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UM Connection

Keeping you Informed. Keeping you Connected.



University of Missouri System
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Update from Interim Chief Engagement Officer Chad Higgins

I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday.

As of the new year, I have taken on the duties of interim MU vice chancellor for extension and engagement and interim chief engagement officer for the UM System. Marshall Stewart's last official day was January 20; we made the leadership shift earlier this month to ensure a smooth transition.

Over the last two and a half years, I've had the privilege of working with Marshall to implement an innovative vision of the land-grant university's mission. We now have the foundation we need to build toward measurable impact in improved economic opportunities, educational access and health and well-being for our state's 6 million residents.



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

Our office, along with UM System partners, have released the [District Data Sheets](#) for this year. This data shows the ways the UM System is impacting your community and the state of Missouri. It is broken down into county, congressional district, senate district, house district and the state. Please share this data – and its value – in your county. The district data sheets are housed on the [UM System Community Connect](#) portal. We encourage you to look through the website. It contains many community events happening at each university.

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 family. Together, we remember those who shared their lives with us. Please keep their families in your thoughts. [View the 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.

Campus Association News & Announcements

UMSL | Retirees Association

Updates:

Hello from the University of Missouri-St. Louis Retirees Association. Over the past few months our chapter has been actively working with the University of Missouri-St. Louis Alumni Association to advance our emerging affinity status to a permanent connection. Toward that end we are reviewing documents and budgets in preparation for a March presentation. In the meantime, we are anticipating continued interaction and cooperation with Alumni Association events.

Our annual holiday luncheon, held on December 16, 2022, was very successful. The event began with a “meet and great” happy hour, at the Glen Echo Country Club, preceding the luncheon and program. Sixty-five members attended the luncheon. We heard from Phil Donato, Executive Director of the Alumni Association, who explained the affinity process and goals for each organization. He encouraged members to become involved in joint AA and Retiree Association activities. Chancellor Kristen Sobolik spoke to the membership, highlighting local and national campus achievements such as the Diversity Award and recognition of the university’s Community Engagement. Along with a brief business meeting, another feature of the luncheon was that members donated food products for the UMSL Food bank as well as a book for our chapter exchange.



UMSL Retirees Association members enjoying the annual Holiday Luncheon

Future plans include engaging membership in Retiree's and Alumni Associations' events, plans for contacting faculty and staff preparing for retirement and updating local and system wide offices' contact information for our members. We are also considering options for social activities such as tours of historic St. Louis museums.

We look forward to the annual membership meeting in June and many engagements until that time. Please contact me if you have any questions for the UMSL chapter. We wish everyone a happy and healthy 2023.



Updates:

In December 2022 at our Holiday Luncheon, UMKCRA members saw the gavel transfer from Ginny Miller, 2022 President, to Jakob Waterborg, 2023 President.

We were very glad to welcome and elect a new Vice-President/President-elect Marita Barkis, who retired in 2013 from UMKC's Counseling, Health and Disabilities Services. A number of new Board members with diverse backgrounds were elected: Jana Boschert, retired in 2022 from Advancement Services in Pharmacy, Dr. Syed Hasan, 2014 retired Professor Emeritus in Geosciences who has kept active in his research, and Dr. Louis Imperiale, 2021 retired Professor Emeritus in Foreign Languages.



UMKC Retiree Association President transfer from Ginny Miller to Jakob Waterborg



Waterborg

Barkis

Hasan

Boschert

Imperiale

Academic Realignments at UMKC

In Fall 2022 a major academic realignment of schools has been implemented. The College of Arts and Sciences and the schools of Education, of Biological and Chemical Sciences, of Computer Science and Engineering, and of Social Work no longer exist. Arisen as a phoenix UMKC now has: (1) a School of Science and Engineering, encompassing biology, chemistry, physics, geosciences, computer science, architecture, mathematics, and civil, electrical and mechanical engineering; (2) a School of Education, Social Work and Psychological Sciences; (3) a School of Humanities and Social Sciences, housing all languages, communications, journalism, criminal justice, economics, art and art history, history, sociology, anthropology, political sciences and philosophy. Theatre has found a home in the Conservatory with music and dance.

One can imagine that it will take us some time to see the consequences of these changes. Although as retirees we are not directly affected, we remain interested in how well UMKC fares. Thus we have taken it upon us to invite representatives of the Curators, UMKC administration, and of these new schools to talk to us on a series of breakfast programs and keynote speeches in the coming year. Our question to all: Please tell us how these new academic schools will change and grow UMKC.

December 2022 Holiday Luncheon

We have started asking this question of the new Dean of the Conservatory, Courtney Crappell. His keynote address was entitled "Futuring the UMKC Conservatory". Exactly in line with our interest.

The audience of UMKCRA members was enthralled by the vivid presentation. Dean Crappell, who joined UMKC recently from the University of Houston where he was director of the Moores School of Music and Associate Dean of the Katherine G. McGovern College of the Arts.



Dr. Courtney Crappell,
Dean, UMKC Conservatory

He told us about his backwater beginnings at the southernmost tip of the Mississippi delta where he discovered that pianos existed, that a piano teacher can change a person's life arc, and that conservatories exist to give meaning to life, to the future. He explained why state schools and conservatories matter, and how it drives him to "future" the UMKC Conservatory. He will take our Conservatory beyond its Tradition of Excellence to bring value and tangible benefits to a more diverse and less time-and-place-bound student body. Personal experiences, social connections, cultural communication, wellness and security are essential parts of a more diverse program offering within and outside the Conservatory. Dean Crappell sees overlapping community goals in demonstrating value, building relationships and leveraging partnerships. He sees partnerships with the various schools at UMKC through discrete art and music collaborations and projects that will demonstrate the relevancy of Conservatory actions and audiences.

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

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 wrapped up the 2022 theme of volunteerism with the December issue. The new theme forward will be featuring the talents of members in the arts, sports, outdoors and collections. Highlights of the December MURA Newsletter follow:

1. MURA member's contribution to Extension councils and foundations
2. Community organizations benefit from MURA members talents
3. Highlighting two members' recognition for their contribution to the National Fire Heritage Center
4. Featuring the volunteer commitments helping individually or through community organizations
5. Summary of past breakfasts
6. Financial report
7. Call for nominations for the Chancellor's Outstanding Retiree Award
8. Information to stay connected via Facebook

2. Breakfast Series, Candidate Forum and Holiday Luncheon

- November 1 – Kylee Rucinski – Gordon Arthritis Research Fellow and Director of Missouri Joint Health Program at the Missouri Orthopedic Institute (MOI), *Keeping Your Bones Healthy in Retirement: Evidence-based information on prevention and treatment strategies to keep your bones and joints healthy.*
- December 6, Bruce Cox, Director of Museum of Art and Archeology, *Museum of the Move*
- December 1, Holiday Luncheon



Upcoming programs include:

- February 7 - John Kelly, School Administrator, *Negro Baseball League.*
- March 7 - Andrew Zumwalt, Associate Professor of Personal Financial Planning with MU Extension, *Would you recognize a scam before it bit you? Protecting your money in 2023.*
- March 15 – MURA Annual Meeting, all members are invited and encouraged to attend.

- April 4 - Kathleen Quinn, Associate Dean Rural Health, MU School of Medicine, *Rural health challenges, improving access and equity.*
- April 10 – Spring Social, hosted by President Choi, recognition of Chancellor’s retirees of the year and Kitty Dickerson Scholarship recipients.
- May 2 – Betsy Garrett, *What’s that bird? Become a birder and see (and hear) your world!*

3. Bi-weekly MURA Update Emails These regular emails help you stay current with MU news, MURA events, and learning opportunities.

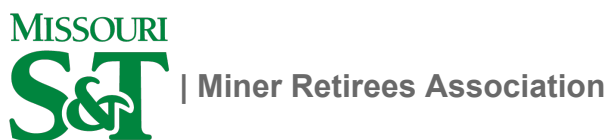
4. MURA website Our source to register for programs. Browse the [MU Retirees Association](#) site for benefits and resources provided to MU and UM retirees.

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 to [become a MURA member](#).

Contacts for more information:

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



Updates:

S&T Athletic Director Melissa Ringhausen was the speaker at our January 2023 luncheon. She has been AD since July 2020. Our 17 teams are members of the Great Lakes Valley Conference of Division II, with the exception of Men's Volleyball, which is D1. The GLVC is centered in St. Louis, which minimizes time away from class and travel costs, and matches well with the geographic base of S&T's overall student body.



S&T Athletic Director Melissa Ringhausen was the speaker at the January Retiree Luncheon

Despite S&T being a highly selective STEM focused institution, its teams are competitive athletically and are exceptional academically. For example, the men's and women's basketball teams are on an upward trend and are 10-4 and 8-6 respectively. S&T scholar-athletes are also high-performers in the classroom. The 464 student-athletes have a better graduation rate than the whole student body with an average GPA of 3.461. There were 69 who earned a perfect 4.0 last year.

A high percentage of S&T students were varsity athletes in high school so it's not a surprise that there is a lot of interest in staying active. Fitness facilities for the student body were recently improved and doubled in size. The intramural program is popular with S&T's 7,600 full-time students. Intramural teams regularly have more than 5,000 participants. Miner Athletics has a strategic planning process underway to map its future improvement. For more info see minerathletics.com.

Our February and March luncheon speakers continue the focus on how S&T students engage in meaningful extracurricular and co-curricular passions. Chris Ramsay will provide an overview of the 19 student design teams described at design.mst.edu. Taylor Gruenloh will showcase theatre programs described at alp.mst.edu/theatre and events at leachtheatre.mst.edu. Our April 19 luncheon speaker will be UM President Mun Choi in the week the UM Board of Curators are to meet in Rolla.

This year we will have potluck picnics in September and May. Monthly meetings are held during the school year at The Centre (Rolla's community fitness facility). The lunch cost is \$13 with top-notch meals provided by Argyle Catering. We welcome all retirees, spouses and guests. The first year of membership is free, then annual membership is \$10 per household.

Finally, to help members stay connected we are working with S&T Communications on a Miner Retirees home page for the campus website.

Get Involved!

For more information about your campus retirees association and upcoming events, please visit the [UM System Retirees Associations](#) webpage and 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

Jakob Waterborg, President
waterborgj@umkc.edu
Or visit the [UMKCRA website](#)

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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