

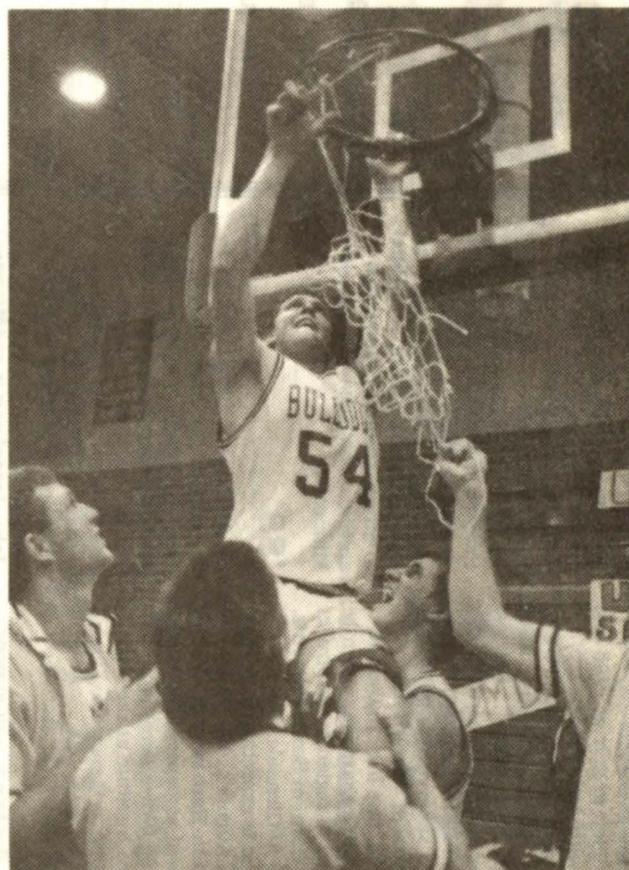
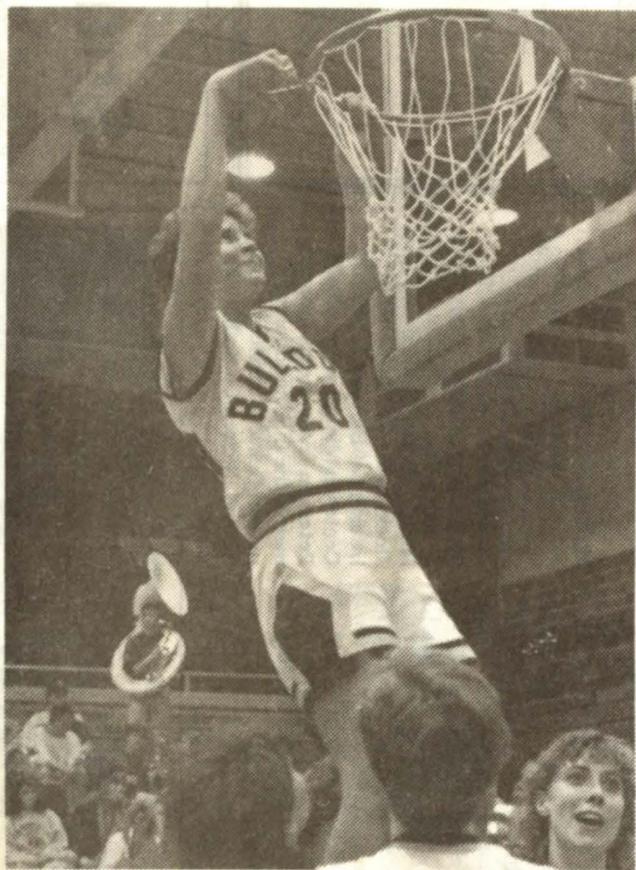
The University of Minnesota Duluth

# BRIDGE

Spring

For Alumni and Friends of UMD

1989



The UMD men's and women's basketball teams competed in March during the NAIA National Tournament in Kansas City, Mo. This was the fifth straight national tournament for the men and the second straight national tournament for the women. The teams' domination in their districts helps illustrate why UMD is looking at increasing competition by moving up into the North Central Conference. For a look at the pros and cons of joining the NCC, see page 8.

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Inside: Nancy Erhard directs award-winning play, page 11

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## More than a goodwill ambassador

by Doris Pride

When Uwe Stuecher goes to Ecuador, he has two missions — an official one and another, more personal mission.

Officially, the psychologist goes as a Fulbright-Hays senior lecturer to design and implement university programs to help faculty train personnel for educating handicapped children. Yet outside his "unofficial" door in Ecuador there is always a waiting line of local parents with their physically or emotionally handicapped children. They wait for the help he dispenses for free during 14-hour workdays to the urban poor and to the poverty-ridden villagers of the Andean highlands.

"The problems they bring are often heart-breaking," says Stuecher, associate professor of psychology who specializes in treating emotionally disturbed and autistic children. Those he has helped range from a Down's syndrome toddler with only a few years to live to an 8-year-old with cerebral palsy.

"Martin, the boy with cerebral palsy, is actually a very bright child who had been placed with severely retarded children," says Stuecher. "I could see that he was bright, so I arranged for him to attend a regular school — an all-girls school where he is now quite successful." In fact, he adds, today Martin is thoroughly enjoying school and catching up quickly with his studies.

For Stuecher, who proudly wears a black felt hat native to Ecuador, his professional life and personal life in Ecuador are nearly one in the same. While in South America, he made friends with many indigenous communities and was honored a number of times by grateful parents who made him the godfather of their children. Stuecher's only regret is that he couldn't take along his own two children, ages 3 and 6, because of the life-threatening diseases rampant in certain parts of Ecuador.

Stuecher's visits, for the



**Uwe Stuecher, associate professor of psychology, proudly wears a black felt hat native to Ecuador, where he has spent several months working with physically and emotionally handicapped children.**

most part, are spent in difficult Third World accommodations. In the Andean highlands, his bedroom might be a corn-drying storage room shared with a 90-year-old villager. "There are no middle-class amenities — it's not a glass-of-sherry-in-hand kind of atmosphere," Stuecher says.

"If you work with impoverished children, you can't stay out of social politics," he says. "But by now they know I'm not a CIA spy or a political organizer, so they just let me be to do my work with children."

He has been so successful, that the Ecuadorian government formally requested, during his third Fulbright lectureship, that Stuecher be allowed to return for two more stints — an unprecedented request for an American university professor.

Stuecher, whose first name is pronounced "OO-vay," is a native of Germany. He has degrees in special education as well as training as a clinical child psychologist. A graduate of Goethe University in Frankfurt, he earned M.A. and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Minnesota. In addition, he received a degree in educational

philosophy from Harvard University and taught for a year at Harvard's medical school. He taught four years at the University of Minnesota before coming to the Duluth campus in 1980.

While Stuecher believes in extensive educational training, he's also convinced there is no substitute for experience. "And by now I've had many years in my field."

It's this experience that makes him so useful in his unofficial capacity, serving hundreds of villagers who would otherwise have nowhere to turn. They learn quickly through word-of-mouth that "Dr. Uwe is back again."

"Most of these families are so poor that they cannot begin to pay for professional help," he says. But those who are wealthy, Stuecher says, do get a bill — only it comes in the form of a request for a box of pencils, a blackboard, or a few new chairs for the local school.

"It's hard for us to imagine a family so poor that they cannot afford to feed their own children the eggs they gather to sell from their chickens. Yet this is a typical situation," he says. He describes people of Ecuador as very gracious; one grateful

father returned to Stuecher with a flute and the promise to play four songs, which Stuecher then recorded.

Stuecher says he doesn't feel comfortable in the role of "heroic martyr" for helping these people.

"On the contrary, one often feels that one should be asking forgiveness from them — for being in the position of helper and thereby making them feel ingratiated for something that, in our country, we consider a right," Stuecher says.

Over the course of 10 years of intermittent work in Ecuador, Stuecher developed a detailed special-education plan that was adopted and made into law. The plan outlines specific programs for the handicapped from infancy through sheltered workshops and vocational training for older children and adults.

"Including poverty children in special education programs was a new idea in South America when I first went there," he says. Before he went, poverty children were excluded from government special education programs.

"How can you justify teaching or helping handicapped children in Ecuador and exclude the

poverty children? Most of the children who suffer from learning problems are poor, their problems often the result of their conditions rather than physical or mental handicaps," he says.

Stuecher was the first American ever to hold the position of consultant to the education ministry in Ecuador. He set up 30 special education classrooms for poverty children in places such as the capital city of Quito, Guayaqui and Cuenca, Ecuador's largest cities.

Letters of praise and recognition for Stuecher's work confirm that it is indeed special. A letter from the American ambassador to Ecuador lauded Stuecher not only for being an "outstanding educator," but for showing himself as "an effective goodwill ambassador for the United States."

In his efforts to aid the youngsters he calls "poverty children" of Ecuador, Stuecher has had help from some surprising sources. "Whenever I go to the American Embassy in Ecuador, they jokingly rush to hide all the pens and pencils on their desks," says Stuecher with a grin. "They know that I will collect any extras that I see and take them back to the school children."

Not surprisingly, some of the Embassy officials have taken his plight to heart, offering him little packages of extra supplies for the children.

"What is important is the work for children," he says. But there is also a larger good. "When one sees the importance of helping impoverished children, there is a coinciding awareness about growth and social change in general," Stuecher says.

As he goes on his way from the interview, Stuecher mumbles something about shopping for a jean jacket before returning to Ecuador in a few months. "I think Martin would really love something like that to wear," he says, sounding like a typical father.

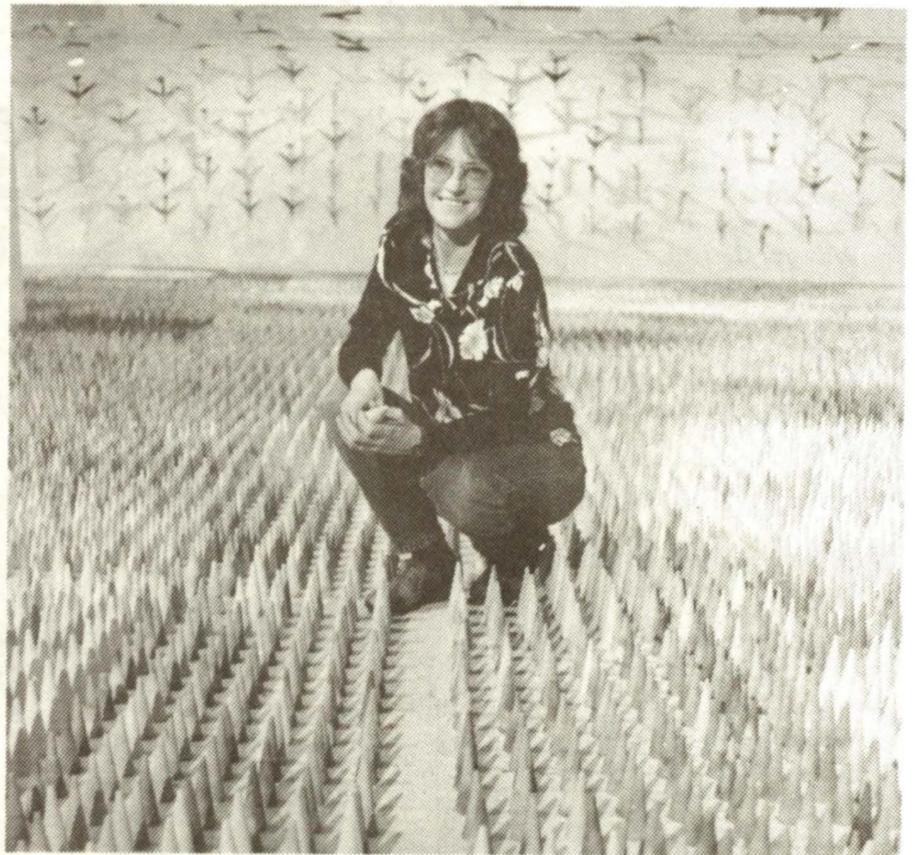
Doris Pride is news director in the Alumni and Media Relations office.

# Keeping Up • The Spring Bridge

## UMD Theatre presents comedies this spring Future of Old Main being studied

UMD Theatre will present *Sister Mary Ignatius Explains it All for You* and a curtain raiser, *The Actor's Nightmare*, May 2-7 at 8 p.m. in the Marshall Performing Arts Center. Due to time conflicts, the originally scheduled *King Lear* has been postponed until next spring. *Sister Mary Ignatius Explains it All for You* has been described as a ferociously funny play centered on the aging, self-righteous Sister Mary Ignatius and her interpretation of the dogma of the Catholic Church "before the Ecumenical Council." *The Actor's Nightmare* is a short companion piece about an unassuming accountant who is mistaken for an understudy and finds himself on stage for the first time, fumbling through a bizarre performance. For tickets, call the box office at 218-726-8561.

The future use of the UMD Old Main Building, originally the Duluth Normal School, is currently being studied. A consulting team is studying structural soundness and needed repairs; possible uses for the building and estimates of costs; and an assessment of potential resources if the building were to be re-used. The study is sponsored by the Preservation Alliance of Minnesota and financed with federal funds from the National Park Service through the State Preservation Office of the Minnesota Historical Society. Additional support for the consultation comes from UMD and the St. Louis County Historical Society. At UMD, the head of the Old Main Review Committee is George Rapp Jr., dean of the College of Science and Engineering.



"Amber Waves of Grain," a 34,000-piece clay replica of the U.S. nuclear arsenal, was installed in the UMD Tweed Museum of Art this spring. The exhibition, created by Denver artists Barbara Donachy and Andy Bardwell, has toured several major cities in the U.S. and Europe. The artists describe it as a broad, factual and unbiased look at nuclear armaments to raise consciousness and educate people about the issue.



The UMD University Singers will present a Pre-Europe Concert on Friday, May 12 at 7 p.m. in the First Lutheran Church in Duluth. The 32 singers will tour Europe May 14 to June 12 under the direction of Vernon Opheim, professor of music. The group will not present a concert after the tour.

## Rapp receives national archaeology award

George "Rip" Rapp Jr., dean of the College of Science and Engineering and professor of geology and archaeology, has been awarded the Pomerance medal from the Archaeological Institute of America for his scientific contributions to archaeology. Rapp was the ninth scientist to win the prestigious medal. Rapp, who is stepping down as dean this spring, will be honored during a "Rip Roast and Toast" on Monday, May 1 at 4 p.m. in the UMD Kirby Ballroom.

## Daniloff to discuss Gorbachev at UMD

Nicholas Daniloff, former Moscow correspondent for *U.S. News and World Report*, will discuss "Gorbachev and Glasnost: Are they for Real?" at the second annual Royal D. Alworth, Jr., Lecture on Friday, May 12 at 7:30 p.m. in the UMD Marshall Performing Arts Center. Daniloff came to national prominence in 1986 when he was arrested in Moscow by the KGB in retaliation for the FBI arrest of a Soviet agent in New York. He currently teaches at the Center for Press and Politics in the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University. The free public lecture is sponsored by the Royal D. Alworth, Jr., Institute for International Studies at UMD.

The University of Minnesota Duluth  
**BRIDGE**

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## A special coach for special athletes

by Lucy Kragness

As a Duluth high school teacher and coach for 35 years, Bob Williams has touched thousands of lives. Since retiring in 1981, Williams has continued to share his love of fitness and sports by working with the mentally retarded as a volunteer coach and as co-chair of the Special Olympics Minnesota Chapter Summer Games, scheduled this June at UMD.

"The Bicentennial Kiwanis Club of Cloquet has been running the Special Olympics Area 3 (northeastern Minnesota) Spring Games for eight years," he said. "About six years ago, they asked for volunteers from the other area Kiwanis clubs. I volunteered, and that was it. It just mushroomed from there."

As co-chair of the Minnesota Chapter Summer Games this June 6-8 at UMD, the Duluth State Teachers College graduate is looking for UMD volunteers, from alumni and faculty and staff to students.

"Approximately 1,500 athletes will compete from all over the state," Williams said. "The games are for mentally retarded people from age 8 up, with no upper age limit. All the events — softball throw, soccer, volleyball, track and field, tennis, standing long jump, wheelchair events — will be at UMD except the equestrian events and the banquet."

There will also be an Olympic Village, where athletes will be entertained and parents and coaches can browse among educational and medical booths.

"We need at least 1,000 volunteers," he said. "And if anybody would like to contribute money to help run this, we'd gladly accept it. We figure it costs \$75 to sponsor one athlete."

Opening ceremonies will be June 6 at 6 p.m., and Williams hopes the stands are full as the special athletes proudly march into Griggs Field stadium. "Law Enforcement officers will run the Olympic torch from four sections of the state and end up here," he said. "We're going to have four athletes that competed in the international events at Lake Tahoe run the torch into the sta-

dium. Then the athletes will march into the stadium just like during last year's Olympic Games."

Anyone interested in volunteering should call Williams at 724-0575 or write him at 347 W. Wabasha, Duluth, 55803.

Williams is also on the state board of directors for the Special Olympics, serves as Area 3 games director, is co-chair of Duluth Special Olympics Fundraising, and is Minnesota/Dakotas District Special Olympics chair for Kiwanis. But what Williams enjoys most about being involved with the Special Olympics is working with the children.

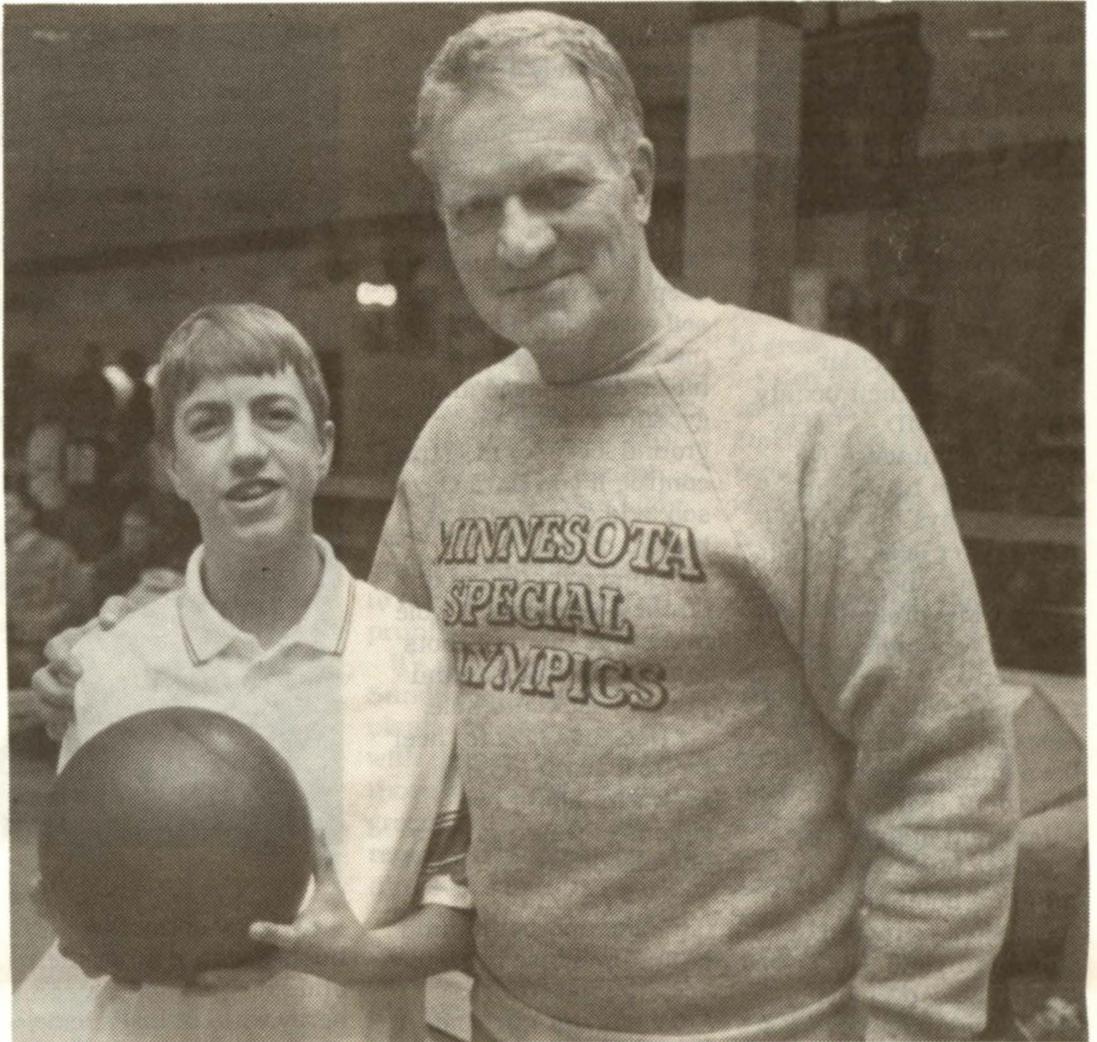
"I had never worked with the mentally retarded before getting involved with the Special Olympics," Williams said. "I think in some ways they're more fun to coach than the so-called normal kids I coached all those years. If they do something really well and get a medal, the reaction is beautiful."

Williams says with a little coaching, the athletes excel. "I remember this one boy I coached in swimming," he said. "The first day he came in, he jumped into the deep end of the pool and stayed there — we had to go in and get him. After a few months of working with him, he took second place at the state meet. When he stood there and got his silver medal, he had a grin that you couldn't wipe off."

Williams' roots run deep in Duluth, with his grandmother, Addie Wilkinson, the first Duluth high school graduate in 1879. He graduated from Central High School in 1939 and was student council and senior class president and winner of 10 letters at the Duluth State Teachers College before graduating in 1943.

After serving three years in the Navy, including a year overseas during World War II, Williams returned to Duluth and began teaching at East Junior High School.

He taught physical education and health through the school's transition to East Senior High, and in 1963 moved to Central High School until he retired in 1981. During his long career, Williams coached many



Bob Williams took a break from coaching to pose with Erin Furo, son of Candy and Pete Furo of Duluth who won two gold medals in the spring Special Olympics State Tournament. Williams is also co-chair of the Special Olympics Minnesota Chapter Summer Games scheduled this June 6-8 at UMD and is looking for volunteers. Anyone interested in volunteering or wishing to make a contribution to the Special Olympics, should write or call Williams at 347 W. Wabasha, Duluth, Minn., 55803, 218-724-0575.

sports, from track, skiing and tennis to swimming and cross country.

In 1950, Williams earned a master of education degree from the Twin Cities campus, with a major in physical education and a minor in health.

"I never got out of the classroom on purpose," Williams said. "I've always liked teaching and coaching — they're a challenge. By teaching health and physical education, I knew I was doing something good for those kids."

Williams' busy life as a volunteer spills over into other area and state organizations.

In addition to his work with the Special Olympics, Williams has served as president of the Duluth Gitchi Gumee Golden K Kiwanis Club and lieutenant governor for Division 9; on the board for the Lighthouse for the Blind; as chair of the Lakeshore Lutheran Home Care Board; on the board for The House Next Door

refugee center next to St. Paul's Episcopal Church; as a member of the Duluth-Superior Harbormasters Barbershop Chorus; as leader of the Staying Healthy After 50 (SHAF) program at St. Luke's Hospital; as North Star District Boy Scout commissioner and chair of District Pinewood Derby for Cub Scouts; and as adjutant Lakeview American Legion Post. He is also on the state board for the American Lung Association, and in 1986 he received the Volunteer of the Year award.

"I always wanted to be in a service organization," Williams said. "But when you teach school, you can't go to a 7 a.m. breakfast meeting — you have to be in homeroom at 7:30. You can't go to a noon meeting, because you have 25 minutes for lunch whether you want it or not. And no Kiwanis or Rotary clubs meet at night."

He is also vice president of the UMD Alumni Board.

Williams was asked once why he wasn't involved with the Alumni Board, and he complained that no one knew that Duluth State Teachers College graduates were actually UMD alumni. That led to his serving on the board, plus he co-chaired the successful DSTC reunion in 1986.

Williams and his wife Joy will celebrate their 40th wedding anniversary this year. They have two sons, Scott and Ted, who both graduated from UMD, a daughter, Mary Lou, and seven grandchildren.

Williams also finds time in his busy schedule to cross-country ski, ride his bike and canoe or aqua bike at his cabin.

"I never got involved until I retired, and then I jumped in with both feet," he said.

Lucy Kragness is Bridge editor and publications editor in the Alumni and Media Relations office.

## Shares rose-growing expertise

by Lucy Kragness

It's not a surprise that Wayne Jesswein has inspired several members of the UMD community to overcome their fears of growing roses.

Each summer, Jesswein's 150 rose bushes produce thousands of spectacular blooms, with their beauty shared at UMD — Becky Skurla, administrative secretary in his department, always has a fresh rose on her desk throughout the summer.

The UMD professor and head of economics, who also serves as president of the University Education Association (UEA), has been growing roses for almost 17 years.

Jesswein planted his first rose bush when he bought a home three years after he moved to Duluth in 1968. His flower garden grew over the years, and today covers a large part of his yard at 1518 Skywood Lane in Duluth, where he has lived for nine years.

A member of the American Rose Society, Jesswein today grows hybrid tea roses, grandifloras, florabundas, and hybrid rugosas. He also keeps perennials in his garden, from lilies and peonies to irises and lilacs.

Jesswein has entered Duluth Rose Society contests, but found the regimented way of pruning and trimming roses for show too restricting. "To show roses, you have to disbud all but one or two buds per cane," he said. "I enjoy flowers too much."

To help others get their gardens started, Jesswein shares his expertise as one of few "consulting rosarians" in the Duluth area for the American Rose Society. "I enjoy gardening, plus it's a challenge working with roses ... and the payoff is spectacular blooms," he said.

Jesswein, who each fall digs up and buries his roses for the winter, gets out into his garden around May 1, when he

replants the bushes approximately 18 inches apart.

For those working with roses for the first time, Jesswein offers these tips:

- Around May 1, make a large hole, 12-15 inches deep, and rejuvenate the soil with a lot of organic material such as peat moss, alfalfa meal and gypsum to keep the ground loose for moisture control. If you have clay in soil, add vermiculite at bottom of hole.

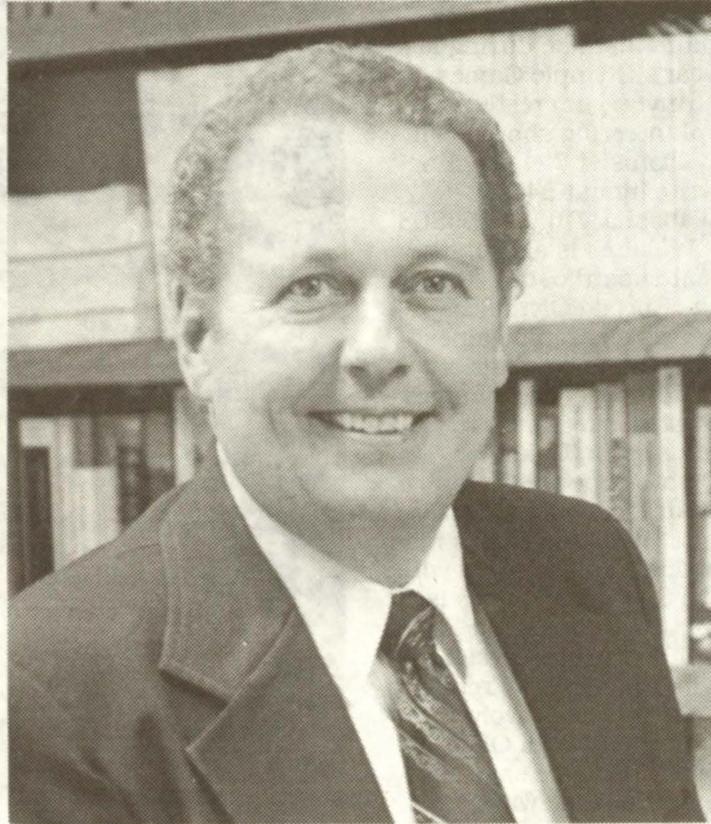
- Build a mound of dirt on the bottom of the hole and drape the rose roots around the mound, and put dirt back into hole.

- Use shoe heel to "heel" the rose plant in, and soak with about two gallons of water, preferably mixed with fish emulsion.

- Make another mound around the rose bush to keep the moisture in. Frost will not hurt the plant after May 1.

- Ten days to two weeks later, pull the dirt back from the mound, make a canal around the bush, and spread in composted cow manure.

- Water as needed to total an inch or two of moisture a week.



- Weekly spray the bushes with a fungicide, and every third week spray with an insecticide.

- On June 1, July 1, and August 1, work about a half of a cup of chemically balanced fertilizer into the soil within drip range of the plant.

- When picking the roses, prune down to the first five-leaf axil.

While the schedule

might look daunting, Jesswein spends relatively little time with his roses after they're initially replanted. "It takes about an hour each week to spray 150 bushes," he said. "A good spraying schedule is the key to keeping fungus and bugs out."

Jesswein says pruning is another key to producing spectacular rose

blooms. Most people err by pruning right below the flower or at the three-leaf axil instead of the first five-leaf axil, which will produce a stronger bud within two days.

In mid-October, Jesswein prunes the bushes back to the four or five strongest canes, carefully uproots the plant, and digs a larger hole to lie the plants down in. The hole doesn't have to be deeper than 15 inches — the goal is to stop the winter freezing and thawing cycle. He places plastic over the plant and covers with the remaining dirt.

And Jesswein says to enjoy a cut flower longer, cut it when the bloom is just starting to open and place it in hot tap water, which will quickly circulate water through the stem.

"Roses are called the queen of flowers," he said. "It's not hard work to grow roses ... and I always have cut flowers around the home and office."

*Lucy Kragness is Bridge editor and publications editor in the Alumni and Media Relations office.*



**In mid-October, Wayne Jesswein prepares his 150 rose bushes for the winter. Last summer, Jesswein's gardening talents were recognized when he received honorable mention for overall landscaping in Duluth's Flower City of the North program to beautify the city. Jesswein has been growing roses for almost 17 years and is one of the few area consulting rosarians for the American Rose Society.**

# BARB SUNDIN

The University of Minnesota Duluth Bridge

Page 5

## The Plant Lady

by Lucy Kragness

Barb Sundin has become a familiar face as she makes her weekly rounds to care for hundreds of plants at UMD. But few know her full name — she's been affectionately dubbed the "plant lady."

For more than five years, Sundin has pushed her cart of plant supplies around campus, caring for more than 800 plants. And starting last January, Sundin went into business as The Plant Lady, caring for plants in private homes and offices.

While Sundin has always kept a houseful of plants, her career began thanks to an innovative program between Conwed, her former employer, and UMD.

In 1979, Sundin suffered muscle and ligament damage while working at Conwed in Cloquet. Unable to lift more than 20 pounds after the injury, she couldn't work in the plant, and Conwed sent her to the Duluth Area Vocational Technical Institute (now Duluth Technical Institute) for office retraining.

But Sundin found it impossible to sit at a desk for extended periods, and she switched programs and studied greenhouse work for a year. Through a unique arrangement, UMD created the plant-caretaker position, with Conwed paying her salary. When Conwed closed



**Barb Sundin cares for more than 800 plants around the UMD campus. Capitalizing on requests, Sundin also began doing business last January as The Plant Lady.**

three years ago, UMD Plant Services hired Sundin part time. Today, she continues to care for hundreds of plants around campus, from building lobbies to private offices.

Over the years, Sundin

has been repeatedly asked into staff and faculty homes to care for their houseplants. Capitalizing on the requests, Sundin started her business, understandably calling it The Plant Lady.

"So many people know

me as the plant lady," Sundin said. "Now I'm bonded and insured to go into people's homes and into offices to take care of their plants. I check plants for diseases and bugs, do pruning, cutting, repotting, fertilizing ... whatever has to be done."

Sundin is finding that her new business is a nice complement to her UMD job. Following a flexible schedule, The Plant Lady services range from routine plant maintenance to one-time repotting or pruning.

It's not surprising that Sundin believes most plants are easy to grow, with proper care. But for those with undeveloped green thumbs, Sundin recommends philodendrons and Swedish ivys.

She has found that the biggest mistake plant owners make is overwatering, which can lead to root diseases, root rot, and stem rot. "When it's hot and humid, plants don't dry out as fast," she said. "Just because a plant is dry on top doesn't mean that it's not wet below."

If plant owners don't have a moisture meter, Sundin says it's time to water if the top inch and a half of soil is dry.

But even if a plant is literally drowning in its own water, Sundin believes not all is lost. "I can usually revive a plant — as long as the leaves aren't brown and crackling," she said.

To help keep foliage green, Sundin offers these tips:

- Never fertilize in winter when plants go dormant. Fertilizing should start in the spring at the end of March or beginning of April, when plants begin to grow.

- Cut back plants in the spring. Most popular houseplants should be cut back, except for the Norfolk Island Pine. Cutting plants back and pinching new growth will make them fuller and easier to control. The cuttings can be used to start new plants.

- Repot plants in the spring. If a plant doesn't need to be repotted, adding new dirt and charcoal will sweeten the soil by increasing nutrients.

- Mist plants daily with water. Misting plants — except African violets and other fuzzy-leaf varieties — helps keep leaves clean. Sundin advises staying away from commercial leaf-shine products.

If Sundin's tips help a plant outgrow its home, UMD will gladly take it. Several of the large plants in the School of Business and Economics lower atrium and in the Marshall Performing Arts Center lobby were donated by faculty and staff.

*Lucy Kragness is Bridge editor and publications editor in the Alumni and Media Relations office.*

## Neil named CEE director

Theresa A. Neil, assistant to the dean for administration of the UMD School of Business and Economics at UMD, will become director of Continuing Education and Extension (CEE) at UMD.

Neil, who is scheduled to begin her duties July 1, is the sixth resident director named since CEE courses were first offered at the Duluth campus in 1915.

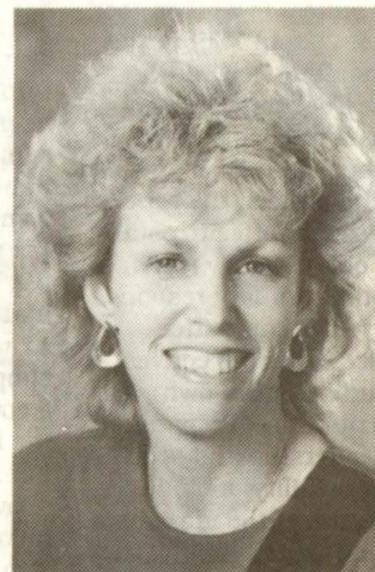
"I think being a part of CEE is going to be exciting," Neil said. "For a lot of people in the com-

munity, CEE is the first and only contact with UMD, so what we do there plays an important role in what we do at UMD."

Originally from Miami, Fla., Neil has been a Duluth resident since 1969, the year she joined the university. In 1983 she assumed her current administrative responsibilities. After studying for a bachelor's degree in business administration with a concentration in management while working full-time, in 1983 she graduated cum laude with departmen-

tal honors. In 1988 she received a master's degree in business administration from UMD.

"The search process was long, but the final result was well worth it," said Harold A. Miller, University of Minnesota dean for Continuing Education and Extension. "Theresa Neil is highly respected and enjoys an excellent reputation among her colleagues at the university for her management abilities. We are confident that she will be another outstanding leader."



**Theresa Neil**

# R.J. FALK

Page 6

The University of Minnesota Duluth Bridge

## Creating 'win-win' situations for 42 years

by S. Jean Vileta

"Creating things, that was my job," says Robert J. Falk in summing up his 42 years of involvement at the University of Minnesota, "mostly at Duluth."

Specifically, Falk, who is usually called R.J. on campus, likes to create situations in which everyone gained something of value, what he calls "all-win situations." Those are the times when the best and brightest students win, when those students deemed less able win, when the administration wins, when we all win something.

As he rapidly approaches official retirement this May, Falk is still keeping busy teaching classes and talking to students, but he is also writing proposals, checking his notes, meeting with committees, calling and re-calling administrators, marking off his calendar well into the next academic year, and planning other ways to win.

Same story, everyone has to get a slice. This time the pie is the Darland Center, a four-part volunteer project scheduled to begin in the fall of 1989. And with the aging of America and the growing scarcity of dollars for education, a number of other people also see the campus volunteer center as a pretty good idea. (For a closer look at the Darland Center project, see story, page 7.)

Over the years, Falk has had quite a few other good ideas. Like in 1955, eight years after the Duluth State Teachers College became the University of Minnesota, Duluth, when he encouraged the scholastic committee to establish objectives by which to meet its primary responsibility. The committee settled on six objectives, including Falk's own contribution, "Preparation for leadership and social responsibility, including tolerance of the ideas of others."

In addition to his teaching duties, during the next three decades he focused much of his attention on

service-oriented programs for the campus. In the 1960s, he started the Student Tutorial Society, the Associates in Arts Specials program, and the Student Tutorial Program (STP). Each of the programs was aimed at getting scholastic help for students who needed it, increasing the retention rate of those students and providing opportunities for advanced students to build new skills and interests. "STP improved the retention rate of students from 10 percent to over forty percent and later became Supportive Services," says Falk.

By the early 1970s his attention had turned to the Students' College. During the seven years that the program existed, the student-managed college provided a half-million dollars worth of service to the community.

"Two years ago, we created the Student Volunteer Leadership Program," says Falk. "With Ordean Foundation and Project ACTION support, grants from various corporations, and support from UMD's Chancellor Lawrence Ianni and Vice Chancellor Robert Carlson we started up and are in our second year of operation. We have a lean staff, a dedicated and energetic group of student leaders, and excellent relationships with area human service agencies."

Born in 1923, this second son of hard-working Swedish immigrant parents likes to think of the era in which he grew up as a "kinder, gentler" time. His father had been a tailor, and had owned his own shop in the west end of Duluth. In the best years, the shop had employed as many as 12 workers. Although the shop had always provided a comfortable income for the family, neither Robert nor his older brother had shown any interest in tailoring.

In 1942, the year after Pearl Harbor was bombed, Falk entered the navy and worked as a personnel clerk. In 1945 he married



An open reception honoring R.J. Falk, who will leave the university after 42 years of service, will be May 9 at 3 p.m. in the UMD Tweed Museum of Art. Contributions in honor of Falk should be made to the Darland Center.

Dorothy Nicholson his hometown sweetheart. After the war, he registered for college under the G.I. Bill. "I was in the first freshman class at UMD," he recalls. "The following year, I began working as a student registration clerk in the Office of Student Personnel Services."

Next came graduate school, the birth of his son, Dennis, and the decision to move to Minneapolis and begin doctoral studies at the university. "While home for Christmas vacation in 1952, I met Ray Darland on the balcony of Freimuth's Department Store, which was where the Jolly Fisher is today. Dr. Darland, told me if I wanted to come back, I'd have a job at UMD."

Shortly after that meeting, Falk did return to UMD, this time as a student personnel worker in the student affairs office. Once back at UMD, Falk became involved in the everyday business of student housing, academic performance and discipline. The years

passed by quickly, and by the time he received his Ph. D. in 1972, he had already been teaching in the psychology department for seven years.

Teaching excites Falk, particularly when students actively share in the process. "If Martians could come down and look through our roofs, they would seldom see people sitting neatly in rows listening to one person talk," he says with a whimsical smile. "Instead they would see people sitting in groups across the table from each other trying to solve problems and doing the work of life. If you want to teach anything other than facts, you don't use lectures. You use some type of experience they work on together with some kind of challenge.

"In the psychology department we probably reflect more ways of learning and teaching than any other department on campus, and I've tried almost all of them," says Falk. "Since 1965, I've been using the group

discussion model. At that time, I was almost alone in using the group type of learning. I felt that what I was doing was right, and I found some research that justified what I was doing."

This August, Falk will visit the University of New England, in Biddeford, Maine, where he will serve as a consultant on collaborative learning.

What else is Falk planning for the near future? In June, he and Dorothy will leave for a long-awaited trip to England where Dennis, a faculty member in the Department of Social Work, is the director of UMD's Birmingham program.

An open reception will be held for R.J. Falk on May 9, beginning at 3 p.m. in the Tweed Museum of Art. Individuals wishing to make contributions in honor of Falk should make them to the Darland Center.

S. Jean Vileta is the editor for *Continuing Education and Extension at UMD*.

# ALEXIS POGORELSKIN

The University of Minnesota Duluth Bridge

Page 7

## Sharing fascination with Soviet Union

by Stefanie Bedell

From childhood fascination to adulthood realization, Alexis Pogorelskin has studied, taught, and lived the Soviet Union.

As an assistant professor of history at UMD, Pogorelskin strives to enable students to learn more about the Soviet Union. "I am trying to bring Russian language studies here, and enhance courses in the Russian area generally," she said.

Pogorelskin is also associate director of the Royal D. Alworth, Jr., Institute for International Studies. In that capacity, she visited Petrozavodsk last October as part of the Duluth sister-city delegation, with her primary goal to develop educational exchanges between UMD and Petrozavodsk State University.

"I think the Soviet Union is one of the most fascinating places on earth," she said. "At the same time, one should not fall into the trap of thinking that the Soviet people are just like us."

Pogorelskin, who grew up in the Washington, D.C. area, became interested in the Soviet Union at a young age. "I read many books about the Soviet Union in our town library; and the movie, *Anastasia*, starring Ingrid Bergman, added to my curiosity," she said.

A graduate of Bryn Mawr College, Pogorelskin received her Ph.D. in history from Yale. She taught Soviet Studies for two years at Oxford University and is now conducting research on Soviet politics of the 1920s. Pogorelskin will spend next fall quarter at the University of Moscow conducting research as part of the official academic exchange between the U.S. and U.S.S.R. administered by the International Research and Exchanges Board.

"What I will be most interested in is how much interaction with my Soviet colleagues I'll be able to enjoy in the light of conducting research on a topic which is highly controversial and hitherto virtually untouchable," Pogorelskin said.

"I would like to utilize the archives, but ironically under Gorbachev the archives are tighter than ever ... more difficult to gain access to. This is one area of the new openness which in fact has been closed off, and if anything more severely circumscribed."

In addition to traveling several times throughout the Soviet Union, either leading tour groups or as an exchange scholar, Pogorelskin met her husband there. "I was an exchange scholar at the University of Leningrad

when I met my husband," she said. "It took a lot of effort on our part to obtain permission even to marry, and without being married we could not have initiated the procedures for him to apply for an exit visa."

While Pogorelskin teaches in Duluth, her husband works as a consultant to a computer company in St. Paul.

Having never lived in the Midwest, Pogorelskin enjoys Duluth. "One of the things I enjoy about this position at UMD is that

I'm supposed to encourage and enhance awareness in the university and the community at large about the Soviet Union — its complexities and its heritage.

"It's a country with a very different heritage and at times a very different set of values. One has to be sensitive to and flexible about the immense complexity of that country, even for Russians themselves."

Through her extensive travels in the Soviet Union, Pogorelskin has

found that visitors are constantly monitored and never free to roam the countryside or go beyond city limits. "Foreigners are highly restricted and under much constraint to travel with the group. There are all sorts of subtle and unsubtle ways in which people are encouraged to remain with it," she said.

"In my last visit to the Soviet Union, as part of the sister-city delegation, while nothing was said about impinging on our movements or interaction with the Soviets, we were completely immersed in a fast-paced and hectic schedule, which there was no evading. The hospitality was the warmest, but it was clear that a certain group or institution was to host us each day."

Pogorelskin says her attraction to the Soviet Union revolves around the difficulty of ever really understanding the country. "The culture is so very different and yet the people are so extraordinary in the best sense of the term — culturally, morally, intellectually — amidst a system that is repressive of almost all the values I was ever taught to respect."

Stefanie Bedell is a student intern in the Alumni and Media Relations office.



Alexis Pogorelskin, assistant professor of history and associate director of the Royal D. Alworth, Jr., Institute for International Studies, is sharing her life-long fascination with the Soviet Union.

## The Darland Center: A model university program

With the coming academic year, UMD will once again set about honoring the memory of Raymond and Jewell Darland.

by S. Jean Vileta

It's scheduled to begin this fall, and its planners, about 50 in all, expect that everyone will eventually want to get involved.

In fact, the Darland Center, still largely in the planning stages, is being designed with everyone in mind. The plan is to create an environment in which young and old alike can share and build personal resources.

The center's four major divisions, lifetime learning, volunteer services, research, and leadership, are expected to be diverse enough to provide intellectual stimulation to satisfy the interests of everyone, from retired administrators and other former employees to alumni, students, and community people.

At the core of center is a desire to make use of the university's fastest growing and most valued resource, retired faculty. Within the

next 15 years, approximately 115 faculty, one-third of the total faculty at UMD, will reach retirement age. Under the Darland project, they, along with other senior members of the community, will be maintained as a significant force in university and community life.

The lifetime learning division, also called the University for Seniors, will be for individuals 50 and over. Members will teach and attend non-credit, college level classes, workshops, and seminars. Current faculty will be involved in its ongoing lecture series, which is expected to begin next year.

The service division will include a "talent bank" in which the skills and interests of individuals can be deposited. Organizations and individuals in need can request withdrawal of services. A local and national career information network under the service division has already begun.

The Community Research Division is de-

signed to bring together intergenerational research teams focusing primarily on education, health and human services topics.

Under the leadership division, seniors will be encouraged to maintain an active role on campus and within the community.

A Board of Governors, made up of division representatives, at-large members, the chancellor, the Alumni Board president, the director of the Achievement Center, the administrator of the Center ex officio, and others, will oversee the project.

So far, funding for the project is coming from a number of sources, including the university, the business sector, foundations and donations. Plans are being made to contact alumni for donations of money, ideas, and effort.

Anyone interested in contributing to the "start-up" fund for the center, should send donations to The Darland Center at the Office of Development.

## UMD debates moving up to North Central Conference

by Steve Schach

Even in the world of college athletics, history sometimes has a way of repeating itself.

Folks who have followed the various UMD varsity sports teams over the last 30 years may very well be aware of this phenomenon. In the late 1950s, the Bulldog hockey team was making an annual mockery of Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference competition. Upending foes by lopsided margins of 24-2 and 17-1 became so common, that Connie Pleban, who to this day remains the winningest coach in Bulldog hockey history, resigned in part because of the enormous disparity in talent.

After the Bulldogs had pieced together a whopping 56-game winning streak in MIAC play over six years, UMD began to consider dropping out of the league.

For four years, UMD played an independent schedule primarily against Western Collegiate Hockey Association teams, and the Bulldogs' record steadily improved against the best college hockey players in the land. Finally, in 1965-66, the Bulldogs received the first "expansion franchise" in the WCHA.

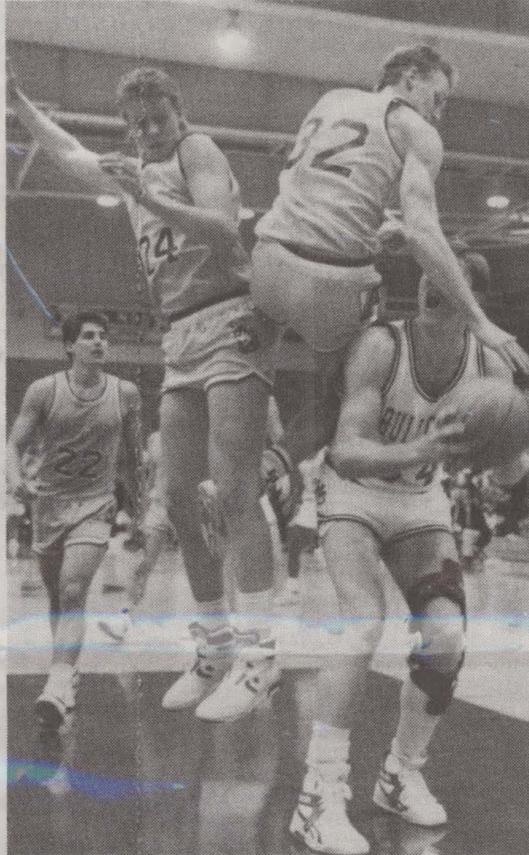
Today, over two decades and a couple of WCHA championships later, UMD is once again contemplating the status of its athletic future. But this time, the sports in question include baseball, basketball, cross country, football, golf, softball, tennis, track and field, volleyball, and wrestling. Like the hockey team of yesteryear, most of these sports have reached the pinnacle of their conferences, in this case the Northern Intercollegiate Conference (NIC) for men, and the Northern Sun Conference (NSC) for women.

The current debate involves whether or not the Bulldogs should remain in these conferences or jump to the North Central Conference (NCC), which has always been regarded as one of the finest NCAA Division II associations in the United States. Colleges UMD could face in the NCC include University of North Dakota, Augustana College, South Dakota State University, Mankato State University, St. Cloud State University, and University of Nebraska-Omaha.

"Entering the NCC is an idea that's been rattling around at UMD for a while now," says Bruce McLeod, UMD director of Intercollegiate Athletics. "The size of this school is getting to the point where the NCC would better fit our university and community. You always try and compete at the best level you can, and the NCC has been called the best NCAA Division II conference in the country."

Numbers constitute the main arguments both for and against switching to a different conference. The numbers that blatantly speak out in favor of leaving the NIC and NSC are in the wins and losses columns. Numbers against switching conferences are basic monetary figures — joining the best conference in the nation would strain the athletic department's ever tightening checkbook.

In terms of competition, UMD is clearly a cut above its conference rivals. The men's basketball team has captured four straight NIC titles and has won 47 of its last 48 conference games. After going a perfect 12-0 in NIC play in 1987-88, the Bulldogs lost four starters and went into last season as underdogs. But instead of miring through what could have been a rebuilding year, the Bulldogs cruised to another 12-0 NIC mark and



The Men's Basketball team captured its fourth straight NIC title this year, boosting its NIC winning streak to a league-record 30 games.

increased the NIC winning streak to a league-record 30 games.

"It has been a natural goal for us to join the NCC," says McLeod, now in his fifth full year as athletic director. "When you start to dominate, you naturally look to move up."

The Bulldog men's basketball team is not alone in dominating its conference. The women's basketball team, which has won nearly three-quarters of its games against NSC opponents over the past five seasons, broke no less than 40 team and individual records during the 1988-89 season, including a school-best 26 wins (11 of which came at the expense of NSC opposition).

"I would favor us going into the NCC only if the funding was there," says Karen Stromme, head coach for women's basketball. "We can't go about this only halfway, or the women's teams won't be competitive enough. We might be able to raise enough money for one year, but we have to look at whether we can afford it for the long run. Just entering the NCC isn't enough. Just because the NCC is a prestigious conference doesn't mean finishing last in that conference is going to be prestigious."

The same seven schools — Bemidji State, Minnesota-Morris, Moorhead State, Northern State College (S.D.), Southwest State, Winona State and Minnesota-Duluth — comprise both the NIC and the NSC.

Several of the schools have simply been outclassed by the Bulldogs in recent times — especially during the 1980s. Winona State hasn't beaten the Bulldog women's basketball team in over a decade, while UM-Morris has only one victory to show in its 20 confrontations with UMD in the past 10 seasons.

The men's side of the story is even more telling, with the Bulldog men's basketball team beating Northern

**What is the North Central Conference (NCC)?  
For a look at the NCC, see story, page 10.**

State College 10 straight times, Bemidji State and Moorhead State 11 games in a row, and Winona State in 21 consecutive games.

"There's no question that the NCC is a more competitive conference," says Dale Race, head coach for the Men's Basketball team. "My opinion is that it would not be a good move for the athletic department to move to a Division II program. At least nobody has convinced me, so far, that it would be a good move. On a national level the NAIA (in men's basketball) is of better quality than NCAA Division II. We would be taking a step down the ladder in that respect rather than moving up."

The numbers parade marches on to the gridiron, where the football Bulldogs have lost just five conference games enroute to racking up an .831 NIC winning percentage in the last five seasons.

Overall, the Bulldogs have won three of the past four league crowns (the 1986 and 1987 titles were later rescinded due to the Bulldogs' use of an ineligible player). Last October, when Northern State College bested UMD 17-7, marked the first time since 1981 that an NIC opponent had beaten the Bulldogs at Griggs Field.

"On the surface I would have to say 'yes, I want to join the NCC,'" says Jim Malosky, veteran Bulldog head coach and the winningest active coach in NCAA Division II football. "But there are a lot of problems that you have to consider. Number one, do they (the NCC) want us? Number two, do we want them? And number three, do we have the resources to be competitive?"

In terms of on-the-field accomplishments, UMD has basically done all it can in the NIC and NSC. So what exactly is the holdup to joining the NCC?

"Can we afford to do it?" replies McLeod. "For all of the men's and women's sports to compete at the Division II level in the NCC it would cost this department an extra half-million dollars a year."

A UMD committee has been formed that will recommend to Chancellor Lawrence Ianni whether joining the NCC is feasible or not. Committee members are McLeod; Virginia Katz, associate professor and head of communication; Diane Chambers, assistant director of the Achievement Center; Dennis Nelson, associate professor of economics; Dave Minkinen, student representative to the Board of Regents; and Linda Larson, women's athletics coordinator.

The committee knows that the athletic department will have to find more money to pay for the extra ath-

letic scholarships Division II allows. Under NIC guidelines, UMD is allowed 33 men's tuition scholarships and an unlimited number of tuition scholarships for the women's teams in the NSC. In the NCC, full-ride scholarships are allowed in football (maximum of 40), men's basketball (10), women's basketball (10), volleyball (10) and 15 extra scholarships for both the remaining men's and women's programs. The committee is also figuring in the costs of increased travel expenses and additional coaches and administrative staff.

"We couldn't move all the teams (to the NCC) all at once," McLeod says. "It would have to be a more gradual process. Where is all the money going to come from? I would hope there would be an increase in gate revenue, and the students would have to pay for this via an increase in the student service fee. Funding from the state would also be necessary."

It's been proven that home attendance generally increases when an NCC school pays a visit to UMD for a football, basketball, or volleyball game. It has also been shown that many students are disappointed and disgusted with the substantial increases in the student service fee for the remodeling of the physical education complex. Another large increase for athletics would undoubtedly stir up those who feel that the money could go to something more academically worthy. Alumni contributions would also be in greater demand.

One school of thought in raising funds is rearranging the athletic department by dropping non-revenue sports such as golf or track and field and putting that money toward revenue-producing sports.

"You look at all of the NCC schools, and they are all very broad-based," McLeod says. "We've always tried to serve the most students we can. That's the philosophy we have here, and that's the philosophy they have in the NCC. We're not going to drop a program."

All of these proposals, stands and arguments could turn out to be academic. Even if the research committee determines the move to be feasible — and staunch NAIA defenders such as Dale Race could be persuaded — there's still the hurdle of getting into the NCC. Many voting representatives of the 10 conference schools feel there is no immediate need for expansion. Last year, a pair of Nebraska schools — Wayne State and Kearney State — applied for admission and were rejected.

"It's pretty stable right now with the teams we have," said NCC Commissioner Noel Olson. "Personally, I'm very much in favor of including UMD — it would be an ideal school with the facilities and athletic tradition they have. I know of the interest there, but it has to be very, very acceptable for the voting members to choose to expand. We're always studying expansion, but whether the conference is actually ready to expand is another question."

Both UMD and the NCC are as serious as they've ever been in discussing the possibility of having the Bulldogs become a member. If step one, the Bulldogs applying for membership, is completed, don't be surprised if step two, the NCC accepting them, follows.

"Facility-wise we're squared away," McLeod says. "Right now our financial footing is sound. When you put it all together, the timing now is good."

Steve Schach is a student intern in the Sports Information department and sports editor of the UMD Statesman.



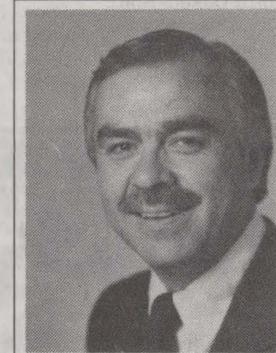
"I would favor us going into the NCC only if the total funding was there. We're already playing many of the NCC teams each year, and those are our big games for the season. We must make sure that all the programs are treated with equity."

**Karen Stromme  
Head Coach  
Women's Basketball**



"It would not be a good move for the athletic department to move to a Division II program. On a national level the NAIA (in men's basketball) is of better quality than NCAA Division II. We would be taking a step down the ladder in that respect."

**Dale Race  
Head Coach  
Men's Basketball**



"Entering the NCC is an idea that's been rattling around at UMD for a while now. The size of this school is getting to the point where the NCC would better fit our university and community ... and the NCC has been called the best NCAA Division II conference in the country."

**Bruce McLeod  
Athletic Director**



"I'm all for it. I think the NCC is a very strong conference and happy that the school and administration is reviewing it. In women's sports, we've been competing against the NCC teams more than teams in our own conference."

**Linda Larson  
Women's Athletic  
Coordinator**

# NCC one of the toughest conferences in the nation

by Steve Schach

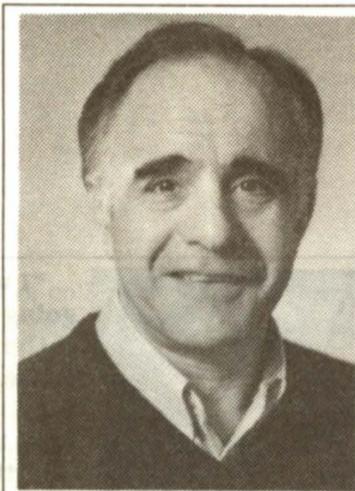
Year in and year out, the North Central Conference (NCC) is one of the toughest college division leagues in the nation.

The league has been represented in a post season bowl game every year since the NCAA opened college bowl contests except 1971 and 1974. North Dakota State has captured the national crown in football seven out of the last 23 seasons, including the 1988 title.

Annually, NCC teams are ranked in the top 10. South Dakota, South Dakota State and North Dakota have won national championships in basketball or placed among the top three and are perennial powers. Six of the league's wrestling teams are ranked in the top 10 in the nation annually. The NCC has produced many all-Americans in track, cross-country, baseball and swimming.

The NCC roots go back to 1921, when representatives of colleges and universities in North Dakota, South Dakota, Iowa, Nebraska and Minnesota met in late fall in Chicago to consider the formation of what was to become the North Central Intercollegiate Athletic Conference.

Colleges represented



**"On the surface I would have to say 'yes, I want to join the NCC.' But there are a lot of problems that you have to consider. Number one, do they (the NCC) want us? Number two, do we want them? And number three, do we have the resources to be competitive?"**  
**Jim Malosky**  
**Head Coach**  
**Football**

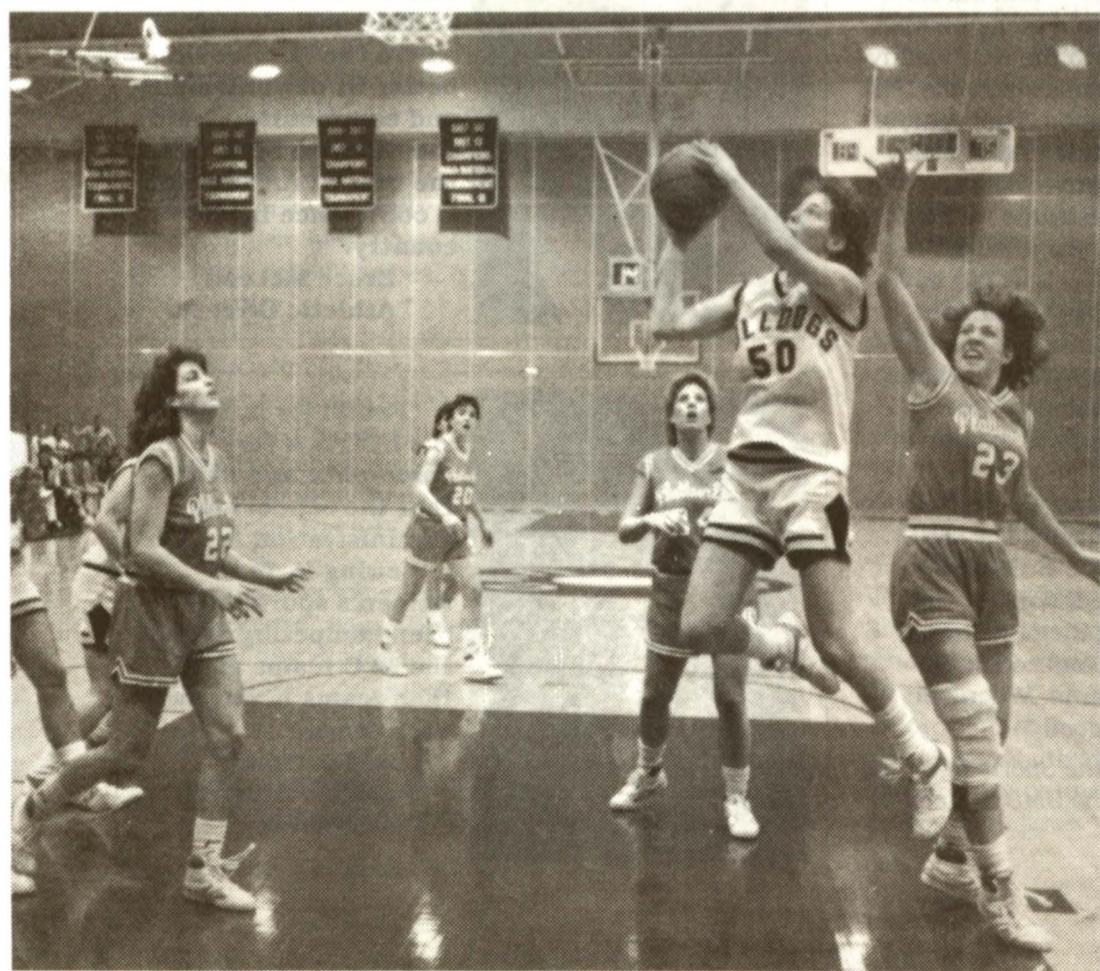
were: North Dakota Agricultural College (now North Dakota State University), North Dakota University, State University of South Dakota, South Dakota State College, Morningside College, Des Moines Municipal University, Nebraska Wesleyan, College of St. Thomas at St. Paul, and Creighton University. They all became charter members, and competition officially began in the spring of 1922.

Over the next three decades, colleges dropped out and were admitted, with conference membership in 1968 comprised of: Morningside College, University of Northern Iowa, North Dakota State University, University of North Dakota, Augustana College, South Dakota State University and the

University of South Dakota.

At the fall meeting in 1968, Mankato State College was admitted to the NCC. The University of Nebraska-Omaha (formerly Omaha University) was readmitted in the spring of 1976. Mankato was dropped from the conference at the end of Spring 1977 and Northern Iowa left the league in the spring of 1978. The University of Northern Colorado became the eighth member of the NCC in January of 1979. Mankato State and St. Cloud State were admitted in 1981 to bring membership in the NCC to 10.

*Steve Schach is a student intern in the Sports Information department and sports editor at the UMD Statesman.*



**The Women's Basketball team, which has won nearly three-quarters of its games against NSC opponents over the past five seasons, broke 40 team and individual records during the 1988-89 season, including a school-best 26 wins, 11 of which came at the expense of NSC opposition.**

## 5-year statistics show UMD the team to beat

### Football

vs. the NIC: 25-5-2  
 vs. the NCC: 1-4  
 overall record: 37-14-2  
 average score against NIC teams: 26.6 to 9.3  
 NIC titles (in the last five years): 3

Notes: The Bulldogs have averaged one conference loss a season in recording a 52-10-2 NIC mark during the past 10 years.

### Men's Basketball

vs. the NIC: 73-8  
 vs. the NCC: 1-6  
 overall record: 120-35  
 average score against NIC teams: 74.5 to 59.1  
 NIC titles (in the last five years): 4

Notes: It's no joke to say that the second best team in the NIC is the Bulldog's second string.

### Women's Basketball

vs. the NSC: 48-19  
 vs. the NCC: 11-18  
 overall record: 96-48  
 average score against NSC teams: 74.1 to 63.9  
 NSC titles (in the last five years): 2

Notes: During the 1988-89 season, the Bulldogs defeated St. Cloud State and North Dakota State, co-champions of the NCC.

### Volleyball:

vs. the NSC: 56-4  
 vs. the NCC: 23-50  
 overall record: 163-106  
 average score against NSC teams: 14.8 to 11.3  
 NSC titles in the last five years: 5

Notes: The Lady Bulldogs, who have won six straight NSC titles, play teams from the NCC more often than they play NSC teams.

### Men's Tennis

vs. the NIC: 33-0  
 vs. the NCC: 25-6  
 overall record: 104-16  
 average score in an NIC match: 9 to 0  
 NIC titles (in the last five years): 5

Notes: Gunning for their seventh straight NIC title, the Bulldogs have won 50 straight matches against NIC teams, with their last loss coming in 1981.

### Women's tennis

vs. the NSC: 21-7  
 vs. the NCC: 8-11  
 overall record: 38-31  
 average score in an NSC match: 6.8 to 2.2  
 NSC titles in the last five years: 0

Notes: This year's squad includes two freshmen and a sophomore whose combined singles record is 19-5, making the future look even brighter for the Bulldogs.

### Softball:

vs. the NSC: 46-6  
 vs. the NCC: 27-9  
 overall record: 141-50  
 average score against NSC teams: 8.6 to 1.7  
 NSC titles in the last five years: 5

Notes: The Bulldogs, who finished second in the NAIA National Tournament last season, have a record of 8-14 against NCAA Division I teams the past five years.

### Baseball:

vs. the NIC: 46-36  
 vs. the NCC: 5-3  
 overall record: 94-61-2  
 average score against NIC teams: 6.0 to 5.5  
 NIC titles in the last five years: 0

Notes: The only sport mentioned that isn't overwhelming in statistical evidence, the baseball team might struggle at first in the NCC.

# NANCY ERHARD

The University of Minnesota Duluth Bridge

Page 11

## Director of award-winning *Blue Collar Blues*

by Doris Pride

There haven't been many female role models along the way for Nancy Erhard, director of UMD's award-winning *Blue Collar Blues*.

"But ever since I can remember, I've wanted to direct," says the 33-year-old assistant professor of theatre at UMD. "I love seeing how things work, how stories are put together. Even when I went to the movies as a kid, I can remember wondering how the picture was made."

Wearing stone-washed jeans and a sweater, the slender brunette could easily be mistaken for one of her students. This April she was honored by her peers when *Blue Collar Blues* was chosen by the American College Theatre Festival to represent UMD in a special performance at Washington, D.C.'s Kennedy Center. The play was among the top five chosen from 700 entries nationwide.

"This was totally unexpected," says Erhard, who says the last thing on her mind was winning the award. While she's been described as being "quite laid-back about the whole thing," the truth is, she's delighted — but gives her students the credit.

"There is so much commitment from students here...that's what keeps me going," Erhard says.

Yet faculty members also play a big role in keeping Erhard motivated. "We have a small department, but the faculty is dedicated to doing good work. There's lots of energy and enthusiasm — and very high standards. We strive for quality, for each play to be better than the last," she says.

Headed by Richard Durst, the youthful department has a history of excellence. Harvey Jordan, associate professor, was director of UMD's 1987 award-winning play, *The Homesteaders*, that was performed at the Kennedy Center. Other faculty members include Patricia Dennis, Ann Bergeron, and Mark Harvey.

Prior to joining the faculty at UMD in the fall of 1986, Erhard did production work with a Minneapolis-based film production company. She was with the Guthrie Theater during the 1985-86 season, where she was assistant director to playwright-director Emily Mann on her production of *Execution of Justice*.

Erhard came to UMD in the fall of 1986, after completing her MFA in stage direction at the University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, in 1985. A Twin Cities native, she spent nearly four years at the university's Morris campus getting experience and learning how to direct. While she took acting courses as well, she found herself far more comfortable in the role of director.

"Like UMD, the Morris campus has a very small Department of Theatre, where students get lots of attention, care and concern. It's a feeling we try to foster in our department at UMD, too."

Erhard, who has directed about 20 plays, says she tries very hard "to do it as well as teach it." That is, she keeps in touch with the business of theatre outside the university.

Recently she returned from an interview visit with Emily Mann, co-author and director of an upcoming East Coast play, *Betsy Brown*. "I was really grateful to have another woman director as a role model," Erhard recalls of her days working with Mann at Guthrie Theater.

Keeping in touch with the world outside academia is important to Erhard. "It keeps you sharp," she contends. "It's important to keep current, stay in touch, in tune. I'm able, then, to bring new ideas into the classroom."

Asked if women bring any special strengths to directing, Erhard responds with a definite, "You bet." One important aspect is simply that they're there, as role models.

One way Erhard helps

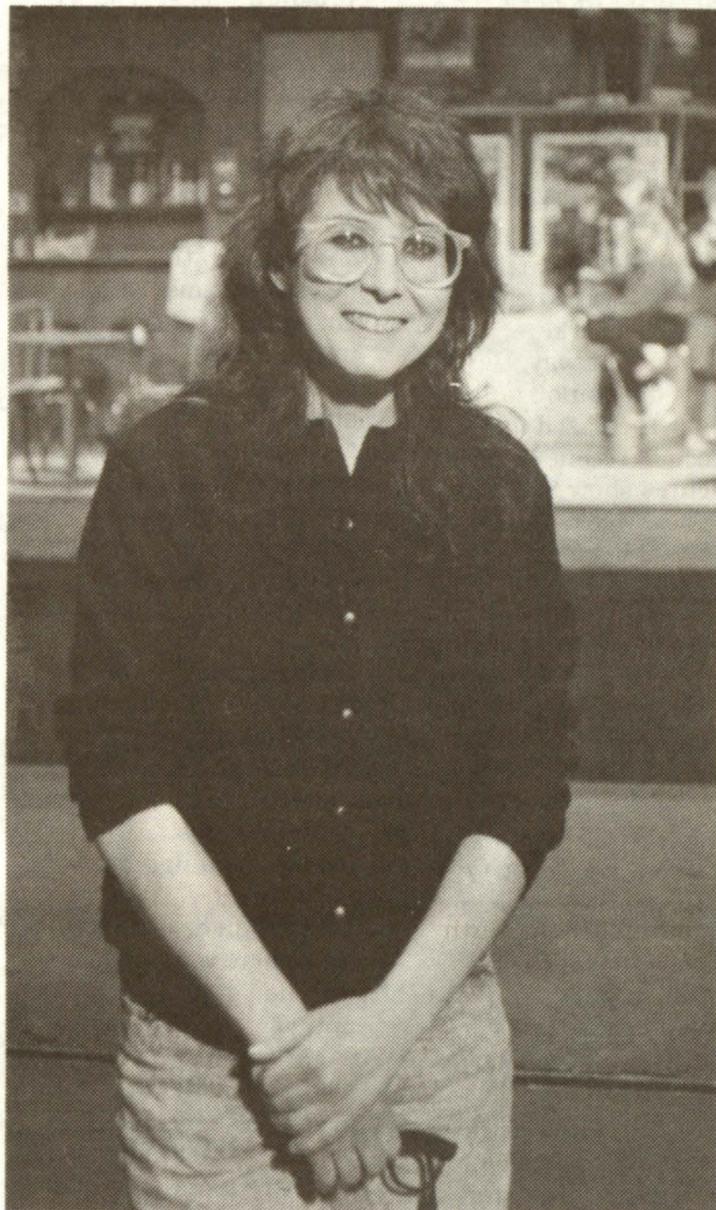
young actors prepare for a play is by bringing in experts from the real world to talk to students. For example, because *Blue Collar Blues* is about a factory closing down, Erhard brought in individuals from a local company that had experienced recent lay-offs. "This way students can find out first-hand what happened in a real-life situation that relates to the play."

How does she bring out the best in her students? First, she has high expectations. What's more, she believes in them. "I respect them, I challenge them, and I listen to them."

Colleen McDonnell of Eau Claire, Wis., one of the cast of *Blue Collar Blues*, describes Erhard as extremely disciplined and committed. "She really takes time with you, lets you find your character. It's always good working with Nancy, and she makes rehearsals fun. But she chooses challenging shows."

For Erhard, watching students grow, even in little steps, is what makes her job worth it. And the biggest compliment that anyone can pay her is not necessarily about a play. "For me, it's when an actor says 'thanks,'" she says.

Doris Pride is news director in the Alumni and Media Relations office.



Director Nancy Erhard, above, was surprised when UMD Theatre's *Blue Collar Blues* was chosen by the American College Theatre Festival to represent UMD in a special performance at Washington, D.C.'s Kennedy Center. The play, which centers around a small town losing its main employer, was among the top five chosen from 700 entries nationwide. Erhard came to UMD in the fall of 1986, after completing her MFA in stage direction at the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis in 1985.



# KUMD 103.3 FM

## 'New Music and News'

by Lucy Kragness

Taking a risk is nothing new at Duluth Public Radio: KUMD 103.3 FM.

In the last three years, the UMD station has expanded its news programs, changed its daytime music format, and helped form a regional radio network.

Along the way, the 33-year-old station substantially increased its audience — recent Arbitron figures show that in a typical week, 14,000 to 15,000 listeners consistently tune in to KUMD.

"Listenership has doubled in the last three years," according to Paul Schmitz, KUMD station manager. "The most important reason listenership is up is because of the expanded *Morning Edition* and the 3 1/2-hour block of news in the afternoon drive time. High-quality national news plus an expanded effort in local news have been extremely successful."

Almost three years ago, the *Morning Edition* news program was expanded to 5-9 a.m. The popular *Fresh Air* with Terry Gross

program was also added in the afternoon to both sides of *All Things Considered* and the first hour of *All Things Considered* was repeated, for a total of 3 1/2 hours of news and information.

Along with the expanded news programs, KUMD changed its afternoon music format last fall. "We had had an eclectic mix and decided to blend together contemporary jazz and new adult contemporary rock, music not generally played on other stations," Schmitz said. "This provided a more consistent sound, and for the most part people like that."

While it's too early to tell, Schmitz is confident the new format will attract more listeners.

"It was a tough decision, because after years and years of an eclectic format, there were people that had gotten used to it and liked it," Schmitz said. "But I think for the good of the station, all the evidence suggested that we will attract more listeners eventually by selecting a format."

To help reach an even

	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Sun	
5:00	Morning Edition					Harry Shearer	Wake Robin	6:00
						Car Talk	Hearts of Space	7:00
						Weekend Edition	Totally Wired	8:00
9:00						Harry Shearer		9:00
						Whad'Ya Know? with Michael Feldman	Car Talk	10:00
Noon	Contemporary Jazz and New Adult Rock					Afropop	Musical Variety	Noon
						Blues	Women's Music	2:00
3:30	Fresh Air with Terry Gross							
4:00	All Things Considered					Am. Jazz Radio Festival	Specials	4:00
6:30	Fresh Air with Terry Gross						All Things Considered	6:00
7:00							Sidran	7:00
8:00						Jazz	Joe Frank	8:00
9:00						Talkline	New Dimensions	9:00
10:00	50's and 60's Rock	Women's Music				Blues	Hearts of Space	10:00
10:30	Rock						New Sounds	11:00
1:00								12:00
								3:00

larger audience, KUMD is a member of the Superior Radio Network, which was recently formed with KAXE in Grand Rapids, Minn., and WOJB in Hayward, Wis. WXPR in Rhinelander, Wis., is an associate member of the network.

Through the network, the potential audience for

special programs mushrooms to more than 650,000. KUMD reaches approximately 400,000 people in its 95-mile transmission area.

The network concept goes back at least four years, when the stations began exploring ways to share programs on common themes — proximity to Ojibwe reservations and the northwoods surrounding Lake Superior, Schmitz said. But stations found sharing programs expensive, especially when broadcasting live.

Problems were eventually solved, and the stations shared their first program last Veteran's Day, when a call-in show originating at KUMD was carried live on KAXE. On Martin Luther King Day in January, WOJB originated a call-in program on racism, which was carried live on KUMD.

The Superior Radio Network member stations also carry the popular KUMD program, *For the Birds*, which is written and produced by Laura Erickson of Duluth. The show, sponsored by St. Luke's Hospital and Fifield-Powers Photography, airs each weekday on KUMD at 7:35 a.m. during *Morning Edition*.

All stations maintain their autonomy in the network, which is in the

process of incorporating as a nonprofit organization. Schmitz said the network should also help the stations raise money for new equipment, with many contributors hopefully more willing to finance projects that benefit more than one station.

To accommodate all the changes, the KUMD control room and production room in the basement of the Humanities Building are also undergoing renovations totaling more than \$150,000. Along with the new equipment, the staff has grown to eight full-time positions and one part-time legislative reporter.

And amidst all the changes, KUMD continues to rely on its active list of 60 to 70 volunteers for many of the evening and weekend music programs.

"Our billboard's slogan is New Music and News," Schmitz said. "And that pretty well sums up the direction KUMD has taken. The bottom line is the sound of the station, and KUMD today is sounding upbeat and professional. It's a sound many people enjoy."

Lucy Kragness is Bridge editor and publications editor in the Alumni and Media Relations office.



KUMD 103.3 FM has doubled its listenership in the last three years, thanks to the successful expansion of its news and information programs. Pictured are KUMD employees Bob DeArmond, left, Paul Schmitz and Jean Johnson.

# Laura Erickson's show is *For the Birds*

by Lucy Kragness

When Laura Erickson walked into KUMD just over three years ago with a couple of bird records and three scripts, she knew nothing about producing a radio show.

But her enthusiasm for bird watching and talents as a writer convinced the station to take a chance, and *For the Birds* was soon on the air.

Today, the popular show airs weekdays at 7:35 a.m. during *Morning Edition* and is funded by St. Luke's Hospital and Fifield-Powers Photography of Duluth.

"Everybody's fascinated with birds, and I find it rewarding to share information," Erickson said. "It's added an extra dimension to my life."

The 3 1/2-minute program blends ornithological information with music, literature, etymology, folklore, history, and humor. Each week, at least one or two of Erickson's hundreds of faithful listeners writes for a little more information or advice.

Erickson began bird watching at age 23 after receiving a pair of binoculars and a field guide

for Christmas in 1974. The next March, she headed out for her first outing, anticipating seeing several of the birds listed in the field guide. After two hours of trudging through the Michigan snow, Erickson saw her first bird ... which she identified a few days later as a chickadee.

Undaunted, Erickson continued bird watching after moving with her husband Russell to Madison, Wis., where she taught junior high school and began to contribute regular bird columns and concert reviews to the *Wisconsin State Journal*.

Several years ago, the couple moved to Duluth, and today Erickson is president of the Duluth Audubon Society. Erickson and her distinctive red hat are also a familiar sight at Hawk Ridge Nature Reserve near her Duluth home.

In addition to caring for her three young children, Erickson has published articles in *Minnesota Volunteer*, and *Lake Superior Magazine*, and has completed a novel with the help of a grant from the Minnesota State Arts Board.



Laura Erickson, president of the Duluth Audubon Society, shares her enthusiasm about bird watching weekdays at 7:35 a.m. during her *For the Birds* program on KUMD 103.3 FM. Erickson's show blends ornithological information with music, literature, etymology, folklore, history, and humor.

A Chicago native, Erickson has an education degree and has completed graduate studies in fisheries and wildlife at Michigan State University. She plans on earning a master's degree and doctorate in ornithology.

Erickson also is pro-

ducer and writer for *Wake Robin*, an hour-long variety show that began broadcasting live Sundays at 6 a.m. in March. She is joined on the air by announcer Tim Winker.

While the future of *Wake Robin* is uncertain, Erickson is committed to *For the Birds*.

"I've got so much freedom on *For the Birds* ... my scripts are like essays," she said. "And I have received such nice responses from listeners."

Lucy Kragness is Bridge editor and publications editor in the Alumni and Media Relations office.

## Students literally climb the wall at UMD

When they feel like climbing the walls, students don't have to go very far at UMD. The university has just completed a 35-foot-high rock-climbing wall in Recreational Sports.

"There aren't many universities with recreational rock-climbing walls," says Dick Haney, director of Recreational Sports at UMD. "But we want to offer a broad spectrum of sports, and rock-climbing is especially well-suited to the geography of this region," he adds.

The newly constructed wall in the recreational gymnasium is a simulation of a steep granite wall that can be found along the rocky cliffs surrounding Lake Superior. For Haney, it is the culmination of nine years of planning.

"We had a lot of raised eyebrows and not much support at first," he says.

For one thing, the liability issue was a major concern. Yet

Haney contends that statistically, rock-climbing is among the safest activities in a typical gym setting. "Whenever it's used, there will be an individual supervising for safety and procedure, just as a lifeguard would monitor the pool," he explains. In addition, a helmet is required for all climbers.

The building process, says Haney, was partly a labor of love. The construction was a tedious process of covering three layers of heavy wire mesh with "globs of concrete, actually throwing the concrete into the mesh to make it solid," says Haney.

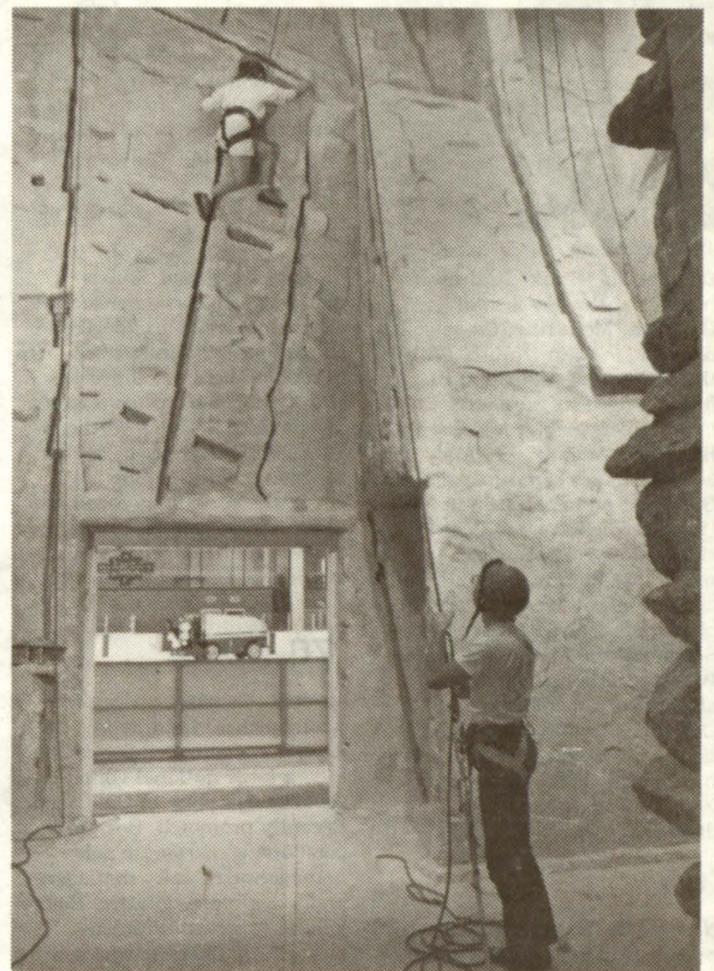
One student who was involved in the project is Jody Stone, UMD junior in mathematics education and a member of the North Shore Climbers club. She became interested in rock-climbing last spring when she went on a student rock-climbing trip to South Dakota and to Wyoming's Devil's

Tower.

"Climbing is a challenge — and it's a great activity," says Stone. She was eager to get involved when she heard students were being hired to help build UMD's rock-climbing wall. "It was really fun to help shape the little nooks and crannies in the wall," she says.

The wall's surface is graded for difficulty, and comes complete with holds and even a spot that requires the climber to hang upside down. "It prepares you with basic climbing skills, what to look for and how to use a rock ledge," Stone says.

A few other campus departments have expressed an interest in using the wall as well. Geology, for instance, is curious about the kinds of rock that go into the composition of one of the walls. And the psychology department might be interested in using the climbing walls in some of their "trust" experiments with students.



The new UMD climbing wall is a simulation of a steep granite wall that can be found on Lake Superior's North Shore.

# CLASSNOTES



'38

**Ruth Slonim**, professor emeritus of English at Washington State University and author of four books of poetry, recently received the Governor's Arts Award from Gov. Booth Gardner in a ceremony at the Executive Mansion in Olympia, Wash., followed by a reception. Cited as a poet "in recognition of excellence and significant contributions to the artistic and cultural life of the state of Washington," she was chosen for the award by public nomination and the Washington State Arts Commission. Slonim has held invited visiting professorships at the University of Puerto Rico and in Dublin, Ireland, where she taught a university course on William Butler Yeats, the Irish poet and Nobel laureate. Her book, *Outer Traces/Inner Places*, was nominated for the Pulitzer Prize in Poetry. Earlier, she received the highest honor conferred on members of the Washington State University faculty when she was asked to present the 21st Distinguished Faculty Address, which she titled "Proems and Poems." Before teaching in the Pacific Northwest, Slonim taught in the English department and was director of public relations when the Duluth State Teachers College was making its bid to become UMD. In memory of her parents, Duluth attorney and Mrs. Sigmond M. Slonim, she created an annual scholarship award by the UMD Department of English for a senior majoring in English.

'63



Andresen

**Charles H. "Huck" Andresen** has joined the law firm of Donovan, McCarthy, Crassweller & Magie, P.A., in Duluth. With the addition of Andresen, the firm changed its name to Crassweller, Magie, Andresen, Haag and Paciotti, P.A. Andresen was previously a partner at the Bye Boyd Andresen firm in Duluth, where he had been since 1969. He specializes in real estate, mining and mineral law and title corrections and is past chair of the Real Property Section of the Minnesota State Bar Association. Andresen is also a board member of the Duluth Entertainment Conventions Center and past chair of the Duluth Convention and Visitors Bureau board of directors.

'65

**Nancy Lee (Hage) Listiak** is president of School Board #300 in LaCrescent, Minn. She has been active in a variety of community affairs. Nancy and her husband Dick (1966 graduate) have two children.

'69

**Jonathan H. Berg**, professor of geology at Northern Illinois University, recently received a \$200,000 grant from the National Science Foundation to continue research in Antarctica and to pursue a sabbatical project at the Australian National University in Canberra, Australia.

'74



Davis

**Steven M. Davis** recently opened new insurance offices, Steven M. Davis & Assoc. - Financial Services, in Duluth, representing the New England Mutual Life Insurance Co. The office is a branch of the LeNeave Financial Group of Minneapolis. Davis completed his licensing and securities examinations and is registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission for sales in equity based products and mutual funds. He had been an automobile sales and lease consultant for the previous 14 years. He and his wife Dr. Terese Tomanek live in Duluth and have one son ... **Colin and Grace (Nukala) Isaacson** are St. Louis County Social Workers in Virginia and Hibbing, respectively. Colin received his master's degree in counseling from the University of Wisconsin-Superior in 1980. They spend time with Colin's twin brother, **Lance Isaacson** (1977 UMD alumnus and master of divinity graduate from Christ Seminary-Seminex in 1981) of Faith United Lutheran Church in Iron, Minn.

'75

**Barbara Berglund Smith** graduated in December of 1988 with a master of arts degree in educational administration from Northern Michigan University in Marquette. She earned a master of arts in 1977 from Northern Michigan University in communication disorders. She is currently working as a communication disorders specialist for the Marquette-Alger Intermediate School District in Michigan's Upper Peninsula.

'76

**Mark R. Baratto** is vice president, sales and marketing, for American Protective Services, Inc., a large national contract security company in California. Recently promoted, Baratto held positions as corporate sales manager, area sales manager, and sales representative. Before joining American Protective Services in 1981, he was a professional representative with Merck Sharp and Dohme. He is a member of the American Association for Industrial Security, the Building Owners

## A message from president of the UMD Alumni Board

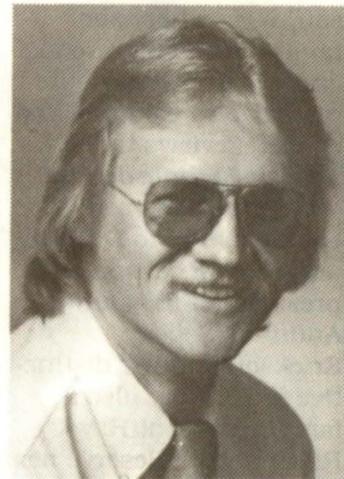
Dear UMD Alumni:

Since its first meeting last fall, the UMD Alumni Association's board of directors has shown itself to be an energetic, hard-working group. A positive first step was to fill the vacancies on the board with good, capable people — thus increasing the range of interests and talents from which to draw.

A great deal of the interest shown by board members in university activities can be attributed to the attention given to the board by Chancellor Lawrence Ianni. Board members are kept up-to-date on university activities which affect them, thus allowing board members to address the needs of UMD with confidence.

As a case in point, board members attended legislative breakfasts last fall at which the university presented its legislative "wish list." Legislative updates from Morrill Hall keep board members up-to-date and able to speak to legislators with authority.

Association board members addressed the Regents Selection Committee late last year, expressing their interest in the selection of Regents — particularly the



Don Stauty

"at-large" positions.

Senior receptions, held each quarter for graduating seniors, continue as an Alumni Association function. Interest and support of the receptions by students seem to be increasing. Since UMD does not conduct a commencement after winter quarter and many of the fall and spring graduates do not attend the scheduled commencements, these receptions are the only way some graduates are recognized by the university or the Alumni Association for their accomplishments.

Alumni Association board members are involved in various tasks and committees which increase the Association's presence on the campus and in the community. Board member Bob Falk

has taken a lead in the development of the Darland Center and has involved other board members in its planning stages. Past president Al Willman is active in the "Friends of the Library" group. Bob Williams has involved almost the entire board in the upcoming Special Olympics program at UMD. Student Association President Tim Allison has provided the needed link between the board and the student body. Board members have expressed an interest in assisting with UMD's development program and should be more active in future years.

The Alumni Association board was also present to congratulate Nils Hasselmo on his selection as University of Minnesota president. This encounter was significant in that the new president was able to interact with UMD alumni on his first visit.

Alumni Association board members have been busy this year. The fruits of their labors are an improved experience for UMD students and a sense of pride and ownership for UMD alumni.

**Don Stauty**  
President  
Alumni Association

and Managers Association, and the Controlled Negotiations and Sales Group.

'78

**Katherine Cavanor** has accepted a position as assistant county attorney for Chisago County in Minnesota. She was previously a judicial clerk for Hennepin County District Court. Cavanor is a 1987 graduate of the University of Minnesota Law School.

'79

**Candy (Lepisto) Gamst** teaches third grade in Sandstone, Minn., and lives with her husband and three sons in Sandstone. She recently completed her master's degree at UMD.

'80

**James McNelis** recently had his work on display at the Katherine E. Nash Gallery at the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis ... James H. Proctor has joined the Duluth office of Piper, Jaffray & Hopwood Inc., a Minneapolis-based investment firm, as an assistant vice president and investment executive. Before joining Piper Jaffray, Proctor was an associate vice president with Dain Bosworth in Duluth ... **Marshall Weems** was recently named director of planning and port development for the city of Superior. He previously was a business developer for Duluth for five years.

'82

**Sharyl (Shari) Jensen** is a program coordinator at Brightstone Enterprises, a vocational training program for developmentally disabled adults in Baltimore, Md ... **Kelley Cook Mailhes** formerly worked as a speech therapist at Ada Wilson Hospital, a children's hospital in Corpus Christi, Texas. She writes she is currently a professional parent of two children and loves living five minutes from the beach ... **Colleen Daley Sanders** is youth education director for Film in the Cities in St. Paul.

'83

**Jeanne (Weiss) Aamodt** is communications manager for Ellerbe Becket, Inc., a national architectural/engineering firm. Her husband **Dean Aamodt** (1982 UMD graduate) is biomedical videographer for Abbott Northwestern Hospital in Minneapolis. They have one son and live in Roseville. Jeanne is currently working on her master's degree in business communications at the College of St. Thomas in St. Paul ... **Tim Hammes** owns his own landscape design firm in Scottsdale, Ariz ... **Yvonne B. Johnson** is a program director at the Aitkin County Development Achievement Center in McGregor, Minn. She develops programs for developmentally disabled adults. Johnson will also be getting married to John Belden on April 29.

'84

**Brian Billings** is an inventory analyst for Cable Value Network in Plymouth, Minn. She currently lives in Excelsior.

'85

**John J. Donovan III** graduated from the William Mitchell College of Law in 1988. He served as a judicial law clerk for Judge Patrick Fitzgerald of Minnesota's Fourth Judicial District (Hennepin County) while completing his

final year of law school. He passed the Minnesota Bar Examination in July of 1988 and is now with Arthur Andersen & Co. in the Minneapolis Tax Division, working primarily in the corporate tax area ... **Wanda S. Greene** has been certified as a CPA and was recently promoted to supervising auditor for the County of Ventura in California. She lives in Oxnard ... **Steven Leonard** was recently promoted to regional comptroller of Intel Corp. in Scottsdale, Ariz. He lives in Glendale with his wife, who is expecting their first child in August ... **Lt. Gail Torgerson-Hathaway** is working as a naval aerospace physiologist at the Naval Aerospace Medicine Institute at the Naval Air Station in Pensacola, Fla.

'86

**Darius Bockus** is unit supervisor of the Special Care Unit at St. Joseph's Home for Children in Minneapolis. He works with children ages 12-17 with multiple disorders, ranging from borderline personality disorders to victims of sexual, physical and/or emotional abuse. He supervises a team developing treatment plans in a long-term residential setting ... **Carmen Czachor** is lab manager for the village of Lake Zurich, Ill. She recently won a trip to Hawaii and lives in Arlington Heights.

'87

**Kelly Rerah and Jim Paddock** (1982 UMD graduate) are planning to be married Oct. 7. Jim, UMD's first All-American wrestler, currently teaches and coaches at Highland Park Senior High in St. Paul. Kelly plans to resign from her position as sales secretary at The Saint Paul Hotel to attend graduate school this spring at the University of Minnesota.

'88

**Lt. Anthony P. Berg** is flying jets at Laughlin Air Force Base in Del Rio, Texas ... **Bryan Drumm** is a customer support engineer on CAD systems for Camax in Edina, Minn ... **Ed Dulski** is an industrial engineer in robotics, ergonomics, and processes for General Mills in Chicago ... **John Josephson** is an international orders processor for Ecolab in St. Paul ... **Daniel Morton** is an analytical chemist for H.B. Fuller Co. in Vadnaia Heights, Minn. He lives in south Minneapolis ... **Stephanie Naysmith** is a computer programmer for Bankers Systems, Inc., in St. Cloud, Minn ... **Bryan Obeidzinski** is a stockbroker for Wayne-Miller Investment Bankers in the IDS Center in Minneapolis ... **Todd Peterson** is a systems programmer in the International Information Delivery Services Group for A.C. Nielsen Co. in Minneapolis.

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Duluth, Minn. 55812



Members of the "fortysomething" Reunion Advisory Committee are, back row from left to right, John Newstrom, '64; Beth Brown, associate alumni director; Darryl Szczepanski, alumni director; and Karen Beron, '65. Front row, from left,

## A Reunion for the Sixties

August 4-6, 1989

### Reunion Schedule

#### Friday, August 4

Registration	10 a.m.-noon	Kirby Lounge
Campus Tours	10-11 a.m.	
Theatre Party		
Social Hour	5-6 p.m.	Kirby Ballroom
Buffet Dinner	6-7:30 p.m.	
Anything Goes	8 p.m.	Marshall Performing Arts Center
After theatre get together		Kirby Lounge

#### Saturday, August 5

Picnic by the Lake	6-9 p.m.	Glensheen Mansion
Cabaret	9 p.m.-?	Spirit Mountain

#### Sunday, August 6

Farewell Brunch	11 a.m.-1 p.m.	Tweed Museum of Art
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To register, write the UMD Alumni Office, UMD, Duluth, MN. 55812-2496 or call the Alumni Office at 218-726-8197.

## Share your news

Keep your former classmates informed on what you've been doing through Classnotes. Send the completed form and a black and white photograph, if available, to:

UMD Bridge  
315 Darland Administration Building  
Duluth, Minn. 55812

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Class \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Check here if this is a change of address \_\_\_\_\_

Classnotes news:

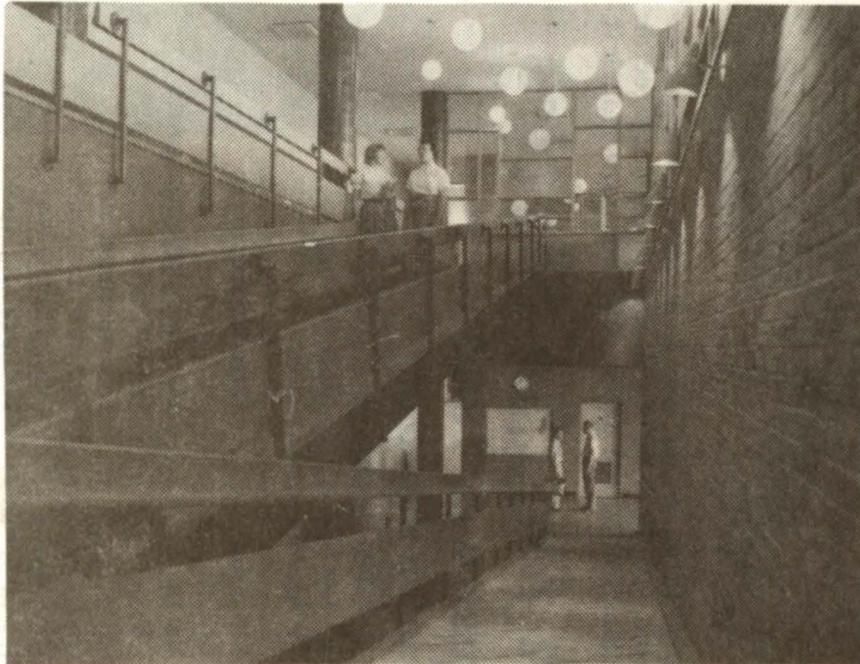
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*A Reunion for the Sixties*



**Friday, Saturday, Sunday  
August 4-6, 1989**

**The weekend you have been waiting for  
is just four months away!**

**See page 15 for reunion details.**