

UMAR News Summer 2007

Newsletter of The University of Memphis Association of Retirees



Lasley Dameron congratulates Bill Crump

UMAR Traces Award: A history and call for 2007

Bill Crump was active in UMAR (formerly the Emeriti Club) before there was a Traces Award. He remembers how it began:

“Several years ago near the end of the annual business meeting, Les Pourciau made rather impromptu remarks about the continuing scholarly achievements of Lasley Dameron, who had been retired some time and had recently been elected as president of the Poe Society. It was a much appreciated recognition of one of our own members. At subsequent board meetings, there was a discussion of the need to recognize those retirees who continue to lead quite productive lives. Someone mentioned that they were “remaining in the traces,” a term that denotes continuing to work.

Thus, the Traces Award was born. Mary Mueller, a local watercolorist, was commis-

Bill Crump receives 2006 Traces Award

The fifth Traces Award was presented to Bill Crump at the 2006 Holiday Luncheon. On hand to congratulate Bill was the first recipient of the award, Lasley Dameron, who received the award in 2002. It was the continuing scholarship of Dr. Dameron that initiated the award.

Bill has served UMAR in the past as president and has been the Chair of the Program Committee for the last two years. Dot Arata, the 2005 recipient of the award, was among those who nominated Bill for the 2006 award. She writes:

“Dr. Crump is not only a consummate professional but he has pursued a variety of interests both before and after his retirement from the University of Memphis. He continues in the pursuit of his discipline by teaching courses in scientific methodology and ecology part time. His expertise in biology continues to his home environment, growing exotic orchids in his own greenhouse. His interests and talents extend beyond the sciences into the humanities. Bill is an avid and eclectic reader, an active participant in the Scottish Society (having served as President), a founder and performer in the “Bill Crump Singers” (a traveling choir serving the community), and is a talented and practicing painter in watercolors. Dr. William Crump is a rare species in these times—a “Renaissance Man”—and is highly deserving of this award.”

sioned to do a watercolor depicting the idea. She chose to paint a single plowman working behind a mule.

Each year a call for nominations is issued by September and the previous recipients of the award form the committee to select a new recipient for that year. Annual recipients have been Lasley Dameron (2002), Les Pourciau (2003), Doug Mayo (2004), Dot Arata (2005), and Bill Crump (2006).”

Nominations for the 2007 Traces Award should be sent to the Chairman of the Selection Committee, G. Douglas Mayo, 3148 Homewood Drive, Memphis, TN 38128. The nominations should be received by October 15, 2007.

Healthcare Forum

Members of UMAR are planning a day-long forum, **Healthcare Challenges for Retirees**, to be held on campus early in October. Topics will include (1) The Economics of Senior Healthcare, (2) Negotiating the Prescription Drug Maze, (3) Ensuring Adequate Care—The Need for an Advocate, and (4) Alternatives for Long-Term Care. An expert from the University faculty or a healthcare professional will share insights on each topic. After each presentation, there will be an informal question-and-answer session. Representatives from companies offering long-term care policies will be available to discuss individual questions. Sessions are scheduled for 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m., with a break for a Dutch-treat lunch in the University Center. Afternoon sessions will begin at 1:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. The event will be offered free of charge, with advance registration required to help us plan the sessions.

Please watch the UMAR website for further information. If you would like to suggest a topic for consideration or a question of interest to the audience, please contact Dr. M. E. Pitts, <drpme@netzero.com>.

An Evening at the Theater



*Agnes Stark gives insight to
Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*

On February 15, merry members of UMAR and their guests dined at La Tourelle and walked across the street to Playhouse on the Square to see *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, thanks to Program Chair Bill Crump, who arranged the special valentine treat at a bargain price. The owner of La Tourelle, Glenn Hays, who

retired last year after 36 years as track coach at the University of Memphis, welcomed the group to the restaurant. After all appetites were sated, Agnes Stark prepared the group intellectually for the play.

UMAR members enjoy Spring Mix & Match

By Butch Alford

Our annual Mix and Match outing on March 20 brought out about two dozen retirees who began with a tour of Bridges downtown, moved on to Calvary Church for a Lenten service and lunch and then concluded at the Gibson Guitar Factory.

Bridges, located at 477 N. Fifth St. near St. Jude Children's Research Hospital since 2004, was established in 1922 to provide experiential, hands-on learning for youths and adults to be leaders in facing racism, poverty and educational challenges. As our guided tour progressed through the environmentally friendly building, our guide, Lisa Willis, commented on the many programs available to local and area residents as she pointed out the unique facilities within the unusual building. For more information, check out their web site: www.bridgesusa.org.

Our next stop was at Calvary Episcopal Church at 102 N. Second St. where we gathered to hear speaker Rabbi Micah Greenstein before enjoying a delicious Lenten lunch. Senior Rabbi of Temple Israel in Memphis, Greenstein discussed First Century Judaism using the parable of the Good Samaritan. He also commented about the Jewish-Christian harmony that exists in Memphis.

Following lunch, a large number of our group headed to the Gibson Guitar Factory (www.gibson.com) near Second and Beale. The company, in addition to Memphis, has manufacturing facilities in Nashville and Bozeman, Montana. The local operation produces electric, Les Paul and 12- and 16-string models. The most well-known guitar built in our city is the BB King Lucille instrument.

A Night at the Opera



*Bill Crump begins the musical entertainment
after dinner at the Holiday Inn*

On April 13, UMAR went to the opera. After dinner at the campus Holiday Inn, the group walked across the street to the Harris Auditorium for an evening of fun with *Die Fledermaus*, performed by the very capable students and faculty of the U of M Music Department. Because the opera was in English, the audience could readily enjoy the many comedy antics on stage and the surprise appearances of President Raines and R.C. Johnson dancing with their spouses at the ball.

Between dinner and the start of the opera, the group attended a lecture about the opera by musicologist Dr. Janet Page.



*Joanne and Jim Lippy, Mary Ellen Pitts, and
David and Kay Collins were among the
UMAR attendees enjoying the opera.*

While the world hungers for knowledge of how to build, raise food, and effectively organize society, we turn our minds out to graze: to retirement. In many fields the years from sixty on are the richest in skill, perspective, concern and wisdom. We are shocked by a businessman who wastes capital or a farmer who lets topsoil wash away; why are we less concerned with the waste of our human capital, our most valuable resource?

--from *A Handmade Life* by William S. Coperthwaite.

Retirees enjoy leisure time for travel, tell of recent trips

David Cisel visited the Biltmore Estate in NC



It's just a 10 hour drive along I40 and you arrive in Asheville, North Carolina. It is a beautiful small city nestled in the rolling hills of Smoky Mountains.

There are a lot of reasons to visit Asheville—from hiking to golf to arts and crafts. But my favorite place to visit is the Biltmore Estate.

Originally built in the late 19th century (1895) as a 250 room retreat for George Vanderbilt, the estate today offers many experiences for the educated tourist. The home—it's actually a castle—is very exciting to tour. Four floors are open to the public as a self guided tour. If you are interested in construction, the floors, walls and ceilings are easy to inspect. You travel through several bathrooms, so you can inspect the appliances of the wealthy in the 19th century. The top floor and the basement are devoted to the lives of the dozens of servants that it took to keep the estate operating. The storage rooms, the kitchens and the laundries are all open. In the Vanderbilt's living quarters be ready for opulent furnishings, from beds fit for a queen to dark mahogany gaming and library rooms. There is art everywhere, particularly French and American impressionists. There are many Sargent's scattered through the house (John Singer Sargent was close to the family), though I prefer the occasional Renoir in the second floor bedrooms.

After all that walking—two hours minimum to get through the house—it is time to eat. The informal restaurant in the attached carriage house is my favorite, but there are several others on the property including an outside bistro at the winery (4 miles from the castle). After lunch is over, it is time to walk. The gardens, in summer or winter, are wonderful. There are paths in every direction. The gardens and the forests surrounding the 8,000 acre estate were all designed by Frederick Law Olmstead. The variety of trees, shrubs and flowers is incredible. There is a huge greenhouse within a 15 minute walk of the castle.

If you still have time or if you decide to come back for a second day, don't forget the winery and the farm. The reds (mostly produced from local grapes) have been improving dramatically over the years. I think they can match anything from California in the under \$20 price range. The estate also has a beautiful Inn for those whose investments survived the market crash of 2001. There are also numerous brand-name motels and some great bed and breakfasts near the estate.

There are many good restaurants in Asheville – our

favorites are the Savoy and Battery Park Bistro. Unless you decide to settle, it is time to head back to Memphis. Instead of battling I40 again through the mountains, try I26 north and US70 to Newport, TN, following the French Broad River.

Edward & Eunice Ordman travel far at home

We feel very strongly that it is time Americans cannot afford to be ignorant about Islam and cannot afford to treat Muslims as strangers and outsiders in the United States. We have to learn to treat our neighborhood Mosque and its members like the neighborhood synagogue or a church of a different denomination.

We have started attending occasional functions at the Mosque at 1065 Stratford Rd (between Covington Pike and Summer). We've been warmly welcomed, they are happy to answer questions, and some of them have come with us to Temple Israel. They have an active interfaith committee to work with churches.

As an example of what you might not expect: one time when we attended, they showed a movie about the maltreatment of Palestinians—but it was a movie made by an Israeli peace group. The message was twofold: Palestinians are having a rough time, and there are Jews and Israelis who care about that problem.

As Eunice and I know from our travels, one can make good friends even in what at first may look like very strange places. The trick is to go there, look, and listen. Anyone care to join us?

Janell Rudolph toured Greece by land and sea

In March, I joined a tour operated by NAWAS International to explore the history and culture of Greece from ancient times to the present, though the focus of the trip was the journeys of Paul in the days of the early Christian church. There were two other U of M retirees in this group of 38 travelers: Charlene Allen and Vivian Murchison.

We toured by bus from Athens and Corinth in the south up through the mountains of Delphi and Kalambaka to Thessaloniki, Phillipi and Kavala in the north. We spent three nights on the Aegean Sea, sailing on the Sea Diamond (which sank two weeks later off the coast of Santorini) to Mykonos, Rhodes, Patmos and Kusadasi, Turkey. On the land portion our guide was a professor of archaeology in Boston who is a native of Greece and who provided more information than I can remember. At each port, we were met by buses with informative local guides. My favorite places were Rhodes and the cliff-top monasteries in Meteora.





Delano Black

The President's Report

The spring of 2007 has been an exciting time as new board members elected by you at the December annual meeting have developed their particular areas of responsibilities with enthusiasm. I

am grateful to each of them and to you, the members, for your continued support as we try new ideas. I will not detail each of the specific developments, since they are cited elsewhere in the newsletter.

Accolades go to Bill Crump, who has done an outstanding job in coming up with interesting and varied programs each month. Mary Ellen Pitts has developed a forum on health care challenges for retirees that will feature outstanding speakers in October. Butch Alford and Tom Caplinger have redesigned the recruitment brochure for this year. I hope it moves many of you to join UMAR, if you are not already a member, and others to make additional donations. Our new website is a *piece de resistance*. Bravo to Rita Richardson, Janell Rudolph, and Bill Crump for this accomplishment. The web address is www.memphis.edu/umar. Give it a look and check out the links on the site.

In December I sent a questionnaire to 175 of you, and fifty responded. I asked about activities you had been engaged in since retirement and what programs, services, or activities might entice to get involved with UMAR. There were many good suggestions, and the Executive Board has been discussing them.

The form asked about the activities that would be of most interest to you. These were a daytrip to Oxford, MS, or Little Rock, AR (26 out of the fifty respondents), a visit to St. Jude Children's Hospital and Research areas (25/50), dinner and theater evenings (24/50), a three or four day trip to Chicago, IL or New Orleans LA (20/50), and an all day seminar (thematic discussion) (9/50).

Another area dealt with specific buildings or laboratories on campus you would like to visit. These were the Fed-Ex Technology Building (24/50), laboratories such as genome sequencing or artificial intelligence (23/50), the Heritage Room in Brister Hall (17/50), Brister Student Services (15/50), McWherter Library (12/50), and Recreation/Fitness Facilities (11/50).

During the summer, the Board will make every effort to contact those of you who responded. In either the summer or early fall, separate tours will be scheduled for each location.

Thank you for enduring this somewhat lengthy semi-annual report. I expect that we all will become better informed by attending these UMAR events. Please contact me if you have suggestions or questions about any of these events.



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