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# UM Connection

*Keeping you Informed. Keeping you Connected.*



University of Missouri System

COLUMBIA | KANSAS CITY | ROLLA | ST. LOUIS

**Spring 2021**

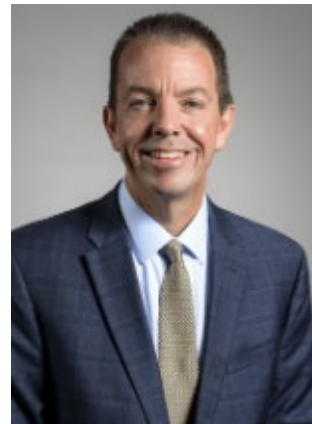
Volume 8, Issue 2



## Update from Chief Engagement Officer Marshall Stewart

I hope everyone is enjoying the start of spring. Places have started to open back up, and it feels like having in-person events is just around the corner. I have truly missed engaging with all of our different stakeholders in the last year, and hope to be able to start venturing out in the very near future.

I look forward to our increased communication efforts, including a Spring Town Hall update. We, along with the leadership of the four campus retiree associations, are working on both of those items and more details are listed below.



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

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### **Save the Date: UM System Retirees Virtual Town Hall**

University leadership invites you to attend the biannual Retirees Virtual Town Hall on Wednesday, May 12, from 10 – 11 a.m. An email invite and Qualtrics form will be distributed later this spring so you can submit questions regarding pension, benefits, engagement and other retiree concerns ahead of time.

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**Retiree communications efforts**

Early this year, retiree leaders met with UM System staff from key functional areas to develop strategies for improving communications throughout the entire UM retiree community. The group's collaboration has led to several recommendations and action items that will share retiree association information with pre-retirees, provide retirees additional options for receiving targeted communications and provide news to those with limited internet access. Additional information will be provided as these efforts develop.

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### **Tuition assistance due dates**

If you, a spouse or dependent are eligible and plan to receive tuition assistance for the Summer 2021 semester, you must complete and submit the Educational Assistance and Tuition Reduction Form by July 1, 2021. Access the appropriate form with instructions on the [Tuition Assistance webpage](#) and, if you need help, contact the [HR Service Center](#).

## *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

#### **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.

#### **FOUR WAYS TO STAY IN COMMUNICATION WITH MURA**

MURA publishes a quarterly newsletter, offers monthly programs, posts Bi-weekly MURA Update emails, and features ongoing web pages which include a curated monthly list of free online educational programs called "Barbara's Picks."

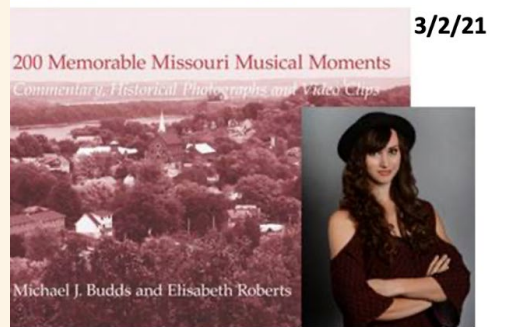
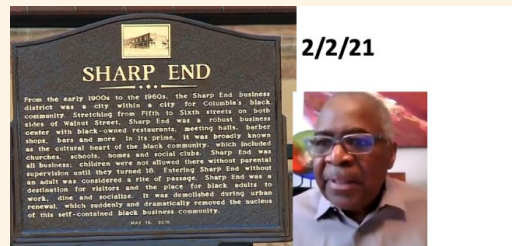
#### **1. Quarterly Newsletter**

This year our newsletters are focusing on examples of partnering and working together. We are identifying partners and demonstrating how collaboration facilitates mutual benefits in each of MURA's four objectives – to communicate, advocate, educate/socialize and contribute to the university family.

The March issue highlights the impact and benefit when retirees contribute to the university family. Marshall Stewart, Vice Chancellor for Extension and Engagement and UM System Chief Engagement Officer, reminds us of the myriad of programs and resources where retirees contribute and also benefit as individuals. A second article acknowledges how retirees are an essential component to the university's continued success and gives examples of "paying it forward." In a third article, a former chancellor and two former provosts

—Brady Deaton, Brian Foster and Ken Dean—addresses retiree activity in the academy. Newsletters can be accessed at the MURA website- [www.mura-missouri.com](http://www.mura-missouri.com)

2. The February virtual breakfast speaker was James Whitt, Sharp End Heritage Committee Chair, who presented “Columbia’s African American Heritage Trail.” The historic two-mile walking trail includes more than 36 sites, most with markers identifying and honoring individuals, businesses and institutions that were integral parts of Columbia’s Black community from the early 1900s through the 1960s. Urban Renewal in the late ‘50s and early ‘60s devastated the Black community.



The March 2 virtual breakfast presentation was “200 Years of Music in Missouri” by Elisabeth Roberts. In commemoration of the bicentennial of the statehood of Missouri, Dr. Michael Budds conceived of a project to highlight 200 musically significant people, places, and events native to the Show-Me state. This resulted in a book entitled *200 Memorable Missouri Musical Moments: Commentary, Historical Photographs, & Video Clips*, which Roberts co-authored.



A bonus breakfast presentation by Jim Sterk, MU Athletics Director, was on “*Winning It Right in 2021.*” He spoke to the core values for MU athletics, goals for 2021, areas of investment, the COVID-19 shutdown and its effects on scheduling and budgets, current issues facing college athletics, athletic facilities, recruitment of 4- and 5-star athletes and the economic impact of MU on the state of Missouri. Following his presentation, Sterk took questions, many about strategies MU Athletics used to deal with the COVID-19 pandemic.

The MURA Annual Business Meeting was held immediately following Jim’s presentation. With a quorum present, the slate of officers and two bylaw revisions were approved. See our [March newsletter online](#) for more details.

The next Virtual Breakfast is scheduled for April 6 at 8:30-9:30 am. [Joan McDowd](#) will speak on aging and the pandemic. Dr. McDowd is Professor and Chair of Psychology at UMKC and a UM Presidential Engagement Fellow.

### 3. Biweekly MURA Update emails

MURA Update emails keep our members informed. They include a broad range of current items of interest to retirees with links for further review. A recent email included information on COVID-19 vaccinations, Chancellor’s Retiree of the Year Award nominations, Educational Assistance and Tuition Reduction, exercise at home with Renew Active YouTubes, Osher programs, free tax preparation help, cloud mailbox migration and an explanation of the polar vortex by a MU faculty member.

### 4. Ongoing web site pages

Our website is the primary resource for information regarding the past, present and future life of our organization. It gives an orientation to our association, announces upcoming events,

communicates member information and archives our work.

### **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! You may apply online and pay dues via PayPal. Use our printed or fillable form online at [membership application](#).

*Contacts for more information:*

- Ruth Tofle, MURA President: [TofleR@Missouri.edu](mailto:TofleR@Missouri.edu)
- Dick Otto, Co-Chair of Membership: [OttoR@Missouri.edu](mailto:OttoR@Missouri.edu)
- Jo Turner, Co-Chair of Membership: [Turnerlj@Missouri.edu](mailto:Turnerlj@Missouri.edu)

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## **UMSL** | Retirees Association

The UMSL Retirees Association continues to meet remotely, although we have planned an in-person Annual Business Meeting at Glen Echo Country Club on June 10—if gathering restrictions in St. Louis County are lifted by then. In the meantime, we are working with Human Resources to identify recent retirees and welcome them into our fold.

On the afternoon of Thursday, January 28, 2021, the UMSL Retiree Association held a virtual event titled “Elder Abuse and Exploitation– And What You Can Do About It”. The panel, consisting of three speakers, was sponsored by the St. Louis County Older Adult Commission (StLC- OAC).

Various panelists presented information on the topic. Carroll Rodriguez, Vice-Chair of the StLC-OAC, and formerly the Senior VP of Governmental Affairs and Advocacy of the Alzheimer’s Association in St. Louis, gave an overview of the extent of the problem and the various forms of abuse and exploitation experienced by older adults – not only in Missouri, but also on a national level. Mary Tucker, member of the St. Louis Elder Financial Protection Multidisciplinary Team and former Director of Elder Clients Initiative Team at Wells Fargo Advisors, followed with an in-depth discussion of the types of financial abuse, as well as real-life examples of exploitation perpetrated by family members, caretakers and strangers.

The final segment, presented by Debra Schuster, a renowned elder law and disability attorney from the law firm Paule, Camazine and Blumenthal, covered the legal remedies and resources available to older adults who experience abuse and exploitation. UMSL Retiree Association board member and panel organizer, Zuleyma Tang-Martinez (also a member of the StLC-OAC), moderated the discussion.

Almost 30 individuals attended the event, which seemed to be very well received. During the question and answer session, as well as afterwards, several participants commented on the usefulness of the information and on the new insights they had gained as a result of listening to the presentations.

The UMSL RA will install new officers for 2021-2022 at our Spring Meeting. The incoming president will be Dr. Kathleen Haywood. The new president-elect will be Dr. Helene Sherman. Dr. Clark Hickman will become immediate past-president and Dr. Steven Spaner will continue on as Treasurer.



### **Updates:**

The board held its first meeting of the year on February 10. Due to resignations, we voted on

two new board members: Fred Hays as Treasurer and Mike Wood as board member. Some specific plans for the year include the continuation of excellent programs and a redesign of the UMKCRA web site.

Program plans are tentatively developed for the rest of the year. Those that have happened and those that are coming up are:

- **Friday, March 19, 10:30-11:30 am:** Phil Dixon spoke on “The Monarchs and the Negro Baseball League” (Zoom). Dixon is the founder of the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum in Kansas City, and the author of “The Baseball Leagues: A Photographic History: 1867-1955.”
- **Saturday, April 10, 11:00 am-12:30 pm:** Annual Spring Luncheon with speaker Dean Mary Anne Jackson (School of Medicine), “COVID and Its Variants at UMKC and in Kansas City” (Zoom). Dr. Jackson will focus on describing the epidemiology of vaccine preventable infections and studying new vaccines through work with the NIH-based Vaccine and Education Unit at CMH and the CDC-sponsored New Vaccine Surveillance Network.
- **Friday, May 21, 10:30-11:30 am:** a presentation about the International Conservation Efforts of the Zoo (Zoom).

### **Scholarships/Faculty & Staff Recognitions**

We are pleased to have had a significant number of applicants for two scholarships offered under the auspices of UMKCRA. One is the “Student Scholarship in Aging” (endowed) for an undergraduate or graduate student in any school or college of the university doing research relevant to aging or gerontology at UMKC. The other is the “Going for Excellence Scholarship” (previously under the Women’s Club) for high achieving junior or senior women with at least a 3.5 GPA. Awardees are being selected by our Scholarship Committee and will be announced and recognized at the Spring Luncheon. During the Spring luncheon UMKCRA will also honor an outstanding member of our retired faculty and an outstanding retired staff member.

### **Recognition of Newly Retired Faculty & Staff**

Since we were not able to host an in-person reception this year to welcome newly retired faculty and staff, we instead sent a UMKC mask to the 167 persons who retired from UMKC in 2020.



### **COVID**

UMKC is one of the fortunate few universities in the U.S. to have its health professions schools clustered on one campus, and its medical, nursing, pharmacy and dental faculty and students have been on the front lines fighting this pandemic since the beginning. You can read more about COVID from UMKC’s deans of medicine, pharmacy and dentistry [here](#).

UMKCRA is providing volunteers for the School of Pharmacy Vaccine Clinic during the month of March for faculty, staff, and students. [Students from the UMKC School of Nursing and Health Studies](#) have also been helping in various sites around the city with the vaccine rollout.



## **| Miner's Retiree Association**

The Miner Retirees has cancelled their retiree meetings until April. They are working on a functional listserve to better communicate internally.

For more information, contact Richard Miller, President at 573-364-7608 or [dick@mst.edu](mailto:dick@mst.edu)

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### **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](mailto:tofler@missouri.edu)

Or visit the [MURA website](#)

#### **UMKC Retirees Association**

Linda Breyspraak, President

[breytspraakl@umsystem.edu](mailto:breytspraakl@umsystem.edu)

Or visit the [UMKCRA website](#)

#### **Miner Retirees Association**

Richard Miller, President

[dick@mst.edu](mailto:dick@mst.edu)

#### **UMSL Retirees Association**

Clark Hickman, President

[hickman@umsl.edu](mailto: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](mailto:webmaster@umsystem.edu) | [Unsubscribe](#)

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