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UM Connection

Keeping you Informed. Keeping you Connected.



University of Missouri System

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Winter 2018

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President's Message

Happy holidays! I hope you are all keeping well this winter. I'm very excited to share with you the news from across our system since our last newsletter.

It's been an incredible few months, which included a [big jump in freshman enrollment](#) and the UM System's [first ever Nobel Prize](#)! Also, at our November Board Meeting, outgoing chairman Curator David Steelman's shared highlights and accomplishments of the UM System over the past two years.

I encourage you to [view his report here](#), which signals that the UM System is heading down a path to excellence under current leadership.



As many of you know, on September 14, I delivered my first public address, "Excellence through Innovation: A New University of Missouri System." During that event, the Board of Curators and I [announced \\$260 million in investments that will be realized over the next five years](#). These investments, the result of saving, reallocating and transforming our operations, will go toward our five [Missouri Compacts that will enrich our University](#) and help us fulfill our land grant mission to advance success and well-being for the state of Missouri and the world. This plan will be made possible by continued efforts of the UM System universities to raise matching funds, generate additional revenue and continue holding down administrative costs. If you were unable to attend or watch online, I encourage you to [visit the event webpage](#) and learn more about the exciting path we're taking as a University system.

We've already made important progress on our [Compact for Student Success](#). Recently, UMKC Chancellor Agrawal's [state of the university address announced a \\$20 million investment in student scholarships](#), which includes \$5 million from the [UM System Promise and Opportunity Scholarships and Next Generation Scholarships that I announced](#) in September. We've also continued working to make course materials more affordable for students, with our [ongoing Open Educational Resources \(OER\) initiative](#) and my recent announcement of a [new partnership with Cengage](#), one of the largest textbook publishers in the United States. The UM System is also proud to help foster student success through innovation and entrepreneurship through the [Entrepreneur Quest Student Accelerator](#). Student innovators across all disciplines will work with talented alumni entrepreneurs to start new companies right here in Missouri. For more information, visit [eq.umssystem.edu](#).

As I mentioned in my last letter, the UM System began hosting Collaborative Research Summits to bring together our best and brightest faculty researchers around specific topics. Our fourth collaborative research summit, which was hosted by UMSL on Nov. 14 and titled [Rebuilding the Civic Compact: Interdisciplinary Research and Collaboration in the Behavioral and Social Sciences](#). Faculty, students and staff from all four universities shared their research breakthroughs and developed solutions for community issues, including addiction, educational opportunities, community engagement, and more. Presentations and panel discussions from the summit [can be accessed online](#).

We've also advancing the systemwide [Compact for Research and Creative Works](#) through the [Precision Medicine Initiative](#) (PMI) and the Translational Precision Medicine Complex (TPMC), which is the [top-priority research investment](#) for the UM System. [In September, I announced](#) a \$50 million investment to bring cutting-edge research to our universities, encourage strategic industry partnerships and make important contributions to healthcare in Missouri. I will continue to update you on the progress of this ground-breaking project.

[Another priority investment](#) in the next year is towards building a new University of Missouri-Kansas City (UMKC) Conservatory. The UMKC Conservatory is a cultural anchor in Kansas City's vibrant arts scene, and hosts major events, such as this year's [Crescendo: Rhythm of a City](#), which engaged more than 1000 concert goers to raise money for student scholarships. Stay tuned for more about this project in the coming months!

Our universities have also been delivering on our [Compact for Engagement and Outreach](#). The University of Missouri-Columbia (MU) [College of Education received \\$22.4 million](#) to help rural schools in Missouri and Kansas. [UMKC](#) and the University

of Missouri-St. Louis ([UMSL](#)) have both received multi-million dollar research grants to combat the opioid overdose crisis that is afflicting the nation. The National Science Foundation [awarded MU \\$5.2 million](#) to establish the Advancing Research and its Impact on Society (ARIS) Center to advance the translation of scientific research to the public. [MU Health Care unveiled](#) an expanded and renovated emergency department to meet the increasing healthcare needs of our community. Also, UMSL received an [award from the MacArthur Foundation to continue reforms of the local justice system](#). I am very proud of our universities' efforts to improve life for the citizens in our community.

The [Compact for Inclusive Excellence](#) focuses on increasing access to education and removing barriers for students and staff from diverse background and life histories. We've furthered this goal through events like the [Mizzou Youth Experience](#), an event where MU Athletics hosted hundreds of underserved middle schoolers to show them opportunities in higher education. Missouri S&T is also taking part in [a national effort to increase college access](#).

In November, we also took time to practice inclusive excellence with another group of non-traditional students, our campus veterans. MU held a number of [events for Veteran's Week](#), including a law clinic to provide guidance through the [changing landscape related to veteran's benefits](#). S&T [shed light on the experiences](#) of student veterans and continues working to create an inclusive climate for this community. Excitingly, [UMSL was recognized as one of the "Best for Vets" colleges](#) for the 5th straight year, underscoring the UM System's commitment to supporting our veterans in their journey through higher education.

I'd like to reaffirm something I mentioned in my remarks on September 14: *In all we do, we must put our students and Missourians first*. I hope you'll agree that updates in this newsletter illustrate that the chief goal of the UM System is to achieve excellence and advance well-being for our state. Starting in January, I'll add you to my monthly newsletter, which includes highlights just like this but more often so you can stay up-to-date on university happenings.

As we spend time reflecting in this holiday season on what we're thankful for, I thank you for your continued support of our University.

Sincerely,

Mun Y. Choi, Ph.D.
President, UM System

Potential New Retirement Plan for Future Employees

At the November Board of Curators meeting, Associate Vice President of Human Resources Marsha Fischer provided an informational item on a [potential new retirement plan for future employees](#). The plan is designed to provide a competitive retirement package for future faculty and staff hires and is part of efforts to ensure the sustainability of the existing plans for current employees and retirees. It would not change retirement packages for current employees or retirees. Any new retirement plan offering for future employees is contingent upon Board review and approval at a later date.

Relay for Life

We're up against our biggest rival—cancer—and to beat it, we've got to attack it from every angle. This year, faculty, staff and students are proud to be walking with survivors, caregivers, and participants in this year's Relay For Life of Mizzou. We're raising money not just for breakthrough research, but also to help provide services like free rides to chemo, free lodging near hospitals and a 24/7 cancer helpline. We invite our retirees from any UM System university or business entity to join us! Choose to [sign up to participate](#), or simply support us with your attendance at the event on April 27.

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

MU Retirees Association

PUT MU RETIREES ASSOCIATION (MURA) TO WORK FOR YOU!

MURA serves MU and UM System retirees as well as faculty and staff who are nearing retirement. In addition, retirees from other universities or colleges and/or their spouses may, upon payment of dues, be non-voting associate members with access to MURA programs and activities. We're excited to have nearly 1,000

members, but we gladly welcome new members throughout the year. Information on becoming a MURA member can be found at the end of this update. Here are some of the ways you can put MURA to work for you:

Nominate an Outstanding Retiree of the Year (MU retirees only) - MURA is proud to partner with Chancellor Alexander Cartwright to recruit and nominate candidates for the Retiree of the Year Award. The chancellor's retiree award was created in 1990 to reward and recognize the achievements of MU retirees. Accomplishments may include volunteer service to the University, civic and welfare activities and professional achievements. Please note that all MU retirees are eligible for this award. Membership in MURA is not required.

One retired faculty and one staff member will receive the award at the Chancellor's Annual Luncheon on May 21, 2019. Each award includes a plaque and a stipend of \$1,000. You can find more information at <http://provost.missouri.edu/awards/campus-awards/retiree.php>, in the August 2018 MURA newsletter or on the MURA website at <http://mura-missouri.com>. Nominations are due no later than midnight on March 1, 2019. For more information, please contact the MURA awards committee chair, Larry Windmoeller at windmoeller.l@gmail.com.

Watch MURA Fall Information Meeting Videos - MURA's fall information meeting was held in Columbia on Saturday, September 29. The meeting was livestreamed in an effort to provide access to a broader audience of retirees. Thanks to a partnership with MU Extension, retirees could participate by using their computer, iPad or smartphone. Presentations included:

- *The University's Commitment to Engagement—All Things Missouri and More* – Marshall Stewart, Chief Engagement Officer for UM System and MU Vice Chancellor for Extension and Engagement
- An update on retiree benefits by Carol Wilson
- MURA update

You can watch the recorded sessions on the MURA website: <http://mura-missouri.com/Videos 9-29-18>.

Sample a MURA Breakfast Program - MURA's program and education committees have an exciting lineup of educational and social programs for this spring.

Not a member? We welcome all retirees to register and attend our breakfast programs. Then, you can decide if a membership in MURA is right for you. Program details and registration information are updated monthly and available at

<http://mura-missouri.com/events/>. Our upcoming events and breakfast program topics are listed below.

Enjoy a golf discount for MURA members – AL Gustin Golf Course, owned and operated by the University of Missouri, is offering MURA members a special 2019 season golf pass. In order to take advantage of this offer, a minimum of 50 MURA members will need to sign up for the program by January 31, 2019. Here are the details:

- The 2019 season pass may be purchased for \$400. This pass includes unlimited green fees, seven days a week. Cart fees are not included. (Note: the regular rate for an MU staff pass for the 2019 season is \$995.)
- 2019 USGA handicap service may be purchased for \$25 (normally \$40).
- Spouses of MURA members are also eligible for the discounted season pass.

If you want to take advantage of this offer and are not a MURA member, that is not a problem! Learn how to join MURA below or on our MURA website. For more information or to register for the discount, call or email Jim Knoesel, Director of Golf, AL Gustin Golf Course, at 573-882-6016 or knoeselj@missouri.edu. MURA will provide a list of members who have paid their dues; this will be used to check eligibility. If 50 persons have signed up, Jim will communicate with interested persons about payment. Payment will not be required until the 50-person threshold has been met.

Join before January 1 for the best deal - Effective January 1, 2019, MURA dues will increase to \$12.50 per year for annual members or \$100 for a lifetime membership. We encourage eligible individuals to join now to take advantage of our low dues, which are currently \$7.50 per year for an annual member or \$75 for a lifetime membership. Either way, it's a bargain! For more information or for a membership application, visit <http://mura-missouri.com/membership> or contact Dick Otto, Membership Chair, at OttoR@missouri.edu.

Upcoming Events

MURA Breakfast Meetings* - 8:00-9:30 a.m. at the Country Club of Missouri.

- **February 5** - Candace Sall, Assistant Curator, Museum of Anthropology, MU
- **March 5** - Bill Fisch, Professor Emeritus of Law, MU
- **April 2** - Betsy Garrett, Professor Emerita of Family and Community Medicine, MU

* **NOTE:** We welcome retiree association members from our sister campuses who may live in the mid-Missouri area to participate in our educational breakfast programs. Information on costs and pre-registration can be found on our [MURA](#)

[website.](#)

UMKC Retirees Association

Update - The UMKCRA has enjoyed many presentations this fall, including topics like: the history of the University by Chris Wolff, author of *A Pearl of Great Value: The History of UMKC, Kansas City's University*; and Ray Starzmann portraying President Harry Truman. In addition, the group toured the UMKC Gallery of Art's exhibit *Type Hike*, which is a collection of national park posters designed by 60 eminent designers and typographers to celebrate its centennial.

Upcoming Events

December 1 - The annual holiday luncheon will be held on campus. During the luncheon, new board members and officers will be voted on and recognized. The featured speaker at the luncheon will be UMKC's new chancellor, Dr. C. Mauli Agrawal.

UMKCRA Breakfast Meetings*

- **January 18**
- **February 15**
- **March 8**

*Speakers who will be invited to present include Andrew Granade, Jane Greer, Robert Stewart and Phil Dixon.

April 12 - UMKCRA will host its annual spring luncheon. At the event, outstanding faculty and staff retirees will be recognized and the UMKCRA Scholarship on Aging will be awarded.

Please note: Retirees from all four campuses are invited to attend any of these events. For more information, contact Joe Constantino at constantinoj@umkc.edu.

Miner Retirees Association

Updates - The Miners Retirees Association kicked off the year with a meeting on September 9. Mark Mullen, the athletic director at Missouri S&T, gave an update on student athletes. Their average GPAs and the community service they do for the campus and the Rolla community is impressive. He also updated retirees on necessary maintenance and upgrade projects to buildings.

At the October meeting, Carol Wilson, Director of Benefits Programs for UM System HR, as well as a representative from United Health Care, presented to the Miners

Retirees Association. They discussed our Medicare Advantage plan and our Medicare Part D prescription drug plan. This meeting was very well attended, with over 125 retirees attending. We usually have between 80-90 retirees attend our meetings.

At the November meeting, Dr. Jeanne Stanley, Professor of Arts, Language and Philosophy, spoke about theater at Missouri S&T. She was accompanied by three students who gave a monologue from a play they're working on this year.

This year, in an effort to reach new retirees, we are working with the Department of Human Resources to include an invitation to join the Miners Retirees Association in retirement materials.

Upcoming Events

Monthly meetings* - 12:00 p.m. – The Centre, 1200 Holloway Street. The cost is \$11.

- **January 14** - Jim Prichett, Rolla Public Schools
- **February 11** - Humanities-Social Sciences Center
- **March 11** - Status of the campus, Interim Chancellor Chris Maples
- **April 8** - Kaleidoscope Discovery Center, a place for children to strengthen their interests in science, engineering and mathematics.

May 13 - Annual picnic, 5:00 p.m. We will provide hamburgers and hot dogs. Please bring a dish to share.

UMSL Retirees Association

Updates - On December 5, the UMSL Retirees Association hosted our holiday luncheon. It was a very festive event held at Glen Echo Country Club, site of the 1904 Olympic Games of Golf and is the oldest 18-hole golf course west of the Mississippi. Chancellor Tom George updated the membership on the accomplishments on campus. It was a great, fun-filled event!

On October 24, UMSL RA members toured the Historic Daniel Boone Home and Farm. We enjoyed the fall foliage and the interesting history of the area. We also enjoyed lunch at Defiance Ridge Winery.

In the past year, we hosted outings to the Transportation Museum, the Mercantile Library, the Missouri History Museum and the Bellefontaine Cemetery and Arboretum.

Upcoming Events

April - We will host a symposium on Alzheimer's disease. This event will be livestreamed for members who are unable to attend, as well as for interested individuals on other campuses. We have sponsored this event in the past, and it was very successful.

- **October** – We will visit Cahokia Mounds State Park, a pre-Columbian Native American City and National Historic Landmark.

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

Get Involved!

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

MU Retirees Association

Jo Turner, president

turnerlj@missouri.edu

Or visit the [MURA website](#)

UMKC Retirees Association

Gail Metcalf Schartel,
president

gailmetcalfschartel@gmail.com

Or visit the [UMKCRA website](#)

Miner Retirees Association

Ted Deskin, president

deskin@fidnet.com

UMSL Retirees Association

Debbie Kettler, president

dkettler@sbcglobal.net

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 University Relations, the Office of Human Resources, and the UM Retirees Association Leaders.

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

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