

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
2008 Annual Meeting
May 29, 2008
Northrop Mall and Auditorium

The 104th annual meeting of the University of Minnesota Alumni Association (UMAA) began at 5:30 p.m. with a reception and dinner for 1,400 attendees under a tent on Northrop Mall. The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. in Northrop Auditorium by UMAA National President Tom LaSalle.

He thanked the sponsors of the event, Mortenson Construction Company and Medtronic Foundation, noting that in keeping with “Driven to Discover,” the University’s new brand identity, the alumni association wanted to share with alumni and friends the excitement of the cutting-edge research and discoveries that happen at the University every day.

When the news broke that University of Minnesota researchers had reconstructed a rat’s heart and that it was beating in a laboratory jar, the alumni association knew that it had a wonderful feature for our Annual Celebration. LaSalle said that the evening’s program was truly an historic night, bringing together two pioneering cardiac researchers whose medical breakthroughs happened more than half-century apart, Earl Bakken and Doris Taylor.

Alumni Association Year-in-Review

LaSalle said that the Alumni Association would conduct its annual meeting business before the featured speakers began. He introduced a video that showcased highlights of the Alumni Association’s work during the year. It described the Statewide Speakers Tour, chapter events, student outreach, and the Distinguished Teaching Awards. The Advocacy Committee studied the issue of the Central Corridor Light Rail Transit Line running at street level on Washington Avenue, advocating for the safest solution. The association again focused on the Legislative Network, hosting a successful Legislative Briefing and speaking out for the Biomedical Research Program.

LaSalle introduced and acknowledged Margaret Carlson, Chief Executive Officer, of the Alumni Association. He then introduced Regent Patricia Simmons, chair of the University Of Minnesota Board Of Regents. She greeted the audience on behalf of the University and said she was so pleased to attend an evening that showcased exciting research happening at the University.

Election of Officers and Board Members

LaSalle announced the 2008-2009 slate of officers forwarded by the UMAA Board Development Committee and elected by the UMAA board of directors on March 29, 2008:

President	Bruce Mooty
President-elect	Archie Givens
First Vice President	Ertugrul Tuzcu
Vice President	Jessica Phillips
Vice President	Maureen Reed
Vice President	Kip Thacker
Secretary-Treasurer	Kent Horsager

Past President Tom LaSalle
Chief Executive Officer Margaret Carlson

The slate of new board members was introduced, voted upon, and approved by those present:

2008-09 National Board Candidate Slate

Jan Anderson	Southwest USA representative
Susan Adams Loyd	At-large representative
Dan McDonald	At-large representative
Alison Page	At-large representative
Martin Schlutz	Northwest Minnesota representative
Sandra Wiese	At-large representative

Passing of the Gavel

LaSalle introduced Bruce Mooty, the next National President of the Alumni Association on July 1, 2008. LaSalle noted that the Association has had 71 national presidents since it was founded in 1904, and four of them have come from the Mooty-Glaser family. Bruce Mooty received his Bachelors and Law degrees from the University of Minnesota and is a business lawyer specializing in mergers and acquisitions with the Gray, Plant, Mooty law firm. Bruce joined the Alumni Association National Board in 2002.

LaSalle passed the presidential gavel to Mooty, the 72nd National President of the University of Minnesota Alumni Association. Mooty thanked LaSalle for extraordinary leadership in the past year, saying that LaSalle had tackled large issues during his presidential term and showed by example what it means to be an ambassador for the University.

Distinguished Guest Speaker

Following a performance by the Jazz Ensemble I, LaSalle invited the audience to watch a video about one of the University of Minnesota's most illustrious alumni, Medtronic founder Earl Bakken (B.S. '48). Bakken is the inventor of the first wearable, external pacemaker and went on to found Medtronic, a leading medical technology company dedicated to saving lives and helping patients live better, more active lives.

Bakken took the stage to rousing applause. He recounted his long and wide-ranging involvement in the evolution of medicine and healthcare. He said that he enjoyed his discussions with Doris Taylor because they both liked to 'think outside of the box.'

He introduced Doris Taylor, a Medtronic Bakken Professor and director of the Center for Cardiovascular Repair at the University of Minnesota. Bakken said he was thrilled to hear of Taylor and her team's amazing research breakthrough in early 2008. Dr. Taylor and her team made international headlines when they created a beating heart in her U of M laboratory.

Keynote Address

Taylor called Bakken her hero, adding, "How can you come to the University of Minnesota and not work on the heart?" She acknowledged being a "geek" her entire life and said she grew up believing that adults woke up on Saturday mornings and invented things. She spoke about how her father's death when she was 6 was instrumental in her decision to pursue scientific research and said she left Duke University to come to Minnesota in 2004 "in large part because this was an opportunity to think outside the box."

She reviewed her research and how stem cells can be used to combat heart disease. While crediting a very talented team, she explained how stem cells were put into a washed non-living rat heart and the heart

began to beat. This research discovery holds great promise that stem cells can be used to grow new replacement organs to replace diseased or non-functioning organs.

LaSalle thanked both Bakken and Taylor, saying that it was thrilling to review the exciting research breakthroughs that are possible with creative minds and a University to support them.

Regent Simmons, Bruce Mooty and Margaret Carlson joined LaSalle on stage to lead ‘Hail! Minnesota’ and ‘The Minnesota Rouser.’ Thanking the audience for their attendance, LaSalle adjourned the meeting.

Submitted by,

Ruth Isaak
Deputy Director and Board Administrator

for

Kent Horsager
Secretary-Treasurer