

# UMAR NEWS

Spring 2010

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

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Bob Boone presents award



Jessica Dawn Voyles



Dr. Raines with Jessica

## UMAR awards scholarship to psychology major

by Bob Boone



### Bob Yates receives 2009 Traces Award

Dot Arata, on behalf of other Traces Award Committee members Rex Enoch and Bill Crump, presented the 2009 Traces Award to Robert Yates for his long-term contribution to the Greater Memphis Community by his many years of service to Baptist Hospital.

Bob was nominated by two Baptist Hospital administrators, who wrote, in part: "For many years, he has served at our information desk for two days each week and has indeed become part of our "family" here at Baptist Women's [Hospital]. We strongly recommend that Bob be honored with this award because he consistently goes above and beyond in his service to Baptist Memorial Hospital for Women. . . ."

Bob's added service to UMAR: He provides the beautiful poinsettias for the Holiday Luncheons.

Jessica Dawn Voyles is the 2009-10 recipient of the University of Memphis Retirees' Association Scholarship. Ms. Voyles is a senior psychology major expected to graduate with honors on completion of her senior honors thesis.

In addition to having an outstanding academic record, Jessica has served as treasurer of Psi Chi Psychology Honor Society, served as a student representative on a faculty committee that oversees the B.A. program in psychology, was a note taker for students with disabilities, and participated in Up Till Dawn.

Jessica's father, Richard Voyles, is a Research Equipment Technician in the Engineering Technology Department. UMAR was delighted to have both her father and mother as guests at the annual Christmas luncheon.

The UMAR Scholarship is awarded annually in the amount of \$1000 to an outstanding junior or senior currently enrolled at the university with a minimum cumulative grade point average of 3.25. Preference is given to qualified applicants who are dependents (sons/daughters/grandchildren) of current or retired faculty/staff members of the university. This is the fifth scholarship UMAR has awarded; every recipient to date has been a faculty/staff dependent.

In order to continue our scholarship program, we encourage donations to the UMAR Scholarship Fund. Donations may be made by sending a check to The University of Memphis Foundation, with notation on the check that it is a gift to support the UMAR Scholarship Fund, Account #279. Donations should be mailed to The University of Memphis Foundation, P. O Box 1000, Dept. 238, Memphis, TN 38101-9840.

If you have any questions regarding the UMAR Scholarship Program, please contact Bob Boone, Scholarship Coordinator, telephone (901) 757-5733. Information, scholarship application forms, and donation forms are also available on the UMAR website, [www.memphis.edu/alumni/clubs/umar.php](http://www.memphis.edu/alumni/clubs/umar.php).



Luncheon attendees enjoy music of the U of M Chamber Choir led by Dr. Edwards



## UMAR is fun, fellowship and service

Susanne Darnell  
President 2009-2010

Greetings to all University of Memphis retirees! It has been a pleasure to see so many of you at our fall and winter events. More of you have been discovering what a good time we can have together. As I have said, gathering with your former colleagues when the sole purpose is fun and fellowship is a pleasure. No budget meetings, program evaluations, or tenure and promotion meetings --- just fun.

We have had good times visiting over lunch and discovering interesting locations around town --- like Boscos Brewery and the Coast Guard Station. Bob Marchini introduced us to

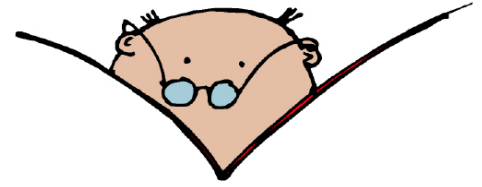
the intricacies of a remarkable piece of Memphis folk art—the hand-carved miniature circus at the Pink Palace. The University Chamber Choir delighted us at our holiday luncheon, and Dr. Shirley Raines gave us a fine overview of what is going on at the university.

Our winter good times began when about fifty of us had lunch at the Madison Hotel, then walked a short distance to the Law School for a tour of that impressive building under the guidance of Dean Kevin Smith. Dinner at Café 1912 and a production of *Pippin* at the new Playhouse on the Square were our February entertainment.

We continue to make progress toward fully endowing our scholarship for students who are dependents of faculty or staff. That is mainly because of your generous gifts and memorials. The proceeds of the silent auction at our holiday luncheon, \$719, went to the scholarship fund this year. We will be helping with some activities on campus this spring: a Heritage Room reception, the display of faculty productions prior to the faculty convocation, and some centennial-related activities to be announced.

Our April 13 lunch and tour of the new University Center is going to be another celebratory event. I hope that you will attend and will invite your faculty/staff friends on campus to join us.

A special word to all of you who retired last year: your year of complimentary membership is coming to an end. Please remember to renew by paying your dues of \$25. We want you to be with us; please keep in touch. It is always good to see you!



## UMAR Reads

A good number of book lovers attended the first three discussion round tables: (1) *Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance* by Robert Pirsig, (2) *Persepolis*, by Marjane Satrapi, and (3) *The Lacuna*, by Barbara Kingsolver. Each was challenging in its own way but members enjoyed reading and talking about them and then choosing the next book to read.

The group chose a book to honor Women’s History Month for the fourth reading and discussion — *The Lady in the Tower: The Fall of Anne Boleyn*, by Alison Weir. Though Boleyn is a recognized figure in English history, not American, this book shows just how far women have come. As usual, the group will meet at Brother Junipers at 11:00, where individuals can order breakfast or lunch prior to the discussion.

You don’t have to be a book lover to come — just *like* to read. So get a copy from the library or buy it and join us on March 23. Books are on hold at Davis-Kidd Bookstore. Mention the book club and get a discount.

## Contributions to the Heritage Room by Delano Black

When was the last time you walked through the beautiful foyer of Brister Library and on into the Heritage Room? If it has been so long that you can’t remember, then it is time to revisit it. An assistant attends the collection, which is open at the following times:

Mon., Tues. 1:00-5:00  
Wed. 10:00-12:00, 2:00-4:00  
Thurs. 1:00-5:00  
Fri. By appointment: lkinaris@memphis.edu

In the Heritage Room you will find not only treasures reminding you of your University life, but also items revealing the long journey that took place before us. At the moment, particular attention is being paid to the Heritage Room as the University prepares to celebrate its centennial year in 2012.

As part of this preparation, we want to extend the collection. Perhaps you have items of historical interest that you might donate to the Heritage Room. Please think about what you might contribute, such as items labeled “Memphis State University” or memos and papers relating to important stages of the University’s history. In so doing, you would be paying tribute to the University that afforded us our careers.

If you can participate in this project, please notify Delano Black, (901) 821-9340; hblack1225@comcast.net.

**What:** UMAR Book Club  
**Book:** *The Lady in the Tower: The Fall of Anne Boleyn* by Alison Weir  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 23  
**Time:** 11:00 a.m.  
**Where:** Brother Junipers

UMAR members and their guests who attended *Pippin* at the new Playhouse on the Square in February could identify with Berthe, one of the older characters, who sang to the young son of Charlemagne these words of wisdom:

*Oh, it’s time to start livin’  
Time to take a little from this world we’re  
given  
Time to take time, cause spring will turn to  
fall  
In just no time at all.*



Outside the new law school with anticipation



Inside the new law school with Dean Smith

## UMAR goes to law school, enjoys “extracurricular” activities

A large number of retirees went to law school on January 22, but not without a meal first at Grill 83 in the Madison Hotel. After lunch, local historian Jimmy Ogle gave a brief overview of the history of Memphis. Following his presentation, Mr. Ogle asked for questions. Never shy, Chip Ordman asked about the official designation of Beale Street. He remembered these lyrics, which he had heard on the radio around 1967 and which he sang, to the delight of his fellow retirees:

*“I went down to Beale Street, I came back feeling blue,  
Cause Beale Street isn’t Beale Street, it’s now Beale Avenue.  
They say I’ll get to like it, if I just try real hard,  
By the time I get to like it, it’ll be a -Boulevard-.”*

But as far as Mr. Ogle and anyone else in the room was concerned, Beale will always be a street.

Armed with the history of Memphis, the group walked across the street to the building that served in earlier times as a U.S. Customs House, a Court House, and a Post Office. The Italianate Revival-style building is now the Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law. The group was ushered into a large classroom and welcomed by Dean Kevin Smith. After this introduction to the building and its renovation, the UMAR visitors were given a walking tour of the building where they marveled at the restored architectural features and views of the river from the fourth floor reading room. They were impressed with the building details that were left intact, details such as restored courtrooms and post office window cages to remind visitors of the building’s history.

This event was one of many orchestrated by Bill Crump, UMAR Program Chair. Not all members take part in every occa-



UMAR Pink Palace visitors revive their childhood awe of the miniature circus and marvel at its restoration to working order.

sion. Bill estimates that approximately one hundred different individuals have participated in UMAR program activities.



In October, members toured the downtown U.S. Coast Guard station and Bosco’s Brewing Facility on South Main, with lunch at Pearl’s Oyster House in between. (In the photo to left, Bill demonstrates the size of some Coast Guard buoys.) Later in October, members and guests had dinner at Jarrett’s and went to hear renowned storyteller Donald Davis at Balmoral Presbyterian Church.

In November, UMAR went to the Pink Palace to the Imax showing of *Under the Sea* and to hear Bob Marchini tell about the restoration of the Clyde Parke Miniature Circus, followed by lunch at the Women’s Exchange. In December, the annual Holiday Luncheon, coordinated by President-Elect Mary Ellen Pitts, followed a program on student recruitment and retention presented by Dr. William Porter, Dean of Students for AVP, Student Affairs, and his staff. A silent auction at this event helped raise extra income for the UMAR Scholarship Fund.

To celebrate Valentine’s Day in February, some UMAR members and their guests went to midtown for dinner at Cafe 1912; others joined for a performance of *Pippin* at the new Playhouse on the Square.

### Upcoming Events

**March 16:** Calvary Lenten Series, speaker Rabbi Micah Greenstein

**March 23:** Book Club and brunch at Brother Juniper’s

**April 13:** Tour of the new University Center, lunch with speaker, then tour of West Hall

**April 19-23:** Faculty Scholarship Week; Convocation

**May 16:** Annual picnic

**June:** Tour WKNO

Members will receive by mail details of each event in advance. Ryan Jones, the UMAR coordinator with the Alumni Association, works with Bill Crump in scheduling events, publicity and reservations when needed. (See [memphis.edu/alumni/clubs/umar.php](http://memphis.edu/alumni/clubs/umar.php))

## Life After Retirement

Edward (Chip) Ordman, retired 2001, Math Dept.

Eunice Ordman, retired 1987, Math Dept.



For some years, I reported in my Annual Effort Report that I was, among other things, chairman of the Committee on Funny Hats. Filling out the Annual Effort Report, a rundown of “what did you do this year?” was not my favorite part of college teaching. It asked for a listing of classes taught, papers published, meetings attended, committee memberships, and so on. All worthwhile, I suppose, but I’ve never felt statistics are the best way to tell a story.

Fortunately, my first department chairman, Prof. James Wells of the University of Kentucky, understood the importance of telling a story. He explained to new faculty members in 1969 that his job, as chairman, was to get resources for the Mathematics Department. To do that, he needed stories he could tell, information so he could brag about us to the dean and the provost. Yes, he did need the statistics—but mainly as a way to jar the stories loose. He really wanted us to write down the stories.

Over the years I changed schools, and the schools acquired bigger and more powerful computers. So the forms got longer and more complex, with less and less space to actually explain anything. Were the conference talks invited (Check Box A) or contributed (Check Box B)? Was the journal refereed or edited? Was the committee elected or appointed?

In my first dozen years of teaching, I got to know a few deans and chairmen only too well. Most of them spent too much time serving as the complaint department and not enough time talking with students. It was talking with students that had attracted me to teaching. How could I manage to avoid becoming an administrator? One way, I thought, was to not take the Annual Effort Reports too seriously.

Yes, I gave them the statistical data they needed. I wrote the stories I really wanted to tell, too, and sent them along whether they fitted on the form or not. But I started including in my lists things I’d written and meetings I’d gone to that weren’t in my research specialty, and I put down that I was Department Poet, and chairman of the Committee on Funny Hats.

The funny hats, if not the committee, actually existed.

My bald head sometimes suffered from heat, cold, and sunburn, and my absent-minded-professor persona was well enough developed that I occasionally collided with a low-hanging tree branch. So I had a nice variety of broad-brimmed hats for all seasons. And I had other hats. Some were collected from craft fairs and foreign travels: a Panama hat, a Turkish cap, a warm Russian sheepskin hat, and a brightly colored stocking cap made by Indians in Ecuador.

What is retirement like? It’s like being a teenager all over again with so many choices and little information on which to base decisions.

In my fifties I was divorced. I didn’t want to live alone. Then I met Chip, the single new computer scientist in the Math Department, at an all-day faculty meeting at the start of the fall semester. I sat next to Chip at the free lunch. It didn’t work. He invited half of the de-

partment to a party at his house. I wasn’t invited. But I was invited to his next party. I stayed to help wash dishes. That did it.

On our first date we promised to date other people and not to fall in love. We kept the first promise, but not the second. However Chip was also divorced. I was so sure that he would never marry me that I answered his many questions off the top of my head. Everyone said we shouldn’t marry, but we did and have celebrated ever since.

He, as a Jew, and I, as a Christian, were naturals to get into interfaith activities. It wasn’t until we heard of an interfaith trip to Israel to visit peacemakers in Israel and the West Bank that I decided we should go. It was a transformative experience. On our return we gave illustrated lectures in churches, Temple Israel, a Unitarian group, a school, the Gandhi King Conference and intend to give more.

When my loving, understanding, empathetic sister-in-law said that she thought that all Muslims were potential terrorists, we decided to do something about it which led us to attend the Stratford Street Mosque, Masjid as-Salam. We collected e-mail addresses of people and started inviting them to parties for Muslims, Christians, Jews, and academics so that people could meet and get acquainted with each other as people. The Muslims gave us an award with a plaque at GPAC. At a free lunch and discussion by community leaders about how to promote the Gandhi King Conferences, everyone represented an organization, so we decided we should be an organization too. We have chosen the name Memphis Inter-Religious Group and have a web site [MemphisIRG.org](http://MemphisIRG.org).

In 2007, I was mugged in East Jerusalem. I was injured from my glasses to my knees. Worst of all my right shoulder was broken. The doctors said, “Oh, well, at eighty-three she won’t use that arm much. We’ll just let it heal.” Chip pulled out pictures of me on a mountain top and rowing a boat with nine people in it. “She’s not that kind of person,” he said. The head orthopedic surgeon at the Hadassah Hospital operated on me between 8:45 and 10:15 PM. Back in Memphis physical therapy helped me get back most of the motion in my right arm.

Now eighty-five, I plan to live until I’m ninety-four and then

I mentioned to my children and grandchildren that, if they happened across funny hats (I suggested other alternatives, too), they might help prevent my having a steady income of a dozen neckties every birthday and Christmas.

That brought in propeller beanies, a jester's cap with bells, and one hat that looked like a chicken nesting on my head. The funny hats do have uses. Putting matching propeller beanies on the younger grandchildren makes rounding them up much easier when they scatter in all directions at county fairs and outdoor arts festivals. Pretty girls strike up conversations with me, asking about the hats.

For the last 20 years of my career, I taught at the University of Memphis. None of my chairmen, deans, or colleagues who sat on the committee that read the annual reports ever commented on the Committee on Funny Hats. But at my retirement dinner, I was presented with a handmade hat built primarily of computer parts - large old floppy disks adorned with computer chips including a processor, memory, and input-output controller chips.

After the dinner, we held the first and only full meeting of the Committee on Funny Hats. The president of the university wore the safari helmet, the associate provost the Russian cap, the department chairman the nesting chicken, another colleague the stocking cap from the Andes—more than a dozen are in the picture.

I keep a copy of that photograph, and treasure it. The Mathematics Department even put the color picture in its newsletter. I feel very blessed to have worked in a department where people are friendly, like each other, and work together well.

And I contend that no statistics, carefully compiled by ever-faster computers from ever more complex Annual Effort Reports can convey that message as well as a picture of the smiling members of the Committee on Funny Hats.\*



\*"Funny Hats Topped My Teaching Career" was published in the *Christian Science Monitor*, May 1, 2003. Permission for this reprint is granted by the author, Edward Ordman, who also supplied the accompanying photo. This article is now available on the Ordman's website, *ordman.net*, along with other published and unpublished articles and biographical information. Eunice and Chip take courses at the U of M, travel and participate in local, national and international organizations.

**Photo credits:** All the pictures on pages 1-2 were taken by Lindsey Lissau at the Holiday Luncheon. Ryan Jones snapped the picture on page 3 inside the law school. Photos on pages 4-5 were supplied by Chip Ordman. The rest were taken by Janell Rudolph.

take stock. My mother avoided exercise and ate animal fat to pad her nerves. She died at seventy. My father got lots of exercise and died at ninety-six. Other than broken bones, he had good health until he was ninety-four. He didn't drink milk. My grandmother Eunice did drink milk and she lived to be over ninety. I drink milk.

When we went to Chip's Kenyon College reunion recently I told the whole group that I am a survivor. I survived the automobile accident that killed my first husband, being hit as a pedestrian by a motorcycle, breast cancer, and eighteen years of an unhappy marriage. During that marriage I encouraged myself by promising myself the most wonderful husband I could imagine. I failed. He's better than that.

**Eunice does not equate retirement with inaction.** Immediately after retirement, she continued teaching with visiting appointments at Aalborg University Center, Aalborg, Denmark, in the fall of 1987 and at the University of the Faroe Islands (mid-North Atlantic) in the spring of 1988. Nor has she stopped learning: she has continuously enrolled as a senior audit at the U of M every fall and spring semesters from the fall of 1988 to present, taking courses in a very wide variety of departments.

She encourages current students in early education through the establishment of the Eunice B. Ordman Scholarship Fund. (See [www.memphis.edu/coe/scholarships/index.php#Eunice](http://www.memphis.edu/coe/scholarships/index.php#Eunice))

Eunice is active in interfaith work in Memphis (Memphis Inter-Religious Group), travels with her husband ([ordman.net](http://ordman.net)) and engages in writing projects ([InOtherPlaces.com](http://InOtherPlaces.com)). Her primary professional activities at this time are with Society for Values in Higher Education and Gandhi-King Conference on Non Violence.

She has five children, "assorted step and honorary children" and thirteen grandchildren.

### In Memoriam

- Norma Brown
- Margaret Deininger
- Jeanne Dreifus
- Earnest Easterly III
- Wynonia Fitzgerald
- Loretta Duyer Floyd
- Camille Greenwald
- Nancy Holmes
- John Johnson, Jr.
- Glenda Lester
- Ed Pearson
- Lester J. Pourciau
- Naseeb Shaheen
- Norm Trent
- Ocie Mae Blaylock Woods