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UM Connection

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University of Missouri System

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Fall 2022

Volume 9, Issue 4



Update from Chief Engagement Officer Marshall Stewart

I hope everyone is enjoying the fall weather.

The UM System Town Hall took place on October 18 and had a wonderful turnout. Over 400 retiree households attended to hear from UM System Senior Leaders regarding health benefits. The Town Hall video and answers to the Q&A questions [can be found here](#). We appreciate the collaboration with the four UM System retiree associations on this event.



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,

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...](#)

HR Updates

UM HR has been working on a way for retirees to [update their email addresses](#) to receive official communications from the university. We encourage all retirees to log in to [myHR](#) to

make sure their contact information is correct.

Annual Enrollment is from October 24 - November 4, 2022. Retirees have received detailed information regarding Annual Enrollment in the mail at their home address at the beginning of October. Please review and update your contact information as needed in [myHR](#) or [email HRSC](#).

Campus Association News & Announcements



| Miner Retirees Association

Updates:

The retirees of MSM/UMR/S&T began our monthly meetings with a potluck BBQ picnic in September at Lions Club Park in Rolla. About 70 attended. In addition to the potluck salads, sides and desserts that members brought, we had Dickey's cater pulled pork, roasted chicken, smoked turkey and brisket burnt ends.

UM Director of Benefits Carol Wilson was the speaker at our October luncheon regarding health, dental and vision insurance. Cari Lyman assisted. S&T's Marcia Lane also attended to offer assistance from our local campus upon request.

The November 14 luncheon meeting will feature [Chancellor Mo Dehghani](#). He will provide a campus update including the impact of the \$300 million estate gift by Fred and June Kummer on Missouri S&T's Master Plan. The Kummer's desire was to elevate the reputation of Missouri S&T, deliver broad and valuable STEM outreach, and have a positive impact on our region, state and beyond.

Chancellor Dehghani will discuss the major construction projects that are underway. University Drive from I-44 is being realigned to create an arrival district to campus, with a Welcome Center and underground parking garage.



S&T Master Plan

He'll detail the September Career Fair that had more than 400 employers looking to fill full-time, co-op and summer positions. About half of the 7,000+ student body attend the career fairs each February and September. It is restricted to current students and alumni of Missouri

S&T. Several Miner retirees volunteer at each career fair to assist students, COER staff and visiting employers.

Upcoming Events:

- **Monday, January 9:** S&T Athletic Director Melissa Ringhausen
<https://minerathletics.com/>
 - **Monday, February 13:** Dr. Chris Ramsay, Director of the [Student Design and Experiential Learning Center](#)
 - **Monday, March 13:** Dr. Taylor Gruenloh, Director of [Leach Theatre](#)
 - **Wednesday, April 19:** [University of Missouri President Mun Y. Choi](#)
 - Monday, May 8: Potluck Picnic at Lions Club Park
-

UMSL | Retirees Association

Updates:

Hello from the University of Missouri-St. Louis Retirees Association. We have begun an active and engaging year. Our chapter is pleased to announce that, as of mid-September, the UMSL Alumni Association Board approved our request that our Retirees Association become one of their affinity groups. An affinity group works with an established campus association by volunteering time and effort to events and projects. In return, the accepting association supports the affinity group by sharing resources and volunteering.

In our first such joint effort, our RA chapter members assisted the alumni group in preparing for its campuswide 5K run event and helped at the event itself. The Alumni Association is, in supporting the RA, helping to design and email our holiday luncheon invitations to our membership, saving our chapter the cost of snail mailing and collecting ticket payments for the first time. The Alumni Association has also generously provided us with an office in the campus administration building, Woods Hall. We look forward to our partnership on future Alumni Association and RA events this coming year. During this first year of our affinity designation, we are considered an emerging group. We will become an official affinity group in the next academic year, 2023-24.

Three speakers were welcomed to our meetings this fall. The UMSL Senior Director of Planned Giving, Elizabeth Niven, addressed the board to discuss legacy giving, the 1963 Society and charitable gift annuities. Our liaison to the campus, Curt Coonrod, and myself are working with the campus offices to collect information and distribute it at the holiday luncheon to members. We also heard from faculty members of the Total Rewards Advisory Committee (TRAC). It provides feedback for all proposed benefits projects and issues related to rewards or benefits. We found the speakers very informative and important in our efforts to share information with our members.

Our chapter visited the St. Louis Zoo for a fall event and enjoyed our guided tour as well as a docent-led tour of the Primate Canopy Trails. We also enjoyed lunch at the zoo and being together after the two years away from in-person events.

Over the past few years, the UMSL RA chapter has been nominating candidates for a Faculty

Retiree of the Year award and a Staff Retiree of the Year award. These individuals have been recognized at our annual State of the University celebration. This year we are codifying the process of nominating our retirees to be recognized by including the process in our constitution. We are proud of our candidates and want to ensure that the recognition becomes a standard annual campus event.

Major issues this year include interacting with various campus events and donating resources and time to the university. We are also continuing our work to contact as many new and current retirees as possible. Our committees are working diligently on these goals, and we look forward to a very productive year.



UMSL Retirees Association Board of Directors

Upcoming for UMSL Retirees is the Holiday Luncheon, to be held on December 10th at Glen Echo Country Club. We look forward to seeing retirees there and enjoying an in-person celebration of the holidays.



Updates:

Second “Field Trip” of the Year to the Truman Library & Museum

For its second outing of the year, UMKCRA arranged a tour of the newly renovated Harry S. Truman Presidential Library & Museum in Independence. The tour on August 25 allowed a group of approximately 25 participants to see various phases of Truman’s life, from his early years through his rise in the political world, to his momentous decisions as President, such as dropping the atomic bomb on Japan to end World War II and recognizing the state of Israel. Truman’s landmark decisions on civil rights, such as desegregating the Armed Forces, were also highlighted. After the tour, the group had lunch at a local Independence landmark restaurant, Vivilore.



UMKCRA Truman Library & Museum Tour

New Retirees Reception

The annual New Retirees Reception took place on September 22, featuring Missouri Poet Laureate Maryfrances Wagner as keynote speaker. The event typically provides a welcome to new UMKC retirees and an invitation to join UMKCRA. For her remarks, Ms. Wagner, a UMKC alumna and former instructor, described her journey as a poet and included poems that represented various phases of her journey. Ms. Wagner has published nine collections of her poetry, including “Salvadore’s Daughter,” “Light Subtracts Itself,” and “Red Silk,” which won the 2000 Thorpe Menn Literary Excellence Award. She will serve as Poet Laureate until 2023.



Missouri Poet Laureate Maryfrances Wagner at UMKCRA New Retirees Reception

Upcoming UMKCRA Board Events

A key item of business at the fall UMKCRA Board meeting was to nominate candidates for Board offices and membership starting on January 1, 2023. The election to finalize new officers and Board members will take place at our annual Holiday Luncheon/Business Meeting, to be held this year on December 10. A special holiday program is planned, with the new head of the UMKC Conservatory, Dean Courtney Crappell, as keynote speaker. He will address his vision for the Conservatory going forward. He comes to UMKC from the University of Houston as director of the Moores School of Music and associate dean for operations of the Kathrine G. McGovern College of the Arts. While there, he was involved in

numerous collaborations, including interdisciplinary work in the field of arts and health.

News of Note from UMKC

The Dr. Raj Bala Agrawal CARE Center has been launched to assist in providing basic needs for UMKC students, including food, shelter and emergency financial assistance. Services offered by the center include the Kangaroo Pantry, through which students can receive up to 20 food items per week picked up at several campus distribution sites, and the UMKC Student Emergency Fund, which supports students who have an urgent need for temporary financial assistance, especially if it might prevent a student from continuing a degree program. The CARE Center presented information on its services at the fall UMKCRA Board meeting.

This fall UMKC is hosting the Burrell Foundation's 7-week exhibit "Art of Being Me," which showcases the personal stories of 20 individuals who have lived with mental health diagnoses or conditions. The artist is Randy Bacon, and the exhibit aspires to educate the community about mental health, normalize the experiences of those who live with challenges, and inspire others to share their stories. The exhibit will be displayed throughout UMKC's Miller Nichols Library beginning October 18 through November 30.

For information about UMKCRA, go to umkcra.umkc.edu; for questions or comments, go to umkcra@umkc.edu.



Retirees Association

University of Missouri

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.

1. Retirees meet with UMHR Staff - MURA leadership reached out to UMHR executive staff for a conversation of topics relevant to retirees. Ina Linville, MURA President, Ken Dean, MURA President-Elect, Ruth Tofle, MURA Past-President and Betsy Garrett, TRAC Member at-large representing retirees met with Marsha Fischer, Vice President for HR and Chief Human Resources Officer, Jessica Baker, Assistant Vice President, Carol Wilson, Director Benefits, Deb Rogers, Senior Manager HR Service Center, Casey Owens, Assistant Director Internal Communications and Ashley Rhode, Engagement and Outreach Associate.

Topics of mutual interest were:

- Outreach to retirees systemwide (including those without computers)
- Recruitment of members to the retiree associations
- Suggestions to enhance the experience of retirees on the upcoming Town Hall
- Retirees' concerns of actions and comments by the Board of Curators that have caused angst among retirees that the legacy of time, talent and treasure (including many planned) gifts seemed unappreciated.

Things we learned from the UMHR staff are as follows:

- Minutes of quarterly TRAC meetings are posted on the UM HR Total Rewards website at [Total Rewards Advisory Committee \(TRAC\)](#)
- A retirement calculator is located at [Estimate Defined Benefit retirement benefits \(for eligible employees\)](#). A box with “Did you know?” alerts the user that the UM System has an affiliated retirees association and sends them to the [UM System Retirees Associations](#) Placement will help with recruitment.
- Retiree generalists are still in place for all campuses and the university hospital. Faculty and staff who are considering retiring will be strongly encouraged to attend sessions with generalists to provide consistency in information. We ask that Mizzou’s generalist shares information our Membership Committee developed for [new members](#).
 - Ashley Rhode shared the UM Engagement and Outreach Webinar on Benefits will be October 18 from 10 to 11.
 - All retirees **need to be proactive** to update personal information by contacting the My Total Rewards Team. My Total Rewards contact information is as follows: My Total Rewards, Old Alumni Center, 1105 Carrie Francke Drive, Suite 108, Columbia, Mo 65211. 573-882-2146. 800-488-5288

MURA looks forward to continuing the cordial and productive relationship with UMHR.

2. Monthly Breakfast Series Kicks Off - September 13 – Chris Campbell, Executive Director of the Boone County Historical and Culture Center highlighted the collections and exhibits of the center in his presentation, *Volunteers – Our Greatest Treasure!*



Chris Campbell –
Executive Director
Boone County Historical and
Culture Center

September 13
Country Club of Missouri
8:00 am Breakfast; 8:30 Program

Volunteers – Our Greatest Treasure

October 4 – The Boone County Chapter of the Mizzou Alumni Association joined MURA for a candidate forum produced by the MURA Governmental Affairs Committee. Participating were candidates for presiding commissioner and the following house districts – 44th, 45th, 46th, 47th, and 50th. The committee posed questions for the candidates to answer. Questions included asking candidates their priorities for education (including MU) and the America Rescue Plan Act. At the conclusion, Boone County Clerk, Brianna Lennon summarized changes in election procedures for future elections. Members attending felt informed and are ready for the next election, November 8.



Top left: Mary Anne McCullum, chair of MURA's Governmental Affairs Committee; **Lower left:** Candidates Cheri Toalson Reisch and David Raithel for 44th District; Kathy Steinhoff, 45th District; David Tyson, 46 District; **Right:** Candidates; David Baker, Boone County Alumni Chapter President-Elect, welcoming group; Ina Linville, MURA President.

Upcoming Programs:

- **November 4** – Kylee Rucinski, Gordon Arthritis Research Fellow & Director of Mizzou Joint Health Program at the Missouri Orthopaedic Institute (MOI) on *Keeping Your Bone Healthy in Retirement: Evidence-based information on prevention and treatment strategies to keep your bone and joints healthy.*
- **December 6** – Betsy Garrett, former MURA President – *Become a Birder and See (and Hear) Your World*

3. Socials

November 9 – Kitty Dickerson Scholarship fundraiser at Shakespeare's Pizza. Fifteen percent of sales goes to MURA's Scholarship Endowment.

MURA members will don their holiday glitz to attend the Holiday Social on November 30 at the Holiday Inn Executive Center.

4. Connecting to Mizzou – The Mizzou Book Store "hires" retirees to help students and families negotiate the bookstore at the beginning of each semester. Proceeds go to the scholarship endowment for students of University of Missouri staff. Currently, MURA offers two \$1,500 scholarships annually.

MURA

Helping Students at Mizzou Bookstore

Jeanette Brown directs students to cashier



Barb Montgomery alerts students to open cashier



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 form online at [membership application](#).

Contacts for more information:

- **Ina Linville**, MURA President: LinvilleI@missouri.edu
- **Jo Turner**, Co-Chair of Membership, TurnerIj@Missouri.edu

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
Or visit the [MURA website](#)

Miner Retirees Association

Greg Harris, President
gfharris56@gmail.com

UMKC Retirees Association

Virginia Miller, President
virginiamillerkc72@gmail.com
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UMSL Retirees Association

Helene Sherman, President
shermanhe@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 | [Unsubscribe](#)

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