

UMAR News Fall 2004

Newsletter of The University of Memphis Association of Retirees



UMAR Members “Do” Memphis

By Dot Arata

Memphis people, places and events have been the theme of this year’s UMAR programs. The season began with a “boffo” presentation by U of M music professor Dr. John Baur at the March 16 Coffee and Conversation meeting. Twenty-six retirees enjoyed selections from his opera, *The Promise*, which celebrates Dr. Martin Luther King. Dr. Baur and his soloists, Valetta Brinson and Allen Todd—both U of M doctoral students—earned a standing ovation. (See photos on page 2.)

An equally compelling event followed on April 13. U of M Professor David Appleby showed his film *Hoxie: The First Stand* in the new FedEx Theater. This very moving documentary recounts the tumultuous events that swirled around a small town in Arkansas that elected to integrate its schools in accordance with federal legislation.

On a totally different level, approximately 15 people visited the Memphis Zoo (and pandas) on May 11. Unfortunately, the cool weather deserted us just days before the outing. Several people commented how much the zoo had changed since their last visit and what a tribute it is to Memphis.

On June 15, we went to Elmwood Cemetery for a wonderful taste of Memphis history. Seventeen retirees enjoyed a very satisfying buffet breakfast the University Wilson Hotel. Two more persons joined us after breakfast for the driving tour to the historic Elmwood Cemetery. On arrival each car picked up a cassette or a CD and proceeded around the cemetery according to the recorded instructions.

The number thirteen turned out to be lucky in July. Thirteen members of UMAR assembled on July 13 at the Pyramid to see the Wonder’s Exhibit “Masters of Flo-

rence.” Approximately three hours later, the last of the group collected in the Grill for some nourishment. The exhibit was overwhelming in resurrecting the splendor of the Medici reign in Florence. One member of the group put it very succinctly in one word when he mouthed “WOW” midway through the exhibit.

The September 14 Coffee and Conversation featured Dr. Stanley Hyland in a discussion of the activities of the School of Urban Affairs and Public Policy.

Only two programs remain in the year’s lineup. On October 19, there will be a Campus tour featuring the U of M Art Gallery’s exhibit “Coming Home,” the FedEx Institute and the Heritage Room. On November 16 UMAR meets MATA in a Trolley Ride and guided tour of South Main Art District following lunch at Spaghetti Warehouse.

A special program featuring a gospel choir is in the works to coincide with Thanksgiving week. Invitations will soon be mailed to all retirees.

UMAR Makes Organizational Move

As an official University organization, UMAR is subject to organizational review and regulation. Consequently, UMAR was placed under the umbrella of the Alumni Association. That move, however, brought guidelines which were not suitable for UMAR, and UMAR representatives met with University administrators to effect a change. Consequently, UMAR has been moved back to its original home underneath the Advancement Division.

When Holly Smothers, who was with the Office of University Advancement, retired in March, Gwen Cook, from the same organizational division, became interim liaison. In June, Emily Jones, who is responsible for Alumni and Constituent Programs, began meeting as liaison with the UMAR Executive Board. Emily was an enthusiastic supporter of UMAR and the Board enjoyed working with her. However, when the organizational transition was made back to Advancement, Emily was replaced by another liaison—two in fact: Babs Feibelman and Everlena Smith. Babs and Everlena were introduced to the Board at its monthly meeting on October 12.



Babs Feibelman (left), Director of Principle Gifts, and Everlena Smith (right), Administrative Secretary in Advancement, are University liaisons with UMAR.

The second time around...

Bill Crump, UMAR President

Often times we find ourselves in the places that we least expected to ever be. Such is my situation. I retired on April 1, 1998 (April Fool's Day). I told my boss the date on which I planned to retire, but no one else knew. I was demoralized and bitter and vowed never to "set foot on campus again" with the exception of continuing to teach as an adjunct faculty member. A month after retirement I received a notice from the bursar that I owed the University over one thousand dollars due to an error made by the University in computing my annual leave. That was the "icing on the cake."

My good friend Bob Yates and I frequently went to lunch together and Bob often talked about the breakfast group that met once a month on the first Tuesday. He finally convinced me that I should attend. There I found

old friends with which to share many memories and learn about their life after retirement. That was the beginning of my involvement with what is now UMAR. I have served on the board for three years and am a volunteer on campus to lead the orientation tour for new employees. Now I am president of UMAR.

I hesitated to write this testimonial. However, I feel it important enough to perhaps convince others who may have had similar experiences that the folks in UMAR can help replace bitter memories with more positive campus experiences. Those of us who loved helping young people reach their educational goals are still here. Won't you consider becoming an active member of UMAR and share in the fun of being with old friends and serving the University?



Clock and Watch Experts to Review UMAR Old Timers

The UMAR Executive Committee met, as they usually do each month, on Tuesday, September 14, and discussed, as usual, a variety of items. One of these was a recommendation brought to the Committee by Les Pourciau, who happens also to be a member of the National Association of Watch and Clock Collectors and a member of the local King Cotton Chapter of the National Association.

At a meeting on Sunday afternoon, September 12, the King Cotton Chapter discussed possibilities for meeting programs for the year 2005. Les mentioned UMAR and the discussion led to a decision that a UMAR program for the spring of 2005 might entail UMAR members bringing to a UMAR meeting any antique watch or clock of their possession. Several King Cotton Chapter members would be in attendance and would review, identify the history of, evaluate, and suggest a monetary value for all watches and clocks brought to the meeting. Further, Les will present a photographic slide show of his personal antique clock collection as part of the UMAR meeting program. The UMAR Executive Committee was very positive in endorsing this proposal and approved of it.

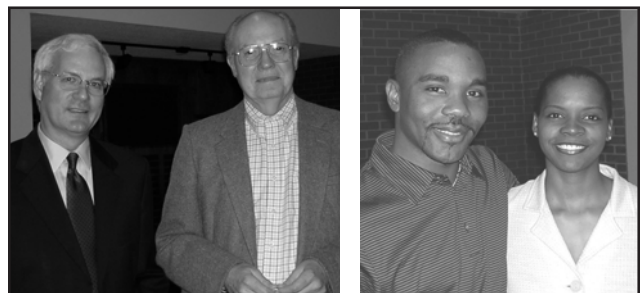
So, haul your antique watches and clocks out of the closet or attic and be prepared to have whatever you have assessed sometime next spring. UMAR members will be notified of the date, place and time later.

Junk is something you kept for years and throw away three weeks before you need it.

It's Official: The Heritage Room is a Special Collection

On Thursday, July 1, the Office of the Provost sent an e-mail to all faculty and staff announcing that responsibility for the administration of the Heritage Room, located in the old Brister Library, had been assigned to the Special Collections Department of the University Libraries. Mr. Ed Frank, Curator of Special Collections, located in McWherter Library, will be the primary person responsible for such administration. UMAR volunteers still serve as greeters and staff, and donations to the collection are still welcomed.

Many individuals and groups interested in the history of The University of Memphis have come to visit since the collection was opened in October 2003. The Heritage Room began its normal fall semester schedule at the beginning of the Fall semester, August 30. It will be open from 1:30 until 4 p.m. on Mondays and on Thursdays.



UMAR was privileged to hear early selections from *The Promise*, an opera by Dr. John W. Baur (shown at left with UMAR's Ray Lynch). Allen Todd and Valetta Brinson (right photo) performed as Martin Luther and Coretta Scott King. The opera will premier at the Germantown Performing Arts Center on October 22.



The UMAR Mailbox We Have Mail!

Louis Charles and Mary C. Stagg
5219 Mason Rd.
Memphis, TN 38117-2104
mlcshake@aol.com



Mary and I took three trips in the Spring. In April, we attended the South Central Renaissance Conference in Austin, Texas. Later in the month, Mary and I visited friends in St. Louis, where we went to the 200th anniversary exhibition of the Lewis and Clark Expedition at the History Museum. In May, we went to Portugal and Spain on our 13th consecutive European trip with Tauck World Discovery. In Portugal, we visited the metro area of Lisbon and the South Atlantic coast. In Spain, we visited Seville, Ronda, Marbella, Gibraltar, Granada, Cordoba, Almagro, Consuega (where Cervantes' Don Quixote may have fought windmills), Toledo and Madrid. The Royal Wedding of the Crown Prince and his true love took place later in the day we left to fly home, so we felt VERY SAFE because of all the special security for the wedding guests there.

Please send news about your current activities and interests to share with Association members. Include your name, former U of M department, address, phone, e-mail address, and, if you wish, a photo to Janell Rudolph, UMAR News Editor, 8952 E. Glandale Ct., Cordova, TN 38018 (nrudolph@memphis.edu). Letters may be edited to fit the space limitations.

Nominations Needed

It is that time of year for nominations for the 2004 Traces Award. As you undoubtedly remember, the Traces Awards were first given out in 2003. "The Traces Award is presented by the University of Memphis Association of Retirees to recognize U of M retirees for a life of outstanding service and scholarship and their continuing effort to provide service and scholarship." So, if you wish to nominate someone for the Award, send your nomination to Lester J. Pourciau, Jr., 4320 Sequoia Rd., Memphis, TN 38117, so that he will have it in hand no later than November 1, 2004. Les, Lasley Dameron, David Collins, and Janell Rudolph will serve as a committee to select the 2004 Award winner. If you prefer, you can e-mail a nomination to Les at Pourciau@memphis.edu.

Never be too open-minded. Your brains could fall out.

Memorial Scholarship Established

By Bob Boone

UMAR has been successful in establishing a memorial scholarship through the University of Memphis Foundation. This scholarship, which we hope will be awarded for the first time for the 2004 - 2005 school year, will be \$1000 in value. The recipient needs to be a full-time undergraduate student who has completed at least two years at the university with a cumulative grade point average of 3.5 or better. Priority will be given to dependents of UMAR members or dependents of current University of Memphis Faculty and Staff.

The greatest need right now is to fund both the 2004-05 scholarship award and to gather sufficient funding to eventually endow the scholarship. Your financial support is necessary to make this award an ongoing reality for deserving students attending the university. Please send any donations by check made payable to "The University of Memphis Foundation," indicating in the memo section of the check and/or enclose with the check a note that the donation is for the UMAR Memorial Scholarship Fund, Account #279.

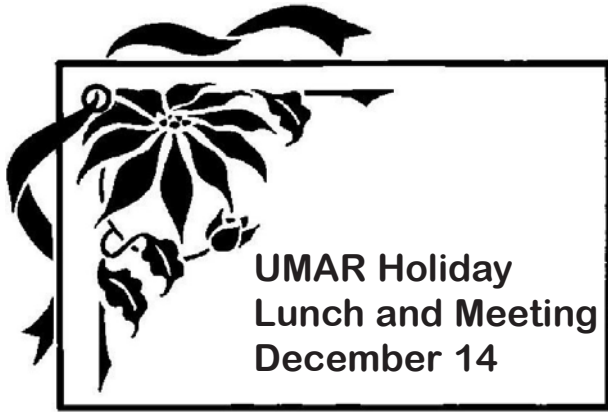
Checks should be mailed to:

The University of Memphis Foundation
633 Normal
Memphis, TN 38152
ATTN: Becky McCoy, Scholarship Coordinator

If you wish to designate the gift as a memorial, please enclose information (next of kin, etc.) giving the name and address where you would like to have an acknowledgment sent.



Bill Crump, current president, and David Collins, past president, and other members of the University of Memphis Retirees Association (UMAR) invite all University retirees to become UMAR members in 2005.



Mark your calendars NOW to attend the annual UMAR Holiday Lunch and Meeting. The luncheon will be held at the University of Memphis Holiday Inn on Tuesday, December 14, 2004. More details and price will be forthcoming.

As you are making plans to attend, consider also renewing your membership and making a special donation to the recently-established University Association of Retirees' Scholarship Fund.

I always know God won't give me more than I can handle, but there are times I wish He didn't trust me quite so much.

In Memoriam

Katherine "Kitty" Smith Akins 8/04
James Franklin Anthony 5/04
Bobbie Jean Balfour 4/04
Raimelle Carter 5/04
Marvin K.L. Ching 9/04
Amy Beth Cohen 4/04
Woodrow Flanary 8/04
Bill Gutzke 4/04
Lois MacDougall McKenna Hawks 4/04
Melba F. Hippel 9/04
Norman O. Lee 6/04
Oscar Lee McNeil 6/04
John Paul Moore 4/04
Donald Lee O'Dell 4/04
Sandra Boldreghini Pruet 5/04
Paul Ridgeway, Jr. 7/04
James Thompson 5/04
Thomas W. Tullos 11/03
Bruce Turner 7/04
Mary Margaret Weddington 9/04
Heber H. "Buddy" Williams 3/04
Pearline Saine Williamson 4/04



UMAR
635 Normal Street
The University of Memphis
Memphis, TN 38152
267200

Ever growing, ever learning ~

Non-profit organization
U.S. postage paid
Memphis, Tennessee
Permit n. 207