'Lunch Bunch' to become 'Brunch Bunch'  
(at least for this semester)

Java and Jazz: Saturday morning concert

Hot coffee and cool jazz are on the menu —
Nov. 7, 10 to 11 a.m. J.C. Penney Conference Center Lobby
Parking in Lot C.

Join us for a delicious breakfast while grooving to a performance by the UMSL Jazz Combo, led by Ken Kehner, an accomplished classical pianist. Kehner has been a featured soloist with several orchestras and has backed such noted artists as Bill Watrous, Bobby Shew and Buddy DeFranco.

Fee: $10. To make a reservation, call Jan or Marie at OASIS at 314-539-4555 and let them know you are a UMSL retiree to waive the $8 OASIS fee.

Greetings from the President …

Dear Fellow Retirees,

Amidst the expected arrival of another beautiful Missouri fall, we face another uncertain state budget. The Board of Curators Benefits and Compensation Committee recently had an educational meeting with its members utilizing the new Cisco TelePresence rooms on each of the four campuses of the University of Missouri System. The rooms were constructed with funds gifted by UM President Gary Forsee and Sherry, his wife. The room at the University of Missouri-St. Louis is located in the University Center. These videoconference rooms will facilitate multi-campus meetings, since travel to another campus location will not be required. However, as you read this, representatives from the four campus retirees associations will be preparing to meet with President Forsee in Columbia on Nov. 4. We expect to receive an update on the state budget, the university budget and future plans for the university, including any changes in retiree benefits. I note that while attempting to raise faculty and staff salaries, there has been no indication of pension adjustments.

At our UMSL Retiree Association annual meeting in June, the university system faculty and staff benefits guru, Mike Paden, described the latest actuarial value and liability of our retirement benefit fund. With a large number (3,500) of active employees eligible for benefits in the next few years and a decrease in the market value of the fund, contributions from the UM System will probably need to increase to a range of 13 percent to 14 percent of salaries from the current range of 6 percent to 8 percent. To help stabilize that fund, active employees will be required to contribute 1 percent to 2 percent of salary to it.

Our annual election brought two new members to our board, Chuck Korr and Charles Kühle. We owe thanks to Grace Kennedy for her service as treasurer and to Norman Seay for his many years of service on the board.

Several changes to our constitution and bylaws were approved at the annual meeting. The bylaws change amends the date of election of the nominating committee from the spring to the winter meeting. If you wish to serve on that committee or run for office, please inform the chair, Shirley Martin. One constitutional change charges the vice president with responsibility for membership recruitment, so look for Dave Ganz’s letter in the near future.

At the recent Founders Dinner, UMSL Chancellor Tom George presented a very upbeat description of current and forthcoming activities on the UMSL campus and recent successful fundraising efforts. For details, see the Chancellor’s website—www.umsl.edu/chancellor.

Our holiday dinner seems to come earlier each year and the fall colors later. I hope Dec. 3 is convenient for you and look forward to seeing you there.

Best wishes for the forthcoming holidays,

David Garin
President of the Board, UMSL Retirees Association
Ronald E. Yasbin, a noted microbiologist and former dean of the College of Sciences at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, has been named dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at the University of Missouri-St. Louis. He took over the post in August.

"I am very excited about being part of a land-grant institution once again," said Yasbin, who is a student and then faculty member at The Pennsylvania State University, one of the earliest land grant institutions in the country. "The challenges we face in the future will be better solved by large metropolitan land grant institutions such as UMSL."

Yasbin, a microbial geneticist, focuses on the evolution of bacteria and their adaptation to stressful environments. He came to UNLV as dean in 2003 from the University of Texas at Dallas and was a faculty member at the University of Maryland in College Park, University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry in New York and Penn State in State College, Penn.

A native New Yorker, Yasbin earned a bachelor’s degree in zoology from Penn State, master’s degree in genetics from Cornell University in Ithaca, New York and doctoral degree in microbiology from the University of Rochester in New York. Teresa Thiel, professor of molecular biology at UMSL, had served as acting and then interim dean since January 2008.

We are updating the UMSL Retirees Association Directory (last published in 2006). If you haven't paid your membership dues, please do so. Any question regarding membership should be directed to the Retirees Association at 314-367-2688 or cpkorr@umsl.edu.

If you are a surviving spouse of a deceased UMSL retiree, please indicate retiree’s name on the “Name” line and your name on the spouse line and indication of your relationship to the retiree. If husband and wife are or were, UMSL retirees, please complete a separate form for each.

Mail the completed form to: Sharon Davis, #3 South Dianne Drive, St. Peters, MO 63376.

Directory Information: We're asking again

We are updating the UMSL Retirees Association Directory (last published in 2006).

- Please print all information on the form.
- If husband and wife are or were, UMSL retirees, please complete a separate form for each.
- If you are a surviving spouse of a deceased UMSL retiree, please indicate retiree’s name on the “Name” line and your name on the spouse line and put an (s) in the box.

NOTE: If, for any reason, you do not want your personal information published in this directory, complete the form and print across the top, "NOT FOR DIRECTORY PUBLICATION." Your information will not be published. It will only be used to send Retirees Association information (newsletters, invitations, etc.). UMSL retirees and their surviving spouse can be listed in the directory at no charge.

Campus Calendar

MONDAY NOON SERIES - Mondays thru Nov. 16

The Center for the Humanities at UMSL presents the free Monday Noon Series from 12:15 to 1:15 p.m. Mondays through Nov. 16. For a complete listing of the Monday Noon Series, visit http://umislce.org/ or send a message to cenhumus@umsl.edu.

MONDAY, NOV. 9, 5:30 p.m., Century Rooms, Millennium Student Center

Talk, author Ridley Pearson

Pearson has written more than 20 novels, including The New York Times bestseller "Killer Weekend," the Lou Boldt crime series and many books for young readers, including the award-winning children’s novels "Peter and the Starcatchers," "Peter and the Shadow Thieves" and "Peter and the Secret of Rundoon," which he wrote with Dave Barry. Pearson spent 2008 and 2009 in China teaching creative writing at Fudan University.

THURSDAY, DEC. 3, 1-2:30 p.m., Century Rooms, Millennium Student Center

Retiree reception at 11:30 a.m., Lunch and program at noon, Century Rooms, Millennium Student Center.

Staff Association Holiday Bazaar 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Invitations will be mailed in November.

For more information on any of the above events, call the Office of University Events at 314-539-4552 or visit http://www.umsl.edu/services/programs/.

OASIS Events at UMSL

THURSDAY, NOV. 5, 1-2:30 p.m., Fee: $5

Women in politics:

How far women have come in 20 years

Vivian Ewold, founder and director of the Institute for Women in Public Life at UMSL. The discussion will also include the Metro St. Louis Women’s Political Caucus and the Missouri Women’s Action Fund.

SATURDAY, NOV. 7, 8 a.m.-2 p.m., Fee: $5

‘Black Women and Breast Cancer:

The Knowledge is Power Conference’

The goal is to empower women through education, as well as to build a community coalition to reduce health-care disparities.

THURSDAY, DEC. 3, 1-2:30 p.m., Fee: $5

Crime trends in St. Louis, across the country

Rick Rosenfeld, Carurator’s Professor of Criminology and Criminal Justice at UMSL, co-wrote "Crime and the American Dream." His current research focuses on the relationship between economic conditions and crime rates.

For more information on OASIS events or to register, call 314-539-4555.