



Founded in 1911, we are a strong and vibrant community, dedicated to helping U of M women students achieve their academic goals. We forge lasting friendships by welcoming everyone, caring about each other, and exploring new ideas and places together.

January-February 2023 ~ No. 304

Conversation with a Woman Leader: Internationalizing a university and why you should care

We are delighted to invite you to our February Conversation with a Woman Leader luncheon Tuesday, February 14, at Midland Hills Country Club. Our speaker is Meredith McQuaid, the University of Minnesota's associate vice president and dean for international programs, who has been leading internationalization efforts for the University of Minnesota system for 15 years.



Meredith's responsibilities are broad, but the impact of the work of her staff is deep. She will talk about how roles like hers have evolved over time in higher education, and the challenges and rewards of promoting meaningful global engagement for students, faculty and staff.

Prior to her role as dean, McQuaid served as associate dean for international programs in the U of M Law School, where she holds an adjunct faculty position. Before entering academia, she practiced immigration and civil litigation law in Minneapolis.

McQuaid's experience with international education began early. As an undergraduate, she was one of the first U.S. students to study Mandarin in China after the country opened to the West. After graduation, she spent two years teaching English in Japan and then took a trip around the world by motorcycle before returning to school to earn her law degree.

We can't think of a better way to spend part of your Valentine's Day. But we urge you to send in your reservation well before the February 6 deadline. You don't want to miss this event.

Meeting at a Glance

**Conversation with a
Woman Leader**
Noon, Tuesday, February 14, 2023

Speaker
Meredith McQuaid

Associate vice president and
dean for international programs

Location
Midland Hills Country Club
2001 Fulham Street, Roseville
Free parking available in on-site lot

Menu
Chicken Al Fresco (GF)
Grilled chicken breast topped with a light
and lively warm tomato basil dressing and
asiago cheese. Served with rice pilaf, a
vegetable medley, warm rolls and butter

Cost: \$32
Reservation deadline:
Monday, February 6
Please send in the reservation form you will find
in your 2022-2023 directory or on the UMWC
website. Make your check payable to UMWC
and mail to Barbara Cohen.

President's Message ~

A little of the familiar with a lot of the brand new

Happy New Year everyone! I hope you enjoyed the holidays and are ready for new adventures in 2023. UMWC had some wonderful celebrations, highlighted by our champagne and art party at the Weisman Art Museum. Our speaker was Nisha Botchwey, the new dean of the Humphrey School of Public Affairs, and our host was Meredith McQuaid, associate vice president and dean of international programs for the University of Minnesota system, who is also our Conversation with a Woman Leader speaker in February. We ate, we drank, we laughed and we generously supported children hospitalized at the Masonic Children's Hospital at the University of Minnesota. In addition to all the fun, it was good to touch base with our allies at the University.



Catherine on Abbey Road

To be connected to such a prestigious institution is truly important. Many of you attended or worked at the University or have family members who did. We always assure prospective members that they don't have to be a U of M alum to join UMWC but we never lose sight of the fact that the University is fundamental to our significance and longevity.

I'm betting that many of you will be heading to warmer weather soon if you aren't there already. For me, travel is an absolute balm to the soul, a chance to see new sites, meet new people and expand my perspective. I had a wonderful trip in October to London, where I reconnected with a cousin and hit a lot of the hot spots, including Abbey Road! My cousin enjoyed playing tourist in her own country, and I loved the chance to spend time with a relative I hadn't seen in years. A little of the familiar, combined with a lot of the brand new.

A similar experience occurred at Thanksgiving, when my family and I spent a few days at Camp du Nord in northern Minnesota. Some of you know that I was on the Camp du Nord board of directors for many years, and it's near and dear to me. My kids, grandkids and I have been to family camp many times at Camp du Nord but never for a holiday. Again, familiar folks in a new setting. I loved it.

You can do the same as we plunge into the new year. Dig out your directory and take another look at some of the interest groups. Try something new just for fun. Or if you really want to expand your horizons, consider volunteering for one of the positions available. In fact, our Nominating Committee will begin its work soon to fill vacancies at the leadership level. If the committee calls, I urge you to consider helping us out. I've said it before but the best way to really appreciate UMWC is to get involved.



Nisha Botchwey (left) and Meredith McQuaid at the Holiday Champagne and Art Celebration

And speaking of new experiences and people, we had another lovely reception for new members, this time at the home of former President Susan Hopp. I enjoy those gatherings so much because they reaffirm my belief that UMWC attracts interesting and intelligent women, who are ready for new experiences.

And that's where we are at the beginning of 2023, ready for something new while appreciating the tried and true. It's going to be a great year.

Catherine Holtzclaw
President

Board of Directors Meets February 14

The UMWC board of directors will meet Tuesday, February 14, at Midland Hills Country Club, 2001 Fulham Street in Roseville. The meeting begins at 10 a.m. All club members are welcome to attend.

Food, fun and record donations highlight Weisman event

More than 60 UMWC members and guests gathered in December for our Holiday Champagne and Art Celebration at the Weisman Art Museum in Minneapolis. With Janet Graves providing wonderful holiday music on the grand piano, celebrants enjoyed champagne, appetizers and desserts while chatting with friends.



Former President Susan Hopp (left) and Barb Cady welcomed members to the Holiday Champagne and Art Celebration.

Introduced by President Catherine Holtzclaw, Nisha Botchwey, the new dean of the Humphrey School of Public Affairs, spoke to the group about her childhood and the lessons she learned that have helped her break barriers her entire life. After the program, members were free to visit the Weisman galleries.



Janet Graves entertained the group with holiday music on the grand piano.

Members also contributed financial donations to the club's annual gift drive for children hospitalized at the Masonic Children's Hospital. At press time, 45 members had donated a total of \$2,615 to the benefit, more than twice the amount raised last year, which was a record at the time.



Members enjoyed a lovely buffet of appetizers and desserts.

"I'm awestruck by the overwhelming generosity of our members," said Dorothy Waltz, who with her husband, Fred, has been a driving force of the effort for years. "It's a wonderful outpouring of kindness for these hospitalized children and their families."

Before the event, Fred and Dorothy, along with Marian Champlin, graciously opened their homes so members could drop off gifts for the children, which Georgia Heisserer delivered to the hospital.



Party goers included (from left) Liz Grimmer, Vida Peterson, Diane Martin and Georgia Nygaard.

Board of directors approves increase in scholarship award to \$4,000

At its September 2022 meeting, the UMWC board of directors approved a proposal from the Scholarship Fundraising Committee to increase the size of the UMWC scholarship award. The award will increase from \$3,500 to \$4,000 beginning with the scholarship cohort to be selected in 2023. This increase was proposed to the Scholarship Fundraising Committee by Georgia Nygaard, former chair of the Scholarships Committee. The generosity of UMWC members responding to the annual appeal, combined with earnings from endowment funds established by UMWC members at the University of Minnesota Foundation (UMF), will support this increase.

The amount to establish a One-year Named Scholarship award will remain at \$3,500 until June 30, 2023. Beginning on July 1, 2023, the amount to establish a One-year Named Scholarship will increase to \$4,000.

A big thank you to all UMWC members who so generously support the UMWC scholarship mission. Your support continues a tradition since 1913 supporting opportunities for students at the University of Minnesota who benefit from UMWC support as they work toward achieving their education and life goals.

For questions, contact Diane Young, vice president of Scholarship Fundraising.

Marilyn Olson to head Scholarships Committee

After several years of chairing the Scholarships Committee, Georgia Nygaard has retired from the group, replaced by long-time member Marilyn Olson. Several new members have joined the committee, which is gathering in January to get to know each other and begin training for the tasks ahead.



Marilyn Olson

Many thanks go to Georgia for her years of leading this important committee and good luck to Marilyn as she takes on her new responsibilities.

New members are getting involved and staying active

Hearty new members missed a snow debacle by one day in November when they gathered at the home of former President Susan Hopp to share stories and get to know one another over coffee and treats.

Most had been to section activities already, laughing about the Women's Health traditional dancing lesson, the Hiking treks, the Nature field trips and other out-of-the-ordinary experiences. Veteran UMWC members presented details about various sections, the history of the club, scholarship support for students, the website, directory details and opportunities for club leadership.

Life transitions have led many of us to the University of Minnesota Women's Club. We agreed that our intentional actions of participating in the club have kept us engaged and active. We encourage you to partner with another, and keep club engines running smoothly! For example, our Membership team would like to expand our scope. Call me, Georgia Heisserer, if you want to help us. A spring event is in the

works for those who weren't able to make it, and for those new members yet to come. Share club stories with your



New members include (front row from left) Shelley Hortman, Nancy Fox, Mary Nosek, Peggy Rader, Karin Bauer and Ann Soltis. In the back (from left) are Joy Ballou, Jenny Bach, Eileen Casey and Karen Lundholm.

friends or invite them to activities. Being together is good for our health!

Georgia Heisserer
Membership

SECTION NEWS

Poetry, poetry, poetry!

The new Poetry interest group started meeting this past September, with a good response. Seven members gathered at the last meeting to explore three pre-selected poems. Participants represent a range of experience, from people new to poetry to those who have studied and written poetry for a long time. Our next meeting will be on Thursday, January 5, at the Edina Library. Here is the link: <https://www.hclib.org/about/locations/edina>.

If you are interested in joining us, please contact Elizabeth Weber or Lynn Slifer for more information. And if you would like to check out one of the poems we discussed, here is a link to Wild Geese by Mary Oliver: <https://www.poetry.com/poem/123017/wild-geese>.

Nature up close and personal

In October, the Nature group traveled to the Carpenter Nature Center in Hastings, Minnesota, for its Fall Adaptations by Plants and Animals program. Many hands-on activities, including appearances by a falcon, hognose snake and various other specimens, were a great contribution to the program, which was followed by a short hike.



The group ended the day with a stop at the Apple Orchard, which was enjoyed by all. The next program, entitled Jumping Worms, is January 23 via Zoom.

Hikers celebrate the holidays

More than 30 women gathered in December for the Hikers annual holiday celebration in the party room of Judy McConnell's residence. The group hiked in the morning and then enjoyed a potluck lunch by the fire.



Please note

The Movie Rendezvous group has adjusted its times to accommodate the schedule change at the newly reopened Mann Edina Theater. The group will meet on the second Thursday for brunch at 10:30 a.m. at the Edina Grill, followed by a choice of movies starting around noon at the theater.

Members who are not receiving emails from Elaine Savick should contact her as she lost several emails in the last month.

Nominating Committee begins work

Because strong leadership is a hallmark of UMWC, the Nominating Committee, which begins its work soon, has a special responsibility for the long-term health of the club. That's according to Barb Swadburg, who was recently appointed by President Catherine Holtzclaw to lead the effort again this year.

Each year the committee identifies and approaches members with strong skills who might be willing to take on leadership responsibilities. Once those members have agreed to stand for election, the entire club votes on the nominations at the annual meeting in May.

"When we discuss potential candidates as a committee, we really have the strength and future of the club in mind," Swadburg said. "It's not an easy job but we always come away feeling that we've accomplished something important. And we greatly appreciate those members who decide to serve the club in this way."

Memorial Gifts

For Patty Kane by Martha Arneson
For Ella Goehring Steinberg by Janet Graves
For Roy Matthews by Marian Champlin
For Jane Starr by UMWC

Honoring Gifts

For Myrt Carlson by Kathleen Cleary
For Nancy Kluver by Gwenn Solseth

Newsletter deadline is February 13

The deadline for the March-April newsletter is Monday, February 13. Please submit articles, information and photos to Nancy Kluver, newsletter editor, at Kluver.nancy@gmail.com.

CLUB NEWS

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2. Mail to Nancy Myers, 1578 Burton St.,
Falcon Heights, MN 55108

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In this issue of Online Extra

Joining a large group of impressive scholarship recipients, Jenny Tran is featured in the latest Online Extra story.

Jenny spoke at the Fall Welcome and Scholarship Day luncheon and thanked her parents, Sang and Thuy Le, who were in the audience.

The family's story is one of grit and determination. Coming to America in their 20s, Jenny's parents raised a family of four boys and Jenny, who is about to graduate with a degree in finance and a minor in management information. She greatly appreciates her parents work ethic and dedication to their family.

You will find the story as an added feature to the online version of our newsletter.



Welcome new members

New members bring welcome change and growth to the Women's Club. Reach out to welcome and to get to know our new members! We have eight women who have joined since the last newsletter: Karen Lundholm, Arla Rost, Jeannette Bach, Kathy Pratt, Linda Lindeke, Julie Schenk, Mary Schofield and Pat Veach.

There have been several directory changes: Karen Buggs has a new email address; Jane LaFroth, Susie Risher and Nancy Schuster all have new addresses; Liz De Lay has a new phone number and a new address; and Mitzi Fagerstrom has a new email address, a new phone number and a new street address.

For a current list of new members and their contact information and/or a list of directory changes, please contact Nancy Myers at nmyers13@hotmail.com.

Jenny Tran: One step closer to my dream and theirs

When UMWC scholarship recipient Jenny Tran was in middle school, her English teacher asked the class to describe where they wanted to be in 10 years. Jenny responded that she wanted to be taking care of her parents.

It's a story she told in a touching speech at the Fall Welcome and Scholarship Day luncheon in which she thanked her parents, who came to the United States from Vietnam with one son when they were in their 20s.



Jenny Tran with her mother, Thuy Le, and her father, Sang.

“Your work ethic and dedication to the family does not go unnoticed,” Jenny said to her parents, Sang and Thuy Le, who were in the audience. “Growing up as a little child, I watched you juggle between two jobs and third shifts endlessly just to meet ends for our family. I watched you overcome economic and social barriers together. I watched you on your lowest days but also the happy days like my birthday. But just know along the way during my 8th grade year in middle school, I made a vow to take care of you when you are older.”

The family of seven, including Jenny's two older brothers and two younger brothers, settled in Rochester, Minnesota, where much of her father's family now lives. Her mother's extended family remains in Vietnam.

The big hurdles for her parents, according to Jenny, were “not knowing English and assimilating in general.” She describes her mother as the “hardest working person I know.”

Still strong and vibrant, Jenny's parents, who now are citizens, haven't had to take her up on that offer of care. But they certainly are proud of their daughter's determination and work ethic.

Jenny spent two years at Rochester Community College and then transferred to the University of Minnesota's Carlson School of Management. She chose the U because of its wide support systems, resources, helpful people, size and opportunities to succeed. A senior majoring in finance with a minor in management information, she will graduate this spring.



“I was always motivated and driven,” Jenny said. “I've been working since I was 15 and always had goals and planned things out.” She credits her parents for that determination.

“Although it wasn't easy to get here where I am now, I couldn't have done it without your emotional support. Your perseverance and the hard work you went through, especially being first-generation immigrants, inspire me and challenge me to be better,” Jenny said in her speech.

She also is grateful to the University of Minnesota Women's Club. In a thank you letter after receiving her scholarship, Jenny wrote:

“Both my parents were immigrants from Vietnam who did not have the opportunity to attend college due to financial constraints coming to America. This scholarship is one step closer to my dream and theirs, to turn a generation around. My dream of graduating from the University of Minnesota would not have been possible without the help of your generosity.

“This scholarship supplements not only my monetary expenses but is also a reminder of the act of kindness and hope,” she continued. “It inspires me to give back to the community and those who are in my shoes. Thank you for being a step in my educational and professional journey. I hope one day I will be able to give back and help other students achieve their goals.”