



University of Michigan Retirees Association

Volume 13, No. 3

February 2011

Social Hour Programs

February 10 – A special program is being arranged! Please watch for details on our web site and in your email! <www.hr.umich.edu/umra/>

March 10 – Mental Fatigue: Symptoms, Causes, Cures. Dr. Stephan Kaplan, PhD. Professor of Psychology, College of LSA and Professor of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, College of Engineering.

April 14 – How We Make Blue Go. Richard Robben, MBA, Executive Director for Plant Operations. (1500 people and eleven departments.) See <www.plant.bf.umich.edu/director/> for background information.

May 12, 2011 – Current Issues in Higher Education, Provost Philip Hanlon, Provost and Executive VP for Academic Affairs, Professor, LS&A, Mathematic Dept.

Please note:

An apology is due to some members who sent UMRA a dues check last August. Because of problems with the UMRA database, many checks were not deposited in the bank until December. Because of this lengthy delay some members' checks bounced. We regret this. The good news is this should not happen again. Our database will undergo major rejuvenation to improve financial and communication accuracy.

Save the date

**UMRA's annual Health Day will be April 26 at Weber's Inn, 8:30 to 4:30.
Programs will include talks on stroke, breathing, yoga, and
when to visit the Emergency Room, and more.**

UMRA's Board and UMRA's Officers (who are also Board members) meet on alternate months. If you have wondered about their activities and responsibilities, here's a sample from the January 2011 Officers Meeting.

The Officers Meeting was held at the Wolverine Tower on January 10. Attendees were Jim Thiry, President; Pat Butler, V. Pres; Don Thiel, Treasurer; and Fred Remley and Ferial Rewoldt, UMRA Newsletter contributors. The focus of the meeting was on issues pertaining to current and future activities of UMRA and on the preparation of items for the February Board Meeting. The big news is we are going to have a new data base that will protect UMRA from future glitches such as the one that happened last summer and prevented some members from having their membership checks deposited on time. Pat Butler reported on future Social Hour programs and on plans for the 2011 Health Day. In other news, UMRA will host the Big Ten Retirees Association Annual Meeting in 2013. Pat Butler is forming a committee to help organize the event.

The UMRA Board

Term Ending in 2011	Terms Ending in 2012	Terms Ending in 2013
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Social Hour Details

UMRA Social Hours are held most months during the academic year on second-Thursday afternoons from 3 to 5 PM. All U-M 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.

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Probing the Universe: UMRA's December Focus

Over 70 UMRA members braved the day's cold and snow and attended the December 16th program at the Clarion Hotel. The featured speaker was J. Chapman, Professor Emeritus of Physics, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts. His presentation was on Cosmo-chemistry: Light Element Production and the Structure of the Universe. It included the university's current and past contributions to the *CERN* and *Large Hadron Collider (LHC)* projects in Switzerland, where thirteen Nobel Prize winners in Physics are among the thousands of scientists contributing to the project. Listening to the presentation left one in awe of the magnitude of the endeavor and inspired by the close international cooperation spanning many countries, institutions, and areas of scientific expertise.

Dr. Chapman discussed the Center's plans to uncover the events that will help us learn the ultimate laws of the universe. The *Guardian* newspaper describes particle physics as practiced at the LHC as "the unbelievable in pursuit of the unimaginable," adding "To pinpoint the smallest fragments of the universe you have to build the biggest machine in the world. To recreate the first millionths of a second of creation you have to focus energy on an awesome scale."

The physical components of this project are incongruent: multiple buildings in an area on the borders of France & Switzerland house the various devices needed to conduct the activities involved. Those buildings are in the country where cow pastures and plowed country land are found amidst the various CERN buildings. A circular underground tunnel of 27 km circumference, approximately 100 meters beneath the surface in both Switzerland and France, was built for protons to be pushed around at close to the speed of light.

Although a discussion of such a project might seem to be primarily of interest only to physics specialists, Dr. Chapman delivered a highly entertaining presentation, accompanied by slide illustrations, not only of the physical aspects of the site, but also a behind-the-scenes view of the scientists and personnel engaged in this project, including himself! He described some of the details that scientists from our university have been engaged in - from participating in coordinating committees to building some of the huge pieces that went into the structure of magnets and other parts of the LHC. He shared with the audience a couple of books on the subject. One is titled: *Present at the Creation* by Amir D. Aczel. This book, like the lecture by Professor Chapman, tells intimate stories of the CERN laboratory and the Large Hadron Collider (LHC), known as the most advanced scientific cooperation in history. It also brings to life the characters involved with the project. Two web sites provide fascinating images of the project:

<http://lhc.web.cern.ch/lhc/>

<http://lhc-machine-outreach.web.cern.ch/lhc-machine-outreach/>

Report by Ferial Rewoldt

UMRA in January: U-M Libraries Enter a New Era

As director of U-M Libraries, Paul Courant says scholarly libraries such as U-M never get to clean out their attics. "All materials are kept forever or as close to forever as we can get." And new materials are being added all the time. Local libraries specialize in materials that are both interesting and fun, and so can be eliminated from time to time, Courant says, but "academic libraries specialize in things usually not interesting and not fun to read and cannot be discarded." And keeping track of U-M's nearly eight million volumes is a feat that is neither easy nor cheap.

A solution to this problem is current technology that allows library materials to be digitized. U-M partners with Google to accomplish this task, making to date nearly five million of its volumes available worldwide through digitization and the internet. Libraries are now in "the Age of Google," Courant says.

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Courant identifies libraries as both cultural and practical institutions. As cultural institutions they amass information about us and others. As practical institutions libraries must find ways to make this information available to the world. Facing head-on the challenges of copyrights, technology, laws and public opinion, U-M has entered into a settlement with Google that allows the digitization of materials that are out of copyright to be available on line in their entirety. These can be read via the internet. Materials that are still in copyright can be digitized with only a small portion of the total piece made available on line. However, through Google Book Search, students and scholars can be directed to the exact page in the library's hard copy in which their requested subject can be found.

Facing the conundrum of lengthy copyrights, publishing houses that no longer exist, finding exactly who holds the copyright and the accelerating technology to "spread the word," Courant is hopeful that decisions will soon be made that will allow all people access to the world's information in all areas of culture, science, art and the humanities.

As an example of how digitization and original materials can work together, Courant noted the Audubon books published in the early 1800s displaying the works of James Audubon's artistry in scientific drawing. The original book, with more than 400 color plates of flora and fauna, was the first book purchased for the new University of Michigan. At the time, the cost was less than \$1,000. Today such a treasure would be of outstanding value, so valued that to make it available to the curious and scholarly as it once was is an outrageous thought. However, the book in all its forms has been digitized, thereby preserving it for all time through technology.

The original Audubon work can be viewed in Room 100 of the Hatcher Library. A page of the book is turned each week, exposing yet another original illustration.

Report by Joanne Nesbit



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