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UM Connection

Keeping you Informed. Keeping you Connected.



University of Missouri System

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Update from Chief Engagement Officer Marshall Stewart

Happy New Year! The UM System Office of Engagement has had an exciting first year. Our office and the four universities are working on initiatives in health, education and the economy and are continuing to assist Missourians across the state. During Engagement Week in October, we had broadband discussions across all universities together with statewide leaders. This has led to many conversations about the lack of broadband across the state and how the universities can work with the state to help communities gather information and lead discussions in their own areas.



There are now **engagement leaders** at each of our universities that work alongside our office in these areas. I encourage you to reach out to the engagement leaders affiliated with your university. They help connect the universities and the communities in so many ways. Their information is below:

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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 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

Miners Retirees Association

Our September meeting went very well. Mark Mullen gave a very good report (as always). He mentioned that after the 2020 year he would be joining our ranks and be retiring.

For our October meeting, we had 104 in attendance. Normally we have between 70 and 90 in attendance. The program was Marcia Lane with our HR department and a representative from UHC. They did a nice job.

The November meeting program was Teaching Professor of Theatre, Taylor Grueonloh. He brought a couple of students who did a monologue from a play they were doing at that time.

We did not have a meeting in December.

In January the program was Executive Director Ashley Brooks of The Mission in Rolla. She gave a very interesting report on homelessness and hunger in Rolla and the surrounding areas and what they are doing about it.

Upcoming Events:

- **Monthly meetings*** - 12 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.
 - **February 10** - Dr. Chris Ramsay Student Design Center and the Rocket Team
 - **March 9** - Director of Communications Andrew Careaga 150th Anniversary Celebration
 - **April 13** - Dr. Mohammad Dehghani our new Chancellor
 - **May 11** - 5 p.m. - Picnic at Lions Club Park. We will start cooking at 4 p.m. Please come and enjoy the company.

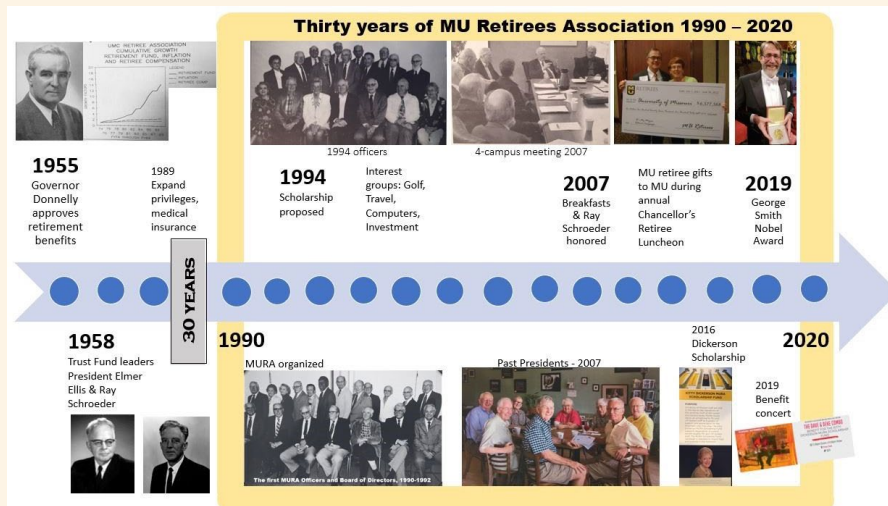
For more information, contact Ted Deskin at 573-201-7892 or deskin@fidnet.com or President-Elect Richard Miller at 573-364-7608 or dick@mst.edu

MU Retirees Association

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

Celebration time: 2020 marks the 30th anniversary of MURA and to celebrate we are planning several special events. The February 4th MURA Breakfast is dedicated to exploring the history of MURA and its leaders. The Ray Schroeder Spring Social will be held on April 2nd at the beautiful new State Historical Society of Missouri where more of MURA's history will be explored. The MURA Board is launching a fundraising campaign, **\$30 for 30**, for the

Kitty Dickerson MURA Scholarship Fund to coincide with this anniversary. MURA members and friends of MURA are encouraged to donate \$30 to the scholarship fund in honor of MURA's 30 years to raise money for these scholarships that go to students attending the University of Missouri who are dependents of MU and UM System staff. You can donate to the scholarship fund [here](#).



Updates - The December MURA breakfast that featured Chad John, FBI agent and MU adjunct faculty, who spoke about identity theft, was the highest attended breakfast in 2019 with 136 attending.

The annual Holiday Luncheon was also well attended with 106 enjoying singing, socializing, lunch and Santa's gifts.

MURA members again volunteered at the Mizzou Bookstore at the beginning of the spring semester.

We are expanding to four newsletters this year. The next will be out late January/early February and MURA members should look for another in the spring. Past copies of newsletters can be found at the MURA website at www.mura-missouri.com

Upcoming Events:

Our annual business meeting and election of officers will be held Friday, March 13 at the Country Club of Missouri from 10 a.m. to noon. Vice-Chancellor for Research Mark McIntosh will give a campus research update. Updates will also be given on retiree benefits, the retiree pension fund and MURA activities.

Breakfast Series speakers 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 a.m. with a speaker from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m.. Preregistration is required and the cost is \$15 per person. Registration forms can be found at <http://mura-missouri.com/events/> and are **due one week before the event**.

- **March 3-** MU Chancellor Alexander N. Cartwright, "Update from the Flagship"
- **April 7-** Kim Wade, Mayor's Task Force for Climate Action and Adaptation Planning, "The Climate Crisis and Its Solutions"
- **May 5-** Director of Planning, Design and Construction Heiddi Davis, "Overview of MU Master Planning Efforts"
- **June 2-** MU Food Science Professor and UM Presidential Engagement Fellow Andrew Clarke, "How Food Scientists are Changing the Way We Feed the World"

Don't miss out! 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](#).

The UMSL Retirees Association General Membership Meeting took place at the organization's holiday luncheon on Wednesday, December 4, 2019 at Glen Echo Country Club. Over 70 retirees and guests attended. The luncheon goal was to highlight and encourage committee activity. Committee chairs gave brief reports about their work. Chairs and co-chairs briefly described their activities for the 2019-2020 academic year. Dave Ganz, Dave Garin, and Helene Sherman reported on respective UMSL RA committee activity. Tom Schnell highlighted tentative plans for an upcoming visit to the Gateway Arch Museum on March 31, 2020. RA Treasurer Steve Spaner provided a written report of RA finances along with membership highlights. Spaner reported on over four hundred retirees listed in the RA Directory and now over 150 RA Lifetime Members.

After lunch, UMSL Provost and Interim Chancellor Kristin Sobolik described current University achievements and challenges. She announced that Joel Glassman had been honored with a Lifetime Achievement Award and the Higher Education Accreditation Commission fully accredited the University with no improvements being recommended. She reported that over 3,000 students will have graduated from UMSL in 2019 and over 80% of UMSL alumnus live and work in the St. Louis area. UMSL was identified as a Tier 1 institution for the sixth year in a row, noting rising graduation and retention rates. Research expenses increased by 65% in the past four years. UMSL was ranked in the Top 100 of American universities by "US News and World Report." Student grade point averages have increased and the freshman class entering in fall 2019 had the highest ACT scores on record. Enrollment decreased somewhat, as it has across the nation. Efforts to increase enrollment have included the university working with a firm on a strategic plan, focusing on money management issues.

Sobolik stressed how UMSL is concentrating on graduate programs and continuing to serve adult students. Ten new programs are currently being offered to students. The university budget is balanced for the third year in a row. With respect to major challenges, strategic investments are reportedly needed and currently being developed; including increasing diversity and inclusive scholarships, merit raises for employees and space consolidation plans to address campus deferred maintenance.

UMSL RA President Mike Murray thanked current board members for their service, including Past President Debbie Kettler, for organizing the Holiday Luncheon and Brenda Shannon-Simms for assisting Ericka Webb in registering and assisting the luncheon attendees. He thanked UMSL Human Resources Executive Director, Jim Hertel, for the continued support of his department. President-Elect, Clark Hickman, described the Retirement Association's staff / faculty awards program, suggesting members nominate retirees for this honor. He also noted the organization's Facebook page and the importance of consulting it for information about RA activities.



UMSL Retiree's Association Executive Assistant, Ericka Webb of Human Resources with RA President and UM Curators' Distinguished Professor Emeritus, Mike Murray.

Upcoming Events:

- **Monthly meetings**
- **March 31** - Planning for an RA tour of the St. Louis Gateway Arch is currently underway

and is scheduled to take place on March 31, 2020. Tom Schnell will be leading the effort to tour The Arch Museum.

UMKC Retirees Association

UMKCRA Leadership

On January 1, 2020, Rose Bell began her term as president of the UMKC Retirees Association. The rest of the board officers are Linda Breyspraak, VP/President-Elect; Annette Haynes, Secretary; Carla Heins, Treasurer; Denis Medeiros, Past-President 1st term; Gail Metcalf Schartel, Past-President 2nd term; and Michael Wood, Past-President 3rd term. The 2020 board members include Jeffrey Berman, John Ditto, Quincy Johnson, Mary McCamy, Nick Peroff, Jerry Place, Bob Piepho, Brenda Riggs, and Jakob Waterborg.

Late 2019 Events

- On November 15, a program entitled “UMKC Student Fighting Wrongful Convictions” was presented. The presentation was delivered by **Law School Professor Sean O’Brien** and Sydney Ragsdale, a Law student. There has been much press attention directed toward this program at UMKC and the number of attendees suggested this was a significant public issue. The activities described in the presentation were part of the Midwest Innocence Project.
- On December 7, the Annual Holiday Luncheon was held with guest speaker Chair of the Division of Music Studies at the Conservatory **David Thurmaier**, who delivered a presentation entitled, “***It Was 50 Years Ago Today: The Beatles’ Abbey Road and the End of an Era.***” The Beatles is one of the scholarship areas of Dr. Thurmaier, with his scholarly works focusing particular attention on George Harrison. The event was well attended. Based on both the questions asked and the discussion that followed, it was evident that Beatlemania was a significant experience in the lives of our retirees.



Presentation by Dr. David Thurmaier on The Beatles’ *Abbey Road* album - the 50th anniversary since its release.

NOTE: For breakfast and special dinners, the cost of attendance was reduced 50% by the Board in 2019. Breakfast is \$5.00 per person and dinners are \$10.00 per person.

Upcoming Events

- February 21 – Breakfast Speaker Session: Tour of the Geosciences Museum, **Dr. Richard Gentile**, 9 – 11 am. Miller Nichols Library, Room 325.
- March 10 – Tour of the Black Archives of Mid-America and permanent exhibit “With My Eyes No Longer Blind;” Director **Carmeletta Williams**, Black Archives, 1722 E. 17th Street, KCMO; AND “State of Black Kansas City - Education” by President and CEO **Gwen Grant** Urban League of Greater Kansas City; 10 am – 12 pm; optional lunch at 18th & Vine restaurant.
- In the spring, applications for two retiree awards are due: 1) UMKC Retirees Association Retired Faculty Award and 2) The UMKC Retirees Association Retired Staff Award. Awards are made public at the Spring Luncheon in April.

If you are interested in attending these events, please contact Joe Constantino at constantinoj@umkc.edu or 816-235-5201.

MU Retirees Association

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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](#)

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