

## **A few thoughts about my time at UMUC**

Jane McHan--August 2020

I have so enjoyed reading the posted messages that I want to add a few thoughts. First, I decided when I was preschool that I was going to live in Switzerland where Heidi lived, and I can honestly say that I loved living in Europe and the Middle East and always felt that I belonged and fit in.

Teaching and admin with UMUC for over 25 years was an important part of my life. When I came back to the states in 2008, I spent time thinking about the best parts of being with the university. Without a doubt, the best part was working with and getting to know faculty. In spite of having to travel to sites, worrying about getting classes, coping with uncertainties and with less salary than in the U.S., the faculty I knew were interesting to know, coped well going to places such as the Middle East, and taught their classes conscientiously. I will never forget Warren Johnson's wonderful essays to each of the Social Science Newsletters.

I want to share one of my admin experiences. We had a new art professor at Heidelberg, and she wanted permission to have a nude model for one evening class. No one was aware that this had ever been done. She agreed to permit any students who might be opposed to it to have an assignment at home that evening. To be sure, I dreaded any complaints. The morning after the "nude model" appearance, I arrived at my office and the first thing said to me was, "You have an urgent call from a student about last night's nude model in the art class. I took a deep breath, called the number, and the student said, "There was a nude model in the art class at Heidelberg High School last night."

"Yes," I said. He said, "Well, ma'am, we are in the math class across the hall, and we want one in our class."