



University of Michigan Retirees Association

Volume 16, No. 3

December 2014

2014/2015 MEETING DATES

(See pg. 2 for more details
on time and locations)

Dec. 11

Jan. 8

Feb. 12

March 12

April 9

May 14

COMING SPEAKERS FOR PROGRAMS



January 8, 2015

History of the National Anthem — Mark Clague; Associate Professor of Musicology; UM School of Music, Theater.

February 12, 2015

Margaret Carney, a ceramics historian with a Ph.D. in Asian art history, an MPhil and Master's in Asian Art History and a B.A. in anthropology/archaeology will present *What's on the Table*. She is the curator of the Dinnerware Museum in Ann Arbor.



March 12, 2015

Women's History Month — Susan Nenadic with "A-maize-ing Alumnae of the University of Michigan."



April 9, 2015

"M-Fly" — A team of engineering students discuss, designing, building and competing worldwide with their radio-controlled airplane featuring a wingspan of 10 feet.



G-250 Wolverine Tower, 3003 South State Street, 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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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 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.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Our UMRA is in the process of trying to grow and improve. We would like to have more retirees involved in the “workings” of our association and we’d like a “closer” and more involved relationship with the University.

In March, our Board had a special meeting to discuss each board member’s vision for UMRA five years hence. Yesterday, with reports and

papers from the Big Ten and AROHE (Association of Retired Organizations in Higher Education) the Board had another special meeting. The outcome of these meetings is that the Board wishes to meet with our new President, Mark Schlissel to have a dialogue about University retirees and the UMRA at the University of Michigan.



A second outcome is our desire to have a dialogue with you, the members, at a future meeting about what your vision is for UMRA. What do you, our members, want and need from UMRA. We will have a meeting for this dialogue in the near future, but feel free to talk to Board members or email us with your ideas and needs now. Thank you.

There has been no “President’s Message” in our Newsletter in the past. In keeping with “improving” the association, we are beginning the column with the present issue.



**SAVE THIS DATE
FOR
ANNUAL HEALTH DAY
APRIL 28, 2015**

AN INTRODUCTION

Meet Our New Board Members: voted into office at the October meeting.

SANDRA SCHIPPERS MILLER is a graduate of Central and Eastern universities as well as a certified Michigan court reporter who retired from UM in 2011 after a career with the School of Dentistry working with patients and students, the Department of Naval Architecture and Marine Engineering in the College of Engineering and the School of Business as assistant to the director of admissions.

This highly energized woman is a member of various clubs and societies in the Milan area with an emphasis on gardening and horticulture through UM's Nichols Arboretum and Matthaei Botanical Gardens, the Michigan State Botanical Gardens and the Washtenaw County Master Gardeners Landscape Design School through Michigan State University.

DUANE M. KIRKING, PHARM.D., Ph.D., is retired from the faculties of UM's College of Pharmacy and

School of Public Health where he spent his entire academic career, co-founding and directing the Center for Medication Use, Policy, and Economics and was instrumental in starting the College's Department of Social and Administrative Sciences, serving as its first chair.

Dr. Kirking was generous in choosing educational opportunities and received his B.S. in pharmacy from the University of Wisconsin - Madison and Pharm.D. degree and clinical pharmacy residency from the University of Kentucky. His master's degree in public administration and Ph.D. in administrative and social sciences in pharmacy are from The Ohio State University. It is no surprise, then, that his primary professional interest has been in assessing and improving the quality and cost-effectiveness of medication use.

Retirement has enabled Dr. Kirking to continue his interest in genealogy, choral singing and mission projects through his church.

WORKING FOR YOU

Board member Lawrence Jones submits this report from the Senate Assembly meeting October 20, 2014:

The major discussion at this meeting was the role of the faculty and its relationship to the role of the administration in decision making, e.g. setting rules and procedures. The roles of Regents' bylaws, of deans, executive committees, advisory committees, etc. were discussed, and also the role of SACUA, the Senate Assembly, and of the Senate. It was interesting and educational, but no changes or revisions were made. Also noted was the membership of members of the Senate Assembly on Senate Committees; the idea that each member of the Assembly should serve on at least one committee. There had been planned a panel of Regents candidates, but the number who would have been present was so small that this was cancelled. There were no discussions at this meeting of relevance to retirees.



MORE WORK ON YOUR BEHALF

Board member Fred Beutler submitted this report on The Committee on the Economic Status of the Faculty (CESF):

The Committee on the Economic Status of the Faculty (CESF) was constituted in 1944 by the Faculty Senate Assembly to study and advise on economic issues affecting the university faculty. These include not only questions of salary, but also of benefits, a major one being health benefits. Although retirees are generally not directly impacted by salary matters, their concern with benefits is well represented by CESF. CESF reports regularly to the Regents and to the Senate Assembly on these matters.

CESF includes a retirees representative as a voting member who participates fully in the activities of CESF. This person carries information on CESF actions as well as university policies (both current and upcoming) relevant to retiree benefits to the UMRA Board, and advises CESF on retiree concerns.

See <http://faculty senate.umich.edu/cesf/cesf-purpose.html>

UMRA TREASURER'S REPORT — OCTOBER 2014



Attached are the Cash Flow and Net Worth financial reports for one year ending September 30, 2014. These detailed reports can be viewed through <http://www.hr.umich.edu/umra/news/>.

The Association continues to receive substantial support from the university. In addition to the office, computer, and

file space located in Wolverine Towers, we have received financial assistance as follows:

Postage/Mailing	\$3,500
2014 Health Day	\$3,290

The 2013 Federal tax return was filed on time, and we have received our 2014-2015 State of Michigan Charitable Solicitation license. We were assisted by the C.P.A. firm of Elser and Briggs.

Donald L. Thiel, Treasurer

OOOOW MY ACHING BACK

M-HEALTHY SAYS: You don't have to take back pain lying down! You can choose to stay active and make yourself more comfortable while your back heals. Focus on what you can do instead of letting back pain just happen to you.

In most people, it's not unusual to have another episode of back pain within a year. Use the strategies you've learned to get it under control. If there is a next time, you'll know what to expect and what to do. As always, see your doctor if your pain doesn't improve.

- Back pain is very common, and can hurt a lot. But it's usually not anything serious.
- Bed rest is only okay for a day or two at most. People get better faster by staying active at home and at work.
- X-rays, MRIs, or CT scans are rarely needed. Neither is surgery. The problem often goes away on its own after a few days of light activity.
- Most people with low back pain recover fully within six weeks.



For more information on dealing with back pain, visit
<http://hr.umich.edu/mhealthy/programs/backcare/>

LIFETIME FITNESS SERVING THE ANN ARBOR COMMUNITY

The University of Michigan's School of Kinesiology sponsors Lifetime Fitness through its U-Move Fitness program. Although tailored with the senior adult in mind, classes are open to all adults, the beginner exerciser and friends wanting to spend time together.

Classes meet on Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays(Zumba day) and Fridays from 9:00–10:00 am in the Macy's court of the Briarwood Mall located at the corner of State Street and Eisenhower Parkway in Ann Arbor.

Remember: When Ann Arbor Public Schools are closed due to bad weather, Lifetime Fitness is canceled.

Classes are FREE; but a registration form is required when coming for the first time. Come as you are for a carefully structured class that includes a warm-up, pre-aerobic stretch, sitting and standing aerobics, strength exercises, a cool down and final stretch.

While there is no charge for classes, contributions qualify for state and federal tax credits.

BEN FRANKLIN - UM SCULPTURE – GONE

The class of 1870 purchased a statue of Ben Franklin. Placed on a tall, stone pedestal, it stood on the west side of campus facing inwards where Ben's jacket and breeches were frequently found painted maize and blue. Thought to be a bronze sculpture, it was in fact made of pewter. In 1899 a student shoved a beer bottle into Ben's "pocket" creating a hole in the hollow statue. To prevent further deterioration, a hole was drilled in Ben's head and the statue filled with cement.

But in winter the cement froze and expanded, causing one of Ben's arms to fall off. Long-time maintenance worker George Lutz recounted Ben's tragic story in 1935: "The question arose what to do with Ben. It would not do to destroy him because some of the old grads were still alive and when they would come at Commencement time they would want to know what became of the statue. So we took him into the Boiler House which was close by and tied him up on a shelf which we erected for him and he stayed there several years. When going into the place one morning [in the spring of 1907], there lay Ben in hundreds of pieces. This made matters worse than ever, and the question was what to do with the pieces. So we gathered them up, placed them in a two-wheeled cart and gave Ben a decent burial.

"Hardly had we disposed of him when inquiries came in wanting to know what had happened to

Ben Franklin, and of course they went to Dr. Angell [then president of the university], to get the particulars. I was called into the President's Office and

asked to tell him all about it. I can see him yet how he laughed when I told him what had happened, and all he said was, 'George, this is a closed incident.' The class, though they were lawyers, evidently had one put over on them because the statue which looked like bronze was only a metal as brittle as pewter."

An alumnus returning to Ann Arbor in 1900 searched for Ben and found him perched in the boiler room.

The alumnus reported on Ben's demise to a former classmate: "A ghastly fracture of his personality, in the region of his steenth cervical vertebrae, caused his prema-

ture demise at the age of 25, and all the efforts of the University surgeons and copious applications of Portland cement were unavailing, and he now stands shorn of his perennial coat (and pants) of yellow and blue paint, alone and unnoticed. It is rumored that marauding Boxer students were responsible for his assassination."

Legend continues that Ben's "decent" burial was made in the infamous "Cat-Hole," a depression filled with murky water located south of the Central Power Plant, although the hole was filled with earth by the time old Ben may have been entombed there.



*Photo credit: Bentley Historical Library
1870; Pewter; Sculpture
Gone; West side of campus near old
Law Building (old Haven Hall)*

The University of Michigan Retirees
Newsletter
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Ann Arbor, Michigan 48109



GOT AN IDEA?

Share it with a Board member!

WANT AN INTEREST GROUP?

Tell a Board member!

**WANT TO HELP WITH
PROGRAMS AND HEALTH DAY?**

Yell at a Board member!