



University of Michigan Retirees Association

VOLUME 8, NO. 4

April-May 2004

Social Hour Programs, Spring 2004

THURSDAY, April 8: Former astronaut Jack Lousma will share with us, using both sound and images, **Perspectives from Space**.

Please note: this program will be held in the Ballroom of the Crowne Plaza Hotel, near Briarwood Mall. A map is on Page 8!

THURSDAY, May 13: Bill Martin, UM Athletic Director, will share his experiences. Bill is responsible for the UM intercollegiate teams and sports facilities. . Don't miss this, the last social hour for this academic year. We will meet in Suite 18 of Wolverine Tower on this occasion.

IN THIS ISSUE

- How to find our meetings—place, time, refreshments. Pages 2 and 8.
- The first 125 years of the University Musical Society—Ken Fischer's February talk.
- UM President Mary Sue Coleman described the present and future state of the University at the March social hour. Read about it here.
- Biographic notes and a photo of astronaut Jack Lousma, our April speaker, and of Bill Martin, who will be with us in May.

UMRA Walking/Hiking Group

Unfortunately, the weather did not cooperate for the planned Feb. 18th hike. Fifteen people had signed up, but the trail was covered with hard-packed icy snow, so the event had to be cancelled. There will be no March hike, so the next trek will be on Wednesday, April 21. Past hikers will be contacted with the details. Anyone interested who is not on the e-mail list can call Sandy Sipkin at (734) 747-8785 or e-mail her at <ssipkin@provide.net> .

Another Healthy Opportunity

Aqua Exercises with trained instructors and lap swimming are open to retirees every weekday morning at Mack School's large, heated indoor pool.

7:15 to 8:15 AM. The fee is \$2.00 per visit. Drop-ins are welcome.

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Social Hour Details

UMRA Social Hours are held most months during the academic year on second-Thursday afternoons. The gatherings usually include light refreshments--coffee, sliced fruit, cookies, and soft drinks. All UM retirees are cordially invited to attend. Social Hour programs begin at 3:15 PM and continue until about 5:00 PM. Announcements about speakers and programs are made in this newsletter, in University Record *Events* notices, and at <www.umich.edu/~hrraa/umra>, the UMRA web site. Please take special note of the meeting locations listed on Page 1.

Meeting locations

Meetings are usually held in Suite 18 on the ground floor of the UM Wolverine Tower. This building is located at the southeast corner of the intersection of Eisenhower Parkway and South State Street, east of the Briarwood Mall. Parking is open and free to UM retirees during our Social Hours - that is, from 3:00 PM to 5:00 PM on meeting days. Other venues are used from time to

The University of Michigan Retirees Association Newsletter

2072 Administrative Services Bldg, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48109-1432

The Administrative Services Building is located at the intersection of Hoover and Green Streets. Parking is available nearby.

Web site <www.umich.edu/~hrraa/umra/>

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The University Musical Society at 125 Years

February 2, 2004

Ken Fischer, Director of the University Musical Society (UMS), spoke to the February UMRA Social Hour. He kept the audience, which filled the entire room, enthralled. The facts he presented were enlivened with numerous anecdotes and examples, to the great pleasure of everyone.

Fischer first outlined the Society's origins: UMS is one of the oldest musical presenters in the United States. One hundred twenty-five years ago four churches combined to form the *Choral Union*, the precursor to the UMS and originator of the Choral Union concert series. A School of Music was started in 1880. This was placed under University auspices in 1940. In the mid 1930s UMS raised \$60,000, which was presented to the University as partial funding for Burton Memorial Tower. In return, the University guaranteed UMS use of the first floor of the tower in perpetuity.

There are a number of reasons for the continuing success of UMS. One is the presence of enthusiastic audiences, which performers enjoy. Fischer cited the example of the 1999 tour of the Berlin Philharmonic. None of the large cities on the tour was willing to have the orchestra play *Pelleas and Melisande* (by Arnold Schönberg, of 12-tone fame). However, it was performed at Hill Auditorium and the orchestra received a standing ovation.

UMS does the right thing by artists, receiving them hospitably, and responding to their special needs. However, the presentations are more about art than celebrity. Many little known artists have performed here, and subsequently have gone on to great acclaim. More generally, audiences have come to trust the UMS choice of artists.

Fischer told a story that reflects on both the preceding point and the audience attitude. When he learned that Cecilia Bartoli had acquired a respiratory infection in Ohio prior to a scheduled concert here, he drove to Akron, visited her, and found that she was clearly

unable to perform. Coming back to Ann Arbor the day before the concert, he secured Eva Podles—who had not yet earned her present reputation—as a substitute. Fischer and his staff then called every one of the 4200 ticket buyers to offer them options of return of their money, donation of their ticket to UMS, or simply to attend the concert with the substitute. Only 600 of the ticket buyers opted not to come, and many of these donated their tickets back to UMS. The concert audience acclaimed the performance by Ms. Podles and, given her more modest fee, the concert actually earned more profit than had been projected!

Fischer mentioned the relationship between UMS and the University. UMS is independent but deeply affiliated in a special relationship that benefits both organizations. Special events are integrated into the University's educational activities, and UMS benefits greatly from the University's human resources. University administrations have been extremely supportive of UMS.

Although UMS does not own any performance facilities, it has available to it eleven venues, which provide the necessary diversity to mount different types of artistic events. UMS also partners with sixty school systems, and with colleges such as EMU and Wayne State. UMS events are frequently used by other non-profit organizations for fund raising among their own members.

UMS has a history of bold impresarios. Charles Sink, a long-time president, built Hill Auditorium at a time when a hall of that size in a community like Ann Arbor was considered absurd. Sink went to New York, and personally persuaded Enrico Caruso to sing in Hill Auditorium. Because Caruso was then at the peak of his career, just after WW I, and a most prominent star who sang only in the largest cities, this was a major coup. Gail Rector continued the tradition of innovation, which has been carried

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into the present by Ken Fischer himself.

Final keys to the success of UMS include volunteers, who number from 700 to 800 per year. The expert and loyal staff members at UMS are also instrumental in this regard. On

the average, they stay with the organization for eleven years.

Report by Fred Beutler

**William C. Martin, UM
Director of Intercollegiate
Athletics, will speak to
UMRA in May.**



Bill Martin was appointed Interim Director of Intercollegiate Athletics on March 3, 2000, and was named the permanent director five months later on August 1. He had been one of four members of a committee appointed by former President Lee Bollinger in February 1999 to review the financial management of the athletic department. A UM alumnus of the Business School, Martin also serves as president of the United States Olympic Committee, having served on its board of directors since 1995, as well as its budget committee.

Named the Ann Arbor News "Citizen of the Year" in 2000 for his service and contributions to the community, Martin is also the founder and chairman of the board of Bank of Ann Arbor. In 1968, he founded First Martin Corp., a diversified real estate construction, development and management firm. He has served as president of the Washtenaw Land Conservancy since 1981, and has been a board member of the Ann Arbor Public Schools Foundation and the Washtenaw Technical Middle College, a charter high school.

An avid sailor, Martin has served as president of the United States Sailing Foundation, as well as the U.S. Sailing Association, the national governing body of the sport, from 1988-91. Martin earned a bachelor of arts degree from Wittenberg University in Springfield, Ohio, in 1962, and a graduate degree in economics from the University of Stockholm, Sweden, in 1963. He received his MBA from Michigan in 1965. Martin has been a member of the board of directors of Wittenberg since 1994, and is a member of the Fales Committee of the U.S. Naval Academy. He has taught courses at Muskingum College, Eastern Michigan University and the UM Graduate School of Business. Martin and his wife, Sally, reside in Ann Arbor. They have two sons, Seth and Michael.

UM President Addresses UMRA

March 11, 2004

On March 11 UMRA was privileged to hear President Mary Sue Coleman present her observations about the present state of the University and to hear her predictions for its future. With the conviction that this meeting would attract many of our members, the UMRA Board had authorized the use of a facility larger than that available at Wolverine Tower. As it developed, over 150 people filled the ballroom of the Crowne Plaza hotel to capacity.

Dr. Coleman made a spirited summary of the condition of the University. She presented a fact-filled talk, sprinkled with good-humored anecdotes, while outlining the problems and the achievements of the last year or so.

She pointed out that among the problems facing the UM the one often discussed in the press is that of shrinking revenues. Dollar shortages are becoming a problem in many ways—reduced funding of research, difficulties in providing undergraduate and graduate scholarships, funding of staff and faculty benefits, hiring of faculty and so on. Despite these problems, the financial situation at UM is better than that of many other universities because of a sizeable endowment and a variety of steps taken to reduce operating costs.

Adding to the complexities of the past year was the June decision by the U. S. Supreme Court that dealt with admission policies. Although the court approved the UM position on affirmative action as applied to Law School admissions, the court required an overhaul of the admission process for undergraduates. Given the short interval between the court decision and the 2003 admission work, a great deal of effort was exerted over the summer by the administration, and a revised procedure was ready when needed. Dr. Coleman also noted that applications for admission are down, both at UM and at other leading institutions. At the moment it is not clear why this is so, but the quality of UM applicants remains high, and there are still some 20,000 applications for

about 5,000 openings for new admissions to UM. It has been suggested that the reduction in applications may reflect the greater difficulty posed by the new application requirement or, perhaps, a trend by applicants to apply to fewer schools.

On a lighter note, Dr. Coleman reviewed the highlights of her first trip to the Rose Bowl. She enjoyed it very much, she said, despite the loss to USC. She emphasized that there was no question that the UM Marching Band was by far the best and that this was demonstrated by their performance of a difficult new orchestration of the national anthem written especially for the Rose Bowl by the well-known Hollywood composer and conductor John Williams. The band's performance was stellar. In addition, the winter sports schedule of the basketball team was enhanced by a successful appeal to the NCAA.

Turning next to important research efforts at the University, Dr. Coleman pointed out that funding of UM research rose 16% over the last year, despite a downward trend of federal funds, especially those from the National Institutes of Health. The UM research total—\$528 million—places UM near the top of the list for large research universities. The UM is now among the top-ten universities in terms of patents granted to its researchers, as well.

In the realm of facilities, Dr. Coleman spoke admiringly of the restored Hill Auditorium and pointed to the successful move by researchers into the new Life Science Building on Forest near Huron. She told us that a grand opening of the Life Science Building will be held in early May and she urged that we take this opportunity to observe the unique open laboratory design used in the facility. She reported that the building is filled with happy and productive scientists and the recruiting of additional top level scientists is going well.

In conclusion, Dr. Coleman pointed out that the cuts in the UM state appropriation have

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been the largest ever in terms of percentage—amounting to \$48 million. To accommodate this, UM has purposefully taken more cuts from administrative budgets than from academic budgets. The trend of reduced funding is deeply worrying because public universities are a unique part of our national life and are very important to the future of the state and country. Despite the cuts, the UM provides \$93 million for student financial aid—100% used for qualified Michigan students. It is hoped that the new funding campaign—*Michigan Difference*—will assist in assuring the future excellence of the University of Michigan. This campaign will kick off on May 14 with an elaborate outdoor event on the lawn near the League. Retirees are especially invited to attend!

On that positive note, Dr. Coleman asked for comments and questions from the audience. It was suggested that the UM would benefit from recruiting more transfer students from Detroit—Dr. Coleman agreed and has already discussed the matter with Wayne State University. In response to another question Dr. Coleman confirmed that there has been a dramatic drop in Graduate School applications from foreign students. The Association of American Universities has brought this matter to the attention of Tom Ridge, the Secretary for Homeland Se-

curity, because there are big problems now for foreign students trying to obtain student visas. It is even true that foreign student enrollment has increased dramatically in other countries, for example Canada and Mexico. It is reported that 40% of the students at the University of Toronto are from China.

Another question dealt with the health insurance premium increases that went into effect in January 2004. Dr. Coleman reviewed the factors that must be taken into account: a 15% annual increase in medical benefit costs, the fact that 80% of active UM employees are now M-Care participants, the fact that M-Care has just licensed to be a PPO provider (Preferred Provider Organization) and that this suggests more portable health benefits for everyone. (Previously, no M-Care health coverage has been available for time spent outside of Michigan.) The change will be important because some retirees who enjoy travel have avoided M-Care up to now. More information on future changes in health insurance plans will be coming before long, Dr. Coleman said. She emphasized that her intention is to have the University of Michigan do the best for everyone!

Enthusiastic applause followed Dr. Coleman as she left to attend a late afternoon meeting on campus.



Scene at Crowne Plaza Hotel: Members listening attentively to President Coleman

Former astronaut Jack Lousma will address the April meeting of UMRA, to be held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel. This biography is based on NASA web site information.

Biographical Data

Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center
Houston, Texas 77058



NAME: Jack Robert Lousma (Colonel, USMC, Ret.)
NASA Astronaut (former)

PERSONAL DATA: Born February 29, 1936, in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Lousma and his wife, Gratia Kay, have been married since 1956. They have four children and six grandchildren. He is a golfing enthusiast and enjoys hunting, fishing, and aviation.

EDUCATION: Graduated from Ann Arbor High School; received a bachelor of science degree in Aeronautical Engineering from the University of Michigan in 1959, and a master of science degree in Aeronautical Engineering from the U. S. Naval Postgraduate School in 1965; presented an honorary doctorate of Astronautical Science from the University of Michigan in 1973, an honorary Doctor of Science from Hope College in 1982, and an honorary Doctor of Science in Business Administration from Cleary College in 1986.

ORGANIZATIONS: Fellow of the American Astronautical Society; member of the Society of the Sigma Xi, the University of Michigan "M" Club, the Officers' Christian Fellowship, and the Association of Space Explorers.



EXPERIENCE: Lousma was a reconnaissance pilot with VM CJ-2, 2nd Marine Air Wing, at Cherry Point, North Carolina, before being assigned to Houston and the Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center. He became a Marine Corps officer in 1959 and received his wings in 1960 after completing training at the U.S. Naval Air Training Command. He was then assigned to VMA-224, 2nd Marine Air Wing, as an attack pilot and later served with VMA-224, 1st Marine Air Wing, at Iwakuni, Japan. He has logged 7000 hours of flight time--including 700 hours in general aviation aircraft and 1619 hours in space, 4,500 hours in jet aircraft, 240 hours in helicopters, and 700 hours in general aviation aircraft.

NASA EXPERIENCE: Lousma is one of the 19 astronauts selected by NASA in April 1966. He served as a member of the astronaut support crews for the Apollo 9, 10, and 13 missions. He was the pilot for Skylab-3 (July 28 to September 25, 1973) and was spacecraft commander on STS-3 (March 22-30, 1982), the third orbital test flight of space shuttle *Columbia*, logging a total of over 1,619 hours in space. Lousma also spent 11 hours on two spacewalks outside the Skylab space station. He served as backup docking module pilot of the United States flight crew for the Apollo-Soyuz Test Project mission, which was completed successfully in July 1975.

Jack Lousma left NASA in 1983. Since 1989, he has been an officer of several emerging companies involved in the development, production, and marketing of innovative high technology products.

Here is where we'll meet in April

Map of Ann Arbor, Michigan, showing the meeting location. The meeting point is marked with a red 'X' at the intersection of Briarwood Circle and S State St. The Crowne Plaza Hotel is located at 610 Briarwood Cir, Ann Arbor, MI 48108. The Wolverine Tower is also visible on the map.

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