



University of Michigan Retirees Association

Volume 14, No. 2

December 2011

Social Hour Programs

JANUARY 12: Dr. Robert Bartlett MD, Prof. Emeritus of Surgery and the developer of ECMO, will describe the apparatus and procedure. ECMO is an acronym for *Extracorporeal Membrane Oxygenation*, a world-renowned medical procedure developed at UM. Dr. Bartlett is also the founder of the UM Breast Cancer Center.

FEBRUARY 9: Rachel Cramer, an undergraduate student and coordinator of UM's Solar Car Racing Team, will tell us about her responsibilities in this challenging project.

MARCH 8: David Brandon, Director of Intercollegiate Athletics, presents a description of his career called *From Wall Street to State Street*.

April 12: Hylan Moises PhD, UMRA Board Member and retired Professor of Physiology, will describe his post-retirement career as a financial advisor in: *The Neuropsychology of Investing--Dr. Jekyll meets Mr. Hyde*.

May 10: Fred Beutler PhD, Prof. Emeritus of Engineering and UMRA Board Member will discuss his retirement profession of photography, asking *You've Taken the Picture...Now What?*

Save the Date

UMRA's annual Health Day will be April 24, at Weber's Inn, 8:30 to 4:30. Programs will include a variety of health topics, such as stroke, breathing, yoga, when to visit the Emergency Room, and more. Registration information and forms to specify lunch preferences will be available in March. Watch your email and look at the UMRA web site <www.hr.umich.edu/umra/> for the latest information.

INSIDE

- UM's first touchdown.
- A World War II memory.
- UM transportation research.
- An history of early Michigan road construction
- Why adults should review their vaccination history.
- Trueblood: golf and oratory.
- Information about use of the UM computing environment.

The UMRA Board

Terms Ending in 2012

Ellen Woodman
711 N. Fifth Ave.
Ann Arbor, MI 48104
769-0435 <eaw@umich.edu>

Donald L. Thiel
2122 Silver Maple Dr.
Chelsea, MI 48118-1189
734-562-2375 Cell 546-3586
<dlthiel@comcast.net>

TREASURER

James R. Thiry
4859 Gallagher Rd.
Whitmore Lake, MI 48189
810-231-9103
<CarolJimThiry@aol.com>

PRESIDENT

Hylan Moises
2699 Lowell Rd.
Ann Arbor, MI 48103
213-6240, Cell 904-9840
<hemoises@comcast.net>

Terms Ending in 2013

Frederick J. Beutler
1717 Shadford Rd.
Ann Arbor, MI 48104
663-4870 <fjb@umich.edu>

CESF REPRESENTATIVE

Fred Remley
1012 Pomona Rd.
Ann Arbor, MI 48103
747-9220 <fredr@umich.edu>

WEB MASTER

Marty Eichstadt
3947 Fox Glen Dr.
Pittsfield Twp, MI 48108
913-6089, Cell 883-9417
<martye@umich.edu>

Jan Winslow Smith
2813 Dayton Dr.
Ann Arbor, MI 48108
677-2424 <jws@netrek.net>
Cell 646-1380

SECRETARY

Term Ending in 2014

Patricia Butler
7870 Parker Rd., Saline, MI 48176
734-944-1918 Cell 734-604-7718
<patbutler9@gmail.com>

VICE-PRESIDENT

Larry Katz
9241 Pine Hill Ct.
Saline, MI 48176
429-0414
<cakatz@umich.edu>

Lawrence Jones
2666 Park Ridge Dr.
Ann Arbor, MI 48103
662-7075 <lwjones@umich.edu>

SENATE REPRESENTATIVE

Elizabeth Mutschler
1441 Clair Circle
Ann Arbor, MI 48103
734-761-6214 <elmu@umich.edu>

Social Hour Details

UMRA Social Hours are held most months during the academic year on second-Thursday afternoons from 3 to 5 PM. All UM retirees and their guests are cordially invited to attend. The gatherings usually include light refreshments—coffee, sliced fruit, cookies, and soft drinks. 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 the UMRA web site <www.hr.umich.edu/umra>.

Meeting Location

Social Hour gatherings are held at the Clarion Hotel, 2900 Jackson Road, Ann Arbor. Parking is plentiful, and easy access to the meeting room is gained by using the Ballroom entrance at the rear of the building. Handicap access is good. Other venues are used from time to time. Please check the meeting notices on Page 1 to find the latest information.

The University of Michigan Retirees Association Newsletter

G-250 Wolverine Tower, 3003 South State, Ann Arbor MI 48109

The Wolverine Tower building is located at the SE intersection of Eisenhower Blvd. and S. State St. Parking is available nearby.

Web site: <www.hr.umich.edu/umra/> **Email:** <umra@umich.edu>

President: James R. Thiry, (810) 231-9103, <CarolJimThiry@aol.com>

Membership and dues: Donald Thiel, 734-562-2375 <dlthiel@comcast.net>

Newsletter Contributors: Ferial Rewoldt, Joanne Nesbit

Newsletter layout: Fred Remley, (734) 747-9220 <fredr@umich.edu>

Address changes or missing issues: 734-763-7385



UM's FIRST TOUCHDOWN AND MORE

Ann Arbor native and UM engineering student Irving Kane Pond made UM history -- in football and later in campus landmarks. Born in 1857 in a house located where the Michigan Union now sits, he was a member of the first Michigan Wolverines football team.

On May 30, 1879, the team played its first intercollegiate football game against Racine College at White Stocking Park in Chicago. The Chicago Tribune called it "the first rugby-football game to be played west of the Alleghenies." Pond scored the first touchdown in UM history in the match. He scored the unusual touchdown midway through the first "inning."

Later, in his own words:

I am not a modern footballist if indeed I were ever any kind of footballist. I played only for the fun of it! ... My touchdown was made towards the end of the first half and involved a long distance run to where the ball must be grounded directly behind and between the goal posts ... To Avoid being tackled I was forced to mount the bleachers and run eastward along them until I was opposite the goal when I stopped suddenly and -- fearing that a touchdown in the bleachers would not count-- jumped over the heads of my pursuers to the ground.

Perhaps some of Pond's athletic successs on the field came from skills gained as an amateur acrobat. He maintained his fitness throughout his life with a daily routine of turning handsprings and flipflops.



After graduating in 1879 with a degree in civil engineering, Pond, partnering with his brother Allen as *Pond and Pond*, designed the Michigan Union, the Michigan League, and the student unions at Purdue, Michigan State, and Kansas. Pond died at 82 and asked that his remains be cremated and sent to the University of Michigan.



THEY LET THEM GO UMRA SEPTEMBER PROGRAM

"We had to love them to let them go," said a mother of three children sent out of the United Kingdom during World War II, quoted by William Becher, now a retired research engineer, our September speaker. These were the parents, he said, who sent their children overseas to America because they wanted their children to be safe.

Becher knew some of these children personally. A group of five-to-fifteen year-olds landed in his home town of Canton, Ohio, sponsored by the city's major employer, Hoover Electric Cleaner. The youngsters were to stay in the US from 1940 until the end of the war.

There were challenging changes for these English youngsters. The new students knew only a city lifestyle, and their new homes were in the rural Midwest. While they adapted to the

American way of life, they lost a little of their British accents and soon realized that there was no need for the gas masks they brought with them. In retrospect, Becher noted that most residents of the Ohio area were families of German descent. "What kind of impression would this population make on these English kids moving into their community?" he asked. In fact, most assimilated fairly well. An Ohio radio station made sure they had contact with their parents, setting up a link with the BBC so parent and child could touch each other if only by voice across miles of ocean.

By 1944-1945 these somewhat Americanized children returned to their English roots only to find other challenges in becoming "regular" British citizens again.

TRANSPORTATION FOR THE FUTURE

UMRA NOVEMBER PROGRAM

The best part of studying transportation is that you can start anywhere and end anywhere, said Peter Sweatman, director of UM's Transportation Research Institute (UMTRI). That's the good thing about transportation anywhere in the world, he told the November meeting. A native of Australia, Sweatman reminded the assembly that Australia is pretty much dependent upon surface transportation for

moving both people and freight across its massive expanses of sparsely populated interior. And around the world, innovation in solving transportation problems has become a necessity. UMTRI, founded in the 1960s by the auto industry, began with studies of vehicle safety but has expanded over the years and now ranges from the original issues to include work in areas encompassing economy and sustainability. Both the identification of problems and the solutions to those problems are emanating from the work of the Institute in Ann Arbor. Currently the Institute is working on a program called SafetyPilot, a part of the U.S. Depart-

ment of Transportation's *Intelligent Transportation Systems*. The program will study the effectiveness of safety appliances connected to vehicles to reduce crashes and it will show how

drivers respond to these innovations while on the road. The Institute is the only site in the country for this federally funded program. More than 2,800 local cars, trucks and buses will have multiple devices



installed that will warn of coming curves and traffic signals and other hazards that might compromise the safety of driver, vehicle, passengers, bicyclists, and pedestrians. Driver reactions to the activation of these devices and general driving skills will be studied during a year of data collection. Another year will be devoted to analyzing the findings.

***For more information on this innovative program visit
www.its.dot.gov/safety.pilot
or
www.umtri.umich.edu***

UMRA NOTES

On December 7, 2011, the UMRA Board met at the Wolverine Tower and, as the UMRA Constitution requires, conducted an election of officers, chosen from members of the Board, to serve a one-year term in 2012. The officers previously elected in 2010 agreed to stand for another one-year term and were elected unanimously. The list of officers is presented on page 2 of the Newsletter and on the UMRA web site, <www.hr.umich.edu/umra/>. At the meeting, the Board welcomed its newest member, Elizabeth Mutschler, who retired from the School of Social Work. She will fill the term vacated by Don Brown, who has resigned for health reasons. The Board thanks Don for his many years of service.

ROADWAYS FROM THE PAST: PLANK ROADS

BY JOANNE NESBIT

A plank road can help a farmer get his goods to market, allow him to get to church on Sunday, readily obtain medical services and improve the looks, dress and manners of his family. So says the September 1854 issue of *The Farmer's Companion and Horticultural Gazette*.

Plank roads were a boon. They were made of planed planks placed crosswise on the roadways with their edges resting on another piece of timber. Often the planks were treated with tar or pitch to resist rotting, but they were still subject to "rutting" caused by continual and heavily-loaded wagon traffic. In fact, there were several kinds of wooden roads. "There were roads made of wooden blocks but even more common were roads paved with logs, resulting in what were called 'corduroy' roads for obvious reasons

But the plank roads in Michigan were a godsend to the state's farmers who often had difficulty getting their farm products to market. One Wayne County farmer reported that dirt roads were impassable for a large portion of the year, and most of his profit was swallowed up in carrying his produce to Detroit if he could get it there at all. The editors of the 1854 Gazette suggest that property near a plank road enjoyed an immediate rise in price. "A farm adjacent to a plank road increases in value from 10-15 percent," the Gazette says, "and commands a sale from the fact that the produce never lacks a market, and has a more regular and higher net value."

Before plank roads, vegetables, fruit,

pumpkins, corn stalks and fall apple brought little money when sold in small nearby villages, where there was little demand. But with access to plank roads, the produce could be sold in larger markets, bringing in higher prices. And the wear and tear on the farmer's horses, harness and vehicle when traveling a plank road was reduced by nearly half. "The tolls not only pay themselves in this saving," the Gazette editor wrote, "but even leave a surplus in the pocket of the farmer, which would otherwise have been spent on repairs. Horseshoes last twice the time."

Farmers preferred to pay the tolls charged for plank road travel rather than have to rub down horses after traveling on an unimproved road of mud and dust and mire.

Other advantages of plank roads, says the Gazette, included getting to church with regularity, living with more "friendliness" with neighbors, and meeting people of like pursuits more frequently to converse on current prices and modes of farming. In cases where family members were ill or injured, the physician, too, could more readily get to the family farm.

One proponent of plank roads observed that not only does the farmer have ready access to markets and save on labor and equipment, but that "the people, too, are changed, dress better, look better—their manners are better. Their wives and daughters are no longer the same persons. They have improved wonderfully. Such are the results that have in every instance attended the introduction of plank roads."



"Frequently Asked Questions about ITS Services for U-M Staff Retirees"

Why might the online FAQ quoted above be of interest to you? Are you a computer user?

IF YOU'RE A STAFF RETIREE THE ANSWER CAN BE FOUND AT THIS URL!

<http://www.itcs.umich.edu/retirees/faq.php>

IT TURNS OUT THAT *UM-ITS* HAS PRESERVED COMPUTER RECORDS FROM YOUR WORKING DAYS AND YOU ARE PROBABLY ELIGIBLE TO USE YOUR OLD MAILBOX AND UNIQQNAME!

HAVE A LOOK . . . IT IS FREE!

VACCINATIONS — NOT JUST FOR CHILDREN ANYMORE

Vaccinations for seniors? Of course! Vaccination is an effective way to prevent infectious diseases in individuals of all ages. For some infections, such as whooping cough (pertussis), vaccination in childhood prevents severe infections and deaths. As we age, our immunity can diminish and we need a booster dose of vaccine. For infections, such as influenza, the virus changes so much every few years that we need to get vaccinated yearly to protect ourselves from the virus.

Older adults should consider vaccine protection for the following:

Influenza vaccine. Older adults are one of the groups with higher risks of complications from influenza; this is partly because of underlying illnesses such as lung and heart disease. Those who reside in a long-term care facility are at particularly high risk to develop complications and even death from influenza. We do not have a perfect influenza vaccine (the vaccine protects about 50-70% of individuals), but in older adults vaccination decreases the severity of influenza and helps prevent deaths. Current recommendations are for everyone to receive influenza vaccine yearly. In years when the vaccine is in short supply (which can happen for a variety of reasons), vaccination is targeted for the very young, for older adults, especially those living in long-term care facilities and those with underlying heart, lung, and kidney problems. The standard influenza vaccine given to adults is a killed vaccine and has few side effects; it cannot "cause the flu," as is sometimes erroneously stated.

Pneumonia vaccine (Pneumococcal Polysaccharide Vaccine). This vaccine is recommended for all adults age 65 or older to prevent pneumonia and its complications, which can be fatal in older adults. One dose of vaccine is all that is needed for most persons. Children receive a different type of pneumococcal vaccine to protect them against ear infections, pneumonia, and meningitis caused by this bacterium. Both the adult and the childhood vaccines are killed vaccines and cause very few side

effects other than a sore arm at the injection site.

Pertussis vaccine. Pertussis (whooping cough) is very contagious and can be easily passed from infected adults to young children who have not yet developed sufficient immunity against this bacterium. In young children, pertussis is a severe bacterial infection, which can be fatal. As we age, our immunity to pertussis diminishes so that infection, characterized by a persistent cough in adults, can develop. It is now recommended that all adults should receive a booster dose of vaccine for pertussis. Pertussis vaccine is combined with the tetanus and diphtheria vaccines, and is called Tdap. This booster vaccine has a slightly lower dose of pertussis and diphtheria than the vaccine given to children. Both adult and childhood vaccines are killed vaccines and other than a sore arm at the injection site, cause few side effects.

Shingles vaccine. If you had chickenpox as a child, you are at risk for getting shingles (also called herpes zoster). Shingles occurs when the chickenpox virus, which has been living in a nerve root for decades, reactivates and travels along the nerve causing skin blisters and nerve pain. It is this nerve pain that makes shingles a dreaded infection in older adults. The lifetime risk of developing shingles is approximately 30%, and the risk increases dramatically with increasing age and in persons who have a weakened immune system from underlying illnesses. The shingles vaccine decreases the risk of getting shingles by about 50%; more importantly, it decreases the risk of having severe nerve pain after the shingles blisters have gone away by about 66%. This vaccine is given only once and is approved for individuals over 50 years of age. This vaccine is different from the ones discussed above in that it is a live virus vaccine. Because of this, persons who have certain conditions (such as some cancers or HIV infection) or take certain medications (such as steroids or chemotherapy) that weaken immunity should not take this vaccine.

Talk with your health care provider about getting updated with your vaccines to protect your health and that of your family, especially your grandchildren.

A Champion of Oratory and Varsity Golf



THOMAS C. TRUEBLOOD,
Of University of Michigan.

Born a Hoosier in 1856 but serving the University of Michigan for 67 years as a professor of elocution and oratory, Thomas Clarkson Trueblood was also UM's first golf coach. His golf teams won two NCAA national

championships and five Big Ten Conference championships. He was posthumously inducted into the University of Michigan Athletic Hall of Honor in 1981. The new Trueblood Theatre on North Campus also honors his memory.

In 1892, Trueblood founded the Department of Elocution and Oratory and became its first chairman. Michigan's was the first oratory and elocution unit in any major university or college in the country. Trueblood also established the first credit course in speech in an American university. At the turn of the century, speech and oratory played an important role in U. S. society and in academia, as well, Trueblood was the highest paid professor on the University of Michigan faculty, and all students were required to take Trueblood's courses.

Trueblood was the faculty tennis champion, but at age 40 his doctor told him to give up the game because it was too strenuous, so he took up golf. He organized the first Michigan golf team in 1901. The next year, in October 1902, Michigan defeated the University of Chicago 16-12 in "the first intercollegiate golf match held in the West."

Golf became a varsity sport in 1921, and Trueblood was the school's first official coach. When he retired as a professor emeritus at age 70 Trueblood turned his attention full time to coaching. His coaching record at Michigan was 71-9-2. During his 15 official seasons as golf coach, his teams won two NCAA National Championships (1934-1935) and five Big Ten Conference championships (1932-1936),

and were Big Ten runners-up eight times. He coached two NCAA individual champions, John Fischer (1932) and Chuck Kocsis (1936). Trueblood continued as golf coach until he was 80, when athletic director Fielding H. Yost named him emeritus coach.

Chuck Kocsis had enrolled at the university in 1932. When an alumni pledge to pay his expenses fell through, Trueblood agreed to make a loan (at five percent interest) so Kocsis could pay his tuition. The Wolverines with Kocsis won the NCAA championship twice. Kocsis recalled that the team often traveled to tournaments in Trueblood's car. "Professor Trueblood had a seven-passenger Buick," Kocsis said. "He designated me as the chauffeur. So if we had a golf match, we'd all get into the car and go to Chicago, or go to Ohio, wherever we were going to play." Another teammate added: "It wasn't a very big Buick, as I recall. We rode with six guys. I remember a trip down to Washington (for the 1935 national championship at Congressional, which Michigan won). We started in the morning and drove all the way down there. Professor Trueblood took the team on a side trip to Mount Vernon, where one of the players accidentally bumped the shifter into gear and hit the accelerator as he exited Trueblood's Buick. The car lurched forward; the open door hit something and was torn off its hinges."

Ralph M. Cole, a member of the golf team of 1926-1928, later wrote of a humorous incident involving the septuagenarian. Cole recalled: "As golf coach he could add very little about the mechanics of the game. But he added one piece of advice which was very helpful (when followed), and which he drilled into us at every practice session. It was: 'Up and out in two, boys.' As any golfer would know, it meant: when hitting a short approach shot, get it close enough to the pin to make the next putt. We had played Purdue in Lafayette on a Thursday and were to play Illinois on Friday. The professor was to call us at 4:30 a.m. to catch a 5:30 train for Urbana. Well, he got confused on our room

number and awakened a man who called the front desk and told the night clerk that there must be some nut calling at 4:30 a.m. and shouting, 'Up and out in two, boys!' We did make the train, anyway."

A.H. Jolly, Jr., captain of the 1933 golf team, noted: "Truby, as he was referred to when out of earshot, was still a most active and attentive coach. But the only

club or clubs I recall seeing him handle in those days, was a Left-Handed Putter!"

The Trueblood family home was at the corner of Hill and East University streets. Once known as the Madeline Pound House, it now houses the Ginsberg Center for Learning through Community Service.



ADDRESS CHANGE ?

PLEASE MAIL YOUR OLD ADDRESS AND THE NEW ADDRESS TO THE UMRA OFFICE, G-250 WOLVERINE TOWER, ANN ARBOR, MI 48109.

PLEASE PROVIDE YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS, AS WELL.

OR

SEND AN EMAIL WITH THE CHANGES TO <UMRA@UMICH.EDU> WITH THE SUBJECT "CHANGE OF ADDRESS."

THANK YOU!

The University of Michigan Retirees
Newsletter
G-250 Wolverine Tower.
Ann Arbor, Michigan 48109