



[View in browser](#)

### Update from Chief Engagement Officer Marshall Stewart

This month, the first ever University of Missouri System Engagement Week will be held on October 22-24 with events highlighting engagement activities on at all four universities. Dr. Robert Jones, Chancellor at the University of Illinois Champagne-Urbana and Steven M.R. Covey will be the keynote speakers. They will be at Jesse Hall Auditorium and livestreamed to the other 3 universities. We will also host a session on regional and local broadband access featuring keynote speakers and panel and tabletop discussions. We will strategize with legislators, industry partners and stakeholders on how to make broadband internet available throughout the state. The first part of this will be livestreamed from MU, and then part two will be a more local focus at the individual universities. If you would like more information about these events, please contact Ashley Rhode at [rhodea@umsystem.edu](mailto:rhodea@umsystem.edu).



Also, don't forget that we have an amazing group of faculty, the Presidential Engagement Fellows, from all of your universities that would be more than happy to come and give presentations to your retiree groups as well as other organizations that you are involved in. See the link for the [Presidential Engagement Fellows](#) for more information about this program.

Thank you for your continued support of and advocacy for the University of Missouri.  
Please let us know how we can assist you as engaged leaders in your communities!

Sincerely,

Marshall Stewart, Ed.D  
Chief Engagement Officer, UM System

## *In Memoriam*

They were our colleagues, our friends, and part of our UM family. Together we remember those who shared their lives with us. Please keep their families in your thoughts. [View current list...](#)

## Campus Association News & Announcements

### *Miners Retirees Association*

#### **UPCOMING EVENTS:**

**Monthly meetings\*** - 12:00 p.m. – The Centre, 1200 Holloway Street. The cost is \$11. New members get their first year free. Each meeting will start with a lunch followed by a short program of interest to the retirees of the university.

- **November 11** - Taylor Grenloh, Assistant Teaching Professor of Theatre
- **December** - no meeting scheduled
- **January 13** - Ashley Brooks, The Rolla Mission
- **February 10** - Dr. Chris Ramsay, Student Design Center and the Rocket Team
- **March 9** - Andrew Careaga, Director of Communications, 150th Anniversary Celebration
- **April 13** - Chancellor Mohammad Dehghani
- **May 11** - Picnic in Lions Club Park at 5:00 PM
- 

For more information, contact Ted Deskin at 573-201-7892 or [deskin@fidnet.com](mailto:deskin@fidnet.com) or Richard Miller, President Elect at 573-364-7608 or [dick@mst.edu](mailto:dick@mst.edu)

**MU Retirees Association...Serving UM System and MU retirees since 1990!**

You can join MURA at any time as an annual member (January 1 to December 31) or as a Life member. Information on membership can be found [here](#).



*George Smith, Nobel laureate, and his wife Margie Sable, with replica of Nobel prize and certificate with original artwork.*

**UPDATES:**

The fall semester is a busy one for MURA and its members. MURA members were active volunteers at the start of the new academic year. Some helped with the student move-in process and others volunteered at the Mizzou Store greeting students, assisting with traffic flow and answering questions.

Our 2019-20 breakfast series was kicked off on September 10th with a large group hearing from George Smith, MU's own Nobel Laureate, about some of the personal and professional factors that made his honor possible.

MURA member Mike Middleton was recognized in a very special way at the Missouri Theatre on Friday, September 13th at the documentary premier of *Only the Educated Are Free: The Journey of Michael A. Middleton*.

Our annual **Fall Information Meeting** was held on Friday, September 20. The program featured: information on MURA activities; speakers from HR and Benefits discussing what to expect for the year with a special presentation on Medicare and Medicare Advantage from United Health Care; updates from our MURA Governmental Affairs committee; and Dean Elizabeth Lobo speaking on NextGen Precision Health and other new partnership activities she is leading. Video recordings of portions of the meeting can be viewed on the MURA website.

The scholarship fundraiser concert for the Kitty Dickerson MURA Scholarship Fund was held on Thursday, September 26. The concert featured The Dave and Deke Combo, internationally known rockabilly musicians based in Los Angeles. Deke is the son of the late Kitty Dickerson and a graduate of Hickman High School. Through this fund, scholarships are awarded annually to dependents of current MU/UM staff members in honor of the day-to-day support they provide to the University. You can donate to the scholarship fund [here](#).

### **Upcoming Events:**

The Breakfast Series highlights interesting speakers and topics each month. They are organized by MURA's Program and Education Committees and are held the first Tuesday of the month at the Columbia Country Club of Missouri (CCMO). Breakfast begins at 8:00 a.m. with a speaker from 8:30-9:30 a.m. Preregistration is required and the cost is \$15 per person. We welcome all UM retirees to participate.

Registration forms can be found [here](#).

- **November 5-** Mike and Julie Middleton will talk about their respective pathways to academic success and service. Mike has had several University roles and is Deputy Chancellor Emeritus. Julie served as Director of Organizational Development.
- **December 3-** Chad John, FBI agent, licensed CPA in Missouri, and MU adjunct faculty, will speak on identity theft, its forms, treatments and prevention

### *UMSL Retirees Association*

### **UPDATES:**

The UMSL Retirees Association (RA) Spring Luncheon and the Annual Meeting of the Association was held on Wednesday, June 12, 2019 in the J.C. Penney Summit Lounge on campus with 67 people in attendance. Chancellor Tom George and UM Curators' Distinguished Professor Barbara Harbach were thanked for their hospitality and for their many years of dedicated support and service to the Retirees Association. Dr. George made some remarks reviewing accomplishments which occurred under his watch, followed by a brief tribute to the service of the Chancellor by Lol Barton. Minutes of the Holiday Luncheon, prepared by Kathie Haywood, were approved as was the Treasurer's report by Steve Spaner. Joe Martinich made remarks regarding the retirement program information he learned about at a meeting of the four Retirees Association leadership groups with President Choi in Columbia in May. Mark Burkholder presented an amendment to the organization's constitution regarding the term of office for board members, which was approved unanimously.

An election of new Officers and Board Members was conducted by past president Chuck Korr as chair of the Nominating Committee. He presented the following slate, approved by acclamation: President-elect - Clark Hickman; Secretary - Kathleen Haywood; Treasurer - Steve Spaner. New Board Members: Melissa Hattman, Brenda Shannon-Simms, Helene Sherman and David (Dave) Ganz. Outgoing President Debbie Kettler introduced new president, Mike Murray, who described some

upcoming events and activities and also encouraged members to suggest new activities and assist in planning them. The meeting adjourned at 1:15 pm. The annual Holiday Luncheon was held on Wednesday, December 5, at 11:30 am at Glen Echo Country Club. There were 70 people in attendance and a very good time was had by all. In his remarks, Chancellor Tom George also announced the new Retiree of the Year Awards. These were awarded to a retired faculty member and a retired staff member.

The UMSL Retirees Association Staff Liaison, Kathy Falcon, resigned from the University on July 1, 2019. Tara VanDeVoorde, Assistant Director of the UMSL Human Resources Department, served as the new Retirees Association Staff Liaison -- on an interim basis -- and the position was filled recently by Ericka Web. The board is keeping in touch with Ericka and will be seeking her assistance for major RA events, including the luncheons and mailings for the outings.

An RA tour of the recently renovated Soldiers Memorial Military Museum in downtown St. Louis took place Thursday, July 18. Seventeen members attended the tour which was followed by an afternoon lunch across the street from the memorial at the Docket Restaurant. Museum Docent Lon Zimmerman provided an excellent tour of the buildings, history of the memorial and a "deep-dive" into the WWI galleries with special information about St. Louisans and other Missourians who served in the military during the international conflict. David Ganz organized this tour as well as the post-tour luncheon at the Docket and also did his best to keep everyone reasonably alert and on schedule.

Retirees Association President-elect Clark Hickman chaired the Selection Committee to recommend recipients of the inaugural University Retiree Service Awards to the Chancellor, and announced the following nominees: David L. Garin (faculty award) and Nan Kammann-Judd (staff award). President Mike Murray spoke on behalf of the RA membership at a campus retirement party for Chancellor Tom George and his spouse, Curators Distinguished Professor Barbara Harbach, on August 23, 2019 at 3 pm in the Touhill Performing Arts Center on campus. UM President Mun Choi also spoke to UMSL alumni, dignitaries, office holders and a large contingent of community leaders assembled to honor the Chancellor's record-breaking (16 years) of service in the UMSL Chancellorship.

*UMSL Retirees Association Spring Board Meeting:  
From left to right, sitting, Zuleyma Tang-Martinez,  
Mike Murray, Helene Sherman and Clark Hickman;*

*standing, Lol Barton, Steve Spaner, Debbie Kettler,  
Dave Garin, Brenda Shannon-Simms, Dave Ganz  
and Kathie Haywood.*



Another large number of RA representatives attended a campus retirement party for long-time Executive Assistant to the Chancellor Candi Agnew. The party took place August 28, 2019 at 3 pm in the lobby of the J.C. Penney Building. After the recent Spring Retirees Association Board Meeting, members posed for a photo (above) and made monetary contributions to provide a proper "send-off" gift for Ms. Agnew who has served the Office of the University Chancellor for well over forty-five years. They also signed a card and a memory book with historic photos to commemorate her many years of dedicated University service.

#### **UPCOMING EVENTS:**

##### **Monthly meetings**

- **October 19** - A tour of the Cahokia Mounds will take place Saturday, October 19, 2:30 pm. Helene Sherman is helping with the logistics for this event and Board Members Tom Schnell and Zuleyma Tang-Martinez are assisting with this effort. Attendees deciding to visit the Cahokia Mounds will be required to walk a distance, but the visitor center is close to parking. The Cahokia Mounds Historic State Park is the site of a Pre-Columbian, Native American city. The Activity Committee led by Helene Sherman is also planning a lunch preceding the tour in nearby Collinsville, Illinois.
- **November 7**- Retired UMSL College of Education Dean, Charlie Schmitz will provide an illustrated talk about his travels to Antarctica on Thursday, November 7, 12:00, in 103 A. Busch Hall on the UMSL Campus.
- **December 4** - Past President Debbie Kettler volunteered overseeing arrangements for this year's RA Holiday Luncheon, December 4, at Glen Echo Country Club. Interim Chancellor and University Provost Kristin Sobolik has committed to speak at the event. The RA Board will meet in the Glen Echo C.C. Board Room prior to the luncheon on that day.
- **March 31** - Planning for an RA tour of the St. Louis Gateway Arch is currently underway and is being scheduled to take place on March 31, 2020. Tom Schnell will be leading the effort to tour the Gateway Arch Museum.



## **Survey of UMKC retirees**

Most of the recent activity has been analyzing the data collected from the survey of retirees that we shared in the spring 2019 newsletter. To recap, the UMKCRA Board developed an online survey aimed at determining the needs of retirees and if the Association was meeting those needs. The survey was intended to obtain suggestions on issues the Board could focus on to make membership more meaningful and retirement a richer experience. Questions range from the types of social activities that interest them to how much they are willing to pay for programs and events. Out of 704 emails sent, we obtained 165 responses for a 23% response rate. Hopefully some of this data can be compared with the recent survey Columbia conducted.

### **Highlights of Survey Findings:**

- Most important function of UMKCRA are advocacy of pension and health benefits and advocacy of UMKC.
- Almost 1/3 of retirees have paid employment (no more than 10 hours per week).
- Retirees felt that UMKCRA was doing a fine job at meeting members' expectations.
- E-mail and free parking are the benefits most often used by retirees.
- Retirees desire more social events.
- Educational enrichment presentations (e.g. Breakfast Speaker Series) are the social activities most enjoyed.
- Retirees are willing to spend \$15 to \$20 to attend an event (depends on what the event is).
- Many retirees had interests that should be shared with other members as part of a social program (several volunteered for this).
- Retirees were very pleased with their benefits and the most concern was losing these high quality benefits in the future.
- Of concern was that a number of retirees did not know about the UMKC Retirees Association until they received the survey.

### **Breakfast Speaker Series**

On August 27th, Dr. Cynthia Crawford of the University of Missouri Cooperative Extension Service delivered a presentation where she shared strategies for economic well-being in retirement. This was enthusiastically greeted by the audience with many questions generated by the presentation.



*Dr. Cynthia Crawford from UM Cooperative Extension discussing critical elements that retirees should consider to enhance an enjoyable retirement.*

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

- Save the date for the Annual Holiday Luncheon scheduled for Saturday, December 7, 2019, 11:00 am to 1:00 pm in the Pierson Auditorium of the Atterbury Student Success Center (5000 Holmes St, KCMO 64110). Cost: \$20/person; additional details regarding the program will be shared in the near future.
- If you are interested in attending these events, please contact Joe Constantino at [constantinoj@umkc.edu](mailto:constantinoj@umkc.edu) or 816-235-5201.

### **MU Retirees Association**

Betsy Garrett, president

[garrette@health.missouri.edu](mailto:garrette@health.missouri.edu)

Or visit the [MURA website](#)

### **UMKC Retirees Association**

Denis Medeiros, president

[medeirosd@umkc.edu](mailto:medeirosd@umkc.edu)

Or visit the [UMKCRA website](#)

### **Miner Retirees Association**

Ted Deskin, president

[deskin@fidnet.com](mailto:deskin@fidnet.com)

### **UMSL Retirees Association**

Michael Murray, president

[murraymd@umsl.edu](mailto:murraymd@umsl.edu)

Or visit the [UMSL RA website](#)

UM Connection is produced quarterly for the retirees of the four-campus University of Missouri System. This publication is a partnership between the Office of Engagement, the Office of Human Resources and the UM Retirees Association Leaders.

Questions or feedback? Email [webmaster@umsystem.edu](mailto:webmaster@umsystem.edu) | [Unsubscribe from this newsletter](#)

Copyright © 2003-2016 The Curators of the University of Missouri. All rights reserved.

[UM System Home](#) | [DMCA Policy](#) | [Accessibility](#) | [An equal opportunity/affirmative action institution](#)