

UMAR NEWS

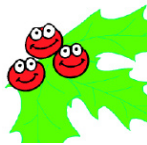
Fall 2010

UMAR NEWS is the newsletter for The University of Memphis Association of Retirees, formerly the Emeriti Club

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Holiday Event will include silent auction



The annual UMAR Holiday Luncheon will be on Friday, December 3, at the campus Holiday Inn. Dr. Jonathan Judaken will talk about the Humanities Center's activities in the pre-session.

In addition to the festivities of the Holiday Luncheon, as in years past, there will be a **Silent Auction**. This is a designated event where all receipts go to increasing the UMAR Scholarship fund. Last year the **Silent Auction** netted over \$700 and this year we hope to raise \$1,000.

You can help in two ways: contributing an item for the auction or bidding on something at the luncheon **OR** both! Items range from hand painted note cards, to original works of art and pottery, to gift certificates, to "goodie" baskets. No item is too small or too large.

We are happy that Joanne and Jim Lippy will be running the auction again. If you plan on submitting an item, contact Joanne or Jim at jklippy@bellsouth.net or 388-6515. They will need a brief description of the item, an estimated retail value, and an opening bid (normally 25% of retail value). Please join us at the Luncheon and enjoy the fun of bidding on some items.

from the president... Susanne Darnell

It Has Been a Very Good Year

Indeed, UMAR has had a good year. We have enjoyed times together, drawn in new members, and experienced new activities. Recently we—those of us on your Executive Committee—took a detailed look at membership, participation, and communication during 2009-2010. Here is a quick overview.

More Members

We added 54 new members and had 31 persons renew. Along with the 136 life members we have, there were 221 paid members heading into 2010-2011. In addition, many new retirees took advantage of the year-long complimentary membership they receive.

Activities and Participants

Touring the Law School on Front Street after lunch at the Madison Hotel, dinner at Café 1912 before the musical *Pippin* at Playhouse on the Square, book discussions with brunch at Brother Juniper's, or the festive holiday luncheon—month after month we have had a selection of activities to enjoy. We sponsored sixteen activities that drew a total attendance of 390.

Connecting with the University

Special events and service activities have allowed us to engage with the university. In April fifty-five of us experienced two remarkable new buildings on campus: the University Center and the West Hall Living Learning Center. Over lunch at the UC Dr Jan Sherman told us about the history of the university that she is writing. We assisted as hosts at the display of faculty productions at the library and at Faculty Convocation last spring. A significant measure of our connection is the fact that thirty-eight individuals contributed to the UMAR scholarship fund last year.

Communicating with You

Email has been our principal means of communicating with you this year; fourteen email flyers for events have been sent to those for whom we have addresses. You are probably reading this online. The balance in our treasury is much healthier! Postage costs were eating us alive. We will continue to mail a few invitations and letters to all through the USPS, and we will honor the preference of some who have told us that they do not use email. Remember our website: www.memphis.edu/alumni/clubs/umar.php You can check our calendar of events and find other information there. Please help us expand our email list and keep it up to date.

Strength from New Resources

Our status with the Alumni Association as a constituent organization has given us new resources that have enabled us to expand our activities, communicate more effectively,



President, continued on page 2

Gardening Adventures

By Sheryl Maxwell

Can you grow herbs on a windowsill? When is the best time to divide bulbs? Can rose gardens flourish in the Memphis area? How can I design a flower/herb garden around my patio? Is it possible to develop a garden in a small space?

As a fairly recent retiree from the University of Memphis, I finally have the time and energy to learn new things with gusto. Although we have a garden railroad (G scale) in our backyard, with lots of differing plants, I don't know much about which ones will do well in the shaded regions, what perennials will thrive in this climate, or how a crop of some vegetable can be incorporated within the already planted areas.

I googled "gardening" and discovered lots of information. But I work best with friends instructing me with an abundance of new ideas rather than reading stuff. So as the new membership chairperson of UMAR, I thought it might be adventuresome to start a GARDENING ADVENTURES group with former colleagues.

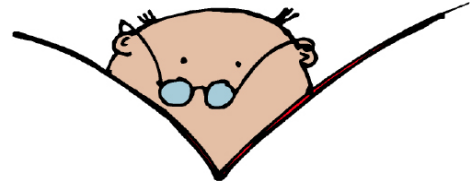
If you are interested in such a group, just e-mail me at smaxwell@memphis.edu. or call me at 755-2131. Depending on the people who are interested, we will have speakers (Bill Crump volunteered his services), even get our hands dirty, investigate gardens throughout the area, and meet at homes and/or locations as often as monthly, or as little as quarterly. We will design our activities at the various gatherings to satisfy our needs.

So, if you are curious about container gardening, windowsill gardening, bulbs 101, garden design basics, roses, irresistible irises, vegetable gardens, self-seeding annuals — to name just a few types of adventures — there is a place for you in this group. Here's hoping to hear from you soon.

President, continued from page 1

and focus on our goals. The most visible resource is Ryan Jones, our energetic staff person! Those attractive email flyers are created by Ryan, who assists us with our events. Our finances are stable, due to your membership fees and the assistance provided by the Alumni Association. Our most important resource continues to be our membership. Your presence, your ideas, your support make us thrive. Please keep in touch with us; we want to hear from you. Our email addresses are listed on the UMAR homepage under "Officers and Board Members."

Let's celebrate at the holiday luncheon on December 3!



UMAR Reads

It's hard to choose books for a book club. Everyone has his or her own reading preference. Nevertheless, the UMAR Book Club has led to some very interesting reading since its inception in September of 2009: (1) *Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance*, (2) *Persepolis*, (3) *The Lacuna* (4) *The Lady in the Tower: The Fall of Anne Boleyn*, (5) *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks*, (6) *The Help*, and (7) *American Lion: Andrew Jackson in the White House*. The group that gathers every other month to discuss the reading varies in number, but there is always a lively discussion. There has even been a member of the University of Tennessee Retirees Association in the group for the last three meetings.

The next Book Club selection is *Interstate 69: The Unfinished History of the Last Great American Highway*, by Matt Dellinger. Participants will meet as usual at Brother Junipers at 11:00 am to fortify themselves with either breakfast or lunch before the discussion begins. Since the planned I-69 is proving to be very controversial, each reader is encouraged to take a stand on the issues raised in the book. Is this interstate really needed? Is the expense--which will surely increase as time goes by--worth it to taxpayers? Should the interstate go over new ground or piggy-back on present highways? Will it bring life back to declining small towns? Will it bring jobs? Will it spoil wetlands and other ecologically important areas?

Digital or Paper?

At our last Book Club meeting, there were three people who had the book on electronic readers. All three were impressed with the features of their electronic versions and were comparing the different brands.

Several years ago there was a video going around the net that comically illustrated a Renaissance man trying to learn how to use a book. Those used to scrolls were probably as perplexed as he was by the "new" format. In fact, print once replaced the oral tradition, calling for another set of skills. Now we are on the brink of another change, and some of us are digging our heels in. Time will tell whether our Book Club goes digital. Stay tuned.

What: UMAR Book Club
Book: *Interstate 69* by Matt Dellinger
When: Tuesday, November 23
Where: Brother Juniper's Restaurant
Time: 11:00 am



Kansas City revisited

By Janell Rudolph

Change happens. Just ask any retiree. Looking back over remembered years, we often are filled with nostalgia, though most of us don't want to relive those years. We just wish we could hold onto our health to enjoy the present.

I recently revisited Kansas City, MO, after a 54-year absence. In 1955 it was a romantic place where I met the man who became my husband—in the fall of “Autumn Leaves.” We married there in December of 1956 but haven't been back. So when my daughter attended a conference there and invited me to go along, I eagerly accepted. I was looking forward to revisiting the sites my husband and I remembered.

But it was sad to walk the streets where we were then and see nothing left of those sites we cherished. I-35 now runs through the heart of Kansas City and a huge convention center stretches over it, abolishing all of the lovely old buildings we knew and occupied.

The photo above shows the city skyline as it looks today, from the viewpoint of the famous Indian Scout statue located in one of the city's beautiful parks. We made photos by that statue in '55 and '56, only then it wasn't on a high pedestal. Getting there then didn't seem to be a problem in my husband's car. Getting there now turned out to be an athletic feat. The driver that I hired to take me and my daughter there didn't know where it was, so we ended up climbing up the face of the hill—to discover a roadway at the top. After a couple of pictures, we directed the driver to the roadway.

Yet Kansas City is a beautiful city to visit today. There is still the Liberty Memorial, with its WWI Museum, overlooking the magnificent Union Station with a Science Museum addition inside. Public express buses—frequent, punctual and inexpensive—take passengers to major destinations. But as with most modern cities, it takes a car to explore the many parks and activities in outlying areas.

When explaining to the hotel concierge why I wanted to get to the scout statue, I choked on a sudden rush of tears. If I was saddened by the changes, I can imagine what the flesh and blood Indian scout would feel: he would probably shed a tear or two himself.

Rounding Cape Horn

By Mary Ellen Pitts

Why would anyone want to cruise around the tip of South America? I was still asking that on December 3, 2009, when, with a group of Grand Circle travelers, I landed in Buenos Aires, Argentina, just before dawn. It was early summer there, a little chilly at night but warm and pleasant in daytime. My first impression of the city was that everything was very European. We toured the city and ate enormous steaks and drank local wines.

Then we embarked on our cruise ship *Norwegian Sun*. The next morning we dock in Montevideo, the capital of Uruguay, on the estuary of the Rio de la Plata. For the next two days, we cruise the Atlantic, feeling the temperatures drop. We dock at Puerto Madryn on the eastern Patagonian coast and drive inland to see villages retaining the English-Scots culture of early settlers. After another day of cruising, we dock at the very British Port Stanley in the Falklands, the driest, most barren piece of earth I have ever seen.

Ushuaia, the next port, is “the city at the end of the world.” As we round Cape Horn, the area is shrouded with mist, fog, and rain, and we can barely make out the Cape. The seas are rough as Atlantic and Pacific meet. On the top deck, a “ceremony” is held at 4:00 p.m. I arrive just in time to be pushed to the front of the line, where I watch as the captain fills a bucket and douses the neck of a bent-over woman. The temperature outside is 36 degrees, and I walk backward to the door and head to the library.

The ship turns through the Straits of Magellan, where calm returns, but every time it moves into the Pacific, rough seas seem to attack. Once the wind hits the ship with enough force that cutlery and china fly from the serving station and hit the floor (the captain apologizes). Along the Chilean fjords, glaciers come down to the sea, and occasionally there is a tiny fishing area of bright green carved into the rocky Andes. As we move northward toward warmer weather, there are lovely unspoiled areas, especially Puerto Montt and the nearby Strawberry Plains and two towering volcanic mountains covered with snow in the background.



We cruise another day and finally dock in Valparaiso, then go by bus to Santiago, Chile's busy capital city surrounded by Andean foothills. We stop at a working farm with lemons the size of oranges and more beef, chicken, fish, veggies, and fruits. Bougainvillea and other flowers are everywhere on the farm, though the land is dry a few miles away.

The trip has been strange, remote, and exhilarating; I leave with the feeling that there are still many unspoiled areas in the world and that I have been to some of those rare spots.



Coffee & Conversation 2010

Retirees flock to the beautiful home of U of M President Raines home on Grandview each fall expecting a great time socializing with fellow retirees. They are always greeted personally by Dr. Shirley Raines and her husband, Dr. Robert Canaday, and they get more than coffee and conversation. Not only do they have a delicious breakfast buffet, but they get to also meet and hear the most recent recipient of the Willard R. Sparks Eminent Faculty Award, given annually to one faculty member who has made outstanding and sustained contributions to scholarly-creative activity, teaching, and service.

This year the honored guest was Dr. Erno Lindner, professor of Biomedical Engineering, who described his work on the development of a simple device for the early diagnosis of heart attacks, one of the most challenging situations faced by emergency physicians. He also spoke about his career, his family, and growing up in Hungary. He brought a book of poems written by his father which also included family photographs.



In addition to the breakfast, the speaker and the abundant conversation opportunities, the retirees present were entertained by Bill Phillips at the piano. Bill is retired faculty from the School of Business, department of Finance, Insurance, and Real Estate. His academic area was Insurance. He just lost his wife of many years this past summer. He is an avid fan of all kinds of music, as well as being musically trained, as those present heard.

As the pictures convey, retirees enjoyed seeing and talking with one another in the relaxed and cordial atmosphere provided by the president.



UMAR Events 2010-1011

- Oct. 26, 2010: "My Big Backyard" at the Botanic Gardens; lunch at Fratelli's Cafe
- Nov. 16, 2010: Downtown Historical Tour with June West; lunch at the Arcade
- Dec. 3, 2010: Annual Holiday Luncheon at campus Holiday Inn
- Dec. 8, 2010: POPs concert at Calvary Episcopal Church.
- January 2011: Winter Mix-n-Match--Stax Museum, Four Way Grill, LeMoyné-Owen
- Feb. 10, 2011: Valentine's Day Dinner & a play ("Midsummer's Night Dream")
- March, 2011: Calvary Lenten Series
- April 2011: U of M on-campus activity; lunch at the UC
- May 2011: Spring Picnic
- June 2011: Visit the National Ornamental Metal Museum; lunch on the bluff

Details of each event will be mailed to members prior to the event. Some events require payments and all require notification of attendance to Ryan Jones, Alumni Association representative (rjones1@memphis.edu).

Retirees 2009/2010

Akah, Sandra K. 10/27/2009
Anderson, Benoirise, 5/3/2010
Argall, Rebecca S., 8/31/2009
Ayers, Regina, 2/16/2010
Bates, Jerry-Allyn D., 11/4/2009
Bray, Charles W., 6/30/2010
Bunnell, Julia F., 10/27/2009
Cook, Gwendolyn W., 9/22/2009
Counts, Suzanne S., 7/31, 2009
Donnenwerth, Gregory V., 8/31/2009
Donnenwerth, Esther M., 1/5/2010
Folson, Leroy, 6/25/2010
Garrott, Katherine Elaine, 10/6/2009
Gray, Willie, 8/14/2009
Hammett, Marion B., 7/2/2010
Hawes, Kathryn S. 8/31, 2009
Hayes, Susan L., 5/19/2010
Hayes, Sharon L. 6/30/2010
Heller, Edith W., 11/9/2009
Hellums, James E., 6/30/2010
Hurley, Anne B., 10/9/2009
James, Thomas, 4/2/2010
Kendrick, Juanita M., 7/31/2010
Luttrell, Marjorie F., 6/30/2010
Mason, C. E., 3/19/2010
McPherson, Larry E., 8/31/2009
Miller, Virginia S., 6/4/2010
Montgomery, Harriet R., 6/29/2010
Powell, Regina B., 4/19/2010
Richardson, Mark G., 7/2/2010
Richardson, Mable R., 7/8/2010
Rubin, Rose M., 8/31/2009
Sorensen, Joseph E., 1/4/2010
Stoever, Margery Kathleen, 9/30/2009
Summers, Scarlett S., 6/30/2010
Sutton, Mable C., 10/7/2009
Thomson, Judith A., 7/31/2009
Williams, Walter F., 12/10/2009
Wong, Seok P., 8/31, 2009

UMAR News is a publication of the University of Memphis Retirees Association, published electronically twice a year on the UMAR website.

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Photos in this issue taken by U of M photographer Rhonda Cosentino, except photos provided by authors on page 3.

In Memoriam

Charles Allgood
Robert Chapman
John Eubanks Jr.
Barbara (Mrs. John) Katterjohn
Charles Long
George Minmier
Kell Mitchell Jr
William Osborne
Nadine (Mrs. Binford) Peeples

UMAR Executive Committee, 2010-2011

Officers

President: Susanne Darnell
President-Elect: Mary Ellen Pitts
Secretary: Janet Mitchell
Treasurer: David Ciscel

Members at Large, Faculty

Cecil Rousseau, 2010-2012
Bob Marchini, 2009-2011

Members at Large, Staff

Mary Haddock, 2010-2011
Ginny Reed, 2010-2012

Standing Committee Chairs

Heritage Room Liaison: Binford Peeples
Scholarship & Memorial: Bob Boone
Program: Bill Crump
Caring: Mary Haddock
Membership: Sheryl Maxwell
Newsletter: Janell Rudolph

Alumni Association Staff Liaison

Ryan Jones

The Executive Committee meets every second Tuesday morning each month



Executive Committee members (left to right) Sheryl Maxwell, Ginny Reed, and Mary Haddock



Treasurer David Ciscel and President-Elect Mary Ellen Pitts