

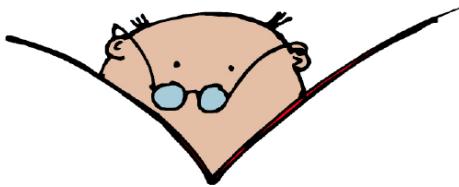
# UMAR NEWS

Fall 2009

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

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## UMAR Reads by Bill Crump

So when you were working, you said, "When I retire, I will have time to read." Well, it's time to read.

UMAR has launched a book discussion group that will meet for brunch and "book talk" every two months at Brother Juniper's. Our first meeting was September 22 and we discussed *Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance* by Robert Pirsig. The group there decided the book to read for the next meeting will be a graphic novel, *Persepolis*, by Iranian author Marjane Satrapi since that is the book that the University students are reading this year.

So get a copy\* and start reading. Then come to Brother Juniper's on November 24th to enjoy fellowship and discussion and recommend future readings.

\*\$24.95 retail. Get 20% off with your UMAR membership card when you buy a copy at the Tiger Bookstore.

## A New Year for UMAR by Susanne Darnell

UMAR has a new relationship to the university. On July 1, 2009, UMAR became a constituent organization of the Alumni Association. After careful deliberation during the past year, the Executive Committee voted to take this step.

The consensus now is that it was a good decision. We have the freedom to make our plans and carry out our activities, but with new support from the Alumni Association. The resources of the Alumni Association have enabled us to communicate with you more effectively. Our website [www.memphis.edu/alumni/clubs/umar.php](http://www.memphis.edu/alumni/clubs/umar.php) is one example. Our new membership brochure is another. Because of this relationship, a UMAR member now enjoys all the benefits of Alumni Association membership, listed at [www.memphis.edu/alumni/benefits/index.php](http://www.memphis.edu/alumni/benefits/index.php). Ryan Jones, our Alumni Association representative, has been extremely helpful to us. Finally, the best outcome is that with added support the Executive Committee has been able to focus better on goals and activities.

It is a pleasure for me, as your 2009-2010 president, to serve with colleagues I have known over the years. The UMAR Executive Committee, elected at our annual holiday lunch meeting, is working toward four goals this year:

- Increase membership
- Use financial resources well
- Support the university through volunteer activities
- Engage with the university

Our membership is growing. Retirement is good; we are enjoying it together. We have had a wine dinner at

Marciano's, the Coffee and Conversation event at the President's home with a presentation by Dr. Robyn Cox, and a new book discussion group that meets at Brother Juniper's. A preview of events for the next few months is at [www.memphis.edu/alumni/pdfs/umar/umarcalendar](http://www.memphis.edu/alumni/pdfs/umar/umarcalendar). Check that site and make notes on your calendar. Our email database is improving; we want to keep in touch and keep retirees informed about what we are doing.

We hope to manage our financial resources well. This year we are especially interested in working toward fully endowing our UMAR scholarship fund for dependents of university faculty and staff. The fund was set up in 2004; this year's recipient will be the fifth. Read about the students who have received scholarships at [www.memphis.edu/alumni/pdfs/umar/umarscholarshipistory](http://www.memphis.edu/alumni/pdfs/umar/umarscholarshipistory).

At the invitation of Provost Faudree, nine UMAR members worked as volunteers, assisting with fall registration. Being with students, former colleagues, and learning about new procedures and policies was a good experience. We expect to host displays of faculty productions during Faculty Scholarship Week and to sponsor a retirement seminar in the spring.

Participation in university theater and music events is always a pleasure for UMAR members. This year we are planning occasions to experience the new university student center and the School of Law in its historic downtown building. David Ciscel is our liaison with the Faculty Senate; Jim Lippy is our liaison with the Staff Senate.

The University of Memphis is moving forward in many ways. UMAR wants to keep informed about new policies and

*Continued on page 2*

## Hearing research topic at Fall Coffee and Conversation

Those attending the 2009 Fall Coffee and Conversation on September 8 were all ears, even as they were enjoying the brunch items provided at the President's home. Not only did they have the usual convivial round table discussions, but they had soothing music in the background by a U of M student guitarist.

To begin the more formal conversation of the morning, President Raines welcomed everyone, thanking UMAR members for their continuing support. Then she introduced Alumni Director Tammy Hedges and UMAR President Susanne Darnell, who in turn introduced the guest speaker and recipient of the 2009 Eminent Faculty Award, Dr. Robyn Cox, Director of the Hearing Aid Research Laboratory at the U of M.

The focus of Dr. Cox's research is on improving methods of fitting hearing aids in older adults, a topic of much interest for the retirees. Hearing loss, she said, is the third most prevalent condition among older people.



Dr. Robyn Cox, Director of the Hearing Aid Research Laboratory and recipient of the 2009 Eminent Faculty Award, addresses UMAR.

She explained how the ear works to transmit sounds and how technology is improving hearing aids. Even with improvement, hearing aids still take a period of adjustment: they are not like getting glasses which instantly improve eyesight. People with hearing loss need to see a hearing professional early, get proper testing, select the device that works best for them, improve their listening skills and allow six months to a year to work with the specialist for the best results.

After her talk, Dr. Cox answered several questions from the audience. In summary, Dr. Cox suggested persons with hearing loss talk with several professionals and select someone they feel they can work with, listen to options, and be patient.



President Raines and her husband, Dr. Canaday, open their home for the UMAR Fall Coffee and Conversation.

## Upcoming Events

**October 3, Downtown Fall Mix and Match:** Tour of the U.S. Coast Guard Station on the Mississippi River, lunch at Pearl's Oyster House on S. Main, and a tour of Bosco's Brewing Facility on S. Main

**October 23, Storyteller Donald Davis:** Dinner at Jarrett's then to Balmoral Presbyterian to hear Davis

**November 12, Pink Palace & Women's Exchange:** A behind the scenes tour at the Pink Palace Museum featuring the restoration of their famous Miniature Circus Exhibit; then travel to the Woman's Exchange for lunch and tour.

**November 24, Book Club:** Discussion of *Persepolis* after brunch at Brother Juniper's

**December 1, Holiday Luncheon:** The UMAR Holiday Luncheon will be held at the campus Holiday Inn on Dec. 1 at noon. As usual, we will have grand food and a grand time. You will have time before the luncheon to browse the items in our annual silent auction. At 10:00 a.m., we will have a program that focuses on current activities that involve students in campus activities, internships, community activities, and travel. As always, members will get more details in the mail.

**Every Month:** 1st Tuesday, Breakfast at Shoneys; 2nd Tuesday, Executive Council at the Alumni Center; 3rd Tuesday, Dot's Lunch Bunch at various area restaurants.



## A New Year (continued)

programs such as new student retention efforts. We are glad that 3,698 degrees were awarded last year and that enrollment reached 21,511 this fall. At our December holiday luncheon, the program preceding lunch will focus on new developments in the area of student life at the university.

In UMAR we are enjoying retirement and celebrating the successes of the university from our vantage point as retirees. We hope you will join us.

# Travelers



Charles and Mary Stagg have become seasoned world travelers. This is a summary of their 2009 trip.

## From Bucharest to Budapest

by Charles Stagg

Summer 2009 included international tour #18 for us with Tauck World Discovery, a riverboat cruise/tour on the Danube into five Eastern European countries: Romania, Bulgaria, Serbia, Croatia, and Hungary. Mary and I do one major trip per year. We particularly like Tauck's riverboat cruise/tours because almost all meals are provided, all tips to involved guides are included, we are treated royally, there are shore excursions almost every day, and we are met at the airport when we arrive and taken to the airport when we leave, at no extra charge.

This tour began in Bucharest. We explored many aspects of Romania, including numerous significant places in the city, the Black Sea coast at Constanta, which was called Tomis when it was a Roman colony settled in the 6th century BC, and Snagov monastery (built 1519) on an island north of Bucharest where Vlad the Impaler, who was the model for Dracula, is buried in front of the altar in the chapel.

After two nights in our hotel, we boarded our riverboat, the MS Swiss Sapphire, for the seven-night cruise/tour along the Danube. We experienced folk music and dancing, brought to us on our boat by native musicians and dancers from Bulgaria and Serbia, with yet a third group presenting Hungarian music and dance for us in Budapest at our farewell dinner.

We had excellent local guides and coach drivers in each of the five countries visited—people who lived there, who spoke excellent English, and who were very happy to have us there. Two of this year's Tauck Tour leaders were from the areas visited: Yener from Romania, and Glorija from Serbia, she now a US citizen living in Nashville, TN. Yener, while he was a college student, had personally experienced the events surrounding Ceausescu's downfall, and Glorija at age 12 left Serbia with her family to escape the Serbo-Croatian wars, going first to Berlin and then to the US. Both made brief talks about their adventures.

We had meals in restaurants in four of the five countries. In Bulgaria we visited a family for lunch at, as Americans would say, a bed and breakfast inn, with grapevines growing above and near the patio porch where our group ate an excellent typical Bulgarian lunch, accompanied by wine from the grapes.

In Serbia we explored Belgrade and toured the museum grounds and gardens which include Tito's tomb. Devastation hit

the area formerly called Yugoslavia when Tito died and people in its various parts quickly declared war on each other. Some of the damaged buildings have been restored, but about half not yet. Various countries, including the US, are helping fund some of the rebuilding.

Shortly after entering Hungary, we had a short excursion to Kalocsa, where we visited a paprika museum and saw paprika peppers drying. Nearby was one of the really notable libraries of Europe, with 200,000-300,000 volumes in seven different languages, in a building ordered and planned by a bishop, just across the courtyard from his very fine church. We could take pictures of the church, inside and out, but photographs inside the library were not allowed. After exploring a merchant's home that had been there for many, many years, we left Kalocsa for a horse farm where we were served snacks and drinks and had our pictures taken by some of the horsemen. Then we were treated to a horse show by the famed Great Horsemen of the Plains. Rodeos have nothing on this show. Then we were taken by horse-drawn wagons to our riverboat waiting for us in Solt.

We disembarked in Budapest the next morning to explore the city during the day and then to claim our rooms in Le Meridien Hotel for the last two nights. It was near the center of town, with a nice park separating it from a shopping area and St. Stephen's Cathedral, where we attended a service in 100% Hungarian. We toured the towering hilly Buda section of the city that afternoon, including St. Matthias Church and a spectacular view, from the Fisherman's Bastion, of the lower city of Pest across the river. In Pest we had a detailed tour of the Opera House and a visit to the historic (1890's) Central Market Hall. On the way to the airport the next morning, we drove by the largest Jewish synagogue in that part of Europe, currently being partially renovated.

An excellent trip, a fine riverboat for the Danube cruise, excellent shore excursions each day, and a wonderful tour company to work with. We're already considering where trip #19 will take us.

## Share your travel adventures, tips

Many retirees enjoy travel now that they have the time to spare. And most of us enjoy armchair travel—it's easier and certainly less expensive. So please send us your travel memoirs, with photos if possible, so we can share the experience. Send articles, photos and any travel-related items to me, Janell Rudolph at [nrudolph@memphis.edu](mailto:nrudolph@memphis.edu).

If your travel is somewhere we've been, we can relive our own experience; if it is somewhere we haven't been, we might be inspired to go there too. It doesn't have to be exotic, international, or expensive. We love to find out how to travel cheaper and better, too, so if you have travel tips that will save money or otherwise enhance our experience, please share those too.

One of the best trips I've had this year was to Biltmore, inspired by David Ciscel's article last year. My daughter and I stayed at the Inn on Biltmore Estate and paid dearly for the convenience. Though I got a package from their website, it would have been less expensive to stay in a hotel in the area and buy tickets for a tour of the house online in advance. But if I could go again and could afford it, I'd stay on the estate again. I love living like the Vanderbilts.

## Funding for the UMAR Scholarship

by Susanne Darnell

The UMAR Scholarship for dependents of current and retired faculty and staff was established in 2004. It has been awarded each year since that date. The fifth recipient of the scholarship will be selected in November, and those present at the December holiday luncheon will have the pleasure of meeting another outstanding student related to a faculty or staff person. Bios and photos of past recipients and other information may be found at [www.memphis.edu/alumni/clubs/umar\\_scholarship.php](http://www.memphis.edu/alumni/clubs/umar_scholarship.php). Bob Boone is chairperson of the scholarship committee.

The scholarship was established in memory of former members of UMAR. Upon the death of a former UMAR member, a sum of \$25 is contributed to the scholarship fund from the UMAR treasury. During the 2008-2009 fiscal year, funds were dedicated to the scholarship in memory of the following persons: Pierre Secher, Carole Purtle, Morris Klass, Robert Anderson, Kathryn Shockley, Sophia Brotherton, Clarence Hampton, June Riley, Bert Nothern, and Fred Bellot.

Many faculty and staff, as well as friends, have chosen to make donations to the scholarship. Gifts are often made to honor or memorialize university personnel, while numerous individuals also make annual or even monthly contributions. A total of \$8,865 was received from individuals during 2008-2009. Donors are listed below:

Dr Dot Arata  
Drs Delano and Lynette Black  
Mr. P. Robert Boone  
Mr Al Brown  
Dr thomas Caplinger  
Dr David Ciscel  
Mr David A Collins  
Dr William G. Crump  
Dr Susanne Benson Darnell  
Dr Robert W Deininger  
Dr and Mrs H. James Dorman  
Dr Frank M. Dyer Jr.  
Dr. J. Rex Enoch  
Ms Julia E. Hall  
Mr Clarence O. Hampton  
Jim and Ann Harbor  
Mrs Iris M. LaGrone  
Jim and Joanne Lippy  
Dr and Mrs. G. Doublas Mayo Sr  
Mr. Bergen S. Merrill Jr  
Dr Sam B. Morgan  
Dr and Mrs James K. Muskelley  
Dr Edward T. Ordman  
Drs Michael and Suzanne Osborn  
Miss Martha R. Patton  
Dr Basil Ratiu  
Mrs N. Janell Rudolph  
Dr and Mrs. H. Pierre Secher  
Mrs Dona S. Sparger  
Dr and Mrs Louis Charles Staggs  
Dr M. Joan Weatherly  
Ms Joyce Wiuff  
Mr. Robert W. Yates

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## *In Memoriam*

Fred Bellot  
Sophia Brotherton  
Kenneth Burns  
Ellen Dixon  
Clarence Hampton  
Carol Holley  
Sajjad Mahmood  
Bert Nothern  
Ed Orio  
Clifton Qualls  
June Riley  
Kathryn Shockley  
Eugene Bert Siegel  
Daisy Taylor  
Barbara Townsend



Susanne Darnell and Janell Rudolph take hard hat tour of unfinished University Center

## UMAR members get alumni perks

by Janell Rudolph

Being affiliated with the Alumni Association has its perks. One of them was getting invited to the Alumni Vision Forum at the FedEx Institute on August 22.

The event began with a continental breakfast. Then we moved into “The Zone” to hear Coach Josh Pastner, President Shirley Raines, and Tammy Hedges, Executive Director of the Alumni Association, and others bring us up to date on what’s happening on campus. After the presentations, American Idol contestant Alexis Grace sang “Walking in Memphis.” Then lunch—all free.

We were welcomed to the event by several student ambassadors who met us at the door with a smile and handshake. Susanne and I even joined the hard hat tour of the new University Center. It was good to be on campus again.

We were reminded that members of UMAR are entitled to all the benefits of Alumni membership. In fact, if you are a member, you should have received a membership card in the mail. You can use that card for national, Memphis-Area, and campus discounts. Those discounts are listed on the Alumni Association website: [memphis.edu/alumni/benefits](http://memphis.edu/alumni/benefits).

## Retirees 2008-2009

Mrs Jan R Acuff, Audio, Sp Lang Path  
Mr Thomas E Anderson Jr, PP Landscape  
Ms Beverly G Anthony, ICL  
Ms Rebecca S Argall, English  
Mr James J Aschberger, Chemistry  
Ms Valerie J Barnett Williams, Grad Admission  
Ms Nancy G Barron, Law  
Mr Cubert Bell Sr, Chucalissa  
Mrs Alberta Bell, VP Business & Finance  
Ms Evelyn J Benson, PP Custodial  
Ms Vivian C Bradley, Architecture  
Mr Eddie F Brasfield, PP HVAC  
Mr Foster Bunday, Lib Collection Mgmt  
Ms Lillie M Clinton, PP Custodial  
Mr Charles E Curtis, Univ. Admin. App Svcs.  
Dr Gregory V Donnenwerth, Sociology  
Ms Alberta Echols, PP Custodial  
Mr Ian M Edward, Lib Collection Mgmt  
Mrs June F Entman, Law  
Mrs Lisa B Fakhr El Din, Arts & Sciences  
Mr Gary D Fortner, Employee Safety & Health  
Mr Loyce Frazier II, PP Supply  
Ms Patricia B Fullwood, Audio, Sp Lang Path  
Mrs Deanna T Gillespie, Residence Life  
Mrs Brenda J Gilmore, Client Support Svcs  
Mr Willie Gray, PP Custodial  
Ms Mary E Haddock, Arts & Sciences  
Mr Edward L Hale, PP Custodial  
Ms Carolyn A Hamblin, Biology  
Dr Michael H Hamrick Sr, Education  
Mr Charley B Harvey, Mail Services  
Dr Kathryn S Hawes, Undergrad Programs  
Mr Thomas E Henderson, University Center  
Mr Horace Hill, PP Custodial  
Ms Gloria Hobson, PP Custodial  
Mrs Carol A Hughes, Teacher Education  
Mr Russell L Hunt, PP Landscape  
Ms Carol E Ingram, Financial Aid Operations  
Ms Ceola Isom, PP Custodial  
Ms Rose M Jefferson, PP Custodial  
Mr Ross M Johnson, Lib Learning Commons  
Mrs R C Johnson, PP Custodial Services  
Patrick H Jones, PP Custodial Services  
Mr James C Jones, Mail Services  
Ms Gloria J Jones, Financial Aid Operations  
Ms Suzanne K Kidder, Coun Ed Psych Res  
Mrs Deborah Kitchens, Air Force ROTC  
Dr Phillip T Kolbe, FIRE  
Ms Sherrol A Lawson, Registrar Office  
Mr Charles Lee, VP Business & Finance  
Ms Jean A Lomax, Custodial Serv. Res. Life  
Ms Betty J Loyd, Custodial Serv. Res. Life  
Dr Harry Mahood, Political Science

Dr Ramona Mahood, ICL  
Ms Annie P Marshall, PP Custodial  
Ms Eva M Mason, PP Custodial  
Mrs Sheryl A Maxwell, ICL  
Ms Ruth M McCormick, Law  
Mr Larry E McPherson, Art  
Mr Stephen L Means, Police Services  
Mr George D Mickle Jr, Tennessee Energy Inst.  
Mr Samuel L Midgett, PP Custodial  
Ms Berneta F Miles, Law  
Ms Faye V Miller, Payroll Office  
Mrs Daisy M Milton, PP Custodial  
Mrs Janet B Mitchell, Office of the President  
Mr James E Montague, Lib Spec. Collections  
Mrs Lynda G Morgan, Libraries Cataloging  
Mr Andrew J Morgret, Accountancy  
Mrs Brenda K Morris, Human Resources  
Mr Cam V Nguyen, PP HVAC  
Ms Hazel D Osby, PP Custodial  
Dr Pamela R Palmer, Lib Learning Commons  
Alvin R Paris, PP Maint. Repairs CPL  
Mr Eugen Payne, Custodial Svcs Res Life  
Dr John R Petry, Leadership  
Ms Norma J Price, Enrollment Services  
Mrs Virginia D Reed, VP Assess, IR, Report  
Ms Gwendolyn L Riley, Bur Bus Econ Res  
Mr Richard B Roeser Jr, Data Admin  
Dr Steven M Ross, Counsel Ed Psych Research  
Dr Cecil C Rousseau, Math  
Dr Rose M Rubin, Economics  
Ms Connie K Saliba, Music  
Ms Hikmat R Samaha, Cntr Coun Learn Test  
Mrs Noel A Schwartz, Registrar Office  
Dr Leslie S Scruggs Jr, FIRE  
Ms Irma J Self, PP Custodial  
Ms Nancy L Sellers, Acad Status Redempt Serv  
Dr Nancy D Simco, Philosophy  
Mrs Delores R Simon, Libraries Instr Services  
Mr William L Singletary, PP HVAC  
Mr James R Smoot, Law  
Mr Ronald E Spearman, PP Custodial  
Mr Paul W Stanford, Univ Admin App Svcs  
Mr Mark L Stansbury, President Office  
Ms Sadie M Stewart, PP Custodial  
Mr William C Stewart, Bursar  
Ms Lorene Stewart, Army ROTC  
Ms Nancy N Stewart, Univ Admin App Svcs  
Mr Cornelius Stump, PP Landscape  
Ms Marcia E Taylor, Arts & Sciences  
Mrs Barbara M Thomas, IT Operations  
Ms Marjorie H Thomas, Lib Collection Mgmt  
Ms Nancy B Thomas, Lib Information Sys  
Ms Helen I Thompson, Chucalissa

Diana D Thompson, Alumni Prog & Sp Events  
Ms Judith A Thomson, Campus School  
Ms Nancy F Tompkins, VP Ext Programs  
Mr Tommy Towery, Comm & Fine Arts  
Teresa Y Tucker, CERI  
Mr Franklin N Walker Jr, Registrar Office  
Ms Doris P Watson, Bur Bus Econ Research  
Ms Helen F Wheeler, Math  
Dr O Eugene Wheeler, Civil Engineering  
Mr Rodney K Wilbon, PP Custodial  
Dr Seok P Wong, Math  
Dr Robert A Wood, FIRE  
Dr Carolyn L Worms, Fam & Consumer Sci  
Mr James D Wortham, Lib Learning Commons

Note: The larger number of retirees is due to the buyout that was offered by the University during the 2008-2009 academic year.

### Funding *(Continued)*

Since the inception of the scholarship fund in 2004, donations and income are more than half the goal of \$30,000 that will fully endow the scholarship. Donations may be made to the UMAR Scholarship by going to [www.memphis.edu/giving](http://www.memphis.edu/giving), by delivering a check to the Alumni Center at 635 Normal Street, or by mailing a check to: Department 238, U of M Foundation, P.O. Box 1000, Memphis, TN 38148-0001. For each of these options, gifts should be designated to the UMAR Scholarship.

If you would like more information on the scholarship or ways to give, please feel free to contact Kelly Davis, Director of Development, at 901-678-4299.