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UMD NEWS SERVICE
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Duluth -- UMD Alumni Association (UMDAA) President Vernon Amundson today announced that the Duluth group will be an autonomous unit beginning July 1.

Under the new arrangement, the Duluth unit will function within the University of Minnesota alumni structure, but dues paid to the organization will be used to promote activities for UMD and Duluth State Teacher's College (DSTC) alumni alone, according to Amundson, a Duluth dentist.

"This new arrangement will mean a greater reserve of funds available for bigger and better projects for UMD," he said.

He explained that the UMDAA has been a constituent group of the Minnesota Alumni Association (MAA) since 1958 and had its headquarters in Minneapolis.

"Now, with the growth of UMD, it was thought that an autonomous alumni group is the most efficient means of boosting the Duluth campus," Amundson continued.

The new organization is the result of discussions by Amundson, University Vice President Stanley Wenberg, UMD Provost Raymond W. Darland, MAA Executive Director Edwin L. Haislet and MAA President Al Heimbach.

Commenting on the new organization, Darland said, "We have reached a new plateau in the evolution of the UMD alumni organization. I challenge all alumni to support the new organization and to carry out the important work it can do in the future development of UMD."

Amundson said the UMDAA now has an office and professional staff on campus to devote full energy to promotion of UMD and its Alumni.

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UMD Alumni Association Goes Independent
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A special alumni committee is now in the process of revising the present constitution of the group, Amundson added.

"As our first project," Amundson said, "we are launching an extensive membership campaign. We are trying to reach every UMD alumnus and asking them to join with us in developing the fine university in Duluth."

"In order to make this a strong and vital organization, we will need the cooperation of all DSTC and UMD graduates," he continued.

Amundson listed other UMDAA projects as a quarterly newsletter, expanded student recruitment and support for the Duluth campus, increased alumni-student projects and alumni social events.

Membership in the UMDAA is open to all who have graduated from or taken 15 quarter credits at UMD or its predecessors, Duluth State Teacher's College and Duluth State Normal School.

A patron membership is also open to those who have not attended UMD, but are interested in joining in the support of the Duluth campus.

Questions regarding membership should be referred to the UMDAA office, Communications Center, University of Minnesota, Duluth, Duluth, Minn. 55812, telephone 724-8801, Ext. 497.