interim dean of the College of Liberal Arts in 1996. An active member of UMRA, he served as president in 2009–10.

Milan Kovacovic died March 6. He was a distinguished faculty member, valued teacher, and associate professor of French language, cinema, literature, and culture at UMD from 1974 to 2017. He was honored with the French Teacher of the Year Award in 2017 by the Minnesota chapter of the American Association of Teachers of French.

Judy Lundell died on April 18. She worked at the University for 31 years as an administrator in Recreational Sports, and was an UMRA member from her retirement in 2001 until her death.

Frances Paulu died on April 22. A member of UMRA since 1978, she graduated Phi Beta Kappa from the U in 1939. She was a social worker and, while a wife and mother, was a volunteer activist, serving as the president of the League of Women Voters, chair of the Minneapolis Charter Commission, and director of the Urban Coalition. In 1970, she became executive director of the Minnesota International Center (now, Global Minnesota), serving for 18 years.

See **IN REMEMBRANCE** on page 11 ...

UMRA launches campaign to support retiree grants

As a result of the financial challenges created by the COVID-19 pandemic, the University will not be able to fund the Professional Development Grants for Retirees (PDGR) program for 2021–22.

Due to cost cutting throughout the University, including pay reductions for employees and a reduction in staffing levels, there are insufficient funds to continue the University's support of our grant program. The decision is disappointing but totally understandable. We hope circumstances will eventually change to allow resumption of the funding from the University.

Financial support for the annual grant competition, launched in 2009, has been provided by the Office of the Executive Vice President and Provost (\$40,000 annually) plus a fund established by UMRA and managed by the University of Minnesota Foundation. The Office of the Vice President for Research has administered the funds.

The PDGR program has been very successful [see "Impact of PDGR program is deep and wide"], awarding more than 130 grants over the past decade. Ironically,

this year (2020–21) was among our best years; we awarded 18 grants totaling nearly \$69,000 dollars.

Thanks to the generosity of our members, there is currently more than \$29,000 in UMRA's PDGR fund managed by the Foundation.

In order to keep the program going, UMRA will invite grant applications for 2021–22. However, we will limit individual awards to a maximum of \$4,000 (vs. \$5,000), with the total not to exceed \$20,000. This will support up to five grants.

We will also seek funding from other granting agencies and solicit donations from our members and others to support future grants. This effort will take the form of a UMF-assisted [crowdfunding campaign](#) with a matching challenge gift.

We hope you will join us in supporting this successful program.

—Bill Donohue, UMRA past president

UMRA signs partnership agreement with UMAA

UMRA has a long history of partnering with the University of Minnesota Alumni Association. Now it's official. UMRA and UMAA have signed a formal agreement, effective September 1, 2020, with benefits for members of both organizations.

The partnership is built upon the commitment of both groups "to honoring and serving the University of Minnesota," and it is intended to enhance the growth and vitality of both associations. We also know from UMRA's work with our Big 10 counterparts that alliances such as this help raise the visibility of retirees across the institution.

Among the benefits provided by the agreement, UMRA members will be eligible for membership in the Alumni Association at a discounted rate of \$35 versus the regular annual fee of \$50.

Many UMRA members already belong to the Alumni Association and for good reason. UMAA members receive an excellent quarterly magazine, access to

Alumni Association events, and other discounts and benefits. You don't need to be a U of M alumnus to join UMAA.

Just as both organizations advocate for the University of Minnesota, we also share a commitment to providing a variety of fun, engaging, and community-building opportunities for our members.

UMRA members have taken advantage of UMAA-discounted tickets to attend a Gophers women's basketball game and last year's U of M Day with the Minnesota Twins at Target Field, when everyone in the UMAA-UMRA group received a limited-edition Twins hat in U of M colors.

We look forward to future shared events once in-person activities are resumed.

—Will Craig, member, UMRA Board, and UMAA liaison

... **FEELING GRATEFUL** from page 7.

On weekly hikes around the metro area I've become better acquainted with a colleague from UMRA whom I barely knew before the pandemic and now consider a good friend.—Bev Moe

My neighbors and I have cocktails on the driveway on a routine basis and “pop up” visits when we are all outside.—Jan McCullough

I am the youngest in a bridge group of 12 (that I started in 1978). We have latched onto Bridge Base Online and play about three times per week. We also get on a conference call so we can talk to each other as we play. We all benefit from the faux-human contact, even if we're almost entirely focused on bridge.— Gary Engstrand

Routines, though sometimes boring, have taught us to find beauty and satisfaction in small tasks, done well. Taking on projects such as creating a memory book of photographs of our granddaughter from high school graduation back to birth using photos stored on our two computers was an exciting activity. We presented it to her at her graduation party where we sat on the lawn and observed all the action 30 feet in front of us. Two trips to drive through the Arboretum were a nice relief. Best of all was a two-day adventure to locate and photograph all 20 of the rose sculptures in Roseville.—Jean Kinsey and Frank Busta

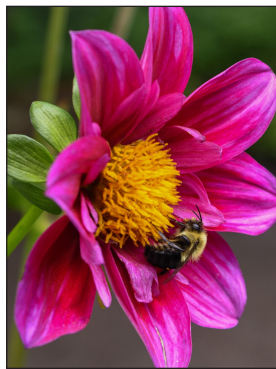


Photo by Jan McCulloch

Describe something lockdown-related that really made you laugh

Watching my dog watch TV. She regularly “attacks” animals she sees on the screen, even cartoon ones. My friends now send her videos. She thinks everything on my monitor—including Zoom meetings—is for her. A constant source of amusement!—Jan McCulloch

A contemporary of mine got married a few weeks ago via Zoom. There were about a dozen live guests, and the rest of us joined the wedding online. As everyone who took part in the ceremony spoke to the assembled group, those of us on Zoom had a great closeup view. We had a rollicking good time, laughing with each other and using the chat feature to the hilt. After the ceremony, the bride and groom joined us on Zoom, and we had a loud round of laughs with them. It's one of my favorite weddings of all time.—Jan Morlock

... **IN REMEMBRANCE** from page 9.

Margaret Sloan died on June 8. An associate professor in the School of Public Health, she lived 104-plus years. What an extraordinary person she must have been.

Marion Watson died on March 28. During WWII she was a U.S. Army Signal Corps code breaker. In 1969, she became one of the first women in the country to manage a radio station (KUOM), and she continued her work in communications until her retirement from the U. She was inducted into the Minnesota Broadcasting Hall of Fame in 2008. Watson was also a fierce advocate for civil rights and served on the Minnesota Council of Civil and Human Rights from 1957 to 1967.

Ingrid Werk died in late April. She was in California with her husband, Professor Emeritus Mahmood Zaidi, at their home in Pacific Palisades when she had a fatal heart attack. She was a member of UMRA with her husband.

Patricia Yardley died on May 25. The widow of Professor Emeritus Donald Yardley, she worked as a librarian for Ramsey County Library her entire career.

—Kathleen O'Brien, UMRA Cares Committee



Frances Paula, pictured in 2012, was the last surviving charter member of UMRA, having joined the association at its inception in 1978.

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.



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA RETIREES ASSOCIATION

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

September 2020 events via Zoom

- 1 Armchair Traveler
- 8 UMRA A.M.
Photo Club
- 14 Executive Committee meeting
- 15 Living Well Workshop
- 18 Book Club
- 28 Board of Directors meeting
- 29 UMRA Forum

All links indicated in the print newsletter are active in the PDF version posted online at umra.umn.edu/newsletters.

Bakken Center for Spirituality & Healing

Online Wellbeing Opportunities

Cooking For Wellbeing

A three-part, online, interactive cooking class with Chef Jenny Breen. *Begins in October.*

z.umn.edu/CookingForWellbeing

Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction

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

z.umn.edu/MBSR

Wellbeing Series for Planetary Health

Join national and local speakers for this engaging online experience. *Begins in September.*

z.umn.edu/WellbeingSeries



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