Holiday Luncheon December 8 at Glen Echo

Invitations are in the mail to UMSL retirees for the annual Holiday Luncheon on Tuesday, December 8 at Glen Echo Country Club, 3401 Lucas and Hunt. Tickets are $20 per person; please RSVP ASAP!

Reception with cash bar begins at 11:30 a.m., with luncheon served at noon and program beginning at 12:40 p.m. Musical entertainment will be provided by the UMSL Music Department. Guest speaker Renetta Galllup, CPA, from myTotal Rewards, Retirement office at UM System, will provide an update on retiree benefits. The Book Exchange will return; please bring a book to share.

For information, or if your invitation did not arrive in the mail, please call 314-516-5442.

Recap of Fall Event: The Natural Bridge Road and University Square Projects

About a dozen retirees attended a presentation on September 18 by Betty Van Uum, Assistant to the Provost for Public Affairs and Economic Development. Van Uum traced the history of how and why the Natural Bridge Great Streets project was created, and how it is related to University Square, an economic development initiative between UM-St. Louis and the communities that border it. Portions of this plan include utility and infrastructure improvements via the Great Streets Initiative, connections to various bicycle trails, an Arts in Transit installation at the UMSL South Metro Station, and more.

The Retirees Association Board is looking for additional ideas for programs to offer in the future. Share your ideas with Lol Barton and Gary Burger (contacts on last page) or volunteer to work with the Board’s Planning and Events Committee (see the form below).

In Memoriam

Judith Whitney Berres, the first director of women’s athletics (1971-1986) at UMSL, died October 9 in Columbia, MO.

Don Phares, professor emeritus of economics and public policy, died at his home in St. Louis on June 27.

Committees Welcome Your Participation in the Retirees Association—Volunteer Today!

NAME ____________________________________________________________

ADDRESS ____________________________________________________________________

CITY __________________________________ STATE________ ZIP CODE_____________

TELEPHONE NO.________________________ CELL NO ______________________

VOLUNTEER FOR THE FOLLOWING COMMITTEES (List 1st, 2nd, & 3rd choices)
PLANNING & EVENTS ______ MEMBERSHIP _________ COMMUNICATIONS __________

(Return to Lol Barton at bartonl@umsl.edu or mail to him at 7206 Henderson Road, 63121, Or bring to the luncheon on December 8!)
Dues Update

TO: UMSL - Retirees Association members

FROM: The UMSL-RA Membership Committee

SUBJECT: Arrears membership

On June 1 of this year the UMSL-RA began its 2015 - 2016 membership year, which runs from June 1, 2015 to May 31, 2016. At present, the RA has 328 names in its membership file, but only 186 paid members and of those paid members 141 are paid Life Members. The UMSL-RA is here for all retirees to act as a watchdog over our collective retirement benefits (pension and health) and to help maintain links for you to fellow retirees and UMSL developments via planned events and activities.

On June 4, 2015 at the annual UMSL-RA meeting, President Sandy MacLean conducted the Association’s annual business meeting and luncheon. The event signaled the final implementation of the amended UMSL-RA constitution and bylaws approved at the 2014 annual meeting. We elected our first president-elect, Lol Barton, and filled three open board member positions and two open officer positions: secretary and treasurer. We also invited members to help in the work of the three newly constituted RA committees addressing member services: Planning and Events, Communication, and Membership. AND, in an effort to broaden the base and spark interest in the RA, we passed a new RA policy to offer all new retirees a free one-year membership.

At the June meeting, we also heard a presentation by UM Vice President Betsy Rodriguez on the status of the new UM health benefits options. The university administration is reviewing medical benefits and has set up a group to help coordinate issues and concerns of retirees. UMSL-RA Board member Joe Martinich serves as one of two retiree representatives on the new system-wide Total Rewards Advisory Committee which replaced the Retirees and Staff Benefits Committee. You can read of the developments in this transition to a new benefits plan in this newsletter. Critical is that your UMSL-RA is on the front line representing your best interest. But we need your input and support.

If you are an unpaid member, please rejoin us. The UMSL-RA Membership Card grants the following:

- 10 % discount at the University Bookstore,
- Up to 25% discount on tickets to Touhill-sponsored events at the Touhill Performing Arts Center,
- Admission to the Department of Recreational Sports classes at the active faculty/staff rate,
- Admission to the new UMSL Recreation and Wellness Center at the active faculty/staff rate,
- Free admission to regularly scheduled intercollegiate athletic events,
- Free enrollment in short courses (space available basis; course materials and supplies extra),
- A free campus parking permit.

To rejoin, click on this Application Form link: (http://www.umsl.edu/retirees/files/pdfs/Membership%20Application-Updated%202015Aug13.pdf). Print it off, fill it out, and send your form and check (payable to UMSL Retirees Association) to:

Steven Spaner, UMSL-RA Treasurer
17170 Deer Mountain Road
Marthasville, MO  63357-2092

Keep Up with Retirees Association Business, Future Events, and Contact Information at our Web Site: http://www.umsl.edu/retirees/
President’s Report
During the past year, members of the UMSL-RA Board have been participating in discussions with UM System personnel regarding anticipated revisions in the University of Missouri medical benefits program. With rapidly increasing medical costs, especially pharmacological, the University of Missouri System is faced with more than $100 million future liability shortfall. For example, last year’s pharmacy costs increased by over 60%. The first step by the UM benefits staff was to establish goals for the University of Missouri Retiree Medical Study. These are as follows:

RETIREE-RELATED GOALS
- Preserve the benefit and UM subsidy for current retirees and employees close to retirement.
- Reward long service.
- Ensure stability of medical plan for retirees.

FINANCIAL GOALS
- Stop growth of the liability
- Reduce the liability to the extent possible

Next, UM Medical Benefits staff held dozens of listening tours on the four campuses and their respective regions. Additionally a number of meetings were held at the UM System office and by teleconference.

Current retirees and employees told them they wanted affordable coverage and choice from a number of quality plans—but a limited number of choices vetted by the university to avoid an overwhelming number of decisions. They also want a broad network of doctors, customer service support from the university, and clear communications.

Furthermore, their research uncovered that the UM’s eligibility (age and service) for subsidized benefits are generous to compared to peer institutions.

My assessment is that the UM Medical Benefits staff will achieve their retiree and financial goals. Retired and near retired employees will maintain their benefits. However, future employees will not have the generous benefits we enjoy in order for the UM System to cover projected liability deficits.

Sandy MacLean, president, UMSL-RA
Member, UM Retiree Medical Study Guiding Coalition

For updates on the Retiree Medical Plan Study, visit http://www.umsystem.edu/totalrewards/retiree_medical_study

Building Updates
More than 150 people gathered on Oct. 29 for the much-anticipated groundbreaking of the new Anheuser-Busch Hall for the College of Business Administration at UM–St. Louis. The building became closer to reality in May when Gov. Jay Nixon announced the release of $10 million in state-matching funds for its construction. The funds will be used as a 50/50 match along with $10 million in private and corporate funds raised by UMSL to construct a new 50,000-square-foot building. Twenty-eight companies and individuals gave $100,000 or more to help make this building a reality, including a lead $2.5 million gift from Anheuser-Busch Foundation.

The new building will streamline all the current business school operations, offering students and faculty a centralized place to collaborate, interact and share ideas within their specific disciplines. It will feature cutting-edge classrooms, modern computer laboratories, faculty offices, seminar and conference rooms, and undergraduate and graduate advising areas. Currently, 2,700 students and faculty are scattered across five buildings on the UMSL campus. The building will be constructed northeast of Express Scripts Hall along West Drive.
More Building Updates

The new Recreation and Wellness Center at UMSL is open seven days a week, and retirees can join at the active faculty/staff rate of $37 a month, which includes full access during open hours to the indoor elevated track, pool, ball courts, cardio and weight equipment, basic exercise classes and more. Family rates are also available. For full information on the facility, hours, membership, classes, and amenities, check out the web site at http://www.umsl.edu/campusrecreation/. Please note: The Mark Twain facility, formerly open to retirees, is now restricted to Athletic Department use only.

Work continues to progress on the $17 million new Patient Care Center for the colleges of Optometry and Nursing. The two-story Center will provide space for clinical education and research as well as comprehensive eye and vision care. About 13,000 square feet of space is being programmed for partnership opportunities such as a walk-in clinic and dental-care services. It will replace the existing University Eye Center located since 1980 at Marillac Hall. Located on South Campus facing Natural Bridge Road, it is scheduled to open in 2016.

The $32 million Science Learning Building adjacent to Benton Hall and the Research Building on North Campus is taking shape. Completion is expected in 2016.

UMSL Retirees Association Board of Directors (2015-16)
(Years left in term noted in parentheses)

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