

**From:** [UM System Office of Engagement](#)  
**To:**  
**Subject:** UM Connection: Spring 2023  
**Date:** Thursday, May 11, 2023 10:00:27 AM



**University of Missouri System**  
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## UM Connection | Spring 2023

### Update from Interim Chief Engagement Officer Chad Higgins

Happy spring! Over the last several months I have had the opportunity to meet with all the retirees associations' leadership committees. The Four Campus Retiree Association Leadership Committee are great advocates for all UM System retirees. I look forward to our continued partnership on UM System initiatives.

Our office, along with Missouri Office of Broadband Development, are working on several projects that you might be able to help with. There is information on Missouri Internet Survey, which we encourage all of you to take, as well as information on the new Missouri Digital Asset Map below.



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

The University of Missouri Extension is conducting a [research survey](#) in cooperation with the Missouri Office of Broadband Development that will be used to guide state internet expansion and training efforts. It is critically important that we hear your voice, and it only takes about six minutes to complete. [Get started with the survey here.](#)

The purpose of the [Digital Access Map](#) is to collect and catalogue digital assets around the state of Missouri. Digital assets include services, programs, workshops and equipment that help individuals, organizations and businesses effectively access and use internet technologies.

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.  
Interim Chief Engagement Officer, UM System

## 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 Update

A postcard was sent to retirees in March containing instructions to opt in to receive communication from your university's retirees association. If you haven't opted in and would like to:

- **Log into myHR\***: Visit [myhr.umsystem.edu](http://myhr.umsystem.edu) to confirm or update your contact information to ensure you receive important information about your retiree benefits and events.
- **Select "My Personal Details"**: In myHR, click the "My Personal Details" tile.
- **Update information**: Using the menu on the left side of the screen:
  - You can update your address ("Addresses") or phone and email ("Contact Details").
  - Make sure to add a retiree email address if you have not already (for detailed instructions, see [Set Retiree Email in myHR \(PDF\)](#)).
  - You can also authorize the university to share your contact information with your campus retiree association if you choose. Click "UM Employee Data" and check the box to opt in.

*\*If you need assistance logging into myHR, contact your [campus helpdesk](#).*

## Pension Plan Funding Performance Webpage

A new resource has been added to the [UM System Retirees Associations](#) webpage to provide information on the university's [pension plan funding performance](#). The [quarterly investment performance report \(PDF\)](#) provides a quick snapshot of fund performance, investment targets and membership.

## Get Involved!

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

### **MU Retirees Association**

Ina Linville, president

[linvillei@missouri.edu](mailto:linvillei@missouri.edu)

Or visit the [MURA website](#)

### **UMKC Retirees Association**

Jakob Waterborg, president

[waterborgj@umkc.edu](mailto:waterborgj@umkc.edu)

Or visit the [UMKCRA website](#)

### **Miner Retirees Association**

### **UMSL Retirees Association**

Greg Harris, president  
[gfharris56@gmail.com](mailto:gfharris56@gmail.com)

Helene Sherman, president  
[shermanhe@umsl.edu](mailto:shermanhe@umsl.edu)  
Or visit the [UMSL RA website](#)

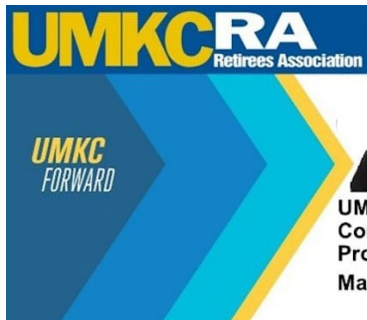
## Campus Association News and Announcements

The items below were submitted by leaders of the campus retirees associations:

### UMKC Retirees Association updates:



UMKCRA has held two program meetings of importance in recent months. Exploring the reasons for the academic realignment implemented on the UMKC campus, UMKCRA invited Provost Jennifer Lundgren to speak about the reasons for and anticipated outcomes of the changes at a March 8 breakfast program. She presented the historical background that UMKC had to deal with to be ready for the future. She explained how faculty and administration combined input and ideas to result in the choices implemented in Fall 2022. [Her clear presentation to us can be watched by anyone interested on YouTube.](#) It presents the strategic choices made and the processes created to assist student learning across diverse degree plans and faculty teaching and research in this changing environment.



**UMKC on the Move: A Conversation with the Provost**  
March 8, 2023



With a presentation in December 2022 by Dean Crappell on plans for the Conservatory in this new framework, and in May 2023 by new Dean Falicov for the new School of Humanities and Social Sciences, we did not want to limit our view just to UMKC.

For our well-attended Spring Luncheon on April 1, we invited as keynote speaker Michael A. Williams, the Chair of the Board of Curators for the University. His frank and open conversation with us about how he saw his responsibility since becoming a Curator in 2019 can be viewed by anyone in [our recording of this event on YouTube.](#) He told us how recent changes in the Board of Curators have given the Chancellors the ability to act as CEO for their campus. Thus, the academic realignment at UMKC, the reasons for it and the choices made, has been a process in which Curator Williams has been involved in throughout through conversations with UMKC Chancellor Agrawal. It appears that this new attitude of the Board has had a very positive influence on UMKC's plans. Curator Williams was a very genial presenter who did not shy away from even tackling thorny political questions posed to him.

### UMKCRA Recognition of Retirees of and Students

The Spring Luncheon had an important additional purpose beyond the social interactions and interesting conversation. We recognized the major contributions, made in retirement, by one faculty and one staff retiree. Dean Emerita in Nursing, Nancy Mills, was honored with the 2023 Retired Faculty Recognition Award, presented to her by Denis Medeiros for her many broad contributions across multiple academic units, UMKCRA and the Emeritus College. He presented to James Wanser, retired from the Testing Service, the 2023 Retired Staff Recognition Award for his continued contributions to LGBTQIA causes, to Midtown city governance and Historic Kansas City.

UMKCRA also honored four undergraduate students with the Going for Excellence Scholarship: Isabel Muziva, Nikki Hahn, Tengis Ochirbat and Kale Marie Michael. Sushil Koirala, a Pharmacy graduate research student, received the Leo J. Sweeney Scholarship in Aging for aging-related research. We expect to see him report his research progress in January 2024 just like Maya Bauhn and Payton Wolff, recipients of the 2022 Aging Scholarships, did at the Breakfast Program earlier this year, on February 7, 2023.



Pictured: Curator Williams, Awardees Nancy Mills and Jim Wanser, presenter Denis Medeiros, scholarship recipients Isabel Muziva, Nikki Hahn and Tengis Ochirbat

For information about UMKCRA, go to [umkcra.umkc.edu](http://umkcra.umkc.edu); for questions or comments, email [umkcra@umkc.edu](mailto:umkcra@umkc.edu).

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## UMSL Retirees Association updates:



Welcome to the UMSL Retirees Association 2023 spring

Connection report. Our RA chapter has been productive and active over the last few months. We are very pleased to announce that we have formerly applied to the UMSL Alumni Board status to be accepted as a full "affinity" group. An affinity group is one that supports and is supported by the campus Alumni Association in the form of cooperation on activities and communication.

Phil Donato, Alumni Association Director, addressed the membership at the holiday luncheon, explaining both the AA organization and Retiree Association roles. The two associations will work together to support our campus' and chapters' goals and events. We should be notified of our standing in July and look forward to becoming accepted into the group. Our office in Woods Hall will make the reciprocal connections even more convenient and effective.

Members participated in a very interesting tour on March 30 of the

Chatillon–DeMenil Mansion in Benton Park. The home was constructed, starting in 1848, for the pioneer Henry Chatillon, and then enlarged to its present form by prominent St. Louis businessman Nicolas DeMenil from 1855 to 1863. The house now serves as a house museum. Its nomination to the National Register of Historic Places described the DeMenil house as the finest example of Greek Revival architecture in the Midwest. The tour was followed by a lunch at the historic Lemp Inn. Additional outings are planned for later in the semester.



Our chapter worked with the UM system in February and March to participate in the sending of post cards to new faculty and staff retirees from all four University of Missouri campuses. To date, 12 retirees have opted in to receiving membership information for the UMSL Retirees Association.

Our annual business and social membership meeting luncheon will be held on June 9 at the Glen Echo Country Club. Dr. Chris Spilling, Vice Chancellor for Research and Economic & Community Development, will speak to members about our upcoming campus building moves and renovations as well as the celebration of the university's 60th anniversary. We will be voting on our slate of officers and chairs at the meeting and hearing more about our Retiree of the Year (ROTY) nominations.

It has been a great honor and privilege to serve as president of the UMSL chapter this year. Our board members have been dedicated to serving the membership and campus whenever possible. As such, we have been involved in a wide variety of activities and been able to work with many friends and new acquaintances across the campus and system. Thank you to all who made our year always interesting and meaningful.

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### **Miners Retirees Association updates:**

The Miner Retirees will complete our 2022-23 year with the annual picnic potluck on Monday, May 8, at Lions Club Park. Members can arrive any time after





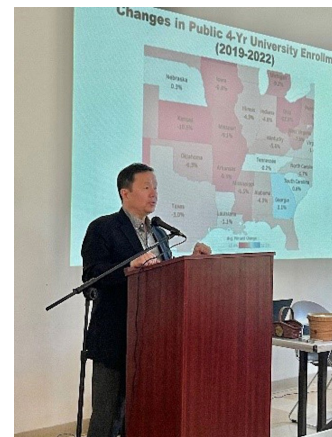
4:00 p.m. to eat at 5:00. We'll provide grilled hamburgers and hotdogs plus soft drinks. Members are asked to bring a side dish, salad or dessert.

Retirees who have not yet authorized UM to allow their contact information to be shared with us can connect by visiting myHR and selecting My Personal Details. You can update your contact information and click the box for UM Employee Data to opt in so we can reach you.

Membership in the Miner Retirees is \$10/year with the first year being free. Each membership is defined as the former employee and their spouse/partner. We usually meet the second Monday of each month during the school year at [The Centre](#) where there is ample parking. Lunch is catered by [Argyle Catering](#). Speakers tend to be from campus to keep us up to date.

S&T chancellor Dr. Mo Deghani joined us again at our April meeting. The main speaker was Dr. Mun Choi, president of the UM System and chancellor of UM-Columbia. His update noted that at all four UM campuses expect increased enrollments this fall. He commented that Missouri S&T seems to always have construction cranes dotting the skyline.

President Choi invited the retirees to the Welcome Center groundbreaking that was the next morning with the Board of Curators ([view the master plan for the Welcome Center](#)). It will be located on the site of the former power plant, between a new underground parking garage and Toomey Hall, which houses [Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering](#). The underground parking garage will be accessed from the roundabout at [Tim Bradley Way](#) that opened last fall.



UM System President Mun Choi discussing enrollment changes by state at the April S&T Retirees meeting.



S&T Welcome Center from the South Lawn

Miner Retirees officers are:

- President: Greg Harris

- President-elect: Larry Gragg
- Treasurer: Arlan DeKock
- Secretary: Dave & Sue Dearth
- Social Secretary: Dee White
- Recent Past Presidents: Dick Miller, Ted Deskin

We are canvassing members for nominations for the next vice-president. By tradition they will be a retired staff member or administrator.

We look forward to our upcoming picnic and another great year beginning in September.

## MU Retirees Association updates:



The [MU Retirees Association](#) (MURA) serves MU and UM system retirees as well as faculty and staff who are nearing retirement. We also welcome retirees from all universities to join as associate or non-voting members.

## Staying in Touch

1. **Quarterly Newsletter** (published September, December, April, and June). MURA started the 2023 theme of highlighting member's talents in the arts for the April issue. Future issues will feature members' talents in sports, the outdoors and their collections. Highlights of the April MURA Newsletter follow:

1. Call to attend the annual meeting.
2. Bio of the slate of officer nominees.
3. Feature three members who paint with a style of their own.
4. Products and passion of members who quilt, hook rugs, applique, weave and felt.
5. The resume of a performing artist.
6. Summary of past breakfasts
7. Financial report
8. Bio of the slate of officer nominees.
9. Candid pictures from the holiday luncheon.
10. Timely tax tips.
11. Calendar of upcoming events.
12. Information to stay connected via Facebook

2. **Breakfast Series, Annual Meeting and Spring Reception**

- February 7 – John Kelly, retired high school administrator and baseball fan, through and through, shares his encyclopedic knowledge of the *Negro Baseball League and its museum in Kansas City*.
- March 7 – Dr. Andrew Zumwalt, CFP, Associate Professor of Personal Finance, “*Would you recognize a scam if it bit you? Protecting your money in 2023*”





- April 4 – Dr. Kathleen Quinn, Associate Dean Rural Health, MU School of Medicine, “*Rural Health Challenges; Improving access and equity.*”



- **Sheldon Clinical Simulation Mobile Unit**  
MURA members had a chance to tour the mobile simulation unit with Dena Higbee, Coordinator, and her staff.

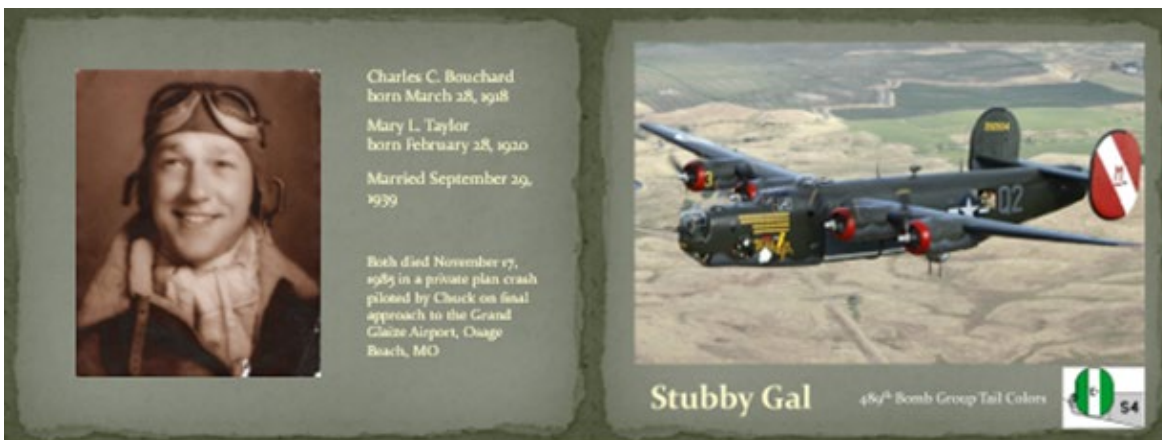


- **MURA Annual Meeting, March 15** – 67 members attended, in-person or online, the annual meeting sponsored by TigerPlace. The following slate was approved:



Pictured: Ken Dean, President; Jim Scott, President-Elect; Suzette Heimann, Secretary; Sheri Helm, Member-at-Large Staff; Chris Bouchard, Member-at-Large Faculty

Chris Bouchard, a MURA member, shared, “*A Time Out of Time*” about his father’s experience as a prisoner of war.



UM System Executive Staff, Ryan Rapp, Tom Richards, Eric Vogelweid and Marsha Fischer



(online) shared the status of the Retirement Plan to wrap of the meeting.

- **April 10 - Spring Social** hosted by President Choi at the Walsworth Family Columns Club Mizzou Stadium



David Leuthold, Faculty Retiree of the Year and President Choi



MURA members enjoying the reception



Libby Miederhoff, Staff Retiree of the Year and President Choi



Six \$1,500 Kitty Dickerson Scholarship Winners with the Scholarship Committee and President Choi

**3. Upcoming programs include:**

- May 2 – Betsy Garrett, *What's that bird? Become a birder and see (and hear) your world!*
- June 6 – Jefferson Farm and Extension Education Center.

**4. Bi-weekly MURA Update Emails**

These regular emails help you stay current with MU news, MURA events, and learning opportunities.

**5. MURA website**

Our source to register for programs. Browse the site for benefits and resources provided to MU and UM retirees. Visit the [MU Retirees Association](#) website.

**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 membership application form online](#).

**Contacts for more information:**

Ina Linville, MURA President: [LinvilleI@missouri.edu](mailto:LinvilleI@missouri.edu)

- Jo Turner, Co-Chair of Membership: [TurnerJ@Missouri.edu](mailto:TurnerJ@Missouri.edu)
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