

# UM Connection

*Keeping you Informed. Keeping you Connected.*



University of Missouri System

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Summer 2019

Volume 6, Issue 2



## Update from Chief Engagement Officer Marshall Stewart

The UM System Office of Engagement is off and running. Since the Spring newsletter, the office has placed engagement officers at each of the universities. These leaders will help each university with an engagement inventory as well as elevate the many engagement opportunities that occur daily.

During the June Board of Curators meeting, President Choi announced the second class of Presidential Engagement Fellows. These 15 faculty members, representing all four universities, will speak across the state about their teaching and research, as well as UM System initiatives. For more information on the Fellows and how to book them at an event, please visit the [Presidential Engagement Fellows website](#).



Many across our state have and will continue to be affected by the massive flooding and tornadoes that occurred this spring. The universities of the UM System are dedicated to providing support to those impacted by these weather-related disasters. Through our [Disaster Resources website](#), there are opportunities to provide support to disaster recovery efforts. I encourage you to visit this website to learn more about recovery resources provided by each university.

Thank you for your continued support of and advocacy for the University of Missouri System. 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

### *UMKC Retirees Association*

**Updates** - The UMKC retirees had a busy Spring semester.

Each year, the UMKCRA recognizes an outstanding faculty retiree and an outstanding staff retiree. At the annual Spring Luncheon in April, Dr. Dick Hetherington and Dr. John Killip received recognition. Dr. Hetherington was instrumental in the start of the School of Computing and Engineering during his faculty career. As a retiree, he served the UMKCRA in many capacities in addition to work in his field. Dr. Killip served the School of Dentistry in an administrative capacity and, since retiring, has lectured many groups on multiple myeloma in addition to community outreach.

Jensen Davis, a doctoral student in Clinical Psychology, received the UMKCRA Award for Student Scholarship in Aging. Her clinical and research interests are with healthy aging. She plans to have specialized training in clinical neuropsychology. She is the third recipient of the award. UMKCRA looks forward to the work of all these recipients as they study aging; hopefully being able to help us who are aging a bit faster than we like.

There were multiple nominees for each of these awards and the UMKCRA is always seeking information about other deserving individuals.



*Pictured above are the 2019 UMKC Retiree Association Spring awardees Jensen Davis, Dick Hetherington and John Killip.*

Retiree Associations may serve many functions: education, socialization and protection of benefits. However, the details of each may vary, and we need to obtain a better grasp as to what issues are most important to us. The UMKCRA Board developed a survey to determine the desired needs of retirees and whether the Association was meeting those needs. The survey also is intended to obtain suggestions on issues we could focus more upon to make their 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. Data is currently being analyzed and will be reported in the next cycle.

An informational session with Tom Richards, UM System treasurer/chief investment officer, was held in June. Mr. Richards provided an update on the recent investment performance of the University's defined benefit plan and reviewed the current funded status of the defined benefit plan. He also previewed some upcoming changes to the University's 403/457 savings plans concerning investment choices and fee structure. The session was also live-streamed for those out of town or who are unable to attend.

**Two tours were sponsored by the UMKCRA:**

- Police Academy: Behind-the-Scenes - On May 10, a tour of the Regional Police Academy located in the Northland of Kansas City was featured. The building is quite impressive. We watched a very informative video giving a good overview of the curriculum of the Academy. Then, we toured various parts of the building where the recruits engage in all types of activities including physical and mental acuity, handling of various types of firearms, physical engagement with criminals, extensive psychological testing, etc. It is a very rigorous seven-month training period followed by several years of training as a rookie. The Academy trains recruits all over the area, not just in Jackson County. It was a fascinating glimpse into the world of law enforcement training.
- Tour of the Garment Museum and District - A tour of the Kansas City Museum at the Historic Garment District was another feature for our retirees. Kansas City was once known for its garment industry, and there are still businesses in this area. The Museum has a new exhibition and programming space located on the first floor in one of the downtown buildings. Across the street is the new museum on the garment history of Kansas City.

**Upcoming Events:**

- The Association introduced a new program series that commenced in January – UMKCRA Breakfast Speaker Series. This years speakers included Dr. Andrew Granade of the UMKC Conservatory, presenting on "Virgil Tomson: Composing and

American Sound" as well as public speaker Phil Dixon presenting on the History of Negro Leagues Baseball. A future session is listed below and we extend an invitation to all UM System retirees to attend.

- August 27 | 9:00 am | Atterbury Student Success Center, Room 238 - Cynthia Crawford, Ph.D., Human Environmental Sciences, MU Extension - Topic: Hope for the Best is Not a Retirement Plan.
- The Program Committee is also forging ahead and has planned other events for the year. For the Annual Spring Luncheon, the featured speaker will be Chuck Haddix, the Curator of the Marr Sound Archives of the UMKC Libraries, a regular contributor to KCUR and a known Kansas City Jazz historian. This promises to be a great presentation as the jazz scene in Kansas City continues to evolve from its rich historical past.

### *Miners Retirees Association*

**Updates** - All of our meetings are a noon at the Recreation Center on North Holloway. We usually have between 80-90 retirees attend our meetings.

#### **Upcoming Events:**

- Monthly meetings\* - 12:00 p.m. – The Centre, 1200 Holloway Street. The cost is \$11.
- September 11 – Mark Mullen, S&T Athletic Director, reporting on student athletes, including GPA and community service opportunities.
- October 14 – Carol Wilson from the UM System Benefits office will attend and provide a benefits report.
- November 11 - The new S&T Chancellor Mo Dehghni will report on campus activities and the future of S&T.
- December – No meeting scheduled.

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)

### *UMSL Retirees Association*

The Spring Luncheon and Annual Meeting of the Association was held on Wednesday, June 12 in the Summit Lounge of the J C Penney Center on the UMSL campus. There were 67 retirees and guests in attendance. The president introduced Chancellor George and thanked him and Curators' Professor Harbach for their hospitality in funding the luncheon. Chancellor George made some remarks reviewing the accomplishments which occurred under his record-breaking tenure. This was followed by a brief tribute to Chancellor Tom George by Dr. Lawrence "Lol" Barton. Following lunch, board minutes written by RA Secretary Dr. Kathy Haywood were approved as was the treasurer's report submitted by RA Treasurer, Dr. Steve Spaner.

Board Member Joe Martinich was introduced and he made some remarks about the

retirement program that he had learned at the recent meeting of the four Retiree Associations' leadership groups and President Choi in Columbia in May. He had asked when we would receive a COLA (Cost of Living Adjustment). The last one was about seven years ago but the response received was that any such adjustment was not planned for the near future.

Board Member Mark Burkholder then presented the following amendment to the constitution, which was approved unanimously.

Under "Article V: Officers"

Current Text: There will be five officers of the Association as described below. Each officer must be a regular member of the Association. Each officer serves a one-year term and may be reelected at the pleasure of the membership to a total of six years. Three officers are elected each year: president-elect, secretary and treasurer.

Proposed Text: There will be five officers of the Association as described below. Each officer must be a regular member of the Association. Each officer serves a one-year term and may be reelected at the pleasure of the membership. Three officers are elected each year: president-elect, secretary and treasurer.

This was followed by the election of officers and board members. Past President Chuck Korr, Chair of the Nominating Committee, presented the following slate of candidates which was approved by acclamation.

- President – Mike Murray
- 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 the new President, Dr. Michael "Mike" Murray who described some upcoming events and related activities encouraged all members to suggest activities and also to follow-up by volunteering to lead the organization on some of them.



*Pictured above are Incoming UMSL Retiree Secretary Kathleen Haywood (right) with former Chancellor, Blanche Touhill; Former UMSL Retiree President Lawrence "Lol" Barton, discussing many accomplishments of long-time UMSL Chancellor Tom George; and Attendees at the UMSL Retirees Luncheon.*

## Upcoming Events

- October 14 – Tour of Cahokia Mounds Historic State Park in nearby Collinsville, Illinois. This was the site of a pre-Columbian Native American city.
- November 14 – Dr. Charlie Schmitz, former Education Dean, giving a presentation about touring Antarctica.

NOTE: Please check our [website](#) or [Facebook page](#) for information about upcoming events.

### *MU Retirees Association*

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

The MU Retirees Association (MURA) serves UM System and MU retirees as well as faculty and staff who are nearing retirement. This winter, we passed the 1,000-member mark, but new members are welcome throughout the year. Information on becoming a MURA member can be found at the end of this update.

MURA supports retirees in several ways. We advocate for the needs and interests of retirees, as well as offer educational and social programs. MURA leaders monitor retiree issues and meet regularly with administrators of the campus and the system to advise on these issues. A newsletter is published three times annually to keep members informed. It contains information on current MURA activities, issues about retirement and interesting information targeted to members. In addition, members receive electronic updates via email. These updates include information from the Chancellor's Weekly Update, Mizzou Weekly, MU Flagship Council and other sources. Information on MURA can also be found on our website and Facebook page.

#### **Updates - Providing Scholarships for Dependents of UM/MU Staff**

In May, MURA was pleased to award three Kitty Dickerson Scholarships to children of current UM/MU staff in honor of the day-to-day support they provide to the University. Those receiving scholarships were: InHan Kim, Emily Scully and Brianna Wittenborn. Since its inception in 2016, eleven scholarships have been awarded to Mizzou undergrads.



To donate to the scholarship fund, go to

<https://tinyurl.com/kittydickersonMURAScholarship>. If you'd prefer to donate by check, indicate that it is for the Kitty Dickerson MURA Scholarship and send to: Mizzou Gift Processing, 407 Reynolds Alumni Center, Columbia, MO 65211. MURA volunteers contribute many hours each year that are translated into monetary donations to the scholarship fund.

*Pictured above with Chancellor Alexander Cartwright are the 2019 Kitty Dickerson Scholarship Winners.*

### **Upcoming Events:**

**Promoting Lifelong Learning and Service** – MURA committees and leaders are working hard to ensure that retirees stay active, both mentally and physically. We welcome retirees from our sister campuses and non-member retirees to participate in our educational breakfast programs, as well as volunteer opportunities. Some highlights:

- **Breakfast Series:** MURA's Program and Education Committees have an exciting line-up of educational breakfast speakers this fall, including:
  - **September 10** - George Smith- MU's own Nobel Laureate- will speak on factors, both personal and professional, that made this honor possible.
  - **October 1** - Domingo Castillo-Martinez, Adjunct Professor, Dean's Office, College of Agriculture will draw on his research in several South American countries including his native Peru.
  - **November 5** - Mike and Julie Middleton, Deputy Chancellor Emeritus and Director of Organizational Development will talk about their respective pathways to academic success and service.

Information on costs and pre-registration for breakfasts can be found at our MURA website: <http://mura-missouri.com/> (Pre-registration is required).

### **Fall Information Meeting**

Our annual Fall Information Meeting will be held on Friday, September 20, at the Country Club of Missouri. The program begins at 10 am and will include information on MURA activities as well as speakers from HR and Benefits discussing what to expect for the year, updates from our MURA Governmental Affairs committee, and Dean Elizabeth Lobo who will speak on Precision Health. We are planning to post video recordings of portions of the meeting on the MURA website. Check the MURA website for additional details.

**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](mailto:OttoR@missouri.edu).

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

**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](#)

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