



University of Missouri System

UM Connection | Fall 2023

Update from Interim Chief Engagement Officer Chad Higgins

Happy fall! This month, my office is keeping a focus on “all things youth,” particularly as our theme for this year’s UM System Extension and Engagement week. With the understanding that Missouri’s youth are our future, the opportunities and challenges today’s youth face will shape our communities, our state and the world for decades to come. It’s up to today’s leaders and educators to create the conditions needed for them to thrive.



*Chad Higgins, Interim MU
Vice Chancellor for
Extension and Engagement*

From Oct. 24 – 26, we are exploring how best to equip our youth as they become leaders shaping the future of agriculture, the economy, education, and health and well-being. 2021 *TIME* Kid of the Year Orion Jean will deliver a keynote address discussing what today’s youth need to build a brighter future for all. Other featured sessions include improving access to quality mental health care, college and career readiness and a panel of state agency leaders from a range of backgrounds (including education, health and senior services, mental health, higher education and workforce development, social services and agriculture) who explore challenges and opportunities for youth and families.

I invite you to register and join us in-person or virtually. Together, we work to empower this next generation to make a positive mark on our communities, our state and the world. 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,

Chad Higgins, Ph.D.

In Memoriam

They were our colleagues, our friends and part of our UM System family. Together we remember those who shared their lives with us. Please keep their families in your thoughts. [View the In Memoriam list \(PDF\)](#).

HR Updates

Annual Enrollment for retirees is Oct. 23 – Nov. 3. Retirees enrolled in university insurance received detailed information in the mail earlier in the month.

On Oct. 5, UM System benefits experts and representatives from the university's insurance vendors answered questions about medical insurance (both Medicare-eligible and non-Medicare eligible), as well as dental and vision benefits during the UM System Retiree Virtual Town Hall.

A recording of the event, including a Q&A, is available on the [UM System Retirees Associations](#) webpage.

Get Involved!

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

MU Retirees Association

Ken Dean, president
DeanK@missouri.edu

Or visit the [MURA website](#)

Miner Retirees Association

Greg Harris, president
gfharris56@gmail.com

Or visit the [Miners RA website](#)

UMKC Retirees Association

Jakob Waterborg, president
WaterborgJ@umkc.edu

Or visit the [UMKCRA website](#)

UMSL Retirees Association

Melissa Hattman, president
mhattman@att.net

Or visit the [UMSL RA website](#)

Campus Association News and Announcements

The items below highlight the events and efforts of the campus retirees associations:

MU Retirees Association updates:



Our Oct. 3 breakfast, led by John Bailey and Chris Watkins of Central Bank and Trust, discussed common mistakes in estate planning. Oct. 16, President Mun Choi invited us to a social at the Chancellor's Residence on the Quad.

At our upcoming Nov. breakfast, Jim Gann will provide an update on the unique MU Research Reactor, and later in November, we'll host our annual holiday social at the Holiday Inn Executive Center. During our breakfast in December, we will hear from MU Athletic Director Desiree Reed-Francois.

We have many other exciting and informative events and speakers planned, and we hope you will consider becoming a member!

Check out the [MURA News](#) for all of the events, retiree news and much more, or visit the [MU Retirees Association website](#).

UMKC Retirees Association updates:



In late September, we held a reception for new UMKC retirees, including a keynote address by Professor Daniel McIntosh, Department of Physics and Astronomy, School of Science and Engineering on 'Workforce development and new directions in STEM teaching.'

As part of our Breakfast Series, we also heard from the new dean of the School of Education, Social Work and Psychological Sciences, Dr. Sara R. Helfrich, as she discussed her plans and directions for the new school.

In upcoming events, Dr. Kevin Truman, Dean of the School of Science & Engineering, will be our keynote speaker at the Annual Holiday Luncheon on Dec. 9. He will talk about 'Visions and directions for the School of Science and Engineering.' With these last two programs, UMKCRA will complete a series of presentations that address changes following the major academic realignment at UMKC over the past year.

Consider joining or rejoining the UMKCRA. There are several membership options, and by joining, you and your spouse/partner have access to many special benefits and discounts to events and amenities at UMKC.

More details on upcoming events and other UMKCRA news may be found in the [June UMKCRA newsletter](#) and [UMKC Retirees Association website](#).

Miner Retirees Association updates:



Miner Retirees Association

Our fall events began with a September picnic at Rolla Lions Club Park.

At our first monthly luncheon, held Oct. 9, UM System Director of Benefits Carol Wilson presented information on the upcoming insurance enrollment period, insurance plans for 2024 and other updates. Our monthly catered luncheons are held at The Centre in Rolla.

We're a vibrant and active community of like-minded individuals who share a common bond, and membership in the Miner Retirees is \$10/year with the first year free and includes your spouse/partner.

Check out our new [Miner Retirees Association website](#), where you'll find all sorts of information about our association, including our history, events and how to join.

UMSL Retirees Association updates:



Retirees Association

On Aug.25, our 2023 Retiree of the Year awardees were presented to the campus community at the Chancellor's State of the University Address at the Touhill Performing Arts Center. This year's awardees were Beverly Sporleder (faculty) and Yolanda Weathersby Marshall (staff).

We kicked off the school year with UMSL's 60th Birthday activities and Red and Gold Day on Sept. 15. This is an exciting time for our campus as the UMSLRA will participate in the yearlong celebration alongside our campus colleagues.

We are also very pleased to announce that as of July 1, the RA received its official status as an affinity group from the Alumni Association. With this designation comes support resources, both financial and human, to aid us in our efforts to continue to provide the chapter with great programming and volunteer opportunities.

We look forward to sharing additional activities with the Alumni Association, supporting our membership with interesting and meaningful events and providing updates to retirement information in the coming months.

Don't forget to join or rejoin! For \$15 a year, your membership gives you access to UMSL-RA events and programs and discounts on campus events and amenities, including the Touhill Performing Arts Center and a free campus parking permit.

For more detailed news and events, check out our latest [retirees association newsletter](#) and the [UMSL Retirees Association website](#).

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