

[View in browser](#)

UM Connection

Keeping you Informed. Keeping you Connected.



University of Missouri System
COLUMBIA | KANSAS CITY | ROLLA | ST. LOUIS

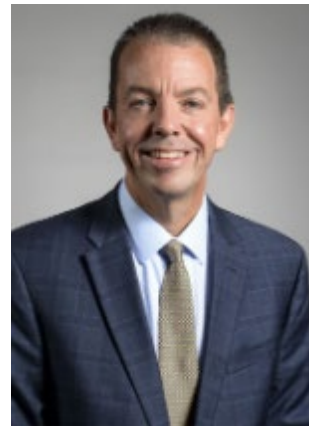
Fall 2020

Volume 7, Issue 3

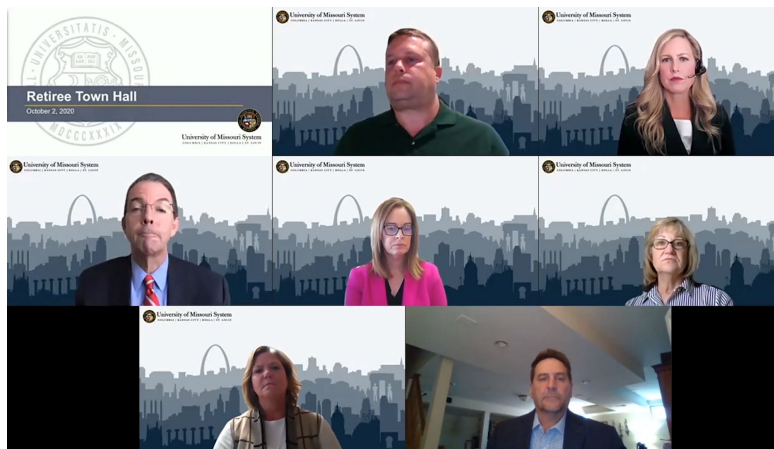


Update from Chief Engagement Officer Marshall Stewart

We have had many changes over the last several months due to COVID-19. Students returned to their respective universities with in person classes, hybrid classes or online learning. Staff are either back in their offices, teleworking or a mixture of both. All of these measures have been taken to ensure the health and safety of everyone in the UM System. Everyone has worked hard to try to make things as normal as they can; they have all gone above and beyond!



The Four-Campus Retiree Association Leadership Team partnered with the UM System on a virtual town hall for retirees earlier this month. The panelists included UM System leaders who discussed annual enrollment and health benefits as well as questions submitted by retirees pertaining to those two subjects. There were over 773 retirees who joined in the town hall with 116 questions. A recording as well as questions and answers from the town hall can be viewed [here](#).



The Virtual Retiree Town Hall meeting on October 2 featured the following (top to bottom, left to right): UHC Medicare Advantage Representative David Scinto, UHC Nurse Liason Caroline Murphy, Chief Engagement Officer Marshall Stewart, Chief Human Resources Officer Marsha Fischer, Strategic Human Resources Consultant

*Kelly Stuck, UM System Director of Benefits Carol Wilson, and Express Scripts
Representative Bob Eisele*

I also met with the leadership team this month. We discussed many items, including outreach to retirees who are not members of the four associations and the possibility of regularly occurring Town Halls.

As a reminder, the HR Service Center has moved to the **Old Alumni Center** at [1105 Carrie Francke Drive](#). If you have any HR related questions, you can call **573-882-2146** or email hrservicecenter@umsystem.edu.

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



Retirees Association

University of Missouri

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

Updates: The MU Retirees Association (MURA) serves MU and UM system retirees as well as faculty and staff who are nearing retirement. We welcome retirees from all universities to join as associate or non-voting members. A MURA membership is a terrific retirement or birthday gift! See our website for information on upcoming events, newsletters and membership at <http://mura-missouri.com/> .

Footsteps forward!

Our retiree organization's Founders' Day was March 20, 1990 when 250 retirees crowded in the Animal Sciences Auditorium. While we are unable to assemble in person because of the pandemic, we are still finding ways to connect with our members to fulfill our purpose, "to represent, promote and protect the interests of retirees and to promote the welfare of the University of Missouri."

We are celebrating our historic milestones all year long. Our newsletters include the early history leading to the founding of our organization in 1954 when Elmer Ellis, serving as acting MU president, said a retirement plan is critical for the university to recruit good faculty. He then established a committee to work on retirement benefits and medical insurance.

We are also featuring stories of trailblazers such as George Brooks, Ken Hutchinson and Jo Behymer. The virtual breakfast webinar, *“Along the Boone’s Lick Road, Key link to the West”* by author David Sapp reached 90+ viewers. The virtual Fall Social zoom meeting, *“Our Material Culture”* reached 40+ participants with State Historical Society Curator Joan Stack and Missouri Historic Costume and Textile Collect Archivist Nicole Johnston. The virtual breakfast zoom meeting *“Election 2020: Legislative Forum,”* moderated by Mary Anne McCollum and Tom Henderson, took place October 6 involving legislative candidates for Boone County, Missouri reached 53 households.



We are connecting with our nearly 1,000 members using the virtual technologies of Zoom meetings and webinars along with snail mail and phoning to meet our four objectives. Here is an outline of the work being done in this COVID-19 era to meet each of the four objectives:

1. Communicate

- Year-long celebration of MURA’s 30 years. “Photos and Footprints: Celebrating MURA’s 30-Year History,” newsletter stories, history themed presentations
- MURA email updates (twice a month) sharing news, opportunities and personal notes
- Phoning members who do not have email (Membership Phoning Committee)
- Increasing newsletter issues to four issues a year: June, September, November and February
- MURA officer elections by Survey Monkey with 225 members voting
- Proposing bylaw changes to allow electronic voting

2. Advocate

- UM System-wide [UM Retiree Town Hall](#) (May 6, 2020). Recorded webinar with Q&A.
- Faculty Council representative offering optional email updates
- Systemwide UM Retirees Town Hall *“Retiree Health Benefits”* on Oct. 2

3. Educate & Socialize

- “Friendly Voices” by Membership Committee – phoning members without email
- Virtual Breakfast presentations:
 - July 14 Andrew Clarke, Presidential Engagement Fellow, *“Food Science is Changing How We Feed the World”*
 - Sep. 8 David Sapp, Author and past President of Boone County Historical Society, *“Along the Boone’s Lick Road, Key Link to the West”*
 - Oct. 6 Boone County legislative candidates are featured, *“Election 2020”*
- Virtual Fall Social with breakouts—Sep 18 Joan Stack, State Historical Society Curator and Nicole Johnston, Missouri Historic Costume and Textile Collection. *“Our Material Culture.”*
- “Barbara’s Picks” monthly free online programs: University Extension, State Historical Society and Mizzou Summer Repertory Theatre

4. Contribute to University family

- *Academic:* Non-paid instructors of courses and back-up instructors on courtesy appointments, service on graduate masters and PhD committees, guest lectures

- *Funding:* Scholarships for dependent family members of staff, personal contributions through MU Advancement, supporting University's help in the community with United Way
- *Communicating:* Newsletters (4/year), bi-weekly updates to all membership on UM System and campus, "Friendly Voices" telephoning vulnerable retirees not using a computer and collecting materials at University Archives for subsequent retrieval
- *Engaging:* Partnering with Extension - Osher Lifelong Learning in offering educational programs and social events
- *Volunteering:* Bookstore assistance during first week of classes, assembling Show Me Renewal COVID-19 kits of supplies for students/faculty/staff and participating in UM Total Rewards Committee

JOIN US!

MURA dues are \$12.50 per year for annual members and \$100 for a lifetime membership. You can join at any time, but sooner is always better! For more information and a membership application, visit <http://mura-missouri.com/membership> or contact Dick Otto, Membership Chair, at OttoR@missouri.edu.



Updates: This year has been a test of our determination and ingenuity as we adjust to a "new reality." In addition to virtual UMKCRA board meetings, our leadership team participated in a May 2020 virtual four-campus UM System leadership team meeting. All UMKC retirees also had the opportunity to participate in the Oct. 2, 2020 UM System "Retirees Health Benefits" zoom Town Hall.

In August 2020, our board received a request from AROHE to participate in a survey, conducted by Stacey Gordon from NYU, on retirement planning programs offered by AROHE member organizations. Thanks to our Office of Human Resources for their assistance in providing this information for the survey.

This fall, there are two vending machines on campus dedicated to selling personal protective equipment, commonly known as PPE. One will be at Royall Hall, near Einstein Brothers, on the Volker Campus. The other will be inside the Health Sciences Building on the Health Sciences Campus.



Membership: New retiree memberships will help us continue to have an impact. Joining is easy! You may register online at www.umkcra.edu/membership. Membership types and dues are explained on the website.

Traditionally, we host a "New Retirees Reception" in the fall to welcome all new retirees. However, as we're sure you can understand, this year's fall event will not be held. We are very hopeful to host a reception sometime in the future, which would be a "meet and greet" with all the UMKC retiree members.

Programs: The university has canceled campus events for the remainder of the year 2020. They have also provided new guidelines for events on and off campus. The Retiree events scheduled throughout the year are now canceled: April 4, Annual Spring Luncheon; May 4,

Alvin Brooks presentation; June 17, visit to the KC Zoo; August, tour of the Royals Stadium; September 24, reception for the new retirees; October 9, tour of the Steamboat Arabia; November 2, Chris Wolff lecture on the UMKC Merger Years.

Needless to say, the pandemic has hit us hard. We hope in the near future to reschedule some or all of these events when it is safe for us to get out and gather.

UMSL | Retirees Association

Updates: Despite the COVID-19 restrictions, the UMSL Retirees Association has remained active, both in virtual meetings as well as in community endeavors. The Board has decided to meet via Zoom monthly in order to keep up with University information and to plan virtual programs for members.

The annual June business meeting was canceled, as well as the planned upcoming Holiday luncheon in December. Instead, we are tentatively planning a St. Patrick's Day-themed luncheon on March 19, if it is safe to do so.

Membership: Our Membership committee has put together a new Welcome Packet of information and we are working with Human Resources on ways to meet with pending retirees shortly before their last day. This packet will include a new recruitment brochure, a helpful contact list and a welcome letter from the Chancellor and RA President.

Program: The Planning & Events Committee has planned a webinar, "Financial Planning in Uncertain Times," that will be conducted through the Institute for Financial Planning on November 18.

The Fall 2020 newsletter is in production and will be in member's inboxes by October 1.



UMSL Retiree Association President Clark Hickman and former RA board member, Wendell Smith, took part in a classic car parade through a retirement community in St. Louis on May 8 to provide a diversion from the boredom of the COVID lockdowns in retirement communities. Wendell Smith drove his 1925 Rolls Royce Silver Ghost, one of only 75 such vehicles built and the only known one still in existence. Clark Hickman drove his 1996 Rolls Royce Silver Spur.

MISSOURI S&T | Miner's Retiree Association

Updates: The Miner Retirees began a series of quite interesting lunch meetings this year.

In January, Ashley Brooks introduced us to a relatively new program in our community – The Rolla Mission. Located in a local church, "the Rolla Mission exists to be a refuge for the disadvantaged. We offer practical resources that meet physical, social, and emotional needs.

In a culture of love and non-judgement, The Rolla Mission aspires to be a refuge for people who are marginalized and to be a unifying force in the community; providing opportunities for advocacy, service, and support.”

February brought Dr. Chris Ramsey and members of the Student Design Center’s Rocket Design Team. They introduced us to their work learning a NASA-like process for building rockets, produce their own rocket fuel to launch a high-powered rocket to 30,000 feet, then enlisting middle- and high-school students to design scientific payloads. Their motto: Keep your eyes on the sky.

March, unfortunately, brought our meetings to an end as response to the COVID-19 pandemic would prevent further gatherings. In our last program, Andy Careaga from Public Information updated us on plans for the campus’s upcoming 150th Anniversary Celebration. Chartered as the Missouri School of Mines and Metallurgy in 1870 and having classes chartered in 1871, the 2020-2021 celebrations will celebrate the growth of what is now Missouri University of Science and Technology.

Our April meeting and annual picnic in May were lost due to COVID-19.



For more information, contact Richard Miller, President at 573-364-7608 or dick@mst.edu

Get Involved!

For more information about your campus retirees association and upcoming events, please contact the following representatives:

MU Retirees Association

Ruth Tofle, President

tofler@missouri.edu

Or visit the [MURA website](#)

UMKC Retirees Association

Rose Bell, President

rose.marie.bell2010@gmail.com

Or visit the [UMKCRA website](#)

Miner Retirees Association

Richard Miller, President

dick@mst.edu

UMSL Retirees Association

Clark Hickman, President

hickman@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 | [Unsubscribe](#)

Copyright © 2003-2019 The Curators of the University of Missouri. All rights reserved.

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