

VIP Club Newsletter

VOLUME 28, NO. 9 <http://www.vipclubmn.org> **SEPTEMBER 2008**

The Number to call for information on Unisys Retirement Status and Benefits: 1-877-864-7972.

The Number to call for information on Lockheed Martin Retirement Status and Benefits: 1--866-562-2363.

Wednesday, September 03	Board Meeting, Eagan	10:00 a.m.
Wednesday, September 10	Eagan, Program and Social Time	7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, October 01	Board Meeting, Roseville	10:00 a.m.
Wednesday, October 08	Roseville, Pot Luck and Program	11.30 a.m.

SEPTEMBER PROGRAM: EAGAN

“The China Surge: Threat or Promise?” is the title of September’s program. This issue touches all of us today. Will China be, or is it already, the world’s hardware factory? (And for that matter, will India be the world’s software factory?) It’s no accident that with China’s GDP growing at 8-10% per year, a direct byproduct is that 70-80% of items at Walmart are made in China. Ditto for major retailers in Europe and elsewhere. Walter W. Benjamin, Ph.D., who recently visited China and has read extensively on the subject, will give us the benefit of his experience. Professor Benjamin, Hamline University emeritus, will discuss the strengths and weaknesses of modern China, her military, social, environmental, and political posture, and what the XXIX Olympiad symbolizes for her role in the world. Dr. Benjamin has lectured in Great Britain, Canada and the US, and he has authored books on the Great Depression (The Magical Years: A Boyhood Revisited) and on military issues (War and Reflection). With his doctoral background in ethics, he has been a contributor to national periodicals such as The Wall Street Journal, The New England Journal of Medicine, Minnesota Medicine, The Washington Post, Newsweek, The Chicago Tribune, and others.

OCTOBER POT LUCK: ROSEVILLE

The event begins at 11:30 a.m. with a potluck lunch followed by a musical program. The program for the October Pot Luck is Jim Berner’s **Senior Music Show**. Jim tells the “Stories Behind the Music” of the 1940’s, 50’s, 60’s and 70’s, and sings the songs with a smooth baritone voice in the styles of Elvis, Jim Reeves, Eddy

Arnold, Frankie Laine, Tony Bennett, Marty Robbins, Engelbert, Roger Whittaker, Sinatra, Bing Crosby, Dean Martin, and many more. **What to bring** for the potluck meal is based on the first letter of your last name: A – F Salads, G – J Desserts, M – Z Hot Dishes. Please include serving utensils for your dishes and mark them with your name.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TIME

IF YOUR ADDRESS LABEL HAS 2008
AFTER YOUR NAME, YOU ARE NOT PAID FOR
2009. PLEASE USE THE
DUES COUPON ON PAGE 5.



PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

From: Brian Berggren

Our hope is this issue will be read fresh from the mailbox and more members motivated to volunteer to help our Sesquicentennial Committee man the exhibit at the State Fair. This is an opportunity to share the pride we have in our legacy and the technical, financial, and cultural impact resulting from the contributions of our

“geeks.” The very informative booth gives us a wonderful chance to talk about how significant our early industry was to both Minnesota and the development of computing.

Because this issue is going to the printer before the August program, I am hoping the Jack McKernan presentation on “Diabetes and Macular Degeneration” will be both well-attended and very informative. Macular degeneration is an eye disease that is one of the leading causes of blindness. Mr. McKernan is a volunteer with the Lion’s Club and Fairview Southdale Hospital.

Your club has a new member directory that will be available at our upcoming programs. We also ask that you check the year after your name on the address page. If it is 2008, it’s time to renew your membership. Next, mark your October calendar for the 11:30 a.m. Pot Luck at Unisys.

Respectfully, Brian Berggren, VIP Club President

ADDRESS CORRECTIONS

Please send permanent address changes to Quintin Heckert addressed to the VIP Club at the address given on the label page of the Newsletter. Also, please remember that for temporary changes the U.S. Postal Service will forward your mail.

From the Editors



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DINING CLUBS & GROUPS

Breakfast groups and get-togethers:
One breakfast group meets monthly at 9:00 a.m. on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at the Tri-City American Legion, Old Hwy 8, New Brighton. Phone: **763-416-3903**.
Another breakfast group meets monthly at 8:00 a.m. on the 1st Thursday of each month at Joseph's Grill, 140 South Wabasha, (Wabasha and Plato) St. Paul. Phone: **651-222-2435**.

Luncheon Groups & Dinner Clubs:
One Unisys Luncheon group meets monthly on the 2nd Wednesday at 11:00 a.m. at the Old Country Buffet, Holly Shopping Center, located at University Ave. and Mississippi St. just north of I-694. For information call **651-552-1465**.

Another Luncheon group (engineering/drafting) meets monthly on the 1st Tuesday at 11:00 a.m. at the Old Country Buffet at 2000 S. Robert, West St. Paul. For information call **651-456-0750**.

And another Luncheon group (Unisys and Burroughs) meets monthly on the 2nd Tuesday at 11:30 a.m. at the Mall of America 3rd floor North Food Court. We sit at the tables between the elevator and Burger King. For information call **952-854-7855**.

Dinner Club. A Unisys Dinner Club meets monthly, from September through April, on the 4th Wednesday at 5:00 p.m. at Champs located at 35E and Larpenteur Avenue.

MEETING & EVENT DATES 2008

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Activity</u>
Aug. 13	7:00 p.m.	Rsvl	Program - Social Time
Sept. 10	7:00 p.m.	Eagan	Program - Social Time
Oct. 08	11.30 a.m.	Rsvl	Pot Luck Program
Nov. 12	7:00 p.m.	Eagan	Program – Social time
Dec. 11	5:45 p.m.	USAF	Christmas Party

Note: Rsvl = Roseville, Eagan = Eagan Community Center, Park = Highland Park Pavilion, USAF = NCO Club at U.S. Air Force Base off Hwy 62

WELCOME NEW CLUB MEMBERS

Grendzinski, Tom & Kathleen L Burnsville, MN.
 Jeunesse, Wayne & Lorraine U Shorview, MN.
 Johnson, Pamela & Kevin L St. Paul, MN.
 Moriarty, Jackie & Jim U Eagan, MN.
 Paton, Sheryl & Guy U Stillwater, MN.
 Westlind, Dennis & Jayne U Underwood, MN.
U = Unisys **B** = Burroughs **L** = Lockheed Martin **D** = Unisys Defense Systems

IN REMEMBRANCE



Andreen, James A.- Age 74 of Oakdale, MN. Died peacefully surrounded by family on July 13, 2008 after a courageous battle with cancer. Preceded in death by wife Mary. James was retired from Unisys and was a VIP Club Member.

Warren B. Bloomquist, - Age 69 passed away Tuesday, July 15, 2008, in Shawano. Warren is survived by: his wife, Diane. Warren was VIP Club member and a retiree from UNISYS in Roseville, Minn.



Harnden, Sherry R. - Age 59, of Columbia Heights. Survived by mother, Ann Harnden. Sherry was a VIP Club member.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY®

We've developed a new directory using our August membership database. You may request an electronic copy by sending an e-mail to labenson@usfamily.net. For those of you without e-mail, the board will have printed copies available for member pick up at our CLUB fall events beginning with the September 10th program at the Eagan Community Center. We won't be posting the Directory on the web to protect our listing from web phishing software. Submitted by L.A.Benson

BLOODMOBILE INFORMATION SEPTEMBER RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVES.

Friday, September 12th. Unisys in Roseville needs a greeter and server from 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

Please call Marion Scott at 651-455-7952 to sign-up.

BILL EVANS NEW ORLEANS JAZZ BAND

This jazz event includes members of the original Hall Brothers Band. This event will take place on Sept. 28th from 2 to 5 p.m. at the Eagan Community Center. Ticket prices are \$20 if paid before September 19th and \$25 after September 19th or at the door. For more information or to sign up, call Millie Gignac at 651-454-0971.

LEGACY NEWS UPDATE

Submitted by Dick Lundgren, rflundgr@aol.com.

STATE FAIR/SESQUICENTENNIAL UPDATE

To quote from the Minnesota Sesquicentennial Commission's web site (<http://mn150years.org/statefair.html>):

Don't miss the last big event to commemorate Minnesota's Sesquicentennial:

"The State Fair Chautauqua - 150 Years of Statehood" – two Big Top tents full of entertaining and educational extravaganzas to send us all off to MN @ 2058 better informed of and engaged in Minnesota's past, present, and future opportunities and challenges.

Well, that's us, the "entertaining and educational extravaganza" to engage us and all Minnesotans in appreciating our past and preparing for the next 50 years. No small challenge, but in our company's past, we have a legacy of meeting unprecedented challenges, of going forward where no path existed and relishing the success built on efforts that even we didn't know were so great until it was all over.

So just what are we up to now? Well, the role of the VIP Club in this year's Minnesota Sesquicentennial events is now moving to a new arena. Our exhibit of company history, stretching back to its 1946 origins with Engineering Research Associates, will now have a presence in the "Sesquicentennial Compound" for all 12 days of the Minnesota State Fair. The compound will consist of two very large air-conditioned tents just to the north of Heritage Square. One tent is primarily for selected exhibits/merchandise and the other for on-stage performances/presentations. Our booth in the exhibit tent will be open and staffed daily from 9:00 AM to 9:00 PM. Come pay us a visit, or better yet, volunteer to work a 4-hour shift at the booth in return for a free Fair admission ticket (details below). In the performance tent, the important dates to remember are Sunday August 24th and Thursday August 28th.

EXHIBIT TENT ACTIVITY

Our display in the exhibit tent is described by the MN Sesquicentennial Commission as the **Minnesota Innovation Heritage** exhibit. It will be a reconfigured version of the setup we had for the Sesquicentennial Expo on the Capitol Mall in May. Last month's newsletter contained photos from the May Expo. Space considerations at the Fair necessitate a smaller footprint, so there will be some modest downsizing in graphics and artifacts, but the essential story will still be told. We will share the exhibit tent with other selected groups such as the Minnesota Historical Society, Minnesota Authors, Indian Affairs, MN/WI Tourism, as well as the Sesquicentennial Commission itself. We expect a lot of visitors as the exhibit tent is the walk-through path to the show tent. Our goal is to share with all interested visitors our role in the origin and growth of the computer industry in Minnesota (as well as to acknowledge spin-off companies), to emphasize our major innovations and developments over the last six decades, and to describe the significant business areas in which our programs played key roles in the nation's history. For the general public, the story of our past is barely known and certainly underappreciated in Minnesota, so it is our chance to set the historical record straight.

PERFORMANCE TENT ACTIVITIES

Everyday in the performance tent, from 10:00 to 11:30 AM, there will be on-stage performances or presentations under the billing: **"Minnesota Real & Imagined—What Minnesotans Need to Know for the Next 50 Years."**

Our company legacy takes the stage on August 24th when well known and well respected Unisys and Lockheed Martin retirees/active employees will give interesting presentations supported by visuals, graphics and artifacts as necessary. The starting point will be the unique story of our company's founding and the early products and applications developed by our industry pioneers. Also discussed will be the six decades of evolution of the

technologies in our industry as well as the historic roles played by our legacy companies in the early years of data processing. Highlights of the Eagan branch include failure-free support for early missile launches by NASA, the computerization of the U.S. Navy, and the automation of Air Traffic Control in the U.S. Highlights on the Roseville side include automation in transportation (railroads, airline reservations, check-in and cargo), financial and business processing, space operations, and oil exploration. The finale will be a look to the future from the vantage point of our past. A representative of the Minnesota Futurists organization (founded by our own **Earl Joseph**) will provide that peek into where we're going. The likely candidate will be **Brian Toren**, also a former company employee.

The other on-stage performance of interest is on August 28th, and it is of sufficient importance that it will be taped by PBS. The theme for that day is **Business and Innovation**, and the panel discussion will include a conversation on **Sustaining a Culture of Innovation in MN**. Panelists will include members of the Charles Babbage Institute at the U of M, the Minnesota High Tech Association, the Minnesota Inventor Congress, and a highly regarded St. Paul educator whose expertise is in attracting students to the sciences, math and engineering. Although no panel member is directly from our employee ranks, the representative from CBI is acutely aware of our role in the story of MN innovation, and we expect to gain some visibility there.

FREE STATE FAIR TICKETS NOW! (NEXT CHANCE IN 50 YEARS, MAYBE)

We will need volunteers to staff the exhibit and provide logistic support. If you are a routine Fair goer, or need a new excuse to go this year, here is your opportunity. For each volunteer a free Fair admission ticket will be provided. If you are interested in working a minimum four-hour shift, contact Tom Turba (TNTurba@comcast.net) for schedule assignment and the latest info. Our exhibit will be set up for a preview at Unisys Plant 4 in Roseville prior to relocation to the Fairgrounds. The sign-up schedule is already posted to the VIP Club web site at <http://vipclubmn.org/Calendar.aspx>. All you need to do is be friendly and converse with visitors to the booth. The more company names you can remember, the better qualified you are. This won't happen again for 50 years, so be part of it while you can!

TRAFFIC SAFETY, 7 OF 9

Signal light phases: How long does it take for that #@# light to change?

Garret A. Morgan received a 1923 patent for intersection traffic lights. In the 1930s a yellow light phase was inserted between the green and red phases to give drivers time to clear the intersection. The gradual signal light evolution over the decades now has 17 variations of left turn signals



through the United States. The good news is that a green left turn arrow in all states means that the opposing traffic has an active red phase. In Canada, a blinking green 'ball' has the same meaning. Initially red and green phases had the same duration, subsequently traffic engineers gave main routes longer greens resulting in longer red phases for cross streets. Now most intersections have either a 90 or 120 second cycle. Intersection phase timing durations are usually changed four times a day – morning period, noon time, late afternoon, and night to improve traffic flow patterns. Public works departments and transportation departments have also introduced 'actuated' phases, i.e. an intersection won't turn on a left turn arrow phase if there are no vehicles detected in the turn lane. A pedestrian walk phase only turns on when a button is pushed. Communication electronics are now in place along many avenues to coordinate signal phases at multiple intersections to keep traffic flowing. It costs a city, state, or county approximately \$20,000 to redesign and implement a new timing plan for any intersection so please be patient as you wait at a red.

Next issue, we'll address ramp meter technology - BUCKLE UP for safety! Submitted by L.A. Benson

BOOKS TO READ

Submitted by Brian Berggren.

Two pieces of my summer reading seemed worth brief summaries; one is about water, the other about that and everything else.

"When the Rivers Run Dry – Water, the Defining Crisis of the Twenty-first Century" is an old book from 2006 by Fred Pearce. He takes us on world tour with 34 chapters of water waste, bad floods, bad engineering, worse engineering, one-sided treaties, global warming, cultural history, contamination, irrigation, good floods, thirsty produce, and movement of "virtual water."

With flows from major rivers like the Nile, Yellow, Indus, Colorado, and Rio Grande often no longer reaching the sea, and wells that once supplied water by rope and bucket now dry beyond a half-mile deep or going toxic, water may well be our world's next crisis. Pearce starts by telling us that 3000 gallons of water are needed to grow the feed for a quarter-pound of cow hamburger, and 400 gallons to grow a pound of sugar. By exporting agricultural commodities, we are exporting the water needed to grow them – the "virtual water."

Of the earth's water, 97 percent is seawater, 2 percent is locked up in ice caps and glaciers, and only 1 percent is liquid freshwater in lakes, rivers, the soil, the atmosphere, and plants and animals. This water is constantly moving. Six countries have half the world's renewable freshwater: Brazil, Canada, Russia, Indonesia, China, and Columbia. Citizens in Greenland, Iceland, Alaska, and the Congo have over 130,000 gallons available each day; those in the Gaza Strip get 37 gallons

of brackish water. The Dead Sea and Jordan have not seen any water from the Jordan River for decades; Israel pipes it from the Golan Heights.

With population growth and “green revolution” crops, arid countries are taking much more water from rivers and aquifers and depleting both. In China, the Yellow River is 65 feet above the flood plain and putting many, many thousands at risk from embankment failure. The Yellow is also the world’s muddiest river, twice as silty as the Colorado and seventy times that of the Mississippi. The Yellow is so silty, it filled up the Sanmenxia Reservoir in less than two years.

The descriptions of natural and un-natural water history are fascinating and well-documented. Too often, massive expenditures of time, resources, and labor have only made serious problems worse. Pearce also has found old and still functioning water systems in unlikely places. This is just plain a good read.

“Peak Everything – Waking Up to the Century of Declines” is a new book by Richard Heinberg, author of “Peak Oil.” Starting with the Nov-Dec 2006 OPEC Bulletin placing 2005-2006 as the conventional oil and gas production peak, with decreases after 2010, Heinberg takes us on a tour of other peaks. Coal peaks around 2020 and uranium 2020-2040. Other peaks include population, grain production, climate stability, freshwater availability, arable land, wild fish harvest, and metal and mineral extraction.

With our sources of cheap energy we saw growth in technology, resource extraction and consumption, and population. We are now going to see declines; he tells us, “growth in population and consumption cannot continue unabated on a finite planet.”

Heinberg considers Peak Oil and the inter-related Climate Change our “two great crises.” Our use of fossil fuels to give us power over nature and each other also

gave us a multitude of environmental and social problems. Heinberg’s essential thesis: we must make the reduction of our dependence on fossil fuels the core of our efforts. He puts it in a positive way by saying, “If we do focus all of our collective efforts on the central task of energy transition, we may find ourselves contributing to the solution of a wide range of problems that would be much harder to solve if we confronted each one in isolation.”

The book’s essence is in the 27-page graph-rich introduction. The following 11 chapters are a collection of essays and talks that further inform on a very wide range of related topics.

TRAVEL

October is Harvest Time , and there’s a bumper crop of Exciting bus tours out there, just waiting to be scooped Up! Examples shown are per person, double occupancy:

One Day:

10/7 TUE	Afton Cruise	\$49
10/14 TUE	Johnny Appleseed—Preston MN	\$52
10/30 THU	Celine Dion-Target Center	\$169

Extended:

10/9 –11	American Quilters Society Show	\$425
10/13-22	N.Y. & Washington D.C. (Fly-Bus)	\$1599
11/7 –15	Mississippi-Gulf Coast Gambler	\$899
10/12 –16	Dakota Gold Tour-Black Hills	\$449
9/30-10/3	Beautiful Door County	\$589
10/15-17	Celebration Belle’s 100 Mile Cruise	\$469
10/3-5	Norse “Hostfest” w/Daniel O’Donnell	\$439
10/6-13	Nashville & the Smoky Mountains	\$1099

Book now for 5-day Branson Christmas Shows Beginning November 3rd, \$639. Please phone or email Yvonne at 651-437-9278, ycecchini@earthlink.net to request flyers and/or details.

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VIP CLUB APPLICATION AND RENEWAL FORM			
Retiree Name: _____		Spouse: _____	
Address: _____, _____, _____, _____			
STREET ADDRESS	CITY	STATE	ZIP
Phone: () _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Check here if your address or phone number has changed	New Member(s) _____ Renewing Member(s) _____	
Company: Lockheed Martin & Predecessors: _____; Unisys: Univac & Predecessors: _____; Unisys: Burroughs: _____			
Please make check payable to the VIP CLUB and mail to address shown at right:	VIP CLUB P.O. Box 131748 Roseville MN 55113-0020	Dues: \$12 for 3 years Single year rate \$5. Note to new members: Your newsletters start after dues are received.	
<input type="checkbox"/> Check here if you do not wish to have your name listed in the VIP Members directory. (Directory distributed to members only)			

**VIP CLUB
P.O. BOX 131748
ROSEVILLE MN 55113-0020**

VIP CLUB OFFICERS AND CHAIRPERSONS FOR THE YEAR 2008

* = A/C 651, + = A/C 612, @ = A/C 763, # = A/C 952

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:	VOLUNTEER CHAIRPERSONS	ACTIVITY CHAIRPERSONS
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UNISYS Liaison, Roseville Sue Carrigan *635-7955	Lockheed Martin, Eagan Liaison... Tierney Helmers *456-4963	Printing &
Mailing UNISYS Print Shop, Roseville		

Directions to Eagan Community Center. Take Hwy 35E south or north to Pilot Knob Road. Turn left (north) on Pilot Knob Road. Turn left on Central Parkway (which is also the North entrance to Lockheed). The Eagan Community Center is at 1501 Central Parkway.

Directions to Unisys in Roseville. Take Hwy 35W south, or north, to the Industrial Way / St. Anthony Blvd off ramp. If coming north or south on Hwy 35E go west on Hwy 36 which will take you to the Industrial Way / St. Anthony Blvd. off ramp of 35W (Hwy 36 becomes Hwy 35W where it joins Hwy 35W). Go north on St. Anthony Blvd. to Walnut St. (the first street on the right). Turn right and go to Highcrest Road. It is the first place where you can turn left. Past the stop sign, Bldg 3 is on the right. Gate 5 is in the center of the building. From Hwy 280 northbound, use left lane exit just past Cty Rd B for Terminal road access (St Croix St.). Turn left at Terminal Rd, then turn right at Highcrest Rd to building entrance.