

President's Report

UMRA is now entering its third year of formal existence with application for membership being initiated just one year ago. Last year I said that, viewed as a developmental psychologist, our task for the year would be to learn to walk and talk.

The learning to walk involved the development of an infrastructure for the operation of our organization by establishing our committee structure – reviewing and formalizing existing committees and establishing needed new committees. Jay Goldstein will provide more detail on these initiatives under g. By-law Changes.

The learning to talk focussed on the development of our Web Site. Previously, Ian Rollo very generously maintained a simple but effective web site for UMRA under his personal account. We are sorry that he has been unable to continue and we wish to thank him for his many years of service.

Last Fall, Gunter Baureiss volunteered to take on the responsibilities of UMRA web master. Because UMRA is an association approved by the University of Manitoba, it seemed fitting that it should be included on the University's web site rather than under a personal account. This meant following University protocol and creating a new site under Red Dot – no small feat as many who manage the departmental web pages will attest to. Gunter, with the support of Mark O'Reilly of Learning and Development Services and the assistance of the University IT personnel, worked diligently, tirelessly to create a pleasing and easily navigated web site for UMRA under the Red Dot protocol which now is found on the University's web page under Faculty & Staff where it is listed as Retirees Association. I'd like you to join me in thanking him for his tremendous efforts. (Clap)

What for next year? We need to continue to refine our infrastructure needs and we hope to further develop our communication efforts. Two specific areas now under exploration are:

1. Development of a vehicle for special interest groups facilitated through our web site such as, for example, for photography buffs, for exchange of travel information and tips, good experiences and bad, etc. We are hoping to set this up such that it will be accessible only to members of UMRA.
2. Linkages with the U of M Alumni Association through perhaps opting to receive the UM Alumni Journal *The Third Degree* where you can read about the accomplishments of your former students. How many might be interested in receiving the Alumni Journal?

Communications Committee Report

John Mundie is Chair of this Committee. In his absence, I will briefly outline their activities. A major task of the Committee has been the development of the web site which has already been described. In addition, they

- Edit the semi-annual Retirees' News

- Post notices of meetings in the *UM Bulletin*, Provincial on-line Senior's Events of which there will be more information at the President's Reception.

- John wrote the history of UMRA and posted all the Retiree's News letters from 1997 to today on our website.

- John has recently accepted Ken Rea's invitation to serve on the CURAC Communication Committee

It has been a busy committee and John would welcome volunteers as members.